

Acts, Workmen's Compensation Acts) setting health safety, standards for employment. Most provinces maintain environmental health laboratories that study industrial health problems such as the effects of noise and air conditions on workers.

Communicable Disease Control.—Five provincial health departments have separate divisions of communicable disease control headed by full-time epidemiologists; in the other provinces these functions are handled by other provincial medical consultants. Local health authorities undertake case-finding and diagnostic services in co-operation with public health laboratories, conduct epidemiological investigations and carry out control measures such as for tuberculosis and venereal disease. All provincial health departments organize immunization programs for the public against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and smallpox and, in most provinces, against measles.

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 or unit of health education directed by a full-time professional "health educator". This division makes available a variety of health education materials to other divisions of the health department, to local health authorities and to voluntary associations. Many educational activities are directed to reducing habits harmful to health, such as cigarette smoking and the excessive use of alcohol and other drugs.

Public Health Laboratories.—All provinces maintain a central public health laboratory and usually a number of branch laboratories to assist local health agencies and the medical profession 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.—Services for Specific Diseases or Disabilities

Mental Health.—Treatment programs for the mentally ill have centred mainly around three types of facilities: the mental hospital, the psychiatric unit in the general hospital, and the organized community mental health clinic. However, these are becoming increasingly less separate and distinct in their functioning as the mental health movement concerns itself with wider community involvement in the psycho-social problem of mental illness. Treatment is being made more accessible with the continuing expansion of psychiatric services within general hospitals and the opening of several psychiatric hospitals for short-term in-patient therapy, day care, emergencies, and out-patient services. The development of social centres and sheltered workshops to aid the mental patient following his discharge to the community owes much to the volunteer efforts of the Canadian Mental Health Association and the response of individual residents. Mental hospitals continue to emphasize programs of recreational and industrial therapy to activate patients for discharge.

Special centres for the assessment and diagnostic evaluation of mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed children are also being developed. Day-training schools or classes for the trainable retarded, sponsored by local associations of parent groups forming the Canadian Association for Retarded Children, are organized throughout the land and research programs designed to afford better understanding and management of mental retardation problems are being developed and expanded in all provinces.

Most large public mental hospitals care for many types of mental illness. In recent years the status of many long-term chronically ill patients has been under review to determine their need for continued stay. As a result, it has been possible to resettle many patients, who no longer need the services of mental hospitals, in foster or boarding homes