

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended Sept. 18.

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	1943					1942 (Corresponding Week)				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Cerebrospinal fever ..	44	2	19	4	—	72	4	19	3	3
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	*
Diphtheria .. ..	723	33	176	64	21	878	35	206	65	22
Deaths .. ..	9	—	3	2	—	16	1	2	4	—
Dysentery .. ..	268	33	88	—	—	184	16	58	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica, acute .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	55	9	—	—	—	49	12	—
Deaths .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years .. ..	—	—	—	93	—	—	—	—	116	—
Deaths .. ..	69	13	18	30	11	69	10	17	27	9
Measles .. ..	491	45	36	10	2	2,998	259	127	13	17
Deaths .. ..	—	39	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. ..	81	5	19	—	—	93	3	29	1	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever .. ..	8	—	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	—
Deaths .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, influenzal* .. ..	365	15	5	—	—	401	18	4	—	2
Deaths (from influenza) .. ..	9	—	2	1	—	10	2	1	—	1
Pneumonia, primary .. ..	—	—	167	14	—	—	—	127	9	—
Deaths .. ..	—	21	—	2	10	—	—	—	8	7
Polio-encephalitis, acute .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, acute .. ..	16	—	—	1	1	29	1	1	31	1
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever .. ..	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	19	—	1
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia† .. ..	198	10	17	1	1	136	7	9	—	6
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever .. ..	2,639	231	339	36	65	1,882	115	351	70	34
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever .. ..	7	—	3	5	1	13	2	3	9	6
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough .. ..	1,531	117	221	68	17	1,150	105	55	49	29
Deaths .. ..	12	1	1	1	—	9	—	—	2	—
Deaths (0-1 year) .. ..	314	48	70	52	27	332	36	56	48	23
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) .. ..	3,655	590	536	198	113	3,422	461	503	188	111
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living) .. ..	—	—	12.1	13.0	‡	—	—	11.3	12.6	‡
Live births .. ..	5,902	758	858	417	257	5,861	675	833	443	253
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living .. ..	—	—	17.5	27.4	‡	—	—	17.2	29.6	‡
Stillbirths .. ..	197	28	41	—	—	206	21	28	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn) .. ..	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	33	—	—

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

† Includes puerperal fever for England and Wales and Eire.

‡ Owing to evacuation schemes and other movements of population, birth and death rates for Northern Ireland are no longer available.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

## Discussion of Table

In England and Wales a further rise occurred in the incidence of scarlet fever, 207, and diphtheria, 23. The notifications of these diseases have increased by 74% and 47%, respectively, since the middle of August. Dysentery and acute pneumonia rose by 67 and 57 cases, and there were 220 and 25 fewer notifications of whooping-cough and measles respectively.

Half the increase in scarlet fever was recorded in two counties—Middlesex 61 and Lancashire 43. The increases in the incidence of diphtheria and acute pneumonia resulted from a small general rise. Whooping-cough was slightly more prevalent in the southern counties; elsewhere notifications were down, the largest decreases being in Warwickshire 61, and in Lancashire 48; the only large increase was in Leicestershire, with 44 more cases than in the previous week. The trend of measles was almost identical with that of the preceding week, the only variation of note being a decrease in Lincolnshire of 44 cases.

There were 67 more cases of dysentery—a large increase: for the third consecutive week the cases have exceeded 200. The biggest of the new outbreaks were in Cumberland, Wigton R.D. 48, and in Devonshire, Exeter C.B. 16. A higher incidence was recorded from several areas, the largest returns in these being in Kent 38, Rochester M.B. 26; in Middlesex 26, Ruislip-Northwood U.D. 23; in Warwickshire 17, Birmingham C.B. 14; and thirteen boroughs contributed the 33 cases recorded in London. A total of 22 cases occurred in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Bedfordshire, compared with 73 in the preceding week.

In Scotland the incidence of measles was down by 51, of whooping-cough by 34, and diphtheria by 4 cases, but there were 36 more cases of scarlet fever. Dysentery fell by 24 cases, and the largest returns were for Dunbarton County 21 and for the cities of Glasgow 20 and Edinburgh 14.

In Eire an outbreak of whooping-cough in Co. Galway, Oughterand R.D. 33 cases, was responsible for the increase in this disease.

## The Week Ending September 25

Notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 2,772, whooping-cough 1,480, diphtheria 757, measles 466, acute pneumonia 356, cerebrospinal fever 49, dysentery 270, paratyphoid 14, typhoid 3.

## Medical News

The Harveian Oration before the Royal College of Physicians of London will be delivered by Dr. W. E. Hume at the College on Monday, Oct. 18, at 2.30 p.m.

On the eve of St. Luke's Day, Sunday, Oct. 17, Sir Norman Birkett ("Onlooker"), who has recently paid a flying visit to Africa, will be appealing for medical missions in Africa as the Week's Good Cause at 8.40 p.m. Contributions should be sent to Sir Norman Birkett, at 2, Eaton Gate, S.W.1, marked "B.B.C. Appeal." The preceding religious service, to begin at 8 p.m., will be conducted by Dr. Clement Chesterman, M.R.C.P., who will speak on "Impressions and Experiences of a Medical Missionary in Congo." Dr. Chesterman is the hon. secretary of the British Advisory Board on Medical Missions, and a member of the Colonial Advisory Medical Committee.

A congress on tuberculosis, described as "international," was held at Budapest at the beginning of May under the presidency of Prof. Tomcsik. The chief subject for discussion was tuberculosis in wartime.

The *Klinische Wochenschrift* announces that a central bureau for "childless marriage" has been opened in Vienna. Its function is to assist in every way eugenically sound and childless couples to overcome sterility. If necessary, this assistance may include payments of costs. After the war an institute for investigating human sterility is to be developed from this bureau.

A donation of £5,000 has been given by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., in response to the Oxford University appeal for £250,000 with which to found a department of ophthalmic research.

A new sound film called "Defeat Tuberculosis" has been made at the request of the Ministry of Health by the Ministry of Information. The film, which is intended for exhibition to the general public, stresses the need for seeking treatment early, and illustrates modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. It is now available for showing to "non-theatrical" audiences. It takes 10 minutes to run, but it cannot be shown on "silent" projectors.