

NORTH AMERICA AND WEST INDIES.

SICK-RATE.

Average Ratio of Sickness for Ten Years, 1616·8 per 1,000.

North
American
and
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Station.

THE squadron on this station during the period of this report comprised twenty-five vessels, of which one was a line-of-battle-ship, five were frigates of the fourth rate, and four, frigates of the sixth rate; there were nine sloops, four gun-vessels, one receiving ship at Port Royal, Jamaica, and a floating battery permanently stationed at Bermuda. The mean force, corrected for time, was 5,400, and the total number of cases of disease and injury under treatment was 8,979, which is in the ratio of 1662·7, a slight excess over the average sick-rate of the station.

LINE OF
BATTLE SHIP.

The sick-rate of the *Duncan* was remarkably small. This was doubtless mainly attributable to the fact, that being the flag ship of the Commander in Chief, her duties did not necessitate her being stationed in unhealthy localities for any length of time. During the hot season she was for the most part at anchor at Halifax, and in the winter and spring months she was at Port Royal, or Kingston, Jamaica. During the Michaelmas quarter of 1865, while at Halifax, diarrhœa was very prevalent, and in one case of a choleraic character, proved fatal. During the same period, the men being allowed six days' leave, a considerable number of cases of delirium tremens occurred amongst them.

FRIGATES.

The *Aurora* was the only frigate of the fourth rate in which the sick-rate exceeded the average of the station. She does not appear to have had much disease of a severe character, however. The vessel was employed very much

amongst the West India Islands, where febrile and bowel complaints were the most common affections, and attributable to the deleterious effects of climate.

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FRIGATES
(continued)

Of the frigates of the sixth rate, the *Cadmus*, *Niger* and *Wolverene* exceeded the average ratio of the station. The *Cadmus* was altogether stationed amongst the West India Islands, and off the coast of Mexico; and in the month of August, while at Lucia, on the north side of the Island of Jamaica, a good many cases of remittent fever occurred amongst the crew, following upon leave which had been granted them there. A large number of cases of venereal disease also followed upon leave given at Kingston, in the Mid-summer quarter of 1866. With these exceptions, there was nothing of a peculiar nature in the returns from this vessel.

During the whole of the Michaelmas quarter of 1865, the *Niger* was stationed in the Gulf of Mexico, mostly off the mouth of the Rio Grande, or at Vera Cruz. The principal affections that prevailed on board were fevers of an ephemeral type, diarrhoea, and small abscesses. She had little or no disease of an urgent character.

During the insurrection in Jamaica, 120 officers and men from the *Wolverene* were landed at Morant Bay. They were on shore about nineteen days; and on their re-embarkation, twenty-four were found to be labouring under remittent fever. Subsequently, many other cases occurred, so that altogether sixty cases of this form of fever appeared amongst those who were landed, and several of the men were afterwards affected with intermittent fever. With the exception of diarrhoea, this was the only affection of any importance that prevailed in this vessel.

The largest ratio of sickness of any vessel in the station is shown by the *Bulldog*. The returns from this vessel are, however, for little more than three months, as she was lost on the 23rd of October 1865, having been destroyed after an action at Cape Haytien, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. During the Michaelmas quarter, the *Bulldog* was chiefly at Havana, and at Jamaica. During the previous twelve months she had been stationed for a considerable time at Vera Cruz, where her men had suffered much from fever of a remittent type. Febrile attacks continued to be frequent

SLOOP.

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SLOOPS
continued.

during the Michaelmas quarter of the year, and small abscesses were epidemic, and indicated the deleterious influence exerted upon the ship's company by the climate. Many febrile attacks also followed upon the exposure to which the men were subjected after the loss of the vessel; and those naturally give a great prominence to the sick-rate of a vessel, the complement of which, corrected for time, was reduced to sixty men.

Although the ratio of sickness in the Buzzard exceeds the average sick-rate of the station, there was in reality very little disease of any importance in the vessel. Diarrhœa was the most common affection in the Michaelmas quarter of 1865, and catarrh in the Christmas quarter. In the Lady and Midsummer quarters of 1866, rheumatism and small abscesses and sores appear most largely in the returns.

The Cordelia also exceeded the average sick-rate. During the first three quarters for which this report is rendered, she was employed chiefly off the coast of Jamaica and San Domingo, and a good many cases of fever of different types appeared among the crew. Diarrhœa was also common. In the Midsummer quarter of 1866, when she was stationed at St. John's, New Brunswick, her sick list was very small, and the affections chiefly catarrhal, and very mild.

There was no sickness of any importance in the Gannet.

The Rosario had been stationed at Vera Cruz, where her crew enjoyed a fair measure of health; but subsequently in the month of August, after coaling ship at Havana, a considerable number of cases of remittent fever, not however of a very urgent type, occurred amongst the ship's company. With the exception of diarrhœa, and some catarrhal affections, that was the only form of disease of any numerical importance.

The Sphinx, although not shewing the highest sick-rate, was certainly the most sickly vessel on the station. She had been recently commissioned; and shortly after her arrival on the station, was employed upon surveying duties on the south east coast of Nova Scotia. From this duty she was suddenly ordered to Jamaica, where remittent fever and diarrhœa became very prevalent amongst the ship's company.

There appears to have been always a tendency to diarrhœa amongst the men, from the time of their leaving England; and in the Lady quarter of 1866, the disease is said to have assumed the dysenteric type. Eighteen cases of dysentery appear on the return for that quarter; but as the average duration of each case on the sick list was only between four and five days, it may be assumed that they were either very mild, or that they were only somewhat aggravated forms of diarrhœa. Rheumatism was also frequent among the men, as commonly happens after outbreaks of remittent fever.

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SLOOP
Command.

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GUN
VESSEL.

All the vessels of this class exceeded the average sick-rate of the station.

During the Michaelmas quarter of 1865, an epidemic of remittent fever occurred in the Lily, the first cases occurring amongst a body of marines who had been landed at Cape Haite for the protection of the British consulate. The disease afterwards affected a large number of the ship's company, the greatest sufferers being the marines, and those whose duties caused them to have frequent communication with the shore. Forty-six cases altogether occurred; and of these, thirty-four were sent to hospital on the arrival of the vessel at Port Royal. During the Christmas quarter, febrile attacks continued, but they were of an ephemeral nature; and subsequently in the Lady and Midsummer quarters of 1866, the vessel was very healthy.

A considerable number of cases of fever occurred in the Cygnet at Nassau, in the Michaelmas quarter of 1865, but with the exception of two of a continued type, they were very mild. In the Lady quarter of 1866, while stationed on the coast of Jamaica, no fewer than forty-four cases of ague were placed on the sick list. They were very amenable to treatment, however. With these exceptions, there was very little disease of any importance in this vessel.

The Nimble, during the Michaelmas and part of the Christmas quarter of 1865, was stationed almost altogether off the coast of Mexico; and while there her crew were tolerably healthy. Towards the end of November, however, while at Port Royal, Jamaica, remittent fever of a mild type became very prevalent; but they very much diminished in number on the vessel proceeding to Port Antonio, on the north side of the island. With the exception of this form of fever, the

ship's company may be said to have been tolerably free from disease.

There was a good deal of fever of different types in the Steady; rheumatism also was rather frequent. The vessel was altogether employed amongst the West India Islands during the twelve months.

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OUR VESSELS
continued.

INVALIDING.

Average Ratio of Invaliding for Ten Years, 25.6 per 1,000.

There is an increase in the ratio of invaliding on this station, as compared with the preceding year, and with the average invaliding rate of the station. The total number invalided was 157, which is in the ratio of 29 per 1,000 of mean force. Diseases of the respiratory organs, chiefly phthisis, and of the brain and nervous system, of which epilepsy was the most prominent, occasioned the greatest amount of loss of service in this way.

Five men were invalided for the sequelæ of fever; twenty-two for diseases of the brain and nervous system; thirty-five for diseases of the respiratory organs; eleven for organic or functional diseases of the heart and blood-vessels; six for affections of the alimentary canal; three for disease of the liver; fifteen for affections of the genito-urinary organs, chiefly of venereal origin; seventeen for rheumatism and diseases of the bones and joints; five for diseases of the special senses; five for diseases of the skin and cellular tissue; fourteen for dyspepsia; and nineteen for wounds and injuries of various kinds.

DEATHS.

Average Ratio of Mortality for Ten Years, 20.6 per 1,000.

There were twenty-eight deaths from disease, and twenty-five from injuries of various kinds and drowning, making a total of fifty-three deaths during the twelve months, which is in the ratio of 9.8 per 1,000 of mean force. The death-rate

from disease alone was only 5·1 per 1,000, one of the smallest death-rates that has probably ever occurred on this station.

There were three deaths from remittent fever; eight from diseases of the brain and nervous system, of which four were from apoplexy, three from delirium tremens, and one from abscess of the brain; seven from pulmonary consumption, two from pneumonia, and one from pulmonary abscess; one from disease of the heart; one from passive hæmorrhage; and one from aneurism; one from choleraic diarrhœa; one from vomiting of blood; one from disease of the liver, and one from dropsy.

The details of the deaths by violence and drowning will be found in Table IV. of the Appendix.

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