

costs being met equally by the community and the Province. In connection with mental health services, the Province operates stationary and travelling child-guidance clinics. A clinic of psychological medicine at the provincial hospital at Essondale functions as an investigatory and active treatment centre for short-term patients.

Provisions for the treatment and control of cancer, which include a treatment centre and a nursing home at Vancouver, consultative clinics located throughout the Province and a free province-wide biopsy service, are the responsibility of the British Columbia Cancer Foundation, an official agent of the Provincial Government. The Province pays the operating costs of the Foundation and helps finance voluntary programs concerned with the physical rehabilitation of paraplegics and cerebral palsied children, the care and treatment of arthritics, and the maintenance of blood-transfusion services.

Institutions for the care of tubercular and mental patients and infirmaries for persons with incapacitating disabilities are operated by the Province. Indigents are hospitalized in these institutions at public expense while other patients pay if financially able. Rehabilitation services are available to tubercular and mental patients.

Full medical, dental and optical care, prescribed drugs and some auxiliary services are provided to all persons (and their dependants) receiving the universal old age pension who were formerly on the means-test old age pension or who can qualify for the provincial supplementary allowance, and to recipients (including dependants) of old age assistance, blindness or mothers' allowances, local relief and to certain child wards. The Provincial Government assumes the costs of hospitalization for all such persons. Where they hold municipal residence, the Province assumes 80 p.c. of the cost of the medical program, the remainder being shared by all municipalities on a population basis.

Public-ward hospital services are available to all provincial residents through a public hospital-care program administered by the Hospital Insurance Service. Before 1954, the plan was financed mainly by flat-rate premiums, but costs now are met from general revenues and part of the provincial sales tax. Payment of \$1 for each day of hospitalization, with no maximum, is required of patients.

Section 3.—Health Statistics

Compared with the well established and highly standardized vital and institutional statistics, other national health statistics are still in an early developmental stage in Canada as well as in most other countries. Only in recent years, with recognition of the increase in life span and the impact of the aging of the population, has it become generally understood that mortality and communicable disease statistics can no longer serve as the sole yardstick by which to measure a nation's health. Though many infectious diseases have been effectively controlled, other diseases, particularly those characteristic of an older population, cause much illness and disability, requiring a large volume of health services, without becoming immediately fatal and thus without being adequately reflected in mortality statistics.