

THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOR OCTOBER.

MORTUARY RETURNS FROM TWENTY-FIVE CANADIAN CITIES AND TOWNS.

TWENTY-FIVE of the principal cities and towns in Canada which make monthly returns of deaths to the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa show a record for October of 1,330 deaths, or 120 less than in September. The returns from Kingston, however, for October have not been received. The rate of mortality for the month in the twenty-five cities and towns was about 24 per 1,000 of population per annum. In the previous month the rate was 25 per 1,000.

In Montreal, the rate of mortality in October was about the same as in September—30 per 1,000 of population per annum. In Toronto, it fell from 20 in September to 19.4 in October; in Quebec, from 30 to less than 25; and in Hamilton from 20 to 16. In Halifax and Ottawa the mortality increased from 20 per 1,000 in September to 22 in October.

From zymotic diseases the total mortality in the twenty-five places fell about 25 per cent.; or from a record of 390 in September to 293 in October.

In Ottawa, however, the mortality from this class showed a large increase in October as compared with September, and the total increase in the mor-

talidity from all causes in this city was owing to this increase in the rate from zymotic diseases. In all the other large cities there was in October a decrease in the mortality from zymotics.

From diarrhæal diseases the total number of deaths recorded fell from 192 in September to 56 in October.

From diphtheria the record increased from 103 in September to 138 in October; or over 33 per cent. This was owing to a very large increase in Montreal in the mortality from this disease in October. And while there was one more death in Ottawa in October than in September from this cause, there was in all the other large cities a decrease from the same in that period.

From typhoid fever in the same period the record decreased from 70 fatalities to 65. In Toronto, however, the record increased from 9 in September to 20 in October; while in Montreal it decreased from 26 to 19.

The total mortality in October in the twenty-five cities and towns receded to a considerably lower point than that of June and to about the same as that of May.

THE Chief Quarantine Officer of the Dominion, Dr. Montizambert, was highly complimented at the recent meeting in Memphis of the American Health Association, by one of the speakers, in a discussion.

WANT OF THE HOUR.—So the British Whig, (Kingston) heads an editorial, and after referring to the prevalence of typhoid fever and a well known and common cause of it—sewer gas in dwellings—says, "The public health commands the first thought of our legislators, and to guard against that which injures we have inspectors of food and milk, tobacco and liquors

and gas, of factories and steamboats and railroads. . . . The law is not yet comprehensive enough. It does not provide for the appointment of inspectors of buildings, and the clothing of them with power to insist upon the construction of houses substantially and with a regard for hygiene. . . . Men have been startled occasionally by the outbreak of severe epidemics, but when the panic has subsided they continue in the old tracks and lay the foundation for a new eruption of disease." We want more articles of this sort in the popular press.