

having occurred from these causes, the proportion last year having been 30·36 per cent. The death rate in Montreal showed a marked increase, having risen from 27·99 in 1886 to 30·74 in 1887, principally owing to an increase in infant mortality. The healthiest places were apparently Chatham and Charlottetown, but the rates are so exceedingly low, 11·86 and 11·98, respectively, that it may well be doubted whether they represent complete returns.

Deaths of
children.

99. The largest number of deaths are of course among children, but the rate in some places was much higher than it ought to have been, as can be seen from the preceding table. The highest rates will be found in places with a large French population; but it must also be remembered that among these French Canadians there is a correspondingly high birth rate. Out of a total number of deaths recorded of 17,522, 8,922, or 50·92 per cent. were of children under five years of age, and 5,793, or 33·06 per cent., of those under one year. This latter proportion was slightly smaller than in 1886, when it was 34·54 per cent. The four most fatal diseases to children under one year were, as before: atrophy and debility, 1,554; diarrhoeal affections, 1,475; diseases of the respiratory organs, 530; and premature birth, 325; making an aggregate of 3,884 deaths, or 67·04 per cent. of the total number. The proportion last year was 66·15 per cent.

Deaths of
illegiti-
mate chil-
dren.

100. The number of deaths of illegitimate children returned was 996; but, as has been pointed out before, returns of this nature are practically at present of no value, and the natural desire for concealment on the part of the parents will always render it extremely difficult to obtain anything like correct returns. The fact that out of the whole number, 868, or 87 per cent., were returned from Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec, where there are special institutions for the reception