

following is the Dominion mortality rate of the babies in the largest centres :

City.	Population.	Deaths per 1,000 for 1917.
Vancouver . . . . .	97,995	61
Calgary . . . . .	60,000	77
Toronto . . . . .	473,000	80
Edmonton . . . . .	53,794	99
Winnipeg . . . . .	200,090	108
St. John . . . . .	49,480	118
Montreal . . . . .	575,000	185
Ottawa . . . . .	100,561	222

Miss Mary Powell, director of child welfare work for the Provincial Board of Health, is urging that Canada should immediately inaugurate a more systematic and comprehensive policy in child conservation. She states that of 1,000 babies born in a year in Ontario, 108 die before they reach their first birthday anniversary. In 1916, the second year of the great war, no fewer than 7,000 babies under one year of age died in Ontario, whereas in England last year the infant mortality was the lowest on record. This gratifying circumstance Miss Powell attributes to the scientific measures immediately adopted by the Imperial Government in child welfare work. In the one year in the Motherland the number of milk stations and that of nurses doing baby welfare work was doubled.

#### THE CAUSES OF FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS.

Toronto was favored by a visit from Dr. Elmer E. Southard, who is professor of neuropathology in the Harvard Medical School, and is also director of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital. While in Toronto he gave an address on "Mental Deficiency."

He pointed out that about 5 per cent. of the existing feeble-mindedness could be traced to syphilis. He also said that heredity did not play as large a part in causation as many were disposed to think. On the other hand, the lecturer said that many of the causes of the condition were preventable.

The weak-minded can be divided, he said, into three classes: Cases that are due to heredity, cases caused by brain disease, and those arising from bodily disease affecting the brain. This may be put in another form by saying: lack of brain to begin life with, arrest of brain growth from disease in it, or in some organ of the body; and a perverted or "twisted" condition of the brain. According to the perversion or twist will be the hallucinations, illusions, and delusions found to prevail.