

interest in sanitary reform. The Government of the country has as yet done very little, and we fear this appalling death rate will still continue for years to come, until the public is taught by legislative enactment and otherwise to regard the non-violation of the laws of health as a sacred duty. The deaths from preventable diseases form a very large proportion of the whole number, and cannot fail to impress the most casual observer of the great necessity that exists for legislative action on a matter of such vital interest to the welfare of the nation.

The average age reached by members of different occupations may be of some interest. The average age of farmers was about 62, that of their wives 52, clergyman 61, physicians 53, lawyers 50, making an average by the three professions of 55; masons, shoemakers, tailors and carpenters averaged 55 years. The report concludes with an appendix on the weather and health of Toronto, Kingston and Stratford. The death rate per 1,000 in Toronto was 23.6, Kingston 17.2, and Stratford 9.2. The latter appears very low, and it is presumed that the registration there has not been as perfect as it should be.

REPORT ON THE MENTAL CONDITION OF PASSANANTE.—The Italian Commissioners in lunacy appointed to examine into the mental condition of Passanante, report that the plea of insanity is invalid, there being no evidence of any mental disease in the would-be regicide. The report shows that the commissioners have given him a most careful and thorough examination, having gone over every phase of his life, and tested every side of his physical and psychical organism, such as the measurement of the cranium; his psychical relations, as perception, ideation, memory, judgment; his sentiments, as vanity, affective sentiments, religious sentiments, moral sentiments; his will, speech, handwriting, physiognomy, demeanour; general and special sensibility (examined by Webers compass), response to electricity; dynamometry; functions of vegetative life, as the action of the heart, respirations, temperature, condition of liver, spleen, alimentary canal, amount of sleep etc., etc. We have no doubt that this in some measure accounts for the respect which is paid by the bench and bar of Italy, to the opinion of the medico-psychologist.

THE TORONTO UNIVERSITY.—In another column we publish a letter from a graduate of Toronto University in reference to certain restrictions lately adopted by the Senate of this University in regard to the admission of candidates for honors in medicine. We agree in the main with the views expressed by our correspondent, but we have every confidence that in a short time the restrictions complained of will be removed. It must be perfectly clear already to the framers of these restrictive regulations that they are not only useless for the purpose intended, but also exceedingly vexatious, and calculated to excite opposition and unfriendly criticism. Such restrictions are unworthy of a place on the statutes of a National University.

In the recent appointment of the Medical Examining Board, the Senate is to be congratulated on its liberality, and its anxious desire to appoint the best and most experienced men available, without reference to any particular school, or schools, and this action cannot fail to be fully appreciated by all who desire to uphold the national character of the University. We look upon this as a hopeful sign for the future of the Toronto University.

CÆSARIAN SECTION.—A case is recorded in *Le Progres Medical*, January 1879, in which the operation of Cæsarion section was performed ten minutes after the death of the mother, and a living child extracted. The mother was a manufacturer of hats, and lived constantly exposed to mercurial fumes. She had reached the seventh month of gestation when she was attacked with intra-peritoneal hemorrhage, from which she died. After death the child was found upon auscultation to be living, although the pulsations were feeble. The abdomen was immediately opened, when large quantities of blood and serum escaped. Artificial respiration had to be resorted to, and was continued an hour and a half before the child began to breathe.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.—Dr. Wm. Farr, whose name has been so long connected with the work of this department, is a candidate for the appointment of Registrar-General, which becomes vacant at the end of the present year, by the resignation of Major Graham. The London *Lancet* comes out strongly in support of