

Cholera Mortality in Districts Supplied by the Lambeth and Southwark & Vauxhall Water Companies, 1853

It appears that cholera finds London as regards water in the situation in which it left it [in 1849]. This holds true with reference to all except the Lambeth Waterworks Company, who changed their source of supply nearly two years ago from Lambeth to Thames Ditton [above the Teddington Lock, and therefore beyond the tidal reach of the Thames]. From a table subjoined it will be seen that the results of the present epidemic in the districts supplied by that company, as compared with some others, are rather more satisfactory than they were in 1849, an improvement which, it is hoped, in the further course of events will be maintained. New works undertaken by other companies in accordance with recent legislation are in progress. The return of cholera at an earlier period than was anticipated furnishes a motive for increased activity in their operations. With capital, public spirit, and natural advantages of locality, London may enjoy a pure and copious supply of this first necessary of life, as well as country towns and villages, and more than some towns with municipal institutions, where the burgesses [405/406] are too idle, or too[o] busy, or too poor to bring it from surrounding springs to their doors....

Water Companies.	Sources of Supply.	Aggregate of Districts supplied chiefly by the respective Water Companies.			Deaths to 100,000 Inhabitants.
		Elevation in feet above Trinity High-water Mark.	Population.	Deaths from Cholera in 12 Weeks ending Nov. 12.	
LONDON - - - -	- - - -	—	2362236	626	27
Hampstead and New River.	Springs at Hampstead and Kenwood, two artesian wells, and New River.	80	166956	6	4
New River - -	At Chadwell Springs in Hertfordshire, from river Lee, and four wells in Middlesex and Herts.	76	634468	50	8
Grand Junction -	The Thames, 360 yards above Kew Bridge.	38	109636	14	13
Chelsea - -	The Thames, at Battersea -	7	122147	22	18
Kent - -	The Ravensbourne in Kent	18	134200	27	20
West Middlesex -	The Thames, at Barnes -	72	277700	72	26
East London -	The river Lee, at Lee Bridge.	26	434694	124	29
Lambeth and Southwark.	The Thames, at Thames Ditton and at Battersea.	1	346363	193	56
Southwark -	The Thames at Battersea -	8	118267	100	85
Southwark and Kent.	The Thames, at Battersea, The Ravensbourne in Kent, and ditches and wells.	—	17805	18	101

It is believed that through nearly the whole of this Table the impurity of the waters with which the inhabitants of the several districts are supplied is in nearly a direct proportion to the mortality from cholera.