

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOR MARCH.

THE total record of deaths in March in the twenty-six cities and towns which make regular monthly returns to the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa was 1413; or only 88 more than in February; a mortality rate of about 24 per 1000, of population per annum. March being longer by two days than February, the rate of mortality last month in these 26 places was really a fraction lower than in the previous month. According to the mortuary record in Ontario during the last fifteen or more years, it is a very unusual thing in this climate for the rate of mortality in March not to considerably exceed that of February. But it must be remembered that the record of February last was high, and exceeded by 15 per cent that of February 1887.

Although satisfactory to find the death rate of March lower than that of February, we find nevertheless that it was higher than in March 1887, by about 6 per cent; a greater increase than any probable increase in the population.

In each one of the nine largest cities except Montreal and Winnipeg, there was an increase in the mortality in March as compared with February, while much the largest increase was in Toronto and St. John, N. B.

Windsor, Ont., has been added to the list and hence there were 27 places from which there were returns in March. The deaths recorded in this town were 18, making the total record 1431.

From scarlet fever there were 20 deaths in March; in February there were 12 and in January 9. Of these 20 deaths, 8 were in Winnipeg and 3 in Windsor.

Forty-six deaths from this disease have been recorded in Winnipeg during the last five months.

From diphtheria there was a total of 95 deaths (only 3 more than in February); 44 in Montreal, 14 in Toronto, 9 in Hamilton, 6 in Peterborough, 5 in Winnipeg, 4 in Ottawa and 4 in Hull.

Of the 33 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, 10 were in Ottawa, 6 in Montreal and 6 in Toronto.

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases increased from 186 in February to 210 in March.

The chief increase in the mortality in March was from constitutional and local diseases.