

City Health Officials to Wage Fight to Overcome Big Epidemic of Measles

Quietly, but without any outward show of fuss, city health officials have been fighting to gain some semblance of control over the greatest epidemic of measles in the history of Winnipeg. The disease has spread like wildfire in the past three months. From a sectional outbreak in the centre of the city, it has developed into an epidemic touching all parts of the Greater Winnipeg area.

It first seemed to be an incipient outbreak which would die away as quickly as it came, but this was far from the case. It grew rapidly as the months went by until a peak of 1,854 cases were reported in April. In the second week of that month the city health office was inundated with reports of 543 new cases.

In May there was some signs of abatement, but not enough to indicate the vigilance of health authori-

ties could in any way be relaxed. Present predictions are that there will be no appreciable drop until June or July; and that the disease will not run its course until August.

Precautions Taken

In the period, Jan. 1 to May 12, a total of 4,695 cases were reported. Every one had to be investigated by a city health officer, and necessary precautions for quarantining taken. The procedure employed was to placard the home in which the disease occurred and prevent those in the household who had never contracted the malady from making any contact with the public.

This had been good as far as it had gone, but other factors had to be met. Hundreds of people contracted the disease and mixed with the public before they actually knew they were sick. In the incipient stages the disease sometimes does not make itself known until the damage to others has been done. Fortunately those who have already had measles are immune to second attacks, and they are not subject to quarantine.

W. J. T. Watt, chief city infectious diseases inspector, said there was no cause for undue alarm. The epidemic was far-reaching, but fortunately was of a very mild type. A mortality rate of four to 4,695 cases was very low. But he warned the people to caution and asked for their co-operation. When fresh cases were not reported, he said, the eventual control of the outbreak would take longer.

In 1929 the year's measles total was 4,695 cases, the same number as

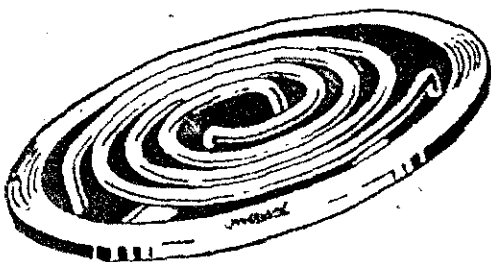
PRINTER DIES



GEORGE R. MACGREGOR of 523 Home street, a resident of Winnipeg since 1903 and a printer on the Tribune newspaper for 23 years, whose death occurred Saturday at General hospital. He was 59 years of age.

has occurred for the first four and one-half months of this year. It is practically a foregone conclusion the total for 1934 will far surpass the 5,000 mark and establish a record for the city.

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