

## INTRODUCTION

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At the request of many devoted persons who keenly interest themselves in the welfare of the child, we have availed ourselves of their solicitations to retouch our conference in a manner to put it in the form of a booklet for the free distribution to mothers.

It must be that we have not exaggerated and that the harm is passably spread, even more than we surmised, since there is the awakening of the public opinion that manifests itself a little from every where, by requests for information.

At these signs of interest from private individuals here comes to join the movement a journalist of mark M. Georges Pelletier, who in a magnificent article entitled "Empoisonneurs d'enfants" delivers to the public his impressions on "Soothing Syrups" and asks that an urgent law be passed, at the present session to protect the life of the child.

At the "Sanitary Congress" held in Fraserville<sup>2</sup> in July last, the question of "Infantile mortality" was at the order of the day.

It was a subject of the highest importance, since our race, supports itself, not only on the proverbial fecundity of our Canadian mothers but especially on the preservation of the health of the child. We could not help but seize the occasion—since it was given us, to energetically denounce and with regret—for it is a symptom to the return to barbarity—that one of the most important causes

1. Georges Pelletier. — "Empoisonneurs d'enfants," *Le Devoir*, 28th February 1919.

2. At the last provincial session, the name of Fraserville was changed to that of Rivière-du-Loup.