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ART. XXIX.—*On some points in connection with Sanitary Science.* By  
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(Conclusion.)

We have already had occasion to remark that, at the present time, England as a nation, presents us with a lower death rate in proportion to population, than any other country with whose statistics we are acquainted, and we also remarked that such a happy result has only obtained within a brief period. Previous to the great fire in the reign of Charles II. London was noted for the severity of the pestilences by which its people were attacked; indeed, up to the close of the 17th century, the history of London furnishes us with a series of epidemic pestilences, so fatal in their nature that, had not the city been constantly recruited from the country, the entire population must soon have disappeared. Let us review this subject briefly, in order to show how vastly improved is the public health in the 19th century, relatively to any previous period, and this, notwithstanding the fact that a total immunity from pestilence was experienced by London during the whole of the 18th century. In this last mentioned period the deaths from fever amounted to 54 in each 10,000 persons, whilst in the middle of the present century the proportion is only 35, and the general death rate which then exceeded 35 per 1000 of the population, now equals but 25.

Again, the births in London during the 18th century were exceeded by the deaths. But it is only by a reference to the statistics of plague in the year 1625 and 1636 (two of the best authenticated) that we can form any idea of the mortality prevailing in England in former times. Dr. Greenhow, in his paper illustrative of the pestilences of London, thus writes of this period, and compares it with the cholera period of the present century. The average annual number of deaths returned in the bills of mortality for each of the six healthy years, 1631–1635, inclusive, was 9704. The total mortality returns for the years 1625 and 1636, when the plague prevailed, was 54,625 for the former, and 23,359 for the latter year.