

Section 3.—Treatment Services

Treatment Activity.—The Treatment Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical, dental and prosthetic services for entitled veterans throughout Canada as authorized by the Veterans Treatment Regulations. Service is also provided for members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the wards of other governments or departments at the request and expense of the authorities concerned.

It is the responsibility of the Branch to provide examination and treatment to disabled pensioners for their pensionable disabilities, and to provide treatment to war veterans allowance recipients (but not their dependants), veterans whose service and need make them eligible for domiciliary care, and veterans whose service and financial circumstances render them eligible for free treatment or at a cost adjusted to their ability to pay. If a bed is available, any veteran may receive treatment in a Departmental hospital on a guarantee of payment of the cost of hospitalization. The pensioner receives treatment for his pensionable disabilities regardless of his place of residence but service to other veterans is available in Canada only. Where Departmental facilities are not readily accessible, an eligible veteran may obtain treatment at the expense of the Department in an outside hospital from a doctor of his choice.

Under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program, DVA hospitals are recognized for the provision of insured services to veterans. Any necessary premiums are paid on behalf of veterans in receipt of war veterans allowance. The Veterans Treatment Regulations remain the authority for the treatment of veterans (and others) in DVA institutions and elsewhere under Departmental responsibility, regardless of whether or not the hospitalization is at the expense of the insurance plan.

Hospital Facilities.—Treatment is provided in 11 active-treatment hospitals located at Halifax, N.S.; Saint John, N.B.; Quebec City, Montreal and Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.; Toronto and London, Ont.; Winnipeg, Man.; Calgary, Alta.; and Vancouver and Victoria, B.C.; and also in a health and occupational centre at Ottawa, Ont., and in two domiciliary care homes at Saskatoon, Sask., and Edmonton, Alta. The rated bed capacity of these institutions at Dec. 31, 1965 was 8,823 beds. It should also be noted that in Ottawa both acute and chronic cases that require definitive treatment are admitted to the National Defence Medical Centre. An additional 571 beds are available in veterans pavilions situated at St. John's, Nfld., Regina, Sask., and Edmonton, Alta. Pavilions are owned by the Department but are operated by the parent hospital, and medical staffs are provided by the Department.

Medical Staff and Training Programs.—Many of the professional staffs of Departmental active-treatment hospitals are employed on a part-time basis; in the main they are recommended for appointment by the Deans of Medicine of the universities with which the hospitals are affiliated. Most members of the medical staffs are engaged in teaching and private practice and hold appointments on the medical faculties of the various universities. In the active-treatment institutions, medical teaching programs are maintained, which are considered essential to attract highly qualified professional men and thus ensure the highest quality of medical care. All active-treatment hospitals have been approved by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for postgraduate teaching in medicine and surgery, and the majority are also approved for advanced postgraduate training in various other specialties. An extensive intern-resident program is in effect in the medical specialties as well as in other fields such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietary, psychology and medical social services. A school for the training of nursing assistants, operated at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax, has an annual capacity of 70 and graduates are offered employment in other Departmental hospitals. A program of postgraduate and continuing education in pharmacy is conducted, in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy of the University of Toronto, at Westminster Hospital, London, Ont.