

Narcotic Drug Division.—Since the introduction of opium smoking in Canada forty or more years ago the use of habit-forming drugs, such as morphine, heroin and cocaine, has increased. 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 and Geneva Conventions. Wholesale agents and druggists are obliged to keep records of importation or sale and to forward their records periodically to the Department. The legitimate use of these habit-forming drugs is thus controlled.

Division of Hospital Advisory Services.—This division offers expert advice and assistance with regard to planning, construction, organization and maintenance of hospitals.

Subsection 2.—Public Health Activities of the Provincial Governments.¹

Prince Edward Island.—The supervision of public health matters in Prince Edward Island was placed under a specially created Department of Public Health on July 1, 1931. Prior to this date, while the Government operated the Falconwood Hospital and the Provincial Infirmary, only a general supervision over public health matters was exercised. The Government co-operates closely with, and gives financial assistance to, the Red Cross Society. Two full-time public health officers, five public health nurses and two sanitary and food inspectors are employed. Under the direction of the public health officers, the province is divided into five public health territories and each nurse is given a territory in which she is responsible for the inspection of school children, home visits, home nursing classes, etc. The sanitary and food inspectors make regular surveys of the food-manufacturing plants, school premises, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, etc.

Nova Scotia.—During the year 1931 all matters pertaining to public health, which had formerly been administered by the Minister of Agriculture and Public Works, were consolidated and a Ministry of Health established. This called for considerable reorganization as well as a broadening out of the Department relative to its spheres of activity. While the Department, as such, has only recently been brought into being, advances have already been made and others are being projected.

The field organization has been enlarged, a new anti-tuberculosis program launched, the cancer problem has received attention and at present a provincial public health nursing service is receiving serious consideration.

Close contact has been kept with the medical profession of the province and its co-operation and approval of all policies has been secured, through advisory committees.

An additional unit, of 84 beds, to the Provincial Sanatorium has just been completed; a tuberculosis annex to the Inverness County Memorial Hospital was opened late in the year, another annex in connection with St. Mary's Hospital is nearing completion, and two others are about to be started.

New Brunswick.—The New Brunswick Department of Health includes in its activities general sanitation, including supervision of water supply and drainage, the abatement of communicable diseases, medical inspection of schools, collection of vital statistics, public health nursing service, the administration of the Provincial Pathological and Public Health Laboratory, and the general supervision of the 16 health sub-districts into which the province is divided.

¹The material under this heading has been revised by the respective Provincial Authorities.