

- (3) Before 1900, more than one out of every seven babies died in infancy. Out of every thousand children born today, 124 survive who would have died within the first year of life fifty years ago.
- (4) Maternal mortality rates have shown an equally impressive decline. During 1951 only one mother in 1,000 died in childbirth.
- (5) Canada's death rate for tuberculosis -- once one of the highest in the world -- is now the third or fourth lowest. In 1900 our tuberculosis death rate was 200; for 1952 it is expected to be less than 20 per 100,000.

But health statistics alone cannot tell the whole story. In recent years, medical science has learned how to lessen the suffering from many diseases, to shorten the term of illness, to reduce the permanent effects of disability, and quickly to restore to health many who in other years would have been condemned to long and painful illness or to premature death.

Today health care in Canada is a complex co-operative effort involving professional health workers, voluntary health agencies and governments at the various levels. In looking back over the health progress of these years, we must acknowledge the great discoveries of research scientists whose patient efforts have uncovered many of the secrets of health and of disease. We must also pay tribute to the work of the doctors, dentists, and nurses and other health workers whose efforts have made the practical application of these new discoveries possible. Nor must we overlook the voluntary health agencies that have made such an incalculable contribution to human health and well-being in this country.

I should like, however, to call your attention particularly to the vastly increased concern for public health on the part of governments in Canada. The expansion of organized public health services can best be illustrated perhaps by the fact that, in 1900, there was no separate full-time health department of government anywhere in Canada. Today, every province has a full-time health department or a combined department of health and welfare organized into various specialized divisions.

At the local level, only a handful of Canada's largest cities had municipal health departments at the turn of the century. Even by 1925, outside of a few cities, there was only one experimental full-time local health unit. Today throughout Canada there are over 150 full-time local health units and 25 full-time city health departments under the direction of qualified Medical Officers of Health. These fully-organized local health services are now available to approximately 10 million Canadians.

The extent of public health activity in this country can be measured by the fact that our governments are now spending \$350,000,000 a year on the health of the nation. This means that the cost of health care is very substantially shared by all citizens through their support of public health programmes administered on the various levels of government.