

# VACCINATION AGAINST 'FLU' HERE IS URGED

## Inoculation Is Approved at Conference of Medical and Industrial Men.

### BENEFITS REPORTED

## Results of Preventive Treatment in Navy Yards Presented at Meeting.

### PLANTS AFFECTED

An organized effort to check the influenza epidemic in the mill and munition districts about Pittsburgh will follow a meeting of Army, Navy and war production representatives, yesterday at which it was planned to induce every worker and resident in the territory involved to be vaccinated against influenza without delay.

The meeting was called at the office of Commodore R. C. Dentig, U. S. N., following the receipt of a series of reports declaring that the epidemic has become so prevalent at Homestead and the Monongahela Valley, that the production of war material is already seriously hampered. The Carnegie Steel Company reported that at the present time it has an absentee list of 25 per cent, or 2,600 employees. Similarly disquieting figures were received from several other concerns. It was agreed that immediate steps must be taken to get medical officers of the government to take charge of the fight against the scourge.

Besides Commodore Dentig there were present at the conference Commodore Adams, United States Navy; Maj. Scovill, Ordnance Department, United States Army; Lieut. Stephano of the Medical Corps, United States Navy; George S. Oliver, regional adviser at Pittsburgh; Dr. William O'Neill Sherman, surgeon of the Carnegie Steel Company, and other officers of the Army and Navy on service here.

### Results Here Are Good.

Dr. Sherman said that the vaccine treatment as used by the Carnegie Company was proving very efficacious and that he and his assistants were treating more than 500 employees with the serum each day. Other reports showed that there was not a single case of influenza among the workers of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 3,500 of whom had been immunized; that at League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, the serum successfully immunized 30 employees, while 20 of 50 others not vaccinated, fell victims of the disease, and that the fact that not a case of pneumonia had developed as a result of vaccination at the League Island

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yards was taken as proof that the vaccine was almost 100 per cent efficient as a preventative.

Statements were also quoted from the New York Times and Philadelphia Record declaring that the full three injections of vaccine were almost uniformly successful and giving the testimony of physicians who had successfully inoculated who-plants against the invasion or spread of the disease.

The conferees agreed that the use of serum should be immediately begun in the mill and munitions districts hereabouts and that more medical aid must be invoked. Commander Adams of the Navy was appointed to take charge of the work, in co-operation with the Army and Navy staffs.

### Statements from Press Read.

Statements from press reports giving results of the use of vaccine included the following from recent issues of the New York Times:

Dr. M. J. Esner said yesterday of the use of the immunizing vaccine:

We have given the vaccine as a preventative to 1450 Y. M. C. A. workers and the results have been remarkably good. The treatment consists of three injections of the vaccine at intervals of five days. None of those who have taken the treatment has contracted the disease. Seven who have taken only one treatment reported cases of influenza. Some of them have suffered only very slight symptoms resembling grip, which are produced by the vaccine.

One who received the first treatment and refused inter-treatments contracted Spanish influenza and died. The physician who treated her was of the opinion that she would have been saved, except that treatment for the disease was refused. The others who had received only one treatment had very mild cases, without pneumonia or other complications.

The fact is that the vaccine for influenza and pneumonia was perfected as much as six years ago by Dr. Ellis B. Doolittle. I have personal knowledge of its successful use, both in prevention and treatment of the disease for several years. The one vaccine contains the immunization against influenza, pneumonia and blood poisoning, which are found in combination in many cases of influenza, especially in the present epidemic.

Had the immunization been used last year in the Army embassies the ravages of pneumonia there would have been prevented. The technique for using the vaccine has been thoroughly worked out and in use for years. It has been unfortunate that this present epidemic has caused some of the medical authorities to waste time in experimenting when a thoroughly successful vaccine is at hand. I hope that the time for its general adoption by the medical profession will not be long delayed.

### Results in Group Tests.

Another excerpt follows: Regarding the Health Department's vaccine against influenza, Dr. Copeland said that reports justified its more extensive use. He said that while the vaccine had been in use only about two weeks, the results thus far obtained are suggestive of its value. The commissioner gave out these facts from the report:

Camp A—Average admissions before vaccination, 18 per cent. After vaccination admission fell to two.

Regiment B—Rose quickly to 80 and above a day. Fell abruptly to 12 a day immediately after vaccination.

Guard B—Total incidents prior to vaccination, 10 per cent; 841 vaccinated; no cases after.

Two hospitals report practically no cases among doctors and nurses vaccinated.

Camp D—Reports a sharp fall after vaccination.

Organization E—General report "very good," sharp contrast between vaccinated and unvaccinated.

The fact that immunity to the disease is produced by the influenza vaccine is the strongest possible indication that Pfeiffer's bacillus is the cause of the disease. It is a clean-cut vaccine. If we can prevent the initial disease we need not worry about the complications. Therefore, there is no reason for including in the vaccine the other organisms.

The Philadelphia Record recently printed the following on inoculation:

Valiant work by Dr. T. J. Howes, medical director of the Philadelphia Electric Company and his corps of assistants, has kept virtually the entire force of that corporation free from epidemic influenza.

Three weeks ago, when the disease first became threatening here, the company's physician began their inoculations, the Philadelphia Electric thus being the pioneer in the work in this city.

Thirty-five hundred employees of the company submitted to inoculation and of these not one contracted influenza. This immunization was of particular value in the case of the plant at Waterside. Had work been held up there Government production would have been handicapped.

Outside corporations asked the Philadelphia Electric Company for aid which was given and Dr. Howes and his assistants inoculated 10,000 persons who had no connection with the Electric concern. No charge was made for this service.

The heavy calls on the company's medical department exhausted its supply of Sherman serum, and on an appeal by Dr. Howes, Col. James Brown, president of the Philadelphia Supply Company, sent a girl messenger to Detroit for serum. The girl rushed to Detroit on one train and caught the next one back.