

Under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program, DVA hospitals are recognized for the provision of insured services to veterans. Arrangements have been made for the payment of any necessary premiums on behalf of veterans who are in receipt of War Veterans Allowances. The Veterans Treatment Regulations remain the authority for the treatment of veterans (and others) in DVA institutions and elsewhere under departmental responsibility, regardless of whether or not the hospitalization is at the expense of the insurance plan.

Dental Services.—Dental treatment is provided for pensioned veterans, War Veterans Allowance recipients and others who are eligible for treatment under the various sections of the Veterans Treatment Regulations. Treatment is also provided for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other government departments on a recoverable basis. Thirty-five full-time and one half-time dental officers, together with ancillary staff, are employed in 20 dental clinics located in departmental hospitals and treatment centres across Canada.

The total dental treatment provided under departmental auspices in 1960 consisted of 120,793 operations for a total of 19,554 patients. Approximately 80 p.c. of such treatment was provided in departmental clinics and the remainder by civilian dentists in those areas where departmental facilities were not available.

Prosthetic Services.—The Prosthetic Services Section of the Department is responsible for the supply and maintenance of prostheses, orthopaedic appliances, and sensory aid devices to veterans and other persons eligible for treatment under Veterans Treatment Regulations. These appliances are issued only upon departmental medical prescription and are supplied and serviced without charge to eligible patients. The Department also extends prosthetic service upon request and, on a repayment basis, to other Federal Government departments, to allied governments, to provincial governments under certain conditions, and to workmen's compensation boards.

The physical establishment consists of a main factory at Toronto and 12 district manufacturing and fitting centres located in departmental hospitals throughout Canada; service is extended to five sub-districts by district prosthetic technicians. The Toronto factory manufactures certain prostheses, appliances and component parts, provides bulk purchasing of raw materials for distribution to other centres, provides advanced instructional courses for district staff, maintains a research section staffed by engineers and technicians, and accepts, when necessary, referrals of cases for whom routine fitting procedures are considered inadequate.

A considerable variety of appliances and accessories are supplied. In general, the Service manufactures and maintains those appliances which must be made to individual specifications such as arm and leg prostheses, braces and splints of all types, body belts, orthopaedic boots, boot aids, and many miscellaneous appliances medically prescribed for particular needs. Other appliances and accessories such as hearing aids, batteries, wheel chairs, eye glasses, elastic hosiery, rubber heels, stump socks, trusses, etc., are purchased from trade sources.

Research and development of prostheses and appliances had been carried out for many years prior to World War II by the prosthetic technicians at the Toronto Centre, who produced an imposing list of improvements in basic appliances and accessories, sometimes aided by the co-operation of the orthopaedic surgeons. In 1944, Canada made a vital contribution by organizing, under the auspices of the National Research Council, an International Conference on Artificial Limbs which was attended by representatives from the United Kingdom, the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Australia and Canada. Special committees were subsequently formed in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. In 1946, a research engineer was appointed to the National Research Council to work on prostheses and two years later was transferred to the Toronto