INSTRUCTIONS

CONCERNING THE

REGISTRATION

OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN

MASSACHUSETTS:

DESIGNED FOR

TOWN CLERKS AND PHYSICIANS.

By OLIVER WARNER,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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NOTICE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON, May 1, 1868.

Copies of these Instructions will be furnished to Physicians, or to Town Clerks for distribution to Physicians, on application by letter to this Office; or if Town Clerks will send to this Office the NAMES *and* POST-OFFICE ADDRESS *of Physicians in their towns, a copy will be forwarded to each, by mail, from this Office.*

The pamphlet of "Laws," &c., concerning the Solemnization of Marriages, is designed for distribution to Clergymen in the respective towns.

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON, May 1, 1868.

To the Clerk of the Town of _____.

SIR:—I herewith transmit to you a copy of a new edition of Instructions concerning the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, accompanied with some suggestions intended to facilitate the duties of the Town Clerks, as well as to promote accuracy of registration.

The experience of past years has made it sufficiently evident, that for the effective operation of our Registration System, we must depend more upon the energy and industry of the Town Clerks than upon any or all other means. To no others is the subject so familiar, or the duties connected therewith so appropriate. Intelligence and efficiency are theirs; they are known and responsible, and readily accessible to communication from the central office; not inconveniently numerous, and likely to be sufficiently interested in the subject to labor for perfect accuracy.

Attempts to *aid* the Town Clerk by the transfer of any great share of the responsibility to others, are likely rather to increase his difficulties and impair the value of the results attained. Because few others will feel equal interest in the work, or enjoy such facilities for its performance as the Town Clerks, while responsibility of this kind is liable, when subdivided

among too many persons, to lose great part of its useful effect.

Chapter 96 of the Acts of the year 1865, it was hoped, would facilitate the registration of Births, by the transfer of responsibility to the medical practitioner; but proving unsatisfactory upon trial, has been repealed.

It may be observed, that in cases of *Deaths* the Clerk is to be aided in obtaining the facts, by the person in charge of the Interment; in cases of *Marriage*, by the person before whom the Marriage is solemnized; in cases of *Births*, (unless of a child deceased before the close of the year,) the duty devolves upon the Clerk alone.

Parents and relatives cannot be depended on for such information, and experience has shown that both persons solemnizing Marriages, and those having charge of Interments, may occasionally prove delinquent in regard to the returns required of them by law, unless roused to activity by the demands of the Town Clerk.

The chief responsibility, therefore, must rest upon the Town Clerk. It is clearly his duty to supply all deficiencies by carefully ascertaining every fact required by law, and not reported to him by others for registration. Complaint has been made in former years that inadequate compensation was allowed for registration services; but the increase of remuneration provided by chapter 238 of the Acts of 1866, has removed any ground of dissatisfaction in this particular.

Few persons are aware of the importance of a judicious Registration to every civilized country, or of the legal and historic value of the statistics obtained. The decision of questions of legitimacy, of legal settlement in towns, and various other contested points, may often

depend upon the facts registered, to say nothing of the important deductions relating to longevity, local salubrity, the relations of diseases, and the general subject of vital and mortuary statistics. In matters of Life Insurance, Annuities, Endowments, &c., the results derived from this source are absolutely indispensable.

Especially, during and since our late civil war, has the value of a Registration system been apparent, in authenticating the claims of soldiers or their families upon the government, and securing the identification of their wives or relatives.

The importance of perfect *accuracy* in the collection of facts and preparation of returns cannot be overestimated. While it is gratifying to commend the general fidelity, and often extreme accuracy, of the Returns transmitted to this office, leaving usually but *little* room for improvement, and in many cases nothing further to be desired, it can never be amiss to suggest, that nothing less than returns *absolutely perfect* will satisfy the requirements of law, or the ambition of a faithful Town Clerk.

Hoping for your zealous and faithful co-operation in regard to the objects intended in the accompanying instructions,

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,

OLIVER WARNER.

INSTRUCTIONS.

Duty of the Secretary.

On inspection of the Statutes, it will be seen that it is the duty of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, not only to furnish suitable blank books and forms, accompanied with needful instructions and explanations; and to properly care for, discuss and report upon the returns; but also, to *enforce* the provisions of the law by prosecuting for all penalties and forfeitures imposed therein; and, in fine, to "do all other acts necessary to carry into effect its provisions."

Blank forms of Returns and Certificates, are furnished to Town Clerks, on application to the Secretary's office by letter or in person.

Copies of the present "Instructions" will be sent to any Town Clerk who may request the same; or to any Physician who may apply by mail.

Duties of the Physician in regard to Deaths.

Any practising member of any branch of the medical profession, who may have attended a person during his last illness, is bound—if applied to within fifteen days after the decease of such person,—*forthwith*, to "furnish for registration a *certificate* of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of the decease, as nearly as he can state the same." Penalty, for non-compliance,—ten dollars.

Suggestions to Physicians.

Upon the Undertaker or other person having charge of the funeral rites, will usually devolve the duty of applying to the Physician for such certificate, in order to communicate the facts therein contained to the Town Clerk; and such application will commonly be made within twenty-four hours after the death.

To secure the fullest efficacy to the provisions of the law, it is earnestly *recommended*, that the Medical Practitioner, who may

have been in attendance at the death or during the last illness of any person, shall *place his certificate of the Cause of Death, immediately after such death, in the hands of some person in attendance, or of some member of the household in which the death occurred*, for the use of the Undertaker or other informant, in making return of the death to the Town Clerk or Registrar.

For the convenience of the Physician, and to insure uniformity of the returns, blank forms of Certificates have been prepared, which may be obtained by the Physician on application to the Clerk or Registrar of the town where he resides.

Entire accuracy in stating the Cause of Death cannot reasonably be expected; but by those most familiar with such inquiries, the *opinions* of medical men are deemed very desirable.

The Duration of the Disease should be *reckoned to the time of death*.

When a death is the result of two or more successive or concurrent Causes, *each* Cause should be specified, and the duration thereof, as nearly as may be.

The successive Causes should in all cases be entered in the order of their appearance, (i. e., in the order of time,) not in the order of their presumed importance.

In the case of *post mortem* examination, the fact may be indicated in the certificate by writing *p. m.* after the name of the disease.

The Statistical Nosology adopted, for Registration purposes in this State, which will be found in the Appendix, was drawn up by Dr. William Farr of England, by request of the International Statistical Congress, and will doubtless eventually be adopted by all nations desiring a complete System of Registration. The importance of securing precision and uniformity in the nomenclature and classification of Diseases, in the Registration of all countries, needs no remark.

Duties of Persons before whom Marriages may be Solemnized.

Every Justice of the Peace, Minister, and Clerk or keeper of the records of meetings among Friends or Quakers, must make a full record of every Marriage solemnized before him, and, between the first and tenth days of each month, must return a copy of so much of the record as relates to Marriages taking place during

the month last preceding, not only to the Clerk of the town in which the Marriage is solemnized, but also—if neither of the parties to the Marriage resides in such town—to the Clerk of the town in which one or both of the parties reside. Penalty for each neglect, from twenty to one hundred dollars.

Certificate Required.

No magistrate or minister is authorized to solemnize a Marriage, unless a *Certificate* is first delivered to him from the Clerk of the town in which the parties intending Marriage *respectively* dwell, if within the State, or, if there is no such Clerk, from the Clerk of an adjoining town, specifying the time when notice of the intention was entered with such Clerk, together with all the facts required by law to be ascertained and recorded, except those respecting the person before whom the Marriage is to be solemnized. Accordingly, it appears, that, if the parties reside in different towns within the State, *two* Certificates are requisite (one from each town ;) if residents of the same town, but *one*. If only one of the parties is a resident of the State, the Certificate of the town in in which such party resides will suffice ; if neither party resides therein, no Certificate of intention is requisite.

Limitations.

Any Justice of the Peace may solemnize Marriage in the County for which he is commissioned ; but not unless one of the parties to be married resides in such County. Any Minister of the gospel who continues to perform the functions of his office, and is a resident of the Commonwealth, may solemnize Marriages ; but only in the city or town in which such Minister or in which one of the parties to be married, resides.

No Magistrate or Minister may solemnize Marriage between parties either of whom he has reason to suppose is *under the full age* required by law, unless with the consent (which should be in writing,) of the parent or guardian, if any in the State competent to act, even though a certificate of intention may have been issued by the Clerk.

Ministers and others solemnizing Marriages, are earnestly desired to make *prompt and accurate* returns of the facts required by law respecting *every* marriage solemnized before them. The faithful record of these facts, besides its importance statistically, may

often prove of incalculable benefit to the parties married and to their prospective offspring, the protection of whose interests was the main object of the statutory provisions; while injustice to innocent parties may result from failure or delay of those before whom marriages are solemnized, to make proper returns of the same.

Of Parties Living in the State and Marrying out of it.

When the Marriage of persons one or both of whom reside in

ERRATUM.

Page 10, line 21—strike out the words, "no Certificate of intention is requisite," and insert "a Certificate of intention is now required by Chap. 58 of the Acts of the year 1867."

[Chapter 58.]

AN ACT relating to the Marriage of Non-resident Parties.

SECTION 1. Persons living without the Commonwealth and intending to be joined in marriage within the Commonwealth, shall, before their marriage, cause notice of their intention to be entered in the office of the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which they propose to have the marriage solemnized; and no marriage between such parties shall be solemnized until they have delivered to the justice of the peace, or minister in whose presence the marriage is to be contracted, a certificate from such clerk or registrar, specifying the time when notice of the intention of marriage was entered with him, together with all the facts in relation to the marriage required by law to be ascertained and recorded, except those respecting the person by whom the marriage is to be solemnized.

SECTION 2. Marriages may be solemnized by a justice of the peace in the county for which he is appointed.

SECTION 3. A justice of the peace or minister who joins persons in marriage contrary to the provisions of this act shall forfeit not less than fifty, nor more than one hundred dollars.

[*Approved March* 11, 1867.]

event, but *the event itself should never escape unnoticed.* Otherwise, the returns will possess, for statistical purposes, but little value.

Concerning Inquiries to be made for Births.

In obtaining the information required by law respecting *Births*, not previously reported by parents, undertakers, or others, it has been customary for the Town Clerk *once*—and in certain of the larger places *twice*—in each year, either personally or by agent, to make inquiries from house to house concerning the children born since the time when the last previous inquiries were made. The continuation of this practice cannot be too earnestly recommended, as no other method is equally effective. (The law making the return of Births the duty of physicians, having upon trial been found unsatisfactory, has been repealed.)

the month last preceding, not only to the Clerk of the town in which the Marriage is solemnized, but also—if neither of the parties to the Marriage resides in such town—to the Clerk of the town in which one or both of the parties reside. Penalty for each neglect, from twenty to one hundred dollars.

Certificate Required.

No magistrate or minister is authorized to solemnize a Marriage, unless a *Certificate* is first delivered to him from the Clerk of the

the gospel who continues to perform the functions of his office, and is a resident of the Commonwealth, may solemnize Marriages; but only in the city or town in which such Minister or in which one of the parties to be married, resides.

No Magistrate or Minister may solemnize Marriage between parties either of whom he has reason to suppose is *under the full age* required by law, unless with the consent (which should be in writing,) of the parent or guardian, if any in the State competent to act, even though a certificate of intention may have been issued by the Clerk.

Ministers and others solemnizing Marriages, are earnestly desired to make *prompt and accurate* returns of the facts required by law respecting *every* marriage solemnized before them. The faithful record of these facts, besides its importance statistically, may

often prove of incalculable benefit to the parties married and to their prospective offspring, the protection of whose interests was the main object of the statutory provisions; while injustice to innocent parties may result from failure or delay of those before whom marriages are solemnized, to make proper returns of the same.

Of Parties Living in the State and Marrying out of it.

When the Marriage of persons one or both of whom reside in this State is solemnized in another State, the parties must within *seven* days after their return, file with the Clerk of the town in which either of them resided, a certificate or declaration of the marriage, with all the particulars required by law. Penalty for neglect,—ten dollars.

Duties of Town Clerks [or Registrars.]

It is the duty of every Town Clerk or Registrar not only to "receive" such returns as may, from time to time, be made to him by Undertakers, Physicians, Clergymen and others, but also to supply all deficiencies, by "*obtaining*" the facts respecting events not so returned—so that his record may faithfully represent *all* the cases of Deaths, Births, and Marriages, which occur in his town. It may in some cases (though rarely,) be impossible to ascertain all the particulars required by law relative to each event, but *the event itself should never escape unnoticed.* Otherwise, the returns will possess, for statistical purposes, but little value.

Concerning Inquiries to be made for Births.

In obtaining the information required by law respecting *Births*, not previously reported by parents, undertakers, or others, it has been customary for the Town Clerk *once*—and in certain of the larger places *twice*—in each year, either personally or by agent, to make inquiries from house to house concerning the children born since the time when the last previous inquiries were made. The continuation of this practice cannot be too earnestly recommended, as no other method is equally effective. (The law making the return of Births the duty of physicians, having upon trial been found unsatisfactory, has been repealed.)

It will be well when canvassing for Births to make inquiry also concerning *Deaths* so far as may be necessary to make the Returns of the year complete.

If all the *Deaths* which occur in the town have been duly ascertained and recorded, according to law, and if the *Births of children deceased* who were born during the year, have also been properly entered in the record-book of Births, according to the instructions, the additional information required will be confined to the *Births of children who are then surviving*, and of which the registrar has not been already notified. In order that no Birth occurring in the State may escape registry, the inquiries should extend to the cases of all children then living in any town, although *born elsewhere*, if born during the year, and not *known* to be returned from the place of birth.

Concerning Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

It will be observed that the Clerk is to record all Births of children who may *die* in his town, if born during the current year, and all Births of children who may be *living* in the town at the time when the periodical inquiries are made if born during the year, whether born in such town or elsewhere;—also, all Marriages which may be solemnized in his town, regardless of the place of residence of the parties, and all Marriages solemnized elsewhere, of persons residing in said town, of which the particulars may be returned to him or obtained through his agency;—also all Deaths which may occur in the town, whether of residents or non-residents. All Deaths of persons having a residence in the town but dying abroad should also be registered and returned.

Clerk to give Certificate of Registry of Death.—It is also the duty of the Town Clerk to give to the Person making Return of the facts respecting a person *deceased*, a Certificate of such return, for delivery to the Person who is to have charge of the interment.

Incomplete Return of Death.—If a burial takes place without such Certificate, and the Town Clerk receives notice thereof, unaccompanied by a full return of the particulars required by law, he should forthwith *ascertain* and make record of such particulars,—including the Cause of Death as certified by the attending Physician.

Of Marriage.—It is the duty of the Clerk to *record*, not only all the Marriages solemnized in his town, but also, when returned to him, the facts respecting Marriages solemnized *elsewhere*, if either of the parties married is a resident of such town.

Certificate of Intention of Marriage forbidden to Minors.—The Town Clerk is forbidden, under penalty, to issue Certificate of entry of Intention of Marriage to parties, either of whom he has reason to suppose is *under the full age* required by law; except upon the application or *written* consent of the parent or guardian, if any within the State competent to act.

Affidavit of Age may be Required.—The Clerk may require from the person applying for such Certificate, an affidavit as to the Age of the parties. Penalty, for false statement by the person so applying, a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars.

Penalty.—For each case of refusal or neglect to perform the duties prescribed, he is subject to a penalty of from twenty to one hundred dollars.

Duty of the Undertaker or Person having Charge of Obsequies or Rites [Preliminary to] Interment.

It is the duty of such person forthwith to obtain all the particulars required by law to be recorded concerning the person deceased —including a statement (which should be in writing,) as to the Cause of the Death, from the Physician attending during his last illness;—to make return of the same *forthwith*, to the Clerk of the town in which the deceased resided, or the death occurred, (usually to the latter.) Also, *before burial*, when practicable, otherwise within seven days thereafter, to deliver the same to the Person having charge of the actual Interment, (if other than himself.)

Duty of the Person having Charge of the Interment.

In all cases where the Preliminary Rites have been performed by another, who has failed to deliver the foregoing Certificate before burial, the person last in charge is bound to give notice of such Death and Interment to the town clerk; under a *penalty of twenty dollars* for neglect. This notice should, if possible, be accompanied with a complete return of the particulars required concerning the deceased.

When the same Person has charge of the Interment, and to the Funeral Rites preliminary.

It will often happen that the Person having charge of the rites *preliminary* to Interment, and the Person having charge of the Interment itself, will be one and the same; in which case, of course, the Person having such charge is, simply, to make return required and to obtain the Clerk's certificate thereof.

Duty of the Superintendents of the State Almshouses.

The Superintendents of the State Almshouses at Monson, Tewksbury and Bridgewater, are required to make record of each Birth and Death in their respective institutions, and annually to transmit a copy thereof to the Secretary of the Commonwealth; and the Clerks of said towns are exempt from this duty, in regard to the aforesaid Institutions.

Duty of Parents and others, to give Notice of Births and Deaths.

Parents are required to give notice to the clerk, of the Births and Deaths of their children; householders of every Birth and Death happening in their houses; the eldest person next of kin, like notice of the Death of his kindred; masters of ships, keepers of Workhouses, Houses of Correction, Prisons, Hospitals, and Almshouses,—except the three State Almshouses,—to give like notice of every Birth and Death happening among the persons under their respective charges, under penalty of a sum not exceeding five dollars, for neglect to give such notice for the space of six months after each event.

Parents and other relatives of children born, or of persons deceased, and the occupiers of tenements in which any Births or Deaths may take place, should be encouraged to report, as soon after the event as may be, every case of Birth which may occur, and such cases of Death (if any,) as may not have been duly returned by persons having charge of the burial, &c.

By compliance with the foregoing requirements of law, they will confer *important aid* to the Town Clerks in securing the facts connected with Births and Deaths.

Of Fees of Town Clerks and Sextons.

The Undertaker or other person making return of a Death to the Town Clerk, is entitled to receive from his city or town the fee of *ten* cents therefor.

The Town Clerk is to receive for each Birth obtained, recorded, indexed, and returned to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, a fee of *thirty* cents;—for each Marriage, *fifteen* cents;—for each of the first twenty entries of Deaths, *twenty* cents, and for each subsequent entry, *ten* cents, in all cases of Deaths *returned to the Clerk* by the persons specified in sections 2, 3 and 4 of chapter twenty-one of the General Statutes; for each Death *not so returned*, but by said clerk obtained and recorded, *twenty* cents. The fees are to be paid by the city or town, the account of the Clerk having first been approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Clerk is also entitled to receive for each certificate of entry of intention of marriage issued by him, a fee of *fifty* cents from the parties applying therefor. Also, for all certificates of transcripts of the records in his office, reasonable fees, from the persons applying.

Notices to Town and City Clerks.

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, May 1, 1868.

The following observations are commended to the careful examination of the several Town and City Clerks. By far the larger portion of the Returns are already made in strict conformity to these methods. Wherever the practice has been different, it is earnestly requested that it be henceforth amended by a compliance with the suggestions here offered.

OLIVER WARNER,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

I. CONCERNING THE ORIGINAL RECORDS OR ENTRIES.

By occupying *two* lines for each case in the record books of BIRTHS and DEATHS, the insertion of all the particulars required can be readily effected. (In making returns to the Secretary's office, however, only *one* line should be used.)

"CONDITION," AND "COLOR."

No entry is required under the head of "*Condition*," in the book of BIRTHS, except in cases of *Plural Births*, (twins, triplets, &c.,) or in cases of *illegitimacy*.

In the record book of DEATHS, under "*Condition*," state merely whether *Single*, *Married or Widowed*.

☞ The COLOR need not be specified, if *White;* but if African, Mulatto or Mixed, should be carefully so stated.

CASE OF CHILD BORN ALIVE AND DECEASED THE SAME YEAR.

In case of the decease of a child born during the current year, the clerk is advised, when he obtains the facts concerning the *Death*, to secure also those relating to the *Birth*, and to make

record of the same in the record book of *Births* as well as in the record book of *Deaths*. This course will render more complete the record of Births; for there is reason to believe that an unduly large proportion of Births that escape unregistered are of children who die during the first year after birth.

Maiden Name, etc.

It is desirable in all cases, that the maiden name of each *married woman* or *widow*, should be stated in brackets; as for example, *Jane (Smith) Williams;* Smith being the maiden name.

If any *Parent* mentioned in the return of a Birth, Marriage, or Death, is *not living* at the time of the event, the fact may be indicated by writing (*dec.*) after the name of such parent.

Condensation of Returns.

Whenever the Returns of Births or Deaths made to the Secretary's Office, occupy more than a single sheet of two pages, only *one line* should be devoted to each separate case. This can be readily accomplished by a little care in writing closely, always giving in the wide left-hand column *both* the *Christian name* and *Surname* of the child born or person deceased, and omitting, as unnecessary, in the column headed "Names of Parents," the *Surnames of Parents*, (already stated in the previous column,) but giving their *Christian* names, (with maiden name of mother in brackets,)——thus:——"*Erastus and Harriet (Shaw.*") In case of a Death of a *married* female, the *maiden* name in brackets may precede the surname——thus:——"*Mary (Gilman) Andrews.*"——

The blank forms of returns are distributed to the cities and towns in quantity designed to allow but one line to each Birth or Death. Most of the Clerks of towns of large population, by attention to the suggestions above, make their returns without difficulty. The column of Birthplaces of Parents of Deceased, in the Return of Deaths, has presented the greatest difficulty. A careful penman can, however, enter all the facts, in full, by writing two lines in the space ruled but for one.

The Registration Returns from the State, when bound for preservation, already fill nine large folio volumes annually, whose bulk will be most inconvenient unless the returns of the larger towns are condensed in accordance with the foregoing suggestions.

Uncertain Cases.

In cases of *inflammation*, *hemorrhage*, or *tumor*, be particular to state the part affected.

Birthplaces of Parents of Deceased Persons.

These should always be stated in the Returns. If no more can be ascertained, state at least whether the parents were "*American*" or "*Foreign*" born.

Stillborn.

Stillborn cases should be returned invariably with *Deaths*, for the sake of uniformity,—and never with *Births*.

Sex.

Care should be taken to give the Sex in *all* cases of Births and Deaths. But in regard to *stillborn cases*, special effort will be necessary to prevent a failure. All cases in the "Unknown" columns are blemishes on the Registration, and to be carefully avoided.

Order of Arrangement, [by Months.]

It is extremely desirable that, in all the returns sent to this office, of *Births* as well as Marriages and Deaths, the cases occurring in each *month* should be grouped all together; *first*, all in January; *second*, all in February; and so on. But it is unnecessary that the cases should be arranged in the numerical order of the *days* of the month.

Cases of Former Years.

The Registration Laws, in strictness, provide only for Returns of Births, Deaths and Marriages occurring during the present (or current) year. Those of a date more distant than *three* years, and not previously registered, may with propriety be recorded in the town in which they occurred, but *need not* be transmitted to this office.

☞ In some instances, cases of Births or Deaths belonging to January of the *present* (or coming) year are returned with those of the year last past. The Returns should invariably *end with December* of the year last past; and never be in anticipation of the next year.

☞ *The Returns to the Secretary should not be clipped or mutilated by Town Clerks to accommodate them to a smaller envelope, as by so doing they are less fit for binding.*

☞ *In all cases Clerks are requested to use the proper blanks for Returns, and not substitute other paper for the purpose. If more blanks are needed they will be sent immediately on application by mail to this office.*

Blank forms of Certificates and other Returns, also copies of the present Instructions, may be obtained by Clergymen, Sextons, Physicians, &c., on application to the Town Clerk or Registrar. The blank forms are designed to be filled out *in ink*, and are so simple as to need no explanation other than that already given.

Town Clerks and Registrars are invited to accompany their annual returns to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with such comments and remarks as may seem to them important; also to return to this office the names and residences of those who are remiss in making returns.

APPENDIX.

NOSOLOGICAL TABLES.—LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS CONCERNING REGISTRATION, MARRIAGE, &c.

STATISTICAL NOSOLOGY

Adopted for Registration in Massachusetts.

The following plan of a Nomenclature of Diseases which corresponds closely with that authorized by the Registrar-General of England, is also nearly identical with that reported by William Farr, Esq., M. D., of London, which was adopted by the International Statistical Congress, at Paris, in 1855, and printed with the Sixteenth Registration Report of the Registrar-General of England.

Of the two lists below, the first,—that on the left side,—may be called the Tabular List, and comprises all the heads which it is proposed to admit into the complete tables, and under which all deaths, from whatever cause, must eventually be distributed. It represents those diseases which are found in practice to occur most frequently.

The Supplemental List is *subordinate* to the first, and contains the principal *special* diseases which it may be considered desirable to note, referred to those heads to which they are most nearly allied, which are shown by references in figures. It should be observed that the special cases are few, and will not affect the larger numbers in the tables to any important extent. For convenience, synonymous terms are also given in the supplemental list.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST. *Of Diseases of Special Character, or rarely fatal.*
CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.	
Order I.—*Miasmatic.*	
I. 1.—1. Smallpox,	I. 1.—1. Vaccination not stated. Variola. After vaccination, (Varioloid.) Erysipelas, &c., from vaccination. Chickenpox, (Varicella.) Miliaria.
2. Measles,	2. Rubeola.
3. Scarlatina,	3. Angina maligna.
4. Diphtheria,	
5. Quinsy,	5. Mumps. Tonsillitis.
6. Croup,	
7. Whooping Cough,	
8. Typhus (and Infantile Fever),	8. Typhoid fever.
9. Erysipelas,	9. Phlebitis. Pyemia. Hospital gangrene. Erythema.
10. Metria (or Puerperal Fever),	10. Childbed fever.
11. Carbuncle,	11. Anthrax.
12. Influenza,	
13. Dysentery,	
14. Diarrhœa,	
15. Cholera Infantum,	
16. Cholera,	
17. Ague,	17. Intermittent fever.
18. Remittent Fever,	18. Yellow fever.
19. Rheumatism,	19. Rheumatism, with pericarditis, or disease of heart.

Causes of Death—Continued.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS I.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 2.—*Enthetic.*	
I. 2.—1. Syphilis,	I. 2.—1. Gonorrhœa. Purulent ophthalmia. 4. Necusia, (usually from dissection wounds.) Malignant pustule.
2. Stricture of Urethra,	
3. Hydrophobia,	
4. Glanders,	
ORDER 3.—*Dietic.*	
I. 3.—1. Privation,	I. 3.—1. Want of Breast Milk.
2. Purpura and Scurvy,	2. Rickets. Bronchocele.
3. Delirium Tremens, } (Alcoholism,)	
4. Intemperance, } (Alcoholism,)	
ORDER 4.—*Parasitic.*	
I. 4.—1. Thrush,	I. 4.—2. Porrigo. Scabies. Tape-worm. Hydatids.
2. Worms, &c.,	
CLASS II. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.—*Diathetic.*	
II. 1.—1. Gout,	II. 1.—3. Soft cancer. Sweep's cancer. Melanosis. Other kinds of cancer. Polypus (part not stated) Lupus.
2. Dropsy and Anæmia,	
3. Cancer,	
4. Noma (or Canker,)	
5. Mortification,	5. Bed-sore. Dry gangrene.
ORDER 2.—*Tubercular.*	
II. 2.—1. Scrofula,	II. 2.—1. Psoas abscess. Lumbar abscess. White swelling. Cretinism.
2. Tabes Mesenterica,	2. Tubercular peritonitis.
3. Phthisis (Consumption of Lungs,)	3. Hæmoptysis.
4. Hydrocephalus,	4. Tubercular meningitis.
CLASS III. LOCAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.—*Nervous System.*	
III. 1.—1. Cephalitis,	III. 1.—1. Myelitis, Phrenitis. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
2. Apoplexy,	
3. Paralysis,	
4. Insanity,	4. Fright. Grief. Melancholia. Rage.
5. Chorea,	
6. Epilepsy,	6. Hysteria.
7. Tetanus,	
8. Convulsions,	8. Laryngismus stridulus.
9. *Brain Diseases,* &c.,*	9. Neuralgia. Ophthalmia. Otitis. Dis. of spinal marrow. Necrencephalus (Softening of Brain—Ramollisement.)

* Other diseases of the brain, or diseases of the nervous system, *not otherwise distinguished*, are referred to this head. *Mutatis mutandis*, the note applies the corresponding heads in other orders of this class.

Statistical Nosology—Continued.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS III.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 2.—*Organs of Circulation.*	
III. 2.—1. Pericarditis, ...	III. 2.—1. Carditis.
	Endocarditis.
2. Aneurism, ...	3. Hypertrophia.
	Angina pectoris.
3. *Heart Diseases,* &c.,* . . .	Syncope.
	Arteritis.
	Hydropericardium.
ORDER 3.—*Respiratory Organs.*	
III. 3.—1. Epistaxis, ...	III. 3.—2. Œdema glottidis.
2. Laryngitis, ...	4. Empyema.
3. Bronchitis, ...	Hydrothorax.
4. Pleurisy, ...	Diaphragmitis.
	Pneumothorax.
5. Pneumonia, ...	5. Pulmonary apoplexy,
	Pleuro pneumonia.
6. Asthma, ...	6. Grinder's Asthma.
	Miner's Asthma.
7. *Lung Diseases,* &c.,* . . .	Emphysema.
ORDER 4.—*Digestive Organs.*	
III. 4.—1. Gastritis, ...	III. 4.—1. Glossitis.
	Stomatitis.
2. Enteritis, ...	Pharyngitis.
	Œsophagitis.
3. Peritonitis, ...	5. Perforation of—
4. Ascites, ...	6. Congenital.
	Femoral.
5. Ulceration of Intestines, . . .	Inguinal.
	Scrotal.
6. Hernia, ...	Umbilical.
	Ventral.
7. Ileus, ...	7. Constipation.
8. Intussusception, ...	11. Dyspepsia.
	Pyrosis.
9. Stricture of Intestines, . . .	Gastralgia.
	Hæmatemesis.
10. Fistula, ...	Melæna.
	Hæmorrhoids.
11. *Stomach Diseases,* &c.,* . . .	14. Gall-stones.
	15. Cirrhosis.
12. *Pancreas Disease,* &c.,* . . .	
13. Hepatitis, ...	
14. Jaundice, ...	
15. *Liver Disease,* &c.,* . . .	
16. *Spleen Disease,* &c.,* . . .	
ORDER 5.—*Urinary Organs.*	
III. 5.—1. Nephritis, ...	III. 5.—3. Albuminuria.
2. Ischuria, ...	6. Cystirrhœa.
3. Nephria, (Bright's disease,) . .	7. Diuresis.
	Hæmaturia.
4. Diabetes, ...	Dis. of prostate.
5. Calculus (Gravel, &c.,) . . .	Dis. of bladder.
6. Cystitis, ...	
7. *Kidney Disease,* &c.,* . . .	
ORDER 6.—*Generative Organs.*	
III. 6.—1. Ovarian Dropsy, ...	III. 6.—2. Orchitis.
	Hydrocele.
2. *Disease of Uterus,* &c.,* . . .	Hysteritis, (Inflammation of Womb.)
	Ovarian tumor.
	Uterine tumor.
	Polypus uteri.

* See note under III. 1.—9.

Causes of Death—Continued.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS III.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 7.—*Organs of Locomotion.*	
III. 7.—1. Arthritis, ...	III. 7.—1. Ostitis. Periostitis.
2. *Joint Disease,* &c.,*	2. Fragilitas ossium. Mollit. ossium. Caries. Necrosis. Exostosis.
ORDER 8.—*Integumentary System.*	
III. 8.—1. Phlegmon, ...	III. 8.—1. Abscess, (part not stated.) Boil. Whitlow.
2. Ulcer, ...	3. Roseola. Urticaria. Eczema. Herpes. Pemphigus. Ecthyma. Impetigo. Psoriasis. Ichthyosis. Tumor, (part not stated.)
3. *Skin Diseases,* &c.,*	
CLASS IV. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.—*Developmental Diseases of Children.*	
IV. 1.—1. Stillborn, ...	IV. 1.—2. Atelectasis.
2. Premature Birth, and Infantile Debility, ...	5. Anus imperforatus. Cleft palate. Idiocy.
3. Cyanosis, ...	
4. Spina Bifida, ...	
5. Other Malformations, ...	
6. Teething, ...	
ORDER 2.—*Developmental Diseases of Women.*	
IV. 2.—1. Paramenia, ...	IV. 2.—1. Chlorosis. Climacteria. Menorrhagia.
2. Childbirth. (*See* Metria I. 1.—9.)	2. Miscarriage. Abortion. Puerperal mania. Phlegmasia dolens. Cæsarian operation. Extra-uterine fœtation. Flooding. Retention of placenta. Presentation of placenta. Deformed pelvis. Breast abscess.
ORDER 3.—*Developmental Diseases of Old People.*	
IV. 3.—1. Old Age, ...	
ORDER 4.—*Diseases of Nutrition.*	
IV. 4.—1. Atrophy and Debility, . . .	

* See note under III. 1.—9.

Statistical Nosology—Concluded.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS V. VIOLENT DEATHS.	
ORDER 1.—*Accident or Negligence.*	
V. 1.—1. Fractures and Contusions,* . .	
2. Wounds, ...	
3. Burns and Scalds, ...	
4. Poison, ...	
5. Drowning, ...	
6. Suffocation, ...	
7. Otherwise, ...	
ORDER 2.—*Battle.*	
ORDER 3.—*Homicide.*	
ORDER 4.—*Suicide.*	
V. 4.—1. Wounds, ...	
2. Poison, ...	
3. Drowning, ...	
4. Hanging, ...	
5. Otherwise, ...	
ORDER 5.—*Execution.*	
V. 5.—1. Hanging, ...	
Violent Deaths, not classed, ...	
Sudden, cause unascertained, ...	

* Including "Railroad Accidents."

NOTE.—Where a person is "found drowned," the coroners, as in some other cases, do not always succeed in discovering whether the case is a suicide, a murder, or an accident. All such cases are classed under "accident or negligence." Cases of "infantile fever" are classed with those of typhoid, relapsing, and other continued fevers, under one name, "typhus." Cases of "rheumatic fever" are classed with "rheumatism;" of "hemorrhage" and "abscess," with the diseases of the organs affected. Cases of "neglect" and "cold," except when the result of privation, (Class I. 3.—1,) are placed (with notes,) under deaths by "accident or negligence," (V. 1. 7.) As "stricture of the urethra" is almost invariably the result of gonorrhœa, it is classed as I. 2.—2.

LAWS

CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

[General Statutes—Chapter 21.]

OF THE REGISTRY AND RETURNS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

SECTION
1. City and Town Clerks to obtain, record, and index certain facts concerning Births, Marriages, and Deaths.
2. Parents and others to give notice of Births and Deaths.
3. Physician to give Certificate of Cause of Death, when requested. Penalty.
4. Town Clerk to give Certificate of Registry of Death to the Person having charge of funeral rites *preliminary* to Interment, who shall deliver the same to the Person having charge of the Interment. No Interment to take place without such Certificate. Penalty, if Interment be without Certificate, and if Notice be not forthwith given, twenty dollars.
5. Clerk annually to transmit certified Copies of Record to Secretary.
6. Record or Certificate of Clerk to be *prima facie* evidence in Legal Proceedings.
7. Clerks—Fees of, payable by City or Town; Accounts of, to be certified by Secretary. Penalty for non-performance of duty.
8. Superintendents of State Almshouses to obtain, record and return to Secretary, births and deaths. Town Clerks exempt.
9. Secretary to furnish Blank Books and Forms for returns, with Instructions and Explanations. Clerks to distribute the Blank Forms for Returns.
10. Secretary,—to cause Returns to be bound, &c.;—to Report to Legislature, &c.;—to do all other acts necessary.
11. Registrars may be chosen, in certain cases, in place of Town Clerks.

SECTION 1. The clerk of each city and town shall receive or obtain, and record, and index, the following facts concerning the births, marriages, and deaths, therein, separately numbering and recording the same in the order in which he receives them, designating in separate columns:

In the record of births, the date of the birth, the place of birth, the namd of the child, (if it have any,) the sex and color of the child, the names and places of birth of the parents, the occupation of the father, the residence of the parents, and the date of the record;

In the record of marriages, the date of the marriage, the place of marriage, the name, residence, and official station of the person by whom married, the names and the places of birth of the parties, the residence of each, the age and color of each, the condition of each, (whether single or widowed,) the occupation, the names of the parents, and the date of the record;

In the record of deaths, the date of the death, the name of the deceased, the sex, the color, the condition, (whether single, widowed, or married,) the age, the residence, the occupation, the place of death, the place of birth the names and places of birth of the parents, the disease or cause of death, the place of burial, and the date of the record.

SECTION 2. Parents shall give notice to the clerk of their city or town of the births and deaths of their children; every householder shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the eldest

person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred; the keeper of a workhouse, house of correction, prison, hospital or almshouse, except the state almshouses at Tewksbury, Bridgewater, and Monson, and the master or other commanding officer of any ship, shall give like notice of every birth and death happening among the persons under his charge. Whoever neglects to give such notice for the space of six months after a birth or death, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding five dollars.

SECTION 3. Any physician having attended a person during his last illness, shall—when requested within fifteen days after the decease of such person—forthwith furnish for registration a certificate of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of his decease, as nearly as he can state the same. If any physician refuses or neglects to make such certificate, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars to the use of the town in which he resides.

SECTION 4. Every sexton, undertaker, or other person having charge of a burial-ground, or the superintendent of burials having charge of the obsequies or funeral rites preliminary to the interment of a human body, shall forthwith obtain and return to the clerk of the city or town in which the deceased resided or the death occurred, the facts required by this chapter to be recorded by said officer concerning the deceased, and the person making such return shall receive from his city or town the fee of ten cents therefor.

The clerk, upon recording such facts, shall forthwith give to the person making such return, a certificate that such return has been made, which certificate such person shall deliver to the person having charge of the interment, if other than himself, before the burial when practicable, otherwise within seven days thereafter. When a burial takes place and no certificate is delivered as aforesaid, the sexton, undertaker, or other person having charge of the interment, shall forthwith give notice thereof to the clerk under penalty of twenty dollars.

SECTION 5. The clerk of each city and town shall annually on or before the first day of February, transmit to the secretary of the Commonwealth, certified copies of the records of the births, marriages, and deaths, which have occurred therein during the year ending on the last day of the preceding December.

SECTION 6. The record of the town clerk relative to any birth, marriage, or death, shall be *prima facie* evidence, in legal proceedings, of the facts recorded. The certificate signed by the town clerk for the time being shall be admissible as evidence of any such record.

SECTION 7.* The clerk shall receive from his city or town for obtaining, recording, indexing, and returning to the secretary of the Commonwealth, the facts in relation to a birth, twenty cents; a marriage, ten cents; a death, twenty cents for each of the first twenty entries, and ten cents for each subsequent entry, as the same shall be certified by the secretary of the Commonwealth: but a city or town containing more than ten thousand inhabitants may limit the aggregate compensation allowed to their clerk. He shall forfeit a sum not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars for each refusal or neglect to perform any duty required of him by this chapter.

SECTION 8. The superintendents of the state almshouses at Tewksbury, Bridgewater, and Monson, shall obtain, record, and make return of, the

* Modified by chapter 138 of Acts of 1866.

facts in relation to the births and deaths which occur in their respective institutions, in like manner as is required of town clerks. The clerks of said towns shall, in relation to the births and deaths of persons in said almshouses, be exempt from the duties otherwise required of them by this chapter.

SECTION 9. The secretary shall at the expense of the Commonwealth prepare and furnish to the clerks of the several cities and towns, and to the superintendents of the state almshouses, blank books of suitable quality and size to be used as books of record under this chapter, blank books for indexes thereto, and blank forms for returns, on paper of uniform size; and shall accompany the same with such instructions and explanations as may be necessary and useful. City and town clerks shall make such distribution of blank forms of returns furnished by the secretary as he shall direct.

SECTION 10. The secretary shall cause the returns received by him for each year to be bound together in one or more volumes, with indexes thereto. He shall prepare from the returns such tabular results as will render them of practical utility, make report thereof annually to the legislature, and do all other acts necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter.

SECTION 11. Any city or town containing more than ten thousand inhabitants, may choose a person other than the clerk to be registrar, who shall be sworn, and to whom all the provisions of this chapter concerning clerks shall apply. The returns and notices required to be made and given to clerks shall be made and given to such registrar under like penalities.

SECTION 12. The secretary of this Commonwealth shall prosecute, by an action of tort, in the name of the Commonwealth, for the recovery of any penalty or forfeiture imposed by this chapter.

SECTION 13. Any city or town may make rules and regulations to enforce the provisions of this chapter, or to secure a more perfect registration of births, marriages, and deaths therein.

[General Statutes—Chapter 106.]

OF MARRIAGE.

SECTION
7. Notice of Intention of Marriage to be entered with Town Clerk.
8. Certificate of Record of Intention to be given to Parties by Clerk. Such certificate to be delivered to Person before whom Marriage is to be solemnized.
9. Certificate not to issue to certain Minors, except on application of Parent, &c. Penalty.
10. Clerk may require Affidavit of Age.
11. Penalty for making False Statement.
12. Parties living in State and Married out of it, to file certificate on return. Penalty.
13. No person to solemnize Marriage of a Minor without consent of Parents, if any in the State competent to act.

SECTION
14. Marriages, by Whom to be solemnized, and in what place.
15. Marriages among Quakers.
16. Persons solemnizing Marriages to keep Record and to make Returns to certain Town Clerks. Clerk to record all Marriages so returned.
17. Penalty for not making Returns.
18. Penalty for solemnizing a Marriage unlawfully.
19. Penalty, on person not authorized to marry.
21. Record of Marriage, or certified copy thereof, presumptive Evidence of Marriage.

SECTIONS 1, 2 and 3. [Marriage between certain relatives prohibited.]

SECTION 4. [Polygamy forbidden.]

SECTION 5. [Marriage contracted by insane persons or idiots void.]

SECTION 6. [Marriages of persons marrying out of the State, in order to evade, &c., void.]

SECTION 7. Persons intending to be joined in marriage shall, before their marriage, cause notice thereof to be entered in the office of the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which they respectively dwell, if within the State. If there is no such clerk or registrar in the place of their residence, the entry shall be made in an adjoining city or town.

SECTION 8. The clerk or registrar shall deliver to the parties a certificate under his hand, specifying the time when notice of the intention of marriage was entered with him, together with all facts in relation to the marriage required by law to be ascertained and recorded, except those respecting the person by whom the marriage is to be solemnized. Such certificate shall be delivered to the minister or magistrate in whose presence the marriage is to be contracted, before he proceeds to solemnize the same.

SECTION 9. If a clerk or registrar issue such certificate to a male under the age of twenty-one years, or a female under the age of eighteen years, having reasonable cause to suppose the person to be under such age, except upon the application or consent in writing of the parent, master, or guardian of such person, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars; but if there is no parent, master, or guardian, in this State, competent to act, a certificate may be issued without such application or consent.

SECTION 10. The clerk or registrar may require of any person applying for such certificate, an affidavit sworn to before a justice of the peace for the county where the application is made, setting forth the age of the parties; which affidavit shall be sufficient proof of age to authorize the issuing of the certificate.

SECTION 11. Whoever applying for such certificate wilfully makes a false statement in relation to the age or residence, parent, master, or guardian, of either of the parties intending marriage, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars.

SECTION 12. When a marriage is solemnized in another State between parties living in this State, and they return to dwell here, they shall within seven days after their return, file with the clerk or registrar of the city or town where either of them lived at the time, a certificate or declaration of their marriage, including the facts concerning marriages required by law, and for every neglect they shall forfeit ten dollars.

SECTION 13. No magistrate or minister shall solemnize a marriage, having reasonable cause to suppose either of the parties to be under the age mentioned in section nine, without the consent of the parent or guardian having the custody of the minor, if there is any in the State competent to act.

SECTION 14. Marriages may be solemnized by a justice of the peace in the county for which he is appointed, when either of the parties resides in the same county; and throughout the State by any minister of the gospel ordained according to the usage of his denomination, who resides within the State and continues to perform the functions of his office; but

all marriages shall be solemnized in the city or town in which the person solemnizing them resides, or in which one or both of the persons to be married reside.

SECTION 15. Marriages among the people called Friends or Quakers may be solemnized in the manner heretofore used and practised in their societies.

SECTION 16. Every justice of the peace, minister, and clerk, or keeper of the records of the meeting wherein any marriages among the Friends or Quakers are solemnized, shall make a record of each marriage solemnized before him, together with all facts relating to the marriage required by law to be recorded. He shall also, between the first and tenth days of each month, return a copy of the record for the month next preceding, to the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which the marriage was solemnized, and shall, when neither of the parties to a marriage resides in the city or town in which the marriage is solemnized, return a copy of the record of such marriage to the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which one or both of said parties reside. All marriages so returned shall be recorded by the clerk or registrar.

SECTION 17. Every person neglecting to make the returns required by the preceding section, shall forfeit for each neglect not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars.

SECTION 18. A justice of the peace or minister who joins persons in marriage contrary to the provisions of this chapter, knowing that the marriage is not duly authorized, shall forfeit not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.

SECTION 19. Whoever undertakes to join persons in marriage knowing that he is not authorized so to do, shall be imprisoned in the jail or confined to hard labor for a term not exceeding six months, or pay a fine of not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECTION 20. [Unintentional informality does not invalidate marriage in other respects lawful.]

SECTION 21. The record of a marriage, made and kept as prescribed by law by the person before whom the marriage is solemnized, or by the clerk or registrar of any city or town, or a copy of such record duly certified, shall be received in all courts and places as presumptive evidence of such marriage.

SECTION 22. [Admission of respondent, general repute, &c., competent to prove the fact of marriage.]

SECTION 23. [Marriage in foreign countries by a consul or diplomatic agent valid, and certificate of such consul or agent presumptive evidence thereof.]

[General Statutes—Chapter 29.]

OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

SECTION 10. [Records and files may be inspected and copied. Clerks to certify to transcripts, on payment of a reasonable fee.]

SECTION 11. [Penalties; . . . . . for altering or mutilating any record, paper, or written document, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars,—for wrongfully detaining records, and other documents, fifty dollars.]

[General Statutes—Section 1 of Chapter 174.]

Sentence when no punishment is provided.

SECTION 1. In cases of legal conviction, where no punishment is provided by statute, the court shall award such sentence as is conformable to the common usage and practice in this State, according to the nature of the offence, and not repugnant to the constitution.

[Chapter 138.]

AN ACT concerning the Registry and Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths.

SECTION 1. The clerk of each city and town, (except in such cities and towns as choose a registrar, under the eleventh section of the twenty-first chapter of the General Statutes, in which cases the provisions of this act shall apply to the registrar,) for receiving or obtaining, recording, indexing and returning the facts relating to Marriages, Births and Deaths occurring therein, shall be entitled to receive therefrom the sums following, viz.: for each Marriage, fifteen cents; for each Birth, thirty cents; for each Death returned to him by the persons specified in sections two, three and four of chapter twenty-one of the General Statutes, twenty cents for each of the first twenty entries, and ten cents for each subsequent entry; for each Death not so returned, but by him obtained and recorded, twenty cents.

SECTION 2. Chapter ninety-six of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and so much of section seven of the twenty-first chapter of the General Statutes as is inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved April* 7, 1866.