

Britain that the medical periodicals of the day are calling loudly for alterations in the legislative enactments bearing on this crime.

With a view of lessening the crimes of infanticide and abortion, most modern Christian communities established asylums, which received all children exposed or abandoned by their natural protectors. How far these establishments have been successful in their benevolent objects remains to be seen. These objects are no doubt commendable, but the institutions themselves have been most frightfully abused. As a general principle it may be asserted that they encourage illicit connexion of the sexes, increase the number of illegitimate births, and as a consequence the number of exposures and abandonment of children, at a period too when the tender care of a mother is most essential to the preservation of the life of her offspring. In proof that these institutions encourage the exposure of children I may instance the facts recorded by M. de Gouroff. *American Journal of Science*, Vol. 17, p. 393. He made comparisons between London and Paris;—In London during five years there were 151 children exposed; during the same period in Paris 25,277 children were exposed and abandoned, and all had to be supported at the expense of the state. A still more striking case is recorded by the same author: Napoleon 1st established a Foundling Hospital at Mayence, on the 7th November 1811, it continued in operation until the month of March 1815, when it was suppressed by order of the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt. During the period of its existence, viz. 3 years and 4 months, 516 children were abandoned and received into the house; in the 9 years succeeding its closure only 7 children were exposed in the city and environs. The history of all these establishments prove that they have most signally failed in their mission, the records of all shew a most astonishing mortality.

In Paris the deaths are about 85 per cent of those received; according to Mr. Hawkins the mortality is beyond the control of all attention or skill. Of 1000 infants admitted into the Hospitals in Paris, it has been ascertained that one fourth die during the first few days, and that of the remainder one third die on their road to the country to be nursed. In the Vienna Foundling Hospital the deaths range from 60 to 95 per cent of those admitted. Mr. Wild in his work on the institutions of Austria says that all attempts made to lessen the mortality in the Foundling Hospital at Vienna had failed. The Emperor Joseph II ordered a commission, at whose head was Professor Boer, to investigate the causes of this mortality, and if possible to avert them for the future; trials of different kinds of food were made, but all to no purpose, the mortality remained the same. From the same author we learn that a common practice, not only in the Hospital but amongst the people generally, is the use of an artificial nipple, which consists of a little bag of linen in which is tied up some bread and milk or pap; this is placed in the infant's mouth for it to suck whenever the cravings of nature for its food are urgent; this is similar to the *succon* employed by our French Canadian population, and occasionally used by other nationalities; it is a common cause of stomach and intestinal derangements, which as a class of disease are with us peculiarly fatal to children. I have no doubt it is within the experience of most medical practitioners to have observed the pernicious results of this practice. I have myself arrested attacks of diarrhoea attended with colic, con-