

2nd. During paving inspection and nuisance removal, 1856-61.	28 per 1000
3rd. After the addition of water supply and during main drainage, 1862-65.	26 per 1000
4th. While drainage of houses was being effected, 7 years, 1866-72.	25 per 1000

Owing to epidemics of small-pox in '72, enteric fever '73, and contagious fevers '74, it rose to 27 per thousand.

It must be observed that, though these epidemics prevailed, the death rate was 6 per thousand less under such unfavorable circumstances, being a saving of 600 people annually in a population of 100,000.

The report further shews what under favorable conditions was the death-rate of two districts, Glendale and Rothbury, in which for 30 years, from 1840-71, the annual mortality was at the low average of 15 per thousand. In Rothbury a third of the population is employed in healthy occupations connected with agriculture. The district of Rothbury contains several large parishes. That of Alvington, with a population of 1,200, had a death-rate of 7.5 per thousand, and in 1874 only six deaths were registered, or a rate of only 5 per 1,000. In 1871, the birth-rate was 32.4, and only two deaths under one year occurred. True, these are very exceptional cases, and it may not be within the bounds of possibility to effect the same results, generally; they, however, demonstrate that these are disturbing elements which should be more or less eliminated by wise regulations.

We will bring to your notice one more fact, and that connected with Montreal, the largest city in our Dominion. According to the returns made in his excellent report by Dr. Larocque, the death-rate of that city during 7 years, 1872-8, averaged 34 per one thousand. And if there is no reason why Montreal should necessarily have a death-rate so much above other cities, then we must conclude that 1300 lives are annually sacrificed to ignorance and indifference on the part of some one.*

* The number of deaths in Montreal has been and still is large, and commented upon by Dr. Larocque, whose experience is similar to that quoted from Bowditch.

"A former physician of Boston used to say that Boston could be kept free from small-pox, if it were not for Maine immigrants. This assertion, though not strictly true, illustrates the utter inability of a State to defend itself in case one adjacent to it fails of its duty in regard to vaccination.

It is not necessary to accumulate facts for the information of this Association. Its members are sufficiently acquainted with the details of this subject. It is sufficient to say that the number of deaths which arise from imperfect knowledge of hygiene or a violation of its teachings, and which might be prevented by the introduction of wise and suitable laws, cannot be less than 10,000 annually, and I consider this to be a low estimate.

This undue mortality does not arise in our cities only, where people are crowded, and the causes of disease intensified, but will be found to exist in the country districts. Any one conversant with the habits and mode of life of our rural population, and the disregard of the conditions of health, will readily acknowledge this.

We would consider a drain of 10,000, from our country to swell the productive forces of another people as something to be deplored, something to be strongly commented upon by our guardians of the press or in politics, and yet there is little heed given to the fact that this number annually die in our midst unnecessarily, and to our public detriment; nor is this all: we must add to the loss from diminished numbers that which arises from a large amount of disease which should not exist, were it not for the depressing agencies at work.

The study of hygiene is not and should not be confined to one profession, though we are supposed to be, *par excellence*, the guardians of the public health, but should form a part of the general education of the people; and, as the regulations necessary to ensure hygienic conditions must proceed from the body politic, ignorance there will defeat any attempt to introduce compulsory rules, and we must first educate our law-makers to secure a thorough foundation for the general good.

When we take into consideration the subjects discussed in our Legislatures, the time devoted to maintain the rights of citizens in the smallest matters; when we calculate the relative cost and value of such debates (and we do not condemn

I see no remedy for this, save a National Act for compulsory vaccination." Cent. Add. p. 73.

"Of small-pox, which in the commencement of the centennial period (1776) spread like wildfire, carrying panic intolerable with it, we may say that only the folly of individual men, and utter neglect on the part of the State, or, as in Canada at the present time, the frenzy of bigotry and of base ignorance alone prevent us from extirpating the disgusting disease from the face of our portion of the earth."—Centennial Address, p. 93.