

HEALTH CHIEF URGES FULL PRECAUTIONS

2005 More Stricken, With 94 Deaths; Many Are Reports on Old Cases, He Says

VACCINE NOW ON WAY

Marriage Licenses and Cigar Sales Show Marked Fall- ing Off in City

INFLUENZA cases in this city reported to the Board of Health yesterday numbered 205, with ninety-four deaths for the twenty-four hours.

This was a sharp increase over the figures of Thursday, when the 1407 cases reported for that day was the record.

However, Dr. William C. Hassler, City Health Officer, found comfort in the very size of the figures yesterday. His report, he said, included a great number of cases that should have been reported on previous days, some of them as far back as October 20.

DOCTORS CATCHING UP

Therefore, Dr. Hassler reasoned, the fact that the doctors found time yesterday to make out the lists and report the cases that they had not had time to turn in hitherto, indicates that they are catching up with their work. Employees of the Board who allocated the reports to their proper dates, but Dr. Hassler said he was sure, from his own inspection of the reports, that a large part of the increase was due to this turning in of cases that doctors had not had time to report on previous days.

At the same time Dr. Hassler said he did not want to create an impression that the crest of the epidemic has been passed or that the danger is any less now than it has been. In fact, he again emphasized the necessity of constant wearing of masks, and urged everyone not to relax this precaution for any unnecessary reason.

SPECIAL REQUEST
Dr. Hassler issued yesterday a special request that men do not remove their masks on street cars for the purpose of smoking. This, he said is an important matter.

In order to execute the reporting of cases and make the daily reports conform more to actual facts, the health officer yesterday asked physicians to report their cases in figures only, leaving names and addresses to be turned in when there is more leisure.

Yesterday, said the health officer, the epidemic was being better handled than at any time before. The organization has become more effective, he said, and it is possible now to respond to all calls. A long list of physicians is now at the call of the Board for any service in connection with the influenza, and almost all of the specialists in the city have abandoned their practices to volunteer as physicians for influenza cases.

With the first of next week, when the supply of vaccine coming from Boston will be here, and additional supplies developed in local laboratories will be available, Dr. Hassler says the real onslaught on the influenza will begin.

EFFECTIVE VACCINE

This vaccine, he said, has been proved by Eastern experience to be an effective preventive of influenza. Enough is coming to inoculate 17,000 persons, and the supplies now being developed locally are coming on so well that in the Health Officer's opinion there will be more vaccine at hand by next Tuesday than the physicians of the city can administer.

The production of this vaccine is an important work and requires the cooperation of the Board of Health. The Board of Health is now in the process of securing the necessary equipment and materials for the production of this vaccine. The vaccine will be available through the city. Among the places will be the University of California Hospital, Stanford Hospital, the City and County Hospital, the San Francisco Hospital and others.

The vaccine is injected in three doses with twenty-four hours between intervening. After this treatment, say the physicians, the patient is immune to influenza.

CULTURES FROM WHICH THE SERUM IS OBTAINED
Cultures from which the serum is obtained are now being developed at the University of California medical research laboratories, at the city laboratories, and by commercial laboratories.

In the meantime San Francisco has taken to the mask beyond all expectations. The man or woman unmasked on the streets yesterday was the rare exception. The health officer's estimate was that 99 per cent of the people of this city are wearing the masks.

No necessity has yet arisen, he said, for any action by the authorities to enforce the wearing of masks in the time before the new city ordinance goes into effect. Because of the charter limitations that prevented the Supervisors from putting the mask ordinance into effect until five days after its passage, it was proposed if necessary that the Board of Health should quarantine persons who refused to wear masks.

NO TROUBLE EXPECTED

But no such action appears to be needed, said the health officer, and Chief of Police D. A. White said yesterday that it was apparent that there will be no trouble at all about 100 per cent enforcement of the order for masks.

"It is a remarkable tribute to the intelligence and co-operative spirit of the people of San Francisco," said Dr. Hassler today, "that they have accepted so readily and completely a precaution the proof of which was known only to physicians and hospital employees."

"It has been fully demonstrated that doctors and nurses who wear the masks did not contract influenza from the patients, while those who did not wear them came down with

the disease. But the public did not know this as well as the physicians and nurses and is therefore worthy of full praise for its prompt adoption of the measure."

TWO MONTHS' CAMPAIGN

Two or three days must elapse yet before the effect of the wearing of masks will show in the figures, according to the health officer. The period of incubation for the influenza is from one to three days, so that many persons who have been exposed have not yet come down with the affliction.

The course of the epidemic may be for two months or more, said Dr. Hassler, who added that everything will be done to stamp out the epidemic in two weeks, if it can be done. The Board of Health, he said, is preparing for a two months' campaign.

The total number of cases in the city has now reached 12,228, with the probability of many more light cases that were not reported. The number of deaths from influenza has reached 477.

The situation in Chinatown is said to be in fair shape. The Chinese newspapers are publishing the warnings and the regulations, and the people are complying, as are the inhabitants of other districts.