

The range of in-patient benefits provided under the Act includes standard ward accommodation and meals, nursing service, drugs and biologicals, surgical supplies, use of operating and case-room, X-ray and laboratory procedures together with necessary medical interpretations, and the use of radiotherapy and physiotherapy facilities where available. The same benefits for out-patients, although authorized for assistance under the federal legislation, are not mandatory in provincial plans. A few provinces provide various insured services to out-patients but the majority thus far restrict out-patient benefits to emergency care following an accident.

Federal legislation covers only services provided by active treatment, chronic and convalescent hospitals. Tuberculosis and mental hospitals are excluded from the federal-provincial plan as well as institutions providing custodial care, though some provinces cover tuberculosis and mental services under the provincial programs.

There is considerable variation between provinces in the administration and financing of programs. General revenues, provincial sales tax and personal premiums are utilized in different provinces. The Federal Government pays each province 25 p.c. of the per capita cost of in-patient services in Canada as a whole, together with 25 p.c. of the per capita cost of in-patient services in a province multiplied by the average for the year of the number of insured persons in the province. On a national basis the federal contribution amounts to about 50 p.c. of shareable costs. However, for individual provinces the proportion of shareable costs met by the Federal Government varies, with a higher proportion of the cost of low-cost programs being met than of high-cost programs. Federal payments to the provinces under the program from July 1, 1958 to Dec. 31, 1959 totalled approximately \$165,000,000.

**Food and Drug Control.**\*—The Food and Drugs, Proprietary or Patent Medicine, and Opium and Narcotic Drug Acts govern the safety, purity and quality as well as the labelling and advertising of all foods, drugs, therapeutic devices and cosmetics. Standards of safety and purity are maintained through constant and widespread inspection and laboratory research. Standards governing ingredients are formulated and methods of analysis developed in the central Food and Drugs laboratory, where special research is also carried on to establish the safety of new products. Several panels of experts advise on technical and medical problems.

Regulation of the domestic supply of narcotic drugs is maintained through a system of licensed distributors and reports of all stocks subsequently sold or dispensed. Enforcement of the provisions concerning illicit traffic is carried out in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Indian and Northern Health Services.**—The Department of National Health and Welfare makes available public health, medical and hospital services to a registered population of about 180,000 Indians and 12,000 Eskimos. This program is administered by the Directorate of Indian and Northern Health Services in collaboration with the government departments responsible for the general welfare of these groups—the Department of Citizenship and Immigration for Indians and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for Eskimos.

Services are provided directly to about 2,000 small scattered groups through a network of 22 hospitals, 30 clinics, 38 nursing stations and about 80 other health centres staffed by full-time medical officers, graduate nurses, and other health personnel. In areas where departmental staff or facilities are not located, private practitioners and provincial or community health agencies provide care in return for fees for service, payment of per diem rates or through other arrangements. Special emphasis is placed on communicable disease control through health education, field X-ray surveys, protective vaccinations and early treatment where required.

\* This subject is covered in detail in a special article entitled "Federal Food and Drug Legislation in Canada", pp. 242-248.