

Alberta.—The Department of Public Health administers all public health matters in the Province and includes the following Divisions: Communicable Diseases; Sanitary Engineering and Sanitation; Public Health Education; Laboratory; Tuberculosis Control; Public Health Nursing; Municipal Hospitals; Hospital Inspection; Social Hygiene; Vital Statistics; Mental Hygiene; Dental Hygiene; Entomology; and Cancer.

The following institutions are administered by the Department: Central Alberta Sanatorium; the Provincial Mental Hospital, Ponoka; the Provincial Training School, Red Deer; the Provincial Auxiliary Hospital, Claresholm; the Provincial Auxiliary Hospital, Raymond; the Provincial Mental Institute, Edmonton.

Free clinics for venereal disease are maintained at the following centres: Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Peace River, High Prairie, McLennan, and in the two provincial gaols. Arsenicals are provided free of charge to all private physicians treating venereal disease. Educational work on social hygiene is carried on by means of lectures, moving pictures, bulletins and radio talks.

Free treatment for infectious types of tuberculosis is provided for any *bona fide* resident, i.e., for any person who has resided in the Province for at least one year immediately preceding admission for treatment in the sanatorium. In addition to this service, two mobile X-ray clinics are in operation. These are made available through the co-operation of the Alberta Tuberculosis Association. The personnel is supplied and the mobile X-ray clinics are maintained by the Provincial Department of Public Health and the equipment is furnished by the Alberta Tuberculosis Association.

The Division of Public Health Entomology of the Provincial Department of Public Health was organized in May, 1944. Alberta has the distinction of being the first province in Canada to set up such a Division.

Under the authority of the Poliomyelitis Sufferers Act, 1938, provision is made for the free treatment in special hospitals of patients suffering from this disease. Provision is also made for academic instruction, vocational training, and rehabilitation of those suffering from paralysis resulting from this disease.

The Department of Public Health has inaugurated a cancer service in the Province. Diagnostic cancer clinics have been established at Edmonton and Calgary and are conducted weekly. Provision has been made whereby patients, referred to the diagnostic clinics by their own physicians and after examination found to require deep X-ray or radium therapy or surgery, are treated free of charge.

An Act to provide free hospitalization for maternity patients came into force on Apr. 1, 1944. Any woman: (a) who has been a resident of the Province for twelve consecutive months out of the twenty-four months immediately preceding her admission to hospital as a patient; (b) who by reason of circumstances arising out of the war—wives of men in the Armed Services—or by reason of other exceptional circumstances as declared by Regulations made under the Act, shall be entitled to free hospitalization for herself and her new-born infant or infants for a maximum period of twelve days and shall be entitled to all public-ward maternity services provided by the hospital.

Alberta's Rural Health Districts have been operating successfully since 1931 so that their value is now well recognized and the various services available have become well organized. There are now sixteen of these Health Districts.