

Public Health.—Apart, however, from the actual organization of provincial Health Departments and of the administrative bodies charged with the management of hospitals and other such institutions, particular attention is given to the same branches of public health work in all the provinces. Perhaps the most important of all, and reflecting most clearly the benefits accruing from such work, are the provisions for medical inspection of school children. These are carried out in some cases by the district or sub-district medical health officers, and in others by public health nurses whose activities are confined to this work alone. In addition to the continual supervision exercised over the health of the children, expert advice and assistance are supplied freely to children, teachers and parents. In many cases dental inspection is provided for. While this work has been carried on upon a considerable scale for only a few years, great benefits have already been realized from it, notably general improvement in health and sanitary conditions and in the control and prevention of epidemics.

In other directions also, governmental activities through Departments of Health have produced numerous evidences of their value, which may be illustrated by an examination of the death rates from various communicable and other diseases, such as are shown in the Vital Statistics chapter of the present volume. In Ontario, for example, the rate of deaths from tuberculosis decreased from 85.6 to 52.1 per 100,000 between 1913 and 1929, and that from typhoid fever from 19.4 to 3.0 per 100,000. While some other rates have increased, it may be noted that increases are not general in the case of communicable diseases and that, in respect of tuberculosis especially, the cities of the province show the lowest mortality rates. The reason for this is the fact that public health work is more advanced there than in the towns and rural areas.

Institutions.—The most familiar of all the public institutions established to administer and foster the general health of the community is the general hospital common to all cities and towns of any considerable population, and found also in the more prosperous rural districts. Such hospitals are generally erected and supported by the municipality, their actual administration being in the hands of a board of trustees; their revenue, in addition to that provided by the municipality, is derived in the main from grants from the Provincial Governments, from donations of individuals and societies, and from patients' fees. Admission and treatment are free to all deserving persons who apply for them and whose resources are so limited as to prevent their otherwise receiving proper medical attention, while it is more or less generally expected of others that payments for services shall be made in proportion to costs and the ability of patients to defray them. Second in importance are the houses of refuge and orphanages, homes where destitute adults and homeless children are taken in, fed and clothed until they can support themselves or until homes for them are found elsewhere. Orphans' homes are found in practically every urban and rural community of any size, while refuges or homes for the aged are supported by the larger centres and by county municipalities. Asylums for the insane, also found in all the provinces, differ from the foregoing types in that they are in general owned, supported and administered entirely by the provinces. In Nova Scotia, however, the insane of each county, together with the inmates of the refuges and orphanages, are in some instances cared for in one institution. Other institutions supported by the public