

# NINE-TENTHS OF FLU AVOIDABLE

Dr. E. C. Rosenow of Rochester, Minn., Says so; Blue Gives Total Deaths at 350,000.

CHICAGO, December 10.—Ninety per cent of the deaths from influenza and pneumonia are preventable, when a properly prepared vaccine is used, according to an address by Dr. E. C. Rosenow of Rochester, Minn., before the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association to-day.

Surgeon General Blue, head of the United States Public Health Service, said that nearly 350,000 deaths occurred among civilians from September 1, 1918 to December 1, 1918, from influenza and pneumonia. He had no figures on the epidemic from the armies' camps.

Surgeon General Blue came to arouse the health officials attending the meeting to a realization of the problems confronting communities when the armies are demobilized.

## Dr. Hassler Again To Insist Upon Revival of Masks

Dr. William C. Hassler, Health Officer, last night said that he would appear before the Mayor and Board of Supervisors today and urge that steps be taken to bring about the universal wearing of masks again as a precaution against a recurrence of the influenza epidemic. He said:

There is no occasion for alarm, but prudence dictates that San Francisco should resume the wearing of masks immediately. To-day, 200 odd cases of influenza were reported to the Board of Health up to 4 o'clock, and 186 cases were reported on Monday.

These figures are not in themselves disturbing, but they indicate that an ounce of prevention now is preferable to many pounds of cure, later.

The sensible thing to do is to recognize the condition that confronts the city and make a recurrence of the epidemic impossible.

The conference between Dr. Hassler and the city officials will be held this afternoon in the Mayor's office.

## DR. HUTCHINSON URGES MASKS

Declares Their Use in San Francisco Rapidly Reduced Number of Influenza Cases.

CHICAGO, December 10.—The influenza epidemics which many health officials believe came to this country from the battle fronts in Europe, are spreading in more virulent form now, declared Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association today.

England and Italy are experiencing epidemics now, he said, and by royal proclamation masks are worn by every one in Italy.

"It may have been carried across by our latest troop shipments," he said.

Dr. Hutchinson said he had communicated to Sir Arthur Newsholme, chief health commissioner of Great Britain, the result of his investigations in various parts of this country concerning the use of gauze masks

and vaccine. A combination of these two were virtually the only successful methods of fighting the epidemics, Dr. Hutchinson said, and he declared quarantine and the closing of all public meeting places "a relic of barbarism," with no value whatever.

"To pull the people from one public meeting merely drives them into another, where they talk to each other and exchange influenza germs if they carry the infection," he de-

clared. "With everyone wearing masks in San Francisco the number of cases of influenza was brought from 2,300 per day down to 300 per day within six days, and business went ahead as usual. We vaccinated 81,000 there, with almost no deaths from those thus immunized."

The influenza mask also served to control epidemics of whooping cough and chicken pox in San Francisco, Dr. Hutchinson said, and should also

prevent epidemics of other diseases like scarlet fever where the germs are carried in the nose and throat.

Dr. Hutchinson stated that doctors in hospitals protected themselves by masks, but would not insist on them for civilians, and he understood Surgeon General Blue had opposed the use of them in Los Angeles. Dr. Blue denied the responsibility for such a course on the part of the public health service.