

diseases peculiar to the first year of life, diarrhoea, senility, and pulmonary infections. On the other hand, deaths from cancer, intracranial lesions, diseases of the heart, nephritis and accidents are, on the whole, lower than in other parts of Canada.

The worst menace to health in Newfoundland is tuberculosis, which accounts for 12.5 p.c. of all registered deaths, and between the ages of 15 and 44 accounts for more deaths than any other single disease and for more than half the total deaths from all diseases. It is estimated that 4 p.c. of the population have active tuberculosis and 75 p.c. have been exposed to the germ. The records indicate that the disease increases in times of depression and declines in periods of prosperity, and the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the National Convention emphasized in its report that although treatment and preventive measures were of great importance, the real cure for tuberculosis was a satisfactory standard of living. The death rate from tuberculosis in Newfoundland in 1946 was 122.0 per 100,000 of the population, compared with 47.4 in Canada and 36.4 in the United States.

**Remedial Measures.**—The Newfoundland Government has long been concerned about these health problems but until recently has lacked the means to take adequate measures. When the Commission of Government took office in 1934 the financial stringency of the long depression was relieved, and expenditures for health and welfare services were increased.

In 1945 a Nutrition Council of the Newfoundland Government was set up and a medical adviser, brought out from England, made concrete suggestions for improving the diet of the people. The steps taken by the Government included an increase in relief allowances, the removal of customs duties on margarine and canned milk and free distribution of milk and cod-liver oil to school children (or chocolate milk powder in outports where milk was not available). In a follow-up survey conducted in 1948 the investigators found definite signs of improvement.

Immunization programs, carried on through public-health clinics and in the schools, have noticeably reduced the number of cases of communicable diseases. During 1945 approximately 20,000 people were immunized.

The Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association was organized in 1944 as a voluntary agency for the education of the general public in anti-tuberculosis measures through the press, radio and films. It works in co-operation with the Department and with doctors and keeps in close touch with Tuberculosis Associations in other countries. This Association operates a boat which is equipped as an X-ray unit, and conducts surveys in the remote parts of the Island to detect cases of the disease in its early stages.

There is a Government-operated tuberculosis sanatorium at St. John's which, up to 1946, had a capacity of 250 beds. This was enlarged in 1946 by the taking over of a former Canadian Naval Hospital with a potential capacity of 280 beds. Another sanatorium