

338,257 'FLU' CASES IN CAMPS UP TO DEC. 1

Official Summary Issued by
War Department Shows
Deaths Total 17,000

S. F. SUCCESS IS CITED

Dr. Woods Hutchinson Tells
Health Association of
Local Epidemic Fight

WASHINGTON, December 10. — An official summary of the results of the influenza epidemic in Army camps and military centers in the United States, made public by the War Department today, shows that there were 338,257 cases of the disease up to December 1, with approximately 17,000 deaths.

Because deaths resulting from influenza and pneumonia were not separately grouped, only approximate figures were given for those due to the epidemic. From September 13, the date of the outbreak, to December 1, 19,694 deaths from all causes were reported by military stations in the United States.

EPIDEMICS RETURN

CHICAGO, December 10. — The influenza epidemics, which many health officials believe came to this country from the battle fronts in Europe, are returning in more virulent form now, declared Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association today.

England and Italy are experiencing epidemics now, he said, and by royal proclamation masks are worn by every one in Italy.

A combination of the use of gauze masks and vaccine were virtually the only successful method of fighting the epidemics, Dr. Hutchinson said, and he declared quarantine and the closing of all public meeting places "a relic of barbarism," with no value whatever.

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"To pull the people from one public meeting merely drives them into another, where they talk to each other and exchange influenza germs if they carry the infection," he declared. "With every one wearing masks in San Francisco, the number of cases of influenza was brought from 2300 per day down to 300 per day within six days, and business went ahead as usual. We vaccinated 81,000 there, with almost no deaths from those thus immunized."

The influenza mask also served to control epidemics of whooping-cough and chicken-pox in San Francisco, Dr. Hutchinson said.

OMAHA, December 10. — Thirty-two deaths from influenza within the last twenty-four hours were reported this morning. Health officials are contemplating placing a quarantine on the city.

SECONDARY FLARE-UP

SACRAMENTO, December 10. — The flare-up of influenza in various parts of California was described today as "a slight secondary wave, common to practically all cases of contagious diseases" by Guy P. Jones, assistant secretary of the State Board of Health. Reports received by the board show there have been about 184,000 cases to date of influenza and pneumonia since the beginning of the epidemic.