

MISCELLANEOUS

CIRCULAR OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH,
ONTARIO RE INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

The following instructions regarding Infantile Paralysis are issued by the Provincial Board of Health:

Infantile Paralysis, also called Anterior Poliomyelitis, is a communicable disease chiefly of children between the age of two and fourteen years. Older children and adults may also be affected by the disease.

The cause is unknown. It is known, however, that the agent causing the disease is present in the secretions of the nose and mouth and in the intestinal tract from being swallowed.

The disease is epidemic in some United States cities and in at least one town in Ontario.

It is believed that Infantile Paralysis is spread from one child to another by means of the secretions of the nose and mouth by direct transfer. It is possible also that it is spread by flies which have been in contact with intestinal discharges. It may become widespread in country as well as in crowded city districts, and persons who have been in contact with cases of the disease may harbour the contagion and give it to others without contracting the disease themselves; that is they are "carriers."

- (1) Every case must be quarantined for a period of six weeks.
- (2) All children who have been in contact with a case must be quarantined and kept under observation for a period of two weeks.
- (3) Adult members of the family who are wage earners may be allowed to go about their work subject to the regulations of the Provincial Board and on the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health.
- (4) Where there is an outbreak, gatherings of children, such as picnics, picture shows, and playgrounds, should be prohibited.
- (5) The source of origin of each case should be carefully enquired into in order that proper quarantine may be maintained.
- (6) In houses where cases appear all doors and windows should be screened, the premises kept clean, and no accumulation of garbage or waste permitted.
- (7) All cases should be at once notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and by him to the Chief Officer of the Provincial Board.
- (8) Mild cases, showing slight headache, rise of temperature and vomiting persisting for a few days, with slight muscular weakness and absence of paralysis, should be quarantined. These are probably one of the chief sources of contagion.