

# Cholera and smallpox health 'scares' of past

(Continued from page 1)

the female student back to her Bloomington lodgings would have been unthinkable.

**THE SOLUTION** worked out by Bryan and city officials was to board the young woman with a man who had already had smallpox. The fee charged was \$200 per week with the university and city each paying half the cost. As it turned out, she did not get smallpox, but the incident pointed up the potential danger to town and gown when there was an epidemic scare.

In time, the trustees of the university bought a house on South Henderson Street. It sat on five acres and was an eighth of a mile from the nearest house. The cost of the property was \$2,700. Rent-free resident managers, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Pryor, received a \$50 per year fuel allowance, \$30 per week room and board for the first patient and \$10 for each additional one.

The nickname given to the isolation place for ailing students was enough to cause a public relations person to shudder. It was called the "Pest House." Though the university was obliged to foot the bill for the patients, the cost was preferable to the alternative.

**WORLD WAR I** history buffs will remember that a severe flu epidemic swept across the United States. In the fall

of 1918, IU had a record enrollment of 1,935, 60 percent of whom were enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps.

Spanish influenza arrived in Bloomington amid alarming newspaper accounts of the rising death rate, especially in military camps. The *Indiana Daily Student* noted that there was an unusual number of colds on campus and advised students to report to Maxwell for shots.

As an ever increasing number of students had to be quarantined in an emergency ward set up in the old Assembly Hall. On Oct. 10 the notice which appeared over the signature of Bryan, said in part:

"By order of the State Board of Health, the university is closed until Oct. 20th . . . S.A.T.C. men will remain in barracks under the orders of Captain Dalton. The girls' dormitories will be closed. All students who are not in the S.A.T.C. living in the State are advised to go home. Preferably by automobile . . . Spanish influenza is a crowd disease. Avoid congregating for any purpose either indoors or outdoors."

**OF THE REMAINING** students on campus, 350 contracted the flu and were housed in the special ward. Three of the students died, but statistically speaking, the number was less than one-fourth the national average for that epidemic.