

## Section 5.—The Treatment of Wounded and Sick Veterans

**Hospitalization.**—At the end of the War of 1914-18, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, predecessor of the Department of Pensions and National Health, was operating a total of 44 hospitals and sanatoria and partially operating 6 others. Contracts were also in force with other hospitals to the number of 54. A total of 6,520 in-patients was being treated when demobilization was practically completed in December, 1919.

Prior to a man's discharge, treatment was entirely in the hands of the R.C.A.M.C. After discharge treatment was given: (a) when required for a pensionable disability; (b) within one year after discharge, for disability not attributable to service; (c) when required, while undergoing vocational training.

In the period between wars, most of the hospitals were closed and the sanatoria turned over to the provinces. Hospitals of a permanent character, fully equipped and staffed, were established at Halifax, Saint John, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. At Charlottetown, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kingston, Windsor, Regina, Saskatoon, Quebec, Edmonton and Victoria use was made of privately or municipally owned hospitals, the Department maintaining a salaried medical staff at these points. Provincially owned sanatoria and mental hospitals have also been employed, under contract arrangements.

In order that facilities should be available for treatment of C.E.F. veterans living at a distance from the centres above named, contracts were entered into from time to time with many hospitals throughout the Dominion. The number of these at Dec. 31, 1943, was about 240, and is steadily increasing.

At the outbreak of the present war, the experience gained as a result of the former one showed that the provision of extended facilities would be essential. Accordingly, steps were taken for enlarging the Department's own hospitals, as well as those at points, such as Ottawa and Edmonton, where the premises used were not operated by the Department. Very extensive alterations and additions have been made, or are under construction, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.; Camp Hill, Halifax; Ottawa Civic Hospital; at Christie Street and Annex, Toronto; at Westminster, London; at Deer Lodge, Winnipeg; at Calgary (where a new building has just been opened); at University Hospital, Edmonton; at Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver; and at Lancaster, Saint John. A new 108-bed wing has been opened at Savard Park Hospital, Quebec, formerly an immigration hospital but now operated for veterans.

Plans have been laid to establish, at a number of points across the Dominion, Health and Occupational Centres to assist in the rehabilitation of neuropsychiatric and other cases, and at one of these, in Gloucester Township near Ottawa, land has been acquired and building is in progress on a 290-acre project.

Tuberculosis accommodation has been recently surveyed and is included in the provision of new premises.

The actual number of beds available in the Department's own hospitals is 7,466, including the new Calgary hospital opened in December, 1943. Provision has been made, and the construction is actually under way, for a further increase of about 2,000.

In so far as veterans are concerned, treatment prior to the present war was available to:—

- (1) Pensioners hospitalized for pensionable disability. These receive free treatment, with allowances for self and family.
- (2) Pensioners treated for non-pensionable disability. These receive free treatment only.