

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO PREVENT INFANT MORTALITY.

At the conclusion of the Conference, it was decided to organize a National Association for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality, which was accordingly done.

The directors as elected held a meeting and elected officers and arranged to hold the first meeting in Baltimore some time next fall. Dr. J. H. Mason Knox, Jr., of Baltimore, was elected President; Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, of Boston, Secretary. Prof. Charles R. Henderson, of the University of Chicago, was named as the President-elect.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In October, 1905, an International Congress on Infants' Milk Depots was held in Paris, and among others there were present, Mr. Benjamin Broadbent, Mayor of Huddersfield, and Baillie W. Fleming Anderson, Chairman of the Health Committee, of Glasgow. On their return, these gentlemen used their influence to have a National Conference on Infant Mortality summoned in Great Britain. The result of their efforts was the First National Conference on Infant Mortality, under the patronage of their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on June 13th and 14th, 1906. The President of the Conference was the Rt. Hon. John Burns, M.P., who delivered an inaugural address of a memorable character. After pointing out that in the last 50 years the average age of engineers has been extended ten or twelve years, he adds, "In that period of fifty years, the infant mortality has been stationary, or slowly declining. Wealth has increased, but the infant has not shared in it; physical comforts undoubtedly have enlarged, but the weakest, the smallest, and the dearest to us all, alone bear unduly the penalty and the burden of death." Mr. Burns' chief remedy for Infant Mortality is, First, "Concentrate on the mother. Let us glorify, purify and dignify motherhood by every means in our power. Let us see to the nursing child in every way. Nourish the mother, you feed the child."

The Conference produced a profound impression in Great Britain, and doubtless this influence, and the influence of a second Conference of the same character, in March, 1908, again under the patronage of their Majesties, and under the Presidency of the Rt. Hon. John Burns, had a determining part in the Children's Bill, (brought in by Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., a leading member of the Conference), recently enacted, which has special provisions in regard to Infant Mortality. Other legislation mentioned by Mr. Burns, in his President's address at the second National Conference, as being closely connected with the work of the Conference, were as follows:—

The Medical Inspection of School Children.

The Optional Feeding of School Children.

The Butter and Margarine Act.

Prohibition of Night Work for Women.

Laundries' Hours' Act.

Notification of Births Act

and the attention given to legislative work in other subjects, particularly in regard to milk. Mr. Burns also draws attention to the fact that where illiteracy prevails most among women, the Infant Mortality rate is proportionate; and said that whereas in 1870, 199 women who were married, signed their marriage lines with a cross, only 20 do so to-day.