

BULLETIN

- OF -

THE DETROIT BOARD OF HEALTH



VOL. IX

MARCH, 1917

NO. IX

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THE EPIDEMIC OF SCARLET FEVER.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever now running in Detroit is steadily growing and on March 15th the number of active cases passed the one thousand mark. When we consider that we are in the most difficult season of the year in which to fight this disease and that even in normal years it does not reach its apex till the end of April, and sometimes much later (in 1916 the apex was not reached till the end of May), it is fair to presume that unless heroic measures are taken to prevent further spread we shall soon see a much more serious situation.

That the prevalence of the disease has remained above normal in Detroit for over a year is shown by the fact that the lowest point reached during the summer of 1916 was 49 cases, as compared with a low point in 1915 of 11 cases and in 1914 of 22 cases; this in spite of the fact that the summer of 1916 was an unusually favorable one in which to stamp out Scarlet Fever, being exceedingly hot and composed of almost continuous sunshine for months. And an examination of the accompanying chart will show that instead of remaining on a low level in 1916 for some time, as is usual, it almost at once began to

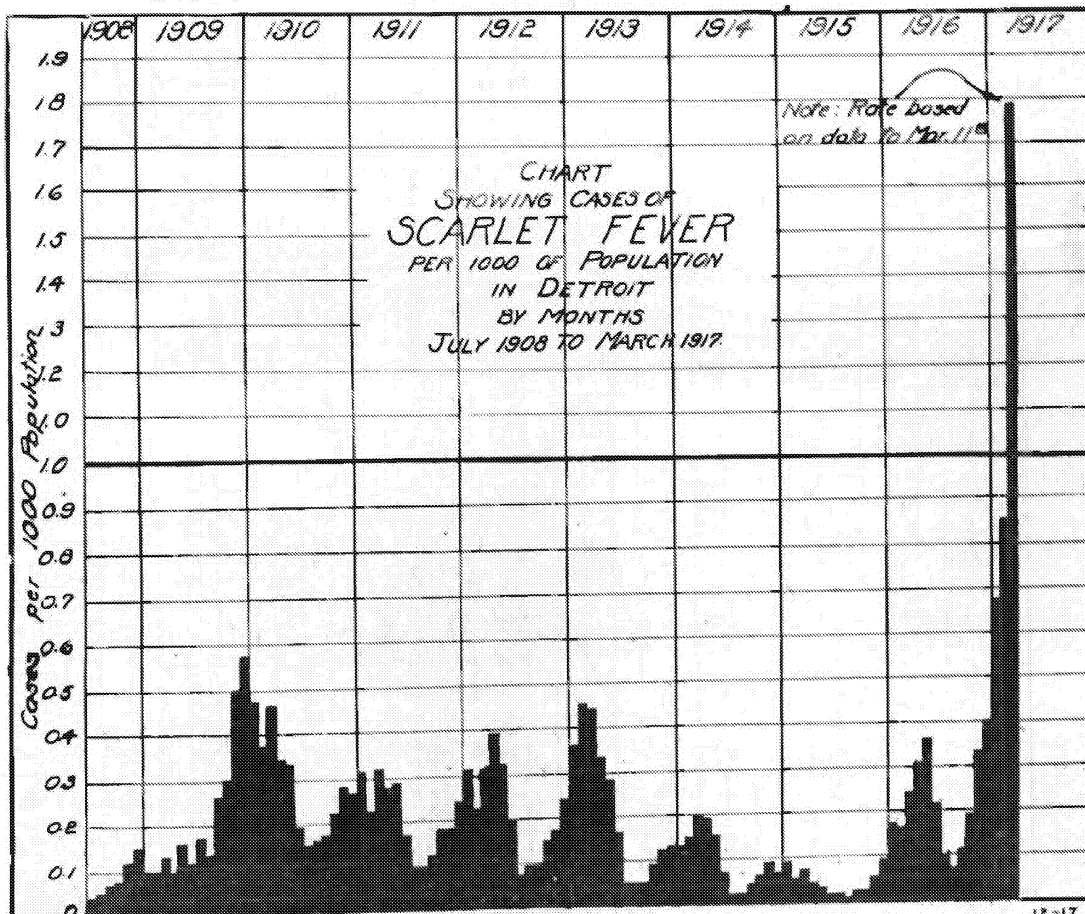


Chart No. 1