



ADIOS, "FLU" SCARE!

The "flu" scare is over. The little germ, for which we have masked our faces, closed our churches and theaters, suspended our lodge meetings and knitting clubs and altered the manner of our living, has faded into the background. The influenza, in a less menacing form, lingers, it is true; but the scare has officially departed.

Now that it is all over and reason has resumed her throne it may as well be admitted that a good many of us have been running around in circles. The Times has no criticism to make of the health authorities. They undoubtedly acted for what they believed to be the best interests of all concerned, but it is not difficult to think that all of the arbitrary rules and regulations amounted to very little after all.

Now that the ghost is laid and business men are to be permitted to operate their investments without let or hindrance, the sooner we forget the inconveniences and losses of the past seven weeks the sooner we will be in a state of mind sufficiently beatific to appreciate the wonderful things which are in store.

The ban has served to bring to light the fine unselfishness of Los Angeles citizens, who, with scarcely a word of protest, permitted the establishment of what was at best a very doubtful moratorium. So long as there was the slightest chance of saving a life by the rigid measures invoked they pocketed their losses and swallowed the bitter pill even while the public at large refused to become seriously excited over the conditions and the daily bulletins.

The war has taught us obedience to authority; but it has also developed a tendency to overregulate that must be guarded against. We want no Bolsheviki in Southern California, and while the sincerity and high purpose of the health authorities and the City Council may be beyond question, it is by no means certain that, in their application of the rule of "verboden," they did not bend a bit backward.