

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE TRUE DEATH-RATES OF LONDON DISTRICTS DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1892.

IN the accompanying table will be found summarised the vital and mortal statistics of the forty-one sanitary districts of the metropolis, based upon the Registrar-General's returns for the second or spring quarter of this year. The mortality figures in the table relate to the deaths of persons actually belonging to the respective sanitary districts, and are the result of a complete system of distribution of the deaths occurring in the institutions of London among the various sanitary districts in which the patients had previously resided.

The 33,394 births registered in London during the three months ending June last were equal to an annual rate of 31.4 per 1,000 of the population, estimated at 4,263,294 in the middle of this year. In the corresponding periods of the preceding three years the birth-rate was 31.9, 30.4, and 31.8 per 1,000 respectively. The birth-rates last quarter in the various sanitary districts showed, as usual, wide variations, owing principally to the differences in the sex and age distribution of the population. In Kensington, St. George Hanover Square, St. James Westminster, Hampstead, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and London City the birth-rates were considerably below the average; while in Fulham, St. Luke, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Mile End Old Town, and Bermondsey the birth-rates showed a marked excess.

The 19,680 deaths of persons belonging to London registered during the quarter under notice were equal to an annual rate of 18.5 per 1,000, against 16.5, 17.9, and 23.4 in the corresponding periods of the preceding three years 1889-90-91. The lowest death-rates in the various sanitary districts during last quarter were 12.5 in Hampstead, 12.7 in Lewisham (excluding Penge), 12.8 in Plumstead, 13.8 in Wandsworth, 15.3 in Camberwell, and 15.4 in Hackney and in Battersea. In the other districts the rates ranged

upwards to 23.2 in St. Luke, 23.7 in Limehouse, 23.9 in Holborn, 24.6 in St. George Southwark, 24.9 in Whitechapel, 25.8 in Strand, 26.8 in Newington, and 28.1 in St. George-in-the-East. During the quarter under notice 3,355 deaths were referred to the principal zymotic diseases in London; of these, 1,609 resulted from measles, 630 from whooping-cough, 432 from diphtheria, 323 from diarrhoea, 258 from scarlet fever, 87 from different forms of "fever" (including 80 from enteric fever, 3 from typhus, and 4 from ill-defined forms of fever), and 16 from small-pox. These 3,355 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.2 per 1,000, which exceeded that recorded in the corresponding period of any year since 1884. The lowest zymotic death-rates during last quarter in the various sanitary districts were 0.8 in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 1.0 in Lewisham, 1.5 in Plumstead, 1.6 in Woolwich, and 1.7 in Greenwich. In the other districts the zymotic death-rates ranged upwards to 4.6 in Limehouse, 4.9 in Fulham, in Chelsea, and in Whitechapel, 5.9 in Hammersmith and in Newington, and 6.9 in St. George-in-the-East.

Sixteen deaths from small-pox were recorded in London during the three months ending June last, of which 4 were of persons belonging to St. Luke, and 3 to Bethnal Green sanitary districts. One hundred and ninety-five small-pox patients were admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals during last quarter, and 95 remained under treatment at the end of June. Measles showed the highest proportional fatality in Hammersmith, Fulham, Chelsea, Strand, St. George-in-the-East, and Newington; scarlet fever in Westminster, St. George-in-the-East, and Newington; diphtheria in Hammersmith, St. James Westminster, Hackney, London City, Whitechapel, and Mile End Old Town; and whooping-cough in Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Limehouse, Mile End Old Town, St. Saviour Southwark, St. George Southwark, and Newington.

Infant mortality in London last quarter, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births, was equal to 128 per 1,000, and was slightly below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the preceding ten years. Among the various sanitary districts the rates of infant mortality were lowest in St. James Westminster, Hackney, St. Olave Southwark, Rotherhithe, Wandsworth, and Plumstead; while they showed the largest excess in Westminster, Strand, Holborn, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, and St. Saviour Southwark.

Analysis of the Vital and Mortal Statistics of the Sanitary Districts of the Metropolis, after Complete Distribution of Deaths occurring in Public Institutions, during the Second Quarter of 1892.

SANITARY AREAS.	Estimated Population middle of 1892.	Births.	Deaths.	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.			Deaths from Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping-Cough.	Typhus.	Enteric Fever.	Simple and Undefined Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths of Children under 1 year of age to 1,000 births.
				Births.	Deaths.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.											
LONDON	4,263,294	33,394	19,680	31.4	18.5	3.2	3,355	16	1,609	258	432	630	3	80	4	323	128
<i>West Districts.</i>																	
Paddington	119,199	748	525	25.2	17.7	2.8	84	—	58	6	6	6	—	—	—	8	116
Kensington	166,721	979	704	23.5	16.9	2.8	115	—	62	9	14	19	—	6	—	5	128
Hammersmith	100,642	767	497	30.6	19.8	5.9	147	—	97	1	27	7	—	—	1	14	159
Fulham	98,195	900	487	36.8	19.9	4.9	121	—	68	8	8	22	—	1	—	14	146
Chelsea	97,300	699	508	28.8	20.9	4.9	119	1	78	4	11	11	—	1	—	13	157
St. George, Hanover Square	76,946	390	314	20.3	16.4	2.9	55	—	41	1	4	8	—	1	—	—	115
Westminster	55,203	338	306	24.6	22.2	3.9	53	—	31	7	7	6	—	—	—	2	172
St. James, Westminster ...	24,368	135	100	22.2	16.5	2.6	16	—	6	1	5	3	—	1	—	—	89
<i>North Districts.</i>																	
Marylebone	140,799	1,129	778	32.2	22.2	3.8	133	—	77	13	14	11	1	2	—	15	130
Hampstead	71,652	366	224	20.5	12.5	2.4	43	—	20	—	11	7	—	1	—	4	126
St. Pancras	324,207	1,797	1,230	30.8	21.1	4.0	235	1	134	19	22	41	—	5	—	13	143
Islington	234,451	2,422	1,260	29.9	15.6	1.9	154	1	56	10	28	29	—	4	—	26	122
Hackney	235,370	1,727	902	29.4	15.4	2.3	134	1	38	14	40	25	—	3	—	13	101
<i>Central Districts.</i>																	
St. Giles	39,071	290	198	29.8	20.3	2.5	24	—	10	2	3	5	—	2	—	2	128
St. Martin-in-the-Fields ...	14,204	65	76	18.3	21.4	0.8	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	108
Strand	24,256	140	156	23.2	25.8	4.3	26	—	19	—	2	4	—	—	—	1	171
Holborn	32,912	233	196	29.0	23.9	3.7	30	—	12	3	3	6	—	1	—	5	160
Clerkenwell	65,432	550	363	33.7	22.2	2.6	42	—	17	3	7	6	—	3	—	6	147
St. Luke	41,850	509	242	48.8	23.2	3.2	33	4	13	3	3	6	—	—	—	4	126
London City	36,692	189	172	20.7	18.8	2.7	25	—	5	4	10	4	—	1	—	1	127
<i>East Districts.</i>																	
Shoreditch	123,683	1,113	639	36.1	20.7	3.3	101	1	42	8	12	13	—	3	1	21	145
Bethnal Green	129,408	1,225	628	38.0	19.5	3.9	127	3	57	12	18	25	—	4	—	8	128
Whitechapel	74,853	861	465	46.1	24.9	4.9	92	4	41	5	14	20	—	1	—	11	139
St. George-in-the-East ...	45,343	484	318	42.8	28.1	6.9	78	—	34	6	7	14	—	2	—	15	176
Limehouse	57,480	464	340	32.4	23.7	4.6	66	—	30	4	6	31	—	2	—	3	175
Mile End Old Town	107,811	1,074	586	39.9	21.8	4.1	109	—	34	3	23	21	—	2	—	16	128
Poplar	167,857	1,450	787	34.6	18.8	3.4	143	—	70	9	16	30	—	5	—	13	123
<i>South Districts.</i>																	
St. Saviour, Southwark ...	26,973	214	155	31.8	23.1	2.1	14	—	6	—	1	7	—	—	—	—	168
St. George, Southwark ...	59,346	538	367	36.1	24.6	4.3	64	—	30	5	5	18	—	1	—	5	147
Newington	116,649	1,039	780	35.7	26.8	5.9	171	—	107	15	7	35	—	3	—	4	153
St. Olave, Southwark ...	12,787	106	64	33.2	20.1	1.9	6	—	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	75
Bermondsey	84,440	793	449	37.7	21.3	3.8	79	—	40	8	4	19	—	3	—	5	145
Rotherhithe	39,459	333	190	33.8	19.3	3.2	31	—	15	—	4	8	—	—	—	4	87
Lambeth	277,917	2,251	1,196	32.5	17.3	2.5	175	1	60	25	29	36	—	5	1	18	111
Battersea	156,313	1,234	600	31.7	15.4	2.9	113	—	51	10	11	27	—	1	—	13	31
Wandsworth	164,003	1,137	558	27.8	13.6	2.6	106	—	52	6	16	19	—	4	1	8	98
Camberwell	241,465	1,866	923	31.0	15.3	2.5	148	—	64	12	17	30	—	6	—	18	118
Greenwich	169,734	1,343	676	31.7	16.0	1.7	70	1	18	9	13	20	1	1	—	7	109
Lewisham	74,673	471	237	25.3	12.7	1.0	19	—	2	1	—	14	1	—	—	1	113
Woolwich	41,376	293	191	28.4	18.5	1.6	16	—	3	2	1	6	—	3	—	1	116
Plumstead	91,704	727	293	31.8	12.8	1.5	35	1	6	10	2	11	—	1	—	4	77

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HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 6,471 births and 3,491 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday, July 16th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had been 17.1 per 1,000 in each of the preceding two weeks, rose to 17.9 during the week under notice. The rates in the several towns ranged from 9.8 in Croydon and in Birkenhead, 10.7 in Brighton, 13.5 in Hull, and 13.6 in Oldham to 19.8 in Halifax, 20.0 in Salford, 21.3 in Blackburn, 21.5 in Liverpool, and 22.6 in West Ham. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 17.1 per 1,000, and 1.8 below the rate recorded in London, which was 18.9 per 1,000. The 3,491 deaths registered during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 598 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against numbers increasing from 477 to 503 in the preceding three weeks; of these, 260 resulted from diarrhoea, 131 from measles, 80 from whooping-cough, 60 from diphtheria, 44 from scarlet fever, 23 from "fever" (principally enteric), and not one from small-pox. These 598 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 3.1 per 1,000; in London the zymotic death-rate was equal to 4.2, while it averaged only 2.2 per 1,000 in the thirty-two provincial towns. No fatal case of any of these diseases was recorded last week in Brighton; in the other towns they caused the lowest death-rates in Hull, Leeds, Derby, and Norwich, and the highest rates in London, Sunderland, Leicester, and West Ham. Measles caused the highest proportional fatality in Birkenhead, Huddersfield, Halifax, West Ham, Oldham, and Sunderland; scarlet fever in Swansea; whooping-cough in West Ham, Nottingham, Preston, Huddersfield, Wolverhampton, Bolton, and Burnley; and diarrhoea in Sheffield, West Ham, Bristol, Preston, London, and Leicester. The mortality from "fever" showed no marked excess in any of the large towns. The 60 deaths from diphtheria recorded during the week under notice in the thirty-three towns included 43 in London, 4 in West Ham, and 3 in Birmingham. No fatal case of small-pox was registered either in London or in any of the large provincial towns; 17 small-pox patients were under treatment in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals, and 4 in the Highgate Small-pox Hospital, on Saturday last, July 16th. The number of scarlet fever patients in the Metropolitan Asylums Hospitals, and in the London Fever Hospital on the same date was 2,488, against numbers increasing from 1,226 to 2,372 on the preceding sixteen Saturdays; 322 new cases were admitted during the week, against 331 and 301 in the previous two weeks. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in London was equal to 2.1 per 1,000, and was below the average.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

DURING the week ending Saturday, July 16th, 880 births and 480 deaths were registered in eight of the principal Scotch towns. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had declined from 19.3 to 17.6 per 1,000 in the preceding three weeks, further declined to 17.2 during the week under notice, and was 0.7 per 1,000 below the mean rate during the same period in the large English towns. Among these Scotch towns the lowest death-rates were 13.2 in Greenock and 14.1 in Edinburgh, and the highest rates 18.3 in Glasgow and 20.1 in Leith. The 480 deaths in these towns included 62 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, equal to an annual rate of 2.2 per 1,000, which was 0.9 below the mean zymotic death-rate during the same period in the large English towns. The highest zymotic death-rates were recorded in Leith and Paisley. The 235 deaths in Glasgow included 9 from measles, 9 from whooping-cough, 6 from scarlet fever, and 4 from diphtheria. Two fatal cases of diphtheria were recorded in Aberdeen. The death-rate from diseases of the respiratory organs in these towns was equal to 2.3 per 1,000, against 2.1 in London.

HEALTH OF IRISH TOWNS.

In sixteen of the principal town-districts of Ireland the deaths registered during the week ending Saturday, July 9th, were equal to an annual rate of 19.7 per 1,000. The lowest rates were recorded in Armagh and Dundalk, and the highest rates in Sligo and Newry. The death-rate from the principal zymotic diseases averaged 3.2 per 1,000. The 146 deaths registered in Dublin were equal to an annual rate of 21.8 per 1,000 (against 27.4 and 24.6 in the preceding two weeks), the rate during the same period being 17.2 in London and 14.8 in Edinburgh. The 146 deaths registered in Dublin included 20 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases (equal to an annual rate of 3.0 per 1,000), of which 13 resulted from measles, 3 from diarrhoea, 2 from whooping-cough, 1 from diphtheria, and 1 from enteric fever.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM EDWARD BALKWILL, M.R.C.S.ENG.

WILLIAM EDWARD BALKWILL, a descendant of the well-known George Fox, was associated for over twenty years with the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, of which he was one of the surgeons. A victim in the early part of the present year to a second attack of influenza, he did not allow himself the necessary respite from work fully to re-establish his strength, and succumbed after a few hours' illness on the morning of July 11th.

A skilful operator and devoted to the speciality he had adopted—orthopædic surgery—he has left behind many friends both in England and America who will mourn the loss of an ardent and zealous worker. Snatched away at the early age of 43, in the midst of hard and incessant toil, his life must always remain (happily not unique in the annals of the medical profession) a monument of disregard of self, and an unselfish devotion to the needs of others, and none will

miss him more than the poor, whether at the hospital or in his daily round, who always found a sympathetic friend and showed his tender thought for their infirmities, and helped them in their suffering by a cheery word or a genial smile. Mr. Balkwill, who was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was a member of the British Medical Association, and had looked forward with great interest to taking part in the forthcoming annual meeting at Nottingham, where it was his intention to have given a demonstration on orthopædic apparatus.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SCHOOL OF SURGERY, IRELAND.—The "Mayne Scholarship" of fifteen pounds has been awarded to Mr. G. Hamilton.

It is officially announced by the authorities of the St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy that stammering will in future be considered a disqualification in candidates for admission.

THE annual meeting of the Austrian food analysts and microscopic experts will be held this year at Vienna, between October 15th and 20th. The committee entrusted with the preparation of a "Codex Alimentarius" is making progress with its task.

A BREAKFAST will be given at the Exchange Hall, Nottingham, on Wednesday next, when Dr. H. Martyn Clark, of Umritsur, Punjab, and Dr. Hoernlé will give a short account of medical mission work. Dr. Roberts Thomson will take the chair.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.—Drs. Beely and Kirchoff have published a book on *The Human Foot: its Care and Covering*. The authors, after considering the anatomy and the functions of the human foot, proceed to ask how a "rational" modern shoe should be constructed, and then discuss the "rational stocking."

THE Gesellschaft deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte will assemble for its 65th meeting on September 11th, in Nuremberg. The business of the Congress will commence on the following morning. Among those who will take part in the Congress and read addresses are Professors von Helmholtz, Ziegler, His, Strümpell, and Hueppe. The Sections will meet on Tuesday and Thursday, the general sessions, at which the addresses are given, being held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

A QUARTERLY court of directors of the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men was held on July 13th, Sir James Paget, President, in the chair. Two new members were elected. The deaths of two widows receiving grants were reported. It was resolved to distribute the sum of £1,296 among the fifty-six widows and eighteen orphans now in receipt of grants. No fresh applications for assistance were read. The expenses of the quarter amounted to £51 11s.

WE desire, says the *Citizen*, to honour an act of unselfish devotion to humanity and duty performed by Dr. Jones, of the Earlswood Asylum. A little girl, 6 years of age, named Ethel Sargent, was admitted to the infirmary of the Asylum on Sunday evening, July 10th, suffering from diphtheria. Her condition was so serious that tracheotomy had to be performed. The accumulation of matter threatened the life of the little sufferer, and after being warned by his colleague of the danger, Dr. Jones sucked the tube and relieved the patient.

THE DENTAL HOSPITAL.—On July 15th, at Prince's Hall, a *conversazione* was given in connection with the distribution of prizes to the students of the Dental Hospital. Mr. Morton Smale (Dean of the hospital) read during the evening a very satisfactory report in reference to the progress of the school during the past year. Professor St. George Mivart, having distributed the prizes, briefly addressed those present. He observed that human happiness depended largely upon matters with which the hospital had to deal, for personal godness was intimately connected with perfect digestion. Dentistry was a very ancient art, having been practised by the early Egyptians. Although it held its own throughout the