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Index 1856

1856

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NINETEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

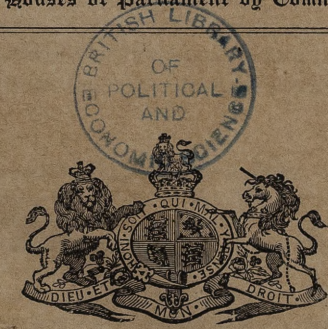
REGISTRAR-GENERAL

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,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1858.

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REPORT

TO

The Right Honourable SPENCER HORATIO WALPOLE, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c. &c. &c.

*General Register Office, Somerset House,
10th June 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the Abstracts of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages which were registered in England and Wales during the year 1856.

The names of *one million three hundred and sixty-six thousand six hundred and thirty-three* persons were enrolled on the national registers during the year: commemorating the entrance of *six hundred and fifty-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-three* living children into the English community, the removal of *three hundred and ninety thousand five hundred and six* men, women, and children from its ranks by death, and the matrimonial union of *three hundred and eighteen thousand six hundred and seventy-four* persons, by whom *one hundred and fifty-nine thousand three hundred and thirty-seven* new families were founded.

The natural increase of population, by the excess of births over deaths, was *two hundred and sixty-six thousand nine hundred and forty-seven*. By a defect of the English Registration Act, no one is bound under a penalty to give the Registrar notice of any birth; and in consequence a certain number of births is not registered. Hence the natural increase

TABLE I.—Estimated POPULATION, with the Number of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS registered in England in each Year from 1838 to 1856.

Years ended Dec. 31st.	Estimated POPULATION in England in the Middle of the Years.†	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS <i>Married.</i>	BIRTHS (exclusive of Still-born).	DEATHS.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1838	15,312,256	118067	236134	463787	342700	121027
1839	15,515,296	123166	246332	492574	338964	153590
1840	15,721,029	122665	245330	502303	350687	142616
1841	15,929,492	122496	244992	512158	343847	168311
1842	16,128,793	118825	237650	517739	349519	168220
1843	16,320,479	123818	247636	527325	346445	180880
1844	16,519,565	132249	264498	540763	356333	183830
1845	16,721,081	143743	287486	543521	349366	194155
1846	16,925,051	145664	291328	572625	390315	182310
1847	17,131,512	135845	271690	539965	423304	116661
1848	17,340,492	138230	276460	563059	399833	163226
1849	17,552,020	141883	283766	578159	440639	137320
1850	17,766,129	152744	305488	593422	368995	224427
1851	17,982,849	154206	308412	615865	395396	220469
1852	18,205,627	158782	317564	624012	407135	216877
1853	18,408,313	164520	329040	612391	421097	191294
1854	18,618,760	159727	319454	634405	437905	196500
1855	18,786,914	152113	304226	635043	425703	209340
1856	19,045,187	159337	318674	657453	390506	266947

† 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 1852-56 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 1851-2-3-4-5-6, as it did in 1841-51.

of the English population is understated, by taking the difference between the registered births—and the deaths which are nearly all registered. On account of the interference of emigration and immigration, of which no records are kept, it is difficult to estimate accurately the number of unregistered births. For the same reasons the actual increase of the population since the last census cannot be accurately determined. Yet for practical purposes a sufficiently near approximation can be obtained; and the results on two of the most probable hypotheses do not differ considerably. Thus if it be assumed that the population has increased at the same rate since 1851 as it did in the previous ten years, the population of England and Wales must have been 19,107,366 in the middle of the year 1856; while by the method I have employed, which takes the excess of births over deaths as its basis, the population at the above date must have been 19,045,187. The latter number on account of the excess of emigration during the period, is probably the nearest to the truth; and it is to the former number as 1.0000 to 1.0033. The difference in the two numbers affects all the subsequent Tables—which are derived from a division of the recorded events, such as the births, deaths, and marriages—by the population; but the extent to which they are affected is slight, as will be immediately evident on dividing the given proportions by 1.0033. Thus the annual rate of mortality per cent. given is 2.050; and by the other method it becomes 2.044, which differs from the first only, to the extent of .006.

The natural increase of the people was 731 daily.

The annual rate of increase was 1.375 per cent. by the adopted method.

The marriages exceeded by 7224, the births by 22410, the marriages and births of the preceding year; and the deaths were less by 35197 than the deaths of that year. Hence the natural increase of the population was unusually great.

The population of the United Kingdom has not only increased at home, but has sent out a swarm of emigrants. The number of English and Welsh emigrants was 64527, or, if we add a due proportion of the numbers whose birthplace is not returned, 72215; while the Scotch emigrants

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

Years ended Dec. 31st.	To 100 Persons living.				The Number of Persons living.			
	MARRIAGES.	PERSONS MARRIED.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	To one Marriage.	To one Person Married.	To one Birth.	To one Death.
1838	.771	1.542	3.029	2.238	130	65	33	45
1839	.794	1.588	3.175	2.185	126	63	31	46
1840	.780	1.560	3.195	2.288	128	64	31	44
1841	.769	1.538	3.215	2.159	130	65	31	46
1842	.737	1.474	3.211	2.168	136	68	31	46
1843	.759	1.518	3.231	2.123	132	66	31	47
1844	.801	1.602	3.273	2.161	125	62	31	46
1845	.860	1.720	3.251	2.089	116	58	31	48
1846	.861	1.722	3.383	2.306	116	58	30	43
1847	.793	1.586	3.152	2.471	126	63	32	40
1848	.797	1.594	3.247	2.306	125	63	31	43
1849	.808	1.616	3.294	2.512	124	62	30	40
1850	.860	1.720	3.340	2.077	116	58	30	48
1851	.858	1.716	3.425	2.199	117	58	29	45
1852	.872	1.744	3.428	2.286	115	57	29	45
1853	.894	1.788	3.328	2.288	112	56	30	44
1854	.858	1.716	3.407	2.352	117	58	29	43
1855	.810	1.620	3.380	2.266	123	62	30	44
1856	.887	1.674	3.452	2.050	119	60	29	49
Mean . .	.817	1.634	3.285	2.235	122	61	30	45

NOTE.—The Table may be read thus:—In the year 1838 to every 100 persons living there were .771 marriages or 1.542 persons married, 3.029 births, 2.238 deaths; the number of persons living to every marriage, person married, birth or death, was 130, 65, 33, and 45 respectively. By disregarding the decimal points the Table will show the proportion to every 100,000 persons living. A correction for increase of population has been made in calculating the above results.

corrected were 13467, the Irish emigrants 80269. 10603 foreigners sailed also from our ports. In the aggregate 176554 emigrants were returned by the Emigration Commissioners, of whom about 165951 were natives of these Islands, now the *officina gentium* of the north, which no longer sends forth armed barbarians over the settled states of Europe, or over the seas on piratical excursions, but distributes peaceful settlers over the uncultivated lands of Australia and of America.

In the year 1856, the rate of marriage in the population was 1.674 to 100 persons living, of births 3.452, of deaths 2.050; or one person married to every 60 persons living, one child was born to every 29 living, and one person died to every 49 living.

Upon an average of *nineteen years* the annual rate per cent. of marriage was 1.634, of birth 3.285, of death 2.236; or one person married to every 61, one birth to every 30, and one death to every 45 persons living.

MARRIAGES.

133,619 marriages were celebrated according to the rites of the Established Church; and 25718 otherwise. The proportion of persons who married according to the rites of the church was 84 in 100.

TABLE III.—MARRIAGES registered in ENGLAND in each Year from 1841 to 1856.

YEARS ending 31st December	TOTAL MARRIAGES.	According to the Rites of the Established Church.					Not according to the Rites of the Established Church.						
		Special Licence.	Licence.	Banns.	Superintendent Registrar's Certificate.	Not stated.	Total in Established Church.	Total not in Established Church.	In Registered Places. Roman Catholics.	Other Christian Denominations.	Superintendent Registrar's Office.	Quakers.	Jews.
1841	122496	13	15792	78015	972	19579	114371	8125	5882	2064	66	113	
1842	118825	9	14935	73744	944	18415	110047	8778	6200	2357	58	163	
1843	123818	8	14544	79849	1222	18014	113637	10181	7152	2817	61	151	
1844	132249	10	14930	85176	1558	18335	120009	12240	6284	3446	55	175	
1845	143743	10	16013	92867	1706	18919	129515	14228	2816	7181	3977	74	180
1846	145664	14	17135	92995	1862	18503	130509	15155	3027	7669	4167	68	224
1847	135845	14	17052	84863	1968	16979	120876	14969	2961	7483	4253	83	184
1848	138230	13	16896	86519	2170	15871	121469	16761	3658	8060	4790	67	186
1849	141883	18	16697	90644	2593	13230	123182	18701	4199	8662	5558	53	229
1850	152744	8	17413	98669	3136	11733	130959	21785	5623	9626	6207	69	260
1851	154206	8	17781	99406	3351	10412	130958	23248	6570	9540	6813	65	260
1852	158782	8	19461	106497	3610	4306	133882	24900	7479	10017	7100	57	247
1853	164520	8	20624	109166	3814	4430	138042	26478	8375	10149	7598	68	288
1854	159727	15	21048	105050	3811	4185	134109	25618	7813	9873	7593	52	287
1855	152113	14	20386	99546	3804	4001	127751	24362	7344	9296	7441	57	224
1856	159337	9	21336	104280	4045	3949	133619	25718	7527	9710	8097	72	312

YEARS ending 31st December	Marriages contracted between				Re-married.		Under Age.		Signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			
	Bachelors and Spinners.	Bachelors and Widows.	Widowers and Spinners.	Widowers and Widows.	Widowers.	Widows.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Marriages in which both Signed.	Marriages in which one Signed.
1841	—	—	—	—	—	—	5362	16285	39954	59680	—	—
1842	—	—	—	—	15619	10579	5387	16003	38031	56965	—	—
1843	—	—	—	—	16305	10811	5511	16403	40520	60715	—	—
1844	—	—	—	—	16941	11183	5515	17410	42912	65073	—	—
1845	119539	6023	11835	6341	18176	12369	6287	19376	47665	71229	—	—
1846	121324	5997	12212	6131	18343	12128	6313	20001	47488	70145	—	—
1847	112376	5705	11667	5397	17564	11602	5556	18118	42429	61877	32622	39062
1848	113284	5920	12702	6324	19026	12244	6092	19436	43163	62771	32974	39989
1849	116134	6102	13155	6492	19647	12594	6650	21105	44027	65135	—	—
1850	124031	6575	14558	7580	22138	14155	7453	23109	47572	70606	—	—
1851	126018	6625	14313	7250	21563	13875	7737	24286	47439	69812	36186	44879
1852	130672	6696	14044	7370	21414	14066	8551	26978	48421	70772	36636	45921
1853	135023	7139	14739	7619	22358	14758	9131	29219	49983	72204	37345	47497
1854	131141	6826	14189	7571	21760	14397	9210	28797	47343	68175	35255	45508
1855	123398	6775	14280	7660	21940	14435	8386	27207	44846	62672	32139	43240
1856	129960	7163	14462	7752	22214	14915	9120	29218	45900	64133	32238	45557

Of the marriages according to the rites of the Established Church, 9 were stated to be by special licence, 21336 by licence, 104280 by banns, 4045 by superintendent registrars' certificate; in the registry of 3949 marriages these distinctions were not recorded by the clergy. Calculating upon the above number, it appears that of 100 of these marriages, 16.5 were by licence, 80.4 by banns, 3.1 by certificate. The proportions were the same in the previous year.

It will be observed that the marriages by licence, exhibiting some fluctuation, increased progressively up to the year 1854; in the year 1855 they fell off; but in the year 1856 they again increased, and exceeded the number of such marriages in the year 1854 by 288. Thus in the year 1856 a greater number of persons married by licence than had ever married before in that way. The marriages by banns also increased, but they did not equal in number the marriages by banns in 1854.

It was laid down in the two previous reports as the result of the returns, that a high price of wheat depresses marriage among the classes who marry by banns to a greater extent than it depresses marriage among the classes who marry by licence. Thus in the six years when the price of wheat was highest, the annual marriages per cent. on the population were .801*, of which .134 were marriages of the higher and middle classes, who when they belong to the Established Church marry by licence, and .667 were artisans and labourers. When the price of wheat was lowest these proportions became .831, and .127 and .704.

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:					s. d.
Of 6 years of highest prices -	.801	4.959	.134	.667	67 11
Of 5 years of intermediate prices -	.843	5.469	.130	.713	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
1856	.837	4.888	.142	.695	69 2
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

* Disregarding the decimal point, this will read 801 marriages were celebrated to every 100,000 of the population; 134 were marriages by licence, 667 were marriages by banns. It may be assumed that these two groups represent the whole of the corresponding classes of society, whether belonging to the church or not.

This principle is further confirmed by the experience of another year. The average price of wheat in 1856 was 6s. 2d. a quarter; the marriages by banns were in the proportion of 4.888 to one marriage by licence. In the previous year, when the price of wheat was 7s. 8d., the proportions were 4.883 to one. In the five years when the price of wheat ranged from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 1d., and was 4s. 9d. on an average, the marriages by banns were to the marriages by licence as 5.530 to one, and ranged from 5.429 to 5.666 to one.

The number of marriages in the registered places of Roman Catholics was 7527, or a fourth part less than the number 9710 in the registered places of other Christian denominations not of the Established Church. 8097 marriages were contracted in the offices of superintendent registrars, without the performance of any religious rite.

The number of protestants and others who married was to the number of Roman Catholics who married in registered places as twenty to one. Of 100 couples who married, 84 chose to be married according to the rites of the Church of England, 5 according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, 6 according to the customs of other Christian denominations; and 5 were married by the civil contract.

The Quakers married in unusual numbers; their marriages in the last three years were 52, 57, and 72. Their marriages in the last year were only exceeded in the years 1845 and 1847.

The marriages of Jews appear to be multiplying in England and Wales rapidly; the number in the registers of 1841 was 113, the number in 1849 was 229, and the numbers in the three years, of which 1856 was the last, were 287, 224, and 312.

Marriages of minors.—9120 young men and 29218 young women married under 21 years of age. Of 100 men who married 5.72, of 100 women who married, 18.34, were under age.

Early marriages have been growing every year since since 1848 more common. The proportion of young women under age was 13 in 100 married for the seven years 1841-47; and it increased every year afterwards up to 18 in 1854, which was again surpassed by the number 18.34 in 1856. The proportion of young men under age increased in the same years, but not to the same extent.

This involves an important change. It affects essentially the manners, the economy, and the increase of the population: it deserves to be carefully studied.

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

YEARS ended 31st December	To 100 Married.								
	The Proportion under 21 Years of Age.			The Proportion who signed the Marriage Register with Marks.			The Proportion who were		
	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Widowers.	Widows.	Mean.
1841	4.38	13.29	8.83	32.7	48.8	40.8	11.20	18.99	110.95
1842	4.33	13.47	9.00	32.0	47.9	40.0	13.14	8.90	11.02
1843	4.45	13.25	8.85	32.7	49.0	40.9	13.17	8.73	10.95
1844	4.17	13.16	8.67	32.4	49.2	40.8	12.81	8.46	10.63
1845	4.37	13.48	8.93	33.2	49.6	41.4	12.64	8.60	10.62
1846	4.38	13.73	9.03	32.6	48.2	40.4	12.59	8.33	10.46
1847	4.09	13.34	8.72	31.2	45.5	38.4	12.93	8.54	10.74
1848	4.41	14.06	9.24	31.2	45.4	38.3	13.76	8.86	11.31
1849	4.69	14.88	9.79	31.0	45.9	38.5	13.85	8.88	11.37
1850	4.88	15.13	10.01	31.1	46.2	38.7	14.49	9.27	11.88
1851	5.02	15.75	10.39	30.8	45.3	38.1	13.98	9.00	11.49
1852	5.39	16.99	11.19	30.5	44.6	37.6	13.49	8.86	11.18
1853	5.55	17.76	11.66	30.4	43.9	37.2	13.59	8.97	11.28
1854	5.77	18.03	11.90	30.0	42.7	36.4	13.62	9.01	11.32
1855	5.51	17.89	11.70	29.5	41.2	35.4	14.42	9.49	11.96
1856	5.72	18.34	12.03	28.8	40.2	34.5	13.04	9.36	11.65

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

It is necessary to bear in mind, that the mere fact that the proportion of marriages under age is higher in one population than in another absolutely proves that the disposition to early marriage differs only when the proportional numbers of unmarried women under and above 21 years of age is the same; for the real relative tendency to early marriage is measured in two populations, by dividing the annual marriages of minors in those populations by the numbers living unmarried at the corresponding ages.

TABLE V.—ENGLAND. MARRIAGES.—PROPORTIONAL Number of MARRIAGES in the several Counties of England during the Year 1856; of Persons who signed their Names; of Persons not of full Age; and of the Re-marriages of Widowers and Widows.

No.	REGISTRATION COUNTIES.	Marriages to 100 Inhabitants.	Signed their Names in Writing.		Persons not of full Age.		Re-marriages.	
			Of 100 Men Married.	Of 100 Women Married.	In 100 Men Married.	In 100 Women Married.	Widowers.	Widows.
							In 100 Men Married.	In 100 Women Married.
	ENGLAND	837	71.2	59.8	5.72	18.34	13.94	9.36
	I.—LONDON	996	88.2	80.2	2.43	11.31	14.88	10.83
	II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES.							
1	Surrey (<i>extra-metropolitan</i>)	657	72.0	77.7	2.63	17.53	12.28	8.45
2	Kent (<i>extra-metropolitan</i>)	773	73.4	71.7	3.64	17.96	13.19	9.76
3	Sussex	678	74.1	77.5	3.47	17.10	13.28	7.06
4	Hampshire	906	74.6	72.5	3.59	16.29	12.39	11.04
5	Berkshire	683	62.8	68.5	3.71	14.91	14.84	9.66
	III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.							
6	Middlesex (<i>extra-metropolitan</i>)	559	74.1	78.7	2.38	12.03	13.05	9.42
7	Hertfordshire	521	50.3	57.9	7.03	21.10	10.24	6.62
8	Buckinghamshire	668	63.0	58.9	7.58	20.64	14.26	7.06
9	Oxfordshire	733	67.3	66.2	5.31	14.75	15.04	7.89
10	Northamptonshire	813	70.0	61.8	8.78	22.83	12.55	6.52
11	Huntingdonshire	692	56.8	57.0	10.07	23.49	12.75	6.94
12	Bedfordshire	747	56.9	49.7	10.90	22.08	16.01	6.85
13	Cambridgeshire	650	59.8	56.1	10.27	24.55	13.69	9.60
	IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES.							
14	Essex	640	60.3	63.1	5.61	20.62	13.52	8.81
15	Suffolk	734	56.7	60.8	5.58	18.53	14.56	7.68
16	Norfolk	716	60.5	62.2	6.02	16.73	15.66	9.37
	V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.							
17	Wiltshire	645	65.4	64.0	5.63	13.46	16.64	9.30
18	Dorsetshire	680	66.8	64.0	6.80	14.93	12.98	7.11
19	Devonshire	809	74.4	68.4	3.90	13.15	11.98	9.02
20	Cornwall	761	63.1	53.5	6.21	20.64	11.37	6.23
21	Somersetshire	654	67.1	63.6	5.23	13.16	15.99	8.43
	VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES.							
22	Gloucestershire	839	74.3	69.4	5.84	15.23	14.39	8.57
23	Herefordshire	680	59.9	63.9	2.80	10.92	13.31	10.50
24	Shropshire	700	60.1	53.8	3.62	12.63	11.29	9.18
25	Staffordshire	943	56.1	43.3	9.41	22.25	14.15	10.86
26	Worcestershire	844	65.4	60.0	7.13	20.45	13.02	8.11
27	Warwickshire	870	71.1	60.1	6.72	20.40	14.69	10.63
	VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.							
28	Leicestershire	721	71.4	62.9	8.45	22.03	13.14	7.45
29	Rutlandshire	591	81.7	78.4	3.92	13.73	15.69	7.19
30	Lincolnshire	702	71.2	65.7	4.56	19.51	12.85	7.99
31	Nottinghamshire	843	71.1	57.9	6.72	18.84	15.45	8.87
32	Derbyshire	772	74.7	60.7	7.06	21.64	14.17	7.71
	VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES.							
33	Cheshire	756	67.8	48.4	5.31	15.26	15.47	9.22
34	Lancashire	984	68.0	42.0	8.20	21.34	14.77	10.33
	IX.—YORKSHIRE.							
35	West Riding	842	71.4	48.3	7.67	24.84	14.10	8.93
36	East Riding (with York)	930	80.0	65.5	5.22	21.56	12.33	9.37
37	North Riding	763	80.3	71.0	3.34	16.45	12.60	7.62
	X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES.							
38	Durham	959	73.0	55.6	6.81	26.96	12.76	10.01
39	Northumberland	843	80.3	63.9	3.97	16.82	12.70	5.10
40	Cumberland	497	83.1	69.9	5.04	17.93	10.66	6.59
41	Westmorland	574	83.1	78.6	2.82	14.37	13.80	5.07
	XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.							
42	Monmouthshire	935	51.6	42.1	5.99	22.10	12.61	9.27
43	South Wales	885	58.2	36.5	6.07	17.53	12.65	8.47
44	North Wales	662	58.2	40.4	4.67	12.26	13.29	7.52

In London only 2.43 of 100 men, and 11.31 of 100 women, married under age; but this low proportion is partly due to the fact, that into London immigration introduces an excess of adults of the marriage ages, thus leaving the proportional number of minors living in London comparatively small.

The five counties which supplied the lowest *proportion* of males who married under 21 years of age were Middlesex (2.38), Surrey (2.63), Herefordshire (2.80), Westmorland (2.82), and North Riding of Yorkshire (3.34). The five counties which supplied the highest *proportion* of males were Northampton (8.78), Staffordshire (9.41), Hunts (10.07), Cambridge (10.27), Beds (10.90).

The counties which supplied the *lowest proportion* of *females* who married under 21 years of age were Herefordshire (10.92), Middlesex (12.03), the counties of North Wales (12.26), Shropshire (12.63), Somersetshire (13.16); while in Huntingdonshire (23.49), Cambridgeshire (24.55), the West Riding of Yorkshire (24.84), Durham (26.96), and Staffordshire (29.26), the *proportion* of young women marrying under the age of 21 was highest.

The actual ages of the young men and young women marrying under the age of 20, and a remarkable series of Tables, showing the ages of 92258 bachelors, spinsters, widows, and widowers who married in the year, will be found at pp. 26, 27.

Re-marriages.—22,214 widowers and 14,915 widows re-married; 14,462 widowers married spinsters, and 7,163 widows married bachelors. Of 100 men who were married 13.94 were widowers; of 100 women 9.36 were widows. In the eight following counties more than 15 in 100 men marrying were widowers: Oxfordshire 15.04, Bedfordshire 16.01, Norfolk 15.66, Wiltshire 16.64, Somersetshire 15.99, Rutlandshire 15.69, Nottinghamshire 15.45, Cheshire 15.47. In London 10.83, Hampshire 11.04, Herefordshire 10.50, Staffordshire 10.86, Warwickshire 10.66, Lancashire 10.33, and Durham 10.01, the *proportion* of widows exceeded 10 in 100 women married. These numbers are regulated partly by the mortality, and partly by the disposition to re-marriage in the several counties.

Signatures of persons married.—113,437 men and 95,204 women wrote their names, 45,900 men and 64,133 women made their marks, in signing the marriage register. *Seventy-one* in 100 men wrote their names, and *twenty-nine* made marks. In 100 women *sixty* wrote their names, and *forty* made marks. If it is grievous to see how defective the elementary education of the people was about fifteen years ago, it is, on the other hand, gratifying to find in the table proofs of progress. The number of women who wrote their names increased from 51 to 60 in 100 during the years 1841 to 1856; the number of men who wrote their names increased from 67 to 71 during the same period. We have thus evidence of the progress of elementary learning from about the year 1826 to the year 1841, and may hope that the progress since that date has not been at a slower rate.

The intermarriages of persons who write their names with persons who sign by marks throws curious light on our social combinations. The last report contained some observations on the subject. In the year 1856 we find that in 81,542 marriages both parties wrote their names; that in 45,557 marriages one wrote and one signed with a mark; and that in 32,238 marriages both parties signed with marks.

The greatest possible number of marriages in which both parties could write their names was 95,204, for that was the total number of the marrying women *who could write*, while the actual number of such marriages (81,542) was less by 13,662 than the possible number. Again the utmost number of marriages in which both parties could not write was limited by the number of men (45,900) who could *not write*, while the actual

number of such marriages was 32,238, or less by 13,662 than the possible number.

If we now turn to the marriage of a man or woman who could write with a man or woman who could not write, it is found that 45,557 such marriages took place. Of the 318,674 persons marrying, 208,641 could write, 110,033 could not write, and it is evident therefore that if instead of 45,557 the whole of the 110,033 persons who could not write had married 110,033 persons who could write their names, these, with 49,304 marriages between persons who could write, would make an aggregate

TABLE VI.—THE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES FOR THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES, AND ON THE REGISTER, 31st DECEMBER 1856.

COUNTY.	TOTAL.	SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIANS.				WESLEYAN METHODISTS.										CALVINISTIC METHODISTS.		CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH.		Latter-day Saints.	All others.				
		Church of Scotland.	United Presbyterians.	Presbyterian Church in England.	Independents.	Baptists.	United Brethren or Moravians.	Roman Catholics.	Society of Friends.	Unitarians.	Original Connexion.	New Connexion.	Primitive Methodists.	Bible Christians.	Wesleyan Methodist Association.	Independent Methodists.	Wesleyan Reformers.	Other Wesleyan Methodists.	Welsh Calvinistic Methodists.			Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion.			
TOTAL in ENGLAND and WALES	3811	32	31	36	1322	854	6	473	1	137	422	48	98	21	47	6	18	12	99	33	19	15	1	60	
ENGLAND.																									
Bedford	39	-	-	-	9	20	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Berks	38	-	-	-	11	11	-	5	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	40	-	-	-	21	15	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridge	52	-	-	-	18	26	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chester	81	1	1	-	26	8	-	12	-	11	10	4	2	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cornwall	55	-	-	-	7	5	-	6	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	35	2	2	4	11	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derby	59	-	-	-	21	11	-	8	-	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Devon	139	-	-	-	53	29	-	5	-	13	19	4	4	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	48	-	-	-	22	5	-	9	-	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	79	1	5	4	14	5	-	22	-	2	14	2	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex	84	-	-	-	47	17	-	7	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucester	110	-	-	-	41	37	-	2	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hereford	23	-	-	-	5	9	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford	39	-	-	-	24	11	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huntingdon	17	-	-	-	4	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kent	123	-	-	-	41	38	-	16	-	6	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancaster	410	3	4	6	105	44	-	107	-	32	41	12	10	1	13	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicester	60	-	-	-	18	21	-	8	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	71	-	-	-	15	21	-	6	-	3	16	1	7	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middlesex	216	8	3	2	86	36	-	30	-	7	13	-	1	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	2	2	5	-	14
Monmouth	90	-	-	-	33	39	-	9	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	84	-	-	-	18	26	-	7	-	4	13	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northampton	65	-	-	-	27	26	-	1	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northumberland	91	16	13	14	9	6	-	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nottingham	47	-	-	-	11	15	-	4	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxford	33	-	-	-	11	7	-	8	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutland	5	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salop	50	-	-	-	19	9	-	8	-	1	2	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerset	109	-	-	-	44	26	-	1	-	7	17	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southampton	81	-	-	1	34	20	-	9	-	2	6	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford	109	-	-	1	28	9	-	31	-	4	19	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk	67	-	-	-	34	22	-	4	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surrey	78	-	-	-	35	19	-	10	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	58	-	-	-	23	16	-	3	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwick	80	1	-	-	26	19	-	16	-	5	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westmorland	11	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilts	68	-	-	-	28	25	-	3	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worcester	47	-	-	-	8	13	-	9	-	5	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
York	349	-	2	2	119	47	-	56	-	12	65	11	18	-	6	1	4	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2
WALES.																									
Anglesey	8	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brecon	36	-	-	-	15	13	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cardigan	42	-	-	-	19	8	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carmarthen	81	-	-	-	52	21	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carnarvon	34	-	-	-	14	2	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denbigh	32	-	-	-	7	6	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flinck	11	-	-	-	5	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glamorgan	36	-	-	1	46	40	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merioneth	31	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montgomery	34	-	-	-	16	6	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pembroke	54	-	-	-	26	21	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Radnor	9	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE.—The above numbers are for the Counties proper, and not for the "Registration Counties."

number of 159,337 families in which either the husband or the wife, or both, could write. This arrangement would be advantageous in some respects, as under it either the father or the mother in every family would be able to read and write; but it is overruled by the disposition of educated people living in each others society to intermarry. Given the number of men and women, educated and uneducated, as they may conventionally be called, the number of mixed marriages can be calculated by a simple mathematical formula, upon the hypothesis that the two classes of men and women marry indifferently. The results of the calculation are given in the annexed table. The number of mixed marriages is less by 27,527 than it would have been had no selection existed.

	Numbers if no selection had existed.	Numbers as given in the registers.	Difference.
Husband AND wife write	67,779	81,542	+ 13,763
Husband OR wife writes (mixed marriages)	73,084	45,557	- 27,527
Husband AND wife do not write	18,474	32,238	+ 13,764
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

Upon comparing this table with the similar table of the last report, it will be observed that the figures in the fourth column of the two tables headed "Difference" are nearly the same; and that while the number of marriages in which the husband and wife do not write have increased by only 99, the number of marriages in which both husband and wife write has increased by 4808.*

Registered buildings for the solemnization of Marriages.—The number of these buildings on the register at the end of the year 1856 was 3811; 1322 of the number belonged to the Independents, 854 to the Baptists, 672 to the various sects of Wesleyan Methodists, 157 to the Unitarians, 473 to the Roman Catholics. The buildings of the following modern sects are not so numerous. The Latter Day Saints have one building registered for their marriages, the Catholic and Apostolic Church has 15, the New Church has 19 buildings.

BIRTHS.

Births (exclusive of the still-born).—657,453 children were born alive in the year, and the annual birth rate was 3.452 per cent., the average birth rate of the 19 years having been 3.285; it is the highest birth rate in the English records.

As has been already observed, all the births are not registered; and it must be borne in mind that the increase in 19 years, from 3.029 to 3.452, is in some degree due to the progress of the registration of births, which is partly voluntary and partly dependent on the zeal of the registrars in acquiring information.

The estimated number of women of the age 15-45 was 4,484,003, about 670,602 bore children in the year,† consequently 3,813,401 women of this age, that is 85 in 100 of them, or nearly six out of seven, bore no children. The resources for maintaining the supply of the population of England and Wales are thus abundant.

Durham (4.596) and Staffordshire (4.303) are the counties in which the birth rate is highest. In eight English counties the birth rate was below 3 per cent.; Hertfordshire 2.995, Berkshire 2.974, Herefordshire 2.931, Dorsetshire 2.911, Somersetshire 2.884, Rutlandshire 2.843,

* See 18th report, pp. vi & vii.

† The births of 657,453 children were registered, and it was shown in the seventeenth report, App. p. 72, that the births of 100 live-born children implied about 102 deliveries, after correcting for twins and still-born children.

Devonshire 2.827, Westmorland 2.797. In North Wales the birth rate was 2.911, in South Wales 3.548, in Monmouthshire 3.800. The birth rate is generally low in the agricultural, high in the mineral and manufacturing counties.

Sex.—335,541 boys and 321,912 girls were registered, so to 100.0 girls 104.2 boys were born alive. The proportions differ in the several counties. Thus in Surrey out of London, the boys were rather less than the girls in number; while in Wiltshire 109.3 boys were born to 100.0 girls. It is

TABLE VII.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS, 1856.—NUMBER and PROPORTION of Male and Female Children born in and out of Wedlock.

REGISTRATION COUNTIES.	Male Children born.	Female Children born.	Born in Wedlock.		Born out of Wedlock.		MALES born to every 100 FEMALES born.	MALES born in Wedlock to every 100 FEMALES so born.	MALES born out of Wedlock to every 100 FEMALES so born.	CHILDREN born out of Wedlock to every 100 Births.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.				
ENGLAND	335541	321912	318886	300916	21655	20996	104.2	104.3	108.1	6.5
I.—LONDON	44410	43020	42528	41256	1882	1764	103.2	103.1	106.7	4.2
II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES.										
1 Surrey (extra-metropolitan)	3463	3467	3299	3305	164	162	99.9	99.8	101.2	4.7
2 Kent (extra-metropolitan)	8836	8260	7850	7765	486	495	100.9	101.1	98.2	5.9
3 Sussex	5656	5333	5280	5016	376	317	106.1	105.3	118.6	6.3
4 Hampshire	7011	6705	6580	6309	431	396	104.6	104.3	108.8	6.0
5 Berkshire	3125	3102	2920	2872	205	230	100.7	101.7	89.1	7.0
III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.										
6 Middlesex (extra-metropolitan)	2556	2488	2426	2372	130	116	102.7	102.3	112.1	4.9
7 Hertfordshire	2862	2695	2666	2528	196	167	106.2	105.5	117.4	6.5
8 Buckinghamshire	2312	2358	2155	2201	157	157	98.0	97.9	100.0	6.7
9 Oxfordshire	2815	2730	2609	2550	206	180	103.1	102.3	114.4	7.0
10 Northamptonshire	4003	3852	3743	3635	260	217	103.9	103.0	119.8	6.1
11 Huntingdonshire	1031	1005	970	951	61	54	102.6	102.0	113.0	5.6
12 Bedfordshire	2368	2313	2179	2132	189	181	102.4	102.2	104.4	7.9
13 Cambridgeshire	3162	3086	2937	2857	225	229	102.5	102.8	98.3	7.3
IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES.										
14 Essex	5962	5720	5618	5344	344	376	104.2	105.1	91.5	6.2
15 Suffolk	5549	5411	5082	4984	467	427	102.6	102.0	109.4	8.2
16 Norfolk	7134	6721	6393	6040	741	681	106.1	105.8	108.8	10.3
V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.										
17 Wiltshire	3976	3639	3707	3400	269	239	109.3	109.0	112.6	6.7
18 Dorsetshire	2847	2625	2644	2420	203	205	108.5	109.3	99.0	7.5
19 Devonshire	8770	8244	8289	7779	481	465	106.4	106.6	103.4	5.6
20 Cornwall	6884	6033	6049	5730	335	303	105.8	105.6	110.6	5.1
21 Somersetshire	7096	6771	6676	6353	420	418	104.8	105.1	100.5	6.0
VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES.										
22 Gloucestershire	6795	6548	6286	6154	409	394	103.8	103.8	103.8	6.0
23 Herefordshire	1522	1510	1392	1357	130	153	100.8	102.6	85.0	9.3
24 Shropshire	3985	3826	3615	3461	370	365	104.2	104.4	101.4	9.4
25 Staffordshire	14669	14573	14115	13705	854	868	102.7	103.0	98.4	5.8
26 Worcestershire	4807	4686	4517	4386	290	300	102.6	103.0	96.7	6.2
27 Warwickshire	9971	9586	9410	9040	561	546	104.0	104.1	102.7	5.7
VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.										
28 Leicestershire	4233	4060	3901	3702	332	353	104.3	105.4	92.7	6.3
29 Rutlandshire	369	367	344	346	25	21	100.5	99.4	119.0	6.3
30 Lincolnshire	6883	6648	6348	6121	535	527	103.5	103.7	101.5	7.3
31 Nottinghamshire	5698	5352	5204	4856	494	496	106.5	107.2	99.6	9.0
32 Derbyshire	5113	4815	4696	4413	417	402	106.2	106.4	103.7	8.2
VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES.										
33 Cheshire	7952	7509	7312	6883	640	621	105.9	106.2	103.1	8.2
34 Lancashire	43549	42043	40564	39150	2935	2893	103.6	103.6	103.2	6.9
IX.—YORKSHIRE.										
35 West Riding	28071	26743	26204	24958	1867	1785	105.0	105.0	104.6	6.7
36 East Riding (with York)	4808	4436	4427	4107	381	329	108.4	107.8	115.8	7.7
37 North Riding	3453	3337	3149	3043	304	294	103.5	103.5	103.4	8.8
X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES.										
38 Durham	10594	10087	10047	9517	547	570	105.0	105.6	96.0	5.4
39 Northumberland	5987	5543	5516	5120	471	423	108.0	107.7	111.3	7.3
40 Cumberland	3299	3154	2983	2795	316	359	104.6	106.7	88.0	10.5
41 Westmorland	887	844	793	757	94	87	105.1	104.8	108.0	10.5
XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.										
42 Monmouthshire	3705	3484	3520	3286	185	198	106.3	107.1	93.4	5.3
43 South Wales	11701	11211	10955	10465	746	746	104.4	104.7	100.0	6.5
44 North Wales	6362	5972	5888	5490	474	482	106.5	107.2	98.3	7.8

the first year that Wilts has stood at the head of this list. The proportions fluctuate from year to year.

Seasons.—The births were most numerous (173,263) in the second quarter, and least numerous in the third quarter of the year. If the average number of quarterly births be represented by 1000, the proportional numbers in the four quarters will be represented by 1035, 1060, 952, and 953. In the previous year these proportionals were very different: 1060, 1044, 966, and 930.

TABLE VIII.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS 1856.—PROPORTIONAL Number of BIRTHS registered in each Registration County in the Year 1856, and in each Season of the Year, or the Number of Births in each Quarter to 1000 Births in the Average Quarter.

REGISTRATION COUNTIES.	BIRTHS to 100 Persons living.	Proportional Number of Births registered.*				
		In the AVERAGE QUARTER assumed to be 1000.	In the FIRST QUARTER ending March 31.	In the SECOND QUARTER ending June 30.	In the THIRD QUARTER ending Sept. 30.	In the FOURTH QUARTER ending Dec. 31.
ENGLAND	3.452	1000	1035	1060	952	953
I.—LONDON	3.342	1000	1060	1022	961	957
II.—SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES.						
1 Surrey (extra-metropolitan)	3.230	1000	1083	1010	954	953
2 Kent (extra-metropolitan)	3.219	1000	1093	998	926	983
3 Sussex	3.043	1000	1044	1035	934	987
4 Hampshire	3.230	1000	1023	1029	929	1019
5 Berkshire	2.974	1000	977	1079	955	939
III.—SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.						
6 Middlesex (extra-metropolitan)	3.198	1000	1071	973	969	987
7 Hertfordshire	2.995	1000	1060	1036	933	971
8 Buckinghamshire	3.064	1000	1007	1087	960	946
9 Oxfordshire	3.080	1000	1033	1044	933	990
10 Northamptonshire	3.439	1000	1048	1067	925	960
11 Huntingdonshire	3.150	1000	975	1132	979	914
12 Bedfordshire	3.371	1000	1050	988	993	969
13 Cambridgeshire	3.066	1000	1037	1067	933	953
IV.—EASTERN COUNTIES.						
14 Essex	3.199	1000	1080	1062	922	933
15 Suffolk	3.073	1000	1047	1090	923	940
16 Norfolk	3.029	1000	1046	1069	925	960
V.—SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.						
17 Wiltshire	3.005	1000	961	1092	1005	942
18 Dorsetshire	2.911	1000	1037	1039	952	972
19 Devonshire	2.827	1000	1034	1059	928	979
20 Cornwall	3.253	1000	1065	1085	894	956
21 Somersetshire	2.884	1000	1042	1068	960	930
VI.—WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES.						
22 Gloucestershire	3.026	1000	1023	1053	989	930
23 Herefordshire	2.931	1000	1088	1013	931	963
24 Shropshire	3.042	1000	1055	1084	952	909
25 Staffordshire	4.303	1000	1037	1098	922	943
26 Worcestershire	3.422	1000	1023	1067	958	947
27 Warwickshire	3.784	1000	1076	1029	934	961
VII.—NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES.						
28 Leicestershire	3.304	1000	1018	1091	902	989
29 Rutlandshire	2.843	1000	1016	1158	870	956
30 Lincolnshire	3.162	1000	1054	1040	937	969
31 Nottinghamshire	3.519	1000	1025	1007	995	973
32 Derbyshire	3.560	1000	1031	1123	939	902
VIII.—NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES.						
33 Cheshire	3.433	1000	1013	1127	959	901
34 Lancashire	3.901	1000	1026	1083	950	936
IX.—YORKSHIRE.						
35 West Riding	3.793	1000	966	1078	962	964
36 East Riding (with York)	3.426	1000	1004	1044	992	960
37 North Riding	3.264	1000	957	1025	1036	982
X.—NORTHERN COUNTIES.						
38 Durham	4.596	1000	1038	1020	992	950
39 Northumberland	3.578	1000	1031	1017	979	973
40 Cumberland	3.108	1000	1045	1033	980	942
41 Westmorland	2.797	1000	1022	1148	939	891
XI.—MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.						
42 Monmouthshire	3.800	1000	999	1054	1001	946
43 South Wales	3.548	1000	1019	1089	965	927
44 North Wales	2.911	1000	1020	1119	945	916

* In calculating the proportional number of births in the four quarters a correction has been made for the difference in the number of days in each quarter.

Children born out of wedlock.—42,651 children, namely, 21,655 boys and 20,996 girls, were born out of wedlock in the year. The proportion is 6.5 born out of wedlock, to 93.5 born in wedlock in every 100 children born; or nearly as 1 to 14. The proportional number of illegitimate children is higher than it was in the two previous years. This is observed in London, in Lancashire, in the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, in Northamptonshire, in Bedfordshire, in Norfolk, in Dorsetshire, in Gloucestershire, in Warwickshire, in Leicestershire, in Nottinghamshire, in Derbyshire, and in Monmouthshire. The increase is chiefly in the manufacturing counties, where the proportion is not generally high. In five counties more than 9 in 100 children are born out of wedlock: Cumberland 10.5 and Westmorland 10.5 are at the head of the list; Norfolk 10.3 is nearly equally bad; Shropshire 9.4, and Herefordshire 9.3 are little better. In the following counties less than 6 in 100 children are born out of wedlock: Kent 5.9, Huntingdon 5.6, Devon 5.6, Cornwall 5.1, Stafford 5.8, Warwick 5.7, Durham 5.4, Monmouth 5.3. In London the proportion of children so registered is 4.2. In the parts of Surrey and Middlesex out of London the proportions are 4.7 and 4.9. In the large towns it is probable that the children born out of wedlock are not registered to the same extent as other children.

TABLE IX.—ENGLAND. BIRTHS registered in each Quarter of the Years 1838 to 1856.

Years.	Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1838	113815	121781	114734	113457
1839	123543	128806	120115	120110
1840	132305	129059	119822	121117
1841	133720	129884	123868	124686
1842	135615	134096	123296	124732
1843	138837	131279	128161	131048
1844	143578	136941	130978	130166
1845	143080	136853	132369	131219
1846	145108	149450	138718	139349
1847	146453	139072	127173	127267
1848	139736	149760	140359	133204
1849	153772	153693	135223	135471
1850	144551	155865	146911	146095
1851	157286	159073	150594	148912
1852	161803	159031	151222	151956
1853	161729	158697	147602	144363
1854	160785	172457	154724	146439
1855	162225	165277	154700	148841
1856	169250	173263	157462	157478

TABLE X.—ENGLAND. PROPORTION of BIRTHS to 100 Women living at the Age 15-45, in each of the Years 1841-56.

Middle of the Years	Women living at the Age 15-45 (estimated).	Births registered.	Births to 100 Women living at the Age 15-45.	Women bearing Children to 100 Women living.*
1841	3,811,614	512,158	13.4	13.7
1842	3,853,121	517,739	13.4	13.7
1843	3,895,081	527,325	13.5	13.8
1844	3,937,497	540,763	13.7	14.0
1845	3,980,376	543,521	13.7	13.9
1846	4,023,721	572,625	14.2	14.5
1847	4,067,538	539,965	13.3	13.5
1848	4,111,833	563,059	13.7	14.0
1849	4,156,610	578,159	13.9	14.2
1850	4,201,875	593,422	14.1	14.4
1851	4,247,632	615,865	14.5	14.8
1852	4,293,888	624,012	14.5	14.8
1853	4,340,647	612,391	14.1	14.4
1854	4,387,916	634,405	14.5	14.7
1855	4,435,693	635,043	14.3	14.6
1856	4,484,003	657,453	14.7	15.0
1	2	3	4	5

* The number of children born alive is to the number of women bearing children (including those who bear still-born children), nearly as 100 to 102. See the data of this estimate in the 17th Annual Report, Appendix, p. 72. The figures in col. 5. are deduced by multiplying the figures in col. 4. by 1.02.

The proportional number of children who are born without the means of sustenance and of education, which the marriage of the parents supplies, is shown with considerable accuracy; and the degree of this evil in different counties is measured. Where the proportion of illegitimate children is low, it must not, however, be assumed at once that this implies in all cases superior morality in the population; for the manners of different counties greatly vary, and immorality displays itself in many ways besides those which have for their result the birth of children out of wedlock.

DEATHS.

390,506 deaths were registered in the year, or less by 35,197 than the deaths in the previous year; and the rate of mortality was 2.050 per cent., or little more than 20 deaths in 1000. This is the lowest rate observed. The average annual rate of mortality in the nineteen years was 2.236 (nearly 22 in 1000); and the rate ranged from 2.050 (one in 49) to 2.512 (one in 40).

Sex.—The mortality was at the rate of 2.125 per cent. among males, 1.978 per cent. among females; showing an excess of 0.147 among males. The deaths of males were to the deaths of females as 104 to 100. The female population exceeds the male population; and if an equal given number of males and females be taken, the deaths it will be found were in the proportion of 107 males to 100 females. On an average of the nineteen years the mortality of males was to the mortality of females as 108 to 100.

HIGHEST, LOWEST, and MEAN ANNUAL RATES of MORTALITY,—per Cent.

	Males.	Females.
(1.) Highest rate, 1849 (cholera epidemic)	2.581	2.445
(2.) Mean rate, 1838-56	2.316	2.155
(3.) Lowest rate, 1856	2.125	1.978
Excess of highest rate (1) over mean rate (2)	.265	.290
Depression of lowest rate (3) below mean rate (2)	.191	.177
Extreme range of rates in 19 years	.456	.467

TABLE XI.—ENGLAND. DEATHS.—ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY of Males and of Females, 1838-56.

YEARS.	DEATHS.		Deaths of Males to 100 Deaths of Females.	Of equal Numbers living, the Number of Male Deaths to every 100 Deaths of Females.
	Of Males to 100 Males living.	Of Females to 100 Females living.		
1838	2.335	2.133	105	109
1839	2.275	2.090	104	109
1840	2.372	2.203	103	108
1841	2.238	2.083	103	107
1842	2.241	2.098	102	107
1843	2.202	2.047	103	108
1844	2.242	2.083	103	108
1845	2.170	2.012	103	108
1846	2.395	2.221	103	108
1847	2.546	2.380	103	107
1848	2.391	2.224	103	108
1849	2.581	2.445	101	106
1850	2.143	2.013	102	106
1851	2.276	2.124	103	107
1852	2.320	2.156	103	108
1853	2.379	2.201	104	108
1854	2.434	2.273	103	107
1855	2.348	2.187	104	107
1856	2.125	1.978	104	107
Average of 19 years, 1838-56	2.316	2.155	103	108

The Table may be read thus:—In the year 1838 to every 100 males living there were 2.335 deaths of males; to every 100 females living there were 2.133 deaths of females; and to every 100 females who died there were 105 deaths of males. The last column shows the relative mortality of males and females; and that out of equal numbers living the deaths of males were 109 to every 100 deaths of females in 1838.

It will be observed that the mortality is raised in some years much above the average rate, and that the depression in the rate is not to the same extent. In unhealthy populations the range in the mortality rate is much higher than the range among healthy people.

TABLE XII.—ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. in each COUNTY during each of the Years 1846-1856.

Table with 13 columns: COUNTY, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, Average Annual Rate 1846-55, 1856. Includes sections for ENGLAND, SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES, SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, EASTERN COUNTIES, SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES, WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES, NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES, NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES, YORKSHIRE, NORTHERN COUNTIES, and MONMOUTHSHIRE AND WALES.

Note.—In deducing the results given in this Table a correction has been made for increase of population, based on the numbers enumerated in 1841 and 1851, on the assumption that the increase was uniform in each year (1841-1851). Since the Census of 1851, as no satisfactory data exist for ascertaining the progress of the population, which has been much interfered with by emigration and other causes, the increase has been taken to be approximatively represented by the excess of births over deaths registered in each respective year ending June 30th.

The mean mortality of females is lower than the mean mortality of males, yet the range is more extensive.

Localities.—The annexed Tables show that the mortality in 1856 was below the average in every county of England, except in Durham. In some counties the mortality was unusually low: thus the mortality was 15 in 1000 in Westmorland; less than 16 in 1000 in Dorsetshire and the great county of Lincolnshire; less than 17 in 1000 in Oxfordshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Rutlandshire, and the North Riding of Yorkshire. The mortality of London was less than 22 in 1000. The mortality was highest in Durham (24.54), and in Lancashire (25.54); where, with all their energy, many of the governing bodies have left the towns deplorably destitute of satisfactory sanitary arrangements.

Ages.—The mortality varies at every age. It is lowest at some period between the age of ten and fifteen years. In the year 1856 the rate at that age was .450 per cent. in both sexes, or 4.5 deaths in the year to 1000 living; the average mortality of boys during nineteen years being 5.27, of girls 5.48. The vital force, or the power of resisting dissolu-

TABLE XIII.—DENSITY OF POPULATION 1841-51, and the ANNUAL RATE OF MORTALITY per Cent. in each County during the 10 Years 1843-1853 (excluding 1849); in the Cholera Epidemic Years, 1849 and 1854; and in 1855 and 1856, arranged according to the Mortality in 1843-1853.

Table with 10 columns: No., REGISTRATION COUNTIES, &c., Density of Population 1841-51 (Acres to a Person, Hectars* to a Person), Annual Rate of Mortality per Cent. from all Causes (Mean of 10 Years 1843-1853 excluding 1849, Cholera Epidemic Years 1849 and 1854, 1855, 1856). Includes entries for Surrey, Sussex, Rutlandshire, North Riding, Cornwall, Lincolnshire, Devonshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Dorsetshire, Westmorland, North Wales, Essex, Berkshire, Suffolk, Hampshire, Somersetshire, Kent, Shropshire, Wiltshire, South Wales, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, West Riding, East Riding, North Riding, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Monmouthshire, South Wales, and North Wales.

* The Hectar is the unit of land measure in the Metrical system, and it is equal to a square of 100 Meters, = 109'3633 yards, to the side. It is equivalent to 2.471143 (nearly 2 1/2) Statute Acres, or, expressed in other terms, a Statute Acre represents .404671 (rather more than 4-10ths) of a Hectar.

tion, increases rapidly from the date of birth up to this age of puberty ; so that every year a child's chances of living grow greater. After the age of puberty, when the body in every other respect is acquiring strength, the power of resisting disease declines slowly up to some age about 55 years, and then more rapidly. Thus in the first five years of life 68 in 1000 boys, 59 in 1000 girls die annually ; in the second five years (age 5-10) of life 7 in 1000 boys, and 7 in 1000 girls die annually. In the ages commencing at 15, the deaths to 1000 males living in each of the successive periods of ten years, up to the age 55, were nearly 7, 9, 12, 17 ; at 55 and upwards 30, 61, 129, 263, 322. The female mortality follows the same law ; but it was lower at all ages except 5-10, 15-35, 95 and upwards, than the mortality of males. At all ages and in the two sexes the mortality was below the average in the year 1856.

The seasons.—The winter quarter of 1856 was mild, and 103,014 deaths were registered, whereas the deaths in the severe winter quarter of 1855 had amounted to 134,542. The relative rates of mortality in the seasons of 1856, taking 1000 as the standard, were 1061 and 1031 in the winter and spring quarters, 928 and 980 in the summer and autumn

TABLE XIV.—ENGLAND. DEATHS.—ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. of Males and Females at different Ages.

DEATHS of MALES to 100 MALES living.												
Years -	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	Average of the Rates of 10 Years 1846-55.	1856
All Ages -	2·395	2·546	2·391	2·581	2·143	2·276	2·320	2·379	2·434	2·348	2·381	2·125
0-	7·760	7·588	7·401	7·513	6·695	7·298	7·500	7·346	7·795	7·242	7·414	6·801
5-	·825	·970	1·043	1·124	·814	·869	·906	·847	·935	·819	·915	·718
10-	·507	·550	·530	·646	·467	·491	·520	·506	·550	·499	·527	·450
15-	·859	·929	·858	·951	·717	·776	·799	·828	·835	·771	·832	·725
25-	1·025	1·100	1·026	1·243	·879	·948	·968	1·013	1·025	·958	1·019	·881
35-	1·272	1·436	1·303	1·581	1·165	1·236	1·230	1·316	1·349	1·282	1·317	1·178
45-	1·800	2·065	1·864	2·262	1·716	1·787	1·816	1·953	1·962	1·898	1·913	1·695
55-	3·129	3·649	3·266	3·655	2·980	3·031	3·073	3·278	3·227	3·354	3·264	2·975
65-	6·758	7·696	6·793	7·244	6·306	6·396	6·284	6·912	6·665	7·109	6·816	6·107
75-	15·070	17·326	14·986	15·187	14·019	14·055	14·161	15·897	14·808	16·161	15·167	12·942
85-	32·214	35·553	30·622	29·976	28·555	28·245	28·279	31·297	28·003	32·778	30·552	26·347
95 & upwds.	51·651	56·607	42·435	42·859	38·560	41·987	43·422	47·305	38·882	42·657	44·582	32·201

DEATHS of FEMALES to 100 FEMALES living.												
Years -	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	Average of the Rates of 10 Years 1846-55.	1856
All Ages -	2·221	2·330	2·224	2·445	2·013	2·124	2·156	2·201	2·273	2·187	2·222	1·978
0-	6·675	6·553	6·396	6·488	5·738	6·299	6·445	6·362	6·814	6·224	6·399	5·947
5-	·813	·951	·997	1·102	·810	·860	·878	·813	·924	·807	·896	·737
10-	·533	·577	·566	·653	·491	·527	·537	·540	·560	·494	·548	·450
15-	·870	·919	·873	1·000	·777	·818	·834	·861	·859	·819	·864	·747
25-	1·048	1·173	1·090	1·347	·988	1·005	1·031	1·064	1·102	1·001	1·085	·934
35-	1·242	1·422	1·301	1·617	1·169	1·193	1·214	1·251	1·328	1·262	1·300	1·160
45-	1·559	1·789	1·589	1·998	1·473	1·519	1·514	1·596	1·663	1·564	1·626	1·429
55-	2·783	3·226	2·860	3·355	2·625	2·679	2·660	2·845	2·852	2·950	2·884	2·527
65-	6·156	6·964	6·072	6·596	5·717	5·854	5·708	6·133	5·979	6·414	6·159	5·386
75-	13·794	15·945	13·604	14·028	12·684	12·818	13·177	14·106	13·825	14·816	13·830	11·971
85-	30·350	32·104	27·623	28·028	25·922	26·357	27·427	28·968	26·412	30·743	28·393	23·443
95 & upwds.	52·200	53·230	46·816	43·323	42·927	45·017	40·676	45·770	40·268	41·822	45·205	34·086

The Table may be read thus:—Of 100 Males living of the age of 35 and under 45, 1·272 died in 1846, 1·436 in 1847, and so on for other years, a correction for increase of Population having been made for each Age in each Year ; and the deaths of persons whose ages were not returned have been distributed proportionally over each age. The data upon which this Table is constructed appear in this or have appeared in the previous Reports, and in the Census Report. See Census Report 1851; and the Annual Reports of the Reg. Gen., particularly the 8th and 9th.

quarters. This is shown below. The effects of the seasons are shown in the subsequent summary of the observations which are taken from the Quarterly Reports.

SUMMARY OF THE QUARTERLY REPORTS, 1856.

First Quarter.—January, February, March, 1856.

More than the average number of children were born, and the deaths were much below the average number in the winter quarter ; the marriages were below the average number.

Marriages.—66,854 persons were married in the three months of January, February, and March. The annual rate in the quarter was 708 marriages to every 100,000 of the population ; while the rate in the winter of 1855 was 633 (or less by 1-tenth), and the average rate of the preceding winter quarters was 705. The marriages (33,427) were more by 4,241 than the marriages (29,186) in the winter quarter of 1855 ; and the increase is a sure indication of the prosperity of the country. The increase of marriages is observed in every division. The excess in the numbers in Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Hull is probably due to the return of our gallant seamen from the Black Sea and the Baltic.

TABLE XV.—DEATHS registered in each Quarter of the Years 1838 to 1856.

Years.	Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	September.	December.
1838	98152	90877	72377	80854
1839	89740	87969	76280	84995
1840	98896	90339	80822	89630
1841	99069	86134	75440	83204
1842	96314	86538	82339	84328
1843	94926	87234	76792	87493
1844	101024	85337	79708	90864
1845	104664	89149	74872	80681
1846	89484	90230	101664	108937
1847	119672	106718	98435	103479
1848	120032	99727	87638	92436
1849	105870	102153	135227	97589
1850	98430	92871	85849	91845
1851	105359	99458	91499	99080
1852	106358	100625	100382	99770
1853	118119	107647	92201	103130
1854	111843	102386	113843	109633
1855	134542	106493	87646	97022
1856	103014	100099	91155	96238

TABLE XVI.—PROPORTIONAL Number of DEATHS in each QUARTER to 1000 Deaths in the Average Quarter of each Year, 1838-56.

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	89922	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	888	978
1848	99958	1000	1201	998	877	925
1849	110210	1000	961	927	1227	885
1850	92249	1000	1067	1007	931	996
1851	93849	1000	1066	1006	923	1002
1852	101784	1000	1045	989	986	980
1853	105274	1000	1122	1022	876	980
1854	109476	1000	1036	940	1031	993
1855	106428	1000	1280	1001	816	903
1856	97627	1000	1061	1031	923	980

Births.—The births of 169,250 children were registered; this number is absolutely the highest that has ever been returned in a winter quarter; and the rate of birth is 3,585 in 100,000, or much above the average 3,498 of the season.

Increase of Population.—As the number of births amounted to 169,250, and the number of deaths to 103,014, the natural increase of population in the quarter was 66,236 in England. The number of emigrants of English origin during the three months was about 10,545, half of whom sailed for the Australian colonies, while nearly all the rest sailed to the United States. After deducting the emigrants, the increase is 55,499. The emigration from the United Kingdom was at its maximum about the year 1852, when 58,291 emigrants sailed from the stations in the winter quarter; the numbers fell to 36,677 in 1855, and to 21,859 in the first quarter of the present year.

The Weather, and the Price of Provisions.—The weather, the price of provisions, and the state of employment have considerable influence on the births, deaths, and marriages.

The mean temperature of the air was on successive days alternately higher and lower than the average in January and in February; it was low in March; but upon an average of the three months the heat predominated. The fall of rain was 4.8 in. at Greenwich, which is slightly below the average.

The prices of provisions are still high; wheat has been on an average 72s. 4d. the imperial quarter through the last three months, which is higher than the average price (69s. 11d.) during the winter of 1855, but lower than the average (79s. 6d.) of the winter of 1854. The wholesale prices of beef (5½d. a pound) and mutton (5¾d. a pound) have been slightly lower than they were in the two previous winters. Potatoes in the three winters fell from 140s. a ton in 1854 to 112s. 6d. in 1855, and to 86s. in 1856, so that the price of this important article of food has progressively fallen.

State of the Public Health.—The rate of mortality has been much lower in the first quarter of this year than it has been in any winter quarter since 1846. The rate is on an average in winter 2.524 per cent. per annum; in the past quarter it was only 2.182. The contrast between this rate of mortality and the rate of mortality in the winter of 1855 is striking; the rate was then 2.916. The deaths in the first three months of 1855 were 134,542; in the first three months of the present year 103,014, or less by 31,528 than the deaths in the previous winter. The deaths of Englishmen in the Crimea are not registered in England, otherwise the addition of their numbers would make the difference between the loss of life in the two winters still greater. The high mortality of the army in the Crimea (1856), as well as the low mortality on that distant coast (1855), coincide with less intense but corresponding states of the nation at home.

A difference in the degrees of heat and cold appears to have been the chief cause of the difference in the mortality in England. The mean temperature at Greenwich was 34.1° in the winter quarter of 1855, and 40.0° in the winter quarter of 1856. The mean temperature of the month of February 1855 was 29.4° (2.6° below the freezing point of water), and the mean temperature of February 1856 was 42.0°, or 10° above the freezing point of water. The fatality of every degree of cold below the freezing point to old people is now well established; but a mild winter is sometimes followed by an unhealthy autumn, against which our Health Officers should be watchfully on their guard.

A new sub-division of the country has been made; and with a view of placing in one group the town population, 125 entire districts have been selected, which, together with 23 sub-districts, embraced in 1851 a population of 8,247,017 persons lodged on 2,149,800 acres of land, leaving

9,680,592 persons on the remaining 35,175,115 acres, which make up the territory of England and Wales. In round numbers there were 4 (or more exactly 3.836) persons to an acre in these large town districts, and one person to 4 (or more exactly 3.634) acres in the village and small town districts, so that the density of the population to a square mile in the two groups of districts was as 1 to 14.

The average rate of mortality in the last ten winters has been 2.524 per cent. per annum in all England; but the rate in the town districts has been 2.745, and in the other districts 2.282 per cent. per annum. The rates of mortality in the winter of 1856 were much below these averages; the town rate was 2.482, the other rate 1.915, the rate for the country generally 2.182.

The importance of these results is enhanced by the facts in the table, showing that the great increase of the population of England in the ten years after 1841 was found in 1851 to be lodged in the towns. The population of the large towns was 6,838,069 in 1841, and 8,247,017 in 1851. The question of the health of towns is therefore a question of the strength of England.

The principal cause of the insalubrity of the dense districts is the want of adequate means to redistribute over the earth the organic matter which is reduced to refuse in the towns; and any proposal to throw the town guano wastefully into the rivers of the kingdom would be an imperfect and an unsatisfactory solution of the problem.

The mortality fell in every division; and in every county some improvement appears.

In the SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION typhus and scarlatina are referred to in some districts; and the syphilitic gangrene which broke out in the previous quarter in Winchester caused 3 deaths at the commencement of this quarter. But the garrison is healthier than it was at Winchester; and the good effects of sanitary measures are already observed at Southampton.

In the SOUTH MIDLAND DIVISION 4 deaths from scarlatina occurred in one family in the Hatfield district. In Halton, near Runcorn in another Division, the family of a gamekeeper suffered severely:—"One of his children died on the 26th March, a second on the 27th, a third on the 28th, and a fourth on the 31st. Two other children, who are at home, have also had the fever, but are likely to recover." It would be well if the treatment were ascertained in these cases. Ten children died of croup at Haddenham in the Ely District; and croup also prevailed in Prittlewell, Rochford.

In the EASTERN DIVISION typhus visited some of the Essex districts; ague is prevalent in Tollesbury. About 60 persons were attacked by small-pox in the parish of Finchingfield, and 4 died.

In the SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION the good effects of the sanitary arrangements are noticed at Highworth, and notwithstanding the prevalence in some places of scarlatina and of typhus the general mortality was low. The registrar of Charles the Martyr, Plymouth, says, "the number of twins is remarkable, 8 double births having been registered; two more cases occurred, but as the children were still-born no entry could be made of them." The births of twins are also noticed in Falmouth and in a northern district, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, where one quadruple birth has been registered (three boys and a girl), together with six twin births. It is difficult to say whether these births thus occurring are referable to any general law, or are merely accidental fluctuations in small numbers.

The reduction of the mortality in the WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES is striking, and extends over the mining districts. The deaths in Birmingham and Aston were 2094 and 1504 in the winter quarters of 1855 and 1856. One of the registrars of Coventry points out the defects which are now generally recognized in the Vaccination Act.

In some districts of Lincolnshire and of Nottinghamshire typhus and scarlatina have prevailed; but taking the whole of the NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION the rate of mortality has been lower than it was in the two preceding winters.

In the NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION the deaths are below the average. The registrar of Stockport says:—"That there is an entire absence of fever, and that sanitary arrangements have been carried out by the corporation with the most salutary effects." 3319 persons died in Liverpool and West Derby; the deaths in the winter of 1855 were 3674. In Manchester and Salford the diminution of mortality has been greater; the deaths fell from 3261 in the winter of 1855 to 2301 in 1856. It is gratifying to observe that the number of persons who obtain medical attendance in Manchester is now much greater than it was formerly; and to this circumstance, in conjunction with others, Mr. Leigh, the registrar of Deansgate, conceives it not improbable that the diminished mortality is due. His observations on this important subject are subjoined:—

473; 2. MANCHESTER; *Deansgate*.—Births 292; Deaths 209. Of the 209 deaths (a number much below the average for this quarter) 16 were coroners' cases, leaving 193 as the mortality from ordinary causes. Of these 147 were certified; 27 had medical attendance, though certificates were refused, and are therefore entered as "not certified." 20 only had no medical attendance, and these were chiefly very young children. The large proportion of cases in which there was medical attendance, being more than nine tenths of the whole, coupled with the very small actual mortality, would be very gratifying if one could be quite certain of the relation between the two circumstances. It cannot be questioned that skilful aid rendered in sickness must often prevent death, and from the numbers here given it is to be supposed that all had this with the exception of 20. It may be inferred, therefore, either that medical aid is more within the reach of the poor than formerly, or that the confidence of the people in skilled labour over intuitive knowledge is rather on the increase. There is a third hypothesis somewhat less flattering, that inasmuch as by a recent Act of Parliament copies of registers of deaths wherein a statement whether or not there has been any medical attendance included, must be produced before any money can be obtained from children's burial clubs, this may have had something to do with the more general application for skilled medical aid. Be the cause what it may, however, it is a fact that whilst for several years after the certificate system was adopted in registration, not more than one half of the cases were certified to have had proper medical attendance, the number in the last quarter amounts to more than nine-tenths. The cases enumerated as "not certified" were nearly all attended by one or two surgeons, who have lately refused to give certificates altogether. The continued and steady course of sanitary improvement, together with the unusually fine winter that we have had, must also undoubtedly have diminished the usual amount of sickness and consequent mortality. Nor must we lose sight of the influence of the war in diminishing employment, by which the mothers are retained at home, looking after their children, instead of being occupied in labour elsewhere. The occupation of adult females in mills, however conducive it may be to their comforts by increasing the total earnings of families, is really the opprobrium of our manufacturing system. The children of such mothers are left to the care of other children but little older than themselves. Irregularities in times of feeding, improper diet, neglect for long intervals in sickness, scanty clothing, exposure to inclement weather, and the free use of opiates, all work their effects on the poor little creatures, and the wonder is, not that so many should die, but that so many should live. Burns, scalds, &c. from the same source of neglect, swell the coroners' lists. Of the 209 deaths 108, or rather more than half, were under 5 years old, and one fifth of the whole under 6 months old.

The decrease of the number of deaths in YORKSHIRE is 1872. In the three last winters the deaths in Leeds and Hunslet districts have descended from 1374 and 1321 to 1136; in Sheffield from 807 and 889 to 762; in Hull and Sculcoates from 532 and 657 to 472.

In the NORTHERN DIVISION the mortality of Durham remains nearly as high as it was in 1855; scarlatina is epidemic in many districts.

In MONMOUTHSHIRE and WALES the deaths, which were 9098 in the winter of 1855, fell to 6777, or they were less by 2321 than the deaths in the cold winter of the last year.

Second Quarter.—April, May, June, 1856.

The marriage rate, which was low, now approaches the average rate; the birth rate is high; and the death rate is low; so that the state of the population, in the light of these returns, is favourable.

Marriages.—77,640 persons were married in the three months of April, May, and June; and the marriage rate of the quarter was .819 per cent. per annum. The average rate of the quarter is .855. The marriages (38,820) exceed by 271 the marriages in the corresponding quarter of the year 1855, but are fewer by 1698 than the marriages in the spring quarter of 1854. The decrease of marriages is most obvious in London, in Sussex, in Bucks, in Somerset, in Gloucester, in Leicester, in Nottingham, and in North Wales. In Berks, Northampton, Suffolk, Devon, the North Riding of Yorkshire, Cumberland, Westmorland, and South Wales the marriages increased.

Births.—173,263 boys and girls were born alive and registered in the spring quarter that ended on the last day of June; giving an increase of 7986 children on the numbers of the corresponding quarter of 1855. It is the spring quarter in which the greatest number of births generally occurs; and this number is the highest that has ever been returned in England. The number of registered births rose from 136,941 in the spring quarter of 1844 to 173,263 in the last spring quarter.

Increase of Population.—As the number of births was 173,263, and the number of deaths 100,099, the natural increase of the population of England was 73,164 in the three months of April, May, and June; so 1904 lives were added, 1100 were taken away, daily; leaving 804 as the daily increase. But in the same three months 60,379 emigrants left the ports of the United Kingdom at which Government agents are stationed; and of that number about 21,304 were of English *origin*. England, exclusive of Scotland and Ireland, sent about 234 emigrants daily over the seas, to Australia, to the United States, and to the North American colonies. Of the immigrants who enter England, from Scotland, Ireland, and other parts, no statistical records are kept.

The emigration from the ports of the United Kingdom is less by nearly 6000 than the emigration (66,111) in the spring quarter of 1855, and is little more than half the emigration (113,141) in the corresponding quarters of the eight years 1847-54.

The Price of Provisions, and the Weather.—During the last three months, wheat was sold on an average at the rate of 68s. 8d. a quarter; York regent potatoes at 80s. a ton, at the waterside market, Southwark; beef at 5½d. a pound, mutton at 5½d. a pound, in the Leadenhall and Newgate markets. The price of wheat in the corresponding three months of 1854, 1855, and 1856, declined from 78s. 4d. to 68s. 8d., or nearly 10s. a quarter; potatoes fell from 155s. to 80s. a ton; beef fell only from 5½d. to 5½d. per pound; mutton, on the other hand, rose from 5½d. to 5½d. per pound. Upon the whole, the prices of articles of most extensive consumption, as food, declined.

The value of the public securities rose.

State of the Public Health.—The deaths in the three spring months were 100,099; and the annual mortality was at the rate of 2.112 per cent. or nearly 21 in 1000; the average annual rate of the season being nearly 23 in 1000. The mortality has been, during the whole of the half year past, much below the average rate.

The mortality in the spring quarter among the people living in the districts and the sub-districts comprising the chief towns of England was at the annual rate of 23.81 (nearly 24) per 1000; the mortality of the rest of the people in the small towns and in the country parishes was at the annual rate of 18.73 (nearly 19) per 1000. The rate of mortality is in both classes of districts below the average; but the reduction of the rate is less considerable in the town than in the country populations.

The changes in the diseases and the low mortality that has reigned in London have been noticed in the Weekly Tables. The salutary effects of the improved water supply, and of other sanitary measures, in

Bermondsey, are pointed out by one of the registrars; as similar improvements in Lambeth and other districts are referable to the same causes, the whole of the results can be collected and discussed most conveniently together when a greater number of facts has accumulated.

The deaths (8127) in the SOUTH-EASTERN COUNTIES are below the average number; and nearly a thousand less than the deaths in the spring quarter of the previous year. In Kent the deaths slightly exceeded the average; in Surrey, Sussex, Hants, and Berks, the decrease was well marked. Scarlatina and measles prevailed in some districts of Kent; at Faversham malignant scarlatina prevailed through the whole quarter, and the deaths were nearly doubled. The registrar of Newport in the Isle of Wight states, that he has registered 4 deaths from small-pox in the Parkhurst barracks. In the Isle of Wight generally, in the New Forest, and in some other districts of the division, the mortality has been at as low a rate as 16 in 1000.

The SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES were generally in a healthy state; the deaths in the quarter were 6283. In Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Huntingdonshire, the mortality was nearly at the average rate; in Buckinghamshire and in Cambridgeshire the rate of mortality was much below the average. Small-pox was very prevalent in Northampton; and the deaths from all causes were 294; so the mortality was at the annual rate of nearly 35 in 1000. At Cambridge the deaths during the last three spring quarters were 155, 151, and 110. The registrar of St. Andrew's, Cambridge, says:—

The decrease in the deaths compared with those of the same quarter in 1855 speaks well for the healthy condition of this district, and may in some measure be accounted for by the introduction of a *large and constant supply of water last autumn*, in pipes from a distance of 2 or 3 miles, which will not only be the means of great comfort and convenience to the inhabitants, but will also materially assist in cleansing the town. Scarlatina appears to be the most prominent, if not the only, disease among children.

The beneficial effects of a constant supply of pure water on the health of the town populations become every day more apparent.

The deaths in the EASTERN COUNTIES were 5735, while the numbers in the previous spring quarter were 6187. The mortality was low in Norwich. Scarlatina in a severe form prevailed in Epping, Great Warley, Bradwell, Hempstead (Parish), South Walsham and Hillington. The fishermen in King's Lynn *North* refuse generally to have their children vaccinated; and *ten* died of small-pox.

The SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES lost 8490 of the inhabitants by death; but the mortality was low in every county, and the deaths were 1162 less than the deaths in the spring quarter of 1855. At Trowbridge in Wilts it is gratifying to find that many families have removed with the best effect from unhealthy yards to healthy cottages, with small gardens attached, in the outskirts of the town. The improvement of the houses is sure to be followed by the improvement of the inhabitants. The pernicious effects of the nightsoil, which is still left under the houses in our towns, have been fatally proved in Poole; where *three* men died from descending into the vaults. The registrar remarks:—"If the machine with hose had been used, this sad result, which has rendered seven children fatherless, and three wives widows, could not have occurred."

In proceeding northwards, the diminution in the mortality of the divisions is less considerable. In Staffordshire and in the other counties of the WEST MIDLAND DIVISION the deaths exhibit a decrease. 1134 deaths were recorded in the Birmingham district. Small-pox, scarlatina, and measles prevailed in some districts.

In the NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES 6282 deaths were registered. In Lincolnshire a remarkable decrease is observed in the deaths, which were 2064, 2256, and 1712 in the three last spring quarters.

The deaths in the NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION were 16,035; namely, 2318 in Cheshire, and 13,717 in Lancashire. The numbers are a little

below the average. Liverpool and West Derby exhibit a gratifying decrease in the mortality; the deaths in the two districts were 2797 to a population of 411,515 in 1851. The registrar of the West Derby sub-district makes the following remarks:—

My district during the whole of the quarter has been in a more healthy state than at any former period; so much so, that during the week ending Saturday the 24th May there were only 3 deaths in the whole sub-district, which at the census of 1851 contained 33,013 inhabitants, and there will be an increase on that number of at least 5,000 since that time. The township of West Derby has always been noted as the most healthy locality in the vicinity of Liverpool, and this usually favourable state of the district is further improved by the excellent system of draining, sewerage, and cleansing the streets that has been adopted. The births have for some time past been double the number of the deaths, owing to the healthy state of the district and the increased population.

Sanitary measures in Liverpool will, we may hope, henceforward reduce the high mortality which has reigned there, and to which the attention of the authorities was first called in these reports.

10,707 deaths were registered in YORKSHIRE; and of that number 1356 occurred in Bradford, to a population of 181,964 in 1851; 1241 were registered in Leeds and Hunslet; 694 were registered in Sheffield.

The 5835 deaths in the NORTHERN COUNTIES slightly exceed in number the deaths in either of the two previous spring quarters. Small-pox and scarlatina have prevailed. Vaccination is evidently neglected among the colliers. The mortality increased in Durham and in Northumberland; decreased in Cumberland and in Westmorland.

In WALES and MONMOUTHSHIRE 6722 deaths were registered; the deaths in the previous spring quarter were 7366. Small-pox and scarlatina have prevailed epidemically in some districts.

At this season of the year, when many people are travelling on the continent, as well as in England, it may be useful to state that it is now well established by extensive observation, that England is the healthiest country in Europe. France stands next to England in salubrity. In the continental cities the annual rate of mortality is seldom less than 30 in 1000; and the rate frequently rises to 40 in 1000. In London the rate of mortality is 25 in 1000.

On an average of ten years (1841-50) the mortality was at the annual rate per 1000 of 15 in *three* English districts, 16 in *fourteen* districts, 17 in *forty-seven* districts, 18 in *eighty-seven* districts. These facts prove that the climate of England is eminently salubrious; and it has not yet been shown that the climate of any part of the continent is more salubrious than this island, crowned with hills of moderate elevation, sloping towards the east and the south; bathed by the showers of the Atlantic; drained naturally by rivers running short courses to the sea; cultivated more extensively than other lands; and producing those unequalled breeds of sheep, cattle, and horses, which flourish only in healthy places.

The healthiest parts of England are not yet places of general resort; but the annual mortality in the various districts, comprising watering places, seldom exceeds 21 in 1000 of the population; and is probably lower in those regions of the districts to which visitors resort. The annexed Table shows the mortality of some of the principal English watering places. It will be observed, on inspecting the last column, and comparing the deaths with the population, that Hastings, Brighton, the Isle of Wight, Worthing, Mutford (including Lowestoft), Newton Abbot, Barnstaple (including Ilfracombe), Bath, and Cheltenham, have experienced low rates of mortality during the spring quarter. And it should be always borne in mind, in selecting places of resort, that through the peculiar nature of zymotic diseases, places usually healthy are periodically visited by epidemics, which can only be avoided by consulting recent returns, or by actual inquiries on the spot. The cleansing and the

sewerage of all watering places require improvement, as their arrangements were made when sanitary science was at a low ebb.

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

DISTRICTS.	Deaths annually to 1000 persons living during the 10 years 1841 to 1850.	DISTRICTS.	Deaths annually to 1000 persons living during the 10 years 1841 to 1850.
TUNBRIDGE (including Tunbridge Wells)	20	BATH	24
THANET (including Ramsgate and Margate)	19	CLIFTON (including part of Bristol City and Bristol Workhouse)	23
DOVER	21	CHELLENHAM	20
HASTINGS	18	UPTON-ON-SEVERN (including Malvern)	18
EASTBOURNE	15	WARWICK (including Leamington)	20
BRIGHTON	21	ASHBORNE, BAKEWELL, AND CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH (including Buxton and Matlock)	20
WORTHING (including Littlehampton and Arundel)	17	SCARBOROUGH	21
ISLE OF WIGHT (including Ryde, Newport, and Cowes)	17	KNARESBOROUGH (including Harrogate)	20
MUTFORD (including Lowestoft)	17	WHITBY	20
YARMOUTH	23	KENDAL	20
NEWTON ABBOT (including Dawlish, Torquay, and East and West Teignmouth)	19	ABERSTWITH	18
BARNSTAPLE (including Ilfracombe)	17	BANGOR	21
		ANGLESEY	17

Third Quarter.—July, August, September 1856.

The marriages are above the average in number; the births are above, and the deaths are below the average. Thus, although the high price of provisions keeps the marriage rate below the high rate which prevailed some time ago, the increase by birth and the public health of the English population present in the returns a favorable aspect.

Marriages.—78,178 persons married in the quarter that ended on September 30th, 1856; and this number exceeds by 3562 the number of persons who married in the summer quarter of 1855. The marriages rose from 37,308 to 39,089. An increase in the marriages is observable in every division. There is an increase in Kent; and a larger increase of marriages in Hampshire, which is partly due to the return of seamen from the war; for the marriages in the Portsea Island District, including Portsmouth, were 156, 211, and 334, in the corresponding summer quarters of 1854–56. In Devonshire the increase of marriages is also considerable; in Plymouth and the adjoining districts of East Stonehouse and Stoke Damerel, the marriages in the same three quarter were 315, 330, and 514. In Norfolk the chief increase was in Norwich. In Lancashire and Yorkshire the marriages increased but little. In Sussex, Wilts, Dorset, Gloucester, Salop, Rutland, Derby, Cheshire, and Northumberland, the number of marriages was less in the summer quarter of 1856 than in the same quarter of 1855.

The rate of marriage was 813 to a hundred thousand living in the summer quarter of 1856; the average rate of the 10 quarters preceding was 805.

Births.—157,462 children, who were born alive, were registered in the quarter ending on the last of September. The birth-rate of the quarter is 3.275 per cent. per annum, while the average rate is 3.208. The number of births exceeds by 2762 the births in the corresponding quarter of 1855, and is the greatest that has ever been registered before in England in the corresponding quarter of the year. An increase in the births is observable in every division, except the North Midland division, the North Western Division, and Yorkshire.

Increase of Population.—As the births amounted to 157,462, and the deaths to 91,155, the natural increase of people in the quarter was 66,307. We have no returns of the immigrants into England and Wales. The emigrants from the ports of the United Kingdom at which there

are government emigration agents amounted to 50,228, of whom 19,225 were of English origin, if a due proportion of the numbers (6907) of origin not distinguished be added to the 16,581 returned: 8,542 sailed to the Australian Colonies, 973 to the North American Colonies, and 9710 to the United States.

The number of English emigrants exceeds by 3695 the number in the summer quarter of the year 1855.

The Price of Provisions, and the Weather.—The mean temperature of the quarter at Greenwich was 59.9°, and differed little from the average of 15 years; but the month of August was hotter, and the month of September was colder, than is usual. The air was dry in August, moist in September. The rain-fall of 5.8 inches was in defect in July and August, but in excess in September; it was on the whole 1.2 inches below the average. The wind blew at the average rate of 77 miles daily; but the rate was only 44 miles in August. The barometer stood at 29.743 inches, which is .071 inches below the average. The weather is described by Mr. Glaisher, who also shows in his tables the meteorological variations at different places.

The fluctuations of the price of provisions can be traced in Table XX. Wheat was at the average rates of 63s. 10d., 76s. 1d., and 72s. 3d. during the months of July, August, and September in 1854–5–6. It should be noticed that the wheat and the wheat flour entered for home consumption were equivalent to 117,807 quarters weekly during the last three months, which is more than double the quantity entered in the corresponding weeks of 1854 and 1855; while the quarters of wheat sold weekly (78,208) have been less in number than the quarters (94,545) sold in the corresponding weeks of 1855. Wheat then is still dear. Beef, at 5½d. per lb. by the carcase, is cheaper by 7 per cent. in the London markets than it was in 1855. Mutton has been 6d. a pound during the three last summers; and in those seasons potatoes at the water-side market, Southwark, have differed little from 78s. a ton, or 2½ lbs. for a penny wholesale.

State of the Public Health.—91,155 deaths were registered in the three months of July, August, and September; and the death-rate was 1.896 per cent. per annum, the average rate being 2.108; so that it was during the last season .302 under the average of the preceding ten summer quarters. Out of the same population there were six instead of the average tale of seven deaths. Cholera was epidemic in 1854, and the summer death-rate, then so high (2.423), fell to 1.848 and to 1.896 in the subsequent summer quarters.

49,975 deaths occurred in the districts comprising the chief towns, 41,180 in the districts comprising the small towns and the country districts. The annual rate of mortality in the summer was 2.282 per cent. in the towns, and 1.596 in the country; the average being 2.682 in the towns, and 1.816 in the country.

The density of the population in the town districts was such in 1851 that 384 persons lived on a hundred acres, while in the country districts 28 lived on the same ground; so that 14 were living in the same space in towns as was occupied by one in the country. It was shown in the sixteenth Report* that under our present imperfect sanitary regimen the mortality of the population increases in proportion as the population increases in density; and there must consequently be some relation between these elements.

The matter of which living beings consist is undergoing perpetual changes; it advances from the stages of water, air, salts, earth, and compounds of the other elements, into the vegetable and animal organizations of nature, where it exhibits all the phenomena of life. In

* Registrar General's Sixteenth Annual Report, p. xvi.

this highest state every beat of the heart, every movement of the limbs, every sensation along the nerves, every emotion of the soul, every effort of the intellect, discharges a certain number of atoms from their places to escape in the breath and the secretions; at length the whole body dies; and as its elements ascended through various degrees to the highest life, so they descend gradually after death through various transformations to simpler states. In several of these stages the decaying matter has, in the air, in the water, and in contact with the skin, the power to harm the living; it has a tendency to impress its own action on their organs; and under certain circumstances the foul matter is the breath of the noisome pestilence. In the air it is poison; under the earth, from which it came, it goes through its final stage of disintegration, and rises, by the quickening force of seeds, again life-giving into the light.

In conformity with a law of nature the organic refuse in the atmosphere is converted by oxygen in a peculiar state into carbonic acid, or it assumes the form of volatile ammonia and of other compounds, which are dispersed; the velocity of the conversion and of the dispersion bearing a certain proportion to the quantity of such matter, the agitation of the air, and the temperature. The refuse in water is subject to similar changes under similar conditions.

Men then are always surrounded, in air and water, by an atmosphere of decaying matter, which is given off from their own bodies and from the animals by which they are surrounded; the quantity is in the same conditions proportional to their numbers; but the quantity of this matter in a noxious state is reduced to insignificance when a small number of men live on a large area, when their dwellings are on high ground, and when all the refuse is laid every day as it is produced under the disinfected earth from which it sprang.

In three districts of England the annual mortality during ten years was at the rate of 15 deaths in 1000 living; in fourteen districts at the rate of 16; in forty-seven districts at the rate of 17 in 1000 living. Where the mortality rate was 15, 16, and 17 the average number of persons living on 100 acres was respectively 9, 17, and 22. Again the annual mortality in the same period in thirteen districts was at the rate of 27 deaths in 1000 living; while in eighteen districts the rates ranged from 28 to 36 in 1000 living. The numbers of persons on 100 acres in these districts were respectively 279 and 693.

In the group of town districts as they are classed in these quarterly returns, the average summer mortality is at the annual rate of 26.82 in 1000 living, while the average summer rate of the country and small town districts is 18.16 in 1000 living. If it is assumed that 17.48 per 1000 is due in both classes to other causes, then .68 of the rate in the country, and 9.34 of the rate in the large town districts, may be referred to the impurities of the air and water; but .68 is to 9.34 as 1 to 14; that is, as the density of population; so the excessive mortality, on this hypothesis, is in the same proportion as the density of the population, or as the density of the zymotic atmosphere by which that population is surrounded.

If 17 is taken as the natural rate of mortality, then the excess of the two rates will be as 1.16 to 9.82; if 16 is made the standard, then the excesses will be as 2.16 and 10.82, nearly as 1 in the country to 5 in the towns.

In no other country in Europe it is believed has the mortality of 9,680,592 of the population been so low as 16 in 1000 during the last summer quarter; yet there is room for immense improvements in the sanitary condition of our country population. The germs of insalubrity are scattered about in every village; for the rational laws of health are violated alike in the cottage and in the farmhouse. The dwelling-houses sometimes rest on damp undrained ground; they lie often at the bottom

of pitlike depressions of the earth, instead of standing on the sides of the higher grounds, from which the water flows away naturally, and the decaying organic emanations are dispersed and decomposed by the winds. The farmhouse is often close to the farmyard on a low part of the farm, and is surrounded by buildings, ricks, and trees. In the yard, or near it, the refuse of the house and of all the animals is kept month after month undergoing fermentations, and giving off noxious vapours. Into the pond, out of which the cattle drink, the ammoniacal liquor falls, that should find its way over the land. And it happens that if the air is stagnant for some days, if the temperature is high, if some sick person or diseased animal enters the place, which is surrounded by salubrious fields, the farm becomes a scene of suffering; the cattle perish by pleuro-pneumonias, the children are attacked by scarlatinas, the wife has low fever, or the farmer himself dies, and his name, at a premature age, is enrolled in the registers of deaths. About *six thousand four hundred and twenty-six* English farmers die in a year, and of them many are young; two thousand six hundred and five are under 65 years of age.

In the dairy a little dirt spoils the milk, butter, or cheese; unless the vessels of the brewery are clean the ale is injured; and farmers have hence learnt by experience the importance of cleanliness in the interior of their houses. From them the taste for household cleanliness has been diffused through the surrounding population. They have only to render the air which they breathe about their houses pure, to become, with those around them, the healthiest people in the world.

To place any of the new farmhouses and cottages to be built, on certain elevations is the first point; to carry out and to cover with earth all the refuse of the house and yards daily would prevent the escape of the ammonia, the most precious part of the manure, and at the same time rid the atmosphere of the fatal malaria that surrounds the farmhouses and cottages of the country.

These matters well deserve the attention of English landed proprietors, as they are generally much better informed in sanitary matters than their agents, and can at once give effect to improvements beyond the reach of the small proprietors of other countries.

The above calculations show, if the country, for which nature does so much, demands improvements, that among the 8,247,017 of our people living in the large town districts, to counteract the effects of condensation of the population, all the admirable resources of medical and of engineering science must be brought into requisition. The problem arises out of our civilization; and there can be no doubt that in England it will in the end be rightly solved. From these facts what we want must now be distinctly understood: we want pure air and pure water about our dwellings, and the refuse, which infects the air, and makes man poison man, to be restored directly to the soil.

Then the population of this great kingdom will be healthier and happier than it has yet been; and the epidemics of scarlatina, diarrhoea, typhus, hooping-cough, and small-pox, which are recorded in the registrars' notes, and have made many houses desolate in the past quarter of this comparatively healthy year, will be less frequent. Such cases as the following, that has been recorded by Mr. J. Yorke Wood, surgeon, of Bury, would not be common.

"Mary Simms," says Mr. Wood, "has had 12 children, of whom 2 only are now living. 2 were still-born, 5 died under 3 months old, 2 died about 2 years of age, 1 died at 6 years. None of her children have been vaccinated. 4 have had *small-pox*; 2 suffered from it about 6 years ago; one aged 5 years recovered; one aged 2 years died. This day, 24th August, another of her children, aged 6 years, died of *small-pox*, and another, 10 months old, lies dangerously ill of the same disease."

Fourth Quarter.—October, November, December, 1856.

The returns of births and deaths for the four quarters of the year imply that in the country, as well as in the metropolis, the health of the population of England and Wales was better than it was in any of the previous ten years. The effects of sanitary measures are becoming apparent, although they are only partially carried out within limited areas. The Christmas quarter of the year shows a decrease of deaths and an increase of births. The marriages exhibit an increase.

Marriages.—9602 persons married in the last quarter of the year 1856. This number exceeds the numbers married in the corresponding quarter of any previous year, except 1853. In Durham, Northumberland, and Westmorland the marriages decreased, while they increased in Middlesex, Hampshire, Oxford, Suffolk, Warwick, Nottingham and South Wales.

In the year 318,674 persons married, the number thus approaching the number of deaths. The marriages were 159,337, and they took place at the rate of .837 per cent. per annum on the population; the average of the last ten years being .839, or 1 marriage annually to 119 persons living.

Births.—The births of 157,478 children were registered in the last quarter of the year 1856; and this implies that the rate of birth was 3.264 per cent. per annum, against the corresponding average rate for the quarter of 3.145, deduced from the births of the ten autumn quarters 1846–55. The births exceed by 8637 the births in the last quarter of the preceding year; and the increase pervaded the whole of the eleven divisions. The increase of births in some districts is ascribed to the return of men from the war. Rutlandshire and Westmorland are the only counties in which there is a decrease of births.

Increase of Population.—As 157,478 births and 96,238 deaths were registered in the last quarter of 1856, the ascertained natural increase of the population in three months was 61,240.

In the same period 39,063 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom; of whom it was ascertained that 16,962 were of English origin; and allowing for a proportion of 4721 persons of unascertained origin, the English emigrants may be set down at 19,241, the Scotch at

TABLE XVII.—ENGLAND. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS in each Quarter of the Years 1838–1856.

YEARS.	MARRIAGES.				BIRTHS.				DEATHS.			
	In the Quarters ending the last day of				In the Quarters ending the last day of				In the Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
1838	23,201	29,801	27,764	37,301	113,815	121,781	114,734	113,457	98,152	90,877	72,877	80,854
1839	24,079	31,339	29,887	37,261	123,543	128,806	120,115	120,110	89,740	87,969	76,280	84,995
1840	26,395	30,786	29,221	36,263	132,305	129,059	119,822	121,117	98,896	90,339	80,822	89,630
1841	24,447	32,551	29,397	36,101	133,720	129,384	123,868	124,686	99,069	86,134	75,440	83,204
1842	25,860	30,048	27,288	35,629	125,615	134,096	123,296	124,732	96,314	86,558	82,339	84,328
1843	25,285	31,113	28,847	38,573	136,837	131,279	128,161	131,048	94,926	87,234	76,792	87,493
1844	26,387	34,268	31,675	39,919	143,578	136,941	130,078	130,166	101,024	85,337	79,708	90,864
1845	29,561	35,900	35,003	43,889	143,080	136,353	132,369	131,219	104,664	89,149	74,872	80,681
1846	31,417	37,111	35,070	42,066	145,108	140,450	138,718	139,349	89,484	80,290	101,664	108,937
1847	27,480	35,197	32,439	40,729	146,453	139,072	127,173	127,267	119,672	106,718	93,435	103,479
1848	28,398	34,721	32,995	42,116	139,736	140,760	140,359	133,204	120,032	99,727	87,638	92,426
1849	28,429	35,844	33,874	43,736	153,772	153,693	135,223	135,471	105,870	102,163	135,227	97,589
1850	30,567	39,204	37,636	45,337	144,551	155,865	146,911	146,095	98,430	92,871	85,849	91,845
1851	32,724	38,635	37,316	45,531	157,286	159,073	150,594	148,912	105,359	99,458	91,459	99,080
1852	32,977	40,092	38,400	47,313	161,803	159,031	151,222	151,956	106,358	100,625	100,382	99,770
1853	35,149	40,446	39,899	49,026	161,729	158,697	147,602	144,363	118,119	107,647	92,201	103,150
1854	33,234	40,518	38,182	47,793	160,785	172,457	154,724	146,439	111,843	102,586	118,843	109,633
1855	29,186	38,549	37,308	47,070	166,225	165,277	154,700	148,841	134,542	106,498	87,646	97,022
1856	33,427	38,820	39,069	48,001	169,250	173,263	157,462	157,478	103,014	100,099	91,155	96,238

2406, the Irish at 15,467, foreigners at 3240. It is novel to see that the English emigrants exceed the Irish in number, and that for 5897 sailing to the United States, a force of 13,198 embarked for the Australian Colonies.

The Weather, and the Price of Provisions.—The pressure and the temperature of the atmosphere were remarkably variable. October and December were warm; November cold. 3.9 inches of rain fell at Greenwich, and this was 3.7 inches less than the average quantity.

The price of the quarter of wheat was 63s. 4d. on an average of thirteen weeks; so the price of wheat has fallen 16s. or 20 per cent. since the autumn of 1855, when the price was 79s. 4d. The quantity of wheat and of wheat flour entered for home consumption was equivalent in the three autumns of 1854–5–6 to 19,513, 42,358, and 103,328 quarters of wheat weekly. The price of meat by the carcase in the London markets decreased during the three autumns of 1854–5–6; beef was 5½d., 5½d., and 5½d. per lb, mutton 6d., 5½d., and 5½d.; so that there has been a sensible reduction in the price of beef, but this has borne chiefly on the lower qualities of meat. The highest prices remained at 6¼d. a lb. in the three autumns. Potatoes (York Regents) were 100s. a ton at the water side market, Southwark, or rather more than a halfpenny a pound; or 22 lbs. for a shilling. The price of this important esculent was the same in 1854, but it was 5 per cent. less in the autumn of 1855.

State of the Public Health.—The deaths of 96,238 persons were registered in the last quarter of the year 1856; and the rate of mortality in the three months was 20 per 1000 per annum. In the districts comprising the chief towns in which nearly half the population is living, the people died at the rate of 24, while in the remaining districts comprising small towns and country parishes, the death-rate was 18 in 1000. This shows in a strong light how much room there is for improvement in our large towns; for it is well known that many fatal agents which may be arrested are at work in the small towns and country parishes.

TABLE XVIII.—ENGLAND. ANNUAL RATE per Cent. of MARRIAGE, BIRTH, and DEATH, during each Quarter of the Years 1838–1856.

YEARS.	MARRIAGE RATE.				BIRTH RATE.				DEATH RATE.			
	In the Quarters ending the last day of				In the Quarters ending the last day of				In the Quarters ending the last day of			
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
1838	.618	.783	.719	.963	3.032	3.198	2.970	2.928	2.615	2.387	1.887	2.086
1839	.649	.812	.764	.949	3.248	3.338	3.069	3.059	2.539	2.280	1.949	2.164
1840	.677	.787	.737	.911	3.395	3.301	3.021	3.044	2.538	2.310	2.038	2.252
1841	.626	.822	.731	.895	3.424	3.278	3.082	3.092	2.537	2.174	1.877	2.063
1842	.654	.749	.681	.874	3.431	3.344	3.032	3.058	2.436	2.158	2.025	2.067
1843	.632	.767	.701	.834	3.420	3.234	3.114	3.174	2.373	2.149	1.866	2.119
1844	.644	.834	.760	.955	3.507	3.334	3.123	3.115	2.467	2.077	1.913	2.175
1845	.721	.849	.830	1.038	3.491	3.291	3.140	3.103	2.554	2.144	1.776	1.908
1846	.757	.882	.822	.983	3.498	3.551	3.251	3.256	2.157	2.144	2.382	2.545
1847	.655	.826	.751	.940	3.488	3.265	2.945	2.938	2.850	2.506	2.163	2.389
1848	.661	.805	.755	.961	3.252	3.474	3.211	3.038	2.794	2.313	2.005	2.108
1849	.661	.822	.766	.986	3.575	3.523	3.056	3.053	2.462	2.341	3.057	2.199
1850	.702	.888	.840	1.010	3.321	3.530	3.281	3.253	2.261	2.107	1.917	2.045
1851	.742	.864	.822	1.000	3.567	3.557	3.317	3.270	2.388	2.224	2.015	2.176
1852	.730	.885	.836	1.027	3.582	3.509	3.291	3.293	2.354	2.221	2.185	2.165
1853	.778	.883	.859	1.053	3.578	3.464	3.177	3.100	2.613	2.355	1.985	2.214
1854	.728	.875	.813	1.013	3.520	3.722	3.294	3.111	2.449	2.214	2.423	2.329
1855	.633	.824	.787	.989	3.603	3.534	3.261	3.123	2.916	2.277	1.848	2.039
1856	.708	.819	.813	.995	3.585	3.656	3.275	3.264	2.182	2.112	1.896	1.995
Mean	.683	.830	.778	.973	3.448	3.427	3.153	3.120	2.490	2.236	2.064	2.160

The Table may be read thus, without reference to the decimal points:—In the March quarter of the year 1838, to 100,000 of the population of England there were 618 marriages, 3,032 births, and 2,615 deaths registered. The three months January, February, March contain 90, in Leap year 91 days; the three months April, May, June, 91 days; each of the two last quarters of the year 92 days. For this inequality a correction has been made in the calculation.

It is gratifying to find that the public mind is now awakened to the importance of rendering the whole population healthy; and that the salutary results of supplying the people with pure water, of removing the dirt from under the dwellings, and of bringing all the known appliances of hygiology into operation, through the agency of a scientific body of medical health officers, are becoming visible.

390,506 persons died in England and Wales during the year 1856. About 324,000 died by diseases and accidents which are at present almost inevitable. And 67,000 persons perished by causes which, if they are skilfully attacked, may it is believed be either mitigated or removed.* Let us pause to consider for a moment what these five figures mean. Each unit represents a life lost. Many had lived to the ordinary limits of age; but thousands in the throng were children, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, wives, husbands, fathers, mothers, who had not lived out half their days. These lives have been lost; but happily forty-eight thousand men, women, and children of the same classes are now living who would have been dead had the same rate of mortality prevailed in the year 1856 as prevailed in the ten years 1846-55; and the loss of lives is 35,197 less than it was in the previous year. A certain number of these lives has been saved by sanitary measures.

The names of the British soldiers who die abroad are never inscribed on the national registers; so that the deaths in the war are not here brought into account, otherwise the diminution of the deaths in the aggregate population, including the army, would exceed the above numbers to the extent that the mortality was augmented in the years of war and diminished in 1856.

TABLE XIX.—ENGLAND. ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. in TOWN and COUNTRY DISTRICTS in each Quarter of the Years 1846-1856.

	POPULATION enumerated.		Quarters ending	ANNUAL RATE of MORTALITY per Cent. in each Quarter of the Years											
	1841	1851		1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	Mean 1846-55	1856
In 125 Districts and 23 Sub-districts comprising the CHIEF TOWNS	6,838,069	8,247,017	March	2.442	3.020	3.074	2.708	2.368	2.656	2.616	2.789	2.706	3.074	2.745	2.482
			June	2.433	2.776	2.505	2.537	2.221	2.444	2.402	2.521	2.455	2.401	2.470	2.381
			Sept.	2.917	2.691	2.328	4.225	2.223	2.365	2.589	2.325	3.072	2.082	2.682	2.282
			Dec.	2.971	3.094	2.434	2.510	2.345	2.509	2.479	2.659	2.700	2.308	2.601	2.371
			Year	2.692	2.895	2.584	2.996	2.289	2.493	2.521	2.573	2.734	2.465	2.624	2.374
In the remaining Districts and Sub-districts of England and Wales comprising chiefly SMALL TOWNS and COUNTRY PARISHES	9,076,079	9,680,592	March	1.873	2.637	2.545	2.190	2.108	2.098	2.116	2.388	2.145	2.671	2.277	1.915
			June	1.899	2.270	2.141	2.162	1.988	2.021	2.052	2.181	1.978	2.129	2.082	1.873
			Sept.	1.985	1.763	1.765	2.121	1.683	1.747	1.866	1.711	1.871	1.646	1.816	1.696
			Dec.	2.236	1.845	1.867	1.967	1.816	1.923	1.924	1.848	2.016	1.805	1.925	1.703
			Year	1.999	2.128	2.079	2.110	1.898	1.947	1.990	2.031	2.002	2.062	2.025	1.775

In deducing the results given in this Table the population up to 1855 has been increased in the same ratio which was observed between 1841-51. For the year 1856 the increase of population has been obtained by taking the excess of Births over Deaths.

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

* See in the Registrar General's 16th Report, pp. xiv-xvi. the grounds of this estimate.

The rate of mortality in the SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES was generally below the average; but dysentery and scarlatina prevailed and raised the mortality at Woking, Guildford*; typhus and gastric fever were fatal in Gillingham, one of the Medway sub-districts. Scarlatina and low fever were fatal at Thatcham, Newbury, where the deaths exceeded by 37 the deaths in that district in the previous year. In many districts the mortality was low.

The SOUTH MIDLAND COUNTIES were generally healthy; but the mortality rose in the districts of Bishop Stortford, Eton, Wycombe, Buckingham, and North Witchford; ague and fever were busy in some of the fen dwellings; Hatfield and Cranfield were attacked by fevers. There is no inspector of nuisances in the parish of Hatfield.

The EASTERN COUNTIES experienced a reduced rate of mortality; but scarlatina was the scourge of some districts. The Registrar of Radwinter,

TABLE XX.—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 1852-1856.

YEARS.	Average Price of CONSOLS (for Money).	Average Price of WHEAT per Quarter in England and Wales.	WHEAT sold in the 290 Cities and Towns in England and Wales making Returns.	WHEAT and Wheat Flour entered for Home Consumption at Chief Ports of Great Britain.	Average Prices of					
					MEAT per lb. at Leadenhall and Newgate Markets (by the Carcase).				POTATOES (York Regents) per Ton at Waterside Market, Southwark.	
					BEEF.		MUTTON.		Range of Prices.	
	£	s. d.	Qrs.	Qrs.	d.	d.	d.	d.	s.	s. d.
1852	99 ³ / ₄	40.10	93,354	55,749	3 ¹ / ₄ -5	4 ¹ / ₂	4-5 ³ / ₄	4 ⁷ / ₈	79-103	91
1853	97 ¹ / ₂	52.11	86,191	89,450	4-5 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -7	5 ¹ / ₂	116-145	130.6
1854	91	72.5	75,259	68,625	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -7	5 ¹ / ₂	107-131	119
1855	90 ³ / ₄	74.8	101,057	46,190	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₂	94-107	100.6
1856	93	69.2	97,055	83,062	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₂	78-93	85.6
QUARTERS ending										
1852:—										
March	97 ¹ / ₂	40.10	95,532	27,540	3 ¹ / ₄ -5	4 ¹ / ₂	3 ³ / ₄ -5 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂	60-80	70
June	99 ¹ / ₂	40.10	87,949	54,675	3 ¹ / ₄ -4 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂	3 ³ / ₄ -5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	85-110	97.6
Sept.	100	41.2	78,712	67,912	3 ¹ / ₄ -5	4 ¹ / ₂	4-6	5	80-100	90
Dec.	100 ³ / ₄	40.5	111,224	72,870	3-5	4	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	90-120	105
1853:—										
March	99 ⁵ / ₈	45.7	95,115	63,530	3 ³ / ₄ -5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	110-145	127.6
June	100 ³ / ₈	44.6	84,559	82,623	4-5 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂	5-6 ³ / ₄	5 ⁷ / ₈	110-145	127.6
Sept.	97	51.10	86,087	120,020	4 ¹ / ₂ -6	5 ³ / ₈	5-7 ¹ / ₂	6 ³ / ₈	110-125	117.6
Dec.	93 ⁵ / ₈	69.10	79,002	91,627	4-6	5	4 ¹ / ₂ -7	5 ³ / ₈	135-165	150
1854:—										
March	91	79.6	60,022	103,519	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -7	5 ³ / ₈	120-160	140
June	88 ⁵ / ₈	78.4	55,842	103,331	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	137-172	155
Sept.	93 ⁷ / ₈	63.10	56,389	48,135	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	5-7	6	75-85	80
Dec.	93 ³ / ₈	68.0	128,783	19,513	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	5-7	6	95-105	100
1855:—										
March	91 ⁷ / ₈	69.11	88,000	33,821	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	105-120	112.6
June	90 ³ / ₈	73.4	94,791	57,068	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	110-130	120
Sept.	90 ³ / ₈	76.1	94,545	51,511	5-6 ³ / ₄	5 ⁷ / ₈	5-7	6	69-79	74
Dec.	88 ¹ / ₂	79.4	126,893	42,358	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	90-100	95
1856:—										
March	90 ³ / ₈	72.4	92,152	48,018	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	78-93	86
June	93 ³ / ₈	68.8	104,952	63,093	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	5-6 ³ / ₄	5 ³ / ₈	70-90	80
Sept.	95	72.3	78,208	117,807	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈	5-7	6	75-80	78
Dec.	92 ³ / ₈	63.4	112,909	103,328	3 ³ / ₄ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂ -6 ³ / ₄	5 ¹ / ₂	90-110	100

* In this and in similar cases the sub-district and the district are designated by the two names.

Saffron Walden, says:—"Malignant scarlatina continues its fatal course in my district, although steps have been taken to improve the sanitary state of the cottages."

The Registrar of Clare, Risbridge, "attributes the excess of deaths over births to the prevalence of typhus and scarlatina in the parish of Poslingford,—which is caused to a great extent by the crowding and want of ventilation in cottages."

At St. Margaret's, Ipswich, the Registrar reports:—"There were 6 deaths from typhus, and these in the highest and apparently healthiest part of the district. I found that the privy of one house, adjoining those in which the deaths took place, had not been emptied for a long time, and that vegetable matter and filth had been suffered to accumulate until the whole had become a living mass of putrefaction."

How long are these experiments on the effects of dirt to be continued? When will the town authorities of Suffolk make arrangements for pre-

TABLE XXI.—MEAN ANNUAL VALUE OF METEOROLOGICAL ELEMENTS

Table with columns for Station Names, Elevation, Latitude, Barometer, Mean Monthly Readings, Mean Temperature, and Mean Elastic Force of Vapour. Lists various stations like Guernsey, Helston, Falmouth, etc.

venting such deplorable accidents, by removing their guano to the fields every day?

In the SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION (Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset,) the mortality was below the average; but scarlatina prevailed in some districts. It was fatal in Tiverton. Vaccination is neglected, and small-pox has been fatal in several cases. Fourteen cases of small-pox proved fatal in Salisbury. In Looe, Liskeard, seven poor children died of this disease:—"In none of the cases had the children been previously vaccinated. Many persons delay, if not entirely neglect, to have their children vaccinated." 32 deaths from scarlatina occurred, mostly in the low, marshy part of St. Andrew, Plymouth. Effective measures should be adopted, for the sake of the Navy, to render Portsmouth, Plymouth, Sheerness, and the great naval stations healthy. The mortality in them is till excessively high, and the whole of their sanitary arrangements are defective.

for the Year 1856. By JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S.

Table with columns for Vapour, Humidity, Wind (N, E, S, W), Rain, and Station Names. Lists stations like Guernsey, Helston, Falmouth, etc., with detailed meteorological data.

In the WEST MIDLAND COUNTIES the mortality fell in Gloucester, Hereford, and Salop; rose in Stafford and Warwick. Stone, Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Kidderminster, Worcester, Birmingham, Aston, Foleshill, and Coventry lost a greater number of their inhabitants in the last quarter of 1856 than they lost in the corresponding quarter of 1855. Scarletina and measles have prevailed in several districts. Coventry has lost 66 young children by these diseases; in the Holy Trinity sub-district, Coventry, of 156 deaths 109 occurred among young children under 5 years of age. The children of this city are evidently much mismanaged. In West Bromwich, North East, the births and deaths are below the average, in consequence "of iron works and blast furnaces being void." The drainage, sewerage, and other sanitary improvements, lately carried out under the Improvement Act, have been followed by a decrease of the deaths in the city of Hereford.

In the NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES the mortality was stationary. The depression of trade and the failure of several large manufactories in Derby has driven many families away from the district, and reduced the births; the deaths are also gone down from 276 to 215 in the quarter.

In the NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES, Cheshire and Lancashire, the health of the people exhibits considerable improvement; the deaths are less in number by nearly 1000 than the deaths of the corresponding quarter of 1855. In Liverpool there is an evident amendment, which will, it may be hoped, be rapidly progressive. The Registrar of Bury South ascribes the entire absence of small-pox "to the attention paid to vaccination," and the freedom from other zymotic diseases "to the great improvement which has taken place in the last ten years in the sewerage, paving, and cleansing the streets, and to the regulations under the Improvement Bill for common lodging-houses." The high mortality of Manchester, Chorlton, and Salford is declining. The Registrar of Hulme, Chorlton, explains some of the causes of this improvement in so important a part of the population:

Great interest has been taken by the corporation of Manchester in effecting sanitary improvements. The Sanitary Association has exerted itself in promulgating and teaching to the poorer classes the laws relating to health, and the advantages of ventilation and cleanliness. To these may be added the privilege which this large community enjoys in having a bountiful supply of most excellent water, which is conveyed, almost without limit, into every court and alley in the city. I am also of opinion that the Friendly Societies Act, passed in 1855, by requiring a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner of the causes of death, has had a tendency to diminish the mortality of children, inducing parents to place their offspring, when ill, under skilful medical aid, instead of taking them to druggists and empirics; to abolish the practice of administering narcotic and poisonous drugs; and by protecting and preserving life it has reduced the number of claims made upon the funds of societies for funeral expenses. Deaths certified 305; not certified 20; no medical attendance, 20; coroners' inquests 12.

The deaths in YORKSHIRE amounted to 10,216, while the number in the corresponding quarter of 1855 was 9361. The increase occurs in Leeds and the surrounding districts, where the sanitary state of the population has been neglected,—in Sheffield, in Doncaster, in Hull and Sculcoates. The Registrar of Shipley, Bradford, ascribes the excess of deaths in his sub-district to an "epidemic fever, which has prevailed to an

TABLE XXII.—METEOROLOGY of GREENWICH in the Eight Years 1849-1856.

YEARS.	Mean Weekly Movement of the Air in Miles.	Fall of Rain in Inches.	Mean Dryness of Atmosphere.	Mean Temperature of the Air.	MEAN Temperature of the AIR in the Quarters ending the last day of			
					March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
					°	°	°	°
1849	23.7	6.7	49.9	41.9	51.7	61.0	44.8	
1850	7.5	19.6	6.4	49.3	39.4	53.5	44.7	
1851	6.4	20.5	6.6	49.2	41.9	51.5	43.7	
1852	7.4	34.4	7.3	50.6	41.4	51.2	48.1	
1853	5.6	29.0	6.0	47.7	38.1	51.8	42.3	
1854	6.7	18.7	5.7	49.0	40.8	51.7	43.7	
1855	6.8	21.1	5.3	46.9	34.1	50.5	42.7	
1856	7.13	21.9	5.7	49.1	40.0	52.6	44.2	

alarming extent throughout the quarter." "The medical men," he says, "in the district attribute so much sickness and death to the general system of sewerage now being carried out under the Health of Towns Act, by which old drains are disturbed that have not been opened for generations."

The 5555 deaths in the NORTHERN COUNTIES exceed by only 56 the deaths in the corresponding quarter of 1855. The deaths increased in Durham, and decreased in Cumberland. Scarletina, which is a highly contagious disease, appears to infest the colliery districts.

A great calamity befel the colliers of Wrexham in WALES:

On 30th September a sudden and unexpected inundation of a coal mine occurred at Bryn Mally colliery, causing the deaths of 14 coal miners who were employed in the mine. By this fatal and melancholy accident 9 widows and 27 children, besides aged relatives, were deprived of their natural means of support.

There is a very marked decrease of the mortality in Merthyr Tydfil. In Carnarvon the mortality increased. In Wales generally the mortality was below the average.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Registrar-General of Scotland supplies us with the means of completing the Statistics of Great Britain, which contained a population estimated at 22,087,706.

It is questionable whether all the marriages are registered in Scotland; but the registration of births and deaths is enforced by a compulsory clause in the Registration Act. The proportion of registered marriages is much lower in Scotland than in England and Wales; the proportion of registered births is also proportionably lower in Scotland than it is in England and Wales. The mortality in Scotland is also lower by $\cdot 129$ ($=2.050-1.921$) than the mortality of England. This is accounted for under existing sanitary arrangements, by the proportion of town population being higher in England and Wales than it is in Scotland.

The marriages, births, and deaths of the people of Ireland are still unregistered, so that the movement of the population in the United Kingdom cannot be given. This defect has been sometimes referred to

TABLE XXIII.—ESTIMATED POPULATION, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS in Great Britain, 1856.

	Area.		Estimated Population in the middle of the Year 1856.	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
	Acres.	Hectars.					
England and Wales	37,324,915	15,104,312	19,045,187	159,337	318,674	657,453	390,503
Scotland	20,047,462	8,112,627	3,042,519	20,487	40,974	101,748	58,456
GREAT BRITAIN	57,372,377	23,216,939	22,087,706	179,824	359,648	759,201	448,962

Note.—The population of England and Wales has been obtained by taking the excess of births over deaths in the 4 quarters ending June 30th in each year; the population of Scotland has been deduced on the assumption that it increased in 1856 at the same rate as it did in each of the 10 years, 1841-51.

PROPORTION per Cent. of MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS to the Population of Great Britain, 1856.

	Acreality.		To 100 Persons living, &c.			
	Acres	Hectars	Marriages.	Persons Married.	Births.	Deaths.
	to a Person.					
England and Wales	1.96	.79	.837	1.674	3.452	2.050
Scotland	6.59	2.67	.673	1.346	3.344	1.921
GREAT BRITAIN	2.60	1.05	.814	1.628	3.437	2.033

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

the fact that the majority of the people of Ireland profess the Roman Catholic religion; but it is evident that the chiefs of the Catholic faith are not now hostile to statistical operations of any kind. The births, deaths, and marriages are registered in all the Catholic states of the continent of Europe; and a valuable series of statistical documents has lately been printed at the press of the Apostolic Chamber at Rome, under the auspices of the Papal Minister of Commerce. The Papal Government took a census in 1853, and has announced its intention to publish henceforward annual returns of births, deaths, and marriages.* Is Ireland in this respect to remain in arrear of all the civilized States of Europe?

Mortality of Great Britain including the Army abroad.

The deaths in the army abroad have not hitherto been taken into account in estimating the mortality, and it thus happened that the national mortality was liable to be under-rated in my Reports in the time of war.

TABLE XXIV a.—NUMBER OF DEATHS in the BRITISH ARMY during 1854, 1855, and 1856 (furnished to the Registrar-General by the Adjutant-General by direction of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief).

	1854			1855			1856											
	GREAT BRITAIN.		IRELAND.	GREAT BRITAIN.		IRELAND.	GREAT BRITAIN.		IRELAND.									
	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.										
Cavalry - -	6	68	-	29	29	262	3	70	-	32	8	731	2	69	-	37	2	111
Infantry - -	11	547	2	250	180	6,127	11	854	6	333	229	17,958	14	672	8	306	64	2,243
Artillery - -	4	159	-	18	14	667	3	199	-	17	12	1,184	1	132	1	25	1	131
Engineers - -	2	8	-	2	8	96	2	30	-	-	14	179	4	21	1	-	5	23
Total - - -	23	782	2	299	231	7,152	19	1,153	6	432	263	20,052	21	794	10	458	72	2,508

TABLE XXIV b.—DEATHS OF OFFICERS AND MEN in the ARMY ABROAD, and Estimated Numbers belonging to Great Britain and to England and Wales, in each of the three Years 1854, 1855, and 1856.

YEARS.	Deaths of Officers and Men in the Army Abroad.	Estimated Numbers in Col. 2 belonging to	
		Great Britain.	England and Wales.
		1	2
1854	7,383	4,287	3,496
1855	20,315	11,794	9,619
1856	2,580	1,498	1,222

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

* Some of the results of the census are lucidly set forth by M. Visschers. See his paper, De l'organisation et des travaux du Bureau de Statistique dans les États Romains. Bulletin de la Commission centrale de Statistique, tome VII. Bruxelles, 1857.

His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief has enabled me now to supply the deficiency and to give the corrected mortality of England and Wales for the years 1854-5-6. The mortality of 1854 is slightly affected; the mortality of 1855 is raised from 2.266 to 2.312, by the excessive number of deaths in the Crimea. This mortality exclusively affected the males. The mortality of the army in 1856 produces no effect on the general average.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The French Official Returns for 1855 have recently appeared; and I subjoin a comparative table, in continuation of the more elaborate tables which appeared in my last Report. The marriages in France slightly increased in the year (of the Russian war) 1855; the births decreased; and unfortunately the deaths were above the average, so that the population of France decreased in the two years 1854-5; years of great pressure and of great mortality from privation, cold, cholera, and war.

TABLE XXIV c.—ARMY SERVING AT HOME AND ABROAD.

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

It was inferred also that the 76,443 officers and men abroad in the army in 1851 should be added to the population of the several parts of the United Kingdom, also in the proportions indicated in the above Table. Thus the population of England and Wales at home in 1851 was 17,927,609; add the proportion of the army abroad (36,196) belonging to England and Wales and its population becomes 17,963,805. The estimated population at home in 1856 was 19,045,187, and the population, including its share of the army abroad, was deduced from the following proportion:—
17,927,609 : 17,963,805 :: 19,045,187 : x = 19,083,644

Great Britain was dealt with on the same principles.

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

YEARS.	GREAT BRITAIN.	ENGLAND and WALES.	FRANCE.
1854	—	2.366	2.746
1855	2.287	2.312	2.594
1856	2.035	2.053	—

TABLE XXIV e.—RETURN showing the AVERAGE STRENGTH of the ARMY ABROAD, in the Years 1854, 1855, and 1856. Furnished to the Registrar-General by desire of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief.

	1854		1855		1856	
	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Cavalry - - - - -	192	4,092	245	5,676	137	3,614
Infantry - - - - -	2,563	80,364	3,003	95,440	2,682	85,257
Artillery - - - - -	214	5,273	307	9,067	240	7,694
Engineers - - - - -	181	1,244	130	1,388	106	1,434
Total - - - - -	3,100	91,473	3,685	111,571	3,165	97,999

of meeting have been certified and remained on the register at the end of the year 1836. The religious denominations to which these places of worship belong are shown in the Table.

The diseases and other causes of death in 1856 are discussed by Dr. Farr in a letter addressed to me, which will be found in the Appendix.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM,

Registrar-General.