

SMALLPOX DANGER CONSIDERED PAST

**Weinstein Tells Mayor Prompt
Vaccination of 6,350,000
Averted Epidemic Here**

The city's emergency program to safeguard its inhabitants against a smallpox epidemic resulted in the vaccination of 6,350,000 persons in a single month, according to a report submitted to Mayor O'Dwyer by Health Commissioner Israel Weinstein and made public yesterday. He said danger of an epidemic at this time appeared to have been dissipated.

The report, noting that all city vaccination clinics had been shut down on May 3, said 5,000,000 persons were vaccinated within two weeks of the discovery of danger of an epidemic. The Health Department went into action soon after the death of Eugene Le Bar, a Mexican merchant, who died of smallpox at Willard Parker Hospital on March 10.

The smallpox outbreak, which involved twelve cases, was under control from the start, Dr. Weinstein told the Mayor. Every case, he declared, was traced to the Le Bar incident. There were two deaths, two patients are still seriously ill and the rest are recovering.

"Those familiar with the epidemiology of smallpox consider the limiting of the outbreak to twelve cases as unprecedented," Dr. Weinstein reported. He attributed this result to the prompt vaccination of all contacts immediately after the first case was discovered.

Of the 6,350,000 persons vaccinated, Dr. Weinstein said, 1,600,000 were handled in public and private hospitals; 1,900,000 in Health Department clinics and police stations; 1,200,000 in clinics set up by industries, labor unions and other organizations; 1,000,000 by private physicians and 650,000 in schools.

Besides the regular city employees assigned to the task, 1,100 physicians, 242 clerks and 3,000 civilian volunteers took part in the vaccination campaign. Many policemen were assigned to supervise vaccination queues and the air raid warden force of the Civilian Defense Volunteer Organization was mobilized by the Police Department.

Out of an emergency appropriation of \$500,000 voted by the Board of Estimate to finance the campaign, \$461,000 was spent. This included \$315,000 for vaccine, \$110,000 for physicians and \$17,000 for clerks. All nurses were paid out of regular Health Department funds.

In making public Dr. Weinstein's report, the Mayor said:

"It would never have been possible to accomplish a task of such

magnitude if it had not been for the characteristic, whole-hearted cooperation of the American Women's Voluntary Services, the American Red Cross, members of the Civilian Defense Volunteer Organization and all civic-spirited men and women who in times of emergency demonstrate the loyalty, unselfishness and patriotism of true citizenship."

The Mayor also expressed the city's gratitude to the doctors, nurses, hospital staffs and Police Department members who helped in the vaccination campaign.

Like tribute was paid by Dr. Weinstein, who also praised the Army, Navy and United States Public Health Service for gathering all available vaccine and placing it at the city's disposal. Doctors, druggists, manufacturers of biologicals and the health officers of the state were praised by Dr. Weinstein for their cooperation. He also complimented the public for its prompt acceptance of the vaccination program.