

their present position from the buying of too much "zest" by their fathers. The thing is unfortunate. I approve the propaganda; I think there is a place for it, but I contend that the pamphlet, the fillers and everything else are badly written and not producing the results they should.

Mr. SKEY: What is the government policy with respect to day nurseries in the large urban centres of the country? In asking this question, may I say that the day nurseries have been a great relief to those living in cramped quarters as a result of the present housing shortage. Many service men who have returned from overseas, some of them with children, live in rooms. The burden of the heavy taxation imposed at the present time has made it necessary for both parents to work, and the day nursery is the only answer for a great number of families. I may be wrong, but, as I understand it, the ministry of health and welfare has withdrawn the grants it used to give these necessary institutions.

Mr. CLAXTON: The Department of National Health and Welfare never made grants to day nurseries. Grants were made during the war by the Department of Labour for the sole purpose of increasing the supply of labour available to munitions factories by enabling married women to leave their children in places where they would receive adequate care during the daytime. It was done as a war measure and was discontinued by the Department of Labour when the need for war workers ceased. This is a matter coming exclusively within the jurisdiction of the provinces, and is generally regarded as a municipal or local responsibility. Any further question the hon. member may wish to ask in this connection should be directed to the Minister of Labour, but in view of what I have said I think the situation should be thoroughly understood.

I listened to the remarks of the hon. member for Lanark, and I was glad that as a doctor he did not take issue with me in regard to some of the remarks I made last week as to the nature of arthritis. In fact his remarks were along the same line as my own. I shall be very glad indeed to see that the officers of the department consider his various suggestions in regard to publicity. I must say it was never intended that this bulletin, "Canadian Health and Welfare," should be put in the waiting rooms of doctors. I thought doctors, particularly of the ability of the hon. member for Lanark, either had more exciting literature for their patients or their patients were so anxious to see them they had no time to read material of this

kind. This is a publication intended for people working in the field of health and welfare and so far, as I say, it has been well received.

I should refer to the remarks of the hon. member for Oxford, who referred to the representations made by the Canadian Institute for the Blind. I have seen the officers of the institute and, I think, of most of the provincial organizations during the year. They have put forward the same representations, and these have been given the most serious consideration. As I think hon. members know, in the proposals put before the provinces by the dominion we proposed that the federal government contribute on a fifty-fifty basis to the cost of reducing the age to twenty-one years, and increasing the amount to \$30 a month, in accordance with the proposals of the institute, and we were also prepared to discuss with the provinces arrangements under which the permissive earnings of the blind might be increased in order to increase their incentive to look after themselves. I should add that if an agreement had been arrived at it was the intention of the government to introduce at this session, or as soon as possible, a special measure relative to the blind; and in these important respects we were fully in line with the suggestions of the institute. With regard to the fifth suggestion, that there should be a special allowance of \$10 a month for those whose ability to see was minimal, the matter has been given consideration, but no final decision was arrived at. The final suggestion was that persons who entered Canada with their sight, and lost it, should be qualified for blind pension if they had residence of five years. We were also prepared to consider that suggestion.

On all these points, we substantially met the suggestions of the blind as put before the parliamentary committee on social security in 1943 and 1944. In addition, during the year the government created in this department a special division of blind control, and put in charge of it a doctor who has spent a large part of his life in serving the blind, either in the Department of Veterans Affairs, or through love of his work. I refer to Doctor F. S. Burke. Since his appointment, in cooperation with other doctors he has undertaken a survey of every case of blindness in Canada, in order to find out the causes of blindness, and also to learn what percentage of blind people in Canada might be cured by treatment or operation.

We believe a good deal of blindness could be prevented, and one of the proposals we made to the provinces was that we should