

What Shall We Do? Doctors Talk Over the Epidemic Here

Meeting in City Hall Results in No Action, But Considerable Loosening of Opinions; Doctors Nearly All Favor Tight Quarantine

A meeting called at the city hall Thursday night to determine what is best to do in Montrose in regard to handling the epidemic of influenza resulted in a great deal of discussion, but no action will be taken unless concrete recommendations of the city health officer are officially presented to the council.

The meeting was attended by Mayor D. H. Grant, Dr. C. G. Brethower, Dr. A. W. Knott, Dr. Edgar Hadley, Dr. J. A. Spring, Dr. Fred Schermerhorn, Dr. F. C. Didrickson, Dr. Isaiah Knott, H. Rodney Anderson, Henry W. Catlin, City Manager Cassius C. Smith, Charles Gage, J. G. Miller, Robert L. Smith, George Broughton and Whipple Chester.

Knott Tells Purpose.

Mayor Grant first called the meeting to order and then asked Dr. Knott city physician, to state the purpose of the meeting. Dr. Knott told what he had been doing late to keep his pulse upon the nation's battle against influenza as well as upon the pulse of the situation here. Recalling there was a revival of the demand here for a quarantine, he stated that he had been doing everything in his power to ascertain what other communities of larger experience and having more experienced medical advisers were doing. He had telephoned the state health department and been advised that in many places they are now quarantining individual homes like they would for smallpox. He told of following the suggestion of Mayor Grant, as outlined in last night's Press, in regard to closing for the day schools for this city. He ended by stating that whatever is done, it must be with good judgment and wisdom as it is a matter of life or death which concerns us and of which to involve anyone's family at any time.

Dr. Hadley Wants Quarantine

Dr. Edgar Hadley was called upon to speak and said that he believed that the fluctuating epidemic conditions such as Dr. Knott had mentioned as existent in North Carolina and other places, notably Denver, were due to the letting up of the measures for the control of the epidemic as soon as the heat of the epidemic is over. A let-up on the quarantine is invariably followed by a let-up in the carelessness of people and back comes another wave of the epidemic, he declared. He said, "We should adopt measures to prevent further spread of this disease. It is really a matter of life or

death and very serious. We should adopt some measure as sensibly radical as would really be observed." He advised all public meetings stopped. How long can only be determined by the continuation of the existence of the disease. This cannot be determined now. The mingling of people has been the cause of starting the contagion waves he declared and he believes a rigid quarantine is needed. He said he had but little faith in the wearing masks, as he had no faith in the public practicing their use as they should do, if done at all.

Education Thru Press

He advocated a campaign of education in the newspapers about the disease warning people that it is the contact with the sick that spreads the disease. He said "the public even now is not awake to the danger. It is our duty to watch closely." He said that he believed the quarantine should be enforced, not only until there had been a marked decrease in cases, but until it is stamped out to the last case, if need be, to save a head of. His talk was greatly appreciated.

The mayor took advantage of the pause that followed to thank the doctors for their response to the call to attend the meeting.

Strongly in Favor of Closing

Dr. F. C. Didrickson was the next to speak, saying that he agreed with Dr. Hadley in most points, but not entirely on the quarantine matter. His statement the city should begin to closing the public places and refuse to open again until the epidemic is gone. He reported taking three boys off the street Sunday night, suffering from the influenza. One of them had fallen in a faint to the muddy sidewalk and was taken to a room where he was found to have a raging fever and all symptoms of influenza. They had been loafing around the streets all day and in the drug stores. He said

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WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Dr. C. G. Brethower was next to speak and said Dr. Hadley and Dr. Didrickson had expressed his sentiments, but he wanted to add a little. He said he had heard the statement that four children were taken from the Johnson school Thursday, suffering with the influenza and sent home. He said he was in favor of closing all schools in Montrose and in the city in general. He said he had been in the city recently and said, "we should be benefited by other people's mistakes and with their deaths." He said that we can possibly do something to prevent that we can and then we can at least limit the damage.

Likes the Vaccine, Too.

Dr. J. A. Spring gave his views on the quarantine and as his predecessors had done, he has been doing his best to keep the credit for having voiced his views. He advised the use of the vaccine, which he said was the best on which people who are walking around and he had used the Mero treatment had tried and curing public health is beneficial. He advised with the fever beginning to break, to wear closing so air tight that business men the trouble spreaders and they would stagnate and people stare when they take down to their feet the death trying to order enough grown automatically quarantined and taken to keep alive. He believes in can't get out.

He declared the disease teacher, Dr. Schermerhorn declared that the only dangerous and deadly disease is in trying to prevent disease rather than cure it.

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Forty Per Cent Will Get It.

Dr. A. W. Knott spoke next and stated that taking this viewpoint we must consider what other places have experienced and that careful figures show that about 40 per cent of the population will take the disease and 50 per cent escape, and that of this 50 per cent five per cent will get pneumonia and of the five per cent, 70 per cent will die giving a death rate of 14 per 1,000 population. This gives a total of 56 cases and 1600 cases in all. The death rate of Montrose citizens only so far as influenza is concerned, is 475 cases in 10,000, and we have had but 475 cases in 10,000. He said he had had 475 cases in 10,000. He said he had had 475 cases in 10,000. He said he had had 475 cases in 10,000.

Label All Immune People

A suggestion was made by The Press during the meeting that all people who have had the influenza and recovered thereby and those who have taken the vaccine be furnished with little ribbon badges so stating, and that these people be regarded with less suspicion as potential germ carriers than the unlabelled people. In other words they to be given more liberty, as they are much less liable to get the disease or spread contagion. A young man from Durango who came west to locate on some new land and does not practice medicine now, but who has been nursing cases at Delta and Olathe, was present and gave his views and seconded the Press idea of labeling people as stated as a helpful measure. He spoke interestingly and closed with "we had better be safe than sorry."

George Broughton then gave his views and told of his protesting that 90 per cent of Montrose business men were for closing theaters, pool halls, churches and schools again until all danger is past. He gave the experience of his family in their recent severe attack. Dr. Isaiah Knott then stated that he believed all the people in the city should be forced to take the vaccine.

The meeting closed in a general discussion and probably action will be taken today in the matter. Here is the vote of the doctors attending:

- Dr. I. Knott, against closing schools, theaters and churches.
- Dr. Edgar Hadley, for closing.
- Dr. Didrickson, for closing.
- Dr. Spring, against closing.
- Dr. Schermerhorn, no closing.
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- Dr. A. W. Knott, closing very strictly or not at all.

There you have it, people. That is the stand of the above named representatives of the medical fraternity of Montrose.

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