one hundred years ago. This is certainly a reflection on our advanced civilization and one calculated to bring a blush of shame to the thinking members of our Local Legislature. Certainly, an act emanating from the House of Commons and operative throughout the Dominion is what is needed ; failing to obtain such a measure we will have to put up with the next best thing. There are many matters of general interest connected with vital statistics which demand legislative action, because without an act of Parliament, local Boards of Health are powerless. They may be able to point out what ought to be done and how to do it ; but how are they to enforce their suggestions. For instance, it is proved by scientific observation that a fruitful source of disease and death is over-crowding. This, we think, is so self evident that it does not require the additional force of scientific investigation to demonstrate. Is it not open to all men to note the amazing difference between the death rate of large cities and rural districts ? When we see in large cities an annual mortality ranging between thirty-five and forty per thousand of the inhabitants, and at the same time in the contiguous country parishes the death rate sinking to from seven to fifteen per thousand we should surely seek for a cause. Should we not take advantage of the experience of other communities ? When it is known that in as large a city as London, the annual death rate a few years ago was over forty per thousand of its inhabitants, and that by the judicious enactments of sanitary reforms the mortality has been reduced one half, should we not endeavour to follow in a like course and with earnest perseverance seek to obtain the powers to compel by law, and carry out measures which would tell on our numerical strength in the course of a quarter of a century. Why should there be in Canada " a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning ?" Why should we be compelled to weep for our children, and refuse to be comforted because they are not ? Have we in our own hands the remedy ?