

this mortality alarmed the Viennese, and that the strictest precautions have been taken.

It is difficult to say how these cases of infection occur in bacteriological laboratories. Perhaps this is a wrong way of putting it, for to the outsider, when it is taken into consideration that each culture made may contain millions of bacteria, it is difficult to understand how it is that any medical bacteriologist remains alive and well, yet as a matter of fact, under the ordinary regulations of the bacteriological laboratory, there is certainly a minimum of danger; bacteria are sedulously kept corked up, and it becomes second nature to destroy or disinfect everything which might hold or convey living pathogenic germs. All over the world the plague bacillus has been and is being studied, not only in the well established laboratories of the big cities, but in temporary laboratory buildings put together anyhow in Hong Kong, Bombay and elsewhere, and this is the first occasion in which any of the workers has succumbed. Possibly the low state of health of the man Barisch may explain the origin of the trouble, but even granting that, there must have been some carelessness in the laboratory, and if the disease was as stated the respiratory form, then some of the bacilli must have been allowed to get free around the laboratory and so into the dust.

Looking backwards, one recalls other cases in which bacteriological investigations have been fraught with danger, but in nearly every case, the victim has been to blame himself for carelessness. The writer of this, has known those who have suffered from Glanders, Anthrax, Tuberculosis, Typhoid, and of cases of Cholera and Diphtheria occurring in laboratory workers directly as the result of their work. Happily such cases are relatively rare, and indeed the dangers of a bacteriological laboratory are less than those of the post mortem room.

THE GARBAGE PROBLRM.

The Municipal Government of Montreal, appears to be perennially passing through a series of crises. Each department seems lacking chiefly in ability to do the one object for which it is presumed to exist. The Health Committee never has money to spend on ordinary sanitary objects, as three-fourths of its revenue is absorbed by the cleaning out of back lanes and destroying garbage which accumulates there. The other sanitary needs of the city appear to be left pretty much to take care of themselves. It may be recalled that some years ago a certain individual who was a city contractor, had the duty of disposing of the garbage. He fulfilled that part of his contract called