San Francisco Joyously Discards Masks in Twinkling Faces Beam as Gauze Covers Come Off at Time Fixed

Get! Don't They Look Great Now? — Here are a few of the happy faces that have been hidden for a month behind gauze "flu" masks. They peeped out yesterday and everybody had a treat. Anyone can see the girls in the picture are glad.

Influenza Disappearance Signaled by Whistle Blast at Noon

After four weeks of muzzled misery, San Francisco unmasked at noon yesterday and ventured to draw its breath.

At five seconds to 12 the muzzled policeman at the corner rapped out his last, "Cover your nose, mister," at an unfortunate citizen who was preparing to blow that unhappy organ.

The delinquent hastily shrugged his cape. Then a whistle blew and the bell of St. Patrick's changed out its call to prayer.

Release from Thrall

The whenm delinquent tore the gauze from his face with a jerk that nearly ruptured his ear. Then, throwing it on the pavement, he sprang high in the air and landed on it with both feet.

"Hi! you there," gasped the affronted policeman.

But, as he gasped, a dozen other pedestrians flung their masks from their faces and the watchful officer realized that liberty of the face was reborn and his vigil over the mask was done.

In a twinkling San Francisco was maskless.

Despite the published prayers of the Health Department for conservation of gauze, the sidewalks and runnels were strewn with the relics of a torturous month.

Then was no pretense at rejoicing — only a thankful sigh of relief.

Why in thunder didn't they let us leave 'em at home this morning, instead of wanting to make a blanked carnival of the blanked job at noon?" was the normal tenor of public comment.

Overtime Not Relished

No paeans of thanks were vouchsafed the Board of Health for the picturesque privilege of wearing the face gear for an extra half day.

For ten minutes or thereabouts after the noon hour, men, women, and girls, too absorbed in private affairs to realize their new freedom, might be seen hurrying along marked as of yore. They were quickly called to their senses by sympathetic unmasked passers-by, and by 12:30 o'clock masked pedestrians were as rare as they were last July.

The waiters in the restaurants and the white-coated ministers at the various bars required no such reminders. At the lick of noon every face was cleared in every sense of the term.

Libations are Poured

Before and after luncheon in the leading hotels and other hosteries, congratulatory libations were indulged in by thousands of thankful citizens. Ice cream shops shared the temporary prosperity that ensued.

Freedom to Breathe Ozone-Filled Air Brings Joy to Populace

Upon the spirit of public gratitude.

The ordinance enforcing the wearing of masks was passed by the Board of Supervisors on October 24.

Prior thereto, on October 18, all theaters and other public resorts of amusement had been closed, and all public servants, waiters, bartenders and as forth had been ordered to wear masks on October 26.

Though the ordinance could not legally come into force until some days later, the first arrests under the ordinance were made on October 24, when the delinquents were charged with disturbing the peace.

Many Offenders Fined

The first offenders were fined only $5, but later the penalty was raised to $10, and hundreds were lashed on the Saturday morning. Two persons were arrested at the ferries and elsewhere for neglecting to wear their masks. The City Jail was canceled and Police Juries had to work all night and on Sunday to clear the cases.

For the last week the epidemic has been virtually over, but it was deemed advisable to maintain it until every vestige of disease has disappeared.