

Epidemiology

Safety in Mines

Russian research workers have shown that rocks can be rapidly cut by high-velocity water jets, according to the latest annual report (for 1964) of the Safety in Mines Research Establishment (H.M.S.O., 7s. 6d. net). The Establishment is investigating this work to see whether a practical technique can be devised for cutting rock and coal, thereby eliminating frictional ignition. In the last 10 years 256 ignitions of fire-damp in British coal-mines have been reported, causing 167 deaths, and 39% were attributed to frictional heating.

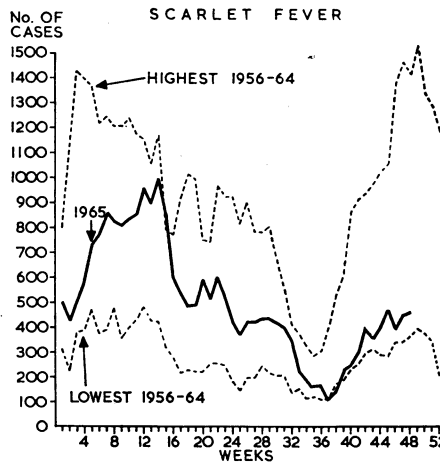
Then and Now in Gateshead

The population of Gateshead declined from 119,000 to 101,000 between 1936 and 1964, as shown in a comparison made by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. James Grant, in his latest annual report. The area of the borough was increased slightly in the same period and it is now 4,559 acres. The birth rate per thousand rose slightly from 17.2 to 19.3, and the illegitimate birth rate doubled from 2.9% to 5.8%. Notably large decreases were recorded for infant mortality from 91 to 21 per thousand live births, and for maternal mortality from 6 to 0 per thousand total

births. The death rate per thousand population for epidemic diseases fell from 92 to 3, while that for cancer rose from 199 to 237.

Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graph below shows the uncorrected numbers of cases of scarlet fever in England and Wales. Figures for 1965 are compared with the highest and lowest figures for each week in the previous years shown.



Influenza

The number of deaths from influenza in England and Wales jumped to 21 in the week ending 27 November from 2 in the previous week and an average of 6 in the previous five weeks.

Infectious Diseases

Areas where numbers of notifications were high in the latest two weeks for which figures are available.

	Week Ending	
	20 Nov.	27 Nov.
Dysentery		
Cheshire	5	20
Greater London	85	97
Lancashire	93	85
Norfolk	15	24
Nottinghamshire	10	39
Warwickshire	29	25
Yorkshire West Riding	52	46
Caernarvonshire	5	15
Glamorganshire	16	23
Glasgow	47	44
Aberdeen	25	20
Edinburgh	21	15
Measles		
Lancashire	453	460
Norfolk	300	288

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending 20 November (No. 47) and corresponding week 1964.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and for Greater London. Figures of deaths and births are for the whole of England and Wales (London included) Greater London, the 17 principal towns in Scotland, the 10 principal towns in Northern Ireland, and the 14 principal towns in Eire. 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, N. Ireland, and Eire, the Ministry of Health and Local Government of N. Ireland, and the Department of Health of Eire.

CASES	1965					1964					DEATHS	1965					1964					
	Eng. & Wales	Gtr. Lnd‡	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lnd A.C.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire		Eng. & Wales	Gtr. Lnd‡	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	Lnd A.C.	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	
Diphtheria ..	0	0	1	0		0		0	0	4	Diphtheria ..	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Dysentery ..	482	85	136	5	2	512		140	5	4	Dysentery ..	0		0			0			0		
Encephalitis, acute ..	2	0		0		8				0	Encephalitis, acute ..										0	
Enteric fever: Typhoid ..	3	1	4	1		5		0	0		Enteric fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	1
Paratyphoid ..	4	0	0	0		4		0	0		Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years	3	0	1	0	1	12		2	1	1	
Food-poisoning	116	17	16	0		119		13	0		Influenza ..	2	0	0	0	1	11		1	0	1	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years				14	42				29	31	Measles ..	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Measles*	3,268	153	37	40	73	8,930		303	128	96	Meningococcal infection ..			0					1			
Meningococcal infection ..	6	2	1	0		9		2	0		Pneumonia ..	122	128	29	16	10	707		21	32	8	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	14	3	3	0		12		0	0		Poliomyelitis, acute ..	0	0		0	0	0				0	0
Pneumonia†	122	15	88	25	5	189		165	3	2	Scarlet fever ..	0		0	0	0	0		0	0		
Poliomyelitis, acute: Paralytic ..	0	0	0	0		2		0	0		Tuberculosis: Respiratory ..	43	6	2	0	0	56	6	1	5	0	
Non-paralytic ..	0	0	0	0		1		0	0	Whooping-cough	0											0
Puerperal fever§	109	49	7	1		96		1	0		Deaths 0-1 year	277	50	25	4	6	314		31	10	11	
Scarlet fever ..	462	63	47	11	12	592		31	12	8	Deaths (excluding stillbirths)	10,881	1843	597	127	147	10,682		679	163	192	
Tuberculosis: Respiratory ..	282	60	32	9		284		38	12		LIVE BIRTHS	14,576	2494	832	218	387	15,905		1003	234	375	
Non-respiratory ..	43	11	7	1		46		9	3		STILLBIRTHS	253	41	17			262		14			
Whooping-cough	252	36	44	6	15	261		13		31												

* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate. † Includes primary and influenzal pneumonia. § Includes puerperal pyrexia. ‡ Not comparable with London A.C.