infection is near, and within a few hours—much too short a time for an incubation period—several cases appear. Very few people can give any more definite account of how, when, or from whom they caught the infection than the man-in-the-street source—a circumstance that is not usually observed in case of other contagious disorders.

In this prison epidemic none of the patients already in hospital contracted the disease, although men in various stages of influenza, to the number of twenty, passed through the wards between January 2nd and February 1st. At the same time three hospital orderlies out of four, who were moving about and taking exercise daily out of doors, were struck down at the beginning of the epidemic, and suffered rather severely.

If it be true, as held by some, that the virus is given off in the breath of the patient, we have pretty strong evidence that this virus does not live long, or show such tenacity as the germs of other infectious diseases, notably scarlet fever. Since January 21st, when the last fresh case occurred in the prison, the average weekly number of prisoners received has been about 170. Many of these have occupied cells in which infected men, beds, and bedding were for several days together. None of these cells were disinfected, nor were any special precautions taken in regard to them. It is impossible to think that all these new comers were insusceptible to contagion; and yet none of them caught the influenza.

NOTES ON AN OUTBREAK OF INFLUENZA AT KING EDWARD'S SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS.

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I AM permitted through the kindness of Dr. R. Percy Smith, Superintendent of Bethlem Royal Hospital, to give an account of an outbreak of influenza at King Edward's Schools for Girls. The school is under the superintendence of the authorities at Bethlem Hospital; it contains in all 240 girls, varying from the age of 11 to 16; of these 175 were affected, making about 73 per cent. of the total number. Two mistresses are also included in this account. Before January 17th there had been one or two cases, of which, however, no special notes were taken. On the morning of January 17th there were 4 cases, by the 20th there were 76, and by the 24th, 162; after which only a few cases appeared daily till the 29th, since which there have been no fresh ones. These girls spend a great deal of time in the open air, but only in the grounds connected with the schools, and have practically no communication with the outside world, except through the mistress and medical officers, who might, of course, have carried the infection. In almost all cases the disease was mild, and there have been no deaths amongst them.

Earliest Symptoms.—In almost every case the first symptom complained of was headache; only two were without it, and it is extremely doubtful whether these two ever had the disease at all. The headache in most cases was in the frontal region, the eyes also very often ached, and in some cases were tender to the touch. In only 14 per cent. was backache complained of, whilst 15 per cent. complained of pain in the side, in the lower costal region; and here there was always distinct tenderness, which seemed to be in the muscles. Aching in the legs was present in 16 per cent. only.

In 176 cases there was distinct watering of the eyes, the conjunctivæ being slightly injected. The face in 143 cases was extremely flushed from the first, in the other 34 cases the face was pale, and the patients were anæmic.

The temperature in most cases rose above 100° F., but the majority did not exceed 102°; in one case, however, it rose to 105°, and in only 4 cases was there shivering at the commencement of the illness. The children generally slept well, and 9 were markedly drowsy. The pulse certainly was not particularly slow, and was usually above 100; it was soft and weak.

In the 73 cases the tongue was furred, in 78 pale, flabby, and indented by the teeth, while in 7 it was red and dry, and in some of these almost strawberry-like in appearance.

In 61 cases there was vomiting, in all of which it started on the first day, and in only one case did it last longer. The action

of the bowels was generally normal, but in 21 cases there was diarrhœa, with more or less abdominal pain, and in 19 cases there was marked constipation.

In 4 cases there was epistaxis, and in 1 there was what seemed to be hæmatemesis, the vomit being largely streaked with blood, which was, however, bright red.

Cough to a slight extent was present as a later symptom in 72 cases, but in only 9 cases were there any signs of bronchitis. There have been 3 cases of pneumonia, 2 of which recovered rapidly. Sore throat was present in 5 cases only.

Rash.—Besides what appears to me to be the true rash, in 17 cases there was labial herpes. In 36 cases, or over 20 per cent., there was a distinct rash; it was papular in character, the papules being slightly larger than the darker elements in the rash of scarlet fever, and of much the same colour. The papules often contained serum, which occasionally became purulent. The skin round the papules was of a bright scarlet colour. In most cases the rash was confined to the face and neck, though it often appeared on the arms and hands as well, and in 2 cases on the shoulders and chest; it itched much, and generally after two or three days the bright colour faded, and it became scaly. In one case the rash was all over the neck, chest, legs, shoulders, and arms, and was at the time thought to be scarlet fever; but the temperature never rose above 100.4°, and the other symptoms of influenza, including pains in all the limbs, were present. There was no sore throat, and the tongue was only slightly furred. In two days the rash had almost completely gone.

A simple erythematous blush on the face was present in 9 cases. In the cases in which the rash was best marked no drugs had been given, the rash appearing as one of the earliest symptoms. In the other cases salicylate of soda, in 2½-grain doses, had been given three times a day, and only in cases in which the temperature had been high was antipyrin given, and then only in small doses of 2 grains.

In all cases the symptoms rapidly subsided, the worst symptoms, that is, pain and high temperature, being over in two days, the watering of the eyes generally lasting two days longer, and convalescence was completed in a week except in the 9 cases of bronchitis and the 3 of pneumonia. Weakness and giddiness were greatly complained of during the first day or two of convalescence.

A good many accounts of influenza have already been published, but, as yet, none of epidemics among children, and it is on that account that I think this may be interesting; it also shows that influenza affects children just as easily as, though perhaps in a lighter form than adults.

	Total.	Per. cent.
Headache	175	98.305
Backache	25	14.124
Sideache	27	15.254
Chest pain	6	3.358
Stomach pain	13	7.344
Legache	29	16.384
Armsache	2	1.130
Total pain	176	99.435
Watery eyes	170	96.000
Sick	61	34.463
Bowels normal	127	71.751
" confined	19	10.734
" diarrhœa	21	11.864
Tongue normal	19	10.734
" furred	73	41.243
" red and dry	7	3.954
" pale and flabby	78	44.067
Rash, herpes lab.	17	9.600
" erythema	9	5.085
" papular	36	20.339
Lungs, cough	72	40.676
" bronchitis	9	5.085
" pneumonia	3	1.700
Sore throat	5	2.825
Epistaxis	4	2.260
Drowsy	9	5.085
Face pale	34	19.709
" flushed	143	80.800
Shivering	4	2.260
Total	177	
Total in schools	210	
Per cent. affected	73.75	