

England and Wales.	Western Australia.
Scotland.	Tasmania.
Ireland.	New Zealand.
New South Wales.	Ceylon.
Victoria.	Jamaica.
Queensland.	Denmark.
South Australia.	Norway.
Sweden.	Netherlands.
Russia.	Belgium.
Finland.	France.
Germany.	Switzerland.
Austria.	Spain.
Hungary.	Italy.
Roumania.	Japan.
Bulgaria.	Chili.
Servia.	

The registration of births was really primarily to obtain the necessary record for legal purposes. But in obtaining these there were unconsciously laid the foundations of sanitary science. The beginning of Registration of Births and Deaths in 1836 ushered in the era of sanitation in which we now live.

Reasons for the registration of births and deaths may be stated as follows:

- (1) Knowledge of the movement of population (demographic uses).
- (2) Protection of the lives and health of the people (sanitary uses) and
- (3) Protection of the rights of the individual and of the community (legal uses).

This has been well expressed by the preamble to the Registration Law of 1851 in Pennsylvania:

"Whereas, From the death of witnesses and from other causes, it has often been found difficult to prove the marriage, birth, or death of persons, whereby the rights of many have been sacrificed and great wrongs have been done; and

"Whereas, Important truths, deeply affecting the physical welfare of mankind, are to be drawn from the number of marriages, births, or deaths that during a term of years may be contracted or may occur within the limits of this extensive commonwealth; therefore —"

In the resolution passed by Congress for 1903, approving of such legislation, we have a brief statement of the reasons for the registration of births, as follows:

The registration of births and deaths at the time of their occurrence furnishes official record information of much value to individuals; and

The registration of deaths, with information upon certain points, is essential to the progress of medical and sanitary science in preventing and restricting disease and in devising and applying remedial agencies; and

All of the principal countries of the civilized world recognize the necessity for such registration and enforce the same by general laws.

To these more general reasons may well be added another:

Registration of births is a great help in reducing infant mortality. School hygiene might help us here. It is evident that an effort should be made to impress on parents, teachers, nurses, and doctors the great importance of notification and prompt registration of every birth.

And probably some payment should be made for this. They did that in Huddersfield. One shilling was the sum paid there.

But even the direction of public attention to it would do great good.