

VACCINATION.

The City of Montreal grants free vaccination to all who may desire it. For this purpose there have been since 1887 three public vaccinators, one assigned to the eastern, one to the central and one to the western division of the city. These practitioners serve the public at their office in the City Hall every day between 9 and 10, at their residences three nights a week between 6 and 8, and at the houses of citizens in response to special calls. The sanitary officers, in making their rounds, ask if the children have been vaccinated and where they discover this has not been the case, such children are reported to one of the public vaccinators who calls and makes the operation. In 1897, the schools were all visited and the students examined and several thousands were vaccinated. It is our intention to have this repeated next October. The lack of registration of births is a drawback to this work, since it is difficult to obtain a proper list of new born children. The right of the city to enforce vaccination has also been questioned. Though, I believe, the Provincial Board of Health may compel vaccination, it is by no means established that the local board has such powers, consequently if parents refuse the public vaccinator we do not press the case.

LABORATORY WORK.

In addition to other duties, Dr. J. E. Laberge, the physician in charge at the Civic Hospital, acts as civic bacteriologist. He has a small laboratory on the third floor of the City Hall, where he spends some time daily. He examines samples of milk brought in by the milk inspectors and also makes cultures from time to time to discover the presence of contagious disease germs. As his laboratory is very inadequately furnished with appliances and as he is able to be there but a very limited period, no effort is made towards the public analysis of food stuffs. I understand that in Paris there is an immense department devoted to such work. It certainly seems necessary for us to have a chemical and bacteriological laboratory, well furnished, with at least, one competent man giving his whole time to its work. But it is extremely difficult to bring the Council to sanction such an expense. Can you not help us?

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

The civic committee on hygiene is also in charge of the statistical work at the City Hall. It is empowered to tabulate the mortuary returns, and has recently received from the Legislature certain powers, not yet put into effect by by-laws, to facilitate the collection of data regarding births as well.

It is the desire of our committee to secure from Council at a later date an appropriation that will permit of the taking of a complete civil