

SPANISH "FLU" INVADES CITY

**Hundreds of Cases Develop,
 but All of a Mild
 Form**

150 AIRMEN IN HOSPITAL

**Health Authorities Not Alarm-
 ed and Put Sickness Down
 to Bad Weather**

The so-called "Spanish influenza," which has been very prevalent in the United States and Eastern Canada for some weeks past, has apparently invaded Toronto in a very mild form. To all appearances hundreds of cases have developed during the past three or four days, but no deaths have been reported from it locally. While the epidemic is very active throughout the city, it is not severe and this fact is thought to be largely due to the measures which people themselves took to avoid getting it. The largest number of cases which have so far been reported are in the Royal Air Force, of which unit about 150 men are in the Base Hospital, no less than fifty being admitted yesterday.

No alarm is felt by the Toronto health authorities at the outbreak in the city and they characterize it as the ordinary fall epidemic of la grippe and influenza. Dr. C. J. Hastings, the Medical Officer of Health, stated last evening that he did not have the record of any cases that correspond to the "Spanish influenza." A large number of colds had been suffered, but these, in his opinion, were due to the unseasonable weather which Toronto had been experiencing. He has heard of no typical cases so far as the civilian population of Toronto is concerned. None of the symptoms so far appear to be more than the ordinary cold or influenza. No special precautions have been taken outside of warnings given to the public from time to time. In the opinion of Dr. Hastings, with other doctors, the outbreak is little different to that of other fall seasons, except, if anything, that it is a little milder. He points out that where pneumonia follows is when people neglect to take care of themselves. The attack usually only lasts a few days or a week.

R. A. F. Prepared for Attacks.

None of the hospitals have any "Spanish influenza" amongst their patients, although in a few instances there are suspected cases, which are being closely watched. Medical officers of the Royal Air Force looked on the outbreak amongst their men as that of "Spanish influenza" in a very mild form. They had, however, they stated, been on the lookout for it and were ready. Approximately 150 members of the R. A. F. were laid up, they stated, and there have been no deaths. In the Base Hospital there are about 150 men, mostly members of the R.A.F., confined with the epidemic. About 50 new cases were admitted yesterday. The officer commanding the hospital, however, stated that the cases were just those of ordinary influenza, and of a very mild character.

The influenza amongst the members of the R.A.F. broke out about last Tuesday and is confined to three camps, the Long Branch Camp, School of Aeronautics, University grounds, and at Hamilton. The camps at Armour Heights, Leaside, Camp Borden and Beamsville have all so far escaped it. All suspected cases are confined to barracks and contact cases are immediately isolated. A goodly number of the men have already recovered, but all the bad cases are being sent to the Base hospital. All leave to the United States has been stopped and no troops are being moved till the epidemic abates. Preventive measures are also being taken to prevent the spread of the influenza. Some of the men have been very ill during the past week, but pneumonia has not settled on any of the men yet, and the general opinion lends to the fact that it is just ordinary influenza.

At St. Augustine's Seminary.

At the St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Seminary on the Kingston road between 20 and 30 cases of influenza have broken out, but Rev. Dr. Kidd, the President, stated last evening that they were of a very mild type. None were bad enough to be sent to a hospital, and most of them recovered after a few days in bed.

Druggists throughout the city state that they can not remember any year at this time when they had so many customers asking for remedies for colds and influenza.

Lieut.-Col. E. S. Ryerson, A.D.M.S. M.D. No. 2, states that no cases have yet been noticed among the men in the C.E.F. The situation at Niagara is improving, he says.

The usual measures of precaution were being taken, J. W. S. McCullough, M.O., Chief Health Officer for Ontario, said last evening when asked about the epidemic, and remarked that the only cases he had heard

of were those amongst members of the R.A.F. at Burwash Hall.

At least 15 cases of a mild influenza were experienced by Dr. J. H. McConnell, 1,653 Dundas street, during the past week. None of the cases were bad and no complications set in. They mostly started with a cold in the head and nose and throat, he stated.

Dr. A. F. Demary, 2 Lyall avenue, met with a lot of cases of cold or la grippe last week, but there were no cases that he would designate as "Spanish influenza."

Origin of Disease.

It is said that the form of la grippe which is now prevalent is called "Spanish" because it broke out in Spain with great intensity during last summer, when upwards of 8,000,000 of the population were attacked. It is caused by a microbe which is met with chiefly in the saliva, nasal and bronchial secretions and is transmitted by direct contact through coughing or sneezing, by using the same handkerchief, table napkins, kitchen utensils, etc.

According to doctors, it manifests itself by headache, dizziness, lassitude and general malaise and a fever that rapidly reaches 103 to 104. The disease is serious of itself but specially by reason of pulmonary complications that may ensue and are often mortal. The advice of local doctors is to go to bed immediately and keep warm when symptoms appear. They point out that it is dangerous to keep on going with a view to fighting it off.