

at strategic points throughout the Health Units provide free diagnosis and treatment for all who require them; maternal and child health clinics including immunization and pre- and post-natal advice are operated by public health nurses. Several specialized divisions of the Health Branch provide consultative service and guidance to the field staff, other departments, and official and voluntary agencies. There are branch laboratories in various parts of the Province and the Division of Laboratories distributes immunizing agents free of charge to doctors, health officers and public health nurses.

Except in the two metropolitan areas where special grants are made under previous arrangements, approximately one-third of the cost of health services is borne by the local districts and the remainder by the Provincial Government with assistance from the federal health grants.

Institutions for the hospital care of tuberculosis and of mental patients, and Provincial Infirmaries for persons with incapacitating disabilities, are operated by the Provincial Government; indigents are hospitalized in these institutions at public expense. The Hospitals Act provides for provincial and municipal financial aid to hospitals.

Full medical, surgical and obstetrical care is provided to recipients of social assistance and to their dependants; these persons are also covered under the terms of the Hospital Insurance Act, and have their premiums paid from provincial funds.

An important medical care measure was inaugurated in British Columbia on Jan. 1, 1949, when the provisions of the Hospital Insurance Act came into effect. Residents are provided with public ward care including operating and case room facilities, X-ray and laboratory, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, anæsthetics, dressings and prescribed drugs. The plan is financed by a premium of \$15 per annum levied upon each adult, with a family maximum of \$30 for the first year but these rates were increased for 1950 to \$21 and \$33, respectively.

Section 3.—Institutional Statistics*

Since 1930, under authority granted by the Federal Government, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has co-operated with the provincial authorities through the Census of Institutions in the collection of nation-wide statistics for the following types of institutions: *Hospitals*—institutions primarily engaged in the prevention, cure or alleviation of physical sickness and disease, such as hospitals for the sick, sanatoria, and institutions for incurables and those under the heading "Federal Hospitals" in Table 1. *Mental and Neurological Institutions*—such as hospitals for mental diseases, institutions for the feeble-minded, epileptic, etc., devoted to the treatment and care of mental ailments. *Charitable and Benevolent Institutions*—caring for the poor and the destitute of all ages, such as homes for the aged, county refuges, orphanages, etc. A summary of statistics for charitable institutions for 1946 appears at p. 288. Statistics for corrective and reformatory institutions for 1946 are summarized at p. 308 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

* Except as otherwise noted, this Section has been revised in the Health and Welfare Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Institutions Section.