

to the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa, was at the rate of 21 per 1,000 of population. If we estimate on the population as given by the respective municipalities which we believe will be found too high, and really is far beyond the proportionate increase of the previous decade as shown by the census returns. But even with this population, over 870,000, the death rate was over twenty per cent. higher than that of great and over-crowded London, where it was in the same period of time, 1889, but 17.4 per 1000. This means that, if the mortality throughout Canada is as high as it is in these cities and towns,—and medical men believe that it is so—if the mortality here could be reduced to the rate prevailing in London, there would be a saving in this Dominion of about 25,000 lives every year.

LEAD POISONING appears to be becoming a thing of frequent occurrence. The sources of it are various. The most common one seems to be the ginger ale. In Great Britain the lead pipes for conveying public water supplies are apparently becoming a common source of the poison. The Montreal Medical Journal says:—"We have already called the attention of the public to the large number of cases of lead poisoning. During the last summer a great deal of the ginger ale sold in the city contained lead in poisonous quantities, and we have every day patients in the General Hospital who have been poisoned in factories." Surely it is somebody's duty to take means to prevent such a serious state of matters. Or is it with our present sanitary system everybody's duty and hence nobody's?

A NEW SOURCE of the power of water to dissolve lead in leaden pipes appears likely to be cleared up. The British Medical Journal says:—"The fact that in recent years the water supplied to many towns has for some reason come to possess the power of dissolving lead to an extent sufficient to produce widespread prevalence of lead-poisoning among consumers is a serious matter. Dr. Kirker found that the power of certain samples of water to dissolve lead was directly proportional to the number of micro-organisms which they respectively contained. Upon this hypothesis the acid reaction which renders water capable of dissolving lead may be due, not to sulphuric acid derived from a pyritous soil, but to the chemical products of

bacterial action. When shall we have some substitute for leaden water pipes?

THE CRUEL ANALYST is very inconvenient to some people. Since the expose relative to the poisonous baking powders in use in the Dominion, interested parties have been put to great inconvenience in endeavoring to show that the use of alum should not be condemned. But as stated in the last bulletin of the Dominion Analysts Department: It is enough to state that the use of alum in bread-making is prohibited in most countries where food adulteration laws have been enacted, and that alumina is not to be found in any species of food or drink used by man. Analyses of samples of cream of tartar have recently been made at the laboratory of the Department. Of 86 samples examined, 52 were found genuine, the rest being more or less adulterated. Cream of tartar from a reliable druggist is safest. We would again strongly urge upon our readers to have their baking powder prepared under their own supervision in accordance with the proportions for an "Ideal Baking Powder" as given by the chief analyst and explained in this JOURNAL of September last (page 173, vol. 11).

ACCORDING to the last report of the Massachusetts State Board of Health, "The Cruel Analyst" has shown that "Whiskol," a non-alcoholic cure for the drink habit, contained on analysis 28.2 p.c. by volume, of alcohol. "On a broad whiskey basis," as Artemus Ward would put it. Harriet Hubbard Ayer's Vita Nuova consists of a strongly fortified wine *plus* cocain, while the Recamier Cream Balm contains mercury, probably in the form of corrosive sublimate. The Seven Sutherland Sisters' Hair and Scalp Cleaner, is simply a mixture of borax and soap, and their Hair Grower a diluted mixture of bay rum, and possibly some Hamamelis and Spanish flies.

AMERICAN evaporated apples after repeated chemical examinations in Germany, have been found to be poisonous; Zinc—poisonous in very small quantities—having been found to such an extent in the samples, that all such fruit was ordered to be destroyed, and a decree issued forbidding future importations unless accompanied by a chemist's certificate that each lot was free from injurious substance. The zinc found appeared to be from the zinc-coated or "galvan-