

When the 1914-1915 session opened the First Contingent was about to sail. In it were some two hundred members of the University, most of whom had previously been members of the Active Militia. Those who were with No. 2 Stationary Hospital and a few others were to reach France before the close of the year and become entitled to the Mons Star. In command of the Third Battalion, Toronto Regiment, was Lt.-Col. M. S. Mercer, who had begun his soldier's career as a student in 1885 and was destined to end it as Commander of the Third Canadian Division at Sanctuary Wood.

In the account that follows a general record of the events of each session is first given. Special work done by certain departments is for the most part described under the year 1917. Then the services of particular military units connected with the University are briefly recorded.

1914-1915

Through the first part of the year the teaching work of the University went on with little outward change, except that lectures and laboratory classes were cancelled after 4.00 p.m. to enable the undergraduates and members of the staff to drill in the newly organised C.O.T.C. and to receive military instruction. A course of public lectures on the war and its causes was given by members of the staff, and in place of the usual extension series nearly two hundred addresses were given in the Province on behalf of the Red Cross and other patriotic funds. The Speakers' Patriotic League had its offices in the University, Professor A. H. Abbott being its first Secretary. Members of the Modern Languages Department gave instruction in French to groups of soldiers in training at Exhibition Camp, and also prepared a French and German conversation manual for their use.

In the course of the session Dr. Auguste Ledoux, Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Brussels, arrived to be the guest of the staff as a special lecturer in the University. This position he held till his sudden death in 1918, which was due in part to the strain that he had undergone in the first days of the war. He had fought in the defence of Liège and Antwerp till he was wounded and disabled from further military service.

Early in 1915 an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis broke out among the troops in training at Exhibition Camp and at Belleville, and the assistance of the University Bacteriological Department was invoked. Professor J. J. Mackenzie, with Dr. Duncan Graham and other members of the staff in Medicine, immediately undertook the work of examining the several hundred men of the units in which cases had occurred and of