

medical inspection of school children. These are carried out in some cases by the district or sub-district medical health officers, and in others by public health nurses whose activities are confined to this work alone. In addition, expert advice and assistance are supplied free to children, teachers, and parents. In many cases dental inspection is provided for. This work is relatively new and has been carried on upon a considerable scale for only a short period, but great benefits have already resulted in the general improvement in health and sanitary conditions and in the control and prevention of epidemics.

Public hospitals are the most numerous among health institutions. They are usually erected and supported by the municipalities, their actual administration being in the hands of boards of trustees; their revenue, in addition to that provided by the municipalities, is derived from grants from the Provincial Governments, donations of individuals and societies, and fees paid by patients. Admission and treatment are free to all deserving persons who apply and whose resources are so limited as to prevent them from receiving proper medical attention otherwise, while it is generally expected of others that payments for services shall be made in proportion to costs and their ability to defray them. Such public hospitals include isolation and maternity hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria, etc. The two lazarettos for lepers are under Dominion administration, as are also hospitals for veterans and certain marine and immigrant hospitals.

Private hospitals do not receive public grants. There are also hospitals that are conducted by various religious orders, most common in the Province of Quebec; Red Cross hospitals and outposts; and special hospitals that may be privately administered or maintained by the provinces.

Mental institutions (homes for the feeble-minded and the epileptic) are in most cases under provincial administration, although in Nova Scotia the insane are cared for in county institutions.

Among charitable and benevolent institutions, orphanages, refuges, and homes for the aged are usually supported by the larger centres and by county municipalities. Homes or schools for the deaf and dumb, and the blind are generally under provincial administration.

In the case of penal and reformatory institutions, penitentiaries are administered by the Dominion Government, while reformatories, industrial schools, prison farms, and similar corrective institutions are administered by the Provincial Governments.

Subsection 1.—Public Health Activities of the Dominion Government.

The Act of Parliament (18-19 Geo. V, c. 39, An Act respecting the Department of Pensions and National Health) creating the Dominion Department of Pensions and National Health, clearly defined its functions. The Department is divided into two sections as indicated by the title. The chief functions of the National Health Section (which from 1919 to 1929 was the Department of Health) are: to protect the country against the entrance of infectious disease; to exclude immigrants who might become charges upon the country; to treat sick and injured mariners; to see that men employed on public construction work are provided with proper medical care; to set the standards and control the quality of food and drugs, except export meat and canned goods, which are under the Department of Agriculture; to control proprietary medicines and the importation and exportation of habit-forming drugs such as morphine, cocaine, etc.; to care for lepers; to carry out special studies in co-operation with Provincial Departments or Boards of Health;