

precautions. Milk is the natural food for infants and children, and powers are needed to ensure its purity and to compel inspection from its source to its final distribution. Powers already exist through the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Local Government Board to do much in this direction. It is not necessary to refer here to the successful efforts already made by various municipalities acting upon the recommendation of their sanitary staff: suffice it to say that a beginning only has been affected.

The health mission in regard to tuberculosis—whether conveyed by milk or in other ways—was repeatedly emphasized by Sir William Broadbent, and the culpable spreading of this preventable disease through the practice of expectoration—properly called a species of assassination—has been most prominently brought before the public. Prohibitions and penal clauses have been introduced into the by-laws of public conveyances and in many cases also—where the authority permits—in public places; but the need to bring the danger home to the ignorant and careless cannot be met with by-laws alone. There is need steadfastly and honestly to make the people THINK for themselves—with the manifold activities of to-day, rest and pause are needed for thinking—and to spare no effort from the pulpit, the consulting room, and the forum in making them understand the value of a wholesome life and plenty of fresh air through open windows into clean houses. It is not enough to tell the people these things, they must be persuaded that they are necessary to a good life and such counsel can only be successful when specially urged by local efforts through a central bureau and through the widespread influence of the press—made effective, if necessary, by drastic penalties such as a progressive democracy alone knows how to proclaim and inflict.

The question of infantile mortality is of pressing urgency. It remains a positive disgrace even to a better educated mother, that so much ignorance and carelessness should exist among the poorer class, not only in towns, but also in rural districts. In some areas the clergy have issued printed instructions as to the care and rearing of infants, and these have been distributed by lady visitors and explained by dis-