

SOUTH-EAST COAST OF AMERICA.

SICK-RATE.

Average Ratio of Sickness for 10 Years, 1707·2 per 1,000.

South East
Coast of
America
Station.

TEN vessels were employed on the Brazil Station during the period of this report, namely, one frigate of the fourth rate; two sloops; two steam vessels; four gunboats; and one receiving ship permanently stationed at Rio Janeiro. There was also a small detachment of marines stationed at the Falkland Islands. The mean force corrected for time was 1,235, and the total number of cases of disease and injury under treatment was 2,081, which is in the ratio of 1685· per 1,000 of mean force, being considerably below the average sick-rate of the station.

SLOOPS.

Both vessels of the sloop class exceeded the average sick-rate of the station. The returns from the *Spiteful*, however, are only for six months, she having arrived on the station in the month of January 1866. During the *Lady* quarter of the year, in passing through the tropics, a good many cases of ephemeral fever were placed upon the sick-list, and subsequently in the River Plate diarrhœa was frequent. These cases, with a good many of boils and casualties of more or less severity, gave a high sick-rate to the vessel, the complement of which, corrected for time, was reduced to eighty-five.

There was very little sickness of any importance in the *Stromboli*. Catarrhal affections in the winter months, and diarrhœa in the summer, were the most prominent affections.

GUNBOATS

The *Doterel* and the *Linnet* exceeded the average sick-rate of the station. In the former vessel there were one or two

rather severe cases of dysentery occurring as the result of dissipation, but with those exceptions, and the prevalence of common colds, there was very little sickness in the vessel.

South East
Coast of
America
Station.

The sick-rate in the *Linnet* also, although very great, is mainly accounted for by a few cases of diarrhœa, catarrhs, and small abscess, occurring amongst a small ship's company, which was further reduced in correcting it for time. The vessel only arrived on the station about the middle of the Christmas quarter of 1865.

GUN BOATS
(continued)

In the month of May of 1860, the *Egmont* was visited with an epidemic of diarrhœa, which was in some cases attended with considerable prostration, and was attributed to variations of temperature; and in the following month, scarlatina became epidemic, although, fortunately, in a very mild form. With the exception of these two epidemics the ship's company enjoyed a very fair measure of health. Being a receiving ship the sick-rate of the *Egmont* is liable to vary very much from causes quite unconnected with the vessel or with the locality in which she is stationed.

RECEIVING
SHIP.

INVALIDING.

Average Ratio of Invaliding for 10 Years, 32·1 per 1,000.

Forty-two officers and men were invalided during the twelve months, being in the ratio of 34· per 1,000 of mean force. This is a considerable increase as compared with the previous twelve months, but it is only slightly in excess of the average invaliding rate of the station. More than one-half of the whole number invalided were from one vessel.

From the *Narcissus* the total number invalided was twenty-four. This vessel had been recently commissioned to take the place of the *Bombay*, which had been destroyed by fire in the previous year. Like many newly commissioned ships, she appears to have had drafted into her a number of men whose constitutions gave way on their being subjected to the exposure entailed by active service, and it is in this way that the first year of the commission of a ship is frequently distinguished by the high rate of invaliding it shows. Of the twenty-four persons invalided from this vessel, two were for epilepsy; one for paralysis; one for insanity; six for pul-

monary consumption; three for asthma; three for functional disease of the heart; four for diseases of the genito-urinary organs, all of venereal origin; one for diarrhœa; one for ophthalmia; one for a chronic skin disease, and one for ulcers.

With the exception of the gunboats the ratio of invaliding from each of the different classes of vessels is below the average ratio of the station, and the comparatively high invaliding rate in the gunboats is occasioned by the small numbers of their complements giving an apparently exaggerated value to the invaliding of a very few men.

Of the whole number invalided from the squadron, six were for diseases of the brain and nervous system; ten for diseases of the organs of respiration, chiefly phthisis; six for functional or organic disease of the heart and bloodvessels; two for diseases of the bowels; one for disease of the liver; eight for diseases of venereal origin; three for rheumatism; one for ophthalmia; two for diseases of the skin and cellular tissue; two for dyspepsia, and one for the effects of a gunshot wound accidentally sustained.

DEATHS.

Average Ratio of Mortality for 10 Years, 24·6 per 1,000.

During the twelve months preceding this report, Her Majesty's ship *Bombay* was lost by fire, and in the endeavour to escape, one officer and ninety men were drowned. That disaster has given an undue prominence to the ratio of mortality on this station, not only for the period when the casualty occurred, but for the decennial period. The death-rate from disease alone, however, for ten years is high, being nearly 12· per 1,000 of mean force; and had the loss of the *Bombay* not occurred, the average death-rate of the station from all causes would probably have been about 18· per 1,000.

During the period of the present report the total number of deaths was fourteen, which is in the ratio of 11·3 per 1,000. Of these, ten died from disease, three were drowned, and one death was the result of a suicidal wound of the throat in a man of intemperate habits.

Of the ten deaths from disease, one was from fever of a typhoid type; two from pulmonary consumption; one from inflammation of the lungs; one from disease of the heart; one from acute inflammation of the stomach; one from dysentery; two from inflammation of the ear affecting the bones of the head, and ultimately the brain; and one from dropsy complicated with disease of the liver.

South East
Coast of
America
Station.