

"While this is the opinion I have come to from an investigation of the facts in these poverty-stricken districts, I do not for a moment maintain that such industrial employment is free from all harmful influence. The mere fact that it prevents breast-feeding in the majority of cases is, in my opinion, a reason for some State interference. Here, however, it appears to be a question in this Birmingham area as to whether the additional poverty which would be occasioned by preventing mothers from working for, say, six months after a birth would not be the greater of two evils."

That is, the conclusion of Dr. Robertson is that the economic factor dominates the maternal employment factor in infant mortality. There are those who hold that, under existing economic conditions, any further State interference with the industrial employment of married women would aggravate rather than alleviate the very evil which the supporters of such interference would seek to remove.

Perhaps so. But then these economic conditions should not exist, and we must bend our energies to prevent them from arising at all. Miscarriage and premature births, as every doctor knows, are not infrequent results of overwork, and women who are not able to rest and take care of themselves until the baby is six weeks old, suffer often from uterine disease and its consequences.

As Sir John Simon says in his *Investigations Into the Sanitary Condition of England, 1859-1865*: "In proportion as adult women were taking part in factory labor or in agriculture, the mortality of the infants rapidly increased."

NURSING.

August forms the Eiffel Tower of the infant mortality year, as shown in the diagram. The same diagram shows also the value of maternal nursing. How insignificant the number of deaths among the babies who had maternal nursing as compared with those fed in any other way. This is *the* way to prevent infant mortality.

ENEMIES.

But now that the Health Visitor banishes by her persuasion the deadly "Comfort," or "Dummy," and the fatal long-tube bottle, we are beginning to feel that some babies are saved by this advice alone.

MORE BABIES NURSED.

And the fact that everywhere any attention is drawn to the necessity, the number of babies nursed by the mother largely increases, is a very hopeful sign. Probably 90 per cent. of babies, or more, could be nursed at the mother's breast. Baron Kanchiro Takaki, Surgeon-General of the Imperial Japanese Navy, states that 99 per cent. of the infants in Japan were breast-fed.

TOO MUCH ARTIFICIAL FEEDING.

But hand-feeding of sucklings has for years past been increasing as compared with breast-feeding. "The indications in this direction are numerous and distinct; the increase in the number of patent and modified foods for infants of suckling age and their wide advertisement, the unfortunate frequency with which they have been recommended not only by lay friends, but also by the nurses, midwives, and chemists, and even by doctors, the light-hearted manner in which not only the