

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Infectious Diseases for the Week

The incidence of measles and of enteric fever has increased notably in England and Wales, while cerebrospinal fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and puerperal pyrexia have increased slightly. The notifications of pneumonia (primary and influenza forms) and whooping-cough have fallen considerably.

Cerebrospinal Fever

The recurrence of cerebrospinal fever is the second since the epidemic reached its peak in the week ended March 2; in magnitude it is less than one-half that recorded in the week ended March 30. Despite the increase in the total number of notifications only forty-five administrative areas were affected, compared with forty-six in the previous week and forty-nine a fortnight before. More than 10 cases were notified in the following areas: Chester 13 (Birkenhead 5, Wallasey 3, Chester C.B. 2, Lymm U.D. 1, Hoole U.D. 1, Runcorn R.D. 1); Lancaster 42 (Blackburn 2, Bootle 1, Bury 1, Liverpool 18, Manchester 5, St. Helens 1, Ashton-under-Lyne M.B. 1, Chorley M.B. 1, Lancaster M.B. 1, Little Lever U.D. 1, Radcliffe M.B. 1, Rishton U.D. 1, Swinton and Pendlebury M.B. 1, Urmston U.D. 3, Widnes M.B. 1); London 28 (Bermondsey 2, Bethnal Green 3, Deptford 1, Finsbury 1, Fulham 1, Hackney 3, Hammersmith 2, Kensington 2, Lambeth 2, Lewisham 1, Poplar 2, St. Marylebone 1, St. Pancras 1, Stepney 2, Wandsworth 2, Westminster and Woolwich 1 each); Middlesex 12 (Finchley M.B. 2, Friern Barnet U.D. 1, Harrow U.D. 1, Heston and Isleworth M.B. 2, Hornsey M.B. 3, Tottenham M.B. 2, Wembley M.B. 1); Southampton 16 (Bournemouth 1, Southampton C.B. 2, Aldershot M.B. 3, Gosport M.B. 3, Alton R.D. 2, 1 each in Havant and Waterloo U.D., in M.B.s of Lymington and Winchester, and in R.D.s of Andover and Hartley Wintney); Stafford 11 (Stoke-on-Trent 3, West Bromwich 4, Aldridge U.D. 1, Stafford M.B. 1, Lichfield U.D. 2); Surrey 12 (Croydon 1, Woking U.D. 2, and 1 each in the boroughs and urban districts of Carshalton, Coulsdon and Purley, Epsom and Ewell, Farnham, Malden and Coombe, Richmond, Sutton and Cheam, Walton and Weybridge, and Guildford R.D.); Warwick 14 (Birmingham 13, Rugby 1); Yorks, West Riding, 20 (Bradford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Halifax, and York 1 each, Leeds and Sheffield 4 each, Conisbrough U.D. 2, and 1 each in the urban districts of Heckmondwike, Mirfield, and Otley, and in the rural districts of Hemsworth and Selby); Glamorgan 22 (Cardiff and Swansea 4 each, Merthyr Tydfil C.B. 1, 3 each in Port Talbot M.B. and Rhondda, 2 in Barry M.B., and 1 each in the urban districts of Llwhwr and Neath, and in the rural districts of Neath, Penybont, and Pontardawe).

The details of the notifications suggest that the disease is widely spread in the counties chiefly involved, and probably affects rural areas as much as populous districts in proportion to the population. In some parts the high incidence is largely due to the presence of troops, but fairly rapid spread from Service personnel to civilians and vice versa has been the usual experience. In Scotland, while there was one case fewer than last week, no fewer than thirty-four administrative areas were affected compared with twenty-six last week, out of the total of fifty-five counties and burghs in the whole country. More than two cases were recorded in the following: Glasgow 16, Edinburgh 11, and 3 each in Aberdeen (C. and B.), Ayr, Kirkcaldy, and the burgh of Motherwell and Wishaw.

Enteric Fever

The 46 cases were scattered over seventeen administrative areas, in only four of which were more than 3 cases notified—namely, Durham 7 (Gateshead 3, Sunderland 1, Boldon U.D. 1, Whickham U.D. 2); Northumberland 7 (Ashington U.D. 5, Newbiggin-by-Sea U.D. 2); Cambridge 6 (all in Cambridge itself); Lancaster 5 (Bootle 2, Liverpool 2, Salford 1).

Measles

Among the four counties chiefly affected two—Lancaster 1,661 (1,735) and Leicester 431 (449)—have recorded decreases,

and two—Yorks, West Riding 911 (803), and Durham 467 (335)—increases during the week. (Figures in parentheses refer to the previous week.) So prevalent has the disease become that only one county in England (Rutland) and one in Wales (Brecknock) have escaped. In addition to the four counties mentioned as being epidemic centres, the disease is prevalent in Chester 254, Notts 258, Gloucester 232, Glamorgan 198, Northumberland 157, Sussex East 154, Lincoln (parts of Lindsey) 150, Monmouth 132, Bucks 131, Oxford 113. Notifications in the four largest cities were: Manchester 135, Liverpool 69, London 24, Birmingham 11. In Scotland only 11 areas (counties and burghs) were involved, notably Glasgow 483, Lanark county 91, Edinburgh 34, Greenock 34, Rutherglen (in Lanarkshire) 25, Paisley 18, Kirkcaldy 15. In Belfast notifications fell from 118 to 95, the remaining 4 being in Lisburn (one of the few other areas in which measles is compulsorily notifiable).

Medical News

Dr. E. H. Cluver, Secretary for Public Health and Chief Health Officer for the Union of South Africa, has been appointed Director of the South African Institute for Medical Research in succession to the late Sir Spencer Lister. The *South African Medical Journal* states that Dr. Cluver will take up his new post on July 1, when Dr. J. H. Harvey Pirie, the present acting director, retires. Dr. George Buchanan, superintendent of the routine division of the Institute, has been appointed deputy director.

The annual malaria control course for laymen (engineers, planters, etc.) will be held at the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., from June 24 to 28, at 10 a.m. daily. The course is free, and applications to attend should be sent in as early as possible to the organizing secretary at the above address.

The summer dinner of the Oxford Graduates Medical Club, arranged for June 28 at Magdalen College, has been cancelled.

In view of recent developments in the course of the war the sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute which was to have been held at Aberystwyth on June 29 has been indefinitely postponed.

The B.B.C. announces that in the series of talks "I Knew a Man," on Saturday, June 22, at 6.45 p.m., Sir StClair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.S., will speak on Lord Lister.

The Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland again remind hospitals, private individuals, and industrial concerns that it is contrary to the national interest for them to hoard oxygen and nitrous oxide cylinders, whether filled or empty. There now appears to be a renewed tendency to hold undue supplies. The adequacy of the existing supplies can only be assured if cylinders are not held in excess of actual requirements and if they are kept in constant circulation. Empty cylinders should be returned with the minimum of delay to the suppliers by whom they were issued.

Dr. H. M. C. Macaulay, deputy county medical officer of health since 1925, has been promoted to the post of medical officer of health under the Middlesex County Council in succession to the late Dr. J. Tate.

A school of psychotherapy has been founded in Zurich in which the phenomena of psychoneurosis will be taught by means of lectures and practical demonstrations.

Dr. Louis Babonneix, the well-known Paris paediatrician, has been elected a member of the Académie de Médecine in place of the late Professor Marcel Labbé.

Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon-general of the United States Public Health Service, has been nominated for reappointment by President Roosevelt.

There has recently been a considerable increase of trachoma in Lithuania.