

THE DEATHS REGISTERED IN 1879.

On other pages is a table showing the returns of deaths in Ontario for 1879 ; for which we are indebted to the Registrar-General's Department. A few townships have not yet sent in their returns. There will be a slight increase in the returns of 1879 as compared with 1878. Of the 39 Counties, 19 show an increase in their returns, and 20 show a decrease. Of the 9 cities, however, 6 give an increase and 3 a decrease ; giving a total increase from the cities, over 1878, of 84 deaths.

It should be observed that the decrease in the returns of deaths is chiefly from the Counties of York (329) Stormont, Dundas, and Glengary, (united 139) and Northumberland and Durham, (united 89) ; while Wellington, Muskoka, and Oxford show a considerable falling off. The decrease in many of the Counties is very small ; as in four of them it is only one each. The increases are much more uniform.

OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There is considerable improvement in giving the causes of death. During several years a large number had been registered as dying from "old age," many of these at less than 70 years of age. It was a very convenient cause to give. In 1878, 1722 were registered under this head ; while last year only 1204 were so registered. In 1878, 1210 were registered under the head of Infantile debility, a very unsatisfactory cause to give for a death ; in 1879, only 210 were thus registered. Convulsions is another unsatisfactory cause to give, and is properly only a symptom of several diseases. In 1878, 454 were so registered ; last year, only 255. We have on several occasions in this JOURNAL drawn attention to the objections of this loose method of registering a death. The report of the Registrar-General too has taken strong exceptions to it during the past three years. We are pleased to see the improvement and trust it may continue.

There were in 1879 the usual large number of deaths from consumption, 1992 ; just two less than in 1878.

Consumption is a preventable disease, and this appalling death-rate which shows probably only about two-thirds of the actual number, for the returns are not complete, might be largely reduced by the proper administration of public health laws, if there were some system in the province for such administration ; as there is in our educational system and other less important matters. The education of