

without any claim on the Commission. In addition, patients may enrol, voluntarily, with an approved health agency upon payment of a fee to cover administration costs. The agency is billed directly by the participating physician and the agency pays the physician, as payment in full, an amount equal to the amount paid to the agency by the Commission in respect of the physician's assessed account.

Municipal doctor plans formerly operating in Saskatchewan were discontinued with the introduction of the province-wide medical care insurance program but arrangements were being completed in the spring of 1963 to continue, under local auspices, insured medical services for some 57,000 residents of the Swift Current Health Region which has operated a prepaid medical-dental program for nearly 17 years.

The Saskatchewan medical care insurance program is financed from personal premiums plus general revenue contributions. No premiums were levied in respect of 1962 but an annual premium of \$12 per adult or a maximum annual premium of \$24 per family has been levied for 1963 for medical care coverage. Special corporation and personal income taxes have been introduced to help support the program, along with the use of a portion of revenues from a 5-p.c. retail sales tax.

Subsection 4.—Services for the Disabled and Chronically Ill

The success of rehabilitation programs for injured workers, war veterans, handicapped children and other disability groups such as the blind and tuberculous has encouraged recent efforts to extend rehabilitation services to all handicapped persons. Examples of the improved services for the disabled and chronically ill are the physical restoration facilities in hospitals and rehabilitation centres, the provincial vocational rehabilitation programs described in Part II, pp. 301-302, and the broader educational and vocational opportunities for handicapped children provided in special schools, classes and training centres. Increasing interest in the social problems created by disability and aging is being taken by the official and voluntary health and welfare agencies, many of which co-operate through social planning bodies at community, provincial and national levels.

Effective rehabilitation depends upon a broad range of services that should be available at the proper time to persons who need them. Based upon a system for case finding, assessment and follow-up, the continuum of organized rehabilitation services encompasses medical care including surgery, restorative services such as physical, occupational and speech therapy and prosthetic services, vocational evaluation, training and counselling, job placement and supportive health and social services.

General and chronic hospitals in the larger cities have set up departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation; many also operate out-patient clinics for various chronic diseases such as arthritis and rheumatism, diabetes, glaucoma, poor vision and deafness, and for orthopaedic and neurological conditions. Separate rehabilitation centres in each province serve the more seriously disabled who require long-term treatment or training to be restored to their usual activities. Among these are a number of special centres for injured workmen and handicapped children, and several for epileptics and paraplegics. Voluntary agencies concerned with specific disability groups including arthritics, the blind, the deaf, children suffering from cystic fibrosis or muscular dystrophy, the mentally ill or retarded, and other categories are also intensifying their rehabilitation efforts. Supportive services such as home care programs that provide therapy and house-keeping services, recreation for the handicapped, sheltered workshops and employment for the home-bound are provided by a growing number of agencies.

Efforts are being made to identify children with congenital anomalies, to develop an adequate system of registration of all handicapped children by locality as well as provincially, and to extend adequate treatment facilities and other services. Several provincial