

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Convocation on January 16 it will be proposed to confer the honorary degree of D.C.L. on the Rt. Hon. Sir Godfrey Martin Huggins, P.C., C.H., K.C.M.G., F.R.C.S., Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The Council of the University has decided that the new Hall of Residence for Men which is being erected in Oakholme Road shall be named Stephenson Hall in honour of members of that family who have served the University and its forerunners in successive generations.

Dr. D. E. Price has been appointed Honorary Lecturer in Pathology.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Smallpox at Brighton

Up to noon on January 9 there were 17 patients believed to be suffering from smallpox in Brighton county borough, or in the immediate vicinity of these cases. Two have died, and the diagnosis in three was still in doubt. During the previous week the infection had been confined to the two original foci—the laundry, to which the clothing of the initial case, an R.A.F. officer, was sent, and the hospital, in which the second case was not diagnosed for 10 days.

Among the laundry employees there have been six cases. Two of these worked at a receiving branch and the remainder in the main establishment. The laundry has now stopped work. The hospital is in quarantine, and members of its staff admitted to the smallpox hospital consist of five nurses and one domestic. All these persons were employed on the ward to which the second case was admitted and nursed in a cubicle.

The vaccinal state of the nursing and domestic staff at the infectious disease hospital was unsatisfactory, 27 out of 113 never having been vaccinated. On investigation among nurses and domestics attached to the ward concerned, it was found that seven were unvaccinated. Of these, three had very little contact with the patient and did not get the disease. All the remainder had intimate contact, and one died and three are in a serious condition. The other two nurses now in the smallpox hospital have a good vaccinal history, and in their cases there is still some doubt about the diagnosis.

Poliomyelitis

Poliomyelitis notifications in the concluding week of 1950 were: paralytic, 36 (38); non-paralytic, 17 (15); total, 53 (53). The figures for the previous week are in parentheses. The total uncorrected notifications for 1950 are 8,696, compared with 9,195 in 1947, 2,379 in 1948, and 6,857 in 1949.

There were no notifications in the week under review from 35 county areas, and in the remainder notifications were more or less evenly distributed, no county notifying more than four.

The incidence of poliomyelitis in 1950, after correction of notifications, is hardly likely to be much less than that in 1947, when it was 4½ times greater than in any previous year since compulsory notifications began in 1912.

Influenza

The statistics given below for England and Wales and the Great Towns do not indicate any serious epidemic of influenza up to the end of the year. Any increases in pneumonia cases and deaths and influenza deaths are not much more than normal for the time of year. A mild form of influenza, but of a very infectious type, has been epidemic in the north-east of the country, including

Newcastle-upon-Tyne and elsewhere, in parts of Lancashire, including Liverpool, and in Birkenhead (Cheshire). But in these districts the epidemic has probably passed its peak. Serological investigations have shown that the epidemic in Tyneside is due to virus A; it may be identical with that in the Scandinavian outbreaks—virus A prime. The results of further laboratory investigations are awaited.

There is at present no evidence of spread of the epidemic to the Midlands and South. But in many areas there are local outbreaks of a mild disease with symptoms not unlike those of influenza; they have not yet been shown to be due to an influenza virus.

There is serological evidence that in Sardinia cases of influenza have been due to virus B.

The following cases of and deaths from pneumonia and influenza have been reported in the Great Towns:

	28/10	4/11	11/11	18/11	25/11	2/12	9/12	16/12	23/12	30/12
Pneumonia:										
Cases	236	253	261	313	302	282	347	374	364	502
Deaths	141	198	177	188	207	198	236	289	351	383
Influenza:										
Deaths	17	19	20	16	24	28	34	33	54	102

Totals from the first week of the year in the Great Towns compared with the preceding two years are as follows:

	1948	1949	1950
Pneumonia:			
Cases	17,416	19,043	16,452
Deaths	10,337	11,786	10,461
Influenza:			
Deaths	608	3,090	1,859

The following Table shows notifications of pneumonia—primary and influenzal—in England and Wales:

	28/10	4/11	11/11	18/11	25/11	2/12	9/12	16/12	23/12	30/12
Pneumonia ..	435	433	465	558	490	497	573	684	647	962
Corresponding week, 1949	303	419	534	667	710	715	734	676	634	842

The following cities and large towns had the largest numbers of pneumonia notifications in the week ending December 30, 1950: London 64, Birmingham 38, Sunderland 32, Sheffield 24, Manchester 23, Liverpool 18, Gateshead 15, Salford 14, Newcastle 14.

The following weekly claims have been made on the Ministry of National Insurance: Week ending October 28, 1950, 127,245; November 4, 144,446; November 11, 148,497; November 18, 147,415; November 25, 145,783; December 2, 142,011; December 9, 141,403; December 16, 128,842; December 23, 87,277 (four days only).

Regional totals of influenza deaths in the Great Towns in the week ending December 30, 1950, were: Greater London (included in London and South-east) 22, Northern 34, East and West Ridings 4, North-western 30, North Midland 1, Midland 6, Eastern 1, London and South-east 24, Southern 2, South-western 3, Wales 1; total 106.

Infectious Diseases

A large fall occurred in the number of notifications of most infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending December 23, 1950. The falls included whooping-cough 768, scarlet fever 242, dysentery 190, and acute poliomyelitis 54. The only large exception to the general decline was a rise of 105 in the notifications of measles. The notifications of acute poliomyelitis were 7 fewer than in the corresponding week of 1947 and 18 fewer than in 1949. One-third of the cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified in London and the adjacent counties during the week.

During the 51st and 52nd weeks of 1950, 54 and 102 deaths were attributed to influenza in the Great Towns of England and Wales. These are about twice the numbers registered during the corresponding weeks of recent years. Notifications of influenza usually rise to a maximum towards the end of the first quarter, and it is possible that the present outbreak will be larger than those that have occurred in the last few years. The disease is now prevalent chiefly in the northern cities.

Dysentery

The notifications of dysentery were 190 fewer than in the preceding week, but with this exception they were the highest ever recorded. The chief features of the returns during the week were large falls in Leicestershire 138 and Lancashire 89 and rises in Staffordshire 49 and Middlesex 29.

The largest returns were Lancashire 173 (Southport C.B. 53, Oldham C.B. 25, Salford C.B. 20, Manchester C.B. 20); Leicestershire 101 (Leicester C.B. 89); Yorkshire West Riding 136 (Earby U.D. 58, Bradford C.B. 19, Sheffield C.B. 14); Staffordshire 74 (Stoke-on-Trent C.B. 44, Stafford M.B. 11, Cheadle R.D. 10); Middlesex 69 (Edmonton M.B. 54); London 60 (Poplar 13, Islington 12); Shropshire 48 (Shrewsbury M.B. 26, Whitchurch U.D. 12); Warwickshire 34 (Birmingham C.B. 30); Cheshire 29 (Wirral R.D. 8); Essex 26 (Romford M.B. 15, West Ham C.B. 9); Glamorganshire 23; Monmouthshire 23 (Newport C.B. 9); Surrey 22 (Esher U.D. 9); Yorkshire North Riding 17 (Middlesbrough C.B. 17); Northumberland 16 (Glendale R.D. 9); Devonshire 16 (Exeter C.B. 10); Durham 15; Norfolk 15 (Mitford and Launditch R.D. 15); Kent 13; Somersetshire 12; Sussex 11; Southampton 10; Northamptonshire 10 (Kettering M.B. 9); Gloucestershire 10.

Week Ending December 30

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 1,026, whooping-cough 3,690, diphtheria 41, measles 17,468, acute pneumonia 962, acute poliomyelitis 53, dysentery 691, paratyphoid fever 6. Four cases of smallpox, including two imported cases, were notified. In the Great Towns the number of deaths from influenza was 102.

Quarterly Returns for Scotland

The birth rate during the third quarter of 1950 was 17.3 per 1,000, being 1.7 below the average of the five preceding September quarters. The infant mortality was 33 per 1,000 registered live births, and this rate was 2 below the rate for the third quarter of 1949 and 10 below the five-years average. The stillbirths were equivalent to a rate of 27 per 1,000 total births. The general death rate was 10.2 per 1,000 population and was 0.1 below the five-years average.

The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 43 per 100,000 and that from respiratory tuberculosis was 37. The former rate is 16, and the latter 14, below the rate for the corresponding quarter of 1949. Of the 36 deaths attributed to the principal epidemic diseases, 13 were due to influenza, 9 to measles, and 9 to whooping-cough; 38 deaths were registered from acute poliomyelitis.

Industrial Accidents and Diseases

According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* (December, 1950) the number of workpeople other than seamen in the United Kingdom who died from accidents in the course of their employment in November, 1950, was 151, compared with 112 (revised figure) in October, 1950, and 123 (revised figure) in November, 1949. There were 33 deaths underground in coal mines, and 18 in the railway service. The deaths of 11 seamen were reported.

The following cases of industrial diseases were reported in November, 1950: lead poisoning, 4; anthrax, 6 (5 of these were in the handling and sorting of hides and skins); epitheliomatous ulceration, 9 (pitch 2, tar 5, oil 2); and chrome ulceration, 10; total, 31.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a Summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended December 23.

Figures of Principal Notifiable Diseases for the week and those for the corresponding week last year, for: (a) England and Wales (London included). (b) London (administrative county). (c) Scotland. (d) Eire. (e) Northern Ireland.

Figures of Births and Deaths, and of Deaths recorded under each infectious disease, are for: (a) The 126 great towns in England and Wales (including London). (b) London (administrative county). (c) The 16 principal towns in Scotland. (d) The 13 principal towns in Eire. (e) The 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland.

A dash — denotes no cases; a blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available.

Disease	1950					1949 (Corresponding Week)				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Meningococcal infection	31	3	18	1	—	28	—	16	—	1
Deaths	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	46	2	13	5	1	81	15	25	1	3
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1,024	60	148	—	4	221	16	67	1	4
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis, acute	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	28	5	4	—	—	28	6	3
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—	9	11	—	—	—	27	—
Deaths	22	—	7	—	—	27	1	1	4	2
Measles*	14,328	1,556	197	120	79	1,684	32	23	47	107
Deaths†	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	37	1	9	—	1	35	2	7	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	3	—	—	—	1	5	12	(B)	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, influenza	647	42	12	—	2	634	29	7	4	7
Deaths (from influenza)‡	54	4	5	—	1	27	5	2	2	2
Pneumonia, primary	350	69	301	¶	12	296	44	296	22	18
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Poliomyelitis, acute	53	6	4	3	—	81	8	2	2	—
Deaths§	3	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexial.. ..	74	10	5	—	1	72	6	7	1	1
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	1,106	87	176	57	42	2,416	142	221	81	176
Deaths¶	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	5	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	1	1
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	3,735	360	604	77	30	936	39	63	42	44
Deaths	13	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—
Deaths (0-1 year)	299	39	42	7	10	337	43	42	48	12
Deaths (excluding stillbirths)	6,971	1,085	791	188	154	5,712	862	701	255	149
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living)	—	—	15.9	—	—	—	—	14.1	15.8	—
Live births	6,411	995	809	347	206	6,569	1,015	877	326	204
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living	—	—	16.3	—	—	—	—	17.6	20.2	—
Stillbirths	164	28	21	—	—	177	23	24	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn)	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	27	—	—

* Measles is not notifiable in Scotland, and the returns are therefore an approximation only.

† Deaths from measles and scarlet fever for England and Wales, London (administrative county), will no longer be published.

‡ Includes primary form for England and Wales, London (administrative county), and Northern Ireland.

§ The number of deaths from poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis for England and Wales, London (administrative county), are combined.

¶ Includes puerperal fever for England and Wales and Eire.

¶ Primary pneumonia no longer notifiable in Eire.