

**M**AY I be permitted to state the position taken by St. Andrew's Church during the present epidemic of influenza? It may possibly be an encouragement to others.

This church ministers to large numbers of the students. When the order was given that the churches should be closed the rector protested to the mayor of the borough, that it was an anti-Christian order and showed flagrant lack of faith in God. He then let it be known that there would be intercessional open-air service on the rectory porch if the weather was fair, otherwise in the church. The rectory porch is very large, being 12 by 30 feet. About forty of the students came early and fitted this up as a chapel. The next Sunday we had the regular services in the church and will continue to do so.

This seems to be the result of our services: All the townspeople and students know that the Church believes in the power of intercessory prayer. The students and members of the Church not only prayed for a cessation of the plague, but went out and gave themselves without limit to aid the sick. There were over a thousand cases of illness; only nine persons died (probably the smallest percentage of any place). None of the Churchmen who cared for the sick were made ill, no member of the Church died. We had to depend upon lay help for nursing, and were terribly short of doctors. Students who come from the various churches in the state believe that it was the power of their prayer that helped to stay the epidemic. We felt that it was a sin to refuse the assembling of ourselves together.

Have the various boards of health even a constitutional right to close the churches? Most of the boards are composed of political doctors who care little or nothing for the Church. If they assume the right to close churches, what guarantee have we that this prerogative will not be abused further?

Once St. Peter was advised to discontinue his services, but the records show he refused. Should the Church have less faith to-day? Should we not rather show our faith in divine worship, and then go out and combat the ill of the flesh? Religion should

be a thing that we can have faith in as a practical, every-day working-power from God.

Yours faithfully,

State College, Pa., October 19th.

GEO. E. ZACHARY.

[Discussion of this subject in these columns is now closed.—  
EDITOR L. C.]