

44. Mention has already been made of first-aid arrangements in remote areas. It is proposed to expand these by offering improved courses of instruction to responsible people such as R.C.M.F. officers, traders or their wives, missionaries, school teachers and others.

45. In view of the susceptibility to disease of isolated bands consideration is being given to means of providing for the medical examination of all persons going into remote territories. The purpose of this would be to ensure that they are free from diseases which might start epidemics, and also to ensure that they are fit and not liable to become a burden to the medical services. Consideration should also be given to the enactment of legislation requiring those infected with contagious diseases potentially dangerous to other members of the community to take the treatment prescribed by the medical officers.

46. The Department of Transport is now conducting a survey of all government transport facilities in northern areas and the needs of all government departments. It is proposed to develop arrangements with the R.C.A.F., Department of Transport and others concerned for the more extended use of government transportation services, especially air transport for the carrying of doctors, medicines and for the movement of the sick.

47. There is urgent need for intensified research into the problems confronting the health service. This has long been recognized and notable results have been achieved in spite of the slender staff. It is proposed to continue studies on an expanded scale on such problems as nutrition, blindness, trachoma and contagious diseases, utilizing not only technical experts of the health services of the department but also those of provincial departments, voluntary agencies and others who work in or know the North.

48. It is proposed to intensify efforts to co-operate with provincial and other agencies working in the same field of health care with a view to the improvement of the service and the avoidance of needless duplication. In this the position of the half-breeds requires particular consideration.

49. Mention has already been made of the proposal to station qualified nurses, employed by the department, in residential schools for Indian children.

50. In order to provide dental care three mobile dental lorries acquired from the Army, will be placed in operation. These will be staffed by dentists employed by the department and will be kept on the road as long as the season permits.

51. It is proposed to make every effort to train Indians as doctors, nurses and sick attendants wherever this is possible. It is felt that the true interests of the Indians will best be served when they are taking an active part in looking after their own people. This may be taken as a necessary part of the development which is essential to the well-being of the Indians. What must be done is to encourage their natural pride in their own race and customs while at the same time learning ways of life which enable them to live in association with the white man.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!