

of the Dominion, among the Roman Catholic population, that the abnormal mortality prevails. But it must be remembered that it is in these places that there is the largest birth-rate (and invariably where the birth-rate is high the mortality is high), and also that the system of registration of deaths through the clergy in connection with the church is the most perfect.

Of the large cities, Quebec records the highest mortality; Ottawa next; then Montreal; with Toronto fourth.

If the mortality as recorded in the "Queen" city, Toronto, were reduced to that of Great London, nearly 200 premature deaths would be prevented there—nearly 200 lives saved—every year. While if the mortality in this much smaller city were reduced to the same rate, nearly 300 lives would be saved in the Capital yearly.

When will the people, when will our Legislatures, adopt some practical preventive measure?

MILK STANDARDS.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN.

ON the 27th of May last, at a meeting in Ottawa of the public analysts of the Dominion, a very important movement was made in the form of a resolution carried in favor of collecting and analysing a number of samples of whole milk from the various districts in the Dominion, with a view to establishing milk standards and limits. In accordance with this, on the 2nd of June following, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue issued a circular to the Collectors at Halifax, N. S., St. John, N. B., Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, instructing them to cause the collection of such samples. They were taken, not from retailers, but from one complete milking of herds with not less than four cows giving milk, kept in the city or its neighborhood. The public analyst accompanied the collector of the samples, and both were instructed to see the cows milked out and the whole milking well mixed before taking the sample. The analyses have been deemed by the Minister and Commissioner of Inland Revenue to be of sufficient interest to warrant their publication.

The percentage of butter fat and total solids found in these samples, were, in the different districts, as follows:—

	BUTTER FAT.			Total Solids.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	
Halifax...	5.40	3.00	4.24	12.72
St. John..	4.62	3.43	3.91	12.45
Quebec...	4.18	3.02	3.54	12.39
Montreal.	5.17	2.80	3.82	12.29
Ottawa...	5.29	3.62	4.26	12.93
Toronto..	4.50	2.52	3.38	12.08

The total average of butter fat was 3.86 and of solids 12.48.

It thus appears, says the Report, "that there are whole milks offered for sale in the cities of the Dominion, likely enough at the same price, whose percentage of butter fat varies from 2.52 to 5.40. This variation is, no doubt, caused by differences in the breed, condition or feeding of the animals. The number of the inferior samples is, however, small. Still, the fact remains that the richest samples might be diluted with an equal amount of water and still be as good, so far as regards butter, as some of the inferior sorts of genuine milk.