



**Hongkong**  
**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.**

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE Contract hitherto in force for the publication of GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS having ceased on *the 21st instant*, —Notice is hereby given, that the *HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE*, this day established, will hereafter the only Official Organ of Proclamations, Notifications, and all Public Papers of this Government.

By Order,

W. CAINE,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Victoria, Hongkong, 24th September, 1853.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Edward Reimers, Esq., having been duly appointed Consul at Hongkong for the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburgh, and Her Majesty The Queen having been pleased to approve the appointment, the same is hereby notified for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 28th April, 1854.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT

*Sanitary Report*

FOR  
1853.

In consequence of the late period of the year at which I was appointed to perform the duties of Colonial Surgeon, and the increased amount of professional labour which the untimely death of my much lamented and esteemed friend the late Colonial Surgeon necessarily entailed upon me, I am compelled to confine my report on the sanitary condition of the Colony for the year 1853, to a few statistical details and the remarks required for their explanation. There is less cause for regret however on this account, as all the more important measures which still remain to be carried out for the further improvement of the general health of the community were so ably and so frequently insisted on by my talented predecessor, (more particularly in his report for

1852) that I need only add my testimony to his on the advantages most certain to result from a more efficient system of Drainage, an increased supply of water, and the planting of trees in all available spots throughout the City and its immediate neighbourhood.

Following the order observed, in previous reports:—

THE CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The records of this establishment being, unfortunately, entirely wanting for several months, I am unable to give any detailed statement of the various diseases treated there in the course of the year. The following table however shows the average daily number of patients in the Hospital during each month.

Table No. 1.

MONTHS.	EUROPEANS.			INDIANS.		CHINESE.			TOTAL.
	MEN.	WOMEN.	CHILDREN.	MEN.	WOMEN.	MEN.	WOMEN.	CHILDREN.	
January, . . . . .	3	"	"	6	"	"	"	"	9
February, . . . . .	3	1	"	9	"	"	"	"	13
March, . . . . .	1	1	"	11	"	"	"	"	13
April, . . . . .	3	1	"	6	"	6	"	"	16
May, . . . . .	2	"	"	5	1	4	"	"	12
June, . . . . .	3	"	"	5	"	3	"	"	11
July, . . . . .	6	"	"	3	"	2	"	"	11
August, . . . . .	6	1	"	9	"	2	"	"	18
September, . . . . .	4	2	"	8	1	3	1	"	19
October, . . . . .	3	2	2	7	1	2	"	"	17
November, . . . . .	4	2	2	8	1	3	"	1	21
December, . . . . .	3	2	2	7	1	4	"	1	20

This gives an average of 15 inmates daily throughout the year; but I may mention that during the last five months of the year the average was kept higher than usual by the continued residence of 4 destitute South Sea Islanders (picked up at Sea,) besides one European female and two children, all waiting an opportunity to be sent back to their respective homes.

On a former occasion I was led to recommend

the doing away with the Civil Hospital altogether, but a more extended and practical acquaintance with the actual wants of the Colony in this respect has since convinced me not only of the necessity for such an establishment, but that it should even be put upon a more extended footing than at present, and a more commodious building obtained for it.

## THE POLICE.

Table No. 2.

MONTHS.	EUROPEANS.		INDIANS.		TOTAL ADMISSIONS.	TOTAL DEATHS.
	ADMISSIONS.	DEATHS.	ADMISSIONS.	DEATHS.		
January, . . . . .	1	"	10	"	11	"
February, . . . . .	"	"	13	"	13	"
March, . . . . .	"	"	9	"	9	"
April, . . . . .	4	"	14	"	18	"
May, . . . . .	4	"	11	"	15	"
June, . . . . .	6	"	10	2	16	2
July, . . . . .	8	1	12	"	20	1
August, . . . . .	5	"	10	1	15	1
September, . . . . .	5	"	8	1	13	1
October, . . . . .	8	"	10	1	18	1
November, . . . . .	8	"	9	1	17	1
December, . . . . .	4	"	13	"	17	"
<i>Total Admitted.</i>					182	
<i>Rate of Mortality 3.84 per cent.</i>					<i>Total Died.</i>	7

Compared with a similar one for 1852, this table exhibits a slight increase in the number of admissions for that year, (182 to 160,) whilst the total number of Deaths is the same for each year. The increase of admissions was entirely confined to the Indians; the number of Europeans admitted, being less than in 1852—(53 against 60).

During that part of the year in which the police were under my care, the most prevalent

diseases amongst the European portion of the force were Intermittent Fever, (of mild character) and Venereal affections:—whilst the Indians, as usual at that season, were chiefly suffering from affections of the Chest, and slight attacks of Ague and Diarrhæa. Of the 3 deaths occurring amongst the Indians during this period 2 were cases of Chronic Bronchitis, and 1 of Phthisis.

Table No. 3.

Exhibiting a comparative view of the Police Force in 1853 and 1852, including Women and Children; and the rate of Sickness and Mortality.

YEAR.	STRENGTH.			TOTAL STRENGTH.	TOTAL SICK.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.
	MEN.	WOMEN.	CHILDREN.					
1853	133	7	9	149	182	8*	122.14 per cent.	5.37 per cent.
1852	153	15	16	184	160	7	86.96 per cent.	3.10 per cent.

\* One woman died out of Hospital.

The Ratio of Sickness and Death during the past year, as shown by this table, though greater than in 1852, will however be seen to differ but little from the average of the previous 6 years, as shown by the following table given in the last annual report.

Table No. 4.

The Vital Statistics of the Police Force in Hongkong,—computed over the past 6 years.

AVERAGE STRENGTH.	RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.	PROPORTION OF SICKNESS TO STRENGTH.	PROPORTION OF DEATHS TO STRENGTH.
184	193	10	104.89 per cent.	5.43 per cent.

### THE GAOL.

The following table exhibits a considerable decrease in the amount of Sickness and Mortality amongst the prisoners as compared with the previous year.

Table No. 5.

Showing the daily average number of prisoners in Victoria Gaol in the years 1852, and 1853 with the rate of Sickness and mortality.

YEARS.	AVERAGE STRENGTH.	CASES OF SICKNESS.		TOTAL OF SICKNESS	DEATHS.	PROPORTION OF DEATHS TO STRENGTH.
		EUROPEANS.	CHINESE AND COLOURED PERSONS.			
1852	160	154	109	263	11	6.87 per cent.
1853	138	59	100	159	3*	2.17 per cent.

\* All 3 deaths occurred in January being chronic cases from the previous year.

I have no doubt that much of the improvement in the general health of the prisoners, and the lower rate of mortality may, to a great extent, be attributed to the more frequent white-washing of the walls throughout the gaol, and more particularly the floor of the room in which the majority of the Chinese prisoners sleep. In previous years the Chinese in Gaol have suffered much from severe and intractable Dysentery, Diarrhæa, and Phagedenic ulcers of the legs; and the marked diminution both in the number and severity of such cases during the past year is very good evidence of the benefit to be derived from the free

use of Lime in the way just mentioned, and it is therefore to be hoped that the practice will be continued.

I may here remark, however, that the room set apart as a Hospital for the Chinese prisoners, being on the ground floor, is by no means the best adapted for the purpose;—it should certainly be in the upper story, and its floor, with that of the Hospital for Europeans, should be well oiled or painted as recommended by the late Dr. Morrison, in order to prevent as much as possible the absorption and retention of water after washing.

The following statement shows the Diseases and Deaths occurring in the Goal during the past year.

DISEASES.	CASES.	DEATHS.	DISEASES.	CASES.	DEATHS.
Abscess. . . . .	2	"	Fever, Remittent. . . . .	13	"
Bronchitis. . . . .	3	"	Gonorrhœa. . . . .	2	"
Catarrh. . . . .	4	"	Hæmorrhoids. . . . .	1	"
Congestion of Liver. . . . .	1	"	Laryngitis. . . . .	1	"
"    Lungs. . . . .	1	"	Ophthalmia. . . . .	3	"
"    Spleen. . . . .	1	"	Phthisis. . . . .	1	"
Colic. . . . .	3	"	Rheumatism. . . . .	6	"
Constipation. . . . .	30	"	Scabies. . . . .	1	"
Contusions & . . . . .	7	"	Scrofula. . . . .	1	"
Convulsions. . . . .	1	"	Syphilis Primary. . . . .	8	"
Delirium tremens. . . . .	1	"	Secondary. . . . .	2	"
Diarrhœa. . . . .	30	1	Ulcers. . . . .	8	"
Dysentery. . . . .	6	2			
Fever, Intermittent. . . . .	22	"	Total.....	159	3

Proportion of Deaths to Cases, 1.88 per cent.

### THE OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT GENERALLY.

Table No. 6.

The extent and proportion of Sickness and Death, amongst all persons employed by Government in 1853.

DESIGNATION.	STRENGTH.	TOTAL OF SICK.	TOTAL OF DEATHS.	DEATHS. TO STRENGTH.
Civil Officers.	38		2	
Police.	149	182	8	
Total.	187		10	5.34 per cent.

I have no record of the number of cases of Sickness occurring amongst the Civil Officers of Government during the past year, but have reason to believe that it was not greater than usual. The 2 deaths were, Mr. Morgan, late of the Auditor General's Department, and William Morrison, Esq. late Colonial Surgeon:—the former died at Point de Galle from Chronic Dysentery on his way home on sick leave;—the latter at his house in Victoria, from Abscess of the Liver, apparently originating in excessive Congestion of that organ during the cold stage of Fever.

### THE GENERAL POPULATION.

Table No. 7.

The Strength and Proportion of Deaths amongst the various sections of the entire Population, in 1853. (exclusive of Military.)

DESIGNATION.	STRENGTH.	DEATHS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.
Europeans and Americans, including Temporary Residents,	573	54	9.42
Christians of mixed blood, and Indians, including Temporary Residents,	908	32	3.52
Chinese, . . . . .	37,536	1,049*	2.79
Total,	39,017	1,135	2.09 per cent.

\* Of this number, 229 died within the Colony, and the remaining 820 are estimated to have died out of it.

Of the 54 deaths given in the above table as occurring amongst the European and American inhabitants, 46 were strangers only temporarily residing here, thus leaving only 8 as the mortality amongst the permanent residents.

Of the diseases occurring during the past year none appeared in any unusual excess either as regards frequency or severity, nor did any assume an Epidemic character beyond the ordinary varia-

tion with the difference of season.

Fevers and Dysentery were less severe in character and much more amenable to treatment than has generally been the case here. One exception however of importance must be noticed, viz: the unusual occurrence of several fatal cases of abscess of the Liver, a form of disease comparatively rare for some years previously.

#### THE SEAMENS' HOSPITAL.

The following table shows the number of cases and mortality under each disease, during the year 1853.

DISEASES.	CASES.	DEATHS.	DISEASES.	CASES.	DEATHS.
Abscess, . . . . .	7	"	<i>Brought forward . . . .</i>	118	21
Arthritis, . . . . .	1	"	Gonorrhœa, . . . . .	7	"
Ascites, . . . . .	1	1	Hepatitis, . . . . .	3	"
Bronchitis, . . . . .	5	2	Hæmoptysis, . . . . .	1	1
Caries of Ulna, . . . . .	1	"	Hernia, Inguinal . . . . .	1	"
Colica Pictonum, . . . . .	1	1	Hydrocele, . . . . .	1	"
Contusions . . . . .	5	"	Heart disease, . . . . .	1	"
Coup de Soleil, . . . . .	1	"	Laryngitis, . . . . .	1	1
Delirium tremens, . . . . .	1	"	Mesenteric disease, . . . . .	1	1
Diarrhœa, . . . . .	4	"	Morbus Coxarius, . . . . .	1	"
Dislocations, . . . . .	1	"	Neuralgia of Face, . . . . .	1	"
Dysentery, . . . . .	18	6	Ophthalmia, . . . . .	1	"
Eczema . . . . .	1	"	Orchitis, . . . . .	4	"
Epilepsy, . . . . .	1	"	Phthisis, . . . . .	2	1
Fever Intermittent, . . . . .	22	"	Pneumonia, . . . . .	4	1
"    Remittent, . . . . .	37	9	Rheumatism, . . . . .	10	"
"    Continued, . . . . .	3	1	Rupture of Urethra, . . . . .	2	"
Fistula in Perineo, . . . . .	1	"	Scabies, . . . . .	1	"
Fractures, . . . . .	2	"	Spinal disease, . . . . .	1	"
Frostbite, . . . . .	2	"	Stricture of Urethra, . . . . .	2	"
Furunculus, . . . . .	2	"	Syphilis Primary, . . . . .	22	"
Gastritis, . . . . .	1	"	"    Secondary . . . . .	10	2
Gastro-enteritis, . . . . .	1	1	Ulcers, . . . . .	5	"
<i>Carried forward . . . . .</i>	118	21	<i>Total . . . . .</i>	201	28

Mortality 13.93 per cent.

#### THE MILITARY.

Table No. 8.

Showing the average strength of the Military force in the Hongkong Garrison in 1853 and the number of Deaths.

DESIGNATION.	STRENGTH.	DEATHS.	PROPORTION OF DEATHS TO STRENGTH.
Europeans.	629	36	5.7 per cent.
Indians.	326	18	3.3 per cent.
Total.	955	54	5.6 per cent.

This statement exhibits a considerable increase over the previous year in the deaths amongst the Europeans, but a corresponding decrease in the mortality amongst the natives, so that the proportion of Deaths to the total strength remains exactly the same as in 1852.

#### CLIMATE.—METEOROLOGY. &c.

The annexed Abstract of the Results of Observations made at the Seamen's Hospital during the past year gives all the most desirable information regarding the Pressure, Temperature, and Moisture of the atmosphere during each month. The observations were made five times daily, at the hours named in the table, and the numbers here given are the average throughout the month at each of those periods. The Dew-point is calculated by Dr. Apjohn's formula, and from it is deduced the weight of aqueous vapour per cubic foot of air;

as also the degree of Humidity,—1000, indicating complete saturation. I much regret not having had the means of registering night observations, without which the description of the Climate is incomplete.

It will be seen from the table that February and March were the two driest months of the year, especially March, though the air during January and December actually contained a less quantity of aqueous vapour;—the lower temperature in these months not allowing it to dissolve more.

W. A. HARLAND, M. D.  
Acting Colonial Surgeon.