# Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

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HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service

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## Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended December 31, 1955

A review of the incidence of communicable diseases in 1955 shows a favorable trend with respect to some and less favorable with respect to others.

There was a decline of about 25 percent in reported cases of poliomyelitis in 1955 as compared with 1954. Probably not less than three-fourths of this decrease can be attributed to a natural decline in incidence, and most of the remainder is probably due to immunization. In the 5 years prior to 1955 there had been an increasingly larger number of cases of infectious hepatitis reported in each successive year. Following a total of about 50,000 cases in 1954, there was a decline of nearly 38 percent. However, this disease continues to be one of major public health importance. Although several suspect cases of smallpox were reported during the past 12 months, none was confirmed following epidemiologic and laboratory investigations. Typhoid fever incidence declined nearly 25 percent in 1955 as compared with the previous year. Malaria cases declined by about 33 percent, and none was established as being a locally acquired infection. While the number of cases of psittacosis decreased markedly in 1955, this was due principally to the fact that no large groups resulted from contact with turkeys as was the case in 1954. The number of cases resulting from contact with psittacine birds apparently did not decrease. Other diseases which showed relatively large decreases were: botulism, brucellosis, meningococcal infections, rabies in man, and endemic typhus fever; and rabies in animals.

While the number of cases of diphtheria decreased in 1955 as compared with 1954, there was an excess in the past 6 months as compared with the same period of the previous year. This excess was the result of a relatively high incidence in southeastern United States. The abnormally high rainfall in certain areas of the country in 1955 led to relatively large mosquito populations and localized outbreaks of encephalitis. Along the eastern seaboard the outbreaks were limited to animals, mostly horses and pheasants. In other areas man as well as animals was affected. Eastern equine virus was isolated in the former area, and serologic evidence of St. Louis type of infection was obtained in the latter. In California where the incidence was relatively low this summer, there were only a few cases of western equine encephalitis and 2 cases of St. Louis type in nonresidents of the State.

### SUMMARY OF MORTALITY

During the 52-week period January 2 through December 31, 1955, a total of 471,101 deaths was reported by the 104 major cities listed in table 4. This was 2.9 percent more than the number of deaths (457,787) reported by these cities during the 52-week period January 3, 1954, through January 1, 1955. Part of the increase in deaths was probably due to population growth.

The chart on page 6 shows the number of deaths reported in the major cities of the United States by week during 1955. The outstanding feature in the mortality picture is the high level of deaths during July and August. This is related to the persistent heat in middle and northern areas east of the Rocky Mountains during July and most of August. The high temperatures experienced by the New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central Divisions were accompanied by increased numbers of deaths reported by cities in these areas beginning with the first week in July and continuing to the last week in August. Sharply increased numbers of deaths were reported by cities in the West North Central Division the first week of August, and excess deaths were reported the following 3 weeks.

A heat wave developed in the Far West at the close of August and persisted for 12 days in September. It was particularly severe in California, where numerous records included a high of 110° in downtown Los Angeles on September 1. Cities in the Pacific Division reported a large excess of deaths during these weeks. Shifting eastward, the heat wave was centered over the central Great Plains by the middle of September, and cities in the West South Central Division reported excess deaths.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Respiratory disease

The Washington State Department of Health has begun the collection of weekly information on respiratory disease from a group of counties containing about 60 percent of the State population. During the past 3 months, the amount of illness reported is about the same as for the same period of 1954. In both years a marked rise in illness was reported from one month to another beginning in September. Most of the infections this year have been mild and of short duration. Of 6 blood samples collected in September and October, none showed titers higher than 1:16 for any of the 3 types of influenza which are used in tests. Eleven specimens were examined in November, all were negative for type A antibodies, 2 had antibodies against type A prime at titers of 1:8 and 3 had titers of 1:8 against type B. There is no indication in these data of the occurrence of influenza in epidemic form.

The California Department of Public Health has announced that its program of influenza detection, which has operated during the winter months of the past 3 years is being activated. A report of a small outbreak of respiratory disease in a community has been made by a physician in Sonoma County. Children and adults were affected, with fever and sore throat as the principal symptoms. Throat cultures were considered to be negative.

Rabies in bats

Dr. E. S. Tierkel, Communicable Disease Center, PHS, has supplied information on the occurrence of bat rabies in the vicinity of Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, in August and September 1955. Of 20 encephalitic bats (Tadarida mexicana) examined by Lt. Col. K. F. Burns, 4th Army Area Medical Laboratory, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, rabies virus was isolated from the brains of 11 animals, 2 of which yielded virus from their salivary glands. Another isolation was made from a pool of salivary glands from 4 other bats, making a total of at least 12 infected bats of the 20 collected. A group of 140 apparently normal bats were collected in flight. The blood serum of these animals was tested for the presence of neutralizing antibodies. Col. Burns reported that 15 out of 28 pools (53 percent) of 5 sera exhibited neutralizing antibodies against at least 100 $LD_{50}$ of standard rabies virus. No human exposure has been reported in the area. The Public Health Service Communicable Disease Center is conducting investigations in the area.

Eastern equine encephalomyelitis

Dr. N. J. Schneider, Florida State Board of Health, has reported the isolation of a strain of eastern equine encephalomyelitis virus from pheasants. The birds came from a pheasant raiser whose farm is located 20 miles south of Jacksonville. He had received a shipment of 300 birds of which 50 percent died within 1 week. Several other pens nearby were unaffected.

Six pheasants were submitted to the laboratory on October 5 in a comatose to a moribund condition. Birds were kept in several pens on the premises but those from one pen only were affected with central nervous system symptoms which apparently resulted in the death of all birds in the affected pen within a few days. At autopsy the birds appeared to be well nourished and the absence of any gross pathology was noted. Blood sera collected from these birds were submitted to the hemagglutination-inhibition test for Newcastle disease. No HI antibodies were detectable. A 10-percent suspension of these pheasant brains was inoculated intracerebrally into 3-week-old mice. All inoculated mice showed involvement of the central nervous system within 40 hours and were dead by the 48th hour. Serum neutralization tests in mice using eastern equine and western equine encephalitis antisera were conducted. A neutralization index of 9,000 against eastern equine encephalitis was obtained. A mouse brain antigen of the isolated virus was subjected to the complement fixation test in the presence of eastern equine and western equine encephalitis antisera. The virus fixed complement only in the presence of eastern equine encephalitis antisera.

Six normal appearing pheasants were obtained from the premises where this outbreak had occurred, approximately 3 weeks afterward. At postmortem no gross pathology was noted in these birds, nor was any virus isolated from the brains of these birds. The sera of these birds failed to reveal the presence of HI antibodies against Newcastle disease nor were they capable of fixing complement in the presence of the viral agent isolated from the previous birds, eastern equine antigen, or St. Louis encephalitis antigen.

An attempt was made to collect mosquitoes in the affected

Continued on page 8

Table 1. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

| DISEASE | 52d WEEK | | | CUMULATIVE NUMBER | | | | | | Approximate seasonal low point |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 52 weeks | | | Since seasonal low week | | | |
| | Ended Dec. 31, 1955 | Ended Jan. 1, 1955 | Median 1950-54 | 1955 | 1954 | Median 1950-54 | 1954-55 | 1953-54 | Median 1949-50 to 1953-54 | |
| Anthrax-----062 | - | - | - | 27 | 19 | 42 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Botulism-----049.1 | - | - | --- | 9 | 13 | --- | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044 | 14 | 46 | --- | 1,232 | 1,722 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Diphtheria-----055 | 54 | 48 | 51 | 2,039 | 2,089 | 3,062 | 1,330 | 1,217 | 1,616 | July 1 |
| Encephalitis, infectious-----082 | 22 | 17 | 15 | 1,482 | 1,908 | 1,132 | 951 | 1,352 | 735 | June 1 |
| Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt. | 400 | 680 | --- | 31,340 | 49,739 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Malaria-----110-117 | - | 2 | --- | 477 | 707 | --- | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Measles-----085 | 3,725 | 8,875 | 4,751 | [2]547,497 | 683,578 | 521,120 | [2]29,098 | 54,469 | 35,285 | Sept. 1 |
| Meningococcal infections-----057 | 77 | 70 | 78 | 3,494 | 4,108 | 4,125 | 923 | 1,049 | 1,155 | Sept. 1 |
| Poliomyelitis-----080 | 119 | 149 | 198 | 29,270 | 38,740 | 35,968 | 28,207 | 37,187 | 34,387 | Apr. 1 |
| Psittacosis-----096.2 | [3]10 | - | --- | 278 | 495 | --- | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Rabies in man-----094 | - | 1 | - | 5 | 12 | 13 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Rocky Mountain spotted fever-----104A | 1 | 1 | 1 | 276 | 292 | 315 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat-----050,051 | 2,517 | 2,137 | 2,137 | 146,000 | 145,132 | 110,590 | 40,743 | 37,391 | 34,317 | Aug. 1 |
| Smallpox-----084 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Trichiniasis-----128 | 2 | 1 | --- | 258 | 251 | --- | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Tularemia-----059 | 17 | 24 | 19 | [4]534 | 628 | 636 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Typhoid fever-----040 | 23 | 32 | 22 | 1,726 | 2,283 | 2,296 | 1,419 | 1,877 | 1,991 | Apr. 1 |
| Typhus fever, endemic-----101 | 1 | 1 | --- | 131 | 184 | --- | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Whooping cough-----056 | 504 | 1,148 | 809 | 62,367 | 61,043 | 61,043 | 10,265 | 17,282 | 14,206 | Oct. 1 |
| Rabies in animals----- | 69 | 103 | 103 | [5]5,063 | 6,749 | 7,190 | [5]1,025 | 1,353 | --- | Oct. 1 |

[1]Frequencies are too small.
[2]Addition: Washington, week ended December 17, 80 cases.
[3]New Jersey, Ohio, Utah, and Washington, 1 case each; Texas and Virginia, 3 cases each.
[4]Addition: Nebraska, week ended December 24, 1 case.
[5]Deduction: Texas, week ended December 24, 11 cases.

NOTE.—No cases of cholera, plague, relapsing fever-louse borne, typhus fever-epidemic, or yellow fever were reported in the United States during 1954 and 1955.

## SOURCE AND NATURE OF MORBIDITY DATA

These provisional data are based on reports to the Public Health Service from health departments of each State and Territory and of one possession. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, psittacosis, rabies in man, and smallpox are not shown in table 2, but a footnote to table 1 shows the States making the reports. In addition, when diseases of rare occurrence (cholera, dengue, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted at the end of table 1.

Symbols.—1 dash [ - ]: no cases reported; 3 dashes [ --- ]: data not available.

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 1, 1955 AND DECEMBER 31, 1955

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

| AREA | BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER) (044) | | DIPHTHERIA (055) | | ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS (082) | | HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM (092,N998.5 pt.) | | MALARIA (110-117) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Civilian[1] | | Military | |
| | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 |
| CONT. UNITED STATES | 14 | 46 | 54 | 48 | 22 | 17 | 400 | 680 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| NEW ENGLAND | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 23 | 78 | - | - | - | - |
| Maine | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| New Hampshire | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Vermont | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| Massachusetts | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 26 | - | - | - | - |
| Rhode Island | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | - | - | - | - |
| Connecticut | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| MIDDLE ATLANTIC | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 89 | 226 | - | - | - | - |
| New York | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 44 | 113 | - | - | - | - |
| New Jersey | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| Pennsylvania | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 41 | 103 | - | - | - | - |
| EAST NORTH CENTRAL | 3 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 75 | 97 | - | - | - | - |
| Ohio | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 15 | - | - | - | - |
| Indiana | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 20 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Illinois | 1 | 13 | - | - | - | 1 | 24 | 47 | - | - | - | - |
| Michigan | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 22 | - | - | - | - |
| Wisconsin | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 5 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| WEST NORTH CENTRAL | 6 | 3 | 3 | 8 | - | - | 38 | 79 | - | - | - | - |
| Minnesota | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 11 | 38 | - | - | - | - |
| Iowa | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 18 | - | - | - | - |
| Missouri | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| North Dakota | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| South Dakota | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 14 | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Nebraska | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Kansas | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC | - | 4 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 41 | - | - | - | - |
| Delaware | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Maryland | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| District of Columbia | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Virginia | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 10 | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| West Virginia | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| North Carolina | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 4 | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| South Carolina | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Georgia | - | 3 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Florida | - | 1 | 5 | 1 | - | - | 10 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | 1 | - | 18 | 12 | - | - | 34 | 24 | - | - | - | - |
| Kentucky | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 7 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Tennessee | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 23 | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Alabama | - | - | 10 | 9 | - | - | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Mississippi | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | - | 14 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 20 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Arkansas | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Louisiana | - | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Oklahoma | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Texas | - | 10 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 | - | 1 | - | - |
| MOUNTAIN | - | 4 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 46 | 59 | - | - | - | - |
| Montana | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 14 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Idaho | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Wyoming | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Colorado | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 9 | 13 | - | - | - | - |
| New Mexico | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 13 | - | - | - | - |
| Arizona | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 10 | 8 | - | - | - | - |
| Utah | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Nevada | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| PACIFIC | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 56 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Washington | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 18 | - | - | - | - |
| Oregon | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 16 | - | - | - | - |
| California | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 38 | 22 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Alaska | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Hawaii | --- | - | --- | - | --- | - | --- | 2 | --- | - | --- | 1 |
| Puerto Rico | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |

[1]Includes cases not specified as civilian or military.

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 1, 1955 AND DECEMBER 31, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

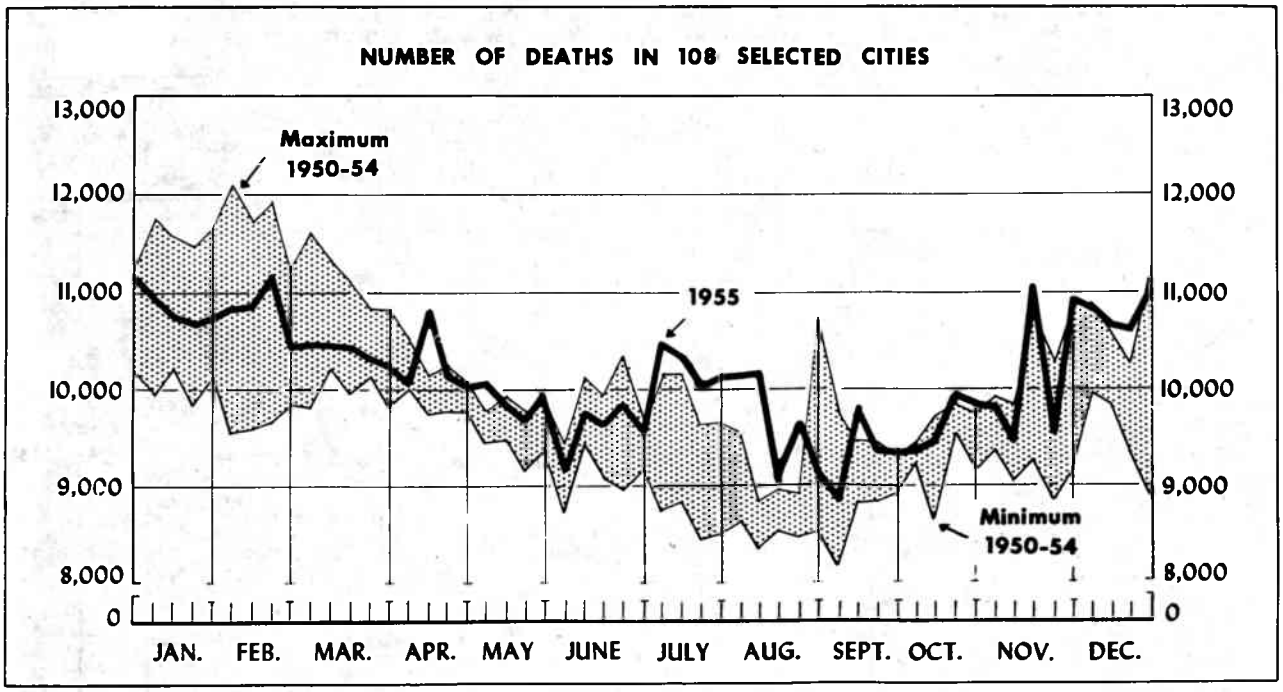
| AREA | MEASLES (085) | | MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS (057) | | POLIOMYELITIS (080) | | | | | | ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER (104A) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Total[2] | | Paralytic (080.0,080.1) | | Nonparalytic (080.2) | | | |
| | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 |
| CONT. UNITED STATES | 3,725 | 8,875 | 77 | 70 | 119 | 149 | 63 | 68 | 28 | 30 | 1 | 1 |
| NEW ENGLAND | 126 | 2,881 | 1 | - | 12 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 4 | - | - |
| Maine | 7 | 213 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| New Hampshire | - | 35 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vermont | 10 | 169 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Massachusetts | 102 | 1,806 | - | - | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Rhode Island | 1 | 55 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Connecticut | 6 | 603 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| MIDDLE ATLANTIC | 613 | 2,846 | 15 | 16 | 9 | 34 | 4 | 14 | 1 | 5 | - | - |
| New York | 207 | 1,309 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 23 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 5 | - | - |
| New Jersey | 61 | 475 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Pennsylvania | 345 | 1,062 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| EAST NORTH CENTRAL | 914 | 1,332 | 21 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 |
| Ohio | 251 | 125 | 5 | - | 2 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Indiana | 39 | 29 | 11 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Illinois | 295 | 153 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - |
| Michigan | 240 | 879 | 3 | - | - | 13 | - | 5 | - | 3 | - | - |
| Wisconsin | 89 | 146 | - | 3 | 4 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WEST NORTH CENTRAL | 103 | 280 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| Minnesota | 1 | 137 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Iowa | 12 | 66 | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Missouri | 11 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| North Dakota | 56 | 25 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| South Dakota | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nebraska | 7 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Kansas | 15 | 9 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC | 408 | 226 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 | - | - |
| Delaware | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Maryland | 187 | 16 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| District of Columbia | 10 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Virginia | 118 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| West Virginia | 38 | 143 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| North Carolina | 6 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| South Carolina | 7 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Georgia | 31 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Florida | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | 145 | 178 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Kentucky | 85 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Tennessee | 43 | 137 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Alabama | 12 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Mississippi | 5 | 8 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | 652 | 568 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 4 | - | - |
| Arkansas | 63 | 58 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Louisiana | 5 | 3 | - | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Oklahoma | 133 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Texas | 451 | 505 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| MOUNTAIN | 580 | 124 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| Montana | 173 | 14 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Idaho | 11 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wyoming | 117 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Colorado | 141 | 9 | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| New Mexico | 19 | 39 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Arizona | 108 | 53 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Utah | 11 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nevada | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PACIFIC | 184 | 440 | 8 | 13 | 29 | 30 | 20 | 19 | 9 | 7 | 1 | - |
| Washington | - | 84 | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Oregon | 12 | 29 | - | 2 | 2 | 6 | - | 6 | 2 | - | - | - |
| California | 172 | 327 | 8 | 10 | 25 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 1 | - |
| Alaska | 108 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hawaii | --- | 21 | --- | - | --- | - | --- | - | --- | - | --- | - |
| Puerto Rico | 21 | 50 | - | - | 2 | 19 | - | 19 | 2 | - | - | - |

[2]Includes cases not specified by type, category number (080.3).

Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 1, 1955 AND DECEMBER 31, 1955—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

| AREA | SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT (050,051) | | TRICHINIASIS (128) | TULAREMIA (059) | | TYPHOID FEVER (040) | | TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC (101) | WHOOPING COUGH (056) | | RABIES IN ANIMALS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1954 | 1955 | 1954 |
| CONT. UNITED STATES | 2,517 | 2,137 | 2 | 17 | 24 | 23 | 32 | 1 | 504 | 1,148 | 69 | 103 |
| NEW ENGLAND | 136 | 144 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 34 | 212 | - | - |
| Maine | 26 | 12 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | 15 | - | - |
| New Hampshire | 6 | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vermont | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Massachusetts | 69 | 80 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 21 | 64 | - | - |
| Rhode Island | 6 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 98 | - | - |
| Connecticut | 27 | 27 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | 34 | - | - |
| MIDDLE ATLANTIC | 214 | 210 | 2 | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | 81 | 222 | 6 | 13 |
| New York | 135 | 110 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 34 | 88 | 6 | 10 |
| New Jersey | 21 | 29 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 22 | 28 | - | - |
| Pennsylvania | 58 | 71 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 25 | 106 | - | 3 |
| EAST NORTH CENTRAL | 323 | 291 | - | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | - | 105 | 213 | 7 | 19 |
| Ohio | 95 | 62 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 14 | 25 | 2 | 4 |
| Indiana | 38 | 40 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 15 | 23 | 2 | 1 |
| Illinois | 56 | 71 | - | 4 | 7 | - | - | - | 20 | 25 | - | 11 |
| Michigan | 100 | 74 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 41 | 98 | 2 | 1 |
| Wisconsin | 34 | 44 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 15 | 42 | 1 | 2 |
| WEST NORTH CENTRAL | 65 | 65 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 19 | 71 | 6 | 15 |
| Minnesota | 16 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 20 | 1 | 2 |
| Iowa | 22 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 10 | 14 | 3 | 1 |
| Missouri | 13 | 14 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| North Dakota | - | 29 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 3 |
| South Dakota | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | - | - |
| Nebraska | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kansas | 9 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 7 | - | - |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC | 166 | 325 | - | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | 60 | 129 | 12 | 20 |
| Delaware | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Maryland | 17 | 116 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | 13 | - | - |
| District of Columbia | 3 | 14 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - |
| Virginia | 52 | 59 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 26 | 2 | 3 |
| West Virginia | 5 | 28 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 13 | 46 | 2 | 7 |
| North Carolina | 22 | 47 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| South Carolina | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Georgia | 42 | 46 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 10 | 23 | - | 1 |
| Florida | 18 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 14 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | 63 | 82 | - | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 22 | 32 | 17 | 16 |
| Kentucky | - | 15 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 7 | 2 |
| Tennessee | 48 | 45 | - | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | - | 11 | 12 | 2 | 5 |
| Alabama | 12 | 14 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| Mississippi | 3 | 8 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 2 | 4 |
| WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | 860 | 490 | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 11 | - | 111 | 82 | 15 | 13 |
| Arkansas | 105 | 16 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 15 | - | 6 | 3 |
| Louisiana | 7 | 12 | - | - | - | 4 | 2 | - | 5 | 8 | - | - |
| Oklahoma | 56 | 19 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 8 | 3 | - | - |
| Texas | 692 | 443 | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | 83 | 71 | 9 | 10 |
| MOUNTAIN | 477 | 298 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | 42 | 26 | 2 | 6 |
| Montana | 3 | 12 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Idaho | 7 | 13 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - |
| Wyoming | 11 | 16 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Colorado | 43 | 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |
| New Mexico | 164 | 43 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 4 | - | 4 |
| Arizona | 210 | 143 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 28 | 16 | 2 | 2 |
| Utah | 39 | 34 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 1 | - | - |
| Nevada | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PACIFIC | 213 | 232 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 30 | 161 | 4 | 1 |
| Washington | 55 | 55 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 35 | - | - |
| Oregon | 55 | 48 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 8 | - | - |
| California | 103 | 129 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 22 | 118 | 4 | 1 |
| Alaska | 11 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Hawaii | --- | - | --- | --- | - | --- | - | --- | --- | - | --- | - |
| Puerto Rico | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 | 64 | - | - |




The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 108 major cities of the United States by week during the past year. (An estimate is made for 4 missing reports for the last week in December to maintain comparability for graphic presentation.) For comparison, the chart shows both the maximum and minimum number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the 5 previous years.

The provisional figures shown in tables 3 and 4 were compiled from reports of the number of death certificates received each week in the vital statistics office of each city. The weekly count included all certificates for deaths occurring within the city limits, regardless of the date of death and regardless of the residence of the deceased.

Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. Differences are to be expected because of variations in the interval between death and receipt of the certificate. Whenever a holiday falls on the last day of the work week, the number of death certificates received for that week is usually low, while the number for the following week is high. The sharp fluctuations in November 1955 were caused when city vital statistics offices closed Friday November 11 (Veterans' Day) and closed Thursday and Friday of the Thanksgiving week.

When the data shown here are used to compare 2 cities or to compare 2 years for a certain city, consideration must be given to several factors. The number of deaths reported by a city generally varies with the size of its population, so that changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due, in part, to population increases or decreases. In cities of the same size, the number of deaths may differ because of variations in the age, race, and sex composition of their populations. Some cities are hospital centers serving large numbers of persons from areas outside the city limits, and in some areas the hospitals serving the city are outside the city limits.

See first page for a summary of mortality in 1955.

Table 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

| AREA | 52d week ended Dec. 31, 1955 | 51st week ended Dec. 24, 1955 | 52d week median 1952-54 | Percent change, median to current week | CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1955 | 1954 | Percent change |
| TOTAL: 104 REPORTING CITIES | 9,935 | 9,487 | 9,942 | -0.1 | 471,101 | 457,787 | +2.9 |
| New England (14 cities) | 840 | 684 | 777 | +8.1 | 35,570 | 34,155 | +4.1 |
| Middle Atlantic (17 cities) | 3,224 | 3,240 | 3,251 | -0.8 | 155,006 | 150,028 | +3.3 |
| East North Central (17 cities) | 1,685 | 1,573 | 1,638 | +2.9 | 77,609 | 74,835 | +3.7 |
| West North Central (9 cities) | 766 | 735 | 745 | +2.8 | 37,595 | 38,166 | -1.5 |
| South Atlantic (8 cities) | 805 | 783 | 871 | -7.6 | 37,228 | 35,931 | +3.6 |
| East South Central (8 cities) | 521 | 482 | 470 | +10.9 | 24,213 | 23,612 | +2.5 |
| West South Central (11 cities) | 598 | 497 | 518 | +15.4 | 26,708 | 26,147 | +2.1 |
| Mountain (8 cities) | 237 | 234 | 268 | -11.6 | 12,234 | 11,873 | +3.0 |
| Pacific (12 cities) | 1,259 | 1,259 | 1,279 | -1.6 | 64,938 | 63,040 | +3.0 |

## Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

| CITY | 52d week ended Dec. 31, 1955 | 51st week ended Dec. 24, 1955 | CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1955 | 1954 |
| **NEW ENGLAND** | | | | |
| Boston | 279 | 231 | 12,059 | 11,480 |
| Bridgeport | 34 | 42 | 1,918 | 1,810 |
| Cambridge | 33 | 31 | 1,550 | 1,423 |
| Fall River | 25 | 39 | 1,429 | 1,399 |
| Hartford | 61 | 39 | 2,366 | 2,417 |
| Lowell | 33 | 23 | 1,327 | 1,402 |
| Lynn | 35 | 24 | 1,174 | 1,104 |
| New Bedford | 28 | 20 | 1,242 | 1,171 |
| New Haven | 57 | 51 | 2,234 | 2,211 |
| Providence | 65 | 65 | 3,287 | 3,133 |
| Somerville | 20 | 20 | 783 | 759 |
| Springfield, Mass. | 66 | 34 | 2,201 | 2,008 |
| Waterbury | 33 | 18 | 1,312 | 1,231 |
| Worcester | 71 | 47 | 2,688 | 2,607 |
| **MIDDLE ATLANTIC** | | | | |
| Albany | 63 | 68 | 2,489 | 2,357 |
| Allentown | (40) | (32) | (1,865) | (1,754) |
| Buffalo | 88 | 152 | 6,993 | 6,979 |
| Camden | 52 | 33 | 1,879 | 1,902 |
| Elizabeth | 23 | 15 | 1,343 | 1,493 |
| Erie | 39 | 29 | 1,785 | 1,732 |
| Jersey City | 69 | 79 | 3,574 | 3,535 |
| Newark, N. J. | 132 | 102 | 5,225 | 5,017 |
| New York City | 1,837 | 1,721 | 81,462 | 78,905 |
| Paterson | 46 | 42 | 1,928 | 1,954 |
| Philadelphia | 414 | 520 | 24,636 | 23,747 |
| Pittsburgh | 190 | 198 | 9,200 | 8,355 |
| Reading | (27) | (22) | (1,183) | (1,063) |
| Rochester, N. Y. | 94 | 111 | 4,929 | 4,694 |
| Schenectady | 27 | 23 | 1,161 | 1,263 |
| Scranton | (43) | (32) | (1,767) | (1,760) |
| Syracuse | 43 | 49 | 2,868 | 2,832 |
| Trenton | 35 | 42 | 2,438 | 2,320 |
| Utica | 35 | 29 | 1,609 | 1,543 |
| Yonkers | 37 | 27 | 1,487 | 1,400 |
| **EAST NORTH CENTRAL** | | | | |
| Akron | 54 | 55 | 2,714 | 2,768 |
| Canton | 32 | 38 | 1,432 | 1,452 |
| Chicago | --- | (761) | --- | (36,970) |
| Cincinnati | 171 | 129 | 7,628 | 7,173 |
| Cleveland | 240 | 198 | 10,235 | 10,223 |
| Columbus | 112 | 112 | 5,516 | 5,202 |
| Dayton | 76 | 73 | 3,369 | 3,236 |
| Detroit | 333 | 338 | 16,690 | 16,031 |
| Evansville | 54 | 19 | 1,652 | 1,557 |
| Flint | 46 | 45 | 1,957 | 1,910 |
| Fort Wayne | 38 | 33 | 1,721 | 1,374 |
| Gary | (32) | (30) | (1,426) | (1,336) |
| Grand Rapids | 46 | 55 | 2,154 | 2,056 |
| Indianapolis | 120 | 160 | 5,810 | 5,716 |
| Milwaukee | 157 | 122 | 6,484 | 6,299 |
| Peoria | 36 | 27 | 1,513 | 1,518 |
| South Bend | 38 | 29 | 1,320 | 1,204 |
| Toledo | 83 | 97 | 4,776 | 4,609 |
| Youngstown | 49 | 43 | 2,638 | 2,507 |
| **WEST NORTH CENTRAL** | | | | |
| Des Moines | 54 | 52 | 2,655 | 2,580 |
| Duluth | 17 | 15 | 1,294 | 1,333 |
| Kansas City, Kans. | 26 | 33 | 1,730 | 1,736 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 103 | 112 | 5,705 | 6,024 |
| Minneapolis | 119 | 140 | 6,135 | 5,878 |
| Omaha | 73 | 52 | 3,293 | 3,150 |
| **WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.** | | | | |
| St. Louis | 251 | 237 | 11,448 | 12,013 |
| St. Paul | 73 | 63 | 3,321 | 3,310 |
| Wichita | 50 | 31 | 2,014 | 2,142 |
| **SOUTH ATLANTIC** | | | | |
| Atlanta | 110 | 131 | 5,459 | 5,389 |
| Baltimore | 251 | 250 | 11,700 | 11,150 |
| Charlotte | 37 | 30 | 1,437 | 1,515 |
| Jacksonville | (65) | (60) | (2,535) | (2,527) |
| Miami | --- | (58) | --- | (3,065) |
| Norfolk | 32 | 32 | 1,620 | 1,489 |
| Richmond | 104 | 58 | 3,382 | 3,273 |
| Savannah | --- | (36) | --- | (1,433) |
| Tampa | 52 | 66 | 2,834 | 2,738 |
| Washington, D. C. | 169 | 191 | 8,984 | 8,691 |
| Wilmington, Del. | 50 | 25 | 1,812 | 1,686 |
| **EAST SOUTH CENTRAL** | | | | |
| Birmingham | 96 | 79 | 3,993 | 3,777 |
| Chattanooga | 47 | 41 | 2,285 | 2,172 |
| Knoxville | 22 | 31 | 1,721 | 1,755 |
| Louisville | 123 | 97 | 5,362 | 5,407 |
| Memphis | 81 | 102 | 5,068 | 4,965 |
| Mobile | 42 | 55 | 1,549 | 1,672 |
| Montgomery | 46 | 29 | 1,368 | 1,354 |
| Nashville | 64 | 48 | 2,867 | 2,510 |
| **WEST SOUTH CENTRAL** | | | | |
| Austin | 38 | 29 | 1,344 | 1,303 |
| Baton Rouge | 19 | 17 | 1,108 | 1,102 |
| Corpus Christi | 32 | 15 | 906 | 895 |
| Dallas | 95 | 109 | 5,100 | 5,087 |
| El Paso | 31 | 31 | 1,450 | 1,374 |
| Fort Worth | 83 | 71 | 2,871 | 2,909 |
| Houston | --- | (116) | --- | (6,219) |
| Little Rock | 44 | 19 | 2,253 | 2,125 |
| New Orleans | --- | (186) | --- | (7,741) |
| Oklahoma City | 67 | 47 | 2,895 | 3,008 |
| San Antonio | 104 | 85 | 4,433 | 4,076 |
| Shreveport | 21 | 42 | 2,032 | 1,998 |
| Tulsa | 64 | 32 | 2,316 | 2,270 |
| **MOUNTAIN** | | | | |
| Albuquerque | 23 | 21 | 1,195 | 1,402 |
| Colorado Springs | 14 | 10 | 666 | 627 |
| Denver | 97 | 98 | 5,504 | 5,227 |
| Ogden | 5 | 16 | 580 | 589 |
| Phoenix | 28 | 21 | 1,255 | 1,088 |
| Pueblo | 16 | 12 | 643 | 681 |
| Salt Lake City | 49 | 47 | 2,158 | 2,054 |
| Tucson | 5 | 9 | 233 | 205 |
| **PACIFIC** | | | | |
| Berkeley | 13 | 16 | 939 | 900 |
| Long Beach | 45 | 55 | 2,536 | 2,510 |
| Los Angeles | 516 | 417 | 23,660 | 22,523 |
| Oakland | 90 | 85 | 4,489 | 4,657 |
| Pasadena | 31 | 29 | 1,837 | 1,713 |
| Portland, Oreg. | 84 | 86 | 4,790 | 4,913 |
| Sacramento | 27 | 48 | 2,496 | 2,389 |
| San Diego | 67 | 77 | 3,801 | 3,681 |
| San Francisco | 183 | 210 | 9,522 | 9,522 |
| Seattle | 116 | 138 | 6,570 | 6,205 |
| Spokane | 42 | 49 | 2,359 | 2,302 |
| Tacoma | 45 | 49 | 1,939 | 1,725 |
| Honolulu | (41) | (43) | (1,847) | (1,741) |

Symbols.—parentheses [ ( ) ] : data not included in table 3; 3 dashes [---] : data not available.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

area. However, cold weather had set in and no collections were made.

Tularemia

Dr. Jacob Koomen, North Carolina State Board of Health, has supplied information relative to a case of tularemia in a 28-year-old man. In October of this year the patient was bitten on the left flank by an unidentified insect. About 2 weeks later an abscess developed at the site of the bite, and the man's temperature rose to 105 degrees. The abscess healed on streptomycin therapy. There were no demonstrable antibodies to P. tularense at the time of the acute illness. In November intense jaundice and a mass of tender left inguinal nodes were noted. The nodes were removed surgically, and on pathological examination a preliminary diagnosis of tuberculous adenopathy was made. Skin testing using tuberculin showed the patient to be nonreactive to all test strengths employed. A second serum specimen obtained on December 13, after removal of the nodes, showed a titer of 1:1280 to P. tularense when examined by the State Laboratory of Hygiene. On reviewing the slides, the pathologist concluded that the pathological picture was that of tularemia rather than tuberculosis. The patient has made a complete recovery.

Psittacosis

A United States Air Force hospital in Texas has reported a case of psittacosis in a patient from an Air Force Base in Nebraska. The patient had owned 2 Mexican parakeets for several months. One of the birds died, but the disposition of the other was not given. Blood specimens were collected from the patient and from her husband who was hospitalized at the same time with a diagnosis of pneumonia. The report of the results of tests on blood specimens has not yet been received.

Meningococcal meningitis

Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson, Montana State Board of Health, has supplied additional information on the outbreak of meningitis reported last week. One case, with onset December 18, occurred in a man who had been shearing sheep in Browning. He left 3 or 4 days earlier and missed the sulfadiazine prophylaxis. His family was given prophylactic doses of penicillin and sulfadiazine, and has returned to Browning.

Shigellosis

The California Department of Public Health has reported 2 outbreaks of shigellosis—one in a trailer park and another in an isolated rural settlement. Two infants from the trailer park were hospitalized with severe diarrhea. Shigella sonnei were isolated in each case. An investigation at the trailer park revealed 52 cases of diarrheal disease. Stool specimens of 5 yielded S. sonnei. Eighteen cases were considered to be shigellosis because they represented cases in household contacts to laboratory confirmed cases. Water samples were collected but they proved to be free of coliform organisms. In the rural settlement a child was found critically ill with dysentery, the etiology of which was established to be Shigella flexner 2a. Since other members of the child's family had similar symptoms, an investigation was made and cases were found in other families. Stool specimens were collected from 93 individuals in 25 families. Of these, 19 yielded S. flexner 2a. The area was without running water. All water used was transported from an approved source about 3 miles away. Sanitary conditions were deplorable in the area.

Chemical poisoning

The California Department of Public Health has reported an outbreak of an illness among approximately 500 persons, including children, who attended a Christmas party. All had eaten at home and no food was served at the party. However, orange colored popcorn and candy were passed out to the children. At least 50 of the children became ill with headache followed by vomiting from 4 to 6 hours later. The children who ate only candy remained well. The popcorn was purchased from a nearby plant which used coconut oil as a base for a soluble orange dye. Laboratory examination showed the dye in the popcorn was the etiological agent. An investigation revealed that the plant had used this dye previously with similar reported cases. This dye has been outlawed but the order was not in effect at the time of the outbreak.

Gastro-enteritis

Dr. S. H. Osborn, Connecticut Department of Health, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 693 persons in a school. Of these, 113 were absent from school on the morning of December 1. During the morning an additional 22 were sent home complaining of abdominal pain, nausea, and diarrhea. An investigation revealed that roast beef eaten in the school cafeteria the previous noon, was probably the vehicle of infection but none was available for laboratory examination.

The California Department of Public Health reports a mild outbreak of gastro-enteritis among fire fighters. While fighting an extensive forest fire, the men filled their canteens from any water tank available. None of the fire fighters was so ill that he could not continue his work, and the number of cases was not known. An investigation revealed that some of the tanks had been used for pumping cesspools. Arrangements have been made to chlorinate all canteens. Also arrangements are being made to use special water trucks which hold only drinking water chlorinated at the source.

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