

## C. F. & I. INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN

ions and advice valuable, to secure information as to means of combating the plague. Recourse was also had to any and all literature bearing on the subject to be found in both foreign and domestic medical journals.

The conclusion to be drawn from these sources of information indicated that reliance should be chiefly placed in non-intercourse between those sections of the country already visited by the epidemic and the more fortunate who had thus far escaped. In short, quarantine was to be the keynote of preparedness—not only a rigid quarantine between states, cities and localities, but between families and individuals, where the disease had once appeared.

Unfortunately, medical men and health officers throughout the country who had been intrusted with the duty of maintaining the highest possible standard of health, were at once confronted by two unsurmountable problems. On the one hand was the necessity of assembling large bodies of men in cantonments, from various and widely separated districts, and the later transportation of these men by diverse routes to the eastern sea-board. The ingenuity of the army doctors was taxed to the utmost to conserve the health of the public while this necessary mobilization was being conducted; a necessity which would brook no delay if we were to preserve those liberties which were dearer to us than even life itself. The other problem was due to the fact that public attention was too closely riveted on the conflict then raging in Europe, and being daily augmented by our own flesh and blood, to give the proper heed and attention to the warnings of that greater calamity which menaced us at home, and which time has proved was destined to take a greater toll of life than war itself. Under these adverse conditions it is not surprising that in a measure, all efforts to prevent a spread of the disease were futile.

With the epidemic once in our midst, another, and equally serious problem confronted us. Many of the best and most skilfully trained nurses had gone to the Red Cross and army hospitals; and since careful nursing, both in the home and in the hospital was one essential, if not the most essential thing leading to a speedy and complete recovery from an attack of influenza, this scarcity of properly trained nurses was keenly felt. Again, because of the same demand of the army on the medical profession, the situation became doubly embarrassing when it was discovered that the doctors remaining at home were too few to meet all the requirements of this sudden onslaught of influenza.

The medical department of The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company found itself in a position similar to that of the rest of the country. Our doctors and

our nurses, never lacking in patriotism, had early obeyed our country's call. Nevertheless, the first of October, 1918, found our medical department as a whole, and Minnequa Hospital in particular, not entirely unprepared.

It was felt from the beginning that on Minnequa Hospital would fall the chief burden of caring for our people, and later results have proven the wisdom of the contention. Physicians, nurses, dieticians, bacteriologists, pathologists, and, in fact, all the hospital employes were on duty both night and day; with no thought of demanding definite working hours; in constant danger of contracting the disease themselves; safe-guarded only by the intelligent knowledge that the disease was virulently contagious, and with a mind single to the welfare of those whose lives were intrusted in their care. This is the picture that presented itself wherever the disease was manifest, no less at the coal mines and quarries than at the steel works and the hospital.

The club buildings at the various coal camps were requisitioned for emergency hospitals, equipped with dietary kitchen, cots, beds, and all the necessary supplies for the comfort and treatment of our sick, including all dependents of employees, as well as the employees themselves.

The women of each camp, with woman's long attested capacity for self-sacrifice, volunteered to act as nurses, cooks and dieticians, thus giving material aid to simplifying the situation. The utilization of the club buildings for this purpose was made necessary because experience had demonstrated that patients with pneumonia can not be moved any material distance without grave danger.

In each camp a rigid supervision was maintained, under the authority of the state board of health, of all persons entering or leaving the camp. The value of this precaution may be measured by the comparative immunity from the disease in those camps where the rule was most stringently enforced. In the very beginning of the epidemic the chief surgeon endeavored to secure a supply of "vaccine" to be used as a preventive measure. Owing to the sudden and unprecedented demand, a sufficient quantity was at first unobtainable. Later, the Mayos of Rochester, Minn., came to our rescue with an ample supply for all requirements. Dr. W. J. Mayo is a consultant on the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company medical staff, and furnished vaccine to Minnequa Hospital as soon as his own institution had been supplied.

This vaccine was at once distributed to all the camps, to the steel works dispensary and the hospital, where all employees, members of their families, and, in fact, any person, whether connected with the Company or not, were urged to apply to