

The Oregonian

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INDICATED PRECAUTIONS.

The uncertain, freshish course of the influenza epidemic, which makes it extremely difficult to put one's finger upon the cause, yet indicates that every precaution which gives a little more safety is worth the effort. It is shown by the variable success which has attended methods of prevention attempted in different communities. If, however, a correlation can be established between the rate of influenza in a number of localities and any other circumstances which do not appear to be mere coincidences, it would seem that a step forward had been made.

The United States Health Bureau has recently published statistics showing the mortality rate due to the epidemic in forty-six of the largest cities in the registration area of the country, and has, as to fourteen of these cities, published also the comparative details for 1917 and 1918. The latter figures are especially worthy of study because they indicate a rather constant relationship between "normal" death rate and the mortality rate as the result of epidemic. It is noted that there are no exceptions to this rule in the list of fourteen cities, and also that it would be desirable to have a larger number of cities upon which to base a conclusion. The Springfield, Rep. and the Chicago, Ill., figures are especially worthy of study because they indicate a rather constant relationship between "normal" death rate and the mortality rate as the result of epidemic. It is noted that there are no exceptions to this rule in the list of fourteen cities, and also that it would be desirable to have a larger number of cities upon which to base a conclusion.

In the list of fourteen cities, beginning with Milwaukee, which had the lowest death rate per thousand in 1917, and ending with Pittsburg, which had the highest, there are almost no exceptions to the rule that the rate of influenza is in direct proportion to the rate of pneumonia. Newark, N. J., San Francisco and Cincinnati appear out of their order in the list, but it is pointed out that there may be other reasons for this than the appearance of the disease. Newark is practically a suburb of New York, and San Francisco is a seaport which presents unusual opportunities for spread of plague. These facts might account for the unusual proportionate influenza rate. Cincinnati, on the other hand, which appears to have had fewer cases than its position in the list would indicate, did not begin to suffer until rather late in the year, and the figures there may be misleading because incomplete. But there seems to be some relation between those conditions which upon the whole have made for a healthful city and those which have contributed to the spread of the new plague. This has been said, in at least worthy of more detailed inquiry.

The present epidemic has proved, if it has proved anything, the futility of generalizations from these times in the progress which is made in the long run if data are perfected by extending the "registration area" and taking additional factors into account. The theory that "septic throats," due to defective municipal sanitation, are related to the occurrence of influenza in influenza cases may not be accepted without reserve, and yet it will have been noted that heavy rains in Portland, which operate to cleanse the streets and also the air, have been followed by a subsidence of the death rate. It is true that other measures have been adopted, and we shall not give the rain all the credit; but perhaps it has helped. It is not a new thing, the idea of thorough washing of everything as a preventive of sickness of various kinds.

This would point also to the advisability of cleanliness in every form, not only of streets and alleys, and house-tops and cellars, but also of the person and the things around him. It will be admitted that the cleanliness is worth the cost of keeping it clean for many reasons; if we add to this even a gambler's chance that it also reduces the influenza death rate, there is sufficient reason why such measures ought not to be ignored. The face mask is only part of the scheme. Physicians have all along preached the advisability of using antiseptic gargles and mouth washes. The hands could be kept more than commonly clean. Frequent abutions are indicated. As to the city itself, when rain does not favor us, it will be well to wash the streets a little oftener. The thing is to keep the city as clean as possible, and to keep the people clean. It is not a new thing, the idea of thorough washing of everything as a preventive of sickness of various kinds.

Additional of the word "Victory" to the designation of the next liberty loan will serve the purpose of reminding buyers that when they buy the new victory could not have been won, but they must not overlook the fact that the fruits of victory cannot be enjoyed unless there is orderly reconstruction. The reconstruction in these times is an expensive process, and we are beginning to find out. It is so important, however, that it shall be completed that the duty of the individual to subscribe to the best of his ability is not less than it was when the war was at its height. Uncertainties

of the future, moreover, should give greater incentive to thrift, and the buyer of a liberty bond has absolute security, with a rate of interest high in proportion to that security. It would be a fine thing if the bonds and notes were as widely distributed as those of war.

CONSERVED FOR ETERNITY.

Alaska has called on Congress for funds to fight influenza, and an appropriation of \$100,000 is proposed by the House. The bill is drawn from settlement that there are fewer settlers to tax. The bill gave rise to these remarks in the Senate:

Mr. Weeks—There are less than half the number of inhabitants here (Alaska) than there were two years ago. Mr. Smith, of Arizona—The great bulk of the population of Alaska is made up of transient laborers. It is being kept for posterity. Mr. Thomas—It is being kept for posterity. A few years ago we were told that Alaska was a land of vast wealth and that hosts of greedy fellows were waiting to grab a piece of the country. But the rangers and inspectors would get in without a passport, and it made strict rules to govern mining of coal. Strictly half of the greedy men in Alaska came away, and those who remained stayed away. They have lost their appetites for Alaskan wealth. We could make good use of Alaska's wealth now. We need its coal, copper, gold, fish; even the meat of its musk ox and reindeer begin to look good to us. But the rangers and inspectors would get in without a passport, and it made strict rules to govern mining of coal. Strictly half of the greedy men in Alaska came away, and those who remained stayed away. They have lost their appetites for Alaskan wealth. We could make good use of Alaska's wealth now. We need its coal, copper, gold, fish; even the meat of its musk ox and reindeer begin to look good to us. But the rangers and inspectors would get in without a passport, and it made strict rules to govern mining of coal.

WORK FOR STATE COMMISSION.

The activity of the public service commissions of several states in resisting the arbitrary attempts of Postmaster-General Burleson to raise local telephone rates without complying with state law proves that they fill a useful place just when there is much to be done. The Oregon Public Service Commission is now engaged in resisting the arbitrary attempts of Postmaster-General Burleson to raise local telephone rates without complying with state law. The Oregon Public Service Commission is now engaged in resisting the arbitrary attempts of Postmaster-General Burleson to raise local telephone rates without complying with state law. The Oregon Public Service Commission is now engaged in resisting the arbitrary attempts of Postmaster-General Burleson to raise local telephone rates without complying with state law.

THE POSSIBLE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The league of peace scheme at Paris is still in embryo, but the tendency seems to be toward a league of the nations that are already leagued against Germany, in which the great powers of the world are to be included over the small nations. These nations would be pledged to act in concert for the principles for which they have contended, but would retain their freedom of action save making way for maintenance of those principles. The league would be a majority vote to commit the United States to war and thereby to abrogate the authority of Congress as all opportunity for education ought to be.

KEEP THE HOME FIRES OF INDUSTRY BURNING.

The plan offered by P. C. Knapp for improvement of industrial workers and of men released from war industry is well worth the favorable consideration of every patriotic citizen of Oregon. It is, in short, a plan to unite our efforts and our money to keep the fires of industry burning brightly. It is well worth the favorable consideration of every patriotic citizen of Oregon. It is, in short, a plan to unite our efforts and our money to keep the fires of industry burning brightly.

The Spartans have as deep a hatred for the ballot box as Bismarck had, and for the same reason; they want minority rule. The proposal to compel everybody to vote can be amended to send a man with a taxi and two-dollar bill after the voter. Local Bolsheviki who assist they will "capture" the city at the next election are educating the people in time. Marconi's messages may reach the stars a few years hence, but who will translate them into star language? Naturally, some think \$100,000 too much for relief of the soldiers. Also, naturally, some pare the cheese.

Much a suicide cares about his burial. If he did he would stay alive and fight out his troubles. Kings, like common people, lose their sons by death, and the affliction is as great. Bring home all the gifts, Mr. Wilson. There must be swap shops in Washington. How is the man out of a job to subscribe to the fifth liberty loan?

United States, Brazil and other nations of the new world in line with the law-abiding nations of the old world, and they would be vastly stronger than at the outbreak of the late war. They would not come straight into this field one at a time, but would spring forward together to arrest the lawbreaker. They might rely on a concert of purpose for concert of action without any formal agreement.

Elimination of the war world army and navy under the direction of a league council, which would, in effect, be a world government, would dispose of the most serious objections to the league which have been raised in America. We should surrender no part of our sovereignty. Each of the principal nations of the league would undertake the duty of policing the part of the world nearest to its own shores, and under that arrangement the American hemisphere would naturally fall to the United States. This country would be solely responsible for maintaining the Monroe doctrine, and would not come straight into this field one at a time, but would spring forward together to arrest the lawbreaker.

The league will be stronger and more enduring through omission of the Russian Bolsheviks. We should rejoice if the highest ideals of the sanguine optimists could be realized, but they cannot, and any attempt to realize them now would but wreck the whole scheme. If the league is to be a success, it must be based on the fact that the world as it is, its work may not only endure but develop into something which will in time realize those ideals. As yet the nations are only half weaned from the idea of force, and the state of fusion and others hate each cordially. They are not the material out of which a republic of the world can be formed.

THE MAN FROM MARS.

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FRENCH INTERESTS IN THE FAR EAST.

The effect upon the plans of the Zionists for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine of the announcement of the French Foreign Minister, M. Pichon, that France's rights in Syria, Palestine and Lebanon were "incontestable" is believed to have been partly cleared up by the fuller text of the Foreign Minister's speech. By this it is made to appear that he said that, although the subject was one with which the conference might deal, the French government considered that her rights were fully established by agreement with Great Britain.

THE GERMAN SOLDIERS.

The German soldiers, who the Yankee mind has been so long in the habit of regarding as the most degraded of the human race, are now being treated as the most degraded of the human race. The German soldiers, who the Yankee mind has been so long in the habit of regarding as the most degraded of the human race, are now being treated as the most degraded of the human race.

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Your Boy in France.

What He Is Doing and Thinking About, as Gleaned From the Stars and Stripes, Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

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