

s tioned at Floriana. But here something more important is established; namely, the benefit of proper care of the sick, the majority of whom recovered.

Nor is the history of the Grand Prison, as compared with the ravages of the disease in the Barrache less conclusive; in the first three months of the epidemic an occasional case occurred on the ground floor, yet there was no general prevalence of disease, and among those better placed not one attack.

The influence of certain conditions is more manifest in the attacks among the expurgators between the 22d August and 15th October. The attacks were forty-eight, the deaths twenty-three; both far exceeding proportionally those in houses at Valetta and Floriana at the same period. These men were placed in nearly parallel circumstances to the convicts employed as beccamorti, *i.e.*, living in similar Barrache at Floriana, dressed in oil-skin, and engaged in laborious work in the worst nests of the disease, where either the death or removal of the inhabitants had in many instances left no person to communicate plague to them. In a more general purification, from the middle of November to the end of December, this class did not suffer. The concurrent atmospheric causes were then wanting—the epidemic had ceased.

The accidents then among those ascertained to have been directly or indirectly exposed to the disease were as follows:

	No. Employed.	Attacked.	Died.
Surgeons in Private Practice -	Unknown	10	7
Surgeons in Plague Hospitals -	Ditto	10	6
Beccamorti and Servants -	Ditto	14	11
Expurgators, whitewashers, and carmen -	Ditto	48	23
Total -	—	82	47

When did they consider they had “arrived at perfection” in the Plague of Malta?—Not till the arrival of Sir Thomas Maitland, on the 3d of October, about which time a decided favourable change in the winds, weather, and sanitary state of the inhabitants, is invariably experienced. Previous to this the plague had begun to decline, as the following rate of progression will show: “April, 3 deaths; May, 110; June, 800; July, 1,595; August, 1,042; September, 674; October, 210; November, 53.” “In Valetta alone,” says Dr. Hennen, “it was as follows:—“April, 3 deaths; May, 48; June, 235; July, 616; August, 275; September, 44; October, 2; after which no more deaths “occurred in the City” (p. 505); and a very similar progression

and decline occurred in the villages. The operation of a similar cause is shown in the number of towns and villages infected in the same months, being 1, 17, 25, 26, 17, 12, 12, and 4 respectively.*

The exertions of Sir Thomas Maitland were reserved for the disease in the villages, more especially in Casal Curmi. This unfortunate village had three deaths in May; fifty-six in June; 115 in July; 142 in August; but the deaths having increased to 181 in September, and continuing throughout October, though in considerably diminished numbers, a suspicion arose that the disease was kept alive by infected articles, which the inhabitants had secreted. “The knowledge of the above circumstance,” says Dr. Tully, (p. 59,) “compelled His Excellency to have recourse to “the novel and extraordinary plan of converting a populous “country town into a species of Lazaretto, shutting the inhabi-

* DEATHS from PLAGUE among the Civil Population in the Towns and different Villages of Malta in each month during the Epidemic of 1813. According to Dr. Hennen.

The towns are marked *, and the villages †.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.	MONTHS.								General Total.
	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
*Valetta	3	48	235	616	275	44	2	..	1223
*Floriana	2	142	472	172	83	26	..	897
*Vittoriosa	2	10	13	8	..	..	..	33
*Cospicua [or Burmula]	1	9	2	..	..	..	..	12
†Zebug	2	25	145	271	232	16	..	691
†Luca	1	22	18	1	..	..	..	42
†Birchirara	20	65	89	74	23	4	280
†Musta	1	8	15	8	..	..	32
*Notabile [and Rabbato]	1	2	9	6	10	8	8	44
†Curmi	3	56	115	142	181	93	19	614
†Zeitun	1	4	6	..	..	..	..	11
†Zabbar	1	6	28	9	..	..	..	44
†Gudia	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	6
†Sliema	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
†Lia	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
†Attard	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
†Micabiba	2	4	1	..	..	..	..	7
†Dingli	1	..	1
†Nasciara	5	3	..	..	..	..	8
†Zurricco	3	3	..	..	..	..	6
†Messida	1	3	1	..	..	..	5
†Tarxien	1	..	..	..	..	1
†Marina	3	1	..	..	..	..	4
†Siggieni	8	1	..	9
†Bighi	1	7	8	1	..	17
†Marsa	1	..	..	..	1
†Cale Salva	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
†Isolotto	1	..	1
†Sopra Bast	2	4	..	..	..	..	6
†Campo Santo	1	2	..	3
†Paolo	1	1	1	..	..	3
†Fort Manoel	38	235	71	21	..	..	..	365
†Lazaretto	2	5	6	22	24	26	22	107
†Coradino	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
†Picta	1	..	..	..	1
Total	3	110	800	1,595	1,042	674	210	53	4,487

104 died of Plague in the Island of Gozo in 1814.

"tants within their own precincts by the erection of double walls, "and by the establishment without these walls of cordon over "cordon."

By the kind assistance of Dr. Paolo Vella, the Syndic, and Dr. Gatt, together with notes taken by the Baron Azzopardi, an eye witness, I am enabled to speak with more confidence on the progress of the disease in Zebbug than in other villages.

In 1813 Zebbug had no case of plague till the 25th of May, and up to the 25th June only eight deaths in three or four families. On the appearance of plague in Valetta, the authorities of Zebbug divided the town into three districts, with three deputies for each, who attended the interment of the first victims, preceded by beat of drum and armed men. About the middle of June a civic guard was formed to prevent intercourse Curmi, with and subscriptions were raised for the support of the poor. On the 25th June a committee of health was formed to visit daily suspected houses, to call in medical aid, to distribute food and charity to the infected, and to place them under observation. Women were forbidden to loiter about the streets. Change of domicile, or entering any houses but their own, was strictly prohibited, and seclusion was enforced, from the 25th of July, by advice of the Proto Medico. Up to the 25th of August the sick and their families (except convalescents and orphans) were without hospitals or any other refuge than their own houses, in which they were now strictly segregated, the sentries in every street having orders to mark for quarantine, or even to shoot, the refractory; but from this date the sick of the poorer classes were removed to 104 barrache, which the committee of health had applied for on the 7th of August. These barrache were erected in a level field of about one acre and a half at most, and without the shade of a tree to protect them from a scorching sun in the hottest season. In 15 days 189 died. Troops were stationed in Zebbug on the 29th of August, and more were sent in September, and these are said by Sir Thomas Maitland to have arrested the disease in a month, yet 107 additional victims were swept off by the end of September from an already decimated population, and nine more deaths are noticed in the bulletins, the last on the 26th of October.

Up to the end of July the number of attacks noticed in the bulletins is equal to deaths; from that date to the end of September the former fall short by 113, showing that many were found dead in their houses—a conclusion borne out by the marks of the police still to be seen on dwellings in the village. That a great mortality also took place in the barrache appears from the following extract from a certificate by the Curate Scicluna, dated 28th September 1813: "Having been employed the whole day

"in administering the Sacrament to the infected I could not "register the deaths on the proper day, the more especially as the "greatest part of them died in the barrache; when, therefore, "the contagion ceased they were noted according to reports "obtained from their relations or neighbours."

Proof of the disastrous consequences of restrictions is furnished by the places under cordons and strict seclusion in September, namely, Zebbug, Curmi, and Birchircara. These villages, containing altogether 14,159 inhabitants, had 487 deaths in that month, while in the remaining population, numbering 82,244, enjoying more freedom, but in many instances under similar sanitary defects, the deaths did not exceed 187 in the same period, and 127 of these occurred in Valetta and Floriana, where restrictive measures were pursued unremittingly from the beginning.

The exemption of the soldiers composing the cordons in the villages considered so corroborative of the efficacy of quarantine by Sir Thomas Maitland directly proves the opposite. They were on the outskirts of the village at Curmi, at Birchircara, and Rabbato, with pure air both in their tents and houses, as well as when on duty, an advantage which was studiously withheld from the inhabitants. The thirty soldiers who arrived in Zebbug on the 29th of August were, it is true, quartered in the town, but in addition to daily out-door employment they were accommodated in a very well ventilated corner magazine or shop, with doors opening into two streets, that suffered little from the disease. The reinforcement in September was in tents. Rabbato, as miserable a village as Zebbug, had up to the 3d of July three deaths, all in one family. From that date up to the 10th of September, at intervals of a few days, sixteen more occurred, making in all only nineteen in a period of upwards of five months. The disease, Dr. Calvert says, re-appeared at Rabbato. In the following six weeks, (with guards doubled,) namely, from 10th September to 25th October, the mortality (nineteen) was equal to that of the five preceding months. In Notabile, adjoining Rabbato, a town of mansions occupied by the clergy and gentlemen, at present containing a population of 500 to 600 inhabitants, probably much augmented in 1813 by persons who took refuge there, no case is recorded except one in the prison.*

* Dr. Pietro Parisi, in his account of the Plague of Malta published at Palermo, 1603, states "it commenced in the beginning of June, 1592, and terminated at the end of September, 1593, in which period it made three severe visitations. In the first it was moderate, and lasted from June to September, 1592, killing 300 persons; in the second it was more severe, destroying 500, and lasted from the 12th of November till January 1593; in the last it was still more destructive, carrying off about 3,000 persons, and, as said before, disappeared at the end of September." (p. 6.)