

In addition to an Administrative Division, the Ministry of Health maintains the following divisions: Laboratories, Sanitary Engineering, Demography, Mental Hygiene, Public Charities, Epidemiology, Health Units and Districts, Industrial Hygiene, Nutrition (includes maternal and child welfare), Venereal Diseases, and Tuberculosis.

The energies of the Ministry of Health are directed also toward the prevention of epidemics, more particularly tuberculosis and the more important causes of infant mortality. To this end, the Ministry has established 21 anti-tuberculosis dispensaries and 70 baby clinics, including those receiving government grants. During the year 1938-39, 35,544 people were examined in the anti-tuberculosis dispensaries and the travelling tuberculosis clinics. The various county health units have provided for the immunization of 50,385 children against diphtheria, which, with those previously immunized, make a total of 322,304.

Ontario.—The Department of Health of Ontario is under a Minister of the Government. In the direction of the departmental program, he is assisted by a Deputy Minister and a Chief Medical Officer of Health. The activities of the Department are divided into the following Divisions: Hospitals, Tuberculosis Prevention, Venereal Disease Prevention, Preventable Diseases, Laboratories, Maternal and Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing, Oral Hygiene, Sanitary Engineering, Industrial Hygiene, and Nurse Registration including Inspection of Training Schools for Nurses.

The local health work is (1939-40) carried on by a Board of Health and a Medical Officer of Health in each of the 900 municipalities. Fourteen municipalities have full-time health officers.

Increased emphasis is being placed on the control of venereal disease. The governing legislation has been strengthened to ensure that all those affected shall secure the necessary treatment. More accurate reporting of cases, more effective enforcement of control measures, and an attempt to create an enlightened public opinion are old objectives that are receiving new emphasis. Newer methods of treatment are being studied carefully. In those centres in which government-sponsored clinics are not in operation, the Department assumes 75 p.c. of the cost of treatment of those suffering from either syphilis or gonorrhœa, when patients are not in a position to pay for such treatment.

The continued maintenance of public interest in the prevention of tuberculosis has justified the large measure of emphasis placed, during the past four years, on this phase of the program. The Administration pays the maintenance charges of all those suffering from tuberculosis who are unable to meet the cost and need sanatorium treatment. Diagnostic service in respect to tuberculosis, is made available to all physicians through travelling clinics working out from various centres throughout the Province.

The Department has continued its efforts to make both diagnosis and treatment of cancer possible for all. Seven cancer clinics are operating in well-chosen centres in the Province; each of these is substantially subsidized by the Department.

The Department assumes the responsibility for the free distribution of biological products used in the prevention and cure of preventable diseases. Insulin is distributed to those in need of such treatment on the recommendation of the local authorities; a percentage of the cost is contributed by the local municipalities.