

Medical Men Unite Forces To Fight Grip

Committee Will Meet Daily
With City Health Officials.
Cases Increase in Number

MANY INOCULATED

With the epidemic of Spanish influenza still unchecked, and the number of new cases and deaths daily reaching an appalling figure, added efforts were made yesterday by the city and county health officials and by the Red Cross to combat the disease. In the 36 hours ending last midnight there were 137 deaths, of which 52 were from pneumonia, 70 from influenza and pneumonia and 15 from influenza.

In 48 hours ending at 4 p. m. yesterday, there were 1,260 new cases of influenza reported, bringing the total to 8,934, and 124 cases of pneumonia, a total of 705. These are in the city only, and represent the reported cases. County figures are not available.

Beginning today, Maj. W. H. Davis, director of the Department of Health, announced yesterday, a committee of the Allegheny County Medical Society will meet daily with Dr. Philip E. Marks, head of the bureau of infectious diseases, and this committee will act as advisers in the fight.

Munition Workers Inoculated.

The vaccine which is injected as a preventive of the disease is being brought here as quickly as the supply is available by the Red Cross, and this is now being used in the munition plants, in order that government work

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Medical Men Join in Fight Against Grip

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he requests that any overworked may not be slowed, as well as in many other industrial and commercial establishments. Should the supply warrant, the general public may be inoculated with the serum.

Dr. Clement R. Jones, who is working out plans for the zone relief work for physicians, reports excellent success wherever it has been tried, and physician notify him and a relief doctor will be sent into the territory. Dr. Jones, whose office is in the Empire Building, also wishes physicians to volunteer for relief service, and in this way provide for the proper attention of patients.

War Department Co-operating.

In order that Pittsburgh, the munitions center of the world, may not be paralyzed by the influenza, the War Department yesterday notified Edward A. Woods, chairman of the special influenza committee of the Pittsburgh Chapter, American Red Cross, that the War Department will promptly recognize any requisitions that the Red Cross of Pittsburgh makes upon it for supplies or men.

In telephone communications with Washington yesterday, Mr. Woods was informed that Pittsburgh must be kept going industrially. This, the War Department says, is imperative for the successful prosecution of the war.

There is a shortage of drugs and supplies in the Pittsburgh district which the local Red Cross is endeavoring to relieve. In all its efforts to

check the spread of the epidemic in this district, the Red Cross is keeping in mind that this work is a war problem, as well as a humanitarian task. The possibility of an industrial shut-down because of the epidemic was indicated by Mr. Woods' statement to the executive committee of Pittsburgh Chapter yesterday.

Red Cross to Get All Serum Needed.

The local Red Cross yesterday received orders for 112,000 serum inoculations. Mr. Woods has arranged with two laboratories in Pittsburgh to continue making this serum for local use. The Red Cross will get all this serum that the community of Allegheny county requires for its population according to Mr. Woods. His committee is supplying this serum to the military authorities, to all the big industries and to civilian organizations.

Mr. Woods told the executive committee that Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the Public Health Service, had notified him that this county might expect from 100,000 to 200,000 cases of influenza.

In trying to cope with the influenza epidemic the Department of Health has been obliged to contract extraordinary indebtedness and faces still more expense before the disease can be said to be under control. For that reason an ordinance to provide the necessary money was introduced in Council yesterday. The bill authorizes a special appropriation of \$100,000, but Mayor Babcock thinks that sum is too large, and the amount may be cut down when it comes before the Finance Committee of Council today.

City to Use All Money Necessary.

However, from remarks made by Councilmen and the Mayor it is apparent that the money necessary will be supplied. The authorities do not think that more than \$25,000 to \$50,000 will be required, but at the Controller's advice the appropriation will be made large enough to provide for all contingencies.

The Elks' club house, in McKees Rocks, was yesterday taken over for an emergency hospital by the State Department of Health.

Health Director Davis said yesterday that the churches are being asked to have their workers engage in home service. Not only is the demand for nurses entirely beyond the supply, but in many cases, where an entire family is ill, there is no one to do the necessary work in the home, and it is this service that is most badly needed. Director Davis urges all churches to organize this work and to aid the Mothers of Democracy, who have already volunteered their services. Mrs. Henry L. Miller, who is in charge of this work, asks each unit of the Mothers to meet before Tuesday, so that the work may be explained.

Mothers of Democracy to Meet.

The various units of the Mothers of Democracy will meet tonight at their regular meeting places to receive instructions from Director Davis, who

has accepted the offer of the members of the organization to act as volunteer nurses under his direction during the influenza epidemic.

Dr. Marks emphasized last night the need of isolation for a week after the patient had recovered from the grip.

This isolation was not necessarily complete, he declared, but he urged that, for the sake of both the patient and the public, a convalescent should avoid close contact with other persons, should do as little work as possible, and should remain as much by himself as possible for a week after he feels himself out of danger.

Conditions in Schools.

A canvass of the schools of Pittsburgh is being made in order to determine the absenteeism due to influenza. Dr. William M. Davidson, superintendent of schools, estimated the attendance at 75 per cent of normal, as against 10 per cent ordinarily absent. Dr. H. B. Burns, director of hygiene, estimated about 1,000 students victims of the disease, among them being Miss Helen Davidson, the daughter of the superintendent. Principal J. A. Hollinger of the Holmes School, Oakland, is the first principal attacked.

In Council yesterday Enoch Rauh presented a resolution, which was referred to the Finance Committee, to request the health department to ascertain the enrollment of pupils of public, parochial and private schools and the number absent last week.

The Judges of the Orphans' Court made an order yesterday suspending hearings on the audit list that was to have been begun yesterday until the week beginning November 11. The action was taken because of the epidemic of influenza, the court saying the order was made in compliance with the rule promulgated by the state board of health.

Foolish Rumor Is Denied.

Federal officers yesterday requested that a denial be published of reports that two medical officers and two nurses at Camp Sherman, O., had been executed for inoculating soldiers with Spanish influenza germs. The rumors have not been taken seriously enough by the authorities to cause them to believe that their circulation was deliberate, but nevertheless they have been the cause of some annoyance. Persons who have relatives in the service are asked to set their minds at rest so far as there being any such cause for fear is concerned.

SIX SOLDIERS DIE OF GRIP

Six deaths from influenza and its complications were reported among the members of the Students' Army Training Corps at the University of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Institute of Technology for the 24 hours ended at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. During the same period 41 new developments of the malady were reported among the soldier-students.