





THE
GLASGOW
BILLS OF MORTALITY

FOR

1841 & 1842,

DRAWN UP BY APPOINTMENT AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE
LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND TOWN COUNCIL,

BY

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SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED OF BY THE COMMITTEE, AGREEABLY TO MINUTE OF TOWN COUNCIL.
JOHN MITCHELL, Convener.

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TO THE
HON. THE LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES,

AND

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW.

My LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE now the honour of submitting to you the Mortality Bills for 1841 and 1842. The publication of the extended edition of these Bills having been delayed, with your concurrence, till the ages of our town population could be obtained from the Government Census, so that more accurate deductions might be drawn from the various tables than we otherwise would have had an opportunity of exhibiting,—the Government Enumeration Tables have been in my hands for some months; but the labour of drawing up the numerous tables, and of condensing the various materials contained in the Report, was so considerable as to prevent me from completing them till it became necessary to lay them aside, to enable me to bring out the usual Newspaper Abstract of the Mortality Bill for 1843, at the time it was expected by the public. This additional delay, however, is not to be regretted, as some of the facts elicited by the general abstract of the Bill for that year, taken in connexion with those for 1842, lead to results deserving of the best consideration.

As it is well known that the greatness of a country depends on the general wellbeing of its population, it must ever be one of the first objects of study on the part of an enlightened nation, to introduce such laws as may tend to improve the social condition of the people; and as the science of vital statis-

ties has for its object the discovery of those laws by which nature regulates the amount of disease and death, under every variety of circumstances, as well as "the discovery of those truths which tend to the comfort and happiness of the people," it is to be hoped that the energy with which this study has been lately followed out, especially in England, will soon cause it to hold a still higher place among the great branches of human knowledge than it has hitherto done, and, as a necessary preliminary to its useful application here, that the benefits of a better system for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, will speedily be extended to Scotland.

But although our system of these Registrations still remains defective in some respects, it is presumed that, in addition to other publications of this nature, the facts brought forward, and the truths elicited by an analysis of the facts, exhibited in the following pages, will prove of some importance in enabling the legislator and the philanthropist to arrive at more correct conclusions relative to some of those questions which have lately engaged their attention, and ultimately lead, not only to salutary improvements in the sanitary condition of towns, but also to improvement in the moral and physical condition of the people.

Advantage has been taken, not only of the results obtained from the Government Census, but also of the facts lately collected relative to the vital statistics of five large towns in Scotland, published in the volume of the British Association for 1842, as well as of facts exhibited in the Reports of the Registrar-General for England, and in the Mortality Bills of New-York and Philadelphia, to make instructive comparisons between the Mortality of Glasgow and that of other towns.* From the numerous facts elicited, it seems quite evident, that the amount of mortality is as the condition of the people; and although it in general holds good that the mortality is as the density of the population,† yet it seems equally clear that the amount of deaths in Glasgow varies with the means of subsistence, and the protection from the inclemency of the seasons, enjoyed by the working classes—the density of the population remaining the same.

* A more minute comparison between the mortality of some of the large manufacturing towns of England and that of Glasgow, is postponed, as they will be more advantageously given in our Mortality Bill for 1843, not yet completed.

† Poverty alone may be considered the cause of the extreme density of the population in various parts of Glasgow.

Without recapitulating the leading facts contained in the report on the sanitary condition of Glasgow, now submitted to you, it may be enough to refer to a few of the more important deductions drawn from them. As an inquiry is at present going on relative to the operation of the present poor law of Scotland, it is of importance to observe, that in years or months of excessive mortality, not only the greatest proportion of deaths take place among the poor and destitute, but, as has frequently been pointed out by Dr Alison, the greatest proportion of these deaths, caused by fever, is remarkably increased. The good effect produced in 1842, by an early application of the Relief Funds, in giving work to the unemployed, and food and clothing to the destitute, is well deserving of the best attention. The healthy state of our population during that year compared with the summer months of 1843, when the relief to the unemployed was suspended, but employment was still only partial, leads to the belief that the amount of funds required, when judiciously employed, to keep the poor in a healthy state, may be even less than the amount generally expended to eradicate fever, when it sets in with violence upon the population.

The amount of destitution does not appear to rest upon the question, Is there employment for the people? so much as, How many of the people are in *full* employment? And it will be seen that one of the most important facts elicited by the Census of 1841 is, that, since 1831, several of the counties of Scotland, at a moderate estimate, are not supporting the former amount, and the natural increase of their population, by at least 14 per cent.; while the influx of strangers into Glasgow, and other manufacturing districts, is greater than there is full employment for. It will be seen that some of these counties are not even so populous in 1841 as in 1831, by 4 per cent. Since writing the remarks contained in the Report on this subject, I have had an opportunity of conversing with Mr Smith of Deanston, on the cause of the decrease of the population in these counties, whose practical knowledge of agricultural matters is well known and appreciated. He is of opinion that the improvements which have taken place in agricultural implements is one of the principal causes;* and he states, that were an improved

* Without such a corresponding improvement of the heavier soils by drainage, as would render them fit for green crop husbandry, and a shorter rotation of cropping, whereby additional labourers would be employed.

system of agriculture introduced, the capital so employed would not only amply remunerate the landholder, but would give employment to a much greater amount of agricultural labourers. *Much* may be done to relieve suffering; and prevent deragation among the people, by a well regulated poor law; yet it is evident that it is to a prosperous trade and commerce we are to look for the most favourable change in the condition of the working classes; and should a simultaneous advance be made in agriculture, it will go far to remove those evils which at present press so heavily on a large proportion of the population of large towns.

It is to be regretted that our information relative to the amount of Births in Glasgow is as defective as ever. At the same time, it will be seen that the deductions brought forward, from data obtained from the Census, prove that the proportion of Births in Glasgow, and suburban parishes, must be greater than it is in Perth or Perthshire. It is also shown that there is a considerably greater excess of deaths over the births in Glasgow, compared with those for Edinburgh and Perth.

There is a very considerable decrease in the proportionate amount of resident marriages to the population in 1842, compared with that for 1841, or with the average annual proportion of marriages for the five years preceding 1842. Were the returns received from the Session Clerks to give the ages and occupations of the parties married, it would be of great importance to this branch of our subject.

Besides the usual details relative to the amount of mortality at different ages for 1841 and 1842, tables are given, exhibiting the amount of mortality for the five years preceding 1842, with calculations showing the proportion of deaths at the various ages, during these years, to the living at the same ages, as obtained from the Census for 1841. As, however, the amount of population obtained by the Census becomes the mean population for the five years ending with 1843, it is of importance that these calculations should be somewhat extended for the Mortality Bill of that year, which is now in progress.

I have already had occasion to bring under the notice of the public the uniformity in the proportion of deaths, at different periods of life, by fever, eruptive fevers, and some other diseases, to the whole deaths by these diseases. The tables exhibiting the amount of the fatal diseases, for the five

towns already alluded to, being made out on the same plan as those for Glasgow, have afforded data confirmatory of views I had entertained on this subject, founded on the results brought out in former Bills of Mortality for this city. In the following Report this subject is still farther extended, and more ample materials brought forward, from which it appears that, *cæteris paribus*, the mortality at different ages, by these diseases, is uniformly in certain proportions to the amount of deaths by each disease respectively. Without at present enlarging on the facilities which an acquaintance with these laws of mortality will afford in arriving at a true knowledge of the sanatory condition of towns, in furthering the advance of medical science, or in the construction of more accurate and extended annuity and life assurance tables, and placing the science of vital statistics on a more certain basis, it is in the meantime sufficient to call attention to the subject, and to invite a rigid scrutiny on the part of those who may have more ample opportunities of procuring accurate data to test the truth of the results now brought forward.

Besides the usual Monthly Tables of the fatal cases of disease for 1841 and 1842, twelve Tables are added, exhibiting the total amount of deaths for the several diseases each month during the seven years ending with 1842. The proportions for these, being calculated to the mean *corrected* population for these years, not only afford interesting and instructive results relative to the influence of the seasons on disease, but form valuable standards of comparison for similar results brought out for future Mortality Bills. The proportions for these Monthly Tables of Mortality have hitherto been calculated as one to so many. As the proportions, calculated at so much per cent., are, however, found to be more practically useful, the per centage of the various data for these seven years is given in a separate Table, to which future calculations for the Monthly Tables are intended to correspond. It will be observed that, from the results obtained from this Table, besides other interesting information they afford, in connexion with the laws of mortality found for some of the diseases, we are enabled to ascertain the true cause why the deaths of children, on the average of these seven years, should amount to above one-half of the whole deaths during the months of August and September.

A Table showing the amount of population within the range of our Mor-

tality Bills, as ascertained from the Government Census for 1841, at the different periods of life corresponding to the ages stated in our Mortality Tables, is given in the Appendix; to which is added the number of those who were temporarily absent from Glasgow at the time the Census was taken, as exhibited in the Report on the Local Census of Lanarkshire, addressed to the Hon. Archd. Alison, Sheriff of the County. It will be perceived that the variation between these two statements of the amount of population, when the absentees are taken into account, is so slight as not to affect the accuracy of the calculations published in the abstracts of our Mortality Bills since 1840.

I would respectfully call your favourable attention to the few observations I have made, under the head of "Causes of Excessive Mortality," on the propriety of providing cheap and profitable recreations for the people, especially for the young with the view of preventing them from acquiring habits of intemperance.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER WATT, LL.D.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, }
February, 1844.

ABSTRACT

OR

GLASGOW MORTALITY BILL,
FOR 1841.

POPULATION 282,134.

TABLE FIRST.

ABSTRACT OF THE NUMBER OF BURIALS IN THE CITY AND SUBURBAN DISTRICTS.

DISTRICTS.	BURIALS IN 1841.		BURIALS IN 1840.		Increase in 1841.	Decrease in 1841.	Total Increase in Districts in 1841.	Total Decrease in Districts in 1841.	
	In each Burial Place in 1841.	Total in each Cemetery in 1841.	In each Burial Place in 1840.	Total in each Cemetery in 1840.					
CITY.	Cathedral Grounds	887	1143	0	256				
	Do. do., from Royal Infirmary	348	477	0	129				
	Do. do., Poor buried at the expense of Town's Hospital	854	935	0	81				
	Do. Crypt	0	0	0	0				
	Do. Blackadder's Aisle	4	2	2	0				
			2000		2557				
	Blackfriars', St David's, North-West Grounds	589	783	0	194				
	St David's Crypt	6	5	1	0				
			595		788				
	Episcopal Chapel Grounds	11	11	10	10	0	0		
St Mary's Grounds	1261	1261	1129	1129	132	0			
Sighthill Grounds	504	504	304	304	200	0			
Total in the City			1470	1707			341	668	
GORBALS.	Gorbals Grounds	898	898	1207	1207	0	309		
	Southern Necropolis	758	758	131	131	627	0		
	Total in the Gorbals			1656	1338			627	309
BARONY.	Necropolis, or Merchants' House Cemetery	685	471	214	0				
	Jews' Society (in Necropolis)	0	2	0	2				
			685		473				
	Calton	830	830	641	641	0	111		
	Bridgeton	665	665	617	617	18	0		
	Tollcross	348	348	341	341	7	0		
	Shettleston	65	65	62	62	3	0		
	Anderston { Old, or Relief Church Grounds	159	159	127	127	32	0		
	{ St Mark's	119	119	143	143	0	24		
	Maryhill	61	61	70	70	0	6		
Woodside { South	209	209	279	279	0	70			
{ North	311	311	294	294	17	0			
Crypt of the Rev. Dr Mitchell's, or Wellington Street Church	23	23	29	29	0	6			
Society of Friends	1	1	0	0	1	0			
Total in the Barony Parish			3479	3406			292	219	
Total in City and Suburbs in 1841			9605				1260	1196	
Do. do. do. 1840			9541						
					Deduct decrease, 1196				
Increase of Burials in 1841			64		Increase in 1841, 64				

ABSTRACT
OF GLASGOW MORTALITY BILL FOR 1842.

Estimated Population within the Limits of the Bills of Mortality, 291,600.

TABLE FOURTH.

ABSTRACT OF THE NUMBER OF BURIALS IN THE CITY AND SUBURBAN DISTRICTS.									
Districts.	BURYING PLACES.	In 1842.		In 1841.		Increase in 1842.		Decrease in 1842.	
		In each Burying Place in 1842.	Total in each Cemetery in 1842.	In each Burying Place in 1841.	Total in each Cemetery in 1841.	Increase in each Burying Place in 1842.	Decrease in each Burying Place in 1842.	Total Increase in Districts in 1842.	Total Decrease in Districts in 1842.
CITY.	Cathedral Grounds	683	1601	727	2099	...	201	...	...
	Do., from the Royal Infirmary	214		315		...	131	...	...
	Do. do., Poor buried at the expense of the Town's Hospital	788		551		...	66	...	...
	Do., Crypt	6		6		...	...	...	...
	Do., Blackadder's Aisle	2		4		...	2	...	...
	Do., Nave	1		...		1	...	...	...
	Blackfriars', St David's, and North-West	308		589		...	281	...	...
	St David's Crypt	3		6		...	3	...	...
	Episcopal Chapel Grounds	16	311	11	595	...	...	...	...
	St Mary's Grounds	899	899	1261	1261	...	362	...	...
Sighthill Grounds	503	503	501	501	...	1	...	...
Total in the City		3123		4170		61053			
GORBALS.	Gorbals Grounds	811	811	898	898	...	87	...	...
	Southern Necropolis	891	891	758	758	136	...	136	51
	Total in the Gorbals		1738		1656		136		51
BARONY.	Necropolis, or Merchants' House Cemetery	582		685		...	103	...	...
	Jews' Society (in the Necropolis)	5		...		5	...	...	...
	Calton	659	587	830	685	...	...	...	...
	Christ Church Grounds	25	25	...	...	25	...	...	...
	Bridgeton	607	607	665	665	...	58	...	...
	Tollcross	210	210	318	318	...	138	...	...
	Shettleston	56	56	65	65	...	9	...	...
	Anderston {Relief Church Grounds	166	166	159	159	7	...	...	...
	{St Mark's	91	91	119	119	...	28	...	...
	Maryhill	52	52	61	61	...	12	...	...
Woodside {South	91	91	209	209	...	118	...	...
{North	304	304	311	311	...	7	...	...
Wellington Street Church Crypt	10	10	23	23	...	13	...	...
Society of Friends . . . . .	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
Total in the Barony Parish		2858		3479		37	658		
Total in the City and Suburbs in 1842		8019		9605		179	1765		
Do. do. do. 1841		9605						179	
Decrease in 1842		1586						1586	

ABSTRACT,

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND BAPTISMS, AS ENGROSSED IN THE REGISTER OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

	In 1842.	In 1841.	Increase in 1842.	Decrease in 1842.
In the City	1326	1361	...	38
In the Barony	1062	1082	...	20
In the Gorbals	511	520	12	...
In the Society of Friends	1	1	3	...
In the Jewish Society	5	5	...	...
Total	2938	2981	15	58
Deduct Increase				15
Total Decrease for 1842				43

TABLE FIFTH,

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND BAPTISMS, AS RECORDED MONTHLY IN THE REGISTER OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

MONTHS, 1842.	Males.	Females.	Twins.		Total Males.	Total Females.	Grand Total in 1842.	Grand Total in 1841.	Increase in 1842.	Decrease in 1842.
			Males.	Fem.						
January	121	136	1	1	125	137	262	220	42	...
February	129	135	3	1	132	136	268	276	...	8
March	114	95	3	3	117	98	215	253	...	38
April	147	116	3	3	150	119	269	213	56	...
May	161	127	2	2	163	129	292	307	...	15
June	120	110	...	...	120	110	230	276	...	46
July	156	89	...	...	156	89	245	230	15	...
August	125	96	2	...	127	96	223	342	...	119
September	92	101	3	1	95	105	200	196	4	...
October	122	129	...	...	122	129	251	234	17	...
November	106	118	2	2	108	120	228	196	32	...
December	131	117	4	...	138	117	255	238	17	...
Total in 1842	1530	1372	23	13	1553	1385	2938	...	183	226
Do. in 1841	1566	1365	23	27	1589	1392	...	2981	Deduct Inc.	183
Increase in 1842 . . . . .	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Decrease in 1842	36	...	...	14	36	7	43	Total Dec.		43

ABSTRACT

OF THE PROCLAMATIONS OF MARRIAGES, AS ENGROSSED IN THE REGISTERS OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS.

	In 1842.	In 1841.	Increase in 1842.	Decrease in 1842.
In the City	916	1119	...	203
In the Barony	779	969	...	190
In the Gorbals	418	569	...	121
In the Society of Friends . . . . .	...	...	...	...
In the Jewish Society . . . . .	...	...	...	...
Totals	2143	2657	...	514

TABLE SIXTH,

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PROCLAMATIONS OF MARRIAGES, AS ENGROSSED IN THE REGISTERS OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS;

DISTINGUISHING

1st, THOSE CASES IN WHICH BOTH PARTIES RESIDED IN THE SAME PARISH;

2d, THOSE IN WHICH THE PARTIES RESIDED IN DIFFERENT PARISHES; AND

3d, THOSE IN WHICH THE WARRANTS WERE NOT CALLED FOR.

MONTHS, 1842	1st.		2d.								Total Males.	Total Females.	Total Individuals.	3d. Warrants not called for, and where no Regular Marriage could take place.
	Both parties residing in the same parish.	Irregular Marriages.	The Males and the Females only who resided in the Parish of Glasgow.		The Males and the Females only who resided in the Parish of Barony.		The Males and the Females only who resided in the Parish of Gorbals.		Total Males and Females of the double proclamations where only one Marriage could take place.					
			Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.				
January . . .	140	...	7	3	10	8	3	5	20	10	160	150	316	4
February . . .	100	...	6	5	6	3	2	...	11	8	114	108	222	...
March . . .	98	...	5	4	4	3	1	5	10	12	108	110	218	...
April . . .	132	...	9	2	7	6	2	4	18	12	150	144	294	3
May . . .	239	...	14	5	6	10	6	...	26	15	265	254	514	5
June . . .	235	...	12	10	15	6	5	2	32	18	267	258	526	5
July . . .	122	...	2	4	3	3	2	6	7	13	129	135	261	1
August . . .	99	...	8	4	7	7	5	1	20	12	119	111	230	...
September . . .	105	...	5	3	3	3	3	4	11	10	116	115	231	3
October . . .	161	...	7	3	5	4	2	3	14	10	175	171	346	3
November . . .	143	...	4	7	7	10	4	4	15	21	158	164	322	0
December . . .	197	...	3	4	11	8	4	8	18	20	215	217	432	1
Totals . . .	1771	...	82	51	81	71	30	42	205	167	1976	1938	3904	31
Warrants not called for	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	31	62	
Totals of Marriages in which one of the parties or both resided in Glasgow and Suburbs.	1740	...	82	51	81	71	30	42	205	167	1945	1907	3852	
372														
Add Total Individuals proclaimed in two different parishes . . .													372	
Do. do. proclaimed but not Married . . .													62	
Divided by 2													1286	
Total amount of proclamations of Marriages in 1842 . . .													2143	
Do. do. do. in 1841 . . .													2657	
Do. Decrease of proclamations of Marriages in 1842 . . .													514	

By deducting those cases where the warrants were not called for on the part of the Male residents, and, consequently, where there could be no Regular Marriage, and also the Females proclaimed in two parishes, where only one Marriage could take place, we have the total number of Regular Marriages in the City and Suburban Districts in 1842.

Total Proclamations for Marriages, as engrossed in the Parochial Registers 2143
 Warrants of Male residents not called for 31
 Females proclaimed in two parishes, where only one Marriage could take place 167
 ———— 198

Total Regular* Marriages of parties resident in the City and Suburbs in 1842 1945

The above Table further shows, that in the Parish of Glasgow there were Married, in 1842, 28 more Males than Females; in Barony, 13 more Males than Females; and in Gorbals, 3 more Females than Males; in the three Districts collectively, 38 more Males than Females.

* There are no Irregular Marriages recorded for 1842, either by the Session Clerks or by the J. P. Procurator Fiscal.

MONTHLY
 TABLES OF MORTALITY
 FOR
 1841 & 1842.