

# HASSLER WARNS CITY AGAINST CARELESSNESS IN WEARING OF MASKS AS NEW CASES DECLINE

Health Officer Believes San Franciscans Will Be Obligated to Cover Faces for 2 Months; Auction Permit Revoked on Complaint of Dealers; 68 Deaths Reported

ONLY sixty-two new cases of influenza were reported over the telephone to the Health Board yesterday. This is a falling off of nineteen from Monday's new cases, when there were eighty-one. There were 397 cases of the malady reported by letter, as against 450 delayed reports on Monday. There were sixty-eight deaths yesterday. On Monday there were seventy-seven.

Thus the tide of the epidemic is being slowly but surely forced back from its highest point on October 25, when more than 2000 cases were reported. That was the day, reports Dr. Hassler, when the masks were put on by law. At once the malady was checked. The next day there was a falling off in new cases of more than 800.

## CARELESS TENDENCY

Though it pleases Health Officer Hassler to make these reassuring reports, he regrets the public's tendency to become careless. "Now is the time to do the biggest fighting," he says. In particular he calls attention to the habit of removing the mask in the home, under the delusion that close relatives cannot mutually convey the disease. "The germ knows neither family, nor friend, nor foe," says Dr. Hassler. "In the family circle as well as in the office, or store, or shop the masks should be kept on, for it is a demonstrable fact that the careless ones are now the patients in our hospitals and the charges on our Red Cross workers.

"The bars are not to be lowered an inch until this thing is stamped out. I believe San Francisco will be wearing masks for two months.

## BLAZES UP AGAIN

"The history of other cities, Paris, London, and Eastern communities, is not to be duplicated here if it is possible to avoid it. In those and many other places, like Los Angeles, care was relaxed as soon as the malady seemed checked. It blazed again, and the whole experience had to be gone over against an enemy of even greater malignity; for the bringing in of outside cases to spread the infection invariably doubles its severity.

"It must be remembered that the disease came out of the training camps of the East, where the victims were between the ages of 21 and 31. That is the reason why its ravages are so much more grave in the bodies of patients of that age, 70 per cent of whom succumb."

Within the range of greatest probability, there will be no live stock show in San Francisco this year. The date of opening the grounds at Twelfth and Market streets was put forward till November 16. Joseph E. Painter, the manager, conferred yesterday with Dr. Hassler and was advised that there was not the remotest possibility that the mask ordinance would be rescinded by that date.

## DANGER POINTED OUT

Painter said he wanted to know, because if plans were proceeded with he would have to wire his people in the East and in Canada to come out

at once. Dr. Hassler pointed to the danger in bringing persons from infected regions to renew the local infection, and announced that masks would be worn for probably two months. Painter said in view of the latter statement he would advise the promoters of the show to abandon it for this year.

A committee from the Auctioneers' Association, represented by Joseph Basch, addressed Dr. Hassler with reference to the permit granted J. Gollober to hold an auction today at 133 Pine street. They objected to what they said looked like discrimination, since they had not been permitted to hold auction sales. Dr. Hassler explained that Gollober's permit was granted on the strength of the statement that it was a wholesale deal and thus did not attract buyers and bidders from families and from residential sections. In view of the protest, however, Gollober's permit was revoked, and there will be no auction sales, either wholesale or retail, until the epidemic is passed.

## RELIEVING CONGESTION

The Red Cross and the Health Board are making valiant efforts to "hospitalize" all new cases, and are succeeding measurably, with the aid of the Red Cross hospital at the Civic Center, which is taking convalescent patients as rapidly as their condition permits, thus relieving congestion at the receiving hospitals.

Dr. Hassler is eager to have the principle upon which the Health Board is proceeding understood by all. With influenza definitely checked as it is, the menace of a recrudescence of the malady is heightened by arrivals from other infected centers, bringing the same kind of germ, but of a fresh or more vigorous development, he explains. A reinfection, if it should follow, would mean that the city would again be plunged into an epidemic such as developed on October 6, its climax of 2006 new cases.

## CITY RECORD CLEANEST

"When the germ has been completely stamped out and the last case cured, then, and then only," says Dr. Hassler, "will the removal of masks be unattended with danger to the public health. San Francisco's record is the cleanest and finest of any city's within the world-radius of the malady. And it is the masks and the preventive measures that are responsible. These will be maintained rigorously until the last influenza patient is cured."

More automobiles—Fords preferred—are wanted by the Red Cross to transport doctors, nurses and supplies every day between 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. and from 7 P. M. till midnight. Apply to the Red Cross motor corps at 1032 Mission street.

Organization of the Red Cross twelve district relief stations has been completed by the addition of district No. 4. It is bounded by Stanyan street, Arguello boulevard, the Golden Gate, the ocean and Lincoln way, with headquarters at the Star of the Sea Church, 371 Eighth avenue. Telephone Pacific 1653.