

September, 1927

Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*We want Children of Choice rather than of Chance*

*The*  
**Biology of Population Growth**

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*Fifty Years of Progress in England*

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**Four Farmers' Wives**

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Four Steps to Our Goal — Agitation, Education, Organization, Legislation

VOL XI

SEPTEMBER, 1927

No 9

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The American Birth Control League, Inc

Headquarters

104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

Telephones—Chelsea 8901-8902

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## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

ANNIE G PORRITT, *Assistant Editor*

MARY SUMNER BOYD, *Managing Editor*

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# Birth Control Review

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## EDITORIAL

**BY THE** courtesy of the World Population Conference, which will be in session when this number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW comes out, we are able to publish this month liberal excerpts from one of the American papers. Dr Pearl's address on "The Biology of Population Growth" is based upon his book of the same title\* and on other researches of the Institute of Biological Research at John Hopkins not yet published in book form. The section we give in summary this month tells the general facts about the laws of biological growth. Next month we shall have a brief digest of experiments in Dr Pearl's laboratory, which are, we believe, the first to be made on population. We are glad to preface the account of the Conference which we plan for October by this evidence that the humane argument for Birth Control has now the backing of impersonal laboratory experimentation. Just a year ago, it may be remembered, we published the result of Beatrice M. Johnson's study of another biological aspect of Birth Control.



**THIS HAS** been a summer of important conferences. Besides four European international conferences, on population, genetics, and economics, in the United States the Williamstown Institute is holding as we go to press its annual summer month's session. At Honolulu also, midway station of the Pacific, there was held in the last ten days of July the first attempt of east to meet west and west, east, in understanding in order to undermine the foundations of war. In so far as the course of debate has been reported in the press there was no real effort by the Pacific Relations Institute at fundamental discussion of the pressing population problem of the Orient except as it touched immigration restrictions. In the session on a treaty drafted by Dr J. T. Shotwell to abolish

war between the nations bordering on the Pacific Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt alone among the delegates called attention to the relation between overpopulation and war. Her proposed solution was, it is true, inadequate, for she believed a more hospitable immigration policy would solve the difficulty. But it is a significant fact that Mrs. Catt has come to recognize a redundant population as a cause of war, for this is a subject which up to now has occupied a very small place in the deliberations of the Conference on Causes and Cure of War, of which she is a distinguished officer.



**WHEN** we went to press last month we had not received the text of the speech of Dr. Henry H. Lewis, rector of St. Andrews Church, Ann Arbor, before the Episcopal Church Congress in June. The full address was well worth waiting for. The subject assigned Dr. Lewis by the executive committee of the Congress, presumably because he is widely known as a power for good among young people, was "Moral Standards in an Age of Change." His report was not spectacular as the newspapers made it seem by taking sentences out of their context. He did not say that the youth of our day are freer in their morals than those of other days. He specifically referred to other times when morals were notoriously free. What he did say was that Birth Control, even the cruder and less dependable forms that are accessible to the unmarried, may have removed the whip of fear as a preserver of morals. He asked the church to study sympathetically what changes may be taking place and to accept anything that promised an improvement on those features in the churches' present system of morality which cause suffering. He did not condemn Birth Control as accountable for possible

\*Reviewed in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for February, 1927

changes in moral standards. Quite the contrary, he regarded it as a beneficent gift of science and he definitely recommended that the church "should concede and urge" sterilization of the mentally defective and "the intelligent use of Birth Control, at least where the economic situation is poor." And he stated it as his conviction that Birth Control even for the unmarried was better than forced marriages on account of pregnancy, of people bound to be unhappy together and to bring misery on their children. The discussion both at the Congress and throughout the country has made friends for Birth Control both in Dr. Lewis' own and in other churches.

passing of Mrs. Martin a tribute of deep respect. That this should be the case is some indication of the changed attitude in very recent years toward discussion of marriage and sex problems, for as short as time ago as five years when Lady Cook, the younger sister, died the American press in its comment on her career still reflected the indescribable levity and vulgarity of the seventies. We wish to add our tribute of respect to these women, who far ahead of their day and in the face of a type of degrading opposition which would make all but the bravest draw back, attacked a hypocritical double standard of morality and the enslavement of women to excessive maternity.



**WITH THE DEATH** this summer of Mrs. John Biddulph Martin passes the last of the Clafin sisters. Persecuted by Anthony Comstock aided and abetted by the press of the yellow eighteen seventies, for their activities against hypocrisy in sex relations and in behalf of a platform of feminism of which Birth Control was an essential part, the two sisters left the United States and passed the rest of their lives in England, living to honored old age. Today American periodicals of such solid respectability as "The Woman Citizen", "The Nation", "Equal Rights", give them at the

**A CALL** from police headquarters and an apology by representatives of the city police department ended the incident of Kitty Marion's recent arrest. Does it, however, end the constant annoyance of arrest after arrest? The same call with apologies was made, it may be remembered, after her arrest last summer. Are precinct policemen absolutely anarchistic? Are they free to put their department in the embarrassing position of having to apologise time and again for arrests made contrary to orders and for no breach of the law?

## The Biology of Population Growth

By RAYMOND PEARL

### PART I

#### The Factors and Their Measurement

**THE PRIMARY** biological variables involved in the growth of population are two in number: the force of *natality*, measured by the birth rate, on the one hand, and the force of *mortality*, measured by the death rate, on the other hand. In most human populations, especially those inhabiting large geographical areas, a third factor namely, migration may influence directly the size of the population at any given moment, in greater or less degree.

Besides these three primary biological factors there are various secondary environmental factors which may play a part in determining the final result. These are such things as food supply, the economic situation in general and in particular, social forces of various sorts, and perhaps others. They produce whatever effect they may have upon the size of the population at any given moment, by acting upon one or more of the three primary biolog-

ical variables, natality, mortality and migration. Thus an economic depression in a particular country may affect adversely the birth rate of that country, or even the death rate if the degree of the depression is sufficiently great or its duration sufficiently prolonged. These effects will, in greater or smaller degree, reflect themselves finally in the size of the population. This final effect of the secondary factors upon the growth of the population may be extremely slight, but their operation must always be recognized.

#### *Wax and Wane*

It is an observed *fact*, that the growth of populations of the most diverse organisms follows a regular and characteristic course. The population at first grows slowly, but gains impetus as it grows, passing gradually into a stage of rapid growth,

which finally reaches a maximum of rapidity. After this stage of most rapid growth the population increases ever more and more slowly, until finally there is no more perceptible growth at all. In short, the populations of various forms of life first wax in their speed of growing and then wane.

This may best be illustrated by a concrete example. Take a relatively simple case biologically, such as is afforded by the growth of a population of yeast cells. The plant reproduces by the process of cell division the cells present in the populations at any given moment forming new cells by budding. An experiment on the growth of a population of yeast cells is made as follows: a measured amount of wort which furnishes nutriment to the yeast plants is seeded with a few cells. Then at equal intervals of time thereafter the equivalent of a census count is made of the cells then present.<sup>1</sup>

The series of counts show that the absolute increment of growth per unit of time increases with time to a maximum value, and then decreases till the end of measurable growth is reached. This has been found in recent years to be the way in which populations of such a wide variety of organisms actually grow, that it may now be fairly regarded as the characteristic, normal mode of population. I shall not take the time here to review all the evidence that this is so. This has already been done in two recent books.<sup>2</sup> It has been shown that experimental populations of yeast, or bacteria, and of the fly *Drosophila melanogaster* follow this characteristic curve with great precision in their growth.

#### *Test by Human Statistics*

Furthermore it has been demonstrated statistically that populations of human beings have grown according to the same type of curve, so far as may be judged from the available census records, in at least the following countries: Sweden, United States of America, France, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England and Wales, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Scotland, Serbia, Japan, Java, Philippine Islands, Baltimore city, New York city, and the world as a whole. In the case of the countries named the census records do not extend over a sufficiently long time to make the case conclusive that population growth if undisturbed, would follow in human groups the complete course exhibited by the yeast population just discussed. The available data only make such a conclusion probable, and one cannot conduct experiments with human beings on this point, as can be done with lower organisms. But fortunately it has been possible to

find one group of human beings, the indigenous native population of Algeria, in which a cycle of population growth has been practically completed during the period for which census records are available, these having been carefully made by the French. In this case the human population followed in its whole cycle of growth a curve of the same characteristic form that has been discussed for the yeast. This case has been fully described and analysed in my book *The Biology of Population Growth*.

#### *The Logistic Curve*

The equation to the curve which has been found by experiment and observation to be descriptive of population growth in a wide variety of organisms was first discovered in 1828 by the Belgian mathematician Verhulst, who called it the "logistic" curve. His pioneer work was forgotten, and overlooked by most subsequent students of the population problem. In 1920 the present writer and his colleague, Lowell J. Reed, without any knowledge of Verhulst's prior work, independently hit upon the same equation.

The possession of such a curve as this, which is found by actual experience to describe accurately the course of population growth in a wide variety of organisms, is a valuable first step towards reaching an understanding of the biology of the process. What we want to know further is how the biological forces of natality and mortality are so integrated and correlated in their action as to lead to a final result in size of population which follows this particular curve rather than some other one. This demands that we shall push the enquiry further.

There are two lines along which this further investigation must proceed. The first is a theoretical mathematical analysis of the relation of birth rates and death rates to the logistic curve, under various postulates.

#### *Application of Mathematics*

It is easily shown that if birth rates and death rates are assumed to remain constant, at any values consistent with growth at all (*i e*, birth rates larger than death rates) the population will grow according to an exponential curve on to infinity. The rate of this progression may be slow or rapid according to the assumptions made, but the form is exponential. Nothing like the slowing down of growth after a period, which is seen in the logistic curve, appears under this postulate.

But plainly, with actual populations of living organisms, birth rates cannot continue constant indefinitely. In saying that birth rates shall be con-

<sup>1</sup>At this point the first of four tables is given and very fully analyzed. We are able to give the summary of Dr. Pearl's findings only.

<sup>2</sup>See editorial note, page 235.

## After Fifty Years — 1927

By R B KERR

THE dinner to commemorate the Jubilee of the Malthusian League and the Bradlaugh-Besant trial, which was held on July 26th, at the Holborn Restaurant, London, was a magnificent success. There were 180 present. J M Keynes, the economist, took the chair, and on his right sat Annie Besant, and on his left Hypatia Bradlaugh-Bonner, representing her deceased father, Charles Bradlaugh. H G Wells, the novelist, was there, Lord Oliver, a member of the last British Cabinet, Julian Huxley, the eminent zoologist, and Harold Cox and Harold Wright, prominent economists and writers on the population question. Doctors were there by the dozen, and there were men eminent in the business world. On the back of the menu card was a dated list of all the important events in the history of the movement, and a coloured diagram showing the fall in birth, death, and infant mortality rates since 1877.

After the company had finished dining, R B Kerr, editor of the *New Generation*, proposed the toast of "The Pioneers". He dealt with the first English pioneers, Francis Place and Richard Carlile, and with George Drysdale's "Elements of Social Science", the book which circulated through the world by hundreds of thousands, in six or seven languages, and really put Birth Control on the map. Then he described the Bradlaugh-Besant trial in 1877, which was immediately followed by a decline in the birth rate that has gone on every year since that time, until now it is less than half what it was in 1877. Mr Kerr ended by quoting eminent and respectable economists and statisticians as to the great alleviation of poverty which has resulted from the falling birthrate.

### *Modest Hopes of the Pioneers*

Dr Annie Besant replied to the toast. She said that at the time of the trial neither Bradlaugh nor she had the faintest idea that the movement would develop at such a rate. They imagined that success would be attained only in a remote future. While the movement had done great good among the poor, she believed that there was also a regrettable side to it, inasmuch as healthy women in good circumstances often avoided motherhood. She said that Bradlaugh's heroic spirit was the more to be praised, because he had no belief in a future life, and never expected to get any reward for what he had done in this and other movements. She men-

tioned that she would be 80 on October 1st, and that she considered herself a good advertisement for her principles and mode of living.

The Chairman proposed a toast to the memory of Malthus. He said that Malthus was one of the great thinkers of the world, and that all subsequent thought—Darwinism, for example—had been based largely on his work. On the pronunciation of Malthus's name, Mr Keynes said that he thought



ANNIE BESANT in 1877

the first syllable should rhyme with "hall" and not with "pal", as the name really meant "malt house". He admitted, however, that the majority of authorities differed from him on this point.

H G Wells proposed the health of the League. He said that the great tragedy of the 19th century was that Karl Marx totally failed to understand Malthus and his doctrines. The modern popular movement had thus remained cut off intellectually from all the best thought of the nineteenth century. To the Marxian the Law of Population meant nothing, and the whole Darwinian system, which was founded on the Law of Population, also meant nothing. Fortunately the Malthusian League had done what Marx and his school had failed to do. The history of mankind has been altered forever by the Malthusian League, and the greatness of its achievement will become more and more visible as time goes on.

John Sumner replied on behalf of the League

He said that for many years he had watched with wonder and admiration the efforts of Dr and Mrs Drysdale to spread enlightenment among the people, and that it had been a great pleasure to him to help financially to the best of his ability

Dr C V Drysdale also replied for the League He said that the day on which the Bradlaugh-Besant trial began was the greatest day biologically in the history of the world Down to that day man

was only an animal like other animals, engaged in a blind struggle for existence The Bradlaugh-Besant trial made man for the first time a self-determining human being All animal life was subject to the two desires—hunger and sex—which in a state of nature were always in conflict with one another Only by Birth Control could this antagonism be overcome

The company then dispersed

## At the Trial — 1877

### Annie Besant

"IT IS NOT as defendant that I plead to you to-day—not simply as defending myself do I stand here—but I speak as counsel for hundreds of the poor, and it is they for whom I defend this case My clients are scattered up and down through the length and breadth of the land, I find them amongst the poor, amongst whom I have been so much, I find my clients amongst the fathers who see their wage ever reducing, and prices ever rising, I find my clients amongst the mothers worn out with over-frequent child-bearing, and with two or three little ones around too young to guard themselves, while they have no time to guard them It is enough for a woman at home to have the care, the clothing, the training of a large family of young children to look to, but it is a harder task when oftentimes the mother, who should be at home with her little ones, has to go out and work in the fields for wage to feed them, when her presence is needed in the house I find my clients among the little children Gentlemen, do you know the fate of so many of these children?—the little ones half-starved because there is food enough for two, but not enough for twelve, half clothed, because the mother, no matter what her skill and care, cannot clothe them with the money brought home by the breadwinner of the family, brought up in ignorance, and ignorance means pauperism and crime—gentlemen, your happier circumstances have raised you above this suffering, but on you also this question presses, for these over large families mean also increased poor-rates, which are growing heavier year by year These poor are my clients, and if I weary you by length of speech, as I fear I may, I do so because I must think of them more even than I think of your time and trouble You must remember that those for whom I speak are watching throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the verdict you will give—they sent up a few pence week by week out of their scanty wage for as long as the trial lasts, they send up kindly thoughts and words of cheer and of encouragement, mothers who beg me to persist in the course on which I have entered—and at any hazard to myself, at any cost and risk—they plead to me to save their daughters from the misery they have themselves passed through"

### Charles Bradlaugh

"I ASK YOU, then, to consider the issues which I have put to you already, and which I put to you again, viz, Is over-population the cause of poverty? Is over-population the cause of misery? Is over-population the cause of crime? Is over-population the cause of disease? Is it moral or immoral to check poverty, ignorance, vice, crime, and disease? I can only think you will give one answer, that it is moral to check these evils You may say try to restrain them, like Malthus, by late marriage Aye, but even to get late marriage, you must teach poor men and women to comprehend the need for it, and, even then, if you get real celibacy, Acton and others will tell you what horrible diseases are the outcome of this state of things Really, you never can get even celibacy You know what takes place in London and Paris I have passed through Naples and Rome, and I have been shocked at being stopped by lads at night In Florence, in Berlin, in Paris, you all know what arises from this pretence of celibacy Even in our own large centres of population, such as Dublin, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, you know what this false pretence of celibacy means Take the case of Birmingham as an illustration Walk through the streets of that city between nine and eleven in the evening, and as the gaslight shows the flaunting shame, tell me whether celibacy is a reality or a sham Tell me whether or not that terrible word 'prostitution,' written everywhere, a festering curse, is not a disfiguring scar upon the surface of society It is said that this pamphlet tries to defend immorality You must contradict every page of it, ignore every word of it, to warrant that assumption I ask you to put yourself in the position of the agricultural labourers They have not the training and education that you have, and sometimes mere sexual gratification is the only pleasure of their lives They cannot read Virgil or Dante They cannot hear Beethoven They cannot yacht or fish for salmon They are limited to their narrow parish

We want to prevent the poor bringing into the world little children to suck death, instead of life, at the breasts of their mother, and you tell us we are immoral."

## Four Farmers' Wives

*This fragment describing a Texas Farm Wife is from the poem, "An Etching" by Catherine Rhodes Davis, which was published in "The Woman's Viewpoint"*

GO WITH me to the cabin  
Of a one-horse-tenant farmer  
A mean box-house  
Of rough, unpainted lumber,  
One room, with a fireplace  
And two, perhaps three, small windows  
At the rear, a shed-room,  
In front, a tiny porch!  
The door is open and a wooden chair  
Is wedged across it,  
To stay a creeping baby  
That looks up with wide startled eyes  
And quivering lip,  
And strains against the rope  
Tied round its waist  
To crawl away from us

Staked to the bed-post  
That it may not creep  
Into the "seed-fire,"—banked,  
And smouldering in the fireplace!  
Half-way across the field,  
We come upon two children,  
Shy wild creatures,—  
A little girl perhaps three,  
A little boy about two,  
Playing with acorns and pine-cones  
And bits of broken china,  
Beneath a stunted tree

---

### Another Southern Farm Wife's Story

I can't rest till I write you on this subject. It is on my mind day and night, for fear of too many children. I want to tell you face to face that I endorse every word you say on Birth Control. I want to know how to break the chains of bondage and set myself free and live a free life. I am twenty-five years old. I married an Oklahoma farmer when I was seventeen. I have had four living children and one abortion. We are poorest of the poor, can't hardly feed the ones we have. My health was perfect when I married, but I have carried and nursed babies till I am almost insane and my health has run down. I always have to work so hard, not able to hire one penny worth of help. I picked cotton all last fall and my two months old baby laid in a little wagon and cried itself to sleep. I did a man's work and if I can't get relief I can't hold up much longer. My little children will be a burden on the county

### A Farm Woman of Iowa

I am an overburdened mother of six living children, the oldest ten years of age, the youngest one-year-old. I married at twenty-one years, I am thirty-two now, was strong and healthy when I married but am broken down now and not able to care decently for my family. They all suffer for my state of health and I think it is not fair to the children in having more and more and not be able to give them the care. We live on a rented farm in a small very unmodern, four-room house, where one cannot get or keep help if one could manage to pay for it. So I am compelled to do all my own work, sewing, gardening, housework, chickens and all the worries that goes with raising a family. I am so tied down I can never get any place because of taking care of the babies. I would like to get a few years rest but as soon as I quit nursing a baby I find myself in the family way again.

---

They are wary and distrustful  
Until we smile and speak softly,  
Then re-assured, in pretty baby lingo,  
They tell us where their parents  
Are plowing—"Wee-e-e out yonder"  
Following their little fingers,  
We trudge on, over furrows,  
Through "new ground,"  
Full of roots and stumps,  
To the mother, plowing beside her mate!  
A frail young girl-wife,  
Married at sixteen and not yet twenty,  
Three pale babies to tug at her skirts,  
And a fourth one soon to come!  
("A woman that don't fetch a baby  
Every year, don't earn her salt,"—  
So they say!)

We chide the husband  
That he let his wife, in her condition  
Plow beside him,  
But she bravely, loyally takes his part  
The crops are in the grass,  
And they have borrowed a horse,  
And can't afford to hire a hand,  
So she is helping him out to-day  
For to-morrow is wash-day

Yes, there is her washplace,—  
That bench in the clump of trees,

Down yonder by the spring,  
A good spring, of clear soft water!  
How far? *Not far*,—  
Just a *litttle* piece up the hill  
To carry the water in pails,  
To the wooden tubs on the washbench  
In the clump of sweetgum trees

She sighs wearily,  
Fanning her flushed face with her sunbonnet,  
And looks down in embarrassment  
At her bare feet

The baby at home—how old is it?  
Eleven months old,  
But he ain't never been pyert  
And the next one,—when will it arrive?  
Some time next month, that's why  
She's trying to help Jim  
Get his crop laid by, for *then*,  
With the four of 'em underfoot,  
And the cooking and milking and churning  
And washing and ironing,—  
Seems like she won't have time  
To help him then!

They'll finish plowing to-day  
And finish chopping out by Sat'day,  
And she won't have nothin' much  
To do then!  
Just a little housework,  
And minding the young-uns,  
And weeding the garden,  
And tending the chickens and cow,

## A New York Farmer's Wife

Before I was married I was jolly and healthy and now there is nothing that suits me as I am so irritable and nervous all the time. But I have went through so much I wonder that I am alive today. I am much weaker since my thurd baby was born eleven months ago. I live in fear each month of being pregnant and every month I take medicine I am so afraid. I know it is dangerous to do this, but I might as well die trying to keep out of it as die having them for I am not able to bring up any more. I am too nervous and tired out to do justice by them. I love the three boys dearly but I can never bear the thought of having to have any more. When the last was seventeen days old I was doing all my our housework except washings. In May, after he was born in April, I had to milk cows all the way from ten to fourteen twice a day, besides doing my housework, nursing a baby and my washings and ironings. The doctor I had when baby came said I had my hands full if ever a woman had. Right at present I am working for three men, have three children to look after, the oldest four. Is there not something that can be done to help a farm woman like myself? I would rather die than bring any more children into the world as I am not able and besides, we are very much in debt

That ain't work,—just play!  
We turn away and thoughtfully  
Retrace our steps, over furrows,  
Pondering over the woman,  
Over that mother with her unborn child,  
Plowing barefoot, beside her mate,  
Plowing furrows, in "new ground,"  
Full of roots, and stumps

## Poison Ivy

**P**OISON IVY is one of the farmer's trials. A hard thing to kill out. But almost before one can turn around it has come up in another place. Root out and behold you could not have got it all, for vigorous new sprouts have come up. Your best hope is to plow deep and throw every scrap where it will dry and have no chance to root, or perhaps if care is used, it might be burnt. Some people are not harmed by it while others cannot look at it and not suffer. A rock covered in the Fall with ivy's brilliant leaves and pretty berries is still full of poison.

Thieves, murderers and other criminals at liberty and causing trouble and suffering. Hospitals, jails,

prisons and insane asylums crowded mostly because of broken laws. Much talk about laws to prevent carrying arms, about home training, church and mission work. That, like cutting bits from the ivy, is of little use. The so-called morons may be like the pretty ivy decorating the rocks. As usual the innocent must suffer for the guilty and the keepers of the laws of health and right must carry the others.

The poison ivy among humans has injured the entire race. Will it be war, pestilence or starvation alone that will keep down the number? Certainly clouds look heavy for terrible storms in the future.

M A C L

# Migration Questions

At the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations

By AN OBSERVER

AMONG the questions to which the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations has devoted special attention ever since its creation is migration. No doubt its competence on this subject is a limited one, but while the agenda in previous sessions of the annual conferences has contained such technical items as equality of treatment for nationals and aliens in respect of workmen's compensation, the inspection of emigrants on board ship, the communication to the I L O of information on statistics, laws, regulations, etc., and other points of a similar character, one has felt that behind the diplomatically conducted debates on these matters lay the far more fundamental questions of the distribution of population throughout the world, the optimum density of population, the relation of population to the supply of food and raw materials. These are the invisible ghosts which haunt every Conference at which population questions in any form are discussed.

## *Problems of Three Types*

This year, there was no specific item on the agenda of the Conference which could be said to have a close bearing on population. On the other hand, the general discussion on the Report of the Director showed clearly that these questions occupy a very important place indeed in the minds of delegates. The number of speeches in which reference was made to the subject was not large, but the situation in the countries represented by the speakers was in many ways typical of that existing in a very considerable part of the world. There are countries which have a fairly dense population in relation to their resources, and one which is rapidly growing. They are for the most looking for outlets for their surplus population, and discovering that such outlets are more and more difficult to find. There are other countries which are relatively undeveloped and which are crying out for labour and capital in order to develop their resources. There is a third group of countries, whose views were not heard at the Conference—those which are now asking less and less for additional population from outside their own frontiers.

In the first group we find M. de Michelis, of Italy, who said that some countries had no outlet

for their surplus population, a fact which exercised an unfavourable influence on the condition of the working classes in those countries. He invited the Organization to study the "international possibilities of employment," which he considered the most formidable problem of the future, and which he defined as the equilibrium between production and consumption, the equilibrium between the possession of raw materials and their equitable distribution, and, above all, the finding of employment for labour throughout the world. Formidable indeed! Yet it must be acknowledged that M. de Michelis put fairly and squarely before his hearers fundamental questions which the world has to face and for which, it must be hoped, a satisfactory solution will be found.

## *Returned Emigrants*

Let us turn to M. Tournakis, of Greece, whose preoccupations are very similar to those of M. de Michelis. He also sees the economic situation of his country threatened because no outlet is available for its surplus population. Looking outside the frontiers of Greece for a moment, and regarding all the countries of South-Eastern Europe, he noted that the number of emigrants returning from overseas actually exceeded the number leaving those countries. To this state of affairs he attributed an artificial industrialization which led to intensified competition and tariff wars, a growing lack of equilibrium between the agricultural and industrial population, a dangerous growth of unemployment and lowering of the standard of life, and finally the development of imperialist tendencies. It cannot be gainsaid that, if M. Tournakis is right, we are faced with a problem which may easily lead to the disaster of a fresh war if it is not carefully handled. That is the undoubted conclusion to which anyone reading his words must inevitably come. M. Tournakis did not fail to suggest a solution, namely that steps be taken to increase the movement of migrants towards countries where there is a demand for labour. This, he claimed, would be of advantage to the countries of emigration and of immigration and to the migrants themselves.

Yet a third voice from the countries of surplus population was heard, namely that of M. Ferreira,

of Portugal, who considered emigration as one of the most important questions which his country had to deal with

That is one side of the picture, which shows the anxiety with which these countries (and others might be added) regard their population problem. There is another side, and a reference to the possibilities of emigration to South America brought M. de Aragao, of Brazil, to his feet with a strong plea for an increased supply of labour from overseas. Brazil, he said, with a territory of 8½ million square kilometres, had a population of only 39 million people. They needed 20 or 30 times as many European countries could help them by increasing their supply of labour and at the same time help themselves by diminishing the number of unemployed. Brazil would in that way be able to develop her agriculture, her industry and her trade.

The Government Body of the International Labour Office held a short sitting during the Conference, and it also came into very brief contact with the problems of migration. It brought before the International Labour Organization the resolutions of a Congress held in June, 1926 by the trade unionists and political labour parties of the world on the subject of migration. That Congress proved, if

proof were needed, that the workers are as alive to the importance of this problem as Governments.\*

What conclusions can be drawn? Firstly, the problems of population are evidently uppermost in the minds of a large number of people holding responsible positions in their respective countries or in international activities. Secondly, it may seem strange that different countries should at one and the same time be deploring the lack of outlets for their surplus population and the lack of population to develop their resources. Why is not the surplus population of the first group transferred to the open spaces of the second group? Perhaps it is because when you begin to work out the details the difficulties begin. M. de Michels said that he saw in the co-operation of those countries possessing land, capital and labour respectively the solution of the problems of population and of production. Many people are asking themselves whether that is so, and few are able to give a satisfactory answer. I hope that the World Population Conference, which is to meet at Geneva in August, 1927, will enable us to see more clearly what the situation really is and what solutions for this serious problem are possible.

\*See BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, August, 1926, p. 241



## Marriage Today and in the Future

By JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

V \*

### General Conditions of Success or Failure

THE discussion of our problem — success or failure in marriage — falls into three heads. (1) First of all, there are those *general conditions* of happiness which must be established before marriage is to succeed at all. Thus, there must be present that element of physical attraction which has its roots in the sex impulse, and which makes bodily presence and contact a grateful experience. This is what we mean by "love" in the more narrowly restricted sense of that great word. What would happen to the world if we were all Helens of Troy, or Casanovas of Don Juans, is fearful to contem-

plate. But all have some measure of sex attraction, I suppose, for some persons if not for others. It is this matter of physical attraction, as rooted in sex, which justifies our faith, for example, in early marriages when youth is hot, when sex is potent. I know nothing more menacing than the progressive postponement of the marriageable age for our young people by the exactions, on the one hand, of higher education, and, on the other hand, of economic stress until the thirties or later.

AGAIN, this fact justifies our good American idea that our boys and girls should choose their own mates, and not have them chosen for them by the elders of the family. In such cases we have a

\*This is the fifth of the 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.

"marriage of convenience" But even in such a marriage, the sanctity of love, so to speak, is recognized in the concession that the husband may have his mistress, and in some cases even the wife her lover. We insist, in this country, however, that love shall prevail in marriage, and that the lovers, therefore, shall themselves choose their mates for an experience which is theirs and not another's. Finally, there is the vindication of youth's passion for health and beauty. I wish that our young girls could develop some confidence in their own natural qualities of charm without paint. But even in the silliest shop-girl, painting her face a clownish white and red, I see the workings of a divine instinct which teaches her that she must be beautiful if she would mate. I only wish that she were as careful of her beauty after marriage as before. More than one husband has been lost by a slatternly and careless wife. Beauty has its place, never forget it, as the outward expression of that inward quality of love which holds us together like the twin foci of a magnetic plane.

**T**HE second element which must be present if the marriage is to succeed is personal respect or reverence, which has its roots in character. Physical attraction is short lived. We may feel attraction for a person whom we cannot respect. In such case, marriage should not be joined, or, if joined, should not be maintained. For there can be no true marriage without mutual respect as well as mutual love. And don't be fooled, my dear young people, into believing that marriage may be used as a corrective for defects of character, as a cure for ills of flesh and spirit! If the man you love has the drinking habit or is a libertine, don't marry him. You may think you can heal him with your love, but you can't. After he's got you, and has satisfied his initial appetite, he will return to the poisoned cup again. Marriage must be based on character. This element of character is not as elemental, nor as romantic, as love, but, believe me, it is as basic.

Lastly, as a condition of marriage, there is that element of understanding which has its origin in similarity of tastes, habits, traditions and personal desires. It must never be forgotten that, in marriage, two people have to live together. If this is to be done successfully, it must be on a common basis of friendly sympathy and understanding. We were inclined to be amused when a woman sued her husband for divorce because he made a noise when eating soup. Our amusement became open laughter when we read of the man who wanted to divorce his wife because she insisted on eating crackers in bed. But these things, though so trivial

in their implications show that unless we live in the same world of customs and manners, or by mutual concession and individual self-discipline can create such a world, the union of husband and wife is doomed to failure. It is for this reason that intermarriage is so dangerous. I have not the slightest prejudice against intermarriage, I am absolute in my conviction that when love breaks through the barriers of nation and language and race and religion, the hearts of men must follow. But I think it as stupid as it is dangerous to deny the fact that marriage between two persons reared in alien social groups subjects them both to a strain which is often too severe for them to stand. The essential thing, however, is to live in a world of common interests. "If they have enough in common," says Dr. Minot J. Savage, "so that they would seek each other for mutual comradeship whether married or not, then it is pretty safe to get married."

We may now imagine that the general conditions of a successful marriage have been satisfied. Love, respect, and a community of interest all exist, and the lovers decide to risk the hazard. Now comes the time for the recognition of certain *special conditions*.

**F**IRST comes sex knowledge, a proper acquaintanceship with the physical facts which underlie the marital relation. More marriages have been wrecked, I venture to say, because of ignorance of these facts, than for any other single cause which can be mentioned. Frequently this ignorance is complete, usually on the part of the woman. I have discovered girls, on the eve of their weddings, who knew no more about what marriage really means, on its physical side, than a three or four-year-old child. Think of what it means if a girl actually marries without a knowledge of what she is going into! Our insane asylums all have patients who were once young girls who came to the marital relation without preparation of any kind. More pitiful, almost, than these poor victims of inexcusable ignorance, are the women who survive the experience, but carry to the end of their days an unforgettable impression of the bestiality of their husbands, and probably of all men. Under such conditions, marriage is wrecked at the very outset, with little chance of any kind of repair.

But this is not all! There is a more subtle ignorance of sex which works havoc as great, if not as sudden and dramatic. I refer to that ignorance, shared in quite as much by men as by women, which pertains to those higher and more spiritual aspects of the sex relation, which mark all the difference between the happiness of a full accord between two

persons, and the strain and agony of a maladjustment which is never satisfactorily resolved. For sexual intercourse, if conducted on the proper plane, is a matter of infinite delicacy and like art has a technique which is indispensable to perfect mastery. And it is this art, the art of love, about which the average married person knows absolutely nothing. I think I can say that I was married for some ten or twelve years before I knew or even realized the higher implications of the sex relation, and even then I doubt if I would have discovered them had I not chanced to tumble upon the literature of Havelock Ellis. It was by the writing of this most civilized of moderns the new realms were opened up to me, new truths discovered. I realized for the first time that sexual intercourse was not an indulgence but an art, and therefore the open door not to physical gratification but to the mystic apprehension of holiness and beauty.

**B**UT even this is not all! There is a deeper ignorance still! It is that moral ignorance, if I may so describe it, which denies to us a real understanding of the natural place of the sex life in the larger area of the general life. Still, in spite of ourselves, we are the heirs of the ascetic tradition of the Christian world. Whether we will or no, we are Puritans who are obsessed by the false antinomy between flesh and spirit. Hence the feeling, lurking in the dark places of our minds, that there is something wrong about the sex relation, something debasing and therefore something of which to be ashamed! Such an attitude is the result of sheer ignorance, of a spiritual ignorance which saps the springs of being and robs us of the refreshment of pure joy.

There is no shame in sex, no need for darkness, silence and confusion. "I sing the Body electric," cried Whitman.

"If the body were not the Soul, what is the Soul?"

This brings us to a second special condition of happiness in marriage. I refer to the grim necessity of separation from one's parents. For if sex ignorance wrecks more marriages, soon or late, than any other single cause, the interference of parents is a very close second in the record. There is good reason for the mother-in-law joke being the oldest joke in the world, for behind it is the terrible reality of human experience. It is a joke hiding the agony of tragedy behind the mask of laughter. For parents, I care not how kind and understanding they may be, or how much we may love them, or they love us, parents are in the way when they live with their married children. Their mere presence is always an embarrassment, and frequently an intrusion. In later life, this may not be so, but in the early years of marriage, it is always so. So I say to all young men and women, Get rid of your parents when you marry. If your parents are worthy they will aid and abet you in the "crime"!

**T**HE third special condition of a happy marriage can be mentioned briefly, since it is a logical corollary of what I have just been saying. Have a home! Don't get married until you can live in a home of your own, which shall be supported by your own labors and adorned with your own treasures. This home is yours. It is the incarnation of your united spirits. It is the picture, the image, the very reality of you two lovers at last made one.

(To be concluded)



## A Few Kind Words

Ohio

I had thought of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW as a special technical publication but I find it a high class journal with an appeal as wide as humanity. Your mothers' letters give the poignant, almost agonizing, human touch and the articles show what could be done, and must, to give relief. The magazine has been a revelation to me. The Primer has been most educational and so have John Haynes Holmes' articles. What I especially admire is the decent candor with which the REVIEW treats of things which should not be, but are tabu.

G I

Illinois

I received the February and March number and I am very glad that I am a subscriber. It is with genuine pleasure that I look forward to the next number of your magazine.

J Y S

Pennsylvania

Enclosed you will find check for one dollar. Will you kindly send me three or four copies of the July number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. I think it a specially good number and wish to send it to several people who ought to read it.

E W P

## Book Reviews

SEX HYGIENE, By Dr Julia Kinberg-Von Schneidern and Dr Alma Sundquist Translated by Mary E Collett, Ph D New York, Henry Holt and Co

THERE was a time when physiology books, intended for young people, omitted completely any reference to the process of reproduction and to the organs concerned in it. Even yet the subject is frequently inadequately treated in books available for high school and college students. This fact fully justifies the present volume, which is devoted entirely to the sex organs, male and female, and to their functioning and hygiene. It is well and simply written and the illustrations are adequate and scientific. It is well adapted for parents and teachers who have failed to receive adequate instruction in the course of their own education, as well as for the young people to whom proper sex knowledge is essential for the guidance and control of their own lives. Both the authors and the translators are to be congratulated on the production of a useful and acceptable little volume. Under race hygiene, the authors discuss freely the types of people who ought not to reproduce, and mention the use of contraceptives. They neither commend nor disapprove Birth Control, but they do state that some methods are more successful than others, and that all contraceptives may occasionally fail of their purpose. Summing up the case they write "Although Birth Control is extremely valuable under certain circumstances, it should not be confined to people of good inheritance, and disregarded completely by the less desirable type"—a sentiment in which all Birth Controllers will cordially unite.

A G P

SCIENTIFIC HUMANISM, by Lothrop Stoddard  
Charles Scribner's Sons

THIS new volume deals with the question of whether we can keep apace spiritually and mentally with the new standards which science has discovered and set for us. What shall we do with its extensions of knowledge and power? Mr Stoddard states pertinently, and with excellent authorities, the danger of lapsing back into a dark age, but he believes that the common man can and will be made to listen to the voice of reason rather than of emotion and that scientific humanism will bring about the dawn of an altruistic and advanced age.

One of the most interesting chapters is "The Perilous Present" in which the author states that nowhere are the irrational emotional tendencies more noticeable than in the field of religion. *ie*—the Scopes trial at Dayton, Tenn, John Roach Stratton's fundamentalism, the attitude of many Southern Californian journals and spokesmen on questions of religion and justice—all indicating

the growth of emotionalism and the decline of tolerant and scientific intelligence.

"Modern science is the natural fruit of an objective, dispassionate mental attitude, without this attitude the stream of inventions and processes which have transformed our world could not have arisen and unless that attitude is maintained and spread among the general population, the stream will eventually dry up." Mr Stoddard believes that only by becoming more adept in artificial perfection, conquering nature's shortcomings, denying her long-accepted assertions can man find a safe and assured future. Never was intelligence more needed than in today's complex, ever-changing civilization. While he in no way advocates stifling the emotions he believes that reason must be given the upper hand in order to adjust ourselves harmoniously to both the individual and the race.

NALBRO BARTLEY

FRAULEIN ELSE, by Arthur Schnitzler Simon & Schuster, N Y \$1 50

Any work from Schnitzler's incisive pen is something to be read. This particular volume seems to me especially interesting and valuable in that it deals so understandingly with an important phase of erotic psychology. It is the story of a young girl met with a sexual crisis, who finding herself unable to understand or master it, retreats into the phantoms of her own mind until she succumbs to them by suicide.

It is significant that Schnitzler is a friend of Freud's and that these two great minds approach the subject of human emotions from essentially the same angle, the difference being largely one of form. The novelist enters the experiences of a fictional heroine as an artist and dramatist and makes the tragic struggle of a soul live for us from his pages. Freud gives us the profound and hitherto unknown explanations of such phenomena, building up an important therapy on these findings.

Every real student of human problems, as those who are awake to the subject of Birth Control must be, cannot limit his horizon to the material or social aspects of the situation alone, but must also seek knowledge by a study of the all-important psychological factors wherever he may find them. In "*Fraulein Else*" we have a sympathetic and remarkably keen analysis of human motives—a superb example of the enlightened literature of the day.

ELIZABETH SEVERN

### MONEY THAT DID'NT BREED

She was a wholesome young woman who regretted that their income had not been large enough to have children—Story in the *Saturday Evening Post*

## IN THE SUMMER PERIODICALS

AMONG THE LEADING ARTICLES in our field during July was Mary Austin's "Forward Turn" (*Nation* of July, 20). In it she contends that women's very natural "feeling of rasped resentment" against the attitude of men toward their rights in society is changing fundamentally. The articulate expression of women's demands today is not "woman against man" but woman against hopelessly uncontrolled multiplication.

The *Forum* carried its discussion of Birth Control through the Summer. Two methods of approach by the opponents of Birth Control—the metaphysical and the pseudo-scientific—and illustrated in articles in the June and July numbers. In June came the sweeping condemnation by Dr. Halliday Sutherland. This was followed in July, by a defense by the Rev. G. A. Studdert Kennedy—"Woodbine Willie" beloved of the British army, and Chaplain to King George, and attack by Father John Augustus Ryan, whose activity in social work has earned him respect. Last month we discussed Father Ryan's article.

The article by Dr. Sutherland is much less worthy of respect. He pretends to scientific knowledge and asks for credence on the basis of his supposed knowledge. But his generalizations are so wild and so unreliable as to merit nothing but contempt. By what right can he state that contraception is a "cause of sterility or neurasthenia and of fibroid tumors in women" or that "so far from being beneficial, contraception is positively harmful to women"? His assertions that the health of mother and children is better in large families than in small families cannot be accepted without a demand for statistics, gathered from carefully conducted research work, and no such research has as yet been undertaken. As for the degrading conception that the act, in which a man and woman express to the fullest degree their love and their oneness, is nothing but "reciprocal vice", if at the time of that expression they are not intending to produce a child,—the mere enunciation of it simply shows that the writer has never known real wedded love. Another of Dr. Halliday's assertions comes as an insult to a great nation. "Birth prevention in the past", he writes, has been associated with the decline of great civilizations." France he gives as an example of a decaying nation. Has he read the story of the Geart War and the heroism displayed by the French in the crisis of their history? If he has, does he dare to count the French as decadent and the prolific Germans as the sole heroes?

The most substantial communications called forth by this series are by Dr. East and Henrik Van Loon. Among shorter letters in the August number is one from W. W. McLaren, Executive Secretary of the Institute of Politics at Williamstown, who says, "the quota system applied to immigrants from Europe should be matched in some way for those arriving from heaven." In August also Leonard Darwin, discusses the "Survival of the Unfit."

## THE BIOLOGY OF POPULATION GROWTH

(Continued from Page 237)

stant regardless of the size of the population already attained, it is tacitly, but implicitly, assumed that the universe in which the hypothetical population is growing expands proportionately with this growth, so that each single element always has plenty of room, no matter how large the whole group becomes. But such an assumption is unwarranted for any actual population whatever. All populations of real organisms live in universes with definite limits. The absolute size of the universe may be small, as in the case of the test-tube which holds the yeast cells, or it may be as large as the earth, most of which could conceivably be inhabited, on a pinch, by man. But in any and every case there is ultimately a definite limit to the size of the universe in which any real population lives.

*Limits of the Environment*

This consideration obviously alters the complexion of the case. For it at once follows that if the universes in which populations live are finite and inextensible, there must come a time in the growth of any population when the individuals composing it begin to get crowded, and as the growth continues beyond this point they will get more and more crowded.

It is not an unreasonable hypothesis *a priori*, and as we shall presently see there is abundant experimental and observational support for the view, that crowding, or as it is technically termed, density of population, when it reaches a certain degree, has an adverse effect upon both of the two primary biological forces underlying population growth, natality and mortality. This assumption has been made and the theoretical consequences worked out, under several simple postulates as to the quantitative relationship between the variables.

The net result of this first, or mathematical, attack upon the problem of population growth is to show that, with simple postulates as to the relations between the two first-order variables, birth rates and death rates, and the second-order variable density of population, and without consideration of any other variables whatever, we are led rigorously to the conclusion that under these postulates the growth of population must necessarily follow that type of curve (the logistic) which is empirically found to describe the growth of actual populations of widely diverse organisms.

(Part II will be Proof by Experiment)



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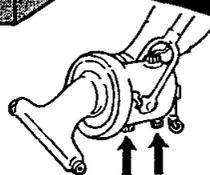
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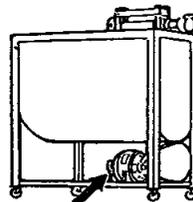
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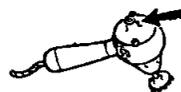
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