

QUEBEC MEDICAL NEWS

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Special efforts are being made in Montreal at the present time to secure a purer milk supply during the coming summer than there has been for years past. Special visits have already been made, and will again be made, to dairies in the vicinity of Montreal, for the purpose of inaugurating inspections that will lead to the usual milk supply being more satisfactory. A member of the Hygiene Committee is to bring a drastic proposal before the city council. It is to the effect that stations should be established in different parts of the city which will be in charge of the corporation, where milk cans, when empty, can be sterilized. Such a custom is being inaugurated in New York and other cities in the United States.

It is contended by the aldermen in question that the milk supply of the city can never be properly safeguarded until there is a civic cleansing of the cans. It is shown that there are very few farmers who have at their disposal the proper outfit for sterilizing cans. The contention is that such stations would cost but a trifle to operate, while the greatest of good would accrue from them. Figures have been compiled, showing that the city has a most unsatisfactory death rate among infants during summer months. There are weeks in summer when as many as one hundred and fifty infants pass away. How large this mortality is can be judged from the fact that the total average weekly mortality among all classes and ages should not be higher than one hundred and twenty. In this connection an amendment to the by-law concerning milk inspection is to be taken into consideration. It reads as follows: "No person shall sell, or offer for sale, or have in his possession for sale, in the city, adulterated or unwholesome milk, or milk produced from diseased cows, or cows fed upon substances deleterious to the quality of milk, or milk being the vehicle of contagion or infection, whether the source of contagion be animal or human subjects, or milk, the quality of which shall not come up to the following standard: three and a quarter per cent. butter fat and twelve per cent. of total solids, and a specific gravity of from 1029 to 1053 at a temperature of 60° Fahrenheit."

The Provincial Board of Health is also active in Montreal matters, and recently sent to the city council a strong letter of protest against the erection of unhealthy buildings. The communication, which is as follows, shows that in many new buildings there are what is termed "dark" rooms, which do not allow the entrance of a ray of sunlight: "The Provincial Board of Health calls your attention to the number of