

Impure Milk and Infant Mortality.

Madam President:

Milk is the staple diet of infancy, and therefore the most important of all foods - and unfortunately the most easily contaminated. If it were a clear instead of an opaque fluid it would be possible to discover its gross contamination with the naked eye, but its opacity conceals all kinds of dirt and it is a perfect culture medium for germ life. A comparatively pure sample of milk may be delivered ~~XXXXXX~~ to a consumer and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and if it kept in a warm unclean place it may be teeming with germ life within a few hours and wholly unfit to be fed to a baby.

Grown people are very discriminating in the choice of food but helpless infants are obliged to take whatever is offered them and that is why so many of them die. The death rate from intestinal disorders in infants is greater than from any other cause and this death rate is steadily declining since the relation between intestinal disorders and impure milk has become so generally known. The civilized people of the world are trying to remove this cause of death among infants - and it is no small task. It involves constant care, ~~XXXX~~ attention to detail and co-operation between dairyman, dealers and consumers.

Every perfect child born should live to a good old age. No one should die of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ an infectious disease - these diseases are all preventible. No child should die of an intestinal disorder - these disorders are also preventible - and wholesome milk is the means of preventing death from this cause.

In the Vienna clinic which I attended eight years ago there were from sixty to eighty babies brought in daily for treatment. The usual

and some of them are very well advertised, but modified ~~XXXX~~ cows milk is undoubtedly the best substitute ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ for mother's milk available. ~~XX~~ That is, the best substitute for the majority of infants. Some infants thrive on other foods. Indeed some thrive on soup ~~XX~~ and testimonials from some very healthy youngsters raised on soup might be secured but it would scarcely do to adopt soup as a stable diet for our infants on that account. Modified cows milk is undoubtedly the best substitute for mother's milk available at the present time, but goat milk is probably a better substitute because it approaches more nearly the composition of mothers milk, and particularly because goats are not subject to tuberculosis.

~~XX~~

Diseases of different kinds are spread through the milk supply. Typhoid, tuberculosis and intestinal diseases are particularly liable to be carried in this way, and it is impossible to guarantee that any milk on the market is absolutely free from pathogenic germs unless it is pasteurized, therefore it is safer to use pasteurized milk ~~XX~~ although it may not ~~XXXXXX~~ be quite as digestible as raw milk.

The first milk ordinance was passed while I was in charge of the Health Department and there was a great deal of difficulty in passing it. The dairymen ~~XX~~ protested against many of its provisions

the usual remedy for whatever form of enteritis the child was suffering
and indeed all other cases
from after which the child would die. In these cases an ounce of preven-
six years later when
tion is worth a ton of cure and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I returned to Vienna.

I attended a clinic where the babies were given milk while they were well
instead of medicine when they were sick with the result that they grew
and thrived. This milk was provided partly by the city and partly by
philanthropic people, but unfortunately there was not enough to go around

outery during the last ten years ~~XXXXX~~ regarding
other food
or adults but the babies of the world have been
r period for pure milk and nobody had sense enough
crying about.

... diet of infancy and it is therefore the most important
... unfortunately the most easily contaminated.
of all foods. If our foods are unwholesome we can protect ourselves in
a way, but ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ helpless infant must take whatever is given to
them and that is the reason that so many of them die. The death rate
from intestinal disorders in infants is greater than from any other cause,
and this death rate is steadily declining because it has been found to be
due to unclean milk and the civilized people of the world are making an
effort to remove the cause of this trouble.

Every perfect child born should ~~grow~~ live ~~and~~ to a good old age. No one
should die of an infectious disease - those diseases are all preventible.
No child should die of an intestinal disorder - these troubles are also
preventible. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ milk is the ~~best~~ means of preventing
death from this cause.

... during the summer months
In the Vienna clinic which I attended eight years ago there were
sick
from sixty to eighty babies brought in daily. ~~XXX~~ The usual trouble was
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The of these often
enteritis. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ mothers were ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ obliged to
due to improper feeding and impure food cows milk
work and they were nursed irregularly and often given artificial food,

Six years later

In the Vienna clinic which I attended during the summer eight years ago
there were from sixty to eighty sick babies brought in daily. The usual
trouble was enteritis due to improper feeding and impure food. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XX~~ time no provision has been made
for properly caring for these children so the doctor in charge would

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: During the last five years there has been a tremendous reduction

The average length of life has increased tremendously during the last few years ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ for the reason that the death rate among infants has been growing steadily less. The death rate from Diphtheria was over fifty per cent before the introduction of anti-toxin but now it is less than five per cent. Infectious diseases ~~XXXX~~ such as Scarlet Diphtheria and small-pox are dreaded by any community but more children ~~XXX~~ actually die ~~XX~~ ^{from} intestinal disorders than from all three of these ^{infant} dreadful diseases combined. But during the last five years the mortality from intestinal disorders has been increases all over the civilized world for the cause of these disorders has been found to be unclean and diseased milk and a general effort has been made to improve the conditions under which milk is produced.