

Probe of Polio Epidemic Opens In Billings Area

Report No Further Cases in County, City Since Wednesday

Investigation of the polio epidemic in Billings and adjoining rural areas was launched Sunday following a conference at which Lieutenant Colonel A. G. Gillian, United States senior surgeon of the bureau of public health services, said that he will visit patients under treatment at St. Vincent hospital and homes of those stricken with infantile paralysis.

During the meeting, called by Mayor H. E. Biddinger at the city hall at 10 a. m. Sunday, open ditches running through Billings, the city water plant, dairies and stockyards were located on a map for Dr. Gillian, who arrived here Sunday morning from Atlanta, Ga.

The number of cases, a total of 42, which have occurred in the county since outbreak of the epidemic and the self-imposed quarantine in force since October 7 were discussed by city and county officials and Dr. B. K. Kilbourne, state epidemiologist.

The surgeon declined to comment on the quarantine or on possible outcome of his investigation. The epidemic, however, is considered of special significance because of the sharp increase in the number of cases in a relatively small area, he said.

Dr. A. E. Strupp and Dr. E. M. Farr, city and county health officers, respectively, said that no new cases have been reported thus far. The last cases in the city were reported Wednesday, while the last which has occurred thus far in county rural areas was reported Monday.

In addition to the number which have occurred in Billings and in county areas outside the city limits, seven cases from adjoining counties and one from Sheridan, Wyo., have been brought here for treatment. There have been eight deaths thus far.

Others attending the conference, presided over by Mayor Biddinger,

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

Probe Investigates Polio Epidemic

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