

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 May 4, 1888, 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 April 14 corresponded to an annual rate of 21.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Portsmouth, viz., 16.8, and the highest in Manchester, viz., 34.9 a thousand. Small-pox caused 11 deaths in Sheffield, 3 in Blackburn, 1 in Bristol, and 1 in Manchester.

London.—One thousand six hundred and ninety-two deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 12; scarlet fever, 17; diphtheria, 19; whooping-cough, 108; enteric fever, 9; diarrhoea and dysentery, 19. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 20.6 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 444 deaths; different forms of violence, 52; and 9 suicides were registered. In greater London 2,075 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 19.6 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 18 deaths from whooping-cough; scarlet fever, 5; diphtheria, 10, and measles, 5, were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended April 14 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 26.9 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Sligo, viz., 9.6, and the highest in Lurgan, viz., 46.2 a thousand. In Dublin 187 deaths were registered, including 7 from whooping-cough; measles, 3; scarlet fever, 1; typhus, 1; enteric fever, 2.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended April 14 corresponded to an annual rate of 20.8 a thousand of

the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz., 14.7, and the highest in Perth, viz., 30.4 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 526, including 5 from measles; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 3; whooping-cough, 20; fever, 8; and diarrhœa, 9.

Buenos Ayres.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated March 1, 1888, inclosed a copy of a report on the health and hygienic condition of Buenos Ayres, from which it is learned that the population of the city (not including Flores and Belgrano, which have recently been annexed to it) is 424,873. The mortality for the year 1887 reached a total of 12,894 deaths, including cholera, 606; small-pox, 1,290; diphtheria, 975; measles, 126; typhoid fever, 279, and scarlet fever, 606. The deaths from infectious diseases amounted to 26 per cent. of the entire mortality. The consul states that “the people of this country have seemed to have a superstitious opposition to vaccination as an interference with Divine Providence, very few of them ever taking the precaution to be vaccinated, while the municipality have taken very few safeguards against its spread. It has now passed an ordinance making vaccination compulsory, and if it is properly enforced it is probable that the death rate from that horrible disease will hereafter be reduced. * * * With an area of upwards of 12,000 acres, and over 50,000 houses, the city is absolutely without either drainage or sewerage, and this in the face of the fact that it has more than doubled its population during the last fifteen years. In the year 1874 a grand scheme of complete drainage for both streets and houses was inaugurated, and nearly fifteen millions of dollars have already been expended in its construction. The street sewers are now almost ready for use, and would be of some utility were it not that the principal outlet or siphon which is to receive the accumulations of the drains and carry them into the river Plate, about 12 miles below the city, has not yet been commenced. Besides this, not a single house has yet been connected with the street drains. * * * Under these circumstances, the wonder is not that the health of Buenos Ayres is not satisfactory, but that the death rate is not greater than it is. In spite of the want of drainage, however, the city has all these years kept remarkably free from epidemics. Not since 1869, when over 20,000 inhabitants fell victims to the disease, has there been a single case of yellow fever here. In 1873-’74 and last year Asiatic cholera, imported on immigrant steamers, was somewhat prevalent in the city, as well as in other portions of the country, but on neither occasion was there any very decided development or alarming mortality. Perhaps the reason that

Buenos Ayres has thus far been so fortunate in escaping yellow fever, which every summer is so fatal in Rio Janeiro, is the rigid and carefully-guarded quarantine which, on the least suspicion, is maintained against vessels arriving from Brazil. Last year it was not successful in preventing the introduction of cholera from Italy, but with the precautions which it is intended henceforth to adopt against arrivals from infected ports, it is not probable that Buenos Ayres will have a recurrence of that dread disease. Meanwhile the National Congress, at its last session, made provision for selling the unfinished city sewerage works to the highest and best bidder, with proper guarantees for their completion, the purchaser to have all the privileges of collecting sewerage rates that the municipality possessed. I understand that European capitalists are ready at once to assume the works and finish them before another year shall have elapsed. If this be so, we may expect that Buenos Ayres will once more maintain the position which for two centuries and a half it occupied, of being the healthiest city with the best climate of any port in the world."

Callao.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated March 27, 1888, inclosed a copy and translation of the convention signed at Lima, on the 12th March, by the delegates to the American Sanitary Congress convened under the auspices of Peru. The consul states: "I am informed by the Foreign Office that this convention must yet be approved by the Congresses of the contracting Republics, but it is understood that this approbation will be granted, since on the respective delegates were conferred full powers. The stipulation that no further closing of ports shall be resorted to is one of very great importance as regards commercial interests and personal convenience."

The convention contains seventeen articles, and, among other things, the contracting countries agree in declaring exotic pestilential diseases: yellow fever, Asiatic cholera, plague. An infected port, that in which any of said diseases may epidemically exist. A suspected port, that in which appears one or another isolated case of either of the three pestilential diseases; that which may have easy and frequent communication with infected localities; that which does not sufficiently protect itself against infected localities. An infected ship or vessel, that on board of which may have occurred a case of pestilential disease. A suspected ship or vessel, that proceeding from an infected or suspected port, may not have had on board during the voyage any case of pestilential disease; that which, although proceeding from a healthy port, may have touched at one infected or suspected; that which, during the voyage or in distress, may have communicated with a vessel of un-

known infected or suspected procedure; that which may have had on board deaths from no determinate cause, or repeated cases of any disease whatever.

“For the proper carrying out of the sanitary service, an international regulation shall be issued uniforming general measures and those especially applicable to other countries. The contracting countries oblige themselves to establish the lazarettos that may be necessary, and permanent lazarettos are to be located on islands; to establish floating hospitals adjacent to the permanent lazarettos, for the treatment of persons attacked by exotic pestilential diseases on the vessels which may arrive or those already at anchor.”

Havana.—Four deaths from yellow fever and 10 from small-pox were registered for the week ended April 21, 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.....	April 14.....	2,260,945	1,082			7		10	4	39
Warsaw.....	April 7.....	439,174	240			4			3	7
Calcutta.....	March 10.....	433,219	210	35		1				
Calcutta.....	March 17.....	433,219	251	74						
Amsterdam.....	April 14.....	389,916	179					2		2
Copenhagen.....	April 3.....	300,000	155						3	5
Edinburgh.....	April 14.....	262,733	104						2	2
Palermo.....	April 14.....	250,000	99					1	3	5
Genoa.....	April 14.....	179,421	97							2
Trinidad.....	March 31.....	178,270	43							
Toronto.....	April 21.....	130,000	53						1	3
Trieste.....	April 7.....	154,500	100					2		2
Stuttgart.....	April 14.....	125,510	50							
Bremen.....	April 7.....	122,000	43						1	
Pernambuco.....	April 3.....	110,000	97					2		
Barmen.....	April 14.....	109,000	50							2
Leghorn.....	April 15.....	101,718	39							
Cadiz.....	April 7.....	65,028	38							
Merida.....	April 17.....	48,832	29							
Cienfuegos.....	April 16.....	40,573	12			4	1	1	1	1
Port au Prince.....	April 11.....	40,000	20							
Callao.....	March 31.....	34,000								
Gibraltar.....	April 15.....	23,631	7							
St. Thomas.....	April 6.....	15,000	10							
Paiti, Peru.....	March 31.....	4,000								

UNITED STATES.

Philadelphia, Pa.—*Small-pox.*—Eighty-two cases and 5 deaths were reported up to April 26, 1888.

Florida.—Dr. A. W. Knight, in his report referred to in the last Abstract, states that “on the 17th and 18th of April I was at Plant City, Fla. Two cases of yellow fever still remaining. One of these convalescent and out of danger. One case critical on 18th. No other

cases there or at Lakeland, Seffner, Ybor City, or Tampa. Tampa and Ybor City unusually healthy. No cases at that date, either at Bartow or Micanopy. No excitement in any of the towns nearest Plant City. I visited these points per order of the Board of Health of Duval County.''

Key West, Fla.—Small-pox.—One new case reported during the week ended April 21, 1888.

Delaware Breakwater U. S. Quarantine.—Quarantine was opened at this station on the 1st instant.

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