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## THE PROGRESS OF SANITATION DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA—THE LIFE SAVING RESULTS.

THE following are interesting extracts from an address by Captain Douglass Galton, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., in opening the last annual meeting of the One Hundred and Thirty-Third Session of the Society of Arts, London, Eng., Nov 17, 1886:—from the *Sanitarian*.

In opening the meeting of the One Hundred and Thirty-Third Session, it appeared to me that, as we are entering upon the jubilee year of the Queen's reign, it might be interesting to take stock, as it were, of the progress which has been made by the nation in some one of the branches of usefulness to which the proceedings of this Society have contributed; and it occurred to me that the most fitting subject to select would be that of the progress which has been made in sanitation during her Majesty's reign. . . . .

The first decennial census of the population of England and Wales had been taken in 1801, in which year the population of England was 8,892,536. At the Queen's accession it had risen to 15,268,056, but it was only then that civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths, including the registration of the diseases which were the causes of death first came into operation.

The Queen's accession to the throne took place on the 20th of June, 1837, and the registration came into operation on the following 1st of July, and thus

the jubilee year of the Queen's reign is the jubilee year of registration of disease.

To the sanitarian the principal value of registration has been that it furnished a basis of accurately observed facts which has enabled the medical man to substitute numerical expressions for vague conjecture, and by affording the necessary data for ascertaining the prevalence and intensity of epidemics, has led to an examination of the existing causes of the diseases.

This knowledge was the first step toward their prevention. Registration of the causes of death forms the basis upon which all scientific sanitary investigation necessarily rests; therefore the year of the Queen's accession forms the commencement of intelligent sanitary progress in this country. . . . .

The year 1838 was the first complete year of registration. The first report of the Registrar-General brought forward the sanitary condition of different parts of the country, and of different classes of the population. Disease was as prevalent among the laboring population in rural villages as it was in the most crowded and filthy districts in towns, and, on the motion of the Bishop of London, the House of Lords, in August, 1839, presented an address to the Queen, begging her to direct an inquiry into this prevalence of disease.