

agreed with us in our view of the importance of such returns, and promised to get the Corporation, if possible, to take action in the matter. We waited patiently for the appearance of these reports, and at length our eyes were gratified by the publication of the first weekly "Bill of Mortality." A mere glance sufficed to satisfy us, that, as faithful returns of the diseases fatal to our fellow citizens, they were nothing more or less than a perfect farce. Anxious as we were to give them place in our pages, they were so glaringly imperfect, we concluded that we could not spare room for such utterly useless matter. Three of these "Weekly Bills" are now lying before us, and our readers will duly appreciate their character, from the following analysis in part. We may mention, that these three have been selected indiscriminately, that, in fact, *ex uno omnes disce*. During three weeks there occurred 167 deaths in the city of Montreal. Of these, 31 are reported as having died of **INFANTILE DEBILITY**. Could anything be more vague or uncertain than this? With few exceptions, diseases of children might be said to terminate in infantile debility. Fifteen are said to have died of *Fever*. What kind of Fever we would ask? Intermittent Fever—Remittent Fever—Common continued Fever—Relapsing Fever—Typhoid Fever or Typhus Fever? Four were cut off by *Inflammation*. Inflammation of what part? Five died of *Disease of the Heart*. Hope, one of the greatest authorities on Diseases of the heart, treats of these affections under twenty different heads. Fourteen children are reported as having died of *teething*. Now, although many children die during the process of teething, it is commonly from the supervention of secondary affections of the mucous membranes, and the nervous system. We might extend our remarks, but we have said enough to shew that returns on this system, or rather *no* system, are not worthy of space in a scientific journal. Our readers will not blame us, therefore, if we object to publish the "Bills of Mortality for the city of Montreal." We live in hope, however, that at some future period, not far distant, a correct and effective registration of the causes of death will be adopted throughout the Province, and, we have no doubt, from what we have heard of Mr. Hutton, that he would cheerfully carry it out.

Since writing the above, vol 2 of the Census Report has come to hand, from which we glean that the causes of death were taken by the Enumerators; these gentlemen having received their information in each case from friends of the deceased. As might be expected, the report is a very imperfect and worthless one. Notwithstanding the opinion of the Secretary to the contrary, there is not, in our opinion, one feature of interest in the returns—nor can one reliable deduction be drawn from