

Treatment is provided across Canada in 11 active treatment hospitals, two convalescent centres, and two homes maintained for the provision of domiciliary care. The operating capacity of these institutions at Mar. 31, 1958, was 9,215 beds. An additional 588 beds are available in veterans pavilions situated at Ottawa, Regina and Edmonton. Pavilions are owned by the Department but are operated by the parent hospital and medical staff is provided by the Department. Where departmental facilities are not available, the eligible veteran may receive treatment under the Doctor-of-Choice Plan in the hospital of his choice by his own doctor, at the expense of the Department. Professional staffs of active treatment hospitals are employed on a part-time basis; in the main they are recommended for appointment by the Deans of Medicine of the universities with which the hospitals are affiliated. The majority are members of medical faculties, engaged in teaching and private practice.

The Department maintains research and medical teaching programs in its institutions, both of which are considered essential to attract highly qualified professional men and thus ensure the veteran of the highest quality of medical care. All active treatment hospitals have been approved by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for postgraduate teaching in medicine and surgery, and the majority are approved for advanced postgraduate training in the various specialties. An intern-resident program is in effect; at the end of March 1958, 266 residents and interns were in training together with 135 interns in occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, laboratory, and medical social services.

Since the inception of the Clinical Research Program in 1950 over 400 research projects have been considered and approval given to 300. During the fiscal year 1957-58 about 100 projects were in progress. The program is varied, but in the main deals with conditions affecting aging, which the Department is in a unique position to investigate. Clinical Investigation Units have been set up in active treatment hospitals located at Montreal, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. These are self-contained units providing detailed metabolic and other studies essential for research and treatment.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1958, 42 departmental employees attended courses assisted fully or partly by the research and educational vote. At the end of the year one school for nursing assistants remained in operation. This school, at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax, has an annual capacity of 60 graduates who are offered employment in departmental hospitals across Canada.

Departmental hospitals provide base hospital facilities for the treatment of members of the Armed Forces. The Ste. Foy Hospital, near Quebec City, and Sunnybrook at Toronto have self-contained units but in other institutions there is a close integration of patients. The units are staffed by Armed Service personnel and utilize the ancillary services of the hospital. They also provide training facilities for members of the medical services of the Armed Forces.

Much progress has been made toward the ultimate goal of a nation-wide chain of modern fire-resistant institutions, by replacement of obsolete accommodation. Patient-load for the year ended Mar. 31, 1958, was as follows:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>
Patients in departmental hospitals at Mar. 31.....	7,844
Patients in other hospitals at Mar. 31.....	2,992
Out-patients on strength at Mar. 31.....	436
<b>TOTAL PATIENTS AT MAR. 31.....</b>	<b>11,272</b>
Admissions to departmental hospitals during year.....	51,937
Admissions to other hospitals during year.....	22,272
Admissions to out-patient strength during year.....	2,104
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS DURING YEAR.....</b>	<b>76,313</b>
Patient-days in departmental hospitals 1957-58.....	2,750,854
Patient-days in other hospitals 1957-58.....	930,771
<b>TOTAL PATIENT-DAYS.....</b>	<b>3,681,625</b>