

have consultant nursing services within these divisions. Provincial divisions provide advisory services to local health departments and to hospitals, conduct studies of local problems and needs, and assist in the training of health personnel.

Dental Health.—All provincial health departments have dental health divisions that administer programs varying under local conditions but directed mainly to the training of dentists and dental hygienists in public health, the operation of children's preventive and treatment clinics, and health education. Water fluoridation projects involving 4,324,000 people are in operation in eight provinces and in the Northwest Territories. Four provinces—Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia—have set up, in conjunction with their dental schools, special courses for dental hygienists. In all ten provinces clinical care is provided for children in remote rural areas. A locally sponsored plan in which the cost of dental services for children is shared by the community and the provincial health department is in operation in more than 90 communities in British Columbia.

Nutrition.—Services include technical guidance, education, consultation and research. In some provinces, school lunch programs are sponsored and dietary supplements distributed. Five provinces have special nutrition divisions; in other provinces, consultants in nutrition function under a broader grouping of departmental services.

Health Education.—A basic concern of provincial health authorities is to stimulate public interest in important health needs, and most provincial health departments have a division of health education directed by a full-time professional 'health educator'. The division may also provide consultative services to the management of the department, to local health authorities and to voluntary associations.

Public Health Laboratories.—The public health laboratory was one of the earliest provincial services developed to assist local public health departments in the protection of community health and the control of infectious diseases. Public health bacteriology (testing of milk, water and food), diagnostic bacteriology and pathology are the principal functions of the laboratory service, with medical testing for physicians and hospitals steadily increasing in volume. Efforts to co-ordinate public health and hospital laboratory services and measures to bring laboratory facilities to rural areas are among the recent developments.

Subsection 2.—Local Preventive Public Health Services

Local health authorities are responsible generally for the administration and enforcement of local regulations and by-laws relating to health and for the direct provision of various preventive health services. The scope of these services varies greatly in different areas and provinces but basic programs are similar, covering environmental sanitation, communicable disease control, child, maternal and school health, health education and vital statistics. Vital statistics are collected locally and information is used to analyse and plan public health activities. Among other services provided locally by some health units or departments are mental health, occupational health, community nutrition, and preventive dental health. Increasing attention is being directed toward measures designed to control the chronic diseases, to extend the period of active life, and to provide adequate public health protection for the aging segment of the population.

Health Units.—Full-time local public health services under the direction of full-time medical health officers have been developed partly through municipal health departments, partly through joint provincial-local health units, and partly through provincial health districts. City health departments are administered and financed directly by the municipality concerned, usually through a municipal board of health. Local health units are designed primarily for rural areas with staff serving county or other combinations of local government jurisdictions, and financial and administrative responsibility shared between provincial and local authorities; although the division of responsibility varies among prov-