Those who applied for work to the relief association represented only a small percentage of the idle who would not or could not leave the city. When it became known that an appropriation of $200,000 had been made by Congress, a rumor spread among the negroes that this money was intended for their benefit. The prospect of being fed without having work to do lured many to the infected district, and the checking of this inflowing tide necessitated the placing of a cordon of armed guards around Jacksonville and the suburbs, including South Jacksonville. In the early part of September a house to house canvass was made, which census showed 3,945 white and 9,812 colored then in the city.

The stupendous undertaking of providing for the needy and worthy poor devolved upon the relief association formed early in the epidemic. After investigation rations were issued to those in actual need of them, a ration for an adult for one week being: 2 pounds of bacon, 3 pounds of meal or 2 pounds of flour, 3 pounds of grits or two pounds of flour, 1 pint of molasses, 1/2 pint of salt, 1/4 pound of coffee, 1/2 pound of sugar, and 1 bar of soap. The total number of rations issued in this way during the epidemic was 196,538. In special cases certain delicacies were issued to the sick on the order of a physician. A physician had written an order, but inadvertently left a space above his signature. In this space a thirsty patient inserted the words “one case Mumm’s quarts; 6 bottles claret”. Another patient, by adding the figure 2, raised his order for 1 chicken to 12 chickens. The system was changed. One sad case will illustrate the distress prevalent before systematic relief measures were adopted. A gentleman walking down the street met a boy crying bitterly. The little fellow said he was hungry; that his mama was lying in the house there dead, and that his sister and himself had had nothing to eat for over a day. Investigation revealed the mother lying in the room where she had died 24 hours previously and the father just breathing his last when relief arrived.

On November 26, when the temperature fell to freezing, the epidemic was generally considered at an end, although occasional cases continued to be reported from the suburbs until December 6. The last death from yellow fever occurred December 5. The Board of Health issued a proclamation that December 15 should be the day when refugees might be