

NEW STEPS TAKEN TO COMBAT "FLU"

Survey of Housing Conditions in Fifteenth Ward Ordered by Health Officials.

To study the housing conditions in homes where there are cases of Spanish influenza, Dr. R. G. Burns, chief of the infectious disease division of the department of public health, this afternoon began a survey of the Hazelwood and Greenfield districts. The tour was decided upon at a conference between Director William H. Davis and Dr. Burns, because of the increased number of influenza cases reported to the health department during the last three days from different parts of Pittsburgh, especially from physicians in the Fifteenth ward.

During the 18 hours ended at 10 o'clock this morning 89 new cases were reported, 36 being in the Fifteenth ward. Yesterday during a corresponding period 73 cases were listed and on Wednesday there were 78 cases. These figures increase the total number of cases since the outbreak began last October to 24,436.

The large number of new cases during the past 72 hours is in marked contrast to the comparatively few cases reported to the department during the week ended last Saturday night, when the seven days total was only 184, or only a small fraction more than 26 every 24 hours.

A tabulation of the cases reported during the past three days shows that the influenza has centered in the Fifteenth ward and adjacent territory. A study of the doctors' reports also reveals that the cases are grouped, and that many families have two and more members bedfast. The physicians' reports also make known that there are a larger number of children ill than at any time since the outbreak started in Pittsburgh last October.

Dr. Burns will make a study of homes, especially regarding sanitation and the number of persons occupying the same rooms. Doctors attending influenza cases will be interrogated, with a view of ascertaining the sources of the cases in different houses. Cleanliness of yards and streets in the vicinity of the homes where there are persons ill with influenza will be inspected.

With more than 100 pupils and three teachers ill with influenza, the Lincoln Park public school building, Mifflin township, was closed this morning. The building has an attendance approximating 400 children. The building will be fumigated, with a view of reopening the schools next Monday morning.