

The only object I can conceive of depends upon the fact that there is a fee for disinfecting, which must be paid by the agents of the ship; at least I was so informed by one of the officers of the ship.

Small-pox in New York.—This disease has lingered for some months in New York. There having been five cases in the last fortnight. The foregoing accounts of the quarantine methods lead to the conclusion that there is every probability that it will continue to be present as long as immigrants can pass practically uninspected. Dr. Baker, recently mentioned how scarlatina is imported from Europe, but New York has at present enough without any importations.

OUTBREAKS IN CANADA.

A return contained in a recent report made to the Provincial Board by the committee on epidemics shows for nine months ending Sept. 30th.:

Total Returns.	Returns showing Diphtheria and Typhoid	Returns showing Diphtheria only.	Returns showing Typhoid only.	Total Cases of Diphtheria	Total Cases of Typhoid.	Deaths from Diphtheria.	Deaths from Typhoid.	Municipalities supplying Blanks to Physicians.	Municipalities having compulsory notifications.	Special measures for isolation and disinfection.
353	18	503	331	1883	864	88	135	101	90	118

Table showing the number of cases of Diphtheria and Typhoid that have occurred in the under mentioned cities for the first nine months of 1887, along with number of deaths, deaths per 1000, etc.:

	DIPHTHERIA.				TYPHOID				Proportion.
	No. of cases of Diphtheria.	No. of Deaths from Diphtheria.	No. of cases per 1000 from Diphtheria.	No. of deaths per 1000 from Diphtheria.	No. of cases of Typhoid.	No. of Deaths from Typhoid.	No. of cases per 1000 from Typhoid.	No. of Deaths per 1000 from Typhoid.	
Toronto ..	428	156	3.39	1.23	127	41	1.00	.32	127/169
Hamilton...	134	15	3.11	.34	47	3	1.09	.07	43,080
Guelph ...	46	2	4.38	.19	16	1	.95	.09	10,506
St. Thomas	30	4	3.92	.38	1	1	.09	.09	10,271
Stratford ..	3	3	.33	.33	3	1	.33	.11	9,069
London ..	60	19	2.26	.71	5	3	.18	.11	26,569
Brantford ..	63	8	4.83	.61	92	4	7.06	.38	26,560
Kingston....	18	1			14	3			13,021

Some interesting facts grow out of these tables. Assuming that the returns of health are correct in each instance, we gather the following facts regard-

ing rate per cent. of mortality compared with cases reported:—

	Mortality from Diphtheria.	Mortality from Typhoid.
Total Reports for Province...	26%	15%
Toronto.....	36%	32%
Hamilton.....	10%	6%
Guelph	4%	9%
St. Thomas...	11%	—
Stratford.....	100%	334%
London	33%	69%
Brantford	11%	5%
Kingston.....	5%	21%

The questions that the physician first asks are these, so great differences in the types of diseases in Toronto for instance and Hamilton as to cause in the first instance 1.73 deaths per 1000 from diphtheria and 32 per 1000 from Typhoid, and in the other only .34 deaths per 1000 and .07 per 1000, while the number of cases reported bears nearly the same relations to the population; or secondly, is the average skill of the Toronto practitioner so limited as to make possible a death rate of 36% in diphtheria and 32% from typhoid? As we trust such cannot be the case the only alternative remaining is to suppose that the notification of disease is but imperfectly enforced. That this is the more probable fact is seen in comparing Hamilton and London. Thus, while Hamilton reports of diphtheria one case for nearly every 3000 of population, London reports one case for only every 4400, yet London's mortality per 1000 is more than double that of Hamilton. Similarly, Brantford shows one case reported for about every 2000 of population, yet her mortality is less than that of London, and but half that of Toronto.

Assuming therefore similar severity and similar medical skill everywhere, the fact stands out in plain figures that those places as Hamilton where almost perfect notification is carried out the death rate is small in proportion. Stratford interests as by showing how nominal may be the work performed by a local Board, when the cases are all swallowed up by deaths. Can anyone doubt the economic advantages of thorough public health work after the comparison of results. We congratulate some of our local Boards and their officers on the splendid showing of practical work done.

Brantford's total death-rate for 1887 is calculated at 16.25 per 1000.

Hamilton's total death-rate for 1887 is given at 17.02 per 1000.

Guelph's death-rate is 15.14 per 1000.