

prisoners of war, a study on Canadian veterans of World War II and a five-year study of gunshot wounds of the head. During the fiscal year 1952-53, the Department embarked on a long-term project concerning the causes and treatment of atherosclerosis. An ultracentrifuge—one of the few in Canada—was installed at Montreal for carrying out the necessary analyses. In addition, studies were in progress on paraplegia, mental diseases, chronic bronchitis and circulatory diseases. Research information is constantly being exchanged with authorities in the United Kingdom and the United States.

At the end of 1952, the Department had in operation 9,915 beds in 19 institutions. Of these, 12 were active treatment hospitals, two were health and occupational centres for convalescents, four were veterans homes and one was a special institution. (See also p. 242.)

**Dental Services.**—The number of dental treatments given during the years ended Mar. 31, 1941-53 were:—

<u>Year ended Mar. 31—</u>	<u>Treatments</u>	<u>Year ended Mar. 31—</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
	No.		No.
1941.....	99,590	1948.....	1,191,218
1942.....	73,113	1949.....	218,173
1943.....	102,554	1950.....	158,149
1944.....	66,562	1951.....	128,206
1945.....	249,170	1952.....	103,242
1946.....	509,703	1953.....	103,255
1947.....	2,700,052		

**Prosthetic Services.**—The Prosthetic Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs supplies, by manufacture or procurement, all orthopaedic and surgical appliances prescribed by the Treatment Services Branch. The maintenance and renewal of such prostheses for all eligible cases is also the concern of the Branch. A large modern centre at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, together with 11 district centres and five visiting centres in the principal cities, extends the manufacturing, maintenance and fitting service across the country. This system ensures a standardization of parts of major prostheses, a control of quality of supplies and availability of service at all times.

A Research and Development Section at Toronto is constantly at work on improvements and, in co-operation with the manufacturing services, conducts the field-testing of new developments. Close contact is maintained with the National Research Council and with research committees in the United States and the United Kingdom.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, 61,488 persons were supplied with appliances or accessories compared with 60,053 during the previous fiscal year. Total issues during these two years numbered 117,374 and 113,530, respectively.

**Vetcraft Shops.**—The Department operates Vetcraft Shops at Toronto and Montreal giving sheltered employment to disabled veterans. These shops manufacture poppy emblems and wreaths for sale by the Canadian Legion on Remembrance Day. An average of 60 veterans are employed. Production value was approximately \$238,800 for the 1952 campaign.