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URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(NORMAN LORRAINE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

THE REPORT of the including

Sanitary Inspector

(E. H. LLOYD, C.R.S.I.)

for 1947

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

LONDON ROAD,

HADLEIGH, ESSEX.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Rayleigh.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Nineteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1947.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 170/47 of the 31st December, 1947, this report is prepared on the lines of that for 1946, and is intended to be an interim report.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council has been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,
M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin) & R.F.P.S. (Glas).

June, 1948.

SECTION "A"—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)		M			hoges isu	5,732
Number of inhabite						
ing to Rate Bo	ok)					2,801
Registrar-General's	estima	te of	residen	t po	pulation	8,691
Rateable Value						£58,562
Sum represented by	y a per	nny ra	ite .			£240
In the above a omitted as non-esse		lowin	g stati	stics,	, several routine	details are
EXTRACTS F					TICS OF THE	YEAR.
	7		M.	To do		
Live Births:		191		82	Birth Rate pe	
			107	82	of the estir	
Illegitimate	•••	2	2	-	resident pop	
					= 22.0)
Still Births:		6	2	4	Rate per 1,00	00 total
Legitimate		5	1	4	(live and still) births
Illegitimate		1	1	-	= 30.4	1
Deaths,:		138	73	65	Death Rate p	
					of the estin	
					resident pop	
Deaths from puerp	oral co	uece.			= 15.9	,
Puerperal						_
Other mat						2
il de la constante de la const	Luile		47			
Death Rate of Infa						
All infants per						26.2
Legitimate infa						26.5
Illegitimate inf	ants pe	er 1,00	00 illeg	itima	ate live births	Sill-wall

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1947.

State of the state	Rate resident	Deaths under one year per	
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	1,000 registered live births
England and Wales	20.5	12.0	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	23.3	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931			
Census	22.2	11.9	-36
London Adm. County	22.7	12.8	37
Rayleigh U.D	22.0	15.9	27

It is gratifying to note that the Birth Rate is the highest since the inception of the Urban District. The Infant Mortality Rate, although higher than last year, compares very favourably with the rest of the Country. No doubt the large number of elderly people who have moved from more congested areas to spend, their remaining days in retirement in the pleasant environment of the District is responsible for the Death Rate being above the average. Of the total number of deaths in Rayleigh in 1947, 72.5 per cent were over 65 years of age.

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Infant Mortality Year Birth Rate Death Rate Rate 1943 14.8 ... 14.5 17.7 1944 15.2 13.7 ... 35.4 1945 16.3 15.9 16.2 ... 1946 17.5 ... 12.7 6.8 1947 22.0 15.9 ... 26.2 ...

4

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1947.

Ame		Deaths				
Age	Number in District	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	of deaths which apply to District		
Under 1 year		_	5	5		
1 and under 2	_	_	1	1		
2 ,, ,, 5	1	_	_	1		
2 ,, ,, 5 5 ,, ,, 15 15 ,, ,, 25		-	_	_		
15 ,, ,, 25	2	_	2	4		
25 ,, ,, 35	1	1	1	1		
35 ,, ,, 45	3	1	2	4		
45 ,, ,, 55	4	_	7	11		
55 ,, ,, 65	7	1	3	9		
65 ,, ,, 75	26	1	16	41		
75 and upwards	38	_	23	61		
Totals	82	4	60	138		

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH DURING 1947.

			Male	Female	Total
	All causes		73	65	138
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers		_	_	_
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever			_	_
3.	Scarlet fever				_
4.	Whooping Cough		_	_	_
5.	Diphtheria		_	_	_
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system		3	2	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis		1	_	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases		_	_	_
9.	Influenza		1	_	1
10.			_	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioenceph	nalitis	_		_
12.	Acute infective Encephalitis		-	_	_
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesopha				
	(M) uterus (F)		1	3	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum		1	3	4
15.	Cancer of breast		-	6	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	***	5	3	8
17.	Diabetes		-	_	-
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions		10	11	21
19.	Heart Diseases		18	15	33
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	1	5	4	9
21.	Bronchitis		5	2	7
22.	Pneumonia		8	1	9
23,	Other respiratory diseases		_	_	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum		_	_	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years		-	_	-
26.	Appendicitis		_	1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases		1	1	2
28.	Nephritis		3	2	5
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis		_	_	_
30.	Other maternal causes		-	2	2
31.	Premature birth		2	_	2
32.	Congenital malformation, birth inju	ary,			
00	infantile distortions		3	1	4
33.	Suicide		-	_	_
34.	Road traffic accidents :	***	_	_	_
35.	Other violent causes		_	1	1
36.	All other causes	111	6	7	13

SECTION "B"—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Service.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Health the County Medical Officer is the Administrative Controller of all Laboratories at County Council Hospitals in Essex.

The Laboratory serving this area is located at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay and deals with swabs and specimens relative to infectious diseases and associate conditions.

The County Council also have an arrangement with the Counties Public Health Laboratories of Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. whereby all Local Authorities in the Administrative County can, without cost to themselves, send samples of water, food or sewage for bacteriological examination.

Examination of milk is undertaken by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle by arrangement with the Essex County Council.

(b) Ambulance Service.

Cases of general illness etc., continue to be served by the ambulance of the Rayleigh Ambulance Committee and the Billericay Isolation Hospital provide an ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

This service will become a County Council commitment under the National Health Service Act.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Arrangements for this service are at present in the hands of the District Nursing Association functioning in the area.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

These are provided by the Essex County Council and regular sessions under that Authority's arrangements are held, including Ante-Natal, Maternity and Child Welfare, Minor Ailment, Dental and Eye Clinics.

(e) Hospitals.

General medical and surgical cases are admitted to either the Southend General Hospital at Westcliff or the Southend Municipal Hospital at Rochford.

Cases of infectious disease are hospitalised as necessary in the Billericay Isolation Hospital by arrangement with the South East Essex Joint Hospital Board, of which the Rayleigh Urban District Council is a constituent member.

Tuberculosis patients are dealt with by the District Tuberculosis Officer who arranges for patients to be admitted to certain hospitals and sanatoria as necessary. The Essex County Council are the responsible Authority for dealing with cases of Tuberculosis in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act the Hospital Service, embracing all hospitals serving the area, will be transferred to the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board in July, 1948.

SECTION "C"—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. Water Supply.

The water undertakers for the area are the Southend Waterworks Company who maintained a constant supply of water throughout the year. The Company submitted during the year reports from an independent Analyst upon four samples of water taken from their mains, all of which were reported as satisfying a bacteriological and chemical examination.

During the year 10 houses formerly relying on well and rain water supplies were connected to the mains of the water undertakers. In addition, 72 new properties were connected to the main supply.

The approximate percentage of dwelling houses and the approximate percentage of population supplied from public mains at the end of the year was as follows:—

Direct to houses 96.00% of dwelling houses. 97.04% of population.

By means of stand pipe ... 1.17% of dwelling houses.

0.93% of population.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year 592 yards of new sewer was laid. 64 houses and 13 existing houses which formerly relied on a conservancy system of drainage were connected to the sewers of the Local Authority during 1947.

Most of the built-up area is now sewered, approximately 82% of the District being served. There still exists, however, several groups of houses which are too congested to rely on their present conservancy systems of drainage and where the only method of abating the nuisances which frequently occur is the provision of main sewers. Only a small part of the sewer extensions planned for the year were carried out owing to the curtailment of capital expenditure imposed throughout the Country, and in one case to other unforeseen difficulties.

There are approximately 350 properties connected to cesspools within the District.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse and salvage are collected from house-to-house throughout the District, the collection being at weekly intervals in the main shopping area and at fortnightly intervals elsewhere. Regular collections were maintained throughout the year.

Night soil is collected at weekly intervals by the Council from 67 premises in the District.

The results of the salvage collection were encouraging. The householders generally responded well to the appeal for these valuable raw materials.

The weight of salvage collected during the year amounted to 93 tons. The receipts from the sale of salvaged materials amounted to £830, an increase of £63 on the previous year.

Factories Act, 1937.

43 inspections were made of factories under this Act. 3 defects were found and 2 were remedied.

Most of the 38 factories registered in the District are engaged in minor industries and include the following—corn-milling, brick-making, printing, building, clothing, toy-making, cooked meats, plastics, vehicle maintenance, bakeries, vinegar bottling and gas and electricity utilities, etc.

Petroleum (Consolidated) Regulations, 1928.

Licences to store petroleum in respect of 17 premises were granted during the year. 30 visits were paid to premises storing and proposing to store petroleum during 1947.

General.

During the year 1,765 visits were made in respect of the detection and abatement of nuisances, the repair and improvement of houses, the abatement of overcrowding, the re-housing of persons inadequately housed, building licence applications, the requisitioning of property, the administration of the Factories Act, Food and Drugs Act, Milk and Dairies Order, the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, enquiries into cases of infectious disease, water supplies, moveable dwellings, etc.

SECTION "D"-HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses.

The repair of properties was confined to those works necessary to abate nuisances and 72 houses were repaired under this heading. Licensing of building operations enabled the available labour and materials to be diverted to essential works.

Re-housing.

Since the termination of the recent War in 1945, a total of 162 additional units of accommodation have been provided, these being summarised as follows:—

New Municipal Houses		44
New Private Houses		81
War Damage Re-builds		7
Conversion of existing houses		6
Re-conditioning of existing houses	s	24

A total of 72 families have been re-housed in the same period, of these 47 were in Municipal Houses and the remainder in requisitioned properties.

The shortage of housing accommodation still remains a problem to be solved and this is made realistic by the fact that 640 families were still on the Council's housing list awaiting re-housing at the 31st December, 1947.

SECTION "E"—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. Milk.

There were on the Register of Dairymen on the 31st December, 1947 14 producers (including 3 producer-retailers), 2 shops from which milk is sold in sealed bottles as received from a registered dairy, and 4 firms who retail milk in the District from vehicles and who are registered at Dairies situate outside the District.

130 visits were made to producers' and retailers' premises and samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis as to cleanliness of production, bottling, and distribution, with the following results:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatis- factory	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	10	1	11
Accredited Milk	11	5	16
Pasteurised Milk	17	_	17
Ordinary Milk	38	. 8	46
	76	14	90

17 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to a phosphatase test and all were found to have been adequately heat treated.

The Essex County Council have supplied the following information relating to samples of graded milk taken at producers premises licenced by them under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatis- factory	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	11	2	13
Accredited Milk	13	4	17
	24	6	30

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order have been issued by the Essex County Council and the District Council as follows:—

	Tuberculin	Accredited	Pasteurised	Total
Producers	2	3	_	5
Retailers	2	_	2	4

Meat.

A Ministry of Food slaughter-house is situate within the Urban District and during the year inspection of the following took place:—

Beasts		 	1,895
Sheep		 	3,601
Calves	***	 	228
Pigs		 	489

having a total approximate weight of 755 tons. Of this amount, approximately 16 tons was condemned as unfit for human food.

Ice Cream.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force during the year. These regulations control the manufacture of the product with a view to producing a safe article of food. There is still, however, no bacteriological standard and the product does not have to attain a minimum standard of food value. There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the District but 7 persons and premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

General Foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs weighing approximately 13½ cwts, were voluntarily surrendered by shop-keepers and condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned n	neat			254	lbs.
Fish				305	lbs.
Miscellan	eous tin	ned g	goods	885	lbs.
Cereals				56	lbs.
Eggs				56	

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

The Essex County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, submitted 51 samples of various commodities for analysis under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Results from all samples were satisfactory.

The facts and figures shown under Section C, D and E have been provided by the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION "F"—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

As in previous years, the health of the District was considered to be very satisfactory throughout 1947 and the incidence of infectious diseases was minimal, there being no cases of serious infectious illness reported and confirmed.

The summary of certain infectious diseases on page 13 clearly shows that the number of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever compare most favourably with the incidence over the past five years,

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year, one was considered to be a "return case", e.g. a woman contracted the disease following the discharge of her son from the Isolation Hospital where he had been admitted for treatment for Scarlet Fever.

A table of the 73 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year will be found on page 17. Of these, it will be observed that 48% were under 5 years of age, 29% between 5 and 14 years and 23% over 15 years.

The number of notified cases of infectious disease occurring within the Urban District who were admitted to the area Isolation Hospital at Billericay during the year was two as compared with seven during 1946.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of confirmed Diphtheria occurred during the year, this no doubt, being attributed to the effect of Diphtheria Immunisation of infants and school children. The one suspected case proved negative on investigation in the Isolation Hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Owing to the serious nature of the Poliomyelitis outbreak—over 7,500 confirmed cases were reported in England and Wales during the months July to December—the Ministry of Health initiated a special detailed questionnaire which was required to be completed for each confirmed case reported so that all relevant information would be available to assist those engaged in research as to the source of infection and control of the disease.

I am happy to comment that no cases occurred in the District during the year and submission of the above mentioned questionnaire was, therefore, unnecessary.

Infectious Diseases among residents notified outside the area.

The cases included under this heading involve either those who contracted an infectious disease whilst receiving normal general hospital treatment or those who were admitted to such hospitals for investigation associated with conditions allied to certain infectious illnesses. Altogether three children were involved and represented one case of Measles and two cases of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Comparative Table of Infectious Diseases.

The following is a comparative table of certain infectious diseases notified in the District during the years 1943 to 1947:—

Infectious Disease	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Measles	110	4	84	31	34
Whooping Cough	34	30	3	27	15
Scarlet Fever	14	2	5	6	4
Diphtheria	_	1	_	1	_
*Infective Hepatitis	_	4	_	2	_

^{*}First became notifiable locally in December, 1943.

Scabies.

The issue of Ministry of Health Circular 180/47 in December, 1947 announced that the Scabies Order, 1941—a regulation that was introduced as a War-time measure to combat an exceptional increase in Scabies which threatened to be detrimental to the war effort—would cease to operate after 31st December, 1947.

The effect on present procedure is that any cases of Scabies officially brought to the notice of the Department will be dealt with in the manner exercised before the introduction of the Scabies Order referred to, this being that normal statutory powers conferred on Local Authorities by the Public Health Acts will again be made applicable.

No cases of Scabies among the residents of the Urban District were brought to my notice during the year.

Venereal Disease.

Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the Local Sanitary Authority.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 11 new cases (7 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary) were notified locally for the first time. In addition, a further 7 cases came to notice by other means, chiefly as inward transfers from other areas. This incidence is similar to that prevailing in the District in recent years and I am unaware of any local cause or condition associated therewith.

It is regretted that 3 women, 2 men and 1 child died from Tuberculosis during 1947. Of these, three were notified since 1943, one a few weeks before death and the remaining two were brought to notice on the Death Returns. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation against Diphtheria of all children up to and including the age of 14 years will wholly become the responsibility of the Essex County Council as Local Health Authority for the area after the National Health Service Act of 1946 comes into operation on the 5th July, 1948.

Regular sessional clinics were held at the Health Centre during 1947 and co-operation generally from the parents was good.

The number of children who received primary immunisation treatment during the year was nearly double that of 1946 and the figure of 137 was highest since 1943 when 182 children received primary immunisation treatment. Although more children were immunised during the year, the percentage figures for the two age groups as shown on page 15 are largely the same as those for 1946. This is attributable to the fact that the child population showed an increase of 201 over 1946 and in addition, 61 of those immunised since 1941 were lost to the scheme's calculations by reason of their reaching the age of 15 years. However, the average of 69.2% of all children under 15 years who have been immunised is very close to the target of the Ministry of Health, namely 75%.

Since the issue to Local Authorities of a circular from the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health in June, 1947 on the question of reinforcement or boosting doses, a few children have come forward for this treatment. In his circular, Sir Wilson Jameson recommended that a reinforcement dose of 1.0 cc of T.A.F. (Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules) prophylactic should be given to children who had previously been immunised during infancy, on attaining the age of 5 years and again at 10 years. This reinforcement is considered necessary to ensure complete protection during the years of life when susceptibility is greatest and when the effect of infant immunisation is diminishing. In my opinion, this is a further important safeguard in the protection of the health of our children and against the continued menace of Diphtheria.

The revised practice advocated by the Ministry of Health recommends that advice as to Diphtheria Immunisation should be sought by parents when the infant is 8 months old and suggests that it is most desirable that primary immunisation should be completed before the first birthday.

A total of 304 injections against Diphtheria were given during the year, consisting of:—

First injections 137 Second injections 141 Booster injections 26 I would like to place on record my appreciation and thanks to those voluntary helpers who have assisted so ably at the monthly sessional clinics.

Since 1941, when the A.P.T. (Alum-precipitated Toxoid) Scheme of Diphtheria Immunisation was introduced in the District, 1,301 children have received immunisation treatment at sessional clinics by arrangement through this Department. In addition to this figure, a considerable number have been immunised by private arrangement with family doctors. At the end of the year it was estimated that 270 of those immunised since 1941 were over 15 years of age and therefore outside the scope of the percentage figures mentioned below.

The estimated percentage of the child population considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1947 was as follows:—

Under 5 years ... 60.0 5—14 years ... 78.4

Insulin.

During the year your Council accepted financial responsibility for the supply of Insulin to three persons who came within the category of poorer inhabitants in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2734 of 1943 and Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936. These persons continued to receive Insulin as hitherto, e.g. from the Southend General Hospital by arrangement with them by the District Welfare Officer of the County Council.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

In my Annual Report for 1946 I referred to the urgent necessity of appointing a permanent Deputy to act for me when I was unable to act. This matter came to fruition during the year and it is with pleasure that I record that Dr. J. C. T. Fiddes, Assistant County Medical Officer of Health in this area took up duty as my Deputy on 1st December, 1947.

Road Accidents.

The following are the details relating to road accidents occurring in the Urban District during 1947.

Group of Road User	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
Pedestrians under 15 years	_	2	2
Pedestrians 15 years and over	_	3	3
Drivers	_	_	2
Motor Cyclists	_	6	7
Pillion Passengers	_	1	5
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	_	_	2
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	_	1	4
Other persons		3	15
Totals		16	40

Extension of Boundaries of County Borough of Southend-on-Sea.

The case for the Urban District Council's opposition against the Southend Corporations application for the extension of boundaries to include the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford was placed before the Assistant Commissioner of the Local Government Boundary Commission—Colonel C. W. G. Walker, C.M.G. D.S.O.—when he visited the District and met representatives of the Council in October.

The Commission's Report for 1947 gives a very comprehensive review of Local Government policy throughout the Country, but although inference is made to the possible future of Local Government in Southend and district, no direct reference is made as to the outcome of Southend's application for the extension of her boundaries.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

Under this Act, the Essex County Council will become the Local Health Authority as from the Appointed Day—5th July, 1948.

During the year numerous reports have been submitted by me to the County Medical Officer giving information necessary for the compilation of the proposals which the County Council was required to submit to the Minister of Health in respect of Health Centres, Vaccination and Immunisation, Ambulance Services, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care, and other services under Part III of the Act.

Further, negotiations have taken place between your Council, the Essex County Council and neighbouring Authorities in respect of Decentralisation of Administration following the issue of Ministry of Health Circular 118/47, in July.

It would appear that radical changes in the administration of local health services are likely in this proposed Scheme whereby the Urban District will become a constituent member of a Divisional Area for the administration of the majority of the local health services under Part III of the National Health Service Act.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Sex		М. F.	1 3	(1)	20 14	10 5	53	(1)	7 6
			1		61	-	-		1
Total Deaths				-	-	-		1	
Admitted to Hospital			60	Ξ	1	1	1	=	1
		65 & over		1	1	1	-	1	4
		45 to 65		-	1	1	1	1	5
		35 to 45	-	1	1	1	-	1	61
rns		20 to 35		1			1	1	61
Cases included in Weekly Returns		15 to 20		1		. 1	1	1	1
kly		10 to 15	-	1	1	1		1	1
Wee		10 20	1	1	13	55	-	(3)	1
ni ba		4 to 5	-	1	60	-	1	1	1
clude		8 to 4	-	(1)	4	4	-	1	1
es in		2 2 2 2	1	1	6	1	1	1	1
Cas		- 20	1	1	80	1	1	1	1
		0 2 -	1		61	7.0	-	1	1
		At all ages	4	(1)	34	15	5	(1)	13
			:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Notifiable Disease			:	:	:	:	:	7er	:
			H	:	:	Whooping Cough	Acute Pneumonia	Cerebro-spinal Fever	:
	2	Ž I	Peve	ia		50	nenr	spins	St
			et 1	ther	les	opin	e P)ro-	ipel
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Who	Acut	Cerel	Erysipelas

N.B.—The figures in parenthesis indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was corrected.

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