

exercised, and we believe that the situation is consequently better than it has ever been before.

Mr. FLEMING: Is the minister satisfied that the present dominion legislation with reference to the labelling of drugs and food compounds is adequate to give protection to all the people?

Mr. CLAXTON: I think it is. The objections we receive are, if anything, that they are too severe. I must add, however, that we are getting more and more cooperation from people in business. Some years ago producers and distributors resented any kind of regulations. But now they realize it is in the interest of honest manufacturers and distributors to see that there are fair regulations and that they are effectively enforced. I think most of them are satisfied that that is so.

Mr. MERRITT: This vote is increased by almost 80 per cent over last year. That must represent a considerable extension in the department, or some new policy. If so, I should like to know what it is.

Mr. CLAXTON: I am glad the hon. member has mentioned that, because it is caused by a considerable transfer of functions from the laboratory of hygiene to the food and drugs laboratory. It is an adjustment which has been found desirable. It will be found that in the vote for the laboratory of hygiene there has been a decrease amounting to some \$48,320, and that sum represents a substantial part of the increase in this vote.

The other increases to a considerable extent consist of additional equipment which was not available during the war and which is necessary to supplement or replace equipment which is either worn out or out of date. If hon. members will look at votes in preceding years for this branch they will see that for several years no provision has been made for improvement of or increase in equipment. As a consequence of the war, substantial improvements have been made in equipment, and now that material is becoming available, an amount of \$19,000 of this vote is set aside for this purpose.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

205. Quarantine and leprosy, \$226,710.

Mr. STIRLING: What is the situation with regard to leprosy on the two coasts?

Mr. CLAXTON: I am glad to say that, viewed as a whole, the condition is the same as last year. We have two leprosy hospitals, one of which is at Bentinck, British Columbia.

[Mr. Claxton.]

At that hospital there was one admission and no discharge during the year. One patient remained from last year, and one was admitted during the year, so that the total number in the hospital stands at two, one of whom is a Chinese male and the other a Japanese male. Both cases are bacteriologically negative.

At the other hospital, at Tracadie, New Brunswick, we have eight patients remaining from last year, and one was discharged during the year, which leaves seven remaining in the hospital. So that the net position in Canada is exactly the same.

Mr. HAZEN: There are nine patients altogether.

Mr. CLAXTON: Yes.

Mr. HAZEN: And it costs \$197,000 to look after those nine patients.

Mr. CLAXTON: The hospital at Bentinck island costs \$4,376 and that at Tracadie, \$10,560, making a total of just under \$15,000 for the two of them. The remainder is for quarantine.

Mr. BLAIR: Is the discharged patient supposed to be cured? While the number of patients is the same, there is a considerable additional amount. What is the reason?

Mr. CLAXTON: Included in the item for leprosy is the amount for quarantine. I have just pointed out that the total amount expended in connection with leprosy is just under \$15,000, and that there has been no change in that for two years.

Answering the other question, I am informed that the patient who was discharged is cured.

Item agreed to.

National health branch—

206. Laboratory of hygiene, \$197,166.

Mr. FLEMING: My first question arises out of a brief statement in the report of the department for the year ended March 31, 1945, where, under the heading, "Penicillin", at page 39 we find this:

This branch of the laboratory cooperated with the bacteriological branch in a study of the stability of penicillin.

What is the extent of the help given to research by this department or in connection with the medical branch of the national research council with reference to penicillin? As hon. members are aware, research and manufacture are being carried on in different parts of the country. Perhaps the greater part of that manufacturing is being done in Toronto in the old Knox college building. What is the extent of research carried on under dominion auspices?