

Physicians, Builders, Architects and Artizans, and the only result which has followed the deliberations of that body was the assertion that Montreal was the most unhealthy city on the continent of America. Although we have not fully acknowledged the correctness of the views set forth by that association, yet we freely admit that there is a larger mortality in our city than there should be, and further that under other conditions much of the disease is preventible. To arrive at the causes of our mortality, we have to examine the condition of our people, and more especially that of the labouring classes.

Montreal is built on a series of terraces which gradually rise from the river side to the foot of our mountain, an ascent in the aggregate of over 400 feet. So that as far as drainage is concerned it possesses in this respect every natural requisite. We are not cramped for room, as the island of Montreal is some 35 miles in length, with a depth varying from six to twelve miles, and we are surrounded by the Ottawa River, which is broad, rapid, and in many places of considerable depth. During the past few years the city has grown rapidly, and the capital of our moneyed class is embarked in industry, and factories of all kinds are to be found giving employment to thousands. But if the men of capital have in the proper spirit of enterprise started factories, they have failed to provide the means of properly housing their employees. In consequence of the greater opportunities of getting employment a large number of skilled labourers have been attracted to our city, but finding it difficult to procure dwelling locations at prices within their limited means they are forced to crowd into tenements which have been erected in back yards, where the light of the sun seldom makes its way, and in some instances has never shone, or perhaps in cellars, which were never built for any other purpose than for storing wood or coal, but which are found to be more remunerative to the owners as human habitations.

What is the result? to the operative such a condition of things is sufficiently injurious, but inasmuch as he does not occupy his lodging more than one-third of the natural day and 24 hours, the effects on his constitution are more slow in their development, but equally certain—he eventually breaks down and dies of Phthisis or some other form of disease induced by want of a pure and healthy medium wherein to breathe. To his wife and little ones however such surroundings are more rapidly fatal, and they sink exhausted for the want of the pure air of heaven, which is in such abundance, and has been vouchsafed to us all. But this is not the only source of death and disease in our city, although we believe it to be the chief source of our infant mortality. Take a child