

INFLUENZA CASES BEGIN TO DECREASE

Reports Indicate Situation
Under Control, Says
City Health Officer

VIGILANCE IS NECESSARY

Campaign of Sanitation Is
Inaugurated to Aid in
Stamping Out Disease

A MARKED decrease in the number of influenza cases reported to the Board of Health was announced yesterday. Reports for the day showed a total for twenty-four hours of 1560 cases with 76 deaths.

"Indications lead us to believe we have the epidemic under control," said Dr. William C. Hassler, City Health Officer. "If citizens will use every precaution to stamp out the disease, wear their masks and protect themselves, I feel sure that we soon can stamp out the influenza."

"Dr. Hassler gave a warning, however, that "eternal vigilance" must be the watchword to prevent a flare-up of the epidemic.

"We cannot feel really safe and cannot be sure that the disease is checked until every case has been reported and is under a competent doctor's care," he added.

CLEAN-UP TO BEGIN

A campaign to clean up the district south of Market street between Second and Eighth streets will begin this morning under the direction of Fire Chief Thomas R. Murphy. Volunteers from the fire department will visit every house, inspect sanitary conditions and order precautions to be taken. Lodging houses will be under particular investigation, and where men are found sick, reports will be sent to influenza headquarters of the Red Cross and the patient isolated.

Landlords and owners of property in all parts of the city are asked by the Board of Health to investigate their premises and correct any unsanitary conditions that may be found.

CASES TO BE ISOLATED

Plans are now under way to establish emergency hospitals in various parts of the city where convalescent cases may be taken and isolated. President Jesse W. Lienthal, of the United Railroads, has offered the use of some of the car barns which can be equipped for the purpose. Other hospitals will be established under canvas where convalescing cases may have fresh air. If it becomes necessary, it was said, hospital units will be established in the schools.

Red Cross officials criticized the drug stores yesterday for keeping Sunday hours. Considerable difficulty was experienced during the afternoon in getting prescriptions filled. Doctors and nurses were forced to apply at Red Cross headquarters to get necessary drugs and medicines.

VACCINE AVAILABLE

A sufficient supply of influenza vaccine was available yesterday to meet demands of doctors and hospitals. By tomorrow, it was said by Board of Health officials, the supply will be increased. While this vaccine has been proved by Eastern experience to be effective, it is not 100 per cent efficient. The population of the city will be inoculated free of charge. The vaccine will be supplied to all physicians who apply for it, and stations will be established in various parts of the city, where treatments may be taken.

Every hospital in the city was crowded to capacity yesterday and the problem now before the Health Department, according to Dr. Hassler, is to provide emergency facilities.

Both at the headquarters of the Board of Health and at the Red Cross the opinion was expressed yesterday that the crisis of the epidemic had passed. "If everybody will wear their masks and take the ordinary precautions," said Dr. Margaret Van Praag of the United States Health Service, who has offered her services to the city, "we can soon gain control of the situation."