

tion, as is found to prevail among the population of Connaught and other parts of Ireland. Inoculation is regarded by many with more favor, as the Bill brought forward in the House by the Hon. Mr. Belleau, and published in our present number, sufficiently evidences. To those two causes then—prejudice against vaccination, and the practice of innoculation—we are, in a great measure, indebted for the continual presence of small pox amongst us. By the passing of the Bill mentioned above, a remedy has been provided for one of the existing evils. And we trust that the next meeting of Parliament may not be allowed to pass over, without something being done to remove the remaining and principal evil. *Vaccination must be made compulsory by legislative enactment, if we are ever to rid the country of this repulsive disease.*

The question may here be asked,—What proofs have you that the mortality from small pox, as compared to the mortality from all diseases in Canada, is in the proportion of 10 to 1000? We admit the difficulty of the question. The want of a complete system of registration in the Province, makes it impossible to obtain returns of the whole number of deaths from small pox or any other disease. We think sufficient information may be gleaned, however, by patient and careful enquiry, to enable us to arrive at satisfactory conclusions on the subject.

The corporation of Montreal, some years ago, had printed forms struck off and sent to the different medical men of the city, on which, among other things, the disease of which the patient died was to be recorded. Bills of mortality were made out, by Dr. Hall, from those records, and published in the "British American Journal." The poverty of the corporation in 1848, was the excuse offered for refusing the paltry sum necessary, to keep up this very important registration. As the city funds are in a flourishing condition at present, we hope the Health Committee will recommend the appropriation of a sum sufficient to pay for the printing of similar forms, to be distributed, as before, among the Physicians of Montreal. By an examination of these bills, we find that, from December, 1846, to March, 1848, inclusive, there occurred, in the city of Montreal, 5,811 deaths from all causes; whilst during the same period, there were 87 deaths from small pox. Thus, then, the mortality from small pox, as compared with the mortality from all diseases, for two years and three months, proves to be 15 to every 1000. And if we were to deduct the 1462 deaths which took place in June, July and August of 1847, during which three months typhus fever was epidemic, the proportion would be much greater.

For the last year small pox has been epidemic in Montreal. The only source from which we could obtain information regarding its fatality, was the register of deaths kept in the Seminary. The books were kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Sancer. This gentleman, who makes the