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THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW,
St. John, N. B.

A DOMINION-WIDE BABY WEEK.

A National Baby Week was held in the schools of Great Britain during the latter part of June, which had as its aims:

To arouse in every citizen a sense of the responsibility for the children of the nation.

To make each individual man and woman know of the terrible wastage of infant life now going on.

To bring home to them that if they only cared enough at least half of the babies who die might live, and grow up into strong men and women, and that the proper care of maternity, and the improvement of the conditions surrounding it, is national work of the truest possible sense.

That the movement was a huge success was due in no small degree to the teachers of Great Britain, that great army of devoted men and women, who, in face of peril, anxiety and overwork, are standing to their posts today, caring for the children all over the country.

In a special article, written by Mrs. H. B. Irving, in "The Teacher's World," she says that these teachers know how greatly the new generation is suffering from the physical deterioration that goes on side by side with infant mortality.

They realize the impossibility of any marked improvement so long as housing conditions and slum areas remain as they are, so long as citizens deliberately shut their eyes to the evils of disease, ignorance, and bad environments.

Mothers of Canada as well as Great Britain need teaching, because good mothercraft is no matter of instinct. What are the conditions under which women of Canada are asked to produce children who will be a credit to the nation? The working mother is little less ignorant than her better-off sister, but in the latter's case there is plenty of straw. Her surroundings are more congenial, which go towards healthy maternity, and sound offsprings.

So far as the education of the masses in this subject of far-reaching importance and national concern, the teachers can play no small part. In every school there are those children who can carry home sound practical and arousing messages such as is embodied in the aims of the British National Baby Week, if the teachers care to tell them.

The REVIEW would strongly advocate that such a Baby Week be organized in the Dominion, or at the least in the Maritime Provinces. Surely the appalling mortality among children, as well as the awful wastage of war, ought to be brought home to the people. Why should so many mothers have to undergo all the trials which motherhood brings only to see her offspring pass from her