

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, 1954, 114 research projects were in progress, of which 70 were continuing and 44 were initiated during the year. Chief among these projects may be mentioned clinical research on atherosclerosis. The ultra-centrifuge, located in Montreal, acts as the hub for several projects and receives specimens for analysis from all over Canada. A program of research into the problems of the ageing veteran has also been started and advice is being received from a special panel of experts. It is hoped to discover a practical means of assessing physiological age and to obtain valuable information regarding reasons for premature ageing. Research on the effects of ACTH and Cortisone on various conditions is continuing as are various follow-up studies of a clinical nature.

At Mar. 31, 1954, the Department was operating 9,974 beds in 19 separate institutions. Twelve were active treatment hospitals with 9,082 beds; two Health and Occupational Centres for convalescents with 365 beds; four Veterans' Homes with 327 beds, and one Tuberculosis Sanatorium with 200 beds.

On July 1, 1954, an amended Sect. 13 of the Veterans Treatment Regulations came into force, extending eligibility for treatment in DVA hospitals for non-pensioned conditions to a much larger group of veterans. Overseas veterans and those in receipt of disability pensions are now eligible for treatment for almost any non-pensioned condition, subject to facilities being available, if their annual incomes, less deductions for dependants, do not exceed \$2,500. Annual income means income for the six months prior to admission to hospital plus the estimated income for the succeeding six months. Formerly only those veterans whose adjusted incomes did not exceed \$1,200 were eligible.

Treatment is free for those veterans whose adjusted incomes do not exceed \$720, but those with higher incomes are required to pay a part of the cost of hospitalization, the amount charged varying with their incomes but not exceeding a fixed and limited amount in any 12-month period. In addition to charges made in respect of income, these veterans may be required to pay for hospitalization from resources—cash, bonds or negotiable securities—or a combination of both. These liquid assets, however, may not be reduced below \$500 for a single man or \$1,000 for a married veteran for periods of hospitalization of 30 days or less. The figures increase progressively for longer periods until they reach \$1,000 and \$2,000, respectively, for 80 or more days of treatment.

All veterans have been eligible since 1950, under Sect. 23 of the Regulations, for treatment in DVA hospitals for non-pensioned conditions by guaranteeing the full cost of their hospitalization. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1954, approximately 2,500 veterans took advantage of this privilege.

Dental Services.—The number of dental treatments given during the years ended Mar. 31, 1941-54, were:—

<i>Year ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	<i>Year ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
	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	1954.....	126,531