

ARTICLE XIII.—*On the Relative Value of Human Life in Different Parts of Canada.* BY PHILIP P. CARPENTER, B.A.

(For the Canadian Naturalist.)

While the naturalists and geologists of the Royal Mount throw light on each other's studies in reference to extinct Palliobranchi-ates or recent Gasteropods, it may not be out of the province of this Journal to record facts in reference to living men and women; and those who would have been living had not the teachings of modern science been disregarded, or considered as of secondary importance to the pursuit of money or of power.

The exact connection between those sanitary conditions over which man has control, and the actual number of deaths in any town or district, is no longer a matter of hypothesis. The very accurate system of registration of births and deaths which has been carried out in England for more than 20 years, and of which classified returns are regularly published by the Registrar-general, has enabled chemists, physiologists, statisticians and other sanitary reformers to compare their theories with recorded facts, and to check off their reasonings, by the average of a long series of years. The following instance will shew the precision with which sanitary reformers can now predicate the rate of mortality according to the external circumstances of drainage, ventilation, &c. While Mr. P. H. Holland was registrar of the southern portion of Manchester (called Chorlton-upon-Medlock) he went through each district, tabulating each street, court, &c., in three columns, judging by his senses and knowledge what their rate of mortality was likely to be. In each street he also made a threefold division of the houses, according to their character. Here therefore were *nine* divisions, to each of which he assigned a *supposed* proportion of deaths to population. He then directed his clerk to tabulate the *actual* deaths in each of these divisions, taking the average of five years. On comparing the theory and the facts together, *in no case did they vary more than one-half per cent.* The following are the results, omitting the fractions:—

Deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in	Best houses.	Middling houses.	Worst houses.
Best streets	19	22	27
Middling streets	18	26	28
Worst streets	28	40

Thus the inhabitants of the best houses, in the best streets, live