

The plague visitation of the first of these years, therefore, raised the mortality for that year to more than five times the annual death loss. The visitation of 1636 was much less severe. Fully to realise these facts, conceive the mortality of the cholera visitations of 1849 and 1854, raising the deaths in London from 68,755, the actual number in 1849, and 73,607, the actual number in 1854, to 266,885 for the earlier, and 132,442 for the latter outbreak. In 1625 no fewer than 35,417 fell victims to the pestilence. In 1636, 10,400 deaths were caused by the plague. It is rather a curious circumstance, also mentioned by Dr. Greenhow in his paper, that the so-called alvineflux which prevailed in London during the latter half of the 17th century, and after a brief period disappeared, should again, after the lapse of upwards of 100 years re-visit our shores under the name of cholera, and in the 19th century seek out its victims. Few, however, they have been, compared with the number which succumbed to its influence in earlier times, but the mortality from this cause was then disregarded, in consequence of the more dreaded pestilences, epidemic, or we might almost say, endemic, to the time. If we compare the ten years, 1681-1690, when the disease was declining, with the period from 1846 to 1855, comprising within its period the years of the two last visitations of cholera, we find the mortality in cycle, the former to have averaged 477 in the 10,000 persons, whilst in the latter it has only been 257. It is unnecessary to follow the subject further. Enough has been put forward to show how fatal were the pestilential visitations of those times, and with such an enormous death we can form a conception as to how lowly the population increased. In fact, if the returns of the period are correct, the population of London only increased 40 per cent. during the 116 years intervening between the reigns of Charles II. and George III. Let us now take a glance at the present sanitary condition of England, and contrast it with the period to which we have alluded; we shall find that, notwithstanding the vastly improved condition which obtains, much still remains to be accomplished. If we regard the population of England and Wales in 1856 as amounting to 19,000,000, we find from the returns furnished by the Registrar General for that year, that the total mortality was a little over 20 in each one thousand of the population; the average for the nineteen preceding years having been 22 in the 1000. In some parts of the country the death rate was so low as 15, whilst in other parts, as the County of Durham, it rose to 25 in the 1000; due, as remarked in the report, to the deplorable condition as regards sanitary measures in which the towns have been left by the municipal governing bodies. Taking the total average mortality, it is found that 25 in the 1000 die in towns, whilst only 19 in the 1000 die in the country, and nearly half the population is concentrated in the cities and towns of the kingdom. We thus find that the mortality resulting in towns is in excess of that in the country by six in every thousand of the population; and when we reflect that much in the way of sanitary improvement yet remains to be effected among the agricultural population, we place the excessive mortality in towns in a strong light. Of the deaths during the year under consideration, the returns show that 78,048 occurred from Zymotic diseases, and 48,950 from phthisis. Of the 78,048 deaths it has been