

Epidemic Observation Unit

Voluntary Notification

Information about the following conditions is at present currently required for research purposes within the College:

Pityriasis rosea
Febrile illness in pregnancy
Congenital abnormalities (up to 5 years)
Farmer's lung (new and old cases)
Rubella
Leukaemia
Aplastic anaemia
Pernicious anaemia (if figures not already supplied)

At the end of this journal you will find notification form No. 6 on which to make a positive or nil return about the occurrence of any of these conditions in your practice recently. On the preceding page you will also find notification form No. 6a, which is for use by those who, having used form No. 6 for a positive or nil return, subsequently wish to make a further report before the next issue of the journal.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

This is a reprint of page 88 of Journal No. 22.

I.

Incidence among children under 5 years

A joint enquiry is being made by the unit and Dr J. C. McDonald, epidemiologist of the Public Health Laboratory Service, into the occurrence of major congenital abnormalities. The aim is partly to record the present seasonal and regional incidence of such abnormalities, and partly to search for aetiological clues.

Every doctor who attends or knows of a child of 5 years of age or less, affected by a major congenital abnormality, is asked to notify the director of the unit on the notification form at the end of this journal. He will later be asked to record the clinical details on a form, on which there is also space to give any opinion or conjecture about the cause of the affection.

II.

Febrile Illness in Pregnancy

In a recent report about maternal factors associated with the appearance of congenital abnormalities in infants, Dr Alison D. McDonald (1958) focussed attention particularly on the occurrence of febrile illness during pregnancy.

Dr B. C. S. Slater has offered to act as recorder in a prospective enquiry by the unit into various maternal factors, which might adversely affect the foetus during pregnancy. The first factor to

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be thus examined will be the occurrence of a febrile illness during a current pregnancy. Every doctor who attends a patient with such an illness, or who hears about it at a routine antenatal examination, is asked to notify the director of the unit on the notification form at the back of each number of the journal. He will then be asked to fill up a report about the pregnancy and the illness and, later, will be asked to report also about the condition and development of the baby.

REFERENCE

McDonald, A. D. (1958), *New England J. Med.*, **258**, 767.

College News

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