

Since the introduction of opium smoking in Canada thirty or more years ago, the use of habit-forming drugs, such as morphine, heroin and cocaine, has increased. It is estimated that there are about 8,000 drug addicts in Canada. One of the first steps taken by the Department of Health was the creation of a Narcotic Branch. Through this Branch, the importation and sale of such drugs are controlled, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Hague Convention and now adopted by the League of Nations. Wholesale agents, physicians and druggists are obliged to keep records of importation or sale, as the case may be, and to forward their records periodically to the Department. The legitimate use of these dangerous habit-forming drugs is thus controlled.

The Laboratory of Hygiene is concerned with the examination of bacteriological and seriological products, such as vaccines and sera, as well as the standardization of the more potent remedies such as digitalis and strophanthus. Research is an important function of the Laboratory.

Section 2.—Provincial Public Health Activities.

Subsection 1.—Prince Edward Island.

There is no Department of Public Health in Prince Edward Island. The supervision of public health matters is, however, in the hands of the Government of the province, which operates the Falconwood Hospital and Provincial Infirmary, in addition to making money grants to other similar institutions.

In the Report of the Trustees of the Falconwood Hospital and Provincial Infirmary for the year ended Dec. 31, 1929, a total of 266 patients was shown as resident on this date, compared with a total of 279 at the beginning of the year. During the year 87 patients had been admitted, while discharges and deaths totalled 100. Expenditure for maintenance and repair of the institution amounted to \$117,740, while revenues from fees and other sources were \$10,437.

The grants to other provincial institutions were as follows in 1929:—St. Vincent's Orphanage \$1,250, P.E.I. Orphanage \$1,250, Destitute Children Institution \$1,500, Charlottetown Hospital \$2,000, P.E.I. Hospital \$2,000 and Prince Co. Hospital \$2,000. In addition the Red Cross Society received a grant of \$3,500, the Free Dispensary \$200, and the Canadian Tuberculosis Association \$1,200. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind received a grant of \$1,000 for educational work and assistance.

A full time Provincial Health Officer was appointed in November, 1928.

Subsection 2.—Nova Scotia.

The report of the Provincial Health Officer for the year ended Sept. 30, 1928, includes the reports of the Department of Public Health and the Deputy Registrar-General. Under recent legislation the Provincial Health Officer of the province was made Deputy Registrar-General as well, thus bringing the two departments into closer co-operation.

Educational work was carried on through weekly letters to local health officers and municipal and town clerks, special publications distributed among the medical profession and the newspapers of the province, special articles dealing with various