

such as those dealing with the blind and the deaf, are interested in the welfare as well as the health problems of the groups served. Organizations of professional medical and related personnel, in particular of public health personnel, assist in the development of agencies and in guiding their activities.

## **PART IV.—VETERANS HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES\***

### **Section 1.—The Department of Veterans Affairs**

The great majority of veterans have now been assimilated into civilian life and the work of the Department of Veterans Affairs has settled into a well-defined pattern, its major functions being concerned with medical treatment, payment of pensions and allowances, welfare work and land settlement. The Department maintains 18 district offices and two sub-district offices in Canada as well as district offices at London, England. The administration of the Veterans' Land Act also requires the maintenance of district and regional offices in locations as accessible as possible to veterans. Travelling welfare officers operate from these offices.

The basis of administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, established in 1944, is dealt with in the 1946 Year Book, pp. 1053-1054. The work of the Department as it developed year by year is outlined in subsequent editions and is brought up to Mar. 31, 1953, in the following Sections.

### **Section 2.—Medical, Dental and Prosthetic Services**

**Medical Services.**—It is the policy of the Department to give veterans the most modern medical treatment possible. Wherever a Departmental hospital is situated in proximity to a medical school, close co-operation is maintained between the two. Veterans hospitals are actively engaged in under-graduate and post-graduate teaching, and members of the medical faculties are employed in the hospitals with other specialists. Eleven hospitals have received approval by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for advanced post-graduate teaching in internal medicine and general surgery. Seven of these are also approved for advanced post-graduate teaching in specialties. The majority of the consultant staffs at Departmental hospitals are employed on a part-time basis and are also usually engaged in medical teaching.

Professional and other members of the university staffs are employed as consultants and advisers in the same way as medical consultants. Thus, the Department receives expert advice in nursing, pathology, medical social services and other medical sciences.

Special centres for the investigation and treatment of arthritis, paraplegia, tuberculosis, etc., are active in the larger hospitals. Where Departmental facilities are not available, veterans with service-related disabilities receive treatment and hospitalization through the doctor of their choice.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, 106 research projects were submitted to the Advisory Board for Medical Research and Education and, of these, 58 were continuing and 48 were new. These projects included clinical research of the effects of ACTH and Cortisone on various diseases, a follow-up study on Hong Kong

\* Contributed by the various Branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs through G. G. Yates, Chief of Information.