

include isolation hospitals, maternity hospitals, homes for the deaf, dumb and blind, homes for incurables, infirmaries, homes for epileptics and for lepers, and tuberculosis sanatoria.

Throughout the Dominion many other more or less similar institutions exist whose nature is more independent than that of the types mentioned above.<sup>1</sup> Since these institutions do not receive Provincial Government grants and hence are not in all cases subject to inspection, no complete record showing their number, purpose and the number of inmates can be obtained.

But little historical information on the subject is available. No statistics of public benevolence had been presented in the Canada Year Book for some years before their inclusion in the 1922-23 edition. It seems, however, that until comparatively recently the care of needy and destitute persons, as we now recognize it, was largely in the hands of individuals, of whose humane efforts scanty evidence remains for present use. The inability of private effort to cope with the problem has led to the present government control of the majority of benevolent institutions.

In the exercise of the powers granted them at Confederation, the various Provincial Governments have enacted legislation governing the regulation of public charities. In Ontario, for example, the Houses of Refuge Act, the Hospitals for the Insane Act, the Private Sanitarium Act, the Sanatoria for Consumptives Act, the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act and the Prisons and Public Charities Inspection Act have been passed, dealing with different phases of the subject. Similar legislation of other Provincial Governments provides for the maintenance of hospitals, the carrying-on of charitable work, the provision of funds, and inspection by competent officials.

#### **Numbers and Types of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions in Canada.**

—An attempt has been made to bring together in tabular form certain statistics of the number of institutions in the Dominion concerned with the health of the community or carried on as the result of benevolent effort. It is, of course, highly desirable that not only the mere data of numbers but also those relating to inmates, staff, finances, etc., should be similarly collated for the country as a whole. This, however, as stated above is for the present impossible, owing to the incomparability of statistics published by the various provinces and in others to the scarcity or absence of published information. The matter made available is given in as complete and concise a form as possible in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1 is designed to show the numbers of institutions in Canada, by provinces, for the latest provincial fiscal years, according as the statistics for the respective provinces are available.

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<sup>1</sup> For information regarding Dominion Government hospitals for returned soldiers, see p. 1043 of this volume, also pp. 20-29 of the 1920 Year Book.