

and diarrhoeal affections, the numbers being for the first named cause 1,566, and for the second 1,627. There were 333 deaths from premature birth.

130. The number of deaths of illegitimate children returned was 875, being 109 less than in 1888; 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 figures. The fact that out of the whole number, 761, or 87 per cent., were returned from Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec, where there are special institutions for the reception of illegitimate children, leaving only 114 to be divided among 25 towns, one of which has a population of 170,000, shows at once what little real truth there is in the figures, Out of the total number, 35·88 per cent. were under one month, and 86·74 per cent. under one year. Though in 1887, 1888 and 1889 the rate of infant mortality was highest in Hull, yet in no year were there any returns of illegitimate births from that city.

131 The number of cases of children stillborn returned was 913, as compared with 905 in 1888. The deaths from suicide reported amounted to 37, 30 being males and 7 females. The number returned in 1886 from 22 cities was 31, in 1887 from 26 cities 30, and in 1888 from 27 cities 37.

132. The following table gives the number of deaths from the eight most fatal diseases in the 28 cities making returns in 1889. As will be seen from the arrangements at the foot of the table, the order of fatality is slightly different from that of the preceding year. The most fatal disease is placed first:—