

Subsection 3.—Provincial and Municipal Health Activities

Health services in the provinces are administered in different ways but provincial functions commonly include central planning and administration; the operation of special programs affecting the entire province in such fields as cancer, mental health, tuberculosis and laboratories; consultant service to local authorities; the administration of regulations governing local services; the provision of basic services in areas without municipal organization; and participation in the work of local health units in areas where that type of administration has been developed.

At the local level responsibility for services varies widely but municipalities in most provinces provide a range of basic public health services and participate in the costs of hospital care for indigents. In recent years there has been a rapid growth of health services in smaller centres and rural areas through the organization of health units with full time staff serving counties or other combinations of local government areas. This type of organization concentrates on a generalized health program that includes public health nursing, sanitary inspection, communicable disease control, child, maternal and school hygiene and health education and has been introduced in most provinces; financial and administrative responsibility is shared by the provincial and local authorities involved. Despite a trend towards greater provincial participation in these local units many remain under local administration as do the highly developed health departments found in the larger cities. Outside of fully organized health-unit areas municipalities usually appoint part time medical officers and other personnel while the provincial authorities assume responsibility in the areas lacking municipal organization.

Newfoundland.—Health measures in Newfoundland are centrally administered by the Department of Health. Its main functions include the operation of tuberculosis, venereal disease and other communicable disease control programs, nutrition and sanitary inspection services, the operation of provincial hospitals and the provision of prepaid medical, hospital and nursing care throughout large areas of the Island of Newfoundland.

The Province operates a general hospital at St. John's, administers the cottage hospital scheme and subsidizes other general hospitals maintained by voluntary organizations. The cottage hospital scheme, operated on a voluntary prepayment basis, is designed to provide hospital service and domiciliary medical care for people living in outlying areas. Services are provided through 18 small hospitals which have a total capacity of almost 500 beds; most of them are equipped with laboratory and X-ray facilities. Medical officers and nursing stations in adjoining communities supplement these services. In most cottage hospital areas prepayment of \$15 annually for the head of each family and \$7.50 for single adults entitles subscribers to outpatient diagnosis and treatment, to home visits by the doctor and to hospitalization. The cost of medical and hospital care for indigents is generally borne by the Province.

The Department of Health operates tuberculosis sanatoria at St. John's and Corner Brook. Free X-ray and diagnostic services are provided by these institutions supplemented by BCG vaccination and case-finding surveys conducted in co-operation with the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association. The Department also subsidizes diagnostic and treatment services conducted in the northern areas by the International Grenfell Association and the Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital.

The mental health program is centred in the Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases at St. John's; a day-treatment unit has various forms of therapy for outpatients.

Provincially administered venereal disease clinics operate at St. John's and at various cottage hospitals throughout the Province. Free treatment services and drugs for venereal disease are available to persons attending the central clinic, cottage hospital subscribers and medical indigents.

A nutrition program includes educational work and such activities as the distribution of concentrated orange juice and cod-liver oil. Public dental services are provided through a provincial clinic at St. John's and a seaborne dental clinic in the Bonne Bay area is operated by the Junior Red Cross.