

DEATH RATE IN CITIES IN EAST TAKES JUMP

Mortality, Due to Spanish Influenza, Runs Two to Three Times Above Normal Figures

Boston Shows 600 Per Cent Increase in Deaths; New York and Chicago Are Affected but Little

[By Universal Service.]

WASHINGTON, October 9.—Tonight's figures issued by the Surgeon General of the army indicate that the abatement of the influenza epidemic in the training camps, reported yesterday, was merely a temporary fluctuation.

During the past twenty-four hours few cases of influenza numbered 3,605, which is 1,835 more than reported yesterday.

New cases of pneumonia totaled 842, as against 2,181 the day before.

Deaths from all causes in the army camps and stations for the twenty-four-hour period were 820, an increase of 59 over yesterday's total. Total influenza cases reported since beginning of the epidemic, September 13, now number 198,799.

By ALBERT E. BRYAN.

[Staff Correspondent of Universal Service.]

WASHINGTON, October 9.—As a direct result of influenza and its immediate complications, the average weekly death rate of a majority of cities of the country is from two to three times as high as normally.

In the New England district the increase runs as high as four to seven times the average weekly mortality rate for the past five years, as computed by the United States Census Bureau. Curiously enough, New York and Chicago show a smaller percentage of increase than any of the big cities.

The mortality figures for fifty of the leading cities of the country, for the latest weekly period, as bulletined to Washington, furnish the first authentic indication of the range and death toll of the epidemic among the civilian population.

They represent the ratio of deaths per thousand estimated population per year obtaining during the weekly period covered in the reports, as compared with the ratio obtaining in the corresponding weekly periods for the five previous years.

600 PER CENT INCREASE.

Boston's death rate jumped from an average ratio of 14.7 for the corresponding weekly periods of the five previous years to a ratio of 100.2 during the influenza week on which statistics were compiled. This amounts to a 600 per cent increase. The rates in other New England cities show almost as high percentages and increase.

Cambridge's present rate is 83, as compared to an average of 12.7. Lowell advanced from an average of 15.9 to 62.5 per thousand.

New York's death toll for the week is computed at a rate of 16.3 per thousand per year as compared with the average of 11.7 for the corresponding weekly periods for the past five years. Chicago's rate advanced from 12.6 to 20.8.

MASKS FOR WORKERS.

With new cases of influenza in Washington now averaging more than 1,000 a day, Federal and local authorities are making a supreme effort to check the malady. Today the Government ordered 25,000 gauze masks for use of war workers whose employment particularly exposes them to infection.

The State Department announced the epidemic had made its appearance in all parts of the world. Cable information received today indicated outbreaks in Lisbon, Cape Town and Pernambuco, Brazil.

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FORTY NEW CASES REPORTED IN THIS CITY

Forty new cases of Spanish influenza were reported in San Francisco yesterday, bringing the total since the disease first developed here to 144.

Only one death has been recorded to date, according to Dr. W. C. Hassler, health officer, but other cases are critical.

Eight nurses on the staff of the Southern Pacific Hospital were among those stricken yesterday. Others included Mr. and Mrs. M. Sotomanger, 833 Greenwich street; Charles Lerer, 2117 Pierce street; Leo Goldsworthy, 1318 Laguna street; and E. O'Rourke, 1080 Bush street.

Dr. Hassler declares that while there is no cause for alarm at present, a further spread of the disease can be expected. The public health department urges people to take every precaution and to report immediately their suspicions.

Ten new cases were reported in Oakland yesterday and three in Berkeley.

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