

The Division was organized at once under Dr. Josephine Baker, and began work January 1st, 1909. At the end of one year's work the results were gratifying—for there was an actual saving of 797 babies' lives, and the Infant Mortality was the lowest in the history of the City.

MIDWIVES.

Forty per cent. of the births in New York City are attended by a midwife only. This is a large proportion. We do not seem to have any system of registering and licensing midwives in Ontario. This is a necessary thing, and should not be longer delayed. The careful supervision of midwives has helped much to reduce Infant Mortality, and has greatly lessened that terrible disease ophthalmia neonatorum.

OTHER PLANS.

The Instruction of mothers and of the senior girls in schools is known to have helped greatly. The placing of every baby in a home is the modern method of solving the Institution problem. The constant supervision of Day-Nurseries and everywhere else that babies are cared for is the price of a reduction in Infant Mortality, and it is cheap at the price. But the striking reduction in Infant Mortality, and the saving of about a thousand lives, are the eloquent proofs of the success of this plan. Organization is good—all but indispensable. There is something without which all organization is rather useless, and that is—a man or woman with a heart and mind that can direct and lead the Staff and unify the work. Such a heart and mind one sees in the Report of the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, in the achievements of the Mayor of Huddersfield, and in the work of Dr. S. Josephine Baker, Chief of the Division of Child Hygiene, Department of Health, New York City.

THE CRECHE AND INFANT MORTALITY.

Where the employment of mothers outside the home is unavoidable, at least under present circumstances, and the mother must be out of the home for hours at a time, a well-conducted creche to which the mother can come to nurse a little baby at least twice or three times during the day helps to prevent Infant Mortality. The creche can take better care of the child than some neighbor, or very young child, often the only alternative.

Dr. Thomas gives the following in *Public Health*:

The creche is usually healthier and cleaner than the child's home, the treatment is more enlightened, and the method of feeding better adapted to the child's tender years.

Every creche can show children who have come there miserably anemic, and suffering from rickets, whose health has visibly improved after some weeks of the creche treatment.

At the creche the child is taught cleanliness and good habits, becomes stronger and healthier, and is given a better chance in life.

Creches are under medical supervision, and the promptitude with which a case of sickness is treated often prevents more serious consequences.

The mother is required to bring the child clean; better methods of feeding are learnt, and the cleanliness and discipline of the creche insensibly react to the advantage of the home.