

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., January 11, 1889.

Abstract of Sanitary Reports received through the Department of State from foreign countries during the week ended January 11, 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 December 22 corresponded to an annual rate of 22.2 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,398,273. The lowest rate was recorded in Derby, viz., 13.6, and the highest in Wolverhampton, viz., 33.8 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 8 deaths in Manchester, 4 in Salford, and 2 in Nottingham.

London.—One thousand eight hundred and two deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 184; scarlet fever, 25; diphtheria, 39; whooping-cough, 25; enteric fever, 12; diarrhoea and dysentery, 16. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 22.0 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 440 deaths; different forms of violence, 81; and 8 cases of suicide were registered. In greater London 2,207 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 20.8 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included measles, 20; diphtheria, 6.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended December 22 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 22.2 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Waterford, viz., 4.6, and the highest in Sligo, viz., 36.1 a thousand. In Dublin 209 deaths were registered, including measles, 3; whooping-cough, 7; enteric fever, 3; typhus, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1, diarrhoea, 1; and erysipelas, 2.

Palermo, Italy.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated September 6, states that “small-pox has obtained in the district to a small extent for some time, and bills of health have been issued from this consulate accordingly. The cases and death rate, however, were so small that it was not deemed important to submit the matter formally to the Department, but as the deaths threfreom at Trapani during the month of August reached 124, it is now thought proper to do so.”

Bahia, Brazil.—The United consul, under date of December 18, states that “the sanitary condition of this city and the adjacent country is good, and without any suspicion of plague, cholera, or other contagious disease whatever.”

Cartagena, U. S. of Colombia.—December 15: “No more cases of, or deaths from beri beri or yellow fever. No epidemic.”

Montevideo, Uruguay.—The United States consul reports, under date of October 31, that there were 368 deaths registered during the month of October, 1888, including 10 from small-pox, and 4 from enteric and typhus fever. “The sanitary condition of the city is good. There is some small-pox in the city all the time. The official reports do not report it correctly. Cholera is expected this summer, as reports here circulated state that it is on the Pacific coast.”

Cardenas, Cuba.—The United States consul reports, under date of December 29, 1888, that “the weather is cool and dry. No fever, but cases of small-pox in the town, and rather on the increase.”

Maceio, Brazil.—Forty-six deaths were registered during the month of November, 1888, including 17 from small-pox.

Havana, Cuba.—The United States sanitary inspector reports as follows:

HAVANA, ISLAND OF CUBA, *January 2, 1889.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that there were 571 deaths in this city during the month of December. Twenty-six of those deaths are reported to have been caused by yellow fever, 26 by pernicious fever, 1 by paludal fever, 7 by typhoid fever, 2 by small-pox, 1 by diphtheria, 2 by croup, and 3 by glanders. Twenty-six dying of pernicious fever, while during the same time only 1 died of any other form of paludal fever, leads us to suspect that pernicious symptoms due to yellow fever may have been confounded with those produced by malarial poison. That disgusting and terribly-fatal disease, glanders, has caused three deaths during the last month in this city, one of the victims being a private gentleman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BURGESS,

Sanitary Inspector Marine-Hospital Service.

To Surgeon-General HAMILTON.

Havana, Cuba.—There were 5 deaths from yellow fever and 1 from small-pox during the week ended December 21, and the same number for the week ended December 29, 1888. During the week ended January 3, there were 3 deaths from yellow fever.

Havana, Cuba—Shipment of infected ballast—Danger of yellow fever contamination at wharves.—The following communication has been received:

“Havana vessels loading for American ports after 1st May have little to bring except fruit and cigars, and take in sand ballast at times at the yellow fever hospital wharf. This sand is discharged at the ports, and the hot suns of July and August will develop naturally the disease. All seaports are interested, and quarantine does not meet the emergency.”

The communication was referred to the United States sanitary inspector at Havana, Cuba, for his information, and he has made the following report, supplemental to that of December 14, 1888 (see Abstract No. 52):

HAVANA, ISLAND OF CUBA, *January 2, 1889.*

SIR: A communication relative to vessels carrying yellow fever in sand ballast, &c., which you have referred to me for my information and report has been received.

In reply I would say, that if I interpret the document correctly, it chronologically refers to a period in 1876 and 1877—some years before there was an United States sanitary inspector appointed at this port. However, I was living here at that time and know that several Spanish vessels in the spring and early summer months of the year 1876, bound for Savannah, took in for ballast the most objectionable and dangerous material—dirt, &c., scraped up from a level with the water of the harbor and saturated with the filth of surrounding habitations—dwellings in which there was sickness at the time. These vessels sailed from here and in due time arrived at Savannah. I was informed where that ballast was discharged and of the circumstances attending the first cases of yellow fever, which preluded the fearful epidemic at that place in 1876, and my own personal belief has been, and is now, that that epidemic was caused by that ballast which was carried there in those vessels. I have understood that for several years past, vessels for Savannah, with ballast from this place, are made to discharge it near the sea and entirely away from any population.

Since the year 1880, or thereabouts, I have not known vessels bound to the United States to take in such excessively bad ballast, probably from the warnings of your sanitary inspector.

However, there is a class of vessels, some of which go to ports in the United States, which have and still continue to take on more or less ballast at wharves in this city. They are mostly Spanish barks or ships, and are so constructed that they cannot, it is thought, be entirely discharged without taking in ballast or some weight toward the conclusion of the process to keep them from tipping over. In other words, they are built so crank that they cannot stand up without some ballast in them. As I have said, these vessels discharge usually at wharves on the Havana side of the harbor, and there they take in a

portion of their ballast often, and then go out into the bay to complete the ballasting process. For several years past this ballast has come from the hills back of the town of Regla, on the opposite side of the harbor from Havana.

It is brought down from those elevations and dumped on the shore in the immediate suburbs of Regla, where it remains until some vessel requires it. In a sanitary sense it is more or less injured by its treatment by that population without doubt. When needed it is shoveled up and put aboard of lighters and carried along side of the vessels and put aboard in baskets. Although none of it is put on the wharves on the Havana or freight side of the harbor, it none the less shares with the vessel the deleterious influences of that locality. The Havana ballast usually consists of earth mixed with a soft-friable crumbling grayish-blue stone, and in one place a harder whitish calcareous stone is found. It is all very porous, but the latter is far the most solid and best.

Exactly what wharf or place the correspondent meant by the "yellow fever hospital wharf," I cannot divine, for there is not now, neither has there been in the memory of any one now living, any hospital specially and exclusively used for that disease. There is, however, a hospital near the wharf in which yellow fever is always to be found, and as the two hospitals that are near the wharves are on the Havana side of the harbor, it is probable that the wharf spoken of meant the wharves on the Havana side of the harbor.

All the wharves on the Havana side of the harbor are immediately contiguous to the town. They are made of wood, on thickly-driven wooden piles, and under them many of the sewers of the city empty. The almost tideless harbor affords no current sufficient for cleansing purposes, and the sewage is left to deposit and putrify just where it is emptied, viz., under the wharves. As a matter of fact, yellow fever occurs at these wharves many months in the year, and some seasons it has been known to invade vessels every month in the year.

Their locality must not only endanger the atmosphere of vessels lying at them, but whatever is taken aboard in their immediate precincts, whether it is sand, or earth, or porous-stone ballast, or cargo consisting of hides, &c.

These dangers of yellow-fever contamination from these sources have been for a long time recognized by your sanitary inspector, and to meet the emergency he always states in the bill of health which the vessel carries for the information of the health officers or boards of health at the port of destination, the fact whether the vessel has been at wharves or not, and if so, how long, as well as at what wharves.

The same information is given to the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service.

In addition, the captain or those interested in the vessel are advised to disinfect or fumigate that ballast or that cargo so exposed as well as the vessel itself after all are out in the open bay.

It will thus be seen that the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service is informed in regard to the sanitary status of the vessel and contents as near as may be, the health officers at the port of destination in the United States are also informed, and can take any advisable action to protect themselves against vessel and contents, and the captains are urged to do all possible to put their vessel, &c., in a good sanitary condition before leaving this port.

It has often occurred to me that the safest and better way would be never to discharge Havana ballast at or near any population south of the capes of Delaware.

I should have stated that quite a number of captains desire their vessels and cargoes or ballast disinfected and fumigated before they leave here, and when it is done it is noted in the bill of health, as well as what is done.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

D. M. BURGESS,

Sanitary Inspector, Marine-Hospital Service.

To Surgeon-General HAMILTON.

Denmark.—The following is a translation of a quarantine order issued by the Danish Government, under date of December 17, 1888:

Notice having been received that small-pox has broken out in Porto Rico, the provisions in section 2, paragraph 1 of the law of July 2, 1880, providing against the introduction of contagious diseases into the kingdom are to be put in force, until further notice, with reference to ships coming from or having touched ports in Porto Rico, and in accordance with section 32 of the same law, the importation from said port into this kingdom of used linen, used articles of clothing, and used bed-clothes, providing the articles named do not constitute the personal effects of travelers, waste-cotton, or wool, refuse paper, hair and hides is prohibited.

There is no *quarantine* of ships at present. The provisions of section 2, paragraph 1, of the law of July 2, 1880, referring to precautionary measures against the introduction into the kingdom are hereafter to be enforced with reference to the following places:

Ports in Porto Rico; Marseilles; Sicilian ports; ports of the French coast between Nantes and St. Malo, both inclusive; Egersund; all ports in Chili; all ports in Florida; all ports in Jamaica; all ports in Martinique; all ports in Guadeloupe; St. Iago de Cuba; ports in Tonkin and Cochin China, and in the East Indies, with the exception of the Dutch East Indian Colonies; Trieste; all ports in Egypt; ports on the Red Sea; Rio de Janeiro; and Havana.

The prohibition against the importation into the kingdom of used linen, used articles of clothing, and used bed-clothes, providing the above-named articles do not constitute the personal effects of travelers, waste-cotton or wool, refuse paper, hair and hides, remains in force in reference to the following places:

Ports in Porto Rico; Marseilles; Sicilian ports; ports of the French coast between Nantes and St. Malo, both inclusive; Egersund; all ports in Florida; all ports in Jamaica; all ports in Martinique; all ports in Guadeloupe; St. Iago de Cuba; ports in Tonkin and Cochin China; and ports in the East Indies, with the exception of the Dutch East Indian Colonies; and all ports in Chili.

The prohibition against the importation into the kingdom of used linen, used articles of clothing, and used bed-clothes, providing the articles named do not constitute the personal effects of travelers, remains in force in reference to Rio de Janeiro and Havana. In addition thereto special attention is to be paid to the cleansing under official inspection of linen, clothing, and bed-clothes brought from either of the last two places as the personal effects of travelers.

This order to go into effect at once.

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	Dec. 28.....	2,260,945	982	.....	.....	3	.....	11	2	38	32	3
Glasgow.....	Dec. 22.....	545,678	229	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	4	.....	.....
Warsaw.....	Dec. 15.....	448,814	201	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	16	9	.....	.....
Calcutta.....	Nov. 24.....	433,219	315	59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Rome.....	Nov. 10.....	393,496	183	.....	1	.....	.....	3	1	1	.....	.....
Rome.....	Nov. 17.....	393,491	171	.....	1	.....	.....	5	.....	2	.....	.....
Copenhagen.....	Dec. 11.....	300,000	113	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4	7	.....	.....
Copenhagen.....	Dec. 18.....	300,000	105	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3	.....	.....
Munich.....	Dec. 8.....	275,000	142	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	13	.....	.....
Munich.....	Dec. 15.....	275,000	164	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	14	.....	.....
Palermo.....	Dec. 22.....	250,000	84	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	4	5	.....	.....
Genoa.....	Dec. 22.....	199,913	104	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Trieste.....	Dec. 15.....	154,500	63	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
Stuttgart.....	Dec. 22.....	125,510	41	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
Bremen.....	Dec. 15.....	122,000	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	3	.....
Havre.....	Dec. 15.....	112,074	59	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	1	.....	.....
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 4.....	110,000	90	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 14.....	110,000	82	.....	1	.....	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 18.....	110,000	63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barmen.....	Dec. 15.....	109,000	31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Leghorn.....	Dec. 25.....	102,540	54	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mayence.....	Nov. 24.....	65,802	31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Mayence.....	Dec. 1.....	65,802	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Mayence.....	Dec. 8.....	65,802	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cadiz.....	Dec. 22.....	65,028	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vera Cruz.....	Dec. 27.....	28,800	29	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kingston, Can.....	Jan. 4.....	17,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Thomas.....	Dec. 14.....	17,000	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cartagena, Colombia.....	Dec. 15.....	13,000	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Laguayra.....	Dec. 8.....	7,428	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Laguayra.....	Dec. 15.....	7,428	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bluefields, Nic.....	Dec. 22.....	2,000	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bluefields, Nic.....	Dec. 29.....	2,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

UNITED STATES.

Travel in Florida.—In the opinion of this Bureau, travel may safely be resumed throughout the State. An inspection service will be maintained, and in case of any appearance of fever, the public will be notified.

Gainesville, Fla.—Yellow Fever.—The following letter has been received :

GAINESVILLE, FLA., *January 3, 1889.*

That you may have all necessary information relative to the health of Gainesville, Fla., since Dr. Martin concluded his labors here, I will report that during the month of December and up to this time there has been only one case of yellow fever. This case occurred just outside the corporate limits in the person of a Mr. York, a carpenter, who had worked, however, daily in the city. He was taken on the 18th (December), and died on the 22d. His case was typical, unmistakable. The two succeeding nights after he was taken were quite cold, ice forming each night, and no other cases have occurred. I feel confident that there will be no other cases now. The same precautions were taken

relative to this case that were taken during the existence of the epidemic—bedding burned, house fumigated, family isolated, &c.

Yours very truly,

N. D. PHILLIPS, M. D.

To Surgeon-General 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.	Varicoid.	Varicella.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.
New York, N. Y.....	Jan. 5.....	1,549,500	785							9	47	43	25	14
Philadelphia, Pa.....	Dec. 29.....	1,016,758	349							10	8	7		12
Brooklyn, N. Y.....	Dec. 29.....	805,885	341							4	12	23	6	7
Baltimore, Md.....	Jan. 5.....	500,343	164							5	5	6		3
St. Louis, Mo.....	Dec. 29.....	440,000	156							3		16		
San Francisco, Cal.....	Dec. 28.....	330,000	102							1		2		
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	Jan. 5.....	255,139	124								3	7	1	
New Orleans, La.....	Dec. 29.....	248,000	117							3		5		
Milwaukee, Wis.....	Jan. 5.....	200,000	66							1	3	5	1	
Kansas City, Mo.....	Jan. 5.....	180,000	30									1		
Minneapolis, Minn.....	Dec. 29.....	180,000	43							2	2	6		
Newark, N. J.....	Jan. 1.....	179,000	76							6		1		
Newark, N. J.....	Jan. 8.....	179,000	94							9	2	2		
Detroit, Mich.....	Jan. 5.....		59									2		
Richmond, Va.....	Dec. 31.....	100,000	38							1		1		
Richmond, Va.....	Jan. 7.....	100,000	32											1
Denver, Colo.....	Jan. 4.....	96,000	33											
Toledo, Ohio.....	Jan. 4.....	80,000	23									1	3	
Camden, N. J.....	Jan. 3.....	70,000	9											
Nashville, Tenn.....	Jan. 5.....	65,153	24							1	1			
Fall River, Mass.....	Jan. 5.....	65,000	32							1	1			
Charleston, S. C.....	Jan. 5.....	60,145	25								1			
Lynn, Mass.....	Jan. 5.....	50,000	23										1	
Manchester, N. H.....	Dec. 30.....	41,000	19									2		
Galveston, Tex.....	Dec. 28.....	40,000	13											
Portland, Me.....	Jan. 4.....	40,000	15											
Council Bluffs, Iowa.....	Jan. 5.....	40,000	2											
East Saginaw, Mich.....	Jan. 5.....	33,000	8											
Altoona, Pa.....	Dec. 29.....	30,000	10										1	
Auburn, N. Y.....	Jan. 5.....	26,000	7											
Haverhill, Mass.....	Jan. 5.....	25,000	10										1	
Newport, R. I.....	Jan. 3.....	22,000	6											
Newton, Mass.....	Jan. 5.....	21,105	6									1		
Keokuk, Ia.....	Jan. 5.....	16,000	2											

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.