

SONJA HENIE'S PARTNER

Contracted Rare
Disease

BATTLE FOR LIFE

Had Been Cast To Play
Role Of Valentino

HOLLYWOOD, Saturday.

One of Hollywood's youngest and most promising film stars has died from a mysterious illness.

Jack Dunn, 21-years-old film star and Olympic skater, and one-time partner of Sonja Henie, died to-day in a Hollywood hospital. His full name was John Edward Powell Dunn.

Early to-day Mr. Dunn had suffered a relapse after showing signs of improve-



Mr. John Dunn

ment. Then a bulletin issued by his doctors stated that his condition was "only fair and still critical."

When he was taken to hospital a week ago it was stated that he was suffering from a streptococcal infection affecting the eyes, nose and throat, but death was stated to be due to a rare disease diagnosed as tularemia, caused by contact with rabbits.

FIGHT FOR LIFE

A last-minute effort was made to save Mr. Dunn by means of a blood transfusion from a man who had recovered from the same disease, but Dunn, who had previously had three transfusions, continued to sink.

Mr. Dunn, who has two sisters in England, was born near Wells, Somerset, and educated at Stowe and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a member of the British Olympic skating team in 1936, and also partner of Miss Sonja Henie, former Olympic and world champion. He turned professional the same year.

Mr. Dunn never won any outstanding championships, but he was a brilliant free-skater. It was probably his ability to give a spectacular display in this type of skating that prompted him to accept offers to turn professional and join the same group as Sonja Henie.

He was signed on for a year by Universal Pictures. They paid him £6,500 for that period without featuring him in a film, explaining that no suitable story could be found.

Over six feet tall, and bearing a remarkable likeness to the late Rudolph Valentino, Mr. Dunn was selected to take the part of Valentino in the United Artists' film of the latter's life, but was taken ill before work could begin.

It was generally thought in Hollywood that Mr. Dunn and Miss Sonja Henie would have been co-starred in ice spectacle pictures, and that they would become the "Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers of the Ice." At one time there was talk of a romance between Miss Henie and Mr. Dunn.—Reuter.

According to *Black's Medical Dictionary*, Tularemia is a disease of rodents, such as rabbits and rats. Infection can be spread into the hands of persons engaged in skinning rabbits.