

PUBLIC HEALTH MAGAZINE.

DECEMBER, 1875.

INFANT LIFE AND THE PROTECTION DUE TO IT.

It has been well said that Death is a terribly hard fighter, giving blows, but receiving none. He is remorseless and cowardly as well, never hesitating to strike his victim when he is down, and least able to defend himself. His challenge to the human race is perpetual, and admits of no reservation in favor of sex, age or condition. That he is sure to be victor in the long run, we freely admit; but the poorest and weakest mortal, if only properly trained, can hold him at bay for a considerable time, and make the fight a prolonged one. A healthily born baby, for instance, at one hour's notice, having careful seconds and judicious bottle-holders, can (bar accidents) often worry through seventy rounds, each round occupying $365\frac{1}{4}$ days. In some cases, second childhood (like the second wind of which pugilists talk) may still further prolong the contest until even the 100th round, and then fall beneath the scythe of Time, Death's backer, before the great principal can put in his final blow.

In New York some years ago (according to the report of the City Inspector) out of 22,710 deaths in one year, 13,254 were enumerated as infantile. Quêtelet, who is one of the most trustworthy authorities on the subject, writes as follows: "To have a just idea of the great mortality of infants soon after