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1845
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR GENERAL

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES,

IN ENGLAND.

(ABSTRACTS OF THE TWO YEARS 1843, 1844.)



LONDON:

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1846.

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R E P O R T.

TO

THE RIGHT HON. SIR JAMES GRAHAM, BART., M.P.,

Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR,

General Register Office, December 29, 1845.

IN my last Report, bearing date August 10th, 1844, I had the honour of transmitting to you, for the purpose of being laid before Parliament, a General Abstract of the Numbers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages registered in England and Wales during the year 1842. Upon the present occasion, I submit to you, for the same purpose, Abstracts of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages registered during the years 1843 and 1844. For those two years the ages at which the deaths occurred have not yet been abstracted, nor do I now submit to you, for the purpose of being presented to Parliament, the Abstracts of the Causes of Death during the same period.

In the course of the present year, in accordance with instructions with which you have honoured me, I have considered whether it may not be desirable that in future more extensive information should be afforded to the public with respect to the facts annually registered under this office. I am of opinion that the value of the Abstracts will be much enhanced if, in future, the Causes of Death are abstracted combined with the Ages at which the Deaths occur. Much valuable information also, it appears to me, will be afforded if, in future, Abstracts are given of the Deaths at different Ages in the different ranks and professions of society, in connexion with an Abstract of the Ages of the Persons following those professions as returned at the last Census. Thus, if the ages of the various classes of society in the metropolis, in some large towns, and in certain agricultural counties, or in the mining and manufacturing districts, are abstracted from the Census Returns of 1841, and if the deaths are abstracted in the same classes and districts for the seven years 1838-44, the relative mortality and duration of life can be satisfactorily deduced therefrom, and much light will be thrown upon the causes which really influence the health and well-being of the working, middle, and higher classes.

But, in order to effect this object, it is necessary that a new arrangement should be made in the publication of the results of the last Census. The country being now divided into districts and sub-districts, in which the births and deaths are registered, all calculations of the mortality and

increase must be made with reference to the population of those districts ; I propose, therefore, to publish in districts and sub-districts the Returns of the Census of 1841, with an arrangement of the parishes and places distinguished in former Censuses, under the heads to which their population, marriages, births, and deaths are referred. I now submit to you, in the Appendix, a new arrangement of the Census Returns of the county of Kent, as a specimen of the mode in which I propose to publish the Returns of each county of England and Wales.* I am indebted to the Statistical Society of London, to some members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and to several actuaries of eminence, for communications and suggestions in reference to these plans ; the results of which, when matured, shall be submitted to you for the purpose of being laid before Parliament.

To be enabled to make deductions on which greater reliance may be placed, from the Causes of Death recorded in the registers, combined with the Ages and Professions of the deceased, I have considered it my duty to make an effort to induce medical practitioners to give written statements of the Cause of Death, for the purpose of registration, in all cases where fatal diseases come under their notice. I have accordingly addressed a circular letter to all the authorized practitioners throughout the country, impressing upon them the importance of attention to this matter ; and I have also, at the same time, furnished them with books of blank certificates, to be filled up and placed in the hands of those persons who will be required to give information of the death to the registrar of the district in which the deceased resided.

My appeal to the medical profession has been responded to in the manner I anticipated ; and I am happy to be enabled to report that, with rare exceptions, the members of that liberal and enlightened profession, now generally state in writing, for the purpose of registration, the particulars respecting the fatal diseases which come under their notice. From their exertions I hope that a correct knowledge may be obtained of the comparative prevalence of various mortal diseases, of the localities in which they respectively prevail, and the sex, age, and condition of life which each principally affects ; and I trust that the Abstracts which in future years I shall be enabled to publish will form a useful addition to the records of the vital statistics of this kingdom.

An inconsiderable number—perhaps fifty persons—of the medical profession have refused to return the causes of death, for very various reasons ; one gentleman, because a Factory Inspector had displeased him, another because he had not been elected a medical officer under the new Poor Law, another because the remuneration under that law is insufficient, another because he is not specially paid for signing the written certificate. That it is the duty of the State to require from the medical attendants, and to register the cause of every individual's death which takes place in the country, appears to me incontestable ; and, as I have stated, I have found that the profession as a body comprising more than ten thousand qualified medical practitioners, and all the most eminent

* The Appendix appears in the folio edition presented to Parliament.

men in all branches of the profession—physicians, surgeons, and general practitioners—have expressed their readiness to return the causes of death in the best way the present state of medical science and their means of procuring information will admit. I have given explicit instructions that no certificate shall be received from persons known to be unqualified, or to have no diploma from either the halls, colleges, or recognized Universities ; and I have determined not to attempt at present to compel the few medical practitioners who have refused to sign certificates, to return the causes of their patients' deaths ; as although they may have diplomas, it is probable that the information they would be induced to furnish would be of little comparative value, and might mingle errors among the facts spontaneously supplied by enlightened, accurate observers. If the Legislature should appoint health officers to act with the coroners, and to inquire into the causes of the deaths of persons who are not attended medically at all, or are attended in fatal diseases by quacks and unqualified practitioners, it may be thought right to inquire into the deaths of patients attended by men holding diplomas who refuse to state the causes of death to the best of their ability.

I have also called the attention of coroners to the importance of returning, in all fatal cases inquired into by juries, the causes of violent deaths, more accurately and more in detail than has, except in a few cases, been done hitherto, in the hope that, when these causes are determined and carefully analyzed, means may be devised for guarding against their effects, for throwing additional security around human life, improving the public health, preventing crime, and advancing medical science. At pp. 252, 254, and 315, I have inserted the circular letters which in the course of this year I have addressed to the medical profession, to Registrars, and to the Coroners throughout England and Wales, and I have republished the Summary of Causes of Death by Violence registered during the year 1840, with the Abstract of Deaths by Different Causes in the five years 1838-42.

The number of marriages, births, and deaths registered in the seven years in which the Registration Act has been in operation were : (a)—

In the seven years 861,286 marriages, or the marriages of 1,722,572 persons were registered, and in the same time 3,556,649 births and 2,437,922 deaths were recorded. Registration, postponed by the Act

(a)

Years.	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
Marriages	118,067	123,166	122,665	122,496	118,825	123,818	132,249
Births	463,787	492,574	502,303	512,158	517,739	527,325	540,763
Deaths	342,547	338,979	359,634	343,847	349,519	346,446	356,950
Excess of Births registered over Deaths	121,240	153,595	142,669	168,311	168,220	180,879	183,813

of 7th Will. IV., cap. 1, commenced July 1st, 1837, and if the marriages, births, and deaths registered in the half-year of 1837 be added, the total number of names entered on the register up to December 31st, 1844, is 8,146,918.

All the marriages and deaths which have happened in England, (including Wales throughout this Report,) have been registered since the beginning of 1838, or the omissions have been so few as not to require to be taken into account.

Many births have escaped notice, particularly in the first years of registration, as parents are not bound to give information of a birth unless "requested so to do" by the Registrar: latterly, by increased vigilance and better arrangements, the defects have much diminished, and the zeal and exertions of the officers employed under the Act will, I confidently expect, render this branch of registration as complete as is possible in the present state of the law.

The population of England, enumerated on June 7th, 1841, was 15,912,773.* It may be estimated at 15,927,867 on July 1st, 1841. Disregarding emigration, and assuming for the moment that the births registered represent the number of children born in each quarter, 123,868 persons were added to the population by birth in the three months following July 1st, 1841. And in the same period 75,440 persons of all ages were taken from the population by death; leaving on October 1st, 1841, the population 48,428 more than it numbered on July 1st; we have therefore $15,927,867 + 48,428 = 15,976,295$, the population on October 1st, 1841. Proceeding in the same manner the population at the beginning of every year by this method is compared (b) with the population calculated on the usual hypothesis.

The population (female) increased 1.335 per cent. annually from 1831 to 1841; it increased very regularly at rather a faster rate from 1801 to 1831; and from the known circumstances of the country in the present decennium, the inference is probable that the mean rate of increase has hitherto been as high as that which prevailed from 1831 to 1841. The population of England estimated at that rate of increase was 16,684,600 on January 1st, 1845; and will be 17,000,000

* Enumeration Abstracts of Census, 1841, Part I. page 464. 1016 officers and convicts in hulks on the Medway are added to the total given by the Census Commissioners.

(b)

The Population deduced from the excess of Births over Deaths	Excess of Births registered over Deaths.	The Population on the hypothesis that it increased 1.335 per cent. annually, was	Calculated Annual Increase.
on January 1st, 1842, was 16,017,777	168,220	16,033,800	214,100
" 1843 " 16,185,997	180,879	16,247,900	216,900
" 1844 " 16,366,876	183,813	16,464,800	219,800
" 1845 " 16,550,689	..	16,684,600	..

before Midsummer, 1846. About 222,000 souls are added to the population of this part of the United Kingdom annually. (c)

The numbers in the population returns are augmented by the immigration of the Scotch, of the Irish, and of persons born in other parts of the empire, as well as by an increase of foreigners residing or travelling in the country. Upon the other hand, the numbers of the population at home between any two Censuses, such as 1831 and 1841, are diminished by emigration; by any increase in the interval in the army, navy, merchant service, civil service in India, or in the Colonies; and by the number of absentees and travellers abroad at the last exceeding those away at the previous Census.

To secure a complete statistical account of these "movements" of the population, the Census lists should be revised annually, and registers should be kept of those who leave or enter the country, as well as of births and deaths. In the absence of the information which such a system would furnish, it is impossible to determine the precise extent of the deficiency in the registration of births.

Returns for the 10 years, 1831-1840, of the Baptisms and Burials according to the rites of the Established Church were procured from the clergy by the Census Commissioners, and it will be interesting to compare those returns with the returns under the Registration Act.

The number of marriages, baptisms, and burials in each of the 20 years, 1821-40, is subjoined. (d)

The returns of the three years 1838, 1839, 1840, contemporaneous with the returns under the Registration Act, show that the deaths of 15 per cent., or between a sixth and a seventh part of the people who died in England, were not recorded in the parish registers. The defects in the Church registers remained nearly the same in the two last years, and it is probable that they have ranged within a narrow limit during the whole of the present century; I have, therefore, to obtain the whole of the deaths in the ten years, 1831-40, raised the burials returned by the Clergy in the ratio of 883,912 to 1,041,160. Upon this estimate 2,934,521 burials returned in the church registers, imply that nearly three million and a half (3,456,573) persons died in England. (e)

The number of emigrants from the ports of England and Wales were 429,775 in the 10 years, 1832-41.* A "large proportion were natives

(c)

	1842	1843	1844
Calculated Increase of the Population . . .	214,100	216,900	219,800
Excess of Births registered over Deaths . . .	168,220	180,879	183,813
Increase, not accounted for by the registered Births }	45,880	36,021	35,987

* Return by Emigration Board given in the preface to the Enumeration Abstract, 1841, page 11. The Returns of the Emigration Board do not properly distinguish the sex, age, native country, or profession of the emigrants, or the other particulars required in the present advanced stage of statistical science; so that a great deal is necessarily left to conjecture, in the absence of the direct information which might be supplied in the returns.

of Ireland." The Census Commissioners of Ireland had returns for the 10 years of 229,112 emigrants from Liverpool.* The authorities of the

(d) Marriages, Burials, and Baptisms, according to the rites of the English Established Church, in 20 Years, 1821-40.

Year.	Marriages.	BAPTISMS.			BURIALS.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1821	100,868	181,811	173,496	355,307	107,482	104,870	212,352
1822	98,878	190,508	182,063	372,571	111,299	109,116	220,415
1823	101,918	189,144	180,616	369,760	119,649	117,737	237,386
1824	104,723	189,401	182,043	371,444	124,027	120,047	244,074
1825	110,428	192,003	183,050	375,053	129,727	125,291	255,018
1826	104,941	194,527	185,886	380,413	136,100	132,061	268,161
1827	107,130	191,428	182,758	374,186	128,991	122,880	251,871
1828	111,174	200,333	192,121	392,454	130,015	125,318	255,333
1829	104,316	194,089	186,156	380,245	134,525	129,705	264,230
1830	107,719	194,200	187,860	382,060	129,290	124,777	254,067
1831	112,094	198,232	190,890	389,122	142,185	136,434	278,619
1832	116,604	197,255	190,716	387,971	150,938	147,223	298,161
1833	120,127	203,348	196,695	400,043	147,393	143,115	290,508
1834	121,884	205,935	199,940	405,875	143,550	139,547	283,097
1835	119,598	206,137	198,930	405,067	144,287	137,258	281,545
1836	120,849	204,985	200,152	405,137	143,982	137,703	281,685
1837	112,727	234,301	228,592	462,893	171,597	165,397	336,994
1838	113,123	191,021	186,093	377,114	149,364	143,286	292,650
1839	116,677	186,621	181,442	368,063	146,115	140,740	286,855
1840	115,548	184,917	179,523	364,440	154,299	150,108	304,407

Periods of 5 Years.

1821-25	516,815	942,867	901,268	1,844,135	592,184	577,061	1,169,245
1826-30	535,280	974,577	934,781	1,909,358	658,921	634,741	1,293,662
1831-35	590,307	1,010,907	977,171	1,988,078	728,353	703,577	1,431,930
1836-40	578,924	1,001,845	975,802	1,977,647	765,357	737,234	1,502,591

Periods of 10 Years.

1821-30	1,052,095	1,917,444	1,836,049	3,753,493	1,251,105	1,211,802	2,462,907
1831-40	1,169,231	2,012,752	1,952,973	3,965,725	1,493,710	1,440,811	2,934,521

(e)

Years.	Burials according to the Parish Registers.	Deaths Registered.	Buried per Cent.	
			According to the Rites of the Established Church.	Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.
1838	292,650	342,547	85.43	14.57
1839	286,855	338,979	84.62	15.38
1840	304,407	359,634	84.65	15.35
	883,912	1,041,160	84.90	15.10

* Report of Census Commissioners, Ireland, p. xxviii.

port estimated the proportion of Irish at two-thirds, or 152,738 of the number. "There is no reason to suppose that Ireland has contributed so largely to the emigration from any other port [in England] as that of Liverpool," and the Irish from other ports not distinguished in the returns, must be left as a set-off against transported convicts and English emigrants not registered in our own ports, or proceeding from the ports of Scotland and Ireland. Deducting 152,738 Irish from the 429,775 emigrants, 277,037 remain, who may be held to represent the number of English emigrants in the 10 years.

Of the 15,912,773 persons, enumerated in 1841, 432,974 were returned as having been born out of England; namely, 103,238 in Scotland, 289,404 in Ireland, 1088 in the Colonies, and 39,244 in our foreign possessions, and in foreign parts. The birth-place of soldiers, sailors, and others, amounting in all to 116,112, was not returned; assuming that 15,000 of them were born out of England, the total number of the population not indigenous (*advenæ*) was 447,974; and if we can determine how many persons must have entered the country annually to amount to 447,974 in 1841, the number of immigrants into England, hitherto unknown, may be estimated. As the enumeration of the *advenæ* in 1841 was the first in which they were returned, and their ages as well as the time in which they came in are not given, the problem is indeterminate; it may be solved, however, upon probable data, and the limits of error fixed.

If the Irish, Scotch, and other immigrants, all entered in families of all ages, in equal numbers within each of the 10 years, 49,584 must have come into the country annually to amount to 447,974 in 1841, if they all came in equal numbers year by year, during the 20 years ended in 1841, 27,416 must have entered annually,* or 274,160 must have entered in the last 10 years.

As young children and old people among immigrants are in less than the usual proportion, it may be assumed that the whole class is represented at the time of entering the country by persons between the ages of 15 and 55; 25,755 of such annual immigrants would in 20 years amount to 447,974.† The number (25,755) differs little from 27,416, which I am inclined to consider a sufficiently near approximation to the annual number of immigrants in the 10 years, June 1831-41; and which differing little from the annual number of emigrants (27,704) previously cited, allows us to admit the simple and until now unsupported hypothesis of Mr. Rickman and other writers, that the immigration of the Scotch and Irish into England nearly counterpoises the emigration of Englishmen by birth to the colonies and foreign parts.

* 548,460 immigrants would, at this rate, come into England in twenty years, but 100,486 of them would die, leaving 447,974 alive at the end of the time.

† For the formula and table from which the calculations have been derived, see Appendix to Sixth Report, page 547 and page 561, 8vo. edition. If the number of annual immigrants

be represented by i , then $i = \frac{Q_x | y}{Y_x | n - Y_{x+y} | n} \times \text{advenæ}$. The immigrants are supposed to be subject to the same law of mortality as the whole population on which the English table is constructed. The calculation can only be made by means of the new form given to that life table.

59,348 persons resident in Ireland (21,552), and Scotland (37,796) when the Census was taken, and there stated to have been *born in England*, imply, however, the removal of from 3400 to 3600 persons annually from England to the other parts of the United Kingdom. The greater part of them may be the offspring of Scotch and Irish parents, but added to the 27,704 annual emigrants, they make the total numbers who left England in 1831-40 more than 310,000, which is 36,000 more than the estimated number of immigrants. It is possible that to something like this extent (3600 a year), the persons born in England who leave, exceed those born elsewhere who come into the country; but for practical purposes it may for the present be assumed that the immigration and emigration are equal.

The results of this inquiry may be briefly summed up:—

Population enumerated in England about May 29th, 1831	13,897,187
Add for unenumerated Army, Navy, merchant seamen at home	69,487
<hr/>	
Population in England, 1831	13,966,674
Deduct, Deaths	3,456,573
Emigrants	277,037
<hr/>	
	3,733,610
<hr/>	
Residue to be subtracted from the existing population, 1841	10,233,064
The population, May 29, estimated from the population enumerated June 7th, 1841 (including Army, &c. &c.)	15,907,867
<hr/>	
Number of persons who entered the population by birth, and immigration in 10 years	5,674,803, or 567,480 annually.
Subtract for immigrants, &c.	277,037, or 27,704 ,,
<hr/>	
Then the births in the 10 years must have been	5,397,766, or 539,777 ,,
But the baptisms performed and registered at the Established Church were	3,965,725, or 396,573 ,,
<hr/>	
The Births in the 10 years not entered in the parish registers were consequently	1,432,041, or 143,204 ,,
Persons entering in the 10 years, including births not in the register, immigrants, &c.	1,709,078, or 170,908 ,,

NOTE.—The baptisms and burials were returned for the 10 years, 1831-40; the emigrants for the 10 years 1832-41; while the population was enumerated at the end of May, or the beginning of June in the years 1831, 1841. No correction has been made for this discrepancy in the dates, (ce).

Before quitting this subject I shall make a remark or two on the increase of the population of the United Kingdom, including England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands, the army, navy, and merchant seamen abroad, as well as at home.

(ce) A similar return for Prussia is added for the sake of comparison from the official Report of Mr. Dieterici.—Die Statistischen Tabellen des Preussischen Staats, 1845.

Years.	Population of Prussia.	Increase in Three Years.	Excess of Births in the same Years.	Increase of Population unaccounted for by the excess of Births over Deaths.
Population enumerated at the close of the Years .	1837 14,098,125	830,376	486,937	343,439
	1840 14,928,501	543,264	524,669	18,595
	1843 15,471,765	..	..	..

The table (f) has been drawn up from the returns of the Census Commissioners; but includes, on the authority of a note in the English Report, 17,992 British soldiers in the service of the East India Company. No return having been procured in 1831 of the English force in India, 15,000 have been added on that ground to the male population returned.

The increase of the population of the United Kingdom in 10 years is 10.79 per cent., which is at the rate of .01030, or of 1.030 per cent. annually.

Speaking in round numbers the population increased 11 per cent. in the 10 years 1831-41, which is very nearly at the rate of 1 per cent. annually: at this rate the population will double in 68 years. The increase of males was 1.033, of females 1.028 per cent. annually, a difference exceedingly slight. I subjoin a table of the population of the United Kingdom calculated at the above rate of increase for each of the 12 years, 1841-52. (g)*

The population, at the same rate of increase, will be 30,000,000 in January 1852. The increase was 2,639,817 in the 10 years, June 1831-41, or on an average 263,932 annually.

About 291,000 people will be added to the population in the year from Midsummer 1845 to 1846. The statement, so often repeated, that the population of the United Kingdom increases at the rate of 1000 a day is an error which has arisen probably from using the annual rate of increase in England (1 1/3 per cent.) instead of the lower rate of increase (1 per cent.) for the United Kingdom. At the present time it is probable that 800 persons are added to the population daily. The

(f) Population of the United Kingdom.

	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1841	13,301,711	13,742,528	27,044,239
1831	12,000,445	12,403,977	24,404,422
Increase of the Population	1,301,266	1,338,551	2,639,817

(g)

In the middle of the Years	The estimated Population of the United Kingdom.	Annual Increase.	In the middle of the Years	The estimated Population of the United Kingdom.	Annual Increase.
1841	27,064,000	278,000	1847	28,780,000	296,000
1842	27,342,000	282,000	1848	29,076,000	300,000
1843	27,624,000	285,000	1849	29,376,000	303,000
1844	27,909,000	287,000	1850	29,679,000	305,000
1845	28,196,000	291,000	1851	29,984,000	309,000
1846	28,487,000	293,000	1852	30,293,000	

* Let $r = 1 +$ the annual rate of increase ($\cdot 01030$) $= 1.01030$; then the logarithm of $r = 0.0044509$, from which the period of doubling is deduced by the formula $r^x = 2$; $x \lambda r = \lambda 2$; $x = \frac{\lambda 2}{\lambda r}$; or $\lambda x = \lambda 2 - \lambda \lambda r$, the latter being the most convenient form for calculation.

births exceed the deaths by about 1056 daily, but emigration from the United Kingdom keeps down the increase.* I have before shown that *England*, in which the daily births exceed the deaths by about 600, "gets rid" of but a small portion of what has been ignorantly called its "superfluous population" by emigration; the greater part of the English emigrants being constantly replaced by natives of Ireland and Scotland.

The following table shows the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered in each quarter of the year, from July 1st, 1837, to the end of 1844. The greatest number of births and deaths takes place in the winter, the least in the summer quarter; but the increase of population is greatest in the spring and summer quarters, when the seasons are most genial, and the circumstances of the people are most favourable to life, (*h*)

* The emigration from the United Kingdom was 821,742, or 82,174 persons annually in the 10 years 1831-40; 87,436 annually in 1842-4; and 93,501 in 1845.

(h)

Years.	Quarter ending the last day of	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births registered over Deaths.
1837	March	..	..	..	..
	June	..	..	..	..
	September	24,030	74,588	148,701	15,415
	December	34,449	89,528		
1838	March	23,201	113,815	98,113	15,702
	June	29,801	121,781	90,810	30,971
	September	27,764	114,734	72,791	41,943
	December	37,301	113,457	80,833	32,624
1839	March	24,679	123,543	89,739	33,804
	June	31,339	128,806	87,965	40,841
	September	29,887	120,115	76,280	43,835
	December	37,261	120,110	84,995	35,115
1840	March	26,395	132,305	98,843	33,462
	June	30,786	129,059	90,339	38,720
	September	29,221	119,822	80,822	39,000
	December	36,263	121,117	89,630	31,487
1841	March	24,447	133,720	99,069	34,651
	June	32,551	129,884	86,134	43,750
	September	29,397	123,868	75,440	48,428
	December	36,101	124,686	83,204	41,482
1842	March	25,860	135,615	96,314	39,301
	June	30,048	134,096	86,538	47,558
	September	27,288	123,296	82,339	40,957
	December	35,629	124,732	84,328	40,404
1843	March	25,285	136,837	94,926	41,911
	June	31,113	131,279	87,234	44,045
	September	28,847	128,161	76,792	51,369
	December	38,573	131,048	87,494	43,554
1844	March	26,387	143,578	101,015	42,563
	June	34,268	136,941	85,337	51,604
	September	31,675	130,078	79,708	50,370
	December	39,919	130,166	90,890	39,276
7 Years, 1838-44	861,286	3,556,649	2,437,922	1,118,727	
Two last quarters of 1837	58,479	164,116	148,701	15,415	
7½ Years, 1837½-44	919,765	3,720,765	2,586,623	1,134,142	

Marriages.—More marriages were celebrated in 1844 than had ever before been registered in England. The number was 132,249. In 1843 the number was 123,818, more by 4993 than were registered in 1842. The 118,825 marriages in 1842 were much below the average number; so few had not taken place in any year since 1832.

The proportion of marriages to the population went on declining from 1839 to 1842, increased in 1843, and attained the maximum in 1844. In the tables (*i*) (*k*) it will be seen that the fluctuations were greatest in the North-western Division, Yorkshire, and the Metropolis. In the Eastern and Southern Divisions the changes were not considerable.

The table (*l*) shows the numbers married according to the rites of the Established Church, in registered places of worship, and in Superintendent-Registrars' offices. The last two columns exhibit a considerable increase. The marriages in 1844, by Superintendent-Registrars' cer-

(i)

No.	DIVISIONS.	Annual Marriages to 100,000 Persons living.	Persons living to one annual Marriage	Persons Married to 100,000 living.					
				1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
1	Metropolis	968	103	2,011	1,994	1,935	1,863	1,896	2,013
8	North Western	859	116	1,744	1,684	1,685	1,544	1,756	1,889
9	York	802	125	1,691	1,641	1,559	1,470	1,536	1,728
	ENGLAND.	773	129	1,589	1,561	1,539	1,472	1,515	1,597
6	Western	771	130	1,659	1,567	1,543	1,450	1,473	1,556
7	North Midland	734	136	1,507	1,480	1,486	1,382	1,445	1,507
10	Northern	710	141	1,485	1,588	1,449	1,351	1,296	1,355
5	South Western	706	142	1,404	1,399	1,409	1,418	1,411	1,434
11	Welsh	700	143	1,510	1,474	1,386	1,356	1,300	1,373
3	South Midland	697	143	1,452	1,386	1,422	1,358	1,349	1,392
4	Eastern	696	144	1,389	1,391	1,396	1,372	1,381	1,424
2	South Eastern	684	146	1,313	1,332	1,363	1,365	1,387	1,386

(k) The Marriages registered increased in—

	1842	1843	1844
Metropolis	17,826	18,669	20,126
Lancashire	14,368	16,737	18,476
Yorkshire, West Riding	8,139	8,963	10,493
Staffordshire	3,182	3,324	3,851
Warwickshire	2,732	2,937	3,114

The Marriages registered were nearly stationary in—

	1842	1843	1844
Devonshire	4,247	4,261	4,397
Cornwall	2,509	2,380	2,360
Lincolnshire	2,701	2,605	2,585

(1) Abstract of Marriages registered in England, pursuant to the Act of 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 86.

ENGLAND.	MARRIAGES.					
	According to the Rites of the Established Church.					
	Special Licence.	Licence.	Banns.	Superintendent Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated by which of the foregoing Forms.	Total.
In the years ending 30th June, 1838 .	9	13,677	68,410	493	24,612	107,201
„ 1839 .	10	14,669	76,328	968	22,657	114,632
„ 1840 .	10	15,564	78,642	912	21,890	117,018
„ 1841 .	17	15,752	77,826	856	19,997	114,448
In the years ending 31st Dec. 1841 .	13	15,792	78,015	972	19,579	114,371
„ 1842 .	9	14,935	75,744	944	18,415	110,047
„ 1843 .	8	14,544	79,849	1,222	18,014	113,637
„ 1844 .	10	14,930	85,176	1,558	18,335	120,009

ENGLAND.	MARRIAGES.				
	Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.				
	In Registered Places of Worship.	In Superintendent Registrar's Office.	Quakers.	Jews.	Total.
In the years ending 30th June, 1838 .	2,976	1,093	76	135	4,280
„ 1839 .	4,654	1,564	73	160	6,451
„ 1840 .	5,140	1,938	81	152	7,311
„ 1841 .	5,816	2,036	66	116	8,034
In the years ending 31st Dec. 1841 .	5,882	2,064	66	113	8,125
„ 1842 .	6,200	2,357	58	163	8,778
„ 1843 .	7,152	2,817	61	151	10,181
„ 1844 .	*8,564	3,446	55	175	12,240

ENGLAND.	Total Marriages.	Not of Age.		Re-married.		Signed with Marks.	
		Men.	Women.	Widowers.	Widows.	Men.	Women.
In the years ending 30th June, 1838	111,481	5,575	16,563	..	..	..	..
„ 1839	121,083	5,628	16,414	..	..	40,767	59,949
„ 1840	124,329	6,101	17,909	..	..	41,812	62,523
„ 1841	122,482	5,537	16,391	..	..	40,059	59,896
In the years ending 31st Dec. 1841	122,496	5,362	16,285	..	..	39,954	59,680
„ 1842	118,825	5,387	16,003	15,619	10,579	38,031	56,965
„ 1843	123,818	5,511	16,403	16,305	10,811	40,520	60,715
„ 1844	132,249	5,494	17,362	16,881	11,156	42,769	64,816

* Of the 8,564 marriages in 1844, 2,280 were in Roman Catholic chapels; and 6,284 in the chapels of other denominations.

tificates, were 1558; in registered places of worship 8564; in Superintendent-Registrars' offices 3446. From 1842 the number of marriages by banns increased 9432, while the Church marriages by licence decreased, which shows that the increase chiefly affected the classes who marry by banns. In Lancashire 1730 marriages were performed by licence, 9638 by banns in the year 1842; in the year 1844 the number by banns rose to 12,692, by licence to 1823 only. The marriages are regulated to a certain extent by the circumstances of the people; and as the decrease in 1842 is a proof of depression in their condition, the increase in 1844 is a sign of decided improvement in their prospects.

The average annual number of marriages in the 7½ years between Quakers was 67, between Jews 146. The marriages of Quakers decreased considerably; those of Jews increased. In 1844 I had the marriages in Roman Catholic places of worship abstracted separately; the number was 2280. If all the Quakers, Jews, and Roman Catholics who married, were married according to the rites of their several religions, and in the average proportion of the whole population—namely, one marriage to every 129 of their respective bodies, the numbers in England must be:—Quakers, 8643; Jews, 18,834; Roman Catholics, 294,120. The Quakers appear to be dissolving into the general population of the country, under the benign influence of religious toleration; and when we reflect that the great majority of the 289,404 Irish by birth, exclusive of the Irish born in England, are Roman Catholics, the inference is that the number of English Catholics is small. It is right to observe, however, that a few Roman Catholics are married at Superintendent-Registrars' offices; and are referred to that head in the abstracts.

Of the 2280 marriages between Roman Catholics, 384 were registered in the Metropolis; 311 in Liverpool, 138 in Preston, 207 in Manchester, making with the other districts of that county 1123 in Lancashire.

It is not so easy to determine approximately the number of members of the Established Church and the members of the other religious denominations, between whom, practically, a line of demarcation cannot well be drawn, as many persons attend more than one of the recognized religious services and ordinances of the country. Those who take as the basis of calculation the marriages of 1844 will make 91 per cent. (90·7) of the population, members of the Church of England, while only 85 per cent. were buried (1838-40), and 70 per cent. baptized (1831-40), according to her rites. Those who make their estimate on the relative number of communicants or hearers at churches and chapels will no doubt find different proportions.

The manner in which baptism is deferred and neglected by members of the Church is shown by the Returns of Baptisms in 1837, when civil registration was first introduced. The baptisms at the Church rose from 387,971, in the year 1832, to 405,875 in 1834; they then, instead of increasing, fell to 405,137 in 1836. Great exertions, I believe, were made by the clergy, and the result was, that 462,893 children were

baptized by them in the year 1837; after that year the Church baptisms declined. It is probable that the baptisms among the dissenting religious denominations who favour infant baptism, may have increased, but respecting that I possess no information.

Marriages of Minors.—4·17 per cent. of the men married, and 13·16 per cent. of the women married, in 1844, were under 21 years of age. These premature marriages show a slight tendency to decrease, but are still more frequent than is desirable. (m)

The very different proportions of minors in the several counties will be seen in the Table, pp. 44, 45.

The exact age of the parties at marriage is stated by some clergymen: it is one of the most important facts that can be recorded, and will be found more useful perhaps than any other in identifying individuals, and in tracing remote pedigrees of persons having names in general use.

The statistics of a country in which the age of the mother at marriage and at the birth of her children is not recorded must always remain imperfect, and leave us without the means of solving some of the most important social questions.

Re-marriages.—12·81 per cent. of the men, and 8·46 per cent. of the women, married in 1844 had been previously married. (n) The proportions, depending both on the mortality and the disposition to marry, differ considerably in the several counties (Tables, pp. 42-45), but are very constantly the same in the same county from year to year. In Cornwall 6·1 per cent. of the women married in 1844 were widows, and 5·4 per cent. in 1843; in Lancashire 9·6 per cent. of the women married in 1844 were widows, and 9·6 per cent. in 1843.

Men and Women who sign the Marriage Register with Marks.—Persons, when they are married, are required to sign the Marriage Register; if they cannot write their names, they sign with a mark: the result has

(m)

Total Married.	Under Age.		Of Full Age.	
	Number.	Proportion per Cent. to the whole Number Married.	Number.	Proportion per Cent. to the whole Number Married.
1843				
123,818 Couples, or 247,636 Persons.	Men . 5,511	4·45	Men . 118,307	95·55
	Women 16,403	13·25	Women 107,415	86·75
Total and mean	. . 21,914	8·85	. . 225,722	91·15
1844				
132,249 Couples, or 264,498 Persons.	Men . 5,494	4·17	Men . 126,755	95·85
	Women 17,362	13·16	Women 114,887	86·87
Total and mean	. . 22,856	8·67	. . 241,642	91·36

hitherto been, that nearly one man in three and one woman in two married, sign with marks. (o)

Only 67 in 100 men, and 51 in 100 women, wrote their names. It is probable that a few women, able perhaps to write letters intelligible to their friends, signed with marks; but this simple test leaves little doubt that 33 in 100 of the men, and 49 in 100 of the women of England, at the marriageable age, are either quite unable to write, or write very badly. Some objections have been raised against this return as a test of the state of education. And it should be taken for no more than it is worth. I have already stated that a certain number of the women able to write, either from timidity or from other motives, may not have written their names. Upon the other hand, many who write their names are able to write little else; and writing the name is no proof of the possession of

(n)

Number of Persons who had been Married before in 100 Marriages.

1843			1844		
DISTRICTS.	Proportion per Cent.	One in	DISTRICTS.	Proportion per Cent.	One in
Metropolis . . .	12·5	8·0	Metropolis . . .	12·1	8·3
North Western . .	11·9	8·4	North Western . .	11·6	8·6
Western	11·4	8·8	Western	11·1	9·0
North Midland . .	11·1	9·0			
			ENGLAND.	10·6	9·4
ENGLAND.	11·0	9·1	Eastern	10·2	9·8
York	10·8	9·3	North Midland . .	10·2	9·8
South Eastern . .	10·2	9·8	York	10·2	9·8
Northern	10·2	9·8	South Eastern . .	9·9	10·1
South Western . .	10·1	9·9	South Western . .	9·9	10·1
Eastern	9·8	10·2	Welsh	9·8	10·2
Welsh	9·7	10·3	South Midland . .	9·5	10·5
South Midland . .	9·6	10·4	Northern	8·9	11·2

(o)

MEN married in the Years						
	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
Wrote their names . .	80,376	82,517	82,542	80,794	83,298	89,337
Signed with marks . .	40,767	41,812	39,954	38,031	40,520	42,912
WOMEN married in the Years						
	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
Wrote their names . .	61,134	61,806	62,816	61,860	63,103	67,176
Signed with marks . .	59,949	62,523	59,680	56,965	60,715	65,073

that stock of the elements of literary and scientific knowledge which it is desirable that the whole mass of a civilized nation should possess. But the return is of unquestionable value, as an evidence of the *relative state* of elementary education in different parts of the country, and at different times.

It will be seen (Tables *o* and *oo*) that there is a very slight diminution in the proportion of men who signed with marks during the six years, 1839-44. The average age of men at marriage is about 27 years, and if the mean age of boys during their education be 10 years, the great bulk of the persons married in 1839-44 learnt to write between the years 1821 and 1827.

The slow progress of instruction in those years is evinced by the facts, that 66·3 per cent. of the men wrote their names in the first, and 67·6 per cent. (only 1·3 more) in the last year (1844); while 50·5 per cent. of the women wrote their names in the first, and only 50·8 per cent. in the last year. I fear that the records of future years, in exhibiting the results of the inadequate means employed to educate the present generation of youth, will be as little flattering to our age as the actual returns are to our predecessors. The insufficiency of the national education is the more to be regretted, as the means of education exist, and the funds left for educational purposes, if properly applied, in the charities and public institutions, would, with some assistance from Parliament, supply the children of the poor with the sound knowledge which the scanty earnings of the parents do not enable them to purchase. The annual income of endowments for education is 312,544*l*.

The state of education varies in different counties to an incredible extent; and it will be observed, that in all counties of any amount of population the proportions of men and women who write remain very constant, from year to year, or vary slowly. (*p*)

The variations would be less if the decimals were retained in the

(*oo*) Proportion per Cent. of Persons Married under 21 Years of Age, of the Re-marriages of Widowers and Widows, and of Persons who signed the Marriage Register with Marks in England, 1839-44.

	Married under 21 Years of Age.			In 100 Marriages the			Signed the Marriage Register with Marks.		
	Proportion per Cent.			Proportion per Cent. of			Proportion per Cent.		
	Men.	Women.	Mean.	Widow-ers.	Widows.	Mean.	Men.	Women.	Mean.
In the Years ending the last day of June, 1839	4·64	13·55	8·60	..	..	..	33·7	49·5	41·6
„ 1840	4·90	14·40	9·65	..	..	..	33·6	50·3	42·0
„ 1841	4·52	13·38	8·95	..	..	..	32·7	48·9	40·8
In the Years ending the last day of Dec., 1841	4·38	13·29	8·83	Sept. & Dec. Qrs. of 1841.					
„ 1842	4·53	13·47	9·00	12·90	8·99	10·95	32·7	48·8	40·8
„ 1843	4·45	13·25	8·85	13·14	8·90	11·02	32·0	47·9	40·0
„ 1844	4·45	13·25	8·85	13·17	8·73	10·95	32·7	49·0	40·9
„ 1844	4·17	13·16	8·66	12·81	8·46	10·63	32·4	49·2	40·8

calculation, and if the inducements to marriage affected the educated and uneducated classes equally in every year. In Table (*q*) the divisions and counties are arranged in the order of the numbers educated, beginning with those in which the greatest proportion of men are able to write.

Why should not a great effort be made in the ill-instructed counties to attain at least the same degree of elementary education as is possessed by the people of the northern counties?*

Births.—The births of still-born children are not registered in England. I state this to prevent mistakes, as the still-born are registered in every other country, but upon loose, ill-defined principles, which render any comparison of the results impossible or fallacious. The still-born, in England, imply children born who never breathe in the world. If a premature infant of six months breathe, it is said to be born alive, is registered among the births, and if it die, among the deaths. The discrepancies in the returns of the still-born in foreign states prove beyond a doubt that their registration is imperfect; and it must always remain so, unless the period of intra-uterine life be defined at which the birth, if premature, is to be registered. In some countries the *fœtus* of four or six months is apparently registered among the births; in others, only mature infants.

I have already adverted to the deficiencies in the registration of births; and as the system of registration appears to have grown more efficient from year to year, the increase of the proportion of births to the population during the six years in the next Table (*r*) is probably only apparent; more births have been registered, but more children may not have been born in proportion to the population.

In attempting to calculate the relative fecundity, the births, as well as the marriages, should be compared with the number of women, married and unmarried, at several ages; but until the Census Returns are arranged, as I have proposed, in districts instead of hundreds, it is not possible to compare the births and marriages with the variable number of adults in the several divisions and counties. I have no alternative but to adopt the usual course, and to give the proportion of marriages and births to the male and female population; the results are

(*p*) Proportion per Cent. of Men who signed the Marriage Register with Marks.

	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
Metropolis . . .	12	12	11	12	12	12
Cumberland . . .	14	16	16	17	16	16
Cornwall . . .	33	36	35	36	38	36
Lancashire . . .	43	39	38	36	39	40
North Wales . . .	46	47	46	42	41	45
Bedfordshire . . .	55	54	49	50	49	50

* The Irish Census Commissioners (p. lxxxvi), give a return, from which it appears that 66 per cent. of the army, between the ages of 15-26, serving in Ireland, can read and write. This agrees with the abstracts in the English Report. Only 49 in 100 French conscripts could write in 1836. The English is therefore better educated than the French army, which stands in this respect as low as the men of Bedfordshire.

(9) Proportion per Cent. of Men and Women who signed the Marriage Register with Marks, and who wrote their Names; arranged in the order of the Education of Men, in Divisions and Counties of England, 1839-44.

No.	Divisions.	Proportion in 100 Men		Proportion in 100 Women		No.	Divisions.	Proportion in 100 Men		Proportion in 100 Women	
		Who Signed with Marks.	Who Wrote their Names.	Who Signed with Marks.	Who Wrote their Names.			Who Signed with Marks.	Who Wrote their Names.	Who Signed with Marks.	Who Wrote their Names.
1	Metropolis	12	88	24	76						
10	Northern	21	79	42	58						
2	South Eastern	32	68	40	60	18	Dorsetshire	33	67	42	58
7	North Midland	32	68	49	51	27	Warwickshire	33	67	48	52
	ENGLAND.	33	67	49	51	28	Leicestershire	33	67	50	50
9	York	34	66	57	43	31	Nottinghamshire	33	67	53	47
5	South Western	34	66	47	53	9	Oxfordshire	35	65	44	56
6	Western	38	62	52	48	1	Surrey (part of)	36	64	37	63
8	North Western	39	61	66	34	20	Cornwall	36	64	55	45
3	South Midland	42	58	52	48	33	Cheshire	36	64	61	39
4	Eastern	46	54	52	48	21	Somersetshire	37	63	48	52
11	Welsh	46	54	68	32	10	Northamptonshire	38	62	51	49
	COUNTIES.					23	Herefordshire	38	62	44	56
..	Metropolis	12	88	24	76	34	Lancashire	39	61	67	33
40	Cumberland	16	84	36	64	35	West Riding	39	61	64	36
39	Northumberland	18	82	37	63	5	Berkshire	41	59	44	56
36	East Riding (with York)	20	80	39	61	8	Buckinghamshire	42	58	55	45
41	Westmoreland	20	80	35	65	24	Shropshire	42	58	53	47
37	North Riding	23	77	40	60	17	Wiltshire	43	57	55	45
38	Durham	25	75	48	52	26	Staffordshire	43	57	59	41
19	Devonshire	28	72	41	59	16	Norfolk	44	56	50	50
2	Kent (except Greenwich)	29	71	39	61	11	Huntingdonshire	45	55	53	47
22	Gloucester	29	71	42	58	25	Worcestershire	45	55	59	41
32	Derbyshire	29	71	48	52	43	South Wales	45	55	69	31
3	Sussex	30	70	40	60	13	Cambridgeshire	46	54	55	45
4	Hampshire	31	69	39	61	15	Suffolk	46	54	52	48
6	Middlesex (part of)	32	68	35	65	44	North Wales	46	54	69	31
29	Rutlandshire	32	68	34	66	14	Essex	47	53	54	46
30	Lincolnshire	32	68	46	54	42	Monmouthshire	50	50	64	36
						7	Hertfordshire	51	49	56	44
						12	Bedfordshire	51	49	64	36

Births.

approximations, which show the relative fecundity with sufficient accuracy for many purposes. (*r*)

During the six years, 3215 children to 100,000, or nearly 3·2 to every 100 (namely, 50 males and 50 females) of the population, were born alive and registered: this proportion is nearly equal to *one* annual birth to every 31 persons living. In 1839, the births to 200,000 living (namely, 100,000 males and 100,000 females) were 6354; in 1844 the proportion had risen to 6529. In 1844 the proportion of births to population in the 11 divisions ranged from 6040, in the south-eastern division, to 7427, in the north-western division; and the difference in the several counties will be found still greater (*see* pp. 26, 30.)

Mortality.—The annual mortality during the seven years, 1838-44, was 2·189 per cent., or 1 in 46 of the population: it was above the average in 1838 and 1840; near the average in 1839; lower in 1841 and 1842; lowest in 1843 and 1844 (tables, pp. 26 and 32). It varied from 1 in 43·7 (year 1840) to 1 in 47·2 (year 1843). In the three first years (1838-40) the mortality was 2·239 per cent., in the three last (1842-44) 2·147 per cent., a fall of 1-24th part. Out of an equal population, for every 24 deaths in the three first, there were only 23 deaths in the three last years. The average price of wheat was 67*s.* 2*d.* in the three first, and 52*s.* 10*d.* in the three last years. The average price of butchers' meat per cwt. paid at Greenwich Hospital was 48*s.* in the three first, and 44*s.* 7*d.* in the three last years. The mean daily wages of bricklayers, masons, plumbers, and carpenters (of which an account has been kept at the Hospital for many years) rose from 5*s.* 2*d.* a-day, in 1838-40, to 5*s.* 6*d.* in 1842-44.* The declared

(*r*) Births to 100,000 Males and 100,000 Females living in the six years 1839-44.

No.	Divisions.	Children born alive to 50,000 Males and 50,000 Females living.	Living to one Birth annually.	Annual Births to 200,000 living (= 100,000 Males + 100,000 Females.)					
				Mean of 1839-44	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
8	North Western . . .	3612	28	7290	7205	7191	7100	7125	7427
9	York	3438	29	6968	6934	6977	6747	6761	6872
10	Northern	3353	30	6476	6677	6854	6676	6878	6678
3	South Midland . . .	3260	31	6534	6461	6480	6545	6564	6538
7	North Midland . . .	3259	31	6558	6573	6584	6460	6473	6465
6	Western	3228	31	6426	6566	6476	6466	6397	6410
	ENGLAND.	3215	31	6354	6394	6434	6418	6451	6529
1	Metropolis	3084	32	5801	6056	6132	6344	6311	6434
4	Eastern	3083	32	5940	6078	6187	6165	6339	6290
5	South Western . . .	3014	33	5975	5944	5964	6045	6069	6176
11	Welsh	3002	33	5956	5961	6056	5986	6003	6058
2	South Eastern . . .	2933	34	5755	5693	5801	5844	6000	6040

* From Returns, with which I have been favoured by the Hospital authorities.

annual value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported from England and Wales, was 47,138,173*l.* in the three years 1838-40, and 48,400,977*l.* in the three years 1842-4; the annual official value of imports in the corresponding years was 56,269,884*l.* and 62,141,101*l.** The annual amount of money expended on the relief of the poor in England was 4,581,600*l.* in 1838-40, and 5,074,600*l.* in 1842-4. It was 493,000*l.* more in the latter than in the former years. In the last three years, therefore, the price of provisions was cheaper, the commerce and manufactures of the country more active, the relief to the destitute more liberally administered, and the wages of artisans higher, than in 1838-40; and all these circumstances, favourable to the public health, undoubtedly contributed to the reduction of the mortality observed.

The mortality in the division comprising Cheshire and Lancashire rose progressively up to the year 1840, when it was 2·957 per cent., and fell gradually to 2·384 per cent. in 1844; the mortality of Yorkshire described a similar course. The difference in the annual mortality of these two divisions was very considerable; in the north-western division 2·789 per cent. in the first, 2·467 in the last three years: the difference of the two numbers is ·322. (s)

The divisions are arranged (p. 21) in the order of their mean mortality, which, it will be observed, ranges from 2·616 per cent. annually (1 in 38) down to 1·918 per cent. (1 in 52) annually. The lowest mortality in any division in any one year was 1·802 per cent., in 1843, in Wales and Monmouthshire; the highest mortality 2·957 per cent., in 1840, in Lancashire and Cheshire. Table, p. 34, exhibits the marriages, births, and deaths in the several counties, arranged in the order of the mortality; it will be observed that the marriages and births are most numerous relatively to the population in the counties where the mortality is highest.

Through the whole seven years, in every division, the mortality of males is greater than that of females (table D, p. 32.)

M. Moreau de Jonnés has favoured me with the latest official returns of the marriages, births, and deaths in France; and I am indebted to the Austrian Government for similar returns for all the provinces of that great empire, except Hungary, Transylvania, and the military frontier. The foreign returns are for the year 1843; those for 1844 have not yet been prepared, and cannot therefore be compared with the English Abstracts for that year. (t) The mortality of England is the lowest; but to render the comparison between the three empires accurate, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands should be united in a general return with England. I have stated, in a previous Report, that periodical Returns of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, are published by nearly all the States of Europe: by the Papal and other Italian States; by the small Cantons of Switzerland; by Austria, Prussia, and the German States; by Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, and Russia.

Returns of the Marriages, Births, and Deaths are not published for

* From a Return with which I have been favoured by Mr. Porter, of the Board of Trade.

No.	Divisions.	Counties.	Annual Deaths to 100,000 Persons living.	Persons living to one Annual Death.	Deaths to 100,000 Persons living. (50,000 Males and 50,000 Females.)						
					1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844
8	North Western . . .	Cheshire, Lancashire	2616	38	2568	2843	2957	2541	2526	2491	2384
1	Metropolis . . .	Middlesex (part of), Surrey (part of), Kent (part of).	2547	39	2955	2509	2522	2435	2392	2518	2559
	ENGLAND.	. . . . .	2189	46	2240	2187	2290	2160	2167	2120	2155
6	Western . . .	Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire	2188	46	2198	2097	2267	2201	2284	2074	2194
9	York	North Riding, East Riding, West Riding	2186	46	2161	2317	2333	2164	2158	2113	2058
10	Northern . . .	Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland.	2107	47	2149	2155	2176	2237	2107	2040	1885
3	South Midland . . .	Middlesex (part of), Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridge-shire.	2091	48	2138	2013	2151	2128	2065	2011	2128
7	North Midland . . .	Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire.	2072	48	1943	2111	2348	2078	2041	1971	2009
4	Eastern	Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk	2021	49	2040	2024	2077	1990	2013	1906	2098
5	South Western . . .	Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, Somersetshire.	1957	51	1983	1789	1952	1872	2061	1991	2050
11	Welsh	Monmouthshire and Wales	1948	51	2047	1940	2074	1974	1811	1802	1911
2	South Eastern . . .	Surrey (part of), Kent (except Greenwich), Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire.	1918	52	1997	1857	1907	1879	1942	1923	1927

(1)

Years.	MARRIAGES.				BIRTHS.				DEATHS.			
	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.
1838	..	273,174	..	123,644	463,787	961,476	..	545,166	342,547	846,199	..	371,756
1839	123,166	266,890	168,872	128,676	492,574	957,740	817,300	553,287	338,979	780,600	639,737	408,411
1840	122,665	281,998	169,322	132,281	502,303	952,318	826,610	565,145	359,634	816,486	649,410	396,494
1841	122,496	283,902	184,122	136,188	512,158	976,929	830,005	568,751	343,847	804,762	633,600	392,502
1842	118,825	280,412	176,999	140,744	517,739	982,896	882,797	599,643	349,519	836,152	682,208	411,122
1843	123,818	285,399	185,303	140,454	527,325	983,107	858,867	581,152	346,446	811,435	685,437	421,253
1844	132,249	..	..	..	540,763	..	..	..	356,950	..	..	..

The facts respecting Prussia are from the official Tables (dated October, 1845,) of Mr. Dieterici of the Statistical Bureau. The Returns for Austria are exclusive of Hungary, Transylvania, and the military frontier.

[The Proportion of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, to 100,000 Persons living in each of the Years 1838-44.]

Years.	MARRIAGES.				BIRTHS.				DEATHS.			
	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.	England.	France.	Austria.	Prussia.
1838	..	806	..	869	..	2838	..	3830	2240	2497	..	2612
1839	795	784	790	887	3177	2815	3824	3814	2188	2294	2993	2815
1840	781	826	785	891	3197	2788	3832	3808	2290	2390	3010	2672
1841	770	828	846	907	3217	2848	3812	3787	2161	2346	2910	2614
1842	736	814	805	926	3209	2854	4017	3946	2167	2428	3104	2705
1843	758	825	835	913	3226	2843	3871	3779	2120	2347	3090	2739
1844	799	..	..	..	3264	..	..	..	2155	..	..	..

Mean Annual Number of Marriages, Births, and Deaths to 100 Persons living in the five years 1839-43.

	England.	France.	Prussia.	Austria.	To Persons Living.	England.	France.	Prussia.	Austria.
Marriages . . .	·768	·815	·905	·812	One Marriage .	130	123	110	123
Births	3·205	2·830	3·827	3·871	One Birth . .	31	35	26	26
Deaths	2·185	2·361	2·709	3·021	One Death . .	46	42	37	33

For Russian Returns see note p. 24.

Spain, Greece, Hungary, Transylvania, or Turkey; with these exceptions, Ireland and Scotland are, I believe, the only parts of the civilized States of Europe in which authentic official registers of these important events are not kept. In Spain, I understand that the births, deaths, and marriages are registered by the clergy, though no returns are yet made to the Government. The marriages of members of the Church of England, of Presbyterians, and of other denominations of Protestants, are registered in Ireland under a recent Act of Parliament, and returns of their numbers are made. These returns are imperfect, as they do not include the marriages of Roman Catholics.

I submit to you that the Marriages, Births, and Deaths of the people of Scotland, Ireland, and England should all be registered on a uniform plan; and that the inquiry, which has already been so successful and beneficial in England, into the causes of death, should be extended to Ireland and Scotland.* Like the institution of the coroner's jury, this inquiry deters from crime, fosters a reverence for human life, and by discovering the causes of premature death in the various circumstances of the population, will contribute to the progress of the science of medicine, diminish suffering, and lead to the prolongation of human life to its natural term. No argument that I am aware of can be used in favour of registration which does not apply to Scotland and Ireland.

Valuable Bills of Mortality, which only require extension, have been published for many years by the cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore (I believe); the State of Massachusetts has also procured partial returns of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.† With these exceptions, America—including Canada, the United States, Mexico, and the other States—is, in respect to the statistics of health and human life, on nearly the same footing as Asia and Africa.

The arrangements which in 1844 were made under your directions for appointing Registration Inspectors, have been attended with success. The duties assigned these officers to visit and instruct each person entrusted with the duties of Registration, have been well performed by the gentlemen nominated as Inspectors; and I am happy to be enabled to report, that this department has derived great advantage from the zeal and assiduity with which their task has been executed.

* The city of Glasgow appoints a city statish, and has for many years had an excellent series of returns of Deaths and Births begun by Dr. Cleland, and now carried on in a very efficient manner by Dr. Watt. The town-council of Edinburgh has lately voted a small sum towards the monthly publication of Bills of Mortality, commenced with great public spirit by Dr. Stark.

† A law was enacted in Massachusetts soon after its settlement, requiring records of Marriages, Births, and Deaths; and it was observed with considerable care in the early periods of the State's existence; "but latterly it has been much disregarded." For the two last years the enlightened city of Boston made no returns. The inefficiency in which the law is left is the more to be regretted, as the Secretaries of State have shown every disposition to render the information which they have placed at their disposal, available for the public good. Their Annual Reports are drawn up with great ability, and are only imperfect because the returns are incomplete. The Report of the Committee of the City Council, appointed to obtain the Census of Boston for the year 1845, by Mr. Shattuck, leaves little to desire in this department of Statistics.

At pages 86, 87, is a Return of the Number of Places of Religious Worship, registered 31st December, 1845, for the celebration of Marriages, distinguishing the number registered in each county by each Religious Denomination : since June, 1844, 235 additional buildings have been registered.

The publication of the Table of Mortality for 115 of the most populous districts, comprising the principal towns of the kingdom, has been continued at the expiration of each quarter. From this return an accurate knowledge is derived of the sanitary state of the country, and immediate warning given in the event of the mortality increasing from the sudden spread of an epidemic disease.

I have continued also to publish a Weekly Table of Mortality for the metropolis, to which I have added a return of the Births registered during each week. I have endeavoured to increase the utility of this weekly publication, by giving more in detail the causes of death as returned by the medical officers of the metropolitan hospitals, at coroners' inquests, and by medical practitioners. The meteorological observations taken during the preceding week, at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, are furnished to me by G. B. Airy, Esq., the Astronomer Royal, and are also published in the Weekly Table of Mortality. From these valuable observations, the influence of temperature, moisture, electricity, and other meteorological phenomena on the health and diseases of two millions of people in the metropolis of England may be determined.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your faithful Servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM,

Registrar-General.

RUSSIA.

Note.—I have not yet been favoured with the Returns for 1843, by the Russian government. The Marriages, Births, and Deaths, among members of the *Greek church*, in the three years 1841, 1842, and 1843, are given by Von Reden, in the recent edition of his "Vergleichende Kultur-Statistik." The reported deaths by violence were 6,486 in 1842, and 8,220 in 1844. This return of violent deaths is evidently imperfect.

Years.	Marriages.	Births.			Deaths.		
		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1841	476,731	2,186,430	1,123,532	1,062,898	1,799,210	911,555	887,655
1842	497,123	2,138,478	1,093,084	1,045,394	1,822,743	916,067	906,676
1843	..	2,304,761	1,182,850	1,121,911	1,573,043	795,943	777,100

The Official Returns furnished to the Registrar-General for 1842 were—Marriages, 501,850; Births, 2,205,422; Deaths, 1,856,183 among the general population, including the *Greek and other churches*, but exclusive of the deficient returns from Koursk, one of the provinces of Great Russia; from Georgia, Ketch-Enikil, and three provinces of Siberia.—(See *Reg.-Gen*, 6th *Ann. Rep.*, 8vo., pp. 323-325.)