

A construction program for hospital rehabilitation continued throughout the year. A newly constructed 300-bed wing for Westminster Hospital in London, Ont., was opened in late summer; construction was completed of a DVA pavilion in the form of a 67-bed wing attached to the General Hospital at St. John's, Nfld.; and architectural plans were completed for a new Veterans Home at Saskatoon, Sask. A comprehensive report of the principal veterans' hospital projects completed and expenditures thereon during the years 1945-62 is given in the 1962 Year Book, pp. 276-278.

**Dental Services.**—Dental treatment supplied under Departmental auspices for the year 1962 consisted of 128,730 operations for 20,701 patients. Of this treatment, approximately 76 p.c. was provided in Departmental hospitals and clinics and the remainder by dentists-of-choice on a fee-for-service basis, in areas where Departmental facilities were not available. During 1962, the Department employed 36 dentists on a full-time basis and one on a half-time basis, and utilized the services of three dental consultants on a part-time basis. One-year dental internships were approved and inaugurated during the year.

**Prosthetic Services.**—The Department operates a Prosthetic Service which is responsible for the supply and maintenance of prostheses, orthopaedic appliances and sensory aid devices to veterans and other persons eligible for treatment under the Veterans Treatment Regulations; these appliances are issued only upon Departmental medical prescription and are supplied and serviced without charge. The Department also extends prosthetic service, upon request, on a repayment basis, to other Federal Government departments, to allied governments, to provincial governments under certain conditions and to workmen's compensation boards. During 1962, approximately 168,000 basic appliances, accessories and repairs were issued to 86,000 patients.

The physical establishment consists of a main factory at Toronto and 12 district manufacturing and fitting centres located in Departmental hospitals throughout Canada. District prosthetic technicians further extend service to five sub-districts by regular weekly or monthly visits. The Toronto factory manufactures certain prostheses, appliances and component parts, provides bulk purchasing of raw materials for distribution to other centres, provides advanced instructional courses for district staff, maintains a research section staffed by engineers and technicians and accepts, when necessary, referrals of cases for whom routine fitting procedures are considered inadequate.

A more comprehensive explanation of the operation of Prosthetic Services is contained in the 1961 Year Book, pp. 291-292.

## Section 2.—Welfare Services

The Welfare Services Branch has specific responsibilities with respect to the administration of statutory benefits designed to assist veterans and their dependants and is equipped to give advice and help in any kind of problem that does not come under the jurisdiction of another branch of the Department. Branch personnel maintain close liaison with and have a detailed knowledge of sources of assistance in the community such as welfare departments at all levels of government, private philanthropic agencies, veterans organizations, etc. These contacts enable the Branch to make prompt and accurate referrals when required and to act as a channel through which the Department becomes aware of situations in which it can assist.

Activities under legislation designed to assist with immediate postwar rehabilitation of veterans lessen year by year. War service gratuities authorized under the War Service Grants Act (cash payments to each veteran of World War II, the amount varying with length of service and area in which it was performed) are now payable only in certain cases where delay of application is acceptable; 20 awards were authorized during 1962 for a total value of \$10,313. The awaiting returns allowance is now available only to veterans established in full-time farming under the Veterans' Land Act; during 1962 payments amounted to \$17,962 and there were 21 active accounts at the end of the year. The period of eligibility for training for veterans of World War II and for those who served in Korea has expired except for a few special cases. However, the Pensioners Training Regulations