

of age will be printed in these columns. Mothers, or prospective mothers, should read them.—Editor.)

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Washington, May 21.—Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, vital statistician of the census bureau, estimated that approximately 300,000 babies die yearly in the United States before reaching the age of 1 year.

A calculation based on census figures indicates that in the 10-year pe-



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riod between the last two enumerations of the census more than 2,500,000 of the children born in this country died before they reached the age of one year.

What do these figures mean? In terms of total population, it is as if Chicago, the second city of the United States, were to be wiped out of existence every 10 years, not a single life being saved.

It means the annihilation each decade of a population as large as that of the state of New Jersey, and greater than that of such states as Ala-

bama, California, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia or Wisconsin.

In fact, only 10 states in the union had each in 1910 a population as great as the infant mortality for the preceding decade. This mortality nearly equaled the combined population of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

A report of the International Congress on Prevention of Infant Mortality, prepared under the direction of Prof. Dietrich of Buffalo, said:

"It was formerly believed that the rate of mortality among children who had not reached the first anniversary of their birth was a wise dispensation of nature intended to prevent children with a weak constitution from becoming too plentiful. Today we know that a great infant mortality is a national disaster—on the one hand because numerous economic values are created without purpose and prematurely destroyed, and on the other because the causes of the high rate of infant mortality affect the powers of resistance of the other infants and weaken the strength of the nation in its next generation."

If none of those infant deaths was preventable we should have no stimulus for trying to find a remedy. But we are assured by the highest authorities that the number of deaths can be greatly reduced if we apply the best methods of the growing science of sanitation.

Indeed, one great authority says that if children were well born and well cared for the infant mortality rate would be negligible. The New York state department of health has adopted for its legend these words: "Public health is purchasable; within natural limitations a community can determine its own death rate."

Is not this statement a challenge to the patriotism of all public-spirited citizens?

If it can shown that birth registration can aid in preventing infant mor-