

In 1947, to co-ordinate all defence research effort, the Government established the Defence Research Board as an arm of the Department of National Defence, under the able direction of Dr. O.M. Solandt, himself a very distinguished medical research scientist. One of the first acts of the Board was to set up a Medical Research Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. R.F. Farquharson.

Recognizing the increasing complexity of modern war, the Defence Research Board in 1948 initiated a programme of grants-in-aid for defence medical research in the universities. This programme has grown to the point where over \$300,000 is being spent each year for this purpose. In time, these studies too will lead to discoveries that -- while they might never be applied in another major war -- will surely serve humanity.

Applications for Defence Research health research grants are considered by one of 16 panels, composed of leading workers in such fields as nutrition, radiation, burns and wounds, and blood and blood substitutes. It is interesting to note that the Chairman of this group of advisory panels, Dr. C.H. Best, speaks of them as advisers to the four defence services -- Army, Navy, Air Force and Civil Defence.

Since civil defence is a responsibility of the Department of National Health and Welfare, I can vouch for the fact that Dr. Best and his panels are giving invaluable assistance to Dr. Charron and the other officers of the Department who are working on the complex medical problems involved in civil defence planning.

Besides its grants programme, the Defence Research Board has initiated a programme of applied research on the medical problems peculiar to the Armed Forces. This is done at the Defence Research Medical Laboratories under the direction of Dr. M.G. Whillans. Problems under investigation include motion sickness, the effects of cold on locomotion, the toxicology of chemical warfare agents, and the development of a variety of ration packs for the Armed Forces. Work is also in progress on problems related to anoxia, on personnel research and human engineering, and clothing development.

Although the Board's medical research programme has from the beginning been closely co-ordinated with those of other government agencies, on the outbreak of hostilities in Korea it was decided that more formal arrangements were required. As a result, a Defence Medical Research Co-ordinating Committee was set up, with Dr. Best as chairman and Dr. Collip as alternate.

The senior medical officers of the Armed Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the National Research Council are represented on this Committee. Its function is to co-ordinate defence medical research in Canada, and to see that all research resources at the disposal of the Government are used to best advantage in solving medical problems of concern to national defence.

Other Federal Health Research Activities

I cannot take time here to describe in detail the many fields in which Federal departments, such as Agriculture, National Health and Welfare, and Veterans