

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Infectious Diseases for the Week

The numbers of cases of measles and of whooping-cough have slightly increased during the week. Whooping-cough had the larger actual and relative increase, the increase being distributed generally over the whole country. The slight rise in the incidence of measles was mainly due to a few areas only. Middlesex had the largest increase, from 612 to 860 cases, but the most striking difference for the two weeks was seen in East Suffolk, where the notifications rose from 99 to 257. The figure for diphtheria differed by only one notification from last week's total. Scarlet fever, with 139 fewer cases than in the previous week, had the lowest number of cases recorded since the beginning of last July.

Cerebrospinal Fever

A drop in the number of cases notified in England and Wales was shown by the returns for the week ending March 8; this was followed by a further fall for the week ending March 15, but the returns for the 22nd showed a slight increase (eight cases) on the previous week. In the

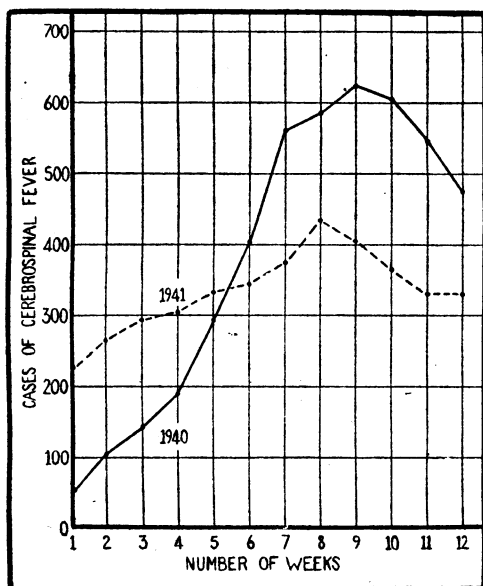


Chart showing incidence of cerebrospinal fever in the first twelve weeks of 1940 and 1941

immediate pre-war year the weekly notifications for cerebrospinal fever ranged from 10 to 50, with the greatest incidence in the first quarter; in 1938 and 1939 approximately one-third of the annual total was recorded in this quarter. The disease first increased to serious epidemic proportion in the second week of 1940, when 107 cases were returned as compared with 52 for the previous week. The weekly totals increased rapidly until a maximum of 623 cases was reached in the ninth week, and then slowly declined to a minimum of 107 notifications in the week ending September 7, 1940. The number of weekly cases increased slowly, and 229 cases were recorded in the first week of 1941, the beginning of the epidemic period. The rate of increase during the 1941 epidemic was very much less than in 1940, and so, despite the higher initial figure, the number of cases recorded in the sixth week was less than the number recorded in the sixth week of 1940. The trends of the two epidemics are illustrated in the chart. In Scotland the notifications have fallen from 97 to 66, a decrease of 33%.

Dysentery

A further fall has occurred in the number of notifications. All the 26 cases from Bedford were from Biggleswade R.D.; of the 15 cases in Essex, 10 were from Colchester M.B. and 5 from Brentwood; the 13 cases in Hertfordshire were all from Bushey U.D.; of the 27 cases from Lancaster, 8 occurred in Whiston R.D. and 6 in Lancaster M.B.; 9 of the 13 cases reported from Surrey came from Coulsdon and Purley U.D.;

Goole M.B. accounted for 7 of the 13 cases in Yorkshire, West Riding. Of the 23 cases reported in Scotland, 8 were from Edinburgh.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Almost half of the cases reported in England and Wales were returned from two towns, Liverpool 13 and Birmingham 18. Eleven, almost three-quarters, of the Scottish cases were from Glasgow.

Medical News

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will celebrate its centenary on Tuesday, April 15, by a Thanksgiving Service in St. Pancras Church, Euston Road, at 11 a.m., at which the address will be given by the Right Rev. Bishop H. Crotty, Vicar of St. Pancras, and by a commemoration meeting at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C., at 2 p.m. that day. The Lord President of the Council, the Right Hon. Sir John Anderson, will speak.

The B.B.C. announces that on Sunday, April 13, at 6.45 p.m., a talk in the Home Service will be given on "One Hundred Years of Pharmacy," by Mr. Walter Deacon, president of the Pharmaceutical Society. This is in connexion with the centenary of the society. On April 30, at 1.30 p.m., it is hoped to include a broadcast from the Red Cross stamp sale.

The House and Library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be closed for Easter from Friday, April 11, to Monday, April 14, both dates inclusive.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety will be held at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W., on Tuesday, April 8, at 4 p.m., when Dr. J. Y. Dent will open a discussion on "The Study and Treatment of Inebriety."

A discussion on vegetables as food has been organized by the nutrition panel of the Food Group of the Society of Chemical Industry, and it will be held at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Wednesday, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Sir E. J. Russell, F.R.S., in the chair. At the morning session Dr. M. A. Pyke will speak on the chemical composition of vegetable foods and their place in peacetime and wartime diets, Dr. H. V. Taylor on the planning of vegetable production, and Miss M. Olliver on the effect of cooking on the nutritive value of vegetables. After the luncheon interval Mr. W. B. Adam and Dr. Allen will deal with the effect of canning, and of drying and other forms of preservation, on the nutritive value of vegetables. Although no tickets are required, those attending as guests of the society come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Security with regard to publication of the proceedings.

University College Hospital has arranged, with the co-operation of the Watford Peace Memorial Hospital, as a wartime measure, to open consultative out-patient clinics there. The clinics are being held as follows at 2 p.m.: surgical clinic, Monday; medical clinic, Tuesday; gynaecological clinic, Thursday. The clinics are conducted by members of the staff of University College Hospital, and all new cases attending are required to present letters of recommendation from medical practitioners.

Wynne Mariette Stuart Campbell, aged 42, described as a secretary, who, in the name of Lady Campbell, was alleged to have posed both as a member of the Secret Service and as a surgeon commander in the Royal Navy, received a sentence of three months' imprisonment at Marlborough Street Police Court, London, on March 25. Arrested at Glasgow, she was accused under the Defence Regulations of doing an act calculated to suggest falsely that she was a surgeon commander R.N., and she was charged also under the Medical Act with falsely pretending to be a surgeon.

Dr. Roscoe W. Hall, clinical professor of psychiatry at George Washington University, has been elected president of the American Psychiatric Association.