

WHY MAKE A SURVEY

I

There does not exist a comprehensive statement of health conditions and facilities for health protection and promotion in Montreal; nor is there a generally accepted programme of constructive health service relating to the development and use of official and voluntary health agencies.

II

The experience of the General Health League shows that conditions of health in Montreal are not as satisfactory as in other North American cities of comparable size.

Examples of this deficiency:-

(a) Higher general death rate; Montreal, 14.12 per 1,000. This is from 1 to 2 points higher than average; with a population of 700,000, it means from 700 to 1,400 lives.

(b) Of 2,000 total deaths from preventable causes under 20 years of age in 1926, at least 1,300 could have been prevented, as shown by experience in other cities.

(c) Diphtheria caused 139 deaths - all preventable;

Tuberculosis caused 954 deaths - at least 50% preventable;

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years, caused 877 deaths - at least 90% preventable;

Infant deaths - 2,521 - rate of 119 per 1,000 infants born; could be reduced by 50 points, meaning the saving of 1,000 infants.

The survey should be made to discover the reasons for this condition.

III

Experience of a Typhoid Fever epidemic indicated a weakness in the health protective machinery of the community. The survey should be made to discover whether or not other organic weaknesses exist.