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 157 deaths, of which 52 were from pneumonia, 78 from influenza and pneumonia, and 15 from influenza alone.

In 48 hours ending at 4 p.m. yesterday, there were 1,259 new cases of influenza reported, bringing the total to 8,334, and 1,244 cases of pneumonia, a total of 706. 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, will meet daily with Dr. Philip E. Marks, head of the bureau of infectious diseases, and this committee will act as a forum 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 may not be slowed down, as well as in any 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 and encouraging results wherever it has been tried, and physicians 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 committee of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Red Cross, that the War Department will promptly recognize any requirements 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 hold good industrially. This, says the War Department, 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 fill. In all its efforts to check the spread of the epidemic in this district, the Red Cross is keenly aware that the work is a war problem as well as a humanitarian task.

The possibility of an industrial shutdown because of the epidemic was indicated by Mr. Woods to the executive committee of the Red Cross yesterday.

Red Cross To Get All Serum Needed.

The local Red Cross yesterday announced that before any decision is made, the committee is supplying this serum for local use. The Red Cross will get all the serum that the community of Allegheny county requires for its population according to Mr. Woods. His committee is supplying this serum 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 board, said the Red Cross will provide its entire supply of serum for the city.

In trying to cope with the influenza epidemic the War Department has been obliged to contract for extraordinary use of the Red Cross by the Army. This will enable the Red Cross to provide the necessary money was introduced in Council yesterday. The bill authorizes a special appropriation of $100,000, but Berkeley 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 appears that the money necessary will be supplied. The authorities do not think that more than $25,000 to $50,000 will be required, but the Controller's advice the appropriation will be made large enough to provide for all contingencies.

The 29th 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 nurses in the hospitals. The Red Cross has a 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. It is the duty of the nurses to do this work 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, 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 for 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 case 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 40 per cent in the district. Dr. Burns, director of health, estimated that about 1,000 students are victims of the disease, among them being Miss Helen Davidson, daughter of the superintendent. Principal I. A. Hollander of the Holmes School, Oakland, is the first principal attacked.

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

The Judges of the Orphans' Court made an order yesterday suspending payments on the audit list that was to have been paid yesterday until the week beginning November 11. The order was made 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 red cross nurses at Camp Sherman, O., had been executed for inoculating soldiers with Spanish influenza. The rumors have not been taken seriously enough by the authorities to cause them to believe that they are true. The case was deliberate, but no one has been arrested by the authorities.

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.