

## THE MONTREAL DEATH-RATE FOR LAST MONTH.

We published lately Dr. Carpenter's Memorial to the Council on the city mortality during January and February. He has followed it up by a similar one on the increased rate for March, from which we make the following extract:

The mortality of the city has been steadily increasing, each month, from an average weekly death-rate of 69 in November to 120 in March; the death-rate of children advancing from 42 in November to 84 in March. The interments during the last week of the month were 118, including 82 of children, and 43 from small-pox.

During the past quarter, we have lost nearly 48 living souls each week, as compared with the winter quarter last year. Should the same loss continue through the year, we shall at its close have sacrificed the lives of 2,470 of our citizens on the altar of wilful neglect of the known laws of health.

As the Council have just passed a by-law concerning privies, which will (if faithfully carried out) greatly increase the existing offensiveness of the sewers, it is even more urgent than before that the most practicable plan for ventilating these sewers be at once carried out.

As the approaching warm weather will greatly increase the existing elements of disease, the spring cleansing of the city should be superintended in a far more systematic manner than in former years. The existing staff of medical and police officers may be made far more efficient under proper management, but it cannot be expected that the members of the Board of Health can give as much time to this work as its urgency requires.

Under these circumstances I am authorised to state that a gentleman, long resident in the city, and who deservedly enjoys the respect of all classes of the inhabitants, has offered to give his whole time for three months in organizing the Health Department. The details of his plan will be communicated to the Board of Health, if the Council, at this meeting, think proper to accept his gratuitous services. Although the chairman of the Health Committee is unfortunately absent, the issues of the work are too important to allow even of a week's unnecessary delay.

The following extracts from the "Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts" just published, will be found of important application to our own condition:

"Small-pox has been epidemic in Lowell and Holyoke, but in no other towns. It appeared in Worcester, but was driven out by the vigilance of the health authorities. It tried Springfield, but failed. Boston has been almost entirely exempt. There can be little doubt that it would not have spread in Lowell and Holyoke, had the health authorities acted with more promptness and decision. In these cities are many French Canadians, who are notoriously perverse in refusing vaccination; and when sick with small-pox, conceal, if possible, the nature of their disease. Neither their ignorance nor their foolishness should be allowed to endanger the lives of those among whom they dwell."

"It is impossible for members of the [Boston] City Council to give the time needful for the discharge of such responsible duties as legally belong to them in connection with the public health. They are not chosen with any regard for their fitness to comprehend sanitary questions; and although they command respect for their faithful and gratuitous performance of very onerous labour, it cannot be wondered at that as health guardians of a great city like Boston, they failed."

## THE FIRST OF APRIL SNOW STORM.

If ever poor mortals were mercilessly fooled on the first of April it was this year. After an exceptionally long and stormy winter, that dragged its slow length along month after month, without the slightest perceptible sign of moderation, all hands in "this Canada of ours" began to look forward, as the spring months drew near, to corresponding spring weather. March came in, like a lamb, with a thaw which awoke eager hopes of a speedy disappearance of the snow. But as the month wore on, the weather became more boisterous. Sanguine individuals who had prematurely laid aside their furs and betaken themselves to "spring styles," were fain to don warmer clothing with an imprecation on the clerk of the weather. Householders who had spent time and labour in conforming to the police regulations with respect to the clearance of side-walks, beheld with dismay their handiwork undone by the driving snowstorms. Ship-owners who had advertised their fast-sailing steamships to commence running in the middle of April, hid their diminished heads in confusion and withdrew their advertisements. Then came a day or two of fine weather. Hope once more sprang, eternal as ever, in the human breast; but when the last day of March came, with a blinding, eddying storm, it "bade the world farewell," and men sat themselves down resigned to their fate. When the first of April—that day consecrated to runaway knooks, delusive pocket-books, and "sells" in general—dawned, the spectacle presented was something like that depicted by our artist on the first page. Never since that first of April when Noah let the poor dove out of the ark—only to find that the waters had not abated, and that there was no place whereon it might rest the sole of its foot—never was such a gigantic sell perpetrated.

## OLD CHRIST CHURCH, OTTAWA.

At its present rate of progress Ottawa will soon vie with any city of the Dominion in the matter of architectural adornment, and that too, independently of the Government buildings. New churches in ornate styles, new stores, new dwellings, new bridges, and new institutions of a public character are either being erected, or soon will be, to add to the beauty of the capital and the convenience of its inhabitants. The congregation of Christ Church are now erecting a more spacious and handsome structure than that which up to the beginning of last month had been in use; and on Sunday, the 3rd March last, the Rev. Mr. Lauder preached a "farewell" sermon in the old church, which is being demolished to make room for the new. The scene was one of peculiar interest, especially to the older members of the congregation, and the sermon, which was both appropriate and impressive, has been printed, by request.

The first church was built in 1832, and was consecrated in 1833 by Bishop Stewart of Quebec. The building having become too small, was enlarged in 1841, and a cruciform shape given to it, by the addition of transept and chancel, which were consecrated by Bishop Strachan, of Toronto, on Sunday,

October 8, 1843. The church having been built in the plainest style, became unsuited to the architectural and material progress of the city, consequent upon its becoming the Capital of the Dominion of Canada; and it has therefore been determined by the congregation to erect in its place an edifice of a superior character and better adapted to meet the present requirements of the Church of England in Ottawa. The parish of Christ Church was formerly a mission station, served by the Rev. Mr. Annesley, minister at Hall. The first resident clergyman after it became an independent parish was the Rev. A. H. Burwell, who resigned in 1837. He was succeeded in the same year by the Rev. S. S. Strong, D.D., who resigned October 1, 1857, when the present incumbent, the Rev. J. S. Lauder, M.A., was appointed.

The following lines from the Ottawa Times of the 8th ult. very fully express the sentiment of the "ancients" of the parish. They were written, we believe, by a prominent member of the Civil Service, and have been printed with Rev. Mr. Lauder's sermon; we insert them here as a fitting accompaniment to the illustration of "Old Christ Church."

OTTAWA, 5th March, 1872.

DEAR OLD TIMES—

They are pulling down Old Christ Church. It was not handsome, certainly, but it had memories attached to it which the new one cannot have. I for one cannot help feeling grieved, and perhaps some lines, in which I have tried to give expression to my grief, may find an echo in the heart of more than one old Bytownian; if you think so, you may print them and oblige

Yours most truly,  
JANE.

Farewell old Church, where on my infant brow  
With solemn rite the mystic sign was traced,  
And when my youthful faith renewed the vow,  
On my bowed head confirming hands were placed:  
Where first I shared the Christian feast-divine,  
Christ's flesh the bread, the atoning blood the wine;  
Before whose altar once I stood a bride,  
And where through many a year I knelt in prayer,  
A thoughtful wife, with children by my side,  
And on my Saviour's east my every care;  
Where over our thrilling words were read,  
From latter tower the Sabbath bell o'ring,  
Which when the weary leave this scene of strife,  
Console the living, sanctify the dead,  
And tell of resurrection and of life.

A fairer fate may rise to take thy place,  
Whose broader aisles may own a staidier grace;  
Through pictured windows richer light may stream,  
On moulded architrave and sculptured beam,  
From latter tower the Sabbath bell o'ring,  
By taller choir the swelling anthem sung;  
These will be well—but no new church can be,  
What thou hast been—thou dear old Church to me.

## VIEW FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF UPPER LONG POND, ST. JOHN'S.

Between the two lofty headlands is the entrance to St. John's, Newfoundland, called the Narrows. On the left, against the sea, is the Government House and St. Thomas' Church. On the right is the Colonial Building. In the middle distance, below Government House, is Carpasian, the country seat of Walter Grieve, Esq. Immediately below the Colonial Building is the property and residence of the Hon. J. S. Clift, member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. The building to the right of this, with extensive gable, is the Avon Curling and Skating Rink. Close to it is the Victoria Skating Rink, but hid from view by the residences of Wm. Boyd, Esq., and of Mr. Robinson, of the Surveying Service. The cottage on the extreme right, in the middle distance, is the property and summer residence of Miss Warren. In the lower part of the sketch is Upper Long Pond with its belt of spruce trees.

## THE OLD HOUSE AT THE COTE DES NEIGES.

In the present issue we give an illustration, from the pencil of Mr. Alfred Sandham, of the old house at the Cote des Neiges to which tradition assigns the honour of having been the place wherein the articles of capitulation were signed in 1769. This venerable building is now used as an outhouse by a market gardener! *Sic transit gloria mundi*. Its dumb and dingy walls were silent witnesses to the transfer of half a continent, a hundred years ago; now they enclose potatoes, winter cabbages and "garden sass!" The building is situated a short distance beyond the Cote des Neiges toll-gate, and we have every reason to believe that it has been correctly associated with the historic incident already mentioned.

## THE GORE, KING STREET, HAMILTON, ONT.

In former issues we have had occasion to speak of this attractive little spot in the very centre of the "Ambitious City." With two fountains, a beautiful shrubbery and handsome railing, it forms an admirable breathing place for the citizens. In its immediate neighbourhood, on King and James Streets, some of the principal marts of trade, wholesale and retail, are situated. During the summer time "the Gore" is very much admired by visitors.

## LAUGHING GAS.

Dr. Colton recently lectured in Brooklyn, giving some practical illustrations of the peculiar effects of nitrous oxide or laughing gas, which is composed of a mixture of two parts of nitrogen and one part of oxygen.

Now, said the lecturer, the air we breathe is composed of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon. Any gas that will extinguish fire will not support life; therefore, if oxygen were removed from air we should die. This Dr. Colton illustrated by a couple of jars, in one of which was pure air, and in the other air without oxygen. A number of experiments followed. An ordinary gas burner was lighted, then gradually some laughing gas was applied to the common gas, producing a white and remarkably powerful light, making the gas lights around the room and on the stage appear quite dim. Dr. Colton stated that three miles of piping, for the conveyance of this kind of gas, is down in New York, and in a short time it would be used opposite the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Abroad it had been used some time to light large public buildings, such as the Grand Opera Houses at Paris and Vienna. The lecturer believed that, after a while, it would be introduced into all large cities.

The next part of the exhibition was the inhalation of laughing gas by several ladies and gentlemen who were invited on to the stage by Dr. Colton. Just sufficient was given to exhilarate. Since 1844, Dr. Colton had given the gas to 55,923 persons for dental operations, and none of them had felt the

worse for it. He inhaled a small quantity daily, and felt the better for it. They had removed nineteen teeth from a Brooklyn lady that morning, and she never felt the slightest pain; indeed, she was astonished, when she awoke, to find that her teeth were out. Dr. Colton then gave the gas from a small bag to two or three ladies and ten gentlemen. The first lady danced with ease and even elegance, clutching the Doctor round the waist and making him dance with her. When the effect of the gas was off, she stood in the centre of the stage, looking at the audience, and wondering, apparently, what she had been doing. She ran to the couch and covered her face with her muff. Then a tall gentleman had a try; he was talkative, and said, "You know how it is yourself—delightful! beautiful! delicious!" His speech, however, was cut short by a pitch forward towards the audience, and he did not be for the ropes placed in front of the stage, he would assuredly have fallen over. A small dark man came next; he was pugilistic, and cleared the stage in no time. Then there was a dancer, who threw his legs about as if they did not belong to him, and had a desire to get rid of them; he was most amusing under the influence of the gas, and the audience were convulsed with laughter. A little boy was put to sleep for a minute, and laid out flat upon the stage; he was quite insensible. After this came a young man who snored like a pig while he was taking the gas. He was inclined to make a speech, commencing thus: "Happy—wonderful—worth seven miles of travel—happy don't express it—a little more—would go fifty miles." Other gentlemen took the gas, and the effect was similar.—*Scientific American*.

POISONOUS EXHALATIONS.—Poisonous exhalations from drains are a far greater source of mortality than is generally supposed. Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, no doubt came to his end from such a cause, and the heir "apparent" has just been snatched from the jaws of death, to which extremity he was undoubtedly reduced by breathing the exhalations from a defective drain. If all the guards that are usually thrown about royalty fail to secure immunity from such exposure, what are we to expect in humble life, when from necessity exposure is often knowingly submitted to. Only two or three weeks since the English mail informed us that a large number of operatives in a factory in Preston, England, became suddenly ill, and had to cease work. Several had already died, and others were not expected to recover. An examination showed that they had been working over a defective drain. No doubt the list of mortality is largely swelled by such causes, operating in unknown ways and quarters in every large city in the world, to say nothing of less populous neighbourhoods. It is time that the public was taught to have more regard to such dangerous exposures in less populous neighbourhoods. It is time that the public was better informed with regard to the danger from such exposures, and that more attention was paid to the drainage system of our cities and houses by those who have immediate official authority in such matters. Defective drainage and impure milk, lead to more deaths than any other ten or a dozen causes combined.

THE CAUSE OF WHOOPING-COUGH.—The germ-theory of disease, which some pathologists seek to extend so widely, has been applied by Dr. Letzerich to explain the extremely infectious disease, whooping-cough. He thinks he has discovered a form of fungoid growth which vegetates in the air-passages, and by its irritation causes the convulsive attacks of coughing. The expectorated mucus in patients suffering from this disease is said to contain masses of brownish red spores with occasional threads of mycelium, which in later stages of the disease become very abundant. The spore are coloured blue by iodine and sulphuric acid. These observations were controlled first by cultivation of the spores on pieces of bread soaked in milk, and further, by introducing masses of the fungous growth thus obtained into the trachea of young rabbits. This was effected by tracheotomy, but the animals rapidly recovered from the effects of the operation, and in a short time became affected with a cough of a very violent and noisy character, in fact, a genuine whooping-cough. The rabbits thus affected were killed, and their air-passages and lungs found to contain an enormous quantity of the same fungus as that met with in the sputa from human whooping-cough; and, in fact, the mucus expectorated by the rabbits showed precisely the same appearance.

A WARNING TO THOSE IN THE HABIT OF USING "HAIR RESTORERS."—The painful effects of poisoning by lead are not by any means confined to painters, white lead manufacturers, and others whose trades bring them into constant contact with this deleterious metal. There are some persons whose obstinacy allows them to use it, in cosmetics and hair washes, in spite of the warnings of the medical profession; and the evil is augmented by the fact that such preparations may be used for years without impunity, and the palsy, paralysis, and other effects do not appear till the whole system is thoroughly impregnated. One medical man writes to a contemporary to say that he has one patient who has been paralyzed for nearly three years, her vision is imperfect, and her memory is gone; and another victim to this criminal practice has constant torture in her eyes, and is obliged to stay in a dark room. Many similar cases have been reported; but the practice still continues, and now Dr. J. M. Crocker publishes an account of a man, aged 55, who was afflicted with what appeared to be muscular rheumatism, affecting mainly the deltoid and other muscles of the shoulders. When first visited, he was suffering from pains which he had felt more or less severely for a month or two. Both arms were in this manner crippled. Dr. Crocker ordered cotton batting to affected parts, lemon juice and opiates internally; and the patient made quite a rapid recovery, but when seen in the month following, he was suffering from an almost complete paralysis of extensor muscles of fingers and hands, with dropping of wrists. He could readily and forcibly grasp, but found difficulty in letting go. Subsequently, upon inquiry, it was discovered that for fifteen years he had used a hair restorer made by himself, of three teaspoonfuls of sulphur and two teaspoonfuls of sugar of lead to a pint of water. With this he had drenched his head and scalp as often as once a week. Under use of iodide of potassium and galvanism, he has made a good recovery, the hair dressing having of course been discontinued.

CURE FOR DIPHTHERIA.—A simple treatment of diphtheria may be found in the use of lemon juice. Gargle the throat freely with it, at the same time swallowing a portion, so as to reach all the affected parts.