

Q.—Although this is not in your line, could you tell us, in that case, what is the workingman's position, and what he can do to have his house set in order? A.—For repairs, our by-laws are adequate. When there is anything wrong in the drains, for instance, notice is given the landlord to make repairs, within eight days, in pursuance of the law, but as to leaving the house, the workingman, like every other citizen, must avail himself of the usual procedure. There is, for instance, this trouble that we have to deal with. When there is a question of separating a private sewer from the public sewer, architects differ in opinion. Up to date, the law has not determined whether they should be separated or not, and it is on this ground that we must reach some definite rule in order to lay down a general law.

Q.—But in the event of your inspector finding a flaw, which comes under the city by-law, is there a penalty against the landlord to force him to put the house in order? A.—Of course.

Q.—What is your view on the most of workmen's dwellings? Are they generally in fitting sanitary condition? A.—If you speak generally, I fancy we can set down the majority of these houses as being in a proper state.

Q.—There is great mortality among children in Montreal, is there not? A.—There is a mortality of sixteen in the thousand, at least for last year, among children under five years.

Q.—And what is the total mortality? A.—The total mortality is seven and twenty in the thousand.

Q.—One of the commissioners is desirous of knowing whether the percentage of deaths among children, as you declare, comprises deaths in the hospitals? A.—Yes; it comprises the deaths of foundlings and those that die in hospital.

Q.—Are you not of opinion that this high death-rate is partly due to the bad hygienic condition of the houses? A.—It is very hard to answer that question—perhaps the hardest of all points to unravel. Experts are making researches into the causes of this mortality, but there is no doubt that the defective state of the dwellings should be reckoned for a percentage. I hold that the poverty of the working classes and their large number of children are perhaps the two leading causes of this death-rate.

Q.—Have you noticed whether the mortality is greater among those who get small wages than among those who are better in respect of fortune? A.—I could not answer that question without consulting special figures on the point.

Q.—Could you supply us with mortuary statistics by wards? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—I believe these are found in the official reports of the city, are they not? A.—Yes; I could give you the statistics by wards.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Are there many water closets in the city? A.—By a relevé made by my inspector last year, we found that there were ten thousand.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—What was the object of the corporation in taking the taxes off the water-closets? A.—The object was to get rid of the privies.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—How far, as a rule, from the houses, are these water closets? A.—The law is very defective on this point. The law provides that they should be three feet from the neighbor's house, but it does not provide how far this should be from the owner's house itself, and it happens sometimes that we have a privy close to the tenant's house. That is one of the first defects of the law which we are now correcting.

Q.—Do you not believe that the mortality among children is in great part due to that fact? A.—We have a great deal of mortality from diarrhoea, and it seems, by the report of the physicians, who have studied the question, that mortality from