

Publicity and Health Education.—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.

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, headed by a Minister and a Deputy Minister. Two part-time physicians, five full-time public health nurses, and two food and sanitary 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 operates the Falconwood Hospital for the Insane and the Provincial Infirmary; it also subsidizes the Provincial Sanatorium, which has a capacity of seventy beds and has functioned to capacity since July 1, 1931. In charge of the Provincial Sanatorium is a Medical Superintendent with an assistant and a staff of trained nurses. The Superintendent conducts chest clinics throughout the Province at regular intervals as well as a regular weekly clinic in the Sanatorium, where referred cases from physicians are examined.

The Department of Health operates the Provincial Laboratory and a qualified technician examines material forwarded by physicians throughout the Province.

Two venereal disease clinics are conducted by the Public Health Department, one in Charlottetown and the other in Summerside. All prisoners in the gaols of Queens and Prince Counties are examined and treatment given when required. Other patients unable to attend these clinics on account of distance are treated by their own local physicians who are supplied with the necessary medication.

Nova Scotia.—In Nova Scotia the Department of Public Health directs its energies to communicable disease control; pre-natal, post-natal, and school hygiene; sewage disposal; safety of milk and water supplies; collection of vital statistics; mental hygiene; and health education. All of this has brought into being a comprehensive organization, presided over by a Minister. The Department acts in an advisory capacity to local boards of health; makes regulations respecting any matter relevant to the public health; maintains a field force that provides a consulting service in tuberculosis and other health activities; supports a public health nursing service with specially trained nurses, who work both in the schools and in the homes; gives a free public health laboratory service that extends throughout the Province; supervises the provincial hospitals, both general and special; provides inspection of public general hospitals and humane institutions; stocks and dispenses sera and vaccines; and distributes literature on all phases of health.

As interest in public health increases, a corresponding increase in the number of necessary public health activities becomes noticeable. In recent years a marked demand has resulted for trained and experienced health workers. In 1939 the Department procured (through the courtesy of the International Health Division,

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