

tion of the sanitary condition of the city. The effect of the existence of epidemic disease amongst us, which is not to be denied, has acted most injuriously on the trade of Montreal. It should be the aim of every good citizen to endeavor to aid the authorities in the many needed improvements, and we feel confident that the Mayor will exercise a spirit of determined will in carrying out necessary reforms.

Our late Mayor deserves the thanks of his fellow citizens, for the firm manner in which he insisted on establishing a small-pox hospital, and although there were those who questioned his right to act in the premises, his action has been fully endorsed by public opinion. We trust our present Mayor will, in like manner, ignore any childish babbling in respect to needful measures, and assume responsibility in enforcing improvements which have reference to the general sanitary weal. We give below an extract from His Worship's speech, (taken from the GAZETTE) which we commend to the serious consideration of all.

If, in conclusion, we find that the mortality in certain unhealthy and overcrowded courts, or in certain crowded districts of this city, rises to 40, 50, 60 or 70 per 1000, and that in other more open, airy and well ventilated localities the rate of death falls to 10 or 20 per 1,000, what is the inference? Were it possible to obtain those data, some surprising and startling facts would be obtained. There are too many persons living in the houses for the size and cubic space afforded. But not only is individual overcrowding a cause of disease and death. Persons acquire property, perhaps large enough on which to build an ordinary house, but on this property they place several tenement houses, and instead of having breathing space in the rear, they erect a second row of houses as tenements, when even a wood shed would be considered too much; in some places there are rows of houses three stories high, with a second row of the same height not fifteen feet apart. The system of covering every available space with tenements, which become so many centres of disease, should not be allowed, and the only way would be that the erection of houses with insufficient means of ingress for pure air, should vitiate any contract between landlord and tenant, and deprive the former of any legal right to collect rent as certainly as would a defective roof, or looped and windowed raggedness. While other cities share in this overcrowding and stifling, they must yield to this in its pre-eminence in small-pox. Montreal seems to be the nidus of that loathsome malady. While efforts are being made, on the one side to stamp it out by means of vaccination, re-vaccination and isolation—measures which the scientific world are united in recommending—vaccination is not practised among a considerable portion of the inhabitants, and isolation