

of Dr. Arthur Charles and Mrs. K.A.B. Degen whose skill and ingenuity contributed so much to the success of the whole operation. The final step in the development of other infectious diseases and will almost certainly be replaced when a more lasting immunizing agent for polio is developed.

Distributing Available Supplies

To ensure that the limited quantities of the serum would be used to the very best advantage, an advisory committee representing federal and provincial health departments and university medical research centres was set up to assist in the distribution of gamma globulin. It was agreed that supplies would be made available only through provincial health departments and that allocations would be made by the Committee to those areas where polio reached epidemic proportions. The serum was reserved for administration to those in the younger age group who had been directly exposed to paralytic poliomyelitis.

In view of the severity of the epidemic in Manitoba, additional supplies of gamma globulin were earmarked for that province permitting public health officials to provide injections to persons under 30 coming in contact with paralytic cases as well as to voluntary nurses working in polio wards.

That it has been possible to meet all requests for gamma globulin this summer and fall is a tribute to the work of Dr. Milton Brown and the members of the advisory committee and to Dr. B.D.B. Layton of the Department of National Health and Welfare who had responsibility for the day to day administration of the Committee's distribution policy. It is also a high tribute to the understanding and restraint exhibited by the provincial health departments in assessing local situations and presenting their requests to the Committee.

An important feature of the programme was the recommendation made by the Committee that follow-up studies should be conducted where gamma globulin had been administered. It was suggested that information should be gathered, wherever possible, by a team consisting of a health officer and public health nurses. From a research standpoint, the value of this procedure is inestimable and it is expected that the reports of these teams will provide valuable information on which further studies of the effectiveness of the serum can be made.

Plans are now under discussion with provincial health authorities to undertake an expanded programme next year under which the facilities of the Connaught Laboratories will be increased so that production can be more than doubled. With no reserve supply of blood serum on hand, the Canadian Red Cross Society will be called upon to provide blood through its long-established blood donor service. I hope the importance of the gamma globulin programme will give new incentive to the public to donate their blood and to lend their financial support to the vital work of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Continuing Research on Polio

While gamma globulin, in the light of our present knowledge, is the most effective weapon we have in the fight against polio, it should be remembered that it only provides a degree of protection for a limited time - perhaps