

Report on Infant Mortality.

The field of modern medical research and labour is infinite in its possibilities, and the greatest of these are found in the domain of Preventive Medicine. Infant Mortality is the greatest problem of Preventive Medicine.

INFANT MORTALITY IN ONTARIO.

In the Province of Ontario, according to the last (thirty-eighth) Report of the Registrar-General, for the year 1907, the total number of deaths was 33,502, and the number of deaths under five years was 9,930. In other words, Infant Mortality is 29 per cent. of our total death-rate.

Compare with this the total number of deaths due to Tuberculosis in 1907, which is 2,530, or 8 per cent. of the total death rate. Not nearly enough is said or done about Tuberculosis, but what is said or done about Infant Mortality?

In the City of Toronto, in 1907, there were 1,313 deaths under one year of age, and the total number of births was 6,680. This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 196 per 1,000, approximately one-fifth, or 20 per cent. Is this true? Is the registration attended to?

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

This is a record of which we have no reason to be proud, and which proves the need of an Educational Campaign which the Provincial Authorities, the Board of Health, the medical profession and the public, cannot too soon open.

THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN WHITE COFFINS.

One out of every five of the children born in the City of Toronto is carried out of the home in the little white coffin before the year is out. Whose business is it to find out why? And this in a country where there is much room and much need for new citizens. The best of our new citizens are our children. The potential value to the country of these lives, which might easily be saved by proper maternal and medical care, is beyond price or computation. *Every year nearly Ten Thousand Children in Ontario*, under the age of five years, go to their graves. We would think ten thousand emigrants a great addition to our population. It is a question if ten thousand emigrants from anywhere would equal in value to us these ten thousand little Canadians of Ontario, whose lives are sacrificed to our carelessness, ignorance, stupidity and eager haste to snatch at less valuable things.

THE CENTURY OF THE CHILD.

The dawn of this century beheld "a great change in the opinions and modes of thinking of Society," and this, as John Stuart Mill once said, "always means an impending revolution in matters social and political." We are beginning to contrast "The petty done, the undone vast." And one of the signs of that revolution is our altered estimate of human values, and especially of the value of childhood. Obvious as the discovery is, we are only now discovering that Empires and States are built up of babies. Cities are dependent for their continuance on babies. Armies can be recruited only if and when we have cared for our babies. The Sanitarian has said that the infant mortality rate is the test of real sanitary sense and progress, and we do not seem to believe it. But we must come back to it.