BILL OF MORTALITY

OF THE

CITY OF LOWELL,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

With the Compliments of the Author,

J. CURTIS, M. D.

BOSTON.

Extract from the Revised Ordinances,

CHAPTER XIV, SECTION XIV.

It shall be the duty of the City Physician to report annually, in January, to the City Council, a Bill of Mortality, or list of deaths of the previous year, stating the age, sex, and diseases of persons deceased.

To the Mayor.—

In compliance with the foregoing requisition, I herewith submit the Bill of Mortality for the year 1854.

JOEL SPALDING, City Physician.

Lowell, January, 1855.

In Board of Aldermen, Feb. 27, 1855.

Read, and the usual number of copies ordered to be printed under the direction of the City Physician. Sent down for concurrence.

WM. LAMSON, JR., City Clerk.

In Common Council, Feb. 27, 1855.

Read, and ordered in concurrence.

LEO. BROWN, C. C. C.

In the following arrangement —

Table 1, a statement of Deaths in the Town and City of Lowell for the last 25 years.

Table 2, the population of Lowell at different periods since 1828.

Table 3, shows the number of deaths in each month of the year 1854, with the diseases and ages.

Table 4, a recapitulation of the deaths, with the diseases and ages, for the year 1854.

STATEMENT OF DEATHS IN LOWELL,

FOR THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

1830.	114	1843.	398
1831.	124	1844.	362
1832.	184	1845.	363
1833.	223	1846.	690
1834.	225	1847.	949
1835.	236	1848.	825
1836.	293	1849.	903
1837.	329	1850.	492
1838.	438	1851.	629
1839.	362	1852.	604
1840.	426	1853.	734
1841.	456	1854.	834
1842.	473		

POPULATION OF LOWELL,

AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.

1828.	3,532	1840.	20,980
1830.	6,479	1844.	25,163
1832.	10,254	1846.	29,127
1833.	12,363	1850.	32,620
1836.	17,633	1854.	Estimated at 38,000

REPORT OF DEATHS

FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

DISEASES.	Males,	Females,	Und. 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Burn,	1			1												
Inflammation,		1						1								
Consumption	6	4							5	2	1	1		1		
Diarrhœa,	2	1	1	2												
Disease of Liver,	1									1						
Dropsy,		1							1							
Disease of Heart,		1							1							
Killed by Fall,	1								1							
Croup,	2	1		1	2											
Inflammation of Lungs	4	1			1	1				1			1	1		
Marasmus,	1				1											
Teething,	2	1	1	2												
Infantile,	3		3													
Scarlet Fever,		1			1											
Puerperal Convulsions,		1								1						
Anæmia,		1						1								
Measles,	1				1											
Apoplexy,		1										1				
Puerperal,		1								1						
Typhoid Fever,	1										1					

DISEASES.	FEBRUARY.															
Apoplexy,	1										1					
Spinal Meningitis,		1			1											
Consumption,	6	11		1					3	7		3	2	1		
Teething,		1		1												
Marasmus,	2			1	1											
Chronic Rheumatism,	1								1							
Measles,	2	2	1	2	1											
Disease of Heart,	1						1									
Disease of Brain,	1	3			2	2										
Congestion of Brain,		2	2													
Croup,	2	1	2		1											
Cholera Infantum,		1			1											
Scrofula,	1											1				
Convulsions,	1		1													
Inflammation of Lungs,	1	3		2						1	1					
Hooping Cough,	1	1	1			1										
Scarlet Fever,	1			1												
Puerperal,		1							1							
Canker,		1	1													
Influenza,		1		1												
Dropsy of Brain,	2	1			3											
Dropsy,	1										1					
Inflammation of Bowels,		1							1							
Hæmoptysis,	1													1		
Hypertrophy of Heart,	1							1								
Unknown, *	1	1										1				

* Age of Male unknown.

DISEASES.	Males.	Females.	Und. 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Diseases of Brain,		4		1	1				1	1						
Infantile,	4		4													
Paralysis,		1							1							
Consumption,	4	11						2	6	2	2	1	2			
Inflammation of Lungs,	2	2	2									2				
Measles,	1				1											
Typhoid Fever,	2								2							
Scrofula,	2						1		1							
Cancer,		1										1				
Dropsy of Chest,		1	1													
Unknown,	2									1	1					
Dropsy,		1										1				
Tumor of Brain,	1									1						
Influenza,	1		1													
Gangrene,	1				1											
Burn,		1			1											
Suicide,	*1	†1							1		1					
Chronic Diarrhœa,		1											1			
Small Pox,		1			1											
Hooping Cough,	2	1		1	2											
Apoplexy,	1										1					
Bronchitis,	1												1			
Convulsions,	1				1											
Dropsy of Brain,		2			1	1										
Scarlet Fever,		1			1											
Puerperal,		1								1						
Fright,		1							1							
Croup,		1	1													

* By cutting throat. † By hanging.

DISEASES.	APRIL.															
Inflammation of Lungs,	2	1	1		1	1										
Measles,	2	5		4	1	1	1									
Infantile,	2		2													
Marasmus,		2	1	1												
Consumption,	9	6			1			3	4	1	3	1	2			
Croup,	2	2	1	2	1											
Typhoid Fever,	2	2							4							
Dropsy,		1							1							
Scrofula,	1	1	1						1							
Convulsions,	1			1												
Hooping Cough,	1				1											
Teething,	1			1												
Congestion of Brain,		2		1	1											
Dropsy of Brain,	2			1	1											
Scarlet Fever,	1					1										
Cancer,	1	1										2				
Menorrhagia,		1								1						
Unknown,		1	1													

DISEASES.	Males.	Females	Un. 1 y.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Measles,	4	2	3		2		1									
Consumption,	7	7		1	1				6	3		3				
Infantile,	1	2	3													
Croup,	4	2	4	2												
Congestion of Brain,	3	1				1	1			1			1			
Typhoid Fever,	1	1						2								
Hooping Cough,	1			1												
Erysipelas,	1								1							
Old Age,		2												2		
Dropsy of Brain,		1			1											
Puerperal,		1							1							
Anæmia,		1									1					
Disease of Heart,	1											1				
Disease of Brain,		1						1								
Drowned,	1						1									
Inflammation of Bowels,		1									1					
Teething,		1		1												
Unknown,	2	1			1					2						

DISEASES.	JUNE.															
Consumption,	8	17		1			2	3	10		2	3	3		1	
Diabetes,	1													1		
Cholera Morbus,		1										1				
Infantile,		2	2													
Rheumatism,		1											1			
Dropsy of Brain,		2			2											
Dropsy,	2						1	1								
Measles,	2	2		2	1		1									
Disease of Heart,		2	1								1					
Inflammation of Lungs,	1										1					
Cancer,		1												1		
Disease of Liver,	1	1							1		1					
Killed by Fall,	1							1								
Inflammation of Bowels,	1												1			
Hypertrophy of Heart,	1											1				
Disease of Brain,	1	1			1			1								
Congestion of Brain,		1			1											
Drowned,	2					2										
Erysipelas,	1		1													
Typhoid Fever,		1					1									
Unknown,		2								1		1				
Puerperal,		1							1							
Diarrhœa,		1	1													
Scarlet Fever,	1			1												
Croup,	2				2											

DISEASES.	Males.	Females	Un. 1 y.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Cholera Morbus,	4	1							1	2	2					
Infantile,	1	1	2													
Consumption,	3	8			1			3	4		2	1				
Dropsy,	2	1								1		1	1			
Hooping Cough,	1			1												
Cholera,	4									2		1	1			
Puerperal,		2							1	1						
Scarlet Fever,	1	1				1				1						
Typhoid Fever,	1								1							
Fever,		1			1											
Diarrhœa,	2	4	4	2												
Marasmus,		2	1	1												
Scrofula,	1													1		
Inflammation of Lungs,	1	2	1	1								1				
Paralysis,		1													1	
Small Pox,	2	3			1		1		2			1				
Measles,	3	1	1	3												
Disease of Heart,	1											1				
Disease of Brain,	1		1													
Cholera Infantum,	6	8	8	5	1											
Inflammation of Bowels,	2					1							1			
Dysentery,	7	5	1	2	3	2			2	1			1			
Unknown,	4										1	2	1			
Drowned,	3					1	1		1							
Hæmorrhage,		2									1	1				
Congestion of Brain,	1		1													
Croup,	4	1		2	3											
Hæmoptysis,		1										1				
Dropsy of Brain.	2	1		2		1										
Delirium Tremens,	1										1					

DISEASES.	AUGUST.															
Dysentery,	8	10	3	2	3	2		2	4		2					
Dropsy,	1											1				
Cholera Infantum,	10	16	13	10	3											
Diarrhœa,	7	3	9	1												
Sun Stroke,	1								1							
Cholera,	5	5						1	2	1	4	1		1		
Inflammation of Lungs,	3	1				1			2			1				
Drowned,	2						1			1						
Consumption,	4	9				1		3	6	1	1	1				
Dropsy of Brain,	4	2	2	3		1										
Marasmus,	1	1		2												
Disease of Heart,		2										1	1			
Inflammation of Brain,	1	2			1		2									
Congestion of Brain,		2			1				1							
Croup,	3	3	1	4	1											
Paralysis,	2	1				1							2			
Small Pox,		2			1	1										
Infantile,	8	6	14													
Puerperal,		1								1						
'Brights' Disease of Kidneys,	1										1					
Unknown,	2									1			1			
Convulsions,	2	1	1		1							1				
Typhoid Fever,	2								2							
Burn,	1									1						
Typhoid Inflam'n of Lungs,		1										1				
Inflammation of Bowels,	1											1				
Old Age,	1													1		
Teething,	1		1													

DISEASES.	Males.	Females.	Und. 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Fall of Building,	1							1								
Cholera Infantum,	3	2	1	3	1											
Small Pox,	1						1									
Dysentery,	8	12		5	6	1		3	1	1	1		2			
Typhoid Fever,	5	3			1		2	1	4							
Infantile,	8	8	16													
Old Age,	2	2												2	1	1
Consumption,	1	9							8	1			1			
Scarlet Fever,		1			1											
Diarrhœa,	4	3	3	4							*					
Convulsions,		1			1											
Croup,		2		1		1										
Measles,	1	1		1	1											
Dropsy,	2	2			1						1	1	1			
Dropsy of Brain,	1	2		1	1	1										
Hooping Cough,	1	1	1	1												
Drowned,*	1															
Cholera Morbus,		1						1								
Inflammation of Brain,	2					1					1					
Puerperal,		4							1	1	2					
Puerperal Anæmia,		1								1						
Killed in Mill,	1						1									

* Age unknown.

DISEASES.	OCTOBER.															
Debility,		1											1			
Cholera Infantum,	2		2													
Teething,	1	3	1	3												
Consumption,	6	7				1	1	3	4	2	1	1				
Measles,		1				1										
Croup,	1	2		2	1											
Puerperal,		1							1							
Dropsy of Brain,		2	1	1												
Infantile,	2	1	3													
Inflammation of Brain,	1	1				1							1			
Dysentery,	3	2						2		1		1		1		
Dropsy,		1										1				
Old Age,	3	1												2	2	
Abscess,		1										1				
Typhoid Fever,	2	2							2		1		1			
Small Pox,	1				1											
Marasmus,		1	1													
(Suicide), Drowned		1							1							
Disease of Kidneys,		1								1						
Inflammation of Lungs,		2	2													
Scarlet Fever,		1			1											
Unknown,		1								1						

DISEASES.	Males,	Females,	Und. 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100
Inflammation of Stomach,	1											1				
Old Age,		2												2		
Consumption,	5	8						2	5	3	2		1			
Croup,	3	3		4	2											
Dysentery,	3	1	1	3												
Inflammation of Lungs,	2	1						1			1		1			
Spina Bifida,	1		1													
Canker,	1	1	1	1												
Diarrhœa,	1		1													
Disease of Brain,	1	1				1				1						
Typhoid Fever,	1	4			1			2	1	1						
Dropsy,	1						1									
Small Pox,	2	1	1	2												
Disease of Liver,	1											1				
Inflammation of Brain,	2			1				1								
Infantile,		2	2													
Pleurisy,		1									1					
Scarlet Fever,		2		2												
Hooping Cough,		2	1		1											
Dropsy of Brain,	1		1													
Marasmus,	1		1													
Puerperal,		2								1	1					
Paralysis,		1								1						
Unknown,	1	1								1		1				

DISEASES.	DECEMBER.															
Scalded,	1			1												
Small Pox,	2	3			3	1						1				
Croup,	5	1		1	4	1										
Consumption,	6	11		1					7	3	2	2	2			
Intemperance,	1											1				
Infantile,	1	1	2													
Canker,	1		1													
Scarlet Fever,	1	2	2			1										
Dropsy,	2	1								1	1			1		
Disease of Brain,		2	1	1												
Diarrhœa,	1	2	2	1												
Inflammation of Brain,	1							1								
Intemperance,		1								1						
Influenza,		1	1													
Inflammation of Lungs,		2						1							1	
Dysentery,	1			1												
Inflammation of Bowels,		2									1	1				
Typhoid Fever,	1					1										
Dropsy of Brain,	1			1												
Old Age,		2												2		
Paralysis,	1											1				

STATEMENT OF DEATHS, WITH THE DISEASES & AGES, IN THE CITY OF LOWELL, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1854.

DISEASES.	Males.	Females	Un. 1 y.	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	Total.
Abscess,		1										1					1
Anæmia,		2						1			1						2
" Puerperal,		1								1							1
Apoplexy,	2	1									2	1					3
Bronchitis,	1												1				1
Cancer,	1	3										3		1			4
Canker,	2	2	3	1													4
Cholera,	9	5						1	2	3	4	2	1	1			14
" Infantum,	21	27	24	18	6												48
" Morbus,	4	3						1	1	2	2	1					7
Congestion of Brain,	4	8	3	1	3	1	1		1	1			1				12
Consumption,	65	108		4	3	2	3	19	68	25	22	13	13		1		173
Convulsions,	5	2	2	1	3							1					7
" Puerperal,		1								1							1
Croup,	28	19	9	12	21	5											47
Diabetes,	1													1			1
Diarrhœa,	17	14	21	10													31
Chronic Diarrhœa,		1											1				1
Disease of Brain,	4	12	2	2	4	3		2	1	2							16
" " Heart,	3	5	1				1		1		1	3	1				8
" " Kidneys,		1								1							1
" " Liver,	3	1							1	1	1	1					4
" " Lungs,																	
" " Stomach,																	
Bright's Disease of the Kidneys,	1										1						1
Dropsy,	10	9			1		2	1	2	2	3	5	2	1			19
Dropsy of Brain,	13	13	4	9	9	4											26
Dropsy of Chest,		1	1														1
Dysentery,	30	30	5	13	12	5		7	7	3	3	1	3	1			60
Debility,		1											1				1
Erysipelas,	2		1						1								2
Fright,	1								1								1
Fever,		1			1												1
Fever, Scarlet,	5	9	3	4	4	2				1							14
" Typhoid,	18	13			2	1	3	5	16	1	2		1				31

12

Gangrene,	1				1												1
Hæmoptysis,	1	1										1		1			2
Hæmorrhage,		2									1	1					2
Hypertrophy of Heart,	2							1				1					2
Hooping Cough,	7	5	3	4	4	1											12
Infantile,	30	23	53														53
Inflammation,		1						1									1
" of Brain,	7	3		1	1	2	2	2			1		1				10
" " Bowels,	4	4				1			1		2	2	2				8
" " Lungs,	16	15	6	3	2	3		2	2	2	3	4	2	1	1		31
" " Stomach,	1											1					1
Typhoid Inflammation of Lungs,		1										1					1
Influenza,	1	2	2	1													3
Intemperance,	1	1								1		1					2
Marasmus,	5	6	4	5	2												11
Measles,	16	14	5	12	8	2	3										30
Menorrhagia,		1								1							1
Spinal Meningitis,		1			1												1
Old Age,	6	9												11	3	1	15
Paralysis,	3	4				1			1	1		1	2		1		7
Pleurisy,		1									1						1
Puerperal,		15							6	6	3						15
Rheumatism,		1											1				1
Chronic Rheumatism,	1								1								1
Scrofula,	5	1	1				1		2			1		1			6
Small Pox,	8	10	1	2	7	2	2		2			2					18
Sun Stroke,	1								1								1
Spina Bifida,	1		1														1
Teething	5	6	3	8													11
Tumor of Brain,	1									1							1
Delirium Tremens,	1										1						1
Castalties. Burn,	2	1		1	1					1							3
Scalded,	1			1													1
Suicide by Hanging,		1									1						1
Drowned, (age of one unknown,)	9					3	3		1	1							9
Suicide by Drowning,		1								1							1
Killed in Mill,	1						1										1
" by fall of building,	1							1									1
Suicide by cutting throat,	1								1								1
Killed by fall,	2							1	1								2
Unknown,	12	7	1		1					7	2	5	2				19
Total.	402	432	159	122	96	36	22	45	119	64	55	53	35	19	6	1	834

13

The following Tables will afford other items of information.

TABLE V.

DEATHS IN EACH MONTH OF 1854.

Months.	Under 10 years.	Over 10 years	Total.	Months.	Under 10 years.	Over 10 years.	Total.
January,	18	23	41	July,	54	50	104
February,	31	28	59	August,	84	55	139
March,	22	36	58	September	55	42	97
April,	28	24	52	October,	21	34	55
May,	21	29	50	November	28	33	61
June,	42	19	61	December.	27	30	57

TABLE VI.

DEATHS IN EACH MONTH FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

Months.	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	Months,	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
January,	76	43	37	48	46	41	July,	78	46	62	63	66	104
February,	57	35	43	43	47	59	August,	126	62	88	82	102	139
March,	73	51	47	55	54	58	September	154	50	83	35	65	97
April,	59	38	38	41	44	52	October,	64	37	52	49	61	55
May,	65	36	47	31	66	50	November,	48	26	56	45	59	61
June,	36	36	38	42	58	61	December,	47	32	40	55	66	57

TABLE VII.

COMPARATIVE MORTALITY FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, FOR SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DISEASES.

DISEASES.	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
Consumption,	71	113	128	124	139	101	138	150	167	173
Inflammation of Lungs,	15	30	42	38	30	32	29	22	38	38
Cholera Infantum,	26	48	51	22	20	15	23	26	39	48
Typhoid Fever,	40	101	95	58	37	29	21	31	40	31
Scarlet Fever,	12	38	27	48	82	1	13	7	16	14
Measles,	4	17	2	27	1	0	35	15	15	30
Dysentery,	0	23	206	152	80	12	29	11	18	60
Dropsy of Brain,	21	46	29	30	27	26	38	24	33	26
Croup,	11	19	26	41	19	12	18	16	29	47
Total Mortality,	363	690	949	825	903	492	629	605	734	834

INTERMENTS.

The interments of the 834 persons who died in Lowell in the year 1854 were as follows—

In No. 1 Yard, School Street.	36
" " 2 "	50
" " 3 "	221
" Cemetery,	96
" Catholic Burial Ground,	380
Removed from the City,	51
TOTAL	834

REMARKS.

During the past year, it appears by the foregoing tables, that 834 deaths have occurred, being a larger number than has ever occurred since the organization of the city, with the exception of the year 1849, when there were 903 deaths. Fright has been returned as the cause of one death—a female between 20 and 30 years of age. The City Inspector of the City of New York reports two deaths from Fright in 1853—one male, over 80 years of age, and one female, between 20 and 25 years of age. 14 deaths from Cholera have been reported the past year—in the month of July, 4: all males; in the month of August, 10: 5 males and 5 females. In 19 cases the cause of death has not been reported. 20 death were reported from Casualties, being a less number than usual. The cases of Croup have been more numerous and fatal this year than any previous one—the number of deaths being 47. 48 deaths from Cholera Infantum were reported—a greater number than has occurred since 1847. From Old Age 15 deaths were returned—eleven being over 70, three over 80, and one over 90 years of age. Dysentery has been more fatal the past year than any since 1849, the number of deaths being 60. Typhoid Fever has furnished less deaths than last year, being only 31. The months of January, April, and May show the least number of deaths, 142; while July, August, and September furnish the greatest number, viz.: 341— being nearly one half of the whole number. The mortality in August was greater than that of any other month, viz.: 193; the least, in January, viz.: 41.

As usual, more deaths have been reported from Consump-

tion the past year than from any other disease, viz.: 173, being almost one-fifth of the whole number. The greatest mortality from this disease was in June, viz.: 25; the same number were reported in January and September, viz.: 10.

On this subject, it has been said—"that from ten to twenty per cent. too many are reported, and recorded, as dying of Consumption. It is not to be denied that *phthisis* is the great life-destroyer of our climate; but it is believed by many intelligent and professional observers that too much is charged to this malady, while scrofula, marasmus—a general wasting without pulmonary affection—and diseases induced by vicious indulgences do not bear their true proportion."

On this subject the City Inspector of the City of New York, in his Report for 1852 justly remarks—"Consumption, in all bills of mortality that we have access to, stands conspicuously forth in its array of figures. The mortality from this cause greatly exceeds that of any other; in this, however, it is only pursuing its usual course. It is not at all presumable, though, that phthisis as understood, is properly chargeable with all included under the term Consumption. It has been found an exceedingly convenient hiding-place for a host of ailings that prefer another guise; there's a *prestige* about it, and a protecting character in its influence, that cause it to be constantly sought, to shield others of not such distinctive favor; hence its ranks are always crowded, and it would not be surprising, upon due investigation, if the discovery were made, that like 'charity,' it covereth a multitude of sins."

Z. E. STONE, CITY PRINTER.