Masks Prevent 20,000 Cases

Dr. Hassler Tells Board of Health Precautions; Saved At Least 1500 Lives

The Board of Health met in special session at the St. Francis Hotel at 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning, and was introduced by Health Officer Dr. William O. Hassler, formally requesting the issue of a proclamation revoking the ordinance making compulsory the wearing of masks. The proclamation was issued immediately.

The resolution of the Health Board was a review of the campaign which stamped out the epidemic, and which has resulted in the near cooperation of the people and the municipal authorities, making it possible for the first time in the history of a large metropolitan city, to have an entire population of a city, for any length of time, without any accompanying death. The apparent absence of an epidemic was due to a unique measure, the wearing of masks,

Deaths Prevented

Dr. Hassler said the wearing of the masks and other precautionary measures undoubtedly had saved 20,000 cases of illness and prevented 1500 deaths.

The epidemic began here September 23, and in fifty-nine days, including the first three weeks, there were 2200 cases reported. By October 25, when 2219 cases were reported, the Board of Health was warned that the epidemic was over. The highest mortality on any day was 108 deaths, October 21.

The wearing of the masks began October 23, and during the last week of October, Dr. Hassler had said the efficacy of the covering of the mouth was about five or six days later and continued up to the present time.

The epidemic was at its height October 29, and the peak was reached October 23, when 2219 cases were reported to the Board of Health. The highest mortality on any day was 108 deaths, October 21.

The epidemic began here September 23, and after the wearing of the masks was begun October 23, the number of cases fell to 200 per day, after a steady decrease until November 14, when a slight flare-up followed the victory celebration.

Total Cases Reported

Yesterday ten new cases were reported and eight deaths. The deaths were for a period of four days.

The mortality of the deaths has been much lower than in previous years. The mortality of the deaths has been much lower than in previous years. The mortality of the deaths has been much lower than in previous years. The mortality of the deaths has been much lower than in previous years. The mortality of the deaths has been much lower than in previous years.