

*Communicable Disease Control.*—The control of communicable diseases has been intimately connected with the beginnings and development of public health measures and concepts. Separate divisions of epidemiology or communicable disease control exist in the six larger provinces; in the Atlantic Provinces these functions are handled by a provincial medical health officer. Local health authorities undertake case-finding and diagnostic services in co-operation with public health laboratories, carry out epidemiological investigations and often participate in tuberculosis and venereal disease control measures.

*Maternal and Child Health.*—Services for mothers and children are largely decentralized through local units and departments, but most provinces maintain separate divisions or employ consultants to promote better standards and to give technical assistance. Public health nurses have a prominent place in this work which may include prenatal education, provision for delivery and care of the newborn in remote areas, home visits, child health clinics and school health services.

*Occupational Health.*—Services designed to prevent accidents and occupational diseases and to maintain the health of employees are the common concern of provincial health departments, labour departments, workmen's compensation boards, and industry management. Provincial agencies regulate working conditions and offer consultation and educational services to industry. All provinces have on their statute books legislation (Factory Acts, Shop Acts, Mines Acts, Workmen's Compensation Acts) setting health safety standards for employers.

*Dental Health.*—All provincial health departments have dental health divisions which administer dental programs, varying under local conditions but directed almost entirely to the care of children. Training of dentists in public health, operation of children's preventive and treatment clinics, and health education are being undertaken in all provinces. Water fluoridation projects, involving more than a million people, are in operation in seven provinces.

In four provinces free clinical care is provided for children in remote rural areas by the use of mobile units; another province uses two railway-coach dental clinics to serve remote areas. Locally sponsored plans in which the cost of dental services for children is shared by the local community and the provincial health department are in operation in more than 70 communities in British Columbia; the sponsoring group decides whether registration for treatment is to be free or on the payment of a nominal sum.

*Health Education.*—In most provinces experience has demonstrated the need for a professional full-time "health educator" as a member of the public health team. Nine provinces have separate divisions or units to co-ordinate the dissemination of health information through all available media.

*Nutrition.*—Services include technical guidance, education, consultation and research. In some provinces school lunch programs are also sponsored and dietary supplements distributed. Five provinces have special nutrition divisions; elsewhere nutritionists serve in other divisions of the health department.

*Public Health Laboratories.*—The public health laboratory, an essential facility in the protection of community health and the control of infectious diseases, was one of the earliest provincial services developed to assist local public health departments. Work performed includes bacteriological examination of water, milk and food samples, the examination of specimens for diagnosis of communicable disease and pathological special services. Each province maintains a central public health laboratory and most provinces have established additional branch laboratories. Recent trends in some provinces include efforts to co-ordinate public health and hospital laboratory services, special measures to bring laboratory facilities to rural areas, and devices to reduce the direct cost of clinical laboratory procedures to the individual.