

lamentable events of such a noticeable character as the passage of Cholera in a country become self evident. Unfortunately very little has been recorded of the statistics of former epidemics in Canada, and this very little even can only be gathered by the very tedious, imperfect, and not very reliable mode of collecting them from the several newspapers of the time, with the exception of some interesting official reports and papers, which are, however, limited to special points.

If Canada is again visited by the threatening scourge, precautions should be taken that the experience acquired during its prevalence be not lost to science.

Statistics ought to be collected by local Boards and directed to the Central Board. Even the most limited fields of observation are very apt, when brought together, to throw light on a subject of such interest. It has been ascertained in some European countries that the observations made in small localities, when collected by men of real tact, have a particular interest, being generally more accurately made. The officers charged with such labour in large cities are overburdened with work, and not being so well, and often not at all acquainted with the persons and their circumstances cannot sometimes give certain interesting particulars which are so easily ascertained in small places where everything is of public notoriety.

Blanks of a uniform plan should be furnished, to be filled by every clergyman, medical practitioner, hospital official, health officer, sexton and other persons connected with the service of the sick and dead.

The returns of sickness and death ought to contain, as much as possible the following information: the number of cases of real cholera and the number of cases of other diseases, the number of deaths from cholera and the number of deaths from other diseases.

The date of the attack, the date of recovery or date of death, the age of the patient and sex, his profession or trade, his general habits, his nationality, the duration of the ailment.

To these statements might be added any remarks the collector of such statistics could furnish, which would appear to him of any value.

Very interesting and very useful information could also be recorded; the way the cholera was introduced into the locality and the precise moment (if possible) of its appearance and disappearance; what was the dominant sickness before the appearance of Cholera, and whether sickness and mortality from other causes have decreased or increased during the prevalence of the disease, and whether they have kept away or returned back, as the case may be, after the disappearance of the scourge. The apparent effect of certain local influences and of the hygienic conditions on the malady, the description of the measures adopted for the prophylaxy or the mitigation of Cholera and all other information in regard to the sanitary conditions of the locality as a whole and of the dwellings and premises.

It would be very useful to collect thermometrical, and when possible, barometrical and hygrometrical observations made from day to day before, during and after the epidemic. A description of the locality; the quality