

food from the bottle, and fourteen on spoon-meat ; therefore thirty-two out of the forty-six were not fed on natural food. They had not been able to get satisfactory information as to the occupation of the parents or how many of the mothers worked, but they had this fact—that out of the forty-six, seventeen children were put out to nurse. They had no knowledge of the general proportion of young infants put out to nurse, but he should hope that they were not very large. The fact that the actual number of one-third of the deaths being of that class of children indicated it was there where they met with a considerable amount of the mortality. As to the condition of the houses specially referred to, it appeared that six were provided with water-closets and forty had privies. Seventeen were described as dirty or defective, twelve fairly clean, and seventeen were clean, but in connection with the latter the yards were mostly said to be small or confined. He did not know that the returns generally disclosed anything very much different from what their experience had been in previous years.”

PERHAPS one of the most deplorable reports it has ever been my lot to peruse.

VARIOUS remedies were suggested, as they have been suggested over and over again, until their very reiteration has almost caused contempt.

ONE thing the town ought to do above all others, and that is to support heartily and entirely the recommendations of its Medical Officer of Health in carrying out any plan which he may believe likely to prove of sanitary service. It is quite certain he cannot possibly make the place worse whatever he does, and the possibility is that with proper and prompt support he may be able to do a great deal more than the members of the Council credit.

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN bluntly remarked that “they ought by this time to know that dirt was the cause of their trouble in Preston, and that the remedy was the prompt removal of it”—an expression of an opinion which appeared to be pretty general.

To my mind the most practical statement came from Mr. Alderman Walmsley, who said “that after the long and highly eloquent speeches already delivered, he should not like to occupy more than a minute; but were they quite sure that even if they had a town as perfect as possible, and even if they did away with those 16,000 ashpits, they would have a death-rate as perfect as it was in

other districts? He very much doubted it. He would tell them how to improve the death-rate at the least possible expense—let them take all the little children who were sent out to be nursed, and provide one central Nursery; and thus, at a hundredth part of the cost, they would reduce the death-rate a great deal more than they would do if they spent a million of money in other ways.”

MR. WALMSLEY is quite right. Provide a central Nursery. But rather than this, I say provide a Nursery in each of the most crowded districts, and I will undertake to say, from a practical experience of such Institutions in this over-teeming metropolis, the results will be satisfactory in every way. I shall be glad to furnish details as to probable cost of maintenance and management, based upon the working of other similar Nurseries to the one proposed; and I sincerely and earnestly hope, for the credit of a town whose high death-rate has become a reproach to the country, no less than to itself, that something will be done quickly and energetically in the direction pointed out by Mr. Walmsley, who has most undoubtedly hit the true means of reducing the infantile mortality, which is the chief cause of the immense number per thousand being added so regularly to the Registrar's list.

It is gratifying to be able to note that the Hospital to be conducted by women, and of which the foundation-stone was laid by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales a few months ago, is already fully supplied with funds necessary to erect and furnish it. From all accounts, nothing will be wanting in this institution, as far as it is in the power of modern authorities to supply it, to make it thoroughly replete and up to date in every possible way, so that women shall be enabled to battle with disease, with every expectancy of success awaiting them, as well as those of the other sex.

THE JUNIOR HOUSE SURGEON.

How vain, how fleeting, how uncertain are all those gaudy bubbles after which we are panting and toiling in this world of fair delusion! The wealth which the miser has amassed with so many weary days, so many sleepless nights, a spendthrift heir may squander away in joyless prodigality. The noblest monuments which pride has ever reared to perpetuate a name the hand of time will shortly tumble into ruins—and even the brightest laurels gained by feats of arms may wither and be for ever blighted by the chilling neglect of mankind.—*Washington Irving.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)