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## EDITORIAL

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### INFANT MORTALITY.

Few subjects at any time, and especially at this time, should receive more attention than that of infant mortality. When figures are used properly they are most illuminating and helpful, and the following statement of facts throws much light upon this important topic:

Montreal has been much impressed with the evidence of the necessity for advance in child welfare work, contained in the fact presented for its consideration that fifty thousand children have died there during the past thirteen years, before they attained their first anniversary. Thirty-five hundred infants died during last year alone.

Toronto, by the judicious establishment of health centres, has reduced its baby death rate to less than half that of Montreal. Whereas, in Montreal, 178 babies out of every thousand die in the first twelve months, in Toronto only 80 out of each thousand so lose their lives. The city of Toronto spends 70 cents per capita of its population on scientific public health protection. Last year Montreal spent just 35 cents.

Neglect to furnish proper care for the child in health and disease is an offence in law on the part of the parent or guardian. This being the case, the municipality should not be allowed to escape its duty to the child. The fact that one large city has an infant death rate of one-half of that prevailing in another large city proves beyond question that the latter is at fault, and is not doing its duty. When any given disease or group of diseases is preventable, "why not", as the late King Edward said, "prevent it?" On the basis of the value of human life to the state, it should be good economy to spend money to save the children. Then