

1,000 NEW CASES OF INFLUENZA HERE

Health Chief Urges Druggists to Sell Whisky for Use in Fighting Diseases.

TO ASK FUND OF \$80,000

Death Rate Lower Than in 1917, Last Normal Year— 15,000 Hospital Beds Ready.

Health Commissioner Royal S. Copeland announced last night that physicians reported 671 cases of influenza for twenty-four hours to 10 o'clock yesterday morning, an increase of 209 over the previous day. The reports accumulated rapidly during the day, and at 6 o'clock last night Dr. Copeland estimated the total number of influenza cases for the day at approximately 1,000, an increase of about 538 cases, and more than double the number reported on Wednesday. The exact figures will not be available until this morning.

In four days the number of cases of influenza reported daily have jumped from 41 last Monday to 1,000 yesterday.

Dr. Copeland will appear before the Board of Estimate today, pursuant to a request by the Board of Health at a meeting yesterday, and ask for an emergency appropriation of \$80,000 to combat influenza and pneumonia. The money will be spent to engage additional physicians and nurses.

"The money is to be requested, not because we are in the midst of an epidemic, but in order to prevent a possible epidemic," he explained.

251 Deaths Since Monday.

The total number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia reported to the Health Department since Monday was 251. Of these 45 were from influenza and 206 from pneumonia. There were 1,643 influenza and 665 pneumonia cases reported since Monday.

Here are figures for the last four days:

NEW CASES.

	Influenza.	Pneumonia.
Monday	41	116
Tuesday	140	129
Wednesday	462	230
Thursday	1,000	190
Total	1,643	665

DEATHS.

Monday	7	86
Tuesday	12	67
Wednesday	11	48
Thursday	15	55
Total	45	206

Speaking of the influenza situation, Dr. Copeland said that if the number of cases in New York equaled the number reported in Chicago, in proportion to the population, this city would have from 7,500 to 9,000 influenza cases. In the height of the epidemic last year New York's figures never went above 6,000 daily, he added.

Asks Druggists to Sell Whisky.

The Health Commissioner made an appeal yesterday to druggists to apply for permits to the Internal Revenue Commissioner for the handling of whisky on physicians' prescriptions in connection with the prevalence of influenza and pneumonia. He said he took this step because of the strong belief held by many reputable physicians that whisky is an important drug in certain cases and should be made available.

In response to his request, the Commissioner said, a representative of the Liggett drug stores notified him that although no whisky was sold in the stores, arrangements would be made to handle it in seven of the chain stores located at central points, at least for the period covering the prevalence of the influenza.

Dr. Copeland also communicated with J. J. Quigley, supervising prohibition enforcement agent in this district, and was advised of the details connected with the release of whisky to patients on prescription of a physician. Regarding reports that some druggists in Brooklyn were charging \$5 and \$6 a pint for whisky to be used for medicinal purposes, Mr. Quigley said there was no law to prevent a druggist from charging as much for the liquor as he saw fit, as long as customers were willing to pay the prices charged. He said the law made no reference to prices

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in connection with the sale of whisky by druggists.

To Stop Profiteering.

United States Attorney Leroy W. Ross of Brooklyn said he would investigate allegations of profiteering by druggists at once and would put an end to it as quickly as possible. He was unable to say whether a druggist could be proceeded against on a charge of violating the Lever Act and promised to look into it.

In spite of the prevalence of pneumonia and influenza, the death rate from the diseases does not appear to be as high at the present time as the death rate from the same causes in 1917; the last normal year, Commissioner Copeland pointed out. The Health Department continues to be of the opinion that the type of disease this year is much milder than that of 1918, and that secondary pneumonia develops with far less frequency.

Mendel Zagat, Secretary of the Bronx County Pharmaceutical Association, reported yesterday that from 10 to 12 per cent. of the 3,700 druggists of the city have applied for permits to dispense liquor. He suggested the establishment by the Government of distributing stations where whisky might be dispensed to fight influenza. This suggestion received the approval of Dr. Copeland.

It is understood that the officials have no discretion in the elimination of the various legal steps necessary to procure liquor for medicinal purposes, even in the most urgent cases. In some quarters it was felt that additional legislation would be necessary but Mr. Zagat said a ruling from the Internal Revenue Commissioner could cut all the red tape in the situation.

15,000 Beds Ready in Hospitals.

All preparations have been made in private and public hospitals to handle cases of influenza and pneumonia, according to Commissioner Copeland. He said he believed 15,000 beds were available for sufferers. This includes 5,000 at the Pelham Bay Naval Training Station. The Health Commissioner met members of the Ambulance Board yesterday and was informed that a large number of ambulances were available.

Offers of aid have reached the Health Department from several sources. Bailey B. Burritt, general director of the New York Association For Improving the Condition of the Poor, offered the services of the organization's staff of thirty trained nurses and about as many more visiting nurses on duty in Manhattan and the Bronx. The co-operation of the Henry Street Settlement has been offered by Lillian Wald, its directing head.

Nurses are still needed. The Health Department desires the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all nurses available for duty on call.

There are 175 influenza patients at Bellevue Hospital. The patients include four children of the Kuruca family of 202 First Avenue. They were removed to the hospital yesterday.

Benjamin Rothenberg, 25, a driver, of 328 East Seventy-eighth Street, and his sister Fannie, 31, died in Bellevue yesterday of influenza within a few hours

of each other. They were taken to the institution on Monday.

Thomas Gares, 28, a driver, of 211 East 111th Street, was taken to Bellevue shortly after a child was born to his wife. When the hospital authorities learned of the condition of the household they took the woman and baby under their care.

Mrs. Rose Almosino, 30, of 543 East Twelfth Street, and her two children, Frieda, 8, and Mollie, 6, also were taken to Bellevue Hospital yesterday suffering influenza.