

Canada Medical Journal.

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC VACCINATORS FOR THE YEAR 1866.

We publish below the report for the year 1866 of the Physicians who fill the office of Public Vaccinators for the city of Montreal. It demonstrates beyond a doubt the very great benefit which has resulted from the Act under which they hold their appointment, the deaths from variola having decreased from 363, in 1864, to 51 during the past year. We would like to know if the other cities embraced in the Act have taken steps to put it into force; and if so, we would have much pleasure in publishing the result of its working. We intend returning to this subject in our next number:

The undersigned, Public Vaccinators for the city of Montreal, beg leave to report for the information of the City Council, the result of their labours for the past year. In the number of children vaccinated there is a falling off compared with the previous year of 208, which may be accounted for by the fact that small-pox was a comparatively rare disease, and those who only rush to have their children vaccinated when danger is nigh, have neglected to avail themselves of the safeguard which vaccination affords. They regret that this class of persons is a large one, and would suggest that some means be taken (as is allowed by the Act under which we hold our appointment) to compel them to have their children vaccinated, for so long as this precaution is not taken, so long will small-pox claim yearly a number of victims from our midst. An examination of the mortality returns show that fully five-sixths of the deaths from small-pox are among children under ten years of age—a very strong argument in favor of every possible means being taken to have every child vaccinated at all events within the first six months of its birth. Few seem thoroughly to realize the value of vaccination as a safeguard against this disease, and the terrible responsibility which rests upon them, should their unvaccinated child contract small-pox and die. Although they cannot state with exactness the number of deaths which occur among unvaccinated children (no proper regis-