

Alberta.—The Department of Public Health includes Divisions of Communicable Diseases and Health Units, Public Health Education, Hospital and Medical Services, Provincial Laboratories, Public Health Nursing, Social Hygiene, Sanitary Engineering, Cancer Services, Mental Health, Tuberculosis Control, Public Health Entomology, Nutrition Services and Vital Statistics.

For the provision of local health services the Province is divided into health-unit districts administered with Departmental supervision and financial aid by local boards of health composed of members appointed by local governments. Fifteen units are directed by full time medical health officers and one unit by a public health nurse. Outside the health-unit areas the Department operates a district nursing service in outlying communities and is generally responsible for health services in unorganized territory. The larger cities have their own full time health departments.

Free services regularly provided through Departmental clinics include diagnosis and treatment for venereal disease, medical examination for cancer, mental guidance and psychiatric examinations, X-ray examinations and tests for tuberculosis at stationary and travelling clinics, and mobile X-ray units. Provincial laboratory services at Edmonton and Calgary are available to all doctors and approved hospitals, and sera and biologicals are distributed for preventive work.

On the recommendation of provincial cancer clinics, surgical, X-ray and radium treatment, and hospitalization up to a limit of seven days for diagnostic purposes are provided by the Department. There are five provincial institutions for the mentally ill and one for mental defectives. Sanatoria care and treatment are provided without charge for all resident tubercular patients and outpatient pneumothorax services are also available. The Department bears the cost of hospital care for a period up to 90 days and medical treatment 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 residence 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, widows' pensions and blindness and 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. 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 a majority of 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 50 or 60 p.c. of this amount, depending on the nature of the local program.

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.