

authorities in the suppression of measles.

From scarlet fever there were 8 deaths recorded in April, and 11 in March. Those in April were in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Kingston.

From diphtheria there was an increase in the number of deaths recorded, from 85 in March to 88 in April. Of these 88, 20 were in Montreal, 24 in Toronto, 15 in Quebec, 5 in Hamilton and 8 in St. John. Halifax, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Kingston, St. Thomas, Guelph, Three Rivers, Chatham, Fredericton and St. Hyacinthe helped to increase the number of deaths from this disease. This is a disease commonly regarded as being more directly associated in its origin with filth than most other epidemic diseases. As an epidemic it is perhaps less easily cut short by isolation than other epidemics.

Thorough cleanliness is the great prophylactic. The mortality from the disease in April was about the same as the average of the previous quarter.

From Typhoid and kindred fevers only 17 deaths were recorded, 6 of these occurred in Montreal and 5 in Toronto.

Only 32 deaths were recorded as from diarrheal affections in April; a decrease from 48 in March. Nearly half of these, or 15, were in Ottawa.

Rheumatism caused 11 deaths in April, an increase of one over March.

During the four first months of the year, ending April 30, there were 5219 deaths recorded in the 22 cities; a mortality of about 25 per 1000 of population per annum.

THE EDITOR.

#### WHAT CONSTITUTES A NUISANCE.

THIS was well laid down by Hon. Leroy Parker, of the State Board of Health of Michigan, in the seventh annual Report of that Board, as follows :

An actionable nuisance is said to be anything wrongfully done or permitted which injures or annoys another in the enjoyment of his legal rights. Every person has the legal right to the fullest enjoyment of his life and health. Anything then, which injures or annoys the public in the enjoyment of life or health is a nuisance which it is the duty of Boards of Health as the guardians of the public health to abate. Any classification of nuisances will be necessarily imperfect, yet for the purposes of this subject it may be said that the public health nuisances are of two kinds :

1. Those which are such from their very nature, which cannot exist in the vicinity of habitation without causing offense to the senses and injury to the health; such, for instance, as exposed and decaying carcasses of dead animals, or accumulations of offal or fecal matter in exposed places.

2. Those which become nuisances by reason of misuse or negligent care exercised or an otherwise harmless and perfectly lawful object, business or occupation as, for example, slaughter houses, rendering establishments, mill ponds or burying grounds.

The methods of procedure to be adopted for the removal of any nuisance will vary according as the nuisance to be abated comes within one or the other of these classifications. If the danger to the public health is imminent, and safety requires the immediate suppression of the nuisance, the Board of Health, or any individual affected thereby, would be protected if they should proceed at once to suppress it, for the safety of the people is the highest law. If any unhealthy nuisance is found in a public place, it would be the duty of the Board to see to its immediate removal. On the other hand, a mill pond, a slaughter house or a burial ground are not necessarily offensive or unhealthy, and their use is perfectly legal. It is only their misuse that makes them a nuisance. A slaughter house may be conducted with such perfect cleanliness as to be no more offensive in a sanitary sense than a planing mill. Whether a business or a thing not in itself a nuisance is so managed or suffered to exist as to be a nuisance, is a fact which must be determined by the courts, upon evidence. A Board of Health cannot decide that to be a nuisance which is not so in itself. Only upon the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction can a Board of Health legally ascertain whether a business is a nuisance, so as to authorize them to abate it. Of course any collection of offal or filth