

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM DR. LAROCQUE, HEALTH OFFICER OF MONTREAL.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—At your request I give you with great pleasure a synopsis of what has been done in Montreal towards the organization of a Board of Health since I had the honor of being appointed one of the health officers in 1869. I shall also say a word on what has been done by the Federal and Provincial Legislatures in relation to public health matters, especially to sanitary legislation. The first year of office was employed in visiting, and in making to the Board of Health reports containing suggestions to ameliorate the sanitary state of the city; vital statistics were also compiled and published. During that year the health officers were not present at the meetings, either of the Health Committee or Board of Health. When Judge Coursol came into office, being apprised of that fact, he gave instructions to the City Clerk to have the health officers present at the meetings of the Board of Health. To that time there was no special health department; all sanitary business was transacted in the Central Police Station. An application was made to the Local Government, and acquiesced in, for the use of part of the building now occupied by the Health Department.

The duty of the Sanitary Police consists in visiting yards, privies, cellars, lanes, &c., &c. They daily record their work in books. Complaints received at the department are entered in a book, and attended to by the Sanitary Police. Public vaccination has been performed at the office three times a week. The object was to institute arm to arm vaccination, had the children been brought in greater number. Statistical tables are compiled from the weekly death-lists received from the Catholic and Protestant Cemeteries.

We must say that from want of power the many suggestions included in the different reports of the health officers were not