

encouraging the building of health clinics.

To appreciate what this unprecedented record of hospital building really means, we have only to consider that, since the beginning of the federal grants programme, there have been built or started in Canada one-third as many new hospital beds as we had managed to accumulate in all the years before 1948.

These new hospitals and hospital additions are serving no less than 144 individual Canadian communities and provide an additional three beds for every 1,000 members of our population.

To help staff Canada's expanding public health programme, federal grants have also provided for the training of 5,000 health workers, many of whom are now employed in our hospitals.

Federal assistance has helped in adding another 4,700 health workers to the staffs of hospitals, clinics, and other local and provincial health services across the country. Substantial quantities of specialized equipment have also been purchased and installed in hospitals with the aid of federal grants. For example, more than \$3,000,000 has been spent in the development of a nation-wide hospital admission chest X-ray examination programme and in the provision of additional scientific equipment and surgical facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis in hospitals.

To provide better facilities for the treatment of mental illness, federal grants have assisted in the construction of 11,000 additional beds in mental hospitals. A similar though considerably smaller expansion has taken place in tuberculosis sanatoria, while special efforts have been made to encourage the construction of hospital facilities for the chronically ill -- a health problem that has taken on added importance with the shift in the age pattern of our population and the resulting increase in the incidence of the degenerative diseases.

The effects of the National Health Programme, of course, are not limited to hospitals. For example, there are now 77 mental health clinics in Canada, where 12,000 Canadians -- many of them children -- are receiving expert help. Before the inauguration of the federal grants programme there were only 17 such clinics in all of Canada.

To help combat tuberculosis, 25,000 victims of this disease have been provided with streptomycin and other drugs, free of charge. Half a million children have been given B.C.G. protection against tuberculosis. To fight, cancer, diagnostic services have been made available to more than 100,000 persons. In medical and public health research there has been a very decided upsurge of activity with more than 400 individual research studies now under way with federal assistance.

While every area of health action has felt the impact of the National Health Programme, unquestionably the most dramatic achievements have been accomplished in the field of hospital construction. Our success in hospital building has made it possible to scale down the requirements for this purpose over the second five-year period of the Programme. As I pointed out to Parliament, however, while the overall