

Highest
and lowest
death
rates.

128. There was a decided decrease in the total number of deaths returned in 1889, as compared with the preceding year : the number being 18,235 in 28 townships, while in 1888 it was 18,232 in 27 townships. The greatest decreases occurred in Hull and Galt, where the rate per 1,000 of population fell from 39·50 to 29·50, and from 19·26 to 9·99 respectively. The only places in which the rate was higher than in 1888 were Quebec, Brantford, Charlottetown, Chatham and Fredericton. The highest rate was in Quebec, and this was due to the number of deaths caused by the disastrous landslide in September, when 45 persons were killed ; but owing to the doubtful data on which they are founded, the death rates, generally calculated per 1,000 of population, must not be considered as absolutely correct.

Infantile
mortality.

129. The largest number of deaths is, of course, among children, and the infant mortality in Hull is still larger than in any other town, out of 413 deaths 281 having been of children under 5 years of age, being in the proportion of 680 per 1,000 deaths. Infant mortality is, however, very much larger in many places than it ought to be, the highest rates being generally 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 18,235, 9,496, or 52·07 per cent., were of children under 5 years of age, and 6,387, or 35·02 per cent., of those under one year. This latter proportion was larger than in either 1887 or 1888, in which years it was 33·06 per cent. and 34·59 per cent. respectively. Exactly 50 per cent. of the deaths under one year were from atrophy and debility

*As an instance of their fecundity it may be mentioned that the Government of Quebec in 1889 passed an Act providing that every father of a family having 12 or more children living should be entitled, under certain conditions of settlement, to 100 acres of land and since the day set for receiving claims over 1,000 claims have been sent in, representing a total of 15,000 children.