

of our city health officer, Dr. Laberge, and in view of the alleged tendency of doctors to differ, it is satisfactory to know that the Medico-Chirurgical Society, the Société de Médecine Pratique and Alliance Médicale all arrived independently at precisely the same conclusion in the matter. Unfortunately it was not found possible to obtain an amendment to the city charter at this session of the Legislature.

There are, we understand, certain technical ecclesiastical difficulties in the matter of registering deaths at the health office, but these should be surmounted, and the power to issue burial permits vested solely in the health office, which should first apply to the proper legal authorities, if there is any suspicion of crime, or if the certificate is irregular.

As a fine instance of what a law on death certification should *not* be, we append the clause of our present city charter, which works so well that the medical health officer usually hears of the death about a week after the body has been buried.

A copy of Title XV., clause 17, from the charter of the city of Montreal, gives the following powers to the City Council :

“ To compel the superintendent of any cemetery in the city, or in any of the adjoining municipalities, to make and deliver to the corporation regular returns of all persons buried in such cemetery ; to regulate the manner and form in which such returns may be made ; to exact that in all cases of death occurring in the city, the attending physician, or, in his absence, a member or friend of the family, shall, within such time and under such penalty as the Council may determine, furnish to such superintendent a certificate, signed by such physician, member, or friend, stating the name, surnames, age, birth-place, date, place of death, and the nature of the disease ; and also to provide such other means of obtaining correct and reliable information in reference to the mortality and its causes, as the Council may deem necessary.”

The moral of which is—save us from our friends !