

College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada for postgraduate teaching in internal medicine and surgery, and seven have been approved for advanced postgraduate teaching in the various specialities.

The members of the professional staffs of the hospitals are employed on a part time basis by the Department and most of them also serve on the faculties of the medical schools. University presidents have continued their co-operation with the Department by permitting their deans of medicine to nominate highly qualified doctors as consultants in Departmental hospitals, and in allowing the employment of non-medical university staff members as advisers to the Department.

The Departmental Research Program, set up in 1950, has continued and enlarged. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1955 over one hundred projects were in progress. The projects deal with a variety of conditions but the majority are concerned with older veterans. The Department is in a unique position to undertake such clinical research. Among these projects may be mentioned studies on atherosclerosis, nutrition in elderly patients, hypertension, chronic respiratory disease and a program concerned with the problems of ageing. Various clinical follow-up studies are also in progress and a close liaison is maintained with other government departments undertaking research. An isotope laboratory has been established at Queen Mary Veterans' Hospital in Montreal. In five of the larger hospitals Clinical Investigation Units are in operation. These are self-contained units which provide basic facilities for clinical research and carry out detailed metabolic and other studies required both for research and treatment.

The Department provides financial assistance for postgraduate study and during the year ended Mar. 31, 1955 thirty-two persons attended courses under the Research and Medical Education Grant. Schools for the training of nursing assistants are in operation at Halifax, Montreal and Toronto and have facilities for graduating 180 nursing assistants annually. Graduates may obtain employment in Departmental hospitals.

Arrangements are in effect whereby members of the Armed Forces may be treated in Departmental hospitals at the request of the Department of National Defence; at three of the active treatment hospitals, a special Armed Forces Unit, staffed by Department of National Defence personnel, has been established within the hospital. Arrangements are also in effect for the treatment in Departmental institutions of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and sick mariners.

During the year authority was obtained to amend the Veterans Treatment Regulations relating to the treatment for non-pensioned conditions of veterans with limited income and resources. Previously such veterans were subject to a means test and veterans who qualified were given treatment free of charge. Those who could not qualify under the means test were not eligible for treatment unless they could pay the full hospital costs. The amendment raised the ceiling by over 100 p.c. and a sliding scale charge for hospitalization was introduced, depending on the amount of adjusted income. Where income and resources are below certain limits hospitalization continues to be provided without cost to the veteran.

Any veteran may receive treatment in a Departmental hospital for a non-pensioned condition by guaranteeing the full cost of hospitalization. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1955 over 2,300 veterans took advantage of this privilege. The introduction of the new legislation mentioned above will result in more veterans receiving elective treatment but will reduce the number who pay full costs.

Prosthetic Services.—Orthopaedic and surgical appliances, prescribed by Treatment Services under the Veterans Treatment Regulations, are supplied by the Prosthetic Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This organization, with a staff complement of 235, comprises a central manufacturing and fitting establishment at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, with other such centres in eleven of the larger Canadian cities, serving to extend manufacturing, repair and fitting facilities to all parts of Canada. Types of appliances manufactured are those of individual specifications such as artificial