

ARMY DOCTORS GAIN CONTROL OF INFLUENZA

Medical Officials Say Peak of Wave Has Passed at Cantonments

WASHINGTON, October 16.—While Spanish influenza continues to spread among the civilian population generally, a continued decrease in the number of new cases at Army camps tonight led Army medical officials to believe the peak of the epidemic among the soldiers has been passed. Secretary Baker said reports indicated measures taken by the Surgeon-General's office had brought the disease under definite control.

CASES MILD IN HAWAII

New cases of influenza among the troops reported during the twenty-four hours ending at noon today totaled 5668, against 6493 yesterday and against more than twice that number only a few days ago. Pneumonia cases today aggregated 1895, compared with 1916 the day before, and deaths were 710, a decrease of 179. Influenza cases reported from all camps since the beginning of the epidemic now total 262,186; pneumonia cases, 39,276, and deaths, 12,340.

Although reports to the public health service showed influenza spreading in most parts of the country, improvement was noted in some states, particularly Vermont, New Jersey and Tennessee.

NUMBERS COMPARED

It is estimated that there now are at least 200,000 cases of the disease in Virginia, while the estimate for Connecticut was placed at 110,000 up to yesterday. Epidemics continued to be reported in many parts of Arkansas, while new cases were reported from practically all sections of Maryland, Oklahoma and other states.

In California 6500 cases had been reported to October 14. No sharp increase was noted in any of the larger cities, but the number of cases continued to rise steadily. In Hawaii very few cases have appeared, and those of mild character.

The epidemic continues unabated in Washington.

Hassler Urges Churches and Theaters Close

City and Federal Health Officers to Act on Plan Tonight

Dr. William C. Hassler, City Health Officer, announced yesterday that he would recommend to the Board of Health tonight that all theaters, moving picture houses, churches and prize-fight arenas be closed, and that lodge, lectures and other indoor meetings be prohibited during the campaign against influenza.

Dr. Hassler made this announcement after receiving reports of 643 new cases of influenza in San Francisco yesterday. The total number of cases is now 2179. The city and Federal health officers, the Board of Health and the Board of Education will meet tonight to discuss the situation and to act upon Dr. Hassler's recommendation. Dr. Hassler said he would not recommend closing the schools at this time.

The San Francisco Chapter of the American Red Cross yesterday established headquarters at 30 Montgomery street with members in charge to cooperate with the health authorities. Hotel and apartment house owners were warned to keep a strict lookout for influenza sufferers arriving here from the East. Chief of Police D. A. White issued orders to enforce the expropriation ordinance, and school buildings were ordered fumigated. Sheriff Thomas Finn was advised yesterday by Dr. Hassler not to receive new prisoners at the county jails.

The mortality rate on the 9952 cases of influenza reported to Dr. W. C. Billings, chief of the United States Public Health Service for California and Nevada, is less than 2 per cent, it was announced yesterday. The mortality rate in San Francisco so far is less than 1 per cent.

BURLINGAME MEETING PLACES TO STAY CLOSED

BURLINGAME, October 16.—Acting under instruction from the Burlingame Board of Health, Dr. Jane Parkhurst, city health officer, today ordered all schools, theaters, churches, billiard parlors and other meeting places to remain closed until the danger from the influenza epidemic has passed.