

The nurses in the public health nursing branch hold clinics of various kinds—prenatal, infant, pre-school and school—in many parts of the province, main clinics being maintained in cities and large towns; rural clinics are sent out from them. Public lectures, cinemas and pamphlets are used to arouse public interest. District nurses, chosen for their resourcefulness and knowledge of maternal nursing, are maintained in remote districts.

Under the Municipal Hospital Act, on the vote of the people of a district a hospital suitable for their needs can be erected, in which patients are received at the rate of \$1.00 per day. The cost to ratepayers is approximately 3c. per acre. There are now 15 such hospitals in Alberta.

Free clinics for venereal diseases are maintained in the principal cities, and excellent work is being done in the actual treatment of these diseases as well as in the education of the public both by lectures and cinemas. All inmates of public institutions are examined and treatment provided for those who need it.

For statistics of the numbers of hospitals and similar institutions and of the hospitals for the insane, see Tables 1 and 2 of this section.

9.—British Columbia.

The Provincial Board of Health, responsible to the Provincial Secretary, administers the laws relating to public health in British Columbia. Its branches comprise the following:—sanitation, venereal clinics, laboratories, tuberculosis, infectious diseases and public health nursing. The sanitation branch has directed numerous recent efforts to the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases by touring motorists, and to the control of campers and squatters along the coast. The laboratories department, in addition to the analysis of specimens, distributes annually various vaccines and antitoxins. The tuberculosis branch has lately been augmented by a travelling diagnostician in tuberculosis and the addition of a portable X-ray machine. The infectious diseases and public health nursing branches are charged respectively with the control of such diseases and with the numerous duties included in public health nursing, principally nursing service, child welfare, school service and dental clinics. The Board of Health collects and publishes annually, in connection with its report, the vital statistics of the province.

Hospitals and Benevolent Institutions.—Table 7 contains a summary of the more important hospital statistics of the years ended Mar. 31, 1926, for general and related hospitals and sanatoria, 1926 for hospitals for the insane and 1927 for Tranquille Sanatorium. No data are available at present with respect to refuges and orphanages, except those of the provincial industrial school for boys, which had on Mar. 31, 1927, a total of 130 inmates, largely made up of boys punished for theft and incorrigibility. The three mental hospitals showed an average daily population during the year 1925-26 of 1,928, maintained at a net per capita yearly cost of \$296.02, or a daily cost of \$0.81. In contrast with records of hospitals for the insane in other provinces, showing a very equal distribution of inmates between the two sexes, these institutions in British Columbia showed, on Mar. 31, 1926, a population of 1,396 males and 599 females, this disproportion being noticeably greater than that existing between the sexes in the total population of the province. A further classification, moreover, of inmates according to country of birth, shows that 33.7 p.c. were Canadian-born, 34.9 p.c. were British-born, while 31.4 p.c. were born elsewhere. The percentage of British-born (other than Canadian-born) is unusually large.