

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth District, The Board of Works (Clapham, Putney, Streatham, Tooting & Wandsworth)].

Contributors

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SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

REPORT

ON THE

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES COMPRISED IN THE

WANDSWORTH DISTRICT

During the Year 1873

over which your Bank exercises jurisdiction, and, if again

During the Year 1873.

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

London :

JOHN SMITH AND CO., 52, LONG ACRE, W.C.

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REPORT, 1873.

To the Board of Works for the Wandsworth District.

GENTLEMEN,

Herein is contained the usual Annual Sanitary Report relating as well to the entire Wandsworth District, as to the several Parishes of which such District is composed.

A series of these Reports, extending over a period of eighteen years, supply a large body of statistics of no mean value, in assisting to determine, from time to time, the Health and Sanitary Condition of the extensive area over which your Board exercises jurisdiction, and it again becomes our duty to add to the same our experiences of another year.

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Your very obedient Servants,

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HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE ENTIRE DISTRICT.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It is necessary to premise that, in order to prevent confusion in his tabulation, and to obviate the necessity of dividing the returns of births and deaths for a complete week, the Registrar General has made his official year of 1873 to embrace 53 weeks, terminating on Saturday, the 3rd January, 1874, Saturday being the day on which his statistical totals are always made up for publication. In this somewhat extended year, the registered deaths in the entire Wandsworth District were found to number 2,580 (Males 1,293, and Females 1,287.) The Registrar General gives in his summary of totals one death more than the Medical Officers of Health, viz., 2,581 instead of 2,580. This arises from a death being registered a second time by one of the local Registrars. The registered births during the same period were 5,053, (of Males 2,576, and of Females 2,477.) The excess of births over deaths, representing the natural increase of the population, is therefore 2,473. The estimated full increase, admitting, of course, into the calculation the immigrational element, is found to be to the extent of raising the figures arrived at in the middle of the year 1872, (131,891,) to 137,356 at the corresponding period of the year under review.

Although the Medical Officers of Health, in view of several disturbing circumstances of which they are cognizant, must of necessity estimate, from time to time, the increase of the population of some of the Sub-districts as being considerably greater than the mode of calculation of the Registrar General would seem to warrant, it is

nevertheless deemed advisable, in order to ensure uniformity, and to avoid even the appearance of exaggeration, not only to adopt the official totals as they appear in the Registrar General's Annual Summary of Weekly Returns, but also to deduce from those figures the mortuary rate of this District in the same way as is done for the whole of London, and for all other towns and districts throughout the kingdom, leaving it to each Health Officer to give his own explanation of any exceptional or local circumstances that may be considered by him to justify a departure from the ordinary basis of calculation.

With these observations it may be stated that, the deaths in the entire District having been 2,580 and the population as above estimated, the annual death-rate for 1873 was 18·7 per 1000 living, or 1 in every 53 of the inhabitants. The death-rate of the whole of London was, for the same year, 22·5. The following table, placing the five Sub-districts in the order of their greatest rate of mortality, will exhibit, for the past two years, the number of inhabitants, the number of deaths, and the ratio of deaths to population, in each.

SUB-DISTRICTS.	Estimated Population in the middle of		Deaths.		Ratio of Deaths to Population.		Excluding Non-Parishioners who have Died in Public Institutions.
	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1872.	1873.	1873
Battersea	58,260	61,758	1,202	1,307	1 in 48	1 in 47	1 in 51
Wandsworth	20,703	21,284	365	433	1 in 57	1 in 49	1 in 59
Clapham	28,154	28,799	482	475	1 in 58	1 in 61	} No appreciable difference
Streatham, Tooting, & Balham	15,027	15,456	228	240	1 in 66	1 in 64	
Putney & Roehampton	9,807	10,101	144	125	1 in 68	1 in 81	

The disturbing circumstances which unduly exalt the death-rates of two at least of the five Sub-districts (Battersea

and Wandsworth), should never be lost sight of in instituting any comparisons between those localities and others which happen to be without public institutions. Such institutions as County Asylums, Prisons, Hospitals, Union Infirmaries and the like, will be found throughout the kingdom to derive their inmates, with a few exceptions, from without the parishes in which they happen to be located, consequently the deaths of what are termed "non-parishioners" should always be excluded when it is desired to show the true mortuary rate or the rate *proper* to any particular locality. This is explained more fully in the Local Summaries relating to the two Sub-districts mentioned above, and it will not, therefore, be necessary to refer to this matter in this place at any greater length than to remark that, if this consideration be not fairly made to apply to the usual calculations in respect to the ratio of deaths to populations, great injustice might be done in some instances, by making certain localities wear the appearance of unhealthiness when at the same time they may be justly entitled to be considered the very reverse of insalubrious. The above table, therefore, should be alone read as simply giving the total deaths in the entire District by a comparison of two years, and as showing how and in what ratio these deaths were distributed over the large area under the jurisdiction of the Board.

There is another circumstance it is desirable to notice, viz., the necessity which appeared to exist of making the year's tabulation to embrace the death registrations of 53 weeks, in accordance with the plan pursued by the Registrar General. This, in some of the larger Sub-districts, may be looked upon by many as a most disturbing element in estimating the death-rates, but in the long run, and taking one year with the other, such disturbance must be considered as more apparent than real, seeing that the increase or decrease of deaths, as the case may be, of any one year will be duly balanced by a corresponding decrease or increase in the next.

Zymotic and other Diseases—their prevalence and fatality.—In the entire District there occurred during the year, as already observed, 2,580 deaths from all causes. Of these the class of ordinary diseases (non-Zymotic), accidents, &c., proved fatal in 2,169 instances, leaving 411 deaths attributable to Zymotic maladies. In the preceding 10 years the yearly average of deaths from these latter diseases (Zymotic) has been found to be 484, so that the present return gives 51 less than that average. In 1872 there succumbed 1,908 to the non-Zymotic class of diseases, and 513 to the Zymotic, showing that more persons by 261 died during the past year of ordinary diseases, and fewer by the large number of 182, of Zymotic or epidemic diseases, than in the previous year. It is satisfactory to find that, notwithstanding the large amount of mortality from ordinary diseases, the per centage of deaths from the seven principal diseases of the Zymotic class to deaths from all causes was in the past year as low as 13·6. The per centages, it will be seen, by a reference to Table IV. in the Appendix, have been very variable in the 10 years 1863–72, but it is found that with one exception, viz., in 1867, when the per centage was 12·4, it has never been so low as noted in the present return. In 1872 it was 18·4, or nearly 5 per cent higher than that recorded in the present table.

But this is not all the satisfaction to be derived from these statistics, referring as they do to a class of maladies which it is the especial aim of the sanitarian to lessen and control. Amongst the principal epidemic diseases which have been so lessened and controlled in this District during the past year, Small Pox may be referred to as one of those which has been most visably checked by the agency of effective hygeinic measures, and notably so by the energetic and systematic employment of those indispensable protections, vaccination and re-vaccination. From 1863 to 1871 the fatal cases of Small Pox in this District were very numerous, and it is found that

in the latter of the two years above-named (1871) the maximum point was reached by the return of no fewer than 377 deaths from this disease! In the 10 years 1863-72, the mortality from Small Pox amounted in the aggregate to 600, giving a yearly average of 60. As the deaths from this disease in the past year were only 9, it is some satisfaction to find that they were less by 51 than that average. It may be remarked that every one of the nine deaths from this malady in 1873 occurred in Battersea,* as did unfortunately a large majority of the cases in previous years. Taking, however, a five years' retrospect only, it is found that the deaths in the entire District from Small Pox have amounted to as many as 448, and that 303 of these were registered in Battersea, 124 in Clapham, 15 in Wandsworth, 5 in Streatham, and 1 in Putney. After so serious a fatality from one preventable disease in the short space of five years, it is a matter for very considerable congratulation that a better condition of things is now promised by the almost entire "stamping out" of the malady. To the deaths in the past year that have been registered as due to this disease in Battersea, the Local Summary of one of the Medical Officers of Health of that Sub-district especially refers, and speaks of a more than suspected centre of contagion discovered in the person of a careless and uncleanly nurse, but for whose utter disregard of the most ordinary precautions, it is thought the present return from East Battersea would have been much more favourable than it is. (See Local Summary for East Battersea.)

Of the deaths due to the other principal diseases of the Zymotic class, those from Diarrhœa and Choleraic disease present the highest mortality, having resulted in death in 126 instances. Next in the order of fatality is Whooping Cough, which proved fatal to 74 persons, whilst from Fever (Typhus and Typhoid), Measles, Diphtheria, and Scarlatina, the numbers of persons who died were respectively 65, 55, 11 and 9, against 52, 86, 26 and 26, in the

* Eight in East and one in West Battersea.

previous year. The total of the seven principal epidemics is found to be below the average of the ten preceding years by 143 deaths.

The deaths from causes other than Zymotic were 2,169, and to this number (naming them in the order of their greatest fatality), the diseases of the Respiratory Organs contributed 543; the Tubercular class of maladies (including Phthisis) 426; diseases of the Brain and Nerves 370; Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c. 143; diseases of the Heart 139; maladies of uncertain seat 126; diseases of the Digestive Organs 96; and of all other diseases 65. These numbers, with two or three exceptions, are found to be above the average of the ten years preceding the one under notice. Besides these there died 144 persons of Old Age, and 70 from Violence; whilst 47 deaths were ill defined or not sufficiently specified in the returns.

Ages at Death.—It is with some considerable satisfaction that the deaths of infants, and young persons between birth and 10 years of age, are found to have been much fewer than in the previous year. Of infants dying under 1 year there were 636 against 705 in 1872; of those dying from 1 to 5 years, there were 389 against 452, and of those from 5 to 10 years, 75 against 61. In the aggregate there were 118 less deaths at these ages than in the previous year. This, it is submitted, is no inconsiderable saving of life, seeing that the number of deaths due to ordinary diseases was so much above the average. At the other extreme of age, *i.e.* over 80 years, a goodly number are found to have been registered in the past year. In the previous year 94 persons at 80 and upwards were registered, but the present return records as many as 127. There were also more than the usual number who had reached their 90th year, and some who had lived beyond that advanced age. There were two deaths, for instance, in Battersea at 98 years, and one at Clapham at the same age, whilst the

oldest persons who died in Wandsworth, Streatham, and Putney, were respectively 97, 94 and 91, at the time of their decease. The deaths of those from 20 to 40 and from 60 to 80, were above the number of the previous year by 44 and 94 respectively, but those who died between 40 and 60 numbered 394, the same as was noted in the last Report.

Social Positions.—The four columns in Table I., Appendix, devoted to the record of mortality amongst the different classes, that which relates to the poor and the working and industrial classes, gives a number of deaths in the past year in excess of that noted in the table of the last Report by as many as 87, and furnishes to the register nearly 1,000 more deaths than do the three classes above them collectively. Of the very poor, or those mainly supported by the rates, the fatal cases were 207 (see (Table V., Appendix), constituting five per cent of the cases treated by the Union Medical Officers. This percentage, it should be observed, is exactly the same as that given in the table of the previous year, and must be looked upon as a very small one, seeing how greatly the poor are exposed to such influences as tend to shorten life, and to render many of the diseases to which they are liable oftentimes singularly difficult of treatment, and especially so at the period of approaching convalescence.

Accidental, Sudden, and other Deaths necessitating Coroners' Inquests.—Unattested Deaths, &c.—The inquests held in the District during 1873, were as many as 118. There were 10 inquiries, the verdicts in which cases were those of "found dead." "Natural death from disease" was the return in 31 cases, "Suicide" in 7, "Manslaughter" in 1, and "Wilful Murder" in 1; the remainder of the inquests were held on the remains of persons accidentally killed in various ways. (See Local Reports).

As many as 70 persons died in the District, and were, it appears, buried, without the causes of death being

duly attested by medical certificates. Almost all the Medical Officers of Health in this District in their Local Summaries offer remarks deprecatory of the system of burying those who have died suddenly, or without previous medical attendance, before the true cause of death had been ascertained or certified to by qualified medical practitioners, or, failing in which, by Coroners' inquisitions.

Seventy cases of the kind referred to in one year, is a large number, and fully justifies, it is submitted, the strong opinions that have been expressed from time to time upon this important subject—a subject which it will be seen has now a most important bearing upon the measure before Parliament, which contemplates great improvements in respect to certified births and deaths, and to registration generally.

Sanitation of the year.—From Table VI., Appendix, may be gathered all the usual information respecting the sanitary operations in the District that have been carried out during the year under the auspices of the Board. All these operations, it is satisfactory to find, have been conducted with as little litigation as could possibly suffice to ensure the due fulfilment of the orders of the Board. There have been, however, occasions when magisterial interference has been strongly necessitated upon points of the greatest importance, but the decisions on one or more of these points cannot be said to have been of so satisfactory a character as was anticipated. (Vide remarks in Local Summaries).

Water Supply.—The most recent report of the Government Analyst, Dr. Frankland, (May 30th, 1874), states that the turbidity of many of the supplies of water of which he had to complain last month, had ceased, and all the waters were, on the 1st of May, “efficiently filtered, and consequently clear and transparent when drawn from the company's mains.” Dr. Frankland further states, in

the same report, that the water drawn from the Thames by the Chelsea, West Middlesex, Southwark, Grand Junction, and Lambeth Companies, has greatly improved in quality since the analyses contained in the last report were made." So far, then, this is satisfactory; not so, however, is the postponement in so many localities of the long promised supply on the constant principle. Will this system ever be generally supplied? is a question that is very difficult of solution. Patience, however, is a virtue, and patience, it is supposed, must still be exercised over this, as over many other sanitary matters of importance that now await the consideration of the Legislature. So many differences of opinion have yet to be reconciled between consumers and some of the Companies as to what are "prescribed fittings," that much litigation appears inevitable before any great advance can be made in the realization of the promised boon. New neighbourhoods, where numbers of new houses are constantly springing up, may possibly get a constant supply earlier than old and poor localities, but it is feared the Legislature will find it necessary to interfere to enforce the new system on both the public and the companies before a high pressure service can be brought into anything like general use. Local authorities, it is submitted, should combine to effect that which some powerful companies appear bent on postponing so long as the patience of the public will permit them.

Remarks upon various subjects, such as the abattoir question, the necessity for amendments in the Adulteration of Food Act, the disinfection of Bedding and Clothes, the establishment of mortuaries, the scavenging of the District, &c., might reasonably be re-introduced into this introduction, but since they have been thoroughly discussed and ventilated in former reports and Local Summaries of the several Medical Officers of Health, it will serve no good purpose to here refer to them at any greater length than will afford an opportunity of again urging these several matters upon the renewed consideration of the Board.

The Medical Officers of Health, in concluding these general remarks, desire to direct attention to the amount of sanitary work now performed throughout the large area of the District in which they exercise their functions. It is almost needless to call to mind the fact that the duties of a Health Officer necessarily and very largely increase every year, not merely by the expansion of his ordinary routine work of collecting daily increasing statistical data, and making fortnightly returns and annual reports, but by the creation of much extra labour in repeatedly visiting insanitary localities, and in furnishing special reports upon matters oftentimes of the greatest importance in their bearings upon anticipated litigation and magisterial interference. The Medical Officers briefly allude to this matter in this place that they may avail themselves of the opportunity of saying that, in assisting to carry out the views of the Board as to the future sanitation which the enormous increase of the population is certain to necessitate, they trust and believe they will receive the cordial support of the authorities, as well as that of the ratepayers and inhabitants generally.

to consequences of the epidemic of 1872-73, which was the last of the series of epidemics which have been the cause of so much suffering and loss of life in this district. The health of this Sub-district during the year 1873 was in a very favourable condition. Evidence of this is furnished by an examination of the following statistics which are derived from an analysis of the Registrar General's Returns and the medical records of the district and mortality.

LOCAL SUMMARIES.

The deaths which were registered in this Sub-district during the year 1873 were 218, of which 119 took place in public institutions, viz, in the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, 84; in the Hospital for Incurables, 12; in the House of Correction, 12; in St. Peter's Hospital, 4; in the Royal Patriotic Asylum for Girls, 5; and in the Reformatory for Boys, 2. 22 deaths of Wandsworth Parishioners occurred in the Infirmary which is situated in the Parish of Battersea.

Death-rate.—Assuming that the population has increased since the period of the last census in the same proportion as it had done during the ten years preceding, the rate of mortality during the past year, calculated from the total deaths registered and a mean estimated population, was 20.87 per 1000 persons living. But, as has been explained in previous reports, the rate so obtained

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STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

The deaths which were registered in this Sub-district during the past year numbered 433. 215 were of males and 218 of females. No less than 119 took place in public institutions; viz., in the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, 84; in the Hospital for Incurables, 12; in the House of Correction, 12; in St. Peter's Hospital, 4; in the Royal Patriotic Asylum for Girls, 5; and in the Reformatory for Boys, 2. 22 deaths of Wandsworth Parishioners occurred in the Infirmary which is situated in the Parish of Battersea.

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cannot be accepted as the natural one, in consequence of its being unduly raised by the deaths of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, St. Peter's Hospital, and the Hospital for Incurables, the inmates of which institutions are derived from without the parish, undergo no natural increase, and are subject to a very high mortality, and the deaths in which formed upwards of 23 per cent. of all registered during the year. The *natural* death-rate determined from the deaths which occurred in, and proper to, the parish, with due correction for the above-named institutions after the manner described in previous reports, was 17·03 per 1000 persons living, or about the average rate which obtains in rural districts, and was upwards of 2 per 1000 less than the average of the ten preceding years.

The Birth-rate.—The births which were registered numbered 657—328 were of males and 329 of females. The birth-rate was 32·37, and the rate of *natural increase* 15·34, per 1000 persons living of all ages.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table contains a summary of all the causes of death, arranged in accordance with the classification of the Registrar General, showing the sex, social position, and age at death at different periods, and particularizing the several diseases of the Zymotic class:—

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

WANDSWORTH.		SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION				
Population in 1871—19,783. Estimated population in middle of 1873 - - - 21,248. Area in Acres, 2,478.				Under 1 year	From 1 to 5 years	From 5 to 10 years	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years	At 20, and under 40 years of age	At 40, and under 60 years of age	At 60, and under 80 years of age	80 years and upwards	Nobility and Gentry	Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes	
Diseases and other Causes of Death. Diseases Classified.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District	Males													Females
Classes :—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	4	3	1	1	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
	Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria	3	2	1	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
	Quinsy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup	5	2	3	1	4	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Whooping Cough	8	4	4	5	3	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6
	Typhus & Infantile Fever	7	3	4	...	1	1	2	3	2	...	...	...	1	...	6
	Erysipelas	6	2	4	3	...	...	3	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	4
	Metria, Childbirth	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Carbuncle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	22	15	7	17	2	...	19	1	1	...	1	...	...	3	19
	Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals of Zymotic Class		56	31	25	27	14	2	43	6	5	1	1	1	4	7	44
2. Tubercular		73	32	41	14	5	4	26	27	16	3	1	...	3	13	57
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		90	45	45	8	6	1	19	24	28	18	1	4	4	13	69
4. Of the Heart, &c.		17	8	9	1	...	...	3	...	4	10	...	1	3	5	8
5. Of Respiratory Organs		79	42	37	26	12	1	48	9	13	13	4	4	2	11	62
6. Digestive Organs		22	9	13	4	2	...	7	4	6	5	...	1	1	4	16
7. Urinary Organs.		5	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	3	...	...	2
8. Of Organs of Generation		3	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	1
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		3	3	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
10. Of Skin		1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c.		22	12	10	22	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	13
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		26	11	15	3	3	...	7	1	10	6	2	2	...	6	18
13. Age		22	10	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	12	2	1	3	16
14. Violence		9	7	2	...	1	1	5	1	2	1	...	...	...	2	7
15. Not Specified		5	3	2	2	1	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	5
TOTALS		433	215	218	108	45	9	179	73	87	72	22	19	21	72	321

In comparing the relative numerical positions occupied by the several classes of disease contained in the above table, it is necessary to observe that Class 3 (Diseases of the Brain and Nerves) embraces the whole mortality of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, and thus unduly receives a preponderance to such an extent as to necessitate its withdrawal from a consideration of the causation of mortality due to this parish. Of the other classes, Diseases of the Organs of Respiration were the most numerous, constituting upwards of 18 per cent. of all deaths; this amount is nearly one-third higher than the average of the preceding ten years, and displaces the Zymotic class from its usual position of priority. One of the diseases of this class (Bronchitis), was the most fatal single disease, thus occupying the position usually held by Pulmonary Consumption, Class 2. The Tubercular (which includes Scrofula and Consumption) occupies the next place, forming nearly 17 per cent., or upwards of one-fourth higher than the average. Next in order of fatality is the Zymotic Class (Epidemic, Endemic, Contagious), forming a little under 13 per cent., which is less than the average by about a fourth part. Diseases in Class 12 were double the average amount. The other remaining classes approximated so closely to the average as to require no special comment. The most noticeable features of the summary are the unusually large amount of diseases of the Respiratory Organs and the very satisfactorily diminished amount of fatality from Zymotic diseases.

Ages at Death.—25 per cent. of all deaths occurred to children during their first year of life, upwards of 35 per cent. to children under 5 years of age, and upwards of 41 per cent. under 20 years of age. Although 12 deaths only are recorded as having resulted from age, no less than 54, or upwards of 12 per cent., occurred to persons above 70 years of age, as follows, viz. :—from 70-75, sixteen; 75-80, twenty; 80-85, twelve; 85-90, three; 90-95, two; and one attained the age of 97.

Social Position.—Upwards of 74 per cent. of all deaths, and 78 per cent. of the deaths from Zymotic diseases, took place amongst the labouring classes. Both amounts are considerably less than the average.

Inquests, Violent and Uncertified Deaths.—28 inquests were held during the year. 9 deaths resulted from violence, 8 of which were accidental, and 1 suicidal. In 11 instances the cause of death was not certified by medical testimony, and in 5 the cause of death was not specified, thus furnishing the usual annual evidence of the necessity which exists for the intervention of the law in order to ensure a medical inquiry in all cases of death not certified by a registered medical practitioner. (See last year's report on this subject.)

Epidemic Diseases.—Their Prevalence and Fatality.—The following table shows the deaths which have resulted from the 7 principal Epidemic diseases during the past and ten preceding years, and the relation which they bore to the deaths from all causes.

YEARS	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Cholera	Diarrhoea	Fever—Typhus and Typhoid	Total Deaths From Epidemics	Total Deaths from all causes	Per centage of deaths from Epi- demics to deaths from all causes
1863	8	2	23		9	...	6	13	62	300	20·6
1864	4	...	3	6	9	...	8	13	43	311	13·8
1865	5	2	3	1	6	...	19	18	54	338	15·9
1866	3	23	10	2	5	7	18	5	73	351	20·7
1867	3	1	7	1	6	1	7	7	33	332	9·9
1868	...	8	5	2	20	...	22	7	64	394	16·2
1869	...	23	36	...	7	...	23	5	94	429	21·9
1870	...	2	48	4	16	...	33	10	113	450	25·1
1871	14	31	23	...	11	...	21	3	103	453	22·7
1872	1	5	1	3	13	...	20	4	47	365	12·8
1873	...	4	...	3	8	...	22	7	44	433	10·1

It is very satisfactory to find, from an examination of this table, that the mortality resulting from these diseases was as much as 35 per cent. less than the average of the past 10 years, and that the proportion which they bore to the deaths from all causes was upwards of 43 per cent. less than such average. Diarrhoea, which was present nearly the whole year, was the most prevalent and the most fatal of these diseases, forming just one half of the whole. Whooping Cough was the next most fatal, and prevailed during the latter six months of the year. Fever, although it can scarcely be said to have prevailed epidemically, was present during each month in the year, and was attended with fatality in the first three months, and in June, August, and November. Measles prevailed during the last four months, but was attended with little fatality. There was a remarkable absence of Scarlet Fever and Small Pox, no death having resulted from these diseases; and one case only of the former and none of the latter having come under treatment amongst the parochial poor during the entire year.

Sickness and Mortality amongst the Parochial Poor.—In Table V., Appendix, will be found the nature, amount, and fatality of the sickness which prevailed amongst the parochial poor during the past year. From an examination of this table, which will be found to corroborate the deductions drawn from the table of the entire mortality, it appears that the amount of sickness which prevailed was upwards of 17 per cent. less than the average of the ten preceding years, and that the amount of Epidemic disease was over 46 per cent. less than its corresponding average, while its fatal results were reduced to a thirteenth part of a similar average.

Amount of General Disease.—By assuming the proportion which the deaths bear to the cases of sickness amongst the poor (and which is accurately known), as the proportion which the deaths amongst all classes bear to

the total cases of sickness which occurred, an approximate estimate can be formed of the amount of disease which prevailed generally. According to such calculation the total amount of sickness during the past year will have corresponded exactly with that of the year preceding, viz., 56 per cent. of the population, the average of the preceding ten years having been 67 per cent.

Sanitary Proceedings, Removal of Nuisances, &c. — Table VI. in the Appendix contains the usual summary of the general sanitary proceedings which have been carried out during the year; and, although several became the subjects of special reports, and required the pressure of the authority of the Board for their settlement, it is very satisfactory to see that they were all conducted without the necessity for any intervention of the law. All the slaughter-houses and cow-houses in the Sub-district were, as usual, examined and reported on prior to the annual renewal of their owners' licenses.

In conclusion, it is hoped that the very favourable state of health which this Sub-district obtained during the two past years, and the existence of which has been fully disclosed by the foregoing statistics, will continue to be sustained by the persevering and continuous employment of all those numerous details of sanitation which may be fairly assumed to have contributed in a very considerable degree to the production of so desirable an attainment.

GEORGE EDWARD NICHOLAS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth.

BATTERSEA.

As the Registrar-General, in his quarterly and annual summaries, adopts for 1873 a year of 53 weeks or 371 days (a measure which is absolutely necessary every fifth year), the Medical Officers of Health are compelled to adopt the same course in treating of the mortality of the large and rapidly increasing Parish of Battersea.

This mode of deducing statistics raises the rate of mortality for the year under consideration nearly 2 per cent. higher than would be arrived at in any ordinary year of 52 weeks, and, although unavoidable, does not give an absolutely correct rate of mortality.

That the following statistics may more clearly exhibit the relative death-rate of Battersea and its two divisions for the year 1873 with that prevailing in London generally, the mortality must be estimated for 53 weeks, which is on this occasion the registration year; and in order to compare the mortality with that of preceding years, it will be also necessary to use calculations based upon the 52 weeks which were actually included in the year, and both these modes are adopted with reference to the parish at large. In the case of the separate divisions of the parish the actual mortality registered during the year by the latter mode alone is used.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

BATTERSEA. (ENTIRE SUB-DISTRICT.)		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.	SEX.		AGE.								SOCIAL POSITION.			
Population in 1872—58,260. Estimated Popula- tion in middle of year 1873 - 61,758. Area in Acres—2,343			Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20, and under 40 years of age.	At 40, and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes.
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death. (53 weeks.)																
Classes—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	9	7	2	4	1	1	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Measles ...	35	18	17	5	28	2	35	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	28
	Scarlatina	6	3	3	...	5	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Diphtheria	5	1	4	1	4	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
	Quinsy.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup	10	4	6	1	6	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
	Whooping Cough ...	43	25	18	21	21	1	43	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	32
	Typhus, In- fantile and other Fevers	39	23	16	1	2	8	17	10	6	6	...	1	1	8	29
	Erysipelas	4	2	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
	Metria, Childbirth	19	...	19	...	...	...	2	16	1	...	...	...	...	5	14
	Carbuncle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhœa & Dysentery	62	38	24	50	10	...	60	...	1	...	1	...	...	16	46
	Cholera ...	6	1	5	1	2	...	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	2	4
Totals of Zymotic Class		238	122	116	84	79	14	189	28	13	7	1	1	3	52	182
2. Tubercular		238	124	114	71	38	7	131	60	39	8	...	...	3	62	173
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		175	91	84	74	26	7	110	9	21	31	4	8	2	33	132
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		59	27	32	7	...	4	18	13	15	13	...	3	1	12	43
5. Of Respiratory Organs		301	169	132	101	80	6	190	13	36	55	10	6	2	51	242
6. Of Digestive Organs		37	21	16	7	4	1	12	6	13	6	...	2	2	5	28
7. Of Urinary Organs		9	7	2	...	1	...	1	2	4	2	...	1	...	2	6
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		8	...	8	...	...	...	...	2	5	1	...	...	...	3	5
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		3	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ...		53	28	25	53	...	...	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	47
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		75	37	38	11	...	...	14	8	17	25	8	...	...	18	57
13. Age		68	33	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	23	...	1	16	51
14. Violence		42	35	7	6	2	2	20	12	7	3	...	...	...	2	40
15. Not Specified.....		1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTALS		1307	697	610	404	234	43	740	153	171	197	46	21	15	262	1009

The number of deaths registered in 53 weeks in the whole parish was as follows :—

In the Eastern Division	-	-	-	-	594
In the Western Division	-	-	-	-	553
In the Workhouse Infirmary and Public					
Institutions	-	-	-	-	138
Found in River, &c.	-	-	-	-	22
					—
Total	-				1307*
					—

The estimated mean population for the year 1873, according to the mode adopted by the Registrar-General, was 61,758, and if the gross number of deaths registered as above be considered in relation thereto, a death-rate of 21 per thousand per annum results. If, however, the non-parishioners, and the bodies found in the river, &c., be deducted, as they in strict fairness should be, the mortality will be but 17·8 per thousand living persons.

The mortality of London at large for 1873 was 22·5, so that under the least favourable mode of calculation, by taking into estimation the gross instead of the net mortality, Battersea has a lower death-rate than London by 1·5 per thousand.

Again, if the mortality during 52 weeks which was actually registered during the year and which amounted to 1274, be considered in conjunction with the estimated population of 61,758, a death-rate of 20·6 per thousand per annum will result, which is identical with that of the year 1872.

In 1873 the proportion of deaths to persons living was 1 in 47, but if 52 weeks only are taken into account 1 in 48 as in 1872.

* It is necessary to remark that there died in the Workhouse 76 non-parishioners, and also 4 others in the Westminster Industrial Schools, which would leave a net mortality of 1,227 cases.

The following table gives an analysis of the deaths with reference to the particular quarter of the year in which they were registered.

Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter 14 weeks	TOTAL
1873	— 313	— 277	— 303	— 414	— 1307

In the last quarter of the year diseases of the Respiratory Organs were unusually fatal, but for which a very low death-rate for the year would have been shewn.

Births.—The birth-rate is the most accurate test of the correctness or otherwise of the estimated mean population. The death-rate varies with the greater or less severity of the weather, the prevalence or otherwise of Zymotic diseases, and with other less easily defined causes, but *cæteris paribus* the birth-rate will be found to be in a given population very little subject to variation.

The births registered in 1873 were as follows (53 weeks):—

Males	Females	TOTAL
1371	— 1288	— 2659

equal to 43·5 per thousand persons living, or 1 to every 23 persons.

The birth-rate for the preceding year was 42 per thousand, and as the inclusion of 53 weeks makes a difference of nearly 2 per cent. in favour of 1873, the rate for either year was practically equal, which entitles us to assume that our estimated population is as nearly the true one as possible.

The births in 1873 were	-	-	-	-	2659
The deaths	-	-	-	-	1307
The <i>natural</i> rate of increase	-	-	-	-	1352

The estimated increase of population for the year, 3,441, is made up partly by this natural increase of 1,352, and partly by immigration into the parish from other quarters.

Ages at Death.—There were registered throughout the parish in 1873, no fewer than 407 deaths of infants under one year of age, or nearly one-third of the total mortality at all ages. Of these infants 246 died of Tubercular disease, including diseases of the Brain and Respiratory Organs. Premature birth was the cause of death in 53 instances and Zymotic diseases in 84 others.

Of aged persons dying at 70 years of age and upwards, there were registered 129, as shown in the following table :—

AGES.	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	92	94	95	98	TOTAL.
Males....	5	3	3	4	2	4	5	1	4	5	2	5	1	4	3	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	56
Females	8	3	8	9	4	5	6	2	4	4	3	1	2	2	4	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	2	73
Total	13	6	11	13	6	9	11	3	8	9	5	6	3	6	7	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	129

Five persons exceeded the age of 90 years,—one a male dying at 95, the other four were females, two of whom attained respectively 92 and 94 years, and the remaining two reached the great age of 98 years.

Fourteen of the males and sixteen of the females who died at 70 years of age and upwards were inmates of the Workhouse at the time of death.

Zymotic Diseases.—The diseases of this class, which are also very properly termed preventable, continue to decline in number year by year as sanitary laws are better understood and more generally acted upon.

Future generations will probably look back with astonishment upon what will then be considered a wanton waste of life occurring from this class of diseases in the present day, as we of this generation look upon the days of "The Plague," when thousands were swept off by the various diseases then included in that term, and which were the result of the utter absence of all sanitation.

From this point of view the following table of Zymotic diseases, causing mortality in this parish during the past year, is of great interest and importance :—

Small Pox	Measles	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Croup	Whooping Cough	Fevers	Erysipelas	Diseases of Childbirth	Carbuncle	Diarrhoea	Cholera or Choleraic Diarrhoea	Total
9	35	6	5	10	43	39	4	19	0	62	6	238

In the year 1872 263 deaths were registered as having occurred from Zymotic disease, showing a difference in favour of 1873 of 25 cases, and this in a largely increased population.

Only three diseases of this class showed an increase in 1873 over 1872, namely, Fevers 13 cases, Diseases of Childbirth 9, and Cholera or Choleraic Diarrhoea 4. The mortality from Zymotic disease in 1873 was at the rate of 3·8 per thousand persons living; and rather more than one-fifth of the entire number of deaths registered were ascribed to diseases of this class.

The Medical Officers of Health feel that it is imperative upon them to call attention to the anomalous state of the law, which thus permits, within three years, in a single parish, 177 human beings to be consigned to the grave without any skilled inquiry as to the manner, or the diseases by which they came by their deaths; and as the majority of these were children, of whom a considerable number were illegitimate, and put out to nurse, or an incumbrance to those having them in charge, it is obvious that a dangerous degree of impunity is afforded to those whose poverty or shame might incite them to the commission of the gravest crime.

The verdict of Wilful Murder had reference to the ghastly tragedy called the "Thames Mystery"; the other cases call for no special remark.

Uncertified Deaths.—In the year 1871 these cases numbered 97, and in the following year, 1872, declined to 28. The improvement which, from the diminished numbers of the latter year, was anticipated, has however not continued, as during the past year, 1873, as many as 61 such cases were registered without any medical certificate.

The deaths registered without medical certificate of the cause of death during 1873 may be thus classified:—

Under one year		28
Children		19
" " " " " "		9
Adults		33
Total		61

BATTERSEA EAST.

The mortality table and other sanitary statistics of this rapidly growing division of the parish are of great interest on the present occasion. From the character of the population which inhabits the locality, chiefly consisting of labouring men of various descriptions, employed by the great Railway, Gas, Water, and other Companies, and at various factories, together with the tradespeople who supply this mass of human beings with the necessities of life, a somewhat high rate of mortality, equal to, if not exceeding, that of the population of London generally, might have been reasonably anticipated.

It is to be hoped that the publication of these statistics may tend to dissipate the erroneous prejudices as to the unhealthiness of the parish which have so long prevailed amongst those unacquainted with the actual facts.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

BATTERSEA EAST.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.	SEX.		AGE.									SOCIAL POSITION.			
Population June, 1872— 29,592.			Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	From 10 to 20 years.	All under 20 years.	At 20 and under 40 years of age.	At 40 and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.	Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Laboring Classes.
Estimated mean population, 1873—31,344. (52 Weeks.)																	
Classes :—																	
1. Zymotic	Small Pox.	8	6	2	4	1	1	1	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Measles ...	23	10	13	3	20	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	18
	Scarlatina...	3	3	...	...	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Diphtheria.	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup	4	1	3	...	3	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Whooping Cough ...	15	11	4	6	9	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	Typhus, &c.	18	10	8	...	1	3	2	6	8	2	2	...	...	1	3	14
	Erysipelas.	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Metria, Childbirth	14	...	14	...	...	...	1	1	12	1	...	...	...	...	3	11
Carbuncle.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea & Cholera ...		31	18	13	24	6	...	...	30	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	22
Totals of Zymotic Class		120	61	59	38	43	5	5	91	22	4	2	1	...	1	20	99
2. Tubercular		126	71	55	45	28	5	6	84	25	15	2	...	...	1	36	89
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		71	38	33	33	10	5	1	49	3	7	10	2	5	...	14	52
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		23	8	15	6	...	...	3	9	5	3	6	...	2	...	3	18
5. Of Respiratory Or- gans		134	77	57	53	41	3	...	97	5	10	19	3	3	1	22	108
6. Of Digestive Organs		25	12	13	6	4	1	...	11	4	6	4	...	2	...	3	20
7. Of Urinary Organs.		5	4	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	4
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		3	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c.		29	12	17	29	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	23
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		11	4	7	1	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	1	...	...	2	9
13. Age		18	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	4	9
14. Violence		15	11	4	4	2	...	1	7	4	3	1	...	...	...	1	14
15. Not Specified		1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTALS		578	305	273	215	129	20	16	380	72	55	62	9	13	4	111	450

The enormous sanitary works carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Board of Works for the Wandsworth District, in the way of drainage, road making, paving, &c., have, by drying the soil and altering the "water logged" condition which formerly prevailed, completely changed the sanitary aspect of the locality. Some few years since, just before the advent of the main drainage, cases of Scarlatina, Diphtheria, and Croup were of frequent and fatal occurrence, sweeping off whole families of children in many cases, and in a much smaller population than the present, killing far greater numbers.

The annexed table gives the comparative mortality for the years 1872 and 1873 in this division, together with the relative increase or decrease of each disease.

DISEASES.		1872	1873	Increase 1873	Decrease 1873
Classes :—					
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	6	8	2	...
	Measles	20	23	3	...
	Scarlatina	9	3	...	6
	Diphtheria	1	1	...	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...
	Croup	6	4	...	2
	Whooping Cough	29	15	...	14
	Typhus, &c.	13	18	5	...
	Erysipelas .....	...	3	3	...
	Metria, Childbirth	8	14	6	...
	Carbuncle .....	...	...	...	...
	Influenza .....	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea and Cholera	34	31	...	3
Totals of Zymotic Class :—		126	120	19	25
2.	Tubercular	137	126	...	11
3.	Of Brain, Nerves, &c.	54	71	17	...
4.	Of the Heart, &c.	32	23	...	9
5.	Of Respiratory Organs	99	134	35	...
6.	Of Digestive Organs	19	25	6	...
7.	Of Urinary Organs	2	5	3	...
8.	Of Organs of Generation .....	...	2	2	...
9.	Of Joints, Bones, &c.	2	3	1	...
10.	Of Skin .....	...	...	...	...
11.	Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c.	19	29	10	...
12.	Of Uncertain seat	18	11	...	7
13.	Age	10	13	3	...
14.	Violence	13	15	2	...
15.	Not Specified	9	1	...	8
TOTALS		540	578	98	60

Population.—The estimated mean population of the Eastern division of the parish of Battersea for 1873 was 31,344, and is probably rather under than above the real number.

Mortality.—The total number of deaths registered as having occurred in this division of the parish during the year, was 578—exceeding the number for 1872 by 38. This, however, is in great measure accounted for by the increased population.

The rate of mortality per thousand persons living, was 18·4, being 0·2 higher than in 1872.

Of these, 305 deaths were those of males, and 273 those of females.

The very young have again unduly swelled the death-register. Under one year of age the deaths numbered 215, or 37 per cent. of the whole number at all ages, and from one to five years of age 129, or 22 per cent. of all deaths. Altogether 344 children died under the age of five years, equal to 59 per cent. of the gross mortality.

It is evident that it is in this direction we must in future look for any great reduction in the present rate of mortality, and from this point of view the observations made in the Report for the whole parish, with reference to uncertified deaths, acquire additional significance.

Nine persons died above 80 years of age in this division of the Sub-district.

Social Position.—As will readily be anticipated, the industrial and labouring classes greatly preponderate when the relative position in life of those dying in this division is taken into consideration.

Thus, in 1873, there were of the

Nobility and Gentry	-	-	-	-	13
Professional Class	-	-	-	-	4
Middle and Trading Class	-	-	-	-	111
Industrial and Labouring Class	-	-	-	-	450
Total					<hr/> 578 <hr/>

Therefore the Industrial Classes contribute rather more than three-fourths of the total number.

Zymotic, Epidemic, or Preventable Diseases.—From these diseases 120 deaths were registered in 1873, being fewer by six than in the previous year, and are here given in the order of their frequency—

Diarrhoea and Cholera	-	-	-	-	31
Measles	-	-	-	-	23
Fever of various kinds	-	-	-	-	18
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	15
Diseases of Childbirth	-	-	-	-	14
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	8
Croup	-	-	-	-	4
Scarlatina	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1
Total					<hr/> 120 <hr/>

The mortality from Zymotic disease is 3·8 per thousand persons living, and is less than that of 1872 by 0·6 per thousand.

Of the total mortality from all causes, this class of disease is assigned as the cause of death in rather more than 20 per cent., or one-fifth, of the whole number.

The fatal cases of Diarrhoea occurred almost exclusively amongst children—24 under one year of age, 6 between one and five, and the remaining case was above 80 years of age. Several of these cases were of the Choleraic type, which, for a short period, was prevalent. The timely supply of remedies provided under the supervision of the Battersea Local Committee, and by the authority of the Board, aided, to a very great extent, by cooler weather, checked the progress of that which at one time presented the aspect of an outbreak of Epidemic Cholera of the severest character.

Measles was the prevalent exanthematous disease during the year, and, as shown by the table, 23 deaths are recorded from this disease—three more than in the preceding year. Scarlatina, another specific fever, accompanied by a rash, is apparently dying out in this locality, as the result of a highly organised system of sanitation, but three deaths being recorded. Croup and Diphtheria, diseases also proceeding from insufficient drainage, have almost become extinct, but three of the former and one of the latter being registered. Of Whooping Cough 15 deaths were registered against 29 in 1872.

The only Zymotic diseases except Measles in which an increased mortality occurred were those incidental to Childbirth 14 cases, or 6 more than in the previous year; Fevers caused deaths in 5 cases more than in 1872; Erysipelas 3 and Small Pox 2 additional deaths.

With respect to the eight deaths which occurred from Small Pox, the centre of contagion was clearly traced by me to a nurse who had attended to a case of that disease resident elsewhere than in this parish. This woman, without

taking steps to disinfect herself or her clothing, attended a woman in her confinement, who, as well as her infant, died of the disease. She then attended another woman under similar circumstances, and her twin infants also died. About twenty persons altogether were attacked who were in communication with these others, and upon the circumstances coming to my knowledge steps were at once taken to arrest the progress of the disease by isolation and re-vaccination. The nurse's clothes were destroyed, and she abandoned nursing for some time.

Other Diseases.—Diseases of the Respiratory Organs have during the year been the chief cause of mortality, 134 deaths having so arisen; thus exceeding by 35 the preceding year.

Tubercular diseases were the next most frequent cause of death, and contributed 126 to the total mortality, an improvement of 11 upon last year.

Diseases of the Brain and Nerves, which were, in the last Report, described as “yearly becoming more prevalent,” destroyed 71 lives, an increase of 17.

Heart Disease caused death in 23 cases. Diseases of the digestive system, in which are included Liver Diseases, &c., 25; and premature birth, &c., 29 others.

Violence was the alleged cause of death in 13 instances, all investigated by the Coroner.

Old age is the registered cause of 13 other deaths.

Births.—There have been no means of distinguishing the births occurring in this division of the parish from those properly belonging to the other division during the year under consideration. Arrangements are however pending with the Registrar, by which this most desirable object will be attained, when the two divisions of Battersea will be, to all intents and purposes, separate Sub-districts.

Vaccination.—The public vaccination of the Eastern division of the parish, as shewn by the Public Vaccination Register, is as follows :—

Primary Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	932
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	20
						<hr/>
						952

The successful working of the Vaccination Act in this district is attributable in a great measure to the activity and discretion shewn by the Vaccination Officer.

Sanitary Proceedings.—A very large amount of sanitary work generally has been performed during the year in the Eastern division of the parish of Battersea. There are above 5000 separate houses, factories, warehouses, and other buildings; the former, of course, largely predominating in this division of the parish; and as these are in the majority of cases inhabited by those whose position in life is not such as to render them at all instructed in sanitary matters, and whose daily labours make such constant demands on their time that they have neither energy nor inclination to trouble themselves therewith; it is therefore desirable that each house should be inspected three or four times in every year, more particularly in the hotter months, when decomposition sets in most rapidly and Epidemic disease is consequently most rife. This is an amount of work amply sufficient to occupy the time of an Inspector of Nuisances in this district alone.

The vigilance exercised by the Sanitary Officers renders any appeal to magisterial aid very rarely necessary; as the offending parties in cases of nuisances almost invariably, when properly advised, shew the greatest readiness at once to take the necessary steps to abate the same.

On one occasion during the year a nuisance of the gravest character was brought before the notice of the

Sanitary Officers. This was a factory in Bagley-street, Culvert Road, occupied by Messrs. Harvey, Bensa, Ward and Co., and used by them for the purpose of boiling down animal refuse, generally in an advanced state of decomposition. The fat obtained therefrom being disposed of to soap or tallow makers, and the fibrous portions made into greaves or dog biscuits, the stinking fluid refuse being let into the sewer.

The major portion of the refuse thus boiled down was putrid Australian Meat which had become putrescent on the voyage, and hundreds of tins of which were opened weekly, and the emptied, but unwashed, tins left in heaps, giving out an abominable odour.

The effect of these offensive operations was most prejudicial to the health of the locality, diarrhoea and vomiting being common in the neighbouring houses, more particularly among the women and children occupying them.

Upon August 8th a summons was made returnable at the Wandsworth Police Court, when the foregoing facts were laid before the Magistrate by the clerk, Mr. Corsellis, and evidence given by the Medical Officer and Surveyor, both of whom laid stress upon the fact that the boiling of these offensive matters took place in the open air, being merely covered by the roof of an open shed, and a fine with costs was immediately inflicted.

The result was that this very objectionable manufacture was at once abandoned, and has not since been resumed.

The yard occupied by Mr. Covington at the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company's Wharf, has been frequently inspected during the year, and the contiguity of the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company's premises thereto been reported upon on several occasions, but, apart

from the last most objectionable feature, nothing calling for legal proceedings was found, no unnecessary accumulation having on any occasion been discovered.

The Ozokerit Works of Messrs. Field in the Wellington-road were complained of by many of the residents in the Bridge-road, the ventilators in the roadway emitting abundantly parrafin in combination with steam or vapour. On several occasions inspections were made, and promises of amendment made by the manager. These promises were not, however, carried out, and, upon a recurrence of complaints, I put myself in communication with the proprietors, one of whom, with their engineer, had interviews with me on the subject, and in consequence fresh apparatus was devised, which has, up to the date of writing, satisfactorily answered the purpose.

Complaints have been frequent during the year from residents in the neighbourhood of Orkney-street, of the Gipsies encamped there, and, who from their insanitary condition and filthy habits are an annoyance, and speaking from a sanitary point of view, a danger, to the neighbourhood.

It is very desirable that some means should be adopted to prevent these people "squatting" upon this and other vacant ground in the district.

At the annual inspection of cow and slaughter-houses no objection was taken to a renewal of the licenses pending the final settlement of the whole question.

W. H. KEMPSTER,

Medical Officer of Health, East Battersea.

BATTERSEA WEST.

The year 1873 has been on the whole a healthy one. Although the deaths are slightly in excess of the previous year, the causes are of a different nature, being chiefly attributable to diseases of the respiratory organs, Brain and Nerves, and Tubercle. The only diseases of a Zymotic nature which assumed anything like an epidemic character were Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa. The intensity of these diseases was not great, judging from the number of deaths registered from those causes. In the case of diarrhœa the number of deaths bears a very small ratio indeed to the cases treated; for out of 388 cases which I attended at the direction of the Board, only one death took place, and these cases were amongst the very poor of the district, who have not only the disease to contend against, but, also, in many cases, insufficient food and uncleanness. Indeed, I am convinced that the step taken by the Board of supplying gratuitous advice and medicine to these people saved many lives, especially of infants, for whose successful treatment so much depends on early attention to cases; and who can say to what extent a serious epidemic of Cholera may not have been prevented? Indeed it is admitted by all authorities, and evidenced in

all epidemics, whether at home or abroad, that diarrhoea invariably precedes cholera. The necessity, therefore, of immediate attention to the premonitory diarrhoea is evident.

With the good system of drainage now existing in this district, a plentiful supply of pure water, which should be constant, the prevention of accumulation of house refuse, and other offensive matters, and due regard to the laws of health, are the means by which we can prevent an outbreak of cholera and other diseases in our midst.

I may here again refer to the dust-bins in crowded courts. Frequently do I see them filled with refuse of every description. In some yards there are no dust-bins at all, the dust and refuse being deposited in a corner of the little back yard. I would suggest that in the place of dust-bins behind each house in crowded courts, there should be one common receptacle, placed in a convenient position, so that the dustmen might empty it at least every two days, or more frequently at those seasons of the year when it should be deemed necessary.

Great complaints have been made during the year of offensive gases escaping from the sewers, and there cannot be a doubt that the means now in use for ventilating the sewers, viz., by the Road Ventilators, is not conducive to health, for any noxious gases given off must be immediately diffused amongst the people. In some instances shafts have been placed by the side of houses in the hope of carrying away the smells; they are then said to descend the chimneys, and cause the rooms to be unbearable, so much so that a shaft in Church Road was

stopped up. But whilst relieving themselves of a nuisance little thought was given of the effects which would ensue to the men working in the neighbouring sewers. So overcome were they that the fact was reported to the Board, and the said shaft was ordered to be unstopped. I should think if the ventilating shafts were carried some 10 feet higher, and some disinfectant used in the shaft, these ill effects would be greatly remedied. The great point is what to do with, or how to effectually get rid of, and, if possible, to destroy these sewage gases; this may be done by passing them through a furnace and burning them. We have in this District many factories, and I cannot see any difficulty in obtaining permission to utilise their fires for this purpose; indeed, I believe that Messrs. Price & Co. once offered one of their furnaces for the purpose referred to. It would require a constant draught made by a revolving fan, or some other means, but this would be a matter for the Surveyor. If this could be accomplished it would rid the District of what is, at times, especially in the High Street, an intolerable nuisance. It is difficult to explain why the smell should be so bad for perhaps two hours only, except on the supposition that some fluids are discharged into the sewers from factories, &c., which decompose the fœcal matter, and so liberate sulphurous gases, but where these liquors come from, or their special nature, I know not.

Mortality.—The total number of deaths which were registered during the past year was 674, 358 being males and 316 females—138 of which took place in Public Institutions, viz.: 4 in the Westminster Industrial School and 134 in the Workhouse Infirmary; deducting these 138 deaths, which will be taken into account in the combined summary, it would leave 536 as the correct number which occurred in this out-door district* during the year. This

* Out-door with reference to Infirmary.

gives a death-rate of 17·6 per 1000 persons living for an estimated population of 30414, in the middle of June, 1873, calculated on the method pursued by the Registrar-General, though I must repeat that I do not think this method is equal to the rapidly increasing population of this district; however, be that as it may, we may congratulate ourselves on a death-rate which will fairly bear comparison with supposed healthier and more favoured districts around us. Last year, 1872, the number of deaths was 644, so that the death-rate was nearly in the same ratio to population in 1873. As many as 286 of the total number (674) took place under 5 years of age; 331 under 20; from 20 to 60, 179; and above 60, 164; being 22 more than last year, 35 of whom had reached above 80 years—the 4 oldest being females aged respectively 92, 93, 98, and 98. It is a matter of extreme regret that so very large a per centage of the deaths for the year, as will be seen by the tabulated statement, occurred amongst infants under 12 months old. Out of a total of 674 deaths no less than 189 took place at this very early period of life. This gives ·28, or nearly $\frac{7}{25}$ of the whole mortality. That out of every 25 deaths we should have to record those of 7 infants, is a matter deserving serious attention. Several causes are at work in bringing about this result; not the least important influence is the very low vitality of infant life. During the earlier days the infant is dependent on the parent for most of its warmth, and is too feeble to withstand vicissitudes of weather and climate; add also, in many cases, hardships from poverty, bad sanitary conditions, &c., and the case is deplorable. Some of these, it is true, are irremediable, but, happily, we have in our own hands the power of removing one very fertile source of mortality amongst very poor children. In civilized communities it is too much the habit to follow some custom in the feeding of young children instead of looking to the course which Nature has planned. During the early months of childhood Nature has provided the mother's milk, which, in most cases, is quite sufficient for all the wants of the infant, as it contains the constituents necessary to form the tissues. Teeth are

not provided before the 6th month, when they usually begin to appear, and are not completed before the end of the 2nd year. Therefore it is clear that mastication cannot begin for many months, and up to that time solid food should be withheld. More than this, proper saliva does not appear before 3 or 4 months, and the healthy secretion would seem not to be fully established before the 5th or 6th month. Now saliva acts in the digestion of starch; it is evident therefore that spoon-food containing starchy matter should not be given before the saliva has been established. Practically we find that mothers and nurses pay little attention to these principles; they pour into the stomachs of infants indigestible matters, fermentation takes place, Dyspepsia is produced, and the child wastes: they infer from this that they are not giving sufficient food and add to the evil by giving more indigestible matter. Finally the child succumbs to Diarrhœa, or becomes rickety, and the doctor is called in, often when too late. Until girls at our schools are taught domestic economy, and the rearing of infants forms a part of such teaching, we cannot hope to meet effectually this form of mortality.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs hold a prominent place in the high death-rate of childhood. Measles and Whooping Cough often lay the foundation for subsequent Chest affections, particularly amongst the poor. Measles may be specially noted; a child may have but a slight attack of Measles with cough, and want of care during convalescence may lead on to a condition of chest often impossible to cure. Too much care then cannot be bestowed on children suffering from this disease. Throughout the whole mortality table from every class of disease, infant life suffers most. This is a serious matter, and one which is deservedly claiming the attention of all Health Officers.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

BATTERSEA WEST.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District	SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION					
			Males	Females	Under 1 year	From 1 to 5 years	From 5 to 10 years	From 10 to 20 years	All under 20 years	At 20, and under 40 years	At 40, and under 60 years	At 60, and under 80 years	80 years and upwards	Nobility and Gentry	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes.	
Population June, 1872— 28,693,																		
Estimated mean population June, 1873— (52 weeks) 30,814.																		
Classes :—																		
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	1	1	1	1	
	Measles.....	11	7	4	2	7	2	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10
	Scarlatina...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Diphtheria	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Quinsy.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup.....	6	3	3	1	3	1	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
	Whooping Cough...	24	12	12	15	8	1	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	14
	Typhus & In- fantile Fever	22	14	8	1	2	5	4	12	2	4	4	...	1	...	5	16	
	Erysipelas...	4	2	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	2
	Metria, Childbirth	4	...	4	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
	Carbuncle...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea & Cholera..	37	21	16	27	6	...	...	33	...	3	1	...	...	...	9	28	
Totals of Zymotic Class		115	60	55	46	32	9	7	94	6	10	5	...	1	...	32	82	
2. Tubercular		106	53	53	24	10	2	9	45	34	21	6	...	...	1	26	79
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		100	52	48	39	15	2	2	58	6	13	21	2	3	1	17	79	
4. Of the Heart, &c.....		34	18	16	1	...	4	4	9	8	11	6	...	...	1	9	24
5. Of Respiratory Or- gans.....		156	86	70	45	36	3	...	84	7	24	34	7	2	1	28	125	
6. Digestive Organs.....		11	8	3	1	...	...	...	1	2	6	2	...	...	1	2	8
7. Urinary Organs		4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	2	2
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	3	3
9. Of Cancer, &c.....		14	4	10	1	...	...	...	1	2	5	6	...	...	...	5	9
10. Syphilis .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c.....		23	15	8	23	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
12. Of Uncertain Seat ...		50	29	21	9	4	...	2	15	4	9	15	7	...	...	11	39
13. Age		51	27	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	19	...	1	11	39
14. Violence		4	3	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	3
15. Not Specified .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL		674	358	316	189	97	21	24	331	73	106	129	35	6	6	148	514	

Zymotic Disease.—It is pleasing to report that the deaths from this class of disease are less by 22 than those of the previous year. There is a decrease in Small Pox, Measles, Diphtheria, and Whooping Cough, and an increase in Fevers (Typhus, Typhoid, and Infantile) and Diarrhoea, whilst those from Scarlet Fever are exactly the same. From Small Pox only one death is recorded, so that the disease may be said to have no abiding place in this part of the Sub-District. Of the 115 persons who succumbed to this class of disease, 94 were under 20 years of age, 46 of whom were under 1 year. The principal fatal diseases were Diarrhoea and Whooping Cough. The preceding Table will show the fatality of each disease and the respective ages at which death took place.

Other Causes of Death.—From diseases of the respiratory organs (excluding Phthisis) 156, viz., Bronchitis 90, Pneumonia 40, Disease of Lungs 20, Asthma 3, and Laryngitis 3. Tubercular 106, viz., Phthisis 75, Tabes Mesenterica 26, and Scrofula 5. Brain and Nerves 100, Old Age 51, Diseases of Uncertain Seat 50, of Heart 34, Premature Birth and Low Vitality 23. The noticeable features in these causes of death are the increase in fatal cases from Lung diseases as compared with last year, being 50 in excess. Here again infant mortality runs high, no less than 81 of the total number being under 5 years of age; from 5 to 40 years only 10 succumbed, and from 40 to 80—58. It would therefore seem that early life and extreme old age are the stages most susceptible to disease of the respiratory organs. The deaths from Phthisis show an increase of 2 on the previous year; 15 took place below 20 years of age, from 20 to 40—33, and from 40 to 60—21. Here middle age is the period when this terrible disease exerts its greatest ravages, just the opposite to other diseases of the respiratory organs. How much the high price of coals, and consequently deficient warmth amongst the poor, may have to do in causing this large amount of mortality from Lung affections it is difficult to say. Of

the 100 deaths from Diseases of the Nervous System, 54 took place in children under 5 years of age, principally from convulsions; from 40 to 80—34. From pure old age 51 persons died, 19 of whom had reached 80 years and upwards. During the year 15 Coroners' Inquests were held, 5 of the bodies being Females, and 10 Males.

The verdicts were:—

From Natural Causes	...	...	...	10
Suicide	...	...	...	2
Accidental Death	...	...	...	1
Found Dead	...	...	...	1
Violence	...	...	...	1
				—
				15
				—

Deaths not Certified.—Of the 674 deaths 34 were registered as not certified, 18 being females and 16 males, being a considerable increase on last year, when 28 were so registered for the whole parish; 30 of the cases were under 5 years, and 4 above. I should indeed be sorry to impute any semblance of wrong, but it certainly opens a ready means of escape from punishment when deaths can be registered as not certified, and the Registrar's certificate for burial given without any medical certificate as to the cause of death being first obtained; equally certain is it the duty of every parent to provide proper medical attendance for his children, just as incumbent that he shall provide them with food; should he not then be amenable for his negligence?

Social Position.—The per centage of deaths in relation to social position was as follows:—

Nobility and Gentry	...	...	...	·89
Professional	...	...	...	·89
Middle and Trading	...	...	...	21·96
Labouring...	...	...	...	76·26
				—
				100·00
				—

Mortuary.—There is no Mortuary or Dead House in this District to which persons who have died of infectious disease, or of persons who have met their death suddenly, by accident or otherwise in the streets, and who are unknown, can be removed. Until recently this latter class of persons were removed to the dead house in connection with the Workhouse Infirmary, but this privilege now no longer exists. Where such persons will now be placed, in the absence of a Mortuary, I know not, but it is with regard to persons dying of infectious disease that a Mortuary claims our attention. We have in this district a large number of the poor class of people, who at most have perhaps two rooms in which to live and sleep, and very frequently only one; imagine a body dying even from a non-infectious disease, lying in a room for days in which others must sleep and probably take their food. How much worse, and what greater risks must be run, if the death should be from Scarlet Fever, Small Pox, or other infectious disease. This fact is sufficient alone to show the necessity of a Mortuary—it has been a disputed point whether a dead body can or does give off any infection, but whether it does or not, many persons would avail themselves of the privilege of a Mortuary in which to place a body waiting for interment; besides this, the Sanitary Act, sect. 27, says, “Any nuisance authority may provide a proper place for the reception of dead bodies, and where any such place has been provided and the dead body of any one who has died of any infectious disease is retained in a room in which persons live and sleep, or any body which is in such a state as to endanger the health of the inmates of the same house or room, any justice may, on a certificate signed by a legally qualified medical practitioner, order the body to be removed to such proper place of reception at the cost of the Sanitary Authority, and direct the same to be buried within a time to be limited in such order.” It also gives power to the same authority for the provision of proper convenience for the making of post mortem examinations, when necessary

to ascertain the cause of death. There are many points which might be urged in favour of a mortuary, and which must present themselves to everyone.

Disease and Mortality amongst the Out-door Union Poor.—The number of cases which presented themselves for treatment during the year was 519, being 50 in excess of the previous year, of these 332 were Females and 197 Males, the increase being in general disorders; 36 of the cases were removed to the Infirmary, 13 to Lunatic Asylums, 4 to Fever and 1 to the Small Pox Hospitals. The number of deaths were 28, giving a mortality of 5·4 per cent., a death rate extremely satisfactory, especially when we consider the conditions under which these people live, and some of them being extreme cases of disease, discharged from hospitals as incurable. Of the total number of cases 79 belonged to the Zymotic class, and were as follows :—Diarrhœa 26, Measles 14, Erysipelas 13, Fever 12, (Typhus, Typhoid, and Infantile), Whooping Cough 7, Scarlet Fever 6, and Small Pox 1. Of the non-epidemic classes, diseases of the Respiratory Organs 103, Rheumatism 54, Phthisis 12, Violence 15, other diseases 310. The poor no longer attend at the Medical Officer's residence for treatment, the Guardians having provided a Dispensary for their use and convenience, situate in the Workhouse grounds, St. John's Hill, at which the District Medical Officer attends at 11 a.m. daily. The Dispensary is fitted up with every convenience, having Consulting room, two Waiting rooms, one each for Males and Females respectively, and a Dispensing department. I trust it will meet the objects for which it was instituted.

The number of Infants vaccinated at the station in this district during the year was 542. It is to be regretted that persons do not recognize the fact that Vaccination requires renewing at puberty; it is by that means alone that almost perfect security can be obtained against Small Pox. Not a single re-vaccination has been performed during the year.

Sanitary Inspections.—During the year, owing to complaints, several inspections of factories, pig-keepers' premises and other places were made, the most noticeable of which were the Alum and Ammonia Works; Mr. Hudson's dust accumulation; the Chemical works of Messrs. May & Baker, and Messrs. Barrett & Temple; pigs in Latchmere, Grove-lane, Falcon Brickfields and Green-lane.

The Alum and Ammonia Works have been a source of considerable trouble, many and frequent inspections have been made both by day and by night, various means have been recommended, and carried out, in order, if possible, to get rid of the noxious vapours which are given off in the process of manufacture carried on at these works. On July 26th, I met in consultation at the works Dr. Letheby, several improvements were recommended and which it was hoped would remedy the cause of complaint so frequently made. It certainly is the fact that after an inspection the nuisance was always less for some time; whether this was owing to the direction of the wind carrying the vapours over the river, or the condition of the atmosphere being favourable to their speedy dissolution, I cannot say, but it is equally certain that complaints were soon again made, so that I thought it advisable to recommend the Board to take measures to compel them to abate the nuisance in preference to recommending any further preventative means, so that now the onus will rest with the company, who have always been ready to afford me every information and assistance. The pigs in Latchmere-grove, Latchmere-lane, Falcon Brickfields, and Green-lane have again been the subject of minute inspection, a detailed report of which has been forwarded to the Board. It was hoped by this time that pig-keepers premises would have to be licensed the same as cow-houses, but the Health Bill of Mr. Stansfield, in which he promised attention to the matter at a deputation of your Board, not becoming

law, pig-keepers may at present multiply to any extent. Whether the offensive smells given off from the manufacturies and other places are injurious to health or not they must tend to injure property, for people, unless compelled, will not come and live where they must inhale all kinds of stinks in the place of pure air.

The annual inspection of Cow and Slaughter-houses, to the number of 55, was made for the purpose of renewing the Licenses; all the old ones were renewed, and two new applications were objected to, owing to the premises not being completed in which the slaughtering was to take place.

Cremation.—The subject of Cremation, or burning of human remains instead of ordinary burial, has latterly begun to attract the attention of thinking people.

This mode of disposing of bodies is by no means new. The custom prevailed amongst the earlier nations of Europe long before the advent of Christianity. The Christian religion brought with it a revolution of feeling, and in its doctrines of the immortality of the soul and resurrection of the body, inspired a greater reverence for the dead.

The early Christians delighted to have the bodies of departed friends in close proximity to their own abodes, hence the practice of burying the dead in churchyards in the midst of the living became general.

That the feeling which suggested this mode of disposal was a natural and praiseworthy one, cannot for a moment be doubted; but with rapid increase of population, especially in large towns, it was found that the churchyards soon became filled, and inconveniences arose in the making of new graves; bodies in a state of decomposition were often exposed, and gave offence to the senses and feelings, to say nothing of the deleterious influences brought to bear on the atmosphere around.

Cemeteries at a distance from large towns then became a matter of necessity, hence our present custom.

But as populations increase, habitations spring up around these cemeteries, and the deaths increase with the growth of the population, the necessity again arises of removing cemeteries still farther away.

Now, besides the effect on our special senses, the accumulation of bodies undergoing decomposition has a marked influence on the health of the community at large, which influence must increase in the ratio of increase of the population; noxious gases are liberated which impregnate the soil and therefore the water, and especially the air, and by such means disease is disseminated.

The old stories of ghosts, Will-O'-the-Wisps, &c., have some foundation, from the fact that decomposing organic matters may give rise to luminous appearances in the process of oxidation, &c., and more frequent occurrence of such phenomena in old burial grounds or marshes would naturally be explained by reference to the supernatural.

With the advantage of education and scientific knowledge we learn, that between the slower and putrescent decomposition which takes place in the body after death and burial, and that more rapid oxidation which would occur in the process of Cremation, there would be manifest advantages from a hygienic point of view in the latter process; for in the case of burial we have no control over the escaping and noxious gases, whereas in Cremation the products are completely under command, and would not be more offensive or deleterious than the emanations from a common fire, and would render them completely inert as regards the living.

This subject is becoming of increasing importance, and when it is realised that matter is indestructible, and that the elements of the body still exist but in other combinations, whether the body slowly but noxiously decomposes after burial, or quickly, but safely, as in burning, the prejudices against Cremation will gradually subside.

JOSEPH OAKMAN,

*Medical Officer of Health
for West Battersea.*

CLAPHAM.

The statistics embodied in the tables of this summary constitute, in point of fact, a report in themselves, and constructed as they are with a view to afford a ready means of comparison with previous returns of a like kind, need no very lengthened comments to recommend them to the attentive consideration of those who take an interest in sanitary matters, and in the welfare of the locality to which they relate.

The first of the tables will give considerable information upon which to judge of both the sanitary and social position enjoyed by this Sub-district at the present time, compared with what it did in the previous ten years.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

YEARS	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873
Marriages	181	227	221	310	244	272	234	158	249	236	257
Births	685	640	707	711	777	801	838	867	864	858	929*
Deaths	355	408	393	425	451	450	508	480	604	482	475
Excess of Births over Deaths ...	330	292	314	286	326	351	330	387	260	376	454

*Of this number I successfully vaccinated 377 cases. — J. M.

This table, however, professes to give only the total numbers of the events referred to ; for more detailed particulars, concerning the proportion of fatal cases of the

more important epidemic diseases to deaths from all causes, as well as to the sex, ages and social positions of the deceased persons, the succeeding tables should be consulted.

It should be remarked with reference to the above table that the marriages in the past year were more in number than in 1872 by 21, that the deaths have decreased in the two years from 482 to 475, being 7 less in favour of the year under review, and that the excess of births over deaths was much larger in the past than in the previous year in the proportion of 454 to 376. But it is in the fatal cases of the seven principal Zymotic diseases that the greatest difference is shown, for it will be observed by a reference to the following table that there occurred from these diseases fewer deaths by 63 in 1873 than in 1872, and fewer than the average of the previous ten years by upwards of 40.

Table showing the number of deaths from the seven principal epidemics during 1873, and in the ten preceding years 1863—72.

YEARS.	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873
Small-pox.	11	3	7	10	7	0	10	6	94	14	0
Measles ...	24	12	7	18	3	9	2	14	2	30	11
Scarlatina.	28	11	11	6	5	14	29	45	20	6	2
Diphtheria	1	2	4	5	3	7	0	2	3	3	3
Whooping-cough ...	9	10	15	14	7	25	29	9	18	25	14
Typhus ...	6	14	11	16	10	26	17	12	10	11	10
Diarrhœa & Cholera	16	11	20	17	21	28	30	31	31	38 1	24 1
TOTALS ...	95	63	75	86	56	109	117	119	178	128	65

Referring now to the detailed table of mortality as given on the same form in all the Local Summaries, it will be seen at a glance to what extent the deaths due to ordinary diseases, old age, violence, &c., have exceeded those due to Zymotic maladies in this Sub-district.

It will be observed also that the males whose deaths were registered during the year exceeded the females by 15, and that the proportion of children registered under ten years of age to adults dying at all ages was, as usual, very large but not so large as in 1872 by 54.

At the more adult periods and in advanced age there were registered 51 persons from 20 to 40 years of age, 69 from 40 to 60, 99 from 60 to 80, and 34 at 80 years and upwards.

The very advanced ages are represented by three persons who died at the respective ages of 90, 92 and 98, the last being the oldest person registered in the year.

There is the same disparity of numbers as usual of those who died of the middle and working classes compared with those who succumbed amongst the nobility and gentry and professional classes, as will be seen in the Table which follows.*

*The tabulation of deaths &c., for the past year is the same as that of the Registrar General for the whole of London, viz.: for 53 weeks, terminating Saturday, January 4th, 1874.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

CLAPHAM.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.	SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION			
			Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20, and under 40 years of age.	At 40 and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.	Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Laboring Classes.
Population in 1871—27,347. Estimated Population in middle of year 1873—28,799. Area in Acres—1,233.																
DISEASES																
And other Causes of Death																
Classes :—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	11	5	6	3	7	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10
	Scarlatina .	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Diphtheria .	3	1	2	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Quinsy ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Croup	3	1	2	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Whooping															
	Cough ...	14	6	8	6	7	1	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
	Typhus, &c.	10	2	8	...	3	2	6	1	...	3	...	...	...	2	8
	Erysipelas .	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Metria,															
	Childbirth	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Carbuncle .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa &																
Dysentery	24	12	12	18	2	...	20	...	2	1	1	...	4	4	16	
Cholera ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Totals of Zymotic Class .		73	29	44	27	26	6	60	2	6	4	1	...	4	14	55
2. Tubercular*		61	36	25	3	7	1	17	27	10	7	...	...	4	13	44
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		51	28	23	14	6	4	26	3	6	15	1	...	4	24	23
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		27	10	17	...	...	...	...	4	8	15	...	...	4	10	13
5. Of Respiratory Organs		93	47	46	22	15	3	41	5	15	29	3	...	6	25	62
6. Of Digestive Organs		13	4	9	3	4	...	7	1	4	...	1	...	...	2	11
7. Of Urinary Organs .		10	8	2	...	...	...	2	2	3	2	1	...	2	5	3
8. Of Organs of Generation		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		3	1	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
10. Of Skin		2	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c. ...		45	24	21	42	3	...	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	34
12. Of Uncertain Seat .		17	12	5	...	7	2	11	2	1	3	...	...	3	4	10
13. Age.....		34	10	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	26	...	9	9	16
14. Violence.....		9	5	4	1	...	1	3	2	2	1	1	...	2	2	5
15. Not Specified		36	16	20	3	2	...	6	3	14	13	...	1	8	9	18
TOTALS		475	230	245	117	70	18	222	51	69	99	34	1	46	129	299

* Of the 61 deaths from Tubercular disease 44 were due to Phthisis.

The only other remark it will be at all necessary to offer upon this Table will be, that the deaths amongst the middle and industrious classes combined, rose from 413 in 1872, to 428 in the year under review, whilst amongst the nobility and gentry and amongst the professional and merchant classes, the mortality was less than was noted in the Table of my last report by as many as 22.

The absence of all record of deaths from Small-pox in the present Table is rather a gratifying circumstance, notwithstanding it is found that the mortality from several of the non-Zymotic diseases has increased very materially. For example, the deaths due to Tubercular diseases have risen from 54 to 61, those resulting from Heart diseases from 20 to 27, and, greatest of all, those from diseases of the Respiratory organs, from 75 to 93 deaths.

Increase of Population.—Death-rate, &c.—The exact condition of the population as to numbers is not easily ascertained but through an annual census, because the increase by immigration and the loss by emigration is so variable, but an approximation may be arrived at by calculating the addition that has been probably made to the natural increase by assuming a number for the amount of immigration and natural increase together on the principle adopted by the Registrar General. By this method the population will be shown to have increased from 28,154 in the middle of 1872, to 28,799 in the middle of the past year, and the deaths being 475, it will give 1 death to, as near as possible, every 60 of the inhabitants, or a death-rate of 16·4 per 1000 persons living. Seeing that the death-rate was as high as 22 per 1000 in the year of the last census, and 17·1 in 1872, the result of the above estimate cannot be viewed as altogether unsatisfactory.

Disease and Mortality amongst the Union Poor.—The Table No. V. in the appendix, in the column relating to this parish, gives 69 deaths as the result of 890 cases of sickness and accident treated by me as the District Medical Officer.

This is a small per centage considering all things, and that the past year exhibited such varied atmospheric conditions as to vastly increase the cases of Lung disease that come under treatment amongst the poor.

Violent, Sudden and Uncertified Deaths; Inquests.—There have been held in the Sub-district, 17 inquiries by the Coroner, and the causes of death were recorded as follows :—

Accidental injuries sustained in various ways	...	7
Found dead, newly born	... ..	1
Suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind	... ..	1
Sudden deaths from Heart disease, and other defined	}	8
and undefined causes		
TOTAL		17

It may be imagined that in 17 inquiries into the actual causes of death, post-mortem examinations would have been necessitated more frequently than they were. There is undoubtedly still room for reform in these matters, as there is also in the registration of births, and of still-born infants.

We must continue to hope that this reform is not far distant.

There was one person who died and was buried without the cause of death being certified by competent medical authority.

Sanitation of the Year.—The Sanitary proceedings of the year are as usual set forth in Table VI. in the Appendix. Besides the supervision by the Surveyor and myself of all the slaughtering places and cow houses within the parish, the whole of which were found in good order, and in possession of all the sanitary requisities insisted upon in the regulations of the authorities; there also appears by this table to have been as many as 1,200

inspections of houses and premises with a view to discover and rectify defects in sanitary arrangements, &c. In the previous year there were a like number of such inspections, but this number, nevertheless, resulted in 8 cases being litigated in that year at the Police Court of the district. In the past year the magistrates were not called upon to make an order for compulsory works in any one instance. The 33,102 feet of new sewers and branch drains constructed in 1872, and referred to in the table of that year, were added to by nearly 4,000 feet of the same work executed in the past year. The removal of pig nuisances were not nearly so numerous as in the previous year. The number of these nuisances complained of and removed in 1872 was 51 ; in the past year there were but two such. The accumulation of manure, offal, and other offensive matter necessitated the interference of the Surveyor and Inspector in as many as 82 instances in the previous year, but 1873 passed over with only one such interference in respect to such accumulations. This I think speaks much for the exertions of both the above named officers, and for the good judgment displayed by them in so performing their duties as to cause such a small amount of resistance to the orders and requirements of the Board.

Water Supply.—During the year there have been many reasons for dissatisfaction at the supply of potable water in this Sub-district. Both in quantity and quality it has not been such as to commend itself to the inhabitants ; and frequently it has been quite unfit to drink without the most careful filtration, which, it is well known, the great bulk of the population are unable to effect. With such a state of things continued we must expect to see disease and death rife in the neighbourhood on the approach of hot weather. Further legislation seems most desirable upon this important matter.

There are a few other matters applying equally to this and the other Sub-districts which will be more appropriately discussed in the introduction to the Report, and to that introduction I must refer my readers, more particularly to that portion referred to at page 14.

JOHN MAC DONOGH,

Medical Officer of Health for Clapham.

STREATHAM

INCLUDING

TOOTING AND BALHAM.

In this Sub-district there were registered in the 53 weeks of the Registrar General's official year (1873) the deaths of 240 persons (99 males and 141 females). In the same period there were also registered 488 births (248 males and 240 females), giving a natural increase to the population of 248 persons, which is a much larger addition than was made from the same source in the previous year.

The death-rate, calculated in the usual way, and in view of an increased population, is found to be 15·4 per 1000 persons living, the population being in the middle of the year 1873 estimated at 15,579.

Zymotic Diseases.—From five of the seven principal Zymotic maladies, viz., Measles, Scarlatina, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhoea there resulted 29 deaths. From Small Pox and Diphtheria there were happily no deaths registered during the year, whilst in the previous report two deaths are to be found recorded from these two last named diseases. From Diarrhoea two more deaths than in 1872 appear on the register, but in the aggregate the deaths from this class of diseases were not much above the average.

Other Diseases.—Of non-Zymotic diseases those of the “Tubercular” class claim the first notice, and will be found to have proved fatal in seven more instances than in 1872. Diseases of the Brain and Nerves resulted in death in eight less cases, of the Heart in five more cases, and of the Respiratory Organs in seven instances beyond the number recorded in the last Report.

The 12 deaths from all causes over the number recorded in 1872, is not more than would naturally occur in a population increased to the extent above stated, but the death rate, I am sorry to say, is still high for a Sub-district that in a long succession of years down to 1872 had shown such very favourable statistics in respect to its mortality.

The great excess of mortality recorded in 1872, can scarcely be accounted for except on the score of climatic influences, but there can be entertained but little doubt (whatever may have been the cause) that the favourable sanitary status of the Sub-district will eventually be fully restored.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

STREATHAM, INCLUDING TOOTING & BALHAM.		SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION					
Population in 1871—14,475. Estimated Popula- tion middle of 1873—15,456 Area in Statute Acres—3,465.				Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20 and under 40 years of age.	At 40 and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Laboring Classes.
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.															
Classes :—																	
1. Zymotic	Small Pox...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	3	2	1	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Scarlatina ...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup.....	3	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Whooping Cough ..	8	4	4	7	1	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
	Typhus and other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fevers ...	7	3	4	4	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
	Erysipelas...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Metria, Childbirth	3	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Carbuncle...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea & Choleraic Disease	10	7	3	7	3	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
	Totals of Zymotic Class	35	19	16	18	10	2	34	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	13	22
2.	Tubercular*	35	11	24	5	3	...	11	15	9	...	...	2	1	13	19	
3.	Of Brain, Nerves, &c.	28	14	14	11	3	1	16	...	3	8	1	...	3	16	9	
4.	Of the Heart, &c. ...	23	9	14	...	1	...	1	2	11	8	1	1	1	10	11	
5.	Of Respiratory Or- gans	49	20	29	14	7	1	22	1	6	16	4	1	3	18	27	
6.	Of Digestive Organs	12	4	8	...	...	...	...	2	5	4	1	1	...	3	8	
7.	Of Urinary Organs .	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	5	1	
8.	Of Organs of Gene- ration	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	2	1	
9.	Of Joints, Bones, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10.	Of Skin	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11.	Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ...	16	9	7	16	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	
12.	Of Uncertain Seat...	6	2	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	4	2	
13.	Age	17	4	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	1	...	10	5	
14.	Violence.....	5	1	4	1	1	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	
15.	Not Specified.....	4	...	4	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	
TOTALS		240	99	141	67	25	4	106	22	31	55	17	6	8	104	122	

* Of the Tubercular class of Diseases, 14 deaths appear to have resulted from Phthisis.

Small Pox and Vaccination.—The prospect which exists of “stamping out” as it is called, Small Pox, is still a matter upon which the inhabitants may fairly be congratulated. During the past three years, the mortality from this dreaded malady has gradually declined, and in the year under review gave but little signs of its presence amongst us. If the infant population continues to be brought under the protective influence of Vaccination with the same vigilance as it appears to have been by recent reports, it will contribute very largely to bring about the wished-for result, the complete abolition of the disease.

Ages at Death.—The mortality from diseases which more especially afflict infants and young children, has been greater by 7 than in the previous year, 89 being the number registered in 1872, and 96 in the past year; but this increase can scarcely be wondered at seeing the many unfavourable atmospheric changes against which the delicate frames of children have had to contend during a considerable portion of the past year. The deaths of persons of middle age, *i.e.*, between 40 and 60 years of age, also underwent an increase from 40 to as many as 55; those of persons at 80 and upwards were registered in 17 instances against 13 in the previous year, and amongst these latter 4 persons died above 80, and 3 between that age and 100 years, the oldest being 94.

Social Position.—The greatest amount of mortality is found as usual to have occurred amongst the poor and labouring classes, the deaths amongst them being within 4 of the number of the three classes above them combined. Of the Union Poor exclusively the ratio of deaths to cases treated was 19 in 135—a somewhat large per centage compared with that presented by some of other Sub-districts (*vide* Table V Appendix).

Inquests, Violent, Sudden, and Uncertified Deaths.—The Coroner officiating in this locality held 8 inquests during the year. In 4 of these Disease of the Heart was

the cause assigned for the suddenness of these events. Of the remaining inquiries the verdicts in two instances were somewhat vague, viz. :—"died in a fit" and "hæmorrhage accompanied by latent syncope," though what that means is not very plain, nor is it very clear from whence came the hæmorrhage that produced the *latent* faintness which had so deplorable a result. There appears to have been 2 accidental deaths—one a case of asphyxia in bed (over-laying), and one of an infant 3 years of age being run over by a cart. No less than 5 deaths occurred and the deceased persons buried without the causes of death being certified by any medical attendant or attendants. It is to be presumed that these cases were all of a character to have needed some medical care and watching, and it is deplorable to think that they did not obtain such. If any of these deaths were too sudden to admit of the calling in of medical aid, they surely, and for obvious reasons, should have been made the subjects of the Coroner's inquisition.

Sanitation of the Year, &c.—Referring my readers to the introductory portion of our combined Report, it will be found to embody my opinions on several matters affecting the entire District, and I have only now to remark upon the rather large amount of sanitation that has been carried out during the year, and the pains that have been taken to improve the Sub-district in various ways (vide Table VI. Appendix). I should further report that the usual inspection and supervisions of all the Slaughter and Cow-houses within the Sub-district were made with a satisfactory result, and that the vigilance of the Surveyor and Inspector has been exercised in getting condemned a quantity of fish and some meat shown to be unfit for human food.

D. C. NÖEL,

Medical Officer of Health
for Streatham, Tooting, and Balham.

PUTNEY AND ROEHAMPTON.

In presenting this, my eighteenth contribution to the Annual Sanitary Report, it affords me much satisfaction to be able to state that the deaths in this Sub-district during the year 1873 were, notwithstanding the increase of the population in the interval, fewer by 19 than were registered in the previous year, the numbers being respectively 125 in the past year against 144 in 1872. Another gratifying circumstance, disclosed by the accompanying Tables, is, that much less mortality has taken place from the Zymotic class of diseases than has been recorded in any year during the last decade.

To four only of the seven principal Zymotic diseases have any deaths been attributed during the past year, and these amounted to the very small number of 6. In the previous year (1872) the deaths due to these diseases were as many as 20. The per centage of deaths of the seven epidemics referred to, to deaths from all causes for the year under notice, is as low as 4·8. In 1872 it was 14·0. The lowest per centage of the ten preceding years was in 1864, when it was 9·0; the highest was in 1869, in which year it was estimated at 23·3, as is pointed out in the following Table.

YEARS.	Number of Deaths from all Causes.	No. of Deaths from Seven of the prin- cipal Epidemic Diseases.	Percentage of Deaths from seven prin- cipal Epidemics to Deaths from all causes.
1863	129	29	22.4
1864	121	11	9.0
1865	115	11	9.5
1866	121	16	13.2
1867	128	20	15.6
1868	118	14	11.8
1869	133	31	23.3
1870	145	19	12.4
1871	151	32	21.4
1872	144	20	14.0
1873	125	6	4.8

By reference to the next Table it will be seen that there was recorded no mortality whatever during the entire year from the three more dangerous forms of Zymotic disease, viz., Small Pox, Scarlatina, and Diphtheria. This Table will also furnish the usual statistics from which to gather the causes of the entire mortality of the year, as well as the sex, ages, and social positions of the deceased persons, in precisely the same way as all former Mortality Tables have done, so as to admit of the readiest possible comparison.

It should be remarked in reference to this Table, that in consequence of the past year concluding only three days before the Saturday on which the Registrar General always makes up his statistics for publication, it has been thought advisable to embrace the death registrations up to the 3rd January of the present year, thus making the year 1873 to consist of 53 weeks instead of 52. In some of the larger Sub-districts this extension may make a considerable difference in calculating the rates of mortality, but in this Parish it forms a disturbing element to the extent of one death only beyond the tabulation of 52 weeks.

To secure uniformity it is deemed advisable to follow in each year the tabulation arrangements of the Registrar General, otherwise confusion might result in making the necessary comparisons.

PUTNEY AND ROEHAMPTON.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District	SEX		AGE							SOCIAL POSITION				
Population (Census) 1871— 9,439. Estimated population in middle of the year 1873— 10,101. Area in Statute Acres—2,176.			Males	Females	Under 1 year	From 1 to 5 years	From 5 to 10 years	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years	At 20, and under 40 years of age	At 40, and under 60 years of age	At 60, and under 80 years of age	80 years and upwards	Nobility and Gentry	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes
DISEASES, And other causes of Death.																
Classes :—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	2	1	1	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Scarlatina ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	Typhus and other Fevers	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Erysipelas...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Metria, Childbirth	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Carbuncle ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea & Choleraic... Disease.	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Totals of Zymotic Class		9	3	6	...	3	1	5	3	...	1	...	...	1	3	5
*2. Tubercular		19	7	12	5	2	...	7	12	...	...	...	1	2	11	5
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		26	13	13	2	5	...	7	...	10	7	2	5	6	10	5
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		13	3	10	...	...	...	1	2	6	3	1	1	3	6	3
5. Of Respiratory Or- gans		21	12	9	3	5	...	9	1	4	5	2	3	1	10	7
6. Digestive Organs ...		12	5	7	1	...	...	1	2	5	4	...	1	2	8	1
7. Urinary Organs. ...		4	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	2	1
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. }		7	2	5	7	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
13. Age... ..		3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	..	1	1
14. Violence.....		5	2	3	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	3
15. Not Specified.....		1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
TOTALS		125	51	74	19	19	1	41	24	27	25	8	14	16	57	58

* Of the Tubercular class of diseases there were 15 deaths registered as being due to Pulmonary Phthisis.

The registered deaths, it will be observed, were rather unequally divided as to the sex of the deceased persons, viz., 74 females to only 51 males.

Of the 125 deaths 39 were of infants and young children 19 of whom died under one year, 19 also from 1 to 5 years, and 1 from 5 to 10 years. In the table of the previous report the number of infants and children who succumbed during the year will be found to have been 60. The difference is striking, and the statistical result very satisfactory. Rather more than the average of aged people at 80 and upwards died during the past year, the oldest of the deceased having reached the advanced age of 91 years. The mortality at the intermediate ages, viz., from 10 to 20, from 20 to 40, from 40 to 60, and from 60 to 80, was in the aggregate 27 less than the number noted in 1872. Then as to the social positions of the deceased persons, it is satisfactory to find that the industrial or working classes succumbed in much fewer numbers than in the year preceding the one under notice. In the comparisons made in this respect in former reports it has been often shown that the deaths amongst the working classes were, year by year, becoming fewer, relatively to the numbers registered amongst the classes above them. Amongst the pauper population exclusively (Vide Table V. Appendix.) the proportion of deaths to the number of cases treated will be seen to have been exceedingly small, viz., 7 in 206. In the preceding year the proportion was 15 deaths in 282 cases treated. In whatever light then we may regard these statistics they will be found to indicate very considerable improvement in the social and sanitary condition of the poor.

Increase of Population.—Birth-rate,—Death-rate,—&c.—The number of children born in the sub-district within the year was 320 (168 males and 152 females) which is 41 in excess of the number registered in 1872. The excess of births over deaths, which indicates the natural increase of the population, was 195. The Registrar

General, in his annual summary for 1873, speaking of the whole of London, intimates, that the excess of births over deaths in the year under notice very closely corresponded with the estimated increase of the population, or to use his own expression, "the *actual* agrees with the *natural* increase." This, however, has never been the case in the outlying parishes which border what is termed the "outer ring" of the Metropolis. Putney, for example, which is just within the Metropolitan area, has a very fluctuating population, but it is known to increase very largely from year to year by immigration, or influx of new residents, and of course proportionately so by births. Unlike some of the east, west and central districts of London proper, there are in this parish none of the elements of decline, and there is no prospect whatever of the population becoming stationary, as in St. George's, Hanover Square and some other localities, or decreasing, as it has been shown to have done, in the City of London, Marylebone, and Westminster.

Adopting then the usual mode of calculation, it is found that this Sub-district has increased its number of inhabitants from the estimate of the previous year, which was 9,807 to 10,002 by excess of births over deaths alone; by births and immigration together, the calculation referred to, brings the estimate to 10,101 in the middle of the year 1873. The deaths being 125, it follows that the mortuary rate for 1873, was 12·3 only per 1000 persons living, the birth rate 30·6, and the rate of natural increase, 18·3 per 1000.* This result is highly satisfactory, and certainly, during my period of office, I have never, in any one year of the nineteen, had to report so favourable a condition of things, or even an approach to it.

Uncertified, Sudden and Accidental Deaths, Inquests, &c.—Happily but two deaths were placed on the Register during the year, without being first attested by Medical Certificate, or by Coroner's inquisition.

* By a clerical error it was stated in my Report for 1872, page 65, that the Birth-rate per 1000 for that year was 13·7; it should have been that the natural increase of the population was at that rate.

It is worthy of remark that both the uncertified deaths referred to were registered at the early part of the year, and before the appearance of the 1872 Report, in which the question of an improved registration of both births and deaths was discussed. Since then there have been found no unattested deaths recorded in the local returns of this Parish.

There have been held eight Inquests during the year, and the following verdicts returned:—

1. Accidentally run over by a cart (a child $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old).
2. Accidental Asphyxia in bed (an infant aged 3 months).
3. Manslaughter, fracture of skull by a blow (a carman, aged 32).
4. Natural, hæmorrhage from lungs (a labourer aged 30).
5. Found drowned (a lad aged 11 years).
6. Sudden death from Heart Disease (a gardener aged 33).
7. Accidental death from a fall down a flight of steps (widow of a farmer aged 81).
8. Apoplexy induced by intemperance (a female aged 47).

It is believed that medical testimony was received in nearly all the above-named cases, and this, it is submitted, is far more satisfactory than the former lax system of so often dispensing with skilled evidence at these important inquiries.

Sanitation of the Year.—There is perhaps no more important duty devolving upon a Sanitary Officer than the careful supervision of the Slaughter-houses and Cow-sheds within his Sub-district. During the past year the usual attention has been paid to all these places in this parish to see that they possessed the appliances insisted on by the authorities, and I am pleased to report that all the proprietors who applied for a renewal of their licenses received the same without opposition. Referring to Table VI. in the Appendix it may be remarked that it contains a summary of the principal sanitary proceedings throughout the entire District, and therefore will serve to show what has been accomplished during the year within this Parish to improve the healthiness of the town, and to promote the

sanitary welfare of its inhabitants. So many miles of new sewerage and branch drainage having been completed in former years, has left but comparatively little to accomplish in the same direction ; consequently every succeeding Report must of necessity contain less reference to such works ; but it affords no little satisfaction to be able to speak favourably of the permanent results of the sewerage system as carried out with so much perseverance in this neighbourhood. Another noteworthy point in the Table just spoken of is the small amount of litigation that was necessitated during the year under notice, there having been but one case adjudicated upon by the magistrates in that period.

Concerning the more recent case known as that of "the Priory Nuisance," a great deal might be here advanced did space permit. So many legal points were purposely imported into this case by the defendant to defeat the action which the authorities were compelled to take, that the sanitary question involved seemed at the Police Court to be almost ignored. The ultimate dismissal of the summons, after several adjournments, neither party being adjudged to pay costs, was very suggestive of doubt in the magisterial mind, and it has been thought by many who have watched the case from the commencement, that had his worship visited the locality of the nuisance, and had inhaled for a few moments only, the noxious emanations from this filthy receptacle of night soil and sewage, the decision must have been very different from that which was given. Whether it will be wise, after what has transpired, to risk the realization of the fabled policy of allowing the steed to be stolen before taking any really effective steps to secure the stable door, is a question I will not attempt to discuss in this report, but as a Medical Officer of Health, I feel I should be ill performing my duty, did I neglect to place on record my humble but deliberately formed opinion, that the time may come when this failure to obtain the full advantages

of the costly system of main sewerage constructed for this Sub-district, through permitting the worst kind of filth to be still hid away in cesspools, or to be exposed in open ditches, will have to be greatly deplored, and by none perhaps so much as by the creator of this nuisance himself. The continued refusal on the part of the proprietor of the Priory Establishment to employ the only available means of abating the nuisance complained of, and the preference this gentleman seems to give to the hazardous proceeding of maintaining an extended cesspool or open ditch, at the great risk of inducing disease amongst his patients, his neighbours, and his own family, is, to say the least of it, perfectly inexplicable. If there was no alternative but to use this pestiferous ditch into which to pour the excreta of upwards of a hundred residents of the establishment, and if there was no properly constructed main sewer within a convenient distance of the entrance to the premises, the proceeding would wear a very different aspect, but as the matter stands it perpetuates an evil which the law, if it cannot be made strong enough to overcome, should at all events be slow to encourage.

As some slight set off to the unsatisfactory termination of the case I have here ventured to comment upon, the inhabitants of this Sub-district, as indeed those of all other localities, have to be congratulated upon the judgment lately pronounced by the Court of Queen's Bench in respect to the making up of the first roads and footways of newly-formed streets. Hitherto all has been confusion and doubt with regard to the bearing of the existing law upon such disputed matters, and hence many owners of new house property, relying too much on the voluntary action of Boards and Vestries to relieve them of the first costs of road making, &c., have so neglected their approaches as to constitute them nuisances of the very worst description. In my Reports and Returns for some years past reference has been frequently made to the unsatisfactory condition of the Disraeli road, and of some

other new streets in this parish. In my last Report occur the following remarks, which it must be conceded are as applicable now to the matter in question as they were when first written.

“It is much to be feared that the absence of good approaches to rows of newly erected dwellings is the main cause of their failing to attract suitable tenants. To build houses, and to render them approachable only through mud and filth, is surely a mistaken policy, and it is submitted that local authorities should be vested with quite as sufficient legal powers of compelling owners of rateable house property to properly construct the first roads and footways as they now have of compelling the formation of the first drains and water courses in connection with such property.”

By the recent decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, it appears that local authorities have the power, in the event of the neglect of the owners, to execute works of both drainage and paving in new streets, and of charging the costs of the same upon such owners. This being the case, the Disraeli Road nuisance cannot, it is imagined, continue much longer a reproach to the parish.

There is one other matter upon which I desire, before concluding this Report, to offer a remark, and that is, the desirability of the constituted authorities endeavouring to obtain from the Legislature increased and well-defined powers of dealing with dilapidated house property, and of purchasing and demolishing such houses that may be certified to by competent judges as being unfit for human habitation. A few such places, it is known, are to be found in this parish, and there are unquestionably other premises offering such great obstruction to the traffic of the public streets as to constitute them nuisances of the worst kind. The over-hanging and dilapidated houses situated at the entrance of Windsor Street, and abutting on the High

Street, are of this character, and would assuredly benefit the parish immensely by their demolition, since one of the principal thoroughfares and public roads would be at once opened up, that is now so obstructed and so narrowed as to render all vehicular passage through it, at certain times, positively dangerous.

I cannot conclude my contribution to this Report without expressing my thanks to the members of the Board, and to the Local Committee, for the manner in which they have at all times received and discussed my reports and returns ; nor can I do otherwise than offer my congratulations to the inhabitants and ratepayers of this Sub-district upon the earnestness of purpose displayed by the local authorities in having so largely contributed to bring about the two very satisfactory results spoken of at the commencement of this report, viz., the steady but manifest reduction of the death-rate of this parish, and the gradual but perceptible diminution, within its area, of both the amount and intensity of epidemic sickness,—of that kind of sickness which it is the great object of sanitation to control and prevent.

R. HARLAND-WHITEMAN,

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for Putney and Roehampton.*

*Chairman of the Associated Health
Officers of the Wandsworth District.*

APPENDIX OF STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.

Summary of Deaths and their Causes, registered in the entire District during 1873, classified according to Sex, Age, and Social Position, and showing also the relative Numbers in each Sub-District.

POPULATION OF ENTIRE DISTRICT, As corrected by the Registrar General.		SUB-DISTRICTS.						SEX.		AGE.								SOCIAL POSITION			
Census 1871—125,660.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the entire District.																			
Estimated Population for middle of year, 1873,—138,796.																					
Area in Statute Acres, 11,695.																					
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death.																					

TABLE II.

BIRTHS registered during the year 1873.

SUB-DISTRICTS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Clapham	461	468	929
Wandsworth	328	329	657
Battersea	1,371	1,288	2,059
Putney and Roehampton	168	152	320
Streatham, including Tooting and Balham ...	248	240	488
Total	2,576	2,477	5,053

* * The excess of Births over Deaths in the entire district is 2,473.

TABLE III.

METEOROLOGICAL ELEMENTS for 1873, from Observations taken at Greenwich.

MEANS.	Jan., Feb., and March.	April, May, and June.	July, Aug., and September.	Oct., Nov., and December.	The Year.
Temperature of the Air	39·4°	51·8°	60·3°	44·2°	48·9°
Evaporation	37·8°	48·4°	·3°	42·6°	46·3°
Dew Point	35·6°	44·9°	52·8°	40·7°	43·5°
Weight of Vapour in a Cubic Foot of Air	2·4 grs.	3·5 grs.	4·5 grs.	2·9 grs.	3·3 grs.
Degree of Humidity (Satn. 100)	86°	78°	77°	88°	82°
Reading of Barometer	29·700 in.	29·804 in.	29·783 in.	29·833 grs.	29·780 in.
Weight of a Cubic Foot of Air	550 grs.	539 grs.	530 grs.	549 grs.	542 grs.
Rain (amount of) ...	5·7 in.	4·7 in.	7·6 in.	5·5 in.	23·5 in.

TABLE IV.

Showing the total Deaths from the Principal Epidemic Diseases registered in each Sub-District, and in the entire District, and the relation which they bore to the total Mortality in the several years 1863—73.

YEARS.	DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL EPIDEMICS IN EACH SUB-DISTRICTS.					ENTIRE DISTRICT.		
	Clapham.	Battersea.	Wandsworth.	Putney.	Streatham.	Total Deaths from the Seven Epidemics.	Total Deaths Registered from all causes.	Per centage of Deaths from the Seven Epi- demics to Total Deaths.
1863	95	86	62	29	32	304	1471	29.9
1864	63	129	43	11	22	268	1688	15.8
1865	75	177	54	11	26	343	1783	19.2
1866	86	244	73	16	34	453	2072	21.3
1867	56	122	33	21	10	242	1937	12.4
1868	99	194	64	14	28	399	2168	18.4
1869	117	247	94	31	27	516	2393	21.5
1870	119	404	113	19	37	692	2659	26.0
1871	178	463	103	32	31	807	2867	28.8
1872	128	220	47	20	31	446	2421	18.4
1873	65	205	43	6	32	350	2570	13.6

. The Diseases included in the above Table constitute, as in the Registrar-General's Returns, the principal maladies only of the Zymotic class—viz. : Small Pox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Diarrhoea and Cholera, and Fever.

TABLE V.

Cases of Sickness amongst the Poor under the treatment of the Union Medical Officers, with the Deaths from each class of Disease, during the year ended 31st December, 1873. Compiled from the District Medical Relief Books.

SUB-DISTRICTS.				Total Cases of Sickness treated in each Sub-district.		1—Small Pox.		2—Measles.		3—Scarlatina and Malignant Sore Throat.		4—Whooping Cough.		5—Diarrhea and Dysentery.		6—Cholera.		7—Fever.		8—Erysipelas.		9—Puerperal Fever.		10—Lung Diseases except Phthisis.		11—Phthisis.		12—Hydrocephalus, Atrophy, Scrofula, and Convulsions of Children.		13—Other Diseases.		14—Violence, Privation, and Premature Birth.		Total Deaths in each Sub-District
				Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.			
Clapham	...	...	...	890	4	...	7	...	...	...	17	...	35	2	2	...	150	2	6	...	...	...	134	15	14	12	52	16	411	22	58	...	69
Wandsworth	...	...	...	1325	...	...	11	1	1	...	15	...	135	...	1	...	10	...	5	...	...	...	308	15	12	7	8	7	753	18	66	...	48
Battersea	{	East	...	1029	3	...	28	1	5	1	18	3	42	...	...	...	37	1	12	...	1	...	268	12	54	5	10	1	536	10	15	2	36
		West	...	519	1	...	14	...	6	1	7	2	26	1	...	...	12	2	13	...	...	...	103	10	12	1	...	...	310	11	15	...	28
Putney and Roehampton	...	...	...	206	...	...	2	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	18	2	5	3	2	...	151	2	12	...	7
Streatham, including Tooting and Balham	{			135	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	27	5	3	2	...	...	83	10	9	...	19
Totals	...	...	...	4104	9	...	68	2	12	2	69	5	242	3	3	...	215	7	36	...	1	...	858	59	100	30	72	24	2244	73	175	2	207

* * The ratio of deaths to cases treated is 5 per cent, the same as in 1872.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY of the Sanitary Operations in the entire District during the year 1873.

	Clapham.	Battersea.	Wandsworth.	Putney and Roehampton.	Streatham, including Tooting and Balham.	TOTALS.
Number of Houses and Premises in- spected	1200	*	250	165	230	3,845
1st Notices served	41	180	36	17	18	292
2nd Notices served	3	10	2	4	...	19
Cesspools emptied and cleansed ...	...	...	...	8	9	...
Cesspools abolished	...	...	2	...	6	8
Waterclosets con- structed ... ..	...	60	...	43	158	261
Houses supplied with water ...	7	50	2	46	102	207
Drains constructed or connected with Sewer	72	81	33	39	59	284
No. of feet of New Sewers and Branch Drains	3,972	1,703	746	723	6,219	13,363
Drains repaired or trapped, or ob- structions re- moved	30	100	9	21	30	190
Open Ditches, Ponds, &c., cleansed ...	...	...	3	1	1,500 ft.	...
Dust-bins provided	...	50	...	43	102	195
Pig Nuisances re- moved	2	95	21	2	...	120
Accumulations of Offal, Manure, &c., removed ...	1	64	3	13	11	92
Unwholesome and di- lapidated Houses cleansed or re- paired ... ..	...	30	2	1	1	34
Cases investigated by Magistrates...	...	95	...	1	...	96
Compulsory Orders obtained ... ..	...	10	...	...	...	10
Compulsory works executed ... ..	...	10	...	...	...	10
Works remaining in abeyance from various causes ...	...	...	...	1	...	1

* Some of the figures in the column of this table relating to Battersea must be viewed as approximations only, since administrative changes in that Sub-district during the year, and the loss of a return or two in the transfer of the books, has rendered it difficult to obtain a perfectly accurate statement.