

charge for all resident tubercular patients and out-patient pneumothorax services are also available. The Department bears the cost of hospital and medical care for rheumatoid arthritic patients under 25 years of age and provides all residents suffering from poliomyelitis with medical, surgical and hospital care and rehabilitation services. Provision has been made to extend treatment services to cerebral palsy patients. All maternity patients satisfying resident requirements may be hospitalized for a 12-day period at provincial expense, and a provincial grant is authorized to assist those who receive maternity services at home.

By agreement with the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Dental Association, medical, optical and some dental services are provided to all persons (and dependants) on the universal old age pension who were formerly in receipt of the means-test pension or who can qualify for the provincial supplementary allowance, as well as recipients of old age assistance or blindness or mothers' allowances. The Province assumes the cost involved and also reimburses the municipalities for 60 p.c. of their expenditure on any medical care provided to local indigents. An agreement exists with the Associated Hospitals of Alberta under which public assistance recipients receive standard public-ward care and necessary drugs, for which the Province pays reduced per diem rates.

A municipal hospital program provides standard hospitalization for nearly all the population of the Province. The plan is operated at the local level, under provincial supervision, with costs distributed among the patient, the municipality and the Provincial Government. The patient is charged \$2 per day and the municipality meets the remainder of agreed charges for public-ward care and extra services. The Provincial Government then reimburses the municipality for one-half of this amount.

British Columbia.—The Health Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare consists of three bureaux, two located at Victoria and one at Vancouver. The Bureau of Local Health Services at Victoria includes Divisions of Health Units, Public Health Nursing, Public Health Engineering, Environmental Management, 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 Services, 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. Sixteen units, covering 50 p.c. of the population, 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. The cities of Vancouver and Victoria have their own health departments.

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-natal 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. Children's preventive dental programs, provincially subsidized, have been organized in four local health units. In addition, child dental clinics with local dentists participating are established in 43 communities, the