

1.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

From its inception in 1893, the Local Council interested itself in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the city, and took steps to diminish infant mortality by the education of mothers and by efforts to secure a supply of pure milk. Mme. Thibaudeau and Mrs. Learmont of the Hygiene Committee were the first of several most efficient conveners of the Hygienic Committee. In 1884, Mme. Thibaudeau read a paper upon "Woman's Work in Hospitals," and introduced the question of the necessity of studying means to prevent disease.

During the season 1895-96, much of the most important work of the Local Council was done with a view to the preservation of child life. Health cards suitable for wall-hangings were prepared and distributed freely. They gave, in brief, directions for the care of infants in health and in sickness. The health officer assisted, and permitted the cards to be issued with his approval. Arrangements were also made with the leading booksellers for the sale of the pamphlets of the Ladies' Sanitary Association of Great Britain.

Health talks in French and English were given in different quarters of the city. The subjects of the former were "Hygiène de la première enfance," "Hygiène de l'enfant malade," and "Alimentation de l'enfant." The English talks were upon "Diet and Dress," "The Care of Infants," and "The Care of the Sick." The lectures upon the care of infants were illustrated by a trained nurse with a baby.

In 1896-97 and 1898-99 the health talks were continued, four series being given in different centres. The President of the Provincial Board of Health, the City Health Officers, the School Boards and the clergy co-operated with the Hygiene Committee of the Local Council in carrying them out. The attendance at the lectures varied from 200 to 700 women, all of whom received health cards. As a result of these successful lectures in 1897, Mr. J. W. Perrault, one of the Directors of the Scientific Conferences given daily in the Monument Nationale, organized daily health talks to women under the patronage of the Local Council.

From the first, tuberculosis, food-supplies and dress were discussed, but the greatest stress was placed upon the care and feeding of infants.

The winter of 1899-1900 was made memorable by a very large public meeting in the High School, at which the Local Council and its friends were addressed upon various topics, including tuberculosis, pure milk and the feeding of children. The health talks were continued as before but with even greater success. Nearly 1,000 people attended the English and over 2,600 the French talks.