

Canada Health Journal,

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

Specially designed for medical and other health officers, heads of families and all interested in promoting the public health. The only Health Journal published in Canada.

Communications solicited on all sanitary subjects. Local health officers would confer a favor by sending copies of their reports, brief notices of local sanitary condition, improvements, or events in any way connected with health.

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EDITOR'S SPECIAL CORNER.

THE Season for the use of some artificial means of ventilation is at hand. Windows cannot be any longer fully opened as in warm weather. As we have repeatedly stated, provide a way for the removal of the foul or breathed air of a dwelling and the great difficulty is over. The pure, fresh air will find its way into any room where a certain degree of vacuity is caused by the withdrawal of the inner air. The best and simplest means for removing the air from a room is to have an opening made through the upper part of a wall into a warmed chimney flue, or an opening into a warm stove pipe will answer the purpose well. A flaming taper, or even a lighted match will show how strong a current passes out through such opening. It is but a simple thing to provide an opening in either of the ways indicated, and the foundation of much and severe illness may be thereby prevented or avoided.

HEATING is closely allied to ventilation. The practise of warming rooms by means of coils or a series of pipes filled with steam or hot water in the rooms is a bad one, unless special means for ventilation be provided, which is rarely the case. It is much the better way, as recommended by the best authorities, to have air warmed by a furnace in the basement or elsewhere and conveyed into the rooms by means of large tin pipes, with

"registers." We would strongly recommend our readers not to use those furnaces which do not warm a good supply of air for the rooms, but instead supply hot water and steam in pipes to the rooms. The ventilation is rarely if ever so good as by the hot air furnace, which must be provided with water for keeping the air from getting too dry.

WHERE stoves are used for warming, the "fire on the hearth" stove, manufacturer's chief agency being at 76 Beekman st., New York city, is the best we know of for suitably warming a room. We have used one over two years and it gives great comfort and satisfaction. It is somewhat like one stove inside of another, the cool air from the floor being constantly drawn in below, is warmed, and escapes through a grating at the top, thus keeping up a constant circulation of the atmosphere of the room.

THERE are now in Canada 5,000,000 or more of people. Measures have been taken to find out the numbers of the inhabitants. But about the vital stamina of these people little is known. We do not know how many are born, nor how many die in a year. We do not know anything definite in regard to the longevity of the people, whether 100,000 of the births sustain on the average a population, between 20 and 40 years of age, of 61,000 persons, as is found to be the case in England, or whether they only sustain an average of 39,000 adult persons, between the ages of 20 and 40, as in some cities of England. This is a question of much consequence, which a Government ought to be able to answer. With a system of vital and mortuary statistics, the question could be answered, this knowledge would then be readily obtainable. Such a system is now much needed in Canada.

MR. GRAY, chairman of the Montreal Board of Health, writes that we have placed the population of Montreal too low—160,000—in our mortuary table, and states that it is now 175,000. We observe that in the last (1885) annual report of the department on mortuary statistics just issued, the population is placed at 150,000. This and our estimation is based on the increase during the last decennium—1871-81. It is quite possible the increase in some of the cities has been proportionately greater during the present decade. We are much pleased to learn of the large increase in Montreal. But are not civic authorities very liable to over-estimate their population?