

Under P.C. 4465, the Division supplies prostheses and surgical appliances free of charge to veterans who are eligible and also supplies, on a repayment basis, other Government Departments [such as the Department of National Defence and the Department of Mines and Resources (Indian Affairs)] the Canadian National Railways and, under P.C. 2311, provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards.

The Division carries out considerable research on prostheses, co-operates in this work with the National Research Council, and keeps abreast of developments in other countries. Glass for artificial eyes had been a pre-war German monopoly, but glass of equal quality has been developed which has adequately replaced the formerly imported product.

The Division previously supplied the prosthetic needs of veterans of the War of 1914-18, including 2,411 leg amputations and 967 arm amputations. This number has been increased by more than 1,900 amputation cases of the War of 1939-45. The total number of patients receiving prosthetic attention is in excess of 42,500 per year.

The Division also acts as liaison between the Department and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which gives care to blind veterans, of whom over 90 cases have been reported from the War of 1939-45. The Division also maintains liaison and co-operates with the National Institute for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, and the War Amputations of Canada.

Subsection 3.—Dental Services

Like the parent Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment, the Dental Branch of this Department was created following the War of 1914-18 in order that ex-members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force might be given this all-important service during the transitional period of their return from army life to civilian occupations.

In the late summer of 1919 the establishment of the Dental Branch was authorized and in October, 1919, the Director of Dental Services was appointed and the formation of the Dental Branch was undertaken. Dental clinics were set up in the various hospitals and sanatoria then operated by the Department, and independent dental clinics in strategic centres of population throughout Canada. In some instances, fully or partially equipped clinics were taken over from the Department of Militia and Defence, for others the necessary equipment had to be obtained and installed, and personnel for the operation of all clinics was selected and appointed. In July, 1920, the Department had in operation approximately 30 clinics where dental treatment was available for ex-members of the C.E.F. eligible under the various qualifying classifications. In addition to these clinics, the services of civilian dentists in the towns, villages and rural areas were utilized, providing authorized treatment on a fee basis. Until Mar. 31, 1921, the services supplied by the Branch were limited to vocational students, pensioners for direct dental injury or diseases incurred during service, and those undergoing courses of authorized treatment as in- or out-patients who were certified to require dental attention for the efficacy of such treatment. On that date responsibility for the completion of post-discharge dental treatment, for which all ex-members of the C.E.F. were eligible, was transferred from the Department of Militia and Defence to the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment. Within the next two years this latter treatment and that for vocational students was practically completed and there was a gradual lessening in the demand for dental treatment; many of the dental clinics were closed and the personnel, to a large extent, released.