

additional projects have been concerned with specific diseases, particularly mental illness and tuberculosis and including, as well, blindness, alcoholism, cardiac disease and other illnesses.

PART I.—PUBLIC HEALTH*

The planning, supervising and financing of public health and medical care services in Canada rest mainly with the provinces though the actual administration of services is conducted, in most provinces, by municipal and other local authorities. The Federal Government provides consultative and specialist services, assists in the financing of provincial health activities through the National Health Grant Program, and also maintains services for special groups such as veterans and Indians. The functions of the Federal Government are described in Section 1, provincial and municipal health activities are reviewed in Section 2, and hospital statistics are given in Section 3.

Section 1.—Federal Health Activities

Federal participation in health matters is largely centred in the Department of National Health and Welfare, with certain important programs being administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides medical and hospital care to veterans chiefly for disabilities resulting from war service; the Department of National Defence, responsible for the health of the Armed Forces; the Medical Division of the National Research Council, which administers grants for medical research; and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, responsible for the collection and compilation of health statistics. The Department of Agriculture has certain responsibilities in connection with food production.

Under the Department of National Health and Welfare Act of 1944, the Department is responsible for the administration of certain statutes, for research in health matters, for the carrying out of international health obligations undertaken by Canada and, in co-operation with the provinces, for the preservation and improvement of public health.

Under the Quarantine Act, the Department maintains a maritime and aerial navigation quarantine service against entry of infectious diseases; it advises on the administration of sections of the Immigration Act dealing with health, and conducts, in Canada and overseas, the medical examination of applicants for immigration. It also provides care for sick mariners as required under Part V of the Canada Shipping Act, and has certain national and international responsibilities with regard to the pollution of boundary and other waters.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act and the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, the Department is responsible for the control of the safety and purity of food and drugs; the registration, preparation and sale of proprietary or patent medicines; and control of the import, export and distribution of narcotic drugs.

The Department advises on the visual eligibility of applicants for blindness allowances and co-operates with the provinces in the provision of surgical or remedial treatment for selected recipients of these allowances; it is responsible

* Sections 1 and 2 of this Part were prepared by the Research Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa.