

# CATHOLIC AID IN EPIDEMIC IS ACCEPTED

## Bishop Canevin Informs Health Director of 27 New Relief Stations.

### SISTERS AS NURSES

Bishop Regis Canevin yesterday placed at the disposal of the health department all the local resources of the Roman Catholic church to aid in the fight against the influenza epidemic. Relief headquarters have been established in all the 27 wards by the Conference of Catholic Charities. There relief will be extended to all persons in need of it. Maj. W. H. Davis, director of health, said the plan announced by Bishop Canevin was a good one and would result in the discovery and location of many persons suffering from the first stages of the disease and in the giving of aid before the influenza makes much headway with them. Bishop Canevin's letter to Director Davis follows:

In this great epidemic of influenza, when the Department of Health, confronted with one of the most serious emergencies in our city's history, and greatly handicapped by the lack of doctors and nurses to meet the overwhelming calls for help, is mustering every force in the community in the fight to control and stamp out the dread contagion, I feel it my duty to place at the disposal of your bureau all resources of the Catholic Church in Pittsburgh.

At my direction the Conference of Catholic Charities already has established relief headquarters in every one of the 27 city wards at locations indicated on the enclosed list where those afflicted with and suffering from the disease, irrespective of creed or color, may procure the needed aid.

#### Nuns Volunteer as Nurses.

Permission also has been granted and the reverend pastors are urged to utilize any and all parish buildings and the teaching sisters in every parochial convent stand ready to serve as visiting nurses; word also has been sent out to all the great Catholic societies of men and women to volunteer in the grave crisis.

Enclosed herewith is a list of the 40 relief headquarters and their locations. If these prove inadequate others will be immediately established.

J. P. McKenna will attend the meeting of the Department of Health and bring daily reports from their relief stations.

New influenza cases numbering 754 were reported yesterday to the Bureau of Health during the 24-hour period ending at 4 o'clock p. m. yesterday, a decrease of 117 compared with the previous like period. There were 72 new cases of pneumonia, nine

less than the day before. The influenza cases total 13,193 and pneumonia 1,079. There were 143 deaths, four less than during the preceding 24 hours, 52 being from pneumonia, 77 from influenza and pneumonia and 4 from influenza.

Between 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and last midnight 27 more deaths from pneumonia, 35 from influenza and pneumonia and 26 in influenza were reported.

#### State Assigns Physicians.

Six physicians were assigned yesterday by Dr. Adolph Koenig of the local headquarters of the State Department of Health, to the fuel and munition producing centers. Of these, Dr. W. S. Adams and Dr. E. J. Alban were sent by the United States Public Health Service, coming from Massachusetts, where, Dr. Alban said, the epidemic had abated so much that the local doctors could attend to the patients. Dr. Adams was assigned to Glasgow, where he will occupy the office of Dr. George J. Ehrman as headquarters. Dr. Alban probably will be assigned to Oakdale. The other three physicians are Dr. J. L. Anderson of Tarentum, sent to Brackenridge; Dr. J. W. Ward of Pittsburgh, who went to Elizabeth, and Dr. R. W. Dixon of Edgeworth, assigned to Carnegie. These three volunteered their services in response to the appeals sent out last week by the State Health Department.

The total number of influenza cases in Allegheny county up to noon yesterday was 27,571, new cases 1,335. Dr. Koenig received reports of 2,600 cases in Natrona and Brackenridge. Dr. H. B. Burns of the Board of Public Education volunteered his services to Dr. Koenig and Dr. Karl Schaffle of the State Department. They gladly accepted and Dr. Burns will continue to serve until the schools are again opened. He will attend to the executive work of the office, giving Dr. Koenig and Dr. Schaffle opportunity to travel over the county.

Mrs. Mattie Hopp of McKeesport volunteered and was assigned as supervisory nurse at Natrona. Miss M. Hallbeck, another volunteer, went to Turtle Creek in the same capacity. The three other zone supervisory nurses are Miss Lavin Mayes, Miss Ophelia Rush and Miss Elizabeth Holmes.

#### Experts on Inoculation.

Dr. Koenig made the following statement on the efficacy of the various vaccines being used:

So many inquiries have come to the state Department of Health at Harrisburg regarding the efficacy of the various vaccines that Acting Commissioner Hoyet employed a number of expert scientific laboratory men to investigate the results obtained by the use of such vaccines in the present influenza epidemic. While there is some slight difference in the opinion expressed by these experts, they all agreed that the vaccines had no curative value and that they are dangerous if given after the disease has developed, especially in the later stages. That they may possess some slight protective value if given before the onset of the disease, is admitted. Indeed one of the experts believes that when used for protective purposes they are effective in the majority of cases. The commercial vaccines are not dependable; aside from this many of the commercial vaccines have been made in large amounts from cultures before this epidemic and we consider such vaccines utterly valueless. It seems, however, to be generally believed that a vaccine made from the influenza bacillus itself may be administered if not with benefit, at least without harm.

In view of the uncertainty of the results to be obtained by the injection of vaccines, it becomes a question whether or not the time spent in this work by physicians could not be better applied in the relief of pneumonia cases, so many of which, in many localities, are receiving insufficient medical attention.

All guards and prisoners at the county jail have been ordered to wear gauze masks on advice of Jail Physician C. J. Ellis.

At a meeting of the Braddock Board of Health yesterday afternoon it was decided to close all schools in Braddock until further notice is given. On Wednesday, October 16, all schools were closed by order of the Board of Health, but they were opened last Monday.