

of the occurrence of infectious diseases, and (2) improved facilities for investigating them.

An act passed at the recent session of the Legislature for the securing of vital statistics will in the future keep the Board well informed on the occurrence of infectious diseases, and we are glad to learn also that recommendations of the Board as to the necessity of improved means of investigation are receiving favorable consideration at the hands of the Government and are likely to be carried out in the near future. We feel confident that with proper facilities for investigation, the sanitary work of the Provincial Board will soon be on a par with that of any other similar organization. At the same time we cannot refrain from calling attention to the necessity of immediate preparation for the great danger which threatens us upon the opening of navigation and it is necessary to make some provision, however imperfect, for commencing work without delay. That the authorization and means for this work will be denied at such a critical time is, we trust, out of the question.

REPORT ON THE SANITARY STATE OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL FOR THE YEAR 1891.

This report has just come to hand and in it we find a great deal that is interesting and not a little that is curious. On the whole it is a most satisfactory report and shows the health of the city to be good. The death rate is lower than in previous years, being 24.24 per thousand, while the birth rate is increasing, there being over 26 births daily, or 43.87 per thousand, nearly double the deaths. Our death rate still exceeds that of London by 2.8 and is less than that of New York by 1.8 per thousand. Of the 5,391 deaths 515 were from phthisis, 332 from pneumonia, and 270 from bronchitis, a total of 1,117 from diseases of the lungs, while diarrhoeal diseases are accountable for 862. The mortality under five years of age was 57.78 per cent. of the whole, and 1296 of the deaths were of infants under six months, truly a terrible commentary on our system of foundling institutions. Some of the people, however, having survived the dangers of infancy, lived to a good old age, 267 being between 70 and 80, 167 between 80 and 90,