

# Vital Statistics

## Infectious Diseases

The only large variations in the trends of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ended July 14 were falls in the number of notifications of measles 882, whooping-cough 81, and dysentery 76.

The largest declines in the incidence of measles were Durham 181, Yorkshire West Riding 169, Devonshire 161, and Lancashire 158, while the chief exceptions to a declining incidence were rises in Kent 176 and Carmarthenshire 102. Only small variations were recorded in the number of notifications of scarlet fever; the largest were a fall of 32 in Lancashire and a rise of 20 in Surrey. The largest declines in the local incidence of whooping-cough were Lancashire 40 and Essex 36; the largest rise was Warwickshire 55. The number of notifications of diphtheria were 13 more than the record low level of the preceding week. The largest variations in the local returns of diphtheria were in Yorkshire West Riding and Staffordshire, where 6 and 4 cases were notified and none in the preceding week.

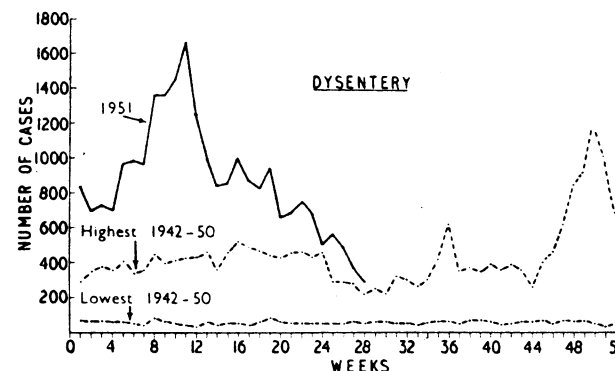
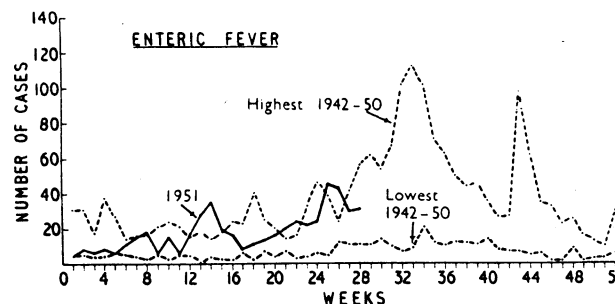
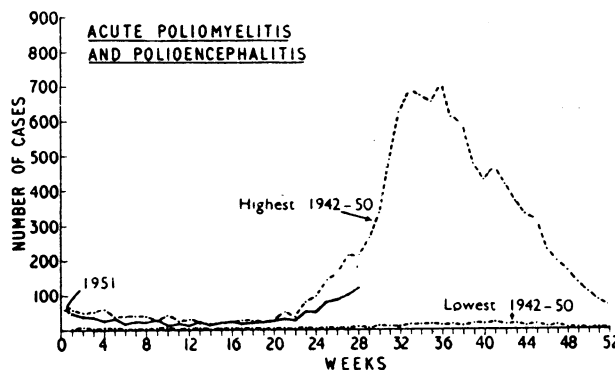
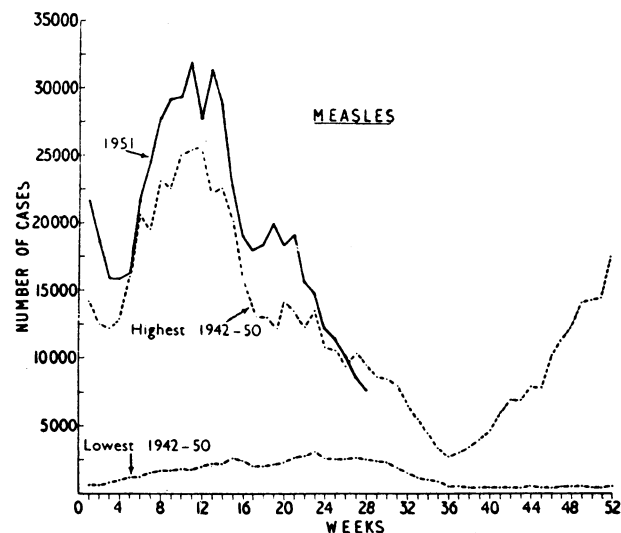
The notifications of acute poliomyelitis were 20 more than in the previous week. There were three distinct centres of infection: Warwickshire, where the cases rose from 16 to 28 (Birmingham C.B. 15, Coventry C.B. 6); Yorkshire West Riding, with a rise from 8 to 21 (York C.B. 7, Sheffield C.B. 5); Kent, with an increase from 4 to 17 (Orpington U.D. 13). The next largest return of acute poliomyelitis was Middlesex 5. A rise in acute poliomyelitis was recorded in Scotland, where 21 cases were notified. Twelve of these cases were notified in the western area (Glasgow 5). The largest return outside this area was 4 in Aberdeen county.

For the third consecutive week a fall has been recorded in the number of notifications of dysentery. The largest returns during the week were London 59 (Islington 13, Finsbury 11), Lancashire 55 (Liverpool C.B. 11, Manchester C.B. 10), Middlesex 26, Yorkshire West Riding 21.

The largest outbreak of food-poisoning involved 72 persons in Tynemouth C.B., Northumberland.

## Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported during the nine years 1942-50 are shown thus - - - - -, the figures for 1951 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1951, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



## Week Ending July 21

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 830, whooping-cough 3,380, diphtheria 30, measles 6,306, acute pneumonia 292, acute poliomyelitis 134, dysentery 301, paratyphoid fever 37, typhoid fever 5.

The number of unsuitable admissions to the Cassel Hospital for Functional Nervous Disorders has been considerably reduced since August, 1948, by the introduction of a new selective procedure (*Medical Director's Report, 1948-50*). Every application used to be made by means of a written clinical description of the patient, sent direct to the medical director, and the decision whether or not to place on the waiting-list was made on this evidence. Now, however, every applicant is interviewed at the hospital, those living a long way away being accommodated for five days, and those from near by being given a day's assessment. Each patient is seen by a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and a psychiatric social worker, who then discuss the case and decide whether or not the Cassel can help the patient. Those selected for treatment are placed on a doctor's waiting-list and sent home to await admission; the others are referred back to their doctor with a full report and other recommendations.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles for the week ending July 14 (No. 28).

Figures of notified cases are for: (a) England and Wales (London included). (b) London (administrative county). (c) Scotland. (d) Northern Ireland. (e) Eire. Figures of births and deaths and of deaths recorded under each disease are for: (a) The 126 great towns in England and Wales (London included). (b) London (administrative county). (c) The 16 principal towns in Scotland. (d) The 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland. (e) The 13 principal towns in Eire. A dash — denotes no cases; a blank space denotes disease not notifiable or no return available.

The table is based on information supplied by the Registrars-General of England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of Northern Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

Disease	1951 Week Ending July 14					1950 Corresponding Week					1942-50 England & Wales Corresponding Week		
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Highest	Median	Lowest
Diphtheria .. .. .	35	2	5	1	1	50	2	12	3	3	680	277	50
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. .. .	292	59	82	5	1	222	19	87	1	—	222	156	50
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis, acute .. .. .	12	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	8	2	—
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	—	12	1	2	—	—	11	3	4	—	—	—
Food-poisoning .. .. .	199	21	—	2	—	397	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years .. .. .	—	—	—	8	34	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—
Deaths .. .. .	5	—	—	1	—	9	—	4	—	2	—	—	—
Measles* .. .. .	7,662	187	176	144	162	9,295	647	267	128	321	9,459	5,376	2,536
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection .. .. .	33	2	15	2	2	33	1	18	1	—	84	46	17
Deaths .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. .. .	38	4	8	—	—	29	1	6	—	—	106	65	29
Pneumonia, influenzal .. .. .	348	17	2	9	1	315	18	2	1	—	519	387	315
Deaths (from influenza)† .. .. .	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia, primary .. .. .	—	—	116	—	—	—	—	96	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. .. .	129	19	—	7	3	109	8	—	7	6	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, acute: Paralytic .. .. .	50	1	21	2	—	212	8	49	12	5	212	19	9
Non-paralytic .. .. .	70	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths§ .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever .. .. .	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia   .. .. .	92	14	3	3	—	67	7	10	4	—	155	123	67
Scarlet fever .. .. .	802	87	89	14	34	1,175	63	92	47	76	2,095	1,303	845
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(1) Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	—	—	180	27	—	—	—	176	34	—	—	—	—
(2) Tuberculosis, non-respiratory .. .. .	—	—	37	6	—	—	—	19	6	—	—	—	—
(1) Deaths .. .. .	—	15	17	2	11	137	11	20	2	9	—	—	—
(2) Deaths .. .. .	126	3	1	3	4	—	4	5	1	1	—	—	—
Typhoid fever .. .. .	4	—	1	—	1	3	1	3	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths¶ .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	19	11
Paratyphoid fever .. .. .	29	3	—	1	1	9	2	—	—	1 (B)	—	—	—
Whooping-cough .. .. .	3,277	193	265	37	104	4,117	256	240	25	62	4,117	2,184	1,098
Deaths .. .. .	3	1	1	1	2	6	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths (0-1 year) .. .. .	198	21	21	4	12	209	29	31	13	19	340	286	209
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) .. .. .	4,027	679	452	100	136	4,098	595	514	83	155	4,228	4,002	3,562
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living) .. .. .	—	—	9.3	—	—	—	—	10.3	—	—	—	—	—
Live births .. .. .	7,214	1,188	857	208	333	7,317	1,219	866	193	348	9,327	7,393	5,894
Annual rate per 1,000 persons living .. .. .	—	—	17.6	—	—	—	—	17.4	—	—	—	—	—
Stillbirths .. .. .	184	22	15	—	—	153	21	25	—	—	233	205	153
Rate per 1,000 total births (including stillborn) .. .. .	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—

\* Measles not notifiable in Scotland and returns are approximate. † Includes primary form for England and Wales, London, and N. Ireland. § The number of deaths from poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis for England and Wales, and London (administrative county), are combined. || Includes puerperal fever for England and Wales and for Eire. ¶ Deaths from paratyphoid fever are combined with those from typhoid fever.