

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., April 26, 1888.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended April 26, 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 April 7 corresponded to an annual rate of 19.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Brighton, viz., 14.8, and the highest in Manchester, viz., 29.7 a thousand. Small-pox caused 14 deaths in Sheffield, 1 in Halifax, 1 in Leeds, and 1 in Manchester.

London.—One thousand five hundred and ninety-three deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 16; scarlet fever, 20; diphtheria, 16; whooping-cough, 89; enteric fever, 20; diarrhoea and dysentery, 17. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 19.4 a thousand. In greater London 1,977 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 18.7 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 27 deaths from whooping-cough; scarlet fever, 5; and diphtheria, 8, were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended April 7 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 27.2 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Sligo, viz., 9.6, and the highest in Drogheda, viz., 46.5 a thousand. In Dublin 188 deaths were registered, including 4 from whooping-cough; measles, 5; scarlet fever, 3; typhus, 2; enteric fever, 3.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended April 7 corresponded to an annual rate of 21.8 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz., 11.2, and the highest in Aberdeen, viz., 26.1 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 551, including 10 from measles; scarlet fever, 3; diphtheria, 4; whooping-cough, 26; fever, 5; and diarrhoea, 3.

Netherlands.—The deaths registered in the principal cities of the Netherlands, having an aggregate population of 1,129,676, during the month of February, 1888, corresponded to an annual rate of 29.9 a thousand. The lowest rate was recorded in Dordrecht, viz., 21.5, and the highest in Utrecht, viz., 37.7.

Singapore.—Three hundred and twenty-nine deaths were registered during the month of February, 1888, including 3 from cholera; small-pox, 8; and fever, 89.

Marseilles.—One thousand one hundred and nine deaths were registered during the month of March, 1888, including small-pox, 7; enteric fever, 25; diphtheria and croup, 54; and measles, 34.

Martinique.—The United States consul, under date of April 3, reports that “from the 15th up to the 31st of March there have been 466 new cases of small-pox at St. Pierre and its environs, and 161 deaths therefrom. At Port de France the disease has almost entirely died out, and here it seems to be diminishing. It still rages in the outlying districts in the country, but I cannot get the statistics.”

There were 734 cases and 193 deaths reported from March 1 to 15, inclusive.

Santiago de Cuba.—One death from yellow fever at the military hospital is reported for the week ended April 14, 1888.

Havana.—Seven deaths from yellow fever and 15 from small-pox are reported for the week ended April 14.

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.....	April 7.....	545,678	246					1	2	1
Warsaw.....	March 31.....	439,174	203			5			4	4
Amsterdam.....	March 31.....	389,916	176					1	1	2
Amsterdam.....	April 7.....	389,916	148							3
Munich.....	March 31.....	275,000	149						3	4
Edinburgh.....	March 31.....	262,733	115					1		4
Palermo.....	April 7.....	250,000	105						8	3
Belfast.....	March 31.....	227,022	183					1		2
Genoa.....	April 7.....	179,407	96							
Trieste.....	March 24.....	154,500	112			4	3			
Trieste.....	March 31.....	154,500	110			1				4
Stuttgart.....	April 7.....	125,510	58			4				1
Bremen.....	March 31.....	122,000	43							
Barmen.....	March 31.....	109,000	43						1	1
Leghorn.....	April 8.....	101,718	56							2
Merida, Yucatan.....	March 27.....	48,832	43					2		
Merida, Yucatan.....	April 3.....	48,832	39							
Cienfuegos.....	April 9.....	40,573	22		1	7				
Gibraltar.....	April 1.....	23,631	11							1
Curacao.....	April 7.....	25,000	5							
Sagua la Grande.....	April 7.....	15,605	7			2				
Antigua.....	April 1.....	15,847	13							
Cartagena, Cola.....	April 7.....	13,000	8							
Laguayra.....	April 7.....	7,428	3							

UNITED STATES.

Boston, Mass.—Small-pox.—A case of small-pox was admitted to the U. S. marine hospital near Boston, April 26. The disease was contracted in New York. An additional case was reported in Boston on the same date.

Key West—Small-pox.—Three cases and 1 death are reported for the ten days ended April 14, 1888.

Ship Island Quarantine Station.—Small-pox.—The medical officer in charge reports that a new case developed on the 15th instant among the crew of the Norwegian barkentine "Professor Lintner," now in quarantine.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following order :

"In accordance with the terms of the act of Congress, dated March 5, 1888, authorizing the selection of an island in the Gulf of Mexico, or in such pass in the Mississippi Delta as may be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, for quarantine purposes, and the board appointed for the purpose of selecting said site having recommended North Chandeleur Island, it is hereby ordered that so much of said island as may be necessary is hereby set apart for quarantine purposes : *Provided*, That the reservation necessary for the purpose of maintaining a light-house shall not be interfered with."

Sapelo Quarantine Station.—The medical officer in charge reports under date of April 20, 1888, that the American schooner "Lillie F. Schmidt," from Charleston, with small-pox on board, has put into Sapelo, and did not therefore go North as she had previously intended.

Portland, Me.—Small-pox.—Two cases of small-pox were reported under date of the 23d instant.

Cape Charles.—Quarantine was opened at this station on the 21st instant.

Florida.—Yellow fever.—The following official reports are published for the information of health officers :

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
DISTRICT OF THE GULF,

Port of Key West, Fla., Surgeon's Office, February 10, 1888.

GENERAL : I have thought for some weeks that it might be proper for me to make you a personal report in regard to some rumors that cases of yellow fever are occurring upon the main-land. The information coming to me being mainly from local sources, and noticing that the report of Dr. Wylly in the Weekly Abstract of January 20 was rather uncertain, I have hesitated to do so, not wishing to appear as an alarmist.

It seems probable, however, that yellow fever is latent in Florida, and, with the approach of warm weather, danger may be apprehended from its spread northward. Cases of black-vomit are said to have occurred at Sanford, and a lady died a few days ago at Tampa with

“acute Bright’s disease,” while a relative here asserts positively that it was yellow fever. A private letter from Dr. Caldwell states that there will be trouble “when the flowers bloom in the spring;” so that, taking it all together, there seem to be some grounds for apprehension. The weather has not been sufficiently cold to kill out the disease, while some of the local physicians either do not know or do not care to recognize yellow fever when they see it, which adds to the danger of its vivification. Possibly a quiet inspection from Palatka to Manatee, in a month or so by a competent man, would serve to give you the exact condition of affairs in this section before the opening of the regular quarantine season; but I wish to report the current opinion in this quarter, rather than to make any recommendations.

With respect, very sincerely yours,

A. H. GLENNAN,
P. A. Surgeon, M.-H. S.

Dr. JOHN B. HAMILTON,
Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service, Washington.

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PLANT CITY, FLA., *March 13, 1888.*

GENERAL: There is yellow fever at this place, and evidently at other places in the State, of which due report will be made.

Suppressive measures are being instituted here. The death rate is low, and cases generally recover in a short time. The greatest desire is held by the health authorities to not have publicity given to the facts in the case, although rumors are spreading rapidly. No panic exists, and the only anxiety is in relation to the news reaching the general public. It is hoped that the press of Florida will not make prominent notice of the state of affairs.

Drs. J. P. Wall, King Wyly, F. H. Caldwell, J. Y. Porter, and others, advise that no public notice be given until a chance is given for complete checking of the fever here where it is most prevalent. In their view I join for many reasons, and trust that your office will consider this confidential.

The stress of duty and temporary loss of my valise prevent me from writing in detail, and from penning a formal letter.

I hope to take the next steamer for Key West.

Frost this morning.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY.

Surgeon-General JNO. B. HAMILTON,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.

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U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
DISTRICT OF THE GULF,
Port of Key West, Fla., Surgeon’s Office, March 17, 1888.

GENERAL: I have the honor to state that in obedience to M.-H. S. letters, Nos. 3079 and 3080 (G. W. S.) of February 16, 1888, I came to this port by way of Florida, and in my passage through the State visited De Funiak, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, Sanford, Apopka, Lakeland, Plant City, and Tampa. Having gained sufficient information, in order to lose no more time I did not visit Kissimmee, Bartow, Dade City, Micanopy, Gainesville, and Manatee,

as I wished to. A full investigation would have consumed six weeks, which time I could not consider at my disposal.

That I sought for unfavorable facts and had no right to make my mission known, made it difficult to get prompt information. The rumors of doubtful fevers, and the frost and ninety-day theories compelled nearly all to be reticent, or, at least, unwilling talkers.

I could get no hint of yellow fever on the line of the railroads through the north end of the State. Some rumors were floating at Sanford of the disease having been at Pensacola during the autumn.

At Jacksonville a continued fever, affecting the highest circle of society *only*, has been prevalent for over two months, resulting in from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent. of deaths, which presents the general characteristics of enteric fever. This name is given by Doctor R. P. Daniel, who has treated most of the cases, and is concurred in by Doctors C. J. Kenworthy, J. D. Fernandez, and A. W. Knight. I fancy that Doctor N. Mitchell considers some of the cases more seriously, and know that Doctor J. C. L'Engle (not a practitioner) holds the idea of a yellow-fever wave overspreading the city.

Similar cases had lately occurred in St. Augustine and Mandarin. In spite of local prejudices and a few unproven charges which arouse suspicion, I think the fever at Jacksonville is enteric, but few doctors in South Florida will join in my opinion.

Dr. J. G. Ames claimed that Palatka had cases of yellow fever in the autumn, but was now free from all suspicion or risk of infection.

Doctors Caldwell and Wyly, at Sanford, insist that the town of Sanford had from 100 to 150 cases in the autumn with 6 deaths, and that mild cases are still occurring as late as my visit—the 6th and 7th—and later, one on the 13th. Georgetown and Mellonville, villages near Sanford, present suspicion. Doctor Herndon bitterly condemns the view of Doctors Wyly and Caldwell, while Doctor Montgomery unwillingly assents to it.

Apopka and the thickly-settled region around it seem to be free from all hints of past or recent fever.

No suspicion is thrown upon the Indian River country.

Lakeland, the junction of the South Florida and Florida Southern Railroads is prostrate in a business point of view from the presence of imported cases during last fall, but it was impossible for me to get any clue to recent cases from Doctors Perry, Derio, Marshall, Hart, Preston, and Vineyard.

At Plant City, junction of Florida Railway and Navigation Railroad with South Florida Railroad, twenty-two miles east of Tampa, cases have occurred since October 5—say, 120 cases and 9 deaths. The last death (the ninth) on March 11; the last case sickened the same day.

On March 8 Mr. Calhoun convalesced at Box Springs, Talbot County, Ga., from yellow fever engendered during one month's stay in Plant City, he having left for his home about February 27.

Tampa is declared free from fever by Drs. J. P. Wall and J. A. Jackson, but as there has been no radical system of cleansing in vogue, the place is by no means above doubt. The lady referred to by Doctor Glennan as dying of acute Bright's disease, *i. e.*, the wife of Doctor Bruce, evidently died of yellow fever about the 20th of January.

At the urgent request of Doctors Wall and Caldwell I disembarked from the steamer at Tampa on the night of the 12th, and returned to Plant City to supervise some sort of cleaning up of the town. Many

acres of dead wood, brush, and rubbish were cleared off and burned; thorough fumigation of every house in the place was begun; lime and copperas were generally scattered about, and bichloriding of all houses and bedding where sickness had occurred was arranged for. Three days of hard work, and inhalation of sulphur and pine smoke gave me a bronchitis from which I still suffer. Micanopy, on the Florida Railway and Navigation Railroad north of Plant City, and Bartow south of Lakeland, are presumably danger points at present.

It is evident to me, painful as the idea is, that the lines of railroad from Tampa to Jacksonville are at various points infested by *fomites* which will, at the proper time, give all the trouble prophesied by Dr. Caldwell. The region south of the South Florida Railroad seems to be more secure, except Manatee, but is by no means safe.

I cannot think the spasmodic and imperfect cleaning of towns will serve to obviate the recurrence of fever, for there is no power or panic to enforce, or even advise, a general and systematic riddance of all supposable *fomites*, retained air, and niduses. Two weeks' prompt work *now* would minify or avert the danger, but there is no common center of authority or confidence to advise sanitation or to subdue the bitterness of last season's quarantines, follies, and failures.

The governor will not, it is said, call a meeting of the legislature. The medical association will not meet till May. The helpless State Health Protective Association is exploded and bankrupt. I wished for privilege to visit more towns to beg for prompt action, but not caring to ask for it or to take it, will try by private letters to arouse the town authorities to work while some chance offers to avert a summer of terror and death.

I cannot see any good to come from a publication of my opinions. Savannah is already warned, and all the chief cities are on the lookout.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glennan is entitled to much credit for his forethought and courage in informing you of the expected and perhaps inevitable damage to the State.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MURRAY,

Surgeon.

Surgeon-General JNO. B. HAMILTON,
U. S. M.-H. S., Washington, D. C.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA,
April 16, 1888.

SIR: Of course you have known of the existence of yellow fever at Plant City this winter; there have been cases throughout the winter but it has been only until recently that there has been any alarm, and that occasioned, I presume, by the advent of warm weather. I cannot say as to what may be the status of affairs there now, but sent the secretary of my board, Doctor Knight, down to-day and shall be thoroughly posted by the latter part of the week. I am in somewhat of a quandary as to just what shall be done, providing Doctor Knight reports a prevalence of the disease, as I have no doubt he will. I do not think it advisable and shall not quarantine at present. The lesson of last year taught the many difficulties of quarantining at such a distance. It is my opinion that each infected locality should, by an effective cordon, be

isolated. This the counties of Florida cannot do, hence, if such a plan is to be adopted, someone with authority and the means for carrying out such requirements as may be deemed best—youself must take the matter in hand.

I will make a few general statements. Last fall yellow fever probably existed at many points along the lines of the South Florida Railroad and Florida Railway and Navigation Railroad, and may be developed at any of these points later in the season. The State, as you know, has no State board of health, hence every county acts for itself, thus inflicting upon the community quarantines which fail to meet the requirements for various reasons, and destroys commerce. You are familiar with cases of this kind, and I wish your advice as to what should be done. I have made but few statements as to the conditions here, because I know you are already acquainted with them. Any suggestions you may make I shall be happy to receive. Our board represents the most powerful county in the State, and carries great weight. I am anxious that everything possible to avert a spread of the disease shall be done, and if you can suggest some plan our board will try to carry it into effect. I shall write Governor Perry to-night. Pardon this hastily written letter.

Respectfully,

NEAL MITCHELL, M. D.,
President Duval County Board of Health.

Surgeon-General HAMILTON.

[Extract.]

HOUSTON, TEX., *April 8, 1888.*

“I have learned from private sources that yellow fever still exists in Tampa. No mention being made in your weekly abstracts, upon which I greatly rely, I have decided that a direct question to you whether or not such is the case would relieve me of all doubts upon the subject.”

R. RUTHERFORD, M. D.,
State Health-Officer.

Dr. Knight's report has not yet been sent by Dr. Mitchell, but an interview with Dr. Knight, published in the *Times-Union* of April 25, states that he found two cases of yellow fever at Plant City, one of which was convalescent and the other likely to prove fatal. The Doctor stated that great activity in the carrying out of the sanitary measures was manifest in the towns visited by him.

Bartow.—The municipal authorities deny either that yellow fever is now present, or that there has been any yellow fever at that place.

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