

Eastern Medical Leaders Expect Recoil of Spanish Influenza Epidemic In Few Years

Among the medical men of the life insurance companies the question that is absorbing most of the attention is the possibility of a recurrence of the influenza epidemic. As a class medical men are very conservative, not given to speculation, and will not make any forecast if they feel there is any possibility of their opinions finding their way into print. However, once in a while there is to be found a medical director who has been peering into the future and formed some interesting conclusions. While any prognostication about the possibility of influenza revisiting this country is more or less pure speculation, the opinions held and conclusions reached by those who have gone into this question, are illuminating.

Far-Reaching in Effect

One of the medical men in the east who has given some study to this question says that a scourge that caused the death of about 400,000 is so far-reaching in its effects that it will most certainly make itself manifest again within the next few years. "The recent epidemic of influenza," he said, "may be likened to a great forest fire. It sweeps the country, causing the complete destruction of everything in its path, but does not follow any prescribed course. As a rule, only the fireproof structure escapes the great conflagration, but because of the fact that it does not run along a prescribed course some frame structures escape. After the first great blaze has died down we may expect a back fire. This back fire which in the case of influenza will be in the nature of a mild recurrence will strike down those structures which are susceptible but which were not touched during the first fire. In other words, hundreds of people escaped the influenza during the recent epidemic, not because they were immune but simply because the disease did not strike them. Had they contracted it they would have succumbed."

Took Three Years Before

"In the epidemic of a quarter of a century ago the disease struck down those at older ages and comparatively speaking the insurance had been in force a greater length of time, larger reserves had been accumulated, and hence the net loss to the companies was not so great. In spite of this it took three years for the mortality to become normal. The recent epidemic was more severe in every way and it is only reasonable to say that we must be prepared to feel its after effects for several years to come."

Wholly aside from whether or not there is to be another outbreak of influenza is the question of the effects of the disease upon the mortality for the next three or four years. An increasing number of the medical men are now willing to admit that the influenza has been a vital factor in developing latent cases of tuberculosis. Influenza has an irritating effect upon the lungs. Experiments have shown that the disease often attacks a man having a very mild case of tuberculosis, that probably would in the ordinary course of events not develop seriously for several years. The attack of influenza has the effect of accelerating the progress of the disease and often leaves the patient in a very serious condition.

Enlarges Heart

The next serious result of influenza is its effect upon the heart. It seems that the influenza poison attacks the heart, having the effect of softening the muscular fiber of that organ. A number of autopsies have shown the muscular fiber to be very soft as a result of the effects of the influenza. Ordinarily the heart muscle is hard and resistant. In order to offset the effects of influenza the heart during the course of the disease builds more properly. In other words, the heart becomes enlarged and this often leaves a permanent dilation.

In many instances influenza results in a predilection of the kidneys as shown by the presence of albumen and casts during the illness. Medical men point out that many of these after effects do not become immediately manifest. The influenza simply leaves the patient in a rather weakened state but the serious effects of the disease do not become at once apparent.

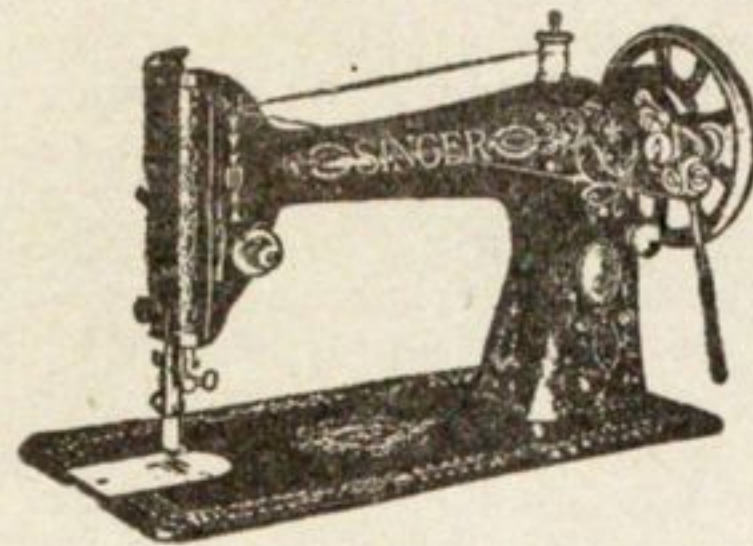
Safeguarding Companies

Life insurance medical men are united in the opinion that the general health conditions of the country will be below normal of at least the next five years. This is the actual conviction of medical men, for one company after another is gradually establishing more rigid medical requirements. There are few companies which have no waiting period for applicants who have had influenza or pneumonia. This has become common practice. Now the companies are going a step further and putting rules into effect which will operate to further safeguard the companies from a medical standpoint. As thorough going as present life insurance examinations are, medical men recognize the fact that disease and weakness of the kind superinduced by influenza lurk deep and cannot often be detected on the surface. As a consequence the companies are attempting to safeguard themselves by selecting business with the utmost care, from a medical standpoint.

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NEBRASKA AUTO TAX GIVES BIG ADVANTAGE TO AIR-COOLED CARS

Nebraska has just been added to the list of states which have given official recognition to the part scientific light weight plays in correct automobile manufacture, according to notification received by the Franklin Automobile company of Syracuse, New York.

Following, by a few weeks only, similar action taken by Canada and Wyoming, the decision of the 1919 legislature at Lincoln, Nebraska, to tax automobiles entirely on the weight, again demonstrates the growing tendency to take advantage of a simple scientific principle.

Nebraska's drastic change in its motor vehicle laws is already being worked out practically by the registering of all automobiles according to actual weight. Enforcement of the law has been delegated to the state board of irrigation, drainage and highways.

This decision follows one of the big engineering lessons of war experience; that it is possible to build light weight cars and maintain a higher quality of performance and reliability, lighter weight coming from the elimination of the many unnecessary parts used in the water-cooling system.

The decision of the Nebraska legislators gives the scientific light weight car the recognition due because of its greater utility, and admits that the lighter vehicle is entitled to lower tax rate because the wear on highway is so much less and consumption of natural resources, like gasoline and tires, is also at a minimum.

Little-Used Term

The word Saracen was applied in the middle ages to Turks, Arabs, Moors and other Mohammedans in western Asia and northern Africa. The same kind of people live now, but the word is seldom used except in romance, poetry and history.

Too Idealistic

"Did your friend use crude oil on her furniture as I advised?"
"No; objected to anything which was not refined."

IMMORTAL POEMS

Some immortal poems are ten years in the writing, like Gray's "Elegy," but most patriotic lyrics are not. Randall hearing in his New Orleans newspaper office of the clash between troops and Southerners in his native Baltimore and writing "My Maryland," Key watching the rockets, Julia Ward Howe riding through ranks of soldiers with the idea of the "Battle Hymn" already forming, typify a not uncommon rapidity of inspiration. A Canadian officer just returned gives the Toronto Globe the story of one war poem:

Close to the Yser canal is one of the irregular patches of burial ground common near the front where as early as May, 1915, there were buried British, French, Belgian and Canadian dead, beneath their crosses. The poppies began to bloom and the larks were singing when the young Helmer was laid away with the smile on his face that sudden death had not disturbed. Colonel Cosgraves says the writer was deeply moved during the burial. He went to his dugout muttering to himself like a man putting an idea into suitable words, and in twenty minutes came back with the verses . . . substantially as they were afterward printed.

The poem was "In Flanders' Fields," and Lieut.-Col. John McCrae, killed soon after by overwork, followed his comrade to the shell-churned burial ground. Part of the poem's appeal is perhaps traceable to the fact that it so soon became what it purported to be, an appeal from the grave. Its beauty and eloquence promise its permanence, but its author would be better pleased to know how it helped inspire multitudes to hold high the torch-caught from falling hand.—New York Post.

Community Sing Success

Another successful Community Sing was given Monday evening at the Greeley school. The gathering was enthusiastic and practiced for Memorial Day singing. Another meeting will be held Monday evening, May 26, at 8 o'clock, at the Greeley school. Every resident is welcome.