

THE GRIP BACILLUS.

[Based on the latest conclusions reached by medical experts. See "Montreal Daily Star," Saturday, January 7: page 6.]

Our very undesirable acquaintance *La Grippe*, is, according to the testimony of skilled physicians, none of your old-fashioned influenza, known to an older generation. It is not even perhaps a distant cousin of that venerable visitant, but a brand-new ailment *Sui juris et alteri communicabilis*. It is pronounced to be both contagious and infectious, so that there is absolutely no way of escape from it. If you go its way, it will catch you sure; if you try to keep out of its way, why then, it will thrust itself into yours, and so get at you in the long run, just the same.

The more recent arrival is, of course, quite modern and up-to-date in everything. It has even been found to have a bacillus of its own. Ah! those blasted bacilli! They are, the whole tribe of them, a mean, lowborn lot—sneaking insidious little vermin, every puny one of them! The grip bacillus is understood to be particularly so. It has, it is said, a way of lurking about the cavities of the throat, careless for how long. There it bides its time—"lies low," we are told, waiting for the momentous moment when bacillus, the tiny toil-pole, can develop into grip, the frog. Then you have "frog in your throat," and grip has you in its clutches.

There is this peculiarity about it, too, which serves to mark it off from the other members of the same numerous family, that it cannot be got by dint of coaxing or any cunning known to man, to attack the lower animals. It will feed on the "paragon of animals"—or die of hunger. Other bacilli, failing a human victim, will make shift with an old cow or worn-out horse. They are especially fond of guinea-pigs, and are even known to have made a meal on a half-starved rabbit. But the grip bacillus scorns all such ignoble prey. At least in this, if in nothing else, it is like the grim Monarch whose livery it wears, it "loves a shining mark."

I have tried, as the reader may perhaps have remarked, to poke fun at grip junior, otherwise known as Bacillus Grip. But I know from some experience that it is anything but fun to be tackled by the youngster. That was only my way, and indeed my only way, of "getting even" with the little imp.

EXPERTUS LOQUOR.