

required, and control is exercised over the potent drugs employed in the manufacture of such medicines and the representations made regarding their use.

Laboratory of Hygiene.—The Laboratory of Hygiene is chiefly concerned with the control of biologic products used in treatment of human diseases, particularly with reference to the potency of certain toxins, antitoxins, and other serological preparations. Sera and vaccines are scrutinized for purity, sterility and potency. Such drugs as digitalis, strophanthus, ergot, pituitrin and the salvarsans are examined for potency, and standards for them, based upon those of the League of Nations' Health Committee, are prepared by the Laboratory and furnished to all manufacturers desiring to use them in making their products. Disinfectants are investigated as to manufacturers' claims for germicidal qualities. Special and general aid is rendered to other departments of government, and research problems are undertaken.

Food and Drugs Division.—In this Division, inspection and laboratory services are maintained primarily for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Act, which is regulatory in character, designed to prevent the importation and sale of adulterated or misbranded foods and drugs. Laboratories in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver normally examine about 12,000 samples annually, taken from suspected stocks. Corrective measures are applied whenever adulteration or misbranding is found. Standards of quality have been established for many products, and the informative, truthful label is a special objective. Laboratory services are provided for other Divisions, and co-operation with other departments of government is effectively carried on.

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.

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

Prince Edward Island.—The supervision of public health matters in Prince Edward Island was placed, on July 1, 1931, under a specially created Department of Public Health, presided over by a Minister and his Deputy. Two part-time physicians, five full-time public health nurses and two sanitary and food inspectors are employed. Under the direction of the Deputy Minister, the province is divided into five public health districts and each nurse is assigned a territory in which she is responsible for the inspection of school children, home visits, home nursing classes, immunizing and vaccinating clinics, etc. The sanitary and food inspectors make regular surveys of the food-manufacturing plants, school premises, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, etc., throughout the province. The Government also operates the Falconwood Hospital for the Insane and a Provincial Infirmary.

Nova Scotia.—In Nova Scotia the Department of Public Health is under a Minister of Health. The Provincial Department, either directly or in conjunction

*The material under this heading has been revised by the respective provincial authorities.