

Under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, which is a universal compulsory hospital-insurance scheme, most residents are eligible for in-patient public-ward care by the annual prepayment of a personal tax of \$10 by all persons 18 years of age or over or self-supporting, and of \$5 for each dependant under 18 years of age, with a maximum family tax of \$30. Additional funds are provided by the Province, as needed, from general revenue, including, since April 1950, one-third of the proceeds of a 3-p.c. sales tax.

Alberta.—The Department of Public Health includes Divisions of Communicable Disease, Public Health Education, Hospital and Medical Service, Municipal Hospitals, Laboratory, Public Health Nursing, Social Hygiene, Sanitary Engineering, Cancer Services, Mental Health, Tuberculosis Control, Entomology, Nutrition Services and Vital Statistics.

For the provision of local health services, the Province is divided into health-unit districts. The units are administered, with Departmental supervision and financial aid, by local boards of health composed of members appointed by local governments. Fourteen units are directed by full-time medical health officers and two units by public health nurses. Outside the health-unit areas, the Department operates a district nursing service in outlying communities, and is generally responsible for health services in unorganized territory. The larger cities have their own full-time health departments.

Free services regularly provided through Departmental clinics include diagnosis and treatment for venereal disease, medical examination for cancer, mental guidance and psychiatric examinations, X-ray examinations and tests for tuberculosis at stationary and travelling clinics, and mobile X-ray units. Provincial laboratory services at Edmonton and Calgary are available to all doctors and approved hospitals, and sera and biologicals are distributed for preventive work.

On the recommendation of provincial cancer clinics, surgical, X-ray and radium treatment, and hospitalization up to a limit of seven days for diagnostic purposes are provided by the Department. There are four provincial institutions for the mentally ill and one for mental defectives. Sanatoria care and treatment are provided without charge for all resident tuberculous patients and out-patient pneumothorax services are also available. The Department bears the cost of hospital and medical care for rheumatoid arthritic patients under 25 years of age and provides all residents suffering from poliomyelitis with medical, surgical and hospital care and rehabilitation services. Provision has been made to extend treatment services to cerebral palsy patients. All maternity patients satisfying resident requirements may be hospitalized for a 12-day period at provincial expense, and a provincial grant is authorized to assist those who receive maternity services at home.

By agreement with the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Dental Association, full medical and dental and optical services are provided to all persons (and dependants) on the universal old age pension who were formerly in receipt of the means-test pension or who can qualify for the provincial supplementary allowance, as well as recipients of old age assistance or blindness or mothers' allowances. The Province assumes the costs involved and also reimburses the municipalities for 60 p.c. of their expenditure on any medical care provided to local indigents. An agreement exists with the Associated Hospitals of Alberta under which public assistance recipients receive standard public-ward care and necessary drugs, with the Province paying reduced per diem rates.