

fatal to the different trades and professions. By analyzing accumulated knowledge of this kind, moreover, the medical statist becomes acquainted with the diseases endemic to the country, and, by employing his knowledge of the physical geography of localities, he may approximately determine the value of physical causes in their origination; he is enabled, also, to arrive at comparatively correct conclusions regarding the relative prevalence and mortality of the same disease at different places; and he can with facility trace the course and effects of epidemics. The politician and public hygienist find it equally serves their purposes. Legislative enactments, of great importance, have been framed and adopted by the Parliament of Great Britain, solely to obviate evils exposed by the columns in the Registrar's Report containing the causes of death. Hygiene and medical police have received an impetus and certainty of direction in England, which it would have been impossible for them to have experienced before the amendment act of Registration of 1 Vict., cap. 22, became law.

In volume 1 of the Census Report of the Canadas for 1851-2, we are told by Mr. Hutton that the whole of the causes of death have been taken in both provinces. The worthy Secretary of the Board of Registration and Statistics has not informed us for how long they have been registered. We know of no law, at present in force, making such registration obligatory; and unless systematic, general and uniform entries have been made throughout the Province, the returns are perfectly valueless, and cannot by any possibility further important ends. To make registration of the causes of death worthy the attention of the philosophic physician and public hygienist—to make it benefit alike the science of medicine and public hygiene, there is wanting, in the first place, a law which shall insist on the causes of every death occurring within the Province being duly recorded, and which shall provide for the proper enregistering of the same. Secondly, a *definite statistical nosology*, printed copies of which should be sent to every physician, coroner, and clergyman in the Province. Thirdly, *regular monthly returns*, from the various registers, should be forwarded to the Central Board of Registration.

The necessity for the second recommendation, a correct and uniform returns be desiderated, is aptly illustrated by the bills of mortality for the city of Montreal, which are being published weekly in our public prints. Early last Spring we interested ourselves very much to obtain for the public, returns of the number of deaths occurring in the city with the fatal diseases. We called on the Mayor, and on one of the most active of the members of the Health Committee, both of them