

Under the Food and Drugs Act, the Proprietary or Patent Medicines Act and the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act the Department is responsible for the control of the quality of food and drugs, the registration, preparation and sale of proprietary or patent medicines and control of the import, export and distribution of narcotic drugs.

Health services for Indians and Eskimos as required by the Indian Act, 1876, are administered by the Department; it passes on the eligibility of applicants for pensions for the blind and co-operates with the provinces in the provision of remedial services for blind pensioners; it is responsible for supervision over the health conditions of persons engaged on Federal public works as provided under the Public Works Health Act and carries on a program for the conservation and promotion of the health of civil servants and other Government employees. A Division of Civil Aviation Medicine was established in 1948.

National Health Grant Program

The announcement in May, 1948, of the National Health Grant Program enormously increased the Federal contribution to provincial health services and facilities by making available to the provinces annual grants of over \$30,000,000.

The Program is divided into three parts: a Health Survey Grant to assist the provinces in assessing their needs and the priority with which they should be met; a group of eight annual grants designed to assist in the extension and development of provincial health services; and an annual grant to assist in hospital construction. Except those for health survey and cancer control, the health grants are contingent upon the provinces maintaining, through their own resources, at least the pre-existing standard of services in the health field of each grant. A description of the individual grants follows:—

The Health Survey Grant.—\$625,000 is designed to assist the provinces in surveying health services and facilities, including hospitals, and in studying ways and means for their improvement. The grant which, unlike the others is non-recurring, is distributed on the basis of \$5,000 to each province and the balance according to population, with the total payment available to any province not less than \$15,000.

The General Public Health Grant.—\$4,395,000 is designed to assist in the strengthening of general public health services. It is distributed among the provinces on the basis of 35 cents per capita in 1948, with the grant being increased annually in succeeding years by 5 cents per capita until it reaches 50 cents per capita.

The Tuberculosis Control Grant.—\$3,000,000 is designed to permit an accelerated and intensified effort directed towards the eradication of tuberculosis in Canada and to extend progressively the provision of free treatment. The distribution of the grant is based on a flat payment of \$25,000 to each province with the balance being divided 50 p.c. according to population and 50 p.c. according to the average number of deaths from tuberculosis in each province over the five-year period 1942-46, inclusive. It is intended that the grant be increased to \$4,000,000 annually after it has been in operation for a period of two years.

The Mental Health Grant.—\$4,000,000 is designed to assist the provinces in the prevention of mental illness and in extending progressively the provision of free treatment. It is distributed on the basis of a flat amount of \$25,000 to each