LONDON JOURNAL OF MEDICINE,

A MONTHLY

Record of the Medical Sciences.

DECEMBER 1851.—No. XXXVI.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ON THE HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE SIX MONTHS TERMINATING SEPTEMBER 27, 1851.

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CONSIDERING the recent enormous and constantly changing population collected in London during the period to which this report refers, from all parts of the empire, and from foreign countries, it is particularly interesting to ascertain, how far the sanitary condition of the capital manifested any difference from that of the corresponding period of previous or ordinary years? The inquiry is highly important, alike to the political economist and to the physician. With the view of supplying evidence whereon to found deductions respecting several vital questions, I now proceed, in accordance with the method I have hitherto adopted; first, to enumerate the gross amount of deaths recorded throughout the metropolitan districts during the half year ending the 27th of last September; and afterwards, to give a few details illustrating the varied mortality produced by particular maladies, in order thereby to point out wherein recent results differed from, or resembled, those met with during the parallel six months of the previous year.

The health of the metropolis during the past summer and autumn, although in some respects not so satisfactory as throughout the same months of the year 1850, has not been remarkable either for the severity of prevalent diseases, or on account of its aggregate mortality. During the six months terminating on the 27th of last September, the total deaths amounted to 25,980, contradistinguished to 22,816 during the parallel period of 1850, thus making an increase of 3,164. However, it should be remembered, the majority of deaths took place during the first three months of the recent half year, when 1,845 more deaths were recorded than the number which occurred during the same quarter of 1850; but the excess was only 148 beyond the number

reported throughout the parallel season of 1848, whilst it was not more than 85, if compared with the second quarter of 1849, notwithstanding that the latter was the great cholera year. When reflecting upon these varied statements, it should be always recollected, that during the months of April, May, and June, of the current year, the metropolitan population became enormously augmented, whilst many of the assembled strangers were placed, unavoidably, under unfavourable mental, and physical influences. The principal augmentation in the rate of mortality occurred during May, when upwards of half the additional 1,854 deaths took place, the excess being 959 fatal cases beyond the amount reported during the parallel month of the former year; hence, indicating that May was the most sickly portion of the entire half year referred to in the present report.

Throughout July, August, and September, the number of deaths, from all causes, was likewise somewhat greater than in the same quarter of 1850, the increase amounting to 1,309 cases; whereas, if the same quarter be compared with the same three months of 1848, the returns give 616 fewer deaths during the recent season. During the second and third quarters of 1848, the deaths amounted to 26,448, which makes 468 more than in the same months of 1851; and as the excess was 14,137 in the great cholera year, or 1849, the public may well rest satisfied with the recent healthy state of the metropolitan population, although its aggregate mortality exceeded that reported in 1850. Instead of experiencing famine, plague, pestilence, riot, rebellion, and crimes sufficient to shake society to its centre, as many predicted, nothing of the kind has occurred; for which we assuredly have much reason to be grateful to Providence.

DISEASES WHICH HAVE LATELY EXHIBITED A DIMINISHED RATE OF MORTALITY. Several diseases have proved rather less fatal than in the parallel six months of 1850. From scarlatina, 460 persons died, in place of 550 deaths during the parallel six months of the previous year, thereby making a decrease of 90 fatal cases; from erysipelas, the deaths were 150, instead of 168; by apoplexy, 606 against 618; from dropsy, 362, in place of 382; from influenza, 115, instead of 123; from enteritis, 187, in place of 193; from hepatitis, 95, against 107; from peritonitis, 95, instead of 112; from nephria, 57, against 67; from ovarian dropsy, 24, in place of 35; from aneurism, 35, instead of 44; from hæmorrhage, 97, in lieu of 106; and from rheumatism, 102 fatal cases were recorded during the recent six months, against 110 met with in the similar two quarters of the former season.

To the different maladies now enumerated as prevailing less fatally, it is gratifying to add two affections, not only on account of the diminished mortality they produced, but also as leading to important conclusions respecting the improved habits of the general metropolitan population. The causes of death now alluded to, are intemperance and delirium tremens. From the first, 29 persons are reported to have died instead of 39 during the parallel six months of 1850; and delirium tremens cut off 67 individuals, contradistinguished to 96 during the previous period. Statements like the above are exceedingly gratifying, and may be justly brought forward as good evidence that sobriety characterised the immense masses of people frequenting London during

the past season. Taken in conjunction with other facts not now alluded to, as it would be out of place to bring them under discussion, although sufficiently obvious, it will at once be acknowledged, that, so few persons having died, comparatively speaking, from excess in ardent spirits, is an indication of considerable social improvement.

DISEASES WHICH HAVE EXHIBITED AN INCREASED RATE OF MORTALITY. Several maladies have been both more prevalent and more fatal than during the summer and early autumn of last year. This remark applies especially to infantile complaints, and to several affections of the organs of respiration.

Small-pox occupies a most prominent position in this mortuary scale, seeing that the deaths by that truly pestilential malady were last season more than double those in the previous period, 452 persons having recently died from variola, in place of 212 fatal cases of the same complaint during the parallel two quarters of the preceding year. In reference, also, to the greatly augmented mortality from small-pox, it ought to be specially mentioned, that nearly the whole deaths occurred in patients under 15 years of age; 392 out of the whole 452 reported being within that limit, and of these, it should be stated, a large proportion were very young children. An immense majority of those so affected were unprotected by vaccination; and numerous parents had even obstinately refused to avail themselves of the protective influence of cow-pock, notwithstanding they were urgently solicited by friends and medical men to have their children vaccinated. It is most lamentable to find so much prejudice and ignorance still prevailing amongst the lower ranks in regard to the invaluable benefits which Jenner has conferred upon the community.

Occasionally, individuals are attacked by secondary small-pox; and death has thereby supervened in after life, although the party had been vaccinated during infancy. Similar results sometimes follow natural and inoculated variola; but all cases of secondary small-pox being exceptional, they cannot outweigh the many millions of instances in which vaccination has proved protective.

However untenable several of the objections which some individuals continue to entertain against the efficacy of vaccination may appear, such prejudices become excusable, to a certain extent, when the limited opportunities are remembered, which these parties have enjoyed of obtaining correct information respecting cow-pock; as also their defective general education. Uneducated persons belonging to the labouring classes, especially in the rural districts, deserve pity rather than censure, when obstinately objecting to allow their children to be vaccinated, and are certainly much less blamable than those benighted members of the middle and upper ranks of society, who patronise prevailing quackeries, whether homœopathy, Mesmerism, hydropathy, or the use of secret remedies. To find educated men and women, arrived at the years of discretion, who have had ample opportunities of acquiring knowledge, and of exercising their intellectual faculties, believing in the wonderful stories palmed upon credulous imaginations by peripatetic lecturers and pseudo-philosophers, is far more strange than to meet with uneducated people doubting the prophylactic powers

of vaccination. The latter should be commiserated, whilst the former deserve only condemnation.

From measles, a considerable increase in the rate of mortality has been also observed, 755 deaths from that complaint having recently occurred, against 410 fatal cases during the parallel six months of 1850. From convulsions, 955 individuals died, in place of 839 during the previous period. Hydrocephalus also proved fatal to 812 persons, instead of 677; whilst bronchitis, always a serious disease in very young, as in persons of advanced age, caused death to 1,330, contradistinguished to 1,076 during the similar two quarters of the former year. Hooping-cough likewise proved more destructive than previously; 1,094 deaths having taken place from this disease, instead of 706 recorded in the two previous parallel quarters.

Phthisis has proved more deadly than in the former summer and autumn; 3,498 deaths occurred from that malady during the six months embraced by the present report, instead of 3,056 in the two similar quarters of the previous year, giving an excess of 442 deaths, or an increase of nearly 15 per cent.: from pneumonia 1,387 died, instead of 1,151, being an excess of 236 deaths. Typhus has likewise proved more fatal, 1,055 deaths having been reported, instead of 900 during the second and third quarters of 1850. Diseases affecting the abdominal viscera have exhibited a larger mortality during the present than in the corresponding six months of the previous year. For instance, diarrhœa carried off 1,647 persons, in place of 1,361 in the former season; from cholera, 191 patients died, instead of 96; from liver disease, 283, in lieu of 253; whilst 86 deaths were reported from jaundice, in place of 75 in the previous period; from inflammation of the brain, 286 persons lost their lives, instead of 268; epilepsy recently carried off 168 patients, instead of 132; and lastly, from scrofula, 210 deaths were recorded, against 157 met with in the former half year.

Notwithstanding repeated allusions in former reports to the number of infants who annually lose their lives from being deprived of their mothers' milk, and in spite of frequent remarks respecting a practice which produces most disastrous consequences, the evil continues to prevail quite as much, if not more extensively than before. This truth is clearly demonstrated by the fact, that 119 deaths occurred from the want of breast-milk during the last six months; whereas, the total number of infants who sank under that privation was 89 in the parallel two quarters of the preceding year; giving an increase of 30 deaths during the more recent period. Statements like the above are by no means creditable to the parties concerned, seeing that they indicate the continuance of a custom producing most serious results, which the laws both of nature and common sense strongly condemn. However agreeable the practice may prove to certain fashionable mothers, anxious to avoid the trouble of suckling their own offspring, or profitable to hireling parents, induced by lucre and additional physical comforts, it is not less true that their respective infants frequently become victims of neglect and privation. This picture is not overdrawn, but forms a true representation of the evils occasioned by employing wet-nurses; therefore the system ought to be discountenanced—not patronised by wealthy and aristocratic members of society.

DISEASES EXHIBITING A NEARLY UNIFORM RATE OF MORTALITY. Notwithstanding the immense metropolitan population, and the various causes inimical to health, which are frequently, but also irregularly, in operation, it is both curious and instructive to notice the singular uniformity often observed to prevail, in regard to the number of deaths produced by certain diseases during consecutive years, and even under apparently adverse or opposite circumstances. The facts about to be detailed in illustration of similar peculiarities are interesting; and however impossible it must appear for any person to foretell the number of individuals who might be carried off by particular diseases, it nevertheless can be safely asserted, that the mortality produced by several complaints is often remarkably uniform. On this point, the experience obtained during last summer and autumn is instructive, especially as the results noticed coincide, in some respects, with previous observations. For instance, during the six months terminating on the 27th of last September, from paralysis, 506 deaths occurred, instead of 507 in the parallel quarters of the preceding year; from cancer, 451 fatal cases were reported, against 457; from asthma, 217, in lieu of 210; from disease of the kidneys, 143, against 142; during child-birth, 107 women died, instead of 116; whilst from hernia, 69 fatal cases were recently reported, contradistinguished from 62 in the six parallel months of the previous season.

Besides the preceding illustrations of uniformity in the number of deaths produced by certain diseases throughout consecutive years, it also deserves mention, that 53 individuals died insane during the last six months, in place of 51 in the former season. Further, 15 deaths were recorded from stone, against 13; and of diabetes, the fatal cases amounted to 20, instead of 18 met with in the previous period. Similar remarks equally apply to diseases affecting joints, from which causes 87 persons recently died, in place of 91. Again, from affections of the uterus, 89 deaths occurred, instead of 82 in the former half year. From heart complaints, which proved fatal to 830 persons during last season, 801 were reported in the parallel six months of 1850. Regarding diseases of the heart, it deserves being mentioned as an interesting fact, that a large proportion of the 830 fatal cases took place in patients at the prime of life, whilst very few deaths by the same class of affections were met with previous to puberty. This opinion is shown to be well founded by the fact, that only 34 individuals died from heart-disease under the age of 15, whereas 494 deaths were reported in persons from 15 to 60, whilst the remaining 302 fatal cases occurred in patients who had passed the latter term of life. According to these data, medical practitioners may therefore very justly assert, that diseases of the heart are more common during manhood than at any other period, whilst they prove fatal in greater number to parties about the prime of life, than to youths or children.

AGE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DIED. In connexion with repeated statements contained in previous reports, I have again to request special attention to a circumstance, which, although by no means novel, still appears astounding; namely, the fact, that almost one half of the whole deaths recorded throughout London during the last six months,

occurred in young persons, many being even children or infants. This conclusion is based upon the return of ages stated in the mortuary reports, from which it appears, that not less than 12,651 cases out of 25,980 deaths recently registered, took place in patients under their fifteenth year; 8,263 from that age to 60, or in the prime of life; and 4,914 in parties who had passed their grand climacteric; thus leaving only 152 persons whose exact ages were not ascertained. That so large a proportion as nearly fifty per cent. of the entire mortality recently met with in the metropolis, should have taken place solely amongst the juvenile, deserves most serious attention on the part of physicians and philanthropists, in order to ascertain how premature mortality may be stayed or corrected. That physical defects, and constitutional tendency to disease in certain individuals, greatly contribute towards augmenting the number of deaths amongst the younger portion of mankind, cannot be questioned, knowing that these powerful influences are too often in operation. Independent, however, of such potent causes of disease and consequent death, no medical observer can deny, that improper feeding, defective clothing, and a total disregard of many hygienic rules essential to the preservation of health, besides the frequent neglect of ordinary prophylactic measures, whereby some of the existing evils might be mitigated, have all very materially contributed to produce the lamentable concatenation of cause and effect now briefly delineated. Without attempting to discuss on the present occasion these important questions in the manner they deserve, I will only now remark, that prejudice, and long-established usages fostered by ignorance, not only exercise great influence in perpetuating existing evils, but they often act as repulsive antagonists to progress and improvement, besides being frequently arrayed in opposition to all change, even when recommended by reason or experience. Notwithstanding these obstacles, knowing how essential it is in the cure of disease, or in the abatement of any social mischief, first to learn its cause and nature, prior to settling treatment proper to pursue, I have been induced again to notice the excessive mortality among London children, in order that professional men may further investigate the subject, and so suggest effectual means to remove, or alleviate, similar calamities.

MORTALITY AMONG THE PAUPER POPULATION. Somewhat analogous to the observations previously made, the total number of deaths recorded throughout all the charitable institutions of London during the last half year, again constitutes a considerable proportion. Amongst the 25,980 fatal cases reported in the six months terminating on the 27th of last September, nearly one-sixth, or 3,959 deaths took place in the workhouses, asylums, prisons, and hospitals, thereby giving 15·23 per cent. of the aggregate mortality, of whom many, it may be added, were medically treated and otherwise supported, during their last illness, at the expense of others, or by the general community. Another important matter regarding the eleemosynary part of the population, who recently died within the walls of public institutions, also deserves particular notice,—namely, the disparity existing betwixt the number of male and female inmates. The deaths amongst the former class predominated considerably; seeing that 2,319 out of the 3,959 re-

corded in all these establishments belonged to the male sex, thereby leaving 1,640, or about two-fifths, to the other, which gives an excess of 679 deaths, or 41·40 per cent. amongst the male residents.

Having very fully discussed in my former reports the mortality met with at various charitable institutions of the metropolis, it seems wholly superfluous again to enter upon such subjects at any length, more especially as there is ground for believing that detailed statements of the most interesting agenda, recorded at several public charities, will be eventually published by delegated official authorities. In the confident hope that such expectations may be speedily realised, and believing farther, that authentic statements of this kind will prove both instructive to the medical profession, and through them, to the public at large, I shall confine all present remarks respecting these institutions, to a few cursory observations, illustrative of the recent mortality recorded in the workhouses, prisons, and general hospitals of London; from which inquirers, taking an interest in similar questions, may be able to deduce their own inferences, and also to compare them with previous statistical observations.

WORKHOUSES. Upwards of half the aggregate deaths recorded in the public medical institutions of London during the last six months, took place amongst the residents of workhouses, the number being 2,216 out of the total 3,959 deaths reported. Amongst these, it should be likewise stated, that the majority were male patients, the relative proportion being 1,125 males, to 1,091 females. If the 2,216 deaths now mentioned to have taken place in workhouses might be adopted as a criterion of the recent state of public health, it may be inferred, with some show of reason, that as one-eleventh of the total mortality recently recorded in London, supervened amongst paupers belonging to the different parishes, perhaps the same proportion of sickness occurred elsewhere as in these establishments. At the same time, if the above mortality be compared with the amount reported from London workhouses during the six months immediately preceding the two quarters terminating on the 27th of last September, less serious disease has of late generally prevailed, seeing the deaths have been actually fewer than in the former half year, when 2,564 persons died in parish workhouses and infirmaries, being an increase of 348 fatal cases. This result was doubtless owing, in great part, to the milder temperature of summer, compared with the cold weather of winter, which always proves inimical to the health of old persons, as also to children; and as many of the former class become inmates of these eleemosynary institutions, the proportion of deaths therein is usually considerable.

METROPOLITAN PRISONS. The health of prisoners confined in London gaols has been recently exceedingly satisfactory, and quite as much so as on any previous occasion; only 32 persons having died throughout all the public establishments of that description in the metropolis during the last six months, of whom 27 were male, and only five female inmates. During the parallel two quarters of 1850, the total deaths in the same prisons were, however, 44, thus making a diminution of 12 cases in the last half year; and as the mortality

during the six months ending on the 29th of last March, was only 27, or five fatal cases less than in the recent period, no doubt can be entertained that London gaols are generally salubrious, the single exception being the Penitentiary. This conclusion is proved to be correct, seeing that eight of the 32 deaths recently reported from all the London prisons, occurred in that establishment; and as 10 of the 27 fatal cases also met with in the various gaols during the half year immediately preceding, took place in this prison, nearly one-third of the whole deaths, or 18 cases out of 59 recorded throughout the entire twelve months, were inmates of the Penitentiary, such statements corroborate the inferences now enunciated. The salubrity of most is very well known; and individuals whose health was bad on committal, have often become improved in condition after a short residence in prison. Indeed, a facetious physician is reported to have said, in reference to similar beneficial results, that idle and luxurious invalids having their constitutions affected from irregular habits, would frequently find it ameliorated by adopting prison rules, whilst they also had the same "change of air". The observation coincides with experience, and indicates the observer's shrewdness, as well as his knowledge of human nature.

GENERAL HOSPITALS. Having adverted at considerable length in my last report on the health of London, to the movement of patients recorded in these public charitable establishments, I do not at present propose again to discuss this important subject, beyond making a few cursory remarks in reference to the mortality met with amongst the patients. Compared with the parallel two quarters of the preceding year, the number of deaths reported from all the general hospitals of London, is rather greater in the recent, than in the previous parallel season; seeing the aggregate fatal cases amounted to 1,051 at the above institutions during the half year ending on the 28th of September 1850; whereas, from the same charities, 1,073 deaths were recently reported. However, in the six months terminating on the 29th of last March, the total mortality was greater, as 1,111 patients then died in the different hospitals. This result was somewhat analogous to the statements already reported from workhouses, and most likely depended upon similar influences, viz., the low temperature and severe weather of winter compared with summer, whereby the latter season proved more salubrious to inmates of the various charities, whether general hospitals or parochial infirmaries.

Another peculiarity in reference to the recent mortality reported from hospitals also deserves notice, namely, the large proportion of male patients who died in the above institutions, compared with females, nearly two-thirds of the whole deaths recorded having been of the former, and only about one-third of the latter sex, the exact numbers being 664 male, and 409 female patients. These facts therefore prove, that more disease, and certainly a greater number of severe accidents usually occur among the male population of London, resorting to general hospitals for relief, during sickness and physical injuries, than among its female inhabitants, although the latter are most numerous. But this point having been investigated in a former report, and conclusions having been deduced from the official returns of six

general hospitals, it seems unnecessary again to bring forward additional evidence upon that subject.

Besides the characteristic feature now portrayed respecting the preponderance of male patients in metropolitan hospitals, it also deserves remark, that the first three months embraced by the present report seem to have proved more unhealthy to inmates of these institutions than the latter quarter, comprising July, August, and September. During the former period, or throughout April, May, and June, the aggregate deaths in all the general hospitals amounted to 577, consisting of 366 male, and 211 female patients; whereas in the latter three months, the total number of fatal cases reported from the same charities, fell to 496, of whom 298 were male, and 198 female inmates; thus giving a diminution of 81 deaths, or one-seventh in favour of the more recent quarter. Such statements become more significant, when readers recollect that London contained a larger population last autumn than at any previous epoch; and as hospitals would be the most likely refuge of strangers, besides other persons meeting with accidents in over-crowded streets or elsewhere, the fact of fewer deaths having taken place at these institutions during the last three months, than in the preceding quarter, appears presumptive proof that casualties of all kinds were then less numerous. Taken cumulatively, but especially if viewed in reference to the existing population, the diminished rate of mortality in general hospitals must be held as highly satisfactory; and although the total deaths, from all causes, exceeded by 1,359 cases the amount recorded during the parallel three months of 1850, nevertheless the metropolis was certainly not insalubrious; on the contrary, considering the actual number of inhabitants, it was healthy.

Before taking leave of the eleemosynary institutions, as the subject may be interesting to many readers, I would again revert to the small number of deaths reported from the various charities, in order to contrast the results with those observed in Parisian establishments of the same description. In the French capital, although the total population ranges less than half that of London, the number who annually die in the workhouses (*hospices*), and civil and military hospitals of the former city, is nearly treble the ratio of the latter, if viewed in reference to the number of inhabitants. Take, for illustration, 1849 and '50; seeing those years supply the most recent official returns now published upon similar subjects. During 1849, exclusive of the 19,188 fatal cases of cholera, which then prevailed in Paris, 9,871 persons, out of a gross mortality of 29,985, from all other causes excepting cholera, died in public institutions, thereby showing, that nearly one-third, or 32·94 per cent. of the total mortality in the above city, took place amongst the poorer classes. Again, throughout 1850, notwithstanding the aggregate deaths in Paris were under the previous year, being only 27,856 from all causes, still so many as 10,079 patients actually died in the public medical establishments of the French capital, thus making upwards of one-third, or 36·14 per cent. of the entire mortality who were inmates of such establishments at the period of death, the remaining 17,777 having died in their own domiciles. These instructive data indicate a very different state of matters from the ordinary occurrences recorded in London, where,

instead of only 64 persons in every hundred dying at home, as in Paris last year, the proportion was about 84 per hundred. Other points possessing much interest, in reference to the different rate of mortality recorded in the two capitals now compared, might be discussed; but I refrain, lest I exhaust the reader's patience.

CONCLUDING REMARKS. On reviewing the various facts contained in previous paragraphs, and considering that the 25,980 fatal cases reported, during the six months terminating on the 27th of last September, ought not to be regarded as exclusively representing the ordinary mortality incident to the 2,400,000 inhabitants usually living in London, but, in reality, appertaining to a much larger number of human beings liable to attacks of disease, at the time congregated within the British metropolis, the public have much reason to feel grateful that the number of deaths recently recorded was not more considerable. Another instructive point should be likewise borne in remembrance, namely, that the causes whereby the late increased mortality in great part arose, were infantile complaints, the victims being chiefly infants and young children:—not adults resident in London, or strangers attracted thither by the Great Exhibition, of whom the great majority were men and women. This reasonable inference becomes more significant, seeing that several determined objectors to the recent gathering of nations had gravely asserted, that the large assemblage of persons who would thus be brought in contact, must produce every imaginable kind of disease and misfortune.

In support of the view now promulgated, respecting the partially increased number of deaths recently recorded, compared with the amount met with during the parallel two quarters of last year, it will suffice to state, that the excess of fatal cases from whooping-cough having been 388, from measles 345, from diarrhoea 286, from hydrocephalus 235, from small-pox 240, and from convulsions 116, during the last six months; it thus appears that more than half the total excess, or 1,510 cases were produced by the half-dozen complaints above mentioned. Besides this peculiar feature in infantile diseases, it may be added, that although diarrhoea cannot be classed under that division, nevertheless, amongst the 1,649 deaths produced by it, 1,354 of the cases occurred in patients previous to puberty, many being infants.

Statisticians, fully competent to form an opinion upon the subject, having estimated that 3,000,000 individuals, at least, beyond the usual resident population, actually visited London during the six months embraced in this report, the recent amount of mortality must have been thereby materially influenced; although the actual increase was not at all commensurate with the augmented number of residents, nay, speaking comparatively, respecting the actual population at the time, the ratio of deaths was rather below that of many ordinary seasons. Applying this mode of reasoning to the subject under discussion, let us suppose that an army of 50,000 men having lost, during six months, a certain number by ordinary complaints, were augmented to 100,000 rank and file, of course double the number of deaths would still give the same rate of mortality; but if the increase in mortality was only one-half the previous amount, then the actual ratio of deaths had diminished. Again, take a fleet having a certain number of sailors on board; if so

many died within a limited period, the mortality would be relatively the same, should double the number of deaths be registered after the crews had become, by new arrivals, twice as numerous. Were either of these contingent results to arise, there would be nothing extraordinary in such occurrences to excite astonishment. Instead, therefore, of assuming the late augmentation of deaths throughout the metropolis as any evidence of its recent insalubrity, the facts seem clearly to warrant an opposite conclusion. Irrespective of the great accession of inhabitants, if the total fatal cases recorded in London during the last six months, be compared with the amount reported in the two parallel periods of 1847 or 1848—the year 1849 being exceptional, as the cholera then prevailed epidemically—the average rate of mortality will appear nearly alike; seeing that the total deaths during the second and third quarters of 1847 were 25,548, or only 432 fewer than last season; whereas, in the six similar months of 1848, when the gross mortality amounted to 26,453, there occurred an increase of 473 fatal cases, notwithstanding the ordinary population was much less considerable than recently.

Unquestionably, the residents of the metropolis never became doubled in amount at exactly the same period, the additional visitors being distributed over the whole six months, especially during the last quarter; nevertheless, as all were under nearly the same influences, and equally liable, or exposed to attacks of disease, the aggregate number of persons present must be taken into calculation, when estimating the average rate of mortality. It has also been shown, in a previous paragraph, that the recent actual augmentation in the number of deaths was almost exclusively confined to children, and did not materially affect the adult population; so far from the vast crowding together of human beings in London, from all districts and climates, having produced deleterious effects upon their health, the very reverse supervened. Consequently, when we cast a retrospective glance over many remarkable features characterising the events of the last six months, amongst various subjects worthy of special notice, none seems more peculiarly instructive and impressive than the remarkable salubrity of the season, the absence of any severe epidemic, and the small amount of severe accidents. These reflections ought to make men grateful; and as doubtless some of the results now described were greatly promoted through the precautions taken by public authorities, the sanitary measures previously adopted, and the admirable spirit which animated all parties frequenting the metropolis, every recollection of the Great Exhibition and the recent concourse of nations cannot but prove agreeable, and ought to excite within us deep gratitude to the Almighty Ruler of the universe.

24, Brook Street, November 1851.