

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICES DISPENSED WITH

Board of Health of City Takes Forward Step to Stay Spread of Influenza—161 New Cases Here

With indications that the influenza epidemic is on the increase, city council yesterday afternoon decided to close the churches and Sunday schools until further notice and at a special session Councilman Strauss and Health Officer J. T. Butz were directed to publish a notice notifying the churches to this effect.

The number of cases reported yesterday was 161, which was the largest for any single day since the epidemic broke out. This brought the total of cases reported to date to 570, of which many have been discharged. Yesterday 102 cases were reported, discharged and on Thursday 103 cases were reported off, making a total of 205 for the two days. There are less than two hundred persons actually sick at this time with the disease.

The decision to close the churches was the big development of the day in the quarantine of the city. Some of the pastors had decided early in the week upon such a step and various arrangements had been made for the conduct of open-air services.

Council furthermore suggested to the owners of department stores that the advertising of special sales be discontinued during the quarantine period in order that there may be no congestion in their stores.

Physicians yesterday were taking a very rosy view of the situation. The number of deaths has really been very small and they attribute it to the fact that people have become alarmed at the results in other cities and are taking unusual precautions. They are not trifling with colds and promptly take to bed when threatened and get rest which is one of the best preventatives.

Some very sad chapters, in addition to those chronicling deaths, have been written by the epidemic.

The home of Mrs. Lucy Carter, No. 40 South Jordan street, has five sick namely: Mrs. Carter and four little children. The family is in destitute circumstances.

Mrs. Lillie Fallstich, a widow, of No. 141 South Hall street, is ill together with her five little children. Most of them have greatly improved during the last few days. The father died but a few months ago.

One of the saddest cases is that of Mrs. Thomas M. Steckel, of No. 239 Hall street, who is the mother of ten children. The father is in the Rittersville Hospital. Two of the children are sick and have been treated in the Sacred Heart Hospital while three children, including a year old baby, are sick at home. The infant last evening was in such serious condition that it was not expected to survive the night. They have no nurse. All of these cases have been brought to the attention of the Associated Charities which are doing splendid work in bringing relief.

Nurses Are Stricken.

Five student nurses at the Allentown Hospital have been stricken with influenza. They are: Miss Blanche Walton, Miss Ruth Strausser, Miss Rachel McKeever, Miss Clara Merkel and Miss Mabel Ludwig.

Sister Lucilla, at the Sacred Heart Hospital, is also ill with the disease.

Miss Frances Quayle, a trained nurse, of No. 512 Allen street, is reported ill.

One Case at S. A. T. C.

Charles Beers, aged 18, a member of the Students' Army Training Camp at Muhlenberg College, is reported ill with influenza.

Motorcycle Officer George Reuter, of No. 836 Tighman street, is confined to his home with influenza.

Five Cases in Family.

E. E. Rimmel, E. E. Rimmel, Jr., his wife, and a son, Carl, and Mrs. Taft, mother of Mrs. Rimmel, are ill with influenza at the home No. 514 Union street.

Ten army doctors from Camp Crane left at noon yesterday for Pottsville to assist the health authorities there in checking the spread of the epidemic. These men volunteered for the work, and have received permission from the War Department to take this step. Conditions in Schuylkill county are said to be desperate. Five doctors will also be sent from the camp to Stroudsburg, where the epidemic is raging unabated. Lack of medical assistance is handicapping the health authorities there in their efforts to combat the epidemic.

OPEN AIR CATHOLIC SERVICES OF TWO LOCAL CHURCHES

Owing to the quarantine regulation suspending indoor church services, the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mgr. Peter Masson, Rector, Fourth and Pine streets, this city, announces that Mass will be celebrated in the open Sunday morning at 7.30, 9.30 and 10.30 o'clock, in front of Parish School.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rev. E. J. Murphy, Rector, likewise announces that Mass will be celebrated on Parish School lawn, Ridge avenue and Liberty street, at 7, 8.30 and 10.30 o'clock. There will be no six o'clock Mass. Sunday School will be closed until further notice.