

INFLUENZA IS NOT ABATING

There was a slight decrease in the number of Spanish influenza cases in San Francisco yesterday, but, according to health officers in charge of the epidemic, there are no direct indications of an abatement of the disease.

Dr. William G. Hassler, public health officer, stated yesterday that the decrease was due to the failure of a number of physicians to make reports because of the Sabbath.

Two hundred and seventy-six new cases were reported to the Health Department up to an early hour last night, with twenty-six additional deaths for the last twenty-four hours. San Francisco now has reported 5,151 cases of Spanish influenza. Total deaths from the disease in this city are 125.

Dr. Hassler last night made public the following bulletin:

The Board of Health herewith calls upon every employer to impress upon those who are, in his employ to wear the prescribed gauze mask both at their employment and on their way to and from their homes.

Every citizen of San Francisco should wear a gauze mask when on the public street. This is imperative. So far the public is not demonstrating its willingness to co-operate in checking this epidemic. If the citizens continue to display their present lack of precaution we can look for a tremendous increase in the number of influenza cases and in the total of deaths. I say this with all seriousness.

Let us make the gauze mask popular. Make it a fad to wear them upon the streets. Instead of the person wearing one being an object of curiosity, let us shame those who refuse to take this necessary precaution into objects of scorn.

If the citizens realized that it is possible to contract the influenza from a person whom you pass ten feet distant on the sidewalk they would immediately take this step of precaution.

Every housewife should refuse to do her trading with a firm whose employees do not wear the masks. This same spirit should animate every avenue of business transaction.

Motormen and conductors on the United Railroads will be equipped with the gauze masks immediately. The railroad officials have already ordered the masks from the Red Cross. The postmaster and the chief of police will shortly issue orders for the letter carriers and the police officers to take the precaution.

Let us all co-operate in stamping out this epidemic and help make a record for San Francisco as a city that "knows how," and a municipality which is healthful.