

CERTIFICATES OF DEATH IN MONTREAL.

On July 1st will be put in force the by-law, which was passed on the 18th May last, concerning the certificates of death and the burial of persons dying in the city of Montreal. The main provisions of the by-law are as follows: No body shall be buried within the limits of the city, the only exception being in regard to the interment in the Roman Catholic churches of the bodies of priests and nuns. The superintendent of every cemetery shall make weekly returns of all persons buried therein. Within twenty-four hours after the death of any person within the city limits, a certificate of death, according to a form which is supplied by the Board of Health, must be deposited in the health department, and in the absence of this the coroner shall investigate the cause of death. No body may be brought into the city nor moved from one place to another within the city limits without a permit from the medical health officer. No body may be received at a cemetery without a certificate from the medical health officer stating that the proper certificate of death has been deposited in the health department.

This by-law gives the Board of Health full power to obtain complete and accurate returns of the mortality and remove many of the difficulties under which they have been labouring. As far as the city goes it requires that the cause of every death must be certified by a medical man, or else it is made the subject of an investigation by the coroner. It does away with all giving of certificates by clergymen or by two or three friends.

This is a long step in the right direction, and we hope soon to see compulsory registration of births as well. At present there is a register for births at the City Hall, but it is not compulsory to make use of it, and if a child is not baptised it is not registered, and consequently has no legal existence. Besides we can never have vaccination properly carried out until all births are registered and vaccination certificates given returnable within three months. It has got to come, and the sooner the better.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held at Buffalo, N. Y., September 15 to 18, 1896. The Executive Committee have selected the following topics for consideration: The pollution of water supplies; the disposal of garbage and refuse; animal diseases and animal food; the nomenclature of diseases and forms of statistics; protective inoculations in infectious