

Infanticide Made Easy.

Infanticide made easy appears an appropriate title for the first proof of the practice of baby-farming in our midst, now that the basket has been removed from the foot of the Foundling Asylum by reason of the falling off in contributions to that much-needed institution. Recent investigations on the part of the Board of Health show that more than one-half of the illegitimate children recently born in New York are systematically placed out to nurse with the intention of securing their death through lingering, yet certain means. Incredible as it may appear, there are a crowd of women who not only receive newly-born infants for the purpose of their ultimate extinction, but absolutely solicit patronage from the keepers of the numerous lying-in establishments springing into existence since the introduction of licensed midwives. This revolting trade cannot be suppressed as a crime, while the female physicians are in no wise averse to the law, inasmuch as few among them will loan themselves to fortitude, the only offense for which they could be punished. To exterminate this last practice was a cardinal object in the foundation of the Foundling Asylum, and for a time this design was accomplished; but as the money of the institution has diminished, the Sisters beneath whose charge the Asylum has been placed decline reception to infants indiscriminately tendered them. More foundlings could be previous years be traced to married or unmarried mothers; still, it is a curious fact that a knowledge that their offspring will be taken care of in a religious establishment has done much to render domestic servants indifferent as to the conservation of their prior distinctive virtue, and, consequently, during the past hard winter many unmarried girls voluntarily surrounded their honor. Suddenly their doors of the Foundling Asylum are found to be closed against these clandestine mothers, and, in their despair, they are forced to seek a refuge in private lying-in establishments, whence their progeny is taken to be cared for in any manner agreed upon. It is upon the poor girls of the working class that these midwives rely for their custom, and as their charge is merely ten dollars for attendance and five dollars a week for board their dormitories rarely remain long unoccupied. Nevertheless, all illegitimate infants born within our city limits could not be chargeable upon residents; quite the reverse; young women, married and unmarried, come from the East, the West and the South, either to dispose of their offspring or to hide their shame within the wilderness of this great city. These women have been for years past the patrons of the Restless, Costello and other notorious residents, who, now that they find their original trade precarious, resort to the expedient of "adoption" to get rid of the infants necessarily born within their domiciles. While the basket moved within the peristyle of the asylum a midnight journey secured an excellent adopted mother in curtilage. Legitimate babies, now that its place is usurped by a stalwart policeman, few midwives run the risk of a charge of felonious abandonment, where a convenient nurse can be found willing to soothe the new-born's pains with effectual doses of deadly syrup. A possibly mistaken philanthropy gave birth to the Foundling Asylum, still a positive humanity demands its maintenance and augmentation.—*New York Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.*

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