

# NEW INFLUENZA CASES FOR DAY FALL OFF TO 25

## Comparison With 127 Turned in Saturday Considered Cheerful News

### FAITH PINNED TO MASKS

## Epidemic Will Be Averted by Wearing Gauze, in Opinion of Health Officer

The cheerful announcement was made by City Health Officer William C. Hassler yesterday that only twenty-five new cases of influenza had been reported. The record of the previous day was 127 cases. The sudden drop showed clearly, the Health Officer said, that the high rate of Saturday was due to relapses and to belated reports of cases received by mail.

Resuming the masks will prevent the recurrence of influenza in epidemic form in San Francisco, according to a statement yesterday by Dr. Hassler.

San Francisco is the only large city in the world where the epidemic has been checked in so short a time, according to Dr. Hassler, and he says authorities are agreed that wearing the masks prevented the spread of the disease.

### RULES TO BE OBSERVED

Reports from England, Spain and other European countries, as well as from large cities in this country, show, according to Dr. Hassler, that even when the disease seemed to have subsided, the lull was succeeded by a flare-up.

It is to prevent such a flare-up of the epidemic that the Board of Health has again ordered the people of the city to wear masks.

Dr. Hassler urged yesterday that the rules of sanitation and personal hygiene should be strictly observed, and that care should be exercised to prevent colds.

"During the present stormy weather," he said, "care should be taken to wear proper clothing and to keep the feet dry.

"Our women who appear on the streets barefooted, or nearly so, with their abbreviated slippers and thin stockings, are simply inviting an attack of influenza."

### SITUATION WELL IN HAND

The donning of masks will not be accompanied by closing places of amusement and business. This was decided yesterday at a conference of municipal authorities. There will be no need whatever to resort to the drastic measures of store and theater closing, Dr. Hassler told the Mayor. The wearing of the masks is a measure of precaution to protect the people from infection from the disease. The whole situation is so well in hand, he said, that stores and places of public amusement can with perfect safety be left open to follow their regular routine without interference by the health authorities.

As to the resumption of the masks, the Mayor's proclamation is all that is necessary, the municipal authorities believe. The original mask ordinance contained the provision that it could be canceled by proclamation of the Mayor.

### MAYOR'S POWER QUESTIONED

The Mayor's power in that respect has been questioned. The charter declares that an ordinance of the Supervisors can be repealed only by their votes. They have never voted to repeal the mask ordinance, and the opinion prevails in the Board that it has never ceased to be in existence, though the Mayor declared it dead. If fresh action is needed by the Board of Supervisors to make the new mask order effective, it will be taken today by the Supervisors, it was announced yesterday.

### AUTHORITIES IN ACCORD

Dr. Hassler said last night that there was no difference of opinion between himself and other municipal officers over the mask order.

"It is clear," he said, "that the Mayor's proclamation permitting citizens to leave off their masks revoked the original ordinance, and the wearing of masks cannot be enforced by the police without further authority. We expect, however, that the Board of Supervisors will again pass the ordinance at its meeting tomorrow afternoon."\*