

# State Warns of Mystery Disease

The State Health Department yesterday alerted physicians throughout New York to possible outbreaks of an unnamed, polio-like illness which hits school children. Both Nassau and Suffolk health commissioners, however, reported that no cases of the disease have shown up on Long Island as yet.

The department reported a number of small outbreaks of the illness from areas throughout the state. Most of the outbreaks were in upstate areas, with a few cases reported in Westchester County.

Occurrence is frequent in areas where there has been no paralytic polio this year, the department said. While the disease has many symptoms of polio and is frequently mistaken for it, it appears to be limited to two to five days duration, with good recovery and no after effects.

The illness, said the health department, usually has an acute onset with fever ranging from 100 to 103 degrees, general discomfort and severe and persistent headaches.

The predominate symptoms include moderate sore throat, mild stiff neck, nausea or vomiting and some abdominal cramps or chest pain. The infection usually does not respond to the administration of antibiotics, the department added.

Local physicians were urged by the department to report any cases of the disease they observe to the health officers. In this way, a spokesman said, it hopes to "get some better idea as to the actual extent of the problem, and be in a better position to decide what further studies are indicated."

Nassau Health Commissioner Dr. Earle G. Brown said that "we have no knowledge of any cases of the disease in Nassau County. No physicians have reported any-

thing like it and we are in constant touch with them."

Brown added that he had received the state alert during the day and will take all steps necessary to make sure that physicians are advised of it.

Suffolk Health Commissioner Dr. Philip J. Rafle, also said that no cases of the disease have been reported in his county.

"But in looking back over the past Summer," he added, "we had one outbreak that might resemble what the state department was referring to. Approximately 70 children of all ages became ill for two or three days at Camp Wauwepex at Wading River. Some of the children had some of the symptoms. We are looking into it further."