

# CITY SCHOOLS ALL CLOSED

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order that all dance halls be closed until further notice. It is not contemplated to extend this order to motion picture and other theatres at the present time.

## Getting Hospitals Ready.

Splendid progress is being made at the Arlington Hotel in preparing it as an influenza hospital, and last night it was felt that patients could be received there on Wednesday night. This morning many of the cleaning staff, having finished their work at the Arlington, will be engaged at the Hotel Mossop, which will not take as long to prepare for patients.

Members of the Department of Health and the enlarged staff have worked wonders at the Arlington Hotel, doing the necessary work without regard to custom of professional etiquette. Some of the cleaners, finding that hot water could only be obtained in the basement, raised an objection to carting heavy pails of it all over the building. The nurses in charge said: "All right, you scrub and we will carry the water." This was done and the nurses formed a bucket brigade to supply the scrub-women, working all over the big hotel, with plenty of clean, hot water.

## Shortage of Nurses.

So great is the demand for nurses that only a small fraction of the requests can be supplied with nursing service. The need is further aggravated by the number of nurses both in the Department of Health, hospitals and private practice who are suffering from the disease. Yesterday two of the district medical officers, Dr. J. T. Phair and Dr. D. A. McDougough, had to quit work and lay up, having contracted influenza.

A meeting of the Local Board of Health was held in the City Hall yesterday morning, which was attended by Dr. Risk (Chairman), Dr. Hastings, Mayor Church, Controller McBride and Ald. Cowan. Dr. Risk spoke of the appalling list of deaths in the papers, and said that the peak of the epidemic had not been reached yet.

"The death lists are unprecedented in the history of the city," said the Medical Officer.

Dr. Risk urged that the citizens should know just how bad the situation was. Fright would not give anyone influenza, he said, and it might induce a number to take proper precautions. Ald. Cowan and Dr. Hastings were most anxious that the people, while knowing all the facts, should not become panicky and thereby reduce their vitality.

## Theatre-owners Present Petition.

The question of closing theatres was discussed, and Ald. Cowan presented a petition from the Association of Toronto Theatre Managers urging that their places be not closed.

"We would not press this selfish point of view," read one clause, "if we were not thoroughly convinced that the opinion of the Chief Officer of Health of the Provincial Board of Health, who expressed himself as not considering the closing of such places as theatres necessary, is founded upon sound judgment. The theatres of Toronto are thoroughly well ventilated and the air in them is uniformly better than in stores and other places where people congregate."

Mayor Church and Controller McBride deemed it unwise to close schools and theatres.

It was stated that unpleasantness arose in some boarding or rooming houses when young business people were taken ill, with the result that it was necessary for them to leave. The board decided to issue an order that no patient be moved without the consent of the M. O. H.

It was decided to have announcements published in the press from time to time, giving such information or orders as may be necessary.

## No Parties Allowed.

The head office was asked several times yesterday regarding the holding of parties, and the request was made that all parties be abandoned at this time.

Mr. G. A. Warburton, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., announced last night that the membership campaign planned to commence to-day had been postponed until the epidemic was over. The Prize Day exercises at Upper Canada College, which were fixed for Friday next, have been postponed.

Neither Dr. W. J. S. McCullough, the Provincial M. O. H., or Dr. Hastings, local M. O. H., could give any idea of the number of cases in the Province or the city. Dr. Hastings said that the mortality in other cities had been about 1 per cent., and on this basis there would be about 5,000 cases in the city, but he would not be surprised if there were 10,000 at the present time.

The investigation into the deaths at the Base Hospital will be made possibly by Coroner Evans. Dr. Geo. Graham, who was asked by the Chief

Coroner to hold an inquest, after consulting with County Crown Attorney Greer, asked to be excused, as he is himself a member of the Army Medical Corps.

Mayor Church yesterday asked Dr. Hastings if the Local Board of Health had given any permit for the Base Hospital to be used as an isolation hospital, and on being answered in the negative, said that the building was being used contrary to the act. The M. O. H. promised to investigate.

Mr. A. G. Moorhead, Secretary to Sir George Bury of Montreal, came to Toronto and joined the R. A. F. about a week ago, and died in the Base Hospital yesterday morning.

Mr. L. H. Cascadden, about 30 years of age, a traveler for a local house, died in Weyburn, Sask., from pneumonia, after a few days' illness in the hospital there.

## License Board's Attitude.

Inquiry of the Ontario License Board brings out the fact that the agitation for relaxation of the provisions of the Ontario Temperance Act for the alleged object of aiding the fight against Spanish influenza has received no encouragement from that quarter.

A member of the board reports replying to an appeal of the above nature from the Mayor of Kitchener, with the answer that the board has no power to alter the law; that it is believed that the Ontario Temperance Act makes sufficiently elastic provision for the needs of the situation, especially if druggists use care to keep their stocks replenished. Besides, the act contains a provision permitting medical practitioners to have ten gallons of liquor for administering purposes.

This view of the board is upheld by many physicians. A prominent Toronto practitioner, a member of the Ontario Medical Council, yesterday besought the board to issue a statement showing that it had in no way prompted or encouraged the proposed relaxation. This physician stated that he had had a considerable number of callers seeking liquor prescriptions, of whom only one was a case of need. He contended that these people were being misled by the articles appearing in the press. Some of this physician's applicants were, he stated, already under the influence of liquor, showing their solicitation was for beverage purposes. He protested against being pestered by unworthy applicants, and asked to have the air cleared as to the mooted relaxation, which he did not favor.

## Serious in the County.

Throughout the county the "flu" is getting more serious all the time. In Markham and Mount Joy the public schools have been ordered closed by Dr. J. A. Macdonald, the local M.O.H. The high school still remains open, but may be closed at any time. Richard Moore, a liveryman, succumbed to the disease on Saturday. More than one hundred cases have been reported.

In East York the work on farms is being seriously hindered by the disease, and in some cases the most necessary work has to be left undone. Clara Scrace, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Wm. Scrace, third concession, York, died on Sunday.

Dr. J. D. Berry of Agincourt reports more than fifty cases, and says the epidemic is growing more serious.

There are more than a hundred cases in Newmarket, but Dr. Stuart Scott, M.O.H., thinks the epidemic is now under control. Rev. A. E. Hagby, his wife and three children, are all laid up, and are being looked after by the congregation.