

1918

great epidemic known as the Spanish Influenza. Spreading with alarming rapidity, its victims were countless.

Not long, however, did our fair city escape its terrible grasp. Medical skill seemed unable to check it. The Hospital doubled its capacity until every available space was occupied, even the corridors were screened off and lined with beds. Such were the constant and pressing demands for admittance that no labor was spared to accommodate the ever increasing number. Trained nurses and not even practical ones were to be had at any price.

Patients without care in homes, were brought to us in a dying condition, only to expire in a few hours.

Many received the grace of Baptism and some remarkable conversions were made. As sufficient help could not be secured, the heavy burden of nursing and caring for the unfortunate fell alone on the sisters, and pupil nurses a number of whom were stricken down.

But the goodness of God spared those devoted ones and some made a speedy recovery. The Rev. John Powers, R. of C. Chaplain at the Barracks, was the first sufferer brought to us with the dread illness.

It was now the 7th inst, and other cases soon followed with a daily addition in number and severity.