

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

Abstract }
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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
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Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended February 17, 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 29, 1887, corresponded to an annual death rate of 21.1 per thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,245,099. The lowest death rate was recorded in Derby, viz., 11.1, and the highest in Bristol, viz., 30.6 per thousand.

London.—There were 1,585 deaths registered in London during the week, including 54 from measles, 14 from scarlet fever, 22 from diphtheria, 31 from whooping-cough, 1 from typhus fever, 9 from enteric fever, 1 from an undefined form of continued fever, and 9 from diarrhoea and dysentery. There were 432 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. Different forms of violence caused 67 deaths, and 6 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 19.6 per thousand.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended January 29 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 27.4 per thousand of population. The lowest rate was recorded at Armagh, viz., 5.2 per thousand, and the highest in Sligo, 86.6 per thousand.

Dublin.—There were 191 deaths registered during the week ended January 29, including 15 from zymotic diseases. In 35 instances the cause of death was uncertified, there having been no medical attendant during the last illness. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual death rate of 27.5 per thousand.

Germany.—The deaths registered in 52 cities of Germany, having an aggregate population of 6,523,266, during the week ended January 15, 1887, corresponded to an annual death rate of 21.4 per thousand. The lowest rate was recorded in Darmstadt, viz., 10.9 per thousand, and the highest in Altona, viz., 32.9 per thousand.

Calcutta.—Five hundred and ninety-two deaths were registered during the two weeks ended December 28, including 112 from cholera, 167 from fevers, 78 from bowel complaints, and 50 from tetanus.

Guayaquil.—Fifty-seven deaths were registered during the week ended January 20, including 12 from yellow fever, 5 from small-pox, and 12 from enteric fever.

Havana.—The United States sanitary inspector reports for the month of January 490 deaths from all causes, including 6 from yellow fever, 7 from enteric fever, 4 from pernicious fever, 2 from diphtheria, and 2 from croup. During the week ended February 3 there were 6 cases of yellow fever, but no deaths from that disease.

Cairo, Egypt.—The United States consul-general, in his dispatch dated December 16, concerning the inspection of Egyptian rags, states that “as a sanitary measure, I think Egyptian rags should be closely scrutinized. The sources from which these rags are obtained are of the filthiest character. Though cholera does not now exist in Egypt, that terrible malady, small-pox, is always prevalent here. It now prevails largely throughout the country, and rags reeking with infection are sold in the markets, and, no doubt, they find their way to ports of the United States. These people care nothing for disease; they do not seem to fear infection or contamination, and official sanitation being barely in its inception, a mere sham even where it is locally proclaimed, there is absolutely no protection against rags being sold to dealers directly from the bodies of those affected with this loathsome disease, and there can be no doubt that such poisonous rags find their way to the United States ports. I would, therefore, urgently present the necessity of strict measures regarding the perfect disinfection of Egyptian rags intended for shipment to the United States.”

Nagasaki, Japan.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated December 27, 1886, states that “the port of Nagasaki was officially declared free from Asiatic cholera November 6. The epidemic of the present year in Nagasaki Ken, owing to the speedy and vigorous restrictive measures adopted by the Government, was not so severe as last year. In 1885, from August 13 to November 14, practically the limits of the duration of the disease, there were 4,435 cases and 2,927 deaths. This year, from August 9 to November 6, there were 2,384 cases and 1,551 deaths. While the character of the disease was as severe and the percentage of deaths about the same as last year, being about 65 per cent., the number of persons attacked is less by over 2,000. At Takasima Colliery, on the Island of Takasima, near Nagasaki, the point at which last year the epidemic raged with great severity, of the 4,000 men employed in the mines 1,500 were attacked and 800 died.

As this was the third or fourth time that the island had been ravaged with cholera, the owners of the mines, the Mitsubishi Company, determined to try such preventive means as modern science could suggest. A complete sewerage system was formed. Heavy pumping arrangements were erected on the beach, for pumping sea-water to the highest point of the island, whence by an arrangement of drains and sluices it was gravitated back to the sea, flushing for three or four hours daily every drain among the dwelling-houses. An extensive fresh-water condensing apparatus was erected, turning out from 7,000 to 8,000 gallons of water per day. The wells on the island were closed, and water from the main-land only allowed to be imported for purposes of washing, &c. A strict system of food quarantine was instituted, and all food was supplied through the company. Three digesters, each of 800 gallons capacity, were erected, beef killed under inspection being used to make soup, about 1,000 gallons per day being supplied to the miners. Beef was also served out in the rations. All shell-fish were prohibited, only deep-water fish, after inspection, being allowed to be landed or sold. No deleterious vegetables of any kind were permitted to be brought to the island; potatoes, beans, and certain harmless native vegetables being the only ones allowed for consumption. The success of the system adopted has been amply demonstrated by the fact that Takasima has been the only place in Nagasaki Ken untouched by cholera during this year's epidemic. The treatment used by Dr. Nakamura, the chief surgeon of the mines, was remarkably successful. The proportion of deaths to cases in the city of Nagasaki was about 90 per cent. In Takasima it was only about 50 per cent. Dr. Nakamura depended greatly on spirits of camphor and morphine in the initial stages of the disease, (even to the subcutaneous injections in severe cases,) and on morphine and atropine in the collapsed stage; in this stage the morphine and atropine being injected. He reports an interesting case, which occurred this year, on the neighboring island of Nakenosima, in which a cholera patient was kept alive and restored to health who had been for forty-eight hours without a perceptible pulse. He is emphatic in requiring abstention from liquors by the patient in the fever stage of the disease. While the cholera experience of 1885 has not been repeated in Nagasaki and vicinity in 1886, the epidemic has raged with virulence in other parts of the empire of Japan. In 1885 there were altogether 11,927 cases and 7,152 deaths, the proportion of mortality being about 60 per cent. This year (1886) there were 154,373 cases and 101,695 deaths, a proportion of about 66 per cent. We may say that the cholera in Japan during the past year has spread widely, has been exceptionally severe, and the percentage of deaths enormous.

The mortality is appalling when we consider that the disease has been combated with unusual activity, and with all the resources of modern science."

Maracaibo.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated January 23, states that experiments in inoculation as a preventive of yellow fever are being conducted on the Colombian frontier, in the city of Cucuta, with good results.

Paris.—Eleven hundred and twenty-eight deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 3 from small-pox, 11 from whooping-cough, 27 from enteric fever, 3 from scarlet fever, and 23 from diphtheria.

Marseilles.—One thousand and seventy-nine deaths were registered during the month ended January 31, including 14 from small-pox, 29 from enteric fever, 64 from diphtheria, and 3 from measles.

Palermo.—One hundred and twenty-seven deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 2 from typhus fever, 1 from enteric fever, 5 from diphtheria, and 4 from other fevers.

Leghorn.—Seventy deaths were registered during the week ended January 30, including 1 from small-pox.

Bristol.—One hundred and eleven deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 1 from scarlet fever. Whooping-cough, measles, and scarlet fever prevailed.

Belfast.—One hundred deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 2 from scarlet fever.

Toronto.—Thirty-one deaths were registered during the week ended February 5, including 4 from diphtheria.

Gibraltar.—Ten deaths were registered during the week ended January 16, including 1 from diphtheria. One case of small-pox was landed from a steamer from abroad.

Genoa.—One hundred and forty-seven deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 3 from small-pox and 3 from enteric fever.

Rome.—Two hundred and eighty-three deaths were registered during the two weeks ended December 13, including 22 from small-pox, 5 from enteric fever, and 2 from diphtheria.

Leipsic.—Seventy-three deaths were registered during the week ended January 29, including 2 from measles, 1 from scarlet fever, 6 from diphtheria, and 1 from dysentery.

Warsaw.—Two hundred and nineteen deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 10 from small-pox.

Mayence.—Eighteen deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 1 from typhus fever.

Munich.—One hundred and twenty-three deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 1 from scarlet fever and 6 from diphtheria.

Bremen.—Forty-six deaths were registered during the week ended January 22, including 1 from scarlet fever, 1 from diphtheria, 2 from whooping cough, and 1 suicide.

Vera Cruz.—Twenty-five deaths were registered during the week ended January 27, including 19 from diphtheria.

Guaymas.—Thirty-six deaths were registered during the month ended January 31, including 16 from small-pox.

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 25.....	287	34. 5
Guayaquil.....	35, 000	January 20.....	57	84. 9
Paris.....	2, 260, 045	January 22.....	1, 128	26. 0
Palermo.....	250, 000	January 22.....	127	26. 4
Rome.....	355, 026	December 18.....	138	20. 2
Leghorn.....	101, 172	January 30.....	70	36. 0
Bristol.....	223, 695	January 22.....	111	25. 8
Belfast.....	224, 822	January 22.....	100	23. 1
Toronto.....	120, 000	February 5.....	31	13. 4
Gibraltar.....	23, 731	January 16.....	10	21. 9
Genoa.....	179, 483	January 22.....	147	42. 7
Leipsic.....	170, 000	January 29.....	73	22. 3
Warsaw.....	431, 572	January 22.....	219	26. 4
Mayence.....	65, 701	January 22.....	18	14. 2
Munich.....	262, 000	January 22.....	123	24. 4
Bremen.....	119, 000	January 22.....	46	20. 0
Vera Cruz.....	23, 800	January 27.....	25	54. 7
Mannheim.....	65, 000	January 15.....	13	10. 4
Stuttgart.....	125, 510	January 29.....	36	14. 9
Cadiz.....	65, 028	January 22.....	72	57. 7
Laguayra.....	7, 428	January 29.....	9	63. 1
Matamoras.....	12, 000	January 29.....	13	56. 4
Acapulco.....	4, 200	January 30.....	3	37. 0
Curaçoa.....	25, 000	January 29.....	8	16. 6
Antigua.....	15, 847	January 2.....	11	36. 1
Kingston, Canada.....	15, 109	February 11.....	2	6. 8

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JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.