

THE DAY BOOK

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WILL THEY TAKE THE LESSON?

—Miss Julia Lathrop, at the head of the United States children's bureau at Washington—the only woman bureau chief in our government—is doing one of the greatest pieces of work in this country. She has under way many special investigations on child life, but the most conspicuous one, perhaps, is her inquiries into the child death rate in America.

She approached this vital, heart interest question from the industrial, economic and hygienic aspects, and she has already progressed far enough to lead to the conclusion that the death rate is far too high, that better conditions of living reflect most favorably in the infant mortality rate, and that if children are well born and well cared for, as American children should be and have a right to be, the death rate among them will be negligible.

The children's bureau made two exhaustive field investigations, one in Johnstown, Pa., a typical coal mining and steel producing community, and the other in Montclair, N. J., a typical residential suburb, where the death rate was already near the average, but unsatisfactory to the local health authorities.

In a residential ward in Johnstown the death rate was found to be 50 per 1,000, while in the poorer and more congested localities the death rate reached 271 per 1,000. In the latter

locality underpaid fathers, overworked and ignorant mothers, and the poorest living conditions went hand in hand with the high death rate. Likewise in Montclair, a far more favorable community for the average child, the death rate was 39 per 1,000 under the best living conditions and 130 in the tenement section.

Will the authorities and especially the rich exploiters of labor take the lesson to heart? We hope so, but we fear not. However, it is interesting to note that a committee has been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of Johnstown to try to solve the problem of infant mortality along the lines indicated by the investigators of the children's bureau.

Gosh! They're successfully paving London streets with rubber! Well, anyway this will be easier on a guy when he falls under the auto wheels.

The Des Moines police force found 21 bottles of whisky in a piano. Wire isn't the only thing used in Iowa pianos for stringing purposes.

Woodrow Wilson had a birthday cake with 12 eggs in it. Say, hasn't that fellow the luck, though?

