

Question

At the University of Toronto, a similar research and treatment centre has been formed under the eminent leadership of Dr. W. G. Bigelow and, in collaboration with his associates at the several teaching hospitals in Toronto, with Drs. John D. Keith and W. T. Mustard at the hospital for sick children, Dr. G. W. Manning at the University of Western Ontario and other prominent physicians associated with these institutions and Queen's and Ottawa universities a broad program of investigation is going forward in a variety of fields. More particularly coronary artery disease, valvular disorders, hypertension, rheumatic fever and congenital heart afflictions are receiving intensive consideration. Included also is the investigation of apparatus of a highly specialized nature for use in the diagnosis, evaluation and prognosis of cardiovascular disorders. In all, in the province of Ontario, \$100,000 annually of national health grant funds are being provided to be combined with funds raised by the Ontario heart foundation for the advancement of research and scientific investigation in this field.

In addition to the cardiac centres already established, interest is becoming aroused in the extension of similar facilities for treatment, training and research, ultimately to provide a country-wide development of strategically located centres to bring the benefits of these new therapeutic techniques to the Canadian people. By providing these facilities, the development of additional young surgeons in this field will be stimulated and further research advances encouraged which will, in turn, contribute progressively to the improvement of treatment procedures.

On January 16, 1956, the Minister of National Health and Welfare convened a meeting of heart specialists and other authorities in Ottawa to consider the problem of heart disease in Canada and to devise means to deal with it. The conference was called at the behest of the Canadian Heart Association and with the full endorsement of the Canadian Medical Association. It was attended by professional and lay representatives of both heart and medical associations, the college of general practice of Canada, the Quebec heart society, the Ontario heart foundation, the B.C. heart foundation, the national research council and the Canadian life insurance officers association, as well as medical specialists prominent in this field. As a direct outcome of the meeting it was decided to proceed with the establishment of a Canadian heart foundation and a committee of eleven under the chairmanship of Prof. R. F. Farquharson of Toronto was designated to proceed with its establishment, including the granting of a federal charter.

Cancer Research

Cancer research in Canada comes generally under the supervision of the national cancer institute. Financial support is derived from the national health program, the provinces and the Canadian cancer society. In total, in the nine years of its existence, over \$900,000 have been provided for cancer research from the cancer control grant, with an equal amount being obtained from provincial sources. Research of a fundamental nature into the still unrevealed secrets of cancer causation and related problems formed the basis of the program, with fellowships being provided to develop and support research workers in this field.

Tuberculosis Research

While rapid and impressive strides have been made in all public health aspects of tuberculosis control, there yet remain many problems to be solved before this disease can be considered conquered. Particular attention was given to preventive measures involving the use of B.C.G. vaccine, research on the pathogenesis of the disease, exploration, of improved techniques for the isolation and culture of tubercle bacilli and the study of methods of treatment with special reference to chemotherapeutic drugs.

Virus Research

Virus research is another field which presents a multitude of challenging problems. Here emphasis was placed on studies in poliomyelitis and influenza. In the former disease, the dramatic advances of the past few years adequately testify to the value of the research effort expended, and it has been possible under the national health program to make contributions in the development and production of poliomyelitis vaccine and to improvement of measures employed for the determination of its safety and effectiveness. Particular reference might be made to the work being carried on by Dr. Andrew J. Rhodes, noted authority in this field, on the antigenic types of virus which are responsible for the occurrence of poliomyelitis in Canada, basic knowledge which is essential in preventive efforts. Both at the Connaught medical research laboratories in Toronto and the institute of microbiology and hygiene in Montreal intensive studies are going forward on the polio virus itself, the improvement of methods for its inactivation and the study of antigenic strains in human beings. A special laboratory diagnostic survey of neurotropic viruses in the Atlantic provinces is being carried on by Dr. C. E. van Rooyen at Dalhousie University.