

assistance to include a comprehensive program of health care for cases of need among the aged and infirm including those in nursing homes or institutions, the blind and the physically or mentally disabled, mothers with custody of dependent children, and neglected children. Services provided include medical, surgical, optical and dental care, essential drugs, remedial care and treatment including physiotherapy, emergency transportation, and chiropractic treatment.

Indigent persons not covered by these programs, as well as indigents in other provinces, may receive necessary care from the municipalities of residence. In general, where costs are assumed by the municipality, there is some form of cost-sharing arrangement with the provincial government.

Rehabilitation Services.—Expansion of rehabilitation services in all provinces indicates growing success in prevention and control of many disabling conditions and broader understanding of the needs of handicapped persons. Following the earlier rehabilitation programs organized for injured workers, disabled war veterans and such groups as the blind and the tuberculous, there has been continued progress in the development of services for other disability groups and special medical, vocational, educational and social services for the handicapped. More emphasis is being given to extending comprehensive services to all handicapped regardless of disability, and to strengthening national, provincial and community bodies concerned with planning and co-ordination. The broadening scope of rehabilitation programs and the movement toward integration of the numerous specialized services are exemplified by the liaison developed between two of the large national voluntary agencies, the Canadian Council for Crippled Children and Adults, and the Canadian Foundation for Poliomyelitis and Rehabilitation, as well as by the steady growth of the official provincial rehabilitation programs and the development of co-ordinated community services for the handicapped. Concurrently there has been more attention given to improving treatment and social services for mentally ill persons, mentally retarded children, alcoholics, cerebral palsied children and other disability groups.

Rehabilitation services for persons handicapped by physical or mental defects are organized under voluntary and public auspices as part of general health, welfare or education programs, and also by specialized agencies that provide one or more rehabilitation services. In many of the larger cities, these facilities include hospital physical medicine and rehabilitation departments and special clinics for particular disabilities, separate rehabilitation centres, sheltered workshops, vocational counselling, training and job-placement agencies, and special classes, schools and other combined treatment and education centres for handicapped children. Home care services, such as nursing, physical and occupational therapy and housekeeping services, employment of the homebound and recreational services have been started by a few agencies but their coverage is generally limited.

The main elements of the nation-wide rehabilitation program, introduced in 1953, are supported by joint federal-provincial programs for the co-ordination of rehabilitation services, the vocational training of disabled persons, and the National Health Grants designated for the extension of medical rehabilitation and crippled children's services and for the rehabilitation of the mentally ill or deficient, the tuberculous and other chronically ill. Vocational assessment and counselling of the handicapped is provided by rehabilitation officers attached to the provincial rehabilitation services and by some of the other rehabilitation agencies and centres. Medical rehabilitation services are made available through the provincial public assistance medical care schemes, hospital insurance plans, public health services, the voluntary agencies and various health grant projects. The main responsibility for job placement of persons with occupational handicaps is carried by about 165 special placement officers located in the larger National Employment Service offices across the country, although some rehabilitation agencies also do placement work, especially of the severely handicapped. The Federal Government also provides direct