

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. III. { Abstract }
 { No. 46. }

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., November 16, 1888.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended November 16, 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 October 27 corresponded to an annual rate of 21.8 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Derby, viz., 15.7, and the highest in Manchester, viz., 32.8 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 5 deaths in Manchester, 2 in Nottingham, and 2 in Halifax.

London.—One thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 100; scarlet fever, 25; diphtheria, 31; whooping-cough, 18; enteric fever, 17; diarrhœa and dysentery, 30; and small-pox, 1. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 21.2 a thousand. In greater London 2,102 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 19.8 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included diarrhœa, 11; measles, 9; whooping-cough, 7.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended October 27 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 20.1 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Lisburn, viz., 0.0, and the highest in Sligo, viz., 33.7 a thousand. In Dublin 148 deaths were registered, including measles, 3; scarlet fever, 1; diarrhœa, 11; whooping-cough, 5; enteric fever, 4; and dysentery, 1.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended October 27 corresponded to an annual rate of 19.8 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz., 9.8, and the highest in Paisley, viz., 47.2 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes

was 500, including measles, 26; scarlet fever, 7; diphtheria, 9; whooping-cough, 9; fever, 3; and diarrhœa, 15.

Nassau, N. P.—The United States consul in his report dated November 3, 1888, states: "City healthy; strict quarantine against Florida."

Santiago de Cuba.—The United States consul, under date of November 13, 1888, denies that this port has at any time, during the past summer, been declared infected.

Palma Island.—The United States consul at Teneriffe, in a cablegram dated November 15, 1888, reports existence of yellow fever at Palma Island.

Havana.—Ten deaths from yellow fever are reported for the week ended November 2, 1888.

The following report under date of November 3, 1888, has been received from Dr. D. M. Burgess, sanitary inspector, Marine-Hospital Service:

HAVANA, ISLAND OF CUBA, *November 3, 1888.*

No reasonable doubt can be entertained but what Florida is very much exposed to the introduction of such infectious and contagious diseases as may be found at this port, by a class of light-draught, fast-sailing vessels, which sail from here in considerable numbers.

Their ostensible and main business is fishing, and they are called "viveros" or fishing smacks, and while they do quite a fair legitimate business in that way, they often do a more paying one in an illegitimate way: by smuggling different articles into the country on whose coasts they hover for both of the above purposes.

No dirtier or worse smelling vessels probably leave this port, their inside condition and atmosphere being eminently favorable for the reception and growth of such disease germs as thrive in a medium of heat, moisture and filth.

Laying, as many of them do while here (and that for a long time frequently), at wharves notoriously dangerous from an under deposit of sewage and fecal pollutions, if not actual infection, every opportunity is given the cause of yellow fever to get aboard and render the little craft a vile storehouse of infectious disease.

The articles which this class of vessels can smuggle into Florida and Mexico to the greatest advantage are cigars, arguardiente or rum, gin, wine, &c. The inducement to smuggle arguardiente or rum is very great, as the spirit costs only 25 or 30 cents a gallon here and the duty is \$2 a gallon in the United States.

The methods of doing these two branches of business, viz., fishing and smuggling, is an open secret here; and the fishing fraternity, when they have a little confidence in the person to whom they are talking, say very frankly that it is not a difficult thing at all to smuggle their stuffs into Florida or Mexico and there is but little danger in it.

Probably there are as many as 40 or 50 of the vessels alluded to which leave this port, and being nearly all built in the United States they are taken for American vessels till they show their colors. Their method

of doing this business, so dangerous to Florida, is the following, more or less:

They clear or rather leave this port with a simple permit to go out and fish on the high seas or along the coast.

Being small of size and resembling coasters they go out at any time, no one knows when, or where bound.

Once outside of the Morro some of them may go and fish in the waters up about Cardenas or Sagua, others to the banks of Yucatan, while not a small number will try to better their fortunes in the waters and inlets of Florida. Some of those for Florida will transfer their goods to confederates in the neighborhood of Key West, while others will go farther up and hover around the coast of the main land, all the way from Punta Rossa, Charlotte Harbor, up past Tampa or beyond Cedar Keys. Here they are on the alert waiting a favorable opportunity to dispose of what they have, either to confederates or make an unlawful incursion into some of the many inlets, bayous and passes on that coast. Once inside they communicate with the people or settlements they may know, interchange visits and commodities, leaving the articles they have brought, and it is to be suspected and feared, infective disease which their vessels must be charged with from Havanna. When these vessels get in a tight place and are likely to be caught, as rarely happens, they are put ashore and the crew swear that unknown and unavoidable currents and contrary winds have placed them where they are. The vessel is now wrecked by confederates and half the cargo claimed for salvage. Half the cargo pays all concerned very well for the duty is large enough to pay everybody, owner of vessel, crew, confederates, &c.

I am credibly informed of these methods and that many outside of fishing and smuggling circles know of them. Captains of steamers running up along the coast from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa, &c., tell me that they often see about daybreak in the morning this class of vessels, which they know to be Spanish, coming out of the inlets, bayous, and passes.

They have no business there except to smuggle. If their smuggling was limited to articles of commerce it would be bad enough, but when they smuggle into the midst of an unsuspecting people terrible infection and death it is in the highest degree criminal.

There is no State in the Union so exposed in a sanitary sense as Florida is by these smugglers. Nothing calls them to visit any other State. Florida, though not a large State in superficial miles square, has a greater extent of sea coast than any other bordering on the Gulf or Atlantic. Open well-regulated commerce in clean ships, observing all the methods of modern sanitation and carrying only acclimated people is perfectly safe in comparison to this smuggling trade.

HAVANA, ISLAND OF CUBA, *November 8, 1888.*

SIR: In connection with a communication which I had the honor of sending you on November 3d, in regard to the danger of the introduction into Florida of such infectious and contagious diseases as may be found at this port, by a class of light-draught, fast-sailing vessels,

“viveros” or fishing smacks, schooners of from 30 to 50 tons tonnage, I now forward you the enclosed clipping from a Savannah paper :

“SEIZED FOR SMUGGLING—A STEAMER AND A SCHOONER CAPTURED BY THE CRAWFORD.

“NEW ORLEANS, LA., November 4.—A special to the *Picayune* from Key West, Fla., says : ‘The Spanish steamer *Engracia*, of Havana, and the American schooner *Legal Tender* were brought here as a prize crew by the revenue cutter *Crawford*. Both vessels were seized on November 1 off Charlotte Harbor, for smuggling rum and tobacco. When apprehended the *Engracia* was transferring contraband goods to the *Legal Tender* in exchange for the latter’s cargo of live fish.’ ”

This clipping is believed to be correct except that the Spanish steamer “*Engracia*” is a Spanish schooner “*Engracia*,” and is of the regular vivero or fishing-smack type.

The schooner “*Legal Tender*” is under the United States flag, and sailed from here October 25th with clearance for Key West, with an entire Spanish crew, all acclimated. Enclosed I send you a copy of the bill of health which she took at the time, in which you will see that her sanitary condition was regarded as *suspicious*, as she had been eight days discharging at a suspicious wharf, and from there she sailed.

The Spanish schooner “*Engracia*” (fishing-smack) left here about October 28th or 29th, three or four days after the other, or “*Legal Tender*,” and went out with the usual permit to leave and fish on the high sea. Of course no inspector could know just when she left or where she intended to go. I know that she had lain for some time at the wharf where the schooners of her owner always lay ; that she sailed directly from there, and that the wharf is a suspicious and doubtless infected place. The sewage, from the infected fortifications the “*Cabaños*,” empties right there. Both of those vessels, in a sanitary sense, were very dangerous, although both having an acclimated crew, the extent of the infection with which they may have been reeking, was and could not be revealed by any sickness among them. Both were smuggling, and, of course the “*Legal Tender*” intended to dispose of her cargo at some point on the main land in Florida. This is one instance in which this class of vessels has been caught in their dangerous game, so injurious to the health of that State. I am thoroughly satisfied that where one is caught one hundred escape without any more detection than is known among the fishing fraternity, their confederates, friends, and quasi acquaintances. Until the whole extensive coast of Florida is so thoroughly patrolled as to prevent any possibility of this sort of thing (smuggling in this way), I am afraid that we shall every now and then have yellow fever cropping out in some place there and wonder how on earth it got there, leading us, possibly, to suspect some legal, well regulated enterprise as being the innocent cause.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BURGESS,
Sanitary Inspector, M.-H. S.

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.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.
Paris	Oct. 20.....	2,260,945	928			3		15		19	7	7
Paris	Oct. 27.....	2,260,945	926			3		18	3	25	6	4
Glasgow	Oct. 27.....	545,678	211					2		5		
Warsaw	Oct. 20.....	444,814	240			5			25	11		
Calcutta	Sept. 22.....	433,219	207	18		1						
Rome	Sept. 22.....	391,188	139					6				
Amsterdam	Oct. 27.....	389,916	135					1		4		
Copenhagen	Oct. 17.....	300,000	122					1	4	1		
Munich	Oct. 20.....	275,000	154					1	3	3		
Palermo	Oct. 20.....	250,000	62			1			1	1		
Palermo	Oct. 27.....	250,000	76			1				3		
Genoa	Oct. 20.....	179,802	77			2						
Genoa	Oct. 27.....	179,802	95				5					
Toronto	Nov. 3.....	130,000	34					1		4		
Stuttgart	Oct. 27.....	125,510	43						1	1		
Bremen	Oct. 20.....	122,000	34			1					1	
Havre	Oct. 27.....	112,074	67			1		6	1			
Barmen	Oct. 20.....	109,000	29									
Leghorn	Oct. 28.....	102,540	36				1					
Mayence	Oct. 20.....	65,802	40						1			
Cadiz	Oct. 27.....	65,028	42									
Guayaquil	Sept. 22.....	35,000	108			3		26			30	
Guayaquil	Sept. 29.....	35,000	96					25			40	
Guayaquil	Oct. 6.....	35,000	128					27			66	
Guayaquil	Oct. 13.....	35,000	105					15			65	
Vera Cruz	Nov. 1.....	23,800	27									
Gibraltar	Oct. 21.....	23,631	13					1				
Kingston, Canada	Nov. 2.....	17,300	1									
Antigua	Oct. 28.....	15,847	14									
Catargena, U. S. of Colo.....	Oct. 27.....	13,000	16									
Turk's Island	Oct. 24.....	5,000	6									
Paiti, Peru	Oct. 27.....	4,000										
Bluefields	Oct. 25.....	2,000										
San Juan del Norte	Oct. 15.....	780										

UNITED STATES.

Enterprise, Fla., October 28, 1888.—Dr. J. F. Hartigan reported as follows:

I arrived here yesterday afternoon, and ere this reaches you will be informed of the aspect of affairs. This place is thoroughly infected, and probably new cases and deaths will occur daily. As I understand my duties they are to fully investigate and trace the origin of the trouble. I have already formed my impressions, but prefer to wait till I obtain a complete history of the business, which will occupy a week or so.

We are now completely isolated.

For a radius of three miles, unquestionably, the place is infected, and the people of Sanford are in a "panicky" condition, which makes it difficult to communicate with them. I shall continue to make all the autopsies I can, noting any deviations, at the same time endeavor to trace this to the beginning, which it may be astonishing to say dates as far back as May, and apparently due to infection from Jacksonville.

There is much to do here. By mutual arrangement, Dr. Posey has his hands full with the administrative department alone. Dr. Caldwell is attending mainly to the patients, while it will take me the time men-

tioned to accomplish the other necessary work, seeing a few patients and doing any autopsies.

There are not more than five white citizens left. Even the poobahs and board of health have skipped.

Dr. Caldwell is working most efficiently night and day, but he feels that he is in a delicate position, not having official authority to act. An appointment to that effect would be a recognition of merit well deserved.

Tampa, Fla.—Dr. J. P. Wall reported as follows :

November 7 : “For the week ending to-day, November 7, I have to report 12 new cases of yellow fever and 1 death, an adult male, on the 5th instant. This case was not seen by a physician till sixth day of illness, I had a post mortem made and found the characteristic lesions of yellow fever.

“For the last three weeks the weather has been very warm and the number of cases for the past two weeks has been larger.

“No cases of yellow fever in the county outside of Tampa. Total number of deaths since the 7th of August 7.”

Live Oak, Fla.—Assistant Surgeon H. D. Geddings, Marine-Hospital Service, reported under date of November 6, 1888, as follows :

In pursuance of telegraphic orders received from the Surgeon-General's Office, through Surgeon W. H. H. Hutton, Marine-Hospital Service, I left Camp Perry, Fla., this morning at 8.15 a. m., and arrived at this point at 1 p. m.

I at once instituted an investigation as to the existence of yellow fever in the town, and find that up to this time there have been 7 cases of yellow fever ; 5 of a very mild type and 2 grave cases. One of the latter died several days ago, and on post mortem examination by Dr. Martin was pronounced yellow fever. The mild cases occurred among those who had been exposed during the illness of the patient ; followed in rapid succession and were speedily convalescent. Six days ago Mr. Woodward, the agent of the F. R. & N. Co. at this point, left town with his family and went four miles into the country. He was seized that night with a violent chill, followed by fever, and returned to Live Oak next morning. I visited him this afternoon, and find his case a typical one, and at this time he is a critically ill patient, though with favorable chances of recovery. All of these cases have been and are under the charge of Dr. Haskins, a local practitioner, from whom most of my information is derived.

A hasty examination shows a very sad lack of sanitary precaution, and a correspondingly bad hygienic condition. A vigorous and prompt cleaning and disinfection alone will save the outbreak from extending far and wide among the inhabitants of the town who are left within its limits. I would respectfully beg for authority to proceed in this direction, and for material to carry it out.

The white population has largely left the town, and so far as I can see or learn, no distress as yet exists among those who remain, or among the colored portion of the community.

This communication is written in confirmation and amplification of my telegram of this date.

Jacksonville, Fla.—Dr. Jos. Y. Porter telegraphs as follows :

November 10: "New cases, 33; total cases, 4,467; deaths, 384; patients, St. Luke's, 12; Sand Hills, 2.

Honsman, president board of health, Madison County, wires a death from yellow fever at Ellaville, with other cases sick; wants expert to make post mortem. Have requested Hutton to send Guiteras.

November 11: "New cases, 12; deaths, 1; total cases, 4,479; deaths, 385; patients, St. Luke's, 15; Sand Hills, 2. Attending physician at Ellaville reports case not suspicious, will not allow post mortem."

November 12: "New cases, 35; deaths, 3; total cases, 4,514; deaths, 388; patients, St. Luke's, 15; Sand Hills, 2. President board of health, Madison County, wires that he has quarantined against Ellaville until expert is permitted to report on sickness there.

November 13: "New cases, 7; deaths, 2; total cases, 4,521; deaths, 390; patients, St. Luke's, 14; the Sand Hill permanently closed, all patients discharged, and buildings turned back to the Duval County board of health.

November 14: "New cases, 34; deaths, 2; total cases (corrected), 4,552; deaths, 392; patients, St. Luke's, 14. Weather favorable for developing fever, showery and warm.

Camp Perry, Fla.—Surgeon W. H. H. Hutton telegraphs as follows :

November 10: "Morning report. Present, officers, 5; guards, 10; employés, 31. Refugees arrived, 10; discharged, 20; remaining, 76. Fever camp, 2; Conductor Hubbard has recovered."

November 11: "Morning report. Present, officers, 5; guards, 11; employés, 31. Refugees arrived, 8; discharged, 6; remaining, 86. Fever camp, 3; 2 cases brought from Callahan yesterday, both negroes."

November 12: "Morning report. Present, officers, 4; guards, 10; employés, 31. Refugees arrived, none; discharged, 6; remaining, 70. Fever camp, 2. Posey reports 4 new cases and 1 death at Enterprise yesterday."

November 13: "Morning report. Present, officers, 4; guards, 10; employés, 31. Refugees arrived, 17; discharged, 1; remaining, 86. Fever camp 2, convalescent."

November 14: "Morning report. Present, officers, 4; guards, 10; employés, 31. Refugees arrived, 14; discharged, 8; remaining, 92. Fever camp 1, sick on arrival. Geddings reports 2 cases at Ellaville, also convalescent from same."

November 16: "Morning report. Present, officers, 1; guards, 10;

employés, 30. Refugees arrived, 1; discharged, 18; remaining, 78.
Fever camp, 1.

Gainesville, Fla.—Assistant Surgeon Martin telegraphs as follows:

November 10: "One colored and 1 white new cases."

November 11: "Six cases white, and 2 colored. One death, white.
Four of the white cases in 1 family, 2 miles in country."

November 13: "One white, 2 colored, new cases. One death, white."

November 14: "Two new cases, colored."

November 15: Four new cases, 2 white and 2 colored.

MORTALITY TABLE, CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—										
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Small-pox.	Varioloid.	Varicella.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.
New York, N. Y.	Nov. 10.	1,542,524	627			1				10	26	26	8	10
Philadelphia, Pa.	Nov. 3.	1,016,758	323							13	11	10	1	2
Brooklyn N. Y.	Nov. 3.	805,855	289							12	6	16	1	4
Baltimore, Md.	Nov. 10.	431,879	118							4	1	7		4
Cincinnati, Ohio.	Nov. 10.	255,139	77							7		1	1	
New Orleans, La.	Nov. 3.	248,000	115									3		
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Nov. 10.	230,000	76							2		6	2	3
Milwaukee, Wis.	Nov. 10.	195,000	45							1	2			
Minneapolis, Minn.	Nov. 3.	180,000	58							9	1	4		
St. Paul, Minn.	Nov. 3.	175,000	42							8	1	5		
Newark, N. J.	Nov. 13.	152,988	66							4		6		
Rochester, N. Y.	Nov. 10.	120,000	25							1		3		
Columbus, Ohio.	Nov. 10.	101,885	10											
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 5.		31											
Denver, Colo.	Nov. 9.	96,000	30										1	
Toledo, Ohio.	Nov. 9.	80,000	21							1		1		
Nashville, Tenn.	Nov. 10.	65,153	31							2				
Charleston, S. C.	Nov. 10.	60,145	28							2				
Evansville, Ind.	Nov. 10.	53,000	14							4				
Savannah, Ga.	Nov. 9.	52,827	20											
Lynn, Mass.	Nov. 9.	50,000	15									2		
Manchester, N. H.	Nov. 3.	41,000	20									1		1
Mobile, Ala.	Nov. 10.	40,000	17											
Galveston, Tex.	Nov. 2.	40,000	16							1				
Portland, Me.	Nov. 10.	40,000	12											
East Saginaw, Mich.	Nov. 10.	33,000	9											
New Albany, Ind.	Nov. 9.	30,000	7											
Altoona, Pa.	Nov. 3.	29,546	3											
Auburn, N. Y.	Nov. 10.	26,000	9									1		
Haverhill, Mass.	Nov. 10.	25,000	6											
Jackson, Mich.	Nov. 10.	22,500	5											
Newport, R. I.	Nov. 9.	20,466	5											
Keokuk, Iowa.	Nov. 10.	16,000	3											
Pensacola, Fla.	Nov. 10.	15,000	6											

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.