

At Public Meeting.

BOARD TO HEAR CHARGES AGAINST THE CORONER.

ON THE demand of Coroner Hartwell that an investigation be made of the charges of discrimination brought against him by various undertakers, the Board of Supervisors announced yesterday that a public hearing of the allegations will be held in the board room, Hall of Records, at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. The board requests the undertakers of the city and county to attend the hearing and lay before it any information they have bearing on the charges of favoritism.

The board had before it the report of the County Bureau of Efficiency. This report states the Coroner had 750 cases during the past six months. Of this number there were 145 jury cases, 107 no-jury cases and 498 investigations. Two-thirds of the cases, it was reported, did not get

beyond the Coroner's investigation. The post-mortems numbered 127.

In the 750 cases, ninety-four of the bodies were buried in the county cemetery, nine went to the families of the deceased, one to the County Hospital morgue and two to the Soldiers' Home morgue. It was further stated that seventy-six city undertakers and thirty-nine outside undertakers handled cases.

The bureau suggests that the county have a public morgue to centralize the work. This would be practically self-supporting, it is stated. It is also suggested that "John Doe" bodies be photographed for identification.

"The worst feature of the present system," the report continues, "is the scramble on the part of the undertakers for bodies. If the public morgue were established, this would be eliminated."