INFLUENZA REPORTS INDICATE INCREASE

Many Delayed Cards Now Being Listed, Says Director of Health Department.

Statisticians attached to the department of public health today are engaged in checking up reported cases of influenza to determine the extent of the epidemic and its possible nature. This procedure was decided upon because of the increased number of cases reported by physicians during the last few days. These reports have been checked, and it is hoped to show an increased daily number of cases, but in many instances an investigation has revealed that doctors have been delayed in mailing contagious-disease cards. An inquiry conducted this morning showed that a package containing cards of 67 reported cases received from a practitioner contained the names of most of the patients, and were taken ill at least a fortnight ago. The doctor, in a note to the health authorities, explained that he had been too busy attending sick calls to fill in the blanks sooner.

Despite the uncertainty regarding the date of origin of many of the recently reported cases, Dr. William H. Davis believes the disease again is on the increase in Pittsburgh. "It is difficult to get a correct estimate of the daily number of cases," he said. "The reports submitted to me show a total of 32 cases of influenza reported to the department by physicians in Pittsburgh. It is my guess, based on information gained by our inspectors, nurses and doctors, that only about one out of five cases have been reported to the health headquarters."

During the 14-hour period ending at 9 a.m. today, 28 new cases of influenza were reported. Yesterday for a similar period 133 new cases were listed in the same time. The 17 cases of pneumonia in the 14-hour period is not unusual, as the influenza season has commenced more than seven weeks ago there has been more than 4,000 deaths from pneumonia and influenza. Under normal conditions, it would have been only about one in 10 deaths from pneumonia in the same period.

Dr. Philip E. Marks of the bureau of infectious diseases today announced that the health officers of the department in the Allegheny, Framingham and Devon districts reported that the new outbreak of the disease due largely to visiting and travel. Dr. Marks said the situation was due principally to the carelessness of the people themselves. He said the situation was still bad and that the indiscriminate visiting and carelessness of some persons constituted new orders controlling it will have to be issued.