

Prosthetic Services.—The Department of Veterans Affairs provides a complete coverage of prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances and sensory aid devices to Canada's disabled veterans and other Departments of Government. The primary issue is made on medical prescription. Maintenance and renewal are carried out at District Centres. Service is given without expense to the eligible veteran. Twelve centres or shops are located in or adjacent to the Departmental hospitals in major cities from coast to coast, and six sub-centres in smaller localities. Every effort is made to maintain a high standardization of stock parts and quality of materials supplied. The largest centre, located at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, manufactures stock parts and is the central stores supply. It is one of the most complete centres of its kind in existence.

A research section is maintained for the design and testing of new materials and appliances. Among new developments that might be mentioned are the plastic Syme's leg with a solid ankle and sponge rubber foot, the Canadian Hip Disarticulation leg, the development of a motorized unit designed by the National Research Council for wheel chairs for quadraplegic cases. Many items, such as cosmetic gloves, mechanical hands, various new designs of arms, drop-foot splints and foam-sponge feet for artificial legs are still in the project stage.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1957, service was provided to approximately 70,000 patients who received 143,000 issues.

Section 2.—Rehabilitation of Veterans

The Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to administering the rehabilitation benefits still available, renders welfare assistance to veterans, their dependants, widows and orphans. Specialized services are given by the Casualty, Social Service, Older Veterans and General Services Sections. This aspect of the work requires close liaison with other government departments—federal, provincial and municipal—as well as national and local welfare and rehabilitation organizations for co-operation and prevention of duplication of services.

War Service Gratuity.—The payment of war service gratuities was discontinued after Dec. 31, 1954, for World War II veterans except for those with overseas service who satisfy the Minister that they could not apply before that date as a result of unusual circumstances. The amounts paid in gratuities up to the end of the 1954-55 fiscal year are shown in the 1956 Year Book, p. 306. Those paid in 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the cumulative totals were:—

| <u>Year</u> | <u>World War II Veterans</u> | <u>Special Force Veterans</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1955-56..... | 30,536 | 16,932 |
| 1956-57..... | 9,457 | 7,351 |
| Totals to Mar. 31, 1957..... | 470,012,032 | 6,688,822 |

Re-establishment Credit.—On Mar. 31, 1957, the amount of \$21,680,134 in re-establishment credit, out of nearly \$325,000,000, had not yet been authorized on behalf of the veterans entitled to claim it. These veterans have until Dec. 31, 1959, or 15 years after discharge, whichever is the later, to apply for their unused credit. The amounts paid during 1955-56 and 1956-57, and the cumulative totals to Mar. 31, 1957, by required purposes, are shown in Table 1.