

Canada Medical Journal.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1866.

We give below some very interesting details of the prevalence of epidemic cholera in Paris, during the past four months; and however much may be said of the severity of the disease, it does appear that the Parisians have suffered very lightly, when it is recorded that, during the existence of the epidemic, from the 15th September to the 15th January, or 122 days, 6388 deaths only have occurred in the Department of the Seine—this, in a population of over two and a half millions of inhabitants, gives an average of two deaths per day among 100,000 inhabitants. If we take as an average 120,000 inhabitants for our city, and suppose that the epidemic, if it does prevail during the coming summer, should remain four months, it follows that, with a like mortality, we must lose something less than 300 inhabitants by the scourge. This is all too many; but still it is a cheerful prospect, inasmuch as our mortality, taking as an example the experience of former epidemics, was somewhere in the neighbourhood of eight times as many. The corporation of our city have at last decided on the appointment of a health officer, and we do hope that no narrow-minded policy will be adopted, either in the appointment to be made, or the work to be done. The services of the very best man should be secured, and his action should be untrammelled; no interference of the Health Committee should for one moment be permitted. The health officer, to be of use to the community, must be a person of sound judgment, untiring exertion, and his will should be law in all things appertaining to the department over which he should preside. If the health officer is to be the paid officer of the Health Committee—to be their servant, to do as he is told, go where he is sent, and act in all things under instruction of the Health Committee, then we say his usefulness will be rendered nugatory, and the benefit to the city of no effect. We believe in the necessity of a house-to-house visitation. No man should be spared—be he land owner or tenant, city father or employé. Let all be placed under the ban if necessity requires it; and not alone by imposing