

Limitations of the airplane have been demonstrated by Amundsen's experiment, in the opinion of Nansen, but the airship he regards as much more promising. Given a large airship, capable of carrying a crew and equipment for investigations, he says, the most important geographical problems of the unknown north can be solved in the course of a few weeks.

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#### INFLUENZA WAVE MAY BE RISING TO CREST

Are we on the verge of another influenza epidemic? Reports from such widely separated parts of the world as England, Mexico, and Russia may indicate the rising tide of a recurrent wave of influenza and pneumonia such as characterizes this little understood disease.

Vague rumors of a widespread outbreak of influenza in Russia, with hospitals in Moscow and Leningrad so full as to be obliged to turn away thousands of sufferers, have been current recently. The Russian Public Health Service in New York in a statement to Science Service now confirms these rumors, stating that personal correspondence from Moscow describes the suffering as intense. The Public Health Commissariat of Russia considers it the worst epidemic since the great pandemic of 1891.

Reports from the rest of Europe say that though influenza has been prevalent throughout the winter particularly in England, the crest is believed to have been reached about the beginning of the year. While precise information is lacking from Mexico, there is indication of outbreaks in both Mexico City and Hermosillo, capital of Sonora.

New York State has serious outbreaks in several upstate cities, with a record of 462 deaths from pneumonia and 76 from influenza for the week of March 7 in New York City alone, numbers that are larger than those reported for any corresponding week since the epidemic of 1918. Dr. Louis I. Harris, health commissioner of New York City says, however, that the situation is not alarming and that there is no epidemic.

Dr. Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in summing up the situation throughout the United States says, "From all indications, there is a very general outbreak of cases but these are of relatively short duration and not particularly dangerous to life." The Metropolitan figures indicate that the largest number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia during January and February have occurred in the southern and border states.

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The first synthetic perfume was made in 1850.

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European countries own over half of the tropics.

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