

San Francisco Joyously Discards Masks in Twinkling Faces Beam as Gauze Covers Come Off at Time Fixed

Geel! Don't They Look Great Now?—Here are a few of the happy faces that have been hidden for a month behind gauze "flu" masks. They peeped out yesterday and everybody had a treat. Anyone can see the girls in the picture are glad.



Influenza Disappearance Signaled by Whistle Blast at Noon

AFTER four weeks of muzzled misery, San Francisco unmasked at noon yesterday and ventured to draw its breath.

At five seconds to 12 the muzzled policeman at the corner yapped out his last: "Cover your nose, mister!" at an unfortunate citizen who was preparing to blow that unhappy organ.

The delinquent hastily shrouded his face. Then a whistle blew and the bell of St. Patrick's clanged out its call to prayer.

RELEASE FROM THRALLDOM

The whilom delinquent tore the gauze from his face with a jerk that nearly ruptured his ear. Then, throwing it on the pavement, he sprang high in the air and landed on it with both feet.

"Hi! you, there!" gasped the affronted policeman.

But, as he gasped, a dozen other pedestrians flung their masks from their faces and the watchful officer realized that liberty of the face was reborn and his vigil over the masks was done.

In a twinkling San Francisco was maskless.

Health Department for conservation of gauze, the sidewalks and runnels were strewn with the relics of a torturous month.

There was no pretense at rejoicing—only a thankful sigh of relief.

"Why in thunder didn't they let us leave 'em at home this morning, instead of wanting to make a blanked carnival of the blanked job at noon?" was the normal tenor of public comment.

OVERTIME NOT RELISHED

No paeans of thanks were vouchsafed the Board of Health for the picturesque privilege of wearing the face gear for an extra half day.

For ten minutes or thereabout after the noon hour, men, women and girls, too absorbed in private affairs

to realize their new freedom, might be seen hurrying along masked as of yore. These were quickly called to their senses by sympathetic onlookers, and by 12:30 o'clock masked pedestrians were as rare as they were last July.

The waiters in the restaurants and the white-coated ministrants at the various bars required no such reminders. At the tick of noon every face was cleared in every sense of that term.

LIBATIONS ARE POURED

Before and after luncheon in the leading hotels and other hostilities congratulatory libations were indulged in by thousands of thankful citizens. Ice cream shops shared the temporary prosperity that inured

Freedom to Breathe Ozone-Filled Air Brings Joy to Populace

upon the spirit of public gratitude.

The ordinance enforcing the wearing of masks was passed by the Board of Supervisors on October 24. Prior thereto, on October 18, all theaters and other public resorts of amusement had been closed, and all public servants, waiters, bartenders and so forth had been ordered to wear masks on October 20.

Though the ordinance could not legally come into force until some days later, the first arrests under its provisions were made on the 26th, when the delinquents were charged with disturbing the peace.

MANY OFFENDERS FINED

The first offenders were fined only \$5, but later the penalty was raised to \$10, and hundreds were thus indicted. On one Saturday morning 700 persons were arrested at the ferries and elsewhere for neglecting to wear their masks. The City Jail was congested and Police Justices had to work at night and on Sunday to clear the cases.

For the past week the epidemic has been virtually over, but it was deemed advisable to maintain the ordinance until every vestige of the disease had disappeared.