

# SITUATION HERE DOES NOT ALARM

## Swimming Pools and Skating Rinks Ordered Closed by Health Department.

## TWO SOLDIERS SUCCUMB.

### Ben Avon and McKeesport Prohibit Church Services and Former Shuts Schools.

For the 24 hours ending at 10 o'clock this morning 36 new cases of influenza and 11 deaths from pneumonia, in some cases believed to have resulted from attacks of influenza, were reported to the bureau of infectious diseases of the city department of health.

These figures with the death of two soldiers and approximately 70 hospital cases of the disease among soldiers stationed in this city sum up the status of the epidemic so far as the facts have been placed before the health authorities. The latter warn the public against fear and panic and declare that the situation is well in hand and that the Pittsburgh district is practically free from the disease, as compared with its sweep in other sections of the country.

## SEVERAL SOLDIERS ILL.

Eleven soldiers, members of the medical corps of the army and engaged in preparing the United States General Hospital at Warner station, for convalescent soldiers who are expected there later, have been stricken with influenza. The men were removed to St. Francis Hospital for treatment.

The two deaths reported among the soldiers, and practically the only ones in the city in which there seems to be no doubt that influenza was responsible, are those of Charles N. Patterson of Aspinwall, and Nicholas Forman of Reading, Pa. Patterson was on furlough, but had been sent to St. Francis Hospital by military order when he was reported ill. Nicola was also a patient at St. Francis Hospital.

The activities of the army authorities against the spread of the disease among the soldiers is being directed from the United States Troop Infirmary at Point Breeze. Approximately 25 of the army cases are at the Magee hospital. The entire institution is being made available in case it should be needed. The facilities of other hospitals will be called upon if necessary.

## SOME CHURCHES CLOSED

Following a report that an epidemic of Spanish influenza had broken out in the Odd Fellows' Orphans' Home in Ben Avon, the Ben Avon Board of health ordered the closing of all schools in the borough at noon yesterday, and ruled that no church services should be held tomorrow. The churches may remain closed, it was intimated, until the threat of an epidemic is past.

McKeesport churches will be closed

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tomorrow, the department of health is issuing an order to that effect yesterday. Sunday schools also will come under the ban. Fred Hooper, superintendent of the department of health, decided.

Ministers of McKeesport have asked permission to hold outdoor services and it is possible that this will be granted. No decision has been rendered regarding public and parochial schools, and for the present they will remain open.

## SWIMMING POOLS SHUT.

Additional precautions being taken by the city authorities today include the closing of the indoor swimming pools of the city as well as the skating rinks. The matter of the playgrounds has not yet been decided. It is believed, however, that the playgrounds will remain open in all activities except those entirely indoors. A seeming exception is made in the case of the playgrounds because they are now and have been for some time under careful medical surveillance. An additional reason advanced by the city authorities is that the children must have ample facilities for open air exercise.

Jewish synagogues throughout the city this morning curtailed their services. Instead of one continuous service there were several brief services and in this way large crowds were prevented from collecting.

At the Irene Kaufmann Settlement Center avenue, where Sabbath school is held for Jewish children the services were dispensed with and all children were sent home. At the Hebrew Institute, Wylie avenue and Green street, where Sabbath school exercises are also held on Saturday, all children were sent home.

## MEETINGS POSTPONED.

The effects of health department orders will be reflected in church services in Pittsburgh tomorrow in a lowered attendance and shortened exercises. Following conferences last night it was decided to permit Sunday school and church services as usual, but those suffering from coughs or colds are asked to remain at home, and pastors are requested to make services as short as possible. Usher are asked to assist in dispersing assemblies as quickly as possible and to see that an ample supply of fresh air enters the building during the services.

Many gatherings which were to have been held tomorrow or next week have been postponed. The county convention of the A. O. H., which was to have been held in the Century building yesterday afternoon, has been postponed indefinitely. The Keystone State Library Association, which was to have held its convention next Thursday at Lebanon, has been called off. Night sessions of public schools are stopped.

Other meetings which have been postponed include that of the St. Clair County Club, which was to have been held at Mt. Lebanon tomorrow, the mass meeting of the Sons of Italy at the Liberty Theater tomorrow, and all balls and meetings of the Pennsylvania reserve militia. The order on the latter has been sent out by Colonel Franklin Blackstone.

## WALK IF POSSIBLE.

All civilian students have been excluded from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh. This action has been taken by local military authorities under instruction of Major E. W. Day, senior military medical officer of this district, who has placed guards about all concentration points of men as well as hospital infirmaries.

Both military and civil authorities have issued orders designed to reduce street car riding to a minimum. The public is urged to walk as much as possible. The purpose is double. Contact is minimized, while the exercise and open air is building up bodily resistance against the disease. Hospital authorities generally intend to minimize visiting tomorrow. Not only will they try to reduce the number of visitors but the time allotted will be cut down to perhaps half that allowed under ordinary conditions.

The order closing the night schools will affect probably 14,000 students, who have enrolled for the term which was to have opened Monday evening.

Quarantine zones have been established in the Schenley park district about all of the buildings housing student soldiers. All civilians except family members are barred. Students other than those of the H. A. T. C. have been dismissed until October 14.