

185,000 Deaths Last Year Sets New State Record

HARRISBURG, Jan. 14.—The death rate for 1918 was the highest in the history of the State Health Department in Pennsylvania, according to the report of Dr. W. R. Batt, state registrar, made public today by Dr. B. Franklin Royer, acting health commissioner.

Approximately 185,000 deaths occurred, last year's mortality rate being 21.6, as compared with 14.8 for 1917. The increase was due almost entirely to the ravages of the influenza epidemic, during which the State Health Department maintained more than 200 emergency hospitals, directed the activities of more than 500 physicians, hundreds of trained nurses and thousands of volunteer nurses.