

# HOSPITALS IN OPEN AIR TO FIGHT EPIDEMIC

## State Health Board Officers Urge Treatment Found Successful With "Flu" in Eastern Cities

## Figures Given to Indicate Quick Results From Better Ventila- tion; State Funds Asked For

While it has long been recognized that fresh air in abundance is an essential part of the successful treatment of respiratory infections, it has but recently been shown that fresh air is of vital importance in the management of the influenza pneumonia, according to a statement issued yesterday by Dr. W. H. Kellogg, secretary of the State Board of Health.

Immediately upon receipt of telegraphic reports from New England indicating the importance of open air treatment, and the urgent calls for aid from stricken communities, Dr. Kellogg organized all available physicians, sanitarians and public health nurses of the Health Department into a "flying division," the members of which were dispatched to all parts of the State with instructions to aid in the organization of the local communities, report on the urgent need for physicians and nurses, furnish instruction in the management of the epidemic and educate people in measures of personal hygiene for the avoidance of infection.

### OPEN AIR HOSPITALS.

Plans for the construction of temporary open air hospitals, prepared by the State Engineering Department at the request of the Board of Health, are being carried by this "flying division" to all parts of the State.

The State Board of Control, after consulting with Dr. George E. Ebright, president of the State Board of Health, has promised every aid in financing the construction of these hospitals wherever local needs are serious.

Dr. Ebright expressed the opinion that the open-air treatment of influenza pneumonia cases is of such great value that all local communities should be made to realize that they are committing a crime when they fit up empty school buildings or store rooms for hospital purposes.

### QUARANTINE URGED.

Dr. Ebright also believes that conservation of the available supply of doctors and nurses, the benefit to the patient from better treatment and the benefit to the community in the removal of these very contagious cases from contact with their friends and relatives, warrants the most radical action on the part of the State for the purpose of popularizing this mode of treatment. He advocates the rapid construction of these hospitals, at State expense, as being a measure for the general public good, the expenditure of money for which is abundantly justified.

The plans for the erection of shack hospitals, prepared by the State Board of Health are similar in principle to the open air shacks long used by tuberculate patients. They are so arranged that patients may receive outside air from all sides and allow the removal of the cold out of doors to the extent when available.

It is proposed to build these in units of twenty beds each, and locate them in communities which most need them. Each is a complete hospital unit with facilities for the care of the patients. They are constructed in substance like two beds in each cubicle, but a number of more serious infections.

### USED IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The experiments carried on in Massachusetts, which was the first State to be troubled by the acute epidemic of influenza as it is commonly known from European countries, has thus been aided by the State Board of Health in the more advanced of California communities.

Within the past week 40 patients in the State which had reports of the epidemic had been sent and several more have been admitted, under the direction of the State Board of Health, to the open air hospitals which are now being constructed at various places. The patients are kept out in tents and the system works well and more than 1000 patients in the field.

During the epidemic which broke out in the State in the month of January, 1918, the State Board of Health, in cooperation with the State Board of Control, has been successful in the