

lation at the same rate, for the past four years, that is to say from the last decennial census, as was noticed to occur during the ten years next before 1871, which according to Dr. L., would yield in the aggregate 132,000. Now herein lies the fallacy. From 1861 to 1871, the city of Montreal increased in population by 27,542. This, at the same ratio of increase would yield a present population of 128,881 souls. The past four years have been unpropitious for the growth of our city, inasmuch as there has been very considerable financial distress, and a large number of operatives have been forced to leave the city in consequence of the closure of many of our factories. We merely allude to these facts to show how utterly absurd it is to deal in inflation. The 148,000 of the English report is torture to the very last degree, the other report is, at least, more modest in its assumption, and far nearer the truth. Dr. Larocque alludes to the sad falling off of Paris, and he informs us on the authority of Dr. Brochard, that for the year 1875, the deaths exceeded the births by some 5,000.

The population of France is at the present day increasing at a lower rate than any other European nation. From 1871 to '75 it has been calculated that France would double its population in 1,380 years. Germany in the same period would double its population in 98 years; Austria, in 62 years; Denmark, in 73 years; Great Britain, in 63 years; Norway, in 51 years; and our Canadian fellow-countrymen in about 48 years. If, indeed, the French Canadian adopted more thoroughly than he does a strict sanitary code, in all his relations of life, we believe he would double his population in a much shorter space of time than above indicated, as they are a hardy, frugal temperate race, and long lived.

We have thus far gone into the fallacies of these reports, we will now turn to what is to ourselves a far more pleasing task, and note what is commendable. In criticising these reports, in all fairness, we must admit that the health officers have had very poor and unreliable records to work upon. We want to call attention to the fact that Mr. Alderman McCord's circular to the Protestant clergy brought forth a record of eighty-four births