CIVIC LEAGUE DEMANDS ‘FLU’ MASK IN S. F.

Request Taken Before Board of Supervisors; Immediate Re-Enactment of Law Voted Down

Health Committee Will Consider Matter Wednesday; State Board Warns Public of Winter Peril

As the result of the debate the health committee announced that it would be the subject of a special session of Wednesday afternoon instead of waiting for Thursday, its regular meeting day, to consider the matter.

PERSISTENT. The State Board of Health, after carefully considering the situation, has issued a warning that the epidemic may recur in the coming winter.

The board suggests that individual precautionary measures will be most effective in checking the spread of influenza.

The number of influenza cases reported to the San Francisco Health Board yesterday was 485, with 29 deaths.

The recommendations and conclusions are as follows:

1. The law probably will continue to prevail throughout the winter, but there is nothing in the history of the epidemic to base opinions that it will recur to anything like the extent marked by its first appearance.

2. The lack of laboratory and clinical means of diagnosis makes the application of quarantine, with restriction of the movements of all members of the family very uneven in its application. There are great possibilities of the concealment of cases on the one hand and undue hardship for many persons on the other. It is impossible to leave this question to the judgment of local authorities.

RELIEF NEEDED.

1. The most urgent duty of communities at this time, is to provide for the relief of the sick and the families, to provide adequate care for the sick and to take up vigorous and effective measures that follow certainly in the wake of the outbreak.

2. It is imperative that practical nurses be provided for the sick, convalescents and that the sick poor be adequately looked after, not only for their own physical needs but for their social protection to the rest of the community.

COLD MENACE

The board places great emphasis upon the fact that colds are the greatest menace to health and that the individual who may be suffering from a cold should remain at home and avoid going to social gatherings. This is necessary to cut down the spread of the cold and to prevent it from being transmitted to others.

Many persons suffering from so-called ‘colds’ are suffering from influenza in a mild form. Many, however, think that they have colds and do not report them to the authorities. It is imperative for the public health that these cases be reported. In many cases it may be that it is influenza which is causing the symptoms.

The board advises individuals to wear masks during occasions of close association with infected persons.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS. Public gatherings and concerts should be closed according to local laws.