

# CHAPTER XXIX.—VETERANS AFFAIRS\*

## CONSPECTUS

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The basis of administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, established in October, 1944, is dealt with in the 1946 edition of the Year Book at pp. 1053-1054. The work of the Department as it had developed up to Mar. 31, 1947, is outlined at pp. 1134-1155 of the 1947 edition and is brought up to Mar. 31, 1948, in the present volume.

### Section 1.—The Department of Veterans Affairs

There was a somewhat changed emphasis in the work of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the year ended Mar. 31, 1948. The fact that the majority of veterans had adjusted themselves to civilian life, and that the right to apply for certain strictly rehabilitation benefits came to an end, resulted in some decrease in the phase of the Department's operations which came under the Veterans' Rehabilitation Act. However, the continuing phases of the Department's work showed a definite up-swing. For instance the number of disability pensioners from the Second World War increased substantially as did the number of older veterans with no pension entitlement, but who were eligible for consideration under the War Veterans' Allowance Act because of their service in a theatre of war. There was a decrease in the number being treated in departmental institutions, but the load in this category still remained a fairly heavy one.

It is estimated that, assisted by the rehabilitation legislation, more than 95 p.c. of veterans have found peacetime occupations, or are completing training for their chosen careers. While this ratio does not apply to veterans with serious disabilities, nevertheless employers have become conscious of the fact that physical disability need not be an occupational handicap and the majority of even the most seriously disabled, who are ready to work, have found their place in civilian employment.

Medical treatment and care for veterans, which occupies the time of almost one-half of the departmental staff, is provided by approximately 33 institutions administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Other similar institutions are under contract with the Department and the services of many general practitioners have been made available to all these institutions. The remainder of the

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