INFLUENZA TOLL NOT LESS THAN 2,000

Vermont Hard Hit in Worst Epidemic of Modern Times, for Which No Preventive Has Yet Been Found—End Not Yet in Sight

It is impossible at this time to estimate anywhere near the number of deaths which have been caused by influenza in Vermont during the epidemic. The latest authentic figures available were to November 1, when the toll had reached the large total of 1,000. Since that time the deaths have continued steadily, among the apparently healthiest of the population, without any great decrease. At the office of the secretary of the State Board of Health no estimates would be made because they care to talk only facts down there. From unofficial estimates the number in the aggregate runs between 2,000 and 2,500.

The worst thing about this epidemic, which has caused more deaths than any other in Vermont in recent years, as well as in other northern States, is that little progress seems to have been made in the way of handling it. While a few weeks ago different vaccines were being used to try to prevent the disease in different parts of the country, these are now being used less and less, and nowhere near as many physicians are using them as was the case at first. Many of them are now getting tired of these vaccines, which are looking for the vaccine which will work, but it is the general opinion that their efforts are thus far of no avail.

In Vermont, as well as in the rest of New England and New York State, where the hope followed up was the pneumonia scare, there is little demand for that vaccine now. In other sections the feveration leaned toward other bacilli. All the bacilli are taken from the throat of healthy persons and have been killed by the influence. The different vaccines which have been used probably number a dozen. Some are one particular germ and others are a combination of several.

One thing the health officers wish to impress the public is that the disease for sick people is at home, where they will naturally have the best chance of recovery. This is for the affected person's welfare as well as anyone else's, for the germ can easily be taken again, as shown by the experience of the old folks who keep away from crowds should still be carefully observed. It is just as necessary that the public should cease now as at first, and in houses where influenza is known to exist or in epidemic near-over and not one can tell when it will be.

There is a popular belief that the influenza is transmitted through the air, and the same belief is expressed by many medical men. This plague has swept over vast areas in eastern and southern countries and the influenza hyphy propensity to spread. In the history of the United States there have been scourges which were more deadly, but not since records have been kept and diseases handled scientifically has there been any such general epidemic.