

HEALTH CHIEFS SAY EPIDEMIC HERE IS SURE

Director Davis Warns All
to Take Every Precaution
to Check Influenza.

UP TO INDIVIDUAL
Force of Malady's Attack
Can Be Greatly Modified,
Officials Say.

PNEUMONIA INCREASE

An epidemic of influenza in Pittsburgh is inevitable, according to admissions made by the Director of Public Health and the Superintendent of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases yesterday afternoon. Reports of deaths from pneumonia indicated that the epidemic stage of the disease is close.

The quarantine and other measures which are being taken may break the force of the wave of infection which will sweep over the city, they may even delay its approach for a short time, but it is not expected that Pittsburgh will escape, officials say. Health Director W. H. Davis said yesterday afternoon:

There is little or no hope that Pittsburgh will not share the fate of other cities. I have not expected that we should escape and in fact am a little surprised that the epidemic is not here already. From the time it became epidemic in Boston I have expected that it would be epidemic here. That it has not been is, I believe, due to the fact that this city is a pretty good place to live, both in the matter of climate and living conditions.

Bureau Head Gives Warning.

Dr. Philip Marks, superintendent of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases, expressed his agreement with the views of Director Davis, and indicated that his own analysis of the outbreak had led both himself and his chief to this conclusion some time ago. Dr. Marks said:

We are carrying out the orders of the State Health Department and we believe that we shall accomplish considerable in the way of modifying the force of the epidemic, which is certain to come. We believe, however, that the greatest value of our measures consists in the fact that they will help to impress upon individuals that their safety is largely in their own hands.

Both Director Davis and Dr. Marks made emphatic disclaimers of a desire to alarm the public. They advise everybody to keep cool and state that a hysterical fearful frame of mind may contribute to bring on the disease or accentuate the severity of an attack.

Eighteen out of 25 deaths, the last report for a period of 24 hours in the city of Pittsburgh, were caused by

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pneumonia. Two of these were reported as starting with influenza.

Nurses Called For.

The Magee Hospital, which was taken over by the United States Government and is caring for about 30 victims of influenza among soldiers and sailors in Pittsburgh, sent a call for nurses yesterday to the Pittsburgh chapter of the Red Cross. Miss Katherine Dempster, director of nurses for the Pittsburgh chapter sent three nurses.

At the Magee Hospital last night it was said that about a dozen additional influenza patients had been received Sunday. The situation was not regarded as alarming.

The Pittsburgh chapter of the Red Cross yesterday sent eight more nurses to the division headquarters of the organization in Philadelphia, there to be assigned wherever needed.

Although the health office was not open for reports yesterday, reports of eight new cases were received through the mail.

Church services were generally restricted throughout the city yesterday, both as to attendance and length of duration. In a number of instances no service at all was held. One of the organizations which suspended its meetings was the Emory Methodist Episcopal Bible Class. It was the first time in the history of the organization that this has been done. The Salvation Army had no street meetings yesterday afternoon and last night.

The meeting of the Presbyterian Union, which was to be held in McCrory's this evening, has been called off.

Observing the decree against meetings during the influenza epidemic, the meeting scheduled for yesterday in Union Labor Temple of 500 union delegates to map out plans for organizing the steel mills in the Pittsburgh district was abandoned by the officials in charge. The meeting will not be held until the state health department lifts its ban.

Though saloons, in obedience to the order of the state health authorities, kept closed Saturday wholesale liquor dealers were reaping a harvest. Of the even 50 cases on the calendar in the Central Police Court yesterday morning 24 were for drunkenness. In nearly every instance where Magistrate J. J. Sweeney inquired of the offender where he procured his drink the answer was: "Well, I had a quart." Most of the accused men were discharged.