

FLU ORDINANCE DEFEATED BY 9 TO 7 VOTE

Decision Follows Hot Argument, in Which Members of Board Ex- change Unkind Personalities

No Action to Be Taken by Health Department Unless Imperative, Says Dr. Hassler After Meeting

By a vote of 9-7 the Supervisors refused to pass the masking ordinance yesterday. Health Officer Hassler stated after the meeting that no action will be taken by the Board of Health unless it becomes imperative.

"If the disease fades away," he said, "we certainly shall take no action. If it increases very greatly we will come again before the Supervisors before we take action. The responsibility must rest on the Supervisors."

The session was not devoid of interest. Supervisor Joseph Lahaney, chairman of the Health Committee, called Supervisor Emmet Hayden "a little shrimp," which so hurt the dignity of the supervisor that he shouted long and loudly for an apology.

LAHANEY APOLOGIZES.

Finally Lahaney apologized and withdrew the remark.

At another stage of the proceedings Supervisor Gallagher said: "There are some members of the board who, for financial, dogmatic or other reasons, are willing to shake dice with death."

Dr. J. H. Graves, president of the County Medical Society, in reply to statements by Christian Scientists that it was fear that spread the influenza, said that 17,000 United States soldiers in concentration camps, who had no fear of the Kaiser's guns, had died of the disease.

Dr. Graves also said that Dr. Margaret Mahoney, who opposed the wearing of the masks, "was the only doctor in a hall filled with members of the medical profession who voiced opposition to the masks."

Dr. H. A. L. Ryskogel, speaking in favor of the masks, said: "I fail to see how 'fear' can create a bacillus that will spread disease."

BLUE ADVOCATES MASKS.

Dr. Julius Rosenstirn and George Skaller of the Civic League of Improvement Clubs presented the following telegram from Dr. Rupert Blue, director of the United States Health Service at Washington, regarding the value of masks:

"George W. Gerhard, secty. Civic League of Improvement Clubs, San Francisco, Cal.: Masks properly made and correctly applied and conscientiously worn of undoubted value. Believe better results can be secured by education and appeal for proper voluntary use in the general population than by perfunctory compliance resulting from compulsory ordinance. Masks should be compulsory among sick contacts and those attending sick. Doubtful if compulsory use by general population will give better results. San Francisco should be able to judge from its own experiment. "BLUE."

The session yesterday afternoon was divided into two parts.

First, the Supervisors' Health Committee met and listened to arguments and made a report. The committee divided three to five and submitted two reports. Chairman Joseph Lahaney and James B. McSheehy recommended the passage of the ordinance making mask wearing obligatory.

Opposed to this action was a majority of the committee, consisting of Schmitz, Power and Hayden.

Both the majority and minority reports were read and after the parliamentary entanglements had been cleared away the Supervisors took a straight vote on the passage of the ordinance.

HEALTH BOARD SAYS IT WILL USE AUTHORITY

Declaring that it would exercise its powers of quarantine and close institutions if the influenza situation demanded it, the Board of Health last night issued a statement to the public to this effect.

The statement, in part, read:

The Board of Health being refused by the Board of Supervisors that legislation which it deemed proper and advisable under the circumstances will proceed to take such other steps and measures, if epidemic conditions demand, as will remove the danger of further spread of the disease and resulting death.

In taking such steps it may have to proceed to the point of exercising its powers of quarantine or closing certain institutions, but the Board of Health assures the public it will only do so when it becomes apparent that such measures are absolutely necessary.