

their old home and nearest relatives in another locality, die in the city, but have their bodies conveyed home for burial? Any one could give instances affirmatively answering this question. Moreover, the statistical or health officers of the city know, and doubtless endeavour to do, their duty, and they know that it is their duty to record or enumerate in the cities' mortality only those deaths which may actually and fairly be considered a part of the mortality of the city. And this holds good as well with regard to the infantile as the adult mortality.

As to the publicity of the facts, the sooner the facts are known and realized and made public the better for all. They cannot be made known publicly in the cities without being known

abroad and every where; for they must be dangled and dangled again and again before the eyes and ears of an apathetic public, and this, too, usually an indefinitely long time, before public action takes place.

'And when will there be some public or official action with the view of preventing a continuance of what is nothing short of a standing disgrace to the country? We would again urge that a public meeting be held at an early day to practically consider this subject and suggest some preventive measures. The Capital would be a most fitting centre in which to make a commencement of work in this cause and stimulate and promote some early official or legislative action.

THE HIGH DEATH-RATE IN SOME CANADIAN CITIES AND ITS CAUSES.

IT need hardly be stated again here, as almost everybody knows it, that the mortality in many of the cities of the Dominion, continues year after year to be shamefully high. There is no doubt whatever about this. The deaths would not be recorded did they not take place, and the population of the cities is usually rather overestimated than under estimated. What is the cause of the high mortality? Briefly, ignorance and poverty—ignorance of the natural laws pertaining to the essentials of health, in this advanced civilization with its effeminating influences on the human constitution and with the herding together of large numbers of persons in unventilated dwellings in the midst of decomposing excrement and its poisonous effluvia.

The poor (and sometimes the rich too) need the gospel of health preached to them—explained to them. Too much is expected from COERCION. Human nature is such that it rebels against coercion, and it is especially so

in people who do not know WHY they are coerced. They want teaching—educating. The mortality of 54 per 1,000 of population per annum in By Ward in Ottawa last year, as it has been shown in this JOURNAL that it was, was not due, except it may have been in exceptional cases, so much to indifference, as to ignorance and actual inability. The causes of the mortality have, through ignorance, been accumulating year after year, until now the people are unable, even did they know how, to remove them. Those not ignorant—the intelligent, and the well-to-do, must help those not able to help themselves. In Ottawa, and elsewhere, if this is not done, when the explosion of an epidemic comes to clean up, as it is sure to come soon or later if the filth is so left to itself, then the intelligent and well-to-do must suffer with the others in the general destruction. At the meeting last month of the British Medical Association, Dr. Drysdale read a paper on "The Influence of