

Infantile mortality.

169. The largest number of deaths is, of course, among children, and the infant mortality of Hull is still larger than in any other town, for out of 339 deaths, 239 were of children under 5 years of age, being in the proportion of no less than 705 per 1,000 deaths. Infant mortality is, however, very much larger in many places than it ought to be, the highest rates being found in places with a large French population; but it must also be remembered that, among French speaking Canadians, there is a correspondingly high birth rate. Out of a total number of deaths recorded of 19,494, 9,885, or 50·7 per cent, were of children under 5 years of age, and 7,127, or 36·6 per cent, of those under 1 year. This latter proportion was larger than in either 1888, 1889 or 1890, in which years it was 34·5 per cent, 35·0 per cent and 33·3 per cent respectively. Of the total number of deaths under 5 years, 37 per cent were from atrophy and debility, and diarrhœal affections, the numbers being for the first named cause 1,644, and for the second, 2,024. In London, with a population of 5,000,000, in 1890, the deaths of infants under 1 year was only 163 per 1,000. In Montreal in 1891 it was no less than 493 per 1,000, and was over 400 per 1,000 in 4 other places. There were 405 deaths from premature birth, being a decrease of 46.

Deaths of illegitimate children.

170. The number of deaths of illegitimate children returned was 931, being 58 more than in 1890; 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, 830, or 89 per cent, were returned from Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec, where there are special institutions for the reception of illegitimate children, leaving only 101 to be divided among 27 towns, one of which has a population of nearly 200,000, shows at once what little real truth there is in the figures. Out of the total number, 50 per cent were under one month, and 98 per cent under one year. Though for the last five years the rate of infant mortality has been highest in Hull, yet in no year have there been any returns of illegitimate births from that city.

Children still-born.

171. The number of cases of children still-born returned was 1,068, as compared with 964 in 1890. The deaths from suicide reported amounted to 36, 27 being males and 9 females. The number returned in 1886 from 22 cities was 31; in 1887, from 26 cities, 30; in 1888, from 27 cities, 37; in 1889, 37 from 28 cities, and in 1890, 34 from 29 cities.

Deaths from suicide.

Deaths from most fatal diseases.

172. The following table gives the number of deaths from the eight most fatal diseases in the 30 places making returns in 1891. As will be seen from the arrangements at the foot of the table, the order of fatality is very nearly the same as that of the previous year. The most fatal disease is placed first:—