

# ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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## UNITED STATES.

### SPECIAL REPORTS.

#### *Reports upon the disease in the Arkansas penitentiary at Little Rock.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Office of the Supervising Surgeon-General M. H. S.,  
Washington, D. C., January 9, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that in accordance with your verbal instructions I left Washington, D. C., on Sunday, January 1, and arrived at Little Rock, Ark., on the morning of Tuesday, January 3, 1893.

Immediately upon arrival, accompanied by Acting Assistant Surg. L. P. Gibson, I proceeded to the Arkansas penitentiary, and there met Dr. T. T. Robertson, penitentiary physician, with his consultant, Dr. F. L. French, and learned from these gentlemen that a picked body of 100 convicts had been sent from the walls of the penitentiary to a camp at Helena, Ark., and had there been engaged in work upon a railroad near the levee on the banks of the Mississippi River. While in camp, so far as known, and as all evidence goes to show, the food furnished, while in sufficient quantity, was of the coarsest, commonest description, and the water for drinking and cooking was drawn from a ditch, canal, or branch, which receives the sewage in part of the city of Helena, and which is further contaminated by the proximity of two long-used slaughterhouses, and an extensive surface of sawdust, used for filling, and rotten from damp and overflow. This branch finally widens into a sluggish, stagnant pond, from which also some water was used.

One night, shortly after arrival, there occurred a violent outbreak of disease among the convicts who were quartered, eighteen or nineteen, in each of five cars.

The disease was characterized by violent purging and vomiting, quick collapse, and great muscular pain and soreness, in some cases taking the form of cramps of lower limbs. Six inmates of the camp dying promptly and violently, it was determined to break camp and return to the penitentiary in Little Rock. One man died on the way and one shortly after reception into the penitentiary hospital. Owing to the excitement and activity caused by the alarming character of the disease, the exact figures have not been retained at the hospital, but it is estimated by Dr. Robertson that of the Helena squad of 100 he

was called on to treat at least 75, and of these 18 died, including 3 convicts who had never left the walls. This at first apparently contagious nature of the malady can be explained by the fact that one death was that of a convict who ate of some rotten pickled beets, which were thrown out upon the dump pile to be hereafter described; one was a patient in hospital of some months' standing with dropsy, and the third was sick some time with "enlargement of the liver." The cases were of varying grades of severity, but it may be said that every patient who was violently attacked died, with two exceptions. The disease was strictly confined to the walls of the penitentiary, not a case of suspicious diarrheal disease existing in the city proper of Little Rock.

It is disagreeable but necessary here to advert severely on the sanitary condition of the penitentiary and premises. The penitentiary is the usual large building with tiers of inside cells opening upon common galleries. The cells are about 6 by 10 by 7 feet (420 cubic feet), hollowed out of the solid brick walls, and provided with a heavy, grated door, and an opening for ventilation about 1 foot square at the back. The cells are usually occupied by one, but in many instances, by individual preference, by two convicts, but in no cell which I inspected was the ventilating opening patent, but was occluded by a picture, a board, or a garment hung in front of it. The cells were freshly whitewashed and kept fairly clean, but such bedding as there was, was dirty and in need of cleaning and airing. The hospital was clean, well kept, and in generally good condition.

But it is in the penitentiary inclosure that there exists a crying evil in the shape of a dump pile, which is a standing menace to the health of the institution, and indirectly to the city of Little Rock. This pile at the time of my inspection contained some 12,000 to 15,000 cubic feet of stable manure, offal of slaughtered animals, sweepings, and had been contaminated by the dejecta of hospital patients, which latter, however, were, subsequent to the discovery of existing conditions, received into disinfecting solutions, and discharged into the prison sewer, which leads into the Arkansas River, three quarters of a mile below the source of the city water supply. To add to the general foulness, the dump and surrounding soil had been converted into a mire by heavy rains and the tramping and rooting of a herd of neat cattle and a large drove of hogs.

These hogs had, just prior to my arrival, been removed to the penitentiary farm, 5 miles from the city, and were observed for any outbreak of disease which might occur among them. There were no developments, however. It has been promised that this pile of filth shall be saturated with coal oil and burned in situ. The camp cars were traced, and found to have been used in the construction department of the railroad for more than six months past, and had been employed in that time for no other purpose. They will be disinfected at Little Rock by Acting Assistant Surg. Gibson, M. H. S., immediately upon arrival, with mercuric chloride, and fumigated with sulphur dioxide.

With the apparatus and material with which I had been provided before leaving Washington, I made a bacteriological test, which failed to establish the existence of Asiatic cholera, and I conclude that the outbreak was due to products of animal and vegetable decomposition conveyed into the drinking-water supply at Helena. A subsequent investigation and report will be made into this question in the near future.

In conclusion, I beg to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered me by Acting Assistant Surg. Gibson and Drs. Dibrell, French, and Robertson; also my recognition of the hearty coöperation of the mayor of Little Rock, the city health officer, and Lessee Apperson, of the Arkansas penitentiary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. D. GEDDINGS,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, M. H. S.*

To the SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL M. H. S.

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HELENA, ARK., *January 4, 1892.*

SIR: Referring to my telegram of this date, I have the honor to make the following detailed report of the sanitary condition of this city and of the convict camp in its vicinity:

Helena is situated on flat ground on the bank of the Mississippi and at the foot of a chain of low hills. Portions of the city are subject to overflow. The soil retains water and the streets are, for the most part, extremely bad. Pools of stagnant water are seen in the outskirts. Some of the surface water is carried off by a large ditch which empties into a lake 2 miles below the city.

There is no sewage system, the privy vaults which are in use being occasionally cleansed and their contents dumped into the river below the city. An artesian-well system has been recently completed, but many cisterns and surface wells are still in use. The latter would seem to be especially dangerous, as the cemeteries are all located on the hill-sides above the town.

The convict camp consists of a passenger coach and five box cars side-tracked in the midst of a bog just south of the corporate limits and 100 yards from the river. The coach is occupied by fifteen guards and two "bosses;" one box car is used as a kitchen and storeroom; another accommodates twelve "trustees."

In the three cars remaining are housed 54 convicts, the bunks being arranged in three tiers. In one corner of each car is a hopper made of rough boards let into an opening in the floor; beneath is a pail to receive dejecta. The hopper is soiled and the bedding and floors are filthy. There is no separate accommodation for the sick. The cars are ventilated (?) by from two to five openings about 18 inches square. The area of these openings is decreased one-half by slats nailed across them. The doors are kept closed. The food is coarse and of poor quality. The water is obtained from the river near by. It is possible that the irresponsible boys who draw it may sometimes, for convenience, obtain it from stagnant pools near the river's edge.

Within 200 yards of the camp are two slaughter pens that have been used for decades, and in which the ground is piled with decaying offal, which pollutes the air for a long distance to leeward. All of this land is subject to overflow, and the products of decomposition are thus doubtless scattered over a wide area.

On the 18th instant, one week after their arrival in Helena, a number of convicts became ill, and 6 died within two days. On the 20th they returned to Little Rock, 1 man dying on the road and 7 after their arrival in the latter city. They were returned to Helena

on the 26th, and there have been no suspicious cases since. Of 3 patients now sick, 2 complain of headache and constipation and 1 of headache, griping, and moderate diarrhea.

The history of the suspicious cases, as given by the medical attendants, is as follows: Severe abdominal pain; vomiting with much retching and nausea; diarrhea, at first fecal and watery, and towards the close of a "rice water" character, with tenesmus; severe muscular cramps; cold skin; collapse. A local chemist claims to have discovered large quantities of arsenic in the stomach of one fatal case. The stomach and its contents from another case has been preserved, and should, I believe, be carefully examined. Contaminated water, improper diet, filth, and overcrowding would appear, however, to afford a satisfactory explanation of the cases which have occurred.

Very respectfully,

L. L. WILLIAMS,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, M. H. S.*

To the SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL M. H. S.

*One case of smallpox at Delaware Breakwater Quarantine.*

Acting Assistant Surg. Orr telegraphs as follows under date of January 7, 1893:

British steamer *Elton*, from Carthage for Philadelphia, crew of 23, no passengers, cargo iron, arrived to-day. One case smallpox; convalescent. Balance crew all well.

*Arrival of immigrants at Sault St. Marie, Mich.*

The following reports have been received from the United States sanitary inspector at Sault St. Marie:

JANUARY 4, 1893.

Eleven immigrants arrived at the Canada Sault this day and were detained for disinfection of baggage. They landed from steamer *Labrador* at Halifax, and here by Canada Pacific Railroad. All are healthy, and will proceed to-morrow upon their journey.

JANUARY 7, 1893.

Twenty-four immigrants arrived at the Canada Sault yesterday; they were detained and their baggage disinfected. They landed at Halifax from steamer *Mongolian*, and here by Canada Pacific Railroad. They are all healthy, and proceed to-day upon their journey.

*Reports of States, and yearly and monthly report of cities.*

CALIFORNIA—*Los Angeles*.—Month of December, 1892. Population, 65,000. Total deaths, 74, including phthisis pulmonalis, 20; enteric fever, 4; diphtheria, 1; and croup, 1.

CONNECTICUT—*Bridgeport*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 55,000. Total deaths, 71, including phthisis pulmonalis, 7; and diphtheria and croup, 3.

FLORIDA.—Month of November, 1892. Reports to the State board of health from 28 counties and 2 cities, having an aggregate population of 297,071, show a total of 292 deaths, including phthisis pulmonalis, 26; enteric fever, 4; diphtheria, 2; croup, 2; and whooping cough, 2.

*Pensacola*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 15,000. Total deaths, 18, including phthisis pulmonalis, 2; and enteric fever, 2.

IOWA.—Month of November, 1892. The following mortuary report is taken from the Monthly Bulletin for December:

*Burlington*.—Consumption, 2; pneumonia, 1; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 1; diphtheria, 1; membranous croup, 1. Total deaths, 15. Population, estimated, 25,000. Death rate per 1,000, 0.68. For October, 0.68.

*Cedar Rapids*.—No report.

*Council Bluffs*.—Diphtheria, 1; croup, 1; consumption, 2; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 1; cholera infantum, 1. Total deaths, 16. Population, estimated, 35,000. Death rate, 0.54. For October, 0.71.

*Davenport*.—Consumption, 4; pneumonia, 5; diphtheria, 2; typhoid fever, 1. Total deaths, 27. Population, estimated, 34,500. Death rate per 1,000, 0.78. For October, 0.7.

*Des Moines*.—Diphtheria, 6; croup, 2; consumption, 5; pneumonia, 3; typhoid fever, 1; malarial fever, 2; puerperal fever, 1; meningitis, 1; laryngitis, 1. Total deaths, 74. Population, 70,000. Death rate per 1,000, 1.4. For October, 0.7.

*Dubuque*.—Diphtheria, 1; consumption, 3; pneumonia, 2; malarial fever, 1. Total deaths, 29. Population, estimated, 40,000. Death rate per 1,000, 0.72. For October, 1.08.

*Keokuk*.—Consumption, 2; diphtheria, 6; membranous croup, 2. Total deaths, 20. Population, 19,261. Death rate per 1,000, 1.1.

*Muscatine*.—No report.

*Oskaloosa*.—Pneumonia, 2. Total deaths, 8. Population, 8,000. Death rate per 1,000, 1.

*Sioux City*.—No report.

*Ottumwa*.—No report.

*Keokuk*.—Month of December, 1892. Population, 19,264. Total deaths, 18, including phthisis pulmonalis, 1; enteric fever, 1; and croup, 1.

MAINE—*Portland*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 40,000. Total deaths, 47, including phthisis pulmonalis, 3; and whooping cough, 1.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Brockton*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 30,000. Total deaths, 31, including phthisis pulmonalis, 1; diphtheria and croup, 3; and enteric fever, 1.

MICHIGAN.—Week ending December 31, 1892. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 73 observers, indicate that puerperal fever, dysentery, measles, scarlet fever, typhomalarial fever, inflammation of bowels, diphtheria, and inflammation of kidney increased, and that cholera infantum, inflammation of brain, cholera morbus,

whooping cough, and typhoid fever decreased in area of prevalence. Diphtheria was reported present at 52 places, scarlet fever at 57, enteric fever at 32, and measles at 14 places.

Month of December, 1892. Compared with the preceding month, reports from 280 observers indicate that measles, influenza, diphtheria, pneumonia, and membranous croup increased, and that cerebro-spinal meningitis, dysentery, typhomalarial fever, and cholera morbus decreased in area of prevalence. Compared with the average for the month of December in the six years 1886-1891, scarlet fever was more prevalent, and smallpox, cerebro-spinal meningitis, inflammation of brain, remittent fever, intermittent fever, measles, erysipelas, inflammation of bowels, cholera infantum, consumption, typhomalarial fever, inflammation of kidney, membranous croup, dysentery, pneumonia, and puerperal fever were less prevalent in December, 1892. Including reports by regular observers and others, diphtheria was reported present in Michigan in the month of December, 1892, at 108 places; scarlet fever, 104; typhoid fever, 55; and measles at 17 places. Reports from all sources show diphtheria reported at 15 places more, scarlet fever at 9 places more, typhoid fever at 40 places less, and measles at 2 places less in the month of December, 1892, than in the preceding month.

MINNESOTA—*Winona*.—Month of December, 1892. Population, 20,000. Total deaths, 23, including phthisis pulmonalis, 3; and scarlet fever, 1.

NEW YORK—*Binghamton*.—Year of 1892. Estimated population, 36,000. Total deaths, 685, including phthisis pulmonalis, 72; enteric fever, 18; scarlet fever, 3; croup and diphtheria, 65; and whooping cough, 4.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Month of November, 1892. Reports to the State board of health from 23 towns, having an aggregate population of 117,614, show a total of 164 deaths, including phthisis pulmonalis, 24; enteric fever, 10; and diphtheria, 1.

OHIO—*Cincinnati*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 305,000. Total deaths, 525, including phthisis pulmonalis, 41; enteric fever, 23; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 18; croup, 1; and whooping cough, 1.

*Toledo*.—Month of December, 1892. Estimated population, 90,000. Total deaths, 111, including phthisis pulmonalis, 7; enteric fever, 7; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 6; and croup, 2.

*Publication received.*

Fourth Annual Report of the Health Department of the City of Mansfield, Ohio, year ending February 29, 1892.

## MORTALITY TABLE, CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Population, U. S. Census of 1890.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—								
				Phthisis pulmonalis.	Yellow fever.	Smallpox.	Variceloid.	Cholera.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.
New York, N. Y.	Jan. 7	1,515,301	97						15	7	6	39
Philadelphia, Pa.	Dec. 24	1,046,964	449	53					6	13	36	3
Philadelphia, Pa.	Dec. 31	1,046,964	500	60					7	5	41	4
Brooklyn, N. Y.	Dec. 31	806,343	371	33						12	18	4
Brooklyn, N. Y.	Jan. 7	806,343	416	55					4	9	9	1
Boston, Mass.	Jan. 7	448,477	256	33					5	6	11	1
Cincinnati, Ohio.	Jan. 6	296,908	115	14					2	1	5	
Cleveland, Ohio.	Jan. 7	261,353	93	10					1	1	10	
New Orleans, La.	Dec. 17	242,039	134	11							2	
New Orleans, La.	Dec. 24	342,039	112	16							2	
New Orleans, La.	Dec. 31	242,039	174	20					1		1	
Pittsburg, Pa.	Dec. 31	238,617	98						4	3	3	1
Pittsburg, Pa.	Jan. 7	238,617	118	10					4	1	2	7
Washington, D. C.	Dec. 31	230,392	106	10					5		5	
Detroit, Mich.	Jan. 7	205,876	63	5						3	6	
Newark, N. J.	Jan. 7	181,830	86	16						4	5	
Louisville, Ky.	Dec. 31	161,129	48	6							1	
Louisville, Ky.	Jan. 7	161,129	78	9					3		1	
Rochester, N. Y.	Jan. 7	133,896	46	7					2	5	4	1
Toledo, Ohio.	Dec. 6	81,434	38							1	2	
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 31	81,388	41	6								1
Nashville, Tenn.	Jan. 7	76,168	23	4					1			1
Erie, Pa.	Jan. 7	40,634	14	2							4	
Portland, Me.	Jan. 7	36,425	1	1								
Binghamton, N. Y.	Dec. 31	35,005	9	1							1	
Mobile, Ala.	Dec. 31	31,076	14	3							1	
Galveston, Tex.	Dec. 23	29,084	10								1	
Auburn, N. Y.	Dec. 31	25,858	6									
Auburn, N. Y.	Jan. 7	25,858	3	1								
San Diego, Cal.	Dec. 31	16,159	5									
Pensacola, Fla.	Dec. 31	11,750	8	1						1		

Table of temperature and rainfall, week ended January 2, 1893.

[Received from Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.]

Locality.	Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.			Rainfall in inches and hundredths.		
	Normal.	*Excess.	*Deficiency.	Normal.	Excess.	Deficiency.
<b>New England States:</b>						
Eastport, Me.....	23	1	.....	.91	.....	.18
Portland, Me.....	22	2	.....	.77	.05	.....
Boston, Mass.....	29	.....	1	.86	.14	.....
Block Island, R. I.....	34	.....	3	.93	.06	.....
Woods Holl, Mass.....	32	.....	2	.72	.10	.....
<b>Middle Atlantic States:</b>						
Albany, N. Y.....	26	.....	6	.63	.....	.03
New York City.....	33	.....	6	.79	.34	.....
Philadelphia, Pa.....	34	.....	6	.65	.31	.....
Atlantic City, N. J.....	34	.....	7	.91	.03	.....
Baltimore, Md.....	36	.....	9	.70	.23	.....
Washington, D. C.....	35	.....	8	.70	.20	.....
Lynchburg, Va.....	36	.....	6	.86	.32	.....
Norfolk, Va.....	41	.....	9	.84	1.16	.....
<b>South Atlantic States:</b>						
Charlotte, N. C.....	40	.....	6	1.12	.....	.23
Wilmington, N. C.....	46	.....	9	.84	.21	.....
Charleston, S. C.....	49	.....	8	.86	.13	.....
Augusta, Ga.....	48	.....	10	.86	.....	.35
Savannah, Ga.....	50	.....	9	.84	.....	.58
Jacksonville, Fla.....	53	.....	6	.77	.....	.41
Titusville, Fla.....	61	.....	9	.63	.....	.41
Key West, Fla.....	69	.....	4	.42	1.40	.....
<b>Gulf States:</b>						
Atlanta, Ga.....	44	.....	11	1.27	.....	.78
Pensacola, Fla.....	54	.....	11	1.12	.....	.75
Mobile, Ala.....	52	.....	10	1.06	.08	.....
Montgomery, Ala.....	49	.....	11	1.17	.....	.87
Vicksburg, Miss.....	46	.....	5	1.19	.....	.34
New Orleans, La.....	55	.....	9	1.14	.....	.69
Shreveport, La.....	45	.....	3	1.09	.35	.....
Fort Smith, Ark.....	40	.....	8	.62	.60	.....
Little Rock, Ark.....	42	.....	8	.99	.75	.....
Palestine, Tex.....	44	.....	2	.85	2.51	.....
Galveston, Tex.....	55	.....	6	.97	.....	.52
San Antonio, Tex.....	53	.....	5	.35	.82	.....
Corpus Christi, Tex.....	51	.....	.....	.63	.....	.57
<b>Ohio Valley and Tennessee:</b>						
Memphis, Tenn.....	38	.....	5	1.05	2.28	.....
Nashville, Tenn.....	39	.....	9	.98	.87	.....
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	42	.....	9	1.31	.....	.67
Knoxville, Tenn.†.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Louisville, Ky.....	34	.....	6	.91	1.16	.....
Indianapolis, Ind.....	30	.....	7	.70	.58	.....
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	34	.....	10	.74	.93	.....
Columbus, Ohio.....	31	.....	7	.72	.12	.....
Pittsburg, Pa.....	33	.....	10	.65	.....	.08
<b>Lake Region:</b>						
Oswego, N. Y.....	26	.....	8	.75	.16	.....
Rochester, N. Y.....	26	.....	5	.65	.....	.04
Buffalo, N. Y.....	27	.....	5	.70	.34	.....
Erie, Pa.....	30	.....	6	.72	.....	.22
Cleveland, Ohio.....	29	.....	7	.56	.10	.....
Sandusky, Ohio.....	28	.....	5	.54	.22	.....
Toledo, Ohio.....	28	.....	5	.54	.....	.02
Detroit, Mich.....	28	.....	5	.56	.....	.15
Port Huron, Mich.....	24	.....	2	.49	.....	.00
Alpena, Mich.....	20	2	.....	.56	.....	.50
Marquette, Mich.....	19	.....	2	.47	.....	.19
Grand Haven, Mich.....	26	.....	3	.56	.....	.35
Milwaukee, Wis.....	22	.....	5	.49	.....	.48
Chicago, Ill.....	26	.....	7	.49	.....	.48
Duluth, Minn.....	13	.....	.....	.28	.....	.22
<b>Upper Mississippi Valley:</b>						
St. Paul, Minn.....	14	.....	4	.28	.....	.12
La Crosse, Wis.....	18	.....	7	.30	.....	.20
Dubuque, Iowa.....	21	.....	7	.42	.....	.42
Davenport, Iowa.....	23	.....	8	.35	.....	.33
Des Moines, Iowa.....	21	.....	4	.30	.....	.20
Keokuk, Iowa.....	24	.....	2	.47	.....	.47

\*The figures in these columns represent the average daily departure. To obtain the average weekly departure these should be multiplied by seven.

† Missing.



Table of temperature and rainfall, week ended January 2, 1893—Continued.

Locality.	Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.			Rainfall in inches and hundredths.		
	Normal.	*Excess.	*Deficiency.	Normal.	Excess.	Deficiency.
<b>Upper Mississippi Valley—Cont'd.</b>						
Springfield, Ill.....	29	.....	7	.61	.....	.61
Cairo, Ill.....	36	.....	8	.79	1.75	.....
St. Louis, Mo.....	31	.....	4	.49	.....	.45
<b>Missouri Valley:</b>						
Springfield, Mo.....	33	.....	7	.49	.....	.22
Kansas City, Mo.....	29	.....	7	.26	.....	.17
Concordia, Kans.....	27	.....	5	.16	.....	.....
Omaha, Nebr.....	28	.....	4	.21	.....	.03
Yankton, S. Dak.....	19	.....	1	.12	.09	.....
Valentine, Nebr.....	19	4	.....	.19	.....	.16
Huron, S. Dak.....	12	.....	.....	.14	.....	.08
Pierre, S. Dak.....	14	3	.....	.14	.11	.....
Moorhead, Minn.....	5	.....	2	.21	.....	.06
St. Vincent, Minn.....	.....	2	.....	.19	.....	.19
Bismarck, N. Dak.....	8	2	.....	.14	.....	.03
Ft. Buford, N. Dak.....	7	6	.....	.14	.34	.....
<b>Rocky Mountain Slope:</b>						
Hayre, Mont.....	9	12	.....	.14	.....	.03
Helena, Mont.....	19	18	.....	.28	.....	.26
Rapid City, S. Dak †.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Spokane, Wash.....	27	8	.....	.63	.....	.19
Winnemucca, Nev.....	26	7	.....	.33	.....	.26
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	31	1	.....	.40	.....	.23
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	26	5	.....	.07	.....	.05
North Platte, Nebr.....	23	8	.....	.14	.....	.14
Denver, Colo.....	31	5	.....	.17	.....	.....
Montrose, Colo.....	26	.....	.....	.14	.....	.08
Pueblo, Colo.....	32	4	.....	.12	.....	.09
Dodge City, Kans.....	28	2	.....	.14	.....	.13
Abilene, Tex.....	41	.....	.....	.16	.....	.16
El Paso, Tex.....	40	5	.....	.14	.....	.06
Santa Fe, N. Mex.....	30	.....	.....	.12	.06	.....
Tucson, Ariz.....	50	.....	1	.19	.....	.19
<b>Pacific Coast:</b>						
Olympia, Wash.....	39	3	.....	2.09	.....	1.33
Portland, Oregon †.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Roseburg, Oregon.....	42	.....	1	1.54	.....	.46
Red Bluff, Cal.....	46	3	.....	1.17	.....	1.04
Sacramento, Cal.....	47	2	.....	.96	.....	.96
San Francisco, Cal.....	51	2	.....	1.24	.....	1.24
Los Angeles, Cal.....	54	8	.....	.86	.....	.86
San Diego, Cal.....	55	3	.....	.54	.....	.54
Yuma, Ariz.....	55	5	.....	.07	.....	.07

\*The figures in these columns represent the average daily departure. To obtain the average weekly departure these should be multiplied by seven.

†Missing.

## FOREIGN.

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

*Cholera in Lorient and Nantes, France.*UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Nantes, December 22, 1892.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith sanitary report of Lorient from the 10th to the 17th of December, inclusive, as made by Mr. Edward Broni, United States consular agent at that place. Mr. Broni informs me the figures for the departments of Morbihan, Finistere, and Côtes-du-Nord are official.

I regret my inability to give official figures for the department of Loire-Inférieure and for the city of Nantes, but on account of the absence of the prefect from the city I can not obtain the information desired. I can, however, state on reliable authority that within the last ten days a great improvement has taken place in the sanitary condition of Nantes, and no spread of the epidemic is apprehended, but few new cases of cholera having been reported.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

H. DE SALLIER DUPIN,  
*United States Consul.*

To Hon. WILLIAM F. WHARTON,  
*Assistant Secretary of State.*

[Inclosure.]

*Report of cholera epidemic from Lorient to and including December 17, 1892.*—Lorient (town), 118 cases, 11 deaths; Lorient (district), 293 cases, 89 deaths; department of the Morbihan, 5 cases, 4 deaths; department of the Finistere, 10 cases, 6 deaths; department of the Côtes-du-Nord, 1 case, 1 death.

*Cholera in Austria-Hungary.*UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
*Vienna, December 1, 1892.*

SIR: Very respectfully referring to my dispatch No. 258, of date November 25, 1892, I have the honor to forward to-day the following synopsis of the official publication of the T. R. chief sanitary board, dated December 1, 1892, on the cholera asiatica in Austria-Hungary:

"Since November, 22 new cases of cholera were reported from the district of Husiatyn, in Galicia. One case occurred on November 14, and a second case on November 17; both the cases proved fatal, the former on November 15, the latter on November 18. Since then no further case of cholera occurred in this community. The cases had been introduced from the Russian boundary town, Husiatyn, where cholera is prevailing.

"Four cases of cholera have been reported from Szydlowee, district of Husiatyn, situated close to the Russian boundary, three of these cases ending fatally. A bacteriological investigation is proceeding, but not yet ended.

"In the village of Bednarowka, district of Husiatyn, and also situated close to the Russian boundary, two cases of cholera were reported on; November 27, one of which proved fatal after a few hours. Husiatyn, Bednarowka, and Sydlowee, are situated on the river Zbruc, flowing into the Dneister and forming the boundary of Russia and Austria.

"From Buda-Pesth were reported, on November 20, 8 cases, 3 deaths; November 21, 6 cases, 4 deaths; November 22, 6 cases, 2 deaths; November 23, 8 cases, 1 death; November 24, 3 cases, 1 death; November 25, 5 cases, 1 death. The number of cases and deaths have greatly decreased.

"But outside of Buda-Pesth new cases are still occurring, even in places not connected with the public roads."

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

JULIUS GOLDSCHMIDT,

*Consul-General.*

To Hon. WILLIAM F. WHARTON,

*Assistant Secretary of State.*

*Epidemic of typhus fever and smallpox at Zacatecas and other ports of Mexico.*

The following report, dated December 31, 1892, has been received from the United States sanitary inspector at El Paso, Tex. :

On account of epidemic of typhus and smallpox at Zacatecas and other points in the interior of Mexico, I have caused 301 passengers on the Mexican Central Railroad to swear and sign their name that neither themselves nor their baggage had been in any city or place where contagious disease is said to exist.

Three suspicious passengers were retained at Paso del Norte, Mexico, a few days beyond the period of incubation before permitted to proceed into the United States, and one of these is now sick with smallpox.

The attending surgeon of the Mexican troops, stationed at Paso del Norte, Mexico, opposite El Paso, Tex., reports two soldiers sick with typhus, but he informed me that they are isolated, and there need be no fear of the disease becoming epidemic.

I consider it my duty to advise you that I am informed that such passengers as come from the infected district of Mexico are now entering the United States by way of Eagle Pass via the Mexican International Railroad, fearing detention here. I am also advised by conductors and American passengers on the Mexican Central that there are 600 cases of typhus in Zacatecas, and that there were 69 deaths during the past week, and that there is more or less typhus at all towns in the interior on the line of the Mexican Central Railroad.

I inclose herewith a translation from a Zacatecas paper on the raging epidemic.

[Inclosure.—Translated from the El Factor, published at Zacatecas, date of December 13, 1892.]

THE REIGNING EPIDEMIC.

Zacatecas society finds itself alarmed and sorry enough on account of the rapid spread of that terrible scourge, typhus, which seems to in-

crease more threateningly with the approach of winter, judging by the increased mortality in the capital of the State and neighboring cities and towns.

In view of the colossal proportions of the epidemic, a committee was organized last month, presided over by Don José M. Echeverría, which committee has divided the city into eight districts or wards, so as to be better able to furnish the indigent patients the necessary help and assistance, such as doctors, medicines, disinfectants, and pecuniary help, if need be. Each of these wards is under the personal care of five persons or agents, whose duty it is to constantly oversee and inspect their respective localities, so that every house that lacks hygienic conditions may be attended to and the germ killed.

In order to defray the necessary expense, the legislature of the state levied a tax of \$2 on \$1,000 on real estate,  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent on mercantile firms,  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent on industrial establishments, and 25 per cent on movable capital (professionals, such as lawyers, doctors, etc.), which taxes will be turned over by the collector to the secretary of the committee.

Much good work can be done with the money accrued thereon, as it will help the indigent classes of our people, which have suffered solely on account of the lack of proper treatment. A few of our resident doctors have given all their time and energy to the typhus patients, but in many cases their efforts have failed, as it seems that all the resources of science have failed too.

The disinfections practiced by the night patrol having been made on a very economical basis, we have not as many deaths at the present time as there were in the latter part of November.

We are informed that a general disinfection will soon take place all over the city, under proper auspices; and when once done, favorable results will undoubtedly be seen and felt.

CUBA—*Santiago de Cuba*.—Two weeks ended November 15, 1892. Total deaths, 53, including phthisis pulmonalis, 9.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended December 17 corresponded to an annual rate of 20.7 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,188,449. The lowest rate was recorded in Huddersfield, viz, 13.5, and the highest in Hull, viz, 28.3 a thousand.

*London*.—One thousand five hundred and eighty-nine deaths were registered during the week, including smallpox, 1; measles, 31; scarlet fever, 35; diphtheria, 59; whooping cough, 22; enteric fever, 15; and diarrhea and dysentery, 17. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 19.4 a thousand. In greater London 2,003 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 18.2 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included diphtheria, 19; measles, 17.

*Ireland*.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended December 17, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 24.5 a thousand of the population. The lowest

rate was recorded in Limerick, viz, 11.2, and the highest in Sligo, viz. 40.6 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 167 deaths were registered, including scarlet fever, 3; diphtheria, 1; and enteric fever, 4.

*Scotland.*—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended December 17 corresponded to an annual rate of 25.5 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,447,500. The lowest mortality was recorded in Perth, viz, 13.7, and the highest in Leith, viz, 43.9 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 710, including measles, 87; scarlet fever, 28; diphtheria, 10; whooping cough, 5; and diarrhea, 11.

*INDIA—Singapore.*—Month of October, 1892. Total deaths, 488, including smallpox, 2; "fever," 122; and beriberi, 11.

*Malla and Gozo.*—Two weeks ended October 31, 1892. Total deaths, 337, including enteric fever, 3; diphtheria 2; and measles, 73.

*MEXICO—Paso del Norte.*—Four weeks ended December 15, 1892. Population, 10,000. Total deaths, 20, including 2 from diphtheria.

*St. Helena.*—Two weeks ended November 18, 1892. Population, 3,877. Total deaths, 3. No deaths reported from contagious disease.

*WEST INDIES—Turks Islands.*—Five weeks ended November 30, 1892. Population, 4,744. Total deaths, 19.

### *Status of the cholera epidemic.*

[Translated for this Bureau from the *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*, Berlin, December 22, 1892.]

*GERMAN EMPIRE.*—The Hamburg press reports five new cases of cholera and one death in Hamburg for the week ended December 10. No other cases are reported throughout Germany. The two inspection stations at Ruhrort and Duisberg, in the Rhine provinces, have been closed since December 8. From November 18 to December 8, 11,413 river craft and 56,169 persons were inspected at the Rhine stations; 5,101 vessels disinfected. No cholera cases or cases suspected of being cholera were verified. At the stations on the Vistula, where official inspection ceased, December 5, there have been, in all, 30,023 river craft and 186,760 persons inspected, and 17,398 vessels and boats disinfected; 6 cholera cases and 2 cases suspected of being cholera verified. At Hamburg the inspection service closed at the end of November, and seagoing and river craft lying in the harbor are not subjected to official medical inspection.

*NETHERLANDS.*—Only two cases are reported for the past week.

*BELGIUM.*—No new cases are reported from Brügge, but some cases have been observed in the vicinity and one case has occurred at Ostend.

*FRANCE.*—The official journals have been silent for a month past with regard to cholera. The disease exists, however, at several localities, but not in an epidemic form. At Lower Indre cholera is on the increase; at Lorient it is abating.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*Galicia*.—Seven new cholera cases were reported from November 30 to December 7 in the district of Husiatyn. No other cases are observed throughout Austria. In Buda-Pesth, from November 26 to December 2, there were 16 cases and 7 deaths. No new cases are reported since December 15. The disease is stated to be on the decline in other localities in Hungary.

RUSSIA.—Many new cases have occurred in the governments of Grodno and Wilna. In the city of Warsaw, from November 30 to December 5, there were 10 cases and 2 deaths; in the government of Warsaw, from November 29 to December 3, 14 cases and 4 deaths; in the government of Radom, from November 26 to 30, 16 cases and 10 deaths; Lublin, November 28 to December 3, 22 cases, 10 deaths; Siedlec, during the same period, 18 cases, 14 deaths; Lomza, November 25 to 30, 4 cases, 3 deaths. The government of Kielce has been free from cholera since November 16. In Moscow, from November 20 to 27, there were 27 cases and 15 deaths; at St. Petersburg, on December 12, there were 35 cases of cholera in the lazaretto. According to information received December 13, the epidemic is nearly extinct in Siedlec; conditions in Radom and Lublin are almost unaltered; in Plock and Lomza isolated cases still occur. The epidemic still prevails to a high degree in the southern provinces, especially in Batum and Podolia.

ASIA MINOR.—The epidemic is nearly extinct in the city of Erzroom, but in the vilayet of Erzroom it is still severe. Up to November 19 the total number of cases was 1,039; deaths, 670. In the city of Trapezunt and its environs the epidemic has assumed a milder form.

PERSIA.—The epidemic is on the increase. For the week ended November 9, 965 cases and 372 deaths were reported; for the following week, 1,571 cases, 476 deaths.

## MORTALITY TABLE, FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—							
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Smallpox.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.
Glasgow.....	Dec. 17.....	669,059	319					1	10	6	
Hamburg.....	Dec. 10.....	600,000	232	1				2	2	4	
Liverpool.....	Dec. 17.....	517,951	224					4	7	1	
Warsaw.....	Dec. 10.....	490,417	219			8		4	18	3	
Brussels.....	Dec. 17.....	482,158	197	2				2		2	
Lyons.....	Dec. 17.....	438,000	170					2		9	
Cairo.....	Dec. 8.....	374,838	299					3			3
Edinburgh.....	Dec. 17.....	264,787	143					2	2	3	
Stockholm.....	Dec. 13.....	248,051	88					1	7	1	
Antwerp.....	Dec. 17.....	241,263	126			5		1		3	10
Alexandria.....	Dec. 8.....	231,396	167							1	1
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 8.....	200,000	65			1		3			
Pernambuco.....	Dec. 15.....	200,000	60				1	2			
Venice.....	Dec. 17.....	161,644	102					1		1	
Christiania.....	Dec. 17.....	156,500	43						1	5	
Ghent.....	Dec. 17.....	150,208	52	1							
Funchal.....	Dec. 17.....	140,000	14							2	
Stettin.....	Dec. 17.....	120,000	56							5	
Catania.....	Dec. 18.....	111,000	73					6			
Mannheim.....	Dec. 17.....	80,000	32						1	2	
Edinburgh.....	Dec. 17.....	69,956	59				1		5	1	
Gibraltar.....	Dec. 18.....	25,755	10								
Vera Cruz.....	Dec. 30.....	25,000	19		2			1			
Sagua la Grande.....	Dec. 24.....	18,109	5								
Victoria, B. C.....	Dec. 24.....	16,841	3								
Matamoras.....	Dec. 30.....	12,000	6								
Port Stanley and St. Thomas.....	Dec. 9.....	10,750	2								
Port Stanley and St. Thomas.....	Dec. 23.....	10,750	1								
Port Stanley and St. Thomas.....	Dec. 31.....	10,750	1								
Guelf.....	Dec. 31.....	10,539	3								
Queenstown.....	Dec. 24.....	10,340	3								
Tuxpan.....	Dec. 24.....	10,280	8								
Chatham.....	Dec. 31.....	10,000	3								
Sarnia.....	Dec. 31.....	6,600	1								
Clifton.....	Dec. 31.....	3,249	1								
Amherstburg.....	Dec. 31.....	2,260	1								

OFFICIAL :

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Supervising Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service.*