

BRITISH WORKMAN



A LESSON FROM NATURE.

The useful cow furnishes a beautiful example of maternal affection. Her love and watchful care of her offspring forms one of the loveliest pictures of rural life. The diligence which she bestows in keeping her pretty calf clean, is worthy of imitation even by some who do not belong to the *domestic* creation. Very few calves, comparatively speaking, die from natural causes. Tens of thousands of

children die. Is there no reason for such a contrast in the mortality between the brute creation and human beings? We think there is. Terrible as is the distress now pressing upon the working-classes in Lancashire, a valuable and impressive fact is being brought to light which will we trust teach a rational lesson, never to be forgotten. Notwithstanding the scarcity of food, caused by the death of employment,

yet, the rate of mortality among infants has been *far less*, in Lancashire, during the last twelve months than has been known for many years! How is this strange fact to be accounted for? Simply because the mothers, from not being able to get work at the mills, have stayed at "*home*" and taken care of their babies themselves instead of leaving them to children and nurses! Let both husbands

and mothers, not only in the Cotton Districts, but elsewhere, seriously ponder this startling fact. As a rule, is it not a wife's duty to be "*a keeper at home*"? Is it not a mother's first duty to look well to her *children*? Money got by the wife working at the "*mill*," when home and children are neglected, is in the end, not a *gain* to the working-man, but a *loss*, which may be felt for generations to come!

