

MEMORANDUM

From: The County Medical Officer
of Health,
Guildhall Road,
Northampton.

To: Health Visitors and
District Nurse/Midwives.

5th July, 1957.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES.

Thank you for your reply to my enquiry about mongols and babies with hare lip and/or cleft palate born in 1956. I should have mentioned that I would also like to know of any babies born with spina bifida, hydrocephalus or anencephaly, or, indeed, with any congenital abnormality. In some cases you have written back to let me know of these defects, but if there are any born in your area which were not notified to me in your original return, I shall be grateful if you could let me know. The main information I require is:-

- 1) Where the mother conceived and spent the early months of her pregnancy.
- 2) Duration of pregnancy.
- 3) Age of the mother at the time of confinement.

The information which you have given me so far does seem to suggest that a number of these abnormalities occur in groups as if they are the result of an infectious process. Any information you can give me may throw further light on this and be of great help. In order to save me sending out these enquiries, could you please, in future, notify me of all congenital abnormalities as they occur. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

C.M.S.