

# WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
Washington, D. C., June 15, 1888.

*Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended June 15, 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 May 26 corresponded to an annual rate of 17.8 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Birkenhead, viz., 10.9, and the highest in Preston, viz., 27.8 a thousand. Small-pox caused 3 deaths in Sheffield, 1 in Bristol, 2 in Preston, 1 in Oldham, and 1 in Hull.

*London.*—One thousand three hundred and sixty-one deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 23; scarlet fever, 17; diphtheria, 19; whooping-cough, 64; enteric fever, 10; diarrhoea and dysentery, 9; and choleraic diarrhoea, 2. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 16.6 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 228 deaths; different forms of violence, 65; and 9 suicides were registered. In greater London 1,689 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.9 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" 19 deaths from whooping-cough were registered.

*Ireland.*—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended May 26 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 23.3 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Galway, viz., 3.4, and the highest in Drogheda, viz., 42.3 a thousand. In Dublin 165 deaths were registered, including measles, 2; whooping-cough, 7; enteric fever, 1; scarlet fever, 5; and diarrhoea, 2.

*Scotland.*—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended May 26 corresponded to an annual rate of 20.9 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 Perth, viz., 25.6 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 529, including measles, 13; scarlet fever, 10; diphtheria, 1; whooping-cough, 11; fever, 6, and diarrhoea, 10.

*Tokio, Japan.*—The United States minister, in his dispatch dated May 9, 1888, transmitted copies of a printed pamphlet entitled “A Brief Review of the Operations of the Home Department in Connection with the Cholera Epidemic of the 19th year of the Meiji (1886).” The following is an extract from the introduction to the pamphlet :

The cholera epidemic of the 19th year of Meiji (1886) was the most violent and malignant since that of the 12th year of Meiji (1879), there being 155,574 cases, among which 110,086 were fatal. Indeed, there were only 17 days in the whole year when there were no cases.

The epidemic spread over the whole country, an area of 3 fu 41 ken and even Hokkaido suffered from its invasion; but it was most violent in Osaka, Ishikawa, Toyama, Tokyo, Fukui, and Niigata. The kens of Kagoshima and Miyazaki and the northern part of Hokkaido, were the only localities which escaped its ravages.

As to the cause of its outbreak and propagation, accurate evidence is wanting; it is an undeniable fact, however, that it sprang and was propagated from the widely spread germs of the disease which had laid dormant in Osaka the preceding year, there being no trace of a fresh introduction. Osaka, in the autumn of the preceding year, had been invaded by the disease from Nagasaki; but after some thirty days of prevalence the epidemic gradually declined with the approach of the colder season, though it did not then entirely disappear. One or two cases kept occurring continually over into the next year, until on the 2d of January there were five cases reported in the western and southern districts of the city and in the ku of Sakai. On the 3d, five more cases were reported in the three ku of the West, South, and North, and the ku of Sakai. From this time forward, the number of cases gradually increased until the approach of the warmer season, toward the end of April, when it had spread all over the city, where it raged up to the end of October. During the epidemic, there were ninety-nine days in which the daily number of cases reported was over one hundred, and four days when there were two hundred. Indeed, it was the most severe epidemic ever known in Osaka.

The situation of Osaka is such that it undoubtedly favors the propagation of an epidemic; for the water of the Yodo River being conducted through the city by canals in various directions, besides furnishing a convenient roadway for transportation and water traffic, also receives the contents of the drains of the city, while at the same time it supplies the city with drinking-water.

The wells, keeping the same level with the canals, freely communicate with each other, and thus the drinking-water of the city is more or less mingled with the water of the drains. Such, then, being the situation of Osaka, when an epidemic appears the same convenience for the transportation of goods furnishes an easy medium for the propagation of disease. It is not strange, then, that since the tenth year of Meiji (1877) whenever an epidemic prevails the city has been a center of the epidemic. Moreover, in the preceding year there was

much rain after the spring until finally, in June, the Yodo River overflowed its banks, inundating the streets and houses. Hence the city was rendered very filthy, in consequence of which the concealed germs found a favorable nidus from which the disease appeared with the return of the warm weather, and finally ravaged the whole city. It is also to be borne in mind that, as Osaka is the commercial center of Japan and has free communication in every direction, it is likely to become the cradle of epidemics, and, therefore, whatever has made its appearance in various other localities has had its origin directly or indirectly in Osaka.

*Callao.*—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated May 3, 1888, transmits a copy of a translation of a decree issued on the 2d instant by the government. The following is a copy of the translation:

LIMA, *May 1*, 1888.—Having examined the resolution adopted by the supreme board of health, the same is hereby approved and it is declared—

1. Vessels arriving from Atlantic, with clean bills of health and in voyage for Peru, will be received in all the sea-ports without undergoing quarantine, if they may not have touched in those ports of Chili where the cholera made its appearance.

2. These vessels (although) when they may have touched in ports where the epidemic has disappeared, shall be admitted after a quarantine of observation and disinfection, in the event that during the voyage no case of cholera may have occurred on board.

3. Vessels proceeding from Chilian ports which may have escaped the cholera, and which, before commencing their voyage, had not traded at infected ports, shall be received as those mentioned in the first article of this decree.

4. Vessels arriving from Chilian ports where the epidemic has disappeared, but where it existed for some period of time, will only be admitted to Peruvian ports if they have been disinfected before commencing their voyage, which must appear from a certificate of the medical man on board, and on arrival shall be subjected to a quarantine of at least five days, and be again disinfected before being placed in free pratique.

5. Passengers and European merchandise arriving from Africa and uninfected Chilian ports shall be received without detention.

6. Passengers and merchandise arriving from Chilian ports where only recently the cholera has disappeared, shall be received in Peruvian ports under the conditions stipulated in Article 4.

7. Vessels arriving from infected Chilian ports shall not be received at present in the Peruvian ports, and under this are comprehended the vessels proceeding from the district to the north of Valparaiso up the Antofagasta, excepting these two ports.

8. The terms for the reception of these ships shall be fixed by the board of health, according to Article 42, paragraph 8 of the regulations.

This ordinance goes into effect from the date hereof.

*Cearra, Brazil.*—One hundred and sixty-five deaths were registered during the month of April, including 11 from yellow fever.

*Catania, Italy.*—Two hundred and ninety-six deaths were registered during the month of March, including small-pox, 6, and enteric fever, 8.

*Havana.*—Four hundred and fifty-one deaths were registered during the month of May, including yellow fever, 27; enteric fever, 4; so-called pernicious fever, 14; small-pox, 29; diphtheria, 1; croup, 5, and measles, 1. Over 75 per cent. of the deaths from yellow fever occurred at the military hospital. The sanitary inspector states that “up to the present time yellow fever shows little or no tendency to spread, and the cases which occur are confined to old, well-known insanitary places, infected fortifications, and the immediate vicinity of wharves on the Havana side of the harbor. Small-pox continues to diminish in Havana and suburbs.”

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.....	May 26.....	2,260,945	939			6		11	4	38
Glasgow.....	May 26.....	545,678	257					3	9	
Warsaw.....	May 19.....	444,814	303			1			6	11
Calcutta.....	April 28.....	433,219	240	69						
Amsterdam.....	May 26.....	389,916	142					1		2
Rome.....	April 7.....	388,300	166			5		3		2
Rome.....	April 14.....	388,300	180					1		2
Copenhagen.....	May 22.....	300,000	168					1	1	6
Munich.....	May 19.....	275,000	183					1	1	3
Edinburgh.....	May 19.....	262,733	104					1		2
Palermo.....	May 26.....	250,000						1	2	2
Genoa.....	May 26.....	179,504	107							
Leipsic.....	May 26.....	170,000	55						2	3
Stuttgart.....	May 26.....	125,510	43							1
Toronto.....	June 2.....	130,000	40							
Bremen.....	May 24.....	122,000	60							
Havre.....	May 26.....	112,074	55			3		2	1	
Pernambuco.....	May 8.....	110,000	114		1		1	5		
Pernambuco.....	May 15.....	110,000	66		1		2	4		
Leghorn.....	May 27.....	101,718	45							
Mayence.....	May 19.....	65,802	52							
Merida.....	May 27.....	48,800	39							
Cienfuegos.....	May 28.....	40,753	21			11				
Guayaquil.....	April 22.....	35,000	62		4	4		30		
Guayaquil.....	April 29.....	35,000	52		6	4		21		
Vera Cruz.....	May 31.....	23,800	18							
Gibraltar.....	May 20.....	23,631	11							
St. Thomas.....	May 18.....	15,000	4							
Cape Haytien.....	June 2.....	15,000	6							
Cartagena, Col'a.....	May 19.....	13,000	7							
Turk's Island.....	May 23.....	4,732	4							
Paita.....	May 12.....	4,000	4							
Livingston.....	May 26.....	2,500	2							
San Juan del Norte.....	May 7.....	500	1							

## UNITED STATES.

*San Francisco.*—Eight cases and 2 deaths from small-pox are reported for the month of May, 1888.

NOTICE.—After July 1, 1888, a mortality table of American cities will be inserted in the abstract. Registrars and health officers are respectfully requested to furnish weekly statements in exchange.

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

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