

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

## CONSPECTUS

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

Canada's postwar growth has presented a challenge in the planning of health and welfare services. Population has increased by one-half in this period. General high levels of prosperity, growing urbanization, larger numbers of both young and old in the population, and new concepts and knowledge in health and welfare matters have all contributed to needs for additional services and to greater interdependence between the different health and welfare professions.

During 1960, the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act, proclaimed in 1957, became nation-wide for in-patient general hospital services, and some provincial plans were moving in the direction of extended coverage for special hospital and out-patient care. During the year, more than two and one-half million patients were admitted to general hospitals and over 90 p.c. of the almost one-half million births occurred in hospital. Insurance for medical care in Canada was still largely based on voluntary prepayment plans; approximately one-half the population carried some medical insurance. The possibility of government participation in public medical care, beyond the special provision existing for certain indigent groups, received increasing public attention.

\* Except where otherwise indicated, this Chapter was prepared by the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa.