

10.—The Canadian Red Cross Society.

A brief description of the organization and activities of the Red Cross Society in Canada appeared on page 923 of the Canada Year Book, 1922-23.

11.—The Victorian Order of Nurses.

The activities of the Victorian Order of Nurses since its inception in 1897 are summarized in the Canada Year Book, 1922-23, page 923.

12.—Mothers' Allowances.

Five of the nine provinces of Canada provide for the payment of allowances to mothers who are widowed or without adequate means of support. The province of Manitoba was the first to take up the work in 1916, and the example has been followed by the other western provinces and by Ontario.

It is a general stipulation under the existing Mothers' Allowances Acts that the mother be a resident of the province at the time of making application, that she be a British subject, generally with two or more children under fourteen years of age or with an insane or totally incapacitated husband and a similar number of children. Other similar requirements regarding residence and means of support are made, for it is not desired that applicants "be considered as applying for charity; but that the mother be regarded as an employee of the State, receiving remuneration for services rendered in the proper care of her children. The mother, as an employee of the Government, must not only satisfy them of her fitness to receive an allowance, but also that she is fulfilling the trust which is being placed in her."

In most cases the allowance is provided jointly by the Provincial Government and the local government of the municipality in which the applicant is resident, but in some cases—those of mothers resident outside of cities, towns and counties—the whole allowance is paid by the Provincial Government. Larger allowances are, at times, made in cities than in towns and county municipalities, and the basic rate is generally that paid to a mother with two dependent children. Administration of the Acts is as a rule in the hands of a commission or superintendent, and is closely allied with other work designed to ameliorate the conditions to which certain sections of the community are subjected. In Ontario and Manitoba, for example, the Acts are administered by commissions. In the former, the appointment of local boards, in cities, counties and districts, whose duty it is to pass on applications before their presentation to the central body, is provided for. Through this medium also, intimate contact is maintained with beneficiaries. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Acts are administered by the bureau of child protection and the superintendent of dependent and neglected children respectively, the organization in Alberta providing, in addition, for the appointment of inspectors in each municipality of the province. The Workmen's Compensation Board of British Columbia, assisted by a number of local advisory boards, superintends the administration of the Act in that province.

The following table shows, for the five provinces in question, the numbers of mothers and children to whom allowances have been paid, together with the latest annual and the total expenditures