

tative and treatment services. It has a national office in Toronto supported by nine regional chapters and its chief activity is the support of research projects in medical centres across the country. Assistance is given to individuals suffering from muscular dystrophy through the purchase of necessary equipment and the provision of transportation to clinics.

PART IV.—VETERANS SERVICES*

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers most of the legislation making up the Veterans Charter and provides administration facilities for the Canadian Pension Commission which administers the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; for the War Veterans Allowance Board which is responsible for the administration of the War Veterans Allowance Act; and for the Secretary-General (Canada) of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The main benefits now provided to veterans consist of medical treatment for those eligible to receive it, land settlement and home construction assistance, educational assistance for children of the war dead, veterans insurance, general welfare services, unused re-establishment credit, disability and widows' pensions, and war veterans allowances.

The work of the Department, excepting the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 17 district offices and five sub-district offices in Canada and one district office in England. There are eight Veterans' Land Act district offices and 13 regional offices established to administer the benefits of that Act.

Section 1.—Medical, Dental and Prosthetic Services

Medical Services.—The Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Treatment Services Branch, provides medical services for eligible veterans across Canada. Service is also provided for members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the wards of other governments or departments at the request and expense of the authorities concerned.

The primary responsibility of the Branch is to provide examination and treatment to disability pensioners for their pensionable disabilities. These veterans constitute about one-quarter of the in-patient load. The pensioner receives treatment regardless of his place of residence, but service to other veterans is available in Canada only.

Other main groups of veterans receiving treatment are War Veterans Allowance recipients, veterans whose service and need make them eligible for domiciliary care, and veterans whose service and financial circumstances render them eligible for free treatment, or at a cost adjusted to their ability to pay. If beds are available, any veteran may receive treatment in a departmental hospital on a guarantee of payment of the cost of treatment.

Treatment is provided across Canada in 11 active treatment hospitals, two convalescent centres, and two homes maintained for the provision of domiciliary care. The rated capacity of these institutions at Mar. 31, 1960 was 8,970 beds. An additional 584 beds were 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 at the expense of the Department in the hospital of his choice by his own doctor. 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 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

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