

High Tide of The Influenza Is Maintained

Cases Increase — Death
Rate Less — Red Cross
Gets Anti-Flu Serum.

MASKS RECOMMENDED

The spread of the influenza epidemic in Pittsburgh continued yesterday, there being 245 new cases and 75 deaths for the 24-hour period ending at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. This is 13 more cases, but 29 fewer deaths than on the previous day.

There were 81 new cases of pneumonia, making a total of 581 since the beginning of the epidemic. The total number of influenza cases so far reported during the epidemic is 7,371. Health Director W. H. Davis, however, does not believe that more than half the cases have been reported. Of the deaths yesterday 29 were from pneumonia, 44 from pneumonia and influenza and 2 from influenza.

In connection with his theory that many cases of influenza have not been reported Director Davis stated that he has reports of several physicians who have been too busy to report their cases. One doctor told him he had over 100 cases which he had not found time to report.

Death Rate Not So High.

There have been 411 deaths from influenza, and Maj. Davis pointed out that this is nearly 5 per cent of the number of cases. If his theory that only half the cases have been reported is correct the death rate is much smaller, as the death reports are absolutely accurate. In Boston there has been a death rate of only about 2 per cent. The death rate from pneumonia is smaller this year than ordinarily, being only 46 per cent of all cases, while it is ordinarily about 50 per cent.

Mayor E. V. Babcock called on Maj. Davis yesterday in connection with the epidemic and recommended that general instructions be issued to all persons to wear "flu" masks. Maj. Davis took the suggestion under consideration. The Mayor has not yet procured a mask for himself, but he has had four injections of influenza serum. The health department has not yet begun the use of the serum.

The Mayor was in Charles W. V. recently and said that the use of the masks is general there. Mr. Babcock yesterday attended the funeral of the son of M. L. Benedum, who died of the disease in Washington. He states that Mr. Benedum told him in the recommendation that everybody put on the masks.

Fumigation in Court Rooms.

The Criminal Court rooms and the grand jury rooms were yesterday fumigated with formaldehyde candles as a preventive of influenza and sealed until Monday morning. Guards were placed at the doors to explain

Continued on Page Two, Column Four.

High Tide of the Influenza

Continued from First Page.

to attorneys and others why the rooms were closed.

The State Health Department yesterday agreed to send two doctors to Sharpburg at the request of Dr. George F. Cable, secretary of the Board of Trade, but informed him nurses would have to be secured from the Red Cross volunteers. There are 500 cases of influenza in Sharpburg.

Red Cross to Supply Serum.

Pittsburgh Chapter, American Red Cross, has en route to Pittsburgh 145,000 injections of serum to be used in fighting the spread of influenza. By tomorrow the local Red Cross headquarters will be supplying firms and corporations with quantities of this inoculation.

According to Edward A. Woods, chairman of the influenza committee of Pittsburgh Chapter, the Spanish influenza will not make the same ravages in this community as it has in Philadelphia and New England if the Red Cross can possibly prevent it. He says that within a week Pittsburgh will be manufacturing this serum in great quantities. Until then the shipments ordered from other cities will satisfy the increasing demands for this preventive measure. Where the serum is to be made in Pittsburgh is not revealed by the Red Cross.

Mr. Woods says it is the duty of the Red Cross, as it is of every organization, to stop at nothing that will put down as quickly as possible this outbreak of a peculiarly serious epidemic.

No Guarantee of Infallibility.

The Red Cross, Mr. Woods says, holds out no guarantee that this serum is infallibly deadly to influenza, but it is being used with marked success by the United States military authorities, the big corporations and by thousands of physicians. It is said that at one of the Pittsburgh hospitals 165 nurses were inoculated one week ago. There have been three mild cases of influenza among these nurses, while the average death rate of patients each day is said to be five. Patients that desire the serum are given it.

As a test of the efficacy of the serum the physicians at Hogg Island shipyards are said to have picked two groups of workmen, 30 in each group. The 20 that submitted to inoculation reported one slight case of the disease. Of the 20 who refused to have their arms to the hypodermic 20 were stricken and a number died.

The Red Cross will not undertake at this time, Mr. Woods says, to supply the serum to individuals. This, Mr. Woods says, would be a task too great for even the efficient organization at work in Pittsburgh Chapter headquarters. Distributing stations have been established. Firms, corporations or any organization wishing to get the serum should make application by telephone, mail or in person to Mr. Woods' department at Red Cross headquarters, Chamber of Commerce Building. From there an order will be sent to the nearest distributing station and prompt delivery will be made.

Splendid Work of Red Cross.

The chapter officers have during the last few days received many testimonials to the splendid work that the Red Cross is doing in the present emergency.

There is still a great need, Mr. Woods says, for help of all kinds. Women who wish to help at the hospitals should communicate with Red Cross headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce Building.