

'FLU' MASKS TO BE OUSTED THANKSGIVING

Celebration of National Holiday
Probably to Be Attended by
Discarding Gauze Devices

Churches, Theatres and Schools
Expected to Reopen Soon;
Final Decision Due in Few Days

Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated in San Francisco by the discarding of gauze masks, if the present crisis of influenza continues. Requests that the theatres be opened next Saturday were made by theatre managers yesterday, and the question will be decided this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at a special meeting of the Board of Health.

The date for discarding the masks was announced by Dr. William C. Hassler, health officer, yesterday.

Opening of the churches on Sunday and the schools on Monday will be decided at the meeting today on the theatre question.

The meeting today will be attended by managers of theatres, the health committee of the Supervisors and members of the Board of Health.

Mask and other emergency health regulations will be strictly enforced by the police up to the date set for unmasking.

Twenty-one deaths and 114 new cases of influenza were reported yesterday.

CROWDS BRING INCREASE.

Dr. Hassler said that a slight increase in the number of cases might be expected at the end of this week because of the large crowds that gathered to celebrate the allied victory. He said that 90 per cent of those who took part in the celebration wore masks, and that the danger of any material increase in the number of cases is slight. It will be four days before the health officers can determine whether any harm was done.

There were 656 cases of influenza-pneumonia at the San Francisco hospital last night, and other hospitals were filled to nearly their capacity with influenza patients.

Proposals to reopen the theatres was made to Dr. Hassler by Irving C. Ackerman of the Ackerman & Harris Circuit; Howard Sheehan, J. A. Parlington, Eugene Roth and Louis Greenfield, motion picture theatre managers, and Maor M. J. Cohn, representative of the film exchanges. Representatives of unions of musicians and theatrical and motion picture houses were also present.

CALL ON THE MAYOR.

Dr. Hassler told the petitioners that he believed it would be safe to allow the holding of public meetings very soon, but said he preferred to wait a day or two before making any decision as to the exact date. The theatrical men said they were willing to reopen their places with the understanding that they would close them at once if there was a renewal of the epidemic.

Later in the day the theatre managers called upon Mayor Rolph and the Board of Supervisors to call attention to the fact that four weeks has been the maximum time for the closing of amusement places in other cities and that this period would end here at midnight tomorrow.

Supervisor Hayden presented a resolution to the board asking that the theatres be allowed to reopen as soon as possible. Supervisor Schmitz called for reopening next Saturday. Supervisor McSheehy asked the Board of Health for information regarding the safety of reopening of places of amusement at this time. The resolutions were referred to the health committee, which will present them at today's meeting.