

Patent Medicines.—The Patent Medicines Branch operates in a somewhat similar manner. No patent medicine may be offered to the public as a "cure" for disease. The word "cure" is taboo. All must be registered, and it is the duty of the Department to see that all are of some value and not dangerous, and the presence of all potent drugs must be stated on the label with the dosage.

To assist the Dominion analyst having the administration of the Food and Drugs Act and the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act, two Advisory Boards are established, one dealing with food standards, the other prescribing what shall be deemed a sufficient medication of medicines containing alcohol in excess of 2½ p.c. to make them unfit as beverages, and also what shall be the maximum doses of scheduled potent drugs in any licensed patent medicine.

Pollution of Inland Waters.—The prevention of the pollution of inland waters is occupying the serious attention of the department. A special Division conducted by a sanitary engineer has been created, for the purpose of providing a safe water supply on board vessels and preventing pollution of rivers and streams through discharging sewage, and to co-operate with the International Joint Commission in the enforcement of rules and regulations relating to questions involving public health with regard to boundary waters between the United States of America and Canada. This division also supervises Dominion public buildings and offices with a view to conserving and promoting the health of civil servants and other Government employees.

Hospitals.—Hospitalization is another Division which offers expert advice in the construction and maintenance of hospitals.

Narcotics.—Certainly no field of public health offers greater opportunity than the control of the illegal distribution of narcotics. Since the introduction of opium-smoking in Canada 30 or more years ago, the use of habit-forming drugs, such as morphine, heroin and cocaine, has become widespread. It is estimated that there are from 8,000 to 10,000 drug addicts in Canada. One of the first steps taken by the Department of Health was the creation of a Narcotic Branch to control the importation and sale of such drugs in accordance with the principles laid down by the old Hague Convention and now by the League of Nations. Wholesale agents, physicians and druggists are obliged to keep records of importation or sale, and to forward their records periodically to the Department. The legitimate use of these dangerous habit-forming drugs is thus controlled.

Laboratory of Hygiene.—The Laboratory of Hygiene is concerned with the examination of bacteriological and serological products such as vaccines and sera, as well as the standardization of the more potent remedies such as digitalis and strophanthus. Research is an important function of the laboratory.

II.—PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES.

1.—Prince Edward Island.

There is no Department of Public Health in Prince Edward Island. The supervision of public health matters is, however, in the hands of the Government of the province, which operates the Falconwood Hospital and Provincial Infirmary, in addition to making money grants to other similar institutions.

In the report of the trustees of the Falconwood Hospital and Provincial Infirmary for the year ended Dec. 31, 1927, a total of 308 patients was shown as resident on this date, compared with a total of 313 at the beginning of the year. During