

The main benefits now provided to veterans consist of medical treatment for those eligible to receive it, land settlement and home construction assistance, educational assistance for children of the war dead, veterans insurance, general welfare services, unused re-establishment credit, disability and widows' pensions, and war veterans allowances.

The work of the Department, excepting the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 17 district offices and five sub-district offices in Canada and one district office in England. There are eight Veterans' Land Act district offices and 32 regional offices established to administer the benefits of the Act.

## Section 1.—Treatment Services

**Treatment Activity.**—The Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Treatment Services Branch, provides medical, dental and prosthetic services for entitled veterans throughout Canada. Service is also provided for members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the wards of other governments or departments at the request and expense of the authorities concerned.

The primary responsibility of the Branch is to provide examination and treatment to disability pensioners for their pensionable disabilities. Other main groups of veterans receiving treatment are War Veterans Allowance recipients, veterans whose service and need make them eligible for domiciliary care, and veterans whose service and financial circumstances render them eligible for free treatment, or at a cost adjusted to their ability to pay. If beds are available, any veteran may receive treatment in a departmental hospital on a guarantee of payment of the cost of treatment. The pensioner receives treatment regardless of his place of residence, but service to other veterans is available in Canada only. Where departmental facilities are not available, the eligible veteran may receive treatment at the expense of the Department in an outside hospital by a doctor of his own choice.

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.

Departmental hospitals provide base-hospital facilities for the treatment of members of the Armed Forces. Ste. Foy Hospital near Quebec City and Sunnybrook Hospital at Toronto have self-contained units but in the other institutions there is a close integration of patients. The units, which are staffed by Armed Forces personnel, utilize the ancillary services of the hospital and also provide training facilities for members of the medical services of the Armed Forces.

Patient load for the year ended Dec. 31, 1961 was as follows:—

| <u>Item</u>   | <u>No.</u>       |
|---|------------------|
| Admissions to departmental hospitals.....                       | 53,024           |
| Admissions to other hospitals.....                              | 17,951           |
| <b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS.....</b>                                    | <b>70,975</b>    |
| Patient-days in departmental hospitals.....                     | 2,577,089        |
| Patient-days in other hospitals.....                            | 875,618          |
| <b>TOTAL PATIENT-DAYS.....</b>                                  | <b>3,452,707</b> |
| Out-patient visits to departmental hospitals.....               | 402,450          |
| Out-patient visits to other departmental clinics.....           | 87,751           |
| Out-patient visits to doctor-of-choice.....                     | 320,214          |
| <b>TOTAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS.....</b>                            | <b>810,415</b>   |
| Number of veterans treated under the Doctor-of-Choice Plan..... | 109,505          |