

READING: *In flew Enza*

I had a little bird,
And his name was Enza;
I opened the window,
And in flew Enza.

In flew Enza- say it fast and it becomes "**Influenza**." It was a catchy little rhyme, and boys and girls skipped rope to it. It was also an epidemic; no, it was worse than that. It was a **pandemic**, which means a disease that spreads across many nations. This one went around the globe. And it was deadly.

Diseases don't fly in the window, but the influenza of 1918 almost seemed to. It lasted about nine months and, worldwide, killed 20 million people. That was more than the total of deaths during the four years of the Great War.

Mysteriously, it struck at about the same time in India, and Russia, and China- no major nation escaped. In the United States there were more than half a million victims. On one terrible day in Philadelphia, almost 1,000 people died.

Neither doctors, nor hospitals, nor cemeteries could handle the awful burdens put upon them. In those days before the discovery of modern medicines, there was little the doctors could do.

In New York and Chicago, laws were passed making it illegal to sneeze or cough in public without using a handkerchief. Police dutifully hauled sneezers and coughers to court, where they were given stiff fines.

The word **influenza** first appeared in 1743 after an epidemic in Italy. It is an Italian word, related to influence, and it means an "intangible visitation" (a visit by something you can't touch).

Pandemic comes from the words *pan* ("all") and *demos* ("people").

The police had time to worry about influenza because the robbers and murderers were sick, too. In October 1918, Chicago's crime rate dropped almost by half.

The epidemic spread most rapidly in cities- was people are crowded together- but many in the countryside died too. A prominent senator lost a son and daughter. Soldiers, fighting heroically against enemies they could see, fell to invisible germs. In America the flu took 10 times

as many lives as the war. The last week of October in 1918, 2,700 American soldiers died fighting in Europe; the same week, 21,000 Americans died at home of the flu.

It was called Spanish influenza- because people thought it had started in Spain. It hadn't. It may have begun in the United States, from a disease of hogs (it is sometimes called *swine flu*, after the hogs). Some say it was the worst pandemic in history.

It wasn't that it killed the most people, it was that it killed so rapidly. Someone figured, mathematically, that if it had continued spreading for another year, at the rate it was going, the world's population would have been wiped out.

PREVENT DISEASE



CARELESS
SPITTING, COUGHING, SNEEZING,
SPREAD INFLUENZA
and TUBERCULOSIS

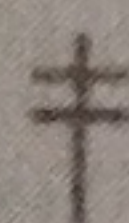


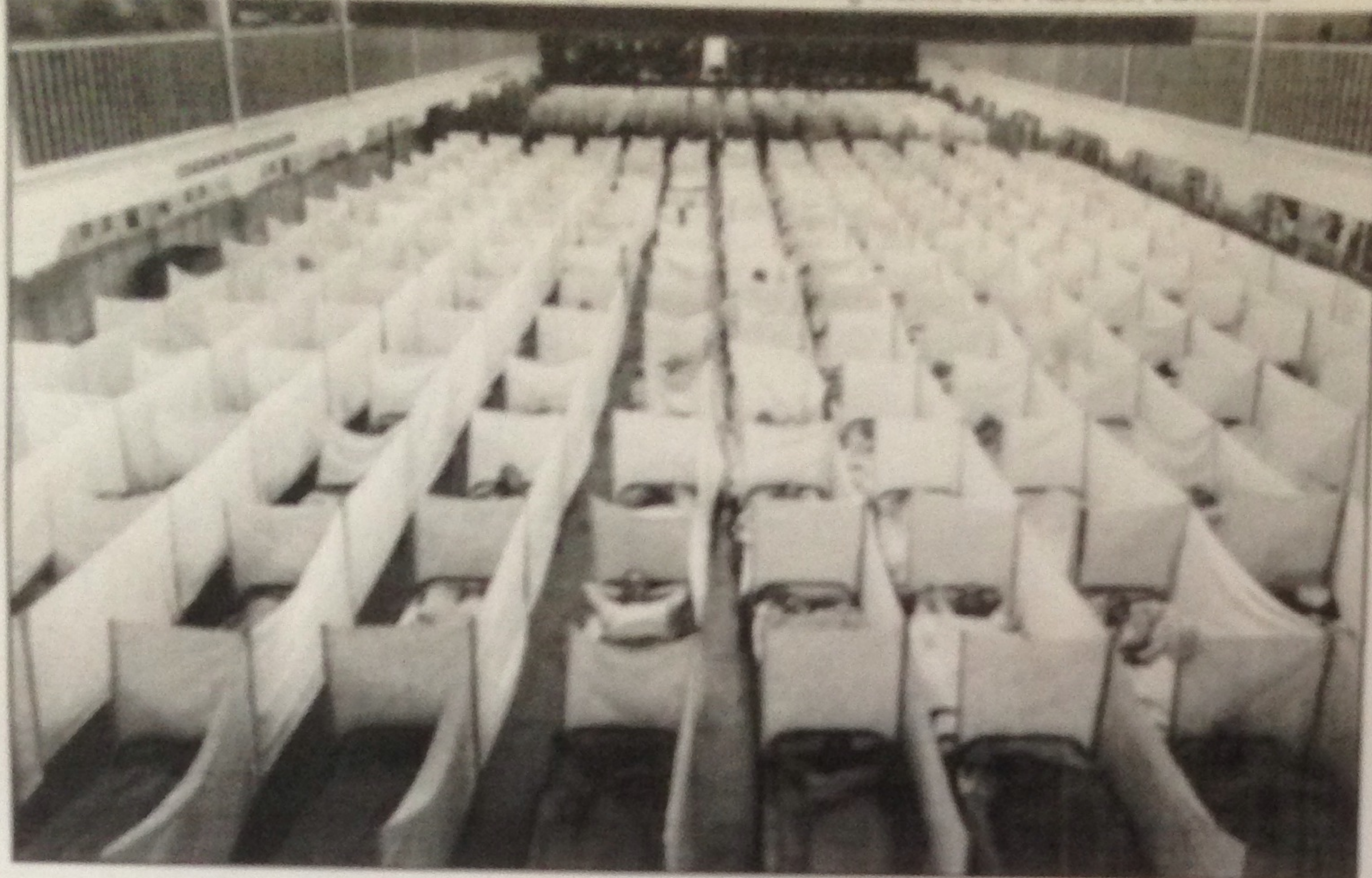
EXHIBIT 1000 CITY OF CHICAGO TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION CHICAGO, ILL.



Anybody who didn't wear a mask, could be fined \$100 and jailed.

Obey the laws, and wear the gauze, protect your jaws from septic paws, went one ditty. But the masks were useless.

Photo # NH 41871 Crowded sleeping area at Naval Training Station, San Francisco, California



cheer people up.

Soon a new word was being used. It was *normalcy*. That's what people wanted. They wanted to go back to the good old days before the war. But time won't march backward. Those boys and girls who were skipping rope in 1918 had no idea what was ahead of them. They wouldn't have believed it if you had told them. Normalcy? No way. They were going to live in a world of radio, TV, computers, jets, and rockets. In 1918 that was the stuff of science fiction. Their world was slow-paced, and mostly powered by horses and mules.

Their older brothers- the soldiers who came home from Europe in 1919- had exciting things to tell them. They'd been to Paris and had seen fancy night clubs, stunning buildings, and splendid boulevards. Some bragged about their heroism in battle, which was understandable; you had to be tough- or lucky- to be a survivor. A few came home without arms, or legs. Some didn't want to talk about the war at all; They, too, were looking for normalcy.

By Armistice Day, November 11, the peak had passed. The disease soon departed as mysteriously as it had arrived. It left the United States exhausted. Wasn't a war trouble enough? Everyone had worked hard supporting the war effort. Americans had done astonishing things in factories and farms. They'd fed Europe with an amazing harvest of grain; they'd armed the Allies. Citizens had given up luxuries and even some necessities to help others. That flu epidemic was the final straw. Someone needed to find something to

INFLUENZA

FREQUENTLY COMPLICATED WITH

PNEUMONIA

IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

THIS THEATRE IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

YOU MUST DO THE SAME

IF YOU HAVE A COLD AND ARE COUGHING AND SNEEZING DO NOT ENTER THIS THEATRE

GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL

Coughing, Sneezing or Spitting Will Not Be Permitted in The Theatre. In case you must cough or sneeze, do so in your own handkerchief, and if the Coughing or Sneezing Persists Leave The Theatre At Once.

This Theatre has agreed to co-operate with the Department Of Health in disseminating the truth about Influenza, and thus serve a great educational purpose.

HELP US TO KEEP CHICAGO THE HEALTHIEST CITY IN THE WORLD

JOHN DILL ROBERTSON

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH