

know by instinct how to rear their young rightly. But directly a new problem is presented instinct is fooled. The instinctive knowledge of the insect is independent of experience or learning.

"The human mother is ignorant because she is an intelligent being, and therefore requires to be taught. The initial ignorance of all our race has its glorious side, for intelligence can and does learn if it gets the chance, and then the mother that seemed such a fool becomes cleverer than the mothers belonging to the lower animals. Among these, by far the greater number of offspring die young. With us the rate is not so high, because in the long run intelligence is better than instinct . . . . ."

"We are convinced that real progress can be obtained by going backwards in the sequence of vital consequences—back to the school child, back to the infant, back to the ante-natal period."

Dr. Saleeby proceeds to point out that infant mortality, as it exists in certain countries, is not natural selection, which slays or spares, but this process is only the worst aspect of another process—the morbid destruction of our immature life, before and after birth. . . . .

"Directly you can show that in any particular case the stock was healthy and the infant was spoilt by agencies coming from without, then you demonstrate that this is racial destruction, not natural selection, but a hideous mockery of it. . . . The racial poisons, often acting before conception at all, are responsible for much infant mortality and have nothing to do with true heredity or genetics. The most important of these poisons is syphilis—a cause beyond anything yet realized of the destruction of life that began healthy. . . . In alcohol it has a faithful and trusty ally.

"The future of our race and of the Empire depends on the subject with which we are now dealing. . . . This is the world problem of the future. The war will demonstrate the importance of sheer man power in peace as in war. Let us live remembering that all men once lay in cradles and were carried thither from cradles not made with hands, temples holier still, the *sancta sanctorum* of life."

Dr. Saleeby deals with profound truths and every midwife only does half her duty if she performs her professional work skilfully and mechanically, and takes no account of the great human problems with which she is dealing, if she does nothing to educate the expectant mother who looks to her for guidance and assistance in the deeper facts underlying the reproduction of the race, of the reasons why she must "keep her body in temperance, soberness, and chastity," of the necessity for acquiring the knowledge which will enable her to rear the children she bears to be healthy men and women, and good patriots.

The more one studies the question the deeper becomes one's conviction that to help to raise the mothers of the country to a higher plane of life and knowledge, is one of the highest vocations to which any woman can aspire, and that in the

hands of midwives rests an untold power for good or evil.

For this reason women selected for the work of midwives should be of good education, high ideals, and refinement of character, and the study of professional work should be preceded by a study of the social problems which are so intimately bound up with it. For this reason we consider that the National League for Physical Education and Improvement has done good service by the publication of "Mothercraft" and we cordially commend it to the attention of midwives and district nurses.

### A HUMANE MISSION.

Mr. T. Edmund Harvey, of the Society of Friends, who is working in connection with the Friends Mission to the Devastated Districts of France, writes from Esternay:—

"I had the opportunity, on Thursday and Friday nights, at Châlons, of seeing something of the excellent work being done there, which Dr. Hilda Clark's report describes. The nurses there worked most bravely in cleaning up the verminous building and making it into a model little hospital, and the relief work now being organised will undoubtedly meet a most urgent need.

"We have been very sorry this week to say farewell for a little time to Dr. Williams. There was urgent need at the Red Cross Hospital started by Mme. Delmar in her chateau near Gezanne for a physician to take charge of 60 to 80 beds. Dr. Moru, the one physician in charge, had to leave for England, and Dr. Williams felt it right to step into the breach. We hope that later on he will rejoin us and possibly Dr. Fardon may relieve him at the hospital for awhile."

In a later letter Mr. Harvey writes:—"The other day, after an absence of several days, I went to see M. Catolico at Chatillon, and I suddenly realised that he was not an old man, as he had seemed when first we saw him. In a month's time he seemed to have grown ten or fifteen years younger, and a similar change had come over his wife as they watched their home grow up little by little out of the ashes—a small place, indeed, compared with the comfortable big farm, with its nine great oak chests filled with household linen that had all been burnt, but still a home, and their own home. Mme. Catolico had found amongst the debris her grandmother's old iron grate, still sound, and the light shone in her eyes as she watched the fire burning on it once more on the new-made hearth.

"Many other homes have been cheered by gifts of blankets and warm clothing which Friends have provided. . . . In almost all cases two or three visits have been paid to the homes, and sometimes visits have been repeated oftener, especially in one or two cases of sickness. Nurse Tylcotes' help in this work has been invaluable, and we shall all greatly miss her when the growing needs of the Maternity Hospital call her to Châlons."

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