

149. The heaviest death rate in the table was that of Sorel, viz., 44·88, as this is the first time this place has made complete returns, it is not possible to know whether the above figures are anywhere near the normal rate or not, but it is probably they are not. The town appears to have suffered from a visitation of diphtheria and throat affections, the combined deaths from these two causes having been 92 out of a total of 303, or 30·36 per cent. St. Hyacinthe, which had the second highest rate last year, viz., 48·83, is again second in the list, with a reduced rate, but still a very high one: out of a total of 264 deaths, 106, or 40·15 per cent., occurred from atrophy and debility and teething, 82 of which were of infants under two years of age. There were also 39 deaths from small-pox, being an increase of 3 over the preceding year. The death rate in Montreal was lower than it had been since the returns were first made, but no particular value can be attached to any comparison of this description, for previous to 1886 the various populations were only estimated, and in many cases considerably under or over the mark, now, however, that the plan of taking the population, according to the municipal returns in each year, has been adopted, comparisons of the death rate between places and years will soon become of distinct value.

150. The largest number of deaths was in every instance of children under 5 years of age, the proportion to the total number having been 52·43 per cent. There were 5,738 deaths returned of children under 1 year of age, being 34·54 per cent. of the total deaths, a larger proportion than in 1885 when it was 31·6 per cent. Diarrhœal affections were, as before, most fatal to these young children, 1,428 deaths from this cause being recorded, 1,332 from atrophy and debility, 702 from diseases of the respiratory organs, and 332 from premature birth, so that 66·15 per cent. of the deaths under one year resulted from the above four causes. The

Death rates compared.

Deaths of children.