

# GAUZE MASKS MUST BE WORN ON THE STREET

This Is Warning of Board of Health; Last 24 Hours Show Decided Spread of Influenza

Wearing of Nose and Mouth Protector Gives 90 Per Cent Immunity, Says Dr. W. C. Hassler

The rapid and fatal spread of Spanish influenza in San Francisco was reported at a civic conference in the rooms of the local Board of Health last night.

New cases yesterday totaled 1,144.

Deaths yesterday totaled 41.

The grand total of cases in San Francisco is 6,244 and the grand total of deaths is 163.

Warning was sounded by the health officers that unless every man, woman and child in San Francisco shall immediately don a mask and wear it wherever he goes there will probably be 50,000 cases of influenza in this city within a few weeks and deaths mounting up to more than 1,500.

Mayor Rolph attended the conference, and he is issuing a public appeal to the people to wear masks. An order went out last night requiring all police officers to mask themselves against the disease, and a similar order was issued to all employees of the postoffice.

P. H. McCarthy, president of the Building Trades Council, and John O'Connell, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council, declared in the conference that imperative orders would be issued to all shipyard workers and to all other workers to wear masks and to continue to wear them so long as the necessity required.

Today the city will be placarded with flaming signs informing the people that they must wear masks in order to save their lives.

## DANGER POINTED OUT.

Health Officer Hassler and Dr. Woods Hutchinson gave point to the acute danger of going maskless by saying that a man may carry the influenza with him for several days without himself being stricken, yet all the while he is communicating the disease to all who come within ten feet of him. A mask, they say, will prevent this, as the mask will catch and hold the germ, and the germ quickly dies when freed from the mouth or nose.

Aside from health officials, the extraordinary conference was attended by representatives of the State Council of Defense, the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, the Building Trades' Council, the San Francisco Labor Council, the Restaurant Owners' Association, the Emergency Fleet Corporation, the police department, the postoffice and the Associated Charities.

Upon behalf of the Emergency Fleet Corporation it was announced that an influenza germ had been segregated at Vancouver, B. C., and had been brought to the United States Marine Hospital in this city, where work had been begun in the making of influenza vaccine.

## HEALTH BOARD WARNING.

Gauze masks must be worn in all places of business and upon the public streets if the Spanish influenza epidemic which is now raging in San Francisco is to be brought under control.

This is the warning issued yesterday by the Board of Health.

Dr. George Ebricht, President of the State Board of Health, said that the disease could be checked within a short time in this city if all persons would wear masks.

"The germ of the disease," said Ebricht, "is communicated in fine moist particles when one coughs. The mask will effectually prevent this."

Dr. William C. Hassler, city health officer, said yesterday:

We have not reached the apex of this epidemic yet. Unless the public co-operates there will be a rapid increase in cases.

## S. F. TO HAVE 10-DAY SPELL.

San Francisco is in for fully ten days more of this Spanish influenza epidemic, and the whole town might as well decide right now to buckle down to the adoption of the precautions which the health department has prescribed.

Those who wear their gauze masks faithfully are 90 per cent immune.

Those who wear the masks in alternating periods are penny wise and pound foolish.

Those who refuse to wear the masks are not worth considering, but they are a menace to thousands of others.

The gauze mask came into popularity yesterday in full force, following the advice given by Drs. Woods Hutchinson and William C. Hassler, both noted authorities on health conditions, whose views were published in "The Examiner" yesterday.

Red Cross headquarters, No. 30 Montgomery street, was besieged yesterday with persons seeking masks from early morning until closing time. Before noon 10,000 masks were distributed and soon large numbers of citizens were wearing them on the streets, in the offices and other places about town.

So heavy was the demand for the masks that an additional headquarters at 22 Montgomery street was opened to care for the rush. Every Red Cross auxiliary was impressed into service to manufacture the masks, while the factory of Levi Strauss, which was commandeered by the Red Cross, began to turn out the face gear in large batches.

Doctor Hassler asked "The Examiner" to explain to the public that wherever the Board of Health has dispatched a physician to handle an influenza case the patient is to pay no doctor's fee as the expense is borne by the city.