

# CHURCHES ARE CLOSED UNDER HEALTH ORDER

## Sale of Liquor in Clubs as Well as on Hotel Tables Stopped to Thwart Influenza.

### HEALTH INSPECTOR DIES.

All church services, including Wednesday evening prayer meetings, are discontinued under an order issued at noon today by William H. Davis, director of the department of health, who is concentrating the efforts of a bureau in his charge upon stamping out the influenza epidemic. The action of the director in respect to the churches was taken following telegraphic instruction from State Health Commissioner B. F. Royer. The instructions also carried authority to stop the sale of liquor and all entertainments in clubs and to eliminate the serving of liquor in the dining rooms of hotels.

Among the soldiers quartered in the Pittsburgh district the number of new cases of influenza is on the decline, while the condition is the reverse among the civil population. In the 24 hours ending at noon today 20 cases had been reported. Of this number, 150 were reported during the last 24 hours. In addition to the influenza there were 20 cases of death from pneumonia for the 24-hour period. This is not greatly above the normal, but in several cases the cause is directly attributable to influenza.

Among those who have died of pneumonia is Joseph Werner, for many years

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a sanitary inspector in the health department. He was at work until Tuesday of last week. The Woods Run district has 20 influenza cases. They are mostly in Italian families. There is also a concentration in the Twenty-first ward. Several cases have been reported from McKeesport, but there are said to be few in the townships and suburban districts.

The request that the wholesale liquor dealers cease business entirely during the period that the saloons remain closed was renewed by the health department this morning. There seems to have been much misunderstanding on this point as well as upon the right of hotels to serve liquor in dining rooms even though their bars are closed.

Regarding the churches, Director Davis said that the only exception to the general order would be in the case of Red Cross workrooms. These may remain open. It is thought that the ban on the churches may continue until the middle of next week.

The public schools will remain open. Nearly 70 physicians are at work in the schools. Children showing signs of infection are sent home at once. Cards showing how the disease may be prevented are being distributed among the children.

The health department this morning turned down a number of requests for gatherings which local and visiting Italians desired to hold in connection with the visit of Italian veterans. It was also decided to prohibit Liberty Loan and other meetings in mills and factories.