

# CITY TEACHERS VOLUNTEER AID FOR RED CROSS

## 500 Promise to Help Influenza Patients at Girls' High School Meeting

San Francisco school teachers met yesterday morning in the auditorium of the Girls' High School and volunteered to assist in the care of influenza patients and in other Red Cross efforts in the present situation.

Cards were distributed and 500 teachers signed promises to care for patients, take charge of children, do typewriting or answer telephone calls in the Red Cross headquarters.

The need for immediate help was told in short addresses by John A. Britton, Mrs. J. B. Casserly, President George E. Gallagher and Miss Agnes Regan of the Board of Education.

### SCHOOLS ARE ENLISTED

Afterward the principals met and resolved to offer the teaching staff of each school, meeting each day in the school buildings and answering urgent calls in the neighborhood. Plans were also made for the use of the kitchens of the domestic science departments in the various schools, to provide food for the sick.

Some objection was voiced at the outset to the idea of an indoor meeting of the teachers, but Miss Regan spoke briefly to those in the hall who were advocating the outer court as a meeting place, and all went inside.

"A shock is good for the nerve," Miss Regan said, in addressing the meeting and referring to the incident in the hall. "There is too much fear in San Francisco today, and too much of the idea that influenza means death. Certainly the teachers are the ones to help to a more reasonable frame of mind."

As an illustration, she told of a man and wife sick with the influenza, whose married daughter left their food on the doorstep and refused to enter the house.

### LAUGHED AT IDEA

"A week ago I laughed at the idea of the mask," Britton said. "I wanted to be independent. I did not realize that the cost of such independence was the lives of others. Today I bow my head and wish I had the military authority to make every one in San Francisco wear a mask, so that the influenza would be stamped out here as quickly as at Mare island, where that authority was present."

Britton said that there were 1000 families in the city literally without help in sickness, and that people were dying from lack of the simplest attention. He said that the death rate was higher here by reason of the present lack of organized assistance, and appealed to the teachers to help.

When the cards were distributed and the call was made for signatures the response was practically unanimous.