

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JULY 10TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

In the week ending Saturday, July 10th, the deaths registered in London were 1191. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 977; but as the present return is for a population which has annually increased, it can only be compared with the average when the latter has been raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make it 1074. The comparison shows that the mortality of last week was much higher than the average mortality in the beginning of July, for the actual result exceeded the estimated number of 117 deaths.

If the rate of mortality in London, with its population of 2,721,000 persons, were the same as that which is ascertained to rule in the healthiest districts of England, the deaths in the week would have been 790. The excess, which is the result of what may be termed the unhealthy rate, is equal to 392; and to reduce, if it be impossible to extinguish, this excess, is the problem of sanitary science.

The deaths from measles last week were numerous; they rose from 54 to 71. Diarrhoea continues to make progress; the weekly deaths from it, since it began to increase, having been 31, 54, 94, and 120. Of these 120 deaths, all except ten occurred amongst children, most of whom were infants. It may be added, that nine deaths from this complaint occurred in the sub-district of St. John, Westminster. Thirteen deaths were also caused by the cholera, which is usual in summer. Three of these cases occurred to adults, and are returned as follows:—A widow, aged 45 years, on 6th July, at 25, New Street, St. Martin's Lane, cholera (after thirty-two hours illness). A widow, aged 85 years, on 2nd July, at 5, Berkley Street, Clerkenwell, senectus, cholera (five days). A widow, aged 61 years, on 6th July, at the Workhouse, Mile End, New Town, English cholera (ten hours).

Last week, the births of 721 boys and 749 girls, in all 1470 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1414.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.653 in. The highest reading was 30.07 in., at the beginning of the week. The mean temperature of the week was 55.9°, which is less by 5.7° than the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean temperature was below the average on every day. The highest point attained by the thermometer in the shade was 73°, on Sunday, the 4th inst.; the lowest was 47.3°, on Wednesday; the range of the week was therefore 25.7°. The mean daily range was 20.1°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 7.2°. The mean degree of humidity of air was 79. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 63.3°, which is 7.4° above the mean temperature of the air. The wind, which had been previously in the south-west, blew generally from a northerly point on the last three days. Rain fell on every day, and the total amount measured was 1.37 in. There was thunder on Wednesday and Thursday.

In the thirteen weeks ending July 3rd, the deaths in London were 11,511, of which more than half were those of persons under twenty years of age. A rise of nearly 17 degrees, from 38°, which was the mean temperature of the first or winter quarter of the year, to 54.7°, that of last quarter, was accompanied by a decrease of deaths, equal to 2767, or an average of 213 weekly. The heat of last quarter was unusual; the mean temperature was higher by 2.7° than the average of nine previous spring quarters, and in none of these was it so high as that which has been now attained. The meteorological conditions of the season have not hitherto been unusually unfavourable to health; and the mortality has been below the London average, notwithstanding the prevalence of measles and whooping-cough, which were very fatal, and also of scarlatina and diarrhoea, the latter of which has been excited to premature activity. If the deaths in the quarter had been at the rate derived from the *least unhealthy* districts in England, they would have been 10,387, or less by 4,154 than the number actually registered.

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE. The annual meeting will take place at Edinburgh, on Wednesday, July 28th, under the presidency of Dr. Conolly, D.C.L. The day of meeting has been fixed, in

order to suit the convenience of members attending the annual meeting of the British Medical Association. The meeting will be held, by permission of the Lord Provost and Corporation of the City, in the University Buildings. The morning meeting will commence at 11 A.M., with an address from the retiring president, Dr. Forbes Winslow. The afternoon meeting will commence at 3 P.M., with an address from the president, Dr. Conolly. Several papers and communications will then be read. The Committee invite the attendance of the profession in Edinburgh. The dinner will take place at half-past seven precisely, at Barry's Hopetown Rooms, Queen Street. The Association has been honoured by Dr. Skae with an invitation to a collation at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Morningside, at three o'clock, on Thursday, July 29th, to be followed by an asylum ball, at seven P.M. The wards of the asylum will also be open for the inspection of the members from eleven A.M. to two P.M. Members of the profession desirous of admission into the Association are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary before the day of meeting. Notice of communications, and of subjects for discussion at the annual meeting, may be made to the Honorary Secretary. The rules of the Association, as adopted at the annual meeting 1855, can be had on application to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. C. Lockhart Robertson, 1, Charles Street, Berkeley Square.

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Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

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