

XXVIII. *An Account of Baptifms, Marriages, and Burials, during Forty Years, in the Parifh of Blandford Forum, Dorfet. Communicated by Richard Pulteney, M. D. F. R. S.*

T O D R. W A T S O N, F. R. S.

S I R,

Read Mar. 19,
1778. **A**S the fubjects of the following tables have been much difcuffed of late, I take the liberty of putting thefe into your hands, encouraged thereto by your affurances, when I had the plea- fure of feeing you laft in town, that they might not im- properly be laid before the Royal Society. If upon in- fpection you fhould continue to think fo, you will do me the honour of prefenting them.

Exclusive of general curiofity, I was alfo induced to examine the regifter of this place, in order to determine how far the general opinion, which gives the credit of extraordinary falubrity to this country, was founded on fact, as far as that could be proved by this mode of exa- mination. I found that the regifter had been kept with
fufficient

ufficient accuracy in the usual method; that, since the recovery of this place from the dreadful fire of 1731, scarcely any new houses had been built, at least on any new site; that no fluctuation in the number of inhabitants from the introduction of any new manufactory, or from any other apparent cause, had taken place; and was therefore led to conclude, that the result might prove a tolerably fair one, and more especially upon finding the excess of the baptisms above the burials so small as it appears to be.

In the year 1773, when these tables were drawn up, I also procured the number of the people to be taken; by which it appeared, that there were 446 families, reckoning a workhouse of 44 persons, and three schools containing 92, as four families only, which gives nearly $4\frac{3}{4}$ to a family. The whole number of souls in the parish was found to be, males 1174, females 936, total 2110; but it must be remarked, that in this number were not included any of the inhabitants of the close adjoining villages of St. Mary, Blandford, Brianston, or Langton.

From an inspection of table the first it will be seen, that $55\frac{3}{4}$ is nearly the average of deaths for 40 years; and the average of the last ten years will appear to be 54: hence, taking 55 for the average number, which also will be seen to be the exact number of burials in the year

year preceding that of the survey, it will be seen that about 1 in 38 or 39 dies yearly; and, as it can scarcely be doubted, that the errors of a survey must be on the side of omission, it may not be too much to allow 1 in 39 only.

From this result, therefore, it is manifest, that although the salubrity of this place does not equal what we read of some particular villages in the North of England, or of the district of Vaud, yet it turns out very much in favour of the general opinion, and very far beyond that of London and larger towns, where the number is found to be from 1 in 20 to 1 in 26 or 28.

I am, &c.

TABLE I. A table of the baptisms, marriages, and burials, during forty years, in the parish of Blandford Forum.

| | Baptisms, | | | Marriages. | Burials, | | | | Baptisms, | | | Marriages. | Burials, | | |
|------|-----------|----------|--------|------------|----------|----------|--------|------|-----------|----------|--------|------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | | Males. | Females. | Total. | | Males. | Females. | Total. | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1733 | 39 | 33 | 72 | 33 | 27 | 27 | 54 | 1753 | 22 | 24 | 46 | 24 | 54 | 42 | 96 |
| 1734 | 35 | 32 | 67 | 27 | 26 | 20 | 46 | 1754 | 36 | 18 | 54 | 18 | 24 | 38 | 62 |
| 1735 | 34 | 25 | 59 | 24 | 17 | 26 | 43 | 1755 | 30 | 21 | 51 | 8 | 35 | 39 | 74 |
| 1736 | 39 | 22 | 61 | 27 | 29 | 17 | 46 | 1756 | 35 | 23 | 58 | 23 | 46 | 40 | 86 |
| 1737 | 24 | 52 | 76 | 29 | 36 | 29 | 65 | 1757 | 21 | 11 | 32 | 17 | 29 | 25 | 54 |
| 1738 | 38 | 29 | 67 | 30 | 26 | 25 | 51 | 1758 | 24 | 29 | 53 | 23 | 15 | 23 | 38 |
| 1739 | 31 | 27 | 58 | 15 | 25 | 30 | 55 | 1759 | 20 | 29 | 49 | 13 | 22 | 32 | 54 |
| 1740 | 25 | 22 | 47 | 14 | 33 | 31 | 64 | 1760 | 24 | 25 | 49 | 19 | 35 | 15 | 50 |
| 1741 | 21 | 16 | 37 | 18 | 46 | 56 | 102 | 1761 | 35 | 20 | 55 | 24 | 28 | 15 | 43 |
| 1742 | 34 | 24 | 58 | 20 | 36 | 28 | 64 | 1762 | 17 | 26 | 43 | 18 | 32 | 26 | 58 |
| 1743 | 22 | 21 | 43 | 33 | 27 | 27 | 54 | 1763 | 30 | 16 | 46 | 26 | 15 | 20 | 44 |
| 1744 | 32 | 32 | 64 | 23 | 16 | 18 | 34 | 1764 | 38 | 32 | 70 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 41 |
| 1745 | 20 | 24 | 44 | 7 | 23 | 26 | 49 | 1765 | 38 | 30 | 68 | 18 | 37 | 28 | 65 |
| 1746 | 21 | 29 | 50 | 24 | 21 | 26 | 47 | 1766 | 22 | 25 | 47 | 17 | 50 | 54 | 104 |
| 1747 | 21 | 27 | 48 | 18 | 21 | 31 | 52 | 1767 | 32 | 25 | 57 | 20 | 12 | 21 | 33 |
| 1748 | 28 | 19 | 47 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 67 | 1768 | 23 | 30 | 53 | 15 | 26 | 33 | 59 |
| 1749 | 26 | 32 | 58 | 28 | 15 | 25 | 40 | 1769 | 39 | 24 | 63 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 46 |
| 1750 | 24 | 29 | 53 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 46 | 1770 | 23 | 31 | 54 | 20 | 19 | 28 | 47 |
| 1751 | 26 | 19 | 45 | 18 | 22 | 27 | 49 | 1771 | 28 | 25 | 53 | 20 | 27 | 19 | 47 |
| 1752 | 27 | 33 | 60 | 8 | 21 | 26 | 47 | 1772 | 29 | 31 | 60 | 12 | 21 | 34 | 55 |
| | 567 | 547 | 1114 | 448 | 524 | 551 | 1075 | | 566 | 495 | 1061 | 384 | 575 | 581 | 1156 |

Total

Baptisms, &c. at Blandford Forum. 619

| | Total baptisms. | Marriages. | | Total burials. |
|---------|-----------------|------------|---------|----------------|
| Males | 1133 | 832 | Males | 1099 |
| Females | 1042 | | Females | 1132 |
| | <hr/> | | | <hr/> |
| | 2175 | | | 2231 |
| | <hr/> | | | <hr/> |

The baptisms among the Dissenters are brought into this account only during the last ten years, males 39, females 54, total 93: if therefore the same proportion is taken for the first-three decennial periods, the total of the baptisms will amount to 2454.

Small-pox years, of which distemper died as underneath:

| | | |
|---------|---|-------|
| In 1741 | - | 76 |
| 1753 | - | 40 |
| 1766 | - | 44 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 160 |
| | | <hr/> |

In the year 1756, among the burials, 18 were of soldiers, who died during the time of the encampment.

This table does not include the close adjoining villages of Langton, Brianston, and Blandford St. Mary.

TABLE II. The annual average of baptisms and burials in the four decennial periods of the foregoing table, taking among the baptisms 93 in each period for the number among the Dissenters, which appeared to be the exact number baptized in the fourth period.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Annual average of the baptisms in the | | | Annual average of the burial in the | | |
| first ten years, | $69\frac{1}{2}$ | 695 | first ten years, | 59 | 590 |
| — second ten years, | $60\frac{1}{2}$ | 605 | — second ten years, | $48\frac{1}{2}$ | 485 |
| — third ten years, | $58\frac{1}{5}$ | 583 | — third ten years, | $61\frac{1}{2}$ | 615 |
| — fourth ten years, | $57\frac{1}{5}$ | 571 | — fourth ten years, | 54 | 541 |
| | | <hr/> | | | <hr/> |
| In the 40 years, | $61\frac{1}{4}$ | 2454 | In the 40 years, | $55\frac{1}{4}$ | 2231 |
| | | <hr/> | | | <hr/> |

The excess of baptisms over the burials in forty years, 223.

TABLE III. Shewing the whole number of burials in each month, and each quarter of the year collectively throughout the whole of the above period, disposed in two columns, in the latter of which, those who died of the small-pox are excluded, serving to illustrate the different salubrity of the seasons.

| Winter. | | | Summer. | | |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| January | 220 | 204 | July | 146 | 145 |
| February | 218 | 200 | August | 144 | 144 |
| March | 223 | 195 | September | 165 | 162 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 661 | 599 | | 455 | 451 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Spring. | | | Autumn. | | |
| April | 193 | 170 | October | 172 | 171 |
| May | 218 | 184 | November | 174 | 170 |
| June | 190 | 166 | December | 168 | 160 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 601 | 520 | | 514 | 501 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

