

is now spending on health services - apart from those for Canada's veterans.

Under the Canadian Constitution, health is primarily a provincial responsibility. The new programme takes full account of this. Co-operative arrangements will be worked out to determine the mutually acceptable conditions to govern all grants, but the administration of the monies expended will remain entirely under the jurisdiction of the various Provinces. The Provinces have built modern and efficient health services for their peoples. But the National Health Grants that they will now receive will permit them to extend their programmes and to do the sort of job that I am sure all of you who work in the public health field have long wanted to get ahead with.

2. HEALTH SURVEY GRANTS

For any worthwhile health programme, the facts must first be found. All health action should be based on accurate knowledge of the exact extent of health need, and all health programmes must keep in step with our developing information. Of necessity, for lack of a positive picture of Canada's health state, our past thinking has been largely in terms of negatives. We have often estimated our successes by the number of our failures. But statistics relating to deaths and contagious illnesses have been inadequate indications of the extent of disease. In many health fields, long-range planning has not been possible because of inadequacy of existing information.

The Health Survey Grants of the Dominion Government will change all this. Each Province will now be enabled to finance the carrying out of adequate studies of all its provincial health needs. Its first concern, presumably, will be to chart the provincial areas of health need so that the National Health Grant can be most effectively used. At the same time, large-scale surveys can be made of the relative shortages of hospital accommodation. Finally, each Province can now create facilities to plan the proper organization of its own provincial hospital and medical care insurance programme.

3. THE NATIONAL HEALTH GRANTS

The National Health Grants are given under eight headings, constituting a splendid eight-point programme for health progress. Today, however, I should like to sketch only the highlights of these grants, and indicate a few of the many possible lines of advance that they will now open up for all who work in public health. These eight grants are as follows :

a) General Public Health Grant : \$4,404,000 to \$6,500,000

A grant of 35 cents per capita, or \$4,404,000 for all Canadians will be made to the Provinces to strengthen their general public health services, where, in their opinion, the need is greatest. These grants will increase by 5 cents a year to 50 cents per capita, when they will total approximately \$6,500,000.

With these additional funds available, the Provinces will be able to force further downward their declining child and maternal mortality rates; they will be able to take preventive action against blindness; they will be able to keep well under control diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria and typhoid; to open a vigorous drive against the great cripplers, polio, arthritis and rheumatism; and to extend and consolidate all their other public health advances.