

# 'FLU' BEATEN, INDICATION FROM REPORT

City's Cases Rapidly Decrease,  
and Conditions Improve Here  
With Gratifying Rapidity

Children's Hospital Completely  
Cleared of Influenza Cases;  
Red Cross Stations Are Closed

Influenza conditions in San Francisco continue to improve so rapidly that the Board of Health yesterday lifted the ban on theatres in the Mission and North Beach districts and made possible the general reopening of all theatres in the city this afternoon. The wearing of masks and the prohibition against dancing are the only signs left of the battle that has been waged against the epidemic.

The Board of Health announced last night that the Children's Hospital, turned over to them during the epidemic, had been completely cleared of influenza patients. It is now ready again to receive private patients. The Red Cross has closed its influenza station, and even the staff at the Board of Health was left half idle.

Ten new cases originated yesterday. A few others that had not yet been reported came in by mail. There were nineteen deaths. If these figures do not show any material increase in the next few days, Dr. Hassler says the epidemic will be considered a thing of the past.

Mayor Rolph called a general assembly at the Civic Auditorium last night to bring people together for a United War Work parade. At a meeting with the Board of Health and Supervisors in his office yesterday morning, it was urged that every possible precaution against a return of the influenza be adhered to for several days. The mayor promptly withdrew his proclamation and the parade was abandoned.

# City Is Getting Normal Again Theaters Are Opening Today Debt to the Stage Increased

BY ANNIE LAURIE.

**H**AVE a doughnut? No, thank you, not today. I ate plenty of them yesterday, and I think for a while I'll prefer plain bread, or even one of those foolish, oozy French pastries that always look as if they were going to be delicious and usually turn out to be just fairly edible.



But I'm glad I ate the doughnuts; I'd eat ten times the amount again in such a cause—wouldn't you?

Wasn't it fun? Weren't the streets a regular Donnybrook fair?

Which truck did you follow? No, I'm not going to tell mine. I always hated a teacher who "showed partiality," didn't you?

It wasn't a drive; it was a celebration. Aren't you glad you were part of it? But, oh, joy, how about today?

This is the day that the theatres open; don't forget that.

The theatres that have been closed for so long—What have we ever done without them?

## TROUBLES ARE PASSED.

How have we lived through the grief and anxiety of the past few weeks—past, all past—oh, thankful hearts of ours to know it's true—without the singing and the laughing and the grace and the charm of the actor folk, the people who make us laugh and cry and sigh and remember—so that we forget for a while our petty cares and sordid worries and deep anxieties and grow with them into the mimic world where love is always young and hearts are always light and where the villain never fails to get his just deserts.

They're back again in the theatre, the singers and the dancers and the actors—why, it's like the sunshine after a day of hanging fog and gray mist; it's like a light in the room when the shadows begin to fall and sad memories lay their icy fingers upon the human heart.

It's like a song in the silence, a smile from a long absent face, the voice of one long remembered, the clasp of the hand of a friend.

The theatres are open again today. What was it they said in the old fairy tale when they came to the rock in the mountain?

Aladdin and his friends—"Open Sesame"—and the rock opened and out of the dreary mountain waste the boy stepped into a world all light, all color, all luxury, all beauty and all gorgeous extravagance of wealth.

Open Sesame—so we cry at the door of the theatre, and open flies the door and in we walk into the bright world of fancy, the gay world of fleet imagination. Let's all cry, "Open Sesame" today.

Let's go to the theatre this afternoon or tonight, some theatre, the play, the vaudeville, the movies. Tie up little sister's hair with a new



blue bow, wash Brother's face, get out new masks for the whole family and come, let's away to the mimic world.