

did work for the industrially disabled similar to that done for the war disabled by the Ministry of Pensions. There was already a considerable link in case-work between the two departments.

Mr. GEORGE ISAACS hoped that the new Ministry, if it was established, would carry on the specialized services of Roehampton or Queen Mary's Hospital. There was another specialist centre at Stoke Mandeville which had been developed by the Ministry of Pensions and now was at the service of civilians. Miracles could be seen there. He asked for an assurance about continuation of the welfare services.

After further debate the proposed merger was approved by 226 to 212.

#### Priority for War Pensioners

A motion approving the Transfer of Functions (Ministry of Pensions) Order was moved in the House of Lords on July 2 by LORD SELKIRK. He said the organizational changes would take place gradually. The preferential position of war pensioners and existing priorities in regard to medical treatment would be preserved. War disabled would receive priority in the existing pensions hospitals and in all National Health Service hospitals. Treatment at clinics would be discussed with ex-Service organizations. Ex-Service interests would be represented in the management of pensions hospitals. There would be no changes in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, without full consultation with its governors.

After debate the House agreed to the motion.

#### Providing for Old Age

Mr. R. A. BUTLER on July 2 told the House of Commons that the Government had decided to set up an independent committee to review the economic and financial problems involved in providing for old age, having regard to the prospective increase in the number of the aged. He said the number of men and women over the ages of 65 and 60 was expected to rise from nearly 7 million in 1952 to nearly 10 million in 1977, a rise of more than 40%. In the same period the number between the age of 15 and these pensionable ages was expected to decline. Sir Thomas W. Phillips had agreed to serve as chairman of this committee. A first report was expected shortly from the Ministry of Labour Advisory Committee on the Employment of Older Workers.

*Sewage in Rivers*—While it is true that some tidal river estuaries are polluted by the discharge of sewage, Mr. Macmillan has no evidence of any danger to public health.

*Extensions at Mental Hospitals*.—Mr. Macleod hopes to make a special allocation available next year for extensions at suitable mental deficiency and mental hospitals. He has circulated to boards sketch plans to assist them in framing proposals.

*Calcium*.—One pint of milk (0.57 l.) supplies 680 mg. calcium; 1 lb. (0.45 kg.) of bread, containing added calcium carbonate, 649 mg.

## Universities and Colleges

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

On July 2 Professor Lambert C. Rogers was re-elected and Professor Ian Aird, Professor R. Milnes Walker, and Professor C. A. Wells were elected members of the Council of the College. The result of the poll was as follows:

Elected	Votes
Lambert Charles Rogers, V.R.D. (Royal Infirmary, Cardiff) ..	1,206
Ian Aird (Postgraduate Medical School of London) ..	788
Robert Milnes Walker (Royal Infirmary, Bristol) ..	684
Charles Alexander Wells (Royal Infirmary, Liverpool) ..	640

In all 1,993 Fellows voted; in addition 22 votes were found to be invalid.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for British Isles for week ending June 20 (No. 24) 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 ..	25	1	10	1		19	1	12	2	3
Dysentery ..	557	79	171	2	1	188	23	59	56	
Encephalitis, acute	9	1	0	0		5	0	0	0	
Enteric fever: Typhoid ..	0	0	1	0		4	0	2(B)	0	3
Paratyphoid ..	23	1	2(B)	0		32	0		1	
Food-poisoning ..	998	16		1		116	7		2	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..				8	24				22	27
Measles* ..	7,580	291	371	233	210	7,307	745	332	210	246
Meningococcal infection ..	27	2	21	1		40	2	12	0	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	37	3	12	1		31	5	9	0	
Pneumonia† ..	370	12	159	6		427	18	170	4	
Poliomyelitis, acute: Paralytic ..	44	3				28	0			
Non-paralytic ..	21	1	4	5	2	20	0		9	4
Puerperal fever‡ ..	261	35	15	2		210	32	2	1	1
Scarlet fever ..	1,223	92	193	37	64	845	72	215	12	60
Tuberculosis: Respiratory ..			164	30				151	39	
Non-respiratory ..			40	5				35	5	
Whooping-cough ..	4,104	344	530	61	113	2,513	106	176	74	100

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 ..	1	1				0	0		0	
Encephalitis, acute		0					0			0
Enteric fever ..	0	0	0			0	0		0	
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years ..	6	0	0	0	1	16		2	0	1
Influenza ..	8	0	0	0	0	4	1		0	0
Measles ..		0	0		0		0		0	0
Meningococcal infection ..		0	0				2			
Pneumonia ..	148	20	19	6	4	129	21		10	3
Poliomyelitis, acute	2	0			1	2	0			0
Scarlet fever ..		0	0		0		0		0	0
Tuberculosis: Respiratory ..	73	11	7	3	8	91	8	10	0	6
Non-respiratory ..										
Whooping-cough ..	4	0	0	0	0	3	1		0	0
Deaths 0-1 year ..	212	17	27	9	14	219	24	38	5	9
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) ..	4,447	596	529	92	127	4,587	643	523	96	130
LIVE BIRTHS ..	8,026	1236	937	230	362	7,973	1219	936	230	416
STILLBIRTHS ..	221	29	19			190	22	25		

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

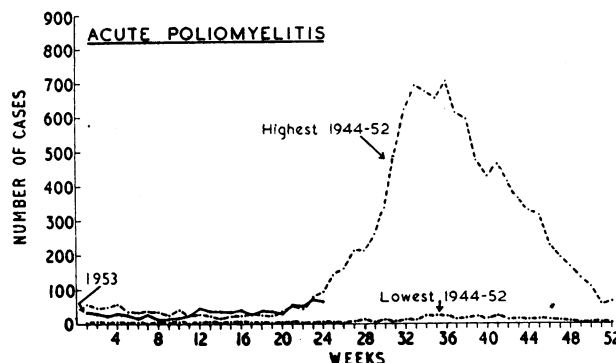
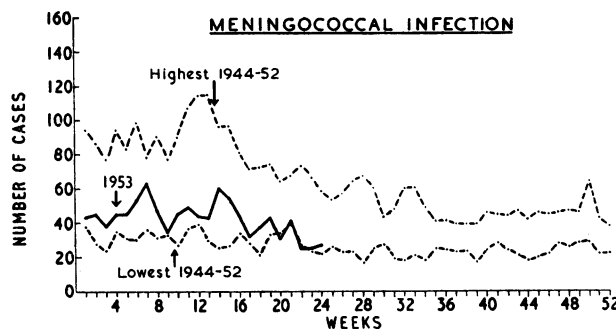
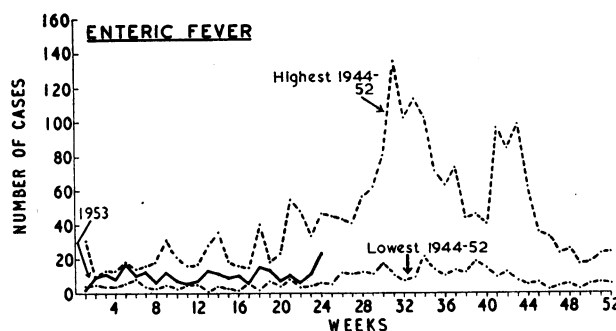
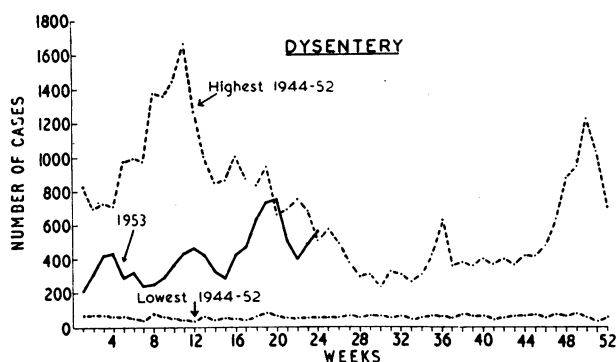
† Includes primary and influenzal pneumonia.

‡ Includes puerperal pyrexia.

# Vital Statistics

## 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 in each week during the nine years 1944-52 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1953 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1953, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



## Infectious Diseases

The incidence of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending June 20 increased slightly. The largest rises in notifications were 559 for whooping-cough, from 3,545 to 4,104; 168 for scarlet fever, from 1,055 to 1,223; 71 for dysentery, from 486 to 557; and 48 for measles, from 7,532 to 7,580.

The largest rises for whooping-cough were Essex 79, from 249 to 328, and Warwickshire 65, from 207 to 272. Only small fluctuations occurred in the local trends of scarlet fever. 25 cases of diphtheria were notified during the week, 8 more than in the preceding week. The rise in diphtheria was due to cases scattered throughout the country. The largest increases in the incidence of measles were Yorkshire East Riding 118, from 178 to 296; Lancashire 113, from 1,438 to 1,551; and London 84, from 207 to 291; while the largest declines were Yorkshire West Riding 139, from 843 to 704; Gloucestershire 70, from 386 to 316; and Cornwall 68, from 209 to 141.

23 cases of paratyphoid fever were notified. 18 more than in the preceding week, and this was the largest total for 36 weeks. The rise was due to sporadic cases over a wide area.

The 65 cases of acute poliomyelitis were 7 fewer for paralytic and 1 fewer for non-paralytic cases than in the preceding week. The largest returns were Kent 6, Essex 6 (West Ham C.B. 2), London 4, Middlesex 4, and Somerset 4.

The largest returns for dysentery were Lancashire 93 (Preston C.B. 27, Liverpool C.B. 21), London 79 (Islington 12), Bedfordshire 66 (Luton M.B. 59), Middlesex 50 (Edmonton M.B. 16, Willesden M.B. 12), Yorkshire West Riding 43 (Barnsley C.B. 16), Surrey 37 (Dorking and Horley R.D. 10), Leicestershire 28 (Leicester C.B. 24), and Essex 21.

Of the 998 cases of food-poisoning, 860 were notified in Lancashire. Food-poisoning was notified from 37 administrative areas of Lancashire.

## Quarterly Return for Scotland

The birth rate during the first quarter of 1953 was 18.1 per 1,000 of the population and was 0.1 above the rate for the first quarter of 1952 but 0.7 below the average of the five preceding first quarters. The infant mortality rate was 34 per 1,000 registered live births; this was the lowest rate ever recorded in a first quarter, being 4 below the rate for the March quarter of 1952.

The general death rate was 13.7 per 1,000 of the population and was 0.8 below the rate for the corresponding quarter of 1952 and 1.3 below the five-years average. 219 deaths were registered from the principal epidemic diseases. These included 186 from influenza, 13 from measles, 12 from meningococcal infections, and 4 from whooping-cough. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 32 per 100,000 (27 from respiratory tuberculosis); these rates were 15 and 14 respectively below those for the first quarter of 1952, and were 33 and 30 below the five-years average. Deaths from violence numbered 737, including 130 attributed to road transport, as compared with 643 and 86 in the first quarter of 1952.

## Week Ending June 27

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included scarlet fever 1,333, whooping-cough 4,116, diphtheria 18, measles 6,871, acute poliomyelitis 60, dysentery 676, paratyphoid fever 5, typhoid fever 4.

## The Services

Major-General C. W. Greenway, C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen, in succession to Major-General F. R. H. Mollan, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., late R.A.M.C., retired.

Brigadier A. E. Campbell, late R.A.M.C., has been appointed Honorary Physician to the Queen, in succession to Major-General T. Young, C.B., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C., who has retired.

**British Social Biology Council.**—The Summer School of the British Social Biology Council is being held at Aix-en-Provence from August 6 to 20. The theme of the school is "Nature and Nurture." The principal speakers will be Mr. Alec Rodger and Dr. C. O. Carter. The cost of the school is £34, which includes registration, tuition, accommodation, and second-class travel. Those requiring further information should communicate as early as possible with the secretary, British Social Biology Council, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

**Davidson Clinic Summer School.**—The Summer School of the Davidson Clinic for medical psychotherapy will be held in Edinburgh from July 29 to August 4. Further details may be obtained from the secretary of the Clinic, 58, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, 9.

**Oesophageal Speech.**—An institute on teaching and improving oesophageal speech will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from August 10 to 16. This institute, the second to be held on voice pathology, is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society and other bodies. Surgeons and speech therapists will lecture and demonstrate the teaching of oesophageal speech, and non-speaking laryngectomized persons may attend the institute without charge. Anyone wishing for further details should write to Dr. Warren H. Gardner, 11,206, Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, 6, Ohio.

**The Eighth International Congress of Rheumatic Diseases** will be held in Geneva from August 24 to 28, 1953. The president is Professor E. Jarlov, of Copenhagen. Those wishing for further information are asked to communicate with Professor K. M. Walthard, Institut de Physiatrie, Hôpital Cantonal, Geneva.

**The Second International Congress of Cardiology** will be held in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., from September 12 to 15, 1954. Further details will be available later, but all correspondence should be sent to the secretary-general, Dr. L. W. Gorham, 44, East 23rd Street, New York 10.

## NEW ISSUES

**British Journal of Ophthalmology.**—The next issue (Vol. 37, No. 7) will be available in a week's time. The contents include:

DEGENERATION OF THE DOG RETINA. I: STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RETINA OF THE NORMAL DOG. H. B. Parry.  
AN EYE SANATORIUM: SURVEY OF ONE YEAR'S WORK. D. P. Choyce and A. G. Cross.  
MODIFICATION AND DEFENCE OF THE SCLERAL IMPLANT. W. Hedley Summerskill.  
THE RIDLEY INTRA-OCULAR ACRYLIC LENS. A SIMPLIFIED OPERATIVE TECHNIQUE. V. P. Patel.  
FLICKER STIMULATION IN AMBLYOPIA. G. Parsons-Smith.  
SECONDARY GLAUCOMA DUE TO SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE LENS CAPSULE. F. S. Hubbersty and J. S. Gourlay.  
THE MEASUREMENT OF CORNEAL THICKNESS AND ITS APPLICATION TO KERATOPLASTY. A. Lister, A. S. Philips, and M. Langham.  
A SPEED-OF-PERCEPTION MEASUREMENT APPARATUS. J. C. Neely.  
VENOUS PRESSURE AND OCULAR TENSION. DATA CONCERNING THE DIURNAL VARIATION OF OCULAR TENSION. P. Weinstein and J. Forgács.

Issued monthly; annual subscription £4 4s., single copy 8s. 6d.; obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

## SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

### Tuesday, July 14

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5 p.m., Dr. L. Cox (Melbourne): Disorders of Consciousness from Basal Lesions of the Brain.

### Thursday, July 16

LEEDS UNIVERSITY.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, 4.15 p.m., Dr. L. B. Cox (Melbourne): Torulosis.

### Friday, July 17

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Biochemistry, Bute Medical Buildings, St. Andrews, Fife, 11 a.m., 320th meeting. Scientific papers will be read.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Charles Tomes Lecture by Mr. G. T. Hankey: Temporomandibular Arthrosis.

## APPOINTMENTS

DAVIES, ILID META LEWIS, M.B., B.Ch., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., Assistant Medical Officer, South-east Glamorgan Health Division.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—A. H. Millard, F.R.C.S., Surgical Registrar; M. R. Williams, F.R.C.S., Part-time Surgical Registrar; K. Till, M.B., B.Ch., Clinical Assistant to the Neurosurgical Department; N. T. Jacob, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., Assistant Medical Registrar; Elizabeth A. Martin, M.B., B.S., and T. J. Haywood, M.D., House-physicians; H. B. Eckstein, M.B., B.Ch., and J. A. Wilkinson, M.B., B.Ch., House-surgeons.

JENKINS, DAVID HUGHES, M.S., F.R.C.S., Consultant Surgeon, United Cardiff Hospitals and Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

RICHARDS, R. D., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., Consultant Surgeon, Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon.

SLEIGH, J., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Divisional Medical Health Officer, Nova Scotia Provincial Government.

SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—D. Finn, M.B., B.Ch., Assistant Psychiatrist at Horton Road and Coney Hill Hospitals, Gloucester; R. M. M. Hunter, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.H., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist to North Gloucestershire Clinical Area; C. D. Linton, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., Anaesthetic Registrar, Southmead Hospital, Bristol; W. L. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.M., Senior Registrar in Mental Deficiency and Child Psychiatry to Bristol Clinical Area; S. Schwartz, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., Orthopaedic Registrar, Winford Orthopaedic Hospital, near Bristol; T. Galla, M.B., Ch.B., Registrar in Psychiatry to South-western Region; R. H. Ellis, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Chest Physician to North Gloucestershire Clinical Area; J. M. Whelehan, L.R.C.P.&S.I., Assistant Psychiatrist, Roundway Hospital, Devizes.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL OF THE WEST INDIES.—J. B. Self, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Surgical Registrar; J. H. M. Pinkerton, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Joyce Ford-Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; R. A. St. C. Hoyte, M.D., C.M., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

Fluker.—On June 25, 1953, at Plymouth, to Christine, wife of Dr. J. L. Fluker, a daughter—Christine Louise.

Robinson.—On June 24, 1953, at Old Court Clinic, Ealing, London, W., to Gay (formerly Selig), wife of Dr. Keith J. Robinson, of 12, Preston Hill, Kenton, Middlesex, a son—Martin Clifford.

Shotts.—On June 28, 1953, at the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, to Barbara (formerly Layman), wife of Alan Shotts, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., a son—Paul David.

Stock.—On June 27, 1953, at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, to Freda (formerly Lunt), M.B., D.C.H., wife of Dr. S. D. Stock, of 20, Magdala Road, Cosham, Hants, a daughter—Lesley Freda.

Thomas.—On June 30, 1953, at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, to Katie (formerly Walker), wife of F. Brian Thomas, F.R.C.S., Putson Manor, Hereford, a daughter.

### MARRIAGES

Shirlaw—Davidson.—On July 1, 1953, at St. Andrew's Church, Waterloo, Liverpool, Herbert Anthony Douglas Shirlaw, M.B., Ch.B., Flight-Lieutenant, R.A.F., of Upholland, Lancs, to Patricia Magdalen Davidson, of Great Crosby, Lancs.

### DEATHS

Cox.—On June 14, 1953, at his home, 24, Offington Drive, Worthing, Sussex, William Alfred Spencer Cox, M.D., late of Church Street, Kensington, London, W., aged 89.

Evans.—On June 20, 1953, Albert Edward Evans, C.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, of 11, Weymouth Avenue, Mill Hill, London, N.W.

Feilden.—On June 13, 1953, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Frederick Ernest Feilden, L.M.S.S.A., late of Guernsey, Channel Islands, aged 88.

Hamond.—On June 22, 1953, at 133, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent, Philip William Hamond, M.D., aged 73.

Hayden.—On June 12, 1953, Roger Keith Hayden, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of London, W. and N.W.

Holroyd.—On June 14, 1953, at Nynehead, Somerset, Gilbert Holroyd, M.B., B.Ch., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, formerly of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, aged 72.

Hynes.—On June 18, 1953, Mortimer Hynes, M.B., B.Ch., of 35, Southwood Lawn Road, London, N.

Ince.—On June 21, 1953, at Woking, Surrey, Joan Katherine Somerville Ince (formerly Cave), M.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Kencot Lodge, Lechlade, Glos.

Kilner.—On June 15, 1953, at 1, Lismore, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, John Newport Kilner, M.B., D.P.H., aged 79.

MacMahon.—On June 22, 1953, at 63, Milton Road, Harpenden, Herts, Charles Grant MacMahon, M.B., Ch.B.

Newell.—On June 22, 1953, Alfred George Newell, M.D., D.P.H., of 14, Dane Road, St. Leonards, Sussex, aged 80.

Sharp.—On June 19, 1953, at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Leonard Whittaker Sharp, M.B., of Woodlands, Wadhurst, Sussex, aged 70.

Shircore.—On June 23, 1953, at Zomba, Nyasaland, John Owen Shircore, C.M.G., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.Ed., aged 71.

Sturdy.—On June 17, 1953, Joseph Cornelius Sturdy, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., of 13, Carr Lane, Acomb, York.

Taylor.—On June 22, 1953, at Gubblicote Cross, Tring, Herts, James George Taylor, M.D., formerly of Chester, aged 78.

Tuohy.—On June 15, 1953, Joyce Tuohy (formerly Stirling), M.B., Ch.B., of Street, Somerset, late of Dunelm, Lasswade, Midlothian.