

Nobody is too busy to take interest in this, the nearest question of national welfare. The Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev. Winnington Ingram, is said to be the busiest man in the world. In July, 1909, he found time to go to the St. Clement's Maternity Home, at Fulham, in that East End of London he knows so well, in order to encourage the efforts made there to lessen infantile mortality, which is there very great. Prizes were offered to all the mothers whose infants showed care and attention, and these were distributed by one of the Princesses of Teck, assisted by the Bishop of London. Seventy-eight prizes were given, most of which were articles of clothing, but two of them were the well-known collapsible carriages. The Bishop took one of the carriages, placed a prize winner in it, and wheeled the baby along the terrace, followed by the Vicar, who did likewise. The Bishop, in his speech, said that he could not imagine a more delightful scene than the one they were witnessing that afternoon. It meant a great deal both to the nation and to the church. He had been for years trying to back up the efforts both of Miss Heatley and her excellent staff at the Maternity Home, and of others, in seeing that the children of the nation were properly fed and looked after in their early years. No one who saw those fat, rosy, smiling, jolly babies could fail to acknowledge that a great improvement had been effected. He loved to see their dear old church in the thick of everything that was for the good of the people. They had to learn from their Master to care for the bodies as well as for the souls of the people, and he could not imagine a more beneficent work for the church to put her hand to than to help people to bring up their children, not only fat and rosy, but good Christians also.

Is there any reason why someone in every parish in Ontario should not do what a parish priest did in Quebec?

In Vol. 9 *Bulletin Sanitaire*, published by the Provincial Board of Health of Quebec, we find that he noticed the large mortality among infants in his parish and came to the conclusion that the ignorance of their mothers and lack of proper care were principally responsible for the sad results. Speaking from the pulpit, he pleaded with the mothers of children about their duties towards their offspring and enlarged on the proper care of infants.

Before the sermon was given to the mothers 19.78 per cent. of new-born children died in that parish; since then 8.53 per cent. have died; a saving of 18 lives in one parish in two years (1907-1908).

The greatest agency to prevent Infant Mortality is the sympathetic, efficient experienced visitor, who reaches the mother if possible before the baby is a day old. The question of nursing or no nursing is generally settled one way or the other within the first 24 or 48 hours.

IV.—EFFICIENCY.

We always come back to the personal equation. The efficient person, the adequate and strong character, the person of principle and affection, will succeed where the weakling, the unemployable, untidy, unthrifty, good for nothing, will never succeed.

Dr. Hope, of Liverpool, took 874 families, consecutively, because an infant had died in each family, and found that the total number of children in these families was 3801, and that 1895 had perished—practically all in infancy—a rate of 498 per thousand. Of such is one special case, Mrs. E., who had 14 children, and 10 of them died in infancy, all of them being artificially fed. She is an incapable woman and regards the death of her children as an inevitable matter.