

which will attend to their enrollment and assignment to duty. Physicians who are ready to undertake service in the United States Public Health Service should communicate directly with the bureau representative in their respective States. Address United States Public Health officer in charge, care of State board of health.

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SURE CURES FOR INFLUENZA

The present epidemic has given rise to the publication of numerous "sure cures" and methods more or less plausible to the lay mind. The advocates of some of these have addressed long communications to Secretary McAdoo, to Surg. Gen. Blue, to the War Department, or other Government agencies. Hundreds of them have written to editors of newspapers. In general the suggestions fall into several groups.

First comes the individual who has a specific remedy, the formula of which he is ready to give to the world for a price. One such writer reminds the Surgeon General of the million dollars that Congress has appropriated for combating influenza, and offers to sell his secret for "a reasonable sum."

Next comes the person with the pseudoscientific treatment, sometimes "isotonic sea water," sometimes "ozono therapy," and again "harmonic vibrations." One such writer, well known to the New York health authorities, addressed the Surgeon General from his present residence, the State Hospital for the Insane.

Still another type is the individual who gives freely of his advice so that humanity may be spared from the pestilence. Such a one writes: "Sprinkle a little sulphur in each shoe every morning; this was given to the people of Atlanta by a doctor of forty-odd years of practice. He also used it when waiting on yellow fever years ago." Another advises people to add "10 cents worth of asafetida to half a pint of brandy, and give a teaspoonful every two or three hours. I gave my baby one-fourth teaspoonful with good results."

One writer, who says he lives "at the jumping off place in western California," has perfected a patent medicine which will "knock out germs and remove the real cause of sickness. I got it by combining wonderful essential oils that will penetrate the hardest wood that grows the compound while it is not a poison it will penetrate any and all kinds of germs or insects and dry or burn it up in a minute." This wonderful remedy [name deleted by censor] sells for \$1 per bottle.

One writer frankly advises the use of a patent medicine formerly widely advertised as a cure for consumption, but now compelled by the Government to be labeled simply a remedy for coughs and colds.

A physician writing from Missouri offers "to furnish the remedy for the nominal price of \$4.50 for each patient, or will take a surgeon major's commission and pay," and give his services to the Army medical department. He has tested his remedy "on the most Desperate caises."

A patriot advises the use of a patent medicine made in Detroit. Used in a case recently, it was observed "that within 30 minutes after applying the medicine the patient was relieved of all pain in the lungs and immediately was well and about."

From Portsmouth, Va., comes a letter which calls attention to the real cause of the epidemic—namely, "Descreation of God's Sabbath which he said Keep Holy." Then follow a number of quotations from the Bible to support the writer's contention that the epidemic was sent by the Almighty to punish the world for its sinfulness.

Comes also the mental scientist who regards the epidemic as engendered by



fear. "This sort of infectious suggestion is a crime against the public, is treason to our Government, and the traitors responsible for it shall not be allowed to go unpunished."

Recalling the statement that the epidemic had probably originated in the Orient, one writer advises an examination of all pepper and tobacco throughout the country. She neglects to say what to look for in such examinations.

The food faddist is not missing from those who have sure cures. One advises the elimination of white bread, rice, coffee, and tea, and the use of spring water and molasses in place of sugar.

The prescription for alcohol and chloroform to be inhaled from cotton comes from several sources, with slight variations. This is true also of the receipt for hot lemonade without sugar.

The wearing of amulets is also advocated. One writer prefers asafetida tied in a piece of gauze and worn by a string around the neck. Another recommends camphor used in the same way; still another uses a secret compound which he desires to patent. For a receipt consisting of water, salt, and coal oil, and called "a sure cure for influenza," a woman, writing from Missouri, states that she will be thankful for the reward which she understands has been offered by Government.

The list might be continued, but the suggestions are largely variations and repetitions of what has already been cited.

The United States Public Health Service urges the public to remember that there is as yet no specific cure for influenza, and that many of the alleged "cures" and remedies now being recommended by neighbors, nostrum vendors, and others do more harm than good. The chief reliance must be on fresh air, nutritious food, plenty of water, cheerful surroundings, and good nursing. If any specific like a vaccine or serum is found to have value the Public Health Service will give the matter wide publicity.



Seal of the U.S. Public Health Service designed by John M. Woodworth in 1871

USE
THE HANDKERCHIEF
AND DO
YOUR
BIT TO
PROTECT
ME!

THE
PUBLIC



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

COLDS, INFLUENZA, PNEUMONIA, AND
TUBERCULOSIS ARE SPREAD THIS WAY



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DROPLET INFECTION EXPLAINED IN PICTURES

The Bureau of the Public Health Service, Treasury Department, has just issued a striking poster, drawn by Berryman, the well-known Washington cartoonist. This shows at a glance and in language understood by everybody just how influenza and other respiratory diseases may be guarded against. The poster exemplifies the modern method of health education. Not so many years ago, under similar circumstances, the health authorities would have issued an official, dry, but scientifically accurate, bulletin teaching the role of droplet infection in the spread of respiratory diseases. The only ones who would have understood the bulletin would have been those who already knew all about the subject; the man in the street, the plain citizen, and the many millions who toil for their living, would have had no time and no desire to wade through the technical phraseology.

Copies of this poster can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.

