

variety of subjects have been requested by agencies, communities and provinces. Council publications include the periodicals *Canadian Welfare* and *Bien-être social canadien*, an annual directory of Canadian welfare services, and division bulletins, pamphlets and reports.

Canadian Conference of National Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations.—The Conference, set up in 1949, provides national health and welfare agencies with a clearing-house and a medium for exchange of experience and for joint study and action with a view to increasing co-operation in matters of common concern.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind.—The Institute, founded in 1918, provides extensive rehabilitative services for blind persons and carries on an active program for the prevention of blindness. Its services include home teaching of touch reading and writing, handicrafts, occupational training and placement, welfare services and financial assistance. It operates factories to afford employment for blind men and women and controls tobacco stands, news stands and industrial cafeterias managed by the sightless. Field services are provided through over 30 district offices staffed by field workers and teachers, most of whom are blind. The Institute maintains a national library of Braille and recorded literature, operates several residences and gives financial support to recreational clubs for blind persons. In the preventive field, it operates eye clinics, arranges treatments and distributes literature. The Institute is supported by government grants and voluntary subscriptions.

The Canadian Red Cross Society.—The peacetime program of the Society consists of eight major services. The operation of outpost hospitals and of a blood-transfusion service are important projects in nearly all provincial divisions. Nutrition and visiting homemaker's services, and instruction in swimming and water safety are carried on in most branch areas. In addition, relief is supplied in times of national and international disaster, craft training and recreational centres are operated for hospitalized war veterans, and a national inquiry bureau traces persons for the purpose of reuniting families and friends.

The Canadian Junior Red Cross promotes health and good citizenship in schoolroom branches across Canada. As part of its program, the Junior Red Cross Crippled Children's Fund is maintained to assist in providing treatment for handicapped children.

The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada.—The Victorian Order of Nurses is a voluntary public health agency, national in scope and having as its primary object the care of the sick in their own homes. Care is given, under medical direction, by visiting nurses to medical, surgical and maternity patients, a large percentage of whom would otherwise be without skilled nursing services. Patients are expected to pay the cost of the home visits, but fees are scaled according to family income and service is never refused because of inability to pay.

Part-time nursing service is given in industrial plants where the number of employees does not warrant full-time employment of a nurse. In smaller centres where the Order provides the only public health nurse, the program is usually enlarged to include school nursing, assistance at immunization clinics and child health centres, and other public health services.