

Richmond Health Officer Orders All Saloons to Close

Gauze Masks Being Worn as Result of Influenza Situation

RICHMOND, October 18.—Dr. C. R. Blake, city and county health officer, took drastic action today to stamp out the influenza.

This morning he issued an order closing all the saloons of the city, so that Richmond is now bone dry. The order reads as follows:

"On account of the prevalence of influenza in this city, without any sign of its diminution at this time, all saloons in this city are hereby ordered immediately closed until further notice. Parents are notified to keep their children off the streets, as the police department has been ordered to arrest every child playing on the streets until further notice."

After issuing the above notice, Dr. Blake went to Crockett, where smallpox has been prevalent. In addition to the influenza, and issued orders closing the schools, churches, moving picture houses and other places where people congregate.

The health officer believes that drastic action is necessary in order to stamp out the disease. In front of the public wickets in the postoffice and the banks are stretched gauze sheets, and all of the clerks in these institutions are now wearing gauze masks, as well as the employes of the different drug stores and a number of business men. The clerks in all of the business houses are discussing the advisability of wearing the masks.

affair and directions for making it are as follows:

Take a piece of gauze eight inches by one yard and fold it twice and attach twelve inches of narrow tape to each of the four corners. This makes a convenient shape to cover the mouth and nose, the tape ends being used to fasten it on. By stitching a colored border on one side, it will be possible to always wear the mask the same side out.

The object of the mask, says the State Board of Health, "is to stop the fine particles of mucus which carry the germs of the disease and which are expelled from the mouths of infected individuals, and which may float a distance of several feet in front of the person from whom they originate. All persons attending influenza cases should have their own masks, and they should never be interchanged."

As a protective measure against influenza, all employes of the White House were yesterday furnished with gauze masks and wear them at their work. Officials of the White House said last night that none of the employes has yet been stricken and that the white masks are expected to maintain the 100 per cent health record.

Adjourn Churches, But Not Worship, Declares Bishop

Let Closing Be Incentive for Greater Devotion Prelate Says

Following the action of the health authorities in ordering among other places the temporary closing of all churches in the campaign to stop the spread of influenza, Bishop William Ford Nichols of the Episcopal Church yesterday addressed a letter to the clergy and congregation of the diocese, urging that the closing be not made the cause for an adjournment of religion, but rather an incentive to quickened devotion. Bishop Nichols exhorts churchmen to let the intermission of public worship affect as little as possible the spiritual welfare of the people.

"Loyally we act upon the instructions of the health authorities during the menace of influenza," he said. "But seldom do times and conditions call for more earnest intercession and more vital religion than just now."

Bishop Nichols suggested the following methods that might be used in keeping with the salutary intent of the rules that must be observed, and also suggested a special prayer for use during the period of anxiety:

FIRST—Families by themselves can have home worship. The Prayer Book will afford opportunity for some member to lead with its provisions, especially as suggested on pages 322-327.

SECOND—The clergy can hold private celebrations of the holy communion, as distinct from public worship, with two communicants, as in the case for the office for the sick, and so keep the continuity of intercession at the altar.

THIRD—When the weather permits, open-air services may be held, where allowed by the health authorities.

FOURTH—For family and altar intercession there may be used the special prayers set forth for use in the diocese for war conditions.