

This was succeeded by the address of the day given by C. E. A. Winslow, professor of public health, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn., upon the subject of "Safeguarding the Health of Young Children." Professor Winslow's address gave a description of some practical methods of life-saving. He pointed out that the campaign carried on in New York, has reduced the infant mortality rate in that city, from 154 in 1900 to 93 in 1916, which means a saving for that city of over 8,000 lives a year. Recent estimates of the comparative value of various lines of public health endeavor shows that infant welfare work offers one-fifth of the total possibilities of life-saving which are open to the health department.

Professor Winslow pointed out that every community of 10,000 inhabitants should have not a "milk station" merely, but a baby's clinic and dispensary where children may be brought for weekly examination and from which public health nurses may go out to carry instruction to the home of the individual mother. In larger cities there should be such a station for every 20,000 of the population. The nurses should also undertake the prenatal care of mothers. The experience of Boston has shown that such care may result in cutting the infant mortality to one-half the figure prevailing among families not receiving prenatal advice. For the rural communities there should be public health nurses backed by available competent pediatric knowledge which might be secured by co-operation with the infant welfare organization of the nearest city (*or with that of the Provincial Board of Health*).

The essayist said that the deaths of infants are due principally to three great groups of causes: (1) Prematurity or congenital debility and other causes operating at the time of birth, (2) Gastro-intestinal infections, (3) Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases. The machinery of the infant welfare station helps in dealing with all of these groups, the more especially with the second, namely, summer diarrhœas and other digestive disorders. Means of procuring adequate and safe milk supplies are indicated in the paper, and the value of inspection and pasteurization pointed out. The importance of measles and whooping-cough as public health problems were discussed, especially in the very earliest years. The fatality of whooping-cough is five times as great under one year as over five years; of scarlet fever, ten times as great, and of measles twenty times as great. These facts indicate the great necessity for the protection of young children against infection. Schools should never be closed during epidemics. The services of the public health nurse should be secured and an examination of school children made every morning for the detection of the disease in its earliest stages.