

For a while he worked under the Port of London Authority, and in 1939 he was appointed a medical officer at the Ministry of Pensions. In 1944 he went into private practice in the City of London. Helme did not enjoy robust health, but in spite of this he always gave generously of himself for any cause in which he believed. A colourful and strong character, he had travelled widely and his interests were many and varied. He was held in high esteem by his colleagues in Surrey and London, and his premature death will be deeply regretted. He leaves a widow and an adopted daughter.—J. O. M. R.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

H. E. Lockhart-Mummery has been approved at the examination for the degree of M.Chir.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

At a meeting of Convocation on January 21 Desmond Kyran Mulvany, M.S., F.R.C.S., and Napier Arnold Thorne, M.B., B.S., were elected to the Standing Committee of Convocation for a period of three years.

The Royal Veterinary College has been admitted as a School of the University in the Faculty of Medicine for five years in the first instance, from October 1, 1949.

The title of Professor Emeritus of Physiology in the University has been conferred on Hamilton Hartridge, M.D., Sc.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.S., who held the Chair of Physiology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College from 1927 to 1947.

The title of Professor Emeritus of Physics in the University has been conferred on E. N. da C. Andrade, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S., who held the Quain Chair of Physics at University College from 1928 to 1949.

Albert Edward William Miles, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.D.S. R.C.S., has been appointed to the University Chair of Dental Pathology tenable at the London Hospital Medical College, from January 1.

Donald Darnley Reid, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed to the University Readership in Epidemiology and Vital Statistics tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine from January 1.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Poliomyelitis in Scotland in 1947

Dr. Ian Sutherland, of the Department of Health for Scotland, has prepared a detailed report on poliomyelitis in Scotland in 1947. The report is based on an analysis of individual records supplied by the medical officers of health in Scotland for every case notified in the period June 1, 1947, to January 3, 1948. From these records it has been possible not only to study the age and sex incidence of the disease and its distribution in space and time but also to classify cases according to their severity and to examine the problem of association of incidence with housing and other social conditions. In all 2,002 cases, equivalent to a rate of 3.19 per 10,000 living, were included in the survey; 162 (8.09%) were fatal. In England and Wales there were 7,766 notifications in 1947 with 707 deaths, the attack rate being 1.8 per 10,000 living and the case fatality rate 9.1%. Thus incidence in Scotland was substantially higher than in England and Wales and case fatality was slightly lower. The age distribution of cases tended to be lower in Scotland than in England and Wales, as is shown in the following table.

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-	Unstated	All Ages
Scotland	6.5%	35.8%	34.6%	23.1%	0	100
England and Wales (whole year)	3.9%	26.9%	35.0%	33.4%	0.8%	100

The report contains a wealth of information on geographical distribution, types of case, incidence in different social classes, and so on, and it will be of great interest to students of the disease for comparison with other epidemics. It contains few conclusions, and the author suggests, very rightly, that oversimplification of conclusions is one of the common pitfalls to be avoided in the reporting of epidemics of poliomyelitis.

Discussion of Table

In *England and Wales* infectious diseases were more prevalent during the week, and there were increases in the notifications of measles 721, dysentery 108, whooping-cough 69, and acute pneumonia 41. There was a fall in the incidence of scarlet fever 27.

The largest rises in the notifications of measles were Norfolk 174 and Lancashire 145. Measles has only been prevalent during the past few weeks in a few counties. During the week under review almost two-thirds of the cases were notified in five counties: Lancashire 775, Norfolk 769, Suffolk 402, Durham 360, and Staffordshire 327.

An increase of 32 in the notifications of whooping-cough in Lancashire was recorded. The largest decrease in the incidence of scarlet fever was Lancashire 59, and the largest increase Middlesex 32. In the notifications of diphtheria there was a decrease of 5 in London.

The rise in the incidence of dysentery was mainly contributed by Lancashire and Yorkshire West Riding. The largest returns during the week were: Lancashire 103 (Manchester C.B. 47, St. Helens C.B. 23, Lancaster M.B. 14); Yorkshire West Riding 78 (Leeds C.B. 48, Sheffield C.B. 12, Shipley R.D. 11); Durham 20 (South Shields C.B. 7); Nottinghamshire 20 (Nottingham C.B. 20); Glamorganshire 20 (Cardiff C.B. 10, Cardiff R.D. 10); Cheshire 16 (Birkenhead C.B. 15); Northumberland 15 (Newcastle-upon-Tyne C.B. 13); and London 10.

In *Scotland* there were increases in the notifications of whooping-cough 48, acute primary pneumonia 40, and measles 13, with decreases in the incidence of scarlet fever 25 and dysentery 22. The largest returns for dysentery were Dundee 13 and Glasgow 12. The rise in the incidence of measles was contributed by Glasgow and the decline in scarlet fever by the western area. Of the 24 cases of diphtheria 13 were notified in Glasgow.

In *Eire* there was an increase of 29 in the notifications of scarlet fever. This rise was mainly confined to Dublin C.B. The largest fresh outbreaks during the week were 15 cases of measles in Kilkenny, Waterford No. 2 R.D., and 12 cases of whooping-cough in Dublin, Dublin South R.D.

In *Northern Ireland* the notifications of measles increased by 86, and there was a decrease in the incidence of scarlet fever 22. An increased incidence of measles was recorded throughout the country; in Belfast C.B. an increase of 45 was reported. The notifications of scarlet fever fell by 31 in Belfast C.B., and a rise of 16 occurred in County Antrim.

Quarterly Returns for Eire

During the September quarter of 1949 the birth rate at 22.1 per 1,000 was 0.2 above the rate for the third quarter of 1948. Infant mortality was 44 per 1,000 births and was 6 above the rate for the preceding September quarter. The crude death rate was 10.8 per 1,000 and was 0.3 above the rate for the preceding third quarter. The 201 deaths attributed to the principal infectious diseases included 160 from diarrhoea and enteritis, 18 from whooping-cough, and 10 from measles. Deaths from respiratory tuberculosis numbered 463, and there were 139 deaths from other forms of tuberculosis. These figures were 49 and 28 respectively below the totals for the preceding September quarter.

Week Ending February 18

Notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 2,130, whooping-cough 1,652, diphtheria 80, measles 4,526, acute pneumonia 1,189, acute poliomyelitis 39, dysentery 344, paratyphoid fever 6, typhoid fever 10. Deaths from influenza in the great towns numbered 76.

Correction.—In the Epidemiological Notes in the *Journal* of February 25 (p. 497) Wigan R.D. was said to have had 28 cases of dysentery notified during the week ended February 4. No cases of infectious disease were notified during that week in Wigan R.D., and the 28 cases of dysentery were actually notified in Whiston R.D.