

Provision is made for the free treatment in special hospitals of patients suffering from poliomyelitis. Provision is also made for academic instruction, vocational training and rehabilitation of those suffering from paralysis resulting from this disease.

Weekly diagnostic cancer clinics have been established at Edmonton and Calgary. Patients found to require deep X-ray radium therapy or surgery are treated free of charge. Hospitalization necessary to establish diagnosis may be authorized up to a maximum of 14 days.

Any maternity patient who has been a resident of the Province for 12 consecutive months out of the 24 immediately preceding admission, 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 17, have been operating successfully since 1931; 36 district nurses provide diversified medical and public-health service in outlying districts.

Each party to a marriage contract is required to have a specimen of blood forwarded to the Provincial Laboratory or other approved laboratory for serological examination.

Municipal Hospitals.—There are 51 municipal hospitals in operation, with three under construction and five additional districts contemplating coming under the Act. Municipal hospitals reporting in 1946 had a total bed capacity of 1,334; patients admitted numbered 37,571 and total hospital days 305,922; 4,849 maternity patients were admitted and 4,624 babies born; major operations performed numbered 3,331, minor operations 6,810 and 16,525 medical cases were treated; graduate nurses employed numbered 247. The average patient day cost of operation was \$4.38 and the average revenue per patient day was \$4.83. The approximate population served by these hospitals was 268,940, covering an area of over 30,000 square miles.

Hospital, Medical and Dental Services for Pensioners.—Free hospitalization and treatment services are provided for all Alberta residents receiving blind pensions, old age pensions and mothers' allowances as well as for the dependents of such persons.

Dental service is complete for recipients of mothers' allowances and blind pensions and their dependents. Old age pensioners receive dental services with the exception of dentures.

British Columbia.—The Department of Health and Welfare, with one Cabinet Minister, has two branches under the supervision of the Deputy Minister of Health and the Deputy Minister of Welfare, respectively.

Within the Health Branch, the Bureau of Local Health Services supervises public-health activities pertaining to the local level. Outside Greater Vancouver and Victoria, which have their own Health Departments, these local public-health services are provided through: (a) Health Units or (b) Public Health Nursing Districts or (c) certain practising physicians who serve as part-time Medical Health Officers. With the exception of (c) and those in the two cities mentioned, public-health personnel are all employed by the Provincial Department.

The boundaries of a Health Unit are such that the area served includes several school districts. The staff consists of a physician with post-graduate training in public health, several public-health nurses also with post-graduate training, one