

DOCTORS STRIVE HARD TO KILL INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

Academy of Medicine, Medical Officers of Health and Military in Accord on Measures Taken

Over thirty deaths from influenza or pneumonia were reported to the City Clerk's office yesterday.

Spanish influenza continues its steady advance through every district of the city and country. Hospitals are practically all filled, and the Department of Health are considering taking over some of the vacant hotel properties for additional hospital accommodation. Advertisements are in the press for voluntary workers as nurses' aids, also for ward maids, orderlies, cooks, cleaners, etc., to strengthen the forces which are busily fighting the epidemic.

That Dr. Hastings, Medical Officer of Health, has not been taken unawares, was illustrated yesterday, when it was learned that beds and other supplies were available on 24 hours' notice to equip any buildings taken over for hospital accommodation.

Hospital superintendents are co-operating with the M.O.H. in every possible manner, despite handicaps through members of their staffs falling into the grip of the disease.

Yesterday afternoon Dr. Hastings was in conference with the heads of nurses' training schools and also with the Ontario Registration Bureau, which is receiving applications from those offering their services to combat the plague.

Ban on Conventions.

Dr. Hastings has ordered all conventions and other large gatherings to be postponed until the epidemic abates. This ban may remain in force for about a month if the course of the disease is the same here as it has been in American cities.

Among the conventions that will be affected by this ruling are: The Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, planned to open Wednesday; the National Association of Electrical Contractors and Dealers, scheduled to start on Monday; the Three-day Conference of Local Church-workers, "on behalf of Israel," arranged for next week. The Ontario Sunday School Convention has been planned for October 21, and may have to be postponed.

Private Funerals Only.

An order has been issued that only immediate relatives shall be allowed to attend funerals of persons who have died from influenza.

The six district stations of the Local Board of Health are being kept open day and night, and information may be obtained at the head office, telephone Main 1200, until 11 p.m. to-day, Sunday and the holiday.

"I greatly disapprove of sprays and gargles used as preventatives by the unskilled," said Dr. Hastings last night. These, unless carefully prepared and administered, are likely to set up an irritation in healthy organs that may leave them as splendid incubators for the organism that causes the disease."

169 Cases Reported.

People are also squandering their money on camphor and other substances that will not prevent the disease. Up to 11 a.m. yesterday 169 cases of influenza had been reported at the City Hall, but this is only a small percentage of the total number. Many of the local business houses are being hard hit by the number of employees who are laid up with the epidemic. The City Hall staffs are just beginning to be affected. Some 30 of the firemen are off duty and quite a number of the police. Some 50 of the postoffice staff are on the sick list. The Bell Telephone Company has a sick list among the operators that is 25 per cent. above normal. None of the girls are desired to return to their boards until they have entirely recovered, and in the meantime the company ask the public to use the telephones as little as possible.

To prevent the development of influenza in the wards of the Hospital for Sick Children visiting has been disallowed during the epidemic. The same course has been taken at some of the other hospitals, on the recommendation of the M. O. H.

"Flu" in Home of M. O. H.

Dr. Hastings has one of his own children laid up with influenza, but she is doing well. Works Commissioner R. C. Harris was called home from the meeting of the Works Committee yesterday afternoon on account of the illness of his daughter, and it was feared that she had contracted the disease, but last night it was learned that she had collapsed at a football game, and was resting easily.

Col. Irving, Assistant Director of Medical Services of this district, yesterday issued an appeal to the nursing and medical profession to assist them in securing an adequate medical service to meet the needs of the soldiers. All nurses whose services are available should apply to the principal matron at headquarters 149 College street.

Academy of Medicine Appeal.

Last night the Toronto Academy of Medicine issued the following appeal:

"The Council of the Academy o

Medicine, Toronto, held a special session on Friday afternoon to consider what further means might be undertaken to alleviate the suffering of the public during the present epidemic of influenza.

"In view of the urgent demand for nurses to care for the civil and military sick, and for hospital accommodation, the Council of the Academy urges:

"First, that all nurses who are themselves physically fit, and who are at present not engaged in nursing, should report themselves for duty without delay to the Central Registry, to the lady superintendents of the hospitals, or to the military medical authorities.

Second, that all persons having nurses in their employment who can possibly dispense with their services should release them at once, in order that they may report elsewhere for urgent duty.

"Third, that all persons contemplating surgical operations other than those which are distinctly urgent, should have them deferred until the present epidemic is thoroughly under control and the situation in respect to hospital accommodation and nursing is relieved.

"Fourth, that the women of the community respond without delay to the urgent request made by the Medical Health Officer of Toronto to the effect that women who are able to act as assistants to trained nurses, or to perform duties which would relieve trained nurses, should offer their services, and report at once to the Ontario Government Employment Bureau at 45 King street west, Toronto, telephone Main 3501.

Robert R. Riddell, 1537 Dufferin street, died last night at his home from influenza, after an illness of twenty-four hours.