

Special centres for the treatment of such conditions as arthritis, paraplegia and tuberculosis have been established in many of the larger departmental hospitals and clinical research is being carried out along with treatment. Where departmental hospital facilities are not available, veterans with service-related disabilities and others in case of necessity may still continue to receive medical services through the doctor of their choice.

As at Mar. 31, 1948, medical social work was being conducted at 15 departmental hospitals to assist in the treatment of the social and emotional problems adversely affecting the health of patients. To achieve this purpose, a direct case-work service is projected for those patients whose doctors desire it, using all appropriate sources of assistance for the patient within the Department and in the community. The service is designed for in-patients but is capable of expansion to out-patients and to the after-care of patients following discharge.

Subsection 2.—Treatment Facilities

The veteran patient load reached its peak in 1946 and has since slowly and steadily declined to a level which will probably remain fairly constant for some years. Eligibility for the post-discharge year of treatment has expired and very few veterans of this class are now under treatment. Similarly, with demobilization of the Armed Forces completed, eligibility for treatment of conditions present on discharge has also ceased. The patient load now consists mainly of pensioners with service-related disabilities and those in reduced circumstances who are eligible for treatment because of meritorious service. It was thus possible, during the calendar year 1947, to close 12 hospitals representing some 3,000 beds. Most of these institutions had been taken over from the Armed Forces.

Seven new and modern institutions containing 945 beds were opened during the year, representing replacement of obsolete facilities rather than increased bed capacity. These were:—

<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Bed Capacity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Type</u>
Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, Ont.....	200	Feb. 28, 1947	General treatment
George Derby Health and Occupational Centre, Burnaby, B.C..	200	Mar. 31, 1947	Active convalescent
Veterans Hospital, Victoria, B.C.	220	Mar. 31, 1947	General treatment
Ridgewood Health and Occupational Centre, Saint John, N.B..	100	May 31, 1947	Active convalescent
Bellevue Veterans Home, Amherstburg, Ont.....	25	July 21, 1947	Domiciliary care
Senneville Health and Occupational Centre, Montreal, Que.....	100	Nov. 3, 1947	Active convalescent
York Health and Occupational Centre, Toronto, Ont.....	100	Nov. 30, 1947	Active convalescent

As at Dec. 31, 1947, the Department had in operation 10,647 beds in 39 institutions. Of these, 13 were general treatment hospitals, six were health and occupational centres for convalescents, six were special institutions, ten were veterans homes and four were veterans pavilions maintained as units of existing general hospitals.

The permanent building program is proceeding according to plan (described in detail at pp. 1057-1058 of the 1946 Year Book). It is expected that about 1,250 beds will be available during 1948 including 250 replacement beds at Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, 700 additional beds at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, and a 300-bed addition at Westminster Hospital, London. It is anticipated that 500 beds will be dispensed with during 1948.

In the year ended Mar. 31, 1948, hospital admissions totalled 60,579.