

Riding 54 (Leeds C.B. 19), Durham 42 (Jarrow M.B. 25), and Northumberland 15 (Newcastle-upon-Tyne C.B. 9).

In Scotland 88 of the 141 cases of dysentery were notified in Glasgow, and 11 of the 18 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified in this city.

Outbreak at Royal Free

Fewer cases are now being reported of the obscure disease at the Royal Free Hospital, and the outbreak there is declining. The virus believed to be causing it has not yet been identified, and it is thought that some time may elapse before it is. None of the patients have been critically ill, though the nervous lesions in some seem to be recovering only slowly. These are chiefly lower motor-neurone lesions; sensory loss is showing quicker improvement.

Week ending August 13

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 234, whooping-cough 1,860, diphtheria 4, measles 8,088, acute pneumonia 194, acute poliomyelitis 358, dysentery 373, paratyphoid fever 19, and typhoid fever 2.

Medical News

Medical Practice in Canada.—Those contemplating practice in Canada will find the *Canadian Medical Association Journal's* recent symposium on medical education most helpful. The symposium appeared in the July 15 issue. Besides accounts of the twelve schools of medicine in the Dominion, and a number of general articles on medical education, the symposium includes an article by Dr. W. BRAMLEY-MOORE on medical licensure in Canada, which gives details of the regulations governing medical practice in the various provinces. A leading article in the same issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* corrects a prevalent impression that Canada is an under-doctored country. According to a survey carried out last year by the Department of National Health and Welfare there is one physician for every 948 of the population. A corresponding figure for Britain is about one to 900.

Atoms in Medicine.—The very high voltages now being used in medicine and industry are attained by so-called accelerators, cyclic or linear, and a group of exhibits illustrating them is now on show at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7. The earliest form of cyclic accelerator, the cyclotron, was designed by Professor E. O. LAWRENCE and colleagues at Berkeley, California, though the first apparatus to split atoms without using radioactive materials was designed at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, by Dr. (now Sir JOHN) COCKROFT and Dr. E. T. S. WALTON. The Museum is showing some of this now almost primitive apparatus of 25 years ago and models illustrating the principles by which it worked. By applying only 4,000 volts the cyclotron accelerated protons to a speed equivalent to a fall through 1.2 million volts; it was followed by another cyclic accelerator, the betatron, which with a relatively small voltage accelerated electrons to a speed that would require the direct application of 16 million volts. One of the latest devices is the linear accelerator, which has been found to be specially useful in high-voltage radiotherapy. An 8-million-volt apparatus in use at the Hammer-smith Hospital is illustrated by photographs and diagrams. The principle on which these machines work is rather like surf-riding, in that electrons are fed on to electric waves and in travelling from wave to wave are gradually speeded up. Also exhibited are various types of radiation detector, ranging in size from a fountain-pen to a suitcase. They seem likely to have a wide application in future.

Students from Overseas.—In the academic year 1954-5, 1,597 overseas students enrolled for full-time medical study or research in British universities, according to the 1956 *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook*.

Dr. W. Bentley Purchase has been appointed by the Queen to be Coroner of Her Majesty's Household in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. L. McCarthy. Dr. Purchase, who is aged 64, has been secretary to the Coroners' Society for England and Wales since 1938.

COMING EVENTS

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.—Diamond Jubilee Congress will be held from September 22 to 24 at St. Pancras Town Hall, Euston Road, London, N.W.1. A full programme of lectures, demonstrations, visits to hospitals, and social events has been arranged. The Congress will be opened by the Minister of Health. Medical practitioners will be welcome. Programme and application form from the secretary of the society, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Maternal Mortality.—Dr. BENJAMIN P. WATSON, professor of midwifery and diseases of women, Columbia University, New York, will deliver the William Meredith Fletcher Shaw Memorial Lecture of 1955 on "The Factors Responsible for the Lowering of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in the Past Fifty Years," at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1, at 2.45 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 1955. Admission by ticket, obtainable from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Lecture on Chemical Tests for Intoxication.—Dr. D. W. KENT-JONES, president of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, will lecture on "Chemical Analysis as an Aid in Determining Intoxication" on September 23 at 5 p.m. in the Washington Singer Laboratories, University College of the South-West, Exeter. Medical men, magistrates, solicitors, and police are invited to attend.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Chovil.—On July 26, 1955, at University Hospital, Saskatoon, Canada, to Marielle, wife of Dr. A. C. Chovil, of Tisdale, Saskatoon, a daughter.
Craib.—On August 4, 1955, at St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne, to Ann (formerly Neely), wife of Dr. D. Craib, a daughter.
Old.—On August 3, 1955, at the Forbes Fraser Hospital, Bath, Somerset, to Pamela, wife of Dr. Rowton Old, of Coombe Down, Bath, a daughter—Claire.

DEATHS

Evans.—On August 19, 1955, at the Wilson Hospital, Mitcham, Surrey, Eluned Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P., of Elm Lodge, Mitcham, aged 53.
Fleming.—On August 14, 1955, at 37, Drummond Place, Edinburgh, Alexander Dickson Fleming, M.B., C.M., J.P., aged 89.
Griffin.—On July 28, 1955, at Bourne Crest, Farnham, Surrey, Walter Bristow Griffin, F.R.C.S., late of Scarborough.
Leaning.—On August 2, 1955, at Stowupland, East Suffolk, Robert Craske Leaning, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., aged 80.
Nothwanger.—On July 14, 1955, at Newcastle, Robert George Nothwanger, M.B.
Scott.—On August 4, 1955, at Linshields, Midhurst, Sussex, John Alwyn Easton Scott, B.M., B.Ch., aged 49.
Selby.—On August 1, 1955, James Richard Tarbat Selby, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 283, Boston Road, Hanwell, W.
Smedley.—On July 28, 1955, at 18, Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex, Florence Erin Smedley, M.B., B.S., aged 75.
Stonham.—On July 28, 1955, John Geoffrey Stonham, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.L.O., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired.
Wilson.—On August 13, 1955, at a nursing-home, Beaconsfield, Bucks, Frederick Ernest Wilson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late of Prestwood, Bucks.

All communications with regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1. TELEPHONE: EUSTON 4499. TELEGRAMS: *Aitology, Westcent, London.* ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated.

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