

The Canadian Foundation for Poliomyelitis and Rehabilitation.—The Canadian Foundation for Poliomyelitis was formed in 1948 to assist victims of poliomyelitis. Recently, however, because of the protection afforded by Salk vaccine, the Foundation has broadened its aims and changed its name to the Canadian Foundation for Poliomyelitis and Rehabilitation. Provincial chapters in all ten provinces conduct an annual March of Dimes campaign to raise funds for the support of various rehabilitation projects; these include financial support to treatment centres for the disabled and direct services such as assistance in meeting the costs of medical and related services for needy disabled persons; in some provinces direct services are confined to those for adults. The Foundation, particularly in 1959, has also given support to the operation of clinics for immunization against poliomyelitis.

Victorian Order of Nurses.*—Since its inception in 1897, the Victorian Order of Nurses has provided a professional home nursing and health counselling service. In all provinces except Prince Edward Island, the association's nurses carry out bedside nursing, prenatal, postnatal and newborn care. In some provinces they also assist provincial health authorities in tuberculosis and venereal disease programs and conduct child health clinics. In 1958 the Order employed 642 nurses to serve in 120 branches located in nine provinces. The national office is in Ottawa.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind.—Since its inception in 1918 the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has been dedicated to the provision of rehabilitation and social welfare services to the blind and to those with partial sight. The national office, located in Toronto, serves all provinces through its seven regional divisions and 46 branches. The Institute provides both social services and financial assistance; it arranges for examinations and eye treatment services, purchases glasses for needy persons and, in co-operation with hospitals and medical centres, operates an eye-bank. Under an extensive rehabilitation program with training facilities centred in Toronto, it trains blind persons in various occupations, offers job counselling and placement services and, for those who cannot compete in industry, it provides sheltered workshops; more than 425 newspaper, tobacco and confectionery concession stands are operated by blind persons. Sightless field workers bring a home-training program to blind persons to help them learn Braille, typing and handicrafts, and a special program for pre-school blind children prepares them for attendance at a school for the blind. The Institute builds and maintains residential quarters and recreational facilities in all larger centres and supplies Braille books and recordings to the blind from its national library in Toronto.

The Health League of Canada.—The Health League of Canada, first established in 1918 as a National Committee for Combating Venereal Disease, now embraces about 60 national member associations supporting a wide variety of health activities. The primary objectives of the League are the promotion of personal and community health and the prevention of disease through health education. Its major activities are administered from a national office in Toronto, usually working through the affiliated organizations. Educational efforts include the provision of speakers for meetings and the preparation of radio scripts, health education films and literature; a magazine is published bi-monthly and weekly news bulletins are released to the press. The League also sponsors a National Health Week and a National Immunization Week.

St. John Ambulance Association.—The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem began as a local unit in Montreal in 1884. The organization is composed of two parts—the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The first is devoted to teaching first aid and home nursing and the latter to directing the emergency corps of trained personnel. Headquarters of the Association is in Ottawa, with provincial divisions in all provinces controlling their own programs and financing the operation of their local branches.

* Details of the home nursing services of the Order are given in the 1957-58 Year Book, pp. 269-270.