

Question

Laboratory of Hygiene

Research in the laboratory of hygiene embraces a broad range of subjects in the fields of bacteriology, biologics control, clinical chemistry, biochemistry, virology and the zoonoses. Staphylococcal infections, coliform bacteria and the salmonella organisms receive particular attention in the bacteriology laboratory. Assay techniques and immunization studies are prominent in the biologics control section, while serodiagnosis and the treponema pallidum immobilization test are under intensive consideration in the clinical chemistry laboratory. Tissue culture, which is so important in the production of poliomyelitis vaccine, and the cultivation of various types of tissues through the development of synthetic media are the principal interests of the biochemistry section, while in virus research the development of safety and potency tests for vaccines against poliomyelitis and new methods for producing stable viral antigens for diagnostic laboratory procedures head the list of research projects. The zoonoses section concentrates its attention upon animal, tick and insect borne diseases, particularly with respect to incidence, serological tests and disease vectors.

Nutrition

In the nutrition division research involves the evaluation of nutritional status in Canada, health effects of specified foods, increasing the nutritive value of foods served in quantity and the continuation of the project on Canadian average weights and heights. In the preparation of a table of food values, collection of new data is continued in an effort to keep pace with the appearance of new foods offered to consumers. The consideration of chemical additives to foods becomes of increasing importance as food technology develops new products.

Occupational Health

The research activities of the occupational health division are extremely varied relating chiefly to waste products in industry and injurious and toxic materials which may be encountered. Under the radiation services studies in radioactivity and low level radiochemical research form an important segment of the program with the supervision of radioisotopes and the development of the film monitoring service receiving particular attention. This division also provides a consultant service to federal and provincial agencies on air pollution problems.

Research and Statistics

The research and statistics division carries on a program of analysis and evaluation of

basic information on health and welfare matters, with special reference to their social and economic aspects, prepares reports as required and generally acts in an advisory capacity to senior officers of the department.

Research and Statistics

Its work is done in close co-operation with other divisions of the department and close liaison is maintained with organizations in Canada and abroad engaged in work of interest to the department.

The division took an active part in the planning leading to the recent federal-provincial hospital insurance talks and is engaged in planning and carrying out research in such varied fields as health care, rehabilitation of the disabled, disability pensions and child welfare in addition to studies on health and welfare manpower problems, welfare services, income security and the extent of illness in Canada.

In the past the division has taken a prominent part in research leading to the introduction of old age security, old age assistance, disability allowances and the national health program, and in connection with the development of rehabilitation services as well as a variety of other projects with which the department has been concerned.

NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The extramural research program consists of grants-in-aid of a wide variety of studies in the health field conducted in universities, hospitals and other research institutions from funds provided under the national health program. This began in 1948 with an amount of \$100,000 initially in the public health research grant. Each succeeding year this was increased by a like sum up to a maximum of slightly over \$500,000 at which level it now stands. Additionally, allocations from other health grants have been made in support of medical research centred generally in the field for which the grant is specifically designated.

During 1955-56 funds devoted to medical research under the national health program grants amounted to almost \$1,620,000. The largest single amount was \$577,000 under the mental health grant. \$505,000 was made available for public health research, \$325,000 for research under the general public health grant, \$100,000 for tuberculosis control, \$70,000 for child and maternal health, and \$42,000 under the crippled children's grant.

It is not possible to define clearly individual areas of study because of the general overlapping which occurs and the consequent difficulty in categorizing projects. For example, some studies which may be designated