

ROYER REFUSES ANY EASING OF INFLUENZA BAN

Tells Philadelphia Officials
the Epidemic Has Not
Abated Sufficiently Yet.

APPEALS FOR NURSES

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS TO GAZETTE TIMES)
HARRISBURG, Oct. 24.—Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting state commissioner of health, tonight telegraphed to Philadelphia city health authorities, in response to their request for permission to relax some restrictions imposed because of influenza, that the epidemic in that city had not abated sufficiently to permit the raising of any of the orders now in force. The request was made for approval of the raising of the ban against church services on Sunday and that all other restrictions be raised Monday.

Dr. Royer replied that school sessions might be resumed next Wednesday, but that restrictions "in all other particulars will have to be continued until a later period." Dr. Royer suggested a census of school districts to ascertain cases before opening, and remarked that while the daily average number of deaths from influenza, grip and pneumonia in October of five years in the whole state had been less than 30, Philadelphia alone reported 331 yesterday.

The department stated tonight that the epidemic is increasing in rural districts and 6,183 new cases were reported from 33 counties today, against 5,839 from 34 yesterday. Allegheny county reported 25,031 cases to date, with conditions reported "bad" in Berks, Blair, Cambria, Lebanon, Lehigh and Luzerne counties, Washington and Warren also reporting increases. Deaths from influenza since October 1 are given as 15,594, and from pneumonia 5,977, a total of 21,571.

In an appeal for community service tonight Dr. Royer asked for nurses, saying there will soon be 250,000 convalescents in Pennsylvania, and a fifth will require great care, as many deaths have occurred from patients leaving beds too soon.

There is no indication as to when the restrictions may be lessened in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.