

FIFTY-FIVE DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA

Theatres and Moving Picture Shows Must Close, Also Billiard Rooms — Sick People May Get Coal — Foodstuffs Must be Protected From Contamination

Fifty-five more deaths from Spanish influenza and pneumonia were recorded at the City Clerk's office yesterday between nine in the morning and five in the afternoon. Not all of these, of course, occurred yesterday. Many of the deaths are not reported at the City Hall on the day they occur. Only nine of the deaths recorded yesterday occurred yesterday. Twenty-two of them were held over from Wednesday, while 20 of them happened on the 15th, two on the 14th and one each on the 12th and 13th of October.

Yesterday's figures, compared with those for Wednesday, show an increase of seven in the number of deaths recorded, so that the epidemic apparently has not yet reached its maximum.

More definite measures were taken yesterday to cope with the plague. As forecasted in The Globe, the theatres are to be closed. Together with the moving picture houses, they will give their last performances for the time being on Saturday night. This is the decision of the Board of Health, which met yesterday morning to consider ways and means of fighting the epidemic. Other specific orders issued by the board referred to protection of confectionery, pastries, meats, fruits, etc., from contamination, and the stopping of the circulation of public library books, although the libraries will not be closed for the present. It was further decided that the Board will confer with the Fuel Commissioner with a view to getting coal delivered to sick homes where there is no fuel.

Poolrooms Must Close.

Pool and billiard places and bowling alleys must also close, commencing Monday next, the board declared, while public luncheons and dinners have been ordered cancelled, including those of the Canadian Club and the Empire Club. Dr. Hastings said he understood a good many people loafed around the poolrooms who would be better off in the open air.

Ald. Ryding wanted to know if some of the coal belonging to the city could not be delivered to homes where there are several persons down with influenza and there is no fuel available for heating purposes. Dr. Hastings said that if the coal was in Toronto and was not being delivered, and it could be delivered by closer co-operation between the departments, he would make an effort to see that coal was sent to sick people.

Special Hospitals.

Dr. Risk, the Chairman, asked about the new civic "flu" hospitals, and was informed by the Medical Officer of Health that he will be able to staff up at once at the Arlington. When Dr. Risk asked how many civic nurses, including school nurses, would be used in the civic emergency hospitals, he was told by Dr. Hastings that all the nurses are working overtime.

Dr. Risk—But I am anxious to see our graduate nurses used in these hospitals. The reputation of our emergency hospitals must not be allowed to suffer. I think the volunteer nurses could supplement trained nurses in outside work and our nurses act as a body in our own hospitals.

Dr. Hastings—Nothing will be left undone to promote their efficiency. We will use just as many nurses as can possibly be spared. The Lady Superintendent, Miss Mathewson, will get things adjusted and will co-operate with other hospitals.

Dr. Hastings said it would be necessary to have trained nurses do the supervising, and let the V. A. D.'s do the actual waiting on patients.

Ald. Cowan—Dr. McCullough says he has "lots of nurses."

Dr. Hastings—Do you know what they are—all "V.A.D.'s." The trained nurses are all busy.

Mandate for Coal.

Ald. Nesbitt said he had many complaints that people had no coal in their homes and cannot get it.

"Miss Dyke (head of the nursing staff) told me that as it is they were not coping with the situation."

Dr. Hastings—There must be a mandate sent out that they must get the coal. It is practically killing the people to have sickness in their homes and no heat.

Chairman Dr. Risk differed from Dr. Hastings' policy of asking for voluntary aid.

"I would conscript the teachers in this emergency," he said, "and the trustees, I think, are in favor of this."

Con. McBride — But they are teachers—not nurses, and you must remember that. Suppose that a hundred of them take ill, and are not ready to go back to look after the children when the schools open?

Dr. Hastings—The schools will not be opened until the epidemic is over.

Dr. Hastings queried whether the teachers would draw double pay, as nurses and teachers, while doing nursing work.

Dr. Risk—If they have any soul at all, the teachers will not ask double pay. I would conscript them.

Dr. Hastings Makes Report.

Dr. Hastings reported his action as to closing schools, dance hall public halls, and requesting churches to hold no Sunday schools, and, possible, only one Sunday service.

It was decided, on Dr. Hastings' recommendation, to confer with the Board of Education, so that teachers who are doing nursing work should not receive two salaries from the city. Some have asked for the usual nursing remuneration, though still paid by the Board of Education.

In a report to the board, Dr. Hastings says further: "There have been innumerable inquiries in regard to the advisability of removing the ban on liquor. This is not debatable. We would, in my judgment, have had many more deaths from the epidemic if the ban had not been put on liquor than we will have with it. There are few cases in which other stimulants will not serve better purpose than liquor would."

Deaths Not Registered.

The Mayor charged that deaths from influenza were not being registered.

"No cemetery has authority to open a grave unless the death is registered," said Dr. Hastings.

The Mayor stated that doctors had telephoned him asking that a hospital be established in the north end. Dr. Hastings said it was probable

that one would be opened in the northwest section.

The following statement was handed out yesterday by Col. L. E. W. Irving, D.S.O., Director of Medical Services at Toronto Military Headquarters: "The general situation regarding the influenza epidemic shows improvement. Discharges from hospital exceed admissions. Deaths from influenza, none; broncho-pneumonia or pneumonia, 11, which includes seven at the Base Hospital. The G.O.C. has received a letter from Mayor Church in which he states: 'Your staff are doing excellent work, overworked as they are, and no fault is attached to them.'"

Against Coal Tar Products.

"I wish especially to warn the public against the indiscriminate use of coal tar products, such as phenacetine, acetanilide and aspirin," said Dr. Hastings yesterday. "Many cases of heart failure in the previous epidemic were attributed to the unwise use of heart-depressants."

"Unfortunately, all outbreaks and epidemics are marked by the rushing forward of numerous people who say they have specifics which are a sure cure, and they claim to know this because it has 'worked' on some patient. This is particularly dangerous in the present epidemic because of the fact that it is practically a three-day fever, and if the patient has gone to bed on being taken sick and has taken a good dose of spring medicine he becomes normal at the end of that time anyway. But people who, in the meantime, have given him some worthless 'cure' attribute his quick return to normal to what they have given him, whereas he has probably recovered in spite of that, not because of it. Coal tar products, for instance, should be given only on prescription of a physician."

Chaplain Is Dead.

Capt. (Rev.) Roy J. Kain, chaplain to the troops at Niagara camp since August last, died yesterday from Spanish influenza at the Base Hospital, where he had been a patient for about a week. His wife was at the hospital when he died. His home was at Walkerton, but his last parish was at Thamesville.

Major A. L. Burch, acting Assistant Director of Chaplains' Services for Eastern Canada, is ill with the "flu," as also are 35 other members of the staff at Toronto Military District Headquarters. Capt. J. C. Armstrong had to go home ill this morning.

Medical Students Die.

Mr. L. A. Domelan, a first year medical student, who had just come to the city from the British West Indies, died of Spanish influenza. He developed the disease early last week, and when recovering took cold and died the next day.

Miss V. A. Jackson of Orillia, a second year medical student, died Tuesday night, a victim of influenza.

"Start Your Fires."

Mr. E. L. Cousins, Assistant Fuel Administrator for Ontario, advises people in homes where severe colds or "flu" are present to start their fires if their homes feel cold. There is no point in conserving coal at the expense of health, he declares.

Heat is required for influenza patients, and where necessary householders should not hesitate to burn whatever fuel is needed to keep the patient warm and comfortable.

There can be no relaxation in the restrictions made by the Fuel Controller in regard to the amount of coal allotted to each family, but it is felt that the public fully realize the imperative need for conservation, and the Assistant Administrator is confident that even the "flu" epidemic will not cause householders to depart unduly from the rigid conservation program necessary if Ontario is to get over the winter with a minimum of trouble.

In Civil Service.

Some of the departments at the Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, are handicapped by the number of employees off work because of the influenza epidemic. It is estimated that about 200 persons are away sick, either with the malady or with severe colds.

Separate School Teachers Volunteer.

Very Rev. Dean Hand, Chairman of the Separate School Board, yesterday intimated to Dr. Hastings, Medical Officer of Health, that the separate school teachers of the city were ready to act as nurses or in any other capacity in the fight against the influenza epidemic. The Medical Officer of Health was delighted with the offer and suggested that the teachers register at the headquarters of the Separate School Board in Bond Street.

Druggists are still busy night and day with prescriptions for influenza victims. One druggist told The Globe yesterday that under normal conditions he filled 25 prescriptions daily and at the present time he is filling 125 prescriptions every day. He believed this was general throughout the city. "It is worse than going over the top," said one of his assistants, who is a veteran of the war.