

mentally ill and one for mental defectives. Sanatoria care and treatment are provided without charge for all resident tubercular patients and out-patient pneumothorax services are also available.

The Province provides full medical (including specialist), optical and extensive dental services to old-age and blind pensioners, recipients of mothers' allowances and their dependants. The Department also bears the cost of hospital and medical care for rheumatoid arthritic patients under 21 years of age and provides all residents suffering from the after-effects of poliomyelitis with medical, surgical and hospital care and rehabilitation services. All maternity patients satisfying resident requirements may be hospitalized for a twelve-day period at provincial expense.

Over two-thirds of the population of the Province is provided with standard hospitalization through a district municipal hospital program. The plan is operated at the local level under provincial supervision. Costs are distributed among the patient, the municipality and the Provincial Government. The patient is charged \$1 per day and the municipality pays the remainder of the basic ward rate, raised by a mill-rate tax on real property. The Provincial Government then reimburses the municipality for one-half of this amount.

**British Columbia.**—The Department of Health and Welfare is divided into two branches and, in addition, there is a Hospital Insurance Commission directly responsible to the Minister of Health and Welfare.

The Health Branch consists of three bureaus, two located at Victoria and one at Vancouver. The Bureau of Local Health Services at Victoria includes Divisions of Nutrition, Health Units, Public Health Nursing, Environmental Sanitation and Preventive Dentistry. The Central Administration Bureau, also at Victoria, includes Vital Statistics and Public Health Education. The Divisions of Tuberculosis Control, Venereal Disease Control and Laboratories form the Bureau of Special Preventive and Treatment Service located at Vancouver.

The provision of local public health services is on a health-unit basis. These units are administered and staffed by the Province, but are jointly financed by the Province and the local municipalities concerned. Thirteen of the 18 units planned are in operation. In isolated areas, Public Health Nursing Districts, staffed by public health nurses and sanitary inspectors, are forerunners of fully organized health units. Vancouver and Victoria have their own city health departments; other centres have part-time medical health officers.

Special provincial public health services include tuberculosis clinics which provide free diagnostic and consultative service, venereal disease clinics which offer free diagnosis and treatment, and maternal and child health clinics operated by public health nurses which provide immunization and pre- and post-natal advice. Branch laboratories are maintained in various parts of the Province through which immunizing agents are distributed free of charge to doctors, health officers and public health nurses. Ten communities have pre-school and Grade I dental programs with service provided by private resident dentists in which costs are met by provincial grants (about 50 p.c.) and by local contributions and flat minimum charges to parents of children receiving treatment. In connection with mental health services the Province operates stationary and travelling child-guidance clinics. A clinic of psychological medicine has been established at the provincial hospital at Essondale; it functions as an investigatory and active treatment centre for short-term patients.