

Subsidies are available to certain persons resident in the province for the previous 12 months. The government will pay the full premium of applicants who had no taxable income during the preceding year and of recipients of public assistance, and it will pay 50 p.c. of the premium for single applicants who had taxable income in the preceding year of \$500 or less, for married applicants with one dependant whose taxable income in the preceding year was \$1,000 or less, and for married applicants with two or more dependants whose taxable income was \$1,300 or less. Premiums have been set at \$60 for a single person, \$120 for a family of two, and \$150 for a family of three or more. The Plan is administered by the Department of Health and a Medical Services Insurance Council, representing the public and the medical profession, advises the Minister on its operation.

Programs for Public Assistance Recipients.—For several years, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have operated programs providing certain personal health care services for specified categories of welfare recipients. In 1966, Quebec commenced a program providing comprehensive physician's services to recipients of public assistance. Medical care benefits for recipients of assistance in Saskatchewan and Ontario are now administered through the public medical care schemes set up in those provinces.

In Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia coverage extends to virtually all recipients of provincial aid, including persons receiving needs-tested supplements to old age security pensions (a special means test for health care enrolment is used in Ontario), recipients of old age assistance, mothers' allowances and their dependants, disabled persons' allowances, blindness allowances, general welfare assistance and, in some provinces, child wards, vocational rehabilitation recipients and short-term welfare recipients. Manitoba covers aged and infirm persons requiring custodial care, recipients of blind persons' allowances and recipients of mothers' allowances and their dependants. Nova Scotia enrolls only blindness allowance recipients and mothers' allowance recipients and their dependants. All provincial programs provide comprehensive physician's services, including medical attendance in the home, office and hospital, surgery, diagnostic services and obstetrical care. Some limitations on billing for certain physician's services, such as surgery and hospital visits, exist in Nova Scotia.

Dental and optical care benefits are provided to all covered recipients in the four westernmost provinces, sometimes only on special authorization and/or with dollar limits. Ontario finances a program of dental care for the children of mothers' allowance recipients. Other services provided in some provinces include orthopedic appliances, physiotherapy, chiropody, chiropractic treatment, home nursing and transportation for medical reasons.

Recipients of public assistance in Newfoundland who are individually certified by the welfare officer in their area as being unable to meet their medical care payments can be given free service, including comprehensive medical service, out-patient drugs and dressings, prosthetic appliances, transportation to and from hospital, dental care where available, and eye refractions and glasses.

Programs for Other Selected Groups.—Under the Cottage Hospital Plan, in about 18 rural cottage hospital districts, Newfoundland pays for subscribers' medical care in the home, doctor's office and out-patient clinic or cottage hospital, as well as specialist care not available in the local area but secured in St. John's, Grand Falls or Corner Brook upon referral by the local doctor or nurse. Premiums charged vary according to district from \$6 to \$24 for a family and from \$3 to \$12 for a single person. Physicians in cottage hospital districts are paid a full-time salary which varies with the size of district, level of responsibility, years of experience and other factors. In 1964, about 205,000 persons were eligible under the program, or 42 p.c. of the provincial population. In three additional rural areas, the government subsidizes the costs of voluntary organizations that employ doctors and provide comprehensive services to area residents upon payment of a premium of \$10 for a family or \$5 for a single person. These plans cover 51,000 persons, or 10 p.c. of the population.