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VITAL STATISTICS OF MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS (GREATER MELBOURNE), AUGUST, 1891.

(Area of district, exclusive of water, 163,942 acres.)

RETURN, showing the population according to the recent Census; also, for the Month of August, 1891, the numbers of registered births and deaths, and excess of the former over the latter, in the Statistical District of Greater Melbourne, embracing a radius of ten miles, and divided into twenty-six sub-districts.

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, AUGUST, 1891.

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS IN MELBOURNE DISTRICT, 1891.										
Sub-districts.	Enumerated Population, 1891.*	Births—					Deaths—			Excess of Births over Deaths. †
		Including Twins and Illegitimate Children.			Cases of Twins.	Illegitimate Children.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	
		Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.						
Melbourne City—Bourke Ward ...	13,950	31	15	16	1	2	17	12	5	14
" " Gipps Ward ...	8,836	8	4	4	...	...	12	9	3	— 4
" " Lonsdale Ward ...	2,644	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	— 2
" " La Trobe Ward ...	3,968	9	5	4	...	6	5	3	2	4
" " Albert Ward ...	7,750	7	4	3	...	...	4	2	2	3
" " Smith Ward ...	17,077	37	20	17	...	1	17	7	10	20
" " Victoria Ward ...	19,269	64	40	24	1	6	28	11	17	36
North Melbourne Town ...	20,985	83	46	37	1	3	35	18	17	48
Fitzroy City ...	32,455	93	49	44	...	5	34	19	15	59
Collingwood City ...	35,066	132	56	76	1	5	43	24	19	89
Richmond City ...	38,770	143	76	67	2	6	43	22	21	100
Brunswick Town ...	21,955	96	49	47	...	1	29	18	11	67
Northcote Town ...	7,741	31	11	20	1	...	6	2	4	25
Prahran City ...	39,699	106	55	51	...	9	46	25	21	60
South Melbourne City ...	41,730	145	82	63	1	6	41	22	19	104
Port Melbourne Borough ...	13,058	54	27	27	...	7	28	16	12	26
St. Kilda City ...	19,885	49	25	24	...	7	11	6	5	38
Brighton Town ...	9,887	29	13	16	...	2	13	7	6	— 30
Essendon Town ...	14,411	43	21	22	1	1	18	8	10	30
Flemington and Kensington Borough	9,958	48	28	20	...	...	25	15	10	30
Hawthorn City ...	19,623	55	29	26	...	1	6	1	5	13
Kew Borough ...	8,476	19	10	9	...	...	23	10	13	76
Footscray City ...	19,149	99	44	55	2	2	18	8	10	42
Williamstown Town ...	15,936	60	38	22	...	4	4	1	3	6
Oakleigh Borough ...	1,235	10	6	4	1	...	4	1	6	108
Remainder of District (118,064 acres)	45,874	152	84	68	1	4	44	28	16	108
Hospitals, Asylums, &c. ‡ ...	1,971	71	30	41	1	49	122	68	54	— 51
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	— 3
Total ...	491,378	1,674	867	807	14	124	688	373	315	986
Daily average ...	...	54'00	27'97	26'03	'45	4'00	22'19	12'03	10'16	31'81

* Subject to future revision.

† In cases where the minus sign (—) is prefixed to any number, it implies that the deaths exceeded the births by that number.

‡ Including the Melbourne, Alfred, Women's, Children's, Homeopathic, and Austin Hospitals, the Metropolitan and Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylums, the Immigrants' Home, the Benevolent Asylum, the Infant Asylum, and the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The births and deaths in Greater Melbourne, together with the mean temperature in the shade, the mean atmospheric pressure, and the amount of rainfall, during the month of August of each of the ten years 1881-1890, were as follow:—

Year.	Births. Number.	Deaths. Number.	Mean Temperature. °	Mean Height of Barometer. Inches.	Rainfall. Inches.
1881	871	457	51.2	30.077	2.97
1882	928	482	49.9	29.960	2.11
1883	1,011	467	50.4	29.962	.87
1884	954	591	52.6	29.902	1.63
1885	1,035	657	51.9	29.907	1.58
1886	1,172	564	49.8	29.783	2.45
1887	1,430	676	50.4	30.125	.98
1888	1,472	627	48.6	30.043	.90
1889	1,478	723	50.1	30.020	2.06
1890	1,557	737	50.3	29.919	1.47
Mean of month in ten years	1,191	596	50.5	29.970	1.71

The births of 1,674 children, viz., 867 boys and 807 girls, were registered in Greater Melbourne during the month of August. In the month of July, 1,596 births were registered, or 78 less than in the month under review. The births were 483 above the average of the month during the previous ten years, or 162 above that average if allowance be made for the increase of population.

The deaths registered in August numbered 688, viz., 373 of males and 315 of females; the births thus exceeded the deaths by 986, or 143 per cent. The deaths exceeded those in July by 88, and exceeded the average of August during the previous ten years by 92; if, however, allowance be made for the increase of population, they will be found to have been less than that average by 68.

To every 1,000 of the population of the district, the proportion of births registered was 3.41, and of deaths registered 1.40.

The highest temperature in the shade recorded at Melbourne Observatory during the month was 70.2° on the 31st, and the lowest was 39.0° on the 1st. The mean temperature of the month (51.3°) was nearly a degree above the average. The greatest range of the thermometer in any one day (28.3°) took place on the 30th, and the least (5.3°) on the 4th, whilst the mean daily range was 13.7°. The highest atmospheric pressure recorded was 30.478 inches on the 29th, and the lowest was 29.512 inches on the 23rd. The mean atmospheric pressure (30.055 inches) was a twelfth of an inch above the average.

Rain fell on 13 days, the amount of rainfall being 1.45 inches. The average rainfall in August during the previous ten years was 1.71 inches, or a quarter of an inch more than in the month under notice.

Fog occurred on 7 days during the month.

Males contributed 54 per cent., and females 46 per cent., to the mortality of the month. Children under 5 years of age contributed 41 per cent. to that mortality, as against 41 per cent. in August, 1890; 36 per cent. in August, 1889; 30 per cent. in August, 1888; 36 per cent. in August, 1887; 30 per cent. in August, 1886; and 23 per cent. in August, 1885.

Fifty-five deaths of persons who had attained or exceeded the age of 75 years were recorded during the month. Of these, two females, each aged 75, died of syncope; a journalist, aged 75, of heart disease; a tailor, aged 75, of pneumonia; a labourer, aged 75, was accidentally suffocated during a fainting fit; a male, of occupation unknown, aged 75, died of atheroma; a cabdriver, aged 76, of gout; a female, aged 76, of cancer of the breast; a newsagent, aged 76, of endocarditis; a gentleman, aged 76, of syncope; a female, aged 76, of heart disease; a caretaker, aged 77, of apoplexy; a blacksmith, aged 77, of softening of the brain; a gentleman and a female, each aged 77, of heart disease; a female servant, aged 77, of bronchitis; a widow, aged 77, of an ovarian tumour; a draper, aged 77, was found drowned; a widow, aged 78, died of apoplexy; a female, aged 78, of gastric catarrh; a female, aged 78, of jaundice; an engineer, aged 78, of Bright's disease; a housekeeper, aged 79, of pneumonia; a gardener, aged 80, of apoplexy; a commission agent, aged 80, of aneurism; a carpenter, aged 80, of heart disease; a dancing master, aged 80, of bronchitis; a widow, aged 80, of enteritis; a farmer, aged 81, of bronchitis; a gentleman, aged 81, of a fractured thigh; a housewife, aged 83, of paralysis; a widow, aged 83, of bronchitis; a joiner, aged 83, of pneumonia; a female, aged 84, of valvular disease of the heart; a printer, aged 84, of bronchitis; a customs officer, aged 85, of softening of the brain; a musician, aged 86, of paralysis; a female, aged 88, of softening of the brain; a female, aged 89, of bronchitis; a male, of occupation unknown, aged 90, of influenza; a bootmaker, aged 90, of meningitis; a female, aged 78, a licensed victualler, aged 79, a gentleman, aged 81, a gardener, aged 82, a widow, aged 83, a gentleman and a farmer, each aged 84, a female, aged 85, a farmer and a female, each aged 94, of old age.

Twenty-nine violent deaths took place during the month, of which 22 were set down to accident, 3 to homicide, 3 to suicide, and 1 to execution. The following are the particulars of the accidental deaths:—A female, aged 73, was killed through falling under a train whilst in motion; a labourer, aged 65, was knocked down by a runaway horse; two male infants, aged 6 months and 1 year respectively, died of scalds; a female, aged 33, of burns; two boys, aged 2 and 11 respectively, and a laborer, aged 45, were accidentally drowned, the last in the River Yarra; four persons were "found drowned," viz., a fitter, aged 28, and a draper, aged 77, in the River Yarra, a ship's cook, aged 64, and a female, aged 74, in Hobson's Bay; a new-born female infant, a male and a female infant, aged 1 and 4 months respectively, a new-born male infant, a new-born female infant, and a storekeeper, aged 30, and a labourer, aged 75, were suffocated, the first four in bed, and the last during a fainting fit; a new-born female infant died of injuries resulting from a cross birth; a storekeeper, aged 23, of tetanus, caused by injury to the foot; and a gentleman, aged 81, of a fractured thigh. The homicidal deaths were those of two new-born males and one new-born female, who were suffocated—a verdict of wilful murder being returned in each case. The suicidal deaths were those of an accountant, aged 29, and a confectioner, aged 73, who shot themselves; and a brewer, aged 38, who poisoned himself. The case of judicial hanging registered was that of a carpenter, aged 39, who was executed in the Melbourne Gaol, for murder.

One hundred and twenty-five deaths, or 18 per cent. of the whole, took place in public institutions, viz.:—56 in the Melbourne Hospital, 18 in the Alfred Hospital, 4 in the Women's Hospital, 1 in the Children's Hospital, 8 in the Homeopathic Hospital, 8 in the Austin Hospital, 4 in the Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum, 8 in the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, 5 in the Immigrants' Home, 5 in the Benevolent Asylum, 2 in the Infant Asylum, 3 in the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor, 2 in the Melbourne Gaol, and 1 in the Protestant Refuge.

The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 279, of which 147, or 53 per cent., were of males, and 132, or 47 per cent., were of females. Of those who died, 203 were under one year of age, 41 were between one and two, 15 were between two and three; 9 were between three and four, and 11 were between four and five.

The persons who died at a more advanced age than five years numbered 409. Of these, 226, or 55 per cent., were males, and 183, or 45 per cent., were females; 22 were between five and ten, 11 were between ten and fifteen, 12 were between fifteen and twenty, 23 were between twenty and twenty-five, 35 were between twenty-five and thirty, 28 were between thirty and thirty-five, 26 were between thirty-five and forty, 29 were between forty and forty-five, 27 were between forty-five and fifty, 26 were between fifty and fifty-five, 26 were between fifty-five and sixty, 39 were between sixty and sixty-five, 24 were between sixty-five and seventy, 30 were between seventy and seventy-five, 25 were between seventy-five and eighty, and 26 were upwards of eighty.

The following table shows the causes of death of persons of both sexes under and over five years of age, and the proportions per cent. of deaths from each cause in Greater Melbourne during the month under review:—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN GREATER MELBOURNE, AUGUST, 1891.

Classes.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.					Proportions per cent.
		Males.		Females.		Total.	
		Under five years.	Over five years.	Under five years.	Over five years.		
I.	Specific febrile or zymotic diseases ...	10	7	18	12	47	6.83
II.	Parasitic diseases ... ..	...	1	...	1	2	1.20
III.	Dietic diseases ... ..	...	3	1	3	7	2.92
IV.	Constitutional diseases	16	77	13	58	164	23.84
V.	Developmental diseases	14	7	12	11	44	6.39
VI.	Local diseases	81	116	65	91	353	51.31
VII.	Violence	7	14	5	3	29	4.22
VIII.	Ill-defined and not specified causes ...	19	1	18	4	42	6.10
	All causes	147	226	182	183	688	100.00

CLASS I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

- Sub-class 1. *Miasmatic diseases*.—Scarlet fever, 2; influenza, 3; whooping-cough, 13; diphtheria, 13; typhoid, enteric fever, 2.
- " 2. *Diarrhœal diseases*.—Cholera (simple), 1; diarrhoea, 5; dysentery, 1.
- " 5. *Veneral diseases*.—Syphilis, 4.
- " 6. *Septic diseases*.—Pyæmia, septicæmia, 2; puerperal fever, 1.

CLASS II.—PARASITIC DISEASES.

Hydatids, 2.

CLASS III.—DIETIC DISEASES.

Want of breast milk, 1; alcoholism, 5; delirium tremens, 1.

CLASS IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

Rheumatic fever, rheumatism of heart, 3; rheumatism, 6; gout, 4; cancer, malignant disease, 31; tabes mesenterica, 3; tubercular meningitis (acute hydrocephalus), 23; phthisis, 79; other forms of tuberculosis, scrofula, &c., 12; purpura, 1; anæmia, 1; diabetes mellitus, 1.

CLASS V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

Premature birth, 15; atelectasis, 6; cyanosis, 1; harelip, 2; other congenital defects, 2; old age, 18, at the following ages:—66, 68, 70, 71, 71, 72, 73, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 84, 85, 94, and 96.

CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES.

- Sub-class 1. *Diseases of the nervous system*.—Inflammation of brain or its membranes, 5; apoplexy, 17; softening of brain, 6; paralysis, 5; insanity (general paralysis of insane), 7; epilepsy, 1; convulsions, 19; paraplegia, diseases of spinal cord, 3; others, 3.
- " 2. *Diseases of the organs of special sense*.—Diseases of nose, 1.

CLASS VI.—LOCAL DISEASES—continued.

- Sub-class 3. *Diseases of the circulatory system*.—Endocarditis, valvular disease, 11; pericarditis, 3; syncope, 5; aneurism, 3; heart disease, undefined, 37.
- " 4. *Diseases of the respiratory system*.—Laryngitis, 1; croup, 2; croup, diphtheritic, 3; bronchitis, 66; pneumonia, 72; congestion of lungs, 17; pleurisy, 1.
- " 5. *Diseases of the digestive system*.—Stomatitis, 1; dentition, 3; diseases of stomach, 10; enteritis, 10; ulceration of intestines, 1; obstruction of intestine, 1; intussusception of intestine, 1; hernia, 3; cirrhosis of liver, 7; other diseases of liver, 6.
- " 6. *Diseases of the lymphatic system and ductless glands*.—Bronchocele, 1.
- " 7. *Diseases of the urinary system*.—Nephritis, 3; Bright's disease, 7; uræmia, 3; disease of bladder, 1.
- " 8. *Diseases of the organs of generation*.—Ovarian disease, 1; disorders of menstruation, 1.
- " 9. *Diseases of parturition*.—Miscarriage, 1.
- " 10. *Diseases of the organs of locomotion*.—Caries, necrosis, 2.
- " 11. *Diseases of the integumentary system*.—Cellulitis, 2.

CLASS VII.—VIOLENCE.

- Sub-class 1. *Accident or negligence*.—Fractures, contusions, 3; cuts, &c., 1; burn, scald, 3; drowning, 7; suffocation, 7; otherwise, 1.
- " 2. *Homicide*.—Murder and manslaughter, 3.
- " 3. *Suicide*.—Gunshot wounds, 2; poison, 1.
- " 4. *Execution*.—Hanging, 1.

CLASS VIII.—ILL-DEFINED AND NOT SPECIFIED CAUSES.

Dropsy, 1; debility, atrophy, inanition, 39; tumour, 2.

Under the head of zymotic diseases, deaths from whooping cough increased from 5 in July to 13 in August, and deaths from diphtheria from 9 to 13; but deaths from typhoid fever fell from 10 to 2. Only 3 deaths were set down to influenza in August, but as many as 162 deaths (as against 87 in the previous month) were caused by bronchitis, pneumonia, and other diseases of the respiratory system, many of which cases, no doubt, primarily resulted from that complaint. Tubercular diseases, moreover, were particularly fatal in August, 117 deaths having been set down to such causes, as against 76 in the previous month.

The following is a statement of the number of deaths set down to typhoid fever and diphtheria in each of the first eight months of 1891 and the two previous years:—

DEATHS FROM TYPHOID FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA, 1889 TO 1891.
(First eight months in each year.)

Months.	Deaths from Typhoid Fever.			Deaths from Diphtheria.		
	1889.	1890.	1891.	1889.	1890.	1891.
January	71	78	25	15	25	7
February	64	73	32	13	46	9
March	91	89	36	18	56	19
April	113	63	30	26	50	11
May	92	36	20	35	39	23
June	36	20	11	30	45	16
July	17	12	10	48	41	9
August	16	5	2	36	18	13
Total	500	376	166	221	320	107

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 24th September, 1891.

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist.

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