

INFLUENZA IS NEARLY GONE

Mask Ordinance May Be Re- voked Thursday if New Cases Still Decrease

With only six new cases of influenza and four deaths reported to the Board of Health yesterday, it was announced that if there was no flare-up of the epidemic within the next three days the mask ordinance will be revoked Thursday.

Health officials pointed out the fact that the test of whether or not the epidemic has been stamped out will be the number of new cases reported Wednesday. By that time, it was said, the authorities will be able to determine if the opening of the theaters and churches has had a tendency to spread the disease.

Until the effect of opening places of amusement has been ascertained, the mask ordinance will be rigidly enforced it was announced.

The hospitals are now able to care for all new cases and are again resuming their normal routine. The emergency hospital system is now able to speedily respond to calls.

MORE DIE OF INFLUENZA THAN ON BATTLEFIELD

WASHINGTON, November 17.—The recent epidemic of influenza in the United States caused more deaths than occurred among the American expeditionary forces from all causes from the time the first unit landed in France until hostilities ceased.

This announcement today by the Census Bureau was based on unofficial estimates of the total casualties among the overseas forces, and reports from forty-six cities having a combined population of 23,000,000, which showed 82,306 deaths from influenza and pneumonia from September 9 to November 9.

"Total casualties in the American expeditionary forces," said the announcement, "have recently been unofficially estimated at 100,000. On the basis of the number thus far reported it may be assumed that the deaths from all causes, including disease and accidents, are probably less than 45 per cent, and may not be more than 40 per cent of the total casualties. On this assumption the loss of life in the American expeditionary forces to date is about 40,000 or 45,000."

The total of deaths due to the influenza epidemic in this country is not known, the announcement said, as only the forty-six cities for which figures were given report vital statistics to the Census Bureau. The greatest mortality due to the epidemic in proportion to population was 7.4 per 1000, in Philadelphia, and the next greatest, 6.7 per 1000, was reported from Baltimore.