

from any new findings which may modify established medical practice. The system of informational services, preventive public health and health care programs being built up across the country brings to increasing numbers of Canadians the resources and facilities that make possible the raising of health standards.

## Section 1.—Federal, Provincial and Municipal Health Activities

Public health services in Canada are provided through the federal, provincial and local governments, with important contributions being made by voluntary agencies.

The Federal Government provides consultant and specialist services to the provinces, assists in the financing of provincial programs, provides services to special groups such as veterans and Indians, exercises control over the standard and distribution of food and drugs, maintains quarantine measures and is responsible for the carrying out of certain international health obligations.

The provinces play the major role in the provision of public health services to the people of Canada. Most programs are administered by the province or by local government under provincial legislation.

Voluntary agencies organized nationally, provincially or locally provide many services and carry on programs of health education.

### Subsection 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 for disabilities resulting from war service; the Department of National Defence which is responsible for the health of the Armed Forces and which, through the Defence Research Board, participates in medical research; the Medical Division of the National Research Council which administers grants for medical research; and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which is 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 that 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 recipients of these allowances; it is responsible for supervision of health conditions for persons employed on federal public works, as provided under the Public Works Health Act, and maintains a program for the conservation and promotion of the health of civil servants and other Federal Government employees. Medical advisory services are provided for the Department of Transport in all matters pertaining to the safety, health and comfort of air crew and passengers.