# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS 

## DISABLING ILLNESS AMONG INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES IN 1936 AS COMPARED WITH EARLIER YEARS

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This report for the calendar year 1936 is the sixteenth annual report of a series pertaining to disabling illness. ${ }^{1}$ It relates to the average frequency of new cases of sickness and nonindustrial injuries causing absence from work for more than 1 week among approximately 171,000 male and 15,000 female industrial employees in 1936 as compared with the 5 preceding years. The data were computed from periodic reports received from about 33 sick benefit associations or relief departments of establishments located east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers. The report makes available the average annual number of cases per 1,000 employees by sex and by cause of disability for two groups of establishments. Group A comprises all associations and companies which reported in the specified year regardless of whether they continued to report throughout the 6 years. Group B is a part of group A and is composed of 23 establishments which reported continuously through the 6 years ending December 31, 1936.

In table 1 are given, among other things, the incidence rates for disabilities lasting 8 consecutive calendar days or longer per 1,000 men for the broad classification of diseases for 1936, as compared with their respective average rates for the 5 -year period, 1931-35. It will be observed that groups A and B, respectively, show approximately the same percentage increase in frequency. Thus for sickness and nonindustrial injuries the increases are 3 and 2 percent; for sickness, 4 and 3 percent; for respiratory diseases, 7 and 6 percent; and for nonrespiratory diseases, 2 and 1 percent. As indicated in the table, the rates by individual years for group B have been generally somewhat lower than for group A. However, since group B is a part of group $A$, and proportionate time changes in the rates of one group are similar to corresponding ones in the other group shown, the comparisons to follow will be restricted, unless otherwise stated, to group A.

[^0]Table 1.-Frequency of specified causes of disability lasting 8 consecutive calendar days or longer among male industrial workers in various industries, by years from 1981 to 1936 inclusive ${ }^{1}$
[Rates per 1,000 men]

| Year in which disability | Sickness and nonindustrial injuries ? |  | Sicknees |  | Respiratory diseases |  | Sickness exclusive of influensa |  | Nonrespiratory diseases |  | Average number of men, all roporting estab-lishments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |  |
| 1931. | 94.6 | 94.0 | 82.2 | 82.2 | 34.9 | 35.2 | 63.8 | 62.9 | 47.8 | 47.0 | 171,694 |
| 1932 | 97.5 | 95.3 | 84.9 | 83.5 | 37.6 | 37.8 | 62.9 | 61.6 | 47.3 | 46.2 | 163, 879 |
| 1933. | 82.3 | 78.8 | 71.0 | 68.5 | 28.6 | 23.8 | 55.7 | 54.6 | 42.4 | 41.7 | 152, 203 |
| 1934. | 78.1 | 76.3 | 65.8 | 64.4 | 24.5 | 24.0 | 65.7 | 84. 2 | 41.3 | 40.4 | 174, 643 |
| 1935. | 85.1 | 82.6 | 73.9 | 71.5 | 29.3 | 28.2 | 61.2 | 59.3 | 44.6 | 43.3 | 157, 959 |
| 1936 | 90.3 | 87.4 | 78.8 | 76.0 | 83.2 | 32.0 | 63.7 | 61.4 | 45.6 | 44.0 | 170,680 |
| 5 preceding years 4 | 87.5 | 85.4 | 75.6 | 74.0 | 31.0 | 30.8 | 89.8 | 88.5 | 44.6 | 43.7 | 164,098 |

[^1]The frequency rate of new cases of sickness and nonindustrial injuries causing absence from work for more than 1 week among 170,680 male employees was 90.3 cases per 1,000 in $1936 .{ }^{2}$ This was the highest rate during the period $1933-36$, but well below the rates for 1931 and 1932. The rate for sickness exclusive of influenza was 63.7 cases per 1,000 men, which exceeded all corresponding annual rates during the past 6 years.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES

The respiratory group of diseases accounted for the major portion of the increase in the incidence of illness in 1936 as compared with the 2 former years. As shown in table 2, with the exception of tuberculosis of the respiratory system and diseases of the pharynx and tonsils, each respiratory disease subgroup occurred at a higher incidence rate in 1936 than in 1934 or 1935.

The frequency of influenza and grippe in 1936 (15.1 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ ) was 19 percent higher than the rate for 1935 ( 12.7 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ ) and 50 percent higher than for 1934 ( 10.1 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men})$. Nevertheless, the rate for 1936 was 4 percent below the average rate (15.8) for the preceding 5 -year period.

Another development of an unfavorable nature was an increase in the number of cases of bronchitis, acute and chronic. In 1936 this

[^2]disease occurred at a rate of 4.8 cases per 1,000 men, which was 41 percent above its average incidence during the years 1931-35, and exceeded any rate recorded for this disease since 1929. The incidence of diseases of the pharynx and tonsils in 1936, although 4 persent higher than in the preceding 5 -year period, was below the rate for 1935. The rate for pneumonia (all forms) in 1936 ( 2.6 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ ) was 13 percent above the rate for 1935 ( 2.3 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ ), and, in turn, exceeded the rate for any year since 1929. Among the industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., the death rate from this disease in 1936 as compared with 1935 increased 5 percent. ${ }^{\text {. }}$

Table 2.-Frequency of specified respiratory diseases which caused disability for 8 consecutive calendar days or longer among male industrial workers in various industries, by years, from 1981 to 1936, inclusive ${ }^{1}$
[Rates per 1,000 men]

| Year in which disability | Influenza or grippe (11) |  | Bronchitis, acute and chronic (108) |  | Diseases of the pharynx and tonsils (115a) |  | Pneumonia, al! forms (107-109) |  | Tuberculosis of the respiratory system (23) |  | Other diseases of the respiratory system (104-105; 110-114) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| 1931. | 18.9 | 19.3 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 5. 2 | 5.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| 1932 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| 1933 | 15.3 | 13.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.7 | . 8 | . 9 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| 1934 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 3.2 | 3. 2 | 4.3 | 3. 8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | . 8 | . 8 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| 1935. | 12.7 | 12.2 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 2.3 | 2. 2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
|  | 15.1 | 14.6 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 2.6 | 2.6 | . 8 | . 8 | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| 5 preceding years.-.-.-.-. | 15.8 | 15.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | . 9 | . 9 | 4.3 | 4.1 |

Numbers shown in parentheses are disease title numbers from the International List of Causes of Death, fourth revision, Paris, 1929.
$\mathrm{A}=$ all reporting establishments; $\mathrm{B}=$ establishments which reported throughout the 6 years ending De2. 31, 1936.
${ }^{1}$ For the record 1921 to 1930, inclusive, see reference given in footnote 1.
"Other diseases of the respiratory system", including diseases of the upper respiratory tract, showed a sizable increase in frequency in 1936 as compared with all the former years included in table 2.

Most noteworthy in the record since 1921 is the downward trend in the new cases of tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The incidence has decreased from 1.9 cases per 1,000 in 1921 and 1922 to 0.8 case in 1936. ${ }^{4}$ During the 6 years under discussion the annual sickness rates fluctuated about a mean of 0.9 , with 3 rates above and 3 below the mean.

## DIGESTIVE DISEASES

For the digestive disease group as a whole (table 3) the frequency rate of cases in 1936 was slightly higher than that for 1935 and that for the preceding 5 -year period. With the exception of "other digestive

[^3]diseases" the same observation holds for all subgroups of diseases of the digestive system.

## NONRESPIRATORY, NONDIGESTIVE DISEASES

As a group the nonrespiratory, nondigestive diseases showed relatively little change in occurrence since 1935, and the rate for 1936 corresponded very closely to the preceding 5 -year average. The only subgroup of these diseases which showed a sensible increase in rates in 1936 over the average for 1931-35 were diseases of the circulatory system except diseases of the veins, and "ill-defined and unknown causes of disability." While not recording spectacular changes, diseases of the ears and of the mastoid process; nephritis, acute and chronic; diseases of the organs of vision; and cancer (all forms) showed downward trends during the years under consideration.

Table 3.-Frequency of specified dis6ases of the digestive system which caused disability for 8 consecutive calendar days or longer amcng male industrial workers in various industries, by years from 1931 to 1936 inclusive ${ }^{1}$
[Rates per $1,000 \mathrm{men}]$

| Year in which disability began | $\begin{gathered} \text { Digestive } \\ \text { diseases } \\ \text { total (115b- } \\ 129) \end{gathered}$ |  | Diseases of the stomach except cancer (117118) |  | Diarrhes and enteritis (120) |  | Appendicitis (121) |  | Hernia <br> (122a) |  | Other digestive diseases (115b, 116, 122b-129) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| 1931 | 13.4 | 13.1 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| 1932 | 13.3 | 12.7 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| 1833 | 12.1 | 11.3 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 3.2 | 2.4 |
| 1934 | 12.7 | 12. 5 | 3. 2 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.5 |
| 1935 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 3. 6 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| 1936 | 13.6 | 13.1 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| 5 preceding years....------ | 12. 9 | 12.4 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 2.6 |

Numbers in parentheses are disease title numbers from the International List of Causes of Death, fourth revision. Paris, 192 .
$A=$ all reporting establishments: $B=$ establishments which reported throughout the 6 years ending Dec. 31, 1936.
${ }^{1}$ For the record 1921 to 1930 , inclusive, see reference given in footnote 1.
Rheumatism, acute and chronic, which showed definite improvement in 1934 and 1935 ( 4.0 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ ) as compared with earlier years, increased to 4.2 cases per 1,000 in 1936. This rate was below the 5 -year average. Diseases of the organs of locomotion except diseases of the joints occurred at a rate of 3.2 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$ in 1936, which exceeded the rates for 1933, 1934, and 1935, as well as the average for 1931-35.

The infectious and parasitic disease group, which is composed principally of the communicable diseases, had the favorable rate of 2.3 cases per $1,000 \mathrm{men}$. It is of interest to observe in this connection that the policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. showed a low mortality rate for the epidemic diseases listed during 1936 as compared with 1935.

Table 4.-Frequency of specified nonrespiratory, nondigestive diseases which caused disability for 8 consecutive calendar days or longer among male industrial workers in various industries, by years from 1931 to 1936, inclusive ${ }^{1}$
[Rates per 1,000 men]

| Year in which disability began | $\begin{gathered} \text { Nonrespira- } \\ \text { tory, nondi- } \\ \text { gestive diseases, } \\ \text { total } \end{gathered}$ |  | Diseases of the circulatery system except diseases of the veins (90-99) (101-103) |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Diseases of the } \\ & \text { veins (100) } \end{aligned}$ |  | Diseases of the heart (90-95) |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nephritis- } \\ & \text { acute and } \\ & \text { chronic } \\ & \text { (130-132) } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| 1931. | 83.9 | 83.9 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 1932..........-.-.-.-- | 84.0 | 33.5 | 3.7 | 8.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 2.7 | . 8 | . 7 |
| 1933...-.-.-.-......--- | 80.3 | 80.4 | 8.4 | 3. 3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | . 5 | 6 |
| 1934. | 28.6 | 27.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | . 5 | . 6 |
| 1935. | 81.7 | 30.8 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | . 5 | 8 |
| 1936 | 82.0 | 80.9 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.3 | . 4 | 4 |
| 5 preceding years.... | 81.7 | 31.3 | 8.4 | 3.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.3 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Year in which disability began - | Other diseases of the genitourinary system and annexa (133-138) |  | Neuralgia, neuritis, sciatica (878) |  | Neurasthenia and the like (87b) |  | Other diseases of the nervous system (78-85) |  | Diseases of the organs of vision (88) |  |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| 1931-.......-.-...-...- | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1. 5 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| 1932----------------- | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.8 | . 8 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.3 | . 8 | . 9 |
| 1933. | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 | .8 | .7 | 1.4 | 1.1 | . 8 | . 7 |
| 1935. | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.2 | . 8 | . 8 |
| 1936. | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | . 8 | . 8 |
| 6 preceding years.. | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 9 | .8 |
| Year in which disability began | Diseases of the ears and of the mastoid process (89) |  | Rheumatism, acute and chronic (56-57) |  | Diseases of the organs of locomotion except diseases of the joints (156b) |  | Diseases of the skin (151-153) |  | Infectious and parasitic diseases ${ }^{2}$ (1-10, 12-22, 24-33, 36-44) |  |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| 1931-------------.--- | 0.7 | 0.6 | 5.4 | 5. 4 | 3. 3 | 3. 6 | 8.2 | 3. 2 | 3. 3 | 2. 9 |
| 1932. | . 7 | . 6 | 6. 3 | 5. ${ }^{4}$ | 3. 8 | 8.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| 1933.---------------- | ${ }^{6}$ | ${ }^{6}$ | 4.9 4.0 | 6. 0 | 2. 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| 1934----------------- | . 6 | . 5 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
|  | . 6 | . 5 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 3. 2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| 5 preceding years... | 6 | . 6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.7 | $2.4+$ |
| Year in which disability began | Cancer, all forms (45-53) |  | Other general diseases ${ }^{3}$ (54, 65, 59, 77) |  | Diseases of the bones and joints (154-156a) |  | Ill-defined and unknown causes of disability (200) |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nonindustrial } \\ & \text { injuries } \\ & (16 ; 3-198) \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | E |
| 1931. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 12.4 | 11.8 |
| 1932.-- | .6 | . 6 | 1.7 | 1.7 | . 4 | .4 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 12.6 | 11.8 |
|  | . 5 | . 5 | 1.7 | 1.7 | . 5 | .$^{4}$ | 2.0 | 2.1 | 11.3 | 11.9 |
| 1934 | . 4 | . 4 | 1.9 | 1.9 | . ${ }^{5}$ | $\cdot{ }_{5}$ | 1.5 | 2.1 | 11.2 | 11.1 |
| 1935 | . 5 | . 5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | .6 | . 5 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 11.5 | 11.4 |
| 1936.-.-......... | . 4 | . 4 | 1.8 | 1.7 | . 6 | . 6 | 2.8 | 2.7 |  |  |
| 5 preceding years...- | . 5 | . 5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | . 5 | . 4 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 11.8 | 11.4 |

Numbers shown in parentheses are disease title numbers from the International List of the Causes of Death, fourth revision, Paris, 1929.
$A=$ all reporting establishments; $B=$ establishments which reported throughout the 6 years ending Dec. 31, 1936.
${ }^{1}$ For the record 1921 to 1930, inclusive, see reference given in footnote 1.
${ }^{2}$ Except influenza, respiratory tuberculosis, and the venereal diseases.
${ }^{3}$ Inclur es nutritional diseases, diseases of the endocrine glands, diseases of the blood and blood-making organs, chronic poisonings, and intoxication.

The frequency of nonindustrial injuries ( 11.5 cases per 1,000) was slightly greater in 1936 than in 1935, but lower than the average (11.9) for the preceding 5 -year period.

WAS THE INCREASE IN DISABILITY IN 1936 DUE TO BELECTION?
Group B, which is composed of the identical 23 establishments throughout the past 6 years, showed a progressively decreasing number of male employees during the years 1931, 1932, and 1933. In 1934, 1935, and 1936, on the other hand, the number gradually increased. With the increase in the number employed there was a concomitant increase in the sickness rate. The following table contains the appropriate data:

| Year | Average number of male employees | Annual number of cases per 1,000 | Year | Average number of malo employees | Annual number of casea per 1,000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1931..... | 125, 520 | 94.0 | 1934. | 122, 652 | 76.3 |
| 1932.-. | 107, 681 | 95.3 | 1935. | 125, 727 | 82.6 |
| 1933-...- | 105, 128 | 78.8 |  | 145, 916 | 87.4 |

It appears that an improvement in economic conditions paralleled an increase in the frequency of sickness. To account for this situation it may be hypothesized that, during the depression years, there was a general releasing of the older and less physically fit employees which led to a highly selected group in 1933 with necessarily low sickness rates; furthermore, pursuing the same thought, with a greater demand for employees in the later years the employed group gradually assumed its earlier complexion, together with higher sickness rates. The hypothesis is merely stated; to investigate its validity would require additional data which are not available.

## FREQUENCY OF DISABILITY AMONG FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN 1936 AS COMPARED WITH FORMER YEARS

Because of the small number of years of exposure, the analyses for female employees are limited to rates for the broad disease groups. Most of the reporting establishments upon which this report is based pay no benefits for disabilities connected with diseases of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperal state; yet, on account of the difference in age distributions, the ratios of the female rates to the male rates are a crude comparison of the incidence of illness among the two sexes.

For the 15,000 female industrial employees covered in this report, an average of 144.4 per 1,000 women were disabled from sickness and nonindustrial injuries for 8 calendar days or longer during 1936 as compared with 90.3 males. Thus the ratio of the illness rate for
females to that for males is 1.6 to 1 . As shown in table 5 , the incidence rate for females in 1936 was slightly lower than in 1935 and 2 percent lower than for the preceding 5 -year period. The rate for the respiratory disease group for 1936, 60.7 cases per 1,000 females, as compared with the rate for 1935, 50.4 cases per 1,000 , showed an increase of 20 percent in frequency for these diseases, while the rate for the nonrespiratory disease group, 71.2 cases per 1,000 women, as compared with 80.3 , revealed a decrease of 11 percent in 1936 as compared with 1935. Likewise the occurrence of nonindustrial injuries decreased in 1936.

Table 5.-Frequency of specified causes of disatility lasting 8 consecutive calendar days or longer among female industrial workers in various industries, by years from 1981 to 1936, inclusive
[Rates per 1,000 women]

| Year in which disability began | Sickness and non-industrial injuries ${ }^{1}$ | Percent of male rate | Sickness | Respiratory diseases ? | Sickness exclusive of influenza | Nonrespiratory diseases | Nonindustrial injuries | $\begin{gathered} \text { Average } \\ \text { number } \\ \text { of womenen, } \\ \text { all re- } \\ \text { porting } \\ \text { establish- } \\ \text { ments } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1931. | 162.0 | 171 | 147.8 | 63.9 | 115.5 | 83.9 | 14.2 | 12,272 |
|  | 158.4 | 162 | 143.6 | 71.6 | 101.1 | 72.0 | 14.8 | 13, 520 |
| 1933 | 131.3 | 160 | 119.5 | 61.3 | 91.4 | 68.2 | 11.8 | 14,587 |
| 1934 | 143.6 | 184 | 131.1 | 62.9 | 108.2 | 78.2 | 12.5 | 15, 644 |
| 1935. | 144.9 | 170 | 130.7 | 50.4 | 108.2 | 80.3 | 14.2 | 15, 049 |
|  | 144.4 | 160 | 131.9 | 60.7 | 104.2 | 71.2 | 12.5 | 15, 181 |
| 5 preceding years..-- | 148.0 | 169 | 134.5 | 68.0 | 104.9 | 76.5 | 13.5 | 14, 214 |

[^4]
## OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES OCCURRING IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS OF GREAT BRITAIN, $1936{ }^{1}$

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The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops of Great Britain for $1936^{2}$ was published in July 1937, and is of more than ordinary interest to those engaged in industrial health work. It is appropriate to direct attention at this time to some of the material and in particular that concerned with occupational diseases. Data on the number of persons exposed are not available; the presentation will be limited, therefore, to the actual number of cases and deaths, and to certain relevant proportions.

[^5]Table 1.-Occupational diseases reported in 1956, with comparative data for 1935
[Reported under sec. 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, and under sec. 3 of the Lead Paint Act]

| Disease | 1936 |  |  |  | 1935 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Cases |  | Deaths |  | Cases |  | Deaths |  |
|  | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total.-.................- | 428 | 100.0 | 44 | 100.0 | 438 | 100.0 | 58 | 100.0 |
| Lead poisoning------------ | 163 | 38.1 | 13 | 29.5 | 168 | 38.4 | 17 | 29.8 |
| Epitheliomatous ulceration.- | 142 84 | 33.2 | 27 | 61.4 | 171 | 39.0 | 88 | 65.5 |
| Chrome ulceration.-.-.-.-.-.-. -- | 84 80 | 19.6 7.0 | i- | 2.8 | 20 | 15.3 4.6 | 3 | 6.2 |
| Aniline poisoning --.-.-.-.-.-.-- | 7 | 1.7 | 1 | 2.3 | 9 | 21 | -...---- |  |
| Arsenical poisoning .-.-...-.-- | 1 | . 2 | 1 | 2.3 | 1 | . 2 | --...-- |  |
| Chronic benzene polsoning.- | 1 | . 2 | 1 | 2.2 | 1 | 2 |  |  |
| Carbon bisulphide poisoning. |  |  |  |  | 1 | .2 | - |  |
| Phosphorus poisoning....-. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manganese poisoning ${ }^{1}$-. .-. |  |  |  |  | - |  |  |  |
| Toxic jaundice-.------------ |  |  |  |  |  | -- |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ Became notifiable Aug. 1, 1936.
The occupational diseases reported in 1936 under the Factory and Workshop Act, and the Lead Paint Act are shown in table 1. Comparative data are included for the year 1935. There were reported 428 cases and 44 deaths in 1936, as compared with 438 cases and 58 deaths in 1935. Lead poisoning and epitheliomatous ulceration are well above the other causes with respect to both cases and deaths, and in both years. The percentages of all reported cases associated with lead were similar in both years, namely, approximately 38 percent. The proportions of deaths due to lead were also approximately the same in both years ( 29 percent). While the proportions of cases with epitheliomatous ulceration were in both years of the same magnitude as those associated with lead, the proportions dying in both years were over twice the corresponding proportions recorded for lead. In both years chrome ulceration and anthrax ranked third and fourth, respectively, with regard to proportion of cases.

Lead poisoning.-Table 2 shows the industrial origin of cases and deaths connected with lead poisoning. With respect to cases, the painting of buildings ranks first in both years, with 17 percent in 1936 and 19 percent in 1935; paint and color works, smelting of metals, and pottery follow in order, with between 10 and 12 percent in both years. In 1936 more than half of all reported deaths from lead poisoning were caused in the painting of buildings, with 8 percent in the smelting of metals and the same percentage in pottery making. In 1935 the painting of buildings and pottery each accounted for 7 deaths, with a percentage in each instance of 41.

Table 2.-Industrial origin of lead poisoning


Table 3.-Industrial origin of epitheliomatous ulceration, chrome ulceration, and anthrax


Epitheliomatous ulceration.-Table 3 shows, among other things, the industrial origin of epitheliomatous ulceration. In both years over half of these cases occurred in connection with tar distilling and cotton mule spinning, about half of the deaths occurring in both years in cotton mule spinning.

Chrome ulceration.-Eighty-four and 67 cases were reported in 1936 and 1935, respectively (table 3). In both years over 70 percent of the cases were accounted for by chromium plating.

Anthrax.-Over 60 percent of the cases in both years occurred in wool handlers (table 3). Handlers of hides and skins contributed 30 and 25 percent of the cases in 1936 and 1935, respectively.

The foregoing material, which relates to cases, is presented graphically in figures 1 and 2.

It is of interest to observe that in 1936 there were no reports in connection with the following: Mercury, carbon bisulphide, phosphorus, and manganese.

Other data.-The report includes data on reported cases of gassing. A total of 153 cases and 12 deaths was reported in 1936, as compared with 120 cases and 13 deaths during the preceding year. Over half of


Figure 1.-Percentage distribution of cases of ocsupational diseases reported in 1936 under section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, and under section 3 of the Lead Paint Aot, with comparative data for 1935.
the cases in both years were caused by carbon monoxide, particularly from blast-furnace gas. Each of the other causative agents, including, among others, trichlorethylene, nickel carbonyl, chlorine, nitrous fumes, and sulphuretted hydrogen, contributed less than 8 percent of the cases in both years.

Sixty-four deaths ( 50 in 1935) from silicosis and 62 (76 in 1935) from silicosis and tuberculosis were reported, together with 7 deaths (11 in 1935) from asbestosis and 4 ( 4 in 1935) from asbestosis and tuberculosis.

There were 1,771 ( 1,429 in 1935) voluntarily reported cases of dermatitis, the largest number occurring in both years among engineers ( 19 percent in 1936, 17 percent in 1935). The 3 most important


Figure 2.-Industrial origin, in 1936, of cases of lead poisoning, epitheliomatous ulceration, chrome ulceration, and anthrax, respectively, with comparative data for 1935.
agents responsible were oils, alkalis, and friction and heat, contributing in 1936 the following percentages of cases: 17,15 , and 11 , respectively. In 1935 the corresponding figures were 15,16 , and 12.

## REMOVAL OF FLUORIDE FROM WATER ${ }^{1}$

## By Elias Elvove, Senior Chemist, United States Public Health Service

In considering the problem of the removal of fluoride from drinking water, it appeared desirable to find a substance the use of which would not leave in the water any element or group not ordinarily present in appreciable quantity; and which, likewise, would not impair the potability of the water by increasing any ordinary constituent to an undesirable concentration. Although the field from which to choose was thus narrowed, three substances ${ }^{2}$ were found that appeared promising. These are tricalcium phosphate, magnesium oxide, and magnesium hydroxide. ${ }^{3}$

The results obtained with tricalcium phosphate and with magnesium hydroxide were qualitatively similar to those obtained with magnesium oxide. Since, however, the question of cost is very important, and since, at present, magnesium oxide appears as the least expensive, ${ }^{4}$ experiments have been conducted mostly with this substance.

It seems reasonable to expect that different grades of commercial magnesium oxide would show different degrees of fluoride-removing power. Preliminary experiments indicated that this is actually the case; and while it appears probable that a magnesium oxide could be prepared for this special purpose which would have a fluoride-removing power considerably above that of the ordinary commercial grades, it is questionable whether from the point of view of cost, it might not be more economical to utilize a commercially inexpensive magnesium oxide even though its fluoride-removing power is, per given weight, relatively lower.

The results reported in this paper have been obtained with two different grades of magnesium oxide. The grade referred to as calcined magnesite was obtained from a business concern which uses it in the construction of cement floors. The other grade was a commercial sample of light magnesium oxide similar to that of the United States Pharmacopœia. In both cases, the magnesium oxides were used in the finely-divided condition as they are ordinarily sold.

[^6]One mode of operation may be illustrated by the following described experiments. The fluoride-containing water to be treated was introduced into tall bottles so as nearly to fill them to the beginning of the curved portion. The quantity of the magnesium oxide used corresponded to one ounce per gallon of water in each bottle. The magnesium oxide and water were then actively agitated, by means of a current of air, for about half an hour. After complete settling, ${ }^{\text {b }}$ about three-fourths of the column of water was siphoned off, replaced by a fresh supply of the fluoride-containing water, and the process repeated.

The water used in these experiments was prepared by adding sufficient sodium fluoride to distilled water to make its fluoride content 5 parts per million. On the basis of quantitative epidemiological studies (1, 2), such a fluoride concentration in a drinking water would be expected to produce a high incidence of mottled enamel when used continuously by children during the susceptible age period. The fluoride was estimated with the aid of the zirconium-alizarin reagent (3). The results obtained are summarized in the accompanying tables.

Table 1.-Comparative results with a commercial calcined magnesite and a commercial light magnesium oxide

| Number of times the MgO was used in this series <br> (A) | Fluoride <br> (F) con- <br> tent <br> before treatment <br> (B) | Fluoride after treatment with the calcined magnesite <br> (C) | Fluoride removed ${ }^{1}$ <br> (D) | Fluoride after treatment with the light magnesium oxide <br> (E) | Fluoride removed <br> (F) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parts per million |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | 5 | 0.2 | 4.8 | 0.2 | 4.8 |
| 2. | 5 | . 7 | 4.3 | . 4 | 4.6 |
| 3. | 5 | . 7 | 4.3 | . 6 | 4.4 |
| 4 | 5 | 1.7 | 3.3 | . 9 | 4.1 |
| 5 | 5 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 3.7 |
| 6 | 5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 3. 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 2.1 | 2. 9 | 1.7 | 3. 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 2.7 | 2. 3 | 1.8 | 3.2 |
| 9. | 5 | 2. 2 | 2.8 | 1.9 | 3. 1 |
| 10. | 5 | 2.1 | 2. 9 | 1.7 | 3. 3 |
| 11. | 5 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 3.3 |
| 12. | 5 | 3. 5 | 1. 5 | 1.9 | 3.1 |
| 13 | 5 | 3.0 | 2. 0 | 2. 0 | 3.0 |
| 14. | 5 | 4.5 | . 5 | 2. 3 | 2.7 |
| 15. | 5 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 2. 2 | 2.8 |
| 16. | 5 | 4.2 | . 8 | 3. 0 | 2.0 |
| 17. | 5 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 |

[^7]Table 2.-Results with a composite water after a second treatment, using a commercial calcined magnesite

| Number of times the $\mathbf{M g O}$ was used in this series <br> (A) | Fluoride (F) conten before any treatment <br> (B) | Fluoride of the composite ${ }^{1}$ sample after one treatment with 4-times-used calcined magnesite (table 1) <br> (C) | Residual fluoride after a second treatment (with a fresh portion of the magnesite) <br> (D) | Fluoride removed by first treatment (B-C) <br> (E) | Fluoride removed by second treatment (C-D) <br> (F) | Total fluoride remored by the two treatments ( $\mathrm{E}+\mathrm{F}$ ) <br> (G) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parts per million |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | 5 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 4.3 |
| 2 |  |  | . 6 |  | 2.3 | 4.4 |
| 3. |  |  | 1.1 |  | 1.8 | 8.9 |
| 4. |  |  | 1.0 |  | 1.9 | 4.0 |
| 6 |  |  | .8 |  | 2.1 | 4.2 |
|  |  |  | . 9 |  | 2.0 | 4.1 |
| 8. |  |  | 1.1 |  | 1.8 | 8.9 |
| 9 |  |  | 1.0 |  | 1.9 | 4.0 |
| 0 |  |  | 1.2 |  | 1.7 | 3.8 |
| 1. |  |  | 1.5 |  | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| Average. |  |  | 1.0 |  | 1.9 | 4.0 |

${ }^{1}$ This composite represented a mixture of the water frcm runs 5 to 17 (table 1, column C).
Table 3.-Results with a composite water after a second treatment, using a commercial light magnesium oxide

| Number of times the $\mathbf{M g O}$ was used in this series <br> (A) | Fluoride (F) content before any treatment <br> (B) | Fluoride of the composite ${ }^{1}$ sample after one treatment with 5times used light mag. nesium oxide (table 1) <br> (C) | Residual fluoride after a second treatment (with a fresh portion of the oxide) <br> (D) | Fluoride removed by first treatment (B-C) <br> (E) | Fluoride removed by second treatment (C-D) <br> (F) | Total fluoride removed by the two treatments ( $\mathrm{E}+\mathrm{F}$ ) <br> (G) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parts per million |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 | 2.1 | 0.6 | 2.9 | 1.5 |  |
| 2 |  |  | . 7 |  | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| 3. |  |  | . 7 |  | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| 5 |  |  | . 6 |  | 1.5 | 4.4 |
| 6 |  |  | $\cdot 7$ | -----.- | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| 7 |  |  | .6 |  | 1.5 | 4 |
| 8. |  |  | . 7 |  | 1.4 | 4 |
| 9 |  |  | . 6 | --------- | 1.5 | 4.4 |
| 11. |  |  | ${ }^{6} 6$ | ------ | 1.5 | 4.4 |
| Average. | - |  |  | ----- | 1.3 | 4.1 |
|  |  |  | . 7 |  | 1.4 | 4.8 |

[^8]
## Table 4.-Showing the residual fluoride-removing power of the used calcined magnesites

| Number of times the 11-timesused calcined magnesite (table 2) was used in this saries <br> (A) | Fluoride (F) content before any treatment <br> (B) | Fluoride content of the mixed water obtained from 25 subsequent runs with the 17-times-used calcined magnesite (table 1) <br> (C) | Residual fluoride in (C) after treatment with the 11-timesused calcined magnesite (table 2) <br> (D) | Average fluoride first removed by the 17-times-used calcined magnesite in 25 subso quent runs (B-C) <br> (E) | Fluoride subsequently removed by the 11-times-used (table 2) calcined magnesite (C-D) <br> (F) | Total fluoride removed in two treatments (by the 17-times-used and 11-times-used) calcined magnesites (E+F) <br> (G) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parts per million |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | 5 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 2.7 |
|  |  |  | 2.2 |  | 2.0 | 2.8 |
| 8. |  |  | 2.3 |  | 1.9 | 2.7 |
|  |  |  | 2.2 |  | 2.0 | 2.8 |
| 5. |  |  | 2.7 |  | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| 6 |  |  | 8.1 | --------- | 1.1 | 1.9 |
|  |  |  | 2.8 | --- | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| 8 |  |  | 3.1 |  | 1.1 | 1.9 |
| 9 0 0 |  |  | 3.2 3.0 | ----------- | 1.0 | 1.8 2.0 |
| Average---------------- |  |  | 2.7 |  | 1.5 | 2.3 |

Table 5.-Showing the residual fuoride-removing power of the used light magnesium oxides

| Number of times the 11-timesused light magnesium oxide (table 3) was used in this series <br> (A) | Fluoride (F) content before any treatment <br> (B) | Fluoride content of the mixed water obtained from 25 subsequent runs with the 17-times-used light magresium oxide (table 1) <br> (C) | Residual fluoride in (C) after treatment with the 11-times-used light magnesium oxide (table 3) <br> (D) | Average fluoride first removed by the 17-times-used light magnesium oxide in 25 subsequent runs(B-C) <br> (E) | Fluoride subsequently re moved by the 11-times-used (table 3) light magnesium 0aide (C-D) | Total fluoride removed in two treatments (by the $17-$ times-used and 11- <br> times-used) light magnesium oxides (E+F) <br> (G) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Parts per million |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5 | 3.2 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 8.9 |
| 2 |  |  | 1.1 |  | 2.1 | 8.9 |
| 3. |  |  | 1.0 | ------------ | 2.2 | 4.0 |
| $\frac{4}{8}$ |  |  | 1.1 | --.-.-.-...-- | 2.2 | 4.0 |
| 6 |  |  | 1.4 |  | 1.8 | 3.6 |
| 7 |  |  | 1.7 |  | 1.5 | 3.3 |
| 8 |  |  | 2.0 |  | 1.2 | 3.0 |
| 9 |  |  | 1.5 |  | 1.7 | 3.5 |
| 11 |  |  | 1.0 |  | 2.2 | 4.0 |
| Average |  |  | 1.3 |  | 1.9 | 3.7 |

Since the cost of treatment would probably vary with different localities, with the varying cost of the magnesium oxide, with the varying composition of the dissolved solids in the water, the cost of possible methods of reactivation, or the reduction of the original cost by utilizing the magnesium oxide for other purposes after its use for fluoride removal, we can consider this question at present only partially ${ }^{\circ}$ and in general terms. We may, however, consider particularly the important factor of the efficiency of a given specimen of the magnesium oxide as a fluoride-remover. If we take the gallon and pound as the units for our calculations, we may summarize the above results as follows:

Table 1 shows that, in the case of the calcined magnesite, the fluoride removal in the first three runs was 4.3 to 4.8 parts per million, yielding water with residual fluoride of less than 1 p. p. m. ( 0.2 to 0.7 ); but if the waters were mixed, that from the fourth run could be added and the composite sample would still show less than 1 p. p. m. (0.8). In the case of the light magnesium oxide, the first four runs yielded water with residual fluoride of less than 1 p. p. m. ( 0.2 to 0.9 ); but if the waters were mixed, those from the fifth, sixth, and seventh runs could be added and the composite sample would still show less than 1 p. p. m. (0.9). The fifth to the seventeenth runs, in the case of the calcined magnesite, yielded a composite sample that showed a fluoride removal of about 2.1 p. p. m.; while in the case of the light magnesium oxide, the sixth to the seventeenth runs yielded a composite water that showed a fluoride removal of about $2.9 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. Using a composite water which had received one treatment, the residual fluoride in the mixture obtained from 11 runs with a second portion of magnesium oxide (tables 2 and 3 ) was reduced to about 1 p. p. m. or less (about 1 in the case of the calcined magnesite and 0.7 in the case of the light magnesium oxide).

The fluoride-removing power of the magnesium oxides, however, was not yet completely exhausted. In the subsequent 25 runs with the magnesium oxide that had already been used in 17 runs (table 1), there was a further removal of fluoride, corresponding to an average of about $0.8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in the case of the calcined magnesite and to about $1.8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in the case of the light magnesium oxide; and when about two-fifths of each of these waters were then treated a second time with magnesium oxide that had already been used in 11 runs (tables 2 and 3 ), there was a further average reduction of about 1.5 p. p. m., or a total fluoride removal of about $2.3 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in the case of the calcined magnesite (table 4). In the case of the light magnesium oxide, the corresponding figures were about 1.9 and 3.7 p. p. m., respectively (table 5).

[^9]If we do not consider the indicated residual fluoride-removing power of the used magnesium oxides (tables 4 and 5) and limit our calculations to the quantities of water in which the fluoride was reduced from 5 to about $1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in not exceeding two treatments (tables 1,2 , and 3 ), the above results show that, when the operation was carried out on a basis of 1 ounce of the magnesium oxide per gallon of water in the treatment container, the two treatments (using a total of 2 ounces per gallon) were effective in reducing the fluoride to not exceeding about 1 p. p. m. for a quantity of water corresponding to about 11 gallons ${ }^{7}$ when using the calcined magnesite and to about 12 gallons when using the light magnesium oxide. On this basis, 1 pound of the calcined magnesite would serve to treat about 88 gallons and 1 pound of the light magnesium oxide would be sufficient to treat about 96 gallons of such water.

It is to be noted, however, that the above treatment has been applied to a fluoride concentration considerably higher than is ordinarily found in endemic areas (4). As indicated in tables 2 and 3, the cost of treatment would be lower when the fluoride concentration is less than $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. (a larger number of runs with the same magnesium oxide yielding water with a residual fluoride of not exceeding about $1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. when starting with 2.1 or 2.9 instead of $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$.).

As has been stated, the magnesium oxides used were utilized in the condition as sold for their ordinary uses. This eliminates an increase of cost on account of preparatory treatment. Besides using a chemical which is comparatively inexpensive to start with, it is believed that, in the case of the calcined magnesite particularly, since it is used extensively in building operations and for various other purposes, there is opportunity for realizing a salvage value for the material after its use as a fluoride-remover for drinking water, and thus indirectly reducing the cost of treatment. The comparatively small amount of fluoride ${ }^{8}$ or other constitutents of the water that will have been

[^10]adsorbed by or removed with the magnesium oxide probably would not interfere with its subsequent utilization.

## SUMMARY

Results obtained indicate that fluoride can be removed from water with the aid of tricalcium phosphate, magnesium oxide, or magnesium hydroxide. Since the question of cost is very important, and since, at present, magnesium oxide appears to be the least expensive, experiments have been conducted mostly with this substance. Different grades of commercial magnesium oxide showed different degrees of fluoride-removing power. Although a commercial light magnesium oxide was found more efficient as a fluoride-remover, per given weight, than a commercial calcined magnesite, its greater efficiency was not proportional to its present higher cost. From the point of view of economical operation, much work remains to be done. It is pointed out, however, that in the case of the calcined magnesite particularly, since it is used extensively in building operations and for various other purposes, it may be possible to utilize the material after its availability for fluoride removal has been exhausted and thus indirectly reduce the cost of treatment. Such utilization would add another advantage to the advantages of its commercial availability in large quantities and comparatively low initial cost.

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# NOTE ON A NEW OCULAR MICROMETER FOR USE IN DUST COUNTING 

By Richard T. Page, Assistant Public Health Engineer, United States Public Health Service

The technique most commonly employed for devermining the dust concentration in impinger samples of air is practically a duplication of the technique used by Whipple (1) for determining plankton concentration in drinking water. A portion of the sample is placed in a covered glass counting cell which is placed upon the stage of a microscope. Then the numbers of particles in several representative fields are counted. The counting cell must have a transparent base and cover, and the depth of the liquid being examined must be exactly established. A cell depth of 1 millimeter has been found convenient; consequently, the rectangular Sedgwick-Rafter cell, having a capacity of 1 cubic centimeter and a depth of 1 millimeter, is commonly used. In counting either dust particles or plankton, the whole depth of the cell is examined. This prohibits the use of a ruled counting cell and requires the use of an ocular micrometer that defines the area of the field.

The standard micrometer for this work has been the one designed by Whipple. It consists of a ruled square upon a thin glass disk which is placed upon the diaphragm of the ocular. The side of the large square on the Whipple micrometer is 7 mm . It is used with a combination of objective, ocular, and tube length of the microscope such that the area on the stage covered by the ocular micrometer is exactly 1 square millimeter. Consequently, with a cell 1 millimeter deep, the volume within the outlines of the ruled square is 1 cubic millimeter. For convenience in determining the size of the plankton organisms found, Whipple further subdivided the micrometer as shown in Figure 1-A. The large square is divided into 100 mediumsized squares and 1 of these in turn is further subdivided into 25 very small squares.

In making plankton counts, it is customary to count the whole field covered by the Whipple micrometer. In making dust counts (2), on the other hand, it is the practice to count the dust in only onequarter of each ruled field. Only one of the three quadrants which do not contain the finely subdivided square is counted; the remaining three quadrants are unused and therefore unnecessary. To facilitate the counting of dust samples, a micrometer eyepiece was made according to the design shown in Figure 1-B. The ruled grid corresponding to one quadrant of the Whipple grid is located in the center of the visible field. The grid consists of an etched square 3.5 mm side measurement, divided into 25 small squares. Results
obtained with this micrometer are identical with results obtained when counting one-fourth of the Whipple field. Both micrometer eyepieces are being used for dust counting by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the United States Public Health Service.


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## DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 28, 1937

[From the Weekly Health Index, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Cemmerce]


# PREVALENCE OF DISEASE 

## No health department. State or local, can effectively prevent or control disease without knowledge of when, where, and under what conditions cases are occurring

## UNITED STATES

## CURRENT WEEKLY STATE REPORTS

These reports are preliminary, and the figures are subject to change when later returns are received by the State health officers

Cases of certain communicable diseases reported by telegraph by State health officers for weeks ended Sept. 4, 1937, and Sept. 5, 1936


See footnotes at end of table.

Cases of certain communicable diseases reported by telegraph by State health officers for weeks ended Sept. 4, 1937, and Sept. 6, 1936-Continued


[^11]
## Cases of certain communicable diseases reported by telegraph by Stats health officers for weeks ended Sept. 4, 1937, and Sept. 5, 1936-Continued



1 Now York City only.
Week ended earlier than Saturday.
${ }^{3}$ Typhus fever, week ended Sept. 4, 1937. 83 cases, as follows: Maryland 1; North Carolina, 3; South Carolina, 2; Georgia, 32; Florida, 6; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 16; Texas, 21; California, 1.
'Rocky Mountain spotted fever, week ended Sept. 4, 1937, 6 cases, as follows: Virginia, 1; North Carolina, 4; Colorado, 1.

- Figures for 1936 are exclusive of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.


## SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS FROM STATES

The following summary of cases reported monthly by States is published weekly and covers only those States from which reports are received during the current week.

| State | Menin-gococ-cus-meningitis | Dipththeris | Influenzs | $\underset{\text { ria }}{\text { Mala- }}$ | Measles | Pellagra | Polio-myelitis | Scarlet fever |  | Ty. phold ?over |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| June 1957 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Puerto Rico---------- | 2 | 36 | 65 | 748 | 134 |  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 57 |
| Jubly 1987 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arizona | 1 | 11 | 46 | 1 | 28 | -- | 5 | 20 | 0 | 16 |
| Hawaii Territory |  | 14 | 5 |  | 262 | ------- | 0 |  | 0 |  |
| Puerto Rico-...-.-.-.- | 5 | 44 |  | 94 | 66 | ------ | 30 | 262 | 0 | 14 |
| Tennessee | 10 | 23 | 23 | 255 | 317 | $4{ }^{41}$ | 53 | 40 | 1 | 194 |
| Washington.---.------- | 5 | 9 | 6 |  | 157 |  | 1 | 46 | 9 | 16 |
| August 1957 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| District. of Columbia:- | 11 | 30 |  |  | 18 |  | 8 | 9 | 0 | 15 |

## Summary of Monthly Reports from States-Continued



## PLAGUE INFECTION IN WASATCH COUNTY, UTAH, AND MADISON COUNTY, MONT.

## WEEKLY REPORTS FROM CITIES

City reporis for week ended Aug. 28, 1957
This table summarizes the reports received weekly from a selected list of 140 cities for the purpose of showIng a cross section of the current urban incidence of the communicable diseases listed in the table. Weekly reports are received from about 700 cities, from which the data are tabulated and filed for reference.

| State and city | Diphtheria cases | Infuenzs |  | Measles cases | $\left\|\begin{array}{l} \text { Pneu- } \\ \text { monia } \\ \text { deaths } \end{array}\right\|$ | Scarlet fever cases | $\begin{gathered} \text { Small- } \\ \text { pox } \\ \text { cases } \end{gathered}$ | Tuber culosis deaths | Typhoid cases | Whoop ing cough cases | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Deaths, } \\ & \text { all } \\ & \text { causes } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Cases | Deaths |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data for 90 cities: 5-year average Current week | 119 52 | 54 23 | 13 8 | 187 249 | 278 270 | 209 206 | 8 1 | 853 331 | 109 81 | 1,019 | -----0.0 |
| Maine: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Portland.-.---- | 0 | ----- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 16 |
| New Hampshire: Concord | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Nashua.......... | 0 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Vermont: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barre-...-.....- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Burlington...-- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Russachusetts:----- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Boston.........- | 0 |  | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 23 | 176 |
| Fall River-...-. | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 24 |
| Springfeld----- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 28 |
| Worcester...-.-- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 50 |
| Rhode Island: Pawtucket | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Providence.-..-- | 0 |  | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 81 |
| Connecticut: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bridgeport....- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 |  | 29 |
| New Haven....- | 0 |  | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 3 | 40 |
| New York: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Buffalo--.-...- | 0 |  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 119 |
| New York.-...- | 8 | 2 | 2 | 35 | 64 | 12 | 0 | 69 | 8 |  | 1. 186 |
| Rochester.-- | 0 |  | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 62 |
| New Jersey: |  |  |  | 0 |  | 1 |  | 0 |  | 15 | 40 |
| Camden.......-- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 1 | 38 |
| Newark----.---- | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 76 |
| Trenton--.-...- | 0 |  | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1. | 1 | 1 | 42 |
| Pennsylvania: <br> Philadelphia | 2 |  | 0 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 26 |  | 28 | 446 |
| Pittsburgh....- | 1 |  | 0 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 44 | 127 |
| Reading.--....-- | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 21 |
| Scranton.....-- | 0 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 6 |  |
| Ohio: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cincinnati----- | 0 |  | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 22 | 113 |
| Cleveland.-...-- | 0 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 8 | 13 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 51 | 175 |
| Columbus | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 75 |
| Indiana: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 14 | 74 |
| Anderson..----- | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 6 |
| Fort Wayne---- | 0 | $\cdots$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 30 |
| Indianapolis...- | 0 |  | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 89 |
| South Bend. | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Terre Haute.-.- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alton-..--.-.-.-- | 0 |  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Chicago...-...- | 11 | 2 | 1 | 39 | 11 | 18 | 0 | 39 | 1 | 73 | 642 |
| Elgin.---------- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Moline - --.....- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 |
| Michigan: | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 |
| Michigan: | 2 | 3 | 0 | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flint.-.-.-.-.--- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 |  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 29 |
| Grand Rapids_- | 0 |  | 0 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |  |  | 8 | 28 |

${ }^{1}$ Figures for St. Joseph, Raleigh, Atlanta. and Great Falls estimated; reports not received.

City reports for week ended Aug. 28, 1937-Continued


City reports for week ended Aug. 28, 1997-Continued

| Etate and city | Diphtheria cases | Influenza |  | Measles cases | Pneumonia deaths | Scarlet fever cases | Small pox cases | Tuber culosis deaths | Typhoid fever cases | Whoop ing cough cases | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Deaths, } \\ & \text { all } \\ & \text { causes } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Cases | Deaths |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tennessee:Knoxville.......Memphis........Nashville......Alabama:Birmingham....Mobile...........Montgomery... |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1 | 1 |  | 0 |  |  | 0 |  | 2 | 0 | 27 |
|  | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 6 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 67 38 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 57 |
|  | 0 |  | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
|  | 1 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | .....- |
| Arkansas: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fort Smith...-- | 1 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  |
| Little Rock----- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Louisiana: <br> Lake Charles | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| New Orleans...- | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 18 | 140 |
| Shreveport.-.-- | 0 | ---- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 22 |
| Oklahoma: Oklahoma City. | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 39 |
| Tulsa_-.........- | 1 |  |  | 2 |  | 0 | 0 |  | 1 | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dallas...--...-- | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 47 |
| Fort W orth....- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 17 |
| Galveston.....-- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| San Antonio...-- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | ${ }_{66} 8$ |
| Montana: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Billings . . .-... | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Great Falls...--- | 0 |  | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Missoula.........- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Idaho: Boiso | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Colorado: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado Springs | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| Denver........... | 1 |  | 0 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 140 |
| Pueblo...-...--- | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| New Mexico: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Utah. ${ }^{\text {Albuquerque.-- }}$ | 1 |  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 21 |
| Utah: <br> Salt Lake City - | 0 |  | 0 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 87 |
| Washington: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seattle........- | 0 |  | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 88 |
| Spokane.-.-.-.-- | 0 |  | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Salem....-....-. | 0 |  |  | 0 |  | 0 | C |  | 0 | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Los Angeles.... | 5 | 4 | 0 | 5 |  | 13 | 0 | 18 | , | 57 | 298 |
| Sacramento....- | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 3 | c | c | 1 |  | 17 | 31 |
| San Francisco.. | 0 | ---- | 0 | 0 | 5 | c | ( | $\varepsilon$ | 0 | 36 | 151 |

City reports for week ended Aug. 28, 1937—Continued


Dengue.-Cases: Fort Worth, 1.
Encephalitis, epidemic or lethargic.-Cases: Toledo, 2; Indianapolis, 1; St. Paul, 1; St. Louis, 38; Sacramento, 1.
Pellagra.-Cases: Charleston, S. C., 1; Savannah, 1; Louisville, 1; New Orleans, 1; San Francisco, 1.
Typhus fever.-Cases: Charleston, S. C., 3; Savannah, 5; Miami, 1; Memphis, 5; Montgomery, 3; Dallas, 1; Fort Worth, 1.

# FOREIGN AND INSULAR 

## DENMARK

Notifable diseases-April-June 1997.-During the months of April, May, and June 1937, cases of certain notifiable diseases were reported in Denmark as follows:


## SCOTLAND

Vital statistics-1936.-Following are vital statistics for Scotland for the year 1936:

|  | Number | Rate per <br> 1,000 pop- <br> ulation |  | Number | Rate per <br> 1,000 pop <br> ulation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Population. | 4, 966,300 |  | Maternal mortality . | 494 | 15.6 |
| Births......... | 88, 928 | 17.91 | Deaths from tuberculosis (all |  |  |
| Deaths....-7-- | 66, 749 | 13.44 182.3 |  |  | 874 |

${ }^{1}$ Per 1,000 births.
${ }^{2}$ Per 100,000 population.

## CHOLERA, PLAGUE, SMALLPOX, TYPHUS FEVER, AND YELLOW FEVER

Note.-A table giving current information of the world prevalence of quarantinable diseases appeared In the Public Health Reports for Aug. 27, 1937, pp. 1191-1205. A similar cumulative table will appear in the Public Health Reports to be issued Sept. 24, 1937, and thereafter, at least for the time being, in the issue published on the last Friday of each month.

## Cholera

China.-Cholera has been reported in China as follows: Week ended August 21, 1937, 4 cases in Swatow; week ended August 28, 1937, 8 cases in Shanghai.

## Plague

Hawaii Territory-Island of Hawaii-Hamakua District-Hamakua Mill Sector.-A rat found August 19, 1937, in Hamakua Mill Sector, Hamakua District, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii Territory, has been proved plague infected.

United States.-A report of plague infection in Montana and Utah appears on page 1321 of this issue of Public Health Reports.

## Smallpox

Mexico.-Smallpox has been reported in Mexico for the month of June 1937, as follows: Guadalajara, Jalisco State, 1 case, 1 death; Mexico, D. F., 28 cases, 15 deaths; Queretaro, Queretaro State, 8 cases; San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi State, 1 case, 1 death.

## Typhus Fever

Mexico.-During the month of June 1937, typhus fever was reporied in Mexico as follows: Mexico, D. F., 14 cases, 5 deaths; Pachuca, Hidalgo State, 2 cases; Queretaro, Queretaro State, 2 cases.

## Yellow Fever

Brazil—Matto Grosso State—Tres Lagoas.-On July 1, 1937, 1 death from yellow fever was reported in Tres Lagoas, Matto Grosso State, Brazil.

Nigeria.-Yellow fever has been reported in Nigeria as follows: August 21, 1 fatal case in Aba; August 28, 1 fatal case in Sapele.


[^0]:    - With the assistance of Miss E. 8. Frasier, Junior Statistician.
    ${ }^{1}$ For the record 1921-30, inclusive, see Public Health Reports, 47: 995-1001 (Apr. 29, 1932).

[^1]:    $\mathrm{A}=$ all reporting establishments; $\mathrm{B}=$ establishments which reported throughout the 6 years ending Dec. 31, 1936.

    1 For the record 1921 to 1930, inclusive, see reference given in footnote 1.
    ${ }^{2}$ Industrial accidents, venereal diseases, and a few numerically unimportant causes of disability are not reported.
    ${ }_{3}$ Title numbers 11, 23, 104-115a, in the International List of Causes of Death, fourth revision, Paris, 1929.
    © 1931 to 1935 inclusive.

[^2]:    ${ }^{2}$ A report, "Sickness among male industrial employees during the final quarter of 1936 and the year as a whele", was published in the Public Health Reports for Apr. 30, 1937. Because of the inclusion of addrtional data subsequently reported, the rates for 1936 in this final report are somewhat lower than the preliminary annual rates given in the quarterly report.

[^3]:    8 Statistical Bulletin, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York, 18:11 (February 1937).

    - Public Health Reports, 47: 998 (Apr. 29, 1932).

[^4]:    ${ }^{1}$ Industrial accidents, venereal diseases, and a few numerically unimportant causes of disability are not reported.
    ${ }^{2}$ Title numbers 11, 23, 104-115a, in the International List of the Causes of Death, fourth revision, Paris, 1829.

[^5]:    ${ }^{1}$ From the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. O.
    ${ }^{2}$ H. M. Stationery Office, London, 1937; 107 pp. The chapter titles follow: General Report, Safety, Accidents to Young Workers, Health, Hours of Employment, Welfare, Piece-Work Particulars, Trucks, and Home Office Industrial Museum.

[^6]:    ${ }^{1}$ From Division of Chemistry, National Institute of Health.
    ${ }^{2}$ Other substances have been reported in the literature; but since the present paper is intended as a brief note, it is not deemed necessary to discuss here the related literature on the subject. Some references to other published methods for the removal of fluoride from drinking water are, however, included in the list of references at the end of this paper.
    ${ }^{2}$ Scott, Kimberly, Van Horn, Ey, and Waring have reported (Am. Water Works Asso., January 1937, pp. 9-25) the reduction of the fluoride content of magnesium-containing waters by applying the ordinary lime softening treatment but over-treating with the lime to a causticity of about 2 grains per gallon.

    A report describing methods for the removal of fluoride from water by means of tricalcium phosphate, magnesium oxide, or magnesium hydroxide, was forwarded by the writer to the Surgeon General on June 26, 1936, for consideration of tho advisability of applying for letters patent, to protect the public interest and the right of any citizen of the United States to use these methods without payment of royalties.
    4 Calcined magnesite is quoted at about 3 cents per pound ( $\$ 60$ per ton) and tricalcium phosphate at 6.5 cents per pound in the March 1937 Market Report of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. No comparable price on magnesium hydroxide is quoted. Light magnesium oxide complying with purity requirements of the United States Pharmacopoeia is quoted at 36 cents per pound.

[^7]:    ${ }^{1}$ Application of a similar procedure to a natural water showing about $419 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. of tetal solids, $58 \mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, $47 \mathrm{Ca}, 45 \mathrm{Mg}, 35.5 \mathrm{ICO}_{3}, 48 \mathrm{SO}_{4}, 2.8 \mathrm{NO}_{3}, 10 \mathrm{Cl}$, and 3.5 p . p. m. of fluoride, reduccd the fluoride content to $0.6,0.6$. and $0.9 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. in the first, second, and third runs, respectively.
    ${ }^{5}$ This usually required standing overnight.

[^8]:    ${ }^{1}$ This composite represented a mixture of the water from runs 6 to 17 (table 1, column E).

[^9]:    - The treatment with magnesium oxide leaves a slight caustic alkalinity which would have to be neutralized (with carbon dioxide). This, therefore, is another item of expense to be considered.

[^10]:    ${ }^{1}$ These figures were derived as follows: In the case of the calcined magnesite, the mixed water from the first 4 runs (table 1, column C) did not require a second treatment; but since only $3 / 4$ of the column of water was siphoned off after each run, only the water of the first run may be considered as representing a whole gallon of treated water, while the water obtained from the 3 subsequent runs corresponded to only 2.25 gallons ( $\mathbf{c} .75 \times 3$ ) of treated water. Similarly, the water from the first run of table 2 corresponded to a whole gallon, but the contribution of the subsequent 10 runs corresponded to only 7.5 gallons ( 0.75 $\times 10$ ). The total quantity of water with a residual fluoride of not exceeding about $1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. , therefore, corresponded to 11.75 gallons $(1+2.25+1+7.5)$, or about 11 gallons in round numbers.

    Similarly in the case of the light magnesium oxide, the contribution of sufficiently treated water from the first 5 runs of table 1 represented 4 gallons $(1+3)$; and the water from the second treatment (table 3) represented $8.5^{\circ}$ gallons $(1+7.5)$. The total in this case, therefore, corresponded to 12.5 gallons ( $4+8.5$ ), or about 12 gallons in round numbers.

    - In this connection, it may be interesting to note that Nagai and Takahara (5) have recently proposed the addition of small amounts of fluoride to portland cement raw mixtures for promoting combination. Likewise, Shaw and Shaw (6) have recommended as beneficial the presence of a small proportion of fluoride as magnesium silico-fluoride in the preparation of concretes, mortars, and plaster from medium or lightly burned dolomite.

[^11]:    See footnotes at end of table.

