

Regulation of Hygienic Standards.—The Department of National Health and Welfare is responsible for maintaining hygienic standards in relation to all forms of inter-provincial and overseas means of transport in National Parks, in federal construction camps and on other federal property.

Subsection 5.—Health Research and International Health

Health Research.—Health research in Canada is carried on in universities, hospitals, research institutes and government departments. In the universities, relevant research is done by departments of basic medical sciences, medical and public health schools or faculties and by such departments as genetics and psychology as well as in special departments or institutes of research (see also Chapter VIII, Sect. 4, Subsect. 3). Hospitals used for teaching medical students also carry on considerable research, as do some of the larger non-teaching hospitals and mental institutes.

The Department of National Health and Welfare, the Medical Research Council (established in November 1960 to take over the work formerly carried on by the National Research Council Medical Division), the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defence Research Board support extensive programs of research. Other important research centres include the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories, the Banting Research Foundation, the Charles H. Best Institute, the Institute of Microbiology and Hygiene, the Allan Memorial Institute and the Montreal Neurological Institute. Some non-governmental or voluntary agencies concerned with health generally, or with specific diseases, encourage and support research by various means including financial assistance.

International Health.—Canada actively assists and co-operates with the World Health Organization and the other specialized agencies of the United Nations whose programs have a substantial health component or orientation. Capital and technical assistance are provided to underdeveloped countries through the Colombo Plan and other bilateral aid programs. Health training is provided for a number of persons coming to Canada each year under the different technical co-operation schemes (see p. 148 and pp. 155-158); during 1963, 86 trainees arrived, bringing the total number of trainees in Canada during the year to 204. These persons were working in a wide range of health disciplines under the External Aid Program.

Canadian experts in health legislation, health administration and related areas undertook specific assignments abroad during the year and specialists in a number of clinical fields were provided in response to requests from the developing countries. Capital assistance, primarily through the provision of cobalt beam therapy units for cancer treatment centres in the Colombo Plan area, was continued.

At the Sixteenth World Health Assembly in May 1962, Canada was elected to name a person to serve for a three-year term on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization and in 1963 this officer was appointed Chairman of the Board. Canada's term of office on the Executive Board of UNICEF commenced at the beginning of 1962 and similarly extends over a three-year period.

To carry out Canada's obligations under the International Sanitary Conventions, the Department of National Health and Welfare maintains quarantine measures for ships and aircraft entering Canadian ports and provides accommodation and necessary medical care for persons arriving in Canada who require quarantine (see p. 278).

The Department is responsible for the enforcement of requirements governing the handling and shipping of shellfish under the International Shellfish Agreement between Canada and the United States and, at the request of the International Joint Commission, participates in studies connected with control of pollution of boundary waters between Canada and the United States as well as with problems caused by atmospheric pollution. Other international health responsibilities include the custody and distribution of biological, vitamin and hormone standards for the World Health Organization and certain duties in connection with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations.