

human beings would be saved each year. He said it would be desirable that a cure be effected, and that some rational method or plan of sanitation be carried into effect. Not only would health officers have to work arduously against the evil, but citizens would

have to co-operate with them. Ottawa should be the Queen City of health of the Dominion.

We regret that space will not permit us to give a more complete report of the rev. gentleman's admirable address.

### THE ABNORMAL MORTALITY IN CANADIAN CITIES DISCOURSED IN THE PULPIT AND ITS HOPED-FOR RESULTS.

IT is a hopeful symptom, one of approaching change for the better, that the subject of the abnormal death-rate in the Dominion and in the Capital in particular, with the unsanitary removable causes thereof, is being brought prominently before the public from the pulpit of one of the three leading churches of the Capital, in a special discourse, and that in the presence of the Premier, Sir John, himself. It is perhaps half the battle of reform when the public are brought to see the absolute desirability and necessity for it; and from the vigorous manner in which the Rev. Mr. Carson, of the Dominion Methodist Church, on the first Sunday in this month, treated this subject, and graphically placed before his large congregation the disgraceful existing causes of the destruction of human life which surrounds us, it cannot be that any large proportion of the large number who had the privilege of hearing the rev. gentleman were so thick-headed as not to see at once the necessity for reform. "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city and the people not be afraid? Such (Amos vi. 7), was a portion of Mr. Carson's text. Sure enough; shall not the people now be afraid. Will not the calloused apathy of the "dry bones" be "shaken up?" and will not some effort be made to remedy the strong and dark reflection upon our fair city and country?

If anything but strictly fact has been given by Mr. Carson in his pulpit discourse, or in the past in this JOURNAL, in relation to the mortality in the cities of Canada, reflection convinces us that the whole truth has hardly been given: that is, if there are any errors in the figures, the mortality has been and is on the average, even greater than represented.

The actual population of cities is probably always over estimated, from the very natural desire of every citizen to estimate rather over than under the "mark," as relating to the growth, etc., of the city; individuals being in many cases twice counted. On the other hand, with the number of deaths it is quite different. Name and time and place and other circumstance must be given, and if there are any errors, they must be those of omission. Indeed, it is well known that many deaths occur that are never recorded. Much is sometimes attempted to be made by persons who hesitate to believe in the high mortality, and are evidently ashamed of it, of the fact that there are cases brought from the country into the city hospitals, in which death takes place that are enumerated in the death-rate of the city. This, doubtless, not infrequently occurs; but does it not as frequently happen that residents of the city visiting elsewhere die and are buried elsewhere; or, with