

Infectious Diseases

Falls were recorded in the number of notifications of measles 1,022 and dysentery 43 in England and Wales during the week ending June 21, and rises were reported for scarlet fever 223 and whooping-cough 60.

Small rises in the incidence of scarlet fever occurred throughout the country. The largest was 40 in Lancashire. With the exception of a rise of 57 in Kent, there were only small variations in the local trends of whooping-cough. The number of notifications of diphtheria was 4 more than in the preceding week. The largest return was Birmingham C.B. 4. The largest decreases in the incidence of measles were Norfolk 192, Lancashire 166, and London 106.

The number of notifications of paratyphoid fever was 6 more than in the preceding week. This rise was due to the experience of Wales, where 17 more cases were notified than in the previous week. The chief centres of infection were Glamorganshire 23 (Cardiff C.B. 9) and Monmouthshire 5.

The number of notifications of acute poliomyelitis was 21 more for paralytic and 1 less for non-paralytic cases than in the preceding week. The largest returns were Durham 13 (Gateshead C.B. 6, Whickham U.D. 4, Felling U.D. 3), Yorkshire West Riding 9 (Leeds C.B. 3, Barnsley C.B. 2), and Warwickshire 4 (Birmingham C.B. 3).

The incidence of dysentery has declined for three consecutive weeks. The largest returns were London 34 (Wandsworth 10), Lancashire 18, and Southampton County 16. A further 90 cases were notified in the outbreak of dysentery in Antrim County.

Quarterly Return for Scotland

The birth rate during the first quarter of this year was 18.0 per 1,000 of the population, being 2 below the average of the five preceding first quarters. The infant mortality rate was 38 per 1,000 births and was 8 below the rate for the corresponding quarter of 1951. The stillbirth rate was 29 per 1,000 total births; this was the highest rate for any quarter of the past three years. The maternal mortality was the lowest ever recorded for any quarter, being 0.8 per 1,000 total births.

The general death rate was 14.5 per 1,000 of the population, and was 3.3 below the rate for the March quarter of 1951 and 1.0 less than the average rate for the five preceding first quarters. Two hundred and thirty-four deaths were attributed to the principal infectious diseases, 750 fewer than in the first quarter of 1951. They included 193 from influenza, 15 from whooping-cough, 14 from meningococcal infection, 8 from measles, and 4 from diphtheria. There were no deaths from typhoid fever or scarlet fever. The death rate for tuberculosis was 41 per 100,000 for respiratory and 47 for all forms; these rates were 22 and 26 respectively below the five-years average.

The number of marriages and the marriage rate were the largest for any first quarter since 1942.

Week Ending June 28

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 1,212, whooping-cough 2,444, diphtheria 33, measles 6,843, acute pneumonia 310, acute poliomyelitis 90, dysentery 135, paratyphoid fever 19, and typhoid fever 4.

Census Changes.—Population figures obtained at the 1951 census show that there are now 160 great towns (population over 50,000) in England and Wales instead of 126, and 17 principal towns (population over 30,000) in Scotland instead of 16. Therefore the 1952 figures for deaths, births, and stillbirths in these countries, published weekly in our Table, cannot be accurately compared with those for 1951, which are printed in italics. The 160 great towns in England and Wales have a population about 10% higher than the 126.

In the *Journal* of July 5 (p. 48) the upper half of the Table (showing cases) erroneously had two columns of figures printed in italics. They should have been in ordinary type.

Medical News

Is Chloramphenicol Dangerous?—A leading article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 28, p. 840, draws attention to the risks, hitherto largely overlooked, which treatment with chloramphenicol may involve. At least two types of adverse reaction are reported—a transient depression of the formed elements of the blood (red and white cells and platelets) during therapy, and a true aplastic anaemia which may be fatal. The latter complication may supervene in patients who have already completed one or two courses of chloramphenicol without incident. According to the *New York Times* of July 5 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has set its entire staff on a nation-wide survey of patients receiving the antibiotic, and a spokesman has stated that over 200 new cases of aplastic anaemia had been observed in one week-end in those receiving the drug, while doctors had been advised for the time being to do blood counts on all patients receiving chloramphenicol as part of their treatment.

R.S.I. Prize Essay Competitions.—The council of the Royal Sanitary Institute has announced particulars of the prize essay open competitions for 1952. Three prizes are being offered: The Henry Saxon Snell Prize of 50 guineas for an essay on "The Selection, Utilization, and Hygienic Operation of Equipment for Cleansing Utensils, Crockery, etc., in Hotels, Restaurants, and Canteens." The John Edward Worth Prize of £40 for an essay on "The Design, Construction, and Fitting of Prefabricated Units for Cold and Hot Water Supplies and Waste Disposal in Housing Schemes." The John S. Owens Prize of £15 for an essay on "The Ventilation of Buildings used for Industrial Processes giving rise to Noxious or Unpleasant Dusts and Fumes, and the Prevention of Atmospheric Pollution by such Dusts and Fumes." Intending competitors should apply to the Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, for a copy of the general conditions. Entries must be received by December 31, 1952.

Lister Institute.—The new director, in succession to Sir Alan N. Drury, F.R.S., who retires on September 30, is Dr. A. A. Miles, at present deputy director of the National Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. E. B. Chain, F.R.S., who worked with Sir Howard Florey on the isolation of penicillin at Oxford and is now guest professor of biochemistry at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome, was elected a *correspondant étranger* of the Académie de Médecine at its meeting in Paris on May 6.

NEW ISSUES

Archives of Diseases in Childhood.—The next issue of this journal (Vol. 27, No. 133) will be available in a week's time. The principal contents include:

MEGALOCYTIC DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA CURED BY SMALL AMOUNTS OF FRESH ENDIVE. C. M. H. Veeneklaas.

BLOOD FORMATION IN INFANCY: Part II. NORMAL ERYTHROPOIESIS. Douglas Gairdner, John Marks, and Janet D. Roscoe.

ACUTE IDIOPATHIC HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIA. J. C. Millichap.

THE PATHOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY OF GARGOYLISM. J. L. Henderson, Agnes R. Macgregor, S. J. Thannhauser, and R. Holden.

BRONCHOSCOPIC TREATMENT OF ATELECTASIS IN CHILDREN. B. Gans.

VARIATION IN THE PROTEOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF CHILDREN'S STOOLS: A STUDY OF MECONIUM AND STOOLS FROM NORMAL AND ILL CHILDREN. John L. Emery.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STAPHYLOCOCCI IN INFANTILE PARENTERAL GASTROENTERITIS. Paolo Tolentino.

METHYL TESTOSTERONE IN PREMATURE INFANTS. Ursula James and B. L. Coles.

THE INCIDENCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BREAST FEEDING IN INFANTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL. Patria Asher.

DENTAL CONDITIONS WITH ASSOCIATED SIGNS OF NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCIES IN NEWFOUNDLAND CHILDREN. Helen Mellanby.

FUNCTION OF THE ADRENAL GLANDS IN THE NEWBORN. B. Wolman.

BILATERAL PHAEOCHROMOCYTOMA IN A SIX-YEAR-OLD BOY. Catherine A. Neill and Gwen Smith.

SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE HEART IN THE NEWBORN INFANT. W. E. Hunt.

RUPTURE OF A MYCOTIC ANEURYSM OF THE THORACIC AORTA. S. N. Javett and E. Kahn.

Issued six times a year; annual subscription £3 3s., single copy 12s. 6d.

British Journal of Ophthalmology.—The next issue of this journal (Vol. 36, No. 7) will be available in a week's time. The principal contents include:

LAMELLAR CORNEAL GRAFTS. CLINICAL REPORT ON 62 CASES. B. W. Rycroft and G. J. Romanes.

POLYMYXIN E. PENETRATION INTO THE EYE AND THERAPEUTIC VALUE IN EXPERIMENTAL INFECTION DUE TO *PS. PYOCYANEA*. D. Ainslie and Charles Smith.

OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF CONGENITAL PTOSIS. A REPORT ON 25 OPERATIONS. G. I. Scott.

EFFECT OF CORTISONE ON RHEUMATOID NODULES OF THE SCLERA (SCLEROMALACIA PERFORANS). Norman Ashton and H. E. Hobbs.

SUPRACHOROIDAL INJECTION FOR DETACHED RETINA. PRELIMINARY REPORT. Redmond Smith.

CASE NOTE: PANOPHTHALMITIS DUE TO AN ORGANISM OF THE *BACILLUS SUBTILIS* GROUP. Robert Davenport and Charles Smith.

Issued monthly; annual subscription £4 4s., single copy 8s. 6d.

British Journal of Venereal Diseases.—The next issue of this journal (Vol. 28, No. 2) is now available. The principal contents include:

PATHOGENESIS OF THE JARISCH-HERXHEIMER REACTION. Albert Heyman, Walter H. Sheldon, and Lilian D. Evans.

VISCERAL ANALGESIA. A. S. Grimble and G. W. Csonka.

TREPONEMAL IMMOBILIZATION TEST. Pierre Durel, André Sausse, and Louis-Jacques Borel.

NEWER ANTIBIOTICS IN THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE. Raymond C. V. Robinson.

THE PLEURO-PNEUMONIA GROUP OF ORGANISMS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN GENITAL INFECTION. D. G. ff. Edward.

DARK GROUND ILLUMINATION OF UNSTAINED SMEARS AND TISSUE SECTIONS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF *TREPONEMA PALLIDUM*. Waldemar E. Coutts, Edna Silva-Inzunza, and Guillermo Morales-Silva.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s., single copy 12s. 6d.

These journals are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

COMING EVENTS

Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases.—The Society's general meeting will be held in London, at 11, Chandos Street, W.1, on July 25, at 7.30 p.m. Dr. R. A. Nelson will read a paper on the serological diagnosis of syphilis. On July 26 the annual general meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Details of the meetings and the informal dinner on July 26 may be obtained from Dr. W. N. Mascall, 39, Devonshire Place, W.1.

Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology.—The triennial conference will be held in London from July 28 to August 1 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A trade show has been arranged for Wednesday, July 30, and anyone responsible for the purchase of laboratory equipment will be welcome. Full details of the programme may be obtained from the conference secretary, L. A. Willis, 34, Queensdale Road, W.11.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, July 14

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—5 p.m., "*Some Aspects of Paediatric Endocrinology*," by Professor L. Dods (Sydney).

Tuesday, July 15

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—5 p.m., "*The Dangers of Chronic Inactivity in Old Age*," F. E. Williams Lecture by Mrs. Margaret Hill.
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ADDICTION.—At Courtauld Lecture Theatre, Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London, W., 5 p.m., "*Recent Swedish Investigations on the Effect of Small and Moderate Doses of Alcohol on Driving Performance and Road Safety*," by Professor L. Goldberg (Stockholm). A discussion will follow.

Wednesday, July 16

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—5.30 p.m., "*The Frequency of Ear Diseases and the Prevention of Deafness*," by Professor Urpo Siirala. (Turku University, Finland).

Thursday, July 17

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At 26, Portland Place, London, W., 7.30 p.m., Symposium: "*New Antimalaria Drug—Daraprim*," by Brigadier J. S. K. Boyd, F.R.S. Speakers will include Dr. G. H. Hitchings, Mr. I. M. Rollo, and Dr. L. G. Goodwin.

Friday, July 18

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—At Department of Pathology, 5 p.m., "*An Experimental Inquiry into the Criteria of Neoplastic Change*," by Dr. Peyton Rous (New York).
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—5 p.m., "*Sir John Tomes—a Great Dental Pioneer*," Charles Tomes Lecture by Mr. V. Zachary Cope.

APPOINTMENTS

FOWLER, A. W., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Registrar, Winford Orthopaedic Hospital, Bristol, South-western Regional Hospital Board.

REES-JONES, THOMAS GLYN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., House-surgeon, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

SIMM, FRANCIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Warrington, Lancashire.

SUMMERS, H. A. H., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Brixworth Rural District, Daventry Borough, Daventry Rural District, and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County Council.

TAYLOR, ALEXANDER R., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., Consultant Neurosurgeon to Hospitals under Belfast Hospitals Management Committee.

WILSON, ROBERT, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., Member of Visiting Staff of Royal City of Dublin Hospital.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Brown.—On June 16, 1952 at Bristol Maternity Hospital, to Enid, wife of Dr. N. J. Brown, of 171, Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, a son—Peter William.

Gluck.—On June 17, 1952, to Mary, wife of Bernard Gluck, F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, a second son—Daniel.

Mills.—On July 1, 1952, at the Maternity Hospital, Loveday Street, Birmingham, to Dr. Margaret Jane, wife of Wilfrid Mills, F.R.C.S., a son.

Pardoe.—On June 5, 1952, to Margaret, wife of Dr. J. L. Pardoe, of Church Cottage, Portishead, Bristol, a daughter.—Catherine Mary.

Phillips.—On June 25, 1952, at the Barratt Maternity Home, Northampton, to Fran, wife of John H. C. Phillips, F.R.C.S., a son.

Scott.—On July 1, 1952, to Esmé (formerly Pascall), wife of Dr. Leslie Scott, Trentcorn, Southcourt Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, a son.

Trent.—On June 27, 1952, at the London Clinic, to Muriel (formerly Averbuch), wife of Dr. J. L. Trent, of 7, Hylda Court, St. Albans Road, London, N.W., a sister for Pamela Susan—Helen Elizabeth.

MARRIAGES

Pirrie—Hamilton.—On July 1, 1952, at Glasgow, Robert Pirrie, M.B., Ch.B., to May Hamilton, S.R.N.

Rey—Wood.—On June 21, 1952, in London, C. Humphrey J. Rey, M.R.C.S., to Thelma M. Wood.

DEATHS

Budden.—On July 4, 1952, at Laneside, Greywell, Hants, Charles William Budden, M.D., aged 74.

Currie.—On July 3, 1952, Patricia Quentry Currie, M.B., B.S., of Woodside, Burdon Lane, Cheam, Surrey.

David.—On July 5, 1952, at his home, Fyfield, Ongar, Essex, Archibald Sinclair David, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Hare.—On July 2, 1952, at his home, 83, York Road, Birkdale, Lancs, Alfred William Hare, M.B., Ch.B.

Hunter.—On July 1, 1952, at Highfield, Falkirk, Andrew Edwin Hunter, M.D.

MacLeod.—On July 3, 1952, at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, S.E., Henrietta Mary MacLeod, M.B., B.S.

MacLeod.—On June 22, 1952, at a London hospital, Neil Ferguson MacLeod, M.B., Ch.B., of 61, Uxbridge Road, London, W., aged 34.

Read.—On July 3, 1952, Charles Read, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., F.R.F.P.S., L.D.S., F.D.S.Ed., of Albany Mansions, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, C.

Schaffter.—On June 27, 1952, Charles Merrill Schaffter, O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., of St. Andrews House, Matlock, Derby, late of Persia.

Stallard.—On June 27, 1952, at a nursing-home, Hindhead, Surrey, Hamilton George Frampton Stallard, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.F.S., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, of Redhearn, Churt, Surrey, aged 80.

Stanford.—On June 22, 1952, at a London hospital, Bridg Stanford (formerly O'Beirn), M.B., B.Ch., of 86, Glover Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Young.—On June 30, 1952, at Oakwood, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire, Robert Tannahill Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.