

control and general public health. Departmental public health research is conducted in the laboratories of the Food and Drug Directorate, the Laboratory of Hygiene, the Occupational Health Division and the Nutrition Division, as well as by the Epidemiology and Dental Health Divisions. The Research and Statistics Division collects, analyses and evaluates data on health and welfare matters, develops methods to assist in solving technical and administrative problems, and provides research and consultant services to other Divisions of the Department and other agencies in Canada and abroad.

The Defence Research Board carries on intramural research and provides grants-in-aid for investigations related to health problems concerned with national defence.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is concerned primarily with clinical research in its own hospitals, emphasis at the present time being on problems associated with the aging process (see p. 332).

**International Health.**—Canada has been a signatory to certain international agreements and conventions and is a member of and co-operates with the World Health Organization and other international agencies concerned with health.

To carry out this country's obligations under the International Sanitary Conventions, the Department of National Health and Welfare maintains quarantine measures for ships and aircraft entering Canadian ports and provides accommodation and necessary medical care for persons arriving in Canada who require quarantine.

The Department is responsible for the enforcement of requirements governing the handling and shipping of shellfish under the International Shellfish Agreement between Canada and the United States and, at the request of the International Joint Commission, participates in studies connected with control of pollution of boundary waters between Canada and the United States and with problems caused by atmospheric pollution. Other international health responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin and hormone standards for the World Health Organization, certain duties in connection with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations and the provision of technical assistance to the specialized agencies of the United Nations carrying out programs related to health.

### **Subsection 2.—Provincial and Local Health Services**

Provincial and local health services may be grouped in several broad categories: general public health services, primarily of a preventive nature; services for specific diseases or disabilities combining prevention and treatment; services related to general medical and hospital care; and rehabilitation services for disabled persons.

**General Public Health Services.**—Provincial and local governments co-operate closely in providing community public health services. The autonomy of the provinces and their social, economic and geographic diversity make for some variety in legislative provisions, in financial arrangements, and in the detailed division of functions between provincial health departments and local and voluntary agencies. Each province, however, offers all or nearly all of a basic range of public health services which includes environmental sanitation, communicable disease control, maternal and child health, occupational health, dental health, health education, nutrition, and public health laboratories.

**Environmental Sanitation.**—The control of environmental hazards to health, one of the oldest forms of public health activity, is a function of specialized environmental sanitation or public health engineering divisions in each provincial health department. Programs are concerned primarily with the maintenance of safe water supplies, supervision of sewage disposal systems, milk sanitation and control of general sanitary conditions in public areas, the most extensive sanitary facilities being located, of course, in industrial and urban centres. Provincial and municipal sanitary engineers set standards, formulate policies and regulations, and provide technical assistance to local authorities. The intensity of this type of preventive supervision and control varies from province to province and within each province, but basic programs are similar.