

Red Cross promotes health education through its schoolroom branches across Canada; it supports a special fund to supply treatment to indigent handicapped children in Canada and a fund to promote understanding among school children of different countries.

The Canadian Foundation for Poliomyelitis and Rehabilitation.—The Foundation was formed in 1948 to assist poliomyelitis victims but in 1958, because of the protection afforded by the Salk vaccine, it broadened its scope to initiate projects for the rehabilitation of persons disabled by other diseases. Through the chapters organized in ten provinces the expanded program, financed mainly by the March of Dimes, supports treatment facilities in hospitals and rehabilitation centres and provides direct services to disabled persons in need of treatment, training, and other personal aid. Other aims of the Foundation are to carry out public education and research concerning disabling conditions and to assist in the training of professional personnel. Recent projects have included the organization of anti-polio vaccination clinics, transport of iron lungs and the formation of iron lung pools, and case-finding surveys in various provinces. The national office is in Montreal.

Victorian Order of Nurses.—Since its inception in 1897, the Victorian Order of Nurses has provided a professional home nursing and health counselling service to patients with any type of illness and regardless of their financial status. In all provinces except Prince Edward Island, the association's nurses carry out bedside nursing, prenatal, post-natal and newborn care under medical direction with emphasis upon chronic conditions. In some provinces they also assist provincial health authorities in tuberculosis and venereal disease programs and conduct child health clinics. In 1960 the Order employed 654 nurses in 119 branches whose services are available to over one-third of Canada's population. The national office is in Ottawa.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind.—Since 1918 the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has been the only national agency providing a complete social welfare service to the blind and prevention services to the visually impaired. The national office, located in Toronto, supports the seven regional divisions covering all provinces and the 48 local branches serving 23,802 registered blind persons and 76,575 prevention cases in 1960. Through its Eye Services, free to those in need of assistance, the Institute arranges for eye examinations and pays for medical treatment, glasses and visual aids; it also supports the operation of several Low Vision Aid Clinics and seven Eye Banks in the main cities. Social, vocational, recreational, and educational services for the blind are provided at 19 service centres to which workshops and residences are attached. Home teachers visit the newly blinded of all ages including pre-school-age children to teach them independence in daily living and other skills such as Braille, typing and handicrafts. Placement officers furnish vocational counselling and arrange for training and employment. Where possible the blind are placed in jobs in general industry, in the 425 CNIB concession stands and canteens or in farming and small businesses; others are gainfully employed in the Institute's industrial and sheltered workshops. The National Library circulates Braille magazines, books and recordings and supplies a transcription service to students.

The Health League of Canada.—The Health League of Canada, first established in 1918 as a National Committee for Combating Venereal Disease, now embraces about 75 national member associations supporting a wide variety of public health education activities to prevent disease and raise health standards. Its standing committees are concerned with various aspects of public health such as immunization, milk pasteurization, fluoridation of water, industrial health, nutrition, gerontology and other fields. The program is administered from a national office in Toronto, usually working through the affiliated organizations. Educational efforts include the provision of speakers for meetings and the preparation of radio scripts, health education films and literature; a magazine "Health" is published bi-monthly and weekly news bulletins are released to the press. The League also sponsors National Health and National Immunization Weeks.