

Sir,—I have been engaged, during the last ten days, in an inquiry which promises to yield very conclusive evidence respecting the mode of propagation of cholera.... The Lambeth Water Company, which formerly obtained their supply from a point near Hungerford Suspension-bridge, completed their works at Thames Ditton [near Hampton Court Palace] upwards of a year ago, and have ever since distributed water perfectly free from the sewage of London. The Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, which, along with that just named, supplies the greater number of houses on the south side of the Thames, still obtain their supply from Battersea-fields, near Vauxhall. The mortality from cholera was much less during the epidemic of last autumn, in the districts to which the new supply of water extended, than in those districts which are exclusively supplied by the Southwark and Vauxhall Company.... Soon after the commencement of the present epidemic, the difference in the mortality of the respective sets of districts was equally apparent,—a difference which did not exist in 1849.

In order to ascertain clearly on what this difference in mortality depended, it was necessary to make an inquiry in detail.... I have gone over the sub-districts of Lambeth, called Kennington, first part, and Kennington, second part, as regards the deaths from cholera which occurred down to 12 August; and the sub-districts, Waterloo, first part, and Waterloo, second part, to 19 August. The following are the results I have obtained:—

<i>Kennington, First Part.</i>			
Supply.			No. of Houses.
Southwark and Vauxhall	...	...	27
Lambeth	...	...	2
Pump-wells on premises	...	...	2
Total	...	...	31
<i>Kennington, Second Part.</i>			
Southwark and Vauxhall	...	...	11
Lambeth	...	...	2
Total	...	...	13
<i>Waterloo, First Part.</i>			
Southwark and Vauxhall	...	...	7
Lambeth	...	...	1
Not yet ascertained	...	...	1
Total	...	...	9
In Waterloo, second part, 27 deaths have occurred in 24 houses, which are supplied as follow:—			
			No. of Houses.
Southwark and Vauxhall	...	...	17
Lambeth	...	...	3
Pump well close to the Thames; water dirty	...	...	1
Wells at the Lion brewery	...	...	1
Not yet ascertained	...	...	2
Total	...	...	24
If the cases are enumerated instead of the houses in this last sub-district, the return is as follows:—			
Supply.			Cases.
Southwark and Vauxhall	...	...	19
Lambeth	...	...	3
Pump wells	...	...	3
Not yet ascertained	...	...	2
Total	...	...	27

... I intend to continue the inquiry, extending it to the other sub-districts in which the two water companies are intermixed, and to bring it down to the 26th inst. After this date, I am informed by Mr. Farr that the supply of water at the house in which every fatal attack of cholera may occur, will be returned by the Registrars in all the Districts on the South of the Thames.