

CANADA

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THE HEALTH OF MONTREAL.

We have received the Annual Report of Dr. Larocque, the Health Officer of the City of Montreal, for the past year. It is an important document, and contains a number of suggestions which should command the careful consideration of the Board of Health. Several things are pointed out in which the working of the department has not been satisfactory. These might well be remedied, and from our failures other cities might learn something to their own advantage. The Report gives first a short historical sketch of the various changes that have been made in the composition of the Board of Health from the time that two health officers were first appointed in 1870. The writer is of opinion that increasing attention has been given of late years to this important branch of the public service. In proof of this he says: "We observe that whenever serious interest has been taken in the affairs of the Board of Health, economy has invariably followed. In 1876 the expenses of the Board amounted to \$25,000; in 1877, to \$17,000; in 1878, to \$11,000; and in 1879, to only \$10,450." We can hardly believe that pure *economy* and extra attention of the members has effected such a large saving. We should rather attribute the greatly diminished expenditure to the sweeping reduction in the appropriations which have been made in all the civic departments.

It is satisfactory to find that vaccination is being fairly well looked after by the district officers acting under the Board, and more than this, that there is every reason to believe that the supply of vaccine is well kept up and of excellent quality. The