

EPIDEMIC IS NOT ABATING

Board of Health Deals With Situation at Holiday Meeting

SWEEPING REGULATIONS?

Seven More Deaths Are Re- ported From the City Hospitals

To consider steps now being taken and to discuss the situation regarding Spanish Influenza, a meeting of the local Board of Health has been called for 10 o'clock this morning.

The Ontario Government has called a meeting in the Private Bills Committee Room at the Parliament Buildings at 10 o'clock this morning regarding the formation of a voluntary nursing corps.

There were seven deaths in the city hospitals in the last twenty-four hours.

Yesterday was no holiday for the Department of Health, who are doing all possible to fight the Spanish influenza epidemic. Two hotel properties, the Arlington and the Mossop, are being rapidly prepared as temporary hospitals, and other buildings are under consideration.

Dr. Hastings, M.O.H., believes that bad as the disease is at present the number of cases will increase for a week or more before the crest is passed. He is accordingly laying plans to increase the equipment and staff that will be used to fight it.

Following a conference with the staff on Saturday morning, executive officers visited the different properties, and, after reporting back yesterday morning, the Arlington and Mossop Hotels were secured. Yesterday a large staff was turned into the Arlington, and all last night the work of removing carpets, cleaning rooms and walls was continued.

Water, gas and other services are being installed, beds will be sterilized, mattresses disinfected, and bed-clothes and linen have been distributed among the various laundries and will be returned in short order. As soon as the Arlington is ready, work will commence on the Hotel Mossop. The cleaning staff has been largely recruited from the City Hall staff.

Hotels as Hospitals.

The Arlington Hotel, with accommodation for 100 patients, will be ready late Tuesday or on Wednesday morning, while the Mossop will be equipped and ready by the end of the week.

Last night Dr. Hastings said that the two buildings would accommodate over 200 patients. The Mossop is a particularly fine building, with tiled floors throughout, and the Doctor thought it would be ideal for private wards, which should be in great demand.

While hospital accommodation is being increased, the required staffs, a greater problem, are not being overlooked. The M.O.H. reports a very fair response to the appeals published in the press. Yesterday the need for help was mentioned in the city churches, and the women were asked to help as far as possible.

Province Organizes Nurses.

The Provincial Board of Health is organizing a corps of voluntary nurses to be held in readiness against increases in the number of cases throughout the Province. Following a conference with the Premier and other members of the Cabinet on Saturday, the board is making an urgent appeal to young women of some education who are willing to offer their services in case of demand. The board is holding a meeting this morning in the Private Bills Committee room at the Parliament Buildings at ten o'clock, when the proposal will be explained by Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary. Those attending the meeting will enter by the west door.

Dr. Margaret Patterson and Dr. C. J. Copp of the St. John's Ambulance Association have volunteered their services in procuring and training volunteer nurses.

In addition a large number of the women's organizations have taken up the matter and will co-operate. Among those which have already offered to assist are the I.O.D.E., Women's Canadian Club, Graduate Nurses' Association, Women's Conservative Club, Women's Liberal Club and the Y.W.C.A.

District offices of the Local Board of Health are being kept open day and night, and the number of cases reported to these stations far outnumber those received from the hospitals. In many homes all are in bed with the disease, and the homes are kept heated and running, as well as nursing attention being given to the sick ones, by members of the Department of Health.

How to Avoid Influenza.

Dr. Hastings said last night that he hoped the people would observe the precautions previously published in order to avoid any ill effects from the disease. Up to the present time the direct mortality rate from the epidemic has been lower than any place on the continent, and will remain so as long as the people observe due care and lay up when they feel the symptoms of the disease.

As is usual in an epidemic, persons are busy exploiting so-called cures that are of little or no value, and may be actually harmful. The advice of the M.O.H. is not to tamper with a healthy body, and leave all nostrums, gargles and washes alone, except under the direction of a qualified medical officer. Inquiries at drug stores elicit the information that there has been a big demand for camphor, menthol and other household remedies of late. In fact, a good many stores have run out of stocks of common drugs and lozenges that are ordinarily used for coughs, colds and sore throats.

The M.O.H. asks citizens to avoid public meetings of all kinds. For the sake of health, he says, it should be no great sacrifice to remain away from theatres, moving picture shows and other public gatherings until the epidemic has run its course.

Walk to Fight "Flu."

During the epidemic, Dr. Hastings suggests that those living within a mile of their business should walk, rather than use the street cars.

"If people would walk the distance twice a day," said the M.O.H., "it would be a great improvement to their health, and would safeguard

not only themselves but others, and would lessen the overcrowding."

Those living more than a mile away from their place of business would do well to walk part of the distance, he stated.

Services in the Roman Catholic churches yesterday were shortened and reduced in number on the order of the Bishop. Instead of High Mass, only Low Mass was celebrated yesterday morning. In the afternoon short services, without sermons, were held, and the evening services were canceled.

The supper being arranged for the Social Service Council of Ontario, which was to be held in the Board of Trade Rooms on Tuesday evening, and at which Rev. G. C. Pidgeon was to recount his experiences overseas, has been canceled, and the object of the meeting will be attained in a different way.

Business houses, manufacturers, munitions firms and branches of the civic service are being hard hit by the number of absentees who have, or believe they have, the disease. Women and girls seem to be very susceptible to the influenza, and often have it in the more severe form. The number on the sick list in some institutions is causing grave worry as to whether the plants can be kept in operation.

Mayor Church has asked the Attorney-General that an investigation be held into five deaths from influenza that have occurred at the Base Hospital.

Liquor for the "Flu."

Medical prescriptions calling for liquor to help in the fight against Spanish influenza are quite the vogue. Judging by the great crowd that filed in and out of the Government dispensaries on Church street and Dundas street all day Saturday.

The line on Church street was four deep, and part of the time stretched out for half a block. A policeman was on hand all day to keep order.

There were seven deaths in city hospitals in the twenty-four hours ending Sunday at midnight from influenza. Those who succumbed were:

Fred Marcott, North Bay.

John Lacey, 214 Van Horne street.

Verna Smith, Weston.

James Turner, 26 Power street.

Lawrence Donelan, a Jamaican who was a first year medical student.

J. O. Danby, Borden street.

John H. Robinson, North Bay.

At the Western Hospital there were ten new cases admitted, two of whom were described as being in a very serious condition. Three patients whose names are included in the list died there on Saturday night.

Miss Hope Aylesworth, whose condition was critical on Friday, has improved. She is a nurse on the staff of the General Hospital.