

THE SLEE LABORATORIES
BIOLOGIC PRODUCTSColonel Charles Lynch, M.C.
Surgeon Generals Office,
Washington, D.C.

SWIFTWATER, PA.

May 18-1920

My dear Colonel Lynch:-

Replying to your kind letter of May 13, I am gratified to learn that the Surgeon Generals Office has favorably noted Camp Crane's Influenza rate.

It is my opinion that many factors contributed to our maintaining a low rate, viz,

1. Anticipating an outbreak by several weeks and making preparations to handle same, including a modified quarantine
2. Simple but efficient mess kit cleaning methods.
3. Using tents to increase normal floor space in barracks
4. Isolation all new arrivals, every case showing tempt. muscular pains or soreness, or slightest evidence of ordinary so called colds.
5. Immediate removal to hospital beyond Camp limits of every suspicious case: This undoubtedly raised our hospital rate, but reduced our actual case rate.

The disquieting reports from other Camps in Aug. 1918 gave me great anxiety, and early in Sept., I placed a moderate quarantine on Camp Crane, excluding civilians except on business forbidding Officers and men mingling in crowds, attending church theatre, riding on street cars etc. I avoided an actual shut camp, as we had no cases, and in view of almost daily oversea movements, wished to avoid panic.

Additional barrack and other regulations were posted the principal change being the wearing of masks by sweepers, placing pails of carbolic solution in halls in which the men were instructed to wash handkerchiefs, before laundering; carbolized spit boxes, and thinning out of barracks by use of tents which I had secured in anticipation of trouble.

Strict 72 hour quarantine under guard for all new troops, Officers as well, temperatures taken night and morning, and throat and nose cultures made.

each

Early in 1917 we appointed in each barrack a Sanitary Officer and Sgt., to enforce open windows at night, sleeping head and foot using shelter halves, blankets or rain coats as screens between cots especially when men had ordinary colds, also to protect from direct wind. In addition the O.D. and a Sgt. made three visits each night to all sleeping quarters, correcting any violations and all making report in writing next morning.

We were in good running order and it simply required a little stiffening up when we anticipated trouble.

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Record Room

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710.-1 (Camp Crane)

Col. Lynch # 2

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Mess Kit Sanitation

Shortage of towels and laundry facilities led us to instal in 1917 ,two long wooden troughs,lined with galv.iron and above which over their entire length,at intervals,of about twelve inches,in two rows hot and cold water spigots were suspended at a height of about 18 inches.

~~Troughs~~ approx. 4ft.wide,30 ft,long and 8 inches deep.

On leaving mess all men sorted waste into G.I. cans and them passed in two columns down these troughs,using soap or soap powder and their hands to wash kits,no towels or cloths being supplied. Athorough finish in scalding flowing water and their kits were clean and dry before they left the mess hall. We instaled a boiler of some 500 gals. just for this work and it was fired up before each meal.

I was pleased to find it did not require as much water as I had anticipated,we fed four to six thousand men at a mess in two shifts,and it required but a few moments to clean up all all of the kits and without any marked delay.

This method had been in force for over a year when the flue hit us.

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You will note from accompany^{ing} case list that our first cases were on Sept 26. These were Medical Officers from Yale Army Laboratory,and two more from same place on the 27 - We had only fourteen cases in nine days,when we jumped to twenty one cases on Oct. 5 ,and the ball was on for the next two weeks.

Fortunately we were a Medical Camp,with many casual Officers,and were therefore able without killing our own Medicos,to give very close attention to the individual soldier.

In quite a number of the reported cases,laboratory and clinical findings raised a doubt as to the correctness of the first diagnosis,but we played safe and while it no doubt somewhat increased our hospital rate,I believe we kept our real rate down,and no doubt lessened the pneumonias.

I might say we fought dust every where,all ground that could be spared was in grass,and in July 1918 the ~~22nd~~ W.D. allowed me \$16 000 for roads,and they had all been made and oiled.

FOR M. SLEE

Col. Lynch # 3

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THE SLEE LABORATORIES
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We seldom violated the ^{SWIFTWATER, PA.} 50ft. per man, and with the 300 pyrimid tents Ifortunately had secured we were able to in many cases double this space.

I should say that we also set aside an isolated barracks to which we moved every man showing any indication of infection or cold.

Our camp was in the center of a civilian population, for miles in all dirrections, that suffered cruelly from the epidemic. We had at times as many as two hundred medical officers, out at various points aiding in this work, also many of our men.

A large number of these returned to the command sick from influenza contracted beyond the limits of Camp Crane; Were it not for this fact we would have shown a much better rate.

I believe this covers the main points as I recall them and I must let you decide from the above, in conjunction with your other reports, what factor probably helped us most.

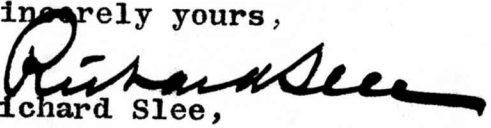
Please have this rewritten, I am ashamed of it, but my stenographer left yesterday, and should I write it by hand you certainly could not read it.

By the way, when you get on the venereal charts I believe Camp Crane will show up even better than on the influenza.

Why has Camp Crane never appeared in any reports as far as I have noted?

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Richard Slee,

Colonel, M.R.C., U.S.A.

CAMP CRANE-ALLENTOWN, PA. '918

Influenza and complicating pneumonias. Admissions by day.
All deaths due to pneumonia.

Sept. Influenza - Pneumonias -Deaths.

26	2	
27	2	
28	0	
29	2	1
30	0	
Oct.		
1	2	
2	0	
3	3	
4	3	
5	21	
6	15	
7	24	
8	13	
9	25	1
10	34	4
11	16	1
12	17	7
13	18	6
14	10	
15	14	3
16	20	5
17	28	3
18	16	6
19	16	1
20	9	6
21	10	4
22	7	1
23	7	3
24	5	0
25	2	2
26	6	1
27	1	
28	4	1
29	2	
30	3	
31	1	1
Nov		
1	0	2
2	0	
3	0	
4	0	
5	0	
6	1	
7	0	
8	0	
9	0	
10	0	
11	1	
12	1 Last case	
14		2
16		1
19		1 Last pneumonia.

NOTE

Actual no. cases Influenza reported in excess of those properly chargeable to Camp Crane. viz.,

Motor Trans. Corps used Camp Crane as a regular night stopping place, and their cases were cared for and taken up on our reports.

We also had a number of cases from Camp Coppee, Bethlehem, Mullenburg College R.O.T.C., men on leave in or near Allentown, and those removed from passing troop trains.

We had several hundred Medical Office and a number of men, scattered among the civil population, aiding in fighting the epidemic. Many of these returned sick- Infection taking place beyond Camp Crane, but our records are charged with these cases.

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Submitted by
Richard Slee, Col. M.R.C.
May 16 -1920

Richard Slee