

SANITARY AND METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

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VITAL STATISTICS

*Of the Eight Largest Towns in Ireland, for Four Weeks ending Saturday,
July 14, 1883.*

Towns	Population in 1883	Births Registered	DEATHS REGISTERED			DEATHS FROM SEVEN ZYMOTIC DISEASES								DEATH-RATE per 1,000	
			Total Number	Under 1 year	At 60 years and upwards	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Fever	Diarrhoea	Deaths from Phtisis	From all causes	From seven Zymotics
Dublin, -	349,685	716	634	105	159	-	3	1	1	24	23	5	105	23·6	2·1
Belfast, -	214,022	509	371	62	59	-	-	19	1	11	7	10	63	22·5	2·9
Cork, -	80,124	146	129	9	38	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	31	20·9	0·6
Limerick, -	38,562	78	59	9	22	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	10	19·9	1·3
Derry, -	29,162	78	44	5	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	5	19·6	2·7
Waterford, -	22,457	52	30	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	17·4	2·3
Galway, -	15,471	27	35	8	8	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	29·4	4·2
Newry, -	14,808	31	21	2	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	16·0	3·5

Remarks.

A further lessening of the death-rate is observed, except in Cork and Newry, in which it rose slightly, and in Galway, where it was nearly double that recorded in the preceding four weeks. The registered deaths represented a ratio of 22·1 per 1,000 of the population annually in the sixteen principal town districts of Ireland, 19·9 in twenty-eight large English towns (including London, in which the death-rate was 19·9), 19·5 in Edinburgh, and 27·4 in Glasgow. If we deduct the number (20) of deaths of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the registration district, we find that the rate of mortality within the Dublin registration district becomes 22·8 per 1,000 per annum, while that within the municipal boundary is 25·3.

Febrile zymotic diseases caused a death-rate of 4·2 in Galway and of only 0·6 in Cork. In Dublin the rate was 2·1; in Belfast it was 2·9. The results are favourable except in Galway.

In the Dublin registration district the births were 716, or as many as 178 fewer than in the previous four weeks, and the deaths were 634, or 110 fewer. One hundred and five children died within the first twelve months after their birth, against 104 deaths in the preceding period.

One hundred and fifty-nine persons aged sixty and upwards died, compared with 183 previously.

The deaths from febrile zymotics were 68 in the Dublin registration district. The average number in the corresponding period of the preceding ten years was 102·4. Measles contributed 3 deaths; scarlet fever and diphtheria, 1 each; diarrhœal diseases (including dysentery), 5; whooping-cough, 24; and "fevers," 23. The epidemic of whooping-cough appears to be slowly subsiding, the registered deaths being 7 fewer than in the previous four weeks. The fatalities as usual mostly occurred among children of very tender age—among the 24 victims were 22 children under five years of age, including 10 who had not lived for one year. The 23 deaths referred to "fevers" were distributed as follow—typhus, 9; enteric, 10; "fever of ill-defined or not determined type," 4. In Belfast no deaths from smallpox were recorded; 4 had been registered in the preceding period; scarlet fever, whooping-cough, and fever—all showed a lessened fatality; but the deaths from diarrhœal diseases increased from 6 to 10. Six deaths from scarlet fever occurred in Derry; 4 from measles in Newry.

Phthisis (pulmonary consumption) caused 227 deaths in the eight chief towns, against 254 in the preceding four weeks. The fatalities from diseases of the organs of respiration in Dublin were 103, compared with a ten-years' average of 101·0 in the corresponding period, and with 143 in the four weeks ending June 16, 1883. The 103 deaths included 56 from bronchitis (average = 66·2) and 22 from pneumonia (average = 19·0).

On Saturday, July 14, the number of cases of the chief epidemic affections under treatment in the principal Dublin hospitals was as follows—smallpox, 0; measles, 1; scarlet fever, 16; typhus, 40; enteric fever, 9; pneumonia, 8.

The mean temperature of the four weeks was 57·7° in Dublin, 54·8° at Belfast, 56·4° at Cork, 61·3° at Greenwich, 57·3° at Glasgow, and 56·8° in Edinburgh. These are about the normal values for the time of year.

METEOROLOGY.

Abstract of Observations made at Dublin, Lat. 53° 20' N., Long. 6° 15' W., for the Month of June, 1883.

Mean Height of Barometer,	-	-	-	29·967 inches.
Maximal Height of Barometer (at 9 a.m. of 13th),	-	-	-	30·442 „
Minimal Height of Barometer (at 6 p.m. of 27th),	-	-	-	29·503 „
Mean Dry-bulb Temperature,	-	-	-	56·2°.
Mean Wet-bulb Temperature,	-	-	-	52·7°.
Mean Dew-point Temperature,	-	-	-	49·4°.
Mean Elastic Force (Tension) of Aqueous Vapour,	-	-	-	·355 inch.

Mean Humidity, - - - -	78·7 per cent.
Highest Temperature in Shade (on 30th), - -	70·1°.
Lowest Temperature in Shade (on 16th), - -	44·4°.
Lowest Temperature on Grass (Radiation) (on 16th),	42·6°.
Mean Amount of Cloud, - - - -	62·3 per cent.
Rainfall (on 18 days), - - - -	1·932 inches.
Greatest Daily Rainfall (on 17th), - - - -	·280 inch.
General Directions of Wind, - - - -	W.N.W., E., E.N.E.

Remarks.

The earlier portion of the month was fine and often bright. After the 13th the weather was cloudy, showery, and generally changeable and cool. The last three days were warm. The mean height of the barometer was identical with that in May. The mean temperature was about one degree below that of June in the previous eighteen years. The rainfall (1·932 inches) was nearly the average (2·004 inches), while the rainy days (18) were four in excess.

Until the 8th an area of high atmospherical pressure held over Scotland, so that light easterly winds were experienced in England and Ireland. On the E. coast of Ireland brilliant sunshine prevailed until the afternoon of the 6th, when electrical clouds overspread the sky from S.S.E., as a "thunderstorm depression" approached from Spain and the Bay of Biscay. In Dublin ten-hours rainfall occurred on the 7th; next day distant thunder was heard, and at 4 p.m. of the 9th a sharp thunderstorm came up from N.W., while the ground-breeze was easterly. A few fine, dry and warm days followed, the barometer being higher over Ireland than anywhere else in Western Europe, so that northerly winds were prevalent. A solar halo appeared at noon of the 13th, and the following days witnessed a decided change in the weather—a warm, sunny morning being succeeded by a cloudy day and a cold rainy evening. On the 15th massive-cumuli formed and discharged themselves in heavy showers of cold rain and hail—at 3 30 p.m. an exceptionally violent hail-shower passed across the city. A spell of cold, unsettled weather followed, in connexion with a depression, which lay off the S. of Norway for several days, thus inducing a cool north-westerly current in the United Kingdom. On the 19th and 20th a small but well-marked cyclonic system travelled from N.N.W. to S.S.E. across the N.E. of Ireland, the Irish Sea, Wales, and the S.W. of England to Normandy. It caused dull, cool, rainy weather with north-easterly winds in Ireland. At Oxford a downpour of rain and hail occurred on the 20th, and on the following day severe thunderstorms were reported from the midland counties and S.E. of England. At this time the weather became temporarily fair and bright in Ireland, but soon a new series of depressions began to skirt the western coasts, causing a renewal of cloudy, unsettled

weather. On the 25th a low pressure area formed over the S.E. of England, travelling thence north-westward, and finally disappearing off the Hebrides on the 28th. It produced a succession of violent thunderstorms in England—that of the 25th being exceptionally violent and destructive. Temperature now began to rise, so that at 8 a.m. of the 29th the thermometer was as high as 73° in London, rising to 84° in the course of the day. The thunderstorms broke out afresh over England, and even in Ireland a storm of some severity was experienced on the 29th, although the east coast escaped. The last day of the month was very fine in Dublin, where the thermometer rose to 70.1° in the screen.

In Dublin thunder was heard on the 8th, and a thunderstorm occurred on the 9th. Hail fell on the 15th. A solar halo was seen on the 13th. Vapour fogs prevailed on the 7th and 8th.

In the six months ending June 30, 1883, 13.649 inches of rain have fallen on 90 days in Dublin. Of this amount 3.783 inches, or more than a quarter, were registered on three days—namely, February 1 (1.007 inches), April 26 (1.389 inches), and May 8 (1.387 inches).

PERISCOPE.

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HOW TO BRING UP INFANTS.

MR. EDMUND OWEN, F.R.C.S., has published the following "Rules for Out-patients," in leaflet form:—*What food to give.*—Mother's milk is the proper food for babies, and until they are three or four months old they should have nothing else; but if that cannot be got or be not sufficient, cow's milk fresh two or three times a day, and from the same cow, and not scalded, is the next best food; but it must be freely diluted, as it is much too "strong." The bottle should be filled with a mixture of cow's milk and warm water, in which a lump of white sugar and a very small pinch of salt have been dissolved. For the first few months there should be more water than milk—perhaps *twice as much water as milk*—and as the babe thrives the proportion of milk may be gradually increased. *No other food* should be given before the sixth month; baked flour, arrow-root, and oatmeal cannot be digested, so they cause sickness and diarrhoea. *When to give it.*—For the first month a baby should be fed every two hours, and, by gradually increasing the interval, he is in time fed every three, and, eventually, every four hours. He should not be fed because he cries; very likely he is in pain because his stomach is overloaded. When he is sick after his milk he should be fed for a less time and at shorter intervals, and if the bottle is being used a larger proportion of water must be tried, and if he is a fair sleeper he should be woke up for his regular meals, and never allowed to over-feed. A tablespoon-