

"Milk Laboratory," something on the lines of the Walker-Gordon system, might be expected to be particularly useful in protecting infant life against that dangerous form of disease, zymotic, epidemic, or summer diarrhoea.

In following some such methods as may be open to a local authority, in trying to reduce this excessive waste of infant life, it should never be forgotten that these are only aids in that direction and that the true and only rational solution of the problem lies in the production of healthy children and keeping them healthy when you have got them. This can only be attained by the State assuming and discharging its duty of preserving the stamina of the race, and in maintaining a race of mothers capable of feeding their offspring. It necessitates the supply of rational education to all senior children in personal hygiene and matters closely affecting their own welfare and that of the community. As stated above, girls should be taught to understand the principles which govern the proper discharge of the duties and the responsibilities which must be theirs in time—the management of children, etc., in fact trained to be good house-wives. Such training should in no way necessarily interfere with the ordinary intellectual training of children, indeed it should be a suitable means of focussing and applying practically their general education.

It is to be hoped that in arranging the details of school study, the Education Department will give this subject the prominent position which its great importance merits.

Of the third group little need be said, its contribution to the infant mortality will vary with the seasons. There is one cause of increased mortality from all causes, however, that deserves the serious attention of the government, viz.: the unrestricted sale of patent medicines. The administration of many of these to children, there can be no doubt, is responsible for a considerable number of infant deaths.

These pernicious drugs have also a very direct influence on the birth-rate. To such an extent has this evil grown in Australia that towards 1906 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the subject in all its bearings and to