
Sanitary State Of London

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JSTOR

- EVANS—MACINTYRE.** EVANS, John, Esq., tea-broker, London, to Margaret Stewart, eldest daughter of *P. Macintyre, M.D., of Liverpool, on August 15th.
- HILLIER—DELF.** *HILLIER, Thomas, M.D., of Upper Gower Street, to Susan, second daughter of William Delf, Esq., of Annerley Villas, at Upper Norwood, on September 4th.
- RICE—RICE.** RICE, Bernard, M.B., of Stratford-upon-Avon, to Emily, second daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Rice, of Christ's Hospital, at St. Barnabas, Kensington, on September 8th.
- SPARKE—BARKER.** SPARKE, Morton, Esq., of Liverpool, third son of J. G. Sparke, M.D., of Finsbury, to Lydia, second daughter of William Barker, Esq., of Huyton, Lancashire, on September 5th.
- VINEN—STEED.** VINEN, J. Northcote, M.D., of Southwark, to Caroline, eldest daughter of Joseph Steede, Esq., of the same place, on September 8th.
- WHITFIELD—BISHOP.** WHITFIELD, George Corpe, Esq., to Laura Caroline, youngest daughter of J. G. Bishop, M.D., of Monksherbome, Hants, on September 1st.

DEATHS.

- ASHWELL.** On September 3rd, at Brighton, after a short illness, Eliza, wife of Samuel Ashwell, M.D., of Brook Street, Grosvenor Square.
- BARWELL.** On May 29th, aged 21, massacred in the fort at Hissar, with her husband, Margaret Anna, wife of Lieutenant Edward William Barwell, and daughter of Andrew Ross, M.D., Bengal Medical Establishment.
- BLOXAM.** On September 21st, at Ventnor, James Mackenzie Bloxam, Esq., son of Robert Bloxam, Esq., Surgeon, of Newport, Isle of Wight.
- BOWLING, Henry Hawkins, Esq., Surgeon 28th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, son of the late *John Bowling, Esq., of Hammersmith, murdered at Shahjehampore, by the mutineers of his corps, on May 31st: also, on or about June 9th, Jane, wife of H. H. Bowling, Esq., shot by some sepoys of the 41st N.I., near the fort of Mahomdee, after escaping from the massacre at Shahjehampore.**
- BRICKENDEN, Thomas, M.D., formerly of St. John's, Southwark, at Shepton Mallet, aged 86, on Sept. 4th.**
- CLARKE, Sir Charles Mansfield, M.D., at Brighton, aged 75, on September 7th.**
- FLETCHER.** On September 1st, at Upton-on-Severn, Carteret Halford Humphrey, infant son of John Welles Fletcher, Esq., Surgeon.
- MANTELL.** On or about June 21st, at Allahabad, aged 29, of cholera, Reginald Neville Mantell, Esq., civil engineer, second surviving son of the late G. A. Mantell, M.D.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING
SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London, which rose in the previous week to 1177, declined in the week that ended on Saturday (September 5th) to 1084, of which 537 are deaths of males, and 547 those of females. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week, was 1464; but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average, with a view to comparison, should be raised in proportion to the increase, whereby it will become 1610. It will be seen, however, on reference to the returns of 1849 and 1854, that in the corresponding week of the former year, cholera carried off 2026 persons, and in that of the latter 2050, and that the average is, consequently, too high as a standard of comparison for seasons when only ordinary causes are in operation. After due allowance is made for this circumstance, the result is still very favourable as regards the public health at the present time.

Diarrhœa continues to decline, though by slow degrees; but it is more fatal than is usual at the beginning of September. The deaths from this complaint attained their maximum in the last week of July, when they were 302, after the mean weekly temperature had been for a fortnight 68°. In each successive week there was a decrease; and last week, when the mean temperature was 60·4°, the number of deaths returned from diarrhœa was 181. Besides these, 11 deaths are referred to dysentery in the table for last week; and only four to cholera; all the cases, in which the latter disease was fatal, having occurred amongst infants. As diarrhœa declines, typhus shows a tendency to increase; for though the deaths from it

(52) were less than in the previous week, they were more numerous than in the earlier part of the summer. Two deaths from small-pox, and one from chicken-pox, are returned. The deaths of two persons are ascribed to intemperance, and no less than eight to delirium tremens. Eleven infants died from want of breast-milk. Only one person of the 1084 who died in the week had attained the age of 90 years, and she was a widow of 92.

Last week the births of 790 boys and 784 girls, in all 1574 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1483.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·620 in. The highest reading was 29·96 in., at the beginning of the week. The mean temperature of the week was 60·4°; which is 6·5° below that of the previous week, and is higher by 1·8° than the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was from 6° to 9° above the average on the first three days; it was afterwards below the average till Saturday. The thermometer in the shade reached its highest point on Monday, when it was 86·5°. The lowest temperature occurred on Thursday, and was 46·9°. The range of the instrument in the week was 39·6°. The mean dew-point temperature was 54·2°; and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 6·2°. At the beginning of the week the wind was in the east; on the last five days its general direction was south-west. Rain fell to the amount of 0·84 in., more or less of which fell on every day, except Sunday and Saturday. There was thunder on Tuesday and Friday.

SANITARY STATE OF LONDON.

DR. LETHBRIDGE, the Medical Officer of Health, read the following report to the City Commission of Sewers on Tuesday last:—

"To the Honourable the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London."

"GENTLEMEN,—The inspectors' returns, which are before you, relate to 551 houses that have been inspected during the last six weeks; and I beg to submit a list of 81 places that require your orders for their sanitary improvement in various particulars.

"The mortality tables for the same period indicate an average condition of the public health, and show that it has not been disturbed by any unusual epidemic. The total number of deaths in the city of London during the last six weeks has been 322, of which 154 were among children of less than five years of age, and 52 among old persons of 60 and upwards. The principal causes of death were the usual summer complaints. Diarrhœa has been fatal in 50 cases, of which 45 were among the infant population. The mortality from this disease rose very rapidly up to the last week of July, when it reached one-fourth of the total death rate. Since that time, it has gradually declined, and the influence of the heavy thunderstorms in checking the progress of the disease has been very remarkable. Among the other causes of death, there were 30 from hydrocephalus and the convulsions of infancy; 29 from mesenteric disease; 26 from phthisis; 13 from hooping-cough; 12 from pneumonia; 13 from typhus; 9 from measles; 6 from bronchitis; 4 from scarlet fever; 3 from small-pox; and 1 from cholera. These numbers are not in excess of those which were registered during the corresponding period of last year, and they are much below the comparative death rates for all London. Taking the whole of the metropolis, the deaths from cholera during the last five weeks have been as one to 58 of the total mortality, whereas in the city they have been but as one to 322; and again, while the deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery have been throughout London as one to 4·73, in the city they have been but as one to 6·3. It must not be supposed, however, that all parts of the city have been relieved to a like extent from the pressure of disease. In the eastern division of it the proportion of deaths from diarrhœa has been as one to 3·9 of the total deaths; whereas in the western districts it has been but as one to 6; and in the central division it has been only as one to 9·7.

"These facts are confirmed by the reports of the medical officers to the city unions, from which I find that 550 cases of diarrhœa, 98 of fever, and 21 of cholera, have occurred among the city poor during the last six weeks. Much of this sickness has been occasioned by the unusual heat of the season, the mean temperature of which has not only been at all times above the average, but it has frequently ranged in the course

of twenty-four hours from upwards of 100° Fahrenheit in the sun to less than 60 degrees at night, and even in the shade the range has sometimes been as much as 30 degrees.

"Since the last meeting of the Commission, a complaint has been made to me by some of the inhabitants of Whitefriars, of a very serious annoyance from the offensive effluvia emitted at certain times from the osier tanks belonging to Mr. Walden, who is a rod merchant and basket maker at No. 1, Grand Junction Street, Whitefriars. I have visited the premises, and find that there is ground for complaint. Mr. Walden has five large tanks, in which he steeps the willow rods until certain parts of the bark become putrid. This occasions a very offensive smell, especially when the foul water is disturbed. I beg, therefore, to recommend that orders be given for the covering in of all the tanks with close fitting covers, and that the foul water be run off from the tanks into the sewer, and the rods flushed with fresh water before they are disturbed.

"This will have the effect of carrying away the putrid matter, and will not in any degree affect the trade operations.

"I have the honour to remain your obedient servant,

"HY. LETHEBY, M.B.

"Guildhall, September 8th."

DISEASE AND DEFORMITY IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS. In Miss Beecher's *Letters to the People on Health and Happiness*, it is claimed that the health of the American people is perishing at a fearful ratio, and that, while other nations, both in school and at home, train their children to be strong and healthy, we are training ours to be puny, sickly, and deformed. In proof of this, facts are exhibited showing, that of the American women, born in this century and country, probably not two in ten have the vigour and health of their maternal ancestors, while probably more than one-half of them are either invalids or very delicate. The object of this article is to direct public attention to the prospects of the coming generation, as indicated by the health of the children of our city schools. From the recent investigations there is reason to believe that more than one-half of the children of our public schools who were born in this country, and who are twelve years old and upwards, are either diseased or deformed. Will the public look at this? Bad air from stoves, rooms without ventilation, close sleeping-rooms, crowded school-rooms, improper food, poisonous medicines, want of proper exercise, and over-excitement of the brain by study, have all combined to produce a debility of the whole body, especially of the muscles. The result is often shown in a pale and sallow complexion, though this sometimes attends tolerable health. But the following are more sure indices of the debility and disease thus induced: the first is a sinking of all the intestines from want of this support of the muscles of the abdomen, which have become weak and flabby. It is the tight packing of the intestines by these and other muscles that sustain the spine and keep all the interior organs in place. These muscles becoming weak, the whole organism sinks downward, sometimes displacing the most important and delicate organs. One symptom of this condition is a flat chest; another is a flatness or caving-in near the pit of the stomach, with a consequent projecting at the lower part of the abdomen, instead of the curve outward from the breastbone to the lowest point of the body, which is seen in a perfectly formed young child. Still another symptom is such a weakness of the back and stomach as makes the child sit crooked. This is because the natural aid of tight packing and the strength of the supporting muscles are gone. Another index of disease and decay in schools, is curvature of the spine. When the spine is curved forward it is shown by a projecting neck, or by a crooked back, that no effort can straighten. If the curve is sidewise (lateral), it is shown by one shoulder or one hip being higher than the other, or by one shoulder blade being more prominent than the other. These deformities indicate the decay and debility which, sooner or later, bring on disease of various kinds. Teachers in our city schools say these marks of weakness and deformity are constantly increasing, and that the longer the pupils go to school, the more these indications increase; that is to say, they are found more in the upper departments than in the primary. Parents and guardians of our city schools, will you not look into this matter? (*New York Tribune*.)

DISEASE ON THE CONTINENT. The *Times* correspondent, writing from Berlin, on September 7, says: "The affection of the eyes which has lately exhibited itself in so virulent a form among the Prussian troops in garrison here is stated, by medical men, to be the Egyptian ophthalmia; it manifests itself in a number of small white vesicles beneath the lower eyelid,

which, if not promptly removed by a solution of lunar caustic, increase very rapidly, and soon extend in the form of a white crust or scab over the whole eye and dry up its fluids. Although some entire regiments have hitherto escaped this infection, others have had such considerable numbers of their men rendered unfit for duty, that the men of the reserve have been obliged to be called out in order to keep up the regiments to even their peace complement. The exertions of the regimental surgeons have, for the present, succeeded in mastering the epidemic; and, if no new outbreak occurs, it may be looked on already as in a fair way of disappearance. The same seems to be the case with the sickness which has affected the horses of the cavalry in Potsdam. Very shortly after they were distributed throughout the surrounding villages, it became apparent that they were recovering so rapidly that they would soon be able to be brought back to their own stables and do duty. What the nature of this affection of the horses has been I have not been able to learn.

In Denmark also the same causes, viz., lengthened drought and excessive heat, bringing in their train vitiated air and want of water, have produced the same results, and the King has found it necessary to postpone the usual military exercises of his troops *sine die*, and to send back to their homes all the men of the reserve, etc., who had been called out for the purpose of these autumn manœuvres. The cholera is also showing itself in considerable force in Holstein and Sweden, as it has also done, nearly all this year, in St. Petersburg; this, together with the very unsatisfactory sanitary state of Copenhagen, which is becoming rapidly worse, gives rise to very anxious apprehensions. The Danish public is even dissatisfied with the above mentioned wise measure of preventing the aggregation of troops in confined districts, by dispersing those already in barracks, on the ground that in this way the *virus* of disease will be most rapidly spread from its *foci* to the utmost limits of the kingdom.

THE MULBERRY-TREE AND THE SILKWORM. From an interesting paper recently communicated to the Academy of Sciences by M. E. Guérin Méneville, it appears that the existence of an epidemic disease of the mulberry-tree, which had been denied, is now fully ascertained. M. Méneville states, from personal observation, that the disease exists in Switzerland, and in all the departments of France through which he has passed on his way from the Basses Alpes to Spain. It produces numerous red spots on the leaves, which soon shrivel up and fall off early in June. This disease is not new, and single cases of it have been frequently observed; but this is the first time it has made its appearance under an epidemic form. It is most virulent in those districts where the silkworm has suffered most, and there is every reason to believe that it is one of the principal causes of the disease of that insect. The latter is now called the *gattine* in France, but it had been remarked before in solitary cases; the silkworms attacked with consumption have long been called *luzettes* in France, because they have a shining appearance and do not grow. In the south of France they called *arpians* and *passis*. (*Dublin Hospital Gazette*.)

THE AMERICAN QUARANTINE CONVENTION. The following resolutions have been adopted: 1. That there are certain diseases which may be introduced into a community by foul vessels and cargoes, and diseased crews and passengers. 2. That of these diseases the most injurious are small-pox, and, under certain circumstances, typhus fever, cholera, and yellow fever. 3. That when the latter diseases are introduced in this manner, their action is limited to individuals coming within their immediate influence, and they cannot become epidemic unless there exist in the community circumstances which are calculated to produce such disease, independent of the importation. 4. That these circumstances consist in the vitiated state of the atmosphere from local causes, in connexion with peculiar meteorological conditions. 5. That efficient sanitary measures, including quarantine, will, in most cases, prevent the introduction of these diseases, and may, at any rate, disarm them of their virulence, and prevent their extension when introduced. 6. That the present quarantine regulations in most of our States are insufficient to prevent the introduction of disease, and are prejudicial to the interests of the community. Disease may be introduced, (1.) By a foul vessel, especially when measures are not taken to keep the hold free from stagnant and putrid bilge water, and more particularly when there exist in the hold droppings and drainings from putrefiable matters, which are allowed to penetrate and remain underneath the timbers of the ship. (2.) By cargoes consisting in whole or in part of rags, cotton, or other light porous sub-

stances, shipped from ports at which any malignant epidemic or disease of a contagious and infectious nature prevailed at the time when the vessel was loaded. (3.) By the filthy bedding, baggage, and clothing of emigrant passengers, particularly when they are crowded together in insufficient quarters, although the passengers themselves may be free from any actual disease. (4.) By the air that has been confined during the voyage in closely sealed and ill ventilated holds. (5.) By squalid and diseased passengers, landed and crowded together in unhealthy neighbourhoods, or in small ill ventilated dwellings. (6.) By passengers and crews who are actually labouring under, or infected with, any positively contagious disease; and by their bedding, clothing, or baggage. The above resolutions were adopted by a vote eighteen in favour, two against, and one tie-vote. (*Dublin Hospital Gazette.*)

SPIRITUALISM IN BOSTON. Professors Agassiz, Pierce, and Horsford of Harvard College, and Dr. Gould, the committee selected to pass upon the controversy between the *Boston Courier* and Dr. H. F. Gardner, respecting the alleged phenomenon of spiritualism, after a week's investigation, made the following report:—"The committee award that Dr. Gardner having failed to produce before them an agent or medium who 'communicated a word imparted to the spirits in an adjoining room,' 'who read a word in English written inside a book, or folded sheet of paper,' who answered any question 'which the superior intelligence must be able to answer,' who 'tilted a piano without touching it, or caused a chair to move a foot,' and having failed to exhibit to the committee any phenomenon, which, under the widest latitude of interpretation, could be regarded as equivalent to either of these proposed tests; or any phenomenon which required for its production, or in any manner indicated a force which could technically be denominated spiritual, or which was hitherto unknown to science, or a phenomenon of which the cause was not palpable to the committee is, therefore, not entitled to claim from the *Boston Courier* the proposed premium of five hundred dollars. It is the opinion of the committee, derived from observation, that any connexion with Spiritualistic Circles, so called, corrupts the morals and degrades the intellect. They, therefore, deem it their solemn duty to warn the community against this contaminating influence, which surely tends to lessen the truth of man and the purity of woman. The committee will publish a report of their proceedings, together with the results of additional investigations, and other evidence independent of the special case submitted to them, but bearing upon the subject of this stupendous delusion."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

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TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

Communications have been received from:—MR. HENRY THOMPSON; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. T. INMAN; MR. J. WINDSOR; DR. T. HAYES JACKSON; MR. F. MELLAND; DR. P. MACINTYRE; MR. JAMES COOPER; DR. GREENHOW; MR. ROBERT MANNERS MANN; MR. DANIEL CROOME; THE SECRETARY OF THE BRISTOL HUMANE SOCIETY; MR. J. HAWKER; DR. PROBERT; MR. FREDERICK ROBERTSON; MR. G. W. MOULD; MR. W. PRUEN; and MR. BARTRUM.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Practical Psychology. University

of Edinburgh.—During the ensuing Winter Session (1857-58) Dr. LAYCOCK proposes to arrange those of his Lectures on the PRACTICE OF MEDICINE which treat of MENTAL DISORDERS into a distinct course of PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY, in which he will systematically develop mental science in its application to all morbid states of the consciousness.

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