

# MASKS PREVENT 20,000 CASES

## Dr. Hassler Tells Board of Health Precautions; Saved At Least 1500 Lives

The Board of Health met in special session at the St. Francis Hotel at 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning, and adopted a resolution introduced by Health Officer Dr. William C. Hassler, formally requesting the issuance of a proclamation revoking the ordinance making compulsory the wearing of masks. The proclamation was issued immediately.

The resolution of the Health Board was a review of the campaign which stamped out the epidemic, saying the hearty co-operation of the people and the municipal authorities made it possible to apply for the first time to an entire population of a large metropolitan city, what appeared to be an unique measure, but which proved to be a sane and rational preventive against the spread of an epidemic disease.

### DEATHS PREVENTED

Dr. Hassler said the wearing of the masks and other precautionary measures undoubtedly had saved 20,000 cases of illness and prevented 1500 deaths.

The epidemic began here September 23, and in fifty-nine days, including yesterday, the cases totaled 23,558. The deaths numbered 1857 from the disease. In September there were two deaths, October 1208 and November 639. The peak was reached October 25, when 2319 cases were reported to the Board of Health. The highest mortality on one day was 108 deaths, on October 29.

The wearing of the masks began October 24, and according to Dr. Hassler the efficacy of the coverings for the nose and mouth manifested itself about four or five days later and continued up to the wiping out of the epidemic.

Toward the end of October cases fell off 200 or 300 a day, with a steady decrease until November 14, when a slight flare-up followed the victory celebration.

### TEN CASES REPORTED

Yesterday ten new cases were reported and eight deaths. The deaths were for a period of four days.

The masks have done good work in other ways than preventing the spreading of the influenza germ, according to statistics compiled by Louis P. Monaco of the Board of Health. Communicable diseases did not make the same ravages among children and adults as in past years, when masks were not worn.

In the first twenty days of November, this year, eight cases of diphtheria, four cases of scarlet fever, eleven cases of whooping cough and eight cases of measles were reported to the Board of Health. In the first twenty days of November last year, diphtheria cases numbered thirty, scarlet fever nineteen, whooping cough eighty-three and measles fifty.