

Better Babies



Permission "Woman Voter"

*"I wish my mother had a vote—
to keep the germs away."*

Better Babies

300,000 babies die every year in the United States before they are one year old.

The death of a baby in at least 50 per cent. of the cases is due to **preventable causes**.

Five times as many babies die in crowded tenement districts as in a well-to-do quarter of a city. Lack of air and sunshine, poor food, bad sanitation, overwork of the mothers, both before and after marriage, above all **ignorance** on the part of the **mother**, are responsible for most of these deaths.

Comparison of the Infant death rate of Civilized Nations. Number of deaths under one year per 1,000 births.*

New Zealand (1912)	51
Norway (1912)	68
Australia (1912)	72
Sweden (1911)	72
Denmark (1913)	94
England and Wales (1913)	108
Finland (1912)	109
United States (1911)	124

(This is only approximate as registration of births is incomplete.)

Italy (1912)	130
Spain (1907)	158
Germany (1911)	192
Russia (1909)	248

The lowest death rate of babies in the world is in New Zealand.

Why?

Because the government realizes the value of babies and does everything in its power to educate the mothers and protect the baby.

WOMEN HAVE HAD THE VOTE IN NEW ZEALAND FOR TWENTY YEARS.

The first three countries with the lowest death rate are all Woman Suffrage countries.

In all of the seven which have a lower death rate than the United States women have at least the municipal vote. In Italy, Spain, Germany and Russia where the death rate is highest, women have even less say in regard to public affairs and hygiene than they have in the United States.

In New Zealand, in every town and village, and in the remotest country district, government nurses give instructions and aid to mothers, who are visited both before and after the baby comes. Young girls are taught baby hygiene and feeding. Advice from the best medical authorities is printed and distributed free. Government Maternity Hospitals, government Registration of Nurses, and complete government Registration of Births, all aid in the low death rate.

Comparison of the infant death rate of some American cities with that of Dunedin, New Zealand. Number of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births.

Dunedin (The lowest in the world)	38
New York City	125
Washington, D. C.	152
Syracuse	160
Buffalo	162
Lowell, Mass.	231

In the United States, California has become the Banner Baby State. It has the highest birth rate in the Union and a very low death rate.

In Los Angeles the infant death rate is 87 per 1,000 births, in Oakland it is 87.2. The lowest infant death rate in the United States, 82, is in Seattle, Washington. Kansas has reduced its infant death rate from 120 to 90 since it adopted a Public Nursing Association in 1913. Washington gave women the vote in 1910, California in 1911, and Kansas in 1912.

In the United States every care is given to animal and plant life, but the government concerns itself little with babies.

"What has the United States Government to do with women and children?" as one Congressman tersely put it, expressed the attitude of the

government as it was for many years. Since women began to be represented in Washington, there has been a change. After many years of urging, Congress, in 1912, established a **Children's Bureau** and \$25,000 a year was appropriated. In 1915 this was increased to \$165,000.

HERE IS A LIST OF NATIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1915: †

Bureau of Animal Industry	\$4,597,966
Bureau of Plant Industry	2,880,875
Forest Service	3,243,096
Bureau of Chemistry	644,301
Bureau of Soils	299,815
Bureau of Entomology	450,370
Hog Cholera	600,000
Children's Bureau	164,265

\$165,000 a year to protect our babies and \$600,000 a year to protect our hogs!

In addition to the inhumanity it is bad business. The National Conservation Commission estimates that an individual is worth \$2,900 to society. At this rate the 300,000 babies represent a yearly loss of \$870,000,000.

When, of all the civilized world, the country that has had the **women suffrage** the **longest** has the **lowest death rate**, and the **five** countries with the **next lowest** rate **all** have **woman suffrage**, can there be a doubt that woman suffrage has brought about better and healthier living conditions for all the people?

Isn't it evident that when mothers are represented in government and their opinions and interests are consulted, babies have a better chance? Isn't it proved that women with the ballot do **not** neglect their home and babies?

Giving the ballot to women not only helps them to do their own work more effectively, but actually increases the wealth of the nation.

*Children's Bureau Pub. No. 6 & 15.

†Digest of Appropriations for U. S. Government for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1915.

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