

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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No. 42.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., October 18, 1889.

Abstract of Domestic and Foreign Sanitary Reports received during the week ended October 18, 1889, published in accordance with section 4, Act of Congress, approved April 29, 1878.

UNITED STATES.

Special Reports.

FLORIDA—*Key West.*—*Yellow fever.*—The following letter has been received:

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF FLORIDA,
Jacksonville, Fla., October 12, 1889.

Sir: I inclose herewith for your information copies of communications from Dr. J. Y. Porter, State health officer, and Drs. Plummer and Murray, of Key West, relative to cases of "suspicious" fever at that place.

Very truly yours,

R. P. DANIEL,
President Florida State Board of Health.

Surgeon-General JOHN B. HAMILTON.

KEY WEST, FLA., October 9, 1889.

SIR: In conformity to your instructions of the 7th instant to visit this place and investigate the rumors of "suspicious fever" reported in the practice of Dr. J. St. V. R. Plummer, of this place, I left Jacksonville at once, and arrived here last night. I immediately had a conference with Dr. Sweeting, the county board of health officer, but learned nothing additional to what he had communicated to the State board of health in his letter of last Saturday, the 5th instant.

Early this a. m. I addressed a note to Dr. Plummer, and again at a later hour (copies of my letters and his answers are inclosed). At 10.45 a. m. I called on Dr. Plummer, and with him visited the cases deemed as having been "suspicious." I found them on Whitehead street, in the premises of Paul Seabrook (colored), and in the rear of said premises, upstairs. The patients are Wolff Abraham and his wife. Their history, as given by Dr. Plummer in their presence, is as follows: The wife was taken sick Saturday, September 28, but did not send for Dr. Plummer until the next day, Sunday, 29th. When he saw her for

the first time her temperature was 104.4° Fahr. ; pulse, 110. The fever declined on the fourth day, and on the fifth day she had a temperature of 97.6° Fahr. On the third day the doctor says he found about 20 per cent. of albumen, but made no further tests. On the fourth day from the day he saw the wife the husband was taken sick with headache, injected eyes, and fever ; temperature, 101° ; no record of pulse ; no test of urine ; he was up on the fourth day. When I saw these people to-day they presented nothing abnormal in appearance of convalescents from any case of ordinary fever. The woman was sitting on the porch comparatively well ; the man in the room, dressed and looking slightly invalided. On inquiry, I learned that the man was a Russian Jew, a tinware peddler, and had been in Key West since last October, coming here direct from New York. His wife had come direct from New York about six weeks ago ; they had very few friends, and the woman speaking no English, visited none at all, and had no acquaintances. There is a boy of twelve years in the family, who has not, to this time, been taken sick.

It is exceedingly difficult at this period of the trouble to definitely state whether or not these cases were yellow fever. The suspicious features, according to the statement of the attending physician in the first case, are the definite duration of fever and disappearance after seventy-two hours ; the appearance of albumen on the third day, the irritable stomach, and, in a measure, although this is not very marked, the subnormal temperature and the suspicious circumstances of the second case, which appears to have been not more than an ephemeral fever, is the attack four days after seizure of wife. I find every precaution has been taken by the attending physician to prevent the spread of the disease, although he declines to positively and definitely state the nature of the disease. The history, as imperfect as it is, gives reason for warrantable doubt and apprehension as to the true character of the fever that Wolff Abraham and his wife have suffered from, and it is exceedingly to be regretted that whilst the attending physician had his suspicions aroused, as he says, at once, yet he did not at the same time appreciate the gravity and importance of keeping full and careful clinical notes of these cases. The want of temperature and pulse charts, with other important notations, precludes beyond the possibility of a doubt the determining the true character of these cases, and which can now be only characterized as "suspicious." The statement of the attending physician on Sunday, the 29th, after seeing the patient (wife) *but once* that the case was suspicious, was not sufficient on which the county board would have been warranted in reporting yellow fever to the State board of health. Dr. Sweeting says he waited for further reports from Dr. Plummer, which were promised him in case the symptoms fulfilled his (Dr. Plummer's) suspicions, but hearing nothing from him for five days, he naturally concluded that the further symptoms failed to corroborate his doubts, and it was not until Friday, the 4th of October, that he learned of the detection of albumen on the third day of the sickness of the wife, and the subsequent attack of the husband.

I addressed a note to Dr. R. D. Murray, the Marine-Hospital surgeon here, and an expert in yellow fever, early this a. m., who saw the cases with Dr. Sweeting, asking his professional opinion of the character of these cases. I shall, acting upon the suspicious circumstances attending these cases, appraise, destroy, and pay for the bedding used by these parties, Wolff Abraham and his wife, and have their rooms

thoroughly disinfected. I do not think it necessary to take any further steps at this present, but will remain here, unless you order differently, for at least two weeks watching the situation.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH Y. PORTER, M. D.,
State Health Officer.

DR. R. P. DANIEL,
President of the State Board of Health, Jacksonville, Fla.

U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE,
DISTRICT OF THE GULF,
Port of Key West, Fla., Surgeon's Office, October 9, 1889.

DEAR DOCTOR: Your note of this date is noted. In response I have to say that in my opinion the patients referred to were suffering from yellow fever.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. MURRAY.

J. Y. PORTER, M. D.
State Health Officer, Key West, Fla.

CALIFORNIA.—*San Diego.—Atmospheric disturbances.*

U. S. QUARANTINE STATION,
San Diego, October 2, 1889.

SIR: The past week at this port has been noted particularly for an absence of our usual northwest winds, which have made San Diego so noted for delightfully cool and pleasant days during the summer, giving us a mean annual temperature of 61.3. We have had, instead of our customary ocean breeze, a hot north wind blowing up from the Mojave desert, caused by vast forest and brush fires, bringing great clouds of dust, sand, and smoke, making breathing difficult, obscuring the entire view oceanward, raising the temperature at times to 91.0, and reducing the humidity from an average of 72.0 to as low as 14.0, giving us with a high mean temperature a high mean barometer, just the reverse of what we usually have here with a high temperature. These winds blowing so strongly off the coast have prevented many vessels overdue from entering the harbor, and to these atmospheric disturbances may in part be attributed the unusually high death rate for the past two weeks.

Very respectfully,

W. W. MCKAY,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, M. H. S., San Diego Quarantine.
To the SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL:
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.

Reports of States, and Yearly and Monthly Reports of Cities.

CALIFORNIA—*Los Angeles.—Month of September, 1889.* Population, 80,000. Total deaths, 58, including enteric fever, 3; diphtheria, 5; and whooping-cough, 1.

Sacramento.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 35,000. Total deaths, 30, including diphtheria, 1, and enteric fever, 1.

COLORADO—*Denver.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 100,000. Total deaths, 174, including diphtheria, 4; enteric fever, 51; measles, 1; whooping-cough, 3; and scarlet fever, 1.

ILLINOIS—*Chicago.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 1,100,000. Total deaths, 1,601, including diphtheria, 77; scarlet fever, 13; enteric fever, 77; measles, 1; and whooping-cough, 18.

IOWA—*Davenport.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 33,715. Total deaths, 28, including diphtheria, 3, and enteric fever, 1.

Dubuque.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 35,000. Total deaths, 33. None from contagious diseases.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Fall River.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 69,000. Total deaths, 86, including enteric fever, 12, and whooping-cough, 4.

There were 86 cases of contagious diseases reported during the month, including 1 of diphtheria, 5 of scarlet fever, 77 of enteric fever, and 3 of measles.

Worcester.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 82,000. Total deaths, 124, including enteric fever, 5; whooping-cough, 2; and diphtheria, 4.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended October 5, 1889. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 53 observers, indicate that tonsillitis, typho-malarial fever, influenza, erysipelas, scarlet fever, puerperal fever, and membranous croup increased, and cholera infantum, inflammation of bowels, cerebro-spinal meningitis, inflammation of brain, and measles decreased in area of prevalence. Diphtheria was reported present during the week, and since, at 17 places; scarlet fever at 14 places; enteric fever at 36 places; and measles at 5 places.

Grand Rapids.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 75,000. Total deaths, 78, including diphtheria, 9; enteric fever, 7; and whooping-cough, 1.

MISSOURI—*St. Louis.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 450,000. Total deaths, 651, including scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 23; whooping-cough, 3; and enteric fever, 22.

NEW YORK—*Rochester.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 130,000. Total deaths, 172, including diphtheria, 3; enteric fever, 6; and whooping cough, 1.

OHIO—*Cincinnati.*—Month of September, 1889. Population, 325,000. Total deaths, 459, including diphtheria, 37; measles, 3; scarlet fever, 3; enteric fever, 14; and whooping-cough, 2.

RHODE ISLAND—*Newport*.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 22,000. Total deaths, 36, including enteric fever, 3.

TENNESSEE—*Chattanooga*.—Month of September, 1889. Population, 40,000. Total deaths, 44, including enteric fever, 1.

MORTALITY TABLE, CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

FOREIGN.

(Reports received through the Department of State and other channels.)

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 28 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended September 28 corresponded to an annual rate of 17.9 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Huddersfield, viz, 7.9, and the highest in Plymouth, viz, 32.7 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 3 deaths in Manchester, 3 in Salford, 4 in Portsmouth, and 2 in Plymouth.

London.—One thousand two hundred and sixty-seven deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 7; scarlet fever, 22; diphtheria, 44; whooping-cough, 23; enteric fever, 19; typhus, 2, and diarrhoea and dysentery, 78. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 16.3 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 189 deaths. In greater London 1,699 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.7 a thousand of the population. In the “outer ring” the deaths included diarrhoea, 15; scarlet-fever, 8; whooping-cough, 10, and diphtheria, 10.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended September 28, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 26.3 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Lisburn, viz, 0.0, and the highest in Dublin, viz, 30.7 a thousand. In Dublin 213 deaths were registered, including measles, 1; enteric fever, 6; diarrhoea, 21, and dysentery, 2.

NEW SOUTH WALES—*Queensland.*—One hundred and sixteen deaths were registered during the month of July, 1889, including enteric fever, 4; whooping-cough, 2, and diphtheria, 6.

PERSIA—*Cholera in Bushire.*—The following has been received at the Department of State:

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Tehran, August 31, 1889.

SIR: Referring to my dispatch of the 23d instant, I have the honor to report that on the 26th I sent a telegram to our consular agent at Bushire, Mr. T. J. Malcolm, requesting information regarding the cholera at Bassorah, Bagdad, and Bushire.

Yesterday, the 30th instant, I received a letter from Mr. Malcolm, by inclosed copy of which you will observe that cholera had already made its appearance at Bushire on the 17th of the month; a copy of my answer to the above, under this day's date, I have also the honor to submit herewith for your consideration.

Immediately after mailing of letter just referred to I received a telegram from Mr. Malcolm, stating that up to yesterday no new cases of

cholera had developed at Bushire, and that an epidemic there was now no longer apprehended.

In my opinion, if the disease is introduced in the interior, it will be through the medium of the pilgrims returning from the holy shrines of Mecca, Medina, and Kerbellah, whose route was through the infected districts above Bagdad. It is for this reason that, when consulted on the subject by His Excellency Emin-el Mulk, acting prime minister, I strongly recommended the establishing of a sanitary cordon along the whole southwestern frontier, as well as quarantining against Bushire.

I have, sir, the honor to be, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosures.]

BUSHIRE, August 17, 1889.

To Hon. E. SPENCER PRATT,
U. S. Minister, etc., Teheran:

SIR: I regret to have to report the appearance of cholera at this place, the disease having been imported from Bassorah.

Your excellency's servant, etc.,

T. J. MALCOLM.

T. J. MALCOLM, Esq.,
U. S. Consular Agent, Bushire:

SIR: On Monday last, the 26th instant, I sent you a telegram, of which copy is inclosed, asking you to report to me regarding cholera at Bassorah, Bagdad, and Bushire.

I am now in receipt of your letter of the 17th instant announcing that at that time the disease in question had already made its appearance at Bushire, having been imported there from Bassorah.

My above-mentioned telegram, however, still remains unanswered.

Will you please endeavor to obtain and transmit the information for which it calls by return mail. Advise me as to what sanitary measures have been adopted in Bushire itself to prevent the disease becoming epidemic and arrest its further introduction, and whether the necessary steps have been taken to isolate the already infected district from intercourse with the interior.

I am, sir, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT.

GREECE—Athens.—The United States consul, in his dispatch dated September 18, 1889, says:

I have this morning sent cablegram as follows:

“No case of Asiatic cholera has appeared in Athens. City perfectly healthy.”

The occasion for sending this is the inclosed newspaper dispatch which appeared in the New York Herald, London edition, of the 13th instant, the heading of which is utterly misleading and likely to do serious harm.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. MOFFETT, *Consul.*

[Inclosure.—Cholera at Athens.—From the Herald's special correspondent.]

Athens, September 12. According to private dispatches received from Constantinople, a number of cases of Asiatic cholera have occurred in that city.

DENMARK.—The United States minister, in his dispatch to the Department of State under date of September 23, 1889, says :

I have the honor to inform you that I am notified by the Royal-Danish Government that, on account of contagious diseases now prevalent in Peru, Japan, and about the Persian Gulf, rigid quarantine measures will be enforced by this Government against ships coming from the ports in those countries. Also, that Sicily and Brazil, having ceased to be infected with contagious diseases, the restrictions heretofore placed upon vessels coming from their ports, by proclamation, are removed.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

CHARLES E. CARR.

AUSTRIA—*Trieste*.—The United States consul, under date of September 12, 1889, forwards the following translation of a circular issued by the Government to all the officers and functionaries of the port and maritime sanitary board :

By order of the ministry of commerce, * * * the officers and functionaries of the port and maritime board dependent are charged to exercise a special ocular surveillance as to the sanitary treatment of vessels arriving from Egyptian ports on the Red and Mediterranean seas, upon the state of health of Bosnian and Herzegovinian pilgrims returning from Mecca, to find out, in a reliable manner, if these and their effects have undergone a quarantine treatment, and if in the affirmative, where, and for what period of time.

If there should be cause for suspicion with regard to the state of health of these pilgrims who are returning to their homes, it will be necessary to adopt immediately opportune measures of precaution, communicating with the maritime government, and, when necessary, also by means of the telegraph.

Trieste, September 9, 1889.

For the President :

TOMASSIEL.

BRAZIL—*Maceio*.—Seventy-five deaths were registered during the month of August, 1889, in a population of 17,000, including 41 from small-pox.

CUBA—*Havana*.—Seven deaths from yellow fever were registered during the week ended October 3, 1889.

Cardenas.—October 11, 1889. Good health in town and bay. Rainy weather, gradually changing to cooler nights and mornings.

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	Sept. 28.	2,260,945	948			4		18	4	25	8	8
Glasgow	Sept. 28.	545,678	210					6	1	1		
Amsterdam	Sept. 28.	399,424	124						2	8		
Copenhagen	Sept. 21.	307,000	120						3	2		
Munich	Aug. 31.	281,000	198									
Munich	Sept. 7.	281,000	154						2	5		
Munich	Sept. 14.	281,000	194				1		1			
Palermo	Sept. 28.	250,000	69									
Rotterdam	Sept. 28.	197,724	71									
Stuttgart	Sept. 28.	125,510	35									
Pernambuco	Sept. 10.	120,000	82						1			
Havre	Sept. 14.	112,074	60					2				
Havre	Sept. 28.	112,074	48					1	1	2	1	
Catania	Sept. 29.	108,000	50					2		2		
Rheims	Sept. 28.	97,903	42					5				
Mayence	Sept. 21.	65,802	34						1	4		
Vera Cruz	Oct. 3.	23,800	27									
Gibraltar	Sept. 22.	23,631	15			1		1		1		
Kingston, Can.	Sept. 27.	20,000	3									
Kingston, Can.	Oct. 12.	20,000	10									
Laguayra	Sept. 21.	7,428	4									

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