

# WILL THE FLU RETURN?

(Authoritative Statement issued by The U. S. Public Health Service.)



PROBABLY, but by no means certain, there will be a recurrence of the influenza epidemic this year.

Indications are, that should it occur, it will not be as severe as the pandemic of the previous winter.

City officials, state and city boards of health, should be prepared in the event of a recurrence.

The fact that a previous attack brings immunity in a certain percentage of cases should allay fear on the part of those afflicted in the previous epidemic.

Influenza is spread by direct and indirect contact.

It is not yet certain that the germ has been isolated, or discovered, and as a consequence there is yet no positive, preventive, except the enforcement of rigid rules of sanitation and the avoidance of personal contact.

A close relation between the influenza pandemic and the constantly increasing pneumonia mortality rate prior to the Fall of 1918 is recognized.

It is now believed that the disease was pretty widely disseminated throughout the country before it was recognized in its epidemic state. This failure to recognize the early cases appears to have largely been due to the fact that every interest was then centered on the war.

Above are the important facts developed by the United States Public Health Service after a careful survey and investigation of the influenza pandemic of 1918-19, carried on in every State and important city, and even in foreign countries.

No one of the many experts of the Service would make a more positive forecast of the all-important question, will there be a recurrence? All agreed, however, that a recurrence was not unlikely, and in the face of the known facts, that it would be wise to be prepared, more with a view of being on the safe side than actually anticipating danger.

The following excerpts from the Government report are published for the benefit of the public and health officers in the hope that this will serve to set at rest the daily publication in the news-