

To-day we have 15 active treatment hospitals, 7 veterans' homes, 5 other institutions of various types and 4 active treatment pavilions attached to general hospitals under other administration, such as the University of Alberta.

The nominal capacity of the 8 hospitals as reported in September, 1939, was 3,588 beds.

Those 8 hospitals alone have to-day, through new buildings and additions, a capacity of 6,864 beds.

Total bed capacity as reported on September 9, 1945, in departmental hospitals and veterans' pavilions was 9,860. It is estimated that these same hospitals could accommodate on an emergency basis an additional 1,100 beds.

When war broke out we still had on our strength 2,666 patients from the old war. Of these, 1,729 were in our departmental hospitals and 937 were in municipal and other general hospitals with which the department had contractual relations by which the department paid an agreed per diem amount for each of its patients.

Thus, when the recent war broke out, the department had approximately 1,859 vacant beds and, despite repeated near-emergencies, this surplus has been fairly well maintained throughout the war years. On September 29, 1945, the number of vacant beds in our own institutions was 2,442 with an additional estimated emergency capacity of approximately 1,100.

Actually, due to new construction and to the acquisition of hospitals no longer required by the armed forces we have another several hundred beds in premises which can be occupied immediately. In this connection I might mention Sydney where a military hospital of 100 beds is completely ready but no patients have yet been moved into it. It will be appreciated that there is a short period after a building is ready during which staff is being assembled and in which it would not be right that patients should be taken in.

The weekly hospital statement of September 29 shows that on that date the department had on its strength 9,904 patients made up as follows:—

From the last war.....	2,399
Undischarged members of the forces.....	2,098
Discharged personnel who have served in the recent war	5,238
Others	169

Of these 9,904 patients we had 7,418 in departmental hospitals and 2,486 in contract hospitals.

The figure of 9,904 patients on our strength includes only those who are actually hospital patients. In addition we had on that date 4,368 out-patients reporting to our clinics for treatment.

During the war we have developed two entirely new types of institution for veterans.

Until 1942 aged and totally incapacitated veterans for whom it was desirable that costodial care should be provided were accommodated in special wards of our active treatment hospitals. This was never particularly desirable and became impracticable with the tremendous increase in active treatment cases during the war years. Accordingly we have established 7 veterans homes and expect to have such institutions in each of our departmental districts.

While medical supervision and hospital services are available in these veterans homes the patients do not require all the intensive services needed in an active treatment hospital. The policy is rather to create a homelike, residential atmosphere. The 7 operating veterans homes have a capacity for 553 patients and the new building shortly to be opened in Saint John will provide accommodation for another 35.

In London, Ontario, a separate institution has not been established since there is connected with Westminster Hospital a veterans pavilion having most of the features desirable in a veterans home.