

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., March 30, 1888.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended March 30, 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 March 10 corresponded to an annual rate of 23.3 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Halifax, viz., 15.0, and the highest in Manchester, viz., 31.3 a thousand. Small-pox caused 29 deaths in Sheffield, 3 in Oldham, 2 in Manchester, and 2 in Blackburn.

London.—One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six deaths were registered during the week, including 2 from small-pox; measles, 21; scarlet fever, 29; diphtheria, 24; whooping-cough, 101; enteric fever, 20; diarrhoea and dysentery, 17. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 490 deaths; different forms of violence, 51; and 6 suicides were registered. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 23.0 a thousand. In greater London 2,385 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 22.5 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 38 deaths from whooping-cough were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended March 10 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 32.3 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Drogheda, viz., 0.0, and the highest in Wexford, viz., 47.0 a thousand. In Dublin 224 deaths were registered, including 2 from diphtheria; measles, 4; whooping-cough, 7; scarlet fever, 5; typhus, 1; and enteric fever, 1.

Marseilles.—One thousand and thirty deaths were registered during the month of February, 1888, including small-pox, 12; enteric fever, 21; scarlet fever, 2; diphtheria and croup, 46; and measles, 18.

Denmark.—The quarantine order issued by the Danish Government, under date of February 24, 1888, includes the following: Quarantine measures are to be enforced with regard to ports on the Swedish coast between Malmö and Landskrona; all ports of Chili, Florida, Jamaica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Cuba, East Indies, Tonkin, and Cochin China; Trieste; all ports of Egypt; Red Sea ports; Rio Janeiro; and Havana. The prohibition against the importation into the kingdom of used linen, used articles of clothing, and used bed-clothes—providing the articles named do not constitute the personal effects of travelers—rags, waste cotton and wool, refuse paper, hair, and hides, remains in force. In addition thereto, special attention is to be paid to the cleansing, under official inspection, of linen, clothing, and bed-clothing brought from Rio Janeiro and Havana as the effects of travelers.

Martinique.—The United States consul, in his dispatch under date of March 3, 1888, states that “small-pox in an epidemic form has been spreading here, and while it is difficult to arrive at the exact number of cases, there are presumed to be in this island nearly three thousand persons affected, there being forty deaths or more during the last week. Fortunately the disease seems to be a mild form, and it is here hoped that it will speedily run its course, many persons having been vaccinated.”

Santiago, Chili.—The United States *chargé d'affaires ad interim*, in his dispatch dated January 31, 1888, with reference to cholera, states that “the disease has not increased, but rather gradually diminished here. The average number of deaths from it daily, which at the latter date was about 20, has declined to from 10 to 12. This in a population of 200,000 inhabitants is not alarming. About the middle of December the disease appeared in Valparaiso, spreading with unusual rapidity, causing the number of deaths to exceed 30 a day in a population a little more than half that of the capital. Happily the disease has diminished there too, so that the number of deaths of cholera as published in the bulletins average from 8 to 12 daily at present. There is more or less cholera through the provinces, especially to the south, and the number of deaths from it may approximately be estimated from 30 to 40 daily. Wherever it appears it is promptly met by medical aid. There is no unusual excitement or fear manifested by the public, and business and amusements are going on as usual. Many of the well-to-do people have

gone to their estates or to the sea-side to escape the hot days at the capital. Congress will adjourn in a few days, and the president, with most of the cabinet and other officials, will remove to Valparaiso and Viña del Mar, to remain until about the 1st of April.

Havana.—Three deaths from yellow fever and 21 from small-pox are reported for the week ended March 17, 1888.

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.....	March 10.....	2,260,945	1,253			11		14	3	34
Glasgow.....	March 10.....	545,678	297					7	3	5
Warsaw.....	March 3.....	439,174	202			8				5
Calcutta.....	February 11..	433,219	235	31						1
Amsterdam.....	March 3.....	389,916	198					1		1
Amsterdam.....	March 10.....	389,916	213				1			8
Rome.....	February 4.....	382,973	279			2				2
Munich.....	February 25..	275,000	144					1	1	1
Palermo.....	March 12.....	250,000	127				1	3	2	1
Belfast.....	March 10.....	227,022	148					2	2	
Genoa.....	March 10.....	179,329	132			6				3
Leipsic.....	March 10.....	170,000	92						1	9
Trieste.....	March 3.....	154,500	119			7				3
Toronto.....	March 17.....	130,000	24						1	4
Stuttgart.....	March 10.....	125,510	43							1
Bremen.....	March 3.....	122,000	58					1		1
Barmen.....	March 10.....	109,000	47							1
Merida.....	March 13.....	48,711	44					3		
Guayaquil.....	February 19..	30,000	89		6	10		31		
Guayaquil.....	February 26..	30,000	74		3	13		29		
Gibraltar.....	March 4.....	23,631	18							1
Sagua la Grande.....	March 10.....	15,605	10			7				

UNITED STATES.

The following report by the Senate Committee on Epidemic Diseases, in relation to seaboard quarantines, is republished for the information of quarantine authorities:

Mr. HARRIS, from the Committee on Epidemic Diseases, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2493.]

The Committee on Epidemic Diseases has had under consideration several bills, resolutions, and memorials, as follows:

Senate bill 665, "To establish a quarantine station at the port of San Francisco;"

Senate bill 1641, "To establish a permanent quarantine station at or near Cape Charles, Virginia;"

Resolutions of the legislature of the State of Virginia in the nature of a memorial, asking the establishment of a quarantine station at Cape Charles;

Resolutions of the Board of Trade of Chester, Pa.;

Petition of the Board of Health of Rockford, Ill.;

Resolutions of the Board of Health of Charleston, S. C.;

Petition of the Medical Society of San Diego, Cal.;

and Resolutions of the American Public Health Association;

All urging the establishment of national quarantine at the points of danger upon the Gulf and sea coast.

The committee reports an original bill, providing for the establishment of seven quarantine stations upon the coast, in addition to the one already provided for at the mouth of the Mississippi River by special act of the present session. The two bills above referred to are therefore reported back with the recommendation that they be indefinitely postponed.

The Public Health Association of America, at its annual meeting in November, 1887, by resolutions, earnestly urge the establishment, thorough equipment, and maintenance of a system of coast quarantine.

Many other sanitary organizations have earnestly urged the same policy, and so far as the committee is advised every sanitary organization in the country appreciates its importance and earnestly recommends its adoption.

These bills, resolutions, and memorials were referred by the committee to the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, for such suggestions as in his opinion the subject merits, and the following communication was addressed to the committee by that officer:

The time has come when the judgment of sanitarians has passed beyond the realm of speculation in the matter of quarantine. That word no longer means the detention on board of a vessel for a period of "forty days" of the ill-fated passengers and crew of a suspected vessel. It means the speedy removal of the sick to a comfortable hospital, the disinfection and cleansing of the vessel, and her restoration to the commercial fleet at the earliest possible date, the lightening and removal of the cargo and the cleansing of the bilge. Clean ships are not *per se* carriers of infection, foul ones are; and the time will doubtless come when enlightened sanitary legislation will enact a penalty for maintaining a foul vessel as a pestilence breeder, and when the time shall come when we shall have only clean ships sailing from clean ports, then our quarantine stations may be made inspection stations only, but for many years it will be necessary to rigidly enforce quarantine measures as now practiced and outlined above.

Those most interested being agreed that the maintenance of the sea-board quarantines is of the first necessity, it therefore follows that those establishments should be well built and kept supplied with the latest and most improved sanitary appliances for the work. To that end the accompanying bill has been framed, and attached to this report are detailed reasons for the establishment of each quarantine named in the bill, together with an estimate of the cost of the same. Included in the estimate is the amount considered necessary for the maintenance of the stations for the first year. Moreover, the season is now rapidly approaching when epidemic diseases will again increase, and what is done to be of avail this year should be done quickly.

Estimated cost and annual expense of national quarantine stations on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, recommended to be established and properly equipped.

The stations starred are in temporary use by the Government, but are not properly equipped, the expenses thereof being borne out of the contingent fund at the disposal of the President for the prevention of the spread of epidemic diseases, and the maintenance of quarantine at points of danger.

* DELAWARE BREAKWATER.

(Site owned by the Government.)

Disinfecting machinery.....	\$20,000
Steam-tug.....	30,000
Warehouse and additional buildings.....	10,000
Annual expenses.....	10,000
Total.....	70,000

There is at present at this station a small hospital and boat-house, which will answer for the present. This quarantine station is necessary for the quarantine service of the populous States bordering on the Delaware River.

Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey are each interested in its maintenance. The Lazaretto, just below Philadelphia, is not located at a safe distance from the shore, nor is it possible in the Delaware River to find a site for a quarantine station free from objection. The Philadelphia Board of Health and the State boards of health of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the Delaware health authorities have recommended and urged the proper equipment of this station. There is an iron pier inside the breakwater owned by the Government that could be utilized when required. A steam-tug is necessary, not only for boarding purposes, but for the removal of the sick and for the maintenance of a patrol to prevent communication between vessels in quarantine and vessels at anchor. This breakwater is a port of call, where vessels from foreign ports lie to await orders to destination.

The "disinfecting machine" estimated for this and other quarantines is a machine on a tug-boat as is now used by the Louisiana Board of Health. It is believed by most sanitary authorities to be the best in the world. Its use admits of the most speedy disinfection and restoration of the vessel to the commercial fleet. Drying chambers for ships' bedding, sailors' luggage, &c., can be provided for when the warehouses are built.

* CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA.

Purchase of site.....	\$5,000
Construction of wharf.....	3,000
Hospital buildings and officers' quarters.....	37,000
Floating disinfecting machinery.....	25,000
Steam-tug.....	30,000
Annual expenses.....	12,000
Total.....	112,000

This station is necessary for the quarantine service of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. In the latter State there is a small, poorly equipped station at Hawkins' Point, on the Patapsco, 7 miles below Baltimore, but no protection is afforded the eastern shore of Maryland, nor the point between the bay and the Potomac. All points on the Potomac, Rappahannock, and James Rivers are now without quarantine facilities other than the present temporary station at the Capes. Fisherman's Island, which has been offered to the Government for \$5,000, has been chosen as the best site for the quarantine. The character of the shifting sands and difficult foundation makes it necessary to ask for more money for buildings than at some other places. Like the Breakwater, Hampton Roads is also a place of call.

*SAPELO, SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION.

(Site owned by the Government.)

Disinfecting machinery.....	\$20,000
Warehouse and wharf.....	10,000
Small boats.....	500
Annual expenses.....	8,000
Total.....	38,500

This station is intended as a refuge station for the South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida coasts. The business of first boarding is done by the local health inspectors at Charleston, Savannah, Brunswick, Fernandina, and other ports interested, and when a vessel is to be quarantined she is ordered to Sapelo Station for that purpose. No steam-tug is deemed necessary at this station. The island (Blackbeard) on which the quarantine is located is owned by the Government. The estimated annual expenses are less than either the Breakwater or Cape Charles Station, because the business will be less and no steamboat will be required. The boards of health on the South Atlantic now use this station as above indicated, although imperfectly equipped, and all attempts to suspend it have been met by repeated protests.

*GULF QUARANTINE (FORMERLY SHIP ISLAND).

Appropriation for hospital and appliances already made, and site provided for by special act.....	\$45,000
Annual running expenses to be appropriated.....	15,000
Total.....	60,000

This station is the refuge station for the entire Gulf coast west of Pensacola. A board has been detailed to select the site under the recent act of Congress directing the removal of the station, and the general expenses are provided for under that act. Government land will doubtless be chosen for the site.

NEAR KEY WEST, FLA.

Disinfecting machinery.....	\$20,000
Purchase of site (contingent).....	5,000
Warehouse and wharf.....	10,000
Small boats.....	500
Annual expenses.....	10,000
Steam-tug.....	30,000
Hospital buildings and officers' quarters.....	12,500
Total.....	88,000

This station is required on account of the rapidly growing commerce with Cuba, the West Indies, and the Central American ports, nearly all of which are more or less constantly afflicted with yellow fever. The recent disastrous epidemic of yellow fever at Tampa and Key West is an evidence of what may be expected if prompt measures are not at once taken to establish a quarantine station at this point. The Mississippi Delta Station is too far away to properly serve the west coast of Florida, and when it is remembered that at present a person in the incubative stage of yellow fever may pass from Havana to any of the interior cities, the necessity for a careful inspection at this outpost during the dangerous season is apparent. The estimate for the site is made contingent, because inquiry may show that there are already sites owned by the Government. A steam-tug is necessary here for boarding purposes, and to carry supplies to the key that may be selected for the station.

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

Purchase of site.....	\$5,000
Disinfecting machinery.....	20,000
Warehouse and wharf.....	10,000
Small boats.....	500
Annual expenses.....	10,000
Hospital buildings and officers' quarters.....	10,000
Total.....	55,500

This station is necessary on account of the steadily increasing commerce with the Mexican, South American, and Central American coasts. Great alarm has been felt recently on account of the severe and wide-spread epidemic of cholera now existing in Chili, which disease has shown its usually high mortality. During the yellow-fever epidemic, which prevailed recently on the Mexican coast, this port was repeatedly threatened, and the danger is likely to increase rather than diminish. The harbor, the only natural one belonging to the United States south of San Francisco, is the first American port of refuge for American vessels in South Pacific waters, and on this account receives a proportionately large shipping, and since the establishment of interior railway connections the shipping at this port has largely increased.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

(Site owned by the Government.)

Disinfecting machinery.....	\$20,000
Warehouse and wharf.....	10,000
Steam-tug.....	30,000
Small boats.....	1,000
Hospital buildings and officers' quarters.....	24,000
Annual expenses.....	18,000
Total.....	103,000

The necessity of this station has long been recognized, and has been frequently recommended by the Department, and a special report on this station has recently been made to the committee. A site was selected by a board consisting of one medical officer each from the Army, Navy, and Marine-Hospital Service. The board considered a certain portion of Angel Island, now owned by the Government, to be the most suitable place for its establishment. Owing to the great amount of work required to be done the annual expenses will be greater than at most of the other quarantines. There is no local quarantine, and a vessel must lie in the harbor with the sick on board. The local authorities are unanimous in urging the establishment of this station.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Purchase of site.....	\$5,000
Disinfecting machinery.....	20,000
Warehouse and wharf.....	10,000
Small boats.....	500
Annual expenses.....	10,000
Hospital buildings and officers' quarters.....	10,000
Total.....	55,500

This station is necessary on account of its great distance from San Francisco, and the fact of its being the entrepôt to the populous Puget Sound country and the already great and increasing commerce. With the development of Alaska, and the increasing business of the North Pacific Railway, the necessity for the establishment of this station will increase each year.

From this statement it appears that Dr. Hamilton recommends the erection and thorough equipment of seven quarantine stations in addition to the one already provided for at the mouth of the Mississippi River, as follows:

Delaware Breakwater; Cape Charles, Va.; Sapelo Sound; Key West, Fla.; San Diego, Cal.; San Francisco, Cal., and Port Townsend, Oregon.

The estimated aggregate cost of construction and equipment of these quarantine stations, including the one at the mouth of the Mississippi River, is \$489,500, and the estimated aggregate annual cost of maintaining them is \$93,000.

Believing, as the committee does, that it is the duty of Congress to so regulate commerce as to prevent the introduction of contagion from foreign countries into the United States, the accompanying bill is reported, with the recommendation that it pass.

Nantucket.—A dispatch in the New York Herald, of March 30, reports the occurrence of a suspected sporadic case of cholera at the Island of Nantucket, from the wrecked British steamer "Canonbury."

JOHN B. HAMILTON,
Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.