

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 include: isolation hospitals, maternity hospitals, homes for the deaf, dumb and blind, homes for incurables, infirmaries, homes for epileptics and lazarettos for lepers, and tuberculosis sanatoria.

Throughout the Dominion many other more or less similar institutions exist whose nature is more independent than that of the types mentioned above. These institutions do not receive Provincial Government grants and are not in all cases subject to inspection.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has been repeatedly urged to extend its statistical work into the institution and social statistics field. Authority was given by the Dominion Government in 1930 for the organization of a Branch to work along these lines, and in June 1931 a Census of Institutions was authorized to take place conjointly with the decennial population census of that year.

The 1931 Census of Institutions.—The Census of Institutions and Social Agencies throughout Canada may be considered as an extension of the decennial population census, which counts and analyzes the population, and ascertains the amount and value of agricultural products.

In classifying the various types of social service in Canada certain broad and well-established groups manifested themselves. Many of these groups have subdivisions and separate authorities with special qualifications are required to deal successfully with the varied problems that arise within these divisions. After a searching examination of the social welfare field in Canada it was decided that a census of the following institutions and social organizations be taken: (1) Hospitals, dispensaries and out-patient departments; (2) mental hospitals and institutions for the feeble-minded and epileptic; (3) institutions for the blind, deaf and dumb; (4) child-caring institutions; (5) homes for adults and homes for adults and children; (6) day nurseries and child-placing agencies.

The purpose and scope of the Census of Institutions was approved by all the provincial health authorities and whole-hearted co-operation was received in working up the data. Without this support comprehensive statistics could not have been collected. In all, a total of twenty-nine schedules was used for the Census of Institutions, divided as follows: mental hospitals, 7; penal institutions, 5; hospitals and out-patient departments, 5; child-caring institutions, 5; homes for adults, 5; and day nurseries, 2.

The following table gives in summary form the numbers and types of public health and benevolent institutions in Canada, as at June 1, 1931, by provinces.