



Kiddies at whose command are intelligent nursing and the best knowledge of modern medical science,

Importance of the Baby.

MORE people are studying "the baby question" to-day than ever before in the history of modern nations. This study has several sides and many phases. This year at Berlin, Germany, there was an international congress on "Infant Mortality," at which there were representatives from all quarters of the globe. These good people discuss the teaching and training of physicians in regard to the care of babies; the teaching and training of midwives, nurses and social workers; and the numerous features of infant welfare work. There were many other meetings this year at which the baby question was discussed. The baby's food, the baby's clothing, the baby's physical development, and so on through the list.

What does all this mean? Why all this sudden excitement about babies?

Perhaps it would be safe to generalize and say that the science of human life is coming to the front. The world has long been studying how to take care of lambs, calves, colts, chickens, and all other kinds of young animal life—the baby was neglected. Now science and statistics and medical health officers have discovered that the baby needs attention such as is bestowed upon other young animals. Indeed the baby needs more attention. It is the most helpless of all newly-born animals and it is the most valuable.

Moreover, the world is becoming crowded, and this crowding has affected the health of the baby. The baby needs fresh air, but there is too little fresh air in the big cities. The baby needs fresh milk and pure food, and these are hard to get under modern crowded conditions. The babies need strong, healthy mothers, with plenty of leisure—and such mothers are hard to find. These are some of the additional reasons why the baby question looms large at the present moment.

Away back behind the banish-the-slum movement, the back-to-the-land movement, and the model-housing movement, lies the baby question. The child raised in a small home or flat in a large city is subject to all sorts of dangers. If it lives to maturity it is smaller and weighs less than the child raised in the open country. It is subject to both physical and moral dangers too numerous to mention, too horrible to define.

But enough of the dark side. Science and humanitarian studies are doing much for the bright, smiling, angel visitors that make marriage holy and the home a heaven. Thousands of brainy men and women are working hard to make human life less precarious and more certain. The future of the race, of all the races, depends upon the measure of success which comes to these unselfish workers.

