

The Registrar General assumes that with the additional births, and by the fact of soldiers and sailors returning from the seat of war, and of persons engaged in peaceful pursuits settling in the capital, sustenance, clothing, and house accommodation must now be found in London for above 60,000 inhabitants more than it contained at the end of 1855.

Think of that—the population of a large city absorbed in London, and no perceptible inconvenience occasioned by it! Houses are still to let; there are still the usual tickets hung up in windows in quiet neighbourhoods, intimating that apartments furnished for the use of single gentleman can be had within; the country still supplies the town with meat and bread, and we hear of no starvation in consequence of deficient supply.

London is the healthiest city in the world.

During the last ten years the annual deaths have been on the average 25 to 1000 of the population, in 1856 the proportion 22 to 1,000; yet in spite of this, half of the deaths that happen on an average in London between the ages of 20 and 40, are from consumption and diseases of the respiratory organs.

The Registrar traces this to the state of the streets. He says:—“There can be no doubt that the dirty dust suspended in the air that the people of London breathe often excites diseases of the respiratory organs. The dirt of the streets is produced and ground now by innumerable horses, omnibuses, and carriages, and then beat up in fine dust, which fills the mouth and inevitably enters the air passages in large quantities. The dust is not removed every day, but, saturated with water in the great thoroughfares, sometimes ferments in damp weather, and at other times ascends again under the heat of the sun as atmospheric dust.

London covers an area of 122 square miles in extent, or 78,029 statute acres; and contains 327,392 houses.

Annually 4,000 new houses are in course of erection for upwards of 40,000 new comers.

The continuous line of buildings stretching from Holloway to Camberwell is said to be 12 miles long.

London has 10,500 distinct streets, squares, circuses, crescents, terraces, villas, rows, buildings, places, lanes, courts, alleys, mews, yards, and rents.

The paved streets of London, according to a return published in 1856, number over 5,000, and exceed 2,000 miles in length; the cost of this paved roading was 15 millions, and the repairs cost £1,800,000 per annum.

London contains 1,900 miles of gas-pipes, with a capital of nearly £4,000,000 spent in the preparation of gas.

The cost of gas lighting is half a million. It has 360,000 lights; and 13,000,000 cubic feet of gas are burnt every night.

Last year along these streets the enormous quantity of upwards of 80,000,000 of gallons of water rushed for the supply of the inhabitants, being nearly double what it was in 1845.

To accommodate this crowd, 125,000 vehicles pass through the thoroughfares in the course of 12 hours; 3,000 cabs, 1,000 omnibuses, 10,000 private and job carriages and carts, ply daily in the streets; 3,000 conveyances enter the metropolis daily from the surrounding country.

In London, Mr Mayhew calculates, 169 people die daily, and a babe is born every five minutes. The number of persons, says the Registrar-General, who died in 1856, in

116 public institutions, such as work-houses and hospitals, was 10,381.

It is really shocking to think, and a deep stigma on the people or on the artificial arrangements of society, by which so much poverty is perpetuated, that nearly one person out of five who died last year closed his days under a roof provided by law or public charity. It is calculated 500 people are drowned in the Thames every year. In the first week of the present year there were five deaths from intemperance alone. How much wretchedness lies in these two facts—for the deaths from actual intemperance bear but a small proportion to the deaths induced by the immoderate use of intoxicating liquors.

According to the last reports there were in London 143,000 vagrants admitted in one year into the casual wards of the workhouses.

Here we have always in our midst 107 burglars, 110 house-breakers, 38 highway robbers, 773 pickpockets, 3,657 sneaks-men or common thieves, 11 horse stealers, 141 dog-stealers, 3 forgers, 28 coiners, 317 utterers of base coin, 141 swindlers, 182 cheats, 343 receivers of stolen goods, 2,768 habitual rioters, 1,205 vagrants, 50 begging letter writers, 86 bearers of begging letters, 6,371 prostitutes, besides 470 not otherwise described, making altogether a total of 16,900 criminals known to the police.

These persons are known to make away with £42,000 per annum; the prison population at any particular time is 6,000, costing for the year £170,000. Our juvenile thieves cost us £300 a piece.

Mr Timbs calculates the number of professional beggars in London at 35,000, two-thirds of whom are Irish. Thirty thousand men, women, and children are employed in the costermonger trade; besides, we have according to Mr Mayhew, 2,000 street sellers of green stuff, 4,000 street sellers of eatables and drinkables, 1,000 street sellers of stationery, 4,000 street sellers of other articles, whose receipts are three millions sterling, and whose incomes may be put down at one.

Let us extend our survey, and we shall not wonder that the public-houses, and the gin-palaces, and the casinos, and the theatres, and the penny gaffs, and the lowest and vilest places of resort in London are full. In Spitalfields there are 70,000 weavers, with but 10s. per week; there are 22,479 tailors; 30,805 shoemakers; 43,928 milliners; seamstresses, 21,210; bonnet-makers, 1,769; cap-makers, 1,227.

There are two worlds in London, with a gulf between the rich and the poor. We have glanced at the latter; for the sake of contrast let us look at the former. Emerson says the wealth of London determines prices all over the globe. In 1847 the money coined in the mint was £5,158,440 in gold, £125,730 in silver, and £8,960 in copper.

The business of the Bank of England is conducted by about 800 clerks, whose salaries amount to about £190,000. The Bank in 1850 had about twenty millions of bank-notes in circulation. In the same year there were about five millions deposited in the savings banks of the metropolis.

The gross customs revenue of the port of London in 1849 was £11,070,176; 65 millions is the estimate formed by Mr McCulloch of the total value of the produce conveyed into and from London. The gross rental, as assessed by the property and income-tax, is 12½ millions.

The gross property insured at £166,000,000,

and only two-fifths of the houses are insured. The amount of capital at the command of the entire London bankers may be estimated at 64 millions; the insurance companies have always 10 millions of deposits ready for investment; 78 millions are employed in discounts. In 1841 the transactions of one London house alone amounted to 30 millions. In 1839 the payments made in the clearing-house were 954 millions. The population consumes annually 277,000 bullocks; 30,000 calves, 1,480,000 sheep, 31,000 pigs, 1,600,000 quarters of wheat, 310,164,000 lbs. of potatoes, 89,672,000 cabbages. Of fish the returns are almost incredible. Besides, it eats 2,742,000 fowls, 1,281,000 game, exclusive of those brought from the different parts of the United Kingdom, from 70 to 75 millions of eggs are annually imported into London from France and other countries. About 13,000 cows are kept in the city and its environs for the supply of milk and cream; and if we add to their value that of the cheese, and butter, and milk brought from the country into the city, the expenditure on produce daily must be enormous. Then London consumes 65,000 pipes of wine, 2,000,000 gallons of spirits, 43,200,000 gallons of porter and ale, and burns 3,000,000 tons of coals; and I have seen it estimated that one-fourth of the commerce of the nation is carried on in its port.

In London, in 1853 according to Sir R. Mayne, there were 3,613 beer-shops, 5,279 public-houses, and 13 wine-rooms.

And now to guard all this wealth, to preserve all this mass of industry honest, and to keep down all this crime, what have we? 6,367 police, costing £373,968; 13 police-courts, costing £45,050; and about a dozen criminal prisons, 69 union relieving officers, 316 officers of local boards, and 1,256 other local officers.

We have 25 weekly magazines, 9 daily newspapers, 5 evening, and 72 weekly ones. Independently of the mechanics' institutions, colleges, and endowed schools, we have 14,000 children of both sexes clothed and educated gratis, in the National and British and Foreign schools in all parts of London, and Sunday Schools.

The more direct religious agency may be estimated as follows:—In the “Hand-book to Places of Worship,” published by Low in 1851, there is a list of 371 churches and chapels in connection with the Establishment; the number of church sittings, according to Mr. Mann, is 409,184; the Independents have about 140 places of worship, and 100,436 sittings; the Baptists, 130 chapels, and accommodation for 54,234; the Methodists, 154 chapels, 60,696 sittings; the Presbyterians, 23 chapels and 18,211 sittings; the Unitarians, 9 chapels and about 3,330 sittings; the Roman Catholics, 35 chapels and 35,994 sittings; 4 Quaker chapels, with sittings for 3,151; the Moravians have 2 chapels, with 1,100 sittings; the Jews have 11 synagogues and 3,692 sittings. There are 94 chapels belonging to the New Church, the Plymouth Brethren, the Irvingites, the Latter-day Saints, Sandemanians, Lutherans, French Protestants, Greeks, Germans, Italians, which chapels have sittings for 18,833.

We thus get 691,723 attendants on Divine exercises.—*The Night Side of London.*

MORAL USES OF THE MICROSCOPE.

It is thought that the microscope may be used to detect secret murders, by examining the last impression upon the retina of the mur-