

and testing, radiotherapy and surgery. Health departments in New Brunswick offer free diagnosis and radiotherapy and in Prince Edward Island, diagnostic services. Treatment programs of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation the British Columbia Cancer Foundation and the Nova Scotia Department of Health supply radiotherapy free or at nominal cost to medical indigents. The Manitoba Treatment and Research Foundation recently added free radiotherapy to a program previously organized on a means-test basis.

Laboratory research in many aspects of medical and biological sciences related to cancer is carried on by a grant-in-aid program administered by the National Cancer Institute but financed by the Canadian Cancer Society and federal-provincial grants. Clinical research projects are supported directly by the Canadian Cancer Society and provincial cancer agencies, particularly the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation.

Until very recently there have been few research units operating primarily for cancer research. The year 1958 marked the completion of the Ontario Institute of Radiotherapy at Toronto, the first hospital and research centre designed exclusively for cancer patients. Another development was the establishment of a large cancer research unit within the new Medical Research Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, directed by a full-time professor of cancer research.

Poliomyelitis.—Through agreements with the Federal Government all provincial health departments have made Salk vaccine available for free inoculation of children; and are encouraging older age groups to avail themselves of the protection of this vaccine. The incidence of poliomyelitis in the four years since the introduction of Salk vaccine* has been at as low a level or lower than that between epidemics in previous years. Few persons who have received the prescribed number of shots have contracted the disease.

Most of the special programs offering free hospital care to poliomyelitis patients have become integrated in provincial hospital insurance schemes. Rehabilitation programs for ex-patients are a combined responsibility of provincial rehabilitation agencies and national voluntary agencies.

Dental Health.—Nine provincial health departments have dental health divisions, and a tenth is under organization. These divisions administer dental programs which vary under local conditions but are directed almost entirely to the care of children. Public education, training of dentists in dental public health, the operation of children's preventive treatment clinics and water fluoridation are all being undertaken, although not on the same pattern, in all provinces. Provincial legislation authorizing municipalities to pass by-laws and carry out approved programs pertaining to water fluoridation has been passed in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In four provinces free clinical care is provided for children in remote or rural areas by the use of mobile units. In other provinces, community programs are in the course of development. A successful locally sponsored plan in which the cost of clinics is shared with the health authorities has been adopted in some 60 communities in British Columbia; the sponsoring group determines whether registration for treatment may be free or on payment of a nominal sum.

Venereal Disease.—Free diagnostic and treatment services are available in all provinces but government clinics are being increasingly superseded by private physicians who are supplied with free drugs and reimbursed for treatment of indigents on a fee-for-services basis.

Alcoholism.—Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia have recently set up alcoholism agencies supported largely by public funds. These agencies carry out research and education programs and operate centres for treatment. Saskatchewan and Newfoundland conduct an educational program. Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta also have rehabilitation programs for alcoholic inmates of reform institutions.

* A description of the research, discovery and Canada's part in the preparation of the vaccine is given in the 1956 Year Book, pp. 258-260.