

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 November 11, 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 October 22 corresponded to an annual rate of 19.8 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,244,099. The lowest rate was recorded in Norwich, viz., 15.7, and the highest in Manchester, viz., 26.4 a thousand. Small-pox caused 7 deaths in Sheffield and 1 in Bristol.

London.—One thousand five hundred and sixty-six deaths were registered during the week ended October 22, including 18 from measles, 58 from scarlet fever, 21 from diphtheria, 36 from whooping-cough, 17 from enteric fever, and 11 from diarrhoea and dysentery. There were 370 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs. Different forms of violence caused 61 deaths, and 6 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 19.4 a thousand. In greater London 1,913 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 18.4 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 10 deaths from diphtheria, 9 from scarlet fever, 8 from measles, and 6 from whooping-cough were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended October 22 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 21.9 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Lisburn, viz., 9.7, and the highest in Drogheda, viz., 38.1 a thousand.

Dublin.—One hundred and sixty-three deaths were registered during the week ended October 22, including 5 from measles, 4 from whooping-cough, 8 from scarlet fever, 6 from enteric fever, and 6 from diarrhoea. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 32 deaths. Five accidental deaths were registered, and in 21 instances the causes of death were

uncertified. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 24.1 a thousand.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended October 22 corresponded to an annual rate of 19.1 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Aberdeen, viz., 13.3, and the highest in Perth, viz., 34.0 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 478, including 5 from measles, 22 from scarlet fever, 7 from diphtheria, 16 from whooping-cough, 6 from fever, 10 from diarrhoea, and 2 from small-pox.

Messina.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated October 12, 1887, says :

“Messina numbers within its old walls 70,000 inhabitants. The narrow streets of one-fourth of the city proper, the most densely populated section, are unpaved. The suburbs, with a population of 50,000 inhabitants, are also unpaved. As there is a sad lack of privies throughout the city, slops are thrown into many of the streets. The sewers, insufficient in number, empty on a narrow strip of beach that runs along the quay ; this beach is exposed to the sun except at high tide. The tide in the Straits of Messina is about 10 inches. There are no means of flushing these sewers ; the winter rains alone cleanse them. During the summer, the dry season, the sewer-gratings are tightly plugged up, as the stench from them is very great. The drinking-water is drawn from wells and public fountains fed by mountain-streams, which are generally tapped too near the town ; frequently the water, before it has entered the porous earthen pipes, has been used by the country people for washing purposes. As stated in my dispatch No. 39, dated September 13, but 2 cases of cholera occurring from August 27 to September 8, confidence was restored and refugees returned to the city in great numbers for the municipal election of September 8. On September 10 the epidemic broke out most suddenly, and in an aggravated form. For ten days the disease ran its course unchecked. The greatest number of deaths (there is no record of the number of cases) were reported September 14, 256 in twenty-four hours. On the 20th arrived Professor Canalis, sent by the minister of the interior. He at once took charge of the sanitary bureau, disinfected certain portions of the city, established steam-engines to supply the citizens with boiled water, ordered pure drinking-water to be sent from the continent, and closed the wells and fountains. As soon as these salutary measures were carried out the epidemic abated, and atmospheric changes ceased to influence the disease. The cessation of the scourge is due to Professor Canalis's energy. Well-boats will continue to supply the city with drinking-water until pure water from the mountains can be introduced ; pipes are now being laid for that purpose. The recent epidemic resembles in character the Tonquin cholera, introduced into Europe a few years ago by the French. It has become, however, somewhat modified, the first two stages running rapidly into the third, the three stages not being well defined, as in Asia. The remedies used in the first stage were laudanum and chlorodyne, and hypodermic injections of morphine, the limbs being rubbed with spirits of camphor or brandy. In the cold stage hypodermic injections of a

solution of citrate of ammoniated iron have proved of great value. * * * Between September 10 and 25, 34 per cent. of persons attacked died. A visit to the cholera burying-ground three days ago showed the mortality to have been greater than reported, 2,100 corpses having been interred there since the outbreak. During the epidemic soup-kitchens were opened for the indigent. * * * The cholera was particularly fatal to the old, the weak, and the very young, and was confined, with but few exceptions, to the poor. The epidemic is now virtually over; but 4 cases and 1 death have been reported for the last twenty-four hours. The streets are still deserted, and commerce and trade are at a stand-still. Quarantine has not been enforced in the Sicilian ports this past season."

Palermo.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated October 17, 1887, relative to cholera in that city, states that "only 5 cases thereof and 7 deaths occurred therefrom during the seven days ended the 16th instant, a diminution of 6 cases and of 1 death compared with last week. The 2 deaths in excess of the cases reported are from the preceding week."

Rome.—The United States consul-general, in his dispatch dated October 16, relative to cholera, states that "from October 8, 1887, to and including October 15, 1887, there were buried in this city 16 persons who had died of cholera. On October 15 there were from 20 to 25 cholera patients in the lazaretto, and about 100 persons in the house of observation, who had been exposed to the disease."

Santiago de Cuba.—The United States consul states, under date of October 29, 1887, that "small-pox may be said to have disappeared as an epidemic, only 1 death and 3 invasions having been recorded for the week. Scarlet fever has gradually decreased, only a few cases and no deaths being noted. Yellow fever still exists at the military hospital among the soldiers, but causing less deaths than last week, only 3 being recorded, and 5 cases. One case also has appeared in the town, but the patient recovered. * * * The port is perfectly clean, no sickness having been noted on any of the vessels."

Ning-Po.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated September 29, 1887, says:

"I have to report, as to the health of this village and city, there is a marked change for the better. There is no sickness among our foreign population in the village."

Havana.—Seven hundred and ninety-two deaths are reported for the month of October, 1887, including 35 from yellow fever, 270 from small-pox, 14 from enteric fever, 2 from bilious fever, 20 from pernicious fever, 5 from diphtheria, 6 from croup, and 1 from measles. The sanitary inspector reports that "small-pox is reported as extending itself to different places in the island, and Matanzas is said to be suffering

from it. It is believed that the percentage of mortality is not as great as it was a month or two ago, but the number of cases has not diminished."

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.....	October 15.....	2,260,045	847	.....	.....	5	.....	21	5	18
Glasgow.....	October 22.....	487,948	186	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	3
Warsaw.....	October 8.....	439,174	267	.....	.....	17	.....	.....	11	12
Amsterdam....	October 15.....	378,686	131	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Rome.....	August 20.....	300,467	151	.....	.....	1	.....	7	.....	.....
Rome.....	August 27.....	300,467	148	.....	.....	2	.....	3	.....	.....
Munich.....	October 15.....	269,000	130	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	3
Belfast.....	October 15.....	224,422	98	.....	.....	.....	2	1	2	1
Havana.....	October 27.....	208,000	172	.....	9	58	.....	4	.....	.....
Leipsic.....	October 22.....	170,000	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	4
Trieste.....	October 15.....	148,245	74	.....	.....	8	.....	1	1	1
Stuttgart.....	October 22.....	125,510	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Toronto.....	October 29.....	125,000	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	3
Leghorn.....	October 23.....	101,357	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....
Cienfuegos.....	October 24.....	35,464	17	.....	2	2	.....	2	.....	.....
Gibraltar.....	October 16.....	23,631	8	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....

UNITED STATES.

New York quarantine—Cholera.—Dr. Wm. M. Smith, health officer, telegraphs as follows, under date of November 8, 1887:

"There have been no cases of cholera among passengers of 'Alesia' for last twenty-three days. None among those of the 'Britannia' for eleven days. I have reason to believe there will be no further developments among these immigrants."

Tampa, Fla.—Yellow fever.—The total number of cases to 10th instant is approximately, 350; total deaths, 61. Total number of cases for the week ended the 9th instant, 22; total number of deaths for the week, 13. Total number admitted to hospital, 39; total deaths from hospital, 3; remaining in hospital under treatment, 16. New cases for yesterday, 7; in the country, six miles from town, 2—total, 9; 1 death.

November 11: "Four new cases and two deaths. Authentic information reaches here that yellow fever has appeared in Manatee. Three deaths. Doctors divided in opinion. I hear there are about 16 cases. Population about 300."

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.