

Medical News

The *London Gazette* prints a list of names brought to notice for gallantry or good service in connexion with Civil Defence. Among them is that of Dr. Elsie A. Burns, principal medical officer, Fazakerley Group of Infectious Hospitals, Liverpool.

The fourth Pan-American Congress of the Red Cross will be held at Santiago, Chile, from December 5 to 14, under the direction of General L. Brieba, president of the Central Committee of the Red Cross in Chile.

According to the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, refugees from the Channel Islands report that under Nazi control a few pharmacies are carrying on, but before any medicine can be bought a doctor's certificate must be produced, and even then supplies may not be available. No deliveries are being made by shopkeepers.

The London Council of Social Service, in a report on emergency work during the twelve months ending with March, says that its major task was the establishment and administration in the London area of the Citizens Advice Bureau service. The council had the co-operation of the Charity Organization Society, which undertook responsibility for setting up bureaux in the twenty-four metropolitan boroughs and in Hendon. At the close of the period there were 157 bureaux in seventy-nine of the eighty-eight local authority areas included in the council's field of operations, and they had dealt with over 115,000 cases.

Dr. Harvey Pirie, President of the South African Medical Association, has been appointed chairman of a central emergency committee working in the interests of the health of the South African Forces.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Infectious Diseases for the Week

For the last two or three weeks detailed figures of notifications of the acute infectious diseases in the different districts of the administrative public health areas have not been to hand at the time when the figures for the whole of England and Wales were available. The time-lag is unavoidable, and occasionally it may be necessary to hold over the publication of the table. This week the figures for column (a) and for deaths in column (b), 1940, were not available at the time of going to press.

Diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping-cough, and pneumonia have been increasing in prevalence lately; there is a fall in the incidence of enteric fever, cerebrospinal fever, and acute poliomyelitis.

In Scotland increased notifications were recorded during the week for enteric fever, cerebrospinal fever, acute poliomyelitis, whooping-cough, and pneumonia; the notifications of measles and scarlet fever have fallen; the figure for diphtheria remained at 370 for the week. Diphtheria has replaced measles as the most prevalent disease, involving seventeen of the thirty-one counties and twenty of the twenty-four burghs—notably Lanark 35, Midlothian 8, Dumbarton, Selkirk, and West Lothian 6 each, and the burghs of Glasgow 133, Dundee 44, Edinburgh 23, Aberdeen and Paisley 13 each, Perth and Port Glasgow 5 each. There were 7 deaths from diphtheria in Glasgow and 1 in Edinburgh. Measles has been reported chiefly from burghs—Greenock 61, Glasgow 59, Aberdeen 49, Port Glasgow 47, Dundee 26, Paisley 25, and Kirkcaldy 14. The single case of typhoid fever (1 death) occurred in Glasgow, and the 10 cases notified of paratyphoid B fever were in Roxburgh C. 4, Edinburgh 2, and 1 each in the counties of Ayr, Berwick, Midlothian, and Aberdeen. Acute poliomyelitis was confined to three burghs: Paisley 4, Edinburgh 2, Kilmarnock 1. Cerebrospinal fever rose during the week from 33 to 35 cases and involved sixteen counties and burghs—chiefly the counties of Ayr, Lanark, Ross and Cromarty 2 each, and the burghs of Glasgow 8, Edinburgh 6, Dundee 5.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended September 28, 1940.

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	1940					1939 (Corresponding Week)				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Cerebrospinal fever ..		11	35	—	4	19	2	10	2	—
Deaths			4					2		
Diphtheria		53	370	33	25	904	33	170	34	27
Deaths			8			16		3		1
Dysentery		1	64	1	—	23	3	27	—	—
Deaths			1		1					
Encephalitis lethargica, acute		—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—
Deaths			3					2		
Enteric (typhoid and paratyphoid) fever		—	11	1	—	68	3	6	3	4
Deaths			1			2		1		
Erysipelas		34	59	8	5			62	5	3
Deaths								1		
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years			12	11	11	55	8	17	11	5
Deaths										
Measles*		190	303	—	8			6		8
Deaths						1				
Ophthalmia neonatorum		5	33		3	66	4	15		—
Deaths										
Pneumonia, influenza†		42	8	—	4	312	12	5	—	6
Deaths (from influenza)						17		2		1
Pneumonia, primary			148	8	4			105	7	7
Deaths‡				4				7		
Polio-encephalitis, acute		—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Deaths										
Poliomyelitis, acute		1	7	1	—	43	—	—	—	—
Deaths										
Puerperal fever		4	8	3	—	—	—	9	2	—
Deaths										
Puerperal pyrexia		8	18	—	—	162	8	24	—	1
Deaths										
Relapsing fever										
Deaths										
Scarlet fever		82	196	42	45	1,163	37	193	50	79
Deaths						2				
Small-pox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths										
Typhus fever		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths										
Whooping-cough*		8	87	2	1	17	9	39	—	5
Deaths			2							
Deaths (0-1 year)			56	22	23	308	30	55	31	13
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)										
Deaths (excluding stillbirths)			558	187	128	4,078	629	600	157	129
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living)			11.3	12.5	11.2			12.1	10.6	11.3
Live births			868	364	235	6,263	877	850	384	208
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living			17.6	24.3	20.6			17.2	25.8	18.3
Stillbirths			37			235	28	35		
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn)			41					40		

* Made notifiable generally on November 1, 1939.

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

‡ Since January 1, 1940, figures for London (b) have been for all forms of pneumonia; the corresponding figures for 1939 relate to deaths from lobar pneumonia only.