

DISEASE IN MILK

THE REMEDY
PASTEURIZATION

THE LIFE WORK OF
NATHAN STRAUS

By Lina Gutherz Straus X

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X Ehefrau von Nathan Straus

HEIDELBERG AND SANDHAUSEN.

Finding milk conditions even worse abroad than in this country, Mr. Straus devoted himself to the task of overcoming the prejudice that deprived babies of the chance to escape sickness. He set up a laboratory for the pasteurization of milk in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1907, and maintained it for a year, supplying pasteurized milk for the Children's Hospital at the University and for several charitable institutions.

In Sandhausen, a village of 4,000 inhabitants, in the district of Heidelberg, Mr. Straus found the death rate among children 46 per hundred per annum. He set up a pasteurization plant there on February 1, 1908, and in order to make a test he supplied *all* the children under two years with pasteurized milk free of charge — using the same milk supply



VIEW OF SANDHAUSEN MILK KITCHEN

as before, only pasteurizing it. The result was that the death rate among children under two years, which for five years had averaged 46 per cent., was cut down to less than 20 per cent. Prior to the introduction of pasteurization, there were usually 6 to 7 deaths every July. In August, 1910, Mr. Straus received this cablegram:

Sandhausen, August 5, 1910.

We are very fortunate to be able to inform you that in the month of July of this year not a single death has occurred in infants under two years of age, due to the great success of the milk kitchen which you have founded.

HAMBRECHT, Mayor.

When Mr. Straus visited Sandhausen subsequently 250 mothers brought their children to prove the benefits of pasteurization. When a vote of thanks was proposed, they held their babies aloft.

pasteurized milk depots is a proper and necessary municipal function. Enlightened public policy has dictated that the babies should be saved from needless sickness and death.

It has been recognized also in New York that this is a proper work of humanity for a church to undertake, the Morningside Presbyterian Church having set the example by establishing an infant milk depot which takes care of 125 babies a day.

In 1908 the Countess of Aberdeen, wife of the Viceroy of Ireland, accepted from me a pasteurization plant which has since been operated by the Women's National Health Association in Dublin, with the result that the death rate among the babies supplied with this milk has been only 55 per thousand, while the mortality among the rest of the babies of Dublin has been three times as great.

BABIES' LIVES SAVED IN BADEN.

The Women's Society for the Care of Infants, of the Grand Duchy of Baden, accepted a similar plant, and it has been operated under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Dowager Grand Duchess Luise. The official report of this work for 1909 shows that the death rate among the babies in the entire city of Karlsruhe was 17 per cent., while among the babies supplied with pasteurized milk the mortality rate was only 6.3 per cent. The report says:

This very remarkable success of feeding with pasteurized milk is to be appreciated more because these children were mostly sick or had become reduced by long sickness before they were brought to us.

In Sandhausen (district of Heidelberg) the demonstration was complete. I began supplying the babies with pasteurized milk in February, 1908. Immediately there was a reduction in the death rate. The average infant mortality for the preceding five years was 46 per cent. With no other change except the substitution of pasteurized milk for raw milk, the death rate fell to less than 20 per cent.

Extending the work so as to supply milk for all the babies in Sandhausen under two years, the record of two months last year, in which there were no deaths at all among the babies, was highly gratifying.

WORK OF TWO NOBLE WOMEN.

Thus with the enthusiastic encouragement of two noble women, the Dowager Grand Duchess of Baden and the Countess of Aberdeen, I have been enabled to make conclusive demonstrations in Germany and in Ireland. The practical experience with pasteurization in the cases I have just cited confirms the conclusions resulting from the work in America, and warrants me in urging upon this congress the duty of encouraging the establishment of pasteurized milk depots.

With the great increase in population and in industry in Germany and other progressive countries conditions have changed so as to make this necessity urgent. Instead of the cows having the benefits of life in the open fields, they are more and more shut up in stables, which increases their susceptibility to tuberculosis. No longer does any doubt exist as to the dangers of raw milk from tuberculous cows; neither can there be any reason to hesitate over adopting that means of safety that is afforded by pasteurization. Moreover, there are the other diseases that