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**AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPILATION OF
VITAL STATISTICS.**

We have received from the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health a copy of the new act, by which the compilation of vital statistics is placed in the hands of that Board and not, as formerly, in charge of the Municipal Boards.

In conformity with this law the Provincial Board of Health began, with the 1st of July 1893, the collection of vital statistics in the 846 municipalities of the Province.

The important point in this law of statistics is to require that before any burial is allowed, a certificate signed by the physician who attended the deceased and establishing the cause of death be furnished to the person entrusted with the registers of civil status (the clergyman). When no physician has been called two credible citizens or the clergyman give a certificate establishing, to the best of their knowledge, the cause of death.

These certificates, which will be forwarded monthly to the Provincial Board of Health, will be a source of precious information for the Board. They will show what localities of the Province have the highest death rate, which diseases have caused a heavy mortality in certain places and not in others, which are the diseases prevailing in certain districts, which seasons are most fatal, what ages and sexes suffer most, and what are the professions mostly affected, etc.

These statistical data the Provincial Board will study, with the result that often it may be able to indicate to municipalities the remedy which would reduce their death rate, which in some cases is enormous. (Fifteen municipalities had a death rate of over 50 per 1,000 inhabitants during the year 1890.)