

EPIDEMIC IS NOW REPORTED UNDER CONTROL

Six States Announce Decline in Number of New Victims of Influenza

WASHINGTON, October 21.—Improvement in the influenza situation in six states was shown by reports received today by the public health service, but twenty-seven other states reported the disease still spreading, with many additional cities and rural districts affected.

In Army camps a slight increase in both influenza and pneumonia cases was reported Sunday, but a decrease was shown today, with 3007 influenza cases and 768 pneumonia cases, the lowest figures reported since the epidemic became general in the camps. For the forty-eight hours ending today at noon new influenza cases totaled 6666, pneumonia 2079 and deaths 919.

These figures brought the total of influenza cases since September 13 to 290,447, pneumonia cases of 46,055 and deaths from all causes to 15,072.

Sewers Doing Bit to Spread Influenza Thorough Flushing City's Big Need

Supervisors Fail to Reply to Anxious Inquiries of Loyal Citizens

AND still the high-pressure system, maintained against the necessities of sudden emergencies, has not been used to flush the sewers as part of the precautionary and preventive measures in the influenza fight.

The Chronicle is being asked why? Every mail delivery brings to the editor of this newspaper a budget of letters asking why?

The Chronicle editorially has asked the Board of Supervisors why?

San Francisco's loyal public, uncompromisingly and cheerfully acquiescent in every requirement laid upon it, is asking the Board of Supervisors why?

As yet there is no answer. Why?

Nobody questions the efficacy of such a measure.

No one whose olfactory processes are even faintly reactive can doubt the need. "The nose knows."

FLUSHING BIG NEED

A casual observation of the condition of the sewers of San Francisco will reveal the inevitable results of the continued dry spell. Pedestrians at Sutter and Stockton streets, Sutter and Kearny, Post and Kearny, Grant avenue and Post, Powell and O'Farrell, Pierce and Ellis, Stanyan and Parnassus, Cole and Carl, and elsewhere through the city, need no written words to inform them of a condition that can be corrected only by a thorough flushing of the sewers.

One writer to The Chronicle, an authority in hygienic matters, calling attention to these contributing causes of disease, and particularly mentioning downtown corners, says:

"I find that they (the sewer vents) are filled to within three and four feet of the top (the street level). A thick mass of dirt, mud and debris and a foul odor are observable."

"What has become of our high-pressure salt-water system?" asks another questioner. "Why not turn it loose and flood the streets and the sewers? A partial analysis of salt water reveals chlorine of sodium, carbonate of sodium, iodine in large percentages and calcium products with potassium salts—all these are Nature's antiseptics."

"The Pacific ocean is full of water," writes a facetious one. "Why not use some of the high-pressure salt water to wash our sewers and our streets? There's plenty more where that came from, and no meter will tick a bill against our unawakened Supervisors."

Many of the complaining letters point out reasons for turning on the



Cross-section of a downtown sewer, showing the necessity of flushing with the high-pressure system. Month after month a deposit is left which ordinary sewer flushing fails to disturb.

high-pressure system aside from those relating to health.

TESTING SYSTEM

"We have installed," writes one, "at an enormous cost a high-pressure system, and while we hope it will never be necessary to use it for the purpose for which it was originally installed, we want to be reasonably sure that it is in good working condition. Why does not the Board of Supervisors detail some of the firemen to test it in the manner suggested by The Chronicle? The piping system could thus be freed of obstructions (if any existed) and the manholes which now are clogged with noxious and disease-breeding sewerage could be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with salt water."

The churches have been closed. The schools have been closed. The theaters, most of them ideally provided with ventilating plants, have been closed. Dance halls, cabarets and all public meeting places have been closed.

The home and the streets are the only places where citizens may recuperate and find relaxation. The streets will not be rendered sanitary and safe until the Board of Supervisors, deterred at present by some unknown sinister influence, order the releasing of the pent-up floods of the high-pressure system and purge clean the city's congested and befouled alimentary canal.