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CONTINUED MASKING HOLDS INFLUENZA IN CHECK

DON'T RELAX PRECAUTIONS SAYS HASSLER

Record Established by City in Stamping Out Disease Unless Relapse Occurs

552 CASES YESTERDAY

Fatal Mistake of Growing Careless Too Soon Shown in Eastern Cities

WITHIN less than a month after the influenza contagion began to spread in this city, the health authorities have it on the down grade. If the precautions now being taken are continued, said Health Officer William C. Hassler yesterday, the chance is excellent that San Francisco will break all records in getting rid of the epidemic.

But he points a warning with the example of the most of the Eastern cities that have had the influenza. In almost every case after the contagion had begun to wane, it burst out afresh and became worse than ever. This, he said, was due to overconfidence and relaxation of measures against the epidemic.

SITUATION BRIGHTENING

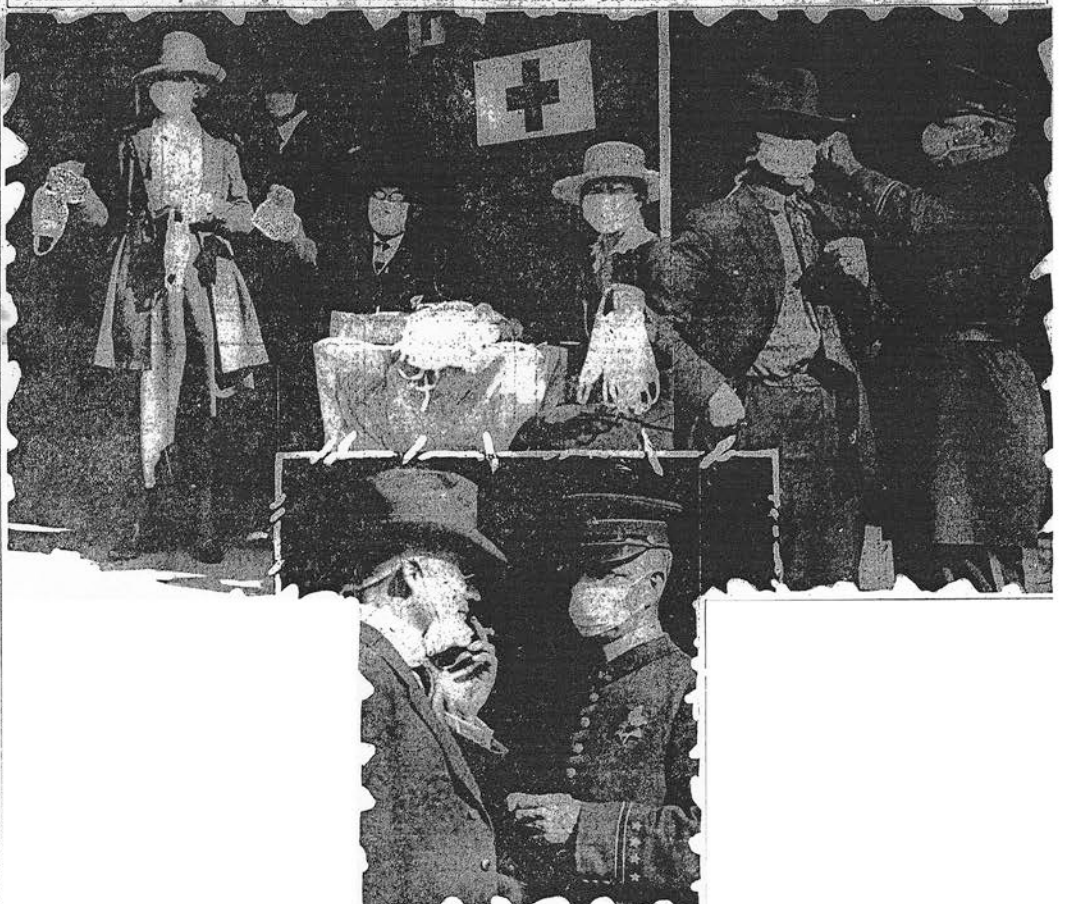
In almost all respects the situation was better yesterday, although the deaths from influenza still kept up to a high figure. The number of cases reported during the twenty-four hours was 552, of which 134 were actually of the day. This was a heavy drop from the 946 cases reported on Thursday.

The number of pneumonia cases taken to the hospitals rose a little above the low figure of Thursday, when only seventy-eight cases were handled, but this was explained by Dr. Hassler as due to the fact that more hospital room had made it possible to take less serious cases than were admitted during the crisis. Thursday's record of seventy-eight pneumonia cases handled by the emergency service was a drop from 131 on the previous day. It was noticed at the Central Emergency Hospital yesterday that for the first time since the epidemic became serious not a single case walked into the hospital. Up to yesterday many homeless men came in suffering from pneumonia.

RED CROSS UNIT OPEN

With the opening of the Red Cross building at the Civic Center the hospital situation became very much improved yesterday. The Red Cross building is being used exclusively for convalescents. Thither all convalescents are being taken from the San Francisco Hospital, leaving that institution much freer to handle new cases.

As the numbers reduce, said the Health Officer, the San Francisco Hospital will be able to take less and less serious cases, and will thus be able to get at them earlier. During the critical period, when every bit of room in the hospital was crowded, it was possible, he said, to take in only the grave cases.

The death list yesterday from influenza was 98. According to the Health Officer, the average time in which death ensues in a fatal case of influenza is five days from the time the patient came down. It was pointed out that the number of pneumonia patients admitted to the San Francisco Hospital reached its maximum last Sunday and was still high on

MASKLESS COMMUTERS CAPTURED BY THE POLICE AT THE FERRY BUILDING YESTERDAY. Policeman Harry L. Webb (at right) showing a traveler how the mask is worn. On the left the Red Cross mask booth, where overland passengers were provided with masks. Below is Policeman Thomas L. Flynn instructing a smoker that the mask is not worn under the chin. One hundred violators of the law were held up.