

Assistance to Students.—Under the Youth Training Division of the Vocational Training Agreement with each province, assistance was provided for nurses-in-training at hospitals and students in courses leading to a university degree, who had good academic standing but who, without financial assistance, could not continue training. At the discretion of the provincial authorities, assistance could be given in the form of a grant or a loan, or a combination of the two.

The value of Federal Government assistance to students at universities and nurses-in-training may be assessed from the following approximate amounts which have been paid to the provinces for that purpose during the past ten years:—

<u>Province</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	\$		\$
Prince Edward Island.....	18,110	Manitoba.....	22,900
Nova Scotia.....	45,125	Saskatchewan.....	133,515
New Brunswick.....	88,760	Alberta.....	83,265
Quebec.....	566,235	British Columbia.....	188,455
Ontario.....	212,955		

During the fiscal year 1948-49 Federal Government expenditures for assistance to students and nurses amounted to \$128,483 in the form of grants, and \$75,853 in the form of loans. Financial help was given to 440 nurses-in-training and 2,200 students at universities. Included in the total number of university students were 406 taking courses in medicine, 88 in dentistry, 391 in engineering, 64 in agriculture, and 777 in arts and science.

Apprentice Training.—Apprenticeship Acts are in force in all provinces, and agreements for federal assistance are in effect with all except Prince Edward Island and Quebec. During 1948 some additional trades were brought within the Apprenticeship Acts.

With the approaching completion of Veteran Training, it has been possible to give increased attention to the promotion of apprenticeship. Particular attention has been given to the building trades, because the construction industry has pointed out that it will be greatly handicapped unless the number of skilled mechanics can be substantially increased. The Training Branch has maintained close contact with the Canadian Construction Association and the National Joint Conference Board of the Construction Industry on matters pertaining to apprenticeship in the building trades. However, in spite of the efforts that have been put forward by the Training Branch and the provinces on behalf of apprenticeship generally, the number of apprentices registered in the seven provinces with which the Department of Labour has an Apprenticeship Agreement was reduced from 11,902 on Mar. 31, 1948, to 10,976 on Mar. 31, 1949. There has been a very large decrease in the number of veterans under apprenticeship, that has not been compensated for by young men going into the designated trades.

A conference of Directors of Apprenticeship was called by the Department of Labour in October, 1948, and was attended by the Provincial Directors of Apprenticeship from all provinces except British Columbia. Information and suggestions were exchanged and among the results was one concerning the class training of apprentices. The conference expressed itself as favourable to the introduction of pre-employment training, somewhat along the lines that were followed in the case of veterans, when trainees were admitted to full-time class training for a period of approximately six months before they went to an employer. The