

BOY NEW CASES OF INFLUENZA ARE REPORTED

Pneumonia Also Shows Increase Since Yesterday in New Victims and Deaths.

291 NOW SUFFERING.

Local health authorities are feeling additional concern over the health situation today as a result of a 33 per cent increase in the number of new cases of influenza. From 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 10 this morning physicians returned 63 cases of influenza, running the total number up to 291.

In the same period 35 deaths were reported. Four of these were from influenza, 15 pneumonia and 13 in which the symptoms were a combination of both. City physicians estimate the number of deaths from pneumonia at more than twice the normal figure for this season of the year. The number of new cases developing is about twice the normal figure also. There are 102 pneumonia cases.

Today's increase does not come as a surprise. Physicians employed by the city or state have anticipated that the crest would be reached this week in the local epidemic and that Wednesday or Thursday would mark its high tide and immediate decline. Weather conditions are held to be unfavorable, however, and both army and civilian health authorities wish continue preventive regulations.

HOSPITAL IS READY.

Director William H. Davis of the department of health announced last night that the Kingsley House emergency hospital was ready for use. The director also took up with Dr. Philip F. Marks and Dr. Adolph Koening, the latter representing the state health department, plans for fitting up the Kingsley recreation building as a hospital, also. It would have a capacity of about 200 cots if that number were needed.

As a means of taking care of the epidemic in case it should reach the proportions it did in some New England cities the city's health department and representatives of the bureau of recreation will work out a plan for the use of playground shelter houses. It has even been proposed that tent hospitals, similar to those used in France, be placed on some of the playgrounds.

DOCTORS CONFER.

Regular city and state physicians in this section were in conference yesterday with Dr. Karl Shaffie. The latter made a study of the epidemic in New England at the instance of Dr. B. F. Royer, and he is spending a few days here to advise local physicians, especially those employed by the city, in the best methods of fighting the disease.

Director John J. McKelvey of the department of charities reports many calls for aid. There are thousands of strangers in the city employed in munition plants and elsewhere, and many of them are said to be ill. In a few instances they have been stricken while without money, and the city dispensary and the facilities of Kingsley have been called into service.

The schools of Munhall, Homestead and Hays are closed. The West Homestead schools are open, but as the epidemic is on the increase they may be closed at any time. It is reported that McKees Rocks and Carnegie are hard hit by the epidemic.