

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 freely to children, teachers and parents. In many cases dental inspection is provided for. While this work has been carried on upon a considerable scale for only a few years, great benefits have already resulted from it, notably 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 municipality, is derived from grants from the Provincial Governments, from donations of individuals and societies, and from patients' fees. Admission and treatment are free to all deserving persons who apply for them and whose resources are so limited as to prevent their otherwise receiving proper medical attention, 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 veterans' hospitals and certain marine and immigrant hospitals.

Private hospitals do not receive public grants. There are also hospitals, more common in the province of Quebec, which are conducted by various religious orders; Red Cross hospitals and out-posts; and special hospitals which 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 of each county 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 largely 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 the functions of that Department, which is divided into two divisions, those of Pensions and National Health. 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 a charge 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

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