

R.C.M.P. Included in Blood-typing Program

THE practice of blood-grouping personnel of the Force commenced in 1938 under the supervision of the late Surgeon Maurice Powers, director of R.C.M.P. crime detection laboratories, when members attending the first Police College Class at Regina, Sask., had it done. Since then many members of the Force have followed suit, and recently a plan was put into effect making it compulsory for every member to be blood-grouped. The project is part of a national program undertaken gratuitously by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The purpose of blood-grouping is to provide against unnecessary loss of time in cases necessitating blood transfusions. Knowing one's type of blood saves precious time in an emergency and in turn

may save a life. There are four original blood groups, A, B, AB, and O, and in transfusions the wrong type of blood may prove fatal to the patient.

The process is a simple one and takes about ten minutes—a drop of blood obtained by a needle prick in the finger or ear, is examined on a slide and typed immediately.

The R.C.M.P. part of the program got under way on Jan. 15, 1947, when the members of "A" Division (Ottawa) and those of "N" Division (Rockcliffe) presented themselves for individual blood-typing. It has branched out to all other divisions of the Force, so that each member's blood type will be readily available should that information be required in a hurry.



Photo courtesy of Canadian First Aid

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE AT WORK BLOOD-TYPING MEMBERS OF THE FORCE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONT.

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Edna Cheney, technician of the St. John Ambulance; Cst. J. S. Ferguson; Miss Ethel Steacy, technician; Cst. G. C. Cunningham; Miss Irene Bergin, technician; Cst. C. R. H. Salt. *Standing, left to right:* Csts. L. D. Culbert and W. H. Blower; Miss Louise Kerr, team supervisor; Miss Muriel Kinnear, technician; Cst. J. S. Narraway, and Cpl. F. J. Spindler, who is also a Division Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.