

medicine, hospital services and an expanding public health program are closely related. There are programs operating under health departments in four provinces; four others have provincially supported cancer agencies or commissions. These sponsor the work of diagnosis and treatment in special clinics, located usually within the larger general hospitals. Under the provincial hospital insurance plans, the benefits pertaining to in-patient care in the treatment of cancer are essentially similar in ten provinces and include such special services as diagnostic radiology, laboratory tests and radiotherapy. In at least five provinces, these benefits apply also to out-patients. In others, the previous pattern of services to out-patients—that of assessing costs of treatment in relation to ability to pay—is still in effect. Comprehensive free medical programs for cancer patients are in operation in Saskatchewan and Alberta and for cancer in-patients in New Brunswick.

Venereal Disease.—Free diagnostic and treatment services are available in all provinces but the operation of government clinics is being increasingly superseded by the method of supplying free drugs to private physicians who are reimbursed for treatment of indigents on a fee-for-service basis.

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. Legislation in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec authorizes the setting up of similar agencies to initiate research and education studies in those provinces.

Other Diseases or Disabilities.—Services for persons with 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 the 1962 Year Book, pp. 270-274 (not carried in this edition), and in Subsection 4 on Services for the Disabled and Chronically Ill, pp. 285-286.

Subsection 3.—Public Medical Care

Saskatchewan and Alberta operate province-wide medical care insurance programs. About half the population of Newfoundland receives physicians' services at home or in hospital under the provincially administered Cottage Hospital Medical Care 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.

For several years the Provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and more recently the Province of Manitoba, have supported the cost of providing certain personal health care services for specified categories of persons in need and receiving public assistance. In British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario the beneficiaries include persons in receipt of means-tested old age security supplements, old age assistance, blindness and disability allowances and mothers' allowances, and certain child welfare cases and unemployed persons in need. Nova Scotia covers only mothers' allowance recipients and their dependants, and blindness allowance recipients. Saskatchewan's provincial program excludes disabled persons, blind persons not receiving a supplemental allowance, and persons on local relief (social aid), these categories being the responsibility of the municipality of residence. Old age assistance recipients are covered for hospital care and medical care only. The Manitoba program covers 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. In all provinces, indigent persons not covered by these programs may have necessary care financed in the municipalities in which they reside.