

One point which cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often is the value of maternal nursing to the child. Statistics show that out of every 100 bottle fed babies, about 50 die during the first year, and of every 100 breast fed babies, only about seven. Further than this there are many more gastrointestinal diseases among the remaining fifty than are to be found among the 93 breast fed infants.

In several cities of France and Germany the municipality pays a premium to poor mothers as long as they stay at home and suckle their babies.

The nurse has an important duty in this regard. Not infrequently it is solely on her advice that a baby is deprived of its rightful and natural heritage. The mother will often accept the nurse's judgment in this matter without consulting the physician, and the nurse should realize her responsibility. I have seen many babies the victims of nutritive and digestive diseases resulting in some instances in death, due to the mistaken judgment of the nurse or physician.

The nurse should assist the physician not only in the sick room, but in his efforts to educate the public. Preventive medicine is the highest branch of our science. How much better it is to prevent disease than simply to cure it! The reply attributed to Dr. Osler when a woman sought his sympathy because Providence had taken away her baby, that "It was not Providence, it was dirty milk," has deep significance. Perhaps the chief factor in the reduction of infant mortality is that of clean milk. Dr. Abraham Jacobi, whose wisdom we all admire, recently stated that in his opinion the greatest advance in artificial infant feeding during recent years, is the providing of pure milk.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington and Albany are very active in efforts to raise the standard of milk throughout this country and state. They send bulletins broadcast to the farmers in an effort to educate them. This is slow work and credit is due to the medical profession in obtaining more definite results. A physician in Newark twenty-one years ago found himself confronted with the task of feeding his own son. The responsibilities of foster fatherhood weighing heavily, he began a search for a pure milk supply. Discouraged and baffled in this attempt he interested the New Jersey Medical Society in this work. After two years the committee appointed to study this question discontinued their efforts as the task seemed well nigh impossible. The State Dairy Commis-