

## Vital Statistics

### Industrial Accidents and Diseases

The number of workpeople (other than seamen) in the United Kingdom whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in September was 117, compared with 110 (revised figure) in the previous month, and 119 (revised figure) in September, 1952.

The number of cases of industrial diseases in the United Kingdom reported during September was as follows: lead poisoning, 1; other poisoning, 1; anthrax, 1; epitheliomatous ulceration, 14; chrome ulceration, 17; total, 34. There were no deaths.—*Ministry of Labour Gazette*, October, 1953.

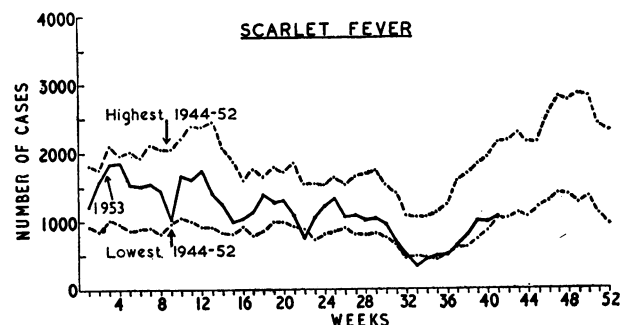
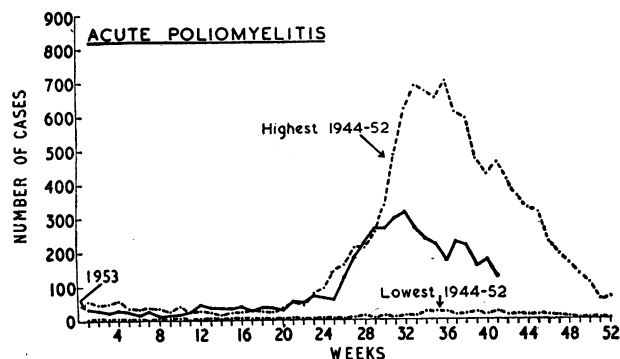
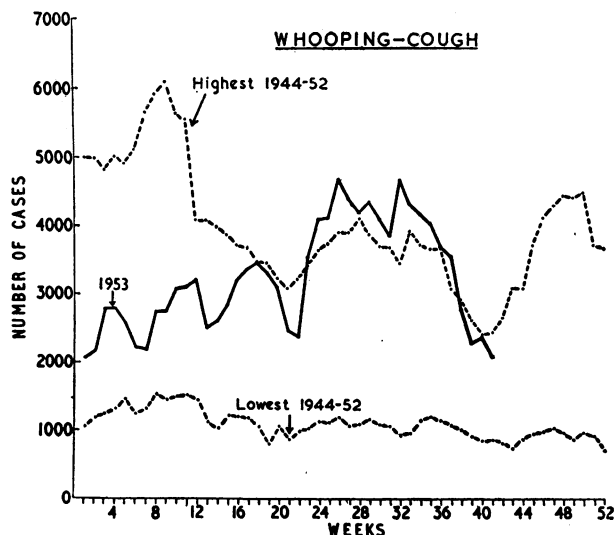
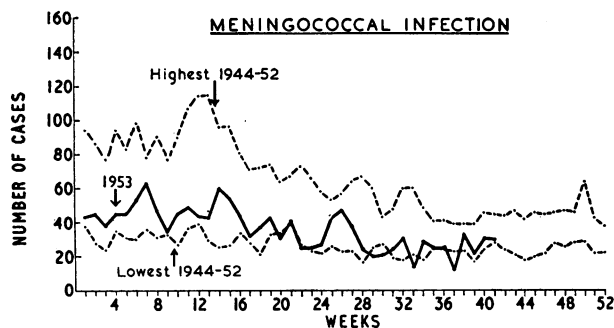
### Scotland in 1951

The birth rate in Scotland, as elsewhere in Great Britain, has been falling since 1947, and in 1951 it was 17.7 per 1,000 population as compared with 22.0 in 1947 and 17.7 in 1938.

The death rate in 1951 was 12.86 per 1,000 population. The infant mortality rate at 37.4 per 1,000 live births was the lowest ever reported in Scotland. The decline in the number of deaths from tuberculosis continued, the mortality rate being 43 per 100,000 of the population as compared with 54 in 1950 and 67 in 1949.—*97th Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, 1951* (H.M.S.O., 11s.).

### 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 largest variations in the number of notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week ending October 17 were increases of 76 for scarlet fever, from 986 to 1,062, and 51 for measles, from 691 to 742, and a decrease of 299 for whooping-cough, from 2,395 to 2,096.

Only small fluctuations were recorded in the local trends of scarlet fever. An increase of 51 in the number of notifications of measles in Staffordshire, from 49 to 100, was the only large rise in the local incidence. The largest decreases in the incidence of whooping-cough were 67 in Essex, from 178 to 111, and 40 in London, from 167 to 127. 20 cases of diphtheria were notified during the week, and this was the same total as in the preceding week.

126 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified, and these were 26 fewer for paralytic and 24 fewer for non-paralytic than in the preceding week. The largest returns were Lancashire 16 (Preston C.B. 3), Yorkshire West Riding 12 (Bradford C.B. 3), Warwickshire 11 (Birmingham C.B. 5), London 8 (Lewisham 3), Kent 8, and Middlesex 7.

232 cases of dysentery were notified; these were 35 fewer than in the preceding week. The chief centres of infection were London 35 (Chelsea 9), Northumberland 28 (Gosforth U.D. 19), Lancashire 26 (Liverpool C.B. 12), Yorkshire North Riding 24 (Middlesbrough C.B. 24), Yorkshire West Riding 22 (Bradford C.B. 9), and Middlesex 14.

### Week Ending October 24

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included scarlet fever 1,269, whooping-cough 2,190, diphtheria 29, measles 861, dysentery 310, paratyphoid fever 17, and typhoid fever 3. Poliomyelitis notifications were as follows: paralytic, 89 (81); non-paralytic, 46 (45); total, 135 (126). This is an increase of 9 compared with the previous week, the figures for which are in parentheses.

## The Services

Surgeon Captain J. B. Oldham, V.R.D., R.N.V.R., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Queen, in succession to Surgeon Captain G. McCoull, O.B.E., V.R.D., R.N.V.R., who has been placed on the Retired List.

**Christmas Seals** for decorating letters and parcels are once again being offered for sale by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, at a cost of 4s. per hundred. The Association is also selling Christmas cards (6s. per dozen, including envelopes). Supplies of both may be obtained through the N.A.P.T., Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. All proceeds from sales will be devoted to the work of the association.

**Drunkenness in England and Wales.**—According to a White Paper issued recently by the Home Office 53,888 cases of drunkenness were proved in courts in England and Wales during 1952. Of these, 48,694 concerned males and 5,194 females. Each year since 1946 the rate of "proved drunkenness" per 10,000 of population aged over 15 years has risen—from 6 in 1946 to 15.8 last year. The present level is about what it was in the two years before the 1939–45 war, but the curve is now showing signs of flattening out. Methylated spirits is said to have accounted for 569 cases, which is about two-thirds the number in 1938 and double that in 1945, when the low level of 273 cases was recorded. The London City Police District had a rate of 228 per 10,000 of population over 15 years, which compares with 74 for Middlesbrough, the next on the list, and 29 for the Metropolitan Police District. Newcastle-upon-Tyne City and Liverpool City had rates respectively of 68.5 and 61.

**Sir Gordon Holmes, F.R.S.**, the consultant neurologist, was on October 20 presented with the gold medal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

## COMING EVENTS

**The Bradshaw Lecture** will be delivered on November 12 at 5 p.m. at the Royal College of Physicians by Professor E. J. Wayne. His subject will be "The Diagnosis of Thyrotoxicosis."

**National Association for Mental Health.**—The 10th Inter-clinic conference will be held on November 21 at the Queen Mary Hall, Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1. The conference is limited to professional members of child guidance staffs. Further details may be obtained from the conference secretary, 39, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.

**Leeds University Medical School.**—The 63rd annual dinner of past and present men students will be held at the Metropole Hotel, Leeds, on November 27 at 7 for 7.30 p.m. Sir Henry Cohen will be the guest of honour. Tickets and further information from Mr. D. A. Youdale, The Medical School, Leeds, 2.

## NEW ISSUES

**British Journal of Ophthalmology.**—The next issue (Vol. 37, No. 11) is now available. The contents include:

BULBAR PRESSURE TEST IN GLAUCOMA. P. L. Blaxter.  
CATARACTS IN GALACTOSAEMIA. F. D. McAuley.  
DEFINITION OF VISUAL ACUITY. M. Gilbert.  
DEGENERATIONS OF THE DOG RETINA. III: RETINOPATHY SECONDARY TO GLAUCOMA. H. B. Parry.  
ANTERIOR FLAP SCLEROTOMY WITH BASAL IRIDENCELEISIS. H. B. Stallard.  
CONGENITAL TOXOPLASMOSIS. James Hill.  
STANDARDIZED TOMOMETERS IN GREAT BRITAIN. C. R. S. Jackson.

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.

### Monday, November 9

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8.30 p.m., discussion to be introduced by Mr. E. S. Horning, M.A., B.Sc., and Sir Stanford Cade: Hormones in Relation to Cancer.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Professor G. W. Pickering: Concept of Essential Hypertension.  
ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., Professor Thomas Nicol: Surgical Anatomy of the Orbit and Ocular Adnexa.

### Tuesday, November 10

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Professor E. J. King: Alkaline and Acid Phosphatases.

CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, 7.30 p.m., dinner, followed by a discussion: Electronics in Industry and Medicine, to be opened by Mr. F. E. Henderson and Dr. P. Bauwens.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. D. F. O'Neill: Stress in Relation to Diseases of the Skin.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—3.45 p.m., Erasmus Wilson Demonstration by Mr. W. H. Jayne: Slide Culture of Malignant Cells.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Mr. T. M. Tyrrell: Pitfalls in Refraction.  
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. E. Rohan Williams and Mr. H. G. E. Arthure: Obstetric Pelvis.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.—5.30 p.m., Mr. G. C. Knight: Diagnosis and Treatment of Spinal Compression.

### Wednesday, November 11

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. H. Haber: Benign Epithelial Tumours of the Skin.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—4.30 for 5 p.m., Mr. J. D. Fergusson: Prostatic Cancer.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—2 p.m., Dr. H. Bickel: Observations on Lignac-Fanconi Disease, Wilson's Disease, and Phenylketonuria.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.—3.30 p.m., Dr. J. Greenwood Wilson: Care and After-care—The Cardiff Interpretation (Illustrated).

ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.—2.30 p.m., Discussion to be opened by Dr. E. T. Wilkins, M.Sc., Ph.D.: Air Pollution and the London Fog of December, 1952.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., lecture-demonstration by Dr. D. F. O'Neill: Psychological Medicine.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Professor C. H. Gray: Fluid and Electrolyte Balance; 5.15 p.m., Mr. F. A. Williamson-Noble: Early Treatment of Eye Diseases.

### Thursday, November 12

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11, Chandos Street, W., 8 p.m., Dr. Thomas F. Cotton: Psychological Element in Cardiac Disease.

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. R. L. M. Syngé, F.R.S.: Principles of Chromatography.

HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At University New Buildings, Edinburgh, 5 p.m., Professor J. W. Crofton: Chemotherapy of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

●INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—At National Hospital, Queen Square, W.C., 5.30 p.m., Dr. Helen E. Dimsdale: Syndromes Involving the Basal Ganglia: Clinical Types, Diagnosis, and Treatment.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Pathogenesis of Tinea Capitis.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Dr. M. T. Morgan: Modern Developments in Rodenticides and Insecticides in Port Health and Quarantine Administration.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—5 p.m., Bradshaw Lecture by Dr. E. J. Wayne: Diagnosis of Thyrotoxicosis.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Cecil Joll Lecture by Mr. Geoffrey L. Keynes: Investigations into Thymic Disease and Tumour Formation.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Department, Dundee, 5 p.m., Mr. A. W. Wilkinson: Reactions to Injury.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Sir Paul Mallinson: psychiatry demonstration.

### Friday, November 13

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. D. F. O'Neill and Dr. G. B. Mitchell-Heggs: Neurodermatoses.

LEEDS AND WEST RIDING MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—7.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

OSLER CLUB OF LONDON.—At 11, Chandos Street, W., 7.45 p.m., Professor L. Edelstein, Ph.D.: Karl Sudhoff's Contributions to Medical History; Professor J. Trueta: Michael Servetus.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. L. G. Pugh: The 1953 Everest Expedition.

### Saturday, November 14

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Biochemistry, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, 11.30 a.m., scientific papers.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

**Freeth.**—On October 24, 1953, at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, N.W., to Joan, wife of Derek Freeth, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., a daughter.

**Yule.**—On October 15, 1953, at the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, to Nora (formerly Rendell), S.R.N., S.C.M., wife of Dr. Robert Yule, a son.

### MARRIAGES

**Thompson—Logan.**—On October 24, 1953, at the Brompton Oratory, London, S.W., Dr. J. H. Thompson, of Croydon, Surrey, to Margaret Ann (Gret) Logan, of Darlington, Co. Durham.

### DEATHS

**Birks.**—On October 2, 1953, at The Brackens, Beech, Alton, Staffs. Alan Herrenden Birks, M.B., B.Ch., formerly of Dorney Reach, Taplow, Bucks, and Woodbridge, Suffolk.

**Cairns.**—On October 6, 1953, at Green Lea Hospital, Huddersfield, David Louis Cairns, M.D., J.P., of Ashfield, Cedar Avenue, Huddersfield, Yorks, aged 78.

**Fraser.**—On October 6, 1953, at Torosay, St. John's, Newfoundland, Nutting Stuart Fraser, O.B.E., M.D., aged 89.

**Garland.**—On October 17, 1953, at 114a, Hampton Road, Bristol, Edward Blake Garland, M.B., C.M., aged 86.

**Harry.**—On October 7, 1953, at Saltash, Cornwall, Norman George Harry, M.B., B.Ch.

**McKendrick.**—On October 7, 1953, at 33, Woodside Grange Road, Finchley, London, N., William McKendrick, M.B., aged 74.