

and surgeons regard the use of alcohol in sickness as of very questionable value or as actually injurious.

There is no doubt it has a place in the therapeutics of disease, but not the important one that was assigned to it a few years ago.

At the recent congress on alcoholism which met at the Hague, there was much plain speaking on this subject. Those best qualified to offer advice on the scientific side of the question gave alcohol a very secondary place as a medicine.

As a beverage there was no division of opinion. The one thought of the congress was that "Alcohol is a poison, a cause or an ally of nearly every form of disease." Still the traffic goes on and drives a flourishing business. We think that the medical profession should lend its great influence, even more than it does at present, to the cause of temperance. To do this it is not necessary to go to the extremes of prohibition. A man may not believe in prohibition, but he can believe in the strictest temperance. Medical men should welcome any legislation that would tend to curtail the evils of drink.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There is no subject that ought to appeal to the intelligent citizen and publicist more than the one of infant mortality. The infant is helpless. It is in the position of the common saying of "shutting its eyes, opening its mouth, and taking what fate may send it."

In all large cities the death rate among infants is very high. It is too high, and an honest effort should be made to reduce it. The question at once arises, how is this to be accomplished? There are several things that may be done.

One of these is to take such steps as will ensure as good a supply of milk as possible. Good tools, however, may be placed in the hands of a workman and yet he may do bad work. So it is that good milk may be placed in the hands of a mother and she may secure very poor results so far as her child is concerned. The mother must be taught how to keep the milk and how to use it.

This brings us to the subject of ways and means of reaching the mothers. This should be done by means of carefully prepared information that should be placed in the hands of the mothers. This would in course of time do much good. It would be regarded by some as a useless outlay of public money, but this argument is raised against every useful reform.

In the public schools of this country a vast amount of money is expended on the education of the children. We think more attention