

dians did. One of the earliest acts of our boys was to save Calais by closing the way at Ypres, while the very last act of the war was the entering into Mons by the same boys. The part played by our medical men shall never die. It is written in letters of gold on Parian marble.

### INFLUENZA.

Nearly the entire world has passed through a severe epidemic of influenza, which began, so far as Europe is concerned, last summer in Spain. It is almost certain, however, that it came from that great pest house, Central Asia. For this reason it has been called Spanish Influenza. In 1890 there was a widely spread and severe epidemic of influenza; as it began on that occasion in Russia, it was called by that name.

There have been many well recognized epidemics of the disease. There was an outbreak of the disease in 1658 that made Britain a vast hospital. It was from an attack of this disease that Oliver Cromwell died. In the seventeenth century the disease was called ague, which no doubt came from the French word *aigue*, acute or sudden.

A very violent epidemic of the disease swept over Europe in 1743, beginning in Italy, and carrying with it the Italian name "influenza," which means an unseen or unknown cause, some mysterious force or "influence." About 1712, the French name *grippe* was given to it from the verb *gripper*, to seize suddenly.

In America there have been epidemics of the disease, in 1647, 1655, 1789, 1807, and subsequent dates. In 1890 it spread over the entire continent.

The New York Academy of Medicine recently gave out this statement: "The disease is of germ origin and probably is spread most commonly through germ-laden droplets of mucus thrown into the air in unguarded coughing, sneezing, and spitting. The Public Health Committee, therefore, strongly endorses the educational propaganda which has been carried on by the Health Department of New York City and other health authorities throughout the country, warning the public against the dangers of overcrowding and the lack of sunlight and ventilation, as well as those arising from ignorance or careless habits."

Dr. James J. King, of New York, puts forth the view in the *Medical Record*, of 12th October, that the present epidemic is similar to the pneumonic plague of China. He points out that in the latter disease the bacillus *pestis* and the streptococcus are almost always found along with the pneumococcus. The events that have transpired in the present influenza epidemic do not justify the conclusion it is the same as the deadly pneumonic plague, though often accompanied by pneumonia.