

SCHOOLS CLOSE AS DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC GROW

Decrease in Number of New Cases, However, Is Reported This Morning.

NURSES ARE MOBILIZED.

Director of Health William H. Davis last night issued orders to close the public and parochial as well as the private schools of the city. Shortly afterward Superintendent William M. Davidson sent out notices to the principals. Director Davis also sent a notice to Rev. Ralph J. Hayes, head of the parochial schools of the Pittsburgh district.

In his letter Director Davis stated that as so many parents have been keeping their children at home medical inspection is no longer effective. The action of the director is in keeping with the "ZINKEL" RAUK restriction prepared for presentation in council yesterday.

MUST STAY AT HOME.

Concluding his letter to Superintendent Davidson, Director Davis said:

"In this connection, may I request that you train the heads of your schools this further order for me, touching upon the conduct of children who will not be under the immediate control of their parents throughout the entire day? The order is this: That children shall be kept off street cars, except under most urgent circumstances, that they are to be kept off the streets and on their own premises as far as possible—that they are not to be permitted to gather in groups for play or other purposes; that they are not to visit where sickness is known to exist. I am asking this to further check the spread of the disease."

"Every school is dismissing as quickly as principals acquaint teachers with the health department order," said Dr. Davidson, at his office in the Fulton building this morning.

Employees of the school district, numbering 1,751, the majority of them teachers, continue on full pay throughout the lay-off due to the closing order. All buildings will be kept moderately heated and ready for reopening on short notice.

With the parochial and private schools included with the public schools, a total of 131,136 children are thrown out of school in the city by the health order, distributed as follows: Public schools, 62,712; parochial schools, 30,772; and private schools, 1,852.

While the number of new influenza cases to day was slightly lower, health department officials feel some uneasiness over the increase in the number of pneumonia cases and the upward trend of deaths from influenza and kindred causes. The report covering the period from 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 10 this morning shows 66 new cases of influenza and 59 of pneumonia. This puts the influenza total up to 14,433 and that of pneumonia to 336. There were a total of 34 deaths in the same period. Four of these were from influenza, 34 from pneumonia and 56 from complications of the two.

Another development yesterday was the organization of a supreme medical command. All nursing and medical facilities in the city are now at the disposal of one group. Dr. Adolph Koenig, county medical adviser for the state, is chairman. Other members are Edward A. Woods of the Red Cross influenza committee, William H. Stevenson of the Council of National Defense, Dr. James J. Buchanan, chairman of the medical defense committee, Albert J. Logan of the state military organization, and County Poor Director A. S. Miller.

The Red Cross yesterday issued a statement to the effect that while it is distributing the anti-influenza serum, it does not presume to prove the efficiency of it as a preventative. It advocates that where the serum is used it be under the best medical advice and that all other rules of hygiene as suggested by the department of health be followed.

Many concerns continued their inoculation of their employes yesterday. The army physicians are also inoculating the student soldiers in local barracks.

Health Department Closes Libraries

Following conferences with medical men and officers of the Carnegie libraries, Director William H. Davis at noon today issued an order practically closing the libraries. Book circulation will cease and the children's reading rooms will be closed entirely. The research departments and the adult reading rooms will remain open. Persons coughing or sneezing will be excluded.

The order stopping the book circulation was not considered until it was learned that a large percentage of the books which had gone out during the last week were going into sick rooms. The facilities for the disinfection of books are not deemed adequate properly to take care of the large number of books in circulation, and consequently exposed to the disease.

STATE CLOSING BAN MAY SOON BE RESCINDED

Plans for Lifting of Order Are Worked Out by State Health Department.

HOUSE PROBLEM SERIOUS.

HAARTSHORN, Oct. 21—Plans for lifting of the ban against saloons and public amusement places were worked out yesterday at the state health department and will be announced in a day or so.

"I am hoping to see the ban lifted early through local authorities. A pan-demic death will show when the danger point is passed is being worked out," Governor Brumbaugh said yesterday.

SERUMS INVESTIGATED.

The health department announced that special investigations are being made into the value of serums for prevention of influenza, and that inquiries into housing conditions are under way. In places in Allegheny, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties where housing conditions are bad, said Acting Commissioner Ryster, the percentage has been high.

Reports were received today of spread of the disease in Allegheny county, and of many deaths in the hard and soft coal regions. It is feared now that the death rate for the month in the state will go over 20,000.

The state council of national defense here, in co-operation with the state authorities, sent out a letter urging members of the councils in the counties to work to prevent "profiteering by doctors, druggists, undertakers or others" and to bring any case to the attention of the authorities.

INDEFINITE CLOSING.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 21—At a meeting yesterday of the health authorities, it was decided that because of the high death rate due to influenza the order closing saloons, theaters, schools and churches and prohibiting public gatherings shall remain in force indefinitely. It was agreed that at a meeting next week there shall be a further discussion of the closing ban which has now been in force three weeks.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—Continued improvement in the influenza situation in army camps and in a number of states was shown by reports received yesterday by the surgeon general of the army and the public health service. New cases in army camps totaled 441, 173 with 23 deaths. The disease now is epidemic at only three camps, Lewis, Washington, McClelland, Alabama and Kearney, California.