

of the eye performed by optometrists. Most provinces impose frequency limits for the insured service. Manitoba and Quebec cover the fitting of contact lenses in certain cases and Quebec also covers such additional services as tests for colour-blindness. Alberta provides a comprehensive range of prescribed goods and services for persons 65 years and over and their families.

Paramedical services. Chiropractic services are covered for all insured residents in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and, excluding X-rays, in British Columbia and Manitoba. Outside Saskatchewan there are limits on the number of services and their cost. Osteopathic services are provided on the same basis as physicians' services in Alberta and British Columbia; they are also a benefit in Ontario, with limitations as to amount. Podiatric services (chiropody) are a benefit in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, with limitations as to amount. British Columbia also provides limited amounts of orthoptic treatment and of the services of naturopaths and of visiting and special nurses. Physiotherapy in home and office is insured in Ontario and British Columbia under medical insurance auspices but the benefit is limited to what is provided under hospital insurance auspices in other provinces.

Other services. Alberta provides Blue Cross non-group membership at no cost to registered residents 65 years and over and their dependents, and at reduced rates to other residents unable to obtain similar coverage through their employment. The benefits include, in addition to the prescribed drugs, hospital differential charges for preferred accommodation, ambulance services, appliances, home-nursing care, naturopathic services, clinical psychological services, and dental care needed because of accident or injury, at subsidized rates of \$27 a year for a single subscriber and \$54 for a family. The premiums are even lower for those with limited income. Alberta residents aged 65 or over and their families are also eligible for hearing aids, approved surgical and medical equipment, supplies, and appliances. Under a special program Saskatchewan residents may purchase hearing aids and accessories at cost, and may obtain without charge hearing evaluations and hearing-aid fitting and repair; Saskatchewan residents may also borrow without charge wheelchairs, walkers, respiratory equipment and commodes. In Manitoba, extra benefits include limb prosthetic devices and services and, with prior approval of the insurance commission, prescribed limb and spinal orthotic devices and services. Quebec insures prosthetic, orthotic, and orthopaedic services and appliances.

5.2.5 Mental health and illness

Among provincially operated health services, mental health activities represent one of the largest administrative areas in expenditure and employees. In 1973, mental institutions reported operating expenditures of \$524 million, while their personnel numbered 53,000; corresponding figures for 1974 were \$593 million and 52,814.

No adequate measure of mental disorders exists, but in 1975 there were 132,001 admissions to psychiatric in-patient facilities, an increase of 4% over the previous year. Separations increased by 4% to 134,129 in 1975. The year-end census of patients on books totalled 53,279, a decrease of 3% from the previous year. Table 5.18 contains information on patient movement in the various types of psychiatric facilities. Beyond these hospitals and clinics, however, are many other cases.

At the end of 1975, 228 separate in-patient facilities and 140 psychiatric units in hospitals were caring for the mentally ill; most separate facilities are operated by the provinces. The majority of hospitalized patients reside in the 44 public mental hospitals. Most mental hospitals have undergone successive additions to their original structures and many have pioneered new treatments for mental illness. Several provinces are arranging for boarding-home care with the federal government sharing the cost of maintaining needy patients in such homes under the Canada Assistance Plan. In every province at least 88% (nationally, 96%) of