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Section 3.—Post-Discharge Treatment

Subsection 1.-Treatment Facilities

Statistics of veterans hospitals administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs are given in the Public Health Chapter at pp. 834-835 of this volume. A program of extensive alterations and additions at the various hospitals has been actively pursued and the prospective bed capacities at the various centres when this program is completed are listed in Table 7. The following paragraphs of this Subsection explain the main features of this program.

A new 250-bed hospital of permanent construction is ready to be commenced at Camp Hill, Halifax. A 160-bed unit was added to Lancaster Hospital at Saint John. A new mental hospital, of 250 beds, fireproof and of permanent construction, is nearing completion at St. Anne's Hospital at St. Anne de Bellevue. A unit of 235 beds was opened at Ottawa. At Toronto, a 360-bed pavilion to supplement the bed capacity at Christie Street Hospital, was commenced, and considerable progress was made with the plans and details of the large 1,450-bed new hospital at Sunnybrook. At London, Ont., a new mental infirmary of 300 beds was approved, together with a new mental reception centre of 150 beds, for the active treatment of cases of acute psychosis. Two mental colonies to provide occupational activity for chronic mentals were established at Westminster Hospital, London, with a total accommodation of 300 beds. The active treatment pavilion at that point was enlarged to provide an additional 40 beds, together with additional operating room, X-ray, and laboratory facilities. A Nurses Home for 200 nurses was also approved.

At Winnipeg, the construction of two pavilions of 216 beds each was commenced during the year, and the new clinical wing, providing adequate operating room and clinical facilities, together with a well-equipped laboratory, was completed. Construction is nearing completion of a unit of 186 beds at Regina. In Calgary, extensions to the new Colonel Belcher Hospital were commenced to provide additional beds and facilities. In Edmonton, two additional pavilions were erected to provide 240 beds. In Vancouver, construction was commenced on the new Chest Pavilion to provide 160 beds, together with adequate diagnostic and treatment facilities for chest cases and the extension to the new Shaughnessy Hospital to provide an additional 276 beds was also commenced.

Health and Occupational Centres.—In order to provide adequate facilities for active convalescence, approval was obtained to establish Health and Occupational Centres in connection with most Departmental hospitals. Work was commenced on the Centres at Ottawa and London, and sites were selected at Toronto, Montreal, Saint John, Halifax and Vancouver, for similar types of units. The complete program is expected to provide 1,800 beds.

Veterans Care.—While the Department provides facilities within its departmental hospitals for domiciliary care of veterans who are permanently or temporarily incapacitated, a program was commenced to establish ex-service men in comfortable homes in reasonably close proximity to departmental hospitals, rather than in the hospitals themselves. Such homes are now available in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Saint John and Halifax.

Mental Reception Units.—In order to provide active remedial treatment for mental cases, the Department has embarked on a program to establish this type of unit in most of the provinces. In Toronto, Montreal and London, they are being