

# 282 INFLUENZA CASES, REPORT

## Epidemic Shows Abatement Throughout State, Says U. S. Health Official

Two hundred and eighty-two new cases of influenza were reported to the Board of Health yesterday. Thirty-two were reported by telephone and the rest by letter. The number of deaths from pneumonia yesterday was twenty-four.

Influenza conditions throughout California, particularly in the southern part of the State, are showing "considerable improvement," according to Dr. W. C. Billings, surgeon of the United States Public Health Service for California and Nevada.

The reported epidemics in Northern California were said by Dr. Billings to be mostly in the "rumor" stage.

The \$100,000 of the urgent necessity fund which was expected by the Supervisors to pay all urgent bills of the city from June, 1918, to June, 1919, has sunk so low that the Finance Committee hesitated yesterday to pay Health Officer Hassler's latest influenza bill of \$6951.50 out of it. There is only about \$10,000 in the fund and six months of the fiscal year unexpired.

Including the bill presented yesterday by the Health Officer, the influenza epidemic has cost the city approximately \$60,000 up to November 30. Additional expenses are incurred daily for upkeep of patients in private hospitals, and by other outlays of the Board.

Dr. Hassler informed the Finance Committee yesterday that he sees a great deal of work ahead. He is apprehensive of a tubercular epidemic following the influenza.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—Although influenza still prevails in virtually all Army camps at home, a report today by the Surgeon-General showed a decline in the number of cases for the week ending December 13 as compared with the preceding week. Total cases were 3630, a decrease of 426.

LOS ANGELES, December 20.—Continued rapid decline in the number of new influenza cases here was indicated in the report issued by the health department at 5 o'clock tonight for the preceding twenty-four hours. There were 269 new cases, as compared with 283 reported yesterday. Deaths today numbered seventeen.

SACRAMENTO, December 20.—Acting Superintendent P. J. Tehaney of the motor vehicle department announces that more than sixty of his girl employes are ill with the influenza or out on that account.

SANTA CRUZ, December 20.—As only about six cases of influenza a day are being reported, the motion-picture houses will reopen Monday night unless some change occurs in the present situation. A definite date for the opening of the schools has not been announced, but in all probability they will reopen immediately after New Year's.