

Subsection 4.—Corrective and Reformative Institutions

On June 1, 1941, there were 28 corrective and reformative institutions in Canada with a total inmate population of 4,051; of this number 3,118 were males and 933 were females. Of the total number of institutions, 14 were for males and 14 for females. Detailed statistics of crime and delinquency (which are presented on an annual basis) as distinct from these institutional statistics are given in Chapter XXX.

Section 3.—The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada

The Victorian Order of Nurses is a voluntary public-health agency, national in scope and having as its primary object the care of the sick in their own homes by visiting nurses. In 1945 there were 100 branches of the Order distributed as follows: Nova Scotia 16; New Brunswick 7; Quebec 5; Ontario 57; Manitoba 1; Saskatchewan 3; Alberta 2; and British Columbia 9. The affairs of each branch are directed by a local committee, which raises the money necessary to carry on the work. However, the policies and professional standards set by the national organization are accepted by the branches. The Board of Governors of the national organization is made up largely of representatives appointed by the branches.

Registered nurses are employed by the Order and have, in addition, post-graduate training in public-health nursing. All appointments are approved by Headquarters at Ottawa, which also assumes responsibility for the supervision of the nurses' work in the field, thus ensuring a uniform standard of service.

A complete maternity service is offered. This includes instruction before the baby arrives, attendance at the time of delivery and after-care of the mother and baby. If the baby is born in hospital, the Victorian Order Nurse may be called to demonstrate the baby's bath and to discuss problems of the baby's care that may arise.

During 1945 approximately 450 nurses in the field gave nursing care to 100,118 patients. Health teaching is an important function of the visiting nurse, and her entry into so many homes provides an unparalleled opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution toward the up-building of the health of the Canadian people.

The Order provides a community service available to everyone in the area served, regardless of race, creed or economic status. The nurses give care on a visit basis to medical, surgical and maternity patients under medical direction and thus care for a large group of people who would otherwise be neglected. The budget of the average man makes very little allowance for the cost of illness. The patient is expected to pay the cost of the visit, but the fee is adjusted to suit the family income and service is never refused because of inability to pay. Of the 756,984 visits made in 1945, 50 p.c. were free, 22 p.c. were paid, 18 p.c. were partly paid and 10 p.c. were paid for by insurance companies for care to patients. The cost of the service to those unable to pay is provided for by municipal grants and funds collected by means of campaigns.

In smaller centres where the Victorian Order Nurse is the only public-health nurse, the program of work is usually enlarged to include school-nursing service, child-hygiene centres, assistance at immunization clinics and other public-health services.

An increasing number of Victorian Order branches are giving part-time nursing service to industrial plants where the number of employees is not large enough to require the full-time services of a nurse.