

Food and Drugs Division.—A total of 6,274 samples of foods and drugs were examined during the year in the laboratories of the Department at Ottawa, Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver to determine their purity or degree of adulteration. Numerous prosecutions were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, the Maple Products Act and the Proprietary or Patent Medicines Act, where goods not conforming with the law had been offered for sale.

Public Works Health Act.—The activities of the Department under the Public Works Health Act have included the maintenance of a hospital, a first-aid office and an ambulance service along the new Welland canal, now under construction between lake Ontario and lake Erie. A total of 897 visits were made by the medical officer, 3,413 cases were treated as hospital out-patients, 122 were given hospital treatment, while a total of 2,449 hospital days were afforded to patients. At Courtenay Bay, N.B., supervision of the health of some 650 employees on a new dry-dock was maintained by the Department. In Western Canada, workmen on numerous railway construction contracts were afforded medical care and hospital treatment when necessary.

Financial Statements.—A net expenditure for the year of \$896,961 is recorded, in which the largest items are: Quarantine, \$190,197; Venereal Diseases, \$186,460; Salaries, \$140,601; Marine Hospitals, \$109,793 and Administration of Food and Drugs Act, \$75,522. Net revenues amounted to \$207,611, of which sick mariners' dues totalled \$172,319.

II.—OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES.

1.—Prince Edward Island.

In the report of the trustees of the Falconwood Hospital and Provincial Infirmary for the year ended December 31, 1923, a total of 315 patients were shown as resident on this date, compared with a total of 309 at the beginning of the year. During the year, 72 patients had been admitted, while discharges and deaths totalled 66. Expenditure for maintenance and repair of the institutions amounted to \$128,481, while revenues from fees and other sources were \$9,168.

2.—Nova Scotia.

The 31st annual report of the Department of Public Health of the province deals mainly with the collection of vital statistics and with disease control, effected both by means of campaigns against the more dangerous types and by the regular supervision of the health of school children.

In an attempt to control the number of deaths from cancer in the province, (the rate having increased from 72 per 100,000 population in 1908 to 93 in 1921) an educational campaign was carried on during "cancer week". In the distribution of insulin as a cure for diabetes, the provincial authorities have assisted in arranging for the supplying of practitioners and hospitals, a similar move having also been made with regard to the treatment of cases of venereal diseases, whereby not only the facilities of provincial clinics but also those of local hospitals have been made available.

Anti-tuberculosis work has resulted in a steady decline in the death rate from 1909 to 1922 of approximately 40 p.c., and, with the introduction of the Spallinger and Dreyer systems of treatment, it is hoped this will show further improvement.