

Since then, a very substantial programme of research grants has been instituted by the Council. From the beginning the policy has been to support existing research activities and not to centralize or duplicate them in Ottawa. Direct grants are provided to qualified medical personnel to enable them to carry out investigation on approved projects. A number of research fellowships are also available to post-graduate students. There are four consolidated grants to outstanding scientists directing specific research programmes, but most grants are made in smaller amounts to projects carried on in universities from coast to coast. There were no less than 125 such projects last year.

For the current fiscal year, the National Research Council has a medical research budget of more than \$600,000. Of this, \$73,000 is for fundamental research in ACTH and Cortisone, \$115,000 for fellowships, and \$475,000 for consolidated and individual grants.

The National Health Programme

Although the National Research Council was the first Federal agency to support health research in Canada, great stimulus to research has been given in recent years through the National Health Programme of Federal grants inaugurated in 1948.

Since the beginning of the National Health Programme, more than 200 individual health research projects have been undertaken totalling Federal expenditures of over \$2,500,000.

Research activity under this Programme is not restricted to the Public Health Research Grant itself, under which \$500,000 is available this year to the provinces for approved projects. Substantial research is also supported under the grants for mental health, tuberculosis, cancer, crippled children, venereal disease, and general public health.

In connection with these projects, valued technical guidance is received from the Research Advisory Committee of the Dominion Council of Health, and from such organizations as the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, the National Cancer Institute, the Medical Advisory Committee of the National Research Council, the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, the voluntary societies for crippled children, and from other interested agencies.

Applications for grants, forwarded in each instance by the provinces, are judged on their scientific merit, the ability and integrity of the applicants, and on the priority rating of each project -- when related, at the Federal level, to the total national research pattern. There are few limitations on the size of individual grants, and no provincial quotas. Grants may be made to any university, health department, or research centre in Canada where useful research can be carried out, although every effort is made to stimulate research in all parts of the country.

Besides supporting specific research projects, the National Health Programme has two other important research purposes:

- (a) to train Canadian research workers
- (b) to survey Canada's overall research needs.