

The Twentieth Century is the Century of the Child. As the attending angels told the watching shepherds, "This shall be a sign to you," and that sign was a Child. In the matter of the nation's greatest asset—her children—we are beginning to see that the greatest nation, the nation that can count on continuance, is the nation who can say—"Ecce! Ego et liberi mei quos dedit mihi Dominus."

#### THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS.

But instead of making this glorious boast, what a Massacre of the Innocents we make.

"Herod sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem and in all the coast thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men."

"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken of by Jeremy the Prophet, saying—In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted because they were not." That was one of the world's tragedies, and one of the world's crimes.

#### HEROD OUT-HERODED BY MODERN CIVILIZATION.

But the crime of Herod is out-Heroded by the crimes of modern civilization. In Bethlehem then, as the commentators tell us, there were perhaps 1,000 inhabitants, and the slain children might number 20 or 30. The tragedy of Bethlehem pales before the tragedy of the Babylon of Modern Civilization.

The Modern City with its democratic government, its relief agencies, and its charitable organizations, is only too familiar with the tale of Infant Mortality. "Where the white hearse goes most often, there you will find the weakest places in your municipal housekeeping"—(Sherman C. Kingsley, Superintendent of the United Charities of Chicago).

#### GIVE THE BABY A CHANCE.

There is something wrong with the place where children die. It has been pointed out that in a modern city the new-born child has, on an average, less chance of living a week than a man of four score years and ten, and less chance of living a month than a man of four score. Give the baby a chance. Whoever is in fault when the baby dies, it is usually not the baby. Nature sees to it that even when the parents physically are not what they should be, the baby is, in 80 or 90 per cent. of cases, born healthy. Nature does her part, but we leave ours undone.

"The number of deaths of babies under one year of age is greater than the number of deaths from any other single cause or disease the world over.

"The National Government of the United States spends \$7,000,000.00 on plant and animal health every year, and hundreds of thousands fighting beetles and potato bugs, but not one cent to aid the six million babies that will die under two years of age during the next census period while mothers sit by and watch in utter helplessness. This number could probably be decreased by as much as one-half. Why is nothing done? Charities have been organized in all countries to protect and relieve the poorer mothers; societies have been formed to provide pure milk to the mother and her babe; fresh-air funds have proved a magnificent help; societies to enable mothers to have a breath of the sweet country air answer many a need. With what splendid results have little ones in the care of ignorant, helpless mothers had these blessings. Many lives have been saved, but still statistics continue to show the appalling mortality. Why? Principally because the present efforts are