

ally suffered from handling the linen before the boiling process. In the disinfection of apartments, care must be taken to burn the collected dust, and thorough domestic cleansing is neces-

sary, but it is clearly incumbent upon all sanitary authorities to make provision upon a scale adequate to the purpose, to secure steam disinfection in its varied systematic details.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOR DECEMBER.

MORTUARY RETURNS FROM THE TWENTY FOUR CANADIAN CITIES AND TOWNS.

THE mortality returns from the 24 principal cities and towns in Canada, which make monthly reports for the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, for December, as for November, show but a slight increase in the death rate over the previous month; or from 1,218 to 1,249.

The total mortality for the month in these twenty four centres, allowing for the natural increase in the population was about the same as in December, or at the rate of a little over 22 per 1,000 of population per annum.

Of the larger cities, Montreal as usual, returned the highest mortality (as it doubtless gave the highest natality), or about 27 per 1,000 of population per annum. Ottawa returns show a mortality of about 24, and those of Quebec about 23, per 1,000. Toronto and the other larger cities return only a rate of less than 20 per 1,000. Peterborough continues to show a high death rate. During the last quarter of the year the mortality averaged there 23 per 1,000. Diseases classed as "Local" appear to be the chief cause of this.

In Hull the mortality increased from the high rate of November, 37 per 1,000, to 43 per 1,000 in December. A rate of about 13 per 1,000 per annum was from zymotic diseases alone; or more than thrice the average from all the cities and towns.

In Sorel, almost the same high mortality prevailed as in the previous month, 74 per 1,000. While in November the

high rate was chiefly from "Local" diseases, in December it was less from these causes and there were seven deaths recorded as from diphtheria alone, or more than one in every thousand of population, for the month.

We are constrained to repeat what was herein stated in effect last month, that something should be done, by authorities of some sort, to prevent the continuance of this dreadful destruction of human life in Sorel, and which would probably be found to prevail in other places not reporting a record of deaths.

From zymotic diseases, in the twenty four cities and towns there was a slight but not noticeable increase in the mortality; it being in both months a little less than at the rate of 4 per 1,000 of population per annum. In the larger cities, except Ottawa, it was below the average; in the capital it was over 50 per cent. above, or over 6 per 1,000. In London it was even higher, or about 7 per 1,000; and in Peterborough, 9. In Chatham and Sherbrooke it was considerably above the average. In Sorel it was 18, and in Hull, as stated, 13 per 1,000.

There were no deaths recorded from small-pox. From measles there were 6 deaths and from scarlatina 3. From diphtheria there were 110 deaths—in the previous month 97. In Montreal and Quebec there was a decrease in the number of deaths from diphtheria; and also in Ottawa, from 6 to 5. In Toronto there was a slight increase and in