

VITAL STATISTICS

The opinion of the provincial health authorities that the removal of the free postal privilege would seriously interfere with the making of health returns by doctors and local boards of health, is confirmed by the record of returns for the month of July. The return of cases of communicable disease for the month show only 2,347 cases compared with 5,118 cases in June, and while there has been some improvement in the health of the province during the month, the very decided reduction is largely due to the removal of the franking privilege allowed on such reports.

Even with many reports not sent in the health record for the month does not compare at all favorably with that of July last year when only 816 cases of communicable disease were reported. The poor showing last month was largely due to the continuance of the measles epidemic, 1,419 cases being reported.

The detailed returns show:

Diseases.	—July, 1920—		—June, 1920—	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Smallpox	142	0	249	0
Scarlet fever	169	4	371	12
Diphtheria	302	46	342	45
Measles	1,419	15	3,613	22
Whooping cough	106	5	151	15
Typhoid fever	35	8	31	12
Tuberculosis	161	82	220	184
Infantile paralysis	2	0	2	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	3	3		9
Influenza	6	6	39	29
Acute influensal pneumonia	2	2		10
Acute primary pneumonia..		116		260
	2,347	287	5,118	599

Venereal diseases reported by the local Officers of Health:—

	July, 1920	June, 1920	July, 1919
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
Syphilis	131	169	83
Gonorrhoea	135	183	139
Chancroid	0	4	7
	266	356	229