

PATTY-CAKE.....*Albert Bigelow Paine.*

Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man !
 Love is a jewel, and life is a span ;
 Summer is here, and the morning is gay,
 Let us be babies together to-day.
 Sorrow's a myth, and our troubles but seem ;
 The past is an echo, the future a dream ;
 Plenty of mornings to worry and plan !
 Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man !
 Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man !
 Roll it and prick it as fast as you can ;
 Roses and lillies for baby and me.
 Roll it and prick it and mark it with T.
 Roses and lillies and daisies that come
 Down from the garden that dimples are
 from—
 Let us be babies as long as we can !
 Patty-cake, patty-cake, baker's man !

THE WORLD'S BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Massachusetts' State Board of Health has just issued a pamphlet, consisting mainly of a compilation from the *Bulletin de l'Institut International de Statistique*, together with omissions supplied by the State Board. It gives the birth-rates of the various states and countries as well as the death rates. The largest birth-rate is in European Russia, and is 479 per annum to 10,000 of the population. Next to Russia is another Slav country, Servia, with 421. Next in the list stand Saxony with 397 ; Uruguay with 381 ; Roumania with 380 ; Prussia with 370 ; Austria with 369 ; Bulgaria with 367 ; Italy with 363, and Bavaria with the same ; the German Empire with 361. Most of the states and countries are in the neighborhood of 300 to 10,000. Examples of a very low birth rate show France with 226 ; Ireland with 228 ; Connecticut with 223, and in a suitable interval, Rhode Island with 262.

In the matter of mortality, Russia also enjoys an unenviable distinction. Her death rate is 355 out of every 10,000, and has shown no improvement in the last twenty years. A criticism upon the Russian Government more scathing than this cannot be put into words. Chili follows at a considerable interval with 305. There are some surprises in this list ; for instance, Bavaria shows the heaviest death rate from consumption, namely, 2,894 per million inhabitants ; Prussia, 2,389, and the German Empire, 2,363. Wurtemberg follows with 2,098, and Ireland with 2,092. Then comes Switzerland with 2,069, a most remarkable showing, taking into account the mountainous character of the country which is thought to be so great a protection against this disease. Massachusetts does not show up well in this comparison, the mortality being 2,230, and that of Rhode Island is 2,885. The most salubrious of all countries in this respect appears to be Japan, with a mortality of only 1,281, but even there it is increasing. Not long ago it was but 938. Of European countries Italy appears to be the best in this respect with a mortality of but 1,303, while of the American countries, Uruguay, with 1,395, makes the best showing.

The rates of suicide showing the pressure of the conditions of life are also interesting. Saxony shows the largest rate with 312 per million inhabitants. Denmark comes next with 255, then Switzerland with 235, followed by the German Empire with 217, and Prussia with 212. Russian Poland shows the lowest rate, viz., 24 ; Ireland is next with 30, and European Russia next with 31. Roumania and Hungary are tied with 304. The last mentioned, however, shows a distinct improvement within twenty years, the mortality having fallen from 359. Other examples of high mortality include Austria with 278 ; Bavaria with 254 ; Italy with 252, and Russian Poland with 248. The lowest mortality in the group is exhibited by Sweden with 163, followed closely by England and Wales with 166, Connecticut with 168, and Norway 169.