

convincing, or rather more satisfactory tables, for it is a matter of notoriety that, thanks to the condition under which we live in this Province of Quebec, it is a matter of peculiar difficulty to arrive at even approximately correct vital statistics. The fact that the records of births and deaths are compiled from returns sent in by religious denominations, and that the duty of recording is in the hands of priests and ministers, who, I believe, receive no adequate remuneration for the work,—this fact alone makes the compilation of vital statistics a matter of peculiar difficulty. I might have chosen fuller statistics from such reports as those of Dr. Barry on the Sheffield epidemic, but the facts here given come close home. I refer to what happened in the epidemic of 1885, which was started by cases which came from Chicago in the beginning of that year; whereas in 1881 there had been five deaths from small-pox, none in 1882, one in 1883, and none again in 1884, in 1885 there were no less than 3,164, the average number of small-pox deaths per 1,000, being 18.9, the percentage of small-pox deaths to deaths from all causes being 40.6. Taking now the analysis by religion and race, we arrive at the following very suggestive table:

## MONTREAL.

		FRENCH CATHOLICS.	OTHER CATHOLICS.	PROTESTANTS.	TOTAL.
	Population .....	93,641	29,627	44,223	167,491
1885..	Deaths from all causes..	6,061	877	887	7,825
	Deaths per 1,000.....	64.7	29.6	20.05	46.71
	Deaths from small-pox..	2,887	181	96	3,164
	Deaths per 1,000.....	31.0	6.2	2.1	18.9

We may therefore state that even if now, a century after Jenner's first vaccination, small-pox is not eradicated, the fault does not lie in the incapacity of the process to prevent the disease, but in the incapacity of legislators and peoples to recognize its beneficent effects. It may to enthusiasts appear to be a serious assault upon the liberties of the subject to compel him and his offspring to undergo inoculation with vaccine lymph. But when his neglect to be vaccinated leads surely to the continuance of the disease and to the possibility of disease and death or disfigurement being propagated sooner or later in his neighbourhood, then assuredly the government as representing the nation has a full right to legislate for the safety of the nation as against the personal predilections of the individual. We, here in