

apparently weighed against the attractions of a rural environment and superior bricks and mortar.

It was in this period of consolidation that the much discussed Christie Street Hospital was developed as the principal orthopaedic centre for Canada, replacing such decrepit and unsuitable premises as the old Bishop Strachan School and Knox College in downtown Toronto. In my own city of Vancouver I regret to say that it was not until 1938 or 1939 that steps were taken to replace the old stucco boarding school with a modern hospital building.

Situation in 1939

In any event, the situation at the outbreak of war was that the department had eight hospitals in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, London, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, and Saint John, with accommodation for 3,588 patients.

Medical Services

The department at all times maintained its own medical staff of full-time physicians and surgeons. In order, however, that veterans might receive the best possible medical care, numbers of the leading specialists of the country in all our hospital centres agreed to accept part-time salaries in return for their outstanding skill.

Similarly in practically every town, city and hamlet throughout the country the department had one or more of the local physicians on its staff to render service to pensioners living in their part of the country. These were not paid by salary but on a prescribed schedule of fees.

Tuberculous and Mental Cases

Special measures were followed with regard to the care of veterans suffering from tuberculosis and mental conditions.

With respect to these the broad policy was for the dominion to avail itself of the well developed services operated by the provinces. Where accommodation was inadequate the dominion expended substantial sums on building additional pavilions on the sites of existing sanatoria. As the peak of the emergency passed the dominion government transferred these premises to the ownership of the provinces and entered into contracts whereby any necessary hospitalization for veterans was furnished by the provincial sanatoria at mutually agreed rates.

The number of military patients suffering from tuberculosis has steadily declined and the anti-tuberculosis campaign among the civil population was greatly assisted by the very large additions to sanatorium facilities thus presented to the provinces by the dominion.

With respect to mental patients the department has continued to provide accommodation for certain types in one or two of its own hospitals, but the majority of patients are in provincial hospitals under contract arrangements.

Blinded Veterans

The need for special provision for blinded veterans was recognized early during the last war. Canada had few facilities and the policy was adopted of entering blinded Canadian veterans at St. Dunstons Hostel, established by Sir Arthur Pearson in London, England.

In 1918 the department engaged the services of Captain E. A. Baker, M.C., himself a blinded veteran, and one of the most brilliant graduates of St. Dunstons Hostel. Captain Baker had proven the success of their training methods by accepting and carrying out the duties of an engineer of the Toronto Hydro Electric Commission subsequent to his graduation from St. Dunstons.

The activities of St. Dunstons could not, however, be extended to Canada and it was considered desirable to place the aftercare of our blinded veterans in the hands of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. An order in