

or later, every member of each generation suffers from at least one infectious disease, often from two, three or four, and it is clear that every generation suffers anywhere from 80,000,000 to 240,000,000 attacks of infections. Each generation pays out at least eight billions of dollars for this running of the gauntlet, not to speak of the disability and death of those who run it successfully. Tuberculosis, diphtheria, summer diarrhea, scarlet fever, measles, typhoid fever, whooping cough, chickenpox, to name only some of those best known to the laity, how much sorrow, distress, poverty, how much "making of none avail" of mothers' hopes and prayers and wearing effort have these caused! Yet so common are they that "children's diseases" are looked upon as a necessary stage, almost a joke. Indeed some people deliberately expose their children to them, "to have it over with!" Yet who bears the burden, the sleepless nights, the extra work, the hope deferred?

Ninety-five per cent of the infectious diseases are nursed at home by mothers. Next to the children themselves the ones who suffer most are mothers.

Who Keeps the Infectious Disease Going?—Once more the answer is—and most emphatically—women in general but chiefly after all the mother. To be sure there is every excuse for the mother, —overwork, overcrowding, lack of facilities, above all ignorance and misdirected training, "misinformation piled on lack of any." But with all the perfectly good apologies stated and all the excellent good-will and effort counted in, the fact itself remains, that mothers propagate and keep alive and spread the infectious diseases of children more than any other one body of people, and that while conditions remain as they are they must learn the "rules of the game" and follow them, for no amount of coaching or effort from the sidelines can do more than help.

Why and How Are Women Responsible?—Because mothers are doing the work—women in general, but chiefly mothers. The farmer is responsible (apart from flood, drought, storm or other "acts of God") for whatever happens to the crop from seed to market. Women in general—but chiefly mothers—are the "raisers" and "crop-handlers" of the largest, most valuable, most expensive and most difficult crop in the country. What happens to this crop between birth and sixteen years of age is, chiefly, what women do to it, or at least do not prevent. For the first 5,000 days of the years of the life of each generation,