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SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES.

The shortcomings of the Montreal Health Department have been strikingly brought out by a recent outbreak of typhoid fever among the customers of a certain milkman resident near the city, and who supplied about sixty families in Montreal. Within the space of three months nearly thirty cases, three of which proved fatal, developed among his customers.

In November, 1892, two severe cases of typhoid fever, one of them fatal, occurred in a family on Bishop street. As the two persons affected were the only members of the family who drank milk, the suspicion of the attending physician was naturally directed to the milk supply as the probable means of infection. The City Health Department were promptly notified on November 14th, both of the occurrence of the cases and the suspicion about the milk, and were called upon to investigate and take steps to prevent the disease from spreading. In spite of this plain warning the Health Department made no investigation, and remained in unruffled tranquillity while case after case appeared among the families supplied with this milk. It must be admitted, however, that the Montreal Health Office was not aware for some time of the extent of the outbreak, owing to the fact that many of the cases were not officially reported by the medical men attending them. On February 15th, 1892, although over twenty cases existed, only six had been reported at the Health Office! As the health officers rely for their information about the occurrence of infectious diseases on the physicians in attendance, it is the plain duty of every medical man attending a