

to the friendly co-operation of the United States' manufacturers of both these drugs who made them immediately available to Canadian scientists and physicians.

Canadians In Forefront Of Health Research

In the great forward sweep of medical science in recent years, Canada has won an honoured place. Canadian medical scientists have earned an international reputation for their research achievements.

It has been said, and wisely so, that public health is purchaseable. To some degree also in health research, discovery is proportionate to the effort put into it. It is the intention of the Federal Government -- and in this I know that we speak for the conscience of Canada -- to put enough of our national resources at the disposal of our medical scientists so that the frontiers of scientific discovery can constantly be pushed back, and so that as many of our fellow-citizens as possible can be rescued from the thralldom of ill health.

Canada today has come to a point of development where the entire pattern of medical research might usefully be reviewed. A great Canadian medical scientist, Dr. Wilder Penfield, pointed out some time ago that, on a per capita basis, Federal aid to health research in Canada is equal to that in Great Britain or the United States, and that there is no comparable programme in any of the other Commonwealth countries.

Federal aid to health research in Canada might be set out under these four headings:

1. The National Research Council
2. The National Health Programme
3. The Defence Research Board
4. Other Federal health research activities.

I shall give the highlights of these programmes.

The National Research Council

In the history of health research in Canada, the National Research Council holds a place of special honour. In point of time, the Council's programme was the first major Federal activity in this field, although its expenditures in health research are now somewhat less than those made under the National Health Programme.

Interest in medical research by the National Research Council dates back 15 years to the time when Sir Frederick Banting became a member. Representative medical men were called together by the Council to discuss the whole question of medical research in Canada. An Associate Committee on Medical Research was then formed, with Banting as Chairman, to conduct a comprehensive survey of the research resources of Canadian medical schools. This survey was completed just before the outbreak of the Second World War and a modest programme of grants was begun to encourage fundamental health research.

Following the War, the status of this Medical Research Committee was raised to that of a full-time Division, with Dr. Collip as Director and Dr. G.H. Ettinger -- who prepared such an excellent monograph on medical research for the Massey Commission -- as Associate Director.