

larly 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 food and drugs. Laboratories in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver examine samples 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 supervision of informative, truthful label declarations is a special objective. Laboratory services are provided for other Divisions of the Department, 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 international Conventions agreed to at The Hague and Geneva. 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.

Epidemiology.—The Epidemiological Division co-operates with the provincial Departments of Health in the control of the communicable diseases and carries out special studies in regard to morbidity and mortality of disease and public health problems that arise from time to time.

Industrial Hygiene.—The purpose of the Industrial Hygiene Division is to develop methods for the protection and improvement of the health of industrial workers. This Division conducts special studies regarding illness in industries in co-operation with the provincial Departments of Health.

Child and Maternal Hygiene.—The work of this Division consists of measures designed for the reduction of infantile and maternal mortality in Canada. This necessitates collection of information regarding causative factors and the dissemination of knowledge regarding the application of remedial measures.

Medical Appraisal and Advisory Division.—This Division is concerned with medical examination of civil servants, supervision of sick leave and superannuation of civil servants throughout Canada on behalf of the Civil Service Commission, and special medical studies.

Publicity.—As the name indicates, the efforts of this Division are directed towards the dissemination of information on all phases of public health. The work consists of the compilation and distribution of public health literature, of exhibits, lectures, etc.