

sired by the government. The problem is a new one and calls for inventiveness and adaptability as well as that spirit of cooperation which the colleges have already so abundantly shown.

THE EPIDEMIC OF SPANISH INFLUENZA

IN an effort to prevent an epidemic of Spanish influenza throughout the United States, Surgeon-General Blue of the Public Health Service has provided a list of methods for the control of the disease. From a telegraphic survey made by General Blue it was discovered that the disease had broken out in six United States seaport towns, Fort Morgan, near Mobile, Ala.; Newport News, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New London and New Orleans.

Dr. Blue's bulletin of information on the disease issued primarily for physicians, contains information as follows:

Infectious Agent—The bacillus influenza of Pfeiffer.

Sources of Infection—The secretions from the nose, throat and respiratory passages of cases or of carriers.

Incubation Period—One to four days; generally two.

Mode of Transmission—By direct contact or indirect contact through the use of handkerchiefs, common towels, cups, mess gear or other objects contaminated with fresh secretions. Droplet infection plays an important part.

Period of Communicability—As long as the person harbors the causative organism in the respiratory tract.

Methods of Control—The infected individual and his environment.

Recognition of the Disease—By clinical manifestations and bacteriological findings.

Isolation—Bed isolation of infected individuals during the course of the disease. Screens between beds are to be recommended.

Immunization—Vaccines are used with only partial success.

Quarantine—None; impracticable.

Concurrent Disinfection—The discharges from the mouth, throat, nose and other respiratory passages.

Terminal Disinfection—Thorough cleansing, airing and sunning. The causative organism is short-lived outside the host.

General Measures—The attendant of the case should wear a gauze mask. During epidemics per-

sons should avoid crowded assemblages, street cars and the like. Education as regards the danger of promiscuous coughing and spitting. Patients, because of the tendency to the development of broncho-pneumonia, should be treated in well-ventilated, warm rooms.

SAN FRANCISCO JOINT COUNCIL OF NATIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

FIVE national engineering societies which have San Francisco sections on September 4 organized what is to be known as the Joint Council of the Engineering Societies of San Francisco. The societies represented are the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the American Chemical Society. Four representatives from each of these societies, making twenty men in all, form the joint council, which in turn is officered by an executive committee of five. The members of this executive committee are: C. D. Marx, chairman; E. C. Jones and E. C. Hutchinson, vice-chairman; N. A. Bowers, secretary-treasurer, and E. O. Shreve, assistant secretary.

We learn from the *Electrical World* that this organization is the outcome of several meetings of the secretaries of the five societies involved at which plans for more effective inter-society cooperation have been worked out. Some of the expected advantages are a closer touch among members of the several associations, putting the several employment bureaus together in one central office, joint meetings to discuss subjects of common interest, cooperation for the sake of economy as in mailing notices, consolidating headquarters at the Engineers' Club, etc.

In a paper on this subject read at a recent joint meeting it was pointed out that membership in a national engineering society has always carried with it a certain amount of prestige. Here in the Far West we have been content with little besides that as a return for our annual dues. In recent years local sections have taken on new importance, and it is not now uncommon to find the man who believes he can get more real benefit from his