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## Contrast and Achievement

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## CONTRAST AND ACHIEVEMENT

When the Catholic Hospital Association was formed in 1915, there were in the United States 541 Catholic hospitals; today, there are 682; in Canada there were 90; today, there are 179. In 1915, the combined bed capacity of the Catholic hospitals of the United States including bassinets was 60,300; today, there are 104,150. In 1915, there were in our hospitals in Canada 10,550 beds; today, there are 32,946. In 1915, the average size of the hospital in the United States was 112; today, it is 154. In Canada in 1915, it was 117; today, it is 188. Another way of realizing these changes is to understand the meaning of the fact that between 1915 and 1940, the Catholic hospital field has developed as much as it developed previously between 1823 and 1915. In Canada, the development during these years was even greater.

But still more important than all of this is the fact that in 1915, the Catholic hospitals of the United States and Canada served approximately 925,000 patients each year in their in-patient service; last year, the Catholic hospitals in the two countries cared for approximately 2,400,000 patients. During the period we are discussing, the population of the United States has increased 29% and that of Canada 50%, while the increase in the number of Catholics in the United States during that same period can be reliably estimated to have been 36%, yet the in-patients in our Catholic hospitals increased by 170%, an increase that is approximately five times greater than the increase in the number of Catholics and almost six times greater than the increase in the population.—REV. A. M. SCHWITTALLA, S.J.