

Supply—Health and Welfare

I am sure there is nothing in the United States that would be any better. If the particular cases my hon. friend had in mind were referred to this society I am sure he would find amazing results, as I myself have seen.

Mr. Fulton: May I ask the minister whether there is anything here specifically devoted to arthritis and rheumatic diseases, for research under the control of the dominion government in that field. As I understand it, of the money which is made available to the provinces under the general grants, a good deal may be devoted to research along those lines, but what I want to know is whether anything allocated by the dominion government is specifically for the purpose of research in that field.

Mr. Martin: Very much. The research in cortisone alone done at McGill and Western was directed along that line.

Mr. Fulton: Was that money allocated from here for that purpose?

Mr. Martin: From here for that specific purpose.

Mr. Fulton: What is the current situation? What amount of research is being carried on under the same sort of idea?

Mr. Martin: Half that amount is being spent at the present time in research projects at three different universities.

Mr. Fulton: Could the minister, for our information, tell us which ones?

Mr. Martin: Toronto, Western and McGill.

Mr. Trainor: I should like to call the minister's attention to what I consider to be a weakness in these health grants. As the minister is aware, each individual grant has to be approved by the provincial department of health. I have found that a provincial department of health is unlikely to approve any specific application from a private organization—a hospital, let us say—for assistance in training or in technical health matters unless the department itself has no particular way of utilizing that grant. As a consequence, generally speaking the grant is rather monopolized by the provincial department of health and the private institutions have very little chance at these grants.

There is another point to which I might call the attention of the minister in connection with the success of his rehabilitation program. As he may be aware, there is a very definite shortage of practitioners of physical medicine in this country. I wonder if it is not possible for the minister, by way of scholarships or something of that nature, to encourage post-graduate education in this field, because there

is going to be a great demand for specialists of this type in the future.

Mr. Martin: They can qualify for grants.

Mr. Green: The minister did not deal with the question about there being no new research projects undertaken with regard to arthritis and the rheumatic diseases. I have heard from the British Columbia branch that they have been told that under this public health grant there are to be no new projects undertaken this year. Is that the case?

Mr. Martin: No, that is not the case.

Mr. Green: What are the new projects?

Mr. Martin: I just mentioned to the hon. member for Kamloops that there are three different projects at Western, Toronto and McGill at the present time.

Mr. Green: Do they have to do with the production of cortisone?

Mr. Martin: One of them has to do with ACTH and the other with rheumatoid arthritis.

Mr. Green: What is the exact nature of the projects being started this year?

Mr. Martin: There are a few hundred different forms of rheumatism, and it would take greater skill than mine and many hours to explain. The general set-up is this. We have a board of five men. I have never said who they were, but they are prominent men in the field of research. When this program began I suggested that I would like all projects of a research character to go before them so they would have an opportunity of making an assessment of the desirability, of the need and of the priority of the project. In practically every instance I have followed that recommendation. I think it is a sound course to follow. But there is no such cessation as my hon. friend suggests.

Mr. Green: Would there not be more assurance of continuity in research work into the rheumatic diseases if there were a specific grant made for that purpose?

Mr. Martin: I do not think so.

Mr. Trainor: Would the minister please explain what degree of collaboration there is between the board of consultants he has just mentioned, the national research council and the defence research organizations?

Mr. Martin: All the members to whom I have referred are also on the medical advisory board of the national research council.

Mr. Castleden: I notice these grants are made up in two branches to the various