

## GIVES REASONS FOR BIRTH REGISTRATION

State Director of Public Health Also Gives Figures

Springfield, Ill.—Thousands of people annually visit the Stock Show at Chicago, and the Illinois State Fair to view the choicest specimens of live stock the country has produced. Every animal has a pedigree showing a long line of illustrious "blue blooded" ancestors known by all who make a study of animal industry. But how about the babies of Illinois? Have they a smaller value in the eyes of men than pigs, sheep, cattle and horses?

"The first law requiring reports of births and deaths", says Dr. I. D. Rawlings, director of public health, "was enacted in 1877, yet not until 1915 was public interest sufficiently aroused in the state to bring about the enactment of an adequate registra-

tion law. The law, in itself, is a satisfactory measure. The trouble lies in its nonobservance in the matter of birth registration. In the matter of death registration", adds Dr. Rawlings, "the situation is fairly satisfactory as no burial permit can be issued without a satisfactory death certificate."

### Rate Average Low

In the matter of birth registration no such positive check is possible as in the case of deaths. The State Department of Public Health can and does see that for all deaths of children under one year of age proper birth certificates, if missing, are secured. The department knows how many children die, but it does not know how many are born. There are still 48 counties in this state, representing a large population in each of which the known birth rate is below 18 per 10,000 of population, and in some of them it is below 12 per 10,000 of population. The rate should be 24 per 10,000 of population.

Early in the present year Dr. Rawlings inaugurated a most active campaign to secure the admission of Illinois to the U. S. Registration Area for births. Illinois, as has been frequently stated, is the only northern state east of the Mississippi River which has not been admitted to the

Area. The cooperation of physicians, health officers, nurses, welfare workers, civic and civil organizations has been sought. The Department is mailing birth certificates to the parents of every child whose birth has been reported. Every mother in Illinois whose child was born since January 1, 1922, who has not received such a

certificate will be sent one upon receipt of a request in writing giving name and date of birth of her baby, the name and address of the physician who attended at birth of child and present address of the parents.

Clive Taylor is home for a two weeks' vacation.

During the month of August Mrs. Maurice H. Lieber, 468 Ridge avenue, will conduct a series of ten lessons in parliamentary law for the members of the board of the Chicago Woman's Advertising club.

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