

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 18, 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 28 corresponded to an annual rate of 18.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Bolton and Hull, viz., 14.7, and the highest in Blackburn, viz., 25.9 a thousand. Small-pox caused 5 deaths in Sheffield, 1 in Bristol, and 1 in London.

During the quarter ended March 31, 150,014 deaths were registered, including whooping-cough, 4,428; measles, 2,129; scarlet fever, 1,868; diphtheria, 1,447; fever, 1,362; diarrhoea, 1,295; and small-pox, 583.

London.—One thousand four hundred and thirty-seven deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 16; scarlet fever, 15; diphtheria, 22; whooping-cough, 80; enteric fever, 7; diarrhoea and dysentery, 17. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 17.5 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 343 deaths; different forms of violence, 56; and 9 suicides were registered. In greater London 1,782 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.8 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 28 deaths from whooping-cough, and diphtheria, 9, were registered.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended April 28 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 29.0 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Kilkenny, viz., 12.7, and the highest in Lisburn, viz., 48.3 a thousand. In Dublin 213 deaths were registered, including 5 from whooping-cough; scarlet fever, 7; typhus, 1; diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 4; and measles, 3.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended April 28 corresponded to an annual rate of 21.0 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,299,000. The lowest mortality was recorded in Greenock, viz., 14.9, and the highest in Paisley, viz., 32.0 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 530, including 8 from measles; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 5; whooping-cough, 17; fever, 3; and diarrhœa, 12.

Netherlands.—The deaths registered in the 12 principal cities of the Netherlands, having an aggregate population of 1,101,568, during the year 1887 corresponded to an annual rate of 23 a thousand. The lowest mortality was recorded in Haarlem, viz., 21.1, and the highest in Maas-tricht, viz., 27.1 a thousand.

Calcutta.—One thousand and twenty deaths were registered during the month of February, 1888, including 182 from cholera.

St. Thomas, W. I.—Four hundred and sixty-two deaths were registered during the year 1887, including intermittent and remittent fever, 79; small-pox, 1; and leprosy, 3.

Cearra, Brazil.—Two hundred deaths were registered during the month of March, including 5 from yellow fever.

Valparaiso, Chili.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated March 17, 1888, relative to cholera, states that “until last year the disease was unknown here in its epidemic form, when, in spite of guards and military pickets in the mountains, it crossed from the east to Santiago, invading many smaller communities and causing numerous deaths by its virulent character. It was, no doubt, the more deadly for the want of knowledge for its successful diagnosis and treatment, and for the absence of properly organized ambulance and hospital service. These were partially remedied by private subscriptions and exertions, with some governmental aid, and the then intendente of this province acted with energy and resolution. Disinfectants were freely employed, the sale of fruit was prohibited, and, after various fluctuations in the progress of the disease, which had broken out severely in this port, it disappeared from this part of the country with the setting in of the winter season. After a few months, however, it reappeared about Concepcion and Talcahuano, some two or three hundred miles down the coast, and with the coming on of summer it broke out violently near Santiago, in that city, and in Valparaiso, and has spread in all directions. In the mean time all the obvious precautions had here practically discontinued or disregarded by the authorities and the people. The lazarettos were closed, the ambulance service abandoned, and while the sale of fruit was forbidden, the prohibition against such

sale has been revoked. It is everywhere asserted, and, so far as I know, everywhere freely admitted, that both last year and this the general government and the local authorities have studiously concealed or misrepresented the extent of the mortality. The population of this city is probably about 110,000. An eminent physician, educated as such in the United States, recently stated to me that his examination of the official records of deaths from cholera in Valparaiso from 15th December, 1887, to 15th February, 1888, showed 1,194 deaths, while, as is well known, many deaths from that disease are ascribed to 'indigestion,' &c. This reprehensible state of things is owing partly to the indulgent and surprising regulation which authorizes the issuance of a burial permit on the bare statement of two persons who knew the deceased and declared their opinion as to the cause of his death. The same physician told me that in the period referred to—two months—thirty of his private patients had died of cholera. He estimates, deducing his estimates from various sources, that the mortality in this city alone for that time reaches 3,000, and for the whole country he places it at 60,000. Another physician of standing, whose practice from his official position is in a part of the city inhabited mostly by the poorer and more ignorant classes, places the cholera mortality during the same period at from 4,000 to 5,000. I consider it my duty to refer in this report to the fact that the certificates of health from the office of the captain of the port are altogether untrustworthy. The American steamer 'City of Pueblo,' which sailed on 1st December last from Valparaiso for San Francisco, had, as I was informed (being requested by the consignees to add my certificate, which, of course, I refused to do), a full certificate of the existence here of no epidemic disease, this long after cholera had reappeared; and the American schooner 'Oscar and Hattie,' of Marblehead, sailed from Valparaiso for Seattle, Wash., on 10th instant, with a certificate concluding—

"I certify, also, that the sanitary condition of this port is good, and that there are no cases of epidemic sick (persons)."

Trujillo, Venezuela.—The United States consul at Maracaibo, in his dispatch dated April 27, 1888, states that "for several months past the section Trujillo, of the State of Los Andes, a mountainous region lying to the southward of Lake Maracaibo, has suffered severely from yellow fever, and recently the disease has made such progress as to almost decimate the population and cause the virtual abandonment of various thriving towns, among them notably the city of Trujillo, capital of the section of the same name, and one of the most important centers of the State.

"A curious and apparently anomalous fact in connection with this epidemic is that Maracaibo, together with the coast generally, has never been more free from this disease, while the localities which have heretofore been looked upon as our sanitarium are undergoing terrible suffering, although they have an elevation of from three to five thousand feet above the sea-level. Such a complete reversal of sanitary conditions has never heretofore been known in this district, and it is worthy of note that Maracaibo, which has a bad though undeserved reputation, is, although situated but thirty feet above the level of the sea, sending assistance to the mountain regions, which are suffering from a usual coast disease, from which at present we are totally exempt."

Genoa, Italy.—Seven cases of small-pox are reported for the week ended April 28, 1888.

Santiago de Cuba.—The sanitary inspector reports for the week ended May 5 that there are no cases of yellow fever at present in the military hospital, and the town is unusually healthy just now.

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 28.....	2,260,945	1,002			9		15	2	48
Calcutta.....	March 31.....	433,219	235	65						
Amsterdam.....	April 28.....	389,916	182							3
Rome.....	March 17.....	382,973	170			1		3		4
Rome.....	March 24.....	382,973	157			2		1		4
Copenhagen.....	April 17.....	300,000	158					2	4	8
Munich.....	April 21.....	275,000	139					2		3
Edinburgh.....	April 21.....	262,733	101					2		1
Palermo.....	April 28.....	250,000	88						2	2
Leipzig.....	April 28.....	170,000	55							5
Toronto.....	May 5.....	130,000	83					1		4
Stuttgart.....	April 28.....	125,510	42							
Bremen.....	April 21.....	122,000	52							
Havre.....	April 28.....	112,074	73			2		3		
Leghorn.....	April 29.....	101,718	38							
Rheims.....	April 28.....	97,903	64			1				2
Cadiz.....	April 28.....	65,028	40							
Merida.....	April 30.....	48,800	39							
Cienfuegos.....	April 23.....	40,573	18			2				
Cienfuegos.....	April 30.....	40,573	24			11				
Maracaibo.....	April 28.....	40,000	13					1		
Curaçoa.....	April 28.....	25,000	3							
Gibraltar.....	April 22.....	23,631	8					1		
Sagua la Grande.....	April 28.....	15,605	7			1				
St. Thomas.....	April 27.....	15,000	6							
Matamoros.....	April 28.....	12,000	13							
Laguayra.....	April 28.....	7,428	7							

UNITED STATES.

Apalachicola, Fla.—The board of health have issued a quarantine proclamation containing twenty-seven sections. Section 2 requires

that "all boats and vessels arriving at the port of Apalachicola on and after May 10, 1888, either foreign or domestic, upon which any contagious, infectious, or pestilential diseases have occurred or existed during the voyage to said city, or within thirty days next preceding the arrival of said boats or vessels at said port or city of Apalachicola, are forbidden to approach the city nearer than is specified in the rules and regulations of the board of health; * * * and are also forbidden to land any person or persons or goods until such boats or vessels have performed all quarantine, as directed by law and the rules and regulations of the board of health."

San Francisco, Cal.—Small-pox.—The secretary of the health department reports 22 cases and 4 deaths for the month of April. The Governor of Hong-Kong telegraphed to the mayor, "small-pox no longer epidemic in Hong-Kong." * * * The Board of Health of San Francisco, at a meeting held May 4, declined to declare Hong-Kong a non-infected port, and will still exercise the utmost precaution in landing Chinese and their baggage.

Portland, Me., May 10, 1888.—Since last report one case of varioloid, of a mild type, has been under municipal quarantine, and is now convalescent.

By order of the Supervising Surgeon-General :

GEO. W. STONER,
Surgeon, Marine-Hospital Service.