

HASSLER WILL FIGHT REPEAL OF MASK LAW

Supervisor Schmitz Expected to Propose Abandonment at Monday Meeting

Effort to rescind the ordinance compelling the use of influenza masks will be made at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors tomorrow afternoon, it was reported yesterday. Supervisor E. E. Schmitz is expected to introduce a resolution asking that the mask law be revoked.

Opposition to this proposed action will be taken by Dr. William C. Hassler, city health officer, and other members of the Board of Health. While admitting that influenza is no longer epidemic in San Francisco, Dr. Hassler believes there is grave danger of a flare-up unless the face coverings are worn until the disease is entirely stamped out.

35 CASES REPORTED

Only thirty-five new cases and ten deaths from influenza were reported to the Board of Health yesterday. It was said that many of the deaths date back several days. Yesterday's figures are the lowest since the second invasion of the epidemic. Official figures for the last eleven days:

| | New Cases | Deaths |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| January 15..... | 510 | 50 |
| January 16..... | 538 | 42 |
| January 17..... | 519 | 39 |
| January 18..... | 413 | 25 |
| January 19..... | 400 | 18 |
| *January 20..... | 306 | 40 |
| *January 21..... | 183 | 22 |
| *January 22..... | 164 | 15 |
| *January 23..... | 118 | 11 |
| *January 24..... | 85 | 20 |
| *January 25..... | 35 | 10 |

*Masks on.

HASSLER MAKES PLEA

To guard against contraction of the disease from outside sources, Dr. Hassler urges that mask be worn conscientiously for another two weeks. He said:

"Just because we have conquered the influenza is no reason why precaution should at once be thrown to the winds. If the people will obey their own common sense all danger will be passed in a short time. But in the meantime care should be taken to avoid taking chances of becoming infected or of conveying it to others.

"The only certain way to avoid this is, to be clean, make clean, sterilize, disinfect and wear masks."

100 PER CENT DROP

With the drop in the number of influenza cases the strain upon the facilities of the San Francisco Hospital is being relieved. One week ago there were 346 patients in the city hospital; yesterday there were 173, a decrease of more than 100 per cent.

Dr. Hassler says the call for nurses has practically ceased, and help engaged during the epidemic is gradually being dispensed with.

Little effort was made yesterday by Dr. Hassler to suppress his wrath at any attempt that may be made to have the masks removed immediately. He declared that if the face coverings had been worn when first asked by him last December two or three hundred lives would have been saved in this city.

Only twelve arrests were made yesterday for failure to wear masks. All were released on payment of \$5 bail.