SCHOOLS CLOSE AS DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC GROW

Decrase in number of new cases, however, is reported this morning.

NURSES ARE MOBILIZED.

Director of Health William H. Davis said last night he issued orders to close the public and parochial schools as well as the Villa schools of the city. Shortly afterward, Superintendent William M. Davidson sent notice to the principals of the schools. The order was issued by Rev. Ralph J. Hayes, head of the parochial schools of the Pittsburgh diocese.

In his letter, Director Davis stated that as soon as possible, all children at home, medical or otherwise, shall be kept as far from school as possible. The order of the director is in keeping with the Furness report prepared for presentation by the Board of Health yesterday.

MUST STAY AT HOME.

Concluding his letter to Superintendent Davidson, Davis said:

"I ask that you transmit the heads of your schools this further order for me, under the direction of the superintendent of schools. This order is to be kept in effect as long as the epidemic of influenza persists. The order shall be kept in effect for the health of the children and schools."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLOSES LIBRARIES

Following conferences with medical men and others, the Health Department in the present crisis, it has been decided to close the libraries. Books will be kept and the children's reading rooms will be closed entirely. The research departments and the adult reading rooms will remain open. Any person coughing or sneezing will not be allowed in.

The order stopping the book circulation was not considered until it was learned that a large percentage of the books which have gone out during the last week were going in working rooms. The facilities for the distribution of the books at the schools have been inadequate. It is necessary 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STATE CLOSING BAN MAY SOON BE RESCINDED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.

An epidemic in the Pittsburgh section.

SEROUS INVESTIGATED.

The health department announced that special investigations are being made into the cause of the influenza epidemic, and that inquiries for vaccination are being made. For the week ending October 20, 2000, the percentage of cases has been 7.5.

Reports were received last week of the spread of the disease in the West and of many deaths in the hard and soft coal regions. It is feared now, that there will be no relief for the rest of the month, in the state will go over 2,000.

The state council of national defense has been in cooperation with the state authorities, and a number of health inspectors are being sent out to the counties to work with the local authorities, and to bring any case to the attention of the authorities.

INDEFINITE CLOSING.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 24. A meeting of the health commissioner today decided that because of the high death rate due to influenza the order closing schools, 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 this closing order, which has now been in force these weeks.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24. Continued improvement in the influenza situation in the United States and in a number of states was reported yesterday. The surgeon general of the army and the public health service, Dr. C. E. Smith, said that the epidemic is over in only three states. Lewis, Washington, McClelland, Alabama, and Kingman, California.