

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., March 9, 1888.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended March 9, 1888, 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 February 18 corresponded to an annual rate of 20.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Birkenhead, viz., 14.1, and the highest in Wolverhampton, viz., 29.4 a thousand. Small-pox caused 30 deaths in Sheffield, 2 in Bristol, 2 in Leeds, 1 in London, 1 in Manchester, and 1 in Nottingham.

London.—One thousand six hundred and eighty-nine deaths were registered during the week, including 14 from measles; scarlet fever, 30; diphtheria, 18; whooping-cough, 122; enteric fever, 18; diarrhœa and dysentery, 8; and small-pox, 1. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 487 deaths; different forms of violence, 39; and 2 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 20.6 a thousand. In greater London 2,147 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 20.3 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 8 deaths from diphtheria, and whooping-cough, 46, were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended February 18 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 28.3 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Kilkenny, viz., 12.7, and the highest in Drogheda, viz., 93.0 a thousand. In Dublin 175 deaths were registered, including 1 from measles; whooping-cough, 4; scarlet fever, 7; diarrhœa, 2; typhus, 1; diphtheria, 1; erysipelas, 1; and mumps, 1.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended February 18 corresponded to an annual rate of 22.5 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Greenock, viz., 13.5, and the highest in Paisley, viz., 30.4 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 568, including 8 from measles; diphtheria, 13; scarlet fever, 5; whooping-cough, 21; fever, 4; and diarrhœa, 11.

Lima.—The United States minister, in his dispatch dated January 25, 1888, transmits copies and translations from two daily papers; also a copy and translation of an official cablegram from the Peruvian consul at Guayaquil; also a copy and translation of a decree issued by the Minister of Justice, Señor García, that the shipping from Guayaquil be submitted to five days' quarantine, with a medical officer on board. The following are the copies:

VALPARAISO, *January 13, 1888.*

Valparaiso, yesterday, 55; deaths, 20. Santiago, yesterday, 46; deaths, 16. Peruvian consul communicates cholera at Concepcion; Talcahuano and neighboring ports, probable infection. In southern provinces it continues. Cholera at Salta, Argentine.

VALPARAISO, *January 17, 1888.*

Valparaiso—attacked, 60; deaths, 36. Santiago, 35; deaths, 11. Continues south. Suspicious cases at La Serena.

GUAYAQUIL, *January 15, 1888.*

With change of season yellow-fever cases have appeared. Steamships "Colombia" and "Pizarro" carry foul (patente) bill of health.

LIMA, *January 17, 1888.*

In to-day's session the board agreed that the shipping from Guayaquil be submitted to five days' quarantine, with medical officer on board, the Callao board being charged with the ordering of the measures they may deem most proper for the fulfillment of this accord.

Santiago de Cuba.—The sanitary inspector reports, for the week ended February 25, that "the sanitary condition of this city has been good for this week. We have no contagious or infectious maladies to record, either in the towns or the harbor. Only 1 case of yellow fever at the military hospital, ending fatally, and no other cases of it in the hospital. * * * Tetanus enters largely into the mortality of the week. This is owing to the changeable state of the temperature. The case of the adult who died of it is curious in this respect, that he was attending on a sick horse that died of tetanus. If the theory of the equine origin of tetanus is true, then this case seems to prove its truthfulness."

Callao.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated February 11, 1888, regarding cholera, states that "under date of the 2d instant,

the Peruvian medical representative cables that at Valparaiso there were only 17 new cases and 4 deaths. At Santiago, 27 new cases and 7 deaths. In the southern towns of Curico, Parrol, and Concepcion disease declining, and in the north, at Serena and Chalinga, only a few cases. From other information received the last-mentioned cases did not present the characteristic symptoms of Asiatic cholera, and little alarm was manifested. The Peruvian consul at Guayaquil reports that yellow fever at that place had almost disappeared. The honorable Mr. Buck, United States minister to Peru, arrived here by the steamer from Panama on the 30th ultimo, and, owing to one fatal case of yellow fever which occurred on board the vessel, the passengers have been kept in strict quarantine until to-day, when they were allowed to land. The public health of Lima and Callao continues to be satisfactory."

Demerara.—The United States consul, under date of February 14, 1888, states that "yellow fever has broken out in this city, but fortunately very few cases have occurred. Up to date 10 cases have been reported, 3 of which have proved fatal. The last death occurred on the 10th ultimo. Should no further cases occur, in a few days this consulate will issue clean bills of health."

Buenos Ayres.—One thousand one hundred and thirty-seven deaths are reported for the month of December, 1887, including small-pox, 95; enteric fever, 28; scarlet fever, 2; and diphtheria, 68.

Bordeaux.—Six hundred and twenty-nine deaths are reported for the month of January, 1888, including small-pox, 3; enteric fever, 30; scarlet fever, 1; and diphtheria and croup, 13.

Havana.—The sanitary inspector reports 608 deaths for the month of February, 1888, including yellow fever, 7; small-pox, 140; enteric fever, 10; so-called pernicious fever, 10; diphtheria, 6; and croup, 5. "Although small-pox still prevails pretty actively in many places of the middle and western departments of this island, the disease, as far as mortality from it furnishes a criterion to judge by, is diminishing considerably in Havana and its immediate vicinity. It is said, however, that the epidemic is milder in type than it was a month or two ago, and as no report of cases is made to any person, board, or body, it is not easy to even approximate at all closely to the actual number of cases existing. Yellow fever has within the last few days shown a little increased activity, and has made several victims among employés of different establishments, who have in the main been sent to the 'Quinta de los Dependiente.' As usual, several cases exist in the military hospital, which is located contiguous to one of the commercial wharves of this port."

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.
Glasgow.....	February 18...	545, 678	262					1	4	6
Warsaw.....	February 11.....	439, 174	220						8	5
Calcutta.....	January 21.....	433, 219	262	19		9				1
Amsterdam.....	February 11.....	389, 916	240					2		4
Rome.....	January 7.....	382, 973	216			6		1	2	4
Munich.....	February 4.....	275, 000	152							6
Palermo.....	February 19.....	250, 000	129					3	2	6
Belfast.....	February 18.....	224, 422	124						1	2
Havana.....	February 25.....	208, 000	147		4	29		2		2
Lepsic.....	February 18.....	170, 000	63					1	2	2
Trieste.....	February 11.....	154, 500	117			4		1	1	3
Toronto.....	February 25.....	130, 000	23							3
Bremen.....	February 11.....	122, 000	39						1	
Havre.....	February 18.....	112, 074	101			4		1		
Barmen.....	February 18.....	109, 000	40							1
Mayence.....	February 11.....	65, 701	26					1	1	1
Cienfuegos.....	February 27.....	35, 464	37							
Guayaquil.....	February 6.....	30, 000	62		4	16		16		
Guayaquil.....	February 13.....	30, 000	74		7	11		23		
Sagua La Grande...	February 18.....	15, 605	12			2				
Sagua La Grande...	February 25.....	15, 605	10			6				

UNITED STATES.

The medical officer in charge of the United States quarantine station at Sapelo Sound reports that the German bark "Vesta," sent to that station on the 25th ultimo as suspicious, though dirty and arriving from a small-pox infected district, was not herself infected, and was therefore only detained for one precautionary fumigation. The disease on board, he reports, was bilious remittent fever.

Key West.—The medical officer in charge of the United States Marine Hospital at Key West reports, under date of February 29, 1888, a total of 7 cases of small-pox, with 2 deaths, 3 recoveries, and 2 still sick. A small pest-house is being erected by the county board of health. He also reports, under date of March 3, that the municipal authorities have recently passed an ordinance establishing a city health department, and reviving the office of city health officer. A number of the business men of the city have also had a meeting to organize an auxiliary sanitary association for the purpose of purchasing and operating an odorless excavating machinery. It is estimated that there are three thousand privy-vaults upon the island, consisting mainly of excavations in the ground, not water-tight, and often in proximity to leaky cisterns upon the same level.

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