

*Alcoholism.*—Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia carry out research and education programs and operate centres for treatment, supported largely by public funds. Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta also have rehabilitation programs for alcoholic inmates of reform institutions. Recent legislation in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia authorizes the setting up of similar agencies to initiate research and education studies in those provinces.

*Other Diseases or Disabilities.*—Services for a number of chronic disabilities, such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, visual and auditory impairments and paraplegia have been developed largely by voluntary agencies assisted by federal and provincial funds. A brief description of the programs of some of these agencies is given in Part III, pp. 270-273, which deals with national voluntary health and welfare activities.

**Public Medical Care.**—Public medical care programs for the general population exist in three provinces, but are limited to residents of particular areas. Approximately one-half of Newfoundland's population receive physicians' services at home or in hospital under the provincially administered Cottage Hospital Plan which is financed in part on a premium basis. Medical indigents not under the Plan may also receive care at provincial expense. In addition, all Newfoundland children under the age of 16 years are entitled to free medical and surgical care in hospital. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, locally operated municipal-doctor programs cover about 28,000 and 158,000 persons, respectively. The Swift Current Health Region in Saskatchewan operates a comprehensive prepaid medical-dental and out-patient hospital care scheme for about 53,000 persons. These latter programs are subsidized to some extent by provincial health departments.

For some years Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have provided health service programs for regular social assistance recipients—persons in receipt of means-tested old age security supplements, old age assistance, blindness and disability allowances, and mothers' allowances and, in some provinces, certain child welfare cases. However, Nova Scotia covers only mothers' allowance recipients and their dependants and blindness allowance recipients and, in Saskatchewan, old age assistance recipients are the responsibility of the municipality of residence. Manitoba began a comprehensive program in 1960 covering physicians' services in home and office as well as essential optical, dental and drug services.

Under the Ontario program, the principal medical service covered is physicians' care in the home and office, including certain minor surgical procedures and prenatal and post-natal care. Since Jan. 1, 1959, basic dental care has been available to the children of mothers' allowance recipients. In addition to these medical services, Nova Scotia provides major and minor surgical and obstetrical services and medical attendance in hospital. The programs in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia give complete medical care in the home, office and hospital, including surgical and obstetrical services, specified prescription drugs (except in Alberta, and with a dollar limitation in Saskatchewan for non-life-saving drugs where financial hardship is not demonstrated), and dental and optical care, sometimes only on special authorization and/or with dollar limits. The Old Age Assistance group in Saskatchewan is entitled to hospital care only. All of these plans are completely provincially financed, except in British Columbia where costs are shared on a 90-10 basis with the municipalities assuming their 10-p.c. share on a basis proportionate to population, and in Ontario where per capita contributions toward the cost of medical services for the Old Age Assistance group are shared on an 80-20 basis with the municipality of residence. Manitoba's program of provincial social assistance includes 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 and surgical care in homes and doctors' offices, optical and dental care, essential drugs, remedial care and treatment including physiotherapy, emergency transportation and chiropractic treatment. Physicians provide care in hospital without charge.