

**Saskatchewan.**—The Saskatchewan Department of Public Health has five main Branches: Regional Health Services, Medical and Hospital Services, Psychiatric Services, Research and Statistics, and Administrative Services. The Health Services Planning Commission functions as an advisory and planning agency on major policy and administrative matters in the Department.

The Regional Health Services Branch includes Divisions of Communicable Disease Control, Child Health, Venereal Disease Control, Nursing Services, Dental Health, Nutrition and Sanitation. These Divisions organize province wide programs and provide consultative services to local health personnel. The Communicable Disease Control Division distributes free vaccines and sera, and supervises immunization programs. Four clinics for diagnosis and treatment are maintained by the Venereal Disease Control Division. Field services for venereal disease, tuberculosis, mental health and other public health programs are supplied by the Nursing Services Division. Public health laboratory services and the free distribution of certain drugs and biologicals are carried out by the Provincial Laboratories.

The Regional Health Services Branch is also responsible for the organization of health regions which are administered by locally elected health boards although staff is appointed and financial assistance is provided by the Province. Eight of the proposed regions are currently in operation. In addition to the general public health services provided in all regions the Swift Current Health Region has a prepaid medical care plan including general practitioner, specialist and diagnostic services for all residents, and limited dental services for children. The plan is financed by personal and property taxes with some Provincial Government contributions. Preventive dental health programs for children have been launched in other regions.

The Medical and Hospital Services Branch is responsible for the operation of the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, administers the program of medical services to public assistance recipients, supervises the operations of the municipal doctor programs and the Air Ambulance Service, and administers a rehabilitation program for crippled children and poliomyelitis patients through the Physical Restoration Division. In addition to free hospital care, complete medical as well as dental and optical services, including some auxiliary services, are provided to the recipients (including spouses) of the universal old age pension who were formerly in receipt of the old age means-test pension or who can qualify for the provincial supplementary allowance. Persons and their dependants receiving blindness or mothers' allowances, social aid cases and provincial wards are also eligible. Drugs are provided subject to deterrent charges of 20 p.c. of the costs paid by patients. The Provincial Government meets the expenses under the medical program and for most of these cases the hospital insurance tax as well. Provincial subsidies of 25 cents per capita per annum and equalization grants are paid to over 100 municipalities with municipal doctor contracts.

The Psychiatric Services Branch supervises psychiatric hospitals and administers community psychiatric services including clinics. Free care and treatment is given for all mentally ill and mentally defective persons requiring hospitalization. The tuberculosis control program operated by the Saskatchewan Anti-tuberculosis League includes preventive and treatment services, the latter financed by provincial per diem grants and municipal levies. The Saskatchewan Cancer Commission co-ordinates all cancer control measures and operates publicly financed consultative, diagnostic and treatment clinics at Saskatoon and Regina.

Under the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, which is a universal compulsory hospital-insurance scheme, most residents are eligible for inpatient public ward care by the annual prepayment of a personal tax of \$15 by all persons 18 years of age or over and of \$5 for each dependant under 18 years of age, with a maximum family tax of \$40. Additional funds are provided by the Province as needed from general revenue including, since April 1950, one-third of the proceeds of a 3 p.c. sales tax.