

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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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 October 6, 1887, and information received through other channels.

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England and Wales.—The deaths registered in 28 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended September 17 corresponded to an annual rate of 18.0 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,244,099. The lowest rate was recorded in Derby, viz., 15.0, and the highest in Preston, viz., 27.0 a thousand. Small-pox caused 9 deaths in Sheffield, 1 in Liverpool, and 1 in Cardiff.

London.—One thousand two hundred and sixty-six deaths were registered during the week ended September 17, including 22 from measles, 57 from scarlet fever, 20 from diphtheria, 53 from whooping-cough, 17 from enteric fever, 73 from diarrhoea and dysentery, and 2 from cholera and choleraic diarrhoea. There were 142 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. Different forms of violence caused 37 deaths, and 5 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 15.7 a thousand. In greater London 1,595 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.4 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 27 deaths from diarrhoea, 10 from whooping-cough, 6 from diphtheria, and 2 from scarlet fever were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended September 17 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 25.9 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Newry, viz., 3.5, and the highest in Kilkenny, viz., 38.1 a thousand.

Dublin.—Two hundred and thirty-two deaths were registered during the week ended September 17, including 8 from measles, 3 from whooping-cough, 2 from scarlet fever, 1 from enteric fever, 2 from diphtheria, 33 from diarrhoea, and 2 from dysentery. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 23 deaths. Four accidental deaths were reg-

istered, and in 29 instances the causes of death were uncertified. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 34.3 a thousand.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended September 17 corresponded to an annual rate of 18.7 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Aberdeen, viz., 12.0, and the highest in Paisley, viz., 26.5 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 467, including 17 from scarlet fever, 3 from diphtheria, 19 from whooping-cough, 11 from fever, and 55 from diarrhoea.

Denmark.—The Danish Government has issued an order, under date of the 6th September, 1887, that ships coming from, or having had intercourse with ships coming from, infected ports, are subjected to quarantine, and the importation of old linen, bedding, clothing, rags, &c., from infected or recently infected ports is prohibited.

Malta.—The United States consul, under date of September 12, in his dispatch relative to cholera, states that “the hope that has been entertained that the disease would soon disappear, based on the gradual decrease in cases a few days back, has not been realized, for on the contrary there has been a slight recrudescence. From September 1 to September 12, inclusive, there have been 82 cases and 28 deaths, and 29 deaths have been registered during the same period from cases previously reported.”

Palermo.—The United States consul, under date of September 5, with reference to cholera, states that “the disease has considerably decreased, the cases and deaths during the week ended the 4th instant being only 81 and 52, respectively, a decrease of 45 cases and 20 deaths compared with those reported during the preceding week.

The consul, in his dispatch under date of September 12, states that “86 cases of cholera and 47 deaths occurred therefrom during the week ended the 11th instant, an increase of 5 cases and decrease of 5 deaths compared with the preceding week. The disease obtains in nearly all the seaport and many of the interior towns of the island, but thus far has not been severe at any point. The papers of yesterday announce 63 cases and 23 deaths within 15 hours at Messina. Cholera has also made its appearance at Grotte and Teapani, within this district, some time since.”

Florence.—The United States consul telegraphs, under date of October 4: “Suspected cases cholera at Cagliari.”

Gibraltar.—The Secretary of the board of health reports, under date of September 8, 1887, that the board have decided to impose a quarantine of ten days on arrivals at that port from Sardinia.

Santiago de Cuba.—The sanitary inspector reports that “the first case of the epidemic of small-pox now prevailing was imported from Havana about five months ago, and that 1,204 deaths have been registered since that time, and the number of those attacked, so far as known, has been over 2,000. The epidemic is now, however, rapidly declining, owing to the measures taken by the municipal authorities to make vaccination and revaccination compulsory.

“Yellow fever has been almost entirely confined to the military hospital, a building located in the suburbs, on the highest hill around the city proper, and about half a mile from the port. The total number of deaths for the last three months has been 273, and those attacked 365, the majority of whom were unacclimated recruits. The troops have been now taken into the country, and the cases of fever have become rare. The shipping has been entirely free from it.”

Naples.—The United States consul, under date of September 14, states that “the number of cases of Asiatic cholera in the city of Naples from the 3d of September to the 13th of September last, both days included, were 117, of which 77 were followed by death. The entire country surrounding Naples is quite infected with cholera, but it is impossible to ascertain the exact truth, as the authorities are very reticent in regard to the actual state of affairs.”

Rome.—The United States consul-general, under date of September 8, with reference to cholera, states that “from August 25 to September 8, inclusive, there have been in this city 109 new cases and 56 deaths. Since my dispatch of August 25 there have been further cases of cholera at Tivoli and various villages of the province. The precise number of cases is not obtainable, but the mortality is said to be about 60 per cent.”

Messina.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated September 13, states that “with regard to the cholera in Messina this summer, I have the honor to report that a refugee from Catania arrived in this city July 4, and died of cholera two days later. His nurse died on the 10th, whereupon the authorities ordered a thorough cleaning up and disinfecting of the streets and lanes, and prohibited the sale of stale meats, fish, vegetables, and fruits in the market. Two other imported cases of cholera, both of which proved fatal, occurred during the month of July. August 6 I telegraphed to the Department ‘yesterday 3 deaths from cholera, originating here.’ These cases greatly alarmed all classes, and a general stampede from the city followed. The retail trade of Messina has suffered seriously from this exodus, and as the Mediterranean countries established quarantines of from 5 to 21 days against arrivals from Sicily, the movement of foreign shipping has been small

this summer. Up to the 10th instant the port authorities continued to give clean bills of health. The record of cases and of deaths from cholera in the province of Messina from July 4 to September 8 is 71 cases and 45 deaths, of which 55 cases and 34 deaths occurred in the city of Messina. From August 28 to September 8 but two cases of cholera have occurred; the sanitary precautions were suspended and, confidence being restored, thousands of refugees returned to the city for the municipal election, September 8. Cholera reappeared in an aggravated form on the 10th instant. From Saturday morning to Monday midnight 158 cases and 66 deaths have been reported.”

MORTALITY TABLE, FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—						
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Small-pox.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.
Paris.....	September 3.....	2,260,045	904	.....	.....	9	.....	35	.....	27
Paris.....	September 10.....	2,260,045	842	.....	.....	7	.....	42	5	19
Paris.....	September 17.....	2,260,045	893	.....	.....	6	.....	27	1	17
Glasgow.....	September 17.....	545,678	193	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	6	1
Warsaw.....	September 10.....	439,174	289	.....	.....	18	.....	.....	11	8
Calcutta.....	August 13.....	433,219	163	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Calcutta.....	August 20.....	433,219	184	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Amsterdam.....	September 17.....	378,686	139	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	4
Rio de Janeiro.....	August 27.....	300,000	411	.....	.....	181	.....	2	.....	8
Rio de Janeiro.....	September 3.....	300,000	419	.....	1	170	.....	2	.....	3
Munich.....	September 10.....	269,000	171	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	6
Edinburgh.....	September 17.....	258,629	81	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....
Palermo.....	September 18.....	250,000	123	35	.....	.....	.....	1	3	1
Belfast.....	September 17.....	224,422	95	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3	.....
Havana.....	September 22.....	208,000	165	.....	4	49	.....	4	.....	1
Genoa.....	September 17.....	179,483	65	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Leipsic.....	September 17.....	170,000	68	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	6
Trieste.....	September 9.....	150,157	94	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	1	2
Stuttgart.....	September 17.....	125,570	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Toronto.....	October 1.....	120,000	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Havre.....	September 17.....	112,074	91	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	.....
Leghorn.....	September 18.....	101,357	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Rheims.....	September 17.....	97,903	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Leith.....	September 17.....	72,297	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Mayence.....	September 3.....	65,701	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Cienfuegos.....	September 19.....	35,464	25	.....	3	1	.....	1	.....	.....
Cienfuegos.....	September 26.....	35,464	13	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vera Cruz.....	September 22.....	23,800	22	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gibraltar.....	September 10.....	23,631	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Guayaquil.....	September 15.....	30,000	41	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....

New York Quarantine—Cholera.—The following communication has been received from Dr. Wm. H. Smith, health officer at the port of New York, under date of the 5th instant:

“The steamship ‘Alesia,’ from Marseilles, August 29, and Naples, October 3, with most of her cargo taken at Marseilles—at Naples she received her cargo by lighters—arrived at this quarantine and was inspected the morning of September 23. The report of the surgeon showed that there had been eight deaths on board, six of which were unquestionably cholera. All the cases reported were fatal. Four

cases were found in hospital sick with the disease, and four cases were discovered when inspecting the passengers. I may here refer to the fact that the bill of health from the consul at Naples declared that 'there had been many cases of cholera at Naples and vicinity for the last five weeks. The exact number could not be ascertained. The mortality of those attacked is 70 per cent.' (Consular bill of health.) The well passengers were removed the same day to Hoffman island for observation, and the sick to Swinburne Island Hospital. The number of cases on board on arrival was eight; twenty cases have developed among the passengers since they have been under observation to this date; five of those removed from the vessel have died and three recovered. Of those that have developed while in quarantine, nine have died, four have recovered, five are convalescent, and the remaining two are now seriously ill. The disease has been very virulent and rapid in its fatality in a majority of the cases; in several instances patients that were well at inspection in the afternoon were nearly or quite pulseless within twelve hours. At this date there has been no development of cases among the immigrants for the past two days. The steamer was twice washed with scalding water from the boilers through the hose in every accessible part, and immediately after this washed in every part with a solution of corrosive sublimate, two parts to one thousand. The hatches had been closed and sealed and covered with tarpaulin before the passengers were taken on board, except three cabin-passengers, taken at Marseilles. All the immigrants were removed to Hoffman island. Immediately subsequent to the washings with the solution of mercuric chloride, after breaking out the cargo to the bottom of the hold, one hundred pounds of sulphur was burned in the hold, the hatches of the spar-deck being closed for ten or twelve hours. The disinfection by the solution before mentioned was the next day repeated, every accessible portion of the vessel being washed with it by brooms or sponges, followed by the combustion of one hundred and fifty pounds of sulphur, the hatches being again closed until the following morning. Every textile fabric—carpets, mats, the dunnage and clothing of the crew—were immersed in boiling water for a considerable time by the introduction of steam through hose attached to the boilers. Finally, all exposed portions of the steamer, except the saloons, including the fore-castle, were repainted. The steamer was detained in the lower bay fourteen days. The well passengers were removed to Hoffman island for observation, and the sick to Swinburne Island Hospital the day of their arrival at quarantine. The cleansing and disinfection of the baggage of the immigrants commenced immediately thereafter. A large tank that can be securely closed, having a perforated pipe, and extending from the bottom to the under side of the lid, and connecting with a large boiler used for heating the buildings, is used in part for the disinfection. Two rooms 15 by 20 feet each, made as close as possible, are used to disinfect by the combustion of sulphur. Each piece of baggage and every article of clothing have been subjected to sulphurous-acid gas thus produced for several hours, in the ratio of three pounds to each one thousand cubic feet of air-space. The disinfection by moist-steam heat has been at the same time constantly in progress—the clothing is subjected to this process for at least three hours. Barrels of a solution of bi-chloride of mercury of the strength before mentioned are placed in the closets and used to wash them after the dejecta of each person has been removed by the flush from the tanks

above the hopper of the closet. Every day the floors of the large buildings, each 50 by about 150 feet, are washed with a solution of the same article. To-day the subjection of each and every article of baggage has been again commenced, and will be continued until all articles have been again disinfected by the means mentioned. For two days past no new cases have developed. It is well to state that the first cases on the 'Alesia' developed the ninth day after the steamer left Naples. It is as yet an open question whether the cases that have developed on Hoffman island arose from infection contracted from the same source that gave rise to the deaths on board the steamer, or from sources that were transferred to Hoffman island with the passengers. There is every reason to believe at this writing that the infection among the immigrants is destroyed, except, possibly, that its development may be exceptionally long delayed in cases which may occur."

UNITED STATES.

Key West, Fla.—Yellow fever.—Dr. J. Y. Porter, president of the board of health, reports by telegraph, under date of October 6, that 3 cases have been reported since September 30, at the village of Progreso, two miles from the city, making for the month of September 6 cases and 1 death. None since. The epidemic is over.

LATER.—Tampa, Fla.—October 7, 20 cases and 4 deaths from yellow fever were reported. A panic prevails in the city.

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