

# Officials Plan Hospitals For Grip Patients

## Influenza Continues to Claim New Victims Hourly and Deaths Increase.

### LIQUOR SALES BARRED

Although everything in their power is being done to limit the spread of the influenza epidemic, officials of the Health Department yesterday stated that it will be several days before the extent of the disease's ravages can be determined.

In response to a request from Pittsburgh, according to a telegram received from Harrisburg, Adj. Gen. Frank D. Beary was arranging last night to send by train to Pittsburgh tents, cots and equipment to care for 750 patients. They are to go to the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Tech for use in influenza cases. He stated that if needed armories will be opened in this city.

Commissioner of Health B. F. Royer said last night at Harrisburg that he did not see the raising of the closed order in sight.

#### Emergency Committee Acts.

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon between Maj. W. H. Davis, director of the Department of Health, the superintendents of all the city hospitals, and other city officials to plan a number of emergency hospitals to care for the afflicted, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The committee, which includes Col. John H. Bigger, West Penn Hospital; Dr. J. M. Lawler, Allegheny General; C. S. Walker, Homeopathic; Sister Innocent, Mercy; Sister Laureline, St. Francis; and Mrs. J. L. Jones, South Side, immediately met and decided to appoint subsidiary commit-

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tees, including a committee of citizens outside the hospitals, a physicians' committee and a nurses' committee. The general emergency committee has its headquarters in Rooms 528 and 529, City-County Building.

The committee plans to survey existing hospital facilities to ascertain how many patients can be accommodated and to be ready with emergency hospitals if that should become necessary. The committee will meet every day.

Further city activities included an order to carry no more than six persons in any passenger elevator at one time, and a most drastic order prohibiting the sale of liquor except in drug stores on a physician's prescription.

#### Many Cases Reported.

Meanwhile the number of cases reported grows hourly, and the deaths from pneumonia, mostly superinduced by influenza, is causing alarm. The county records are augmented by reports from boroughs and townships, and while it is still apparent that this district has not suffered from the epidemic in any degree comparable with Eastern cities, the steady growth of the number of cases indicates that most stringent regulations will be necessary to check its spread.

In the 26 hours ending at 11 o'clock last night 452 cases of influenza and 21 of pneumonia in the city were reported, and during the same hours 22 deaths from lobar pneumonia, eight deaths from influenza and five from bronchial pneumonia, a total of 35 deaths, were reported.

The public school attendance, ac-

ording to Supt. W. M. Davidson, has fallen off about 20 per cent, but the health condition is normal and the school medical inspection, more rapid than ever, continues daily in all class rooms.

#### Liquor Dealers Protest.

In the county some of the schools are closed, but this practice is discouraged, the approved plan being to send home any child suffering from a cold and recommend immediate medical attention.

Some wholesale liquor dealers of the county did not take the closing order affecting them in good grace. Many of them called at the Health Bureau yesterday to personally express their opinions, particularly in view of the very large business done by the wholesalers Friday and Saturday.

Later in the day, however, Maj. Davis heard a different story from the wholesale liquor dealers and bottlers. There are two associations, one composed of those who handle fruit as well as spirituous liquors, and the other of those dealers who handle distilled and vinous liquors. Both associations met in the afternoon. A letter from Director Davis containing excerpts from the state orders was read at the meetings and a resolution by which they was adopted. The associations then notified Director Davis of the action taken and said the members would loyally abide by it.

#### New Orders Received.

The letter of Maj. Davis had as its basis the following supplemental order from State Health Commissioner Royer:

Consult with leading medical men and provide for the sale through drug stores on registered prescriptions of alcoholic stimulants, and make provisions for wholesalers and bottling houses to supply retail needs for this purpose.

These orders need not prohibit

wholesale shipments of alcoholic beverages to points outside of Pennsylvania.

Where wholesalers, bottlers, clubs or fraternal organizations fail to comply with Saturday's proclamation concerning the sale of alcoholic beverages, close their establishments, and where necessary placard as follows:

"Closed by order of Commissioner of Health."

#### 150,000 in State.

Place all dealers on their honor to obey the regulations and if any break faith consult with your collector. Take drastic action. Notify district attorney and licensing board and notify State Board of Pharmacy and this office.

The latest estimate from Massachusetts indicates 13 per cent sick rates with 5 per cent death rate among enlisted in stricken com-

panies. Prepare for such a maximum and hope to escape it.

The latest reports from Pennsylvania show 150,000 sick.

Business in the courts was practically suspended, the 127 jurors summoned for service were excused, and no hearings will be held where witnesses are required. The courts will remain open for the transactions of business other than jury trials, which are now limited to one murder case. Pleas will be heard in Quarter Sessions and County courts.

Because of the uncertainty of when jury trials will be resumed the court directed that jurymen called to serve in a new panel next Monday be notified not to report on that day. Should the ban be lifted later they will be summoned, but it is likely that no more jury trials will be held until the November term of court.