

and vocational services to more severely disabled persons. Provincial and community agencies, such as those providing rehabilitation and home care services, co-operate in the rehabilitation of disabled children and adults.

Most large general hospitals operate special out-patient clinics for disabilities including arthritis and rheumatism, diabetes, glaucoma, speech and hearing defects, heart diseases and orthopaedic and neurological conditions. Voluntary agencies 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 include counselling, personal aids and appliances, transportation, employment and education, and sheltered workshops, as well as participation in the provision of services for the home-bound. Home care programs, under either hospital or community sponsorship, are established in the principal cities and in several rural counties. They provide nursing, home-maker, physiotherapy and other services to the disabled, the chronically ill, the aged, and the convalescent in their own homes. Several provincial health departments provide 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 registries of handicapped children, of varying coverage, and these are being found increasingly useful in the planning and co-ordination of rehabilitation services. In addition to medical rehabilitation, health departments and the crippled children's societies provide family counselling, recreation, transportation and foster home care; travelling clinics extend periodic diagnostic and treatment services to outlying areas. Special schools or classes for various groups of handicapped children are operated by local school boards in the main cities but most of the 15 residential schools for the deaf and the six for the blind are operated under provincial auspices.

Regional prosthetic research and training units established in rehabilitation centres in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, and the Bio-Engineering Institute of the University of New Brunswick, supported by National Health Grants, are significant developments. The transfer of prosthetic services for veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of National Health and Welfare on Jan. 1, 1966, has made it possible for the provinces to extend these services to non-veterans. Artificial limbs and prosthetic appliances are available in 12 Prosthetic Centres across Canada in accordance with provisions determined by provincial health departments. A federal-provincial program assists in the extraordinary rehabilitation, maintenance and counselling costs on behalf of children with thalidomide-induced defects.

Ten university schools offer training in physical therapy and/or occupational therapy and three provide training in audiology and speech therapy. In the year ended Mar. 31, 1967, of the \$40,407,080 made available through the General Health Grants to assist the provinces in their rehabilitation programs, \$2,885,550 was specifically allocated to the Medical Rehabilitation and Crippled Children Grant. These grants are used to develop medical rehabilitation personnel (through grants to the university schools and student bursaries) and for equipment and research.

### Section 3.—Hospital and Other Health Statistics

Statistical information on the health of Canadians is limited to the well established and highly standardized mortality, communicable disease and institutional statistics series, all of which have been available for a long period, and the recently established series covering operations under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program (pp. 296-298). Much statistical information is also available from provincial and other health sources.