

# WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. IV. { Abstract }  
          { No. 11. }

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
Washington, D. C., March 15, 1889.

*Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended March 15, 1889, 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 February 23, corresponded to an annual rate of 19.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Brighton, viz., 10.7, and the highest in Preston, viz., 29.0 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 2 deaths in Manchester, and 6 in Salford.

*London.*—One thousand five hundred and sixty-seven deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 70; scarlet fever, 14; diphtheria, 27; whooping-cough, 31; typhus, 1; enteric fever, 8; diarrhoea and dysentery, 16. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 18.8 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 362 deaths; different forms of violence, 65; and 6 suicides were registered. In greater London 1,948 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 18.0 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included measles, 12; fever, 5; and whooping-cough, 7.

*Ireland.*—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended February 23, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 27.0 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Wexford, viz., 8.6, and the highest in Lurgan, viz., 61.6 a thousand. In Dublin 210 deaths were registered, including whooping-cough, 3; enteric fever, 4; diarrhoea, 2; and measles, 5.

*Scotland.*—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended February 23, corresponded to an annual rate of 21.2 a thousand

of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Perth, viz., 9.5 and the highest in Glasgow, viz., 26.2 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 542, including measles, 22; scarlet fever, 2; diphtheria, 14; whooping-cough, 31; fever, 4; and diarrhœa, 7.

*Malta and Gozo.*—Three hundred and ninety-seven deaths were registered during the month of December, 1888, including measles, 17; whooping-cough, 3; and diphtheria 3.

*Netherlands.*—The deaths registered in the principal cities of the Netherlands, having an aggregate population of 1,129,678, during the month of December, 1888, corresponded to an annual rate of 22.9 a thousand. The lowest rate was recorded in Arnhem, viz., 13.7, and the highest in Hertogenbosch, viz., 38.7. The deaths included enteric and typhus fevers, 9; scarlet fever, 4; measles, 72; whooping-cough, 29; diarrhœa and dysentery, 23; and cholera nostras, 1.

*Port au Prince, Hayti.*—The United States Consul-General transmits the following dispatch, under date of February 4, 1889, in reply to an inquiry by this Bureau relative to an alleged incorrect bill of health issued by that officer to the schooner "Winnie Lowry," which arrived at Wilmington, N. C., in December, 1888:

In reply to the observations of Quarantine-Physician Curtis, of the port of Wilmington, N. C., that the bill of health delivered from this consulate-general, November 24, 1888, to the schooner "Winnie Lowry" is, in his consideration, false, and calculated to throw discredit upon our consular service, I have to say that as reported in my despatch (No. 206) dated September 6, 1888, there were a few cases of yellow fever in this harbor; also, in my No. 208, of the same series, I report a low form of intermittent fever; and in my No. 209 I again refer to yellow fever pure and simple, and give my reasons for delivering a clean bill of health to the Dutch steamer "Prins Orange Nassau." There has been some mortality here from fevers—yellow and others—but there always is; yet, neither at present or then, any tendency towards an epidemic. A clean bill of health for the schooner "Winnie Lowry," bound to New York, was issued. It was never known here that there was yellow fever on board of such vessel while in the harbor, and is still doubted. The seaman shipped had been discharged from the hospital after having regained his health. The ship was bound in the season and for a port where she would daily find the atmosphere colder and colder. There could not be found then any excuse for doing otherwise than was done. I would respectfully advise, since it seems from years of experience here that at any moment yellow fever may appear, that according to paragraph 336, Consular Regulations of 1888, a physician be named as medical inspector to visit all vessels bound from this to any port in the United States, and thus having every detail constantly before him, he would be fully aware if only a slight suspicion of infection existed.

## 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.
				Palermo.....	Feb. 23.....	250,000	128	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Havre.....	Feb. 23.....	112,074	54	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Barmen.....	Feb. 23.....	109,000	39	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cadiz.....	Feb. 23.....	65,028	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turk's Islands.....	Jan. 30.....	5,000	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

## UNITED STATES.

*Jacksonville, Fla.*—In reply to an inquiry from this Bureau relative to a reported case of yellow fever at Jacksonville, Fla., Dr. J. Y. Porter writes, under date of February 21, 1889, that there is no truth in the rumor, the case being clearly one of remittent fever. “You can rest assured that if there is any suspicion of any disease of the nature of yellow fever prevailing here, I would be likely to hear of it, as I am in perfect accord with all the authorities, and they have no object in concealing it from me.”

*Tampa and Plant City, Fla.*—Dr. J. L. Posey, sanitary inspector Marine-Hospital Service, has made the following reports, from Green Cove Springs, under date of March 9, 1889:

## TAMPA, FLA.

SIR: In obedience to your letter of instructions I have inspected the city of Tampa, Fla. This is one of the oldest towns of the State, and is the county seat of Hillsboro' County; it covers an area of three square miles, and has an estimated population of 8,000. The recent incorporation of Ybor City, inhabited almost exclusively by a Cuban population, engaged in the manufacture of cigars, has added largely to the old city in area and value. The general sanitary condition of this city admits of much improvement, and although the present system of removal of excreta is to be commended, still its deposition in a large trench a half mile from the city on the shore of the old bay, is not unattended with danger of contaminating the atmosphere of the city. The desiccation and complete incineration of human excreta and garbage, by means of a suitably constructed crematorium, is, in my opinion, the only proper method to adopt in tropical towns and cities. After consulting with the mayor of Tampa, I learned that under the supervision of Dr. John P. Wall, acting for the Marine-Hospital Service, all the infected houses had been thoroughly disinfected and fumigated, and all infected bedding destroyed. I regret that Doctor Wall was absent at the time of my visit, as he is thoroughly conversant with all that has been done, and all the facts in connection with the origin and prevalence of the fever in Tampa.

The close communication with Havana by the Plant Line of steamers, and the influx of a large Cuban population, render it a point very much exposed to the introduction of the fever, but with the present safeguards and thorough sanitary methods in use by the owners of this line, I believe the highest degree of protection is given, and the danger of importing the infection of yellow fever through this line reduced to its minimum. I fully coincide with Dr. Wall, in the view that the extensive coast line of Florida renders it an easy matter for the smuggler of the products of our tropical neighbors to introduce with them the infectious material of a disease of which they have little dread, but whose presence in Florida has caused such wide-spread panic among its people, and inestimable loss to commerce. The prolonged duration of the disease in Tampa must give us some reason to fear that the "materies morbi" has found a soil and climate congenial to its nature and longevity. May not repeated importations of the germ of this disease, through the illicit channels of commerce, into a city whose climate and geographical position are similar to those of Havana, finally become domesticated, take up its abode, in fact assume an endemic character? It has long been held and fondly cherished by the "cracker," as also by his more intelligent countrymen, that the germs of yellow fever would not spread or propagate beneath the balsamic pines or on the surface of the snowy sands of "Pasqua Florida." This dear illusive theory has been, by the experiences of the last epidemic, rudely crushed by the stern facts which are presented to them, by the more or less rapid spread of this subtle atmospheric poison even in the high sandy pine hills of genial Florida. Nothing but the most rigorous and constant vigilance will afford Tampa any security against the introduction of this disease by the clandestine traffic which is yearly increasing, and is fostered by the facilities offered the wary smuggler by the many bays and inlets of the Florida coast. The immunity of Tampa in future from this disease will afford that degree of security which alone can restore the confidence of the people in the ability of sanitarians and public health officers to exclude this "alien infection" forevermore from our shores. The duty of protecting the Florida coast against the invasion of this disease should, in my opinion, devolve upon the National Government, which alone is able and competent to successfully attain this much-desired end; and thus manifest that wise policy and paternal solicitude for her people, in attaining one of the highest objects of a humane Government, the health of the nation.

Very respectfully,

J. L. POSEY, M. D.,  
*U. S. Sanitary Inspector, Marine-Hospital Service.*

To Surgeon-General JOHN B. HAMILTON.

PLANT CITY.

SIR: In obedience to your letter of instructions of December 28, 1888, I have made a thorough inspection of Plant City, and, after an interview with the mayor and health officer thereof, was informed that a complete system of disinfection and fumigation had been carried out by Dr. J. P. Wall, of Tampa, and that there remained nothing further to be desired in that respect. The town comprises a half hundred houses, and a population of about 300 souls, and is 22 miles east of Tampa, and

is connected with the principal towns of Florida by two lines of rail road. The character of the soil is a dark, sandy loam, and the country is what is known as "low, flat, pine woods," and subject to inundation when there are heavy rains. Contiguous to the hamlet, on the north and south, are two marshy areas, known as Alafia and Turkey Creeks, Hillsboro' and Blackwater, all of which are sluggish bodies of water, filled with rank vegetation, and must, naturally, contribute to render the atmosphere highly malarious. The present sanitary condition of this town is not good, and the local authorities are unable to place it in such a state as would render the recurrence of yellow fever improbable in an epidemic form. From the published statement made by the authorities of the town, it appears that the fever was introduced into Plant City by refugees from Tampa in the early part of October, 1887. Cases of yellow fever soon occurred among these families, and on the 14th of November, 1887, Doctor McCall died. The disease slowly invaded all the houses in that part of the town, and prevailed until the 18th, of August, 1888. During that period there were twenty-one deaths, the greater number being in June and July, 1888. It will be seen that from its first appearance, the disease, though slow in its progress, was sufficiently virulent to cause deaths in December, 1887, and January and February, 1888, and manifested its vitality during a period of nine months. I have been unable to obtain a correct statement of the number of cases, but the death rate does not appear to be greater than 10 per cent. The last case in or near the town was discharged by the medical attendant on the 18th of August, 1888, since which date no other cases have been reported. The history of this epidemic proves fully that the germs of the fever hibernated there, and that the mild winter did not effect their vitality, and that there is a marked tendency for the infectious principle of this subtle poison to become endemic at Plant City. It would be strange if, with the fostering climatic conditions, there should not occur during the coming summer some cases of yellow fever at this place to justify the opinion that the specific poison of this disease has not been eradicated or destroyed at this point.

\* \* \* \* \*

Very respectfully,

J. L. POSEY, M. D.,

*U. S. Sanitary Inspector, Marine-Hospital Service.*

To Surgeon-General JOHN B. HAMILTON.

## 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.....	Mar. 9.....	1,557,348	877							2	54	50	21	24
Philadelphia, Pa.....	Mar. 9.....	1,040,246	435							21	8	8		22
Chicago, Ill.....	Mar. 9.....	830,000	295							23	3	26	8	22
Brooklyn, N. Y.....	Mar. 9.....	814,305	398							23	6	26	13	22
Baltimore, Md.....	Mar. 9.....	500,343	151							1	3	4		8
St. Louis, Mo.....	Mar. 9.....	440,000	172							3		11	5	1
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	Mar. 9.....	255,139	119							3		10		3
New Orleans, La.....	Mar. 2.....	254,000	114							1		5		
Detroit, Mich.....	Mar. 9.....	250,000	63								2	2		
Cleveland, Ohio.....	Feb. 16.....	235,000	66							5	2	1		
Cleveland, Ohio.....	Feb. 23.....	235,000	76							1	1	4		
San Francisco, Cal.....	Mar. 1.....	230,000	129							3		2		
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	Mar. 9.....	230,000	96							2	2	2	7	3
Washington, D. C.....	Mar. 9.....	225,000	87							2		2	1	2
Milwaukee, Wis.....	Mar. 9.....	210,000	69							1	1	3	1	
Saint Paul, Minn.....	Feb. 23.....	180,000	37							2	3	2	1	
Minneapolis, Minn.....	Mar. 9.....	180,000	48									5		
Providence, R. I.....	Mar. 9.....	127,000	41								1	1	1	1
Rochester, N. Y.....	Mar. 9.....	120,000	41							1		2		1
Denver, Colo.....	Mar. 8.....	100,000	29											
Richmond, Va.....	Mar. 9.....	100,000	21											
Toledo, Ohio.....	Mar. 9.....	80,000	19								2	1		
Camden, N. J.....	Feb. 28.....	70,000	32							2	1	1		
Nashville, Tenn.....	Mar. 9.....	65,153	17								1	1		
Fall River, Mass.....	Mar. 9.....	65,000	28								1	1		
Charleston, S. C.....	Mar. 9.....	60,145	21									1		
Lynn, Mass.....	Mar. 9.....	50,000	12											
Manchester, N. H.....	Mar. 2.....	42,000	12											
Portland, Me.....	Mar. 9.....	40,000	15											
Council Bluffs, Iowa.....	Mar. 2.....	35,000	.....											
Davenport, Iowa.....	Mar. 9.....	33,715	7									1		
East Saginaw, Mich.....	Mar. 9.....	33,000	11											
Burlington, Iowa.....	Feb. 22.....	30,166	7											
Altoona, Pa.....	Mar. 9.....	30,000	6											
Auburn, N. Y.....	Mar. 9.....	26,000	4											
Haverhill, Mass.....	Mar. 9.....	25,000	8											
Newport, R. I.....	Mar. 7.....	22,000	9											
Newton, Mass.....	Mar. 2.....	21,553	5											
Newton, Mass.....	Mar. 9.....	21,553	7									1		
Keokuk, Iowa.....	Mar. 9.....	16,000	4											
Pensacola, Fla.....	Mar. 9.....	15,000	4											

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