

Nation Unites With State in Fighting Grip

Nation United With State In Fighting Grip Epidemic; Increase in Scourge Reported

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Blue Sends Doctors to Work Under Pennsylvania Health Department.

NURSING ZONE PLAN

To maintain the flow of munitions and coal from the Pittsburgh district the State Department of Health is cooperating with the United States Health Service by assigning to duty doctors sent here by Surgeon General Rupert Blue, and beginning also by the installation of the zone-nursing system. The work is being supervised by Dr. Adolph Koenig, in charge of the local headquarters of the State Department, and Dr. Karl Sharpe, its direct representative, assigned to Pittsburgh.

Dr. J. H. Kerr and W. M. Keen, both originally from New York, but fresh from the lessening influenza epidemic in Massachusetts, arrived here yesterday and reported to Dr. Koenig. They were immediately assigned. Dr. Kerr to Monongahela and Dr. Keen to Whitsett, both coal mining centers which lie above McKeesport. In Massachusetts the two physicians worked under the supervision of the State Health Department.

The influenza epidemic is serious in the munition centers, and three nurses from the State Health Department were assigned to zones temporarily mapped out. The Red Cross, the Council of National Defense, the Associated Charities and other organizations have agreed to co-operate in the work and the state nurses will supervise it. They will have no special headquarters, but will keep on the go between the mining towns, hastening where they are most needed and keeping in touch with the organizations named, so as to direct where additional nurses shall go to do the most good.

State Nursing Zones.
One zone contains the towns of Carnegie, McKees Rocks, Heidelberg.

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Bridgeville and Oakdale; the second includes Carrick, West Elizabeth, Whitaker, Clariton, Wilson, Glassport, Dravosburg, Duquesne, Homestead, West Homestead, Munhall, Hays. The third zone contains Pitcairn, Wall, East McKeesport, Wilmerding, Turtle Creek, East Pittsburgh, Braddock, North Braddock, Swissvale and Edgewood. The district stretching from Verona to Nartron up the Allegheny Valley probably will have a supervisory nurse today or tomorrow.

As Dr. Koenig pointed out, these zones are rather large, but as the supply of state nurses increase the districts will be sub-divided into smaller ones, each with a supervisory nurse.

"The three nurses who are already assigned and those whom we expect to be arriving every day for a while are from the eastern part of the state," said Dr. Schaffe, "where they have been working hard. As soon as they arrive they are ordered to take a rest for a day or two, and when they are refreshed they are assigned to their zones."

Dr. Koenig has drawn a new curve on the state influenza-pneumonia death chart received Thursday from Harrisburg. On October 22 there were 1,383 deaths. Yesterday Dr. Koenig received a telegram from Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting state health commissioner, saying that the deaths from influenza and pneumonia on October 24 were 1,437, 143 less than five days before. The deaths on October 23 have not been reported to Dr. Koenig.

What Chart May Show.

The highest peak of the graphic chart was on October 21, but the deaths have been fluctuating in number, and it is possible that yesterday's or today's report may send the curve beyond the hitherto highest point, though it is also figured by some of the experts that, because of Western Pennsylvania being less populous than Eastern Pennsylvania, the chart may show a steady decline in the number of deaths daily, as the scourge diminishes in the east, but increases in volume in the west.

Dr. Koenig was informed from Carnegie that the cases of influenza are so numerous there that it is impossible for the physicians to answer all the sick calls. Like conditions are expected to prevail in the other towns of that munitions district in a few days, for which reason the assignment of supervisory nurses will be expedited. The number of influenza cases in the whole county during the 24-hour period ending at noon yesterday was 3,134, among these being 1,207 new cases. There was a total of 1,348 cases in Washington county.

In Pittsburgh influenza cases showed an increase during the 24-hour period ending at 4 o'clock p. m. yesterday of 51 over the previous 24-hour period, there being 313 new cases—making a total of 12,425 and 829 the day before. There was a decrease of one in new pneumonia cases, there being 31 up to 4 o'clock yesterday, as compared with 32 during the previous 24 hours. One hundred and forty-seven deaths were reported yesterday, against 155 the day before, a decrease of eight. In detail the deaths from pneumonia were 54, from influenza and pneumonia 79 and from influenza 115.

Between 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and last midnight 22 more deaths from pneumonia, 37 from influenza and pneumonia, and four from influenza, a total of 63, were reported.

Rural Emergency Hospitals.

Having first assured themselves of their legal right to spend public money in the fight against the epidemic, the county commissioners yesterday decided to establish and to aid in establishing emergency hospitals in any community where such institutions may be needed. To learn of such needs and to map out a plan for hospital relief the commissioners have called a meeting of the health boards of all the townships in the county, to be held in the commissioners' office at 2:30 p. m. next Tuesday. The township men will be told to select some suitable building in the most convenient location when the need for an emergency hospital in their community arises. The county will equip the hospitals and pay the bills, although, of course, it is expected that communities that are financially able will help bear the expense. Most of the health boards have no money for hospital purposes. Commissioner Frank J. Harris, whose two colleagues are confined to their homes by sickness, believes that by the establishment of hospitals the ministrations of physicians, who now find it impossible to travel long distances to their patients in rural communities, will be made available to the greatest number.

The Hays Board of Health took over the borough hall as an emergency hospital. Thirty-five patients can be accommodated in the building. There are 300 cases of influenza in Hays. Within the 48-hour period ending at noon yesterday 75 new cases of influenza developed in Homestead, making nearly 400 in the borough.

the epidemic. Red Cross officers again urged that the persons using two and three graduate nurses for sickness in their families, or for the care of healthy children, release them to give aid in the districts that are most afflicted by the plague, yet have the fewest nurses. Calls were received from Nowell, Pa., where there are 150 cases and no nurses, and from Monongahela, where nurses are few. Only one nurse is available for the 40 pneumonia patients at Irwin. The chapter sent nurses to the Greensburg Emergency Hospital, to Ambridge and Monaca and the mines at Moon Run.

In an effort to check the epidemic of influenza now raging among the miners of the Pittsburgh bituminous district so seriously that 2,500 men are ill, production has already fallen from 19 to 15 per cent below normal, and an increase of the scourge actually threatens the closing of some of the mines. The fuel administrators, coal operators and miners' representatives of the district yesterday issued an order for all available doctors and nurses and enough influenza vaccine to inoculate every one of the 200,000 miners and their families.

Met Blue and Royer.

The action followed the report of a committee of two, J. A. Donaldson of the Pittsburgh Coal Company and Philip Murray, president of District No. 5, United Mine Workers of America, who appeared by a previous joint meeting of the fuel administration, operators and miners, had just returned from where they consulted with General Blue and from Harrisburg, where they discussed the situation with Dr. Royer.

The committee reported that Gen. Blue told them there were some differences between the authorities in Washington and those in Harrisburg, but that Dr. Royer had declined, he stated that he had asked Dr. Draper to come to Western Pennsylvania from Massachusetts, bring 30 or 40 doctors to be sent into the mine region, and to get in touch with Dr. Royer as soon as possible.

The committee's report adds that its members called on Dr. Royer, who made the statement that he had received no assistance from the government and had not seen Dr. Draper. Dr. Royer said he would take charge of and make assignments of any doctors they would send to this state.

The committee told Dr. Royer that the operators and miners were not looking for any charity and were willing to pay for any help that would check the scourge in the bituminous mines.

Health Census Ordered.

Following the report of the committee the joint meeting took immediate action by the appointment of a sub-committee to go to the mines, make an immediate census of the miners there, of the conditions and of the progress the disease has made and provide special doctors and nurses for the mines in which the situation is most desperate.

Requisition for the serum for immediate vaccination of the miners brought out an offer of \$10,000 by Mr. Murray, president of the workers, who said his men would insist on cooperating in the fight to stamp out the disease. An idea of the cost of inoculating all the bituminous mines of the region can be gained from the government statement that a single injection of the serum costs about 14 cents.

At another meeting this morning, in conjunction with Red Cross experts the committee will prepare to select a sufficient quantity of the serum and doctors to administer it to the mines within a week.

Coroner Samuel C. Jamison wrote to Dr. Royer, asking that he rescind his order closing "certain religious, business and amusement places in this county." The coroner says he feels that further continuance of the order will not diminish the disease, but will work needless hardships in the community. He suggests that the question be referred to the local health authorities, "to deal with the situation at first hand."

Volunteer citizens of Turtle Creek, with the assistance of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, built and completely equipped, in 48 hours, an emergency hospital for the relief of some of the 2,000 residents suffering from influenza. The work was begun Wednesday morning.

Slight Decrease Shown In Influenza at Camps

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25. — Three Army camps did not report a single new case of influenza today, and only two, Kearney, California, and Lewis, Washington, reported more than all camps. The total of new cases for all camps, a statement from the office of the surgeon general said, was 2,315, against 2,773 the day before. Pneumonia cases decreased from 699 to 203, and deaths from 307 to 241.

CHICAGO, Oct. 25. — Although diminished reports of influenza deaths and new cases in Chicago and Northern Illinois today gave promise of an early lifting of the quarantine in this city, Chicagoans were asked to observe a volunteer curfew at 9 o'clock tomorrow night. Lights out at 10 o'clock, and all persons remain at home Sunday, so far as possible, was advised.

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