

THE BIRTH-RATE declined to about 30 per per 1,000 last year in England and Wales. It has steadily declined since 1876. when it was 38 per 1,000. The amount of emigration from each division of the United Kingdom showed a considerable further decline from that recorded in 1888 and 1889.

THE FRENCH capital, like the greater part of the rest of Europe, has suffered severely from the recent Arctic weather. Frost set in on November 26th, and lasted without intermission till January 21st. In the third week after the beginning of the cold weather, the death-rate rose above the average for the time of the year. The greater mortality was entirely due to diseases of the respiratory organs. On the other hand, the effect of the thaw on the death-rate was immediate, the mortality falling at once.

IN CANADA, after the census, soon to be commenced, we shall be enabled to estimate the mortality in our cities and towns in a much more satisfactory manner than has been possible in recent years with such discrepancies in the reports as to the population of the various places. So unsatisfactory was the result of the effort to estimate the rates that we gave up the effort entirely for the time. But last year's record shows, according to the estimated population, that the mortality here was much higher than in England and Wales, or as stated in the JOURNAL of January, about 21.5 per 1,000.

BY ACCIDENT—without, usually *from want of foresight*—569 deaths were brought about in 1889, in the twenty-nine principal cities and towns in Canada, according to the special bulletin issued from the vital statistics branch of the Department of Agriculture here, and as largely noticed by the press,—569 sudden, violent deaths, mostly from want of care, and forethought ! If "everybody" were familiar with the ready method for restoring the apparently drowned, many of the 102 cases of death from drowning would doubtless have been saved. Stringent legal measures relative to the labelling of poisons might have saved many of the 26 deaths from "accidental" poisoning. While a heavy tax on revolvers and guns might have prevented the deaths from the "I didn't know it was loaded" cause.

THE SUFFOCATION of nearly one hundred infants in the the twenty-nine cities and towns of

Canada in 1889, as shown by the special bulletin sheet above mentioned, did not create quite such a feeling of honor as would have been the case had they all been suddenly suffocated together, in a mine, for example. Yet why should it not ? Is the calamity lessened by the fact that they were killed one at a time and place ? What an inconsistent "public" mankind make up ; especially in all things concerning health and life.

THE LATEST on the "Koch cure" is somewhat as follows : At a recent meeting of the Faris Societe de Dermatologie (Brit. Med. Jr., Sup. Feb. 21st), M. Besnier, as the senior member of the committee appointed to study the effect of Koch's treatment at the Hopital St. Louis, presented the first report of 50 cases, mostly of lupus, treated by the committee. He says, "In not one of the patients inoculated have we obtained a result superior, or even equal, to that which we should have got by our ordinary methods of treatment in the same space of time. The action, he declares to be insufficient to effect a cure in the immense majority of cases. The remedy cannot produce its effect without causing systematic disturbance, which may be dangerous or even fatal. It may further quicken into mischievous activity tuberculous foci which till then were latent, and might but for it have remained so."

DR. GEO. T. ROSS, Prof. of Physiology, University of Bishop's College, Montreal, who has just returned from Berlin, in a paper recently read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, said "Koch's method was born of reason, of logical deduction ; it must be nurtured and developed and applied likewise, if it shall prove a permanent beneficence. While we have a most potent ally to the forces which modern medicine has not unsuccessfully marshalled against consumption in the past—viz., fresh air, exercise, diet and hydrotherapy—we must still depend upon these for establishing that resistance to the disease which they have so often afforded us in coping with it.

AT LAST Toronto has appointed a Medical Officer, at about half pay. Well, possibly if good results follow the efforts of the new man the honorarium may grow—slowly, doubtless, at best. Dr. Pyne who had been so long acting officer was hardly well treated, and it appears withdrew from the "contest." Dr. Allen will have