

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

Abstract }
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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., January 27, 1887.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received from foreign countries during the week ended January 27, 1887.

(Published in accordance with section 4, act approved April 29, 1878.)

England and Wales.—The deaths registered in 28 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended January 8, 1887, correspond to an annual death rate of 26.5 per thousand of aggregate population. The lowest death rate was recorded at Sunderland, 15.7 per thousand, and the highest in Manchester, 36.0 per thousand.

Scotland.—The death rate in 8 principal towns during the week ended January 8 was 29.9 per thousand of estimated population. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz., 18.7 per thousand, and the highest in Paisley, viz., 40.2 per thousand.

London.—There were 2,127 deaths registered in London during the week ended January 8, including 104 from measles, 11 from scarlet fever, 9 from diphtheria, 17 from whooping-cough, 15 from enteric fever, 2 from ill-defined forms of continued fever, and 10 from diarrhœa and dysentery.

Calcutta.—There were 328 deaths registered during the week ended December 11, including 94 from cholera, 84 from fevers, 33 from bowel complaints, 23 from tetanus, 14 from phthisis, 8 from asthma, and 6 from spleen diseases.

Buenos Ayres.—The United States minister, under date of December 3, 1886, dispatches that the situation is not alarming at present, but says:

“There is no room for doubt as to the existence of Asiatic cholera here. It made its first appearance about five weeks ago, and was imported by the Italian ship ‘Perseo,’ plying between Genoa and Buenos Ayres. Dr. Antonio del Veso, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Argentine Government in Italy, was a passenger on the ship, and the anxiety to secure him an immediate landing, on

the part of the ship's commander, seems to have so far overcome his sense of duty that, by concealed or garbled reports, he managed to turn loose, on Argentine soil, first here, then at Rosario, a great many persons from an infected ship. The testimony of passengers shows conclusively there was nearly a score of burials at sea of those who died of cholera on the voyage.

"The Argentine Government instituted prompt investigation of the matter, but, wasting no time with the infliction of empty penalties which cannot affect the disease, turned its entire care to its arrest and confinement within its present limits. Doctor Wilds, the Minister of the Interior, and as such Prime Minister of the Government, from whose department the national board of health derives all its powers and efficiency, is himself a physician of much distinction, and has labored with heroic devotion in the employment of every agency tending to the rapid and complete accomplishment of his sanitary measures. He has at his disposal money, physicians, and police powers almost without limit, and is employing them all with great spirit and ability.

"The exercise of sanitary measures has been so prompt and efficient, and the use of disinfectants and enforced cleanliness so well spread and rational, we venture to hope the disease will disappear before assuming an epidemic character. The people, generally, fully sympathize with the good intentions of the Government, and, instead of interposing hinderances in the way of its sanitary plans, help them on in every possible way.

"For the month of November just closed the official reports of the cholera hospital in Buenos Ayres show there were 200 patients entered—93 deaths, 34 cured, with 73 still under treatment. Remembering the population of Buenos Ayres is fully 400,000, you will agree the showing thus far is not discouraging. And with the exercise of a little scrutiny even the exhibit may be much relieved of alarm, for of the 200 patients above enumerated, 130 were from the male and female lunatic asylum and 12 from the prisons, where people are greatly huddled together and hygienic conditions anything but favorable. This then leaves but 58 cases outside for an entire month.

"The greater part of the cases have originated in the 'boca' where the infected ship 'Perseo' landed, which is a scooped-out place, so deep and below the level of the river Platte that ships may enter and discharge. It is, therefore, necessarily a vast receptacle of filth, and, there being no current to carry out its accumulations into the river beyond the sluggish action of the tide, it remains there a perpetual cesspool charged with disease and death. The Government, however, is already busy at work there with an immense force, devising means to sweeten its baleful waters by the use of powerful pumps and dredges.

"The disease is most fatal at Rosario, a city of commercial importance, on the Pasaka river, two hundred miles away, where the most of the 'Perseo's' passengers and cargo were discharged. The reports from that locality are truly distressing. In a population of about 50,000 souls they are now having from 35 to 50 deaths per day. In their cholera hospital alone there were over 200 patients in November, of which more than one-half died; but there the disease has invaded the homes of the best and most prudent families of the city. Cordoba and other inland cities are also becoming infected.

"The result of all this is, we are nearly cut out entirely from the commercial world. Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, and the most of the

European ports are quarantined against us, which fact has greatly disturbed the movements of the mails, and almost entirely suspended business. We have recently had some very cold weather, which has been favorable to us.

“Nineteen years ago yesterday the first case of the great cholera epidemic of 1867-'8 was reported. Then the plague was mainly confined to city and neighboring country of Buenos Ayres. It was very destructive, and did not die out until near the close of March, on the advent of winter.

“Of course, we are still in a state of anxious suspense, for if the hygienic expedients now in a rapid course of development do not eradicate the dreaded microbes of the plague, the hot season already upon us, and to endure it yet so long, may plunge us into very serious distress. Business is virtually suspended in Buenos Ayres, and vast numbers of people have gone out into the country.”

The United States consul at Buenos Ayres, under date of December 10, states that “while a few cases of cholera are still reported in each day's bulletin, the disease appears to have pretty much run its course at this port. On yesterday, up to 10 o'clock, only one new case had occurred in the city proper, and 2 cases on board a steamer at Boca port. In the interior of the country, however, the disease has made its appearance, and in some places with a marked type. On the 4th instant, there were 13 deaths at Rosario, and 14 new cases, and at Cordoba 2 deaths and 5 new cases. Isolated cases are reported at various other interior towns. The alarm, however, which was produced among the people when the disease first appeared at this port has in great part subsided, and the authorities feel assured that the prompt and rigid measures taken to stamp it out will prevent it from becoming epidemic. In all bills of health now issued by me I note the fact that cholera exists in this port, but apparently not in epidemic form.”

Guayaquil, Ecuador.—During the three weeks ended January 6, there were 159 deaths from all causes, including 32 from yellow fever, 12 from small-pox, and 21 from enteric fever.

There were 58 deaths registered during the week ended January 6, including 16 from yellow fever and 3 from small-pox.

Havana.—During the week ended January 13, there were 103 deaths from all causes, including one from yellow fever.

Warsaw.—There were 243 deaths registered during the week ended January 1, including 6 from small-pox.

Paris.—There were 1,116 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 51 from measles, 12 from whooping-cough, 23 from enteric fever, 5 from scarlet fever, and 44 from diphtheria.

Rome.—There were 127 deaths registered during the week ended November 27, 1886, including 9 from small-pox, 2 from enteric fever, and 5 from diphtheria.

Genoa.—There were 124 deaths registered during the week ended January 28, including 2 from small-pox, and 1 from enteric fever.

Leghorn.—There were 51 deaths registered during the week ended January 9, including 1 from small-pox.

Palermo.—There were 93 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 2 from enteric fever, 3 from scarlet fever, and 3 from diphtheria. Pulmonary diseases prevailed.

Bremen.—There were 38 deaths registered during the week ended January 1, including one from diphtheria, 1 from whooping-cough, 4 from pneumonia, and 1 suicide.

Barmen.—There were 59 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 6 from measles, 1 from diphtheria, and 1 suicide.

Stuttgart.—There were 34 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 1 from diphtheria.

Leipsic.—There were 90 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 2 from measles, 1 from scarlet fever, 9 from diphtheria, and 1 suicide.

Bristol.—There were 97 deaths registered during the week ended January 1, including 3 from scarlet fever and 1 from diphtheria.

Leith.—There were 25 deaths registered during the week ended January 1, including 1 from enteric fever and 1 from diphtheria.

Vera Cruz.—There were 21 deaths registered during the week ended January 13, including 11 from diphtheria.

Toronto.—There were 26 deaths registered during the week ended January 22, including 3 from diphtheria.

Belfast.—There were 136 deaths registered during the week ended January 1, including 2 from enteric fever and 4 from scarlet fever.

Rheims.—There were 58 deaths registered during the week ended January 8, including 1 from enteric fever and 1 from diphtheria.

Nice.—During the two weeks ended December 31 there were 131 deaths from all causes, including 6 from small-pox.

Amsterdam.—During the week ended January 1 there were 173 deaths from all causes, including 1 from enteric fever, 2 from scarlet fever, and 2 from diphtheria.

Glasgow.—During the week ended January 1 there were 330 deaths from all causes, including 3 from enteric fever and 5 from scarlet fever.

Netherlands.—The United States Minister at the Hague, under date of January 20, 1887, states that the Netherlands Government has issued an order closing its ports to commerce from the Argentine Republic on account of cholera.

MORTALITY TABLE, FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Estimated population.	Week ended.	Total deaths from all causes.	Annual rate of mortality per 1,000.
Calcutta.....	433, 219	December 11.....	328	39. 4
Warsaw.....	431, 572	January 1.....	243	29. 3
Havana.....	208, 000	January 13.....	103	25. 8
Guayaquil.....	25, 000	January 6.....	58	120. 9
Paris.....	2, 260, 045	January 8.....	1, 116	25. 7
Rome.....	355, 026	November 27.....	127	18. 6
Genoa.....	179, 567	January 8.....	124	36. 0
Leghorn.....	101, 044	January 9.....	51	26. 3
Palermo.....	250, 000	January 8.....	93	19. 3
Mayence.....	*65, 701	December 31.....	15	13. 2
Bremen.....	119, 000	January 1.....	38	16. 6
Mannheim.....	65, 000	December 25.....	21	16. 8
Barmen.....	108, 000	January 8.....	59	28. 4
Stuttgart.....	125, 510	January 8.....	34	14. 1
Leipsic.....	170, 000	January 8.....	90	27. 6
Bristol.....	220, 915	January 1.....	97	22. 8
Leith.....	70, 329	January 1.....	25	18. 5
Pernambuco.....	111, 000	December 29.....	51	23. 9
Zurich.....	87, 689	January 1.....	19	11. 2
Vera Cruz.....	23, 800	January 13.....	21	46. 0
Rio Janeiro.....	350, 000	December 18.....	227	33. 8
St. Thomas.....	15, 000	January 7.....	14	48. 6
Iquique.....	16, 000	December 18.....	15	48. 8
Toronto.....	120, 000	January 22.....	26	11. 2
Belfast.....	221, 822	January 1.....	136	31. 9
Rheims.....	98, 083	January 8.....	58	30. 8
Glasgow.....	545, 678	January 1.....	330	31. 5

* Including 6,582 soldiers, not embraced in sanitary report.

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