

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. II. { Abstract }
 { No. 66. }

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., June 2, 1887.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended June 2, 1887, and information received through other channels.

(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 May 14 corresponded to an annual rate of 19.7 per thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,245,099. The lowest rate was recorded in Bolton, viz., 10.7, and the highest in Huddersfield, viz., 29.0 per thousand. Small-pox caused 1 death in Cardiff, and 1 in Portsmouth.

London.—One thousand three hundred and ninety-five deaths were registered during the week ended May 14, including 89 from measles, 16 from scarlet fever, 9 from diphtheria, 59 from whooping-cough, 1 from enteric fever, and 8 from diarrhoea and dysentery. There were 295 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. Different forms of violence caused 48 deaths, and 15 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 17.3 per thousand. In greater London 1,742 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.8 per thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 16 deaths from measles, 7 from whooping-cough, and 5 from scarlet fever were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended May 14 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 22.3 per thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Sligo, viz., 9.6, and the highest in Drogheda, viz., 38.1 per thousand.

Dublin.—One hundred and sixty-five deaths were registered during the week ended May 14, including 9 from measles, 2 from scarlet fever,

UNITED STATES.

Lewes, Del.—The acting assistant surgeon in charge of the quarantine at Delaware Breakwater reports that in the town of Lewes, (population 1,900,) from January 9, when the first case appeared, to April 20, 1887, there were 836 cases of measles reported, and about 200 cases in the immediate vicinity of the town. The mortality was low, being only about 11 per cent.

Key West.—The medical officer in charge of the Marine-Hospital Service, (Passed Assistant Surgeon Glennan,) under date of May 28, reports that "out of a total of 5 cases there have been 3 deaths and 1 recovery, and 1 with a probability of recovery," from yellow fever, "all originating in one infected premises. The danger apprehended was on account of the large number of unacclimated persons in the city, with every means of outlet cut off. Many left in sailing-vessels, and, at my suggestion, Dr. Porter asked the Louisiana board to allow healthy persons to go from here this week, subject to inspection or detention at the New Orleans quarantine, which was granted. At this date no new cases have developed, but it is yet too early to say that the disease has been stamped out. In any event, the care exercised in this instance by the board of health, in guarding infected houses, fumigating and destroying infected material, and in promptly declaring the existence of the disease, (measures probably for the first time efficiently adopted in this place,) has practically established an outside confidence in sanitary information emanating from here. * * *. It is reasonable to suppose that the infection was introduced here by a Bolio family, who formerly kept the San Carlos and Fifth Avenue hotels in Havana. During the past winter they have brought over household goods and stored them in the adjoining house. It is said that Baker and his wife slept upon one of their mattresses. At a special meeting of the board of health this morning, at which I was present, this was recognized as probable. The disease may now be said to have three foci; and should the board of health now succeed in preventing its further spread, it will only be done by the utmost care and vigilance."

A telegram, June 1, reports 4 new cases in different localities.

The War Department authorized the president of the board of health to use the hospital and the laundress quarters attached to the military barracks for the treatment of yellow-fever patients. Iron bedsteads and mattresses were sent from the marine-hospital stores.

The United States sanitary inspector at Havana, Dr. Burgess, reports that the furniture bought of Mrs. Bolio and used by the Baker

family had been used in a hotel at Havana, and it is well known that many cases of yellow fever have occurred in that hotel during the last few years. He himself had treated 5 cases in it, and is of opinion that the old pillows, bedding, &c., were the sources of infection.

Inspection of vessels was commenced at the Delaware Breakwater quarantine June 2, 1887.

Published by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury:

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.