

From diphtheria.

showing that there was an increase in 1886 of 200, or 6·89 per cent. There was again a large increase of the number of deaths from diphtheria, and in spite of all the precautions taken, this disease seems to be steadily on the increase. There was an increase as compared with 1885 of 133, or 18·35 per cent. Comparing the returns from 10 cities in 1884 with returns from the same places in 1886, there was an increase of no less than 53·71 per cent. in the number of deaths from diphtheria. It is well known that this disease is particularly fatal to children, and out of 988 deaths in 1886, 911, or 92·20 per cent. were of children under 11 years of age. In Sorel 13·20 per cent. of the whole number of deaths were from this cause. The increase in deaths from diphtheria appears to be very general in England,* in 1885 the number was 19 per cent. above the mean for the previous 10 years, and in 1886 in Ireland† the number was 15 in excess of the average for the previous 10 years.

From cerebro-spinal affections.

155. There was a decrease of 75 in the deaths from cerebro-spinal affections as compared with 1885, and an increase of 87 in deaths from affections of the throat. From diphtheria and affections of the throat, deaths in Sorel formed 30·36 per cent. of the total number.

Death rate in principal cities in Canada.

156. The following table, the figures for which are taken, with the exception of the average column, from the mortality statistics, gives the death rate per 1,000 of population in six of the principal cities in the Dominion, but, as before explained, the figures must not be taken as by any means conclusive, owing to the inaccuracy of the estimated populations, on which they are based, previous to 1886:—

* 48th Report of the Registrar General. † 23rd Report of the Registrar General (Ireland)