INFLUENZA IS NOT ABATING

There was a slight decrease in the number of Spanish influenza cases in San Francisco yesterday, but, according to health officers in charge of the epidemic, there are no direct indications of an abatement of the disease.

Dr. William G. Hassler, public health officer, stated yesterday that the decrease was due to the failure of a number of physicians to make reports because of the Sabbath.

Two hundred and seventy-six new cases were reported to the Health Department up to an early hour last night, with twenty-six additional deaths for the last twenty-four hours. San Francisco now has reported 5,351 Spanish influenza. Total deaths from this disease in the city are 125.

Dr. Hassler last night made public the following bulletin:

The Public Health Department hereby calls upon every employer to impress upon those who are in his employ to wear the prescribed gauze masks both at their employment and on their way to and from their homes.

Every citizen of San Francisco should wear a gauze mask, when on the streets of the city. This is imperative. So far the public is not demonstrating its willingness to co-operate in checking this epidemic. If the citizens continue to display their present lack of precaution we can look for a tremendous increase in the number of influenza cases and in the total number of deaths. I say this with all seriousness.

Let us make the gauze mask popular. Make it a fad to wear them upon the streets. Instead of the person wearing one being the object of curiosity, let us shame those who refuse to take this necessary precaution into objects of scorn.

If the citizen cannot possibly contract the influenza from a person whom you pass ten feet distant on the sidewalk they would immediately take this step of precaution.

Every housewife should refuse to do her trading with a firm whose employees do not wear masks. This same spirit should be a part of every avenue of business transactions.

Postmen and conductors of the United Railroads will be equipped with the gauze masks immediately. The railroad officials have already ordered masks from the Red Cross. The chief of police will shortly issue orders for the better carriers and the police officers to take the precaution.

Let us all co-operate in stamping out this epidemic and help make a record for San Francisco as a city that has a healthful municipality, which is beautiful.