

*Supply—Veterans Affairs*

estimates. The revenue forthcoming from patients under 12-D will vary that. What I mean is that we have not made any estimate for that in this particular item.

**Mr. Harkness:** Does that mean that you do not expect to get any?

**Mr. Gregg:** We expect to get some, but it was overlooked at the time these estimates were being prepared last fall.

**Mr. Harkness:** Having regard to last year's financial picture, has any been taken in up to the end of the financial year in March of this year?

**Mr. Gregg:** No. 12-D just came into effect on April 1, 1950, and those estimates were prepared last October and November.

**Mr. Fulton:** Will the minister tell me whether, under professional and special services, there is included an amount to cover the costs of veterans who are the responsibility of the department but who are being treated in other than veterans hospitals?

**Mr. Gregg:** Yes.

**Mr. Fulton:** Has the minister the figures for the number of veterans who are being treated in other than veterans hospitals?

**Mr. Gregg:** As at April 30, 1950, at other institutions we have a total of 1,824 patients.

**Mr. Fulton:** Is there a standard daily rate paid to these other hospitals for those veterans, or does it vary from institution to institution?

**Mr. Gregg:** No. They are each subject to contract. As my hon. friend knows, the rates of civilian hospitals across Canada vary; and our contracts have to correspond with the existing rates.

**Mr. Fulton:** Does the department make a special rate with each hospital or does it pay the standard rate of that hospital or do you try to do the best you can?

**Mr. Gregg:** That is true, yes.

**Mr. Fulton:** I am sorry, but which is it? I put the question in the form of two questions. Which is the case? I asked the question in a confusing manner. I ask the minister to clear up what I asked.

**An hon. Member:** To make up your mind for you.

**Mr. Gregg:** We negotiate with each hospital for the rate we will pay for the veterans that we send to that hospital. That rate is based upon their prevailing rate.

**Mr. Fulton:** How are those hospitals selected? Let us take, for instance, British Columbia, where there are veterans hospitals

only in Vancouver and Victoria, I believe. How do you make the selection of what other hospitals veterans will be admitted to?

**Mr. Gregg:** Again I should like to get advice on that subject; but generally speaking, there are various yardsticks. Let us take, for instance, one outstanding example which is Newfoundland. We have not any D.V.A. hospitals there so we are carrying on on a per diem basis with the hospitals that exist. Then in certain provinces, for special diseases, the provincial or other hospitals may be specially equipped for the necessary treatment.

**Mr. Goode:** After waiting for an hour, Mr. Chairman, and with the permission of the hon. member for Calgary East, I should like to ask the minister a question.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Lennard:** With the permission of the Chairman, you mean.

**Mr. Goode:** I made my statement. You make yours.

**Mr. Lennard:** I just did that.

**Mr. Goode:** There are two items about which I should like to ask the minister. One is for \$55,000 with regard to Canadian Red Cross Society and another of \$300,000 with regard to medical education and research. Can the minister make a short statement?

**Mr. Gregg:** The research item is a very special one. This is the first time it has appeared. I would like to suggest that I bring in a statement on it on another item. On the Canadian Red Cross Society, \$55,000, that is an item which covers our obligations or our share of half the cost incurred by the Red Cross in providing the handicraft work and the great variety of diversional and therapy activities which are provided by the Red Cross to the patients. Then of course in addition to that, which is not included in this at all, is a series of excellent Red Cross hostelries which are built in association with many of our hospitals where patients and wives and parents can come and spend a few days.

**Mr. Green:** Three weeks ago there was a press dispatch to the effect that the department had instructed Colonel John Crawford to make an investigation into the difficulties that had arisen with regard to the hospitalization of Canadians who were prisoners of war in Japan. I took it from those dispatches that those unfortunate young Canadians are not recovering from their treatment in Japan as quickly as had been expected. Can the minister tell us just what the situation is with regard to these veterans?