

'FLU' EPIDEMIC BELIEVED TO BE CHECKED

New Cases Only 298, but 15 Per Cent of Maximum Number a Week Ago; Deaths Reported 50

Credit for Falling Off Given to Masks; No Public Meetings Until Disease Is Stamped Out

The influenza epidemic in San Francisco had so far abated yesterday that the number of cases reported to the Board of Health was the smallest since October 13. The new cases were 298, making a total of 22,165. The deaths reported for the day were 50, making a total of 1,404.

Yesterday's new cases showed that the epidemic is so far checked as to have been reduced to 15 per cent of the maximum point reached about a week ago.

Credit is still given to the mask for keeping the epidemic in check.

Dr. William C. Hassler, health officer, told Irving C. Ackerman and a delegation of theatre men who waited upon him yesterday that the mask-wearing requirement would probably be continued until January 1 next. He also said he did not think theatres should re-open until November 23, although this decision was not final.

Notwithstanding the highly promising condition of affairs, Dr. Hassler continued his warnings to the people of the city to continue their vigilance. It would be a grave and inexcusable mistake, he said, after meeting a serious situation so successfully to invite a return of the epidemic by relaxing too soon.

"The rules regarding public meetings, theatres and the wearing of masks will remain as they are until we feel certain that the disease has been stamped out beyond the possibility of a sudden return," said Dr. Hassler last night.