

ADDITIONAL OUT-PATIENT BENEFITS ANNOUNCED

Beginning July 1st, residents of Ontario who are covered by Ontario Hospital Insurance will be entitled to five additional out-patient benefits. These benefits were predicted by Hon. James N. Allan, Provincial Treasurer, when he announced the increase in hospital insurance premiums in his budget speech on Feb. 12 this year. The new premiums, which become payable with the regular advance payment to cover the benefit month of October, are \$3.25 monthly for a single person and \$6.50 monthly for a family.

"This is the second extension of out-patient benefits since the plan began on Jan. 1st, 1959, stated Dr. J. B. Neilson, Chairman of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission in making the announcement. "The benefits are designed", he went on, "to cover a number of services which are provided mainly by hospitals and which, if not insured, could create considerable expense for the person who must make repeated visits to the hospital out-patient department as part of a planned course of treatment."

Under the new benefits the O.H.S. Commission will now cover hospital visits to conclude treatment of a fracture which was originally treated on an in-patient basis. Previously, the plan covered follow-up treatment of fractures only if the patient was originally treated on an out-patient basis within 24 hours of an accident and not admitted to hospital over-night.

Another new benefit is coverage for radiotherapy hospital services for the treatment of cancer on an out-patient basis in clinics of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and hospitals approved by the Commission for these services. This benefit covers only treatment, not diagnostic X-ray or laboratory services provided before, during or after out-patient treatment. Neither does it cover radiotherapy services for non-cancerous conditions.

Physiotherapy and occupational therapy will be covered on an out-patient basis in hospitals approved by the Commission when these services are prescribed by a licensed physician as a medically-necessary course of treatment. This does not mean that the plan will cover physiotherapy simply to relieve minor aches and pains. There must be a medical condition under treatment which, in the attending physician's opinion, requires a number of physiotherapy or occupational therapy treatments. For the immediate future, physiotherapy will be a benefit only when the treatments are received in hospitals approved by the Commission to provide these services. Consideration, however, is being given to the approval of other physiotherapy facilities at a later date, and if and when approved, the Commission plans to make regular physiotherapy benefits available in these facilities.

Also, as a new out-patient benefit, the Commission will pay for speech therapy where this is available in approved hospitals and provided by qualified speech therapists for a treatment of an organic illness or injury.

Originally, the only out-patient service covered by the plan was emergency hospital service on the first visit to hospital within

twenty-four hours of an accident. Two years ago, without any additional premium charge, the Commission began paying for follow-up treatment of fractures which were originally treated under the emergency out-patient basis which normally would have required the patient to be admitted to hospital.

DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS ESTABLISH TWO-WAY RADIO

With the award of a contract in the Fort William District, Ontario's Department of Highways has taken the final step in the establishment of two-way radio communication in its operating districts throughout the entire province, Highways Minister Chas. S. MacNaughton announces.

Late this Fall it is expected that work on the final contract will have been completed. Then two-way communication will be available in each of the Department's 18 Districts.

Recently contracts were also awarded for the establishment of radio systems in its Sault Ste. Marie and Kenora Districts.

When the last three systems have been installed, there will be 700 D.H.O. mobile units in operation. In Fort William 44 mobile units will be operating and 33 each in Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie.

Two-way radio has proved invaluable since its inception in coping with ice storms, blizzards and similar vagaries of nature at its wildest. The radio system is directed from base stations, as well as D.H.O. yards, augmented by automatic relays and repeaters. The radios are mounted in ploughs, trucks and patrol vehicles.

Over and above the amount of time saved, there is the pleasing prospect that lives may be saved through speedy communication in out-of-the-way places. Whether by day or night, winter or summer, the two-way radio will facilitate the maintenance of 12,600-odd miles of highways for safe, smooth travel.

UNITED CHURCH CRADLE ROLL PARTY

The annual Cradle Roll party for mothers and children was held in the United Church Hall last Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Bill Gerow and Mrs. Eddie Macadam in charge. The tots were amused by Mary-Ellen Gerow, Daryl Lynn Weaver, Muriel Nesbitt and Sandra Clemens.

Fifteen children were promoted from the cradle roll to the primary class.

While the children played nursery games the mothers enjoyed contests and the afternoon ended with lunch served at small tables.

CARD OF THANKS - I wish to thank my many friends who sent cards and gifts, also the Nursing Staff of the Terrace Bay Private Hospital, Dr. Freebury and Dr. Cornell, also the Canadian Legion, during my recent illness.

Tom Whitton

Each day there are some disagreeable things that have to be done. A boy wishes this were not so; a man realizes it is so, and does them well and without delay.