

New Brunswick, where approximately sixteen persons out of every 10,000 are blind, and the lowest percentage is in Alberta, where five persons out of every 10,000 are blind. The maritime provinces, as a matter of fact, have the highest percentage of all the dominion.

As far as races are concerned, they are pretty well equally proportioned. There are 2,417 English; 1,117 Irish; 3,636 French; 1,227 Scotch and the remainder of the 9,962 are divided rather proportionately among seventeen other races. While it has no bearing on the matter particularly, it is interesting to note that the proportion among religious creeds remains about the same, there being 4,869 Catholic and 4,258 Protestant.

While some members may try to figure how much it will cost the government to raise this pension to \$30 a month and include those between the ages of twenty and forty, they should bear in mind that approximately 3,300 out of the total of 9,900, or one-third of the blind people in Canada, are over seventy years of age and are included in the regular old age pension plan, so that really under present regulations only those between the ages of forty and sixty-nine can be considered as getting any special consideration because of their blindness, and there are only 4,320 of these.

I shall not bore the house with further information, since a pamphlet containing all the information pertaining to the blind can be secured from the dominion bureau of statistics. I would ask the minister to consider seriously approving this six-point pension plan, which certainly is not unreasonable; and I hope hon. members on all sides of the house, regardless of political affiliations, will support the minister and the government in this worthy and justifiable undertaking.

Mr. BLAIR: Last Friday I made an appeal on behalf of those suffering from arthritis, and since that time this disease has been discussed a great deal in this house. It is a peculiar disease, and I should like to commend the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinonge on the commonsense speech he made the other day. We of the medical profession are ready to try any form of treatment which will give relief to these people. There is no doubt that new forms of treatment will be advocated from time to time, such as that suggested by the hon. member for Swift Current. Arthritis is a disease which will go ahead and cripple a person, and then suddenly for some unknown reason will cease, but it leaves the poor patient permanently crippled. The medical profession have tried various treatments, including diet. Various diets have been advocated over a long period. We have tried the injection of gold

[Mr. Daniel.]

with considerable benefit in some cases. I have seen some patients considerably helped by bismuth, and there have been some results from serums; but that is not the answer, because the unfortunate patient is left crippled. His joints become ankylosed so that he is unable to move them, and no form of treatment will loosen them up again.

We want to get at the cause of this disease. Something is causing it, and we want to be able to stop it before it reaches the point where people are permanently crippled. No doubt there will be cures; some of them may be psychic, as far as that is concerned, but I cannot see that any person suffering from arthritis was ever cured in one office by one shot of serum. Incidentally, speaking of gold, the use of which is being widely advocated and which has its uses, at the present time I do not believe it is safe office procedure; that is, the patient should be in an institution when the gold treatment is tried. No doubt these cures will be pointed out to us from time to time; we shall be told that somebody has obtained marvellous relief from something, but it must be remembered that of itself the disease will suddenly stop. Therefore our knowledge of the disease should be increased by research.

I should like to say a few words about this pamphlet on public health and welfare which is put out by the department. I have regularly placed this pamphlet on the table in my waiting room, but I never find any person reading it, which is unfortunate. I realize that there should be value to a paper such as this, but I think the way it is written has something to do with the fact that it is not read. I believe that better results could be obtained if the people writing this paper would bring it up to date. Let us have an issue, for instance, in July, August and September on poliomyelitis and the first signs of it, something the people can understand. Let us have a paper on the causes or the early signs of cancer, something the people can read. Let us put out a paper that can be used. I remember the minister said this pamphlet was sent to schoolteachers. Let us put out a paper the teachers can use in teaching hygiene to their classes. Make it something useful.

The other night the hon. member for Eglinton produced one of the fillers issued by the department, a most ridiculous thing, and in this I am criticizing the propaganda being put out. Whoever wrote that filler quoted the other evening, advising people to use the remainder of their family allowances to buy "zest", certainly had a wild imagination. Many of these children are in