

20.9 per 1,000 of population. There the system of registration is most perfect, and few, if any deaths are unrecorded.

In the Canadian cities therefore the mortality was 20 per cent. greater than in the cities in England; and over 25 per cent. greater than in great and crowded London, where it was less than 20 per 1,000 of population.

In the previous year, 1885, with the small-pox epidemic, the mortality in the Canadian cities was about 30 per 1,000 of population, or nearly 50 per cent. greater than in the English cities.

This high mortality in Canadian cities was largely due, to be sure, to the higher death rate (probably largely, too, of infants) in Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, St. Hyacinthe and Sorel; although in the "Queen City," Toronto, the mortality was 20 per cent. higher than in London, England.

In deaths from zymotic diseases, which are the best indicators of sanitary conditions or requirements, the Canadian cities show to a still greater disadvantage. They returned a total record for the year of 3,852 deaths from this class of diseases; equal to an annual death rate from these causes alone of over 6 per 1,000 of population.

In the English cities the total mortality from zymotics alone was 2.9 per 1,000 of population for the year, or less than one-half that in the Canadian cities.

The rate of mortality from diphtheria in the Canadian cities was nearly ten times as high as in the English cities; and that from diarrhoeal diseases more than twice as high, and from fevers nearly twice as high, in the former as in the latter.

Now we have no reason to believe that the mortality in the rural districts in Canada is any lower than it is in the

cities and towns, with the exception that, in the cities during the warmest season, the infantile mortality is probably greater than it is in the country. On the other hand, the mortality from diphtheria and typhoid fever, two commonly prevailing diseases, is found to be usually greater proportionately in rural than in urban districts; while on the whole in cities, more attention is commonly given to health matters, than in the country, and many causes of disease are more prevailing in the latter than in the former.

The total number of deaths then, annually, in the Dominion, with its 5,000,000 of people, can hardly be much less than 125,000; estimating at the rate of 25 per 1,000 of population, the rate, certainly, of the cities and towns.

Now with proper sanitary administration and reasonable attention to the ordinary rules of health, there is no reason why the mortality should be higher in Canada than it is in England. We have here a healthy, invigorating climate, with hardly any overcrowding or destitution. But while in Canada, with the exception of Ontario and a few of the principal cities, where some slight effort has been made, no general attention whatever has been given to public health measures, in England, on the contrary, for the last quarter of a century or more, a great deal has been done, both by the Government and the municipalities, for the prevention of disease and premature deaths. Consequently, as most people know, the mortality in England has been gradually falling lower and lower during many years last past, and hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved.

With the same practical health measures carried out in Canada that are exercised in England, what reason