

But it is not fair to leave out the cholera year from the average. The same poisonous gases which yearly raise the mortality from 14 to 34 or even 38, per 1,000, occasionally concentrate their energies for the development of a cholera, a ship-fever or some other pestilence. Such visitations are often looked upon as "special providences;" but they are as natural and necessary results of culpable neglect in sanitary matters, as is delirium tremens of continued intoxication, or ship scurvy of unwholesome diet. The people of Montreal must continue to lodge such visitants so long as they make homes for them in putrid emanations; and they would be deprived of what is justly their own if these pestilences were excluded, as much as if the key were turned in their market of Bonsecours or in the parish church of Notre Dame. The fire did not add to the mortality of the city; it consumed the fever-beds as well as the dwellings, and drove the people into the shelter of the fresh air. But the cholera found a congenial atmosphere in the swamps of Griffintown; it not only devoured the yearly increase of the city, but killed off 463 persons *over and above* as many as were born that year; so that for *each thousand of the 60,000* inhabitants of the city, sixty-two human beings perished. The grave that year hastily swallowed up 3,739 living souls. The worst recorded pestilence in England during the present generation was the Famine-Fever year of 1848, in Warrington. In that year one out of every 20 inhabitants died; in the Montreal Cholera of 1854, *out of every fifteen citizens one was found dead!* A widow said of the first visitation of the dreaded Asiatic pestilence in Bristol, that it was a "blessed cholera;" and she spoke truly, for it was the cause of the Sanitary Reform movement, which has saved its myriads of lives and will save its millions more. The fever in Warrington led to the immediate cleansing of its filth; and its inhabitants are now yearly taxing themselves large sums for investment in the underground life insurance. The people of Montreal have to this day retained their unenviable distinction as the dwellers in the city of wealth and death; and even last year their Council not only refused to lay the dust of the city, but could not draw water enough from the mighty river to allow the inhabitants to do it at their own expense!

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*density of London*, and consisted in great measure of the dirtiest and poorest of the Irish race. Such was Liverpool in 1841; and *more unhealthy even than this* has been Montreal from 1853 to the present time; although for five months in every year its laboratories of pestilence lie harmless in the safe prisons of the ice and snow!