

# ONTARIO DRIVE TO ERASE V.D. IS UNDER WAY

In an effort to wipe out venereal disease in Ontario, the Provincial Health Department has embarked upon a program calling for adequate medical care for every sufferer, health education, a case finding program, protection of infants and the family from infection and proper teaching and research.

Health Minister Dr. R. P. Vivian told the Legislature yesterday that more than 50,000 cases of venereal disease have occurred in Ontario since the outbreak of war, more than half being cases of syphilis. There were over 1,000 more infections reported in 1943 than in any year previous, he said.

Speaking on amendments to the Public Health Act, Dr. Vivian said these amendments made provision for regulations setting up certain health standards. In its efforts to prevent unnecessary illness, the department would require, in addition to its present staff, a well organized municipal health service, Dr. Vivian said.

## **On County Basis.**

"It is considered that this could best be undertaken by a union of municipalities, perhaps on a county basis," the Minister said. "It is realized that the staff to serve a population of 30,000 to 35,000 persons should be made up of physicians, dentists, public health nurses, sanitary officers and others who have had adequate training in public health."

Because many municipalities would not be in a position to meet the entire cost of such services, the Government proposed to make substantial grants-in-aid to meet the cost, Dr. Vivian informed the House. This assistance would be on the basis of a program for the prevention of acute communicable disease, control of tuberculosis, of venereal disease, the control of nuisances, supply of water, sewage and refuse disposal, sustained inspection of food and food handling establishments, and an acceptable program of the health problem involved in maternity, infancy and childhood.

In the field of mental health three problems required special attention, Dr. Vivian declared. They were accommodation, prevention and research. Steps had already been taken to provide 300 additional beds for the treatment of mentally defective children at the Orillia institution, and with the return of accommodation now on loan to the armed forces it was hoped to catch up with this problem.

## **In Public Schools.**

The public school health program must include the facilities for dealing with the emotional factors that form the patterns of the adult personality, the Minister said, and the service of a trained officer in this connection was favored.

Turning to tuberculosis, Dr. Vivian said the T.B. death rate among the Indians in Ontario was 15 times that of the white population. Between 1921 and 1941 there was a reduction of 59 per cent in tuberculosis mortality rate in Ontario, a greater decrease than in any other Province. If the Indians were excluded the decrease would be 63 per cent. Ontario had the highest ratio of sanatorium beds to deaths of any of the Provinces, and this in part accounted for the reduction in the incidence of the disease, he pointed out.