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

Robert 1855

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

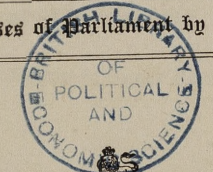
REGISTRAR-GENERAL

OF

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

IN ENGLAND.

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



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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1857.

ANNUAL REPORT

REGISTRAR-GENERAL

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

IN ENGLAND

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REPORT

TO

The Right Honourable SIR GEORGE GREY, Bart., G.C.B., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c. &c. &c.

General Register Office, Somerset House,
10th June 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, in continuation of my annual statements, the Abstracts of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales during the year 1855.

1855.—MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

304,226 persons were married; the births of 635,043 children, not including the still-born, were registered; and 425,703 deaths were recorded during the year. Thus 1,364,972 new names were inscribed on the national registers. Respecting each of these persons, certain important facts are registered, which when carefully collated, throw light upon many subjects of great public interest.

The natural increase of the population by the excess of births over deaths in the year was 209,340; or it was at the rate of 1.121 per cent. on the population. The increase is greater than the annual increase of the two previous years by several thousands.

The number of marriages decreased; and the persons married were 15,228 less in number in 1855 than in the previous year. The number of births exceeded by 638 the 634,405 births in the previous year. The deaths were 12,202 less numerous than the deaths in 1854.

176,807 emigrants embarked from the ports of the United Kingdom during the year 1855. About 62,906 of the number were of English or Welsh origin, of whom 27,833 sailed to the United States, 4991 to the North American colonies, 29,868 to the Australian Colonies, and 214 to all other places. Of the 62,906 persons about 24,997 were adult males, and 22,545 adult females; 6769 were males aged 1 to 14 years, and 6470 were females aged 1 to 14; and 2125 were infants.*

* These results have been derived from the following numbers published in the Appendix to the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Emigration Commissioners.

Summary of Emigration from the United Kingdom, 1855.

Adults.		Children aged 1 to 14.		Infants.	Not stated.	Total.	Native Country of Emigrants.				
M.	F.	M.	F.				English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Foreigners.	Not stated.
65,363	58,950	17,700	16,919	5,557	12,318	176,807	57,132†	14,037	78,854	10,554	16,280

† Of this number of English, 25,273 sailed to the United States; 4,533 to North American Colonies; 27,127 to Australian Colonies; and 194 to other places. In the statement in the text the numbers which appear in this Table under the head of "Not stated" have been distributed proportionally over the other heads.

The annual rates of the year 1855 were such, that to 100 persons living*, there were marriages .810, persons married 1.620, births 3.380, deaths 2.266. The rate of marriage was below the average; the rates of birth and of death were slightly above the average of the eighteen years 1838-55. One marriage took place to 123 persons living, and consequently one person was married to 62 living; one child was born alive to every 30 persons living; one person died to every 44 living.

The observations now extend over eighteen years; and the resulting average rates for England and Wales are to 100 persons living, 1.631 persons married annually, 3.276 births, 2.246 deaths; or 1 in 61 of the population is married, 1 in 31 is born, 1 in 45 dies annually.

MARRIAGES.

127,751 marriages were celebrated according to the rites of the Established Church, and 24,362 marriages according to other forms. Of 100 marriages, about 84 take place in the churches and chapels of the Establishment. Only 14 marriages were by special licence; more than 20,386 by licence, 99,546 after banns, 3804 by superintendent registrar's certificate. The mode of marriages was not stated in 4001 instances by the clergymen. If we take the proportion in 100 on the 123,750 distinguished cases, 16.5 were by licence, 80.4 by banns, and 3.1 by superintendent registrar's certificate.

The cost of the marriage licence is about 50s.; the common fee for the publication of banns is 1s. The revenue of the ecclesiastical officers under the two heads must have been about 52,613*l.* for licences, and 5138*l.* for the publication of banns.

The decrease in the marriages by banns was 5504 on 105,050, or more than 5 per cent.; the decrease in the marriages after licence was 662 on 21,048, or more than 3 per cent. The poorer classes evidently felt the

TABLE I.—Estimated POPULATION, with the Number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in England in each Year from 1838 to 1855.

Years ended Dec. 31st.	Estimated POPULATION in England in the Middle of the Years.†	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS Married.	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	512158	343347	168811
1842	16,123,793	118825	237650	517739	349519	168220
1843	16,320,479	123818	247636	527325	346445	180880
1844	16,519,565	132249	264498	540763	356933	183830
1845	16,721,081	143743	287486	543521	349366	194155
1846	16,925,051	145664	291328	572625	390315	182310
1847	17,131,512	135845	271030	539065	423304	116661
1848	17,340,492	138230	276460	563069	390833	163236
1849	17,552,020	141833	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	153782	317564	624012	407135	216877
1853	18,403,313	164520	329040	612391	421097	191294
1854	18,618,760	169727	319454	634405	437905	196500
1855	18,786,914	152113	304226	635043	425703	209340

† 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 1852-55 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. The results, by the latter method, will probably be found now to be more correct than those deduced on the hypothesis that the population increased at the same rate in 1851-2-3-4-5, as it did in 1841-51.

* By taking the numbers living to be 100,000, the numbers may be read without the decimal points.

pressure of the times more severely than the rich; and they abstained from marriage to a greater extent.

The marriages in registered places of worship belonging to Roman Catholics were 7344; to Independents, Baptists, Methodists, and other Christian denominations 9296, to Quakers 57, and to Jews 224. The marriages among the Roman Catholics attained their maximum (8375) in 1853; they fell to 7344 in 1855, or more than 12 per cent. The number (10,149) among other Christian denominations not of the Established Church was at its maximum in the same year, and fell to 9296 in 1855, or 8 per cent.; while the marriages according to the rites of the Church of England declined 7 per cent. These rates must have been modified by the comparative wealth of the members of the different communities.

High prices of wheat depress marriage among the classes (five out of six) who marry by banns, to a greater extent than they depress marriage among the remaining sixth of the people marrying by licence. Consequently, as the annual average price of wheat was higher (74*s.* 8*d.*) in 1855 than it was in any of the 15 years since 1841, the proportion of marriages by *banns* to the marriages by *licence* should be lower than it was in any of those years. This is found to be the case, and the proportion was 4.883 marriages by banns, to 1 marriage by licence in 1855. The principle that was announced in the last report, is thus confirmed by the experience of another year. (See Table a.)

Marriages of minors.—8386 young men and 27,207 young women married under 21 years of age; of 100 men who married nearly 6 were minors, of 100 women 18 were minors; or taking 100 persons (50 men and 50 women), 12 married under 21 years of age.

TABLE (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:					<i>s. d.</i>
Of 5 years of highest prices -	.793	4.973	.133	.661	67 8
Of 5 years of intermediate prices -	.843	5.469	.130	.712	52 1
Of 5 years of lowest prices -	.831	5.530	.127	.704	42 9
1855	.810	4.883	.138	.672	74 8
1854	.858	4.991	.143	.715	72 5
1847	.793	4.977	.133	.660	69 9
1841	.769	4.940	.129	.640	64 4
1842	.737	5.072	.121	.616	57 3
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
1852	.872	5.472	.135	.737	40 9
1850	.860	5.666	.129	.731	40 3
1851	.858	5.591	.130	.728	38 6

The number of young women marrying under age has increased rapidly within the last seven years. The proportion fluctuated only from 13.16 to 13.73 per cent. in the seven years 1841-47.

The proportion of early marriages of women exceeded 20 in 100 in the following counties; and it was 21 in the county of Northampton, 24 in Huntingdon, 25 in Bedford, 23 in Cambridge, 21 in Essex; it was 28 in Stafford, 26 in Durham, and 22 in Monmouth, the great coal districts; 21 in Nottingham, 21 in Derby, 21 in Lancaster, 25 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 21 in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The increase of the proportional number of marriages of young women under the age of 21 was great in Cornwall, Durham, and Monmouthshire and Wales; in Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire; in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire; in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Northumberland, and Cumberland. And the increase was not only in the proportional, but also in the absolute number of such marriages.

Re-marriages.—21,940 widowers and 14,435 widows re-married; 14,280 widowers married spinsters, and 7660 married widows, and 6775 widows married bachelors. The proportional number of widowers (14.42 per cent.) and widows (9.49 per cent.) exceeded the average.

In London, Bucks, Norfolk, Wilts, Notts, Chester, Lancaster, the East Riding of Yorkshire, more than 15 in 100 men who married were widowers. In London, Hants, Hereford, Stafford, Warwick, Lancaster, Durham, and Monmouth, more than 10 in 100 women who married were widows.

Signatures of persons married.—44,846 husbands and 62,672 wives made their marks; while 107,267 husbands and 89,441 wives wrote their names in the marriage registers. A certain number of the women who

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

Table with 9 columns: Years ended (Dec. 31st), To 100 Persons living (MARRIAGES, PERSONS MARRIED, BIRTHS, DEATHS), and The Number of Persons living (To one Marriage, To one Person Married, To one Birth, To one Death).

NOTE.—The Table may be read thus:—In the year 1838 to every 100 persons living there were 771 marriages or 1542 persons married, 3029 births, 2238 deaths; the number of persons living to every marriage, person married, birth or death, was 130, 65, 33, and 45 respectively.

make their marks are deterred by timidity from writing their names; upon the other hand many thousands of those who write their names, write very badly, and are evidently little practised in the art of writing. The means of education must still be deplorably defective in England and Wales, when we find 41 in 100 women, and 29 in 100 men making crosses instead of writing their names in the registers of their marriages.

Each marriage constitutes a family; and to the family the fact that one of its members can read and write, is of more importance than the fact that both can read and write. Now as 107,267 men and 89,441 women wrote their names, it is evident that the 196,708 may have been so distributed in pairs, as to leave no pairs in which neither the husband nor the wife could write.

Such a combination, however, does not take place. But if it is assumed that the men and women who can write, and that the men and women who cannot write, have no tendency to intermarry greater than that which

TABLE III.—MARRIAGES registered in ENGLAND in each Year from 1841 to 1855.

Table with 12 columns: YEARS ending (31st December), TOTAL MARRIAGES (Special Licence, Licence, Banns, Superintendent Registrar's Certificate, Not stated, Total in Established Church), and Not according to the Rites of the Established Church (Total not in Established Church, Roman Catholics, Other Christian Denominations, Superintendent Registrar's Office, Quakers, Jews).

Table with 10 columns: YEARS ending (31st December), Marriages contracted between (Bachelors and Spinsters, Bachelors and Widows, Widowers and Spinsters, Widowers and Widows), Re-married (Widowers, Widows), Under Age (Men, Women), and Signed the Marriage Register with Marks (Men, Women, Marriages in which both Signed, Marriages in which one Signed).

the summer quarter were below the average. The distribution of the mortality over the four seasons, is shown in Table XVI, where it will be seen that the average quarter being set down at 1000, the relative numbers of deaths in the four seasons were 1280, 1001, 816, and 903.

I now submit to you a brief abstract of the observations in the Quarterly Returns, which are prepared from the Registrars' statements, and published within the month immediately after the close of each quarter.

SUMMARY OF THE QUARTERLY REPORTS 1855.

First Quarter.—January, February, March.*

The births are above and the marriages below the average numbers of the season; and as the consequence of the excessively cold weather the mortality of the quarter is the highest on record since the commencement of the civil registration.

TABLE XV.—DEATHS registered in each Quarter of the Years 1838 to 1855.

Years.	Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1838	98152	90877	72877	80854
1839	89740	87969	76280	84905
1840	98896	90339	80822	89630
1841	99069	86134	75440	83204
1842	96314	86538	82339	84323
1843	94326	87234	76732	87493
1844	101024	85337	79708	90864
1845	104664	89149	74872	89681
1846	89484	90230	101664	108987
1847	119672	106718	93435	103479
1848	120032	99727	87638	92436
1849	105870	102153	135227	97589
1850	98430	92871	85849	91845
1851	105359	99458	91499	99080
1852	106368	100625	100382	99770
1853	118119	107647	92201	103130
1854	111843	102586	113843	109633
1855	134542	106493	87646	97022

TABLE XVI.—PROPORTIONAL Number of DEATHS in each QUARTER to 1000 Deaths in the Average Quarter of each Year, 1838-55.

YEARS.	Number of Deaths in the Average Quarter.	Proportional Number of Deaths.				
		In the Average Quarter (assumed to be 1000).	First Quarter ending March 31.	Second Quarter ending June 30.	Third Quarter ending Sept. 30.	Fourth Quarter ending Dec. 31.
1838	85690	1000	1145	1061	850	944
1839	84746	1000	1059	1038	900	1003
1840	89222	1000	1100	1005	899	997
1841	85962	1000	1152	1002	878	968
1842	87380	1000	1102	990	942	965
1843	86611	1000	1096	1007	887	1010
1844	89233	1000	1132	956	893	1018
1845	87342	1000	1198	1021	857	924
1846	97579	1000	917	925	1042	1116
1847	105826	1000	1131	1008	883	978
1848	99553	1000	1201	998	877	925
1849	110210	1000	961	927	1227	885
1850	92249	1000	1067	1007	931	996
1851	93849	1000	1066	1006	926	1002
1852	101734	1000	1045	989	986	980
1853	105274	1000	1122	1022	876	980
1854	109476	1000	1036	940	1031	993
1855	106426	1000	1280	1001	816	903

* The numbers published in the Quarterly Reports were derived from returns furnished for that purpose by the Registrars; in the present re-publication the figures have been corrected from the annual abstracts.

Births.—166,225 children who were born alive had their names inscribed on the registers in the three months of January, February, and March. This number exceeds by twenty thousand the numbers that appear in the return for the preceding quarter, and by five thousand the numbers in the return for the corresponding first quarter of 1854. The rate of births was 3.603 per cent. The increase of births is chiefly in London, in the West Midland Counties, in the Northern Counties, and in Wales.

Increase of Population.—As the number of births was 166,225, and of the deaths 134,542, the excess indicates that the natural increase of the population was 31,683 in the first three months of the present year. In the same period 36,677, or, exclusive of 2217 foreigners, 34,460 emigrants left the ports of the United Kingdom at which the Government has Emigration officers. About 15,806 of the emigrants were of English origin; so that the natural increase by births would be diminished to this extent, if there were no compensating immigration of the Irish and Scottish population into England.

The emigration from the United Kingdom to the United States has fallen from 51,929 in the winter of 1851 to 36,067 in the winter quarter of 1854, and 18,427 in the corresponding quarter of the present year. The emigrants to the Australian colonies were, in the quarters that ended on March 31st, 1003 in 1847, 2942 in 1851, and 17,444 in 1855. The remarkable diminution in the number of emigrants from Ireland to the United States deserves attention.*

The Prices of Provisions, and the Weather.—The price of wheat has been more than 50 per cent. higher than it was in the quarter of 1853 that ended on March 31st, but 9s. 7d. per quarter lower than it was in the beginning of 1854. Beef is 25 per cent. dearer than it was in 1853, and 7 per cent. dearer than it was in 1854. Mutton has been cheaper than it was in 1853, and so have been potatoes. The meteorology, and all the peculiar characteristics of the severe weather, are described by Mr. Glaisher.

State of the Public Health.—The health of the population generally has been bad; and the mortality has greatly exceeded the average. 134,542 deaths have been registered, which is 20,000 in excess of the corrected average of the winter quarters. This addition to the ordinary mortality of winter, which is in England the most fatal season, is referable to the low temperature, with the consequent hard times, against which it is difficult for the wages classes to make an adequate provision; and in other countries, where there is no such system of relief as is administered under the English poor law, the suffering and the mortality are much greater in severe seasons than they are in England.

Persons of advanced ages among all classes have been cut off in great numbers, and have thus fallen before they had passed through the evening of life. Young children have also died in considerable numbers. Bronchitis and the congestive diseases of the lungs have been the immediate causes of death. The frost, which braces the nerves of the hardy and strong, chills the veins of the aged and weakly. The temperature of the night falls, as Mr. Glaisher shows, 11° on an average below the temperature of the day; and it is in the night undoubtedly that the respiratory organs are most frequently injured, when the water freezes in the bedrooms of houses that are not warmed by fires, or by warm air diffused by Dr. Arnott's and other admirable inventions.

The mortality in the country districts was at the annual rate of 26 deaths in 1000 living; in the town districts at the rate of 32 in 1000

* From a Return with which the Registrar General has been favoured by the Emigration Commissioners.

living : out of equal populations, there were *six* funerals in the towns to every *five* funerals in the country districts; and the town population is increasing by immigration much faster than the country population; so that, unless measures for the improvement of the health of the artisans, the tradesmen, and the professional and wealthy classes in towns, are immediately adopted, the lives of many, and the vigour and energies of large masses of the English population, will be lost, or for ever impaired.

The 134,542 deaths do not include deaths that have occurred at sea during the quarter, and have been entered upon the marine register, neither do they include the deaths among our soldiers abroad, as no provision has yet been made for placing the names of the men who die in the service of their country abroad, on the national registers.

The excess of mortality in the quarter is diffused over the whole kingdom; nor is it evident that the northern have suffered more than the southern counties. The deaths in London exceeded by 3247, or 1-fifth part, the deaths in the winter quarter of 1854; the deaths in the rest of England were 19,452, or nearly in the same degree in excess of that season. In the South-eastern Counties the deaths were 11,256 in the place of 8400. The Epsom district suffered from scarlatina; Guildford from small-pox and measles; Farnham from fever, measles, hooping-cough, and diarrhoea. The deaths for the first time exceed the births in Farnham. In the Bexley sub-district in Kent there were as many as forty cases of small-pox at one time: only those unvaccinated died. Scarlatina prevailed in Folkstone, Elham, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, Kinbury, Faringdom, and Fyfield. In the barracks at Winchester, occupied by about 2000 men, chiefly recruits and invalid depôts, 40 men have died, chiefly of acute pulmonary complaints. 46 deaths occurred in the new military hospital, Portsea. Small-pox, imported, it is believed, by the Essex rifles, was the cause of 6 deaths in Windsor, where also 2 children died in February of choleraic diarrhoea in a cleanly country cottage.

The South Midland Counties suffered from scarlatina and fever in several districts. In Oxford 25 deaths occurred from small-pox, and the deaths exceeded the births in number. In Cambridge the mortality was high. In Leighton Buzzard the deaths were nearly double the average.

In some districts of the Eastern Counties measles, small-pox, and hooping-cough prevailed. The mortality was high in Norwich and several other places. The mortality in the South-western Division, where the climate is milder, rose to the same extent. In Salisbury the deaths in the winter quarters of 1853 and 1855 were 77 and 79; and the same result is noticeable in districts all over the country, which must have been exposed to nearly the same degree of cold as the districts in which the cold winter proved most fatal. Cold under the shelter of houses in civilized states only destroys people indirectly, by inducing diseases; is chiefly fatal to the aged or feeble; and it arrests some classes of diseases; so that under certain circumstances the mortality of a district may be lower in a cold than it is in a mild winter.

Influenza was epidemic in Saint Agnes, Truro; typhus in Lerrin, Liskeard; Plymouth and the surrounding districts are still in an unsatisfactory sanitary state. In Bath, Clifton, and Cheltenham the mortality was above the average.

The West Midland Counties suffered somewhat less than the counties of the previous Division. The mortality was high in Hereford, where measles was epidemic; and somewhat above the average in Gloucester, Shrewsbury, Stafford, Worcester, and Warwick. 2094 deaths were registered in Birmingham and Aston; 112 less than the deaths in the winter quarter of 1854, but 352 more than the deaths in the winter quarter of 1853.

In the North Midland Counties the mortality was raised to nearly the same extent (1-seventh) as in the other Midland Counties; the districts of Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby exhibited little or no increase. Scarlatina, measles, and hooping-cough prevailed extensively in Lincolnshire.

Cheshire and Lancashire exhibited but a slight increase in the mortality. 3674 deaths were registered in Liverpool and West Derby; 3261 in Manchester and Salford; the latter number being considerably above the average.

Yorkshire suffered less than other divisions. In Leeds and Hunslet, where 1321 deaths were registered, the mortality was below the average, and in Sheffield and York the mortality was about the average.

Measles and scarlatina prevailed to some extent in the Northern Counties; the mortality was raised one-eighth part above the average. In Monmouthshire and Wales the same diseases were epidemic, and the mortality was raised about one-sixth above the mortality of the winter of 1853. The Registrar of Wrexham says:—"The severity of the winter, and the high price of provisions of all kinds, have had a considerable effect on the health of young and old people."

Second Quarter.—April, May, June.

The returns present these general results: the marriages in the quarter were below the average numbers; the births and the deaths slightly exceeded the average proportions. The severe weather, the high price of provisions, the diminution of employment in some districts, and the withdrawal of an increased number of men from the country by the army and navy abroad, account for the decrease in the marriages. The stagnation in the winter was, however, probably only temporary; for war, instead of depressing, appears to increase the industry, the invention, and the energy of Englishmen. The rapid rate of growth of the British population commenced and attained its culminating point in the last war.

Marriages.—38,549 marriages were celebrated in the quarter; or less in number by 1969 than the marriages in the corresponding quarter of the year 1854.

Births.—The births of 165,277 children were registered in the quarter that ended on June 30th, 1855; or less by 7180 than were registered in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and more, to nearly the same extent, than were registered in the spring quarters of 1851–53. In the West Midland Counties, particularly in Staffordshire, and also in Cheshire, in Lancashire, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and in the Northern Counties, the births of the quarter exceeded to some extent the births in the spring quarter of 1853.

Increase of Population.—As the number of births was 165,277 and of deaths 106,493, the natural increase of the English population in three months may be set down as 58,784, exclusive of the increase of immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, the Colonies, or foreign parts. In the same period 65,210 emigrants, including a certain number of foreigners, left the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Government Emigration officers. How many of the emigrants were born in England has not yet been learnt; but 39,509 proceeded to the United States, 10,397 to British North America, 14,639 to the Australian Colonies, and 665 to other places.

The Prices of Provisions, and the Weather.—The average price of wheat, which in the three months April, May, June 1853, was at 44s. 6d. a quarter, was in 1854 at 78s. 4d., and in the corresponding months of the present year at 73s. 4d. Bread has been dear for two years, or since the harvest of 1853. Beef is somewhat cheaper, and so are potatoes; while mutton is at the same price as in the spring quarter of 1854.

The weather during the quarter was remarkable for the continuance of the cold, which in the previous quarter had been unusually severe. Except on a few days only, the temperature was below the average. There was a deficiency of rain.

State of the Public Health.—The public health has partly recovered from the effects of the late epidemic cholera, and from the severe weather of last winter, and the mortality, which is on the average at the annual rate of 2·243 in 100 on the population, was 2·277 in 100 in the last quarter. The average rate of mortality in the spring quarter in 117 districts, comprising the chief towns, is 2·455 in 100 persons living, in the small towns and country parishes 2·056 in 100. The mortality in the last quarter was at the rate of 2·503 in 100 in the town districts, 2·097 in 100 in the country districts.

There were 106,493 deaths in the quarter; or 3907 more deaths than were recorded in the corresponding quarter of 1854; for the cholera, which was epidemic in that year, only became fatal in the subsequent quarter. In the Eleven Divisions the deaths varied little during the spring quarters of 1853, 1854, 1855.

In London some improvements are referred by the Registrar of St. Giles to the working of the Lodging House Act; and the health of Bermondsey has been better since the tidal ditches have been filled up, and the parish has been paved and drained.

In the South-eastern Counties, Farnham has for the last seven months been suffering from low fever, hooping-cough, and measles; Canterbury from small-pox, scarlatina, and bronchitis. Alverstoke has suffered severely from scarlatina, and the deaths (211) exceed the births (121): the same excess of deaths is observed at Winchester, where 23 men died in the barracks. The death of a female aged 105, at Windsor, is mentioned; and it is stated that her two sons are above 80 years of age.

In the South Midland Counties, Northampton and Bedford experienced a rate of mortality that much exceeds the average. Scarlatina has raged. In Royston the parish of Kelshall has suffered from typhus; the drainage and water are "very bad."

In the Eastern Division several districts have been healthier than usual; Norwich, Depwade, Mitford, Downham, and Thetford have, however, suffered from a higher than their average death-rate. Small-pox, measles, and scarlatina have prevailed in several districts of Essex and Norfolk.

In the South-western Division the mortality is about the average, but it was higher than it was in the preceding year in Wilts, Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset. The excess was considerable in Chippenham, Stoke Damerel, and Liskeard. The mining population in Cornwall is not in a satisfactory sanitary condition. One of the Registrars of Liskeard says:—

"In Calstock, one of the parishes of my district, there is an epidemic of scarlatina. Some houses of miners and others are overcrowded, and due regard is not paid to ventilation. There are no waterclosets, privies, or other conveniences belonging to the premises, and the places for the deposit of soil, &c. are in many places immediately adjoining the houses, in some almost touching the door of the dwellings. In another parish (Callington) there are several unregistered lodging houses, and the whole of them are in a filthy and unwholesome condition; every night there is a great influx of vagrants of the lowest order, and on my visiting them one night after 10 o'clock I found 5 persons in a bed, and as many as 18 in one room. It is a great pity the magistrates do not look into the matter and abate the nuisances."

In the West Midland Division, the mortality was lower in the spring quarter both in Staffordshire and Warwickshire than it was in the spring of 1854; measles, small-pox, and scarlatina are mentioned as prevailing in some districts of Shropshire.

The mortality in Lincolnshire, of the North Midland Division, was above; in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire below, the death-rate of the previous spring quarter (1854). Scarlatina occurred in Lincoln,

Horncastle, Caistor, and Gainsborough. The frame-work knitting trade has been bad for some time in Basford, near Nottingham.

In the North-western Division, 2490 deaths were registered in Cheshire, 14,478 in Lancashire. A death from Asiatic cholera was returned at Runcorn on the 1st of June. Some sanitary improvements are noticed in the Lancashire towns. Liverpool is healthy at present. In West Derby it is said:—

"The district has been, during all the quarter, in a very healthy state, which may in a great degree be owing to the extent of street and house draining, street cleansing, and other excellent sanitary improvements that have been adopted by the corporation of Liverpool in the municipal part of the district."

At Wigan sanitary improvements are progressing, such as street sewerage, drainage of private property, and the removal of nuisances. The Registrar of North Bury writes:—

"The deaths in this quarter are considerably under the average, and amount to just a half the number of births. No small-pox, measles, scarlatina, hooping-cough, or cholera. The sewerage, water supply, paving, scavenging, &c. of the town are in a very satisfactory state. Large sums have been judiciously expended by the town commissioners during the last seven years, to the comfort and advantage of the inhabitants, and the appearance of the town now offers an agreeable contrast to other manufacturing towns in this district."

These facts are encouraging, as they show that the high mortality in the Lancashire districts may be greatly diminished, and that substantial improvements are followed by immediate results. Measles, scarlatina, and typhus prevailed in some districts of Lancashire; and the mortality was higher in Manchester than it was in the two previous springs.

In Yorkshire the deaths (10,423) were below the average numbers; and the decrease was chiefly in the West Riding. Leeds and Sheffield were healthier than in the previous two springs. The Registrar of Bradford East refers the low mortality to sanitary improvements; vaccination is, however, neglected. He singularly enough observes:—"There is an increase in the births this quarter, caused by a slight improvement in trade, and the settling at home of a great number of the wives of the militia." The linen trade in Barnsley is depressed; the colliery and iron works are carried on with vigour, and have drawn many families to the works; the births and the deaths exceed the average numbers.

The Northern Counties experienced their average rate of mortality; 5593 of the inhabitants died. Small-pox and scarlatina have been fatal in some districts of Durham; vaccination is neglected.

In Monmouthshire and Wales the deaths were 7366, which is near the average number. Measles prevailed in Abergavenny and Crickhowell.

Third Quarter.—July, August, September.

The returns of deaths exhibit as their general result a favourable state of the health of the country in summer, and a striking improvement on the returns of the summer quarter of the previous year. The diminution of the number of marriages indicates some pressure on the resources of the people from the high price of bread; but the low rate of mortality implies that under the English system of Poor Laws, imperfect as it is, the labouring classes suffer less distress than the workmen of the Continent, who have no legal right under any circumstances to relief. Liberality in the administration of the Poor Law is the natural remedy of many of the evils of high prices in England.

Marriages.—37,308 marriages were registered in the quarter, or less by 874 than the number in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, when the number of marriages was considerably above the average. The number of persons married was 74,616. The annual average rate of the summer quarter is 776 marriages to 100,000 of the population; in the summer of 1854 it was 813, in the last summer 787. In Hampshire, chiefly in Portsea Island, the Isle of Wight, and Southampton, and in

some districts of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Northumberland, and Wales the marriages increased; in the mining and manufacturing districts the greatest decrease is observed, and notably in the mining districts of Cornwall, in Staffordshire (Wolverhampton and Dudley), in Cheshire, in Lancashire (Manchester, Bolton, and Liverpool), and in the West Riding of Yorkshire (Halifax and Leeds).

Births.—154,700 births were registered in the quarter that ended on September 30th. This number only exceeds by 24 the number of births in the summer quarter of the year 1854, and indicates a rate of birth (3·261) above the average of the season (3·146 annually). The births increased to some extent in the counties of Hertford, Northampton, Essex, Stafford, Worcester, Warwick, Leicester, Derby, Durham, and Northumberland.

Increase of Population.—154,700 births and 87,646 deaths were registered. The natural increase of the population of England and Wales in the three months is therefore 67,054, which makes the gain of people in nine months in this part of the empire 157,521. Of the number of immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, and foreign countries no record is kept. The emigrants from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Government Emigration Officers amounted to 44,698; of whom 13,486 were ascertained to be of English, 3534 of Scotch, 18,701 of Irish, 3093 of foreign origin; the origin of 5884 emigrants was not distinguished. After taking a due proportion of the latter class the English emigrants will amount to 15,530; nearly half of whom sailed to Australia, and the rest to our North American Colonies and the United States.

The number of emigrants from the United Kingdom, which was 109,236 in the summer quarter of 1852, has fallen to 44,698, which is nearly the same number as emigrated in the summer quarter of 1847.

The Prices of Provisions, and the Weather.—Among the most important circumstances that affect the numbers of births, deaths, and marriages, must be placed the state of trade, the prices of food, and the weather. The prices of consols in the three quarters that ended in September 1853, 1854, and 1855 were 97, 93 $\frac{7}{8}$, and 90 $\frac{5}{8}$; so the interest of money rose in the proportion of the reciprocals of these numbers. The prices of *wheat* in the same seasons were 51s. 10d., 63s. 10d., and 76s. 1d. a quarter; of *beef*, by the carcase, in the London markets, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ d., 5 $\frac{6}{8}$ d., and 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. a pound. The prices of these articles of food therefore rose in the interval of two years, wheat 48 per cent., beef 15 per cent. Mutton, in the three summer quarters, was sold at 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ d., 6d., and 6d. a pound. Potatoes by the Water-side Market, Southwark, were sold at 117s. 6d., 80s., and 74s. a ton. The fall of 37 per cent. in the price of an article of food which is consumed at the tables of all classes, and by persons of all ages and both sexes, is an important set-off against the rise in the price of wheat, and may partly account for the fact that the public health is better,—the rate of mortality lower,—than it was in the summer of 1853.

The weather of the three months is described by Mr. Glaisher. The mean temperature was 60·4°, and was in every month slightly above the average at Greenwich. Rain which was in excess in July was below the average in August and in September. Since November 1853, 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches of rain have been collected about London, which is 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches or 30 per cent. less than the average. Wheat was cut at Ryde on July 14th, at Aberdeen on September 10th; so that the wheat harvest in the island extended over nearly two months.

State of the Public Health.—87,646 deaths were registered in the quarter that ended on the last day of September, and the annual rate of mortality in the quarter was 18·48 deaths to 1000 living, while the average rate of the summer quarter is 20·73. The annual rate of the summer quarter of the year 1854 was 24·23, and the number of deaths

were 113,843; the excess being due in a considerable measure to the epidemic of cholera and diarrhoea which broke out at Newcastle and other places in 1853, and was exceedingly fatal in London and several districts in the summer quarter of 1854.

In 117 districts comprising the chief towns 44,169 deaths were registered; while in the 511 districts comprising the small towns and the country parishes the deaths were 43,765; the annual rate of mortality was 1·643 in the latter districts, and 2·165 in the town districts, to every 100 of the population; or ·522 more in the towns than in the open country.

The health of the towns exhibits some improvement, for the mortality to 100 living has fallen from 2·633 in the ten summer quarters (1845–54), to 2·165 in the summer quarter of 1855; but the great incentive to exertion remains, that the mortality is certainly not inevitably at a higher rate than 1·643 in the summer quarter, as that rate only was actually experienced on the area of 511 districts.

The great work of the day is to improve the health of the people; and the first steps towards its accomplishment are the throwing open building grounds on favourable sites, facilitating the distribution of the population over town and country by railways, supplying the towns with pure water, draining and opening streets, and removing constantly for immediate deposit in the soil the town guano, which would no doubt prove an excellent substitute for the guano that is now fetched from the islands of a foreign state in the Pacific Ocean by British ships, which could in former ages only be allured round Cape Horn by silver and gold.

The health of London is described in the weekly tables. The deaths were 13,069 in the quarter, or less by nearly *twelve thousand* than the deaths in the corresponding quarter of last year, when cholera was epidemic, and less by 110 than the deaths in the corresponding quarter of 1853. The Belgrave sub-district, which lies low and is still supplied with the impure water of the Thames, suffered, the Registrar states, from low continued or gastric fever.

The mortality has before in England as in other countries been low after an epidemic, and it has been hence inferred that epidemics only carry off prematurely people who would otherwise die in the course of a few years. But it will be observed that in every Division, although cholera was not generally epidemic, the mortality is lower than it was in 1854.

The deaths in the South Eastern Division were 7482, or less by 2060 than in the corresponding quarter of 1854. At Gillingham dysentery and diarrhoea prevailed, the deaths of some invalids from the Crimea and the Baltic were registered. The cholera seeds still remain about Sandgate, where 5 persons died from the disease, besides 2 in the town of Folkstone, and 34 men of the foreign legion, who were stationed in the Folkstone district.

In the South Midland Counties 5758 persons died; or less by 1116 than died in the summer quarter of the previous year. Scarletina has prevailed in Bedford, and the Registrar remarks that “the great majority of deaths from this and other zymotic diseases have occurred in the worst drained and most densely populated localities.”

In the Eastern Counties,—Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk,—the mortality fell to nearly the same extent, and was at a lower rate than it was in 1853. A river bargeman died of cholera in West Ham; he was brought from Poplar in London. Two men were brought ashore, and died of “malignant cholera” at Lowestoft.

In the South Western Counties, where the mortality was not raised above the average of the season by cholera in 1854, the mortality was below the average in 1855; thus implying a favourable sanitary constitution of the season quite independently of any previous removal of weakly people by epidemic cholera. The Registrar of Redruth says:—“People are now beginning to think that cleanliness and the removal of

nuisances from near their houses are conducive to health;" and he notices that the "deaths are much below the average." The removal of the "muck" to some distance from the farm-houses and cottages would not only be conducive to the health of the farmers and labourers' families, but lessen the mortality of every kind of stock.

The West Midland Counties exhibit a low rate of mortality (9692 deaths); Birmingham has lost some lives from diarrhoea, but has been on the whole unusually healthy.

In the North Midland Counties the deaths are low in numbers (5286) when compared with the deaths of previous years.

14,905 deaths were registered in Cheshire and Lancashire, against 17,225 deaths which occurred in the summer quarter of last year. Diarrhoea was becoming prevalent in Chester; and one death from cholera was registered. Liverpool and Manchester exhibit signs of increased salubrity.

In Yorkshire the deaths were 9177, against 10,829 in the corresponding quarter of 1854; Leeds and Hull were healthier than usual.

The Northern Counties lost 4998 lives, against 7058 in 1853 and 5907 in 1854. The great outbreak of cholera in Newcastle-upon-Tyne raised the mortality in that town to 2085 in the summer quarter of 1853, against 531 in the summer quarter of the present year.

The deaths in Monmouthshire and Wales were 5242, and the mortality was less than in either of the summer quarters of the two previous years.

The decrease of the mortality in some districts is striking, and the registrars in their notes endeavour to account for this evident fact. Some refer the improved health of the people to the fine weather; others to active employment in the harvest; others to the removal of the population, either in search of employment, or by drafting into the militia, and into the ranks of the army. In the mining district of Redruth the Registrar conceives that "the frugality and temperance" promoted by the high price of provisions has been salutary; in other districts the benefits of improved health are connected with "good wages and plentiful work;" in many places the utility of sanitary measures is admitted. The Registrar of Pontespury, who has registered no death for two months, "can assign no cause." One registrar makes the following statement:—

"The deaths are below the average. In the township of Workington, containing a population of 6122, the deaths during the last 9 years have averaged 42 quarterly; this quarter they are 21. In the other 9 townships, containing a population of 3412, there have been only 4 deaths. Some ascribe the decreased mortality to Providence; others to improved sanitary arrangements."

Various causes in operation undoubtedly contributed to this happy result:—that if all the deaths of British soldiers in the Crimea during the last three months were added to the deaths in England the sum would be less by some twenty thousand than the deaths registered in England during the three summer months of 1854. More lives may be saved by sanitary arrangements at home every year than have ever perished abroad in the years of our greatest losses in war; and the enlightened people of this kingdom will suffer no such embarrassment as the Registrar of Workington has recorded if this result be realized, as they know that all effectual measures for the improvement of the human race receive the blessing, because they are the inspirations, of Divine Providence.

Fourth Quarter.—October, November, December.

The return is on the whole satisfactory. But the marriages were slightly below the average of recent years, from various causes. The births were near the usual number; and the mortality was much below the average, both in the towns and in the country.

Marriages.—47,070 marriages were celebrated, and consequently 94,140 persons were married in the three months that ended on 31st December 1855. The number of marriages in the first quarter of the year was 29,186, in the last quarter 47,070; but it has always hitherto happened

in England that the marriages are most numerous in the Christmas quarter after harvest, and least numerous in the Lent quarter, so that this difference is in accordance with the ordinary state of things. The rate of marriage in the last quarter of the year was much below the rates of marriage in the corresponding quarters of the years immediately preceding. The rate of marriage decreased in London and in the manufacturing districts, and the decrease is probably referable partly to the high price of provisions, and partly to the increase of the army and navy, where men do not marry to the same extent as in the civil population.

Births.—148,841 births were registered in the last quarter of the year 1855; or more in number by 2402 than the births in the corresponding quarter of 1854. The annual rate of births in the quarter was 3.128 per cent. on the population; which is near the average (3.112). There was an increase of births in every division, except in the two divisions south of the Thames and in the Eastern Counties. The Registrars account in various ways for the decrease of births. At Royston the Registrar says:—"Many young married men are gone into the militia." The militia is referred to also by the Registrar of Hatfield; and at St. Albans "the removal of many young women with the numerous recruits," accounts for the decrease of births. Upon the other hand, "the formation of the camp at Aldershot" it is said "accounts for the increase of births and deaths" in the district of Farnham. The registrar of Southampton notices that only 84 births took place in May, while the numbers in that month in previous years had varied from 95 to 142; and on the whole he has a decrease in the year of 138 births; which he attributes "to the fact that so many ships belonging to this port have been detained in the Black Sea, rather than to a diminution of the population." The decrease of births in Camborne, Redruth, is explained by "the fact that a very large proportion of the male population has been for some time past employed in America at the copper mines of the Lake District, and the gold diggings of California and Australia, where a great number of Cornish miners have emigrated, leaving their wives and families at home, who are maintained by remittances from the husbands."

Increase of Population.—In the Northern and Midland Counties the effects of temporary or local causes of the decrease of births in the South have been neutralized; and generally in England there is little ground of complaint or of any apprehension of a paucity of births, as 635,043 children were born in the year of war 1855; or 209,340 in excess of the number of deaths (425,703). In the last quarter of the year the excess of births over deaths, or the natural increase, was 51,819. Of the immigration into England and Wales from Ireland and Scotland during the period no records exist.

24,207 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Government Emigration officers; 16,111 to the United States, and 7329 to the Australian colonies. 7615 were ascertained to be of English origin, 840 Scotch, 10,689 Irish, and 1426 foreigners; the origin of 3637 was undistinguished.

The Prices of Provisions, and the Weather.—Upon comparing in the table the prices of the principal articles of food in the last quarters of the years 1853, 1854, 1855, it is seen that wheat was 69s. 10d., 68s., and 79s. 4d. a quarter; beef was 5d., 5½d., and 5¾d. a pound. Mutton 5¾d., 6d., and 5¾d. a pound. Bread was dear during the last quarter. The average prices of beef and mutton by the carcase were equal, differing little from the prices of 1854, but higher than the prices of 1853. Potatoes have fallen from 150s. a ton in 1853, to 95s., and this materially alleviates the pressure from the high prices of other articles. The mean temperature of October was above, of November and December below, the averages of those months. The air was humid in October and No-

and West Derby, where scarlatina was epidemic, were 3487, or 273 more than in the last quarter of 1853. The deaths in Manchester and Salford, on the other hand, were 2396, or 371 less than in 1853. Many deaths from scarlatina occurred in Runcorn. In Knott Lane, Ashton, several deaths occurred among persons who were attended by an unqualified practitioner.

The decrease in the mortality of Yorkshire is considerable; the deaths in the last three months of 1853 were 10,670, in the last three months of the year 1855 they were 9361. Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, York, and Hull exhibit a great diminution in the number of deaths.

The deaths in the Northern Counties, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland, were 5499, and below the average. Scarlatina has been very fatal. It prevailed with much severity in the colliery districts of Durham. The two villages in Easington, in which it was most fatal, are situated very low, on a marshy, damp, badly-drained soil. In South Shields district, where many men are employed on the construction of an extensive dock, scarlatina and typhus have prevailed. At Bedlington, Morpeth, small-pox has been raging among all classes, affecting both young and old. Those who had not been vaccinated were great sufferers. 14 persons died of Asiatic cholera, 7 of diarrhoea, in Sunderland East—the seat of the first outbreak in 1831.

In Monmouthshire and Wales 5833 persons died. Scarlatina and typhus attacked some districts; but the mortality was less than in the two previous years.

Upon the whole, the health of England and Wales exhibits evidences of improvement.

TABLE XIX.—ENGLAND. ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. in TOWN and COUNTRY DISTRICTS in each Quarter of the Years 1850-1855.

Table with columns for Population enumerated (1841, 1851), Quarters ending (March, June, Sept., Dec., Year), and Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent. in each Quarter of the Years (1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, Mean 1850-55). Includes sub-tables for 117 Districts comprising the Chief Towns and 508 Districts comprising chiefly Small Towns and Country Parishes.

Names of the 117 Districts:—All the Districts of London (36), and Maidstone, Brighton, Isle of Wight, Portsea Island, Winchester, Windsor, St. Alban's, Wycombe, Oxford, Northampton, Bedford, Cambridge, Colchester, Ipswich, Norwich, Yarmouth, Devizes, Dorchester, Exeter (St. Thomas), Plymouth, Redruth, Penzance, Bath, Bristol, Clifton, Stroud, Cheltenham, Hereford, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Kidderminster, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Wolstanton, Birmingham, Aston, Coventry, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, Basford, Derby, Stockport, Macclesfield, Great Boughton, Liverpool, West Derby, Blackburn, Preston, Rochdale, Bury, Bolton, Wigan, Prescot, Chorlton, Manchester, Salford, Ashton and Oldham, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Leeds and Hunslet, Hull, York, Sunderland, Gateshead, Tynemouth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Kendal, Abergavenny, Pontypool, Merthyr Tydfil, New Town, Wrexham, Holywell, Anglesea.

TABLE XX.—METEOROLOGY of GREENWICH in the Seven Years 1849-1855.

Table with columns for Years (1849-1855), Mean Weekly Movement of the Air in Miles, Fall of Rain in Inches, Mean Dryness of Atmosphere, Mean Temperature of the Air, and Mean Temperature of the Air in the Quarters ending the last day of (March, June, Sept., Dec.).

GREAT BRITAIN.

The annual report of the Registrar-General for Scotland now supplies us with the births, deaths, and marriages of that portion of the United Kingdom; and in Table XXII. the rates of marriage, birth, and death in Great Britain are given for the first time. It will be seen that they are all lower than the corresponding rates in England; but as Scotland contains about one-seventh part of the population of Great Britain, its numbers only go to that extent into the general results.

The returns of Ireland are still required, to enable us to compare the marriages, births, and deaths of the United Kingdom, with the returns of France and of the other great states of Europe; which, although they are not called United Kingdoms, embody the statistics of all their old provinces in their annual reports.*

Ireland is not the least important, nor the least interesting part of the United Kingdom in the present day; and it is much to be desired that the Registrar-General of Ireland should be enabled, by an extension of the Irish Registration Act to secure the registration of all the births, deaths, and marriages, and thus complete the annual population statistics of the United Kingdom. Ireland in this respect is alone in Europe; it is the only

TABLE XXI.—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 1852-1855.

Table with columns for Years, Consols (Average Price of Money), Wheat (Average Price, Average Number of Quarters Weekly), Wheat and Wheat Flour (Average Number of Quarters Weekly), Meat (Average Prices of Beef and Mutton), and Potatoes (Average Prices). Rows are categorized by Years (1852-1855) and Quarters ending (March, June, Sept., Dec.).

* According to an estimate, necessarily loose, by the Irish Census Commissioners, the rate of birth was 3.226, of death 2.222 per cent. in Ireland. The rates for the United Kingdom were, therefore, births 3.317, deaths 2.234 per cent. in the year 1855.

civilized country which is without a system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

I have thought it might be interesting at the present time to compare the returns of France and the returns of England with the view of exhibiting the relative condition of the populations of the two countries.

The lucid annual report of M. Legoyt for the year 1853 has just appeared; and I have selected, for the purposes of comparison with England, the corresponding figures for that year, relating to education, marriage, birth, and mortality in France.

There can be no doubt that the analysis of the relative numbers that sign the marriage registers with marks and that write their names in the national returns, throws more light on the permanent results of elementary education than any other test that has yet been devised. That view of the matter is now taken by foreign statisticians; and this interesting item appears for the first time in the French returns.

It is a remarkable fact that, exclusive of the metropolitan cities, in England and France nearly the same proportion, 34 in every 100 of the men who marry, do *not* write their names in *signing the marriage register*; the exact proportion of the ignorant men in France is 33·70, in England it is rather more, or 33·93 in 100. The French women are even less

TABLE XXII.—ESTIMATED POPULATION, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS in Great Britain, 1855.

	Estimated Population in the middle of the Year 1855.	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
England and Wales - - -	18,786,914	152,113	304,226	635,043	425,708
Scotland - - - - -	3,012,636	19,639	39,278	93,498	62,154
GREAT BRITAIN - - -	21,799,550	171,752	343,504	728,541	487,857

PROPORTION per Cent. of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of Great Britain, 1855.

	To 100 Persons living.			
	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
England and Wales - - -	·810	1·620	3·380	2·266
Scotland - - - - -	·652	1·304	3·104	2·063
GREAT BRITAIN - - -	·788	1·576	3·342	2·288

TABLE XXIII.—MARRIAGES in ENGLAND and FRANCE, 1853. Comparative Number and Proportion of Men and Women who signed their Names in Writing, and who declared themselves unable to write their Names, in England and France (exclusive of the Metropolitan Cities).

	Numbers writing their Names in the Marriage Registers.	Numbers stating that they were unable to write their Names.	Proportion to 100 Marriages.	
			Writing their Names.	Not writing their Names.
MEN.—ENGLAND - - - - (Exclusive of London).	90,550	46,508	66·07	33·93
FRANCE - - - - - (Exclusive of the Departments of the Seine, Manche, Creuse, and Vaucluse).	170,172	86,491	66·30	33·70
WOMEN.—ENGLAND - - - - (Exclusive of London).	70,990	66,068	51·80	48·20
FRANCE - - - - - (Exclusive of the Departments of the Seine, Manche, Creuse, and Vaucluse).	116,138	140,530	45·25	54·75

versed in writing than English women; for of *French women* 55 in 100 *did not write* their names, of English women 48 *did not write* their names, but made their marks. Both the proportions are deplorably high, and show how much has to be done to convey the first rudiments of instruction to the great body of the people in two of the most enlightened nations of the world.

As the returns for France, through some accident, do not include the facts for Paris in the department of the Seine, I have excluded the marriages in London from the English returns, as in the capitals the numbers who can write are disproportionately great.

The ages of the French population are distinguished for the first time in the census of 1851; and from the census and the other report, Table (A.) has been compiled, showing the estimated population and the deaths at various ages in the year 1853. (See Appendix, p. 188.)

I subjoin a Table (XXIV.) in which the mortality of the population of the two countries is shown in juxtaposition. It will be observed that the mortality of France is rather less than the mortality of England in this year; but that the rate of mortality bears differently on different periods of life in the two countries.

Another Table (XXV.) is inserted, which was constructed from the estimated population, and from the deaths at different ages in the ten years 1840-49 as given in the *Annuaire de l'Economie Politique*. In this Table the mortality of France is higher than the mortality of England and Wales; but at certain ages, in the middle periods of life, the mortality of the English people considerably exceeds the mortality of the French. This is due, it is believed, to the bad sanitary condition of all the English towns in the years 1840-49, and especially to the *greater proportion of town population in England*. For the same reason the mortality of England and Wales is greater than the mortality of Scotland, and also greater than the mortality of Ireland, as estimated by the Irish Census Commissioners.

In years of scarcity, however, the population of France suffers more from privation than the population of England. France has no system of insurance against death by starvation extending over the whole population, such as is now imperfectly provided in England, Scotland, and Ireland by the Poor Laws; and the failures of crops fall heavily upon the small proprietors, who can draw the means of living from no other source than their small parcels of land.

The water supply in the French towns is bad, and their cesspool system is abominable; hence they suffered severely from cholera in 1854.

TABLE XXIV.—1853. ENGLAND and FRANCE.—Annual RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. of Males and Females at different Ages.

AGES.	Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent.			
	Males.		Females.	
	England and Wales.	France.	England and Wales.	France.
All Ages - - - - -	2·379	2·208	2·201	2·189
0- - - - -	7·346	7·355	6·362	6·383
5- - - - -	·847	·822	·813	·822
10- - - - -	·506	·518	·540	·630
15- - - - -	·828	·889	·861	·848
25- - - - -	1·013	·874	1·064	·928
35- - - - -	1·516	·985	1·251	1·007
45- - - - -	1·958	1·474	1·536	1·380
55- - - - -	3·278	2·893	2·845	2·732
65- - - - -	6·912	6·521	6·133	6·598
75- - - - -	15·897	16·022	14·106	15·376
85- - - - -	31·297	29·273	28·968	29·371
95 and upwards - - -	47·805	38·422	45·770	35·966

The mortality of the population of France in 1854 was 2·746 per cent., while the mortality of the population of England in the same year was 2·352 per cent. The deaths in France exceeded the births by 69,318. The deaths by cholera are estimated at 150,000; the deaths by the scarcity, which began in 1852, was sensibly felt in 1853, and prevailed with much intensity in 1854, M. Legoyt sets down at 60,000.

Under the 96th article of the Code Napoleon, information of the death of every French soldier who dies out of France should be sent home by the regimental authorities, and entered on the civil registers of his last known place of residence in France. This law had been laxly executed until the last war, when upon a representation made to the War Minister at its commencement he replied: *qu'il allait prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour que tous les décès militaires fussent inscrits, autant que possible, au dernier domicile connu en France.* Under these regulations about 20,000 deaths of French soldiers and sailors were registered.

The present arrangements for the *civil registration* of the deaths of soldiers and seamen in foreign parts are unsatisfactory both in France and in England. The deaths of French soldiers abroad are improperly confounded with the deaths in France; whereas they should appear in the general register under a separate heading, and be compared with the strength of the army abroad; at the same time the aggregate deaths should be taken into account, and set off against the aggregate births.

In England the deaths of soldiers abroad are never inscribed upon the civil registers; and I have no means of ascertaining either the actual mortality or the causes of death of the whole of the English population, including the army and navy, until some permanent arrangement be made by the Legislature. I wrote to the Secretary of State for War in 1854, calling his attention to the subject. In 1855 I addressed the Secretary for War in a second letter, which is, with a few omissions, subjoined, as it shows the present unsatisfactory state of the question.*

TABLE XXV.—1840-49. ENGLAND and FRANCE.—DEATHS. Average Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent. of Males and Females at different Ages in the Ten Years 1840-49.

AGES.	Average Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent. 1840-49.			
	Males.		Females.	
	England and Wales.	France.	England and Wales.	France.
All Ages	2·338	2·380	2·180	2·319
0-	7·224	8·455	6·187	7·545
5-	·947	1·049	·941	1·104
10-	·520	·536	·539	·641
15-	·834	1·034	·862	·841
25-	1·009	1·002	1·067	·969
35-	1·292	1·096	1·291	1·103
45-	1·849	1·476	1·605	1·488
55-	3·205	2·919	2·867	2·727
65-	6·805	6·069	6·183	6·349
75-	14·904	13·166	13·694	14·484
85-	30·836	32·027	28·685	27·194
95 and upwards	47·305	46·240	46·384	35·793

* Copy of a Letter from the REGISTRAR GENERAL to LORD PANMURE.

My Lord,

The 26th Section of 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 86. provides for the registration of the deaths of British Seamen; but no provision is made for recording, in this department, the deaths which occur in the British army abroad.

I am aware that, upon inquiry at the War Office, relations may obtain information as to the last returns received respecting soldiers; but the enclosed Form shows that few facilities are given to the public in making these inquiries, and that precautions are

General Register Office,
February 10th, 1855.

I cannot now state, as the French civil department does, the numbers of deaths in the army and navy. But if we compare the mortality of the female population of the two countries, France lost 2·721 per cent., England 2·273 per cent. of the female population at home in the year 1854.

Fecundity of the French population.—The temporary decrease of the population of France has naturally attracted attention, as it has occurred for the first time, M. Legoyt states, in the *last fifty-four years*. In considering its causes, the diminishing number of births, to which I have before adverted in my Reports, has attracted attention, and given rise to

TABLE XXVI.—1853-54. ENGLAND and FRANCE. ESTIMATED POPULATION, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS, in each of the Years 1853-54.

	Estimated Population.		Marriages.		Births.		Deaths.	
	1853	1854	1853	1854	1853	1854	1853	1854
England and Wales	18,403,313	18,618,760	164,520	159,727	612,391	634,405	421,097	437,905
France	36,225,000	36,155,682	280,609	270,906	936,967	923,461	795,607	992,779

The Population of England and Wales for 1853 and 1854 has been deduced by taking the excess of births over deaths since 1851, when the population was enumerated. The Population of France for 1853 is obtained from the "Statistique de la France, deuxième série. Tome III. (1^{re} partie)," and for 1854 by making a deduction for the decrease of births as compared with deaths in that year.

1853-54.—PROPORTION of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of England and France.

	To 100 Persons living.							
	Marriages.		Persons Married.		Births.		Deaths.	
	1853	1854	1853	1854	1853	1854	1853	1854
England and Wales	·894	·858	1·788	1·716	3·323	3·407	2·288	2·352
France	·775	·749	1·550	1·498	2·587	2·554	2·196	2·746

The rate of mortality of females during the year 1853 was, in England 2·201, and in France 2·189 per cent. In 1854 the female rate of mortality in England was 2·273, and in France 2·721 per cent.

considered necessary to prevent unnecessary queries, and to limit the investigation to the nearest relatives or representatives of the party.

It appears to me very desirable that in this central office which contains the record of 20,000,000 deaths, marriages, and births, which have occurred in England and Wales since 1836, a record should also be kept of the deaths of all soldiers who die abroad.

I am aware that it is far from desirable to make any addition to the numerous periodical returns made by all officers commanding regiments, and I am also aware of the difficulties in time of war of obtaining the exact information as to the date and cause of death, when so many die on board transports and in distant hospitals; but I submit to your Lordship that these difficulties may be easily surmounted, and that it will be a great boon to the public if arrangements can be made that I be furnished, as soon as possible, with a nominal return from each regiment in Her Majesty's service of every soldier whose death has taken place in 1854; arrangements being at the same time made that similar information should be sent to me in future at such periods as may be considered best, either monthly, quarterly, or yearly.

Here the names would be indexed alphabetically, and information at once be afforded to the public.

I take the liberty of enclosing a Form which might be used, but if your Lordship is disposed to entertain the application which I thus venture to make to you, the authorities under your Lordship's direction will probably be able to prepare a better description of Form.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE GRAHAM,
Registrar General.

After a lapse of six months, the Registrar-General was officially informed (Aug. 10th 1855) that Lord Panmure, after considering the subject, found that the proposal would impose much trouble in the Offices at home, and upon Commanding Officers abroad, and was "of opinion that for the present the consideration of the question had better be postponed."

controversy. It is, undoubtedly, a remarkable fact that, while the births in England go on rapidly increasing, the births of French children are not increasing, but are actually decreasing. 981,614 children were annually born (alive) in France on an average in the five years 1824-8, and 957,894 annually on an average in the years 1850-4.* In 1854 the births were 923,461 out of a population of 36,155,682 in France, and 634,405 out of 18,618,760 in England and Wales.

Thus in France to 1000 of the population 26 children were born; in England and Wales the same population gave birth to 34 children in the year 1854.

A great portion of this difference is not referable to unusual abstinence from marriage in France, as some speculators have supposed, but to the difference in the fecundity of the married women at puerperal ages in the two countries. This is shown in the annexed Table (XXVII.)

The causes of death in England and Wales in the year 1855 are discussed by Dr. Farr in a letter addressed to me, which will be found in the Appendix (p. 179).

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM,

Registrar-General.

TABLE XXVII.—ENGLAND AND FRANCE. 1849-53.—Number of WIVES; and SPINSTERS and WIDOWS enumerated in 1851; the Number of BIRTHS IN WEDLOCK and OUT OF WEDLOCK registered in the Five Years 1849-53; and the Average Annual Proportion of Births in Wedlock to Wives, and Births out of Wedlock to Spinsters and Widows.

	Enumerated in 1851.				BIRTHS REGISTERED in the Five Years 1849-53.		Average Annual Proportion of Births IN <i>Wedlock</i> to 100 Wives of the Ages		Average Annual Proportion of Births OUT OF <i>Wedlock</i> to 100 Spinsters and Widows of the Ages	
	WIVES of the Ages		SPINSTERS and WIDOWS of the Ages		In <i>Wedlock</i>	Out of <i>Wedlock</i>	15-40	15-55	20-40	15-55
	15-40	15-55	20-40	15-55						
England and Wales	1,630,456	2,553,894	1,248,182	2,449,669	2,819,964	208,885	34·591	22·084	3·267	1·665
France	3,252,746	5,603,781	2,382,824	4,779,896	4,491,269	349,123	27·615	16·029	2·930	1·461

The Mothers of all the children born are included in the Women of the ages 15-55, and a large proportion—about seven-eighths—of the mothers, are 15 and under 40 years of age. Hence the number of children born alive has been divided by the numbers of women of those ages.

The last four columns of the Table may be read thus:—To every 100 WIVES in England and Wales of 15 and under 40 years of age the proportional number of all children born alive annually was nearly 35, in France nearly 28; or every 100 wives of the ages 15-55 gave birth to 22 children in England and Wales, and to only 16 in France. To every 100 SPINSTERS AND WIDOWS of the age 20-40 there were 3·267 children born alive out of *Wedlock* in England and Wales, and 2·930 in France.

* Article by M. Legoyt in *Annuaire de l'Economie Politique*, 1857.