THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1895
IN LONDON.

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FOR the fifth year in succession London was visited by this disease during 1895, and, as in previous years, it was accompanied by a great increase in the number of deaths from respiratory diseases. It first began to make an impression

death-rate of the Strand district, and especially of the St. Clement's portion, rises before the London rate does so.

For the remainder of the year the deaths from respiratory diseases were below the average, but they produced a slight rise in the death-rate in November.

In connection with the influenza epidemic in 1895, it is to be noted that it began towards the end of the long frost, and when the thaw came at

WEEKLY NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA AND FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES (EXCLUDING PHTHISIS) IN LONDON IN 1895.

upon the death-rate about the middle of February, rapidly rising to a maximum in the week ending March 9th, when 473 deaths were recorded; thereafter it more slowly declined to the end of April.

The deaths from respiratory diseases also assumed large proportions, reaching in the week ending March 2nd, no less than 1,448, which was 945 above the corrected average for the previous ten years.

A comparison of the general death-rate for London and the Strand shows that whenever respiratory diseases are becoming prevalent, the

the end of the first week in March, the death-rate had reached its maximum.

It is most probable that the absence of water from drains and sewers during several weeks had a detrimental influence upon the public health, by preventing the proper removal of sewage therefrom. The cold weather lasted for three months, and during that period, the longest continuous frost of this half of the century occurred, viz.—from January 21st to February 20th—31 days. There was also a deficiency of rain during the first half of the year, the total amount which fell being less than 50 per cent. of the average.