

1,068,932 DIED IN U.S. IN 1917

Heart Disease, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Chief Causes.

INFLUENZA HEADS EPIDEMICS

Census Bureau's Compilation of Mortality Statistics Made Public—Death Rate From Heart Disease Shows Noticeable Decrease as Compared With 1916—Next to Influenza Highest Death Rate From Epidemic Disease Was Diphtheria.

The census bureau's annual compilation of mortality statistics for the death-registration area in continental United States shows 1,068,932 deaths as having occurred in this area in 1917, representing a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of population.

Of deaths, nearly one-third were due to three causes—heart disease, pneumonia and tuberculosis—and nearly another third resulted from the following five causes: Bright's disease and nephritis, apoplexy, cancer, diarrhoea and enteritis, arterial diseases, influenza, diabetes, diphtheria and bronchitis. The death-registration area of the United States in 1917 comprised 27 states, the district of Columbia and 47 cities in non-registration states, with a total estimated population of 75,000,000, or about 73 per cent of the estimated population of the United States.

Fewer Die of Heart Disease. The deaths from heart disease (organic diseases of the heart and endocarditis) numbers 115,337, or 153.2 per 100,000 population. The death rate from this cause shows a noticeable decrease as compared with 1916, when it was 160.4 per 100,000. There have been fluctuations from year to year, but in general there has been a marked increase since 1900, the earliest year for which the annual mortality statistics were published, when the rate for heart disease was only 123.1 per 100,000.

Pneumonia (including broncho-pneumonia) was responsible for 112,881 deaths, or 149.8 per 100,000. This rate, although much lower than that for 1900 (190.5) or for several succeeding years is higher than that for any year during the period 1908-1910. The lowest recorded rate for pneumonia was 127 per 100,000 in 1914. The mortality from this disease has fluctuated considerably from year to year since 1904, the general tendency having been downward until 1914 and upward from 1914 to 1917.

Tuberculosis in its various forms caused 110,235 deaths, of which 97,047 were due to tuberculosis of the lungs. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 140.4 per 100,000, and from tuberculosis of the lungs 123.9. The rate from tuberculosis of all forms declined continuously from 200.7 per 100,000 in 1904 to 141.0 per 100,000 in 1916, the decrease amounting to nearly 30 per cent; but for 1917 an increase is shown. Until 1912 more deaths were due to tuberculosis than to any other single cause, but in that year and during the period 1914-1917, the mortality from tuberculosis was less than that from heart diseases, and in 1917 it fell below that from pneumonia also.

Cancer Fatalities Greater. Cancer and other malignant tumors caused 61,452 deaths, of which number 23,413, or 38 per cent, resulted from cancer of the stomach and liver. The rate from cancer has risen from 63 per 100,000 in 1900 to 81.6 in 1917. The increase has not been continuous, there having been three years—1906, 1911 and 1917—which showed declines as compared with the years immediately preceding. The decrease in 1917, as compared with 1916, however, was very slight—from 81.8 to 81.6. It should be borne in mind that at least a part of the increase in the death rate from cancer may be apparent rather than real, being due to a greater degree of accuracy in diagnosis and to greater care on the part of physicians in making reports to registration officials.

Influenza was responsible for 12,974 deaths, or 17.2 per 100,000. This rate is the highest shown for any epidemic disease in 1917, but is much lower than the corresponding one for the preceding year, 25.4 per 100,000. The influenza rate, which fluctuates greatly, was highest in 1901, when it stood at 32.2, than in any subsequent year prior to the occurrence of the recent epidemic. Next to that for influenza, the highest rate appearing for any epidemic disease in 1917 was for diphtheria, 14.5 per 100,000, representing 12,453 deaths. The rate from this disease was somewhat higher in 1917 than in the preceding year, when it stood at 14.5 per 100,000.

Bronchitis caused 12,311 deaths, or 16.3 per 100,000. This rate is lower than that for any preceding year except 1916, when it was 16.0. The proportional decline from 1900, for which year the bronchitis rate was 45.7, to 1917, amounting to 64 per cent, was greater than that shown for any other important cause of death.

Typhoid Fever resulted in 10,113 deaths, or 13.4 per 100,000. The mortality rate from this cause also has shown a remarkable reduction since 1900, when it was 35.9, the proportional decrease amounting to 63 per cent. This highly gratifying decline demonstrates in a striking manner the efficiency of improved sanitation and of

MOST BEAUTIFUL OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN



Miss Miriam Sabidge was the winner of Daily Mirror's beauty competition among the most beautiful London social leaders at the Savage club derby ball, at which dazzling and unique costumes were worn.

The modern method of prevention—the use of the antityphoid vaccine. The greatest number of deaths changed to any one accidental cause—11,114, or 118 per 100,000—is shown for falls. The rate for this cause varies but slightly from year to year. Next to falls, the greatest number of accidental deaths—8,649, or 11.5 per 100,000—resulted from railroad accidents and injuries.

GOES BACK TO ANCIENT DAYS

Expression Concerning Fires of Faith and the Torch of Religion Traced to Fire Worshipers.

"My faith is like a burning flame," many a martyr has said when he was being sorely tried. "I may carry the torch of the true religion forward" is an expression so often used that it seems almost trite. Is it an accident that many of the most fervent religious phrases are connected in one way or another with the fire image?

Table with columns: Cause, Rate per 100,000 Pop'n total, No. pop'n total. Lists various causes of death like Organic diseases of the heart, Tuberculosis of the lungs, etc.

Automobile Death Rate Grows

Deaths from automobile accidents and injuries in 1917 totaled 6,724, or 8.9 per 100,000 population. This rate has risen rapidly from year to year, but not so rapidly as the rate of increase in the number of automobiles in use.

Deaths due to accidental asphyxiation (except in conflagrations) numbered 3,375, or 4.5 per 100,000. This rate is somewhat higher than that for any year during the preceding ten-year period.

Hot weather caused 1,904 deaths, or 2.6 per 100,000. This rate is considerably above those for most of the years covered by the bureau's records, but is somewhat lower than 2.9 in 1916 and is far below 5.3 in 1911. The rate from this cause naturally varies greatly from year to year.

Care for Sick Soldiers

Uncle Sam will provide hospital care for all the boys discharged from army or naval service, so far as their sickness or disability was contracted in the service of their country. The United States public health service has already undertaken this stupendous task and is busily engaged in enlarging its hospital facilities all over the country.

NOT MERELY FISH STORIES

Showers of Sea Food From Sky Are Authenticated, According to Magazine Writer.

Next time some one tells you of its raining fish and frogs, don't laugh; the story may be true. There is, for instance, record of a fish rain in 1698 that showered smelts all over Sturston parish in merry England, says Popular Science Magazine.

In Baton Rouge, in 1896, it rained ducks, catbirds and woodpeckers. We pause right here to say that scientists explain these showers by the lifting power of the wind and the ancient principle that what goes up must come down; and you never can be sure what is up.

Getting down to 1917 John Lewis of Aberlady, Wales, reports: "I was startled by something falling all over me. On putting my hand down my neck I was surprised to find they were little fish."

No less a person, than Alexander von Humboldt writes of a downpour of fishes in the Andes which seemed to be a deluge and attested by a very active volcano. The natives said they rather enjoyed the fish showers to reduce the H. C. L., usually having several a season.

Singapore, as might be expected, holds the shower record, with a rain of fresh-fish catfish, which the Chinese gathered by the basketful. Nine native witnesses urged by a missionary, made depositions before a magistrate attesting the truth of their case of a shower in Bengal during which at least five kinds of fish fell from the heavens.

Boston, in the days of the "plug" hat, had what is called (being Boston) "a peculiar deluge." But in Connecticut the same year it rained fish and cut together, which we call thoughtful.

DISCHARGED SERVICE MEN TO GET AID

Districts Named Where War Risk Insurance Beneficiaries May Be Treated.

Organization of fourteen medical districts, where discharged soldiers, sailors and marines who are beneficiaries of the war-risk insurance act may obtain necessary treatment, was announced by Surgeon General Ireland. The districts will be under the supervision of the public health service, and a health officer will be in charge at each headquarters.

The districts, territory covered and officer in charge are as follows: Boston customhouse—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Surgeon W. W. King.

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EAST AND WEST LONGITUDE AUTHOR'S MEMORY A WONDER

Generally Determined by Imaginary Line Around the Earth and Passing Through Greenwich.

East and west are relative terms, that is, whether a given spot on the earth's surface is in the east or in the west depends upon the point, from which you begin to measure.

Throughout the British empire, in fact throughout the greater part of the civilized world, the starting point is the royal astronomical observatory in Greenwich, five miles southeast of London, England.

Standing at Greenwich and facing north, that is, toward the north star, to the right hand is east and to the left hand west. An imaginary line drawn around the earth and passing through Greenwich and the two poles is the line from which east and west longitude are measured.

An aviator flying from this continent to Ireland is always approaching from the west the Greenwich meridian. St. John's, Newfoundland, is about 55 degrees west of Greenwich; the nearest part of Ireland is about 10 degrees west of Greenwich. The aviator who flies from St. John's to Ireland, will pass from 55 west to 10 west. He will be 45 degrees east of his starting point when he arrives in Ireland.

Two brothers named W., belonging to Alvechurch (soldiers), walking along a street in Alexandria recently met a youth who begged their help. He appeared to be very hard up indeed, and in the motley rags he wore, and from his sunburnt skin, they thought he was a native; and a very queer specimen at that. They found he hailed from Alvechurch had deserted from a reformatory ship to which he had been sent, and joining an ocean tramp had, after many wanderings and adventures, found himself absolutely stranded. They gave him temporary help, and eventually he enlisted in their regiment. His whereabouts had been unknown for some years. A few months afterward these two soldiers were on leave, and in their train got into conversation with another soldier in the same compartment, who turned out to be a brother of the very lad they had met in Alexandria. Mutual congratulations followed, and in due course the parents learned of their boy's escapades.

LIKE CHAPTER FROM NOVEL

British Soldiers Figured In Strange Coincidence as Result of Chance Meeting.

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SOVEREIGNS TO VISIT U. S.

King and Queen of Belgium Will Come to America in September.

Before President Wilson left Belgium it was announced that King Albert and Queen Elizabeth had accepted his invitation to visit the United States. The Belgian rulers will probably arrive in America in September, and remain throughout October for the first session of the League of Nations in Washington.

King Albert of Belgium visited the United States 20 years ago. The present king was then a prince and spent nearly 12 months in this country as a tourist and newspaper correspondent.

BEAT WIVES IN GERMANY

Thrashings by Husbands Common Among Middle and Upper Classes.

Wife-beating is quite common among the German middle and upper classes, and the law of Prussia sanctions it, according to Henry de Hulsalle, author of a recent work on Germany.

Hulsalle said he once stayed a few days in the home of a Berlin merchant, and one evening he heard a woman crying upstairs, followed by the sound of blows. Upon asking his host the cause of the commotion, the author was informed that the woman had just received her weekly thrashing, which she got every Saturday night.

CARRIES MAIL AT 83

Octogenarian Has Delivered Letters 24 Years and "Is Good for 24 More."

"Uncle Carl" Miller of Thomsville, Mo., eighty-three years old, has been awarded a four-year contract to carry the United States mail between Alton and Thomsville. The octogenarian has carried the mail over this route continuously for 24 years, and he asserts that he is good for 24 more years.

During that time Miller has witnessed many changes in his route. Much of the forest that skirted the road on both sides when he first took up his duties has been cleared and given over to farms. The roads have changed from mere trails to graded highways.

CAUGHT TROUT IN SLEEP

Fisherman Tied Tackle to His Tow and Then Went to Bed.

Tying a line, with a well-baited hook on it, around his big toe and tossing the cord out of the window, Donald F. Whipple of Watertown, N. Y., went to bed. About two o'clock in the morning he was awakened by a tug and pulled in a four-pound lake trout, which was served for breakfast.

Utah to Enforce Anticigarette Law

The state agencies of Utah have begun a vigorous campaign for the enforcement of the anticigarette law. One argument helping to defeat the drastic cigarette law in the recent session of the legislature was that existing laws were not enforced.

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THE RUB

"You won't have me because I'm poor."

"Well?"

"Yet all poets speak highly of love in a cottage."

"Love is a delirium of joy anywhere," responded the wise girl. "It's the long stretch of married life in poverty that makes me hesitate."

SALVATIONISTS IN INDIA.

The Salvation Army in India had, in 1909, 100 European workers and 2,000 native missionaries in some 2,000 villages. In 1918, the number had risen to 280 Europeans and 3,236 Indians at work in 3,053 centers. The army has imported 14,000 eggs from China which have given good results in various parts of India. Its agents have visited some of the principal silk centers in China, Japan, Korea, Manchuria and French Tonquin, and from their investigations are convinced that India could easily become one of the great silk-producing countries of the world. They are working toward a rehabilitation of two of India's greatest cottage industries—silk-growing and weaving.

IDEALISTS.

"He's an idealist."

"A working idealist or just a loafing idealist?"

"I don't get you?"

"There are two kinds of idealists—one wishes the world were better than it is, but doesn't do anything about it, and the other kind wishes it were better and works to make it so."

THE LAST ONE.

Captain Wahl—As accountable officer, when do you expect to get away from Mehun?

Captain Byest—It looks to me as if I will be the one to fill in the hole when the flagpole is taken down.—Mehun News.

ON THE TRAIL.

Detective—Does the man who has just entered live in this house?

Janitor—Yes, on the floor above the first.

Detective—Hal a clue! He is a second-story man.

SUMMER STICKS FOR POLICE.

"This stick of yours is very heavy."

"Yes, mum."

"All wrong. They ought to let the police carry lightweight sticks in summer."—Kansas City Journal.

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PERCENTAGES.

"Now, a certain percentage of alcohol—" began the student of beverages.

"I don't see that it matters," interrupted the summer girl. "What I am interested in is the proper percentage of ice cream in ice cream soda."

AS IN THE ARMY.

Customer—Which way to the hosiery department, please?

Floorwalker (an ex-soldier)—Right turn at the next aisle, sir, forward about twenty paces, left oblique, forward, left turn, halt, and it's there.—Ideas.

NO MATTER.

"They have a great joke on Peter. By mistake he applied for a dog license instead of a marriage license."

"Not so much of a mistake. That woman he's going to marry will lead him a dog's life."

SCANTINESS.

"My wife says she has almost nothing to wear."

"Did you give her an argument?"

"I noticed her when she went out dressed up in a couple of hundred dollars' worth of clothes. I guess she's right."