

JRP ES

SD-128093(123)

December 17, 1919.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Your statement of the circumstances, relative to influenza epidemics in Samoa, is essentially correct.

Rigid quarantine measures were instituted early enough in American Samoa to prevent the introduction of influenza and no case occurred during the autumn of 1918. Quarantine measures have also been in effect this year to prevent the disease from being introduced in case of possible recurrence in other parts of the world.

In regard to Western (British) Samoa, according to the report of a commission appointed to study the epidemic of influenza in those islands, the disease was introduced about November 7, 1918. Up to December 31 there were 7,542 deaths due directly to influenza or resulting from the prevalence of the disease, causing a total loss to the population of 19.62 percent. For several months following the epidemic the death rate was abnormally high and the Commission considered it safe to assume that a total of 8,500 deaths could be attributed to influenza.

Very sincerely yours,

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