"Humanity Owes the Child the Best it has to Give"

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER

What Have We Learned About Birth Control?

What Have We Learned About Birth Control?

We have learned that Birth Control is the deliberate regulation of the Birth Rate—the substitution of reason and choice in place of blind chance in this most momentous function of human beings.

We have learned that science and medicine have discovered easy, sanitary methods of preventing conception, methods which leave untouched the love life of married couples.

We have learned that the forces of Ignorance and superstition stand in the way of the use of these methods, and would condemn mankind to remain the victims of nature instead of mastering her. These forces have brought about the passage of laws which hamper the introduction of Birth Control, and in some states make the teaching of it a crime.

We have learned that Birth Control is necessary for the following reasons —

I. THE HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD
II. THE HAPPINESS OF MARRIED LIFE
III. THE RELIEF OF OVER-PopULATION
IV. THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RACE.
V. THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY
VI. THE PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION

We now give

Reason VII — THE PREVENTION OF WAR

The most frequent cause of war in the past has been the pressure of population and the need of space for its expansion. The expansion may be expressed in terms of the need of markets for the products of industry, the need of raw materials for the use of a nation, the need of more food, or the need of territory for colonial expansion.

The Emperor of Germany before the World War stated openly that the teeming population of his country demanded a place in the sun. Napoleon is alleged to have said that with her high birthrate, France must make war.

 Mussolini is now demanding for Italy an expanding population in order that Italy may be able to raise an army of five million soldiers. No country would demand such an army unless it intended to use it for war.

Japan has an ever increasing population, with insufficient means for its support. The world feels that this creates a problem and a danger for all Asia.

China, with its countless swarms of people, is never long free from internal wars and conflicts.

In answer to a question as to how the next war will be caused, Gen. John F. O’Ryan said —

"Overpopulation will cause the next war, as it caused the last. Most people will tell you that war is caused by religious or race hatred, but I say that war is caused by the competition of countries for new lands to feed their people, and for new raw materials to feed their factories and to employ their people."

—Gen. John F. O’Ryan
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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW
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EDITORIAL

IN SPITE of the fact that Birth Control has not been given a place among the subjects to be discussed at the International Population Conference, to be held this summer in Geneva, we consider this conference the most important event that has yet happened in the movement for scientific study of questions immediately affecting Birth Control. Such a conference will bring to the head the uneasiness that many statesmen and scientists are feeling over the too rapid multiplication of population throughout the world, and will call attention of the governments of all countries to the necessity either of providing for the surplus or of checking increase Birth Control as a means to health and happiness in families—for saving of mothers from death and invalidism, for ensuring to each child the birthright claimed for it in the children's charter, for raising the whole standard of living—is not an international question, affecting foreign governments, but a domestic concern for each nation. But Birth Control to prevent overcrowding and the necessity for expansion at the expense of other nations is an international question, and from this point of view the delegates to the International Population Conference must take it into account. Mrs. Sanger attended the sessions of the Economic Conference while she was in Europe. She will also be in attendance at the sessions of the Population Conference, and we hope to be able to give some report by her of the proceedings, and of the attitude of the delegates towards Birth Control.

A NEW presentation of the plans and purposes of Italy was made by Mussolini in the great speech of May 25th. He then pronounced against emigration as a relief to overpopulation in Italy, and urged the increase of her inhabitants by fifty per cent. He went into detail concerning the birth-rate in Italy, and deplored the fact that it had dropped from around 38 to 27—lower in some parts of Italy, notably the most advanced, and higher in other parts where conditions were more primitive. It was true, he admitted, that the fall in the birth-rate had been accompanied by an equal fall in the death-rate, but he urged as an ideal the high birth-rate of earlier times, combined with a low death-rate. In this Mussolini showed his ignorance of the population question and of economics, for it has been proved that a high birth-rate is necessarily accompanied by a high death-rate, especially under circumstances, such as exist in Italy, when large families have to struggle with extreme poverty and overcrowding. Even in countries of great wealth, as the United States, or countries which take especial care of the poor, as England, with all the advances in medicine, it has been impossible to keep a low death-rate alongside a high birth-rate, and it will be still more impossible in Italy. A moment's thought will show the reasons. Italy has now forty million inhabitants, and only by a continual outflow into other countries has she been able to sustain this number. If, as Mussolini has decreed, in the next twenty years or so, Italy increases her population to 60,000,000, how are all these people to be fed and housed? With such a birth-rate how are mothers and children to be kept healthy or even alive? However complete Mussolini may make his domination of Italy, he cannot by fiat repeal the law of Mathus. He may forbid all spread of Information of Birth Control, but he will thereby only make way for the positive checks to population—miserly, starvation, disease, and perhaps the dread desolution of war. If population outruns the means of subsistence, if the preventive of Birth Control is prohibited, if emigration is forbidden and prevented, what other outcome can there be?
THE Jubilee of the Neo-Malthusian—now the New Generation—League in England brings to mind one of the greatest fights for liberty that England’s long history of such fights can show. It is fifty years since the Drysdales and Dr. Vickrey, formed the League, under the impulse given to the subject by the trial of Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant for the sale of the Knowlton Pamphlet. For forty years the League, bitterly unpopular, was engaged in pioneer work, in sowing the seed which seemed so slow to sprout and take root. But for the last ten years the harvest has been in sight, and in England the movement has progressed so far and has developed into such practical form, that the league members are asking themselves whether there is any necessity to keep up the organization. It is suggested that it would be better to push the opening of Birth Control Clinics and to support those already opened, while awaiting the outcome of the efforts to secure the taking over by the Government of the duty of supplying Birth Control information, at the health clinics maintained all over the country at public expense. This question will probably be decided at the Jubilee dinner. If it is found that there is no more educational work for Birth Control needed in England, we shall have to conclude that Birth Control is much better understood and much more fully accepted there than in the United States. We shall be glad indeed when we can feel our cause has so far succeeded that there is no more work here for a Birth Control League, but that day seems yet somewhat distant, and in the meantime we need all the help and support available, if we are to reach that goal.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION is waking up to the importance of raising the United States from its disgracefully low position in regard to maternal and infant mortality. Lecturing at Yale, in May, Sir George Newman, formerly chief medical officer of the British Board of Education, told his audience that “it is a grave thing for a nation to lose 18,000 young women in childbirth, and approximately 100,000 dead infants as the immediate results of childbirth.” “The rate of maternal mortality in the United States,” he added, “is the highest in the civilized world.” We may doubt the statistics that are used to prove this in some of the countries reckoned superior to the United States in this respect, statistics are notoriously incorrect. But the only result of greater accuracy would be to show a far larger maternal mortality for the world at large, and by no means to lessen the responsibility of the United States, whose statistics would also probably show an increase if accurate records were kept in every State. Regardless of the comparative merits or demerits of the various countries in this respect, a great obligation rests upon the physicians of this country to make the world safe for maternity, and it is well to see that study and attention are now being given to this hitherto much-neglected field of medical research.

IT WOULD be interesting to know what percentage of maternal mortality is due to pregnancy begun while the woman was unfit, and also to know in how many cases the woman herself knew that she was unfit, and earnestly desired to avoid pregnancy—for the time being, at any rate. It would also be interesting to find out in how many cases the doctor also knew that pregnancy would endanger the woman’s life, and yet failed to instruct her as to how she could control it. Similarly with infant mortality, which is not being reduced in the same proportion as mortality at other ages. How much of our infant mortality is due to the birth of children who are foreordained to death or unfitness for normal life? And again how many of these infant deaths could be prevented by wise preconception care, whereby women would be warned and instructed to avoid pregnancy under conditions which pointed to disaster for the infant, if not also for herself? The demand of the English women for the inclusion of Birth Control instruction at the maternal and infant health clinics is based on the undeniable truth that infant mortality, as well as maternal mortality and invalidism, can never even be greatly lessened unless Birth Control is accepted as a most essential ally in the fight. The more thorough the study and research given to the question of maternal and infant mortality, the more plainly will it appear that knowledge of therapeutie Birth Control will have to be included in the curriculum of every medical student preparing for general or obstetrical practice.

THIS year is the 25th anniversary of the work for Birth Control of that intrepid champion in the medical profession, Dr. William J Robin-
son of New York, editor of the "Critic and Guide." On the strength of this silver jubilee of his we have given him no present but we have asked a gift of him. And he has sent us three articles, one for our Children's Number this month and two other brief ones telling of the origin of his interest in Birth Control and of the progress of the movement as he has watched it for 25 years. Our thanks and good wishes go to Dr. Robinson, with the hope that in a very few years he will see the cause in which he was a pioneer triumphant throughout the World.

WE ADD our congratulations to those of the whole world to Lindbergh on his splendid feat in flying alone across the Atlantic. In courage, resourcefulness, initiative and self-reliance, as well as in intelligence, he is hailed as the type of what a young American should be. How much of this is due to the fact that he was of a small family, and enjoyed the undivided love and guidance of highly intelligent parents? His mother, if challenged by one of the much-launched fathers of immense families of inferior children might well reply, with the fabled lioness, "Unum sed leonem."

Marriage Today and in the Future

By John Haynes Holmes

111*

Sex the Foundation of Social Groups

How happens it that individuals, in spite of every difficulty and trial, have insisted upon forming and maintaining social groups? The answer, of course, is Sex.

Society had its beginning in the sex relation in its higher developments as between two separate and different individuals, the male and the female. There was no such thing as society, or social groupings of any kind, in the early stages of life, when reproduction consisted of the phenomenon of a single cell dividing itself by an indefinite process of multiplication into myriads of separate cells, which themselves divided and subdivided in the same way. Neither were there any social groupings when the single individual was bi-sexual, the male and female elements being united in the same organism. Society began, in its earliest stages, when the sexual elements became separated into two distinct individualities, and love, or sexual attraction, was thus added to reproduction in the process of mating. These two individuals, male and female, had to come together in the experience of love, that the sexual process of reproduction might function and the race continue. And in this conjunction of two individuals for such purpose, we find the origins of society! In the beginning, of course, these social groupings were fortuitous and transient. The animals simply gathered together at the mating season, and then dispersed. As time went on, however, the sexual process began to elevate and refine itself. The number of offspring, as we have seen, grew steadily less, the need for care and rearing of offspring grew correspondingly great. The period of helpless infancy, as John Fiske so accurately observed, became indefinitely prolonged, and demanded the attention of the father as well as of the mother. The result was that animals began to stay together permanently in flocks and herds.

Little by little there began to appear those first, faint intimations of the family, which man, out of the necessities of his infinitely more complex and delicate experience, developed into the central institution of his life. It is from these initial workings of love and reproduction, that all of our society has developed. From the first swift mating of two primitive organisms to all these elaborate institutions of church and state and home which constitute our present civilization, runs one unbroken line of progressive and creative evolution. We have society, and live in society, because nature refuses to tolerate isolation. To quote the old theological legend, "God said, it is not good that man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him."

*This is the third of a series of articles based on sermons by John Haynes Holmes. Reprints of the sermons in full can be obtained for 10c at the Community Church, Park Avenue and 34th Street, New York City.
But how is man to be fitted for society? He is at bottom an individual, sufficient unto himself, except for this one great instinct of reproduction, how can he be adjusted to the necessities of social life? Here is the central problem of human existence—the problem of the training of the individual to social uses—the problem which all of ethics and all of religion, and all of science, for that matter, is trying to solve. And the one answer to this question, which has been created by the social consequences of sex relation, is marriage! The very experience of love and reproduction, as we have seen, is the most central, as it is the most primitive and natural, of social experiences, the family, or the home, which is the outgrowth of this experience. Is the unit out of which is constructed the whole structure of the social organism? Therefore is marriage in itself the central training-ground for social order and cooperation.

Marriage prepares for the social experience which it has created. Here the individual is taken out of himself in spite of himself. In the very act of love, he is living not alone but in association and cooperation with another. In the reproduction, which follows upon love, he sees a society created by his action, of which he must function as a part. The whole experience, whether of love, or reproduction, or both together, is a process of socialization, a transformation of selfishness, of aggression into sacrifice, of individuality into fellowship, and thus a discipline for social living. In the husband's relation to the wife and the wife's to the husband, in the parents' relation to the children they have conceived and borne, in the children's relation to the parents and to one another, in the relation of all of them together as a family to the general environment of society—in these we have the one way, which is open and sure for the transformation of a single soul into a fellowship of souls. This is true, at least, for the majority of men and women. There are people, I have no doubt, who have themselves outgrown the confining bonds of their narrow and selfish lives—spiritual geniuses who are able singlehanded to adjust themselves to the spiritual cosmos of society. But this is not true of most of us. "In the great majority of cases," says Count Keyserling, "the will to live in the natural sense predominates. For all such persons marriage offers the best means to perfection. Marriage is the only way, or at least the most easy, by which they can merge their natural instincts with their spiritual nature, to form a higher union (for) in marriage all particulars are drawn into a higher correlation, in which first receives its full personal and cosmic significance."

It is in the fulfillment of this lofty purpose of individual socialization that marriage finds its ultimate end. It is as a training-ground of fellowship that marriage presents its perfect and final meaning. There is something more here than "any gratification of particular inclination," such as love, or "any performance of special duties," such as parenthood. There is the reconciliation of the inevitable conflict between these two in the transformation of the individual into a social being. There is that higher synthesis, in other words, which is none other than society itself. This is why marriage has been regarded and protected by every higher form of civilization as the central relationship of life. This is why marriage has been defined by all religions to be a sacrament. This is why people still marry and give in marriage, after centuries of disappointment and disillusionment and failure. "Marriage must prevail," to quote Count Keyserling again, else society in all its best estate will fall.

Such is my answer to the question of marriage. I have not attempted to justify or condemn, but only to explain. Here is what marriage is—the safest form of reproduction, the noblest type of love, the one sure basis of social fellowship. In the light of this understanding of the problem, there remains to consider the successes and failure of its working out, and the momentous challenge of its future. To these questions I shall devote myself next. Meanwhile, whatever the trials of the present and the uncertainties of the future, the past is secure. There abides, does there not, the vision of woman set to man.

"Like perfect music unto noble words!"

With this attained, under whatever conditions, by whatever experiments and trials and dedications, we can say with the poet—

"Then comes the sterner Eden back to men
Then reign the world's great bonds, chaste and calm,
Then springs the crowning race of humankind!"

In the rest of this series I am going to look into the future and consider what marriage is coming to, whether marriage is destined or not to endure, and if it is, in what character and under what conditions. This will involve the discussion of such questions as the changing political and economic status of women, the new education of children and the whole great problem of divorce. Marriage may not be going to disappear. I don't believe that it is! But it is certainly going to change in ways that may not be very acceptable to the older members of the present generation.

(To be continued)
June, 1927

East or West — Pity the Poor Children

By William J. Robinson, M.D.

Some years ago when attending a meeting at Albany, I was persuaded to visit the State Penitentiary. I described the visit at the time. It made me sick for days. One of the things that left an indelible impression on my mind was the way the men condemned to hard labor worked. We still had prison contract labor then. The men were rushing as if their very lives depended upon the rapidity with which they did their work, as if they were running away from a tower of fire that was pursuing them, as if they were trying to escape from a tornado or an earthquake. While they were standing round long tables and working, they gave the impression of running. At the end of each table was sitting a brutish looking man watching them with steely eyes, and with a cocked revolver in his hand. I do not recall now whether he had only one revolver, or one in each hand.

Damascus

On my recent visit to Damascus, I went through an enormous factory which may well be termed universal from the variety of things manufactured there. When I entered the department of silver inlaid brassware and I saw a lot of tots, mostly little girls, beating the silver filings with their little hammers into the brass trays and vases, the scene in the New York State Penitentiary, of which I hadn't thought in years, suddenly came to my mind. For all these little workers, boys and girls, were not just working they were rushing, like the prisoners, they were rushing to do their task, as if their lives depended upon their accomplishing a certain amount of work. And perhaps their lives did so depend. For while there was no warden with a cocked revolver, they had an inexorable and merciless a supervisor before their eyes. The name of that supervisor was Hunger. They well knew that if they got slack in their work, if they did not accomplish the given task, they might be chased, others would take their place, and there was no other such factory in the city where they could find work. And that meant starvation, or begging which meant kicks, arrests and again starvation. And though their wages are absurdly small, just barely sufficient to hold body and soul together, it is better than nothing.

I was told that their wages were incredibly small — a few cents for a long day's work — and I tried to find out from one of the proprietors how much the children got, but he wouldn't tell me. "You are an American and our wages, I know, will appear to you terribly small, but you see, they get along, and, besides, why should we pay more when we can get thousands of other children for the same wages, or perhaps even less? You know, you in America also don't pay more than you have to."

Driven Children

And in every department we visited, side by side with gray-haired, middle-aged and prematurely-aged men and women there were black-eyed little tots, 8, 10, 12 years of age, hammering, cutting, turning, sewing, embroidering, polishing, kneading, blowing, and what not. And all the time rushing their work. It is not the work per se that depressed me so, work even for children is unmixed evil; it is better than complete idleness, but it was the rush, the hurry, as if somebody stood over them with a whip, that brought to my mind the scene of the prison labor in the Albany penitentiary. And whenever the supervisor was at the other end of the room talking to a prospective customer, the little tots would stealthily put out their hands and in a low voice ask for a plaster. And when you would give them a five-plaster piece — the smallest readily obtainable coin there, equivalent to about our nickel — such a joy would irradiate their faces that you felt like giving another coin. Perhaps that represented their full day's wage.

Poor little slaves. Instead of being outdoors and enjoying the warm sun and the dazzlingly blue sky, they were spending their young lives in stuffy, dusty, littered up factories. What were they born for? What is their life now, what is their life going to be? How many happy days or hours will they have between the day they were born and the day they will be, unwept and unsung, shoveled under the ground?

Palestine

Let us now dash across Syria into Palestine. Let us visit some of the sanctified places — Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Jerusalem. Everywhere an excess of useless, unwanted, hungry, ragged human beings, everywhere children trying to sell some worthless trash, or simply, openly begging. "Life is a tragedy to him who feels" — and it is heartbreaking to contemplate this terrible human
wastage, these children without a childhood, these men without manhood, these women without womanhood. Oh, yes, motherhood they have, too much of it, and that is one of the causes of the great tragedy — "Poor children," I could not help repeating again and again, as I saw the swarms of them, boys and girls in shameful rags, beseeching our auto, beggmg for a piaster. "How much better it would have been for you if you had never been born!" Not a ray of joy for them from the cradle to the grave.

Let us transfer ourselves to the other end of the Mediterranean. Let us visit some cities and villages of Southern Italy. Children, children everywhere! Heaps of them, swarms of them. Most of them are fairly decently dressed, and they don't look hungry. And there is very little mendicancy. Things are not so shocking as they are in the Orient, or as they used to be here some years ago. For even the bitterest enemy of Mussolini, such as I am, will grant that under this mountebank economic conditions have improved, the wages are smaller, the hours are longer, but there is practically no unemployment. Every expression of free thought is strangled, every articulate longing for liberty is crushed, but the people are fed, it may be just bread and a little wine, but there is no actual starvation as there used to be.

**Training Children to Kill**

Yes, but what I saw there depressed me even more than the sight of the children in the Damascus factory. For the Italian children, from their tenderest ages, are being militarily drilled and trained for death. That monstrous clown, that pinchbeck Napoleon, has openly declared that he wants the children to imbibe the glory of war with their mother's milk, he wants them to become imbued with the thought that the most glorious profession is that of a soldier. And the children are bang brought up accordingly, both mentally and physically. And he wants, he demands as many children as possible. The most monstrous crime in Italy, next to attacking the Duce and fascism, is the advocacy of Birth Control. Not only giving practical information, but the mere suggestion that Birth Control might be advisable for an overpopulated country is a criminal offense.

He stated in one of his recent speeches that if he could, he would exterminate, destroy, uproot all the bachelors who do not make any additions to the population of the State. But as he cannot do that, he is going to impose such heavy taxes on them, that they would find it cheaper and more comfortable to marry and to have children than to remain celibate. The world knows that his idea is to populate Italy so densely that the great powers will recognize that the country has a "moral" right to additional colonies, and if she does not get them peaceably, why she will fight for them. And the children, I repeat, are being brought up according to this guiding idea from their earliest years. Terrible to think of it! To bring children into the world with the deliberate purpose of preparing them for cannon fodder! Poor children.

Never did I feel the vital need of Birth Control more acutely, more poignantly than I did on my recent cruise around the Mediterranean. And never was I more convinced of the truth that the world's greatest menace at the present time was Italy. That country is a menace to the world's peace and to its liberties. Everywhere the reactionaries are encouraged by the success of the Italian despot and are trying to mussollinize their own countries.

Italy, Spain and the Oriental countries have many needs, but no need is more urgent there than that of courageous, self-sacrificing practical Birth Control propaganda.

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**To a Lost Child**

Oh bird that used to press
Thy head against my cheek,
With touch that seemed to speak,
And ask a tender "yes!"
Ay de mi, my bird!

Oh tender downy breast,
And softly beating heart
That beating seemed a part
Of me who gave it rest —
Ay de mi, my bird!

— George Eliot
The Economic Conference and Population

WITH rigid restraint, the Economic Conference kept out of its proceedings any consideration of the Population Question. The problems and dangers of overcrowding in such countries as Italy and Japan were not forgotten, but there were political reasons why the Conference feared their discussion. We give below an editorial, translated from Le Journal de Genève of May 11th, in which the writer discusses the international complications of the problem. In reviewing the situation, he does not look far into the future, or take into consideration anything beyond immediate relief of the situation in Europe and Japan. He regrets the open door in the United States, which would have offered a temporary refuge for the overcrowded nations of Europe. But the solution would have been only for our generation, and to our descendants would have been bequeathed problems still more acute and difficult, with a whole world over-crowded and impoverished. In defending herself and her own standards of living, America has merely called a halt to the world, and forced all the countries to seek a real and permanent solution to the question as to how a nation shall learn to contain itself within its borders.

We hope and expect that the Population Conference which is to meet in Geneva in August, will bring more scientific knowledge and more trenchant criticism to bear on the whole question.

That Which is Not Mentioned

We do not judge the policy America had its reasons for acting so, doubtless any other nation would have done the same in its place. What interests us are the consequences.

First of all for the United States, First consequence, a rise in wages, to which Americans attribute largely the present prosperity of their industry. This has raised the employers to the policy of restriction of immigration. Second, internal migration problems, as yet not fully studied.

The consequences for Europe are more important. Without the prohibition of emigration during the war, there would probably not be today and Independent Ireland.

Similarly, without the obstacles to emigration, there would without doubt have been no Fascism. The troops which made the march on Rome consisted essentially of young men who immediately after the war could neither re-enter civil life nor leave the country. America bears much of the responsibility for the outbreak of Fascism.

This explains the attention that Mussolini pays to population. If Italian emigration were free, as before the war, there would have been no tension between France and Italy, no expansion of Italy in the Balkans. Italy would have no designs on Tunis, on Albania, on Odessa. It would not have been in danger of exploding.

Without the American law and those of the British Dominions inspired by it, there would have been no Japanese problem. Japan whose population density is equal to that of Belgium and whose resources are much inferior, has no territory nearby to which its people can go. It can only feed them at home by an intense development of its industries, and by desperate competition, especially in China, with European goods. Hence the anti-

(Continued on page 214)
FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

Occasionally one meets a man—much more rarely a woman—who renounces that he was one of a large family. But for one such case there are dozens of men and women who recall with pain their childhood in an overcrowded home—without possibility of privacy, without sufficient food, without the education they longed for, with too hard work for the shoulders of the elder children, hearing always the voice of the exhausted mother, and knowing nothing of friendship and companionship with their parents. Mothers know that they cannot do justice to their children when there are too many and when their own health suffers from childbearing and overwork. They should be allowed to be the judge of their own capacity to bear and rear children, and should not have thrust upon them burdens greater than they can carry.

Unhealthy Babies

Pennsylvania

I am a married woman and mother of three children, although I am only 22 years old. I have been trying for some time to obtain one of your books on Birth Control for if ever a woman needed it I certainly do.

My oldest child is five years old, and not overly healthy and the next to the eldest, three years, is in very poor health and he always has been. The Doctor says he has asthma, but we have tried diets and medicines of all kinds and different doctors but to no avail. I take about one third of my husbands pay for this child and I really haven't had a whole nights rest, except in the hospitals at the birth of a new baby, since my first pregnancy. I am on the verge of a nervous breakdown. For the last three months I have had hemorrhages instead of menses and had to go to a doctor, who orders me to bed. But that is next to impossible, for I do not have a mother or relative to care for my children while I go to bed. I don't want to have any more children, for we are poor people and have more than we can care for in the proper way now.

"Not Able to Care for so Many"

Pennsylvania

I am writing to you as I would an old friend, for I am sure you are a friend of women like myself. I have bought one of your books recently, "Woman and the New Race" and think it very good and now I know you will help me as you have others. I have been married a short time and have a little baby girl eleven months old and I am expecting another baby in two months. I am never well and have never been since my other child was born. I can scarcely get my work done and care for our little girl and at times I can't be on my feet at all. I am not able to care for so many children in any way, for we can't afford to hire help only while I am down sick. As soon as I am up I have to look after the children myself. I think it is entirely wrong to bring children into the world to be uncared for and as soon as they are old enough they have to go to factories and such places. I am twenty-seven years old and have always had to work hard myself, as I came from a family of eight children, and I realize what it means to have a large family and nothing to go on. I am very weak and nervous while I carry my babies and for that one reason with a dozen others, I think it wrong to have any more children as they may be the same thing I won't put you to much trouble in giving me some advice as you have other poor ignorant women like myself. If only more women knew about you they would be happier. I believe I am sure I will thank you for anything you can tell me and if there is anything I can do to help you in this good work I will be glad. I trust I will hear from you soon for I am so glad I have found someone to help me in my ignorance.

"My Family Needs Me"

New York

Several months ago, I purchased your book, "Woman and the New Race" and have read and reread it. I am thirty-three years old and I am expecting my sixth baby any day. My oldest, a girl of ten, the second a boy 16 months younger (died at the age of 11 months) the third a girl of 4 1/2 years old, the fourth a girl three, and the fifth a boy, 21 months. We started here on our farm after marrying, with nothing and have to work hard and manage every day to provide for our family.

I am greatly interested in "Birth Control" and would like to learn more about it. My doctor, tells me not to do anything to injure my health for my family needs me. Still he does not tell me any way of preventing my being an incubator, and unless I learn more, no doubt will be
the same way again in a few months, if I survive this time. For I know for me there is no "safe period." Must our lives be marred, run down, through ignorance? Can there be no marriage without maternity for us? Must we separate, or live abnormal lives? I have also tried the theory of not responding passionately, or rejecting self-expression, but that failed as your book states.

I know of no one to ask but you, and as you say in your book there are contraceptives, preventive measures, why cannot they be made known to a mother already overburdened, overworked? None of my children have weighed over five pounds at birth and are such cares during the first few months, it seems they just hang by a thread. My youngest one, now 21 months, is very backward, has only six teeth, does not walk, is just beginning to creep, is so nervous, and to think another is at hand to take his place for care, and help is so scarce and not competent, and wages so high we can't afford to hire.

I know you must tire of hearing people's troubles, but if you could help me it would be the greatest blessing. My mother is so angry whenever she finds I am pregnant, but never tells me how to avoid it. She had only four babies, just my brother and I living to grow up. My husband's mother had seven, six now living, three daughters and three sons, she never says anything, but her daughters have no families. One of them has had two serious operations, finally removing all generative organs.

"A Nice Boy and Girl"

Canada

I am married six years now, have a nice boy and girl 4 and 2 years, but now we don't want any more. The last baby I nursed, that has told on my health as I was never strong. I am comfortable and happy so far as a working woman can expect to be, but since I stopped nursing my last baby, my husband and I have nearly lived separate, and times I wish I could get a divorce on account of the way he keeps me so unhappy and always threatens to go to Montreal bad houses and get what he wants. I would not stay only for the sake of the other two children which he thinks the world of, but he don't want any more and I think you could advise me for the good and happiness of this little home.

"Can't Stand Any More"

Iowa

You seem like a friend to me after reading your book "Woman and the New Race" which I purchased a short time ago, and which I enjoyed reading very much. It is so much like life has been to me and to so many others that I know. I think we do need help.

We have four dear children, the oldest about six and one-half years, and the youngest one, and goodness we wouldn't take the world for one of them after we get them, but it's this the mother can't stand any more for awhile at least (that's me) I am not so strong since the last baby came, and then we can't care for them so well and that worries me.

Well, there is not much use in writing my family history here as you know about it without writing it. I am sending this letter in hopes that you can help me.

Drunken Father

New Jersey

I am a woman 30 years old and have five children, have had 6 but one dead, oldest one 12 years old. My husband is a drinking man, gets drunk every week, and when he is that way he drives me outdoors. When he finds me in a delicate state he stays away from home 2 or 3 days at a time leaving us with no fire, no money and even without food each time. When he stops I think he is going to do better but only gets worse. I am thinking of leaving him but what will become of my three little girls? When he comes home after being away he threatens my life with a revolver, shoots through the house 3 of my children are ruptured. He don't seem to care. He only gets better when he knows my troubles are over. I have just had a miscarriage which I caused myself and I've been very sick but getting along nice now. I had to do this as I owe doctor bills from all my children, only pay some and leave some. So while I am all right now is there anything in this world I can do to keep from having any more?

To Safeguard the Children

Maryland

I am twenty-two years old, have been married five years, and have three children. I love the children, and now that they are here. I try to do the best that I can. Yet I feel that it would not be fair to bring any more into the world and not have them provided for properly. I detest dirty, unkempt children. My husband has not been working steadily and things here are becoming pinched. I don't want to see children with haggard faces. Therefore, to safeguard the welfare of my little ones, I should like to have you send me a letter of advice. I would appreciate this a great deal.

Family Already Too Large

Illinois

I am writing you for contraceptive information. Will you please answer my letter? I am a mother of 8 children. I am 30 years of age and my husband works by the month on a farm. My family is already larger than I can give good care like I ought to, so I am in terror of adding to it.
Italy

A Recipe for an Explosive Population

MUSSOLINI and the political party through which he acts are compounding gunpowder for the next War. Into the formula they are using go all those elements which are repugnant to modern democracy and which make impossible a rational settlement of international disputes, with a people who have become enslaved at home by fear and by congestion of numbers.

Overpopulation

In Italy are living 42,115,606 people. This means a population of 357 to the square mile, as against thirty-six to the square mile in the United States.

—Literary Digest

The birth rate of Italy is now almost double the death rate and the annual increase of late years is placed at the lowest, at half a million, at the highest, at 760,000.

—Corriere della Sera

Italy points to the Inexorable facts of her vital statistics: 28,000,000 in 1881, 42,000,000 at home and perhaps 10,000,000 abroad in 1926, contrasted with the insufficiency of territory, and natural resources, at the lack of the raw materials in the few colonies that she has acquired and now holds. She stresses the resulting lack of balance between population pressure (a pressure, given the fecundity of the Italian race, which will rapidly increase) and means of existence, and foresees, unless new outlets are obtained, a grave economic crisis, involving unemployment on a vast scale, which may have serious social and political consequences abroad.

—Francis Snow, New York Times

No Solution Birth Control Denied

The Italian people are too profuse. I am glad of it; I will never countenance Birth Control propaganda.

As the country grows only three roads are open to it, to addict itself to voluntary sterility—Italians are too intelligent to do that—to make war, or to seek outlets for the overpopulation.

—Mussolini (as quoted by International News Service)

A commission to investigate (under Dr. Pestalozza) was appointed. Then, in June, 1926, a special commission, appointed by the Minister of the Interior, was charged with “social and political means for protecting the family against onerous practical Neo-Malthusian propaganda.” In the fall of 1926 the substance of laws on Birth Control was given out.

The statement makes public the precautions to be taken for control of the Press as regards good morals, the protection of maternity and the campaign against the Neo-Malthusian propaganda. The new law establishes among other measures that it is an offense to distribute or publish publicly newspapers or manuscript copies in favor of these arguments and teachings, and newspapers and periodicals are further forbidden to publish advertisements of amorous correspondence, or of means of preventing conception or any regulation of female fertility. Article 113 concerning the Government National campaign against Malthusianism establishes also that in the eyes of this law the following are considered offensive to good morals—writings, newspapers, engravings, lithographs, figures, drawings, inscriptions, objects in plaster or in any material which divulge the methods of preventing conception or interrupting pregnancy, or which demonstrate or furnish any indication of the means of procuring same, or of urging them, whether directly or under the cover of therapeutic or scientific aims.

—La Nazione

Crescete e moltiplicate! (a unit of the present in Italian to enforce the enrichment of French columns.)

[Cartoon from the Rome Times, showing Italian immigrants being labelled with numbers and letters.]
The Solution Planned

Emigration has been urged, but in his pronouncement of May 25th Mussolini renounces any such peaceful expedient. He declares that Italy must enter the second half of the century with a population of 60,000,000 and that the country must have an army of 5,000,000, a strong navy and a huge air force. Is this looking towards peace? Mussolini has no desire to see Italians become part of other nations. He looks forward to world empire for Italy.

Emigration has become a hard necessity, said Count Cipullo.

The relative population of France is seventy-five inhabitants to the square kilometer. Italy has 125. The population in the Southern provinces of the French republic is much more sparse, and many fertile lands have been abandoned. But a great political problem is connected with this immigration scheme. As Italy does not want to lose millions of her sons abroad, so France does not want to give her land to millions of strangers who could represent and prepare a future invasion.

—Baltimore Sun

There must be expansion for such a population.

"We must have the courage to say that Italy cannot remain forever penned up in one sea, even if it is the Adriatic. Beyond the Adriatic there is the Mediterranean and other seas which can interest us."

—Mussolini (quoted in *Literary Digest*)

But Mussolini is willing to wait.

"It is five years that we continue to repeat that the Italian population is overflowing its banks. It is not true. The river no longer overflows, indeed, it is returning rapidly to its bed."

—Speech of May 25, *N Y Times*

He decrees a higher birth rate and vainly imagines that this is consistent with a low death rate.

"The five-year period of the greatest birth rate was between 1881 and 1885, when it stood at 38 per 1,000. The maximum was in 1886, with 39. Since then we have been decreasing steadily. From 37 we have now reached 27. It is true that the death rate has fallen, just as much. But the ideal would be a maximum birth rate and a minimum mortality."

THE OUTCOME WAR

"Under the Mussolini spell, the Italians talk frankly of expansion by force which is sober realism to more than forty millions of a great race galvanized by Mussolini indoctrination."

—Frederich Palmer, (*in the World's Work*)

Fascist miliant gestures alarm and estrange every foreign power with which it is in contact. Now through Tyrol, it insults the Germans to the limits of endurance, now it threatens France monstrously, now it is the turn of the Turk or the Yugoslav.

—H. G. Wells, (*in N Y Times*)

"We wish to teach our children the use of arms before they can speak... "We need more land," he says, "for we are too numerous for our present territories.

It is the hand of destiny that guides us back to our ancient possessions. No one can stop our inexorable will." "Your impatience" he promises the cheering crowds, "will be appeased some day. The great hour does not strike every day." And again, "I have a rendez-vous. When the time comes I shall tell you the place and you will come."

—William T. Foster and Waddill Catchings, (*in World's Work, January, 1927*)

"Just think what prodigious and invincible armies our children will form in ten years" — Impero.
Book Reviews

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU, by James A. Tobey
Service Monograph of the United States Government
No 21 published by the Institute for Government
Research, Baltimore—1925

FOUR YEARS OF THE FEDERAL MATERNITY
AND INFANCY ACT Repnnted from the
Nation's Health for November, 1926
Children's
Bureau, Washington, D.C.

C O N G R E S S has extended for a two-year period the
operation of the Sheppard-Towner Act for the Protec-
tion of Maternity and Infancy which was sponsored by
the Children's Bureau five years ago No federal activ-
ity has cost less than the Children's Bureau, or done more
valuable work for the people of the United States in
matters which vitally affect their lives and happiness.
Although the Bureau has studied and helped to standard-
ize care of the more than four million child laborers and
dependent children in the United States since the beginning
its central interest has been the infant and its mother Nine
pages of a 16-page bibliography made in 1925 are on the
mother, the young child and the baby. Its very first study
was infant mortality and this was followed by others on
maternal mortality in childbirth (which showed the
United States to be maintaining year after year one of
the highest rates among civilized countries) and on the
relation between infant deaths and family income, and
between infant deaths and the size of the family. These
studies are perhaps the greatest contribution of the
Children's Bureau to the welfare of the child, since
this was a field in which other organizations had done little.

Dr. Blanche Hanes and Miss Norah March, have
summarized the accomplishments of four years under the
Sheppard-Towner Act, published in pamphlet form by
the Bureau. Their story shows that all but five of the States
are cooperating with appropriations and educational
work, that of these all but fourteen now have birth regis-
tration and all but one have organized a State Child
Health Bureau. Work is going forward to educate mid-
wives and provide mothers not only with care more or less
expert at birth, but with prenatal and postnatal supervision
and instruction in the care of infants and young children.

The Children's Bureau representatives have been
united, they have been in the field 12 months in the year,
year after year. The record for one representative year
alone is 15,524 Child Health Conferences held, 2,686 pre-
natal conferences, 951,000 babies and very young chil-
dren and 180,075 expectant mothers reached. In this
same year no less than 300 permanent health centers were
established throughout the country. Of nation-wide re-
sults, the report shows a lowering of infant mortality by
four points since 1925. It shows also that maternal mor-
tality has not been lowered a single point.

The Bureau claims no power to perform miracles. It
has done its part, has found the facts and learned that
drastic measures must be taken for the relief of mothers,
and it calls on medical and social science to give this relief.
The causes of the untouched maternal mortality and the
very small lowering of infant mortality are to be found in
the Bureau's own studies. Large families mean poverty
and poverty means lack of care, physical exhaustion for
the mother and undernourishment for both mother and
child. Much local evidence of the condition of the poor
mother is presented by the report In Indiana, for exam-
ple, a study of 3924 mothers showed that 45% have no
prenatal rest, 29% no prenatal care, 10% no doctor and
44% not even one postnatal visit from the doctor. It is
no wonder that our maternal mortality is high, when a
woman must undergo the hazards of childbirth thus un-
cared for not once or a few times in her life, but every
year, year after year.

The educational work of the Children's Bureau, under
the Sheppard-Towner Act will lack the prime essential
until pre-conceptual work Birth Control is added to its
educational program. Already it is building up a
machinery which could take up this work. Three hundred
health centers for mothers and infants are the American
beginnings of the great English system of government
health stations about which the English Birth Control
fight now centers. But in America we have an additional
handicap, it is a question not only of government funds
but government laws. The Children's Bureau cannot
fight the Federal Government of which it is a part, nor can
the State health workers fight the local governments of
which they are a part. Until State and National Leagues
of Women Voters, State and National Congresses of
Mothers and other health and child caring agencies unite
to change our anti-Birth Control laws, the Children's
Bureau and the system of maternity and infant care it has
built up in co-operation with the States will fall far short
of its full usefulness.

M. S. B.

HOW I CAME TO BE
By Armesoune T. Lamson,
New York, the Macmillan Company $1.75

MOTHER AND UNBORN CHILD By Samuel Ray-
nor Meaker. The Williams and Wilkins Co.
Baltimore $2.50

HERE are two excellent little books which to a cer-
tain extent cover the same field. Both are concerned
with the development of the unborn child and the
changes that take place in mother and foetus during that
Both are crammed full of information well presented. Here the resemblance ceases. Mrs. Lamson's book is the romance of prenatal life. She aims to give a correct and yet easy language the story of the nine months which are usually omitted from biography. She is not concerned with details concerning the proper care of the mother, nor instructions as to diet, clothing or exercise. Her book ought to have a much wider reading public than that of Professor Meakar, for it is adapted to satisfy the natural and rightful desire for knowledge on the part of young people, and especially of girls contemplating motherhood, and it might properly be added to any course on sex education.

Professor Meaker's book on the other hand, is addressed to the prospective mother and to those who have any care of her during pregnancy. It gives, like Mrs. Lamson's book, a full account of the development of the foetus before birth, but the point of view is that of the physician, guarding and guiding the pregnant mother through her nine months of gestation. It is not intended to take the place of the physician, but by its detailed information of causes and reasons for treatment, it ought to prove an excellent auxiliary to him in his ante-natal work for the mother.

Books Received

Mother and Son, by Romain Rolland Henry Holt and Company New York $2.50

What Price Marriage, by J H Sears & Company New York $1.25

Advice on the Care of Babies—by a Bachelor Who Can't Bear Them, by Jerome S. Meyer Albert and Charles Boni New York $1.25

Social Problems of the Family, by Ernest R. Groves and J P Lippincott Company Philadelphia $2.50


Sibylia, or the Revival of Prophecy, by C A Mace, M A E P. Dutton & Company New York $1.00

The Next Age of Man, by Albert Edward Wiggam The Bobbs-Merrill Company Indianapolis $3.00

Genius, by Arthur C. Jacobson Greenberg Publisher, Inc New York $2.50

Protection de la Mere et de la Future Mere Published by L'Association Internationale Pour la Protection de l'Enfance Brussels, Belgium

The New Medical Follies, by Morris Fishbein, M D Bon & Liveright New York $2.00

The Law of the Jungle, by Coburn Allen Greenberg Publisher, Inc New York


The Outline of Marriage (English Edition), by Floyd Dell The Richards Press, Ltd $2.6

Periodical Notes

The Journal of Social Hygiene (New York) for May contains an article by Paul Poponoe giving an account of the working of the Sterilization Law in California. He states that over 5,000 operations have been performed on insane and feeble-minded persons. Only eight of the patients have been inmates of penal institutions. In most cases patients after sterilization have been discharged, but there are many instances of operation for the benefit of the health of a patient who was not considered fit for discharge. Among the women patients, the majority were deliberately selected from among the married women who suffered from insanity during pregnancy and, who under the old system, would have come to the mental hospital until after the birth of the child, then when the psychosis cleared up, be returned to their homes until a new pregnancy brought on a new attack and another visit to the hospital.

The same number of the Journal of Social Hygiene contains also a review, by Ray Everett, of the Report on Traffic in Women and Children, presented to the Council of the League of Nations in March. For those interested in this aspect of the work of the League this compendium of the Report is most illuminating.

Eugenical News (Lancaster, Pa) for May contains an announcement of the coming World Population Conference at Geneva, and remarks on the possibility that such a conference may find a solution of some of the economic and health problems that are today a matter of grave concern. In a discussion of "Overpopulation" which it defines as "more people than can secure the optimum standard of living and opportunities for the advancement of human culture" the case of Britain is quoted. After suggesting a redistribution of occupations it adds—if this were done Britain still found herself overpopulated with no prospect for maintaining her 40,000,000 people in optimum fashion, then either emigration or national Birth Control would seem to offer possibilities of amelioration.

The World Tomorrow devotes its June number to Marriage. Hornell and Ella Hart discuss the causes of unsuccessful marriages. Frederick Harris contributes an excellent article on the Possibilities of Marriage. Ernest and Gladys H. Groves urge a preparation for marriage beginning in early childhood. Emile J. Hutchinson writes on the "Economics of Marriage." and married women's work, and Earle E. Eubank discusses divorce under the heading, "When Marriage Fails." The number is excellent. It includes also reviews of a number of recent books on marriage.

The Crisis and Guide for May contains an interesting article by Paul Blanshard giving a personal impression of how Young Russia regards sex problems.
INTERNATIONAL

IN ADDITION to the Geneva Economic Conference of last month, and to the Population Conference which will assemble at Geneva on August 31st, there is to be an International Conference on Genetics in Berlin, September 11th to 18th. It is the fifth of the series of these genetic conferences, and there will be six morning sessions. It is probable that a number of the delegates to the Population Conference will attend.

UNITED STATES

MARGARET SANGER, who has been in Europe, surveying conditions and studying the various aspects of the population question, arrived at New York on the Olympic on May 24th. She reports that there is a vivid and growing interest in Birth Control, both in England and in the northern countries of Europe. One curious aspect of the question that she discovered was that Birth Control is much more popular than any theory of Eugenics. In England, especially, Eugenics is suspect, as carrying an element of personal compulsion, while Birth Control, as a means of relief to over-population, is being increasingly favored.

While in Switzerland, Mrs. Sanger attended the sessions of the Economic Conference, and from conversations with delegates, she realized the difficulties encountered by those who had wished to include the subject of Population. She also realized the great importance of an unofficial conference, devoted solely to this subject.

An invitation to lecture on Birth Control before some of the Universities of India—one of the countries most in need of population control—has been extended to Mrs. Sanger. The plan, which is under advisement, is to hold the lectures during the coming winter.

California

BIRTH CONTROL was given no place on the programme of the California Conference on Social Work held in Oakland in May, but the Alameda County Birth Control League managed, nevertheless, to bring the subject to the attention of the delegates. A luncheon was held on the fourth day of the Conference, at which various aspects of Birth Control were presented. The luncheon was attended by a large number of the delegates, and received excellent publicity in the California newspapers. Dr. Ann Martin, President of the League, presided, and the speakers included Professor S. J. Holmes, Rev. Robert F. Leavens, Dr. E. L. Reichert, Dr. Fred O. Butler, head of the Home for Defectives, Eldridge, and Rev. Rudolph I. Coffee.

The Alameda County Birth Control League has established two clinics at which Birth Control advice is given, one at the Berkeley Health Center, and the other at the Alameda County Health Center, Oakland. The latter began work last February. The clinics accept only women who are socially eligible for clinic care, and all Catholic patients are first referred to their priests before being admitted to the clinic. This policy cuts down greatly the number of cases treated, as the majority of the women who apply are Catholics. It has been thought best, however, to avert criticism by keeping to this rule.

A very interesting debate on Birth Control was held at Fresno on June 11. It was arranged by Mr. M. Ozawa, secretary of the Fresno Japanese Association. A preliminary meeting to select the debaters was held on May 27, and representatives of eight organizations of young Japanese men were chosen. The object of the debate was to interest the organizations in the study of important problems of the day.

ENGLAND

A DINNER in honor of the Jubilee of the Neo-Malthusian League will be held in London on July 26th. The principal speaker will be Mr. H. G. Wells, who has so long been a courageous and outspoken advocate of Birth Control. The great feature of the evening will be the appearance of Annie Besant, who fifty years ago, with her friend and colleague Charles Bradlaugh, made Birth Control the most talked of subject in Great Britain, through her action in defying the authorities and openly selling the Knowlton pamphlet. Since those days of agitation and stress, Mrs. Besant has gone through many experiences and become interested in new causes. But her appearance at the dinner on July 26th links her up with the cause for which she made her first public appearance and carried on her first social fight.

The Manchester, Salford and District Mothers' Birth Control Clinic issued the report of its first year of work on May 27th. During the year
vice had been given to 423 patients, and there had been 319 repeat visits. A number of applicants had been refused advice as unsuitable. These included cases where women came expecting abortion and not prevention of conception. The 423 women who received advice reported 1,652 previous pregnancies with 1,422 children born alive. Of these 106 died in the first year and 51 died later. The 1,652 pregnancies therefore had resulted in 1,265 living children, or a wastage at the rate of 203.4 per thousand. "An increasing number," says the report, "during the past few months has been referred to the clinic by the medical officers of Welfare centers." These centers, under the present policy of the Government, are debarred from giving contraceptive advice. Several cases were of women who had received at hospitals emphatic warnings of danger to life of further pregnancy but no advice as to how to avoid it.

The report attributes a large part of its success to the public meeting of protest staged by the Roman Catholic Church, headed by the Bishop of Salford, which was held at the time of the opening of the clinic. The wide publicity of this meeting did more than could have been accomplished in any other way to make the clinic known to its public.

The motives of the women seeking advice included both health and economic reasons. "A profound sense of parental responsibility and the well-being of existing children," adds the report, "actuates their desire to prevent no further pregnancies, because of inadequate housing and wages. The proved value to health of mother and child of proper spacing is also coming to be generally recognized."

JAPAN

BULLETINS issued by the Government at Tokyo in May stated that owing to the problems created by the immense increase of the Japanese population and the shortage in the food supply, Birth Control was to be officially advocated and proper instruction given.

**Englishwomen and Birth Control**

This year for the third time the English Labor Women have pronounced emphatically in favor of giving Birth Control advice through the Maternity Centres and other clinics controlled by the Ministry of Health. Their verdict was given with vehement excitement, and in the full knowledge they were acting contrary to the wishes of the Executive of the Party as a whole. The resolution passed this year, besides calling on the Party to lift the ban, requests the Party Executive to receive a deputation appointed by the Conference, to place its views before them. This deputation was duly appointed and consists of the mover and seconder of the resolution, Mrs. Cowell and Mrs. Bosworth, together with three added—Mrs. Laski, Miss Jewson (formerly M.P.) and Mrs. Dora Russell.

The resolution further urges that local women's sections should get in touch with local Trade Union branches, to explain the women's view, and approach local authorities and the local members of Parliament. The Trade Unions, by their block votes, hold the key to the situation in the national Conference of the Party, and a resolution must pass there before the Party is pledged.

The opposition have been exceedingly active this year. They have done propaganda locally in the sections—almost entirely under Catholic direction, and a Catholic organization picketed the conference with a leaflet. And official opposition from the leaders has caused some of the less bold spirits to hesitate. These facts account for an increase in the minority vote this year to 70, but the majority remains overwhelming. Nor must the minority vote be taken as against Birth Control itself. It represents also those who do not wish to pledge the Labor Party hard and fast to the giving of advice in that way. None the less, the opposition want watching, the more so as the Executive is only too ready to play into their hands by shelving this awkward question.

I personally, am more than ever convinced that this political demand for the recognition of Birth Control as part of State Maternity Care is the right strategy to adopt. It brings into the open arena the women's demand for their right of choice in the number of their children and the time that they are born. Round this right of choice revolve numerous other economic and social difficulties of women—married women's work, for example. The feminist charter that does not include Birth Control has no contact with reality. It is therefore splendid to see that the Liberal Women have followed the example set by the Labor Women and demand in similar terms public recognition by the State of a woman's right to limit her family.

DORIS RUSSELL
The World Population Conference
Geneva (Switzerland), August 31 — September 3, 1927

Following close on the Economic Conference of May, the scientists of all branches connected with the question of Population on will assemble at Geneva at the end of August. Unlike the Economic Conference the Population-on-Conference is not under the auspices of the League of Nations. But it will sit on the doorstep of the League, and it will be impossible for the League to ignore its debates and conclusions. In fact, many of the delegates to the League will rejoice to see this greatest of all great world problems studied, for it is an open secret that there was a strong desire to have Population-oncluded in the scope of the Economic Conference.

The Conference will meet in the Salle Centrale, Geneva, on August 31, and will be continued over four days. The chairman is the veteran statistician Sir Bernard Mallet, long the Registrar General of Great Britain, who will preside at the first session. At other sessions the presiding officers will be Professor W. Rappard of Switzerland, Professor J. H. Huxley of England, Professor Andre Siegfried of France, Professor Dr. Golschmidt of Germany, and Dr. C. C. Little, President of the University of Michigan.

The subjects of the papers, which will not be read in full but circulated among the delegates and then discussed at the sessions, include the Biology of Population on Growth (Professor Raymond Pearl), Optimum Population (Professor J. H. Fairchild), Population on Food Supply (Professor Carr-Saunders), Differential Birth Rates in France, Germany and Holland (M. Lucien March, Professor Dr. Grotjahn and Dr. H. W. Methorst), Control of Migration (M. Albert Thomas), and Fertility and Sterility in relation to Population (Dr. F. A. E. Crew). About thirty scientists and students of these questions have been accepted for the general discussions which will form the most valuable part of the proceedings.

Several of the European Governments are designating representatives to attend the conference and report upon it officially. Among these it is hoped and expected that Italy will be included and that Mussolini will name statesmen to be present at the discussions. Such a representation of the country with the most rapidly increasing population would augur well for the peace of the world.

While almost every subject in the whole realm of human affairs has been reviewed and discussed, the Conference of calm scientific consideration by scientists and statesmen of this, the most explosive and difficult of all national international problems. While the Conference is unofficial, it may well be that the Conference Delegates and Councillors will attend the sessions, realizing the importance of the discussions and carry back the message to their respective governments.

Although Birth Control is not included in the subjects for discussion, the American Birth Control League considers this Population Conference the greatest and most important step yet taken towards the international adoption of a policy of population restriction — restriction which is only possible through Birth Control.

In the Birth Control Review for June we gave some of the members of the Council of the Conference. The membership has been divided into an Advisory Council and a General Council. We add below a list of names not included in our last issue.

General Council
Chairman—Sir Bernard Mallet, K. C. B
Hon. Treasurer—Mr. C. F. Chance, 192 Piccadilly, London, W 1

Prof. E. Bauer, Germany
Lord Buckmaster, Great Britain
Prof. R. L. Cole, U.S.
M. Alexander, Great Britain
Lord Dawson of Penn, Great Britain
Dr. C. G. D. Sider, Great Britain
Prof. F. H. Goddings, United States

Prof. Charles Gide, France
Dr. R. Goldschmidt, Austria
M. J. B. S. Haldane, Great Britain
Dr. Max Hirsch, Germany
Sir Thomas Horder, Great Britain
M. E. Rudolf Holst, Finland
The Rev. Dean Inge, Great Britain
Prof. M. G. Jahn, Norway
M. J. de Michelin, Italy

Dr. A. P. A. Meyer, United States
Dr. Marshall, F. R. S., Great Britain
M. Le Juch, Rolle, France
Dr. Rene Sand, Belgium
Prof. Andre Siegfried, France
M. V. Stephenson, United States
Prof. W. Silverstone, Sweden
Dr. M. A. Van Herwerden, Holland
Prof. Louis van Leer, Belgium

Membership of the Conference is by invitation. Applications should be made to the Secretary, The World Population Conference, 192 Piccadilly, London, W 1 or 10 Rue de la Bourse, Geneva, Switzerland.
Late News

Pennsylvania

Since the opening of our headquarters in Philadelphia, our activities throughout the state have doubled. Mrs Edith Ellicott Powers, the Federation organizer, is sending most encouraging reports of her progress in the following counties: Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, Lycoming, and Centre.

In addition to speaking at meetings, Mrs. Powers has organized a committee for Birth Control in Chester County, which is part of the Southern Pennsylvania League. Mrs. John R. Hollinger is President of the Committee. Points of contact have been made in Kennett Square, West Chester, and Coatesville. While going through the state, Mrs. Powers has interviewed the editors of the local papers, and Mrs. W. W. Montgomery of Newbold has accepted their names for the Doctors’ Committee held at a meeting of the State Federation. The Birth Control League of Allegheny County has been successful in recruiting many volunteers, and Mrs. A. C. Martin, Executive Director of the Federation, has accepted the Chairmanship of the State Finance Committee. She includes among her workers, Mrs. Arthur A. Newbold, Mrs. Geo. A. Dunning of Chestnut Hill, Mrs. Reginald Jacobs of Ardmore, Miss Mary Winsor of Haverford, and Mrs. W. W. Montgomery of Merion, and many other outstanding women, in and about Philadelphia. Mrs. Stanley Bright of Reading has added several members to this committee, and Pittsburgh has Mrs. Wm. Thaw, Jr., Mrs. Alexander Laughlin, Mrs. Mark Craig, Mrs. Horace Forbes Baker.

Mrs. A. C. Martin, Executive Director of the Federation, has been successful in securing the names of many outstanding physicians in Pittsburgh for the Doctors’ Committee, which is being organized for the Birth Control movement. She has also secured the names of prominent lawyers and business men for the State Council.

The Birth Control League of Allegheny County—important unit of the state Federation—held a meeting on June 14th at Civic Club of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Roswell H. Johnson, President of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, called a meeting of the State Board at headquarters, 1700 Walnut St., Philadelphia, on June 24th, and turned over the Presidency of the organization to Dr. A. Lovett Dewees, Dr. Johnson is leaving for Russia where he expects to spend several months making a study of the eugenic aspects of Soviet Russia.

The Chester County Medical Society at their May meeting, passed a resolution favoring Birth Control.

Pennsylvania

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An Echo from England

Birth Control has now been accepted in principle by the National Women's Liberal Federation. The Conference held last week passed, by very large majorities, two resolutions on this subject: the first calling for a national policy on emigration and Birth Control in relation to over-population, and indicating scientific Birth Control as offering, in its opinion, a more hopeful solution than emigration—the second asking that Birth Control information should be obtainable at Government Welfare Centres. The importance which the Labor Women (as distinct from the Labor Party) attach to Birth Control may be judged from the fact that it came third on the Agenda (the order being Women and the Miners' Lock-out, Equal Franchise, Birth Control), and that twenty resolutions on it were included—the largest number on any one subject. The composite resolution put to the Conference reaffirmed previous decisions in favor of information being available, and called upon the Labor Party Executive "in preparing their report for the next National Conference to give full weight to the decision, now declared for the third time." These last words were a pointed reference to the previous obstruction of the Labor Party. The Labor Party fears that Birth Control may lose it its Roman Catholic vote. The Liberal Party is influenced by no such consideration, and it will be interesting to see what effect the Liberal Women's vote may have on the Party.

_The Times and The_ May 13

THAT WHICH IS NOT MENTIONED

(Continued from page 289)

Japanese laws of Australia and California are one of the causes of our economic difficulties. What conclusions can we draw from these facts? The first which concerns America, is that a policy of isolation is a formidable illusion. There are no water-tight partitions either between question or between countries. The United States, when it believes itself acting in full sovereignty, is determining, without intending it, our destinies. The second which concerns Australia is that the idea of a white continent is another illusion, still more formidable.

The third conclusion concerns Italy. A country which has so great a need of emigration cannot keep its emigrants under its protection and national unity, and prevent them from becoming assimilated and merged in other nations. When the Italian government has understood that, the problem will be easy to solve. For there are not lacking countries which would welcome Italian immigrants, if they came individually to merge in the population.

We have here only touched these formidable problems. But it is enough to show how regrettable it is that the International Economic Conference did not face them.

_Le Journal de Genève_, May 11
If everyone, who believes that Birth Control is right, and that every child should come into the world wanted and prepared for, would do something actively to help, the triumph of the cause would be in sight.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL WHO BELIEVE TO DO SOMETHING TO PROVE THEIR FAITH AND THEIR SINCERITY

BIRTH CONTROL WILL REDUCE POVERTY

IT WILL RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE LOWEST OF OUR PEOPLE TO THE AMERICAN STANDARD

IT WILL LESSEN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

IT WILL BRING HAPPINESS INTO THOUSANDS OF HOMES, NOW CLOUDED BY FEAR

IT WILL ENORMOUSLY LESSEN THE CALL FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CHARITY

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