

Clinical research has always been carried out by individual doctors in the Department, but such activity has been limited due to lack of funds. Authority was obtained in 1949-50 for funds for a permanent program of medical research and education. The program will be administered by a Special Advisory Board composed of outstanding members of the profession with a permanent secretary. The Board will work in close association with the National Research Council, Defence Research Board and the Department of National Health and Welfare. All research projects will be submitted first to the Advisory Board and then referred to the appropriate agency. There will thus be complete control of projects and expenditures. The program will be commenced early in the fiscal year 1950-51.

As at Mar. 31, 1950, the Department had in operation 9,895 beds in 28 institutions. Of these, 12 were General Treatment Hospitals, 7 Health and Occupational Centres for convalescents, 3 Special Institutions and 7 Veterans Homes. The present building program of the Department is concerned mainly with the replacement of obsolescent equipment with modern accommodation.

Statistics relative to the Treatment Service activities will be found in the Chapter on Health and Welfare, pp. 224-225.

Dental Services.—Applications for post-discharge dental treatment, which up to Mar. 31, 1949, amounted to 663,414, numbered only 178 during the year ended Mar. 31, 1950.

<u>Year Ended Mar. 31—</u>	<u>Treatments</u>	<u>Year Ended Mar. 31—</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
	No.		No.
1941.....	99,590	1946.....	509,703
1942.....	73,113	1947.....	2,700,052
1943.....	102,554	1948.....	1,191,218
1944.....	66,562	1949.....	218,173
1945.....	249,170	1950.....	158,149

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 orthopædic 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, orthopædic boots, splints, braces, artificial eyes and other appliances. Minor orthopædic appliances such as trusses, glasses, hearing aids, elastic hosiery, etc., are supplied through purchase from private manufacturers.

The main prosthetic establishment at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, is equal to the standard of any existing similar institution. It includes a special section organized for research and development of prosthetic and orthopædic appliances where several appliances and improvements have been developed and put into production. Present projects include various improvements in design and construction of several types of artificial arms and legs together with their components and suspensions. The recently improved suction socket prosthesis for above-knee amputation is now available as a regular issue.