

ONTARIO VITAL STATISTICS

The reports to the Provincial Board of Health for January show that 654 cases of influenza were reported, and of these about 600 are credited to the one centre, the other fifty-four cases being scattered over fifteen municipalities.

As compared with December, the first four weeks of January shows a decrease of 245 cases of smallpox. Ottawa is now experiencing an epidemic of measles, 840 cases having been reported out of 1,300 for the whole province. The mortality, however, is very low.

The general record for the month was not a promising one, there being 4,790 cases of communicable disease compared with only 802 in January, 1919. Even eliminating the influenza cases which were not reported in January last, the increase in disease is startling. In January, 1919, however, influenza was ravaging the province, and 1,514 deaths were reported through undertakers.

DRUG PROBLEM CALLS FOR MORE EDUCATION.

The narcotic drug problem has in recent years attracted more and more attention. There used to be a notion that all the men addicted to drugs were weak-minded degenerates or intentional criminals. It seemed to be generally supposed the men and women with the narcotic drug habit belonged naturally to the under-world, and that those who did not had strayed from there. Now, of course, it is true that among the social degenerates drug addicts are found in very large numbers, but it is poor logic to assume that because many criminals use drugs, all drug users must be criminals. As a matter of fact, drug addicts have a disease. They are sick men and women, and they require proper treatment. Dr. Ernest S. Bishop has been taking a deep interest in this subject, and is one of the men now carrying on a campaign to have society take a proper attitude towards drug addicts. In his book, "The Narcotic Drug Problem", he aims to educate public opinion regarding the unfortunate. He wants people to understand that the dramatic features of the addiction problem, including crime, degeneracy and sensuality, are not the only side of the question, and he hopes that in time the sufferers will not be herded together in the popular mind. The present attitude is unscientific, and makes it harder for the addicts who do not belong to the criminal or degenerate group to get proper consideration. As Dr. Bishop says: "In the near future, I earnestly hope the true story and the real facts concerning that opiate drug addict will become universally known. Without familiarity with them and understanding of them, and comprehension and appreciation of their disease, we shall never make real progress in the solution of the narcotic drug problem. From the present day trend of