

The Minister of Health announces that the Medical Research Council has tested samples of pituitary extracts carrying the expiry date October 26, 1941, and has reported that provided supplies of these extracts have been kept under ordinary conditions of storage and at normal room temperatures they may be used with safety for a further twelve months.

The well-known firm of manufacturing chemists in the United States, John Wyeth and Brother, Inc., of Philadelphia, recently restored the old necropsy house of the Philadelphia Hospital at Old Blockley, and dedicated it to the memory of Sir William Osler. In the June issue of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* there are fifty pages to commemorate the dedication of the Osler Memorial Building. This interesting and profusely illustrated section includes a number of signed articles bearing upon Osler's life, with special reference to his years at Philadelphia as professor of clinical medicine in the University of Pennsylvania.

The September issue of the *Journal of Pediatrics* is devoted to the problems of adolescence.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Discussion of Table.

An increase in the notifications of pneumonia, dysentery, and whooping-cough occurred during the week in England and Wales, the notifications of the other infectious diseases being below the totals of the preceding week. The large rise in the incidence of pneumonia—266 cases—was distributed throughout the country.

A further 65 cases of measles were notified in the epidemics which began during the previous week in Kent, Eastry R.D., with 94 cases, and an outbreak of 20 cases in Malling R.D. was also reported from that county. Four of the 21 cases of poliomyelitis were recorded in Buckinghamshire: that county is again the principal centre of infection, a position it occupied three months ago, when the incidence of this disease started to rise.

In Scotland a fall in the number of notifications of diphtheria, measles, and dysentery was recorded, while the figures for scarlet fever, whooping-cough, and pneumonia were in excess of the totals of the preceding week.

In Eire the notifications of diphtheria, measles, and whooping-cough were twice as numerous as in the previous week. Whooping-cough was practically confined to one area—Westport R.D., Co. Mayo, where 49 of the 57 cases were notified. The largest rises in the figures for the other two diseases were recorded in Dublin.

Diphtheria

The number of cases of diphtheria notified in England and Wales was 26 fewer than in the preceding week. During the past two months the weekly total of notifications has alternately risen and fallen, and there has been no obvious tendency towards an increased or decreased incidence for the country as a whole. The trend of the notifications in the various divisions of the country has, however, not been uniform, and some interesting contrasts are displayed when the subdivisions are considered. In Wales there has been a 50% increase during the past three months; in the north-western counties the increase has been of the order of 25%, while in the south-western counties the incidence has declined by 50% during this period.

Dysentery

Notifications of dysentery in England and Wales increased by 56 during the week compared with the total of the preceding week. The largest of the local outbreaks was reported from the administrative areas of Surrey (Coulson and Purley U.D. 19, Dorking and Horley R.D. 12), Dorset (Dorchester R.D. 10), Derbyshire (Derby C.B. 22), and Lancashire (Blackburn R.D. 19).

Returns for the Week Ending November 22

The returns of infectious diseases notified during the week included scarlet fever 1,417, whooping-cough 1,995, diphtheria 1,082, measles 639, pneumonia 1,100, cerebrospinal fever 114, poliomyelitis 13, dysentery 209, paratyphoid 18, typhoid 10. Deaths from influenza numbered 25.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended November 15.

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	1941					1940 (Corresponding Week)				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Cerebrospinal fever ..	104	5	28	—	6	129	13	32	1	7
Deaths	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1,043	34	262	58	37	1,408	30	457	12	36
Deaths	43	1	6	1	—	52	3	5	4	5
Dysentery	204	12	45	—	—	97	—	31	2	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica, acute	5	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Enteric (typhoid and paratyphoid) fever	—	—	—	—	—	22	1	7	2	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	60	9	6	—	16	58	5	7
Deaths	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years	37	3	19	19	7	28	3	14	4	3
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	671	50	19	61	4	13,114	190	486	—	24
Deaths	2	—	—	—	—	20	—	2	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	78	1	11	2	—	72	4	21	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	30	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, influenza*	997	44	14	4	5	698	26	6	—	6
Deaths (from influenza)	38	—	5	2	—	33	3	2	3	1
Pneumonia, primary	—	33	226	17	11	—	38	207	6	2
Deaths	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	12	—	—
Polio-encephalitis, acute	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, acute	21	—	1	6	—	22	—	4	1	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	1	1	15	4	—	—	—	4	3	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	135	4	10	—	4	128	2	8	—	1
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	1,352	36	247	59	44	1,684	53	268	74	51
Deaths	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever†	9	—	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	2,066	177	88	57	5	2,032	15	188	—	12
Deaths	8	2	3	—	—	10	1	3	—	1
Deaths (0-1 year)	338	23	80	40	23	280	16	77	22	22
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths (excluding stillbirths)	4,473	618	647	192	137	5,490	1,201	630	168	130
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living)	—	—	14.1	12.7	‡	—	—	12.7	11.2	11.4
Live births	4,937	410	770	306	215	4,627	378	763	298	147
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living	—	—	15.7	20.3	‡	—	—	15.4	19.9	12.0
Stillbirths	195	22	34	—	—	185	14	46	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn)	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	57	—	—

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

† Includes paratyphoid A and B for Northern Ireland.

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

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