

Newfoundland also has a partially universal program—the Children's Health Service—financed out of general revenues, which automatically covers all children under 16 years of age for in-hospital medical and surgical care, anaesthesia and special consultations. For services rendered, physicians are paid approximately 80 p.c. of the fees of the Newfoundland Division of the Canadian Medical Association. The Children's Health Service covers 218,000 children but, of these, some 113,000 reside in districts covered by the cottage hospital and voluntary schemes described in the preceding paragraph.

Subsection 5.—Services for the Disabled and Chronically Ill

Physical medicine and rehabilitation departments have been established in most teaching, veterans' and children's hospitals. Complementing these are some 48 independent rehabilitation centres, including 27 children's centres and four workmen's compensation centres. Hospital services available to in-patients and out-patients include physical medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social services; most of the children's hospitals and the teaching hospitals also supply speech therapy. The rehabilitation centres provide comprehensive medical, psychosocial and vocational services to more severely disabled persons who require intensive or long-term therapy. In addition, the children's hospitals and centres operate special education classes. Provincial and community agencies such as those providing vocational rehabilitation and home care services co-operate in the rehabilitation of disabled children and adults.

Most large general hospitals conduct special out-patient clinics for disabilities such as arthritis and rheumatism, diabetes, glaucoma, speech and hearing defects, heart diseases, orthopedic and neurological conditions. Voluntary agencies, which are concerned with specific disability groups such as arthritics, the blind, the deaf, children suffering from cystic fibrosis, haemophilia or muscular dystrophy, the mentally ill or retarded, or disabled persons generally, are also broadening their rehabilitation services. These agencies provide such services as counselling, the supply of personal aids and appliances, employment and education, and sheltered workshops and also participate in the provision of services for the homebound. More than 150 sheltered workshops were in operation in 1965, serving handicapped persons. Organized home care programs, under either hospital or community sponsorship, have been established in the principal cities, providing nursing, homemaker, physiotherapy and other services to the disabled, the chronically ill and the aged in their own homes. Several provincial health departments have instituted home nursing services to residents of outlying districts.

Provincial health, welfare and education departments and voluntary agencies are developing specialized services for physically and mentally handicapped children. Most provinces have established registries of handicapped children of varying coverage in co-operation with physicians, health units, hospitals and other agencies. Such registries, which are increasingly useful sources of morbidity statistics including congenital anomalies, assist in the planning and co-ordination of rehabilitation services. In addition, health departments and the crippled children's societies provide family counselling, recreation, transportation and foster-home care; travelling clinics extend services to outlying areas. Special schools or classes for handicapped children are operated by local school boards in the main cities but most of the 10 residential schools for the deaf and the six for the blind are operated by the provincial education departments.

The Federal Government, through its National Health Grants (see p. 280), assists the provinces in their programs to develop medical rehabilitation services and facilities, to support the training of medical rehabilitation personnel (through grants to university schools and student bursaries), to provide equipment and to finance research. Three regional prosthetic research and training units in rehabilitation centres in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg and the Bio-Engineering Institute of the University of New Brunswick are supported by National Health Grants. These three regional centres and several juvenile amputee clinics in other cities are rehabilitating children with limb deformities or amputations. A federal-provincial program assists in the extraordinary rehabilitation,