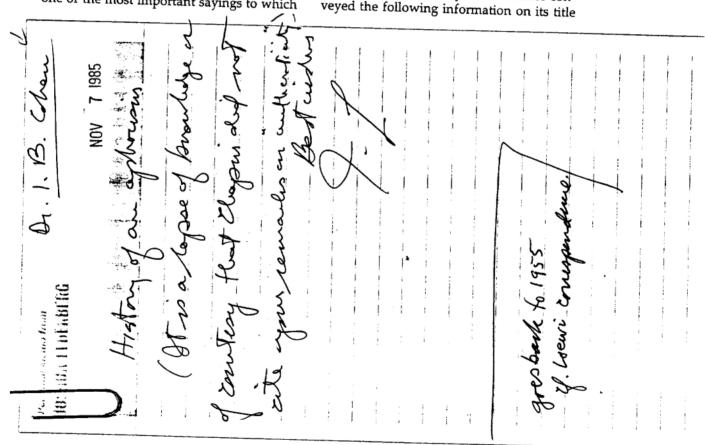
A Legendary Bon Mot?: Franklin's "What Is The Good of a Newborn Baby?"

SEYMOUR L. CHAPIN

California State University, Los Angeles

ne ought not let the bicentennial of the invention of ballooning pass too far by without a comment on one of the most important sayings to which

of "Printing Week" in New York about twenty years ago. Entitled What Good Is A Newborn Baby?, this tiny remembrance conveyed the following information on its title



The fact that the famous query is closely associated with Franklin was never made more obvious than when a small privately-printed book appeared during the celebration

of Enlightenment. What he said, whether in reporting a new play, the presentations at a public art showing, or the discussions in one of the private salons of the French capital,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, VOL. 129, NO. 3, 1985