

New Influenza Cases Show Slight Decrease

Director of Health Davis Warns Public to Observe Ordinary Precautions and Avoid Crowds—Must Husband Powers of Resistance.

There was a slight reduction in the number of new influenza cases reported to the Department of Health for the 24-hour period ending at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Of new cases 291, a total of 21,108, were reported, 43 fewer than for the preceding 24 hours. Seventeen new pneumonia cases were recorded, four fewer than the day before, a total of 2,019. There was an increase in the number of deaths, 67 in all, as compared with 43 the day before, but the health authorities are not alarmed when a day's development shows an increase in deaths, the epidemic barometer being at all times the volume of new cases of influenza. Of these 67 deaths 29 were from pneumonia, 24 from influenza and pneumonia and four from influenza.

Although conditions now in Pittsburgh are like those in other centers where the influenza has increased in volume, the director of the Health Department, Maj. W. H. Davis, while cautioning the people to take care of

themselves, avoid crowds, stay away from the sick and observe the ordinary health precautions, warns the people not to become scared or panic-stricken, for when men and women are in that condition their powers of resistance to the germs are lowered.

At the headquarters of the State Health Department in Tunnel street it was reported that the situation had improved very much in Curtistville, where the field hospital has been dismantled and the normal medical force is able to cope with the disease that remains. Doctors and nurses from Curtistville have been sent to Burgettstown in Washington county, where, as in McDonald, the epidemic is showing renewed growth. Sewickley is now reporting 16 to 14 new cases of influenza daily, instead of from two to five.

Undertakers are suggesting to the local Health Department that the ban on public funerals be reimposed. They say that with so many deaths church services take up too much of their time.