

SANITARY MATTERS IN MONTREAL.

Dr. LaRocque, Public Health officer, Montreal, informs us that sanitary matters are steadily progressing there. They are waiting the adoption of a code of health by-laws to enable them to carry out sanitary improvements, he writes :

“Two very respectable tenants were much annoyed by a most horrid stench exhaling from under their basement floor. A young person aged 16 years was threatened with cerebro-spinal meningitis. The stench was caused by impregnation from the contents of an undrained privy-vault used by four families. The vault is of wood, clay bottom. The privy could easily be removed into a shed on a back lane ; but we have no laws as yet to meet such cases.

“Here is another case showing the worthless value of some of our by-laws. From St. Lawrence to St. Dennis streets the main sewer is not at a sufficient depth to drain the cellars, which are a cause of diseases. One family has lost within two years four children by bronchial affections and fever. Another proprietor, whose children have all been sick with measles and fevers, one having died a week ago, tells me that he will have to sell his house at a great loss. Notwithstanding all these evils, we have no power to have the sewers constricted ; the law requiring the consent of the majority of the proprietors. A petition was in vain presented to be signed—only a few would sign. Buildings in the suburbs are constructed contrary to all sanitary rules, in the most barbarous way, best calculated to kill people. We have provided against all those abuses in our sanitary code.”

A Committee on Vital Statistics has been appointed by the Health Association, which, Dr. LaRocque says, is wishing the people in Toronto “would adopt a similar plan in order that we might unite in carrying out our views,”—that is with regard to the Governments.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF MICHIGAN, for the year ending Sept. 30, 1874.

The subjects of the contained pages are the following : “Entailments of Alcohol,” by H. O. Hitchcock, M.P., President of the Board ; “Draining for Health,” by H. F. Lyster, M.D. ; “Injuries and Adulteration in Table Syrups ;” “Resuscitation of the Drowned ;” “Poisonous Wall-paper, and Sanitary Inspection of Certain State Institutions,” by Prof. R. C. Kedzie ; and the “Relation of Schools to Health,” by the Rev. J. S. Goodman, Superintendent Schools.