

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Canada's health and welfare services have undergone constant development and expansion during the postwar years. Generally high levels of prosperity, strongly growing trends toward urbanization and new advances in welfare and in health concepts and knowledge have all contributed to their rapid growth.

Preventive, diagnostic and curative health and rehabilitation services as well as welfare services have become available to most areas of the country in some degree. The federal-provincial-municipal partnership in health matters, stimulated and co-ordinated through the National Health Grant Program, now forms a flexible and effective bulwark for the medical and allied professions. On the welfare side, the major federal, federal-provincial and provincial income maintenance programs provide basic protection for the individual against the hazards of age, disability, unemployment or other inability to earn and, at the same time, substantially assist the municipality in providing for persons who would at one time have been a local responsibility. Generally well developed systems of hospitals provide facilities in settled areas of the provinces. The federal Indian and Northern Health Service, through hospitals and nursing stations, brings services to the widely scattered and often nomadic population of the North. Cost to the individual as a barrier to obtaining necessary hospital care is being eliminated through the provincial hospital insurance programs developed under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act of 1957 (see p. 272).

* Except where otherwise indicated, this Chapter, including the special article on pp. 281-290, was prepared by the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa.