

Baby Welfare Week.

Chicago has devoted a week to raising revenue, by means of voluntary contributions, for the better care of babies. The amount raised was not large; indeed, taking into consideration the number of babies needing attention, it is painfully small. That the babies need help is evident from the fact that nearly one fifth die in the first year. Why? Because the mothers do not know how, or are unable to take care of them. We spend vast sums of money to teach farmers how to raise hogs; but we must take up, by means of subscriptions, a few dollars to teach mothers how to raise children. Possibly the financial interests involved account for the difference. If hogs are decimated by cholera, the price of ham will advance. If a fifth of the babies die—well, the other four-fifths will keep up the population, and babies, unlike hogs, cannot be turned into cash.



But how does it come that there is no money to pay for the care of the babies? Every child that comes to Chicago, whether through Castle Garden or by the Stork Express adds to the site value of the city. When there was but one million people in Chicago its lands were worth much less than now. When it shall have three million people its lands will be worth much more than now. Only a part of this rental value of Chicago's land is taken for the care of the children. The fact that the remainder is left in the hands of those who do not make it, while there is such dire need of funds to save the little ones, might tempt the visitor from Mars to think Chicago the national asylum for the feeble minded—were it not for the fact that other cities are guilty of the same offense.

S. C.



Cleveland's Good Example.

Since the days of Tom L. Johnson the city of Cleveland has been a leader among progressive municipalities. Now the first steps have been taken by its city council to inaugurate another reform. An ordinance was introduced on May 18 authorizing condemnation of property for a street extension. Included in the ordinance was a unique provision for acquirement by the city of land along the proposed street as well as of land actually needed for street purposes. This insures to the city the increased land values created by its expenditure in cutting through the street. Hitherto private land owners have been permitted to appropriate these values. They are still permitted to do so in nearly every American city but

Cleveland. Some accounts say that after the street has been constructed the city will sell its adjoining land. That would be a mistake. To make the new policy perfect the land should be retained and leased. Then if in the future the land should still further increase in value the city will have the benefit. If, on the other hand, values should decline, individual citizens will not be compelled to endure the loss. In either case the situation would be superior to what exists under present conditions. Cleveland's example deserves wide imitation.

S. D.



Philosophy and the Unearned Increment.

"A scientific truth is a statement of which the opposite is inconceivable." And again: "A proposition of which the negative is inconceivable is necessarily true in relation to human intelligence."—John Fiske, in "Cosmic Philosophy." An almost universally admitted principle in trade is that capital is entitled to a fair return for its use, when it is employed in moral and legitimate business. The reverse of this proposition, constituting as it does, a negation of the foregoing, would violate the ethics of both interest and wages. Obviously the antithesis of a true proposition cannot also be true; yet just such an antithesis obtains when returns are secured from sources wherein there has been no investment of capital. Therefore, the owner of unused land, which accrues value by the investment of capital by owners of adjacent used land, is receiving returns on capital which he has not invested; he is receiving dividends on stock that consists entirely of water; he is receiving something for nothing; he is robbing the public by taking that which the public has earned and giving nothing in return therefor. In short, according to Fiske's Philosophy, the absorber of community-created wealth is a menace to community life, for the reason that his presence is a negation of a verified truth; his relation to the weal of the community is that of a down-puller instead of an up-lifter. By right, his name should be Dennis.

J. A. DEMUTH.



A Sign of Progress.

Significant action, which may mark the beginning of a radical change in the policy of organized charities, was taken by the National Conference of Charities and Corrections in the meeting at Memphis beginning on May 12. This action was the appointment of a committee on social legislation to investigate, first, taxation reform as it relates to congestion and poverty; second, social