

**NINTH REPORT TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND,
RELATING TO THE REGISTRY AND
RETURN OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND
DEATHS IN THE STATE FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1861**

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Ninth Report to the General Assembly of Rhode Island, Relating to the Registry and Return of Births, Marriages and Deaths in the State for the Year Ending December 31, 1861 by Various

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VARIOUS

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—PRESENTED TO—
The New York Academy of Medicine.

32

The Society of the New York Hospital,

March, 1898.

NINTH REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND,

RELATING TO THE

REGISTRY AND RETURNS

OF
Births, Marriages, and Deaths,

IN THE STATE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1861.

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
JOHN R. BARTLETT,
SECRETARY OF STATE.



PROVIDENCE:
ALFRED ANTHONY, PRINTER TO THE STATE.
1862.

COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION
OF THE
RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

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GEORGE L. COLLINS, M. D., *Providence.*

EDWIN M. SNOW, M. D., *Providence.*

DAVID KING, M. D., *Newport.*

OTIS BULLOCK, M. D., *Warren.*

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, PROVIDENCE, }
December 18th, 1862. }

To the Honorable General Assembly:—

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with the provisions of the seventy-sixth chapter of the Revised Statutes, the Annual Report on the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in this State, for the year 1861, is respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. BARTLETT,
Secretary of State.

PROVIDENCE, DECEMBER 18, 1862.

To the Honorable John R. Bartlett,
Secretary of State,

SIR:—The tabular abstracts which make the most important part of the annual Report on Registration were prepared by other hands, under the general superintendence of the Committee of the Rhode Island Medical Society. This Committee hoped that DR. EDWARD A. CRANE, who has prepared the two previous Reports with so much ability, would be able to take charge of this. But he has been called to more active labor, in the service of the Sanitary Commission; and the Committee, after some delay in the hope of his returning to remain in Providence, placed the tables in my charge at a somewhat later period of the year than usual. A very few slight inaccuracies, rather of form than of substance, crept into the tables, which might have been avoided if the supervision of the work had been earlier en-

trusted to a single person. These inaccuracies are noticed in my remarks, so far as discovered.

The tables suggest observations on two kinds of subjects,—statistical and sanitary. They illustrate the growth of population, in different races, classes, and circumstances of time and place. In connection with this subject, the results of the last Census of the United States, so far as they relate to Rhode Island, are introduced into this Report. The remarks under the title, "Births, Marriages, and Deaths," have been arranged on a plan which is somewhat new; and which not only renders them much more compact, but brings the results in regard to the three classes of events into nearer relation with one another, and makes it more easy to compare them together. In using the tables on the subject of Causes of Death, we have to examine the statistics of fatal diseases, and in this connection it seems appropriate to introduce any facts obtained in this State, which throw light on the causes of these diseases, and the means of preventing them. I have been glad to avail myself of the aid of physicians in other parts of the State, in addition to the results of the registry of deaths. If this plan could be continued, in more competent hands than mine, and with the assistance of medical observers, these Reports might become very useful, in pointing out the sources of waste of life and health, especially those causes of disease which are most destructive in the several towns and regions of our own State, and in suggesting preventive measures. I hope that this labor may be performed, next year, and often in future, by a member of the Registration Committee of the Medical Society, an eminent writer on statistical and sanitary matters, who has hitherto thought it incompatible with his official duties.

Yours very respectfully,

CHARLES W. PARSONS.

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