

INFLUENZA

Prompt Action Necessary to Prevent Recurrence of Epidemic Through- out the Country

Influenza has again broken out in Boston and other cities notwithstanding strenuous efforts being made to prevent its recurrence. In New York City there have been reported to the Health Bureau an average of 100 to 125 cases a day for the last three weeks, but it is claimed by New York authorities that there is nothing to be alarmed about, and that occasional cases are likely to occur during the whole winter, but it is hoped that even these will disappear with the coming of spring.

In spite of such assurances the fear that we may again be visited with this plague is so prevalent that a recent meeting in Chicago of the American Public Health Association attracted representatives from the whole United States, and also from Canada, for the purpose of discussing possible means of checking the disease.

In order to prevent unnecessary danger in connection with the bringing of troops from Europe, the Mayor of New York City has communicated with the Executives of the various debarkation cities along the coast, asking that they have the War Department keep these men in camp for at least nine days after landing before allowing them freedom to return home or to visit elsewhere.

In this connection it is reported that local health officials at our national capital are seriously considering the closing of all schools, churches, and places of amusement in order to prevent a further spread of the epidemic which has again appeared in rather alarming proportions there. It seems to be the consensus of opinion at Washington that there is likely to be another serious spread of the disease throughout the country unless effective measures are taken at once to prevent it. The Surgeon General advises that, at the first sign of a general recurrence of the epidemic, all public schools should be closed, for the reason that children are particularly susceptible to it.