

it is estimated that within another decade it will have nearly doubled. As you have passed to and fro in our streets you will doubtless have been much interested with the permanent pavement which has been laid during the past three years. One is apt to look on this sort of thing as a simple adornment or luxury, but to us it has a greater interest as a sanitary measure. It has now been demonstrated conclusively that the introduction of the permanent pavements (especially of the asphalt kind) has had much to do with lowering the sick lists and death rates of the great cities of London, Berlin and Vienna. What greater desideratum than to have animal excrement and other decomposing matter removed almost hourly from the streets during the hot season in our climate. Then when the snow has disappeared in the spring and left a refuse accumulation of months, it is satisfactory to know that this can be entirely removed over some miles of the most populous sections of the city. Our energetic City Surveyor informs me that of the one hundred and thirty-three miles of roadway which he supervises, seventeen miles will have been paved by the end of the present year, and that before three years more have passed upwards of forty miles of our streets will have been permanently covered, chiefly with asphalt. Thus in some districts will the microbe-bearing mud and dust become things of the past.

The high death-rate for which this city was notorious has decreased considerably in the past year or two. In fact, since the famous epidemic of 1885, when over three thousand of our population succumbed to small-pox, we have been becoming more healthy as a city. Nothing short of a plague will arouse some city authorities to a sense of their duty. Dr. Laberge, our very efficient and obliging Health Officer, has kindly furnished me with the following complete and interesting report of the birth-rate and death-rate per thousand of the population, as well as the number of deaths from zymotic and other diseases during the past five years:—