

mental 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, 1949, medical social work was being conducted in 11 general-treatment departmental hospitals to assist in the treatment of the social and emotional problems adversely affecting the health of patients.

**Subsection 2.—Treatment Facilities**

As at Mar. 31, 1949, the Department had in operation 10,239 beds in 31 institutions. Of these 13 were general-treatment hospitals, seven were health and occupational centres for convalescence, three were special institutions and eight were veterans homes.

The building program of the Department continues with all bed facilities under construction being of a replacement nature.

Statistics relative to the Treatment Services activities may be found in the Chapter on Health and Welfare at pp. 258-260 of this volume.

**Subsection 3.—Dental Services**

A brief history of the Dental Services from their organization in 1919 is contained in the 1946 and 1947 editions of the Year Book at pp. 1059-1060 and pp. 1138-1139, respectively.

During the fiscal year 1948-49 the number of dental treatments provided and the number of patients treated showed declines from those of the previous year. The departmental clinics continued to operate at capacity and the decrease was reflected in the amount of work authorized to be done by private dentists. During the year the number of departmental clinics was reduced from 31 to 25. Applications for post-discharge treatment, which up to Mar. 31, 1948, amounted to 662,481, numbered only 933 during the year ended Mar. 31, 1949.

<i>Year Ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	<i>Patients Completely Treated</i>	<i>Year Ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	<i>Patients Completely Treated</i>
	No.	No.		No.	No.
1940.....	121,604	9,587	1945.....	249,170	23,672
1941.....	99,590	8,020	1946.....	509,703	56,416
1942.....	73,113	7,380	1947.....	2,700,052	284,216
1943.....	102,554	10,817	1948.....	1,191,218	160,313
1944.....	66,562	11,841	1949.....	218,173	35,951

**Subsection 4.—Prostheses and Surgical Appliances**

The Prosthetic Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, established in August, 1916, has, as its first responsibility, the provision of prostheses and orthopaedic appliances to veterans and other persons entitled to such supply under Order in Council P.C. 2048 as amended. Appliances are supplied upon request to Provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, Canadian National Railways, Department of National Defence, Department of National Health and Welfare and others.

The organization consists of a main manufacturing and fitting centre at Toronto and 11 district centres established in the major Canadian cities, equipped with facilities for measuring, fitting, adjusting and maintaining artificial limbs, orthopaedic boots, splints, braces, artificial eyes and other appliances. Minor orthopaedic appliances such as trusses, glasses, hearing aids, elastic hosiery, etc., are supplied through purchase from private manufacturers.