

The 703 deaths from influenza and pneumonia in March, 1919, was the sixth month of the epidemic, which was disappearing from the province.

Venereal diseases reported in March, 1920, totaled 143, against 284 for March of last year. It is quite apparent, says the department, many cases are not reported by the physicians as required by the regulations.

The most gratifying feature regarding the health of the province, says the report, is the marked decrease in cases and deaths of influenza and pneumonia for the month of March compared with the previous month. During February we had 2315 deaths reported, and for March, 1336, a reduction of 57 per cent. Should this rate of decrease continue, which is most likely, the duration of the epidemic will be much shorter, with a greatly reduced death rate than the province experienced in the first outbreak, in 1918, when 5623 deaths were recorded in the first two months.

Smallpox, that has been prevalent in many localities in the province since November last, is abating. During the five months there have been 5078 cases reported, with 24 deaths. Of this number, the city of Toronto contributed no less than 2872 cases, or 54 per cent. of the whole.

Diphtheria shows a decrease from 636 cases and 70 deaths in January, and 551 cases and 84 deaths in February, to 451 cases and 56 deaths in March, or death rate of 12.1 in 100. Scarlet fever shows a reduction of 80 cases compared with February last.

Smallpox cases for week ending March 27, 1920, number 77.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN

It was before the Rome Congress in 1894 that Roux presented the case for diphtheria antitoxin so thoroughly that it was at once accepted by authorities throughout the world. Before the serum era the mortality from the disease varied from 50 to 100 per 100,000 inhabitants. Since that period the figure has been less than 20, and often less than 10, says the Medical Record. The hospital mortality throughout the world now runs from 10 to 15 per cent. of those stricken.

During the five years of warfare the number of soldiers attacked by the disease was about 30,000 in all the hospitals, and the total number of deaths about 600, or 2 per cent. Before the use of antitoxin Paris lost from 14 to 45 inhabitants weekly from the disease. She now loses, and has for many years, from 2 to 13 a week; or, in other words, the former minimum has become the maximum. Indeed, for the past ten years the maximum has not exceeded 7 weekly. Naturally during the