

"be interred, any dead body therein, without having first received a certificate, stating "the name, apparent age, birth place, date and place of death, and the disease of which "he or she shall have died, signed by the attending physician; or in case no physician "shall have attended such deceased person, then by some (member) of the family of the "deceased; or in case of an inquest having been held, by the coroner; which certificate "shall be deposited with the return in the office of the City Inspector."

I believe the Bye-Laws of our Corporation have a similar provision as the above. It is, however, not carried out. No attempt has been made to collect reliable information on this important subject, except, during the existence of epidemic cholera. As at present collected the returns are useless, as touching the causes of death, inasmuch as the information is obtained alone from the friends of the deceased. I think there can be little doubt, but, that the profession generally would cheerfully comply with a sanatory regulation which would ultimately tend to so much good; however, if not, the Corporation have the power of legislation, and enforcing, under a heavy penalty, compliance on their part. In England a most accurate system of registration has been carried out for many years, and correct and reliable returns are published annually. These have been of the greatest use to sanatory reformers, as they are enabled thereby to advance facts borne out by the average of a long series of years. Is it too much to ask a similar enactment for the United Canadas? Let us in our infancy as a country, profit by the experience of our respected and venerable parent. But in the absence of a general law, it becomes the duty of our city authorities to insist on a fair, and reliable system of registration of these matters, and follow in the footsteps of all the first cities in the civilized world.

In the subjoined tables the returns from the Protestant and Roman Catholic Cemeteries are given separately. This has been done to render them more complete when compared with the return of the Census Commission of our city.

The months of greatest mortality among the Protestants were July and August. Among Catholics, June and July; there were fewest deaths among Protestants in November and December; among Catholics in February and November.

A special column has been devoted to the Sœurs Grises, or Grey Nun Foundling Hospital. During the year there were 454 deaths of infants, returned from that institution. It can hardly be supposed that Montreal offers so large a number of illegitimate births annually. I will refer again to this subject in the course of this paper.

*Small Pox.*—Deaths from this cause occurred in 154 cases. Of these 23 were Protestants; 131 Catholics: of the former 18 were under 8 years of age, the greatest mortality occurring in the St. Ann's and St. Mary's Wards. Of the latter 121 were under 8 years, the largest number of deaths being in the St. Antoine, St. James's and St. Mary's Wards.

We may presume that the rate of mortality under this heading has not been great.

In the Montreal General Hospital, 62 cases of Small Pox are reported for the year 1860, amongst whom were two deaths. If we take the rate at 4 per cent. we would have 3850 cases of the disease—the largest proportion being among infants or young children. I speak from personal observation, as, for every