

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. Patients found to require deep X-ray or radium therapy or surgery are treated free of charge. Hospitalization may be authorized by the cancer clinic up to a maximum of 14 days.

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 12 consecutive months out of the 24 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—is entitled to free hospitalization for herself and child for a maximum period of 12 days.

Alberta's Rural Health Districts, of which there are now 18, have been operating successfully since 1931. In sparsely populated, outlying areas, 36 Provincial District Nurses provide a diversified medical and public-health service.

Under an amendment to the Solemnization of Marriage Act, which went into effect July 1, 1945, each party to a marriage contract is required to have a specimen of blood taken by a qualified physician and forwarded to the Provincial Laboratory or other approved laboratory for serological examination. All positive serologic tests must be reported to the Director of the Division of Social Hygiene. Certain outlying areas in which medical service is not available may be exempted from these requirements.

*Municipal Hospitals.*—Under the *Municipal Hospitals Act* passed by the Alberta Legislature in 1917, there are 47 hospitals now operating, with 6 new hospitals being built this year and 7 additional Districts contemplating coming under the Act.

During 1945, there were 38 municipal hospitals in operation, with a total bed capacity of 1,289. Total number of patients admitted was 32,190 and the total hospital days 275,270; 3,877 maternity patients were admitted and 3,952 babies were born in municipal hospitals during the year. Major operations performed numbered 2,782, minor operations 6,484, and 13,433 medical cases were treated. The average patient day cost of operation was \$4.43 and the average revenue per patient day was \$4.51. The number of graduate nurses employed was 221. The approximate population served by these hospitals was 237,788, covering an area of 27,272 sq. miles.

**British Columbia.**—The Department of Health and Welfare of British Columbia is organized into two branches with a Deputy Minister of Health and a Deputy Minister of Welfare. The Deputy Minister of Health, who is also Provincial Health Officer, is in charge of the technical details of the Health Services.