

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

CANADIAN CITIES.—The total number of deaths recorded for October in the twenty-eight principal cities and towns which make monthly returns to the Department of Agriculture, in Ottawa, was 1,326 : 267 less than in the previous month. For the corresponding month of last year the record was 1,330; with three less making returns, which, with the increase in population, shows the rate of mortality to have been considerably less for October of this year. For October, 1886, however, only 1,216 deaths were recorded in twenty-four cities and towns, or 110 less than in the same period of this year. The total rate of mortality for October, '88, was about 21 per 1,000 of population.

ENGLISH TOWNS.—In the twenty-eight large English towns, including London, which have an estimated population of 9,398,273 persons, there were registered during the four weeks ending Saturday, October 27th, 22,685 births and 14,773 deaths. The annual average rate of mortality was 20·4 per 1,000 of the population. It was 18·2, 20, 21 and 21·8, respectively, in each of the four weeks. In London it was 16·5, 18·7, 20 and 22·8 in the same periods.

IN OTHER CITIES.—The mortality in October was reported as follows:—New York, 23·1; Brooklyn, 19; Philadelphia, 16·1; Washington, 21·5; Boston, 23·8; Paris, 21·59. In September: Berlin, 22·47; 52 German towns, 22·76; Brussels, 20·94; Hamburg, 20·96; St. Petersburg, 23·7; Venice, 17·54; Alexandria, 39·5; Cairo, 47·4; 15 towns in Lower Egypt, 47·2; 12 towns in Upper Egypt, 40·75; Bombay, 29·83. In August: Calcutta, 20·95; Sydney, 15·2; Melbourne, July, 17·83.

THE THIRD QUARTER in English Towns.—During the three months ending September last, 71,121 births were registered in the twenty-eight large towns; equal to an annual rate of 30·4 per 1,000 of population. In the corresponding periods of the three preceding years the birth-rate in these towns was 32·5, 32·8 and 31·9 per 1,000 respectively. The birth-rate in London last quarter was equal to 29·7 per 1,000, while it averaged 30·9 in the twenty-seven provincial towns, and ranged from 22·3 in Huddersfield, 23·8 in Brighton, and 26·7 in Bradford to 37·1 in Preston, 37·3 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 40·7 in Cardiff.

DEATHS : 39,619 registered in the twenty-eight towns during the third quarter; equal to an annual rate of 16·9 per 1,000, against 18·2, 18·7 and 19·6 in the corresponding periods of three years 1885-86-87. In London the rate of mortality was only 16·2 per 1,000, while in the twenty-seven provincial towns it averaged 17·8. The lowest rates in these provincial towns were 12·7 in Bristol, 13·7 in Nottingham, 13·9 in Brighton and 14·3 in Hull. the highest were 20·2 in Bolton, 20·3 in Leeds, 22·4 in Preston and 23·5 in Manchester. During the

quarter 6,346 deaths were referred to the principal zymotic diseases in the twenty-eight towns, equal to an annual rate of 2·71 per 1,000. In the third quarter of the five preceding years the zymotic death-rate in these towns averaged 4·71 per 1,000. The lowest zymotic rates in the twenty-eight towns last quarter were 0·99 in Oldham and 1·13 in Bristol, while they ranged upwards in the other towns to 4·00 in Sheffield, 4·32 in Leicester, 4·43 in Leeds and 5·29 in Preston.

IN ENGLAND AND WALES, during the third quarter of the current year, the deaths of 107,912 persons were registered, equal to an annual rate of 15·0 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This rate was as much as 3·0 per 1,000 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of ten years 1878-87, and was considerably lower than that recorded in the third quarter of any year since the commencement of civil registration in 1837. Among the urban population of the country, estimated at more than eighteen and a quarter millions of persons, the rate of mortality during the quarter under notice was equal to 15·7 per 1,000; in the remaining and chiefly rural population, of about ten and a quarter millions, the rate was only 13·6 per 1,000. These urban and rural rates were considerably below their respective averages for the six preceding corresponding quarters. The rate of mortality among infants under one year, and among persons aged between one and sixty, was considerably below the average.

YELLOW FEVER—A SEVERE LESSON.—The New Orleans Med. and Surg. Journal states that yellow fever has existed in the State of Florida for over a year; "exactly how long or to what an extent will perhaps never be known, since the barbarous plan of concealment has been so generally practiced by every county board of health which has been called upon to deal with the disease. It was prevalent in Jacksonville for days, perhaps weeks, before it was officially announced." The hotel proprietors and traders thought that their business would be injured by the publication of the fact that there were a few cases of yellow fever in the State, so they succeeded in concealing the fact until the sporadic cases had been converted into an epidemic which has, of course, ruined Florida as a health resort for the next decade.

SMALL-POX.—Deaths from this disease abroad, by latest reports received as follows from the Sanitarian: During August: Manchester, 3; Sheffield, 1; Hull, 1; Paris, 7; Havre, 1; Nancy, 1; St. Etienne, 2; Amiens, 7; Lyons, 1; Charleroi, 5; Vienna, 3; Pesth, 1; Prague, 33; Trieste, 13; Warsaw, 20; Bucharest, 5; Cairo, 2. During July: Marseilles, 9. During June: Liege, 2; Moscow, 4; Milan, 4; Genoa, 4; Bologna, 4; Madrid, 6; Algiers, 1; Buenos Ayres, 75.