

# INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC WANES IN PITTSBURGH; BAN MAY SOON BE LIFTED BY AUTHORITIES

The State Health Department's influenza ban on places of amusement and saloons very likely will be lifted on Monday, and an announcement to that effect is expected to be sent out from Harrisburg today, after Dr. Wilmer B. Batt has had an interview with Dr. B. Franklin Royer, the acting commissioner of health. Dr. Batt, who is state registrar of vital statistics, spent several days in Pittsburgh, investigating conditions for Dr. Royer. He returned to Harrisburg yesterday afternoon.

There was such a remarkable fall-off in the number of new influenza cases yesterday that Maj. W. H. Davis, director of the Health Department, is only awaiting today's reports before deciding to allow the churches to be open for morning services on Sunday. There were but 556 new cases, reported for the 24-hour period ending at 4 o'clock p. m. yesterday, as against 861 the day before, and 60 of those latest cases were reported by one physician who, between illness and work, had been unable to make any report since October 20.

**May Allow Churches to Open.**  
"The situation is very encouraging," said Director Davis. "If new cases continue to show a reduction like today's, I will make an announcement permitting the churches to be opened next Sunday, at least for the morning services. Of course, the death rate is still high, because the peak of the epidemic so far is only a day or two past, and the death rate for a time will reflect that condition. We communicated today with a number of drug stores in all parts of the city

and they report that their influenza prescription business has fallen off considerably."

**Batt Departs, Pleased.**  
The State Health Department's order to close business affected only saloons and places of amusement, and any regulations to be made concerning the gathering of crowds, the closing of churches and schools was left to the discretion of the local health department, so that church services, school exercises and public meetings may be authorized by Maj. Davis, whether or not Dr. Royer permits saloons and places of amusement to open.

Up to 4 o'clock yesterday the total number of influenza cases in the city was 15,118. There were 85 cases of pneumonia, as against 91 the day before, a total of 1,417. There were 157 deaths, 54 from pneumonia, 85 from influenza and pneumonia and 18 from influenza. In the preceding 24-hour period 144 deaths from the three causes were reported.

Between 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and last midnight 26 deaths from pneumonia, 46 from influenza and pneumonia, and two from influenza were reported.

Maj. Davis, Dr. Adolph Koenig, in charge of the local headquarters of the State Health Department, and Dr. Batt conferred yesterday on the situation. It was announced that Dr. Batt would have a conference today at Harrisburg with Dr. Royer and Capt. W. F. Draper, who is acting in Pennsylvania for the United States Public Health Service. Dr. Batt departed on the 3:15 p. m. train, and just before leaving he examined the report of new cases of influenza, expressing satisfaction with the better showing. After his departure Dr. Koenig had a telephonic conversation with Dr. Royer. The latter said he was glad that there was a large decrease in the number of new influenza cases, as at that rate he would be able to lift the ban soon.

**Combating the Epidemic.**  
Even though confidence is expressed that all business will be resumed on Monday, neither state nor city is omitting precautions nor letting down in the fight against the disease. Beginning today, at the suggestion of Dr. Batt, Dr. Koenig and Dr. Karl Schaffel, the State Health Department's representative who is assisting him, will send out automobiles, each containing a physician, a nurse and sickroom supplies, to various parts of the county. The cars will go out in the morning, returning at night, and each day the trips will be made until the work is no longer necessary. One automobile will go up the Monongahela valley, one up the Allegheny valley, another along the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a fourth down the Ohio valley, and a fifth is designed especially for the district of which Coropolis and McKees Rocks are community centers. The State Department's symbol, a big green keystone, will be on the front of the machines. It is hoped that any people who know of cases of influenza, especially those which are not being attended, will stop the automobiles, for there may be patients off the main roads of which the department's emissaries can have no knowledge unless the neighbors tell them.

Capt. G. A. Kempf of the United States Public Health Service arrived yesterday, sent here in accordance with the request of the War Munitions

Board, which asked the health service to come to the relief of the workers at munition plants.

**Will Inspect Munition Center.**  
Capt. Kempf said that the physicians already sent here by the health service might be continued at their scattered posts, or it might be decided to "pool" them, that is, have a general headquarters with which these doctors would be in touch, ready to go where they are needed. Lieut. P. M. Stewart of Bellefontaine, O., has been assigned to help Dr. Kempf. Dr. Stewart has seen medical service at military cantonments and comes here from Greensburg. Capt. Kempf and he will make trips to the munition plants, inspect the field and emergency hospitals installed in the communities and learn their needs as to equipment.

Dr. Koenig reported that during the 24-hour period ending at 10 o'clock a. m. yesterday there were 828 new cases of influenza in the county, a total of 42,883. There are 1,100 cases in Turtle Creek.

Director Davis expressed deep regret yesterday over the loss of Dr. Walter L. O'Hagan, who died yesterday morning at the Mercy Hospital of pneumonia following influenza. Dr. O'Hagan, whose home was at 1026 Brookline boulevard, has been a school physician since 1910. During this epidemic, Maj. Davis said, he had worked very hard. He became sick on Sunday, but made many sick calls on that day. He wanted to go out again on Monday, but was detained by his family, compelled to go to bed and sent to the hospital Tuesday. His case was hopeless because of his exhausted condition from the beginning and on Wednesday he sank into a comatose condition, from which he did not rouse. He leaves a widow and two children.

**Influenza Vaccine Ready.**  
The influenza vaccine serum on which the Health Department, the hospitals and the Singer Laboratory have been working, is now ready in quantity for distribution. It will be given out through the Red Cross. Any vaccine that physicians need for charitable use can be obtained from Dr. Philip A. Marks, superintendent of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases.

Mayor E. W. Babcock, who went home on Wednesday afternoon because of a cold, kept to the house yesterday by the advice of his physician. Over the telephone last night the mayor said:

I hope that the State Health Department's representative is convinced that the so-called ban imposed by it ought to be lifted and that he will so report to Dr. Royer. I heartily desire that normal conditions be allowed to resume away here in Pittsburgh not later than Monday. Personally the ban does not affect me, but I believe that 50 per cent of the people of Pittsburgh agree with me the drastic orders of the State Department ought to be rescinded, and that promptly.

The Vincentian Sisters at St. Vincent's hill, Perryville, have opened a temporary home for children made orphans by the scourge and have tendered its facilities to the Pittsburgh Health Department. The Rev. C. J. Coyne has tendered the use of St. Mary's Lyceum, in Forty-fifth street, for the same purposes. The Sisters of Mercy attached to the convent nearby have offered to care for the children sent to the Lyceum.

The Pittsburgh Association for the Improvement of the Poor has opened a fresh air home at Oakmont for the care of children whose parents are victims of the epidemic. Eighty children can be accommodated.

## SPANISH INFLUENZA IS EPIDEMIC HERE

### Many Cases Develop Into Deadly Pneumonia. Easier to Prevent than Cure. How to Avoid.

The constant daily increase of Spanish influenza reported by local physicians shows clearly that many people are failing to take the simple ordinary precautions necessary to avoid infection. For while influenza, after its development, is sometimes difficult to cure, it is said to be a preventable disease.

The best plan is to begin treatment before the first symptom starts. For no other disease will develop so quickly or spread so rapidly. You may feel fine today, be sick tomorrow and lose a week or more of work. You will indeed be fortunate if pneumonia does not develop.

It is claimed that influenza is caused by germs in the air that every breath you take is likely to draw into your nose and throat; that you can prevent the disease by killing the germs before they spread throughout your body. There is thought to be no safer or surer treatment than to go to the nearest drug store and get one of the famous Hyomei Inhalant Outlets consisting of a bottle of the pure Oil of Hyomei and a little vest-pocket hand mirror imbedded into which a few drops of the Oil of Hyomei are poured.

One breaths the Oil of Hyomei deep into your nose, throat and lungs, and then every particle of air that enters your breathing organs will be charged with an antiseptic, healing balm. No ordinary evening and morning gardening or mowing and morning watering or throat spraying will be sufficient so long as during the day you come in constant contact with infection. The Hyomei inhalant is small and can be conveniently carried in a hand-bag or vest-pocket. Every half hour or so throughout the day take it out and draw a few breaths of its pure healing air into your nose and throat. By doing this you should avoid infection and check the further spread of the disease even though you are coming in direct contact with it. This is an inexpensive treatment as the inhaler will last a lifetime and further supplies of the Oil of Hyomei can be had at any drug store for a few cents.

**NOTE:** Oil of Hyomei, so strongly recommended above, is not a new discovery but is the application of an old and time-tried treatment to a new disease. Hyomei has been a standard in the treatment of croup and colds for almost twenty years and is sold by druggists everywhere. Hundreds of people in Pittsburgh and vicinity keep a Hyomei outfit with inhaler on the bathroom shelf for regular winter use. If you have one get it out of the drug store and get one today. It is the duty of every person, not only for his own sake but for the community to do all in his power to prevent further spread of this epidemic and to stamp it out. For sale by the May Drug Company's Nine Stores and other druggists.

## GLOOM-DRAPED PITTSBURGH MOURNS LOST HALLOWEEN

An occasional toot of a tin horn, sounding the more weird through its singleness; here and there a few children in bedraggled costumes; streets deserted by even their accustomed frequenters; a few maskers, appearing the more miserable for their forced attempts at gaiety—this was Pittsburgh's celebration of Halloween.

Here, where the spirit of carnival had reigned supreme, where the celebration in honor of All Saints had reached an abandon of merriment unknown elsewhere in all America; here, where the Halloween celebration had attained fame not confined by the limits of our land; the pall of pestilence had enshrouded mirth, and there remained but memories of bygone years to sadden Pittsburghers by their haunting presence.

There may have been an occasional party last night; in residential districts bands of boys may have gathered to annoy neighbors; perhaps a maiden dared the cellar stairs last midnight, armed with candle and mirror. And if she saw in the glass the face of a lad fighting "over there," who shall deny her vision?

Halloween in Pittsburgh last night was but a date and a memory. The city's famous fete day came and went with little attention paid to it except late in the evening by a few hundred people in lower Fifth avenue and East Liberty.