

# OUR HOME PAGE

## SAVING THE BABIES

Citizens who live in communities where the infant death rate is high should consider carefully the results of the co-operative rural health work being carried on in Green County, Missouri. A report just received by the United States Public Health Service at Washington shows a remarkable reduction in the infant mortality rate in Springfield and Campbell Townships since the establishment there of a whole-time city health department.

In 1918 the death rate in these two townships was 105 per thousand. That is, out of every 100 babies born alive, 105 died that year. Then Green county decided it could no longer afford to stave unaided of its baby deaths and a health department was organized.

In the following year 1919, the infant death rate in these two townships dropped to 96 per thousand. In 1920 it went to 85, in 1921 to 82 and in 1922 the decline reached 42 per cent.

In other words Springfield and Campbell Townships reduced their infant mortality rate 42 per cent within the short space of four years.

This forty-two per cent reduction is a striking example of what can be accomplished in child welfare carrying out, with economy and efficiency, a well balanced general program of health work affecting all sex groups in a community with well administered health department under the direction of a whole-time health officer.

communities to organize; time for them to shake off their indifference and set about earnestly to save the lives of babies born in such communities. A county health department under the direction of a full time health officer is the first objective. Missouri is showing the way.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

On June 11th, 1923, the wholly unemployed on the live registers tallied approximately 1,197,000, which was an increase of 9,953 over the preceding week.

Wages of the railway and transport workers have been reduced by two shillings a week on account of the decrease in the cost of living.

### ITALY.

Statistics compiled by the National Bureau of Employment show a steady decrease in the number of persons wholly or partially unemployed.

### JAVA.

As a protest against the arrest of one of its principal leaders, and to block the movement of sugar, the recently proclaimed a general railway strike which temporarily crippled the movement of trains throughout the north coast of Middle Java. By governmental decree the strikers were declared to be revolutionists and the places of those who did not return to work within the time set by the Government were filled by entirely new workers.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A decrease in the number of unemployed person receiving government subsidies is reported by the Czechoslovakia Ministry of Social Welfare.

## Good Night Stories

### THE PUZZLED LITTLE DRAGON.

"Oh, me," sighed the little water boy. "I feel dreadful. I just can't seem to get enough air. Does it seem stuffy to you today?" He inquired of his neighbor, Croaker Green Frog.

"What! Stuffy—under this lovely clear water? Why I should say not," croaked his neighbor. "Who ever heard of cool water being stuffy? But maybe if you'd crawl up into the sunlight for a few seconds you'd feel better. When I get restless I usually go up on the bank for a while." And away Croaker Green Frog hopped out of the water to the mossy bank.

The little water boy watched the water where his neighbor had disappeared. Then a thought popped into his funny little head, and he swam over to a swaying weed and crawled up the stem into the sunshine.

"Funny," he laughed softly. "I never knew it was so lovely above the water. Queer—I've never thought of coming up here. But I guess I've never felt so funny before. My, I'm better already."

"I think a change of scene always makes one feel better." And Tilly Turtle crawled over to the edge of the log, nearer the weed to which the little water boy clung.

Two weeds grew close together, and the little water boy fastened the books on his feet into them swinging his little body between them. He felt so queerly he would have cried if Tilly Turtle had not been so near him. He began to twist and squirm, all the time trying to smile as Tilly Turtle wouldn't think him a baby. But he did feel strangely queer. His little back seemed to tremble. Then a funny thing happened. The little water boy's suit ripped straight down the back.

He tried to laugh, but he felt so badly he couldn't. And Tilly Turtle seeing his embarrassment, acted as though she didn't see his ripped suit.

Then another strange thing happened. The little water boy gave a big gasp, and out of his funny little suit he came. He was terribly excited, and there's no telling what might have happened if Tilly Turtle hadn't glanced his way.

"Why, my dear," she cried, jumping over to the very edge of the log. "You have another suit under the one you just took off. Did you ever in all your life! Yes, sir, as true as I'm alive, you're a dragon fly."

Tilly Turtle was so excited she nearly tumbled off the log into the

water. "A beautiful dragon fly! Sit still until your wings dry."

"Wings dry!" exclaimed the little newly-made dragon fly. "Have I really and truly beautiful wings?" He glanced down at his reflection in the pond and laughed with joy. Sure enough, he had crawled right out of his ugly old suit into another lovely one. But, oh, how tired and ill he felt. He could hardly move. It took all Tilly Turtle could do to get him to try those wings.

"You've got the chance of your life to see the world now," she told him. "Don't sit there like a dummy or some bird may eat you. Try your wings. Fly!"

Dragon fly didn't know what a bird was, but he was so happy he didn't care to be eaten. So he spread his lovely wings and sailed away.

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