

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

VOL. IV. { Abstract }
 { No. 44. }

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., November 1, 1889.

Abstract of Domestic and Foreign Sanitary Reports received during the week ended November 1, 1889, published in accordance with section 4, Act of Congress, approved April 29, 1878.

UNITED STATES.

Special Reports.

YELLOW FEVER—*Key West, Florida*—

BULLETIN NO. 2, STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF FLORIDA.

OFFICE OF STATE HEALTH OFFICER,
Key West, Fla., Saturday, October 19, 1889.

An official report of "suspicious cases of fever" at Key West, received at the office of the State board of health on October 7, caused the State health officer, who was then in Jacksonville, to be sent here to investigate. The following are the facts obtainable and which are now given to the public :

About September 21 a case of yellow fever was recognized by the surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service stationed at this port, in the person of Abraham Horn, a peddler, who was at the time convalescent.

On the 5th of October the same medical gentleman recognized two cases of yellow fever in the persons of Wolff Abraham and his wife ; the wife being convalescent, the husband being still in bed.

These above-named cases were reported to Surgeon-General Hamilton as yellow fever. The fourth case was recognized by Assistant Surgeon Geddings, of the Marine Hospital Service, and myself, on the twelfth day of illness, the attending physician, Surgeon Murray, dissenting from this diagnosis.

Abraham Horn I did not see, and Wolff Abraham and his wife were up and about their room and premises at my visit, but I have no hesitation in saying that from the verbal and written report of the cases, particularly of the woman, by the attending physician, Dr Plummer, who reports the cases merely as "*suspicious*," I believe these parties to have had yellow fever.

The Rev. Mr. Householder, the fourth and last case, is now sufficiently recovered so as to leave his house, and as it has been three weeks since his seizure and no other cases have arisen in his family, all restrictions of egress and ingress have been removed from the premises.

Every precaution has been used to prevent the spread of the disease, and the infected bedding, and other articles liable to carry infection, that could not be subjected to moist heat, have been destroyed and paid for. The premises of Abraham and the Rev. Mr. Householder have also been disinfected and cleaned. The city has been ordered to be cleaned, and all the foul spots disinfected, under the direction of the city health officer, who to-day reports the completion of his task.

At the time and immediately preceding the occurrence of the fever cases there had been an unusually heavy rain-fall at this place, followed by a period of intense heat of about a week. Happily this was of brief duration, and being followed by cool north winds had the effect, to my mind, of arresting any spread of the fever. For the past two weeks the weather has been unusually cool for this place at this season.

The failure to report the facts in the three first cases to the State health authorities, and the cases having been located in different sections of the town, warranted, at the date of my arrival (8th instant) "the assumption of belief of the possibility of the presence of infection, from whatever source introduced, still remaining," and the State health officer was justified at that time, and his duty demanded, in view of all attending circumstances, the placing of quarantine restrictions on Key West, awaiting further developments.

Sufficient time has now elapsed since the occurrence of the last case without any further recurrence of cases to permit me to state that travel can safely be resumed.

Therefore I hereby remove all quarantine restrictions on travel from Key West, Fla., and request a similar action by all State boards of health of neighboring States.

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

BULLETIN NO. 3, STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF FLORIDA.

OFFICE OF STATE HEALTH OFFICER,
Key West, Fla., October 21, 1889.

The occurrence of another sporadic case of yellow fever here, discovered to-night, necessitates revoking so much of Bulletin No. 2, issued Saturday, 19th instant, as *permits* travel to be resumed, and removes quarantine restrictions from Key West. And, accordingly, the restrictions on travel placed in force on October 10, are re-enacted.

It is impossible to trace any connection between the case discovered to-night (Ernest Ellinger, a prominent cigar manufacturer) with any of the previously reported cases of yellow fever this season. He left Havana on September 21, and went direct by sea to New York, returning here overland on October 1, and is now sick in an entirely different section of the town from where the other cases occurred.

The space of three weeks having elapsed since the occurrence of the case preceding the one discovered to-night gave good reason to believe that the disease had ceased, particularly as there were no new developments of cases in the Householder family and there had been ample time for other developments from the first three cases.

Mr. Ellinger is isolated, and every care is being exercised to prevent any spread of the disease from him.

There has been no epidemic prevailing here, and there need be no apprehension felt by the public (proper precautions being heeded)

either here or away, as due care is being instituted to prevent the disease from spreading.

It (the public) will be kept well informed from time to time of the sanitary situation at this point.

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

YELLOW FEVER—*New York Quarantine*—

QUARANTINE, S. I., *October 24, 1889.*

DEAR DOCTOR: I desire to inform you that the steamship *Hondo* from Central American ports, Livingstone being the last port (the 13th instant), arrived at this port the 23d instant.

William Bruins, cabin passenger, German, resident of Guatemala, was taken sick on the 15th and died an hour after arrival at quarantine. An autopsy of the case leaves no doubt that the disease of which he died was yellow fever. No other case of sickness has occurred on board, although eleven days have elapsed since the steamer left her last port, and nine days since the disease developed in the passenger named.

The vessel was thoroughly disinfected, and given *pratique* to day.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. SMITH,
Health Officer.

J. B. HAMILTON, M. D.,
Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE IN MICHIGAN.—The following bulletin has been received regarding "One cause of sickness and discomfort largely preventable:"

OFFICE OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
Lansing, Mich., October 23, 1889.

Owing to the drought, fires, especially in swampy places, are numerous, and the atmosphere is unusually smoky and irritating to the eyes, head, and air-passages. Some diseases are aggravated.* Sleeplessness, nervous disturbance, general discomfort, and, I believe, other serious troubles not commonly recognized as due to this cause, result, because the atmosphere is to a considerable extent unfitted to properly sustain life. One apparent change in the atmosphere is to lessen below the normal limit the active oxygen, and this is especially true during the nights; thus, during the week ending October 19, no ozone whatever could be detected in the atmosphere at Lansing any night except one—Wednesday. A sense of want of air, even approaching suffocation and a weakness of the circulation, in some approaching heart failure, has been noticed.

The object of this note is to ask attention to the fact that much of this discomfort and danger to health could easily be prevented if all persons would refrain from setting fire to rubbish until after this bad condition of the atmosphere has passed. On some evenings dozens of such fires have been set in one small city in the interior of this State. As "the wind goes down with the sun," nearly all the irritating smoke

* During the week ending October 19 tonsillitis increased 50 per cent.; pleuritis, 33 per cent.; inflammation of the brain, 25 per cent.; and membranous croup, 25 per cent. Probably other causes than the one here mentioned had influence, but the other atmospheric conditions were not such as to account for such increase.

and bad air from such fires built in the evening remain in the city or village, and must be breathed by the inhabitants.

If such fires must be made, it would be very much better to build them in the morning, because the movement of the atmosphere then usually increases until 2 p. m., and that may carry the foul and irritating air from such burning rubbish outside the city or village.

HENRY B. BAKER,
Secretary.

An account of atmospheric disturbances at San Diego, Cal., due to a like cause to that above mentioned, is contained in Abstract No. 42 of the current volume.

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

ALABAMA—*Mobile*.—Month of September, 1889. Population (estimated), 40,000; total deaths, 79.

ILLINOIS—*Chicago*.—The report of the department of public health, Oscar C. De Wolff, M. D., commissioner, for the year 1888, shows in an estimated population of 830,000 a total of 15,772 deaths. "The only disease persistently appearing in rather unusual number of deaths was diphtheria." Sanitary examinations were made of 404,138 rooms in 34,966 houses, and of 32,387 factories, stores, and other places of employment at labor.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended October 19, 1889. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 58 observers, indicate that tonsillitis, pleuritis, inflammation of brain, and membranous croup increased, and that typhoid fever, erysipelas, measles, diphtheria, and inflammation of the bowels decreased, in area of prevalence. The disease having the greatest area of prevalence was rheumatism.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Month of September, 1889. There were reported to the State board of health from 10 cities and villages 59 cases of diphtheria. Eight of the above cases are included in the report from Portsmouth for August and September. Four cities reported 19 cases of scarlet fever. Seventeen cities and villages reported 54 cases of typhoid fever.

RHODE ISLAND.—Month of September, 1889. The number of deaths in the towns making returns and representing an estimated population of 312,310 was 499. There was a falling off of 50 per cent. in diarrhoeal diseases as compared with the previous month. Diphtheria was reported in one-fourth of all the towns; scarlet fever in 2 towns only. Typhoid fever quite largely increased in number of cases in more than one-half the towns, although not epidemic in any reported locality.

TENNESSEE.—The principal diseases named in the order of greater prevalence during September, 1889, were malarial fever, dysentery, diarrhœa, consumption, rheumatism, pneumonia, tonsillitis, cholera-infantum, and bronchitis.

Typhoid fever was reported in 20 counties; Diphtheria in 12; scarlet fever in 7. Twelve counties out of 96 are reported as having no organized board of health.

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.....	Oct. 26.....	1,586,567	612	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	5	16	2	11
Philadelphia, Pa.....	Oct. 19.....	1,040,245	327	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	5	13	.....	3
Baltimore, Md.....	Oct. 26.....	500,343	156	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	2	7	.....	1
Boston, Mass.....	Oct. 26.....	420,000	180	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	11	.....	2
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	Oct. 26.....	325,000	108	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	2	.....	.....
New Orleans, La.....	Oct. 19.....	254,000	107	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Washington, D. C.....	Oct. 19.....	250,000	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	5	.....	2
Detroit, Mich.....	Oct. 19.....	250,000	68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	.....	.....
Louisville, Ky.....	Oct. 19.....	227,000	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....
Minneapolis, Minn.....	Oct. 26.....	200,000	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	3	.....	.....
Kansas City, Mo.....	Oct. 26.....	180,000	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	1	.....	.....
Providence, R. I.....	Oct. 26.....	127,000	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....
Indianapolis, Ind.....	Oct. 25.....	.....	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	1	.....	.....
Toledo, Ohio.....	Oct. 25.....	89,000	32	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	7	.....	.....
Fall River, Mass.....	Oct. 26.....	69,000	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1
Nashville, Tenn.....	Oct. 26.....	65,153	23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Charleston, S. C.....	Oct. 26.....	60,145	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Lynn, Mass.....	Oct. 26.....	53,000	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....
Portland, Me.....	Oct. 26.....	42,000	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Manchester, N. H.....	Oct. 19.....	42,000	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....
Galveston, Tex.....	Oct. 11.....	40,000	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Council Bluffs, Iowa.....	Oct. 14.....	35,000	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Council Bluffs, Iowa.....	Oct. 21.....	35,000	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Binghamton, N. Y.....	Oct. 26.....	30,000	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1
Haverhill, Mass.....	Oct. 26.....	25,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Newton, Mass.....	Oct. 19.....	21,553	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Newton, Mass.....	Oct. 26.....	21,553	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Rock Island, Ill.....	Oct. 20.....	16,000	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....

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 October 12 corresponded to an annual rate of 17.5 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Cardiff, viz, 9.3, and the highest in Plymouth, viz, 32.7 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 7 deaths in Manchester, 5 in Salford, and 2 in Liverpool.

London.—One thousand three hundred and twenty-one deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 13; scarlet fever, 15; diphtheria, 35; whooping-cough, 14; enteric fever, 16; diarrhoea and dysentery, 28; and not one from cholera or small-pox. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 15.8 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 264 deaths. In greater London 1,644 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.2 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included diarrhoea, 9; scarlet-fever, 7; and diphtheria, 7.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended October 12, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 21.7 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Dundalk, viz, 4.4, and the highest in Wexford, viz, 29.9 a thousand. In Dublin 157 deaths were registered, including measles, 2; enteric fever, 7; diarrhoea, 13; and dysentery, 1.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended September 28 corresponded to an annual rate of 18.8 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,329,884. The lowest mortality was recorded in Perth, viz, 9.5, and the highest in Leith, viz, 25.2 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 481, including measles, 6; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 9; whooping-cough, 14; fever, 11; and diarrhoea, 30.

SANDWICH ISLANDS—LEPROSY.

[Translated from the *Deutsche Correspondent*, October 19, 1889.]

The Hawaiian consul, in an article addressed to the Times, gives an interesting history of the specific disease of the Hawaiian Islands, leprosy. The first case appeared about forty years ago. Within twenty years a great part of the population fell victims to the terrible disease. In 1865 the patients were moved and restricted to the island of Molokai. At first great disorder prevailed in the colony, but in the year 1873 a Mr. Ragsdale offered his services as superintendent of the asylum, and

conducted its affairs well during his life-time. To-day the colony of patients is by no means a mass of discontented people, for the love of work, a religious sentiment, and resignation is strongly developed in them. Their number changes from time to time; it was largest in 1884, when it reached 100; it is worthy of notice that most patients are men. The colony has received an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Government, and the royal couple attest great sympathy for the unfortunate ones. Three years ago they (the royal couple) paid the colony a visit, upon which occasion a psalm composed by the King was sung. The average duration of the disease is eleven years, the death percentage 58 a thousand. Until now there is no remedy for the disease, but an oil, the so-called Giurjun-oil, received from the India government, is said to possess a healing effect. The doctor of the colony, Dr. Hoffmann, is suffering himself with leprosy.

SPAIN—LEPROSY.

[Translation from *La Hygiene*, Madrid, June, 1889.]

Some time ago leprosy declared itself in a family in Santa Maria de Esteiro, near Muros, and to-day five married neighbors in the same village and their children are suffering with the disease. It is probable that after there are only a few healthy persons left in the village a commission will be appointed to study the manner of preventing the progress of the scourge, and their recommendations may be carried out, but it will be too late to be of any avail.

CUBA.—*Leprosy*.—At the recent meeting of the American Public Health Association, in Brooklyn, N. Y., October 22, Dr. Benjamin Lea, of Philadelphia, presented a paper showing the alarming prevalence of leprosy in Cuba. A resolution was passed by the association requesting the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, the State board of health of Florida, and all quarantine commissioners of ports having intercourse with Cuban ports, to exercise the same vigilance with regard to leprosy that is already observed with regard to yellow fever.

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.	
London.....	Oct. 12.....	5,642,015	1,644				1	16	22		42	19	
Paris.....	Oct. 12.....	2,260,945	984					21	1		21	4	15
Glasgow.....	Oct. 12.....	545,678	219						2		6		
Buenos Ayres.....	July 31.....	516,110	1,329			10		36	1		21		
Warsaw.....	Oct. 5.....	445,770	264			27				6	10		
Amsterdam.....	Oct. 5.....	399,424	146					1	1		4		
Amsterdam.....	Oct. 12.....	399,424						1			8		
Copenhagen.....	Oct. 5.....	307,000	100					2		1	9		
Edinburgh.....	Sept. 7.....	266,900	65							1	1		
Edinburgh.....	Sept. 14.....	266,900	77				2			1	1		
Palermo.....	Oct. 12.....	250,000	63							1			
Belfast.....	Oct. 12.....	229,622	89					7			2		
Bristol.....	Aug. 17.....	229,361	70					1					
Bristol.....	Aug. 24.....	229,361	90							1			
Bristol.....	Aug. 31.....	229,361	72										
Bristol.....	Sept. 7.....	229,361	61							1			
Bristol.....	Sept. 14.....	229,361	79					1			1		
Bristol.....	Sept. 21.....	229,361	68							1			
Bristol.....	Sept. 28.....	229,361	81										
Bristol.....	Oct. 5.....	229,361	70										
Bristol.....	Oct. 12.....	229,361	54								1		
Rotterdam.....	Oct. 5.....	197,724	69					2	3				
Rotterdam.....	Oct. 12.....	197,724	74					2	2		2		
Genoa.....	Oct. 12.....	180,350	71				1				1		
Trieste.....	Sept. 21.....	154,500	70								2		
Trieste.....	Sept. 28.....	154,500	86					2	1				
Trieste.....	Oct. 5.....	154,500	54					1	1				
Stuttgart.....	Oct. 12.....	125,510	50							1	3		
Pernambuco.....	Sept. 17.....	120,000	89				1	1	2				
Pernambuco.....	Sept. 24.....	120,000	76			2	1	1	1				
Catania.....	Oct. 14.....	108,000	35					1	1		1		
Leghorn.....	Oct. 13.....	103,287	48								1		
Havre.....	Oct. 12.....	112,074						3	1			2	2
Barmen.....	Sept. 28.....	109,000	26				1						
Barmen.....	Oct. 5.....	109,000	30				1				1		
Rhems.....	Oct. 12.....	97,903	41					3	1		1	1	
Leith.....	Sept. 7.....	76,400	21						1		3		
Leith.....	Sept. 14.....	76,400	28						1				
Mayence.....	Sept. 28.....	*65,802	34						1		4		
Mayence.....	Oct. 5.....	65,802	26						3				
Cadiz.....	Oct. 5.....	57,157	39										
Cadiz.....	Oct. 12.....	57,157	47										
Merida.....	Oct. 7.....	47,488	42										
Ceara, Brazil.....	Aug. 17.....	29,000	32										
Ceara, Brazil.....	Aug. 24.....	29,000	36										
Vera Cruz.....	Oct. 17.....	23,800	25										
Gibraltar.....	Oct. 13.....	23,631						2			1		
Kingston, Can.....	Oct. 18.....	18,284	7										

* Census.

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