

less than fifty-two miles of sewers have been constructed. Surely, if properly trapped and flushed, these should constitute a powerful factor in diminishing the mortality.

The Board of Health of the Province of Quebec, a very efficient body, organized some years ago by the Local Government, report an average mortality in the whole Province for the two years 1889 and 1890 of 26 per 1000. By comparison with the United States and England this is a bad showing, the former being only 18 per 1000, the latter 19 per 1000. The report from which I quote makes the statement that there are 152 parishes (being one-fourth of the total number), the average mortality of which exceeds 30 per 1000. For country places this is simply appalling. The Board attempts to explain these enormous figures as follows: "We do not hesitate to say that this mortality is due to the unhealthy state of the greater number of the cities and country-places (bad drainage, bad water supply, defective ventilation, etc.), but chiefly to the spreading of contagious diseases, against which no care is taken. Taking diphtheria for instance, we have ascertained by declarations from the clergy and by reports on hand that in 1890 no less than four thousand persons succumbed to this disease; for 1889 the figures are still higher. Add to these, deaths due to typhoid and scarlet fevers, croup, measles, and all other contagious and preventable diseases, and you may have an idea of the enormous number of lives that might have been saved if the means suggested by hygiene and experience had been made use of—*i.e.*, proper improvement of unhealthy localities and dwellings, and, in regard to contagious diseases, the notification, isolation, and disinfection such as required by the present by-laws." In another part of this admirable report reference is made to the aid expected from the medical profession. It points out how incumbent it is on physicians, "in every case of contagious disease to which they are called, to see that the necessary notification is made, and that the other prescriptions of the by-laws, *viz.*, isolation, quarantine, disinfection, etc., are strictly observed." The report charges the Protestant population with having no regular and systematic registration of births and deaths, and hence it