

CIVIC LEAGUE DEMANDS 'FLU' MASK IN S. F.

Request Taken Before Board of Supervisors; Immediate Re-Enactment of Law Voted Down

Health Committee Will Consider Matter Wednesday; State Board Warns Public of Winter Peril

Demand for the re-enactment of the mask ordinance was made on the Board of Supervisors yesterday by the Civic League of Improvement Clubs. An ordinance to this effect was introduced by Supervisor Andrew J. Gallagher and referred to the Health Committee.

Announcement was made later that the Health Committee will meet in special session at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon to consider the subject.

George Skaller, representing the Civic League of Improvement Clubs, appeared before the Board of Supervisors and stated that the situation has become so serious that his organization demands the re-enactment of the mask ordinance.

In support of the efficacy of the mask he submitted a recent test made by the Southern Pacific Company, where 1,500 clerks were divided into three groups of 500 each.

The first of the groups wore no masks; the second were allowed to wear them or not, and the third group was compelled to wear them. The percentage of influenza cases under identical circumstances and conditions were as follows, according to Skaller's figures:

No masks worn 13 per cent, partially worn 12 per cent, every one masked 2 per cent.

Following Skaller's request Gallagher asked that the former mask ordinance be enacted. He asked for a suspension of the rules and the passage to print of the ordinance.

VOTE IS LOST.

It takes twelve votes to suspend the rules and it was lost by 2 votes of eight ayes to six noes.

Gallagher then stated that the public was becoming roused over the situation and demanding that something be done. "We stopped the influenza with the masks before," he said, "let's try it again."

Supervisor McSheehy pointed to the fact that Supervisors Brandon and Mulvihill are down with influenza and are dangerously ill and that the demand would increase until it would have to be noticed.

As the result of the debate the health committee announced that it would meet in special session on Wednesday afternoon instead of waiting for Thursday, its regular meeting day, to consider the matter. **PERIL ALL WINTER.**

The State Board of Health, after carefully considering the situation, has issued a warning that the epidemic may prevail throughout the winter. The board suggests that individual precautions of voluntary character will be most effective in checking the spread of the disease.

The number of influenza cases reported to the San Francisco Health Board yesterday was 453, with 23 deaths.

The recommendations and conclusions are as follows:

1—Influenza will probably continue to prevail throughout the winter, but there is nothing in the history of the epidemic upon which to base an opinion that it will recur to anything like the extent marking its first appearance.

2—The lack of laboratory and clinical means of diagnosis makes the application of quarantine, with restriction of the movements of all members of the family very uneven in its application. There are great possibilities of the concealment of cases on the one hand and undue hardship for many persons on the other. It seems rational to leave this question to the judgment of local authorities.

RELIEF NEEDED.

3—The most urgent duty of communities at the present time is to provide for the relief of stricken families, to provide adequate care for the sick and to take up vigorously the important social problems that follow certainly in the wake of the outbreak.

The provision of better food and better surroundings, with better living conditions, is necessary in the prevention of other diseases, such as tuberculosis, that may follow influenza.

It is imperative that practical nurses be provided for cases and convalescents and that the sick poor be adequately looked after, not only for their own sake, but as a protection to the rest of the community.

"COLD" MENACE

The board places great emphasis upon the responsibility resting upon the individual who may be suffering from a cold. He should remain at home. He should remain at caution not to come into contact with other persons. Many people suffering from so-called "colds" are in reality suffering from influenza in a mild form.

Many severe cases of the disease have undoubtedly been contracted from persons suffering from such colds. If each individual were to realize his personal responsibility in this matter considerable reduction in the prevalence of influenza might be accomplished.

Notwithstanding the fact that the very complete records at the disposal of the board indicate conclusively that the compulsory wearing of masks does not affect the progress of the epidemic, the board advises individuals to wear a properly made mask during occasions

of close association with their friends, just those occasions when under a compulsory law, the mask is laid aside.

Particularly is this advisable if anyone is present suffering from a cold or recently recovered from influenza.

Closing of public gatherings and places of business is a matter to be handled according to the local conditions.