

tion or the miasmatic poisons of inhabited lands. Nature having thus provided, it has been easy to preserve a high order of health; and, indeed, it were criminal in the extreme, and a blot upon our boasted civilization, should our city show a large percentage of mortality, or excessive sickness.

The report of the Health Officer, Dr. J. L. Meares, for the fiscal year 1878-9, says: "Estimating our population at 305,000, as given in Langley's Directory, the annual ratio of deaths per 1,000 population is 14.75—the lowest per cent. of mortality as yet attained—against 16.59 of the preceding year, and 20.56 for the year 1876-7." This is in great contrast with the death rate of some of the British cities, which recent reports give—of London, 23½ in 1,000; Edinburgh, 22½; Glasgow, 25, and Dublin, 29½. In United States cities: New York, 24.93; Baltimore, 21.53; Chicago, 16.50; Philadelphia, 17.96; Boston, 21½; St. Louis, 12. The high rate for 1876-7 was caused by the prevalence of the small-pox and diphtheria, as contagious. The difficulty of controlling the quarters of the Chinese, who number about one-twelfth of the population, and herd densely together in defiance of the laws of health, largely increase the rate of percentage, to the great detriment of our statistics and our good name. Incomplete sewerage, in parts of the city built upon low or reclaimed lands, has also added its quota to the death rate.

During the fiscal year there were 4,493 deaths, against 4,977 of the year preceding—a decrease of 484. The total number of deaths from zymotic causes, such as bad ventilation, bad sewerage, uncleanliness, etc., in the main considered preventable, was 743, against 1,027 of the preceding year. The ratio of deaths from zymotic causes, to the total mortality, was 16.5, against 20.6 of last year. This is a very gratifying result, and is undoubtedly due to the obliteration of stagnant pools, the vacating of houses unfit for human habitation, the abatement of a large number of nuisances, and other acts in a great measure caused by the Sanitary Inspectors authorized by law. The improved health of the Eleventh Ward is a striking evidence of the benefit to be derived from the filling in of pools of stagnant water. Only one case of small-pox was reported during the year. The Health Officer calls the attention of the proper officers to the necessity of the daily enforcement of the much-abused "cubic-air ordinance," as it would aid greatly to relieve the crowded quarters of "Chinatown," which now constitutes a moral and social plague spot in the heart of the city.

The necessity of the Quarantine, and the rigid enforcement of its rules, are strongly urged. No contagious diseases have entered the city by sea during the year. Fifteen Chinamen afflicted with leprosy were discovered in Chinatown, and after a short stay at the Small-pox Hospital were sent to China. Of the 4,493 deaths, 523 were Chinese; and of the 385 deaths from unknown causes, 346 of these were of the same people. There were 215 deaths by violence; 194 whites, and 21 Chinese. Of the violent deaths, 85 were by suicide; 6 being Chinese, and 20 homicides. Under 1 year of age, there were 943 deaths, including 14 Chinese. From diseases of the respiratory organs, there were 499 deaths (not including Chinese), of which 324 were attributed to pneumonia, 69 to bronchitis, and 39 to congestion of the lungs. Cancer, in its various forms, caused the death of 116. Phthisis pulmonalis (consumption) was the cause of 563 deaths, not including Chinese. The expenses of the office for the fiscal year were \$20,265 99.

Hospitals.

San Francisco has provided with great care and liberality for its sick and unfortunate. The hospitals, both public and private, are well appointed and numerous. Like other charities, asylums, schools, and institutions of a high and generous civilization, they have been objects of pride to the people, and various societies, denominations and nationalities have established them and excelled in their various appointments and comforts.

THE UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL is located far from the center of population and business, being on the Presidio Reservation, near Mountain Lake, about four miles from the Custom House. The location, if isolated and difficult of access, is exceedingly pleasant and healthy, and well adapted for the purpose of a sanitarium. The hospital is established on the pavilion plan, being a series of frame buildings for the various purposes. They were completed and occupied in May, 1875, and consist of an executive building two stories in height, two long one-story buildings, one on each side of the executive building, and of three one-story wards radiating from the rear of the main building, with a separate residence for the surgeon.

THE CITY AND COUNTY HOSPITAL ranks as the most complete and extensive of the city, and its superior is seldom seen. The location is in the southern part of the city, and is best reached from the business portions via Market and Valencia, or the parallel streets to Twenty-second street and Potrero avenue, or via Ninth street and Potrero avenue. The grounds comprise two blocks, and including Utah street, bounded by Potrero avenue on the west, Nebraska street on the east, Sierra street on the north, and Nevada street on the south, measuring 866 feet north and south, by 481 feet east and west, or nearly ten acres of land. The site is sufficiently elevated for drainage, and, with street cars running near, and other lines projected, making access easy, it is very eligibly situated for the purpose. The hospital

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