

Marasmus, . . . . .	18	Spasms, . . . . .	3
Measles, . . . . .	57	Still-born, . . . . .	171
Mortification, . . . . .	5	Sting of a wasp, . . . . .	1
Old age, . . . . .	118	Sudden, . . . . .	26
Ophthalmia, . . . . .	1	Suicide, . . . . .	3
Organic disease of the heart, . . . . .	5	Syphilis, . . . . .	1
Palsy, . . . . .	12	Teething, . . . . .	15
Pleurisy, . . . . .	55	Thrush, . . . . .	5
Poison, . . . . .	1	Tumour, . . . . .	1
Quinsy, . . . . .	1	Ulcer, . . . . .	2
Rheumatism, . . . . .	4	Ulcerated sore throat, . . . . .	3
"    Inflammatory, . . . . .	2	Unknown, adult, . . . . .	20
Saint Vitus' dance, . . . . .	1	"    infantile, . . . . .	515
Scald, . . . . .	1	Whooping-cough, . . . . .	75
Scrofula, . . . . .	3	Worms, . . . . .	15
Shot to death, . . . . .	1	Total, . . . . .	2431
Small Pox, . . . . .	2		

The population of this city, according to the United States' census in 1830, was 80,990, of which number 18,907 were colored persons; 14,783 free,—and 4,124 slaves.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH,

DAVID HARRIS, Secretary.

## REPORT

OF THE

## PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

HEALTH OFFICE,  
December 31st, 1833.

To the Honorable

The Mayor and City Council.

GENTLEMEN:

The present organization of the Board of Health imposes on the President, in addition to the duties of a Commissioner, the services heretofore performed by the consulting Physician. It is therefore in conformity with long established usage, that I submit to the Mayor and City Council such facts and observations in relation to the Health of the City, as it may be necessary to bring to their consideration at the ensuing annual session.

It has pleased Divine Providence to exempt our City this year from epidemic diseases of every kind, and consequently our population have only encountered the ordinary and incidental maladies to which we are at all times liable. It is true, indeed, that some diseases which occasionally assume an epidemic character, have from time to time appeared amongst us, but they have existed sporadically and have been speedily arrested; so that the Bill of Mortality shows the deaths to have been two hundred and sixty less than occurred in the pre-

ceding year. When it is recollected that last year was considered a healthy one, and that our population is constantly and rapidly augmenting, this deduction from the Bill of Mortality will be allowed to be a matter of no ordinary gratulation; especially as it indicates the progressive effect of the sanitary ordinances of the City.

Experience having shown that no Quarantine regulations, or other legal enactments yet devised, can prevent the introduction of small-pox contagion, the Commissioners of Health resolved early in the season to avail themselves of the discretionary power reposed in them, and to offer vaccination to all the inhabitants of the City. Accordingly six medical gentlemen of acknowledged ability and standing were appointed to this service. To each of these gentlemen were assigned two Wards, which they severally explored, going from house to house, and offering vaccination gratuitously to all who had not been previously subjected to the operation. The returns made, and now in this office, show the number vaccinated to be two thousand two hundred and thirteen (2213,) and since that time, the "neighbourhood vaccinations" have considerably increased the number, but to what amount is not yet fully known.

The propriety of the course adopted by the Board of Health is now apparent. The small-pox made its appearance during the Autumn, in several parts of the City, but finding few subjects, it has not extended itself so as to create any considerable alarm or anxiety. The neighbourhoods where it appeared were immediately re-explored by the vaccinator of the Ward, and such as were found yet exposed to the contagion were immediately secured from danger. Of those who took the disease there was not one, so far as the Board of Health are informed, who had been vaccinated by the professional gentlemen employed by the City during the year. I record this fact with great pleasure, both because it justifies the exercise of a discretionary power confided to the Board of Health, and because it attests the ability and faithfulness with which the services required have been performed by those to whom they were assigned.

I deem it proper to state another fact, which, if the inferences it seems to warrant be confirmed by subsequent experience, will be acknowledged worthy of record. I know of no instance in which small-pox has propagated itself from the first subject in a family, when the other members of it were re-vaccinated. The propriety of re-vaccination is thus placed beyond question, as the absolute prophylactic power of the cow-pock is certain, if it be repeated until the subject be no longer susceptible. And if the fact stated be found to accord with general experience, it will settle a mooted question among the medical faculty. Professional men of eminence have doubted whether the eruptive disease which prevailed here so extensively, from September 1836 to the summer of 1838, and which has re-appeared recently, was either small-pox or any of its modifications. They decided that it was only an aggravated form of chicken-pox. But if this disease has been uniformly arrested or prevented from propagating itself by re-vaccination, it cannot be chicken-pox, unless it be assumed that