

ing from the chimney was white and thin, being much less dense than that escaping from the chimney of a private dwelling-house. This was owing to the fact that the smoke and empyreumatic fumes, on leaving the destructor, passed through a fume cremator in which they were subjected

to temperature of 1,500° F. The escape of noxious fumes was thus rendered impossible. There are only it appears about thirty destructors, in England, two or three in Canada and only a few in the United States. It is probable the next few years will greatly increase their numbers.

THE DEATHS LAST YEAR IN CANADIAN CITIES AND TOWNS.

MORTUARY statistics point out where are the shoals and rocks, or where they are most numerous, upon which life is prematurely wrecked, and it is then for health boards to learn of the nature of the shoals and rocks and to provide means for removing them, or ways by which they may be avoided in the paths of life

The Abstract of the Returns of Mortuary Statistics for the year 1886, issued by the Department of Agriculture, furnish some valuable facts for reflection and also for action—facts which should not be put aside with indifference, but which should arouse every well-wisher of the country to a desire for some prompt and efficient means for suppressing the high mortality in the cities of the Dominion, which is unmistakeably shown in the above-named returns. The twenty-two cities and towns dealt with in the report of the Department, and which made returns during last year, had an assumed population, as given in the report of 675,674. The number of deaths recorded in these 22 cities and towns was 16,009, or about 24.6 per 1,000 of population.

In the early part of the present year, in an article in this JOURNAL on the mortality in the cities and towns of Canada last year, dealing with 20 of the largest of these, we assumed the population to have been 640,000, and

with this population the recorded deaths gave a mortality of 25 per 1,000 of population. The difference is not great. Cities are liable to estimate their population rather over than under the correct number, and it is well known that all the deaths in a city are not recorded; one now and again will be neglected or overlooked.

In England, in the twenty-eight largest towns, with an estimated population of over 9,000,000, which there make weekly returns to the Registrar-General, there were, during the same year (1886), 189,610 deaths, as shown by the Registrar-General's weekly reports; equal to an annual death-rate of 20.9 per 1,000 of population. With these were included the over-crowded cities, such as Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle. In London the mortality was 19.9.

In our Canadian cities, therefore, the average mortality was 18 per cent. higher than the average of the great cities of England, and 24 per cent. higher than in London, with its 4,000,000 of people. This is really a dreadful showing. There is no natural cause for this abnormal rate. The cause is wholly in the habits and practices of the people, wanting the counteracting influences and effects of a system of sanitation, such as prevails in England.

It is true, it is chiefly in the cities and towns of Quebec and in the Capital