

Public hospitals are the most numerous among health institutions. They are usually erected and supported by municipalities, their actual administration being in the hands of boards of trustees; their revenue, in addition to that provided by the municipalities, is derived from grants from the Provincial Governments, donations of individuals and societies, and fees paid by patients. Admission and treatment are free of charge to all deserving applicants whose resources are so limited as to prevent them from receiving proper medical attention otherwise; it is generally expected of others that payments for services shall be made in proportion to costs and their ability to defray them. Such public hospitals include isolation and maternity hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria, etc.

There are numerous private hospitals in Canada; these do not receive public grants. There are also hospitals that are conducted by various religious orders, most common in the Province of Quebec; Red Cross hospitals and outposts; and special hospitals that may be privately administered or maintained by the provinces.

Mental institutions (including homes for the feeble-minded and the epileptic) are in most cases under provincial administration, although in Nova Scotia some of the insane are still cared for in county institutions.

Penitentiaries are administered by the Dominion Government, while reformatories, industrial schools, prison farms, and similar corrective institutions are administered by the Provincial Governments.

Subsection 1.—Public Health Activities of the Dominion Government

The public health activities of the Dominion Government are the particular charge of the National Health Branch of the Department of Pensions and National Health. The 1941 Year Book, at pp. 901-904, gives an account of the functions of each division of the Branch.

Since that account was published, a Nutrition Service has been established (during 1941) and four functions outlined: (1) To study food facilities in defence industries from a nutritional viewpoint, and to suggest improvements where possible; (2) To assist the public in maintaining and improving nutrition by advice as to proper purchase and preparation of foods; (3) To supply other Government Departments with nutritional information as requested; (4) To sponsor research in nutrition that seems necessary for the information or protection of the Canadian public.

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 Provincial Government operates the Provincial Sanatorium under a Board of Commissioners, and an annual grant is made to assist ex-sanatorium patients who require assistance, and to other indigent tuberculous persons and their families.

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