

TO ORGANIZE VOLUNTEERS.

District meetings are being held today by the Mothers of Democracy in their 22 division headquarters for the purpose of organizing the volunteer nursing service. The plan is to make up a directory of women who are willing to give a few hours of their time each day to assisting the health department in the fight against influenza. The directory will give the full name and address of each woman who volunteers. It will also show the hours of service and her telephone number. The directory will then be "crossed." When a case needing attention develops, the volunteer nurse living nearest to the patient will be assigned to the health department is much gratified with the plan of operation which the women have formulated.

Complete figures on the number of pupils and teachers absent from the public schools since the epidemic started will be tallied before the board of public education at its meeting here today. It was stated that there is little likelihood the schools will be ordered closed, although attendance has taken off, because medical advisers declare that the first medical instruction in the schools makes pupils better off than many of them would be out of school.

COAL MEN TO FIGHT EPIDEMIC AT MINES

The influenza situation in the mining regions around Pittsburgh has become so serious that a hurried meeting of the Pittsburgh Coal Producers Association was called this morning in the Farmers Bank building at 10:30 o'clock.

There were present representatives of the following companies: Pittsburgh Coal Company, Ellsworth Collieries Company, Henderson Coal Company, United Coal Corporation, Fayette Coal Company, Pittsburgh Terminal Railroad and Coal Company, Montour and Lake Erie Coal Company, Greensburg Connellsville Coal Company, Duquesne Coal and Coke Company, Youghiogheny and Ohio Coal Company, United Mine Workers of America, Pittsburgh and Eastern Coal Company, Meadowlands Coal Company, American Zinc and Chemical Company, Verner Coal and Coke Company, Ferguson Coal and Coke Company, Carnegie Coal Company, Union Coal and Coke Company.

In addition to these there were also present the officials of the United Mine Workers of America, District No. 5. The operators stated what efforts they had been making to obtain assistance. The shortage of doctors and nurses is the most serious obstacle in their efforts to help the situation.

The question was raised as to the possibility of preventing the miners and mill workers from visiting each other, as one man afflicted with the influenza may carry the disease to a section that has been heretofore absolutely free from it. It was decided that, because so many of these men live in boarding houses, and at points some distance from the mines, not much could be gained by attempting to stop visiting. The men go to and from their work in groups and the disease may be transmitted at that time. The Patterson mine has 300 to 400 cases and production has dropped from 1,100 tons a day to 300 tons. One company has 54 cases and the Blaine district has 550 cases. The Export district has 450 cases and there were 11 deaths last night.

It was decided that a committee consisting of Phillip Murray, president of District No. 5, and J. A. Donaldson of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, be appointed to go to Washington and confer with the production department of the fuel administration, and with their co-operation wait on the health authorities and the war department to see what could be done to get some assistance in the way of doctors and nurses. The committee also was instructed to see what could be done to hasten a supply of serum so that as many of the men as possible could be inoculated. The committee expects to stop in Harrisburg on its way back for a conference with the officials of the state board of health.

W. A. Luce, of the Ellsworth Collieries Company was chairman of the meeting and H. W. Gardner, production manager, was secretary.

EPIDEMIC NOW WAXING HERE, OFFICIALS THINK

P.S.
Decrease of 100 Cases Is
Shown in Latest 18-Hour
Period Report.

DOCTORS IN CONFERENCE.

Belief that the influenza epidemic here is on the wane was expressed by health department officials this morning following receipt of reports on the number of new cases which developed between 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon and 10 o'clock this morning.

Only 53 new cases were reported, a decrease of more than 100 as compared with 18-hour reports of several days last week. The total number of cases reported to date has now reached 9,431.

Seventy-seven deaths were reported to the health department in the period between 4 p. m. yesterday and 10 a. m. today.

Twenty-seven of these deaths were due to pneumonia, 43 to influenza-pneumonia and 7 to influenza. Sixty-seven new cases of pneumonia were reported today, making the total number reported to date 77.

INOCULATION DISCUSSED.

Maintaining a strict neutrality concerning the general use of influenza serums, a committee of the Allegheny county Medical Society this morning conferred with Director of Public Health William H. Dax and Dr. Philip I. Marks of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases. Following the conference Director Dax stated that the physicians did not take any definite action as to public use of the serum.

The conference was attended by Director Dax, Dr. Marks, Dr. Oscar Klotz, Dr. Clement E. Jones, Dr. W. H. Meyer, Dr. J. J. Mager and Edward A. Woods, head of the county division of the Pittsburgh chapter American Red Cross.

Dr. Woods stated that three kinds of serum had been used in Pittsburgh during the past few weeks to check the spread of the epidemic. Some of the physicians using the serums state that three have been effective, while others have not.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Marks stated that the spreading of the influenza germ is done when upon the individual. It may come from the air, direct contact, coughing, sneezing and spitting and they must be very careful as to personal hygiene.

John J. McKelvey, director of the department of the day reported today that the Allegheny homes and hospitals were entirely free from the epidemic. There are 170 inmates in the institution.

SPREADING IN BOROUGH.

Influenza is spreading rapidly in Terenquim, Brackenridge and Natrons where nearly 20 new cases were reported yesterday. Schools in Natrons and Brackenridge have been closed. The health board in Natrons has forbidden the sale of ice cream and soft drinks. Arrangements have been made for a large emergency hospital in Natrons. Appeals have been made for contributions by the Natrons and Brackenridge Red Cross branch. The Allegheny Steel Company at Brackenridge has granted the office force two 15-minute optional rest periods each day as an influenza preventative. A diet kitchen has been established in the Natrons High school by the Red Cross.

Late today council will act upon an emergency ordinance presented by Mayor Babcock and Controller Morrow. The measure sets aside \$100,000 as an emergency fund, which the health department may use to fight the influenza epidemic. The regular appropriations to the health department are inadequate to meet the emergency.