

LITTLE CHANGE IN EPIDEMIC SITUATION

Physicians Presumably Too Busy to Report All New Cases— Eighteen Patients at Emer- gency Hospital—Quarantine at Mary Fletcher Hospital

There has been little change in the epidemic situation in Burlington during the last 24 hours. Quite a number of new cases have been reported, but the exact number is not known. Four new cases were reported last night to the health officer, Dr. Frank J. Kniss, who stated that the physicians probably were too busy to report.

There were 18 patients at the emergency hospital at the Ethan Allen club house on College street at an early hour last night, with preparations being made to accommodate more to-day. Out of the 18 patients only about four were very sick and none of them dangerously so.

Dr. H. R. Watkins, in charge of the hospital, stated to the Free Press last night that the situation there looked encouraging. He wished to thank all who donated or stated that they would if needed, coats, screens and other supplies. A great sufficiency of supplies is now on hand which will be ample to take care of many more patients than are now quartered at the hospital.

The Mary Fletcher hospital established a complete quarantine yesterday afternoon and no visitors are allowed to see any of the patients in that institution, unless it is a matter of life and death. This is to prevent the spreading of influenza through the hospital from the isolated wards to the obstetric and surgery wards, where there are no cases at present.

The health report of the war schools at the University of Vermont yesterday showed that there are now 35 men under treatment with nine returned to duty. There were no new cases of influenza, no new cases of pneumonia and no deaths. All of those who are ill are making good progress.

Dr. Charles F. Dalton, secretary of the State board of Health, was in Rutland yesterday and remained there last night. Yesterday morning he reported that the general condition about the State was the same. The State Board of Health has prepared detailed instructions on how to make a face mask to wear while nursing influenza patients, or coming in contact with them in any way, shape or manner. The mask is a necessary precaution and all persons engaged in work near patients should wear one.

Many people have asked the State Board of Health how to make such a mask. Here are the directions:

The Board of Health recommend fine cheese cloth, usually called butter cloth. Cut the material into strips six by eight inches. If butter cloth is used three thicknesses will be sufficient, but with coarser material from five to ten thicknesses should be used, according to the fineness of the mesh. The mask should be hemmed on the edge and made with four plaits lengthwise of the material. Tape should be fastened on each of the four corners sufficiently long to tie behind the head. When the mask is extended full width by fanlike extension of the plaits it will cover the nose and mouth below the chin. The upper tape extends over the ears and ties in the back of the head so that the ears will hold the mask up in place. The lower tape to be tied around the neck.

Masks are very inexpensive, material costing little more than five cents for one mask. The board recommends that attendants provide themselves with a number of these, and that a person in constant attendance on a patient wear one mask not longer than two hours. The used mask may then be boiled for at least five minutes before being used again.

If this is done it will not be necessary to disinfect the mask. Care should be taken that the part over the face is not handled in removing, but if contact with the hands does occur, the hands should be thoroughly washed with soap and hot water.

CHARLES F. DALTON.