

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOR FEBRUARY.

THE total record of deaths in February in the twenty-six cities and towns in Canada which make monthly returns to the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa was 1,325, or less by 140 deaths than the record for January.

February being a short month usually returns a smaller total record of deaths than January, although the rate of mortality may even then be higher in February than in January. This year the record for last month was proportionately lower than usual; indicating a comparatively satisfactory state of the public health.

In almost every one of the cities and towns the total record and the record for each particular class of disease was proportionately considerably lower in February than in January.

Scarlet fever is the only disease from which the record shows an increase in mortality over the previous month. Halifax returned four deaths from this cause and Winnipeg seven.

From diphtheria the total record of deaths fell from 150 in January to 92 in February.

From typhoid fever there were only 17 deaths in February; a fall from 24 in January. Of these 17 deaths, four were in Ottawa, three in Montreal, two in Toronto and two in Quebec.

The total record of deaths from zymotic diseases fell from 260 in January to 186 in February. While therefore the total record from all causes, as stated, was 140 less in February than in January, the record from zymotics alone was 74 less.

From constitutional diseases the decline in the mortality was less proportionately than from any other class of diseases.

Compared with February 1887, last month's mortality was not so satisfactory; there having been, in the same twenty-six cities and towns, 170 more deaths last month than in February 1887; an increase of fifteen per cent.; far beyond the proportionate increase of population.

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AN ice pitcher is needed in which water may be readily cooled by putting ice in close contact with the water instead of in it.