

of Commons on April 29. It was stated during the debate that at the time the National Insurance Act, 1946—which it amends—came into operation there were 18,786 maternity beds in N.H.S. hospitals, and the most recent return was 19,369.

The point which attracted most attention was the introduction of the home confinement grant of £3, making for the first time a differentiation between the allowances to women who went to hospital and those who had their confinement at home. Fears were expressed that this might be an inducement to women who ought to go to hospital to remain at home for the sake of the extra money. Against that was quoted the report of the National Insurance Advisory Committee that representations had been made that the financial advantage under the present scheme of having the confinement in hospital was causing an excessive demand on maternity beds which ought primarily to be used for cases likely to need hospital attention.

Pharmaceutical Goods Prices

Mr. A. BLENKINSOP on April 30 asked the Minister of Health whether he was in a position to make a statement arising out of his discussions with manufacturers of pharmaceutical goods about the prices of proprietary brands. Mr. IAIN MACLEOD said that he could not at present, but added that this was a matter which was under very serious consideration by the Government.

Supplies to China

Mr. JOHN TILNEY on April 30 asked the President of the Board of Trade if he would make a statement in connexion with the supply of certain pharmaceuticals to China.

Mr. PETER THORNEYCROFT replied that pharmaceuticals were not subject to the embargo which the United Kingdom had maintained on certain exports to China ever since it was imposed by the previous Government after the United Nations resolution of May 18, 1951. Since August, 1951, however, exports to China of certain pharmaceuticals which would be of value to the maintenance of large military forces had been limited to normal civilian requirements. A number of Western European governments had hitherto permitted exports of these pharmaceuticals without restriction and this had tended to frustrate the controls which we have maintained. These governments had, however, now agreed to impose similar restrictions to ours.

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a quarterly comitia of the College held on April 30, with the President, Sir Russell Brain, in the chair, the following were elected Fellows of the College: F. B. Byrom, M.D. (Australia); R. Jeremy, M.B. (Australia); A. T. Jones, M.D. (Cardiff); M. McC. Baird, B.M. (Canada); E. B. Brooke, M.B. (Cardiff); B. B. Bhatia, M.D. (India); T. F. McN. Scott, M.D. (United States); J. S. Harris, M.D. (Woodford Green); J. N. Cumings, M.D. (London); O. F. Thomas, M.R.C.P. (Liverpool); R. Knox, M.D. (London); J. MacD. Holmes, M.D. (Stafford); Mary J. Wilmers, M.D. (London); H. E. Holling, M.B. (London); Beryl D. Corner, M.D. (Bristol); G. Davison, M.D. (Cramlington); J. R. Forbes, M.D. (Flintshire); R. M. Kark, M.R.C.P. (United States); F. H. Kemp, M.B. (Oxford); S. Lazarus, M.D. (Glasgow); J. Smart, M.D. (London); J. F. Bromley, M.B. (Birmingham); Muriel J. L. Frazer, M.D. (Belfast); Sir William P. Mallinson, B.M. (London); H. G. Miller, M.D. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); A. W. Woodruff, M.D. (London); W. W. Gooddy, M.D. (London); A. G. W. Whitfield, M.D. (Sutton Coldfield); D. I. Williams, M.B. (London); R. A. Henson, M.D. (London); Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet, M.D., F.R.S. (Australia); J. F. Fulton, M.D. (United States); G. L. Keynes, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (London); and C. Laubry, M.D. (France).

Lord Horder was appointed delegate of the College to the annual cremation conference to be held at Llandudno from June 29 to July 1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending April 18 (No. 15) and corresponding week 1952.

Figures of cases are for the countries shown and London administrative county. Figures of deaths and births are for the 160 great towns in England and Wales (London included), London administrative county, 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 in Countries and London	1953					1952				
	Eng. & Wales	London	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	London	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria ..	18	2	8	0		24	2	9	0	1
Dysentery ..	282	33	88	6		489	63	34	2	1
Encephalitis, acute..	3	0	0	0		2	1	1	0	
Enteric fever:										
Typhoid ..	2	0	0	0		1	0	0	1	
Paratyphoid ..	7	0	1(A)	0		13	0	0	0	
Food-poisoning ..	56	9		0		51	6		1	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..				21	19				14	10
Measles* ..	18,861	835	550	269	284	5,472	210	587	250	441
Meningococcal infection ..	54	6	11	1	4	44	2	12	1	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	48	1	4	0		32	10	5	0	
Pneumonia† ..	796	57	473	14	8	680	49	291	16	1
Poliomyelitis, acute:										
Paralytic ..	26	1		0	2	14	2		2	1
Non-paralytic ..	8	0				3	0			
Puerperal fever§ ..	208	30	23	1		243	56	14	0	
Scarlet fever ..	994	67	151	35	51	1,134	93	158	9	35
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory ..			147	27				134	34	
Non-respiratory..			16	6				25	5	
Whooping-cough ..	2,847	181	374	40	152	2,306	129	183	77	42

DEATHS in Great Towns	1953					1952				
	Eng. & Wales	London	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire	Eng. & Wales	London	Scot.	N. Ire.	Eire
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
Dysentery ..	0	0				1	0			
Encephalitis, acute..					0		1			0
Enteric fever ..	0	0	0			0	0			
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..	8	1	1	3	0	15	1	6	0	1
Influenza ..	37	1	1	2	3	38	3	6	0	0
Measles ..		0	0		2		0	1	1	2
Meningococcal infection ..		0	0				2			
Pneumonia ..	300	33	26	19	11	284	42		16	5
Poliomyelitis, acute	8	1			0	2	0			0
Scarlet fever ..		0	0		0		0		0	0
Tuberculosis:										
Respiratory ..	119	19	14	4	6	139	20	19	5	16
Non-respiratory..		2	2	3	3		5	4	1	2
Whooping-cough ..	3	0	1	0	1	2	0		0	0
Deaths 0-1 year ..	229	30	34	14	22	248	27	34	12	13
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) ..	5,428	731	623	126	209	5,828	823	645	98	173
LIVE BIRTHS ..	8,068	1175	923	235	409	6,887	1122	806	242	344
STILLBIRTHS ..	196	25	20			172	15	20		

* Measles not notifiable in Scotland, whence returns are approximate.

† Includes primary and influenza pneumonia.

§ Includes puerperal pyrexia.