

British National Association for the Prevention of Infantile Mortality and Promotion of Welfare of Children Under School Age.

"In no country in the world has greater progress been made in combating infantile mortality during the past four years than in Great Britain and Ireland," said Mr. John Burns last month at a meeting organized for the purpose of forming a British national association for the prevention of infantile mortality and the promotion of the welfare of children under school age; the resolution moved by Mr. Burns agreeing to form the association was carried.

Referring to the previous conferences that have been held on the subject, Mr. Burns said that in the six years they had been at work the rate of infantile mortality had diminished from the relatively high figure of 145 per thousand to 106 per thousand. Apart from the saving of 50,000 baby lives, another result was a lower damage rate for the survivors.

A variety of causes contributing to the lessening of the infantile death-rate were cited by Mr. Burns, who referred to the utility of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, which he said had now been adopted by 315 local authorities, representing more than half the total population of England and Wales. Three years hence he believed they would have a maximum infantile mortality of 100 per thousand.

There was one thing to which, without comment, he would call the attention of the Eugenic Society. He found there was no aristocracy in birth or at birth. He meant by that that if they took five social groups in the vast community of London they would find some very remarkable results—that, whether the mothers were in Bermondsey or Belgravia, Mayfair or Shoreditch, in the first week of the babies' life infant mortality was the same in the rich as in the poor district. In the second and third weeks the change was small, and even in the fourth the difference in the rate was only that between 36 and 32 per thousand. At three months there was a difference of 46 to 60, and at twelve months of 78 and 122.

A high infantile mortality was not due, in his judgment, to racial inferiority of

the poor; he believed that the pre-natal virility of the women of the working class was as good as ever. They had to devise some method by which poor mothers would be able to stay longer from their work and have a happier and more pleasant time.

The time had arrived when they ought to spend less on special schools and on swagger motor ambulances and many other things of a palliative character, and concentrate on the mothers and the child during the period of the children's lives from birth to seven years.

The Second British National Conference on Prevention of Destitution.

The second British national conference on the prevention of destitution was held last month.

Sectional meetings were held on public health, education, housing, unemployment, and industrial regulation, and crime and inebrity. Delegates from all parts of the kingdom were present, and a number of distinguished sociologists took part in the proceedings.

The inaugural address was delivered by the Bishop of Oxford, who urged the divorce of charity from religion as a means of raising the value of religion in the eyes of the workers, and ensuring a greater efficiency in the distribution of aid.

In the housing section a discussion was opened by Mr. Henry Vivian, who presided in the absence of Earl Grey, on "Town Planning and Housing from the Imperial Standpoint."

Town planning as a science should take the place of the happy-go-lucky methods of the past. Private interests must be so regulated that they harmonize with public welfare.

The town dweller must be made healthy and work out his own salvation. The electric car and the motor 'bus, by extending the area of living for great cities, would aid in the change. But they were handicapped by many authorities with conflicting interests.

Mr. Vivian urged a central controlling body, which should temper the autonomy of local authorities. The tenement was a bad standard for the working man's