

Influenza epidemic closed down town in 1918

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cago. According to the health department in that area, it took only 20 days for the flu to spread from the New York area to the Midwest.

And the *Evening World* continued to report local deaths. On Dec. 16, there were: the 13-year-old daughter of Mrs. Edward May, South Union; a 2-month-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hatton, Cottage Grove Avenue (the mother later died, too); and a twin child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woods, West Second Street.

Professor O.H. Williams, an employee of the State Board of Educa-

tion, while home in Bloomington for the weekend, told a newspaper reporter that half of the schools in Indiana were closed.

Local officials were not immune to the flu. The *Evening World's* readers were informed on Dec. 18 that Monroe County Prosecutor Q. Austin East and his wife were both battling the disease. Another official, Superintendent of Police James G. Browning was also sick.

The Dec. 19 edition of the newspaper brought more bad news. Allen J. East, a 31-year-old mail carrier, died after only 10 days of illness at his home on North College Avenue, and the disease had claimed the life of Dorcas Hafney, age 18, who was

taking nurse's training at the Soldiers' Home Hospital at Lafayette.

Other December flu deaths were Mrs. Ida Treadway, 39 years old, Harrodsburg; Lee Chambers, age 15, nine miles south of Bloomington; Bert Shields, Unionville; Elmer Chambers and the 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore at Harrodsburg; Stella Marie, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, West Second Street; and the 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hudlin.

By the end of December city officials began decided to lift the ban on public gatherings and announced that the schools would reopen in January.