

rehabilitation may significantly decrease the length of stay in hospital for patients requiring rehabilitation or may, in some cases, eliminate altogether the necessity for hospitalization.

(c) Grant for Laboratory and Radiological Services

I come now to the last, the largest, and, from the standpoint of the hospital, perhaps the most significant of the new grants -- that for the extension of laboratory and radiological services. This grant, beginning at \$4,300,000 this year and rising over the next five years to approximately \$7,800,000, is designed to augment Canada's facilities and services to help physicians in the accurate diagnosis of disease and ill-health.

The importance of this grant will at once be evident to the members of the Canadian Hospital Council, who know from first-hand experience how much the practising physician must rely on the specialized services available to him. Speaking to the members of the Canadian Medical Association five years ago, I put it this way:

"The black bag is still the symbol of the medical profession, but the discerning doctor must see himself and his services against the broad pattern of medical facilities that the Canadian community has developed to enable him to serve it better. The history of medicine reflects the growing dependence of the doctor on the health facilities available to him. To the simple relationship between doctor and patient have been added the diagnostic, hospital, laboratory and other facilities that have been developed to support the doctor in his work."

Canada is, of course, fortunate in that the services provided by major laboratories in our larger hospitals and in the universities are second to none. Much splendid work is also being done by the various provincial diagnostic services. However, it has become clear in recent years that there is an urgent and continuing need for the extension of laboratory, X-ray and other diagnostic services in those areas where present facilities are inadequate.

There is no thought of duplicating existing services that are now performing a useful and economic function. It is hoped, through this new grant, to continue to encourage accuracy and quality so that physicians, in all parts of Canada, may have complete confidence in the reports made to them.

Under the Hospital Construction Grant, we have been successful in expanding the capacity of our hospitals. Under some of the other grants, we have assisted, to a limited extent, in the development of diagnostic and laboratory services. The new Laboratory and Radiological Services Grant, however, makes possible an expanded programme for the setting up, particularly in the smaller hospitals, of the facilities and services physicians require to serve their patients effectively. The improvement of these services will, of course, benefit doctor and patient alike, since patients in outlying areas will be spared the necessity for spending unnecessary time and money in travelling to the larger medical centres to obtain accurate diagnoses of their illnesses.