

- (1) By helping hospitals to accept wider responsibilities in public health and preventive medicine;
- (2) By enabling many smaller hospitals to extend to their patients some of the specialized services they have previously been unable to provide;
- (3) By assisting in the training and employment of professional staff in these specialized fields;
- (4) By providing opportunity for hospital workers to use their professional knowledge and skills to best advantage;
- (5) By improving special facilities in smaller hospitals and thus encouraging more specialized medical personnel to serve in them; and, finally,
- (6) By providing better diagnostic services outside of hospital, more efficient use will be made of existing hospital accommodation.

Threefold Health Advance

The utilization of these three new grants -- for Child and Maternal Health, Medical Rehabilitation, and Laboratory and Radiological Services -- will be worked out in co-operation and consultation with provincial health authorities and with officials of Canada's professional health organizations. The pattern developed in one province may, for various reasons, be entirely different from that followed in another. Each part of the country has its own peculiar needs; the purpose of these grants is to help fill the gaps in existing services in the fields covered, by developing those facilities most urgently needed in the area concerned.

It would be premature at this time to lay down any definitive formula for the utilization of these grants. However, without restricting their possible use in any way, perhaps I might describe briefly, grant by grant, the general type of service that might be developed. This review will indicate the potential value of these grants to Canada's hospitals.

(a) Child and Maternal Health Grant

... The vital significance of this grant becomes immediately evident when it is realized that this year's births will involve the life and health of 800,000 Canadians -- 400,000 infants and their mothers.

Already Canada has done much to provide for the development of maternal and child health services, although no specific federal grant has previously been available for this purpose. Undoubtedly, federal aid provided under other grants for the improvement of services in this field has been a factor in the impressive decline in our infant and maternal mortality rates in the last five years -- resulting in a saving of 10,000 infant lives alone. On the other hand, our infant and maternal mortality rates in Canada are still too high to provide any cause for complacency.