

In the utilization of the new grant for child and maternal health, some thought will no doubt be given by the provinces to developing improved services for mothers and children in hospital out-patient departments and in community health centres. The grant funds might also be effectively used to help provide certain equipment for maternity services in hospitals. By supporting the establishment of pre-natal and post-natal clinics in hospitals, the grant should help improve the total service rendered to the community by the hospital.

There was a time when the hospital was considered solely as a place for the care and treatment of the sick. Today, it is taking its place more and more as a vital part in the total pattern of preventive public health services designed to promote positive good health. Indeed, the ideal of the modern hospital is that the health activities of the community should centre on it. With this in mind, the Child and Maternal Health Grant, like the other two new grants, should contribute significantly towards the assumption by the hospital of greater responsibilities in the public health field.

(b) Medical Rehabilitation Grant

The grant for Medical Rehabilitation, like that for Child and Maternal Health, should have a decided influence in providing improved facilities within our hospitals.

Disability, of course, is not a simple condition to be countered by any single programme. There are many types of disability and there are many aspects to the rehabilitation process if the disabled person is to be led back to a useful and productive life. Already a great deal is being done in Canada by the Federal Government, by provincial governments, and by various voluntary agencies to provide rehabilitation services for particular groups of disabled persons. The purpose of the new grant is to support the development of suitable health services for handicapped persons not already provided for by public or private action.

Obviously, all the rehabilitation health services established or supported under this grant will not be located in hospitals. Some will be in special rehabilitation units or centres, associated in many cases with a university or with the programme of one of the voluntary societies active in this field. Wherever these services may be developed, however, they will serve to strengthen the resources available to hospitals within the area concerned.

In many hospitals, thought may be given to assisting with the creation of sections of physical medicine and the employment of qualified occupational therapists. In many hospitals too, grants may be used for the specialized training of health and welfare workers in the rehabilitation field, for the purchase of equipment for hospital rehabilitation centres and for the employment of suitable staff.

The hospital is a vital part of any medical rehabilitation programme. On the one hand, by providing special services, it can assist in the rehabilitation process; on the other, it can be a beneficiary of the rehabilitation programme in that early and effective