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TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
REGISTRAR-GENERAL
OF
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES
IN ENGLAND.

Box 1859

Dated 1859

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ANNUAL REPORT

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REGISTRAR-GENERAL

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IN ENGLAND.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

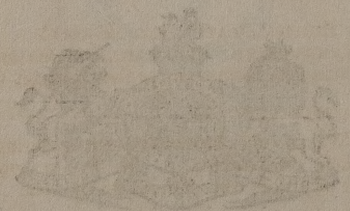
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REPORT

TO

The Right Honourable Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, Bart., M.P.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home
Department, &c. &c. &c.

*General Register Office, Somerset House,
30th May 1861.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1859.

The registration of the year proceeded satisfactorily.

The names of 335,446 men and women were inscribed on the Marriage Registers; of 689,881 children on the registers of births; and of 440,781 persons of all ages on the registers of deaths.

The total number of names enrolled during the year amounted to nearly a million and half (1,466,108).

It was eight years after the population was enumerated, so that the ratios of the above numbers to the population can only be exactly determined when the census numbers of 1861 have been ascertained; the subjoined rates of births, deaths, and marriages must therefore be taken subject to correction, as they are estimated on data growing every successive year after the census more imperfect. The limits of possible error are, however, not extensive.

TABLE I.—Estimated POPULATION, with the Number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in England in each Year from 1838 to 1859.

Years ended Dec. 31st	Estimated POPULATION in England in the Middle of the Years.†	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS <i>Married.</i>	BIRTHS (exclusive of Still-born).	DEATHS.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1838	15,312,256	118067	236134	463787	342760	121027
1839	15,515,296	123166	246332	492574	338984	153590
1840	15,721,029	122665	245330	502303	359687	142616
1841	15,929,492	122496	244992	512153	343847	168311
1842	16,133,793	118825	237650	517739	349519	168220
1843	16,320,479	123818	247636	527325	346445	180880
1844	16,519,565	132249	264493	540763	356933	183830
1845	16,721,081	143743	287486	543521	349366	194155
1846	16,925,051	145664	291323	572625	390815	182310
1847	17,131,512	135845	271690	539965	423304	116661
1848	17,340,492	138230	276460	563059	390833	163226
1849	17,552,020	141883	283766	578159	440839	137320
1850	17,766,129	152744	305488	593422	368995	224427
1851	17,982,349	154206	308412	615865	395396	220469
1852	18,205,627	158782	317564	624012	407135	216877
1853	18,408,313	164520	329040	612391	421097	191294
1854	18,618,760	159727	319454	634405	437905	196500
1855	18,786,914	152113	304226	635043	425703	209340
1856	19,045,137	159337	318374	637453	390506	246947
1857	19,304,897	159097	318194	639071	419815	243256
1858	19,523,103	156070	312140	655431	449656	205825
1859	19,746,000	167723	335446	639881	440781	249100

† The Population has been deduced on the assumption that the annual rate of increase was uniform; viz. 1.220 per cent. in each of the 10 years 1841-51, and 1.326 per cent. in each of the 3 years 1838-40. For 1852-59 the increase of Population has been obtained by taking the excess of births over deaths in the four quarters ending June 30th, in each year.

On an average of twenty-two years there was one death to 45 living in the population, one birth to 30 living, and one person married to 61 living; and these proportions in the year 1859 became 1 in 45, 1 in 29, and 1 in 59; or, more exactly, the mortality on the population was 2.236 per cent. on an average, and nearly the same (2.232) in 1859; the average birth-rate was 3.305, the rate in 1859 being higher (3.494); the average marriage rate was 1.636, and the rate in the last year also higher 1.698.

The beginning of the year was unhealthy; and the rain having for some time been deficient, the water supply was in some places scanty, in others impure. But in the progress of the year there was a manifest improvement; and the public prosperity was indicated by an increase of marriages.

The marriages in the year exceeded by 11,653 the marriages in the preceding year; the births were 34,400 in excess; and the deaths 8875 in defect.

Consequently the excess of births over deaths in the year was 43,275 above the excess in the preceding year, and amounted to 249,100. This was the natural recorded increase of the population of England and Wales.

The emigrants of English origin amounted to about 40,245. To this extent, therefore, the natural increase is diminished by emigration. Upon the other hand, while the Emigration Commissioners record the departure of 120,432, they record the return of 19,913 emigrants to the United Kingdom; and there is probably a constant influx of the population of Scotland and Ireland into England and Wales; so that the census alone will enable us to strike the exact balance.*

TABLE II.—Proportion of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of England.

Years ended Dec. 31st	To 100 Persons living.				The Number of Persons living			
	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS MARRIED.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	To one Marriage.	To one Person Married.	To one Birth.	To one Death.
1838	.771	1.542	3.020	2.238	130	65	33	45
1839	.794	1.588	3.175	2.185	126	63	31	46
1840	.780	1.560	3.195	2.288	128	64	31	44
1841	.769	1.538	3.215	2.159	130	65	31	46
1842	.787	1.574	3.211	2.168	126	63	31	46
1843	.759	1.518	3.231	2.123	132	66	31	47
1844	.801	1.602	3.273	2.161	125	62	31	46
1845	.860	1.720	3.251	2.089	116	58	31	48
1846	.861	1.722	3.383	2.306	116	58	30	43
1847	.793	1.586	3.152	2.471	126	63	32	40
1848	.797	1.594	3.247	2.306	125	63	31	43
1849	.808	1.616	3.294	2.512	124	62	30	40
1850	.860	1.720	3.340	2.077	116	58	30	48
1851	.858	1.716	3.425	2.199	117	58	29	45
1852	.872	1.744	3.428	2.236	115	57	29	45
1853	.894	1.788	3.328	2.288	112	56	30	44
1854	.858	1.716	3.407	2.352	117	58	29	43
1855	.810	1.620	3.380	2.266	123	62	30	44
1856	.837	1.674	3.452	2.050	119	60	29	49
1857	.824	1.648	3.435	2.175	121	61	29	46
1858	.799	1.598	3.357	2.303	125	63	30	43
1859	.849	1.698	3.494	2.232	117	59	29	45
Mean . .	.813	1.636	3.305	2.236	122	61	30	45

NOTE.—The Table may be read thus:—In the year 1838 to every 100,000 persons living there were 771 marriages or 1542 persons married, 3020 births, 2238 deaths; the number of persons living to every marriage, person married, birth or death, was 130, 65, 33. and 45 respectively. A correction for increase of population has been made in calculating the above results.

* Of the 120,432 emigrants from the United Kingdom 33,930 were returned as of English, 10,182 as of Scotch, 52,981 as of Irish origin, and 4442 as foreigners. In 18,897 cases the origin was unknown; and these proportionally distributed give the above numbers for England and Wales.

MARRIAGES.

167,723 marriages were registered in the year; 136,210 according to the rites of the Established Church; and 31,513 not according to those rites. Of the marriages in the Church, 19 were by special licence, 20,345 by licence, 107,737 by banns, and 4204 upon Superintendent Registrars certificates. The clergy omitted in 3905 cases to state whether the marriage was by licence or by banns.

The marriages by banns increased more rapidly than the marriages by licence; and were in proportion to those by licence as 5.296 to 1.

Of the marriages not according to the rites of the Established Church 12,519 were by Protestant Dissenters, 7756 by Roman Catholics, 70 by Quakers, and 324 by Jews; 10,844 marriages, exceeding those of the Roman Catholics, were performed in Superintendent Registrars offices. 137,005 bachelors married as many spinsters in the year; and 8161 widowers married the same number of widows; 7058 bachelors also

TABLE III.—MARRIAGES registered in ENGLAND in each Year from 1841 to 1859.

YEARS ending 31st December	TOTAL MARRIAGES.	According to the Rites of the Established Church.					Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.						
		Special Licence.	Licence.	Banns.	Superintendent Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated.	Total in Established Church.	Total not in Established Church.	Roman Catholics.	Other Christian Denominations.	Superintendent Registrar's Office.	Quakers.	Jews.
1841	122496	13	15792	78015	972	19579	114371	8125	5882	2064	66	113	
1842	118825	9	14935	75744	944	18415	110047	8778	6200	2357	58	163	
1843	123818	8	14544	79849	1222	18014	113637	10181	7152	2817	61	151	
1844	132249	10	14930	85176	1558	18335	120009	12240	2280	6284	3446	55	175
1845	143743	10	16013	92867	1706	18919	129515	14228	2816	7181	3977	74	180
1846	145664	14	17135	92995	1862	18503	130509	15155	3027	7669	4187	68	224
1847	135845	14	17052	84863	1968	16979	120876	14969	2961	7483	4258	83	184
1848	138230	13	16896	86519	2170	15871	121469	16761	3658	8060	4790	67	186
1849	141883	18	16697	90644	2593	13230	123182	18701	4199	8662	5553	53	229
1850	152744	8	17413	98669	3136	11733	130959	21785	5623	9626	6207	69	260
1851	154206	8	17781	99406	3351	10412	130958	23248	6570	9540	6813	65	260
1852	158782	8	19461	106497	3610	4806	133882	24900	7479	10017	7100	57	247
1853	164520	8	20624	109166	3814	4430	138042	26478	8375	10149	7598	68	288
1854	159727	15	21048	105050	3811	4185	134109	25618	7813	9873	7593	52	287
1855	152113	14	20386	99546	3804	4001	127751	24362	7344	9296	7441	57	224
1856	159337	9	21336	104280	4045	3949	133619	25718	7527	9710	8097	72	312
1857	159097	9	21250	102062	3748	3962	131031	28066	7360	10686	9642	67	311
1858	156070	15	19858	100432	3787	3990	128082	27988	6643	11094	9952	79	220
1859	167723	19	20345	107737	4204	3905	136210	31513	7756	12519	10844	70	324

YEARS ending 31st December	Marriages contracted between				Re-married.		Under Age.		Signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			
	Bachelors and Spinsters.	Bachelors and Widows.	Widowers and Spinsters.	Widowers and Widows.	Widowers.	Widows.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Marriages in which both Signed.	Marriages in which one Signed.
1841	—	—	—	—	—	—	5362	16285	39954	59680	—	—
1842	—	—	—	—	—	—	5887	16003	38031	56965	—	—
1843	—	—	—	—	—	—	5511	16403	40520	60715	—	—
1844	—	—	—	—	—	—	5515	17410	42012	65073	—	—
1845	119539	6028	11835	6341	18176	12369	6287	19376	47665	71229	—	—
1846	121324	5997	12212	6131	18343	12128	6313	20001	47488	70145	—	—
1847	112576	5705	11667	5897	17564	11602	5556	18118	42429	61877	32622	39062
1848	113284	5920	12702	6324	19026	12244	6092	19436	43166	62771	32974	39989
1849	116134	6102	13155	6492	19647	12594	6650	21105	44027	65135	—	—
1850	124031	6575	14558	7580	22138	14155	7453	23109	47372	70606	—	—
1851	126018	6625	14313	7250	21563	13875	7737	24286	47439	69812	36186	44879
1852	130672	6696	14044	7370	21414	14066	8551	26978	43421	70772	36636	45921
1853	135023	7139	14739	7619	22358	14758	9131	29219	49983	73204	37345	47497
1854	131141	6826	14189	7571	21760	14397	9210	28797	47843	68175	35255	45508
1855	123398	6775	14280	7660	21940	14435	8386	27207	44846	62672	32139	43240
1856	129960	7163	14462	7752	22214	14915	9120	29218	45900	64133	32238	45557
1857	130317	6908	14293	7579	21872	14487	8885	28798	44013	61765	30518	44742
1858	127165	6711	14547	7644	22191	14355	9145	28664	42141	58733	28781	43312
1859	137005	7058	15493	8161	23654	15219	10397	32041	44807	63127	30574	46786

married widows, and 15,493 spinsters married widowers, consequently 23,654 widowers, and 15,219 widows re-married.

Re-marriages.—Of 100 men marrying, 14·10 were widowers; of 100 women marrying, 9·07 were widows.

Minors.—10,397 young men and 32,041 young women under twenty-one years of age, married in the year; so of 100 men 6·20, and of 100 women 19·10 were minors.

Signatures of Persons marrying.—44,807 men and 63,127 women signed the marriage registers with marks; so that of 335,446 persons in the prime of life, 227,512 could write their names more or less distinctly; and 107,934 signed with marks, or 32·2 per cent. signed with marks. Of the women, 37·6 in 100, of the men, 26·7 in 100, signed with marks; so that the women do not write in the same proportion as men.

It is gratifying to trace the progress of education since 1841, when 32·7 men, and 48·8 women in every 100 signed with marks, to the last year, when the proportions fell to 26·7 and 37·6 respectively; so that of persons at the age of marriage, 6·0 more men, and 11·2 more women in 100 now write their names than wrote eighteen years ago.

TABLE III. a.

YEARS.	MARRIAGES.		Estimated to 100 persons living.		Price of Wheat per Quarter.
	To 100 persons living.	By Banns to one Marriage by Licence.	Marriages of the higher and middle Classes.	Marriages of the Artizans and Labourers and other Classes.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
AVERAGE :					s. d.
Of 6 years of highest prices	·801*	4·959	·134	·666	67 11
Of 6 years of intermediate prices	·840	5·358	·132	·707	52 10
Of 6 years of lowest prices	·826	5·451	·128	·698	43 0
1855	·810	4·883	·138	·672	74 8
1854	·858	4·991	·143	·715	72 5
1847	·793	4·977	·133	·660	69 9
1856	·837	4·888	·142	·695	69 2
1841	·769	4·940	·129	·640	64 4
1842	·737	5·072	·121	·616	57 3
1857	·824	4·803	·142	·682	56 5
1846	·861	5·427	·134	·727	54 8
1853	·894	5·293	·142	·752	53 3
1844	·801	5·705	·119	·682	51 3
1845	·860	5·799	·126	·734	50 10
1848	·797	5·121	·130	·667	50 6
1843	·759	5·490	·117	·642	50 1
1849	·808	5·429	·126	·682	44 3
1858	·799	5·058	·132	·667	44 3
1852	·872	5·472	·135	·737	40 9
1850	·860	5·666	·129	·731	40 3
1851	·858	5·591	·130	·728	38 6
1859	·849	5·296	·135	·714	43 10

* Disregarding the decimal point, this will read 801 marriages were celebrated to every 100,000 of the population; 134 were marriages by licence, 666 were marriages by banns. It may be assumed that these two groups represent the whole of the corresponding classes of society, whether belonging to the Church or not.

Buildings registered.—4228 places of public worship were open for the solemnization of marriages, and registered on December 31st, 1859. This number exceeds by 156 the number on the register at the same date of the previous year.

Seasons.—The marriages are most numerous after harvest in the Christmas quarter of the year, and in the spring quarter, including the months of April, May, and June. The marriage rate is lowest in the Lent quarter ending in March, when the produce of the year is partly consumed.

BIRTHS.

The registered births, which declined in the previous year, rose to 689,881 in the present year. The increase is 34,400. The birth-rate of the year is 3·494, or 1 in 29.

Sex.—352,662 boys and 337,219 girls were born; and 15,443 more boys than girls, the proportions being 1046 boys to 1000 girls; so that the proportions were nearly 22 boys to 21 girls.

Seasons.—The proportion of births in the several seasons of the year varied. Thus if we take the average births of each quarter at 1000, the proportional births in the four quarters of the year are represented by the numbers 1032, 1022, 968, and 978. These proportions differ from year to year; but the births in the first exceed those in the second six months of the year.

Children born out of wedlock.—44,751 children were born out of wedlock, or 6·5 per cent. of the children born alive, and so registered as to allow the distinction to be drawn. One in every fifteen children is in this condition, and has to encounter the hardships incidental to it; for hitherto mankind have treated the innocent children with the opprobrium which properly attaches only to the parents.

To 100 girls, 105·7 boys were born out of wedlock; whereas to 100 girls, 104·5 boys were born in wedlock.

TABLE IV.—MARRIAGES. The Proportion per Cent. of Minors of each Sex, of Males and Females who signed the Register with Marks, and of Persons who were Widowers or Widows.

YEARS ended 31st December	To 100 Married.								
	The Proportion under 21 Years of Age.			The Proportion who signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			The Proportion who were		
	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Widowers.	Widows.	Mean.
1841	4·38	18·29	8·88	32·7	48·8	40·8	†12·20	†8·99	†10·95
1842	4·53	18·47	9·00	32·0	47·9	40·0	13·14	8·90	11·02
1843	4·45	18·25	8·85	32·7	49·0	40·9	13·17	8·73	10·95
1844	4·17	18·16	8·67	32·4	49·2	40·8	12·81	8·46	10·63
1845	4·37	18·48	8·93	33·2	49·6	41·4	12·64	8·60	10·62
1846	4·33	18·73	9·03	32·6	48·2	40·4	12·59	8·33	10·46
1847	4·09	18·94	8·72	31·2	45·5	38·4	12·93	8·54	10·74
1848	4·41	14·06	9·24	31·2	45·4	38·3	13·76	8·86	11·31
1849	4·69	14·88	9·79	31·0	45·9	38·5	13·85	8·88	11·37
1850	4·88	15·13	10·01	31·1	46·2	38·7	14·49	9·27	11·88
1851	5·02	15·75	10·39	30·8	45·3	38·1	13·98	9·00	11·49
1852	5·39	16·99	11·19	30·5	44·6	37·6	13·49	8·86	11·18
1853	5·55	17·76	11·66	30·4	43·9	37·2	13·59	8·97	11·28
1854	5·77	18·03	11·90	30·0	42·7	36·4	13·62	9·01	11·32
1855	5·51	17·89	11·70	29·5	41·2	35·4	14·42	9·49	11·96
1856	5·72	18·94	12·03	28·8	40·2	34·5	13·94	9·36	11·65
1857	5·58	18·10	11·84	27·7	38·8	33·3	13·75	9·11	11·43
1858	5·86	18·37	12·12	27·0	37·6	32·3	14·22	9·20	11·71
1859	6·20	19·10	12·65	26·7	37·6	32·2	14·10	9·07	11·59

† The proportion of Widowers and Widows in the Year 1841 is for the September and December quarters only.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was less by 8875 than the deaths in the year preceding; and the rate of mortality (2.232) was slightly below the

TABLE V.—ENGLAND. MARRIAGES.—PROPORTIONAL Number of MARRIAGES in the several Counties of England during the Year 1859; of Persons who signed their Names; of Persons not of full Age; and of the Re-marriages of Widowers and Widows.

Table with 12 columns: REGISTRATION COUNTIES, Marriages to 100 Inhabitants, Signed their Names in Writing (Of 100 Men Married, Of 100 Women Married), Persons not of full Age (In 100 Men Married, In 100 Women Married), Re-marriages (Widowers, Widows). Rows include ENGLAND, I.—LONDON, II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES (Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire), III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES (Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire), IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES (Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk), V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES (Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, Somersetshire), VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire), VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES (Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire), VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES (Cheshire, Lancashire), IX.—YORKSHIRE (West Riding, East Riding, North Riding), X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES (Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland), XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES (Monmouthshire, South Wales, North Wales).

The Table may be read thus by omitting the decimal points:—In England, among every 100,000 persons living 849 marriages took place; of 1,000 men married 733, of 1,000 women 624, signed the marriage register by writing their names; of 10,000 men married 620 were not of full age, of 10,000 women married 1910 were not of full age; of 10,000 men married 1410 were widowers, of the same number of women married 907 were widows.

average, 2.236. It is nearly expressed by one death to every 45 of the population.

The mortality of males was at the rate of 2.300, and of females at the rate of 2.167 per cent. annually.

The deaths of males were to the deaths of females as 103 to 100; and out of equal numbers of the two sexes the proportions become 106 to 100.

Ages.—The rate of mortality under ten years of age was higher than usual in both sexes; and generally lower at the more advanced ages.

Seasons.—The winter was the most fatal of the four quarters; and this is explained in the Quarterly Reports, of which the following is a summary.

SUMMARY OF THE QUARTERLY REPORTS, 1859.

First Quarter.—January, February, March, 1859.

The returns present an unfavourable view of the Public Health; the people have suffered and have died in unusual numbers in many districts. Diphtheria has prevailed extensively. The marriages indicate some improvement in the prospects of the people; and the births have not only exceeded the average, but have exceeded the numbers registered in any previous winter quarter.

Marriages.—35,382 weddings were celebrated in the first three months of the present year, and consequently 70,764 persons were married. The marriage rate in the quarter was 1.460 per cent. per annum.

Births.—The births of 175,532 children were registered in the quarter that ended on the 31st March last; and the birth rate was 3.624 per cent. per annum, or rather more than 36 in 1000 persons living.

Increase of Population.—As the births amounted to 175,532, the deaths to 121,580, the natural increase of the population was 53,952; or, on an average, 599 daily.

The probable increase in the population of the United Kingdom was at the rate of 899 daily.

TABLE VI.—ENGLAND. NUMBER and ANNUAL RATE per Cent. of MARRIAGES in each Quarter of the Years 1838-59.

Table with 12 columns: YEARS, MARRIAGES registered (In the Quarters ending the last day of: March, June, Sept., Dec.), ANNUAL RATE per Cent. of MARRIAGES (In the Quarters ending the last day of: March, June, Sept., Dec.). Rows list years from 1838 to 1859 with corresponding marriage counts and annual rates.

17,314 persons emigrated from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Government Emigration Agents. 5565, or after cor-

TABLE VII.—Showing the NUMBER of BUILDINGS REGISTERED for the SOLEMNIZATION of MARRIAGES, and on the Register on 31st December 1859.

Table with columns for ENGLAND DIVISIONS AND REGISTRATION COUNTIES, TOTAL, SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIANS, WESLEYAN METHODISTS, CALVINISTIC METHODISTS, and All others. Rows list counties like ENGLAND, LONDON, SOUTH EASTERN, etc.

recting for those of undistinguished origin, 6452 of the emigrants were of English birth; of whom 3719 sailed to the Australian colonies, and 2263 to the United States. About 72 English, 16 Scotch, and 94 Irish emigrants, on an average, left the country daily.

Prices, the Weather, and Pauperism.—The price of wheat during the 13 weeks was 40s. 8d a quarter; the prices in the first 13 weeks of 1857 and 1858 having been 56s. 10d. and 46s. 5d. The price is less by 12 per cent. than it was 12 months ago. It is remarkable that after due cor-

TABLE VIII.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS, 1859.—NUMBER and PROPORTION of Male and Female Children born in and out of Wedlock.

Table with columns for REGISTRATION COUNTIES, Male Children born, Female Children born, Born in Wedlock, Born out of Wedlock, and various birth ratios. Rows list ENGLAND, I.—LONDON, II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES, etc.

the population being widely disseminated, the poisonous exhalations which are produced around the dwellings are destroyed to a considerable extent by the atmosphere. Now the houses in the suburbs of London and of the provincial towns are generally built by the architects with cesspools, which are not emptied daily, and which have not the advantages of drainage; so that the beneficial effects of the open country air in the daytime are likely to be neutralized by the impurity of the night exhalations in-doors.

The mortality of the quarter in England at the rates prevailing in 63 of the healthiest districts would be 17.64 in 1000; and if the mortality of the whole population had been at that rate, the number of deaths would have amounted to 86,624, instead of 121,682. Consequently 34,956 unnatural deaths were registered in the 90 days. This implies not only loss of national life, but loss of health and English vigour, which it is desirable on every account to raise to the highest pitch in the present days.

The mortality has prevailed with different degrees of severity in every division; but the number of deaths was much greater in every division except London, than the deaths in the winter quarter of 1857; and less than the number of deaths during the winter quarter of 1858 in every division except the North, West Midland, and Northern Divisions. The reason of this will be apparent upon examining the returns in detail.

Diphtheria has prevailed, with varying degrees of severity, in different parts of the country. The ravages of this disease deserve particular attention.

In the SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION the deaths from all causes amounted to 9,758. In Guildford* the mortality was unusually high; whooping-cough and bronchitis have been prevalent, and some cases of fever have been fatal. The cause of the high mortality in Dorking is not explained. The deaths in Farnham have apparently been raised by the Aldershot camp. Tonbridge, Maidstone, and Cranbrook have experienced high rates of mortality; out of 45 deaths 18 were caused by diphtheria, which was exceedingly fatal in Brenchley and Horsemonden, two parishes in the Tonbridge district. In Cranbrook, Tenterden, Ashford, Deal, and Dover diphtheria proved fatal. The deaths in the sub-district of St. Peter, Brighton, are 63 above the average for the corresponding quarter of the last five years. Zymotic diseases have prevailed; and 53 persons have died of scarlatina and diphtheria, 10 of typhus, and 13 of small-pox, none of the latter having been vaccinated. In Worthing, where sanitary measures have been carried out, 83 deaths occurred; in Brighton, 459; the respective populations of the two districts having been 18,746 and 65,569 in 1851. Assuming that the population increased at nearly the same rates, the mortality out of equal populations was about as 4 in Worthing to 7 in Brighton. All the facts tend to show that sanitary improvement is a question of life and death to the population of every town. Several districts of Hampshire suffered severely; small-pox prevailed at Southampton, scarlatina at Kingsclere. Reading continues an unhealthy town; in Windsor the mortality has fallen.

In the SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES 7189 persons died; the deaths in every county, except Northampton, being below the deaths in the previous year. Newport Pagnell, Chipping Norton, Kettering, Wellingborough, and several other districts have experienced high rates of mortality. In the Northampton district, with a population of 33,857 in 1851, the deaths amounted to 306. The deaths in the two previous winter quarters 1857-58, amounted to 239 and 231; so the mortality is excessively high, and above the average. Measles and whooping-cough have prevailed. It

* The Superintendent Registrar's District is in all cases referred to, except where otherwise stated.

appears that there has been a strike in the town. In the Cambridge district 159 deaths were registered; in the Ely district 118; the population of the two districts in 1851 having been 27,815 and 22,896; so that the mortality of Cambridge is greatly in excess of the mortality of Ely. In the ten years 1841-50 the mortality of the population of Cambridge was at the rate of 23 in 1000; hence, taking the excess over 17, the rate prevailing in healthy districts, it exhibited 6 degrees of insalubrity, and during the ten years the unnatural deaths amounted to 1568. How long is this state of things to continue in the seat of one of the great universities of the country? Science has here a wide field of usefulness before it. It has the great opportunity of saving many lives, and at the same time of applying its principles. By the energy of one of the departed ornaments of the university, Ely has been rendered comparatively healthy. And from Ely Cambridge has now evidently much to learn. It is a matter of national importance, that the places where some of the principal youths of the country are educated should be healthy. Why are not the schools of medicine in the universities, schools of health? Why are not the undergraduates taught practically the conditions most favourable to human development? Why are there not tables of mortality at Cambridge and Oxford, as well as in London, pointing out monthly the effects of all the noxious agencies infesting the houses, colleges, and streets? This would be teaching by example, and could not fail to leave permanent impressions on the minds of many men who will have unusual means of directing public opinion.

In the EASTERN COUNTIES the registered deaths amounted to 6184, or were less by 1415 than the deaths in the first quarter of last year. Rochford in Essex experienced a high rate of mortality; 91 persons died. The registrar of Great Wakering, one of the sub-districts, explains this in his note:—

The deaths have greatly exceeded the average, in consequence of the prevalence and fatality of diphtheria amongst infants, especially in the Island of Foulness. Many ditches there are in a very filthy state, and the effluvia arising from some is intolerably offensive. Ague also has been more prevalent, more severe and obstinate, during the last two years, than I have ever known it in a period of 35 years.

Some general measure is required to deal with the drainage of all the marshes on the banks of the Thames.

Parts of Maldon, Dunmow, and Saffron Walden in Essex have suffered from diphtheria; so have parts of the districts of Cosford, Tunstead, Erpingham, Aylsham, Blofield, and Loddon in Suffolk and Norfolk.

10,799 persons died in the SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES, but the mortality was lower than it was last year. Diphtheria is still prevalent at Christian Malford in Wilts. Trowbridge has also suffered from that and other diseases. Plymouth and the surrounding districts have suffered severely. The registrar in explaining the excess in the number of deaths in East Stonehouse says that 16 Turks died in the quarter. Four persons in Parkham died of scarlatina in one house. The deaths in Launceston and in Redruth have exceeded the average from diphtheria, small-pox, measles, and diseases of the respiratory organs. Epidemic sore throat prevailed, and 3 cases of diphtheria were fatal in a sub-district of Taunton, Somersetshire. 27 deaths from small-pox occurred in Bridgewater. Scarlatina and diphtheria attacked nearly every person in Chew Magna, Clutton.

16,141 deaths were registered in the WEST MIDLAND DIVISION; 8,956 in the NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION. In these two divisions the deaths exceeded the deaths in the severe winter quarter of 1858. In many districts of Gloucestershire, including Stroud and Cheltenham, the mortality was high; diphtheria and scarlatina prevailed in this county, in Hereford, and in Shropshire. Three deaths from diphtheria occurred to children in one family in the Condover sub-district; the cesspools connected with the cottages are generally in a bad state. The sanitary

state of Staffordshire is very unsatisfactory, and the mortality has been excessively high. Diphtheria and scarlatina have prevailed in many of its districts; and in Stourbridge, and in Foleshill, where the mortality has also been very high.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, and several districts in Leicestershire, have suffered from epidemics; 150 cases of measles and scarlatina occurred in the village of Sutton Bonnington alone. Diphtheria was prevalent in Lincoln, where typhoid fever also prevailed; six persons died from it in one family. Their residence is a mile from the village, a solitary farmhouse, and no special cause of the attack has been ascertained; but the adequacy of the inquiry may be questioned. Diphtheria has prevailed in many districts of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire, which have all experienced high rates of mortality.

19,430 deaths were registered in the counties of CHESTER and LANCASTER; nearly as many as were registered in the last winter quarter. Diphtheria, scarlatina, measles, and typhoid fever, have prevailed in many districts.

The 12,299 deaths in YORKSHIRE imply a heavy rate of mortality. Scarlatina and diphtheria were prevalent. Sheffield continues to suffer severely from these and other epidemics.

Of the NORTHERN COUNTIES, in which 6,602 persons died, Durham appears to have suffered most severely from various kinds of zymotic diseases; scarlatina and diphtheria occupying conspicuous places in the registers.

Diphtheria has spread over the remotest parts of WALES. We find it in Haverfordwest, in Cardiff, and in Corwen. The deaths in the Principality from all causes amounted to 8,213.

It is a melancholy task to record the fatality of diseases arising through the neglect of sanitary arrangements in this and in other countries; and to observe so much activity in inventing opportunities of destruction, with so much apathy in applying measures already invented for promoting the well-being of the population. Man is the only animal, Pliny says bitterly, that takes a pleasure in the destruction of his own species*: surely somebody will one day arise to teach the world the truer pleasure of saving mankind!

Second Quarter.—April, May, June, 1859.

The returns are altogether of a satisfactory character; the mortality is below the average, the births are more numerous than usual, and the people, taking a cheerful view of their prospects in life, have married in large numbers.

Marriages.—84,084 persons married in the quarter that ended on June 30th; and the marriages in the quarter were at the rate of 1.712 per cent. per annum. The average of the quarter being 1.698.

Births.—175,864 births were registered in the three months that ended on June 30th; and the rate of birth was 3.579 per cent. per annum. This is somewhat above the average rate.

Increase of Population.—As the births amounted to 175,864, and the deaths to 105,631, the natural increase of the population of England and Wales was 70,233; or, on an average, 772 daily.

* Denique cetera animantia in suo genere probe degunt: congregari videmus, et stare contra dissimilia. Leonum feritas inter se non dimicat: serpentium morsus non petit serpentes; ne maris quidem belluæ ac pisces, nisi in diversa genera, sæviunt. At hereules homini plurima ex homine sunt mala.—C. PLINII. Natur. Hist., Lib. 7. s. 1.

This is confirmed by Cuvier: "Aujourd'hui, que l'homme seul peut nuire à l'homme, il est aussi la seule espèce qui soit continuellement en guerre avec elle-même."—Règne Animale. Tom. 1 p. 71.

The natural increase of population was unusually great; and in the United Kingdom probably exceeded 1158 daily.

42,939 emigrants, or 472 daily, sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Emigration Officers; and 10,332 of the number, or after correcting for those undistinguished, probably 11,387 were of English origin. 4,390 sailed to the Australian colonies, 385 to the North American colonies, 5707 to the United States, and 905 to other places.

Prices, the Weather, and Pauperism.—The price of food, the state of employment, and the weather, influence the population to a great extent.

The average price of wheat has risen from 40s. 8d. a quarter to 47s. 3d., which is 7 per cent. above the price of the corresponding spring quarter of the previous year. The prices of beef and of mutton by the carcass have gone up to 53d. and 6d. a pound at the Leadenhall and Newgate Markets; they are 10 and 9 per cent. higher than the spring prices of the previous year. Potatoes were 97s. 6d. a ton at the Southwark market, or nearly a halfpenny a pound; and 40 per cent. cheaper than they were in the same months of last year.

The weather in the months of April and May was rather warmer than usual; during June the temperature was almost always high, the average daily excess having been 3° nearly. For six weeks (from April 11th to May 23d) the wind, as is usual at this period of the year, was mostly from the N.E., travelling at the rate of nearly 100 miles daily; during the quarter the average daily horizontal movement of the air was 88 miles. The humidity of the air was of nearly the average amount in April and May; it was somewhat more humid in June. The rain-fall of the quarter was slightly above the average. It would seem, however, that the annual fall is diminishing, and it is stated that the deficiency in the last five years is equal to the average fall of one year, viz. 25 inches.

The average number of poor claiming relief, fell from 871,512 in the Spring quarter of last year, to 810,560 in the Spring quarter of the present year; or pauperism declined 6 per cent.

State of the Public Health.—About 105,631 persons died in the three months which ended on June 30th, for that number appears on the registers of the quarter; and the rate of mortality was 2.150 per cent. or less by .064 than the average rate of the season. In the chief towns the mortality was at the rate of 2.24 per cent. less by .15 than the average of 2.39 per cent. In the districts of the country and of the small towns the mortality was lower (2.06) than it was in the denser districts; but instead of improvement there is deterioration. Indeed the sanitary condition of the country districts around the large towns now demands strict attention.

The mortality of all England if the same as in the 63 healthy districts would be at the rate of 17 in 1000, or exactly 84,207. These may for the present be held to be natural deaths; the excess of 21,424 over this number are undoubtedly unnatural deaths, and may be ascribed to the unfavourable sanitary conditions in which a large portion of the population still lives.

The 105,631 deaths in the quarter, although less than the usual number, imply, according to the most reliable returns of sickness, that about a million and a quarter of people of all ages were on an average infirm or constantly sick during the season. The quarter of a million sick would be healed by effective sanitary arrangements. Thus, much labour that is now lost would be productive, and lives of great value would be saved. The whole community would acquire fresh strength and vigour. Money which is expended on real sanitary measures, such as have been carried out in Ely and a few other places, is the most

profitable of all national investments; for it is an augmentation of the power and of the productive life of the population.

As at this season of the year many families leave the towns and go abroad to recruit their health, it may be here remarked that, generally, the United Kingdom is the healthiest country in Europe, and that France, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland stand next in rank. Of the European watering places few are known to be so salubrious as those of England. They differ in health in different years through the recurrence of epidemics, from which, owing to existing sanitary defects, they are still imperfectly defended.

The mortality of some of the districts which are resorted to, it will be seen, was higher in the last three months than 20 in 1000; and of these are Bangor (24), Aberystwith (24), Whitby (26). The aggregate mortality of the three districts Ashborne, Bakewell, and Chapel-en-le-Frith, including Buxton, Matlock, and the country round, was at the rate of 23 in 1000. Of 10 districts which are resorted to for health, the mortality was at the annual rates ranging from 13 to 17 in 1000.

The epidemics of the season chiefly to be dreaded are diphtheria, which breaks out occasionally in unexpected places; and diarrhoea of a severe form, most to be apprehended in localities with water impure and defective drainage. Of the past prevalence of these epidemics, and of others, information will be found usually in the Registrars' notes; their progress through the summer can only be learnt by personal inquiries on the spot.

MORTALITY in the Districts containing some of the principal English Watering Places.

No. of District.	DISTRICTS.	Popula- tion, 1851.	Annual Rate of Mortality to 1000 living in the	
			10 Years 1841-50.	3 Months ending 30th June 1859.
57	TUNBRIDGE (including Tunbridge Wells)	28,545	20	17
70	THANET (including Ramsgate and Margate)	31,798	19	18
72	DOVER	28,325	21	17
76	HASTINGS	21,215	18	14
78	EASTBOURNE	8,347	15	17
85	BRIGHTON	65,569	21	19
90	WORTHING (including Littlehampton and Arundel)	18,746	17	19
99	ISLE OF WIGHT (including Ryde, Newport, and Cowes)	50,324	17	16
227	MUTFORD (including Lowestoft)	20,163	17	16
228	YARMOUTH	26,880	23	20
274	WEYMOUTH (including Melcombe Regis)	22,037	19	18
283	NEWTON ABBOTT (including Dawlish, Torquay, and East and West Teignmouth)	52,306	19	17
295	BARNSTAPLE (including Ilfracombe)	38,178	17	14
326	BATH	69,847	24	21
330	CLIFTON (including part of Bristol City and Bristol Workhouse)	77,950	23	20
344	CHELLENHAM	44,184	20	19
388	UPTON-ON-SEVERN (including Malvern)	18,070	18	19
403	WARWICK (including Leamington)	41,934	20	17
447, 449 } and 450 }	ASHBORNE, BAKEWELL, and CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH (including Buxton and Matlock)	62,308	20	23
525	SCARBOROUGH	24,615	21	19
531	WHITBY	21,592	21	26
575	KENDAL	36,572	20	19
597	ABERYSTWITH	23,753	18	24
621	BANGOR	30,810	21	24
623	ANGLESEY	43,243	17	13

Kent and Surrey in the SOUTH EASTERN DIVISION were generally healthy, and the rates of mortality were low. Lewes and Brighton in Sussex still experience high rates of mortality. Southampton and all the surrounding districts have been unhealthy; small-pox, measles, whooping-cough, and scarlatina, have prevailed to an extent which must attract the attention of the local authorities. The Wantage district of Berkshire experienced a heavy rate of mortality.

The SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES are generally below the average degree of salubrity; but in several of the districts of Hertfordshire and of Bedfordshire the mortality was low. Northampton, where there has recently been a strike, continued to suffer heavily at the hands of death; 317 persons died in three months out of a population of less than 34,000 in 1851; measles and small-pox prevailed. The Nene drainage has been carried out, and continued floods have not covered the valley. Wisbeach, once so unhealthy, lost only 137 persons by death out of a population exceeding that of Northampton (36,215). The successful result of the drainage of the districts of the Nene will, it may be hoped, lead the proprietors of the low, ill-drained parts of the basin of the Thames, and of our other rivers, to imitate the spirited conduct of the proprietors of that valley.

In Essex the mortality was high in the districts of Rochford and Tendring; low in the districts of Epping and Ongar, not far from London. The registrar of Bradwell sub-district, Maldon, speaks of a sect calling themselves "New Lights," who abjure all medical skill; they lose many of their children. Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk offers a remarkable illustration of the evil effects of putting off sanitary measures until the eleventh hour. 107 persons died there in the quarter out of 13,900 people (in 1851). Measles prevailed to a considerable extent; and typhus, or probably typhoid fever, put 12 persons to death, in "a locality of defective sanitary condition. The attention of the sanitary commissioners was immediately directed to the remedy of the evil.

Several districts of Norfolk, St. Faiths, Loddon, Depwade, Walsingham, Docking, Freebridge, Lynn, and King's Lynn, experienced low rates of mortality; ague prevailed in King's Lynn.

Wilts is generally healthy; Dorsetshire suffered from epidemics; Barnstaple and the other districts of North Devon maintain their high character for salubrity; small-pox prevailed in Plympton St. Mary, and raised the mortality in some of the other districts of South Devon. The mortality was above the average in the mining districts of Cornwall; and in several districts of Somersetshire, which were visited by scarlatina and diphtheria.

Westbury-on-Severn and Winchcomb were healthy districts of Gloucestershire; the districts of Church Stretton at the foot of the Caradoc, Atcham around Shrewsbury, and Whitechurch, were healthy; so was Lichfield, standing like a land of Goshen in Staffordshire. But generally the mortality was high in the counties of Salop and Hereford; and it was excessively high in nearly all the districts of Staffordshire. It is greatly to be regretted that the physical condition of the hard-working population of this county should be so deplorable, while it has abundant wealth and power and the means of improvement at its disposal.

Stourbridge in Worcestershire suffered severely from an epidemic of measles; scarlatina and diphtheria prevailed in some districts; Kidderminster and Evesham were the healthy districts of the county during the quarter.

The mortality was high in Birmingham and in several other districts of Warwickshire; Meriden, Atherstone, Warwick, and Southam are healthy. The infant mortality continues excessive in the Holy Trinity sub-district of Coventry, which the registrar cannot ascribe to any other cause than parental neglect.

The NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES were generally unhealthy, and diphtheria is still prevalent in many districts. Ashby-de-la-Zouch is the centre of an eruption of epidemics in Leicestershire; Nottingham is another centre; and nearly all the districts of Derbyshire have experienced high rates of mortality. In the Chesterfield district 411

persons died out of a population in 1851 of 45,795, so high was the mortality.

The Registrar of Arnold sub-district, near Nottingham, says: "The increase of mortality in this district is entirely from want of sanitary arrangements being carried out by the officers whose duty it is to attend to them. In Arnold alone, which comprises more than half the population, we are considerably worse in this respect than we were before our Local Board of Health was formed."

The deaths in Cheshire and Lancashire amounted to 16,773, or less by 1,123 than the deaths in the spring quarter of the past year. The mortality of Liverpool is decreasing, so is that of Manchester. In the race of sanitary improvement these two flourishing towns have, however, much to achieve ere they arrive at the goal which the small town of Ely has already attained. Why do they not carry out at once the substantial sanitary works which would render hundreds of thousands of people healthy? The fruit of the labours of their sanitary officers would then be abundantly apparent.

The mortality is above the average in nearly all the districts of these two populous counties.

The 11,588 deaths in Yorkshire slightly exceed the quarter's numbers of the preceding year. In Bradford 1180 persons died; Leeds and Hunslet 1251. The mortality of Sheffield and the surrounding districts increases. Hull and Patrington have become much healthier than they were. The mortality of some of the districts of the North and East Ridings is below the average; and that the West Riding should remain unhealthy every one must see with regret. The population succeeds in every manufacture except that of health.

Diphtheria, scarlatina, small-pox, and other causes have raised the mortality above the average in Durham and Cumberland; the northern districts of Northumberland are still among the healthiest in England.

Many districts of WALES and MONMOUTHSHIRE are infested by epidemics; measles, diphtheria, and scarlatina are mentioned by the registrars.

The following districts were exceedingly healthy: Chepstow, Narberth in Pembrokeshire, Cardigan, Builth, Rhayader in Radnorshire, and Anglesey. Islands are always the healthiest parts of the world; and in the last quarter Anglesey was apparently healthier than the Isle of Wight.

Third Quarter.—July, August, September, 1859.

The returns present a favourable view of the state of the country. The marriage rate, which had been low in the two previous years, approached the average. Thousands of children in excess of the average were born; the rate of mortality diminished; and the population increased at an unusual rate.

As the diminution in the rate of mortality took place in the towns it may be fairly ascribed to the prosperous state of trade, to the supply of better water, the abolition of cesspools, the purification of the air, and the various sanitary works which many of them have carried out.

Marriages.—79,606 persons married in the quarter that ended on September 30th, or 2,408 in excess of the numbers who married in the corresponding quarter of last year. The marriage rate was 1.598; the average of the quarter being 1.623.

Births.—The births of 168,394 children were registered in the quarter that ended on September 30th. The number is 10,949 in excess of the births in the corresponding quarter of last year. The birth rate in the quarter was 3.379.

Increase of Population.—64,178 was the excess of the number of births over the number of deaths, and that was therefore the natural increase of the population of England and Wales in 92 days. On an average 698 were added to the population daily, and the probable daily increase of the population of the United Kingdom was 1047, which at the ordinary rates of mortality will supply about 347 men daily of the age of 20. The youth of the country are growing at such a rate as to add a battalion to its strength every two or three days. A certain number of them are transplanted, and go to people the colonies.

34,864 emigrants sailed during the quarter, or 379 men, women, and children on an average daily, from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are government agents, of whom about 12,464 were of English origin.

Prices, the Weather, and Pauperism.—The price of wheat has remained steadily at nearly the same figure for a year and nine months; and during the last three months it has been 44s. a quarter. This steadiness of price in an article of large consumption has a salutary effect.

Beef has been 5½d. a pound, mutton 5¾d. a pound by the carcase at Leadenhall and Newgate markets. The price of beef is the same as it was in the corresponding quarter of 1858, and the eighth of a penny less than it was in 1857; the price of mutton in the same quarters was 5¾d., 5½d., and 5¾d. The average prices of the higher qualities of the two meats decreased ¼d. in the pound; or beef from 6½d. to 6¼d.; mutton 7d. to 6¾d. Potatoes were sold at the rate of 85s. a ton at the waterside market, Southwark; in the corresponding quarters of two previous years the prices were 105s. and 77s. 6d. The prices of the present year, like the temperatures of the seasons, occupy an intermediate position between those of 1857, when they were higher, and 1858, when they were lower.

The mean temperature of the quarter was 62°.8, or 3°.3 above the average temperature of the season during 88 years. The excessive heat was accumulated chiefly in July, when the mean temperature was 68°.1; while on July 12th the air in the shade reached 92½°, and 93° on the 13th and the 18th; so that during 10 successive days the mean temperature of day and night exceeded 70°, a thing unprecedented during the period over which correct observations extended. The air was drier (.72) than usual; but the rain-fall (8.2 inches) somewhat exceeded the quarterly average. The thermometer on the grass never fell below 40° in July and August, whereas it usually falls several times to the freezing point of water. Pauperism is below the average in the kingdom. The average number of paupers in receipt of relief during the quarter was 783,449, or less by about 29,000 than the numbers receiving relief in the corresponding quarters of the two previous years.

State of the Public Health.—104,216 persons died in the quarter. This number is 6074 in excess of the deaths, 98,142, in the corresponding summer quarter of last year; and the rate of mortality, 2.091 per cent., is below the average; the excess in that average being due to the epidemics of cholera.

A certain number of the deaths in the quarter may be set down as natural deaths, and they would not have exceeded 73,533 if the mortality in sixty-three districts of England, by no means in unexceptionable sanitary condition, be taken as the standard. The 30,683 deaths in excess of that number are unnatural deaths, the results of causes which it is the duty of every member of the community to endeavour to remove.

It is a remarkable fact that the mortality of the quarter in the small towns and the country parishes was above their average, to the extent of more than one death annually out of every 1000 living. A still greater excess might have been expected in the large town districts, whereas the reverse was observed; the mortality having been at the rate of 2 in 1000

less than the average. The summer mortality in the town districts was formerly to that of the rest of the country as 26 to 18; in the last quarter it was as 23 to 19; and the difference will undoubtedly be still less considerable when all the dense districts are supplied with pure water, and with the means of returning all their refuse to the fields as manure in an innocuous state.

The deaths in London during the quarter exceed the average. The high temperature facilitated the decomposition of the impure refuse under the houses, in the streets, and in the river. Diarrhœa was unusually fatal all over the London area; scarlatina and diphtheria were epidemic. In the surrounding divisions the mortality was also above the average, as there the same diseases prevailed, with variable degrees of severity. In Kent diphtheria was the cause of several deaths in Brenchley near Tonbridge, Aldington, Wingham, and Deal. In New Romney, of the Romney Marsh district, remittent fever was prevalent and fatal; to 9 births there were 31 deaths. The deaths in Brighton amounted to 423; in the Worthing district to 84. The Broadwater Registrar says:—"The deaths are 20 per cent. below the average, very few having occurred in the town of Worthing, namely, only 17 out of a population, including visitors, of 8000. The deaths in the previous quarter were only 20. I attribute this result principally to the complete sanitary measures carried out in the town, under the supervision of the Board of Health." When will all the English watering places carry out "complete sanitary measures," and thus assert their superiority over foreign places of resort?

The districts of Portsea Island and of Alverstoke are not naturally healthy; the sites are low, and the water is probably impure; but measures might be adopted for diminishing the great numbers of deaths from such diseases as diarrhœa. The sanitary state of the rising town of Southampton is not satisfactory; 241 persons died in the district. Northampton and its neighbourhood are still suffering from epidemics. The few districts around Wisbeach have not experienced high rates of mortality; but fever and diarrhœa have been very prevalent in some parishes. The excess of mortality in the First Ward, Colchester, is ascribed by the registrar "mainly to fever of a typhoid type, chiefly among patients in the Camp Hospital, to diarrhœa, and to phthisis." The mortality in the Norwich district is lower than it was; but diarrhœa was common and fatal. In the East Wymer sub-district "the large number of deaths (18) from atrophy seems, on inquiry, to depend on improper food, from the mothers not suckling their children, as they say it would interfere too much with their work."

In the SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION, Wilts, Dorset, and Devon suffered an unusually high rate of mortality; scarlatina, diphtheria, and small-pox have proved fatal in many cases. "Sanitary arrangements are far from good in many houses" not only of Abbotsbury, where 3 deaths occurred in one house over drains in the worst possible condition, but it is to be feared in many other parts of these great counties.

In the WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES the deaths amounted to 12,627. The health of several of the Stafford districts is still bad. Measles, scarlatina, diarrhœa, and typhus have been fatal; in several houses of Bilston two and three children have been carried off by measles. "I fear," says the Registrar, "that often little notice is taken of illness until secondary symptoms appear, when medical aid is too late. Persons first apply to a druggist, and afterwards to a medical man, but not till the day before death."

The NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES have suffered in various parts from diphtheria; the low marshy districts have been severely visited; but the deaths (6466) do not imply in the county aggregates higher rates of mortality than usual.

In LANCASHIRE and CHESHIRE the deaths (15,506) are in numbers below those registered in the summer quarters of the two preceding years. The mortality is below that of the preceding years in Liverpool, and will be still lower when all the required sanitary works are carried out. The expenditure up to the present time has borne ample fruits.

In YORKSHIRE 10,986 deaths were registered. The rate of mortality is lower than it was. Yorkshire, lying between the Humber and the Tees,—lofty moorlands, and the German Ocean,—is now occupied by nearly two millions of people, living much in aggregated masses, but with families characteristically distributed in four hundred thousand separate dwellings. The varieties of the geological strata—the coal and iron of the earth—the plains and hills feeding flocks of sheep, and horses—the rapid hill streams, and the smooth waters easily made navigable far into the interior from the Humber—the position between Lancashire and Germany—between Ireland and the North of Europe—enabled a hardy intelligent race of men, not only to obtain all the ordinary products of the English soil, but to found the chief manufactories of woollen goods in the world. The men of the West Riding became the clothiers of mankind. And so intent were they on their work, that the health of the workpeople was sacrificed, and the race in a few generations must have degenerated. But a reaction set in; Lord Shaftesbury's Bill, limiting the hours of children's labour, was first agitated at Bradford, and promoted actively by some of the heads of the leading firms. The first temperance society, it is said, was formed in this centre. As substitutes for insalubrious processes, exquisite pieces of mechanism not only card but comb the wool, spin it, weave it, dye it, and finally convert the fleeces of England, with the fleeces of Germany, and the finer wools of Australia, either alone, or combined with cotton, silk, and alpaca, into the finest textures; which vie in beauty and utility with the furs of animals, or the gayer plumage of birds. The workpeople are now in average town health; and through the incessant noises of machinery are often heard as the day declines pleasant voices singing the concerted songs of the Bradford minstrels.

The mortality of Yorkshire, during the ten years 1841-50, was at the rate of 23 in 1000; so 6 in 1000 died in excess of the deaths out of the same numbers living in comparatively healthy districts; and the unnatural deaths in the ten years amounted to 101,195. The loss of life in Yorkshire was unequally distributed; in the North Riding the mortality was at the rate of 19, in the East Riding (with York) 24, and in the West Riding 23 in 1000. The climate of Yorkshire is not naturally unhealthy; in the Guisbrough District the mortality was at the low rate of 16 in 1000, in Easingwold it was 17, in eight districts it was 18; upon the other hand the mortality in the Hull District was at the rate of 31 in 1000, Sculcoates 25, Leeds district 30, Hunslet (including parts of the borough of Leeds) 25; Bradford 25 in 1000.

As Yorkshire chimneys do not yet consume their own smoke, it covers whole districts, and is necessarily consumed by the people; its producers say, with medicinal effect, which may, however, well be questioned. If we suppose, for a moment, all the causes of mortality suddenly to become visible like smoke over Yorkshire, then the disease particles will be seen to hang densely over Hull, Sheffield, Leeds, York, and their environs, less densely over the Southern Districts, and the East Districts of the coast, clearing as you ascend the rivers to their sources in the moors, and almost disappearing over Easingwold, and the Guisbrough District by the side of the sea and the waters of the Tees.

Bradford has commenced various works which have already reduced the mortality. In the fourteen years 1841-54 the people of the Bradford district died at the rate of 26 in 1000 annually; while the mortality during the three years 1855-57 has been nearly at the rate of 21 in 1000.

Mr. Hudson, the town clerk, has shown at the meeting of the National Association, that a part of this satisfactory result is fairly referable to sanitary measures.

Fourth Quarter.—October, November, December, 1859.

The last Quarterly Return of 1859 presents satisfactory results. The country has recovered from the depression of 1858. The marriages exceeded the usual number.

Marriages.—100,992 persons married in the quarter that ended on December 31st, and the marriage-rate was 2.020. This is an increase on the numbers marrying in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, when the marriage-rate was 1.930.

Births.—The births of 170,091 children were registered in the quarter that ended on December 31st. The number is 12,129 in excess of the number registered in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

689,881 children were registered in the year, or 1890 daily.

TABLE XVIII.—ENGLAND. ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. in TOWN and COUNTRY DISTRICTS in each Quarter of the Years 1849-1859.

Table with columns for Population enumerated (1841, 1851), Quarters ending (March, June, Sept., Dec., Year), and Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent. for each year from 1849 to 1859.

Names of the 125 Districts and 23 Sub-districts comprising the chief towns:—All the Districts of London (36), and Kingston, Richmond, Gravesend, Medway, East and West Maidstone Sub-districts, Canterbury, Thanet, Hastings, Brighton, Portsea Island, Alverstoke (Gosport), Southampton, Winchester Sub-district, Reading, Brentford, Edmonton, St. Clement Sub-district, Headington, Oxford, Northampton, Cambridge, West Ham, Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, Ipswich, Yarmouth, Norwich, King's Lynn, Melksham, Salisbury, Exeter, Plymouth, East Stonehouse, Stoke Damerel (Devonport), Redruth, Bath, Bedminster Sub-district, Bristol, Clifton, St. Nicholas Gloucester, and St. John the Baptist Gloucester Sub-districts, Cheltenham, Hereford City Sub-district, Shrewsbury, Wolstanton, Stoke-upon-Trent, Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Dudley, Stourbridge, Worcester, Birmingham, Aston, Coventry, Leicester, Lincoln Home Sub-district, Radford, Nottingham, Derby, Stockport, East Macclesfield, West Macclesfield, and Sutton Sub-districts, Chester Castle and Chester Cathedral Sub-districts (Great Boughton), Liverpool, West Derby, Wigan, Warrington, Leigh, Bolton, Bury, Barton-upon-Irwell, Chorlton, Salford, Manchester, Ashton, Oldham, Rochdale, Haslingden, Burnley, Blackburn, Preston, Todmorden, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Hunslet, Leeds, Dewsbury, Wakefield, Ecclesall Bierlow, Sheffield, Bootham, Micklegate, and Walmgate Sub-districts (York), Sculcoates, Hull, St. Oswald and St. Nicholas Sub-districts (Durham), Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, South Shields, Gateshead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tynemouth, St. Cuthbert and St. Mary Sub-districts (Carlisle), Merthyr Tydfil, and Llangafelach and Swansea Sub-districts (Swansea).

The three months January, February, March, contain 90, in leap year 91 days; the three months April, May, June, 91 days; each of the last two quarters of the year, 92 days. For this inequality a correction has been made in the calculations, also for the difference between 365 and 365.25636 days, and 366 and 365.25636 days in leap year.

Increase of Population.—The births exceeded the deaths by 60,737, and that was therefore nearly the natural increase of the population in 92 days. Thus the population of England and Wales increased at the rate of 660 daily; and the probable natural increase of the population of the United Kingdom was 990 daily.

In the year the excess of births over deaths was 249,100, or 682 daily in England and Wales; in the United Kingdom the natural increase must have exceeded 1000 daily.

TABLE XIX.—The AVERAGE PRICES of CONSOLS, of WHEAT, of MEAT, and of POTATOES; also the AVERAGE QUANTITY of WHEAT sold and imported Weekly, in each of the Years, and in each Quarter of the Years 1852-1859.

Table with columns for Years (1852-1859), Average Price of CONSOLS (for Money), Average Price of WHEAT per Quarter in England and Wales, Average Number of Quarters Weekly, Average Prices of MEAT per lb. (Beef, Mutton), and Average Prices of POTATOES (York Regents) per Ton.

Table with columns for Quarters ending (1852-1859), Average Price of CONSOLS, Average Price of WHEAT, Average Number of Quarters Weekly, Average Prices of MEAT per lb., and Average Prices of POTATOES. Includes a sub-table for PAUPERISM: Quarterly Average of the Number of Paupers relieved on the last day of each WEEK, split into In-door and Out-door.

Foul cesspools are numerous in the town, and the drainage is very defective. The soil is mostly gravelly, porous, and affected by soakage. Water contamination is frequent. A wheelwright's wife, aged 37, died of the fever on October 31st; a labourer's wife, aged 25, on November 16th; a dairyman's son, aged 23, on December 7th; a physician's daughter, aged 20, on December 15th; a captain's daughter, aged 18, on December 18th; a dealer's son, aged 26, on December 21st; and the curate, aged 24, died of the same low fever, with hæmorrhage, on December 28th. These tragical losses would undoubtedly be less frequent, nay would not be sustained, if the earth, air, and water of the town were effectively purified. More than fifty cases of the fever occurred in the small village of Hartfield (East Grinstead, Sussex), where the drainage has been much neglected and the sanitary arrangements of the houses generally are bad. The fever has been very prevalent at Newport, and its neighbourhood, in the Isle of Wight; it destroyed 13 lives. At Lemsford, in the Hatfield district, on the banks of the Lea, several persons were attacked, and two died. When this disease enters a house it generally attacks several members of the same family. The Registrars cite instances. The introduction of the disease can sometimes be traced; thus, a woman went to Yarmouth to nurse her daughter, who died, and was brought to Billingford to be buried. Afterwards the mother, a daughter aged 24 years, and a son aged 14 years, died of the same fever. Two more members of the family were attacked, but are now better. The house stands apart, and the disease has not extended to any other family. Portland is crowded by men employed in the Government works; and yet patients suffering from small-pox, measles, or typhoid fever are, the Registrar complains, distributed in private lodgings, among the inhabitants; he has registered one death by fever. Other illustrations of the fatal prevalence of typhoid fever will be found in the registrars' Notes.

Cholera and diarrhœa have proved fatal in the Pontefract sub-district. In Glass Houghton, a township of about 200 inhabitants, 12 deaths were registered in 17 days (Oct. 1st-17th); they all died of cholera and diarrhœa. The dwellings in which the disease raged were badly ventilated, and in a low damp locality. Of the same diseases 15 persons died in Castleford and Whitwood. The people had been allowed to deposit dung and other offal near a well which supplied the streets to which the disease was mainly confined; and the heavy rains had washed the dirt into the water.

The returns afford evidence of the efficacy of sanitary measures. Thus the fever which had prevailed some time in the camp at Colchester, continued during October and November. An inquiry was instituted; sanitary measures were probably adopted, and no death from fever occurred in camp or town during December, which was unusually healthy. The great diminution in the mortality of Bristol is ascribed in part to the comparative prosperity of the working classes, but still more distinctly to

TABLE XXII.—METEOROLOGY of GREENWICH in the Eleven Years 1849-1859.

YEARS.	Mean Weekly Movement of the Air in Miles.*	Fall of Rain in Inches.	Mean Dryness of Atmosphere.	Mean Temperature of the Air.	MEAN Temperature of the AIR in the Quarters ending the last day of			
					March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
					°	°	°	°
1849	735	23.7	6.7	41.9	51.7	61.0	44.8	
1850	761	19.6	6.4	49.3	53.5	59.6	44.7	
1851	684	20.2	6.6	49.4	51.5	59.8	43.7	
1852	724	34.4	7.3	50.6	51.2	61.8	48.1	
1853	596	29.6	6.0	47.8	51.8	58.5	42.3	
1854	687	17.3	5.7	49.1	51.7	59.8	43.7	
1855	638	21.1	5.3	46.9	50.5	60.4	42.7	
1856	713	21.9	5.7	49.1	52.3	59.9	44.2	
1857	588	21.4	5.4	51.1	53.8	63.3	47.9	
1858	609	17.2	6.6	49.2	54.3	61.0	43.8	
1859	592	25.9	6.2	50.8	53.7	62.8	43.3	

* Whewell's Anemometer.

the improvements which have been made in the drainage, and in the sanitary arrangements of the city. The Registrar of Walsall accounts for the decrease of deaths by sanitary regulations.

The increase of births and the decrease of deaths in Wilton the Registrar states is, in his opinion, attributable to the introduction of a new and superior class of cottages, in lieu of the former ill-built and badly-ventilated dwellings of the agricultural laborers. The numerous new cottages, which are being built in several parishes of that sub-district, "by the direction of Mr. Sidney Herbert," will no doubt improve the health of the inhabitants.

The improvement of the health of the laboring population of the kingdom is one of the most pregnant measures of defence that can be conceived; and will not be overlooked by the great landed proprietors.

At the instance of the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, the Registrars have returned the causes of many deaths in their several districts. The printed Notes contain many interesting facts; the whole of the MS. Notes have been placed in the hands of Mr. Simon, their Health Officer, as they suggest important inquiries.

HEALTH of LONDON in 1859.

The weekly Tables have shown the changes of the population of London during each of the fifty-two weeks; and now the births, deaths, and fatal diseases of the year have been ascertained, our gains and our losses can be numbered.

The natural increase of the population was 31,049. That was the excess of the registered births over the registered deaths. Besides the increase by natural growth, London receives other accessions; every county of the United Kingdom sends its quota to the metropolis, and the aggregate number of the immigrants, according to the best estimate, exceeded 23,000. The probable increase of the population was 54,000 in the year; or more than a *thousand weekly*.

There is a further movement of the population of the metropolis: the natives leave in large numbers, and are replaced by persons born in other parts; and again, many immigrants who come to London return to their homes or wander elsewhere. The greatest migrations take place at the ages 20 to 30; when young people, unsettled, still maintain a connexion with the homes of their childhood.

Of 1,394,963 inhabitants of London of the age of 20 and upwards at the last census, 749,853 were born beyond its bounds. It is a vast stage, upon which the best of the population of the United Kingdom play their part, and then retire to country life, to foreign lands, or to the life beyond the grave. With the latter class only we have now to do in reviewing

TABLE XXIII.—LONDON.—BIRTHS and DEATHS in the Twelve Years 1848 to 1859.

YEARS.	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
BIRTHS	71380	72612	74564	78900	81250	82254	84885	85532	87430	89577	89012	92909
DEATHS	57771	68756	48950	55488	54638	60069	73697	61942	57274	59103	64093	61880
Excess of BIRTHS over DEATHS	13609	3856	25614	23412	26612	22185	11188	23590	30156	30474	24919	31049
BIRTHS — (Males)	36371	37168	37907	40050	41388	42132	42988	43501	44410	45885	45347	47330
— (Females)	35009	35444	36657	38854	39862	40122	41897	42031	43020	43692	43665	45579
DEATHS — (Males)	29413	34168	24634	28140	28063	30852	37151	31354	29076	29769	32579	31577
— (Females)	28358	34588	24316	27348	26575	29217	36546	30688	28198	29334	31514	30283
ANNUAL MORTALITY per 1000	25.83	30.08	20.94	23.40	22.47	24.41	29.38	24.06	21.78	22.20	23.56	22.30

rapidly the diseases, the crimes, the negligences, and the accidents which have proved fatal.

The population of London in the middle of the year 1859 was probably 2,774,338; comprising about 1,299,602 males, and 1,474,736 females; for there are 175,134 more females than males. This is the result of the excess of female over male immigrants, and of the higher mortality to which men are exposed.

The number of children whose births were registered in the fifty-two weeks amounted to 92,909 of whom 47,330 were boys, 45,579 girls. Thus the boys born exceeded the girls by 1751. The births were at the rate of 1787 weekly, 255 daily. The births exceeded by 3897 the births in the previous year, and by 26,158 the births registered in 1845.

The destruction of life proceeds on the same scale of grandeur: 61,860 of the inhabitants of London died; so if the dead of this single year could be brought to life, they would people a large city.

The deaths were at the rate of 1190 weekly, 170 daily.

31,577 males and 30,283 females died. The deaths do not increase at the same rate as the births; yet their numbers have increased since 1845, when the deaths of 24,836 males, 24,082 females, were registered.

Upon comparing the deaths with the estimated population, it is found that to 100,000 living, 2230 died in the year; the average deaths of the last eighteen years being 2439. Thus the mortality is nearly at the rate of 22 in 1000, in lieu of 24 in 1000.

The number of births varied weekly; 1980 children, the greatest number, were registered in the fourth week of January; 1578, the least number, were registered in the last week of September. The first number is 200 above, the last number 202 below, the average. The deaths fluctuated differently; in a week of June, towards the middle of the year, they fell to 913, and in a week of October to 902, or 283 below the average; in the last week of December they rose to 1677, or 492 above the average. The reproductive force thus acts most steadily; the destructive forces having a greater range, and while they allow the mortality to subside to some extent below, raise it at intervals much above the average.

The mortality was raised above the average by the extremely cold weather of January and December; the mean temperature of the two first weeks was low (35° and 39°), and the deaths rose to 1338 and 1429; again, the temperature fell in the two last weeks but one of December to 28°, 33°, and the deaths rose to 1548 and 1677 in the two weeks following.

Heat in our temperate climate also affects the mortality, and whenever the mean daily temperature rises above 60° diarrhœa and other bowel affections prove fatal to great numbers in London. Thus in the second

TABLE XXIV.—LONDON.—DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1852–59.

	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS -	8479	10116	12046	11310	10381	10079	10004	9638
IN WORKHOUSES - - - - -	4890	5955	6812	6552	5797	5714	5535	5228
PRISONS - - - - -	105	106	155	71	81	71	57	40
MILITARY AND NAVAL ASYLUMS - -	332	342	312	299	304	285	317	307
GENERAL HOSPITALS - - - - -	2247	2675	3415	2956	2859	3008	3004	2927
HOSPITALS FOR SPECIAL DISEASES - -	299	281	326	441	612	332	272	431
Women - - - - -	7	13	20	27	14	11	11	35
Children - - - - -	26	22	43	40	31	23	32	51
MILITARY AND NAVAL HOSPITALS - -	183	263	441	404	282	180	211	187
HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS FOR FOREIGNERS	31	59	57	64	61	63	53	46
LUNATIC ASYLUMS - - - - -	359	400	455	456	340	392	422	381

week of July the mean temperature rose to 71°, with a daily range of 30°; the registered deaths rose to 1400 in that week, and to 1605 deaths in the week following, when the mean temperature remained the same within two degrees. The mortality rose from June, now the healthy month of London, to July, and then gradually subsided with the temperature until October, another healthy month of the year.

The effects of cold on the system appear to be direct and immediate; but the morbid processes to which they give rise, chiefly affecting the breathing apparatus, only terminate fatally after a certain number of days.

The effects of a high temperature are sometimes immediate, as is notably the case in sun-stroke, or heat apoplexy as it has been called; and as the loss of caloric by the system is greatly diminished, less of the combustible matter is consumed, so certain diseases are generated within; while others are produced by the changing organic matter in the air and water.

During the latter part of the year the chief masters and the men in the building trades of London were in a state of open war. The masters closed their establishments on August 6th, and afterwards only employed men who would sign a document. The men refused, to the number, it was said, of 20,000. The conference of the trades societies distributed certain sums among their members; and in the sixth week as many as 14,000 of them received allowances. These allowances were, however, inadequate; the means and credit of many failed; the small shopkeepers instead of 9*l.* or 10*l.* took no more than 2*l.* or 3*l.* a week from the families of the workmen. The distress became in some cases urgent, yet the struggle was protracted through the rest of the year. The wives evidently thought their husbands in the right and suffered with them the pangs of hunger. A relieving officer thus writes September 1st: "I visited this man's lodging. He was out, but his wife was in bed, with scarcely a rag to cover her, evidently gradually sinking from want. The room contained scarcely an article of furniture, and presented a most destitute, neglected, and dirty appearance. She said, 'We are starving, sir; we have neither fire nor food.' 'Why,' I replied, 'does not your husband go to work?' 'What,' she exclaimed with considerable energy, 'to become worse than a slave!'"*

This distress produced ultimately a sensible effect on the mortality of the men and their wives. As long as there was bread, the poor children, however, apparently had it; until weakened, cold, ill-clad, they at last

TABLE XXV.—LONDON.—DEATHS AND METEOROLOGY, 1848–59.

YEARS.	Total Number of Deaths.	Mean Temperature of Air.	Dryness of Atmosphere.	Fall of Rain in Inches.	Mean Weekly Amount of Horizontal Movement of the Air.	WEEKLY AVERAGE OF 1859.						
						Number of Deaths weekly.	Mean Temperature of Air.	Average daily Range of Temperature.	Dryness of Atmosphere.	Fall of Rain in Inches.	Amount of Horizontal Movement of the Air in each Week.	
1848	57771	50·2	5·6	30·1	Miles, 1018							
1849	68756	49·9	6·7	23·7	739							
1850	48950	49·3	6·4	19·6	761							
1851	55488	49·4	6·6	20·2	684							
1852	54638	50·6	7·3	34·4	724							
1853	60069	47·8	6·0	29·6	596	First Quarter	1242	48·3	12·8	5·0	0·20	841
1854	73707	49·1	5·7	17·3	687	Second Quarter	1056	54·1	20·0	7·1	0·49	595
1855	61942	46·9	5·3	21·1	638	Third Quarter	1232	62·9	21·4	8·7	0·55	571
1856	57274	49·1	5·7	21·9	713	Fourth Quarter	1210	43·1	12·5	3·4	0·55	362
1857	59103	51·1	5·4	21·4	568							
1858	64093	49·2	6·6	17·2	609							
1859	61860	50·8	6·2	25·9	592							

* Times, 3d September 1859.

died in unusual numbers as the severe weather came on towards the close of the year.

In recording the fatal results of this conflict we must regret its origin, and express a hope that for the future a better understanding and a more friendly relation will subsist between masters and men.

The mortality in 100,000 living was at the rate of 2,230 deaths from all causes; of which 607 were by diseases of the zymotic class.

It may be instructive to compare the fatality by some of the diseases of London now and in the seventeenth century. In the twenty years 1660-79 the mortality in Southwark and in the city within and without the walls was at the rate of 7 or 8 per cent.; so the mortality within the Bills may be set down at the rate of 7000 annually in every 100,000 living, of which 3400 were by zymotic diseases.

The diseases were not always distinguished accurately. But by putting them in groups, any fallacy from this source will be obviated, and the decrease of some of the worst forms of mortal disease will be placed beyond doubt. To render the comparison easy, the number living is taken to be the same in the two periods, 100,000 in 1660-79 and in 1859. The annual deaths by small-pox were 357 in the first period, 42 in the second period; by measles 40 and 47 in the two periods. Medical science was imperfect, and the science existing in that century was very imperfectly applied. Croup and scarlatina were not generally recognized, but were confounded with measles and fever. The mortality by fever, continued or remittent, and ague was at the rate of 749 and 59 in the two periods; or including scarlatina, quinsy, and croup, the mortality was 759 and 227. Thus a person was in four times as much danger of dying of these diseases at the Restoration as a person living in London now. Women are not yet entirely exempt from peril in child-bearing; the mortality by that disease is now 17, it was then 86. Again a few (8) in 100,000 die now of dysentery; then, out of the same number, 763 died annually of that disease. By diarrhoea, a milder form of disease, 11 died then, 120 die now; cholera was fatal in 1859 to 7, and in the 20 years (1660-79) to 130 annually. Syphilis was twice as fatal as it is, the numbers being 21 and 12. Scurvy and purpura bear testimony to the imperfect nutrition of the population; the annual deaths were then 142 and are now 2. Vegetables, fruit, and fresh meat, could with difficulty be procured in winter. Worms and all parasitic creatures that crawl over, bite, and prey on the body of man, were prevalent; 10 deaths were ascribed to worms.

Dropsy, a result and sign of scurvy and fever, was exceedingly fatal; 298 died of that disease then, and 26 now. Apoplexy, paralysis, epilepsy, affections of the brain, and suicide, are more fatal now, according to the returns, than they were, in the proportion of 57 then to 151 now.

Consumption and diseases of the breathing organs were uncommonly fatal; 1079 then and 611 now are the figures of the mortality. Diseases of the digestive organs were fatal then and now in the proportion of 146 and 95. Stone and diseases of the urinary organs are now as fatal as they were then; the deaths being 21 and 30. Children were rapidly cut down; of convulsions and teething 1175 died then, 136—too many—now.

Of the violent deaths, some are now more frequent, as the forces by which they are occasioned are greater; of fractures and wounds 19 died then, 25 now; of poison, more accessible, 2 now and then only one; of burns, as fires are probably more common, and dresses more inflammable, now 13, then 3; drowning and suffocation were then twice as fatal (23 and 20) as they are (10 and 10) in the present day.

5 in 100,000 of the people were executed then annually; now one in the whole population.

In addition, the inhabitants of London were then destroyed by the terrible plague; which, upon an average of the twenty years, carried off 1132 lives.

In 1665 nearly a third of the population perished by plague. It is difficult to conceive this frightful destruction of human life; the imagination, the wailing notes of writers, the details of Defoe in a work which would have immortalized any writer, fail to bring all the horrors before our minds.

The mortality was at the rate of seven per cent. on an average during the twenty years. If the mortality of London had been at the same rate in the last year, instead of 61,869 about 194,200 deaths would have been registered.

The plague was the more appalling as the mortality overwhelmed the people in particular years; thus the burials from 15,356 in 1663, rose to 97,306, "whereof 68,596 were by plague," in 1665; and this was equivalent to more than 600,000 deaths by plague in the present population of London. In the third week of September 8297 deaths were registered, which represents a rate of mortality equivalent to about 85,000 deaths in a week on the actual population of London.

In these recurring plagues vast numbers of people fled in panic terror from the fatal city; servants and workpeople were discharged in great numbers; commerce was paralyzed; few ships ventured up the river, and merchant vessels were occupied by their owners as asylums on the water. Sextons, gravediggers, bearers, bellmen, and drivers of death-carts were in demand. The dead were buried indiscriminately; some bodies lay in forsaken houses, others across the paths in the streets, no longer traversed by carts or coaches. At the end of the summer, grass was growing in Bishopsgate-street and Cornhill, where the people thronged no longer. The loud voices, shrieks, and sobs of the delirious, the desolate, and the dying were heard in the streets; at times too disturbed by reckless revellers, and by raving patients, who had escaped from their dwellings, converted into prisons. For according to the regulations "infected houses" were shut up; a red cross and "Lord have mercy upon us!" were inscribed on their portals; while watchmen jealously guarded the doors. These quarantine regulations were at first rigidly carried out, and were only gradually abandoned when they were found useless, pernicious, and impracticable.

It is of some use to ask whether these past occurrences possess merely a historical interest for the inhabitants of London. Are the diseases of those times ever likely to recur? The answer must be:—undoubtedly they will recur, if their causes come again into action; and not otherwise. If a comet—if the stars—if volcanic action—if some mystical telluric influence destroyed the population of London at the rate of 7 per cent. annually, and at times in paroxysms at the rate of 20 and 30 per cent. in a single year, such powers are evidently beyond the reach of the will, and of all human effort. The population must resign itself to its fate. Vesuvius may perhaps be extinguished artificially; but the cause of the volcanic action which pervades the world is inaccessible.*

All the evidence, however, goes to show that comets, stars, and volcanic action had as much to do with the mortality of the population of London in the seventeenth century as with the mortality of the British troops in the Crimea; and no more. The supply of food, and particularly of vegetable and fresh animal food, in certain seasons of the year, was defective, so that a large portion of the population became scorbutic. The houses were nearly as close and dirty as the houses now are in Constantinople and Cairo; the water supply was imperfect, as London Bridge works and Hugh Middleton's New River were for many years unappreciated. Water

* See the History of Epidemics by Hecker, and the ingenious book of Mr. Parkin.

has in itself little attraction for people unaccustomed to ablution. Parasitic insects and diseases of the skin betrayed its impurities. The dirt of the houses struck foreigners. The sewers were imperfect; and the soil gave off marsh malaria in some parts, and in others was saturated with the filth of successive generations.

The high rates of mortality which then prevailed still attend cholera and current epidemics in certain localities. The nature of disease and the climate are still the same as they were in London before the Revolution; and it is evident that if plague has disappeared, other zymotic diseases, but notably dysentery, scurvy, and fever, have declined. Cholera was on an average then as fatal as it has been recently, and probably much more fatal than it will be again if London be supplied with pure water.

The nation exults justly in the progress of its manufactures. But the progress of its manufactures is surpassed by the progress of the health of its capital.

The improvement in the health of London has proceeded step by step with the amendment of the dietary, the drainage of the soil on which the houses stand, the purification of the water which the people drink; with the sweetening of the air; and with the progress of medical science, which is the source of sound sanitary doctrines.

So long as these improvements are maintained, the diseases of the seventeenth century will not recur; and all further progress is in the hands of the people. They can work out their own salvation, with God's blessing. The causes of disease are numerous; but every one that has hitherto been discovered can be to a certain extent controlled. If by persevering in the exact observation and analysis of the diseases of the population, science succeeds in bringing to light the evils of unnatural diseases still existing, we may hope confidently that those evils will be averted; and that, rising from the Thames, the site of London, which was pronounced in the seventeenth century a field of blood and terror, will be a field of health, concourse, and security to the population of the Metropolis of the Empire.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Returns of the Registrar General of Scotland supply us with the materials for determining the rates of marriage, birth, and death in Great Britain.

377,700 persons married, 796,613 children were born alive, and 502,535 persons died in Great Britain during the year; so the natural increase of population arising from the excess of births over deaths was 294,078. The births and deaths are not yet registered in Ireland; but taking these into account, it is probable that the natural increase of the population of the United Kingdom exceeded 1000 a day. The marriage rate of Great Britain in the year was 1.650 per cent. on the

TABLE XXVI.—ESTIMATED POPULATION, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS in Great Britain, 1859.

	Area.		Estimated Population in the middle of the Year 1859.	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
	Acres.	Hectars.					
England and Wales	37,324,915	15,104,312	19,746,000	167,723	335,446	689,981	440,781
Scotland	20,047,462	8,112,627	3,134,040	21,127	42,254	106,732	61,754
GREAT BRITAIN	57,372,377	23,216,939	22,880,040	188,850	377,700	796,613	502,535

Note.—The population of England and Wales has been obtained by taking the excess of births over deaths in the 4 quarters ending June 30th in each year; the population of Scotland has been deduced on the assumption that it increased in 1859 at the same rate as it did in each of the 10 years 1841-51.

population; or nearly .098 higher than in the previous year, when the rate was 1.552.

The birth-rate was 3.482, or .125 higher than it was in the previous year. The increase of the birth and of the marriage rates is noticeable both in England and Scotland.

The mortality was at the rate of 2.196 per cent., or less by .072 than the mortality (2.268) of the previous year.

The increase of the marriage and birth rate, as well as the decrease in the rate of mortality, are all indications of improvement in the general condition of the population.

His Royal Highness the General Commanding in Chief has favoured me with a return of the strength of the British army *abroad*, and of the deaths in its ranks. The mean strength was 123,709, and the deaths amounted to 4,150. Taking the due proportions for the parts of the army belonging to Great Britain, the mortality of the population, including the army *abroad*, was 22.02 in 1000.

The mortality of the population of France in the same year was at the rate of 26.70 in 1000, which is considerably above the average of that Empire. M. Legoyt mentions among its principal causes the prevalence of dysentery, diphtheria, and of some other epidemical diseases. It will be observed in the Table, deduced from returns which M. Legoyt has been good enough to supply, that the marriage rate is rather lower in France

PROPORTION per Cent. of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of Great Britain, 1859.

	Acreality.		To 100 Persons living.			
	Acres	Hectars	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
	to a Person.					
England and Wales	1.89	.76	.849	1.698	3.494	2.232
Scotland	6.40	2.59	.674	1.348	3.496	1.970
GREAT BRITAIN	2.51	1.01	.825	1.650	3.482	2.196

The total area of a country, divided by its population, gives what is here called the "Acreality;" it is the average area to each person. The reciprocal gives the "density" of the population, or the population to each acre, square mile, or other measure.

TABLE XXVII.—NUMBER OF DEATHS in the BRITISH ARMY during 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859 (furnished to the Registrar-General by the Adjutant-General by direction of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief).

	1856			1857			1858			1859														
	GREAT BRITAIN.	IRELAND.	ABROAD.	GREAT BRITAIN.	IRELAND.	ABROAD.	GREAT BRITAIN.	IRELAND.	ABROAD.	GREAT BRITAIN.	IRELAND.	ABROAD.												
	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.												
Cavalry	2	69	—	37	2	111	27	482	7	175	163	2,921	13	696	5	221	127	6,671	23	769	4	294	75	3,666
Infantry	14	672	8	306	64	2,243	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artillery	1	132	1	25	1	131	7	53	—	14	4	118	2	153	—	20	7	462	6	127	1	17	4	355
Engineers	4	21	1	—	5	23	1	12	—	—	1	13	3	16	—	—	3	93	3	11	—	3	6	44
Total	21	794	10	458	72	2,508	35	547	7	189	168	3,052	18	865	5	241	137	7,226	31	907	5	314	85	4,065

than in Great Britain; the birth-rate is much lower, and the death-rate is higher; so that the natural increase of population is less in France than in Great Britain.

The births in France amounted to 1,011,787; and estimating the number of births in Ireland at 238,208, the births in the United Kingdom amounted to nearly the same number, or 1,034,821.

The deaths in France were 972,556; while the deaths in the United Kingdom did not probably exceed 661,171.

TABLE XXVIII.—DEATHS OF OFFICERS AND MEN in the ARMY ABROAD, and Estimated Numbers belonging to Great Britain and to England and Wales, in each of the Six Years 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859.

YEARS.	Deaths of Officers and Men in the Army Abroad.	Estimated Numbers in Col. 2 belonging to	
		Great Britain.	England and Wales.
1	2	3	4
1854	7,383	4,287	3,496
1855	20,315	11,794	9,619
1856	2,580	1,498	1,222
1857	3,220	1,869	1,525
1858	7,363	4,275	3,486
1859	4,150	2,409	1,965

The number of Deaths in the cols. 3 and 4 were estimated on the assumption that the soldiers abroad belonged to the different parts of the British Empire in the proportions indicated in the next Table derived from the Census Report, Occupations, Vol. I., Supplementary Tables, p. cccxlv., vi. See Table XXIX.

TABLE XXIX.—ARMY SERVING AT HOME AND ABROAD.

	1851
Officers and Men born in England - - -	67,647
" " Scotland - - -	15,300
" " Ireland - - -	53,169
" " Foreign Parts - - -	6,754
Total - - - - -	142,870

It was inferred also that the 76,443 officers and men abroad in the army in 1851 should be added to the population of the several parts of the United Kingdom, also in the proportions indicated in the above Table. Thus the population of England and Wales, at home in 1851 was 17,927,609; add the proportion of the army abroad (36,196) belonging to England and Wales and its population becomes 17,963,805. The estimated population at home in 1859 was 19,746,000, and the population, including its share of the army abroad, was deduced from the following proportion:—

$$17,927,609 : 17,963,805 :: 19,746,000 : x = 19,785,869$$

Great Britain was dealt with on the same principles.

TABLE XXX.—ANNUAL RATE OF MORTALITY per Cent. per Annum, including the Deaths of Soldiers Abroad.

YEARS.	GREAT BRITAIN.	ENGLAND and WALES.	FRANCE.
1855	2.287	2.312	2.594
1856	2.035	2.053	2.306
1857	2.157	2.178	2.323
1858	2.282	2.316	2.398
1859	2.202	2.288	2.670

Thus with an equal number of births, the deaths in the United Kingdom were less than the deaths in France by about *three hundred thousand*.

The salubrity of the soil and of the climate of France is unquestionable, and agricultural pursuits are in themselves favourable to health, but the system of protection has hitherto paralyzed industry in the towns; and the country is generally ill-provided with sanitary arrangements. We shall probably speedily see the effects of freedom in improving the health of the French people, and shall have to struggle hard ourselves to maintain sanitary superiority.

TABLE XXXI.—RETURN showing the AVERAGE STRENGTH of the ARMY ABROAD, in the Years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859. Furnished to the Registrar-General by desire of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief.

	1856		1857		1858		1859	
	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Cavalry - -	137	3,614	126	2,757	313	6,661	308	6,943
Infantry - -	2,682	85,257	2,327	65,361	3,106	90,907	3,236	100,839
Artillery - -	240	7,694	246	5,402	356	8,262	348	9,705
Engineers - -	106	1,434	107	1,350	125	2,000	134	2,196
Total -	3,165	97,999	2,806	74,870	3,900	107,830	4,026	119,683

TABLE XXXII.—ENGLAND and FRANCE. ESTIMATED POPULATION, REGISTERED MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS, in each of the Years 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859.

	ENGLAND and WALES.					FRANCE.				
	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
Estimated Population	18,786,914	19,045,187	19,304,897	19,523,103	19,746,000	36,118,408	36,205,792	36,292,663	36,387,679	36,426,910
Marriages - -	152,113	159,337	159,097	156,070	167,723	283,846	284,335	290,349	307,218	298,309
Births - -	635,043	657,453	663,071	655,481	689,881	899,559	952,116	929,832	967,638	1,011,787
Deaths - -	425,703	390,506	419,815	449,656	440,781	936,833	835,017	842,961	872,622	972,556

The Population of England and Wales for the years 1855-59 has been deduced by taking the excess of births over deaths since 1851, when the population was enumerated.

* According to the official Enumeration this Population includes 166,428 men, being the Effective Strength of the Army of the East in the Crimea in the month of January 1856. M. Legoyt has favoured the Registrar-General with the Returns of France for the years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859. The population for the years 1858 and 1859 has been obtained by taking the excess of births over deaths. The Census is not taken on one day in France, as it is in England, and the date of the French Census is not stated.

The births in France are exclusive of still born.

TABLE XXXIII.—PROPORTION per Cent. of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of England and Wales, and in France, 1855-9.

	ENGLAND and WALES.					FRANCE.				
	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859
Marriages - -	.810	.837	.824	.799	.849	.786	.785	.800	.844	.819
Persons married - -	1.620	1.674	1.648	1.598	1.698	1.572	1.570	1.600	1.688	1.638
Births - -	3.380	3.452	3.435	3.357	3.494	2.491	2.630	2.562	2.659	2.778
Deaths - -	2.266	2.050	2.175	2.303	2.232	2.594	2.306	2.323	2.398	2.670

BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF ENGLISH SUBJECTS AT SEA.

I continue the return of the number of deaths which occur at sea, and are registered. This register is exceedingly imperfect as regards both our navy and merchant service.

The mortality, according to the returns of the Registrar General of merchant seamen, is at the rate of nearly 2 per cent. (1.99), thus exceeding the mortality ashore at the corresponding ages, but not differing much from the rate prevailing among persons of all ages.

TABLE XXXIV.—NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF ENGLISH SUBJECTS IN BRITISH VESSELS AT SEA, reported by the Captains or Commanding Officers of Vessels, and entered in the "Marine Register," pursuant to Sections 21 and 26 of the Registration Act.

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
From 1st July 1837 to 31st Dec. 1859:—			
Births at Sea	950	467	483
Deaths at Sea	4477	4023	454
Whereof were reported during the years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859:—			
Births at Sea			
1856	72	37	35
1857	101	50	51
1858	112	50	62
1859	88	37	51
Deaths at Sea			
1856	302	274	28
1857	352	261	91
1858	390	326	64
1859	266	237	29

TABLE XXXV.—MORTALITY OF MERCHANT SEAMEN AT SEA, in the 8 Years 1852-59.*

YEARS.	STRENGTH.	DEATHS.	MORTALITY.
			To 1000 living.
1852	159,563	2,205	13.8
1853	172,525	3,276	19.0
1854	162,416	2,772	17.1
1855	168,537	3,318	19.7
1856	173,918	3,549	20.4
1857	176,387	3,444	19.5
1858	177,832	3,486	19.6
1859	172,506	3,430	19.9
In the 8 years 1852-59.	1,363,684	25,480	18.7

* Deduced from a return of the number of accounts of wages and effects of seamen (exclusive of masters) dying before the termination of the voyage, received by the Registrar General of Seamen. This return does not include seamen dying ashore in foreign parts, whose wages and effects are delivered to the consuls or officers of the hospitals to which such men are sent; accounts of their effects are sent direct to the Board of Trade.

CERTIFICATES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

Certain events in the lives of men are so important, that in nearly all nations means are taken to register them in the memory of living witnesses, or in enduring records. Marriage is of this nature, for it founds families, and its influence extends over the future lifetimes of

husbands, wives, children, and collateral relatives. In barbarous countries ceremonies, festivals, and religious rites ensure the attendance, and impress the memory of witnesses; but in civilized states the art of writing secures by simpler means permanent evidence, which can be preserved, transcribed, and produced in any place on any occasion. The place and date of a man's birth, as well as his parents' names and other particulars of origin, have often to be proved, and the contemporaneous registers supply evidence of this description of the utmost value. Majority is only one of the instances in which it is of advantage to have at hand such a ready proof of age and relationship as a birth register supplies. The date, place, and cause of death, as well as the fact of death, have frequently to be proved, as in the numerous instances where the acquisition of property of various kinds depends upon the decease of its prior owners. And these facts, if accurately recorded in public registers, can be consulted as long as the records last, or be transcribed on certificates by public officers, and produced in the courts of law.

The early genealogical tables, and the registers of baptisms and burials in churches, proved the practical utility of such documents; and the evidence of fruitless searches all over the kingdom, of lost and of falsified registers, further satisfied a committee of the House of Commons, that great advantage would arise from a new system of registration of marriages, births (not baptisms), and deaths (not burials).* "By such an internal but most needful improvement they believe that the national honour will be promoted, [other nations having contributed more at that time than England to statistical science], that inestimably useful information will be ensured, that great evils, affecting all landed property, and obstructing its descent and sale, and acquisition, will be diminished." The committee also perceived the other advantages actually accruing from the Registration Acts, which came into operation in 1837.

TABLE XXXVI.—AGGREGATE NUMBER OF NAMES ON THE REGISTERS at the End of each Year 1837-59; also the NUMBER OF SEARCHES FOR REGISTERS at the CENTRAL OFFICE (exclusive of Searches in Non-parochial Registers).

YEARS.	AGGREGATE NUMBER				Number of Searches for Registers at the Central Office.
	Of Persons married.	Of Births.	Of Deaths.	Of Names Registered.	
1837	116,958	164,116	148,701	429,775	Not known.
1838	353,092	627,903	491,461	1,472,456	
1839	599,424	1,120,477	830,445	2,550,346	
1840	844,754	1,622,780	1,190,132	3,657,666	620
1841	1,089,746	2,134,338	1,533,979	4,758,663	
1842	1,327,396	2,652,477	1,883,498	5,863,371	705
1843	1,575,032	3,180,002	2,229,943	6,984,977	
1844	1,839,530	3,720,765	2,586,876	8,147,171	744
1845	2,127,016	4,264,286	2,936,242	9,327,544	
1846	2,418,344	4,836,911	3,326,537	10,581,812	881
1847	2,690,034	5,376,376	3,749,861	11,816,771	
1848	2,966,494	5,939,935	4,149,694	13,056,123	1,030
1849	3,250,260	6,518,094	4,590,533	14,358,887	
1850	3,555,748	7,111,516	4,959,528	15,624,792	1,228
1851	3,864,160	7,727,381	5,354,924	16,946,465	
1852	4,181,724	8,351,333	5,762,059	18,295,176	1,442
1853	4,510,764	8,963,784	6,183,156	19,657,704	
1854	4,830,218	9,598,189	6,621,061	21,049,468	1,658
1855	5,134,444	10,233,232	7,046,764	22,414,440	
1856	5,453,118	10,891,685	7,437,270	23,781,073	1,876
1857	5,771,312	11,553,756	7,837,035	25,162,103	
1858	6,083,452	12,209,237	8,305,741	26,598,430	2,065
1859	6,418,898	12,899,118	8,747,522	28,065,538	

NOTE.—The numbers registered in 1837 are for the Half Year ending December 31st.

* Report from the Select Committee on Parochial Registration, 15th August 1833.

The original registers are lodged in the country with the Superintendent Registrars, and certified copies are sent up every three months to the General Register Office, where they are arranged so as to be readily accessible to the public, who have the right to search the indexes, and to find out any particular entry, by paying one shilling, as well as to procure for two shillings and sixpence a certified stamped copy, which the Act declares "shall be received as evidence of the birth, death, or marriage" to which the same relates, without any further or other proof of such "entry."

The public can also search the Registers, and obtain certificates from the Registrars and Superintendent Registrars, as well as from the Clergy; and the local use of the records will, as new generations spring up, be considerable.

In the year 1859 precisely 1415 searches were made in the non-parochial registers, which number about 7000; from upwards of 3600 congregations, exclusive of 1600 Registers from the Society of Friends. Some of these Registers extend back to the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The searches at the Central Office in 1859 amounted to 6467; of which 5052 were made in the Indexes of the new Registers. The number of searches was few in the earlier years of Registration; but it naturally increases for a time, although not in regular proportion, as the number of names on the Registers increase. (See Table XXXVI.)

Many certificates are given by the Registrars on the marriage day, and certificates are also sometimes given of births and deaths by the Registrar on the day of registration. The Birth register, however, acquires interest and is more in request every year at the Central Office up to the age of majority; the Marriage register is most frequently consulted at the Central Office a year or two after the event; and the searches of the Death register extend into the past; but in numbers decreasing as we proceed backwards through the avenue of years. *Pulvis et umbra sumus*. The names, like the ashes of millions of mankind, perish; but they designate the links of everlasting generations; so, besides the few that attain immortality, a certain number retain their interest in connection with titles and property for centuries.

Where the entry is found no certificate is required in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the cases of birth, $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the cases of death, or $11\frac{3}{4}$ of the cases of marriage. The motives of the searches are not stated; but it is believed that several of the searches for marriages, in which no certificate was required, were of the same kind as the searches for marriages in the imperfect lists which appear in the newspapers. Sometimes an anxious father wishes to know whether his child is married, and instances have occurred in which young ladies, apparently out of pure curiosity, having ascertained that a certain marriage had taken place in a distant part of the country, indignantly refuse to accept the certificate, politely offered by the clerk in attendance.

TABLE XXXVII.—NUMBER of SUCCESSFUL SEARCHES for REGISTERS in the Year 1859.

PERIOD when Search commenced.	SUCCESSFUL SEARCHES FOR			
	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	TOTAL.
1837 to 1840 - -	577	163	66	806
1841 ,, 1845 - -	501	226	101	828
1846 ,, 1850 - -	288	343	123	754
1851 ,, 1855 - -	202	496	150	848
1856 ,, 1859 - -	98	653	141	897
TOTAL - -	1,682	1,886	581	4,133

A great number of the certificates granted at the Central Office are for legal purposes, and are applied for by solicitors.

All the searches are not successful. In the cases of marriage, such as have been referred to, all that is desired is to prove a negative. And so it is in cases of death; people come to ascertain whether the death, of a relative or of an annuitant for instance, has occurred. They apply to put rumours to the test. The births are not all registered, as the registration is unfortunately not compulsory; and the defect was greatest in the earlier years over which searches extend. The Clergy at first imagined that the registration of births might interfere with baptism; and an instance occurred the other day of a clergyman not finding his son's name on the register, and thus being unprovided with the readiest means of proving the boy's age, which was required as a preliminary to an examination.

The necessary information is sometimes incomplete, or the Index fails to point to the right name, through the errors and irregularities necessarily arising under our singularly unscientific system of orthography, which not having kept pace with human progress in other things, imperfectly represents and bears no constant relation to our oral language. The pronunciation of the thousands of christian and surnames is exceedingly arbitrary; and when registration commenced 42 per cent. of the people could not write, and could not, therefore, in many instances spell their names correctly. The Clergy and the Registrars spell the same names differently; for under our deplorable system of spelling, the same sounds are expressed by half a dozen different combinations of letters. The duplicates and copies of the Registers which are made by the Clergy, are sometimes differently and sometimes erroneously spelt; and so it is with the Registrars, who also derive their information from illiterate informants.

A certain number of errors, notwithstanding the careful checking, are also committed in the process of indexing.

For these various reasons 20 in 100 searches give negative results; and singularly enough the proportion is 21 in the non-parochial registers.

WILLS and ADMINISTRATIONS.

It was at one time proposed that the last wills and testaments of the population of England should be placed in Somerset House by the side of the registers of deaths; so that the public could have ready access under the same easy regulations to both classes of documents; the one containing proofs of death and heirship, the other containing the authority for transferring property at the death of its possessors to their successors.

This intention has not been carried out, but a calendar of the wills and administrations in the year 1858, from January 11th to December 31st, inclusive, has been published, with notes setting forth the dates, the registry, the names and descriptions of the testators and intestates, the place and time of death, the names and descriptions of the executors and administrators, and the value of the effects. The calendar does not include the wills, &c. of Scotland and Ireland.

This publication is not perfectly accurate; but it serves to show, in connection with the deaths, some interesting facts concerning the tenure of a large portion of the property of the country. The Tables (pp. 174-180), have been hastily compiled; but the general results, though it is believed they are reliable, as the errors must be within narrow limits, are to be considered only imperfect specimens of the results deducible from these returns, and from the related facts to be dealt with by the Inland Revenue Department under the Succession Act.

Any man not a criminal or a lunatic of the age of 21 and upwards has the power to make a will. How many persons exercise that power? of what amounts of property do they dispose?

The number of persons living of the age of 21 and upwards, was about 10,366,793 (Table I. 1.) in the year 1858; out of whom 210,972 died in the year; and 21,060, or adding a number proportional to the time, for the wills omitted in the first ten days of January, 21,653 left behind them wills. So 189,319, or 9 persons in 10, left no wills; but in 9170 of those cases letters of administration were taken out; so about 30,823 persons died who were declared in the Court of Probate to be possessed of personal estate, such as cash, shares of every kind, stocks, securities, policies, debts due to them, stock in trade, goodwill of trade, horses and carriages, wine, furniture, plate, books, pictures, and jewels; as well as the proceeds of real and leasehold estate directed to be sold. 180,149 left no property which came under the cognizance of the court.

Thus of 100 persons 14.6 left declared property of this kind; and 85.4 left no such declared personal property, although they may have left land alone in some instances.

Sons and daughters, as well as many wives, possess no property, but undoubtedly a large quantity of property passes to successors in small portions untaxed. And much personal property, evading the duty, passes by gift.

TABLE I. 1.—POPULATION AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1858, and the ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS in the Year 1858.

	POPULATION, aged 21 Years and upwards, estimated to the Middle of the Year 1858.	DEATHS of Persons aged 21 Years and upwards in the Year 1858.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WILLS in the Year 1858.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION in the Year 1858.
Persons - - -	10,366,793	210,972	21,653	9,170
Males - - -	5,938,476	102,049	15,558	5,896
Females - - -	5,328,317	108,923	6,095	3,274

TABLE I. 2.—PROPORTION PER CENT. of DEATHS, WILLS, and ADMINISTRATIONS to the POPULATION aged 21 Years and upwards; of WILLS and ADMINISTRATIONS to DEATHS of PERSONS aged 21 years and upwards, and the AVERAGE AMOUNTS to EACH PERSON, during the Year 1858.

	To every 100 of the POPULATION aged 21 Years and upwards.			To every 100 DEATHS of Persons aged 21 Years and upwards.		WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.		
	The proportional Number of			The Average Amount to each Person.			WILLS.	ADMINISTRATIONS.
	DEATHS of that Age.	WILLS.	ADMINISTRATIONS.	WILLS.	ADMINISTRATIONS.	£		
Persons -	2.085	*2.9	*.088	10.263	4.347	2,331	2,998	759
Males -	2.025	.309	*.117	15.246	5.778	2,751	3,469	854
Females -	2.044	*.114	*.061	5.596	3.005	1,371	1,733	587

NOTE.—The Number of Wills and Administrations was not returned for the whole of the year; but in the calculations in this Table an estimate has been made for the 10 days, viz., from the 1st to the 10th January, inclusive, so as to give the results for the complete Year 1858.

The average amount of property disposed of by each will was 2,998*l.* or nearly 3000*l.* (Table I. 2.), by each administration 759*l.*; so the larger properties were dealt with under wills. The average amount severally left at death by about 30,823 persons was 2331*l.*; if the aggregate amount of property in the full year be taken at 71,860,792*l.*, including 64,904,744*l.* under wills, and 6,956,048*l.* under administrations.

Of 102,049 men who died in the year, 15,558* left personal property under wills, 5896 under administrations; so 21,454 left declared property of this kind, and 80,595 left none.

* This and the following numbers are corrected for the year.

For one man who left personal property, four left no amount of personal property according to the return; or, more exactly, of 100 men, 21.0 left personal property; 15.2 under wills, and 5.8 under administrations.

Women leave less personal property than men. 108,923 women died of the age of 21 and upwards; of whom about 6095 left personal property under wills, 3274 left the same kind of property under administrations. Or out of 100 we had 5.6 leaving wills, 3.0 leaving property for which letters of administration were taken out.

Then the average amount under the will of a woman is 1,793*l.*; and 587*l.* under letters of administration.

The several amounts of personal property have not been summed up; but with a view of showing its distribution approximately, an estimate has been formed on the principle that 806 properties sworn at sums above 4,000*l.* and under 6,000*l.*, are worth on an average 5,000*l.*, and are therefore worth in the aggregate 4,030,000*l.* The great properties of 100,000*l.* or more are taken at their sworn amounts. The whole of the properties, omitting those in the first ten days of January, are by this estimate worth 69,893,380*l.*; of which 57,396,350*l.* were left by men, and 12,497,030*l.* by women.

The Table (p. 181.) is classed from the actual amounts in the scale on which the various duties are levied; and the annexed Table (II. 1, 2, 3, 4) has been framed from it, by distributing the number of properties over several equal intervals, to show the relative number of properties of magnitude ranging from 0*l.* to a million. The higher amounts fluctuate from year to year, and can only be determined from the returns of several years.

Table II. 1. deals with 22,513 properties, each sworn under 1,000*l.*, and shows the numbers and amounts in ten degrees of 100*l.* each. Thus 4670 persons died worth 100*l.* and worth less than 200*l.* of personal property; and proceeding step by step, the numbers at the end are reduced to 7466 persons, each leaving 1,000*l.* and upwards, or 64,130,500*l.* in the aggregate. The 22,513 persons (=29,979-7466) severally dying worth less than 1,000*l.*, left only 5,762,880*l.* in the aggregate.

We pursue in Table II. 2. the stream of wealth, until it is reduced to 44,120,000*l.* left by 1189 persons, each dying possessed of 10,000*l.* and upwards of personal property, or of lands directed to be sold making those amounts. So 28,790 persons died, each worth something, but less than 10,000*l.*, and possessing 25,773,380*l.* in the aggregate.

Table II. 3. Again 587 persons, each possessing personal property sworn at sums of 20,000*l.* and upwards, had 35,090,000*l.* of the personal property of the country; whereas the other 29,392 persons died in the possession of 34,803,380*l.* So while the two masses of property are nearly equal, the numbers of the possessors are in the proportion of 50 leaving small fortunes (if we so designate properties worth less than 20,000*l.*) to one leaving the large fortune of 20,000*l.* and upwards. 67 properties are left worth 15,060,000*l.* in the aggregate, each property worth 100,000*l.* or more, and sworn at less than 1,000,000*l.* of personal property. In this year only one property was sworn at the highest figure, 1,000,000*l.*; but that sum has been exceeded in previous years. The probate tax is not levied *pro rata* on all properties; but is as a general rule levied at the lowest rates on the great properties.

The possessors of the various properties are described in the usual legal phraseology, which is neither very definite nor very accurate. But it appeared to be well worth the while to classify the possessors of the various personal properties left under will or administration.

The Census classification was employed for the purpose.

TABLE II. 1, 2, 3, 4.—NUMBER of WILLS and ADMINISTRATIONS returned during the YEAR 1858 (from 11th January to 31st December 1858), and the AMOUNT of PROPERTY represented by them.

AMOUNTS.	WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.			
	PERSONS.		AMOUNTS.	
	Number of Wills and Administrations of the respective Values indicated in Column 1.	Sum of the Number of Wills and Administrations of the Value indicated in Column 1 and upwards.	Amount of Property belonging to the Number of Persons in Column 2.	Amount of Property belonging to the Number of Persons in Column 3.
1	2	3	4	5
(1.) Under £1000.				
£			£	£
000-100	8,303	29,979	411,105	69,893,380
100 - - - - -	4,670	21,676	700,500	69,482,275
200 - - - - -	2,512	17,006	628,000	68,781,775
300 - - - - -	1,678	14,494	598,092	68,153,775
400 - - - - -	1,435	12,816	631,725	67,555,683
500 - - - - -	1,190	11,381	665,358	66,923,958
600 - - - - -	876	10,191	585,537	66,258,600
700 - - - - -	746	9,315	549,863	65,673,063
800 - - - - -	617	8,569	514,187	65,123,200
900 and under £1000	486	7,952	478,513	64,609,013
1000 and upwards	-	7,466	-	64,130,500
(2.) Under £10000.				
£			£	£
0000-1000	22,513	29,979	5,762,880	69,893,380
1000 - - - - -	2,671	7,466	4,006,500	64,130,500
2000 - - - - -	1,266	4,795	3,452,000	60,124,000
3000 - - - - -	792	3,529	2,722,000	56,872,000
4000 - - - - -	489	2,737	2,195,000	53,950,000
5000 - - - - -	317	2,248	1,835,000	51,755,000
6000 - - - - -	236	1,931	1,604,000	49,920,000
7000 - - - - -	203	1,695	1,469,000	48,316,000
8000 - - - - -	180	1,492	1,391,000	46,847,000
9000 and under £10000	123	1,312	1,336,000	45,456,000
10000 and upwards	-	1,189	-	44,120,000
(3.) Under £100000.				
£			£	£
00000-10000	23,790	29,979	25,773,380	69,893,380
10000 - - - - -	602	1,189	9,030,000	44,120,000
20000 - - - - -	231	587	5,775,000	35,090,000
30000 - - - - -	126	356	4,410,000	29,315,000
40000 - - - - -	61	230	2,745,000	24,905,000
50000 - - - - -	34	169	2,068,000	22,160,000
60000 - - - - -	28	135	1,744,000	20,092,000
70000 - - - - -	20	107	1,420,000	18,348,000
80000 - - - - -	14	87	1,096,000	16,928,000
90000 and under £100000	6	73	772,000	15,832,000
100000 and upwards	-	67	-	15,060,000
(4.) Under £1000000.				
£			£	£
000000-100000	29,912	29,979	54,833,380	69,893,380
100000 - - - - -	43	67	6,060,000	15,060,000
200000 - - - - -	14	24	3,900,000	9,000,000
300000 - - - - -	5	10	1,800,000	5,100,000
400000 - - - - -	3	5	1,500,000	3,300,000
500000 - - - - -	0	2	-	1,800,000
600000 - - - - -	0	2	-	1,800,000
700000 - - - - -	1	2	800,000	1,800,000
800000 - - - - -	0	1	-	1,000,000
900000 and under £1000000	1	1	1,000,000	1,000,000
1000000 and upwards	-	0	-	-

Columns 2 and 4 may be read thus: In the first series showing the distribution of Wills and Administrations under £1000 by hundreds, the number of Wills and Administrations representing values under £100 was 8303, making in the aggregate £411,105. 4670 represented the properties of the value of £100 and under £200, making in the aggregate £700,500. 2512 represented properties of the value of £200 and under £300, making in the aggregate £628,000. In the second series, showing the distribution under £10,000 by thousands, 792 represented properties of the value of £3000 and under £4000, making in the aggregate £2,722,000, and so on for the other series.

Columns 3 and 5 may be read thus: Table II. 1. There were 29,979 Wills and Administrations disposing of properties of values under £1,000,000, or in the aggregate £69,893,380;—21,676 disposing of properties of the value of £100 and under £1,000,000, making £69,482,275 in the aggregate;—17,006 disposing of properties of the value of £200 and upwards, making £68,781,775 in the aggregate. Table II. 2. 1931 disposing of properties of the value of £6000 and upwards, making in the aggregate £49,920,000. Table II. 3. 587 disposing of properties of the value of £20,000 and upwards, making in the aggregate £35,090,000 (or about one-half of the whole amount of property represented by all the Wills and Administrations in the year); and Table II. 4. 10 disposing of properties of the value of £300,000 and upwards, making in the aggregate £5,100,000.

Table (pp. 174-177) shows the amounts of property left under 5928 wills by 2293 spinsters, 285 wives, and 3350 widows. The titles, professions, and occupations of men are given in considerable detail. The Table deserves careful study. Of 66 persons dying possessed of 100,000*l.* and upwards, one was a woman; 10 were peers and other titled persons. 37 are described as esquires or gentlemen; but solicitors will be able to say whether these designations are not applied to men who have made large fortunes by trade, commerce, and manufactures. The series is completed by referring to the classification in Table (pp. 178-180) of the other possessors of personal property, on which letters of administration were granted in the year.

It will be observed that the accumulated wealth of this country is in the hands of no one class of the community. It has been created and it is employed in every branch of industry.

This analysis of properties is based on the probates, &c. of personal properties proved in England. It includes debts, and the properties are probably sworn at their full nominal value, so the amounts are overstated; but they can be checked by comparing the amount with the amount of personal property on which legacy duty was actually paid, not precisely but nearly in the same year. The following Table III. has been constructed from Table (p. x.) in the recent interesting Report of the Inland Revenue Department. Here debts are deducted, and property passing to the husband or wife is omitted, as on it no duty is levied. The schedules which the department issues, as well as the 55 Geo. 3. c. 184. and 22 & 23 Vict. c. 36., should be read by writers who wish to use these materials.

TABLE III.—AMOUNT of PROPERTY upon which LEGACY and SUCCESSION DUTIES were paid during the Year ending 31st March 1859.

RATES OF DUTY.	AMOUNTS ON WHICH LEGACY DUTY WAS PAID.			
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	IRELAND.	UNITED KINGDOM.
1 per cent. -	£ 33,549,448	£ 2,630,126	£ 1,806,923	£ 37,986,497
2½ " -	78,133	-	-	78,133
3 " -	15,960,253	1,899,803	1,048,922	18,908,978
4 " -	22,823	-	-	22,823
5 " -	2,396,378	144,076	49,202	2,589,656
6 " -	486,572	17,437	5,660	509,669
8 " -	3,593	-	-	3,593
10 " -	4,595,181	451,906	295,175	5,342,262
TOTAL -	57,092,381	5,143,348	3,205,882	65,441,611
RATES OF DUTY.	VALUES ON WHICH SUCCESSION DUTY WAS PAID.			
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	IRELAND.	UNITED KINGDOM.
1 per cent. -	£ 17,686,448	£ 1,462,685	£ 2,317,600	£ 21,466,733
3 " -	4,449,735	473,000	666,871	5,589,606
5 " -	663,951	31,024	53,697	748,672
6 " -	63,016	4,019	1,261	68,296
10 " -	1,177,954	36,460	154,909	1,369,323
TOTAL -	24,041,104	2,007,188	3,194,338	29,242,630

Only a part of the property of the country paid legacy duty until the year 1854, when the Succession Act passed. The tenure of landed property is by no means so simple as it might be; but the succession duty is levied "on real property, which includes all freehold, copyhold, customary, leasehold, and other hereditaments, whether corporeal or incorporeal." The "saleable value" and the "annual value" of each property is returned by the "successor" or trustee, and after this is scrutinized the taxable value is fixed by the department, on the assumption that this

said value is equal to the value of annuities on the lives of the successors. The duty is paid by slow instalments, so the department alone can tell how much remains out of this account.

The property of the United Kingdom on which the legacy duty was paid in the year ending March 31st 1859 amounted to 65,441,611*l.* What was the value of the real property on which the succession duty was paid? The Inland Revenue Department has not yet given that portion of their returns; but if we assume that the property is taxed on half its saleable value, it will amount in the aggregate to 58,485,260*l.*, and even then the landed possessions at death are of probably less value than the property taxed as personal under the Legacy Act, after allowing for real property directed under will to be sold. Upon this assumption, 123,926,871*l.* pass by death to every generation of successors. From this—after allowing for property passing by gift—may be obtained an approximation to the total value of the real and personal property of the United Kingdom existing in taxable portions, and in all the various forms—except that living and inherent in the population itself. But it would be futile to proceed further, as the required data will probably be supplied at an early period by the Inland Revenue Department in their Annual Report.

My object has been only to show the connexion between the deaths and the properties passing at the close of every English life to its successor. And it is certainly a remarkable fact, that, taking one death with another, including men, women, and children, more than 100*l.* of property paying legacy duty, and perhaps 187*l.* of property of every kind, is left for the benefit of successors, in the United Kingdom.

The causes of death in England and Wales in the year 1859 are discussed by Dr. Farr in a letter addressed to me, which will be found in the Appendix.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM,

Registrar-General.
