

In 1926, the Province of Quebec inaugurated a new system known as the 'county health units', consisting of a full-time health service for each county, or group of two or three adjoining counties. At present 44 health units covering 54 counties have been organized, and new counties have asked for the same privilege. The former district health officers, reduced to 11, are in charge of all the counties not yet organized as county health units.

The services of all these officers and their staffs of nurses, sanitary inspectors, etc., are given in the form of consultations, public lectures, school medical inspections, baby clinics, travelling tuberculosis clinics, and investigations of all kinds on immunization, sanitation, etc.

In addition to an Administrative Division, the Ministry of Health maintains the following divisions: Laboratories, Sanitary Engineering, Demography, Mental Hygiene, Public Charities, Epidemiology, Health Units and Districts, Industrial Hygiene, Nutrition (includes maternal and child welfare), Venereal Diseases, and Tuberculosis.

The energies of the Ministry of Health are directed also toward the prevention of epidemics, more particularly tuberculosis and the more important causes of infant mortality. To this end, the Ministry has established 21 anti-tuberculosis dispensaries and 70 baby clinics, including those receiving government grants. During the year 1938-39, 35,544 people were examined in the anti-tuberculosis dispensaries and the travelling tuberculosis clinics. The various county health units have provided for the immunization of 50,385 children against diphtheria, which, with those previously immunized, make a total of 322,304.

Ontario.—The Department of Health of Ontario is under a Minister of the Government. In the direction of the departmental program, he is assisted by a Deputy Minister and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The activities of the Department are divided into the following Divisions: Hospitals, Tuberculosis Prevention, Venereal Disease Prevention, Preventable Diseases, Laboratories, Maternal and Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing, Oral Hygiene, Sanitary Engineering, Industrial Hygiene, and Nurse Registration including Inspection of Training Schools for Nurses.

The local health work is carried on (1940-41) by a Board of Health and a Medical Officer of Health in each of the 900 municipalities. Fourteen municipalities have full-time health officers.

The added responsibilities of the Department as a result of the War have extended not only into the field of venereal-disease control but in respect to other communicable diseases as well. The legislation that extends to the Department and the local health departments, the authority necessary to cope with the problems of venereal-disease control and treatment, have been appropriately strengthened, and suitable measures designed to ensure rigid enforcement have been planned. Centralized reporting of both syphilis and gonorrhoea has more than justified its establishment.

The concentration of young adults in training camps, many of whom are susceptible to the majority of the commoner communicable diseases, brings with it a sharp increase in the incidence of these diseases. This is particularly true of scarlet fever. A substantial increase in the incidence of diphtheria might also be rightly expected. The Department has attempted, in every way possible, to assist the medical personnel of active service forces in coping with the problems occasioned by such outbreaks.