

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., December 6, 1889.

Abstract of Domestic and Foreign Sanitary Reports received during the week ended December 6, 1889, published in accordance with section 4, Act of Congress, approved April 29, 1878.

NOTICE.—Copies of Abstract No. 24, June 14, 1889, are desired to complete sets of the present volume. Persons who can spare the same without breaking permanent files will confer a favor by forwarding to this Bureau.

UNITED STATES.

Special Reports.

STATE QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.—The following notice has been received :

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF FLORIDA.

Jacksonville, Fla., November 30, 1889.

Whereas the quarantine season established by order of the State board of health of Florida expires this day, notice is hereby given that on and after December 1 restrictions on travel are removed, except that no bedding or other household goods will be permitted to be brought into or transported in the State of Florida from Havana or other infected points without being subjected to thorough disinfection at port of entry or place of arrival of said goods.

R. P. DANIEL,

President State Board of Health.

JOSEPH Y. PORTER,
State Health Officer.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.—A circular issued by the State board of health of Maine, after describing the nature and mode of transmission of tuberculosis, concludes with the following directions for prevention :

It should be impressed upon consumptive patients and other persons living with them that the sputum (which they cough up) is dangerous and must be properly disposed of.

The sputum should be received in a spit-cup or spittoon containing a little water or disinfecting fluid, and must never be spit upon floors, carpets, or received in handkerchiefs. If a disinfecting solution is used, corrosive sublimate is unsuitable; chloride of lime is efficient but irritates the air passages; carbolic acid with 5 per cent. of tartaric acid or hydrochloric acid will be the best disinfectant generally available.

If occasionally it is necessary to have handkerchiefs or cloths soiled with the sputum they should be boiled as soon as possible, and before drying.

The spittoon should be of such shape that the sputum may easily fall into the water without soiling the sides of the vessel. For patients not able to sit up, a small spit-cup with a handle should be used. When flies are present, it should be covered.

Spit-cups and spittoons should be emptied and cleansed often with boiling water and potash soap. When the house has a drainage system, the contents may be poured down the water-closet or slop-hopper; when it has not, they should be buried in ground which will not be turned up soon.

The sputum should not be thrown out upon the surface of the ground near inhabited places, nor on manure heaps, nor where animals may get it, nor where it may soil animal food.

Boxes filled with sand or sawdust should not be used. Cheap wooden and pasteboard spit-cups are now on the market, one of which may be burned daily or oftener with its contents as a convenient way of disposing of the sputa.

A pocket spit-flask of small size has been devised, which may be used while away from home.

The floors, wood-work and furniture of rooms in which consumptive patients stay should be wiped with a damp cloth; not dusted in the usual way.

The patients' clothing should be kept by itself and thoroughly boiled at the washing.

The patient should be made to understand that in neglecting these measures he is imperiling his friends, and at the same time diminishing very much his own chances of recovery by re-infecting himself with the inhalation of his own dried and pulverized sputum.

After a death from this disease has occurred, the patient's room, clothing, and bed should be disinfected. For this purpose boil all bed and personal clothing, or disinfect them while practicable in a steam disinfectory; wash furniture, wood-work, walls, and floors with carbolic acid, and thoroughly expose the rooms to light and air.

If raw milk is used as food, especially if it is to be given to children, an assurance should be had that the cows which produce it are perfectly healthy and subjected to healthful treatment.

When there is any doubt as to the health of the cows which furnish the supply, the milk should be boiled before use.

Thorough cooking will remove all danger of tuberculosis through the medium of the meat supply.

Tuberculous mothers and those inclined to consumption should, under no conditions, nurse their babies.

By observing the rules which are expressed and suggested in the foregoing, the principal if not all danger of infection may be avoided.

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

FLORIDA.—The following regulations have been published by the board of health of the county of Escambia, dated Pensacola, November 19, 1889 :

1. The port inspector shall visit and inspect every vessel entering the bay of Pensacola and ascertain and report her sanitary condition ; and until such inspection and report, and the release of such vessel by said officer, no person shall visit her, and no person from her shall visit any other vessel or the shore. The master or owner of each vessel so inspected shall pay to this board for such service five dollars.

2. No vessel coming into the port of Pensacola, having on board any contagious or infectious disease, or from a port where any such disease prevails, shall remain within the territory under the jurisdiction of this board, except at a point designated and under restrictions imposed by this board, according to the exigencies of each case.

3. It shall be the duty of any person coming into the county of Escambia or port of Pensacola from any locality where any disease in an epidemic form prevails, to report at once to this board or some officer thereof, and no person coming from any such locality shall remain in said county without the permit of this board, and then only at such point as may be designated, and under such restrictions as may be imposed by this board, according to the exigencies of each case.

4. No ballast brought into the bay of Pensacola by vessels shall be discharged in the county of Escambia, or the waters separating that county and the county of Santa Rosa, except at such point as may be designated in a permit obtained from this board or granted on its authority ; and in case this board or its sanitary inspector or other officer with approval of this board deem it expedient for the preservation of the public health to require fumigation, disinfection, or discharge of ballast at quarantine station the same shall be done at the expense of the vessel, and in accordance with the system in use by this board.

5. All pilots and tow-boats of the port of Pensacola shall be supplied with copies of these rules, and every pilot or tow-boat master speaking or boarding a vessel coming into said port shall hand a copy thereof to the master of said vessel.

6. In case any vessel shall be required, by authority of this board in the exercise of its powers to preserve the public health, to discharge ballast at quarantine station or be fumigated, she shall pay 25 cents per ton for the ballast discharged, and for the fumigation shall pay as follows: steam-ships, \$75 ; ships, \$50 ; barks and other vessels, other than brigs and two-masted schooners, \$40 ; brigs, \$20 ; two-masted schooners, \$15.

7. No pilot, tow-boatman or other person shall remove, transfer, or receive, or assist in removing, transferring, or receiving any person from any vessel entering the bay of Pensacola, until such vessel shall have been inspected and released by the port inspector.

JOHN W. FRATER,
President.

WM. FISHER,
Secretary and Treasurer.

IOWA—*Keokuk*.—*Diphtheria*.—The following bulletins have been published concerning the importation into Keokuk from Memphis, Mo., of the bodies of two children who died of diphtheria:

KEOKUK, IOWA, *November 26, 1889.*

To the Public:

A statement of the facts connected with the importation of the bodies of children alleged to have died of diphtheria at Memphis, Mo., lately, seems to be necessary. November 8 the *Gate City* announced the fact. November 9 public attention was called to it by the board of health, and the laws in such cases were quoted. November 10 it appeared that the body of one of the dead had been kept at 1409 Des Moines street; that there had been a "wake;" that the lid had been removed from the coffin and the corpse exposed; that it had been deposited in the city's receiving vault; that there had been public services over the body at St. Peter's church. Inquiry of the parties interested here established all these rumors and statements.

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It appears that the bodies were first wrapped with roller bandages, salt applied, and some chemical solution poured over it, before they were dressed for burial.

There are certificates from two of the consulting physicians. One says the child "Loretta did not, in my opinion, die of diphtheria or any other contagious disease." * * *

"Since the death of Loretta I have been called in consultation to see other similar cases, and * * * in my judgment they did not have diphtheria." The other consulting physician says: "I do not think that the death of those children was due to diphtheritic causes, but was the result of catarrhal exudation followed by a tonsopharyngitic ulceration of malignant type."

The two attending physicians pronounced the disease diphtheria and the newspaper statements are uncontradicted.

Mr. Real did not see the agent of the K. and W. railway as to the transportation of the bodies; a friend saw the agent and was promptly informed that he could not take them without a certificate of a physician that they had not died of infectious disease. The bodies were then brought over by land in a wagon. The parish priest was told there was no diphtheria about the case; the clerk of the board asked no questions—as it is not required of him—and had no certificate as to cause of death when vault permit was given, but friends who called at 1409 Des Moines street had a distinct impression of diphtheria, and did not remain. Mr. Real writes, November 13: "The attending physicians called this disease diphtheria, but other physicians called in in counsel said it was not. I own a lot in the Catholic cemetery and having other children buried there, I took them there for burial with no knowledge or intention to violate any statutory laws or police regulations. I concealed nothing, told a reporter that children had died with diphtheria (so the doctor said)." The sheriff of Scotland County writes confirmatory of what is written above as to the facts in the case, and is "satisfied that any act that he may have done, if any, in violation of the law of this State or the State of Iowa was not intentionally, but through ignorance of the law."

In view of these statements it seemed to the board that to prosecute the case would not bring about any useful result; that whatever injury

had been done was without remedy; that the law had been vindicated sufficiently, and that this publication should be fair warning to the general public that the health officers would enforce the laws if they knew of any attempt at their willful infraction.

JOHN E. CRAIG,
Mayor and ex-officio chairman.
J. M. SHAFFER,
Physician to Board.

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KEOKUK, IOWA, *November 25, 1889.*

There is no occasion for alarm, but it is a time for great caution and the strict observance of the rules and regulations of the board of health. Since October 31 the following have been placed under quarantine:

Thirteenth and Timea, three cases; No. 1726 Exchange, one case; No. 1618 Johnson, two cases; No. 1620 Johnson, one case; No. 1503 Morgan, two cases; Sixth and Johnson, three cases; No. 1621 Bank, three cases; No. 1503 Franklin, one case; No. 1613 Franklin, one case, and scarlet fever at Sixth and Timea and Eighth and Exchange.

People neglect the avoidance of personal intercourse, and do not realize what a potentially infectious disease diphtheria is. It is a hundred-fold more destructive than small-pox, and this domestic plague should be "hedged about, separated, secluded, and treated with the same disinfecting energy" that is used in controlling small-pox. Will you do this? Will you who are in the house stay there, and observe the rules of the health office? Will you and friends and neighbors shun the places where the contagion is, as you would shun the small-pox? There is no middle course to be taken. The separation of the sick from the well must be absolute; the disinfection and care in preventing the disease must be thorough. Quarantine means thirty-five days' isolation under the law.

J. M. SHAFFER, M. D.,
Physician to Board of Health.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended November 23, 1889. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 56 observers, indicate that membranous croup and diphtheria increased, and that cholera infantum, cholera morbus, erysipelas, typho-malarial fever, pneumonia, and scarlet fever decreased, in area of prevalence.

Diphtheria was reported present during the week, and since, at 38 places; scarlet fever at 35 places; enteric fever at 52 places; and measles at 10 places.

MISSISSIPPI.—The Mississippi State quarantine at Ship Island, Miss., was closed for the winter on the 10th instant.

NEW JERSEY.—The president of the State board of health, Dr. Ezra M. Hunt, in response to an inquiry concerning the reported intention of the board to subject all hotels to a thorough sanitary examination, especially those at sea-side resorts, states as follows:

"We do propose to do more thoroughly what we have in fact done before, and in the next few months will fully investigate the actual

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 November 16 corresponded to an annual rate of 18.3 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Birkenhead, viz, 11.7, and the highest in Preston, viz, 28.5 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 9 deaths in Salford and 2 in Manchester.

London.—One thousand four hundred and fifty-one deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 33; scarlet fever, 24; diphtheria, 38; whooping-cough, 37; enteric fever, 20; typhus, 1; and diarrhoea and dysentery, 16. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 17.4 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 321 deaths. In greater London 1,791 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.6 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included measles, 5; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 12; and whooping-cough, 7.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended November 9, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 24.5 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Dundalk, viz, 4.4, and the highest in Belfast, viz, 27.5 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 178 deaths were registered, including measles, 2; scarlet fever, 1; enteric fever, 7; whooping-cough, 2; and diarrhoea, 2.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in eight principal towns during the week ended November 16, 1889, corresponded to an annual rate of 19.9 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Leith, viz, 13.6, and the highest in Perth, viz, 23.7 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 509, including measles, 13; scarlet fever, 5; diphtheria, 16; whooping-cough, 14; fever, 5; and diarrhoea, 11.

During the quarter ended September 30, 1889, there were 16,787 deaths registered, being an annual rate of 16.3 a thousand of the population. In the eight principal towns the deaths from all causes amounted to 2,270 in July, 2,019 in August, and 1,936 in September. Measles caused 151 deaths; scarlet fever, 41; whooping-cough, 247; diphtheria, 81; fevers, 96; and diarrhoea and dysentery, 423. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 609 deaths during the quarter.

Malta and Gozo.—One hundred and seventy-two deaths were registered during the period from the 1st to 15th of October, 1889, including whooping-cough 1 and diphtheria 2.

PERSIA—Cholera.—The United States minister forwards the following dispatch :

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Teheran, October 14, 1889.

SIR: I regret to have to report that, notwithstanding the efforts on the part of the Persian Government to arrest the onward march of the cholera, it seems day by day to be advancing farther and farther into the interior; has now reached Kermanshah; is threatening Hamadan, and may at any time make its appearance at Teheran.

The Russian authorities, I am informed, are about establishing a general quarantine against arrivals from Persia at Bakon and Julfa.

I have, sir, the honor to be your obedient servant,

E. SPENCER PRATT.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Secretary of State.

RUSSIA—St. Petersburg—Influenza.—A cable dispatch in *Der Deutsche Correspondent* of November 30, 1889, states that an epidemic of influenza is now prevailing at St. Petersburg. No deaths have as yet resulted from the disease.

CUBA—Havana.—For the week ended November 21, 1889, there were 9 deaths from yellow fever.

Santiago de Cuba.—Forty-six deaths were registered during the latter half of October, 1889, including small-pox, 1; yellow fever, 6; pernicious fever, 2; and diphtheria, 1. The deaths from small-pox and yellow fever were among the troops.

For the first half of November, 1889, there were 34 deaths, including yellow fever, 4, of which one was a colored person and three were troops; pernicious fever, 2; and diphtheria and croup, 4.

Cardenas.—November 20, 1889. Cool and dry weather. Good health has prevailed during the week.

BAHAMAS—Nassau, N. P.—November 16, 1889. City healthy. Weather pleasant and dry.

November 23, 1889. City healthy. Weather hot, sultry, and rainy.

BRAZIL—Rio de Janeiro.—Two hundred and forty-two deaths were registered during the week ended November 9, 1889, including small-pox, 20; enteric fever, 4; and typhus fever, 5. The consul reports the weather cool, and that yellow fever has entirely disappeared.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—Buenos Ayres.—One thousand two hundred and fifty-nine deaths were registered during the month of September,

1889, including small-pox, 15; enteric fever, 26; scarlet fever, 1; and diphtheria, 39. The prevailing diseases were enteric and other fevers and diseases of the respiratory organs.

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.....	Nov. 16....	5,642,015	1,791				1	20	28	50	38	
Paris.....	Nov. 16....	2,260,945	917			1		20	3	33	10	4
Glasgow.....	Nov. 16....	545,678	232					3	2	3		
Warsaw.....	Nov. 9.....	445,770	277			40			17	12		
Amsterdam.....	Nov. 16....	399,051						1		4		
Copenhagen.....	Nov. 9.....	307,000	107					4		11		
Palermo.....	Nov. 16....	250,000	81			1			3	2		
Belfast.....	Nov. 9.....	229,622	107					10		1		
Belfast.....	Nov. 16....	229,622	121					5				
Genoa.....	Nov. 16....	180,420	98				2			1		
Trieste.....	Nov. 9.....	154,500	60							4		
Stuttgart.....	Nov. 16....	125,510	29									
Barmen.....	Nov. 12....	109,000	32									1
Leghorn.....	Nov. 17....	103,287	50									
Mayence.....	Nov. 9.....	65,802	25				1					
Mayence.....	Nov. 2....	65,802	22						2	3		
Cadiz.....	Nov. 9.....	57,157	52									
Merida.....	Nov. 11....	47,448	47							1		
Merida.....	Nov. 18....	47,448	39									
Vera Cruz.....	Nov. 21....	23,800	24									
Kingston, Can.....	Nov. 22....	18,824	4									
Kingston, Can.....	Nov. 29....	18,824	20									
San Juan del Norte.....	Aug. 19....	1,250	1									

JOHN B. HAMILTON,

Supervising Surgeon-General, Marine-Hospital Service.