

were also over-estimated, and those of Montreal and Toronto were under the mark.

Death rate
among
children.

128. The largest proportion of deaths was, in every instance, among children under 5 years of age; of the total number returned, 53.71 per cent. having occurred in that period. There were 5,370 deaths returned of children under 1 year of age, being in the proportion of 31.6 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Of this number, 998 died from diarrhoeal affections, 569 from diseases of the respiratory organs and 253 from premature birth. The number of cases recorded of children still born was 694. The ratios in the following cities were much higher than in any of the others: Montreal, St. Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Ottawa and Winnipeg. It must be remembered that in the cities of Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, there are special asylums for the reception of foundlings, and that far more complete returns of the deaths of illegitimate children are therefore made from those cities than from any of the others; for example, the number of deaths of illegitimate children returned from Montreal was 694, and from Toronto, 79, a proportion undoubtedly at variance with the actual facts, in relation to the population of the two cities. It must not also be overlooked that people from other places are in the habit of sending children to these asylums, whose deaths are credited to the city, though they do not strictly belong to them. Many women also come into the cities to be confined, and after the birth and possible death of their children, return to their homes elsewhere.

Most fatal
diseases.

129. The number of deaths recorded from suicide in the returns was 21; of these 16 were males and 5 females. In 1884 the number from ten cities was 15, being 10 males and 5 females. The following table gives the number of deaths from the nine most fatal classes of disease in the nineteen places returning mortuary statistics, for the year 1885: