

The total cost of operating budget review hospitals in the seven participating provinces in 1959, including items of expense not covered under the hospital insurance program, was \$385,000,000. This total included \$246,700,000 for salaries and wages, \$31,500,000 for drugs and medical supplies, \$26,100,000 for food, \$53,800,000 for other departmental supplies and expenses, and \$26,900,000 for other expenses consisting mainly of interest payments and depreciation allowances. Table 7 gives various classifications of these expenditures.

The per patient-day cost of salaries and wages ranged from a low of \$9.36 for Newfoundland to a high of \$14.72 for British Columbia, the average for the seven provinces being \$12.67. A number of hospitals in Newfoundland are operated by the provincial government and the fact that certain services in these hospitals are purchased from the government, the costs for which are reported as "Other Supplies and Expense", probably contributed to the low figure for gross salaries and wages. There was surprisingly little variation among the provinces in cost of drugs and medical supplies. Since raw food cost includes food supplied to staff, in-patients and visitors, the differences in such costs per patient-day probably reflect variations in the proportion of hospital staff taking meals at the hospitals rather than variations in the cost of food per meal served. The main items comprising "Other Supplies and Expense" are fuel, electricity, water, insurance, replacements of bedding and linen, laundry supplies, housekeeping and cleaning supplies, repairs to buildings, repairs to furniture and equipment, maintenance of physical plant, printing, postage, stationery, office supplies and telephone. The high figure of \$5.58 for Newfoundland as compared with the average of \$2.76 for the seven provinces is attributable to the inclusion of raw food costs which are not available as a separate item, and the salary component of purchased services.

The total per capita cost of operating hospitals in the seven provinces was \$32.86, ranging from \$18.24 in Newfoundland to \$41.35 in Saskatchewan. The variations in total per capita expenses are more marked than in total per patient-day expenses because of the variation in the number of hospital days of care provided per thousand persons in each province.

The percentage distribution of expenses shows that about 64 p.c. of the operating costs of the hospitals was for wages and salaries, 8 p.c. for drugs and medical supplies, 7 p.c. for food, 14 p.c. for other departmental supplies and expenses and 7 p.c. for depreciation, interest and other departmental expenses. British Columbia hospitals spent almost 68 p.c. of their operating funds on salaries and wages as compared with 53 p.c. in Newfoundland and 55 p.c. in Nova Scotia.

**7.—Revenue Fund Expenditures of Budget Review Hospitals, by Type of Account and by Province, 1959**

Province	Departmental Expenditures					Other Revenue Fund Expense	Total Revenue Fund Expense
	Salaries and Wages	Drugs, Medical and Surgical Supplies	Raw Food	Other Supplies and Expense	Total Departmental Expense		
AMOUNTS OF EXPENDITURES							
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Newfoundland.....	4,339,449	858,868	1	2,588,578	7,786,895	403,789	8,190,684
Nova Scotia.....	10,303,980	1,697,267	1,857,157	3,460,849	17,319,253	1,282,141	18,601,394
Ontario.....	127,037,774	15,679,671	13,255,054	26,478,784	182,451,283	13,969,537	196,420,820
Manitoba.....	18,468,991	2,559,996	1,848,872 <sup>2</sup>	4,106,195	26,984,054	2,024,202	29,008,256
Saskatchewan.....	24,104,136	2,768,998	2,396,209 <sup>2</sup>	5,441,916	34,711,259	2,589,879	37,301,138
Alberta.....	27,045,024	3,676,165	3,481,281 <sup>2</sup>	5,539,218	39,741,688	3,404,071	43,145,759
British Columbia.....	35,430,317	4,218,911	3,303,253	6,218,716	49,171,197	3,182,480	52,353,677
Totals, Seven Provinces.....	246,729,671	31,459,876	26,141,826	53,834,256	358,165,629	26,856,099	385,021,728

For footnotes, see end of table.