

## Cosmetics and Medical Devices

For a number of reasons the activities of the Food and Drug Directorate in the field of cosmetics are limited to assuring their safety. The advertising of cosmetics is not restricted in the same way as for foods and drugs. It is assumed that much 'puffery' is expected by the public for products intended to improve personal appearance and that they are not really deceived by it.

The basic ingredients of cosmetics have been established by long and extensive use to be safe. There are, of course, always the group of hypersensitive individuals who show allergic reactions to cosmetics. Other than in those individuals, the dangers from cosmetics appear to be in the use of hair dyes containing p-phenylene-diamine dyes. Strict warnings against contact of these preparations with the eyes are required on all labels together with instructions for carrying out patch tests. Colours used for lipsticks have received special attention but there is little likelihood and no evidence that, in the amounts these colours are ingested, they cause any harm.

Up to the present little intensive study has been made of medical devices. However, a study has been made of dental anaesthetic gas machines and some suggestions were made as to the precision and reliability of the gauges and valves used thereon. Fraudulent devices, such as the Oxydonor, recommended as a treatment for whatever ails you, have been investigated and successful prosecutions carried out in connection with their sale.

## Organization

The Food and Drug Directorate consists of several divisions and has regional laboratories and district offices in various parts of Canada. The Inspection and Enforcement Services Division, the Administrative Division and the Scientific Services Division are at headquarters in Ottawa, together with a Medical Section and a Consumers Section.

The Scientific Services is a laboratory division composed of a number of sections covering a specific field of science—food chemistry, biophysics, pharmacology, physiology, pathology, microbiology, pharmaceutical chemistry and organic chemistry. Attached to the Associate Director's office is a Biometrics Section which gives statistical advice and help to all sections and divisions. The laboratory in Ottawa conducts mainly the research, investigation and development type of work and also the biological assays.

There are five regional offices and laboratories in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver and twenty-one district offices throughout Canada. The regional laboratories are responsible for the examinations and analyses needed in daily enforcement tasks and for the inspectors at regional and district offices. Their work is co-ordinated at Ottawa.

## Subsection 2.—Provincial and Local Health Services

Provincial and local health services may be grouped in several broad categories: general public health services, primarily of a preventive nature; services for specific diseases or disabilities combining prevention and treatment; services related to general medical and hospital care; and rehabilitation services for disabled persons.

**General Public Health Services.**—Provincial and local governments co-operate closely in providing community public health services. The autonomy of the provinces and their social, economic and geographic diversity make for some variety in legislative provisions, in financial arrangements, and in the detailed division of functions between provincial health departments and local and voluntary agencies. Each province, however, offers all or nearly all of a basic range of public health services which include environmental health, occupational health, communicable disease control, maternal and child health, dental health, nutrition, health education, and public health laboratories.

*Environmental Health.*—The control of factors in the physical environment which are harmful to physical health is a rapidly expanding area of public health activity. For many years, much of the essential work in this field was related to inspection duties long