

# Canada Medical Journal.

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## AN HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

The excessive mortality amongst children, which takes place annually during the months of July and August in Montreal, has at length, we are glad to say, aroused the attention of a few philanthropic individuals, and, if we are not mistaken, an Hospital for sick children, is a means which seems to them capable of doing not a little to lessen this really sometimes frightful death rate. Just so long as we have weather which for days sends the thermometer up to the nineties, with sudden falls of thirty and forty degrees—will we have hundreds of cases of cholera infantum, especially among the lower classes—where foul air and an improper diet starts the disease in children whose systems are predisposed to disease from the irritation of dentition. We are constantly asked in the daily newspapers the cause why so many children are cut off during the months we have named, and in truth, perhaps the question is one which is difficult to answer to one's entire satisfaction. The intense heat, with sudden changes, is no doubt one of the primary reasons to inaugurate the disease, but the cause of the excessive mortality is, we believe, to a certain extent, under control. It is perhaps not generally known, but we believe we can assert it as a fact, that hundreds of children die during what we may term the sickly season, without ever having received advice from or being seen by a physician. Their parents are too poor to employ professional assistance, and there is no institution where these little sufferers can be admitted and cared for. Even in cases where professional assistance has been obtained, many cases prove fatal, simply from want of proper care, and the inability of parents to purchase articles essential to sustain life. There is perhaps no disease of infancy and childhood which requires such close watching and prompt treatment, as does that known under the name of cholera infantum, and, as we have already said, many perish simply from a lack of it. Were an Hospital for sick children in existence, how many mothers would gladly avail themselves of it, when