

EPIDEMIC ADDS TO DEATH LIST IN PITTSBURGH

No Signs of Abatement Shown by Pneumonia, Influenza and Their Complications.

NEW HOSPITAL OPENED.

Although there is nothing especially alarming in the development of 491 new cases of influenza and 51 cases of pneumonia between 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon and 10 o'clock this morning, the officers of the health department are concerned over the local situation. The strict enforcement of all health regulations will therefore be continued.

Between the hours of 4 p. m. Saturday and 4 p. m. Sunday there were 124 deaths within the city from pneumonia, influenza and associated diseases. Of this number, 12 were due to bronchial pneumonia, 23 to pneumonia, 11 to influenza and 18 to mixed causes. This is the largest number of deaths in any given period since the epidemic struck the Pittsburgh district. There are now 46 pneumonia and 2,300 influenza cases in the city.

The state department of health today took over the Elks' clubhouse, Thompson avenue, McKees Rocks, for use as an emergency hospital to combat influenza. The building has 40 rooms and is well fitted for hospital purposes. Lack of space to accommodate the many victims of the disease in the Ohio valley hospitals caused the state health department's action.

RECOMMEND INOCULATION

Inoculation is recommended by the Pittsburgh chapter of Red Cross as a means of checking influenza. In line with this Red Cross suggestion, most of the big industrial corporations are hurrying to obtain the largest possible supplies of the serum. Workers, and their families as well, are to be given the preventive treatment.

E. M. Herr of the Westinghouse interests this morning informed Edward A. Woods, chairman of the Red Cross committee on influenza, that his companies are inoculating 400 men a day and expect to increase this number speedily until the entire 50,000 Westinghouse employees are inoculated, excepting, of course, those who refuse to accept the treatment.

The Red Cross officers are not making statements to the effect that the serum will prevent influenza in every case. "We realize," says Mr. Woods, "that there are many persons opposed to using serum. But the way the public should regard this treatment at present is that it won't do anyone any harm, and it is almost certain to do some good. It is a case where you cannot lose and you are likely to win. The Red Cross is not backing any particular treatment nor any particular serum."

More than 100 Mothers of Democracy have organized to fight the epidemic. A large number of them have volunteered for nursing service and will devote several hours each day to assisting the regular nurses in hospitals, settlement houses and other institutions where they may be needed. Some of the women who are not qualified to do nursing will go out for a few hours each day as housekeepers. They will also assist in dispensary work.

Sunday was a busy day for regular as well as emergency hospitals. Hundreds of new cases added to the burdens which the doctors are already bearing and caused Director William H. Davis and other officials of the health department to give serious consideration to the opening of an additional emergency hospital.

Dr. Kari Schaffie has announced that a hospital is to be opened, at which patients from Braddock, North Braddock, Turtle Creek and East Pittsburgh will be cared for. By bringing them to one institution instead of having a hospital in each town, an economy of nurses and doctors will be effected.

Miss Josephine Hammond, 23 years old, a nurse in the Magee hospital, died of influenza yesterday. Her home was in Chambersburg, where her body was taken for burial. Miss Hammond was a graduate of the Magee hospital training school. About 10 days ago she volunteered to aid in fighting the epidemic and fell a victim herself.

Beginning today a complete census is being taken in the schools of all absences and reports will be made to Dr. H. J. Benz, superintendent of the bureau of child welfare, as to whether absences are ill or are simply being kept home by parents as a precaution.

Dr. H. B. Burns, director of hygiene in the public schools, estimated that probably not more than 1% school children have so far been victims of influenza, with the percentage of deaths less than 1/2 per cent of those among the same number of adults.