In the Creation of New Life There Should be Full Scientific Knowledge and Deliberate Planning

CHILD PLAYING THE BAGPIPES

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—From the Victoria and Albert Museum (London)
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MARGARET SANGER, Founder
105TH FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY
Telephones—Chelsea 991-4992
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TEN GOOD REASONS for BIRTH CONTROL

SIX ARGUMENTS—Woman's Rights Married Love. The Health of Mother and Child, the Welfare of Children, the Abolition of Poverty and the Relief of Over-population in its Domestic Aspect—have been given for

Birth Control

The Use of Harmless and Effective Mechanical or Chemical Methods of Prevention Called Contraceptives

Another reason, international in its bearings, is

Reason VII—The Solution of the Problems of Migration and War.

(Migration and War are the World Aspects of Over-population. If a race grows in numbers beyond its national boundaries it is driven to encroach on weaker nations or aggressively to seek new markets. Thus a population explosive through over-crowding at home becomes itself the first bomb thrown in a war between nations.)

Here is what a few experts say—

"We might as well face the bitter fact that the earth can only hold a certain number of people and when we exceed that number we have War. Therefore population must be controlled."

Gen John F. O'Ryan

"Because War is no panacea for population troubles, it does not follow that the converse of the proposition holds. Most assuredly over population may become a very grave cause of war. Napoleon is alleged to have said that with the high birthrate of France, she must make war. But when the star of Napoleon waned, France chose to reduce her birthrate. Within a century there resulted a nation whose population was almost stationary and whose people, well situated economically, had no desire for war. Her eastern neighbor on the other hand made no such efforts to live peaceably within her own boundaries. The Kaiser was thus able to justify the attack on France with the old plea of necessity."

E. M. East

"History supports the fact that war, famine and pestilence have always operated to settle population problems. There is, however, a theoretical possibility of putting off the operation of these forces. The nations of the world must uniformly undertake to solve their own population problems by the application of rational measures of control rather than by aggression upon the rights of other people."

Henry Pratt Fairchild

In our judgment over population is the most serious of all the causes of war because when it has been allowed to develop, no appeal to reason will be able to remove it. In the case of other differences between nations, compromise is often possible and often the mere post postenement of a crisis will suffice to prevent a conflict. But where a nation has not room in its own territory for its own people it must seek an outlet in other countries. On this broad issue no compromise is possible, and postponement only makes the appeal to force the more imperative. Today the population of many countries is growing so rapidly that unless the growth is checked a near reaching struggle for the possession of the parts of the earth still partially vacant cannot long be postponed. Already the government of the United States has taken steps to close its territories to unrestricted immigration. This action, which the American people have taken to defend their own Interests, conflicts with the obvious interests of at least two other important nations, Italy and Japan. Unable to settle in the United States, the constantly flowing populations of Italy and Japan are forced to seek new outlets.

These two cases are sufficient illustrations for the moment. They are threats to peace that no arguments can touch. The only way to prevent future wars for the acquisition of territory is to persuade the nations of the world to control the growth of their respective populations.

Statement signed by C. C. Little as President and Margaret Sangen as Secretary of the International Federation of Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Leagues

"To create a race of well-born children is essential that the function of motherhood should be elevated to a position of dignity and this is impossible as long as conception remains a matter of chance."

Declaration of Principles of American Birth Control League
CONTENTS

REASON VII—Migration and War 271
EDITORIAL a73

OCCUPATIONAL CONGESTION, by T N Carver, Ph.D 275
Forms of Over-Population to be found without waiting for mankind to over-crowd the earth

THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE, by Rev Charles Franze Potter 277
A brief resume of a notable sermon

THE CONTRIBUTION OF SIGMUND FREUD, by G V Hamilton, M.D 278
What we owe to Freud, cleared of misunderstandings and excrescences

SEX AMONG THE MODERNS, by Samuel D Schmalhausen 280
Modern ideas of love, marriage and Birth Control

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MEDICAL WOMEN, by Vera Brittain 282
The small regard that the medical profession and men generally have had for the safety and comfort of motherhood

SHOULD LIVES BE PLANNED? 284
Letters showing the results of forethought and reason in the planning of families

STANDING ROOM ONLY 286
A Review of Prof E A Ross's great book by Harold Cox.

BOOK REVIEWS
The New Colonial Policy, by Helmar Key — Henry Prof Farechild 287
The Reproduction of Life, by A J Cokkna—Orland E White 287
Medical Aspects of Contraception—Report of Medical Committee—Aaron J Rosenof, M.D 288

PERIODICAL NOTES 289

EUGENICS AND BIRTH CONTROL 290
Further discussion of the project of amalgamating the Birth Control Review with a Eugenics magazine

BIRTH A Poem, by Lucio Trent 291

NEWS NOTES—United States—New York—Connecticut 292
—California
—Massachusetts—New Hampshire

ENGLAND—A Summary of the Status of Birth Control, by Margaret Pollack 293

THE MODERN GIRL, by Eleanor Roseland Wembidge 296

THE TRAGEDY OF OVER-POPULATION, by G C Chisholm 296

A CORRECTION AND SOME FURTHER INFORMATION—Letter from Jessica Smith on Soviet Russia and Birth Control 297

CARTOON 297

AN OPPORTUNITY 298

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

THOMAS NIXON CARVER w Professor of Economics at Harvard. He is a specialist on Agricultural Economics and is author of "The Distribution of Wealth", "Conservation of Human Resources", "Principles of Political Economy", "The Present Economic Revolution in the United States" and many other books.

CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER, Unitarian Pastor of the Church of the Divine Paternity in New York City, w active in movements for progressive education.

S D SCHMALHAUSEN is one of the rising generation of writers on the problems of sex and education. He is author of "Humanizing Education" and "Why We Misbehave".

G V HAMILTON, M.D, author of "Objective Psychopathology" was Director of Psychological Research for the Bureau of Social Hygiene. He has just completed for the Bureau a study of marriage which will be published in October.

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The American Birth Control League, Inc.
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MARGARET SANGER, Editor
ANNIE G. POTTIT, Assistant Editor
MARY SUMNER BOTT, Managing Editor

CLINICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
45 West 15th Street
Telephones — Chelsea 8916-8917

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EDITORIAL

THE fact, recorded in our news columns, that Margaret Sanger has resigned the presidency of the American Birth Control League does not mean that she is giving up her work for Birth Control. It means that she is dedicating her time and strength to a phase of the movement that seems imperative to her. We give her own words her explanation of her action —

"As I have long wished to do, I will devote myself to a scientific study of the causes and cures of the terrific sacrifice of the lives of child-bearing women. I feel confident that a serious study will lead to a scientific demonstration of the fact that maternal mortality can be reduced by the application of Birth Control knowledge. Infant mortality in the United States has been appreciably lowered in the last ten years, but nothing of consequence has been accomplished in lowering the death-rate of mothers. I feel that active and constructive measures are necessary. It is a matter that must be approached with courage as well as knowledge. I am preparing to spend a period of three years in sociological investigation and in gathering facts pertinent to the situation. In this work, I shall have the aid and co-operation of some of the foremost authorities in the world. The need of such a study is well recognized by them. The problem is economic and sociological as well as biological and pathological.

DURING the past four years, through special clinical work of the League, I have had an opportunity to examine at first hand the cases of ten thousand women who have been saved untold suffering. In the majority of instances, these women would have lost their lives had they not been properly instructed and treated with Birth Control methods. These ten thousand are infinitesimal compared with the millions who need aid. They were extreme cases, as only extreme cases are permitted by law to take advantage of Birth Control advice. With such an experience as a background, I have determined to prepare a constructive program that will result in appreciably lowering maternal mortality in the country.

"Private and state charities, welfare and medical organizations are fully competent to cope with almost every other phase of human suffering. The United States seems to have safe-guarded the lives and health of every class of citizens with the exception of the mothers of child-bearing age. The tragic part of the situation is that in the past ten years the work that has been done to lower the death-rate of mothers has practically proved ineffective. The missing link in my opinion is proper Birth Control."

THE Irish Censorship bill, for the passage of which the Government has promised special facilities this month, is perhaps the most amazing piece of legislation of the century. Although it was introduced in the Dáil in the spring, the text has only just been published. The bill sets up a board of censors, and gives it the power, by majority vote, to pronounce any book or paper "indecent, obscene, or tending to inculcate principles contrary to public morality, or otherwise of such character that its sale or distribution is, or tends to be injurious or detrimental to or subservive of public morality." A list is to be made of such books as the Board bans and heavy penalties are provided for anyone who shall "import, sell, or offer for sale or distribution" a book, paper or periodical which is on the prohibited list. The more liberal Irish are pointing out that under the law Ireland would be placed under a censorship limited only by the discretion of a majority of the five members of the Censorship Board, that the wholesale of the Roman Index could be enforced by law, with, in addition, other books which offended...
the prejudices of any “recognized association” which chooses to bring a complaint In regard to Birth Control the Act is specific and far more drastic than anything as yet in existence It is made unlawful to print or publish, to sell, or keep, or offer for sale, to distribute, or offer for distribution any book or paper “which might reasonably be supposed to advocate the unnatural prevention of conception, or procurement of abortion, or any method, treatment or appliance to be used for the purpose of such prevention or such procurement.” Here not only information in regard to contraception is barred. Under the law, without intervention of the Board of Censors, any such publication as the Birth Control Review or the English Malthusian journal—The New Generation—is barred from the whole of the Irish Free State, and not a word or an argument in favor of the higher morality of limited families can legally be published.

The effort to keep Ireland hermetically sealed against all ideas of Birth Control is not, however, likely to be successful The same mail that brought to us the text of the Censorship Bill, also brought a news item in an English paper which suggests difficulties for the party that wishes to ban all mention of family limitation The item is very brief It reads: The British Broadcasting Company is considering the question of broadcasting in the autumn a debate on Birth Control" All England and all Ireland also are within reach of the stations of the B.B.C. and no Censorship Board can raise a barrier against the ether waves It is hardly conceivable that the Irish Free State will ban all radio receiving sets, yet unless it does this, it will not be able to shut out from the ears of the people the arguments in favor of Birth Control Nor will the censorship, to be established, put a stop to contraception as already practised by the more intelligent Irish This difficulty is pointed out by Senator Yeats, who is opposing the bill In an interview given out for publication, he said: "You may take it that in this respect in regard to Birth Control the views and practise of the well-to-do class here are much the same as the views and practice of the well-to-do class in any other European country” “The object of the bill”, he added, “is to hide knowledge from the eyes of our young people, lest knowledge should be abused The young people of Ireland do not deserve to be treated as fools or dolts, and I do not think that they will stand it Let our zealots do what they will, they cannot retain the old order unchanged in Ireland The new world keeps breaking in Our young people are right to welcome it, and they must learn to choose the good and eschew the evil for themselves.”

The Kellogg Peace Pact, which is described in the preamble as “a frank renunciation of war”, has been signed now by fifteen nations But there are grave doubts as to its effectiveness France made the reservation that defensive warfare was not included, and when Italy signed, did she reserve to herself the right to make good Mussolini’s claim that the immigration restrictions of other countries are a direct invasion of the rights of Italy, and that to oppose them is a matter of defence? Mussolini’s population policy is preparing an explosive likely to precipitate the next war, and already Italy is raising an army to enable her to take possession of the less congested spaces of the world This is an immediate problem, but Japan is a close second Can she succeed in finding food and space for a population that grows beyond all bounds, in her island territory? And surely the countries invaded by these surplus populations would have a right to defend their immigration laws, their efforts to restrict their numbers The population problem is world-wide, and until some solution for it can be found, through definite restriction of birth-rates, no possible form of treaty can prevent war.

We regret to have to record the death of two good friends of the Birth Control movement. One of them, Mrs Henry Villard, was a member of our National Council. Through the eighty years of her useful and eventful life, she championed many good causes—principally, peace, liberty, woman suffrage and Birth Control—and shared in many strenuous fights for progress. The other, Crystal Eastman, was a much younger woman, but in the shorter span of her life she also was a fighter for good causes. She identified herself with the movement for equal rights for women. She was not very actively associated with the American Birth Control League, but she did her share for the movement in the pages of Equal Rights, of which she was associate editor, and her last service was as a member of the cartoon committee of the Birth Control Review.
Occupational Congestion

By T N Carver, Ph D

THAT there are powerful motives, which, if not counteracted by prudential reasons, will lead to marriage and the begetting of offspring is a matter of experience. That in a prosperous country the average pair is physically capable of producing, bringing to maturity and marrying off more than two children, is a matter of observation. That, if they continue to do so, each succeeding generation will be more numerous than the preceding is a matter of arithmetic. That in any given state of scientific knowledge there is a limit to the quantity of food that can be grown on a given area of land, is a matter of geometry, that is, of the limited space in which plants can spread their roots in the soil and their leaves in the air and sunlight. That long before this absolute limit is reached, the returns from increasing efforts to increase the yield of a given area of land begin to dwindle, is a matter of experimental proof, having been demonstrated over and over at various agricultural experiment stations, besides being one of the largest facts in history, explaining, as it does, most of the migrations of peoples and struggles for markets. These five verifiable propositions are the basis of current theories of population. They are all truisms, but truisms are at least true, which is more than can be said of many interesting and original statements.

The Alternatives

On the basis of these truisms one must conclude that the population inhabiting any given area must eventually do one of two things. It must either become stationary, or it must manage to draw its subsistence from wider areas. It can become stationary only by balancing its birth and death-rates. This can be done either by decreasing its birth-rate or increasing its death-rate. It can draw its sustenance from wider areas either by migrating to those areas, or by extending its markets, that is, by selling to the inhabitants of sparsely populated outside areas the finished products of indoor industries, in exchange for food and raw materials.

Empirical observation shows that populations usually follow all these tendencies, though one or more may become dominant. On the basis of their dominant tendencies, they become either pent-up life either reduce the birth-rate, as in France, or they suffer from over-population and a high death-rate, as in China and India. Those living the expanding life either migrate to new areas, as did the Greeks when their civilization was expanding and as English-speaking peoples have been doing for the last three hundred years, or else they develop their indoor industries, as England herself has been doing for a hundred and fifty years, bringing raw materials from sparsely populated areas, working them over in her indoor industries, selling the finished products back to the sparsely populated areas and living on the profits of the transaction—taking the profit largely in the form of food, also imported from the sparsely populated areas.

Local Over-Population

Over-population for the world as a whole is a theoretical possibility for the future but not a present actuality. Local congestion is a term which describes such countries and sections as seem to be suffering from too great density. But occupational congestion is a present reality in every civilized country, with the possible exception of the United States and Canada, and even these countries are not wholly free from it. By occupational congestion is meant a condition in which certain occupations are over-manned. This usually means that certain other occupations are under-manned. In other words, it means a lack of balance among interdependent occupations, and all occupations are becoming interdependent. For example, if in any community there should happen to be more hod-carriers than were needed, that community would be over-populated with hod-carriers, however sparsely its territory might be populated. Moreover, hod-carriers would suffer from low wages or unemployment, and be about as badly off as if the whole region in which they lived were too densely populated.

Occupational, like local congestion, is a physical fact which lies deeper than forms of social or industrial organization. It is as likely to exist under socialism as under capitalism. The remedy is the same in all cases. The congested occupations must be relieved of their excess numbers. This can be done in either of two ways, first by thinning out the numbers in the over-crowded occupations, second, by increasing numbers in the under-crowded occupations.
pation. In the case of the **hod-carriers**, the remedy would be to decrease the number of **hod-carriers**, or to increase the number of **brick** and stone masons requiring their services.

**Over-Crowded Occupations**

In general, the occupations requiring little skill or **training** tend to be overcrowded and those requiring much skill and long courses of training to be understaffed. The most acutely overcrowded are the **higher managerial positions**, which, for purposes of this discussion shall be called those of **invention**, **investment** and management. This is not a necessary situation, but its remedy requires a more far reaching and constructive program than most of our statesmen or social reformers have yet been able to plan.

Undoubtedly one cause of the lack of occupational balance is the differential birth-rate. The **inordinately high birth-rate** among the **ignorant** and the **unskilled**, and the low birth-rate among the **business**, **professional** and **scholarly classes** would naturally, in the absence of a sound system of popular education—intended to keep the lower occupational ones overcrowded and the higher ones understaffed. By a sound system of popular education is meant a system which enables every person to acquire the training and skill necessary for success in the **highest** and most **remunerative occupation** for which his natural or **inherited ability** would make it possible for him to be properly trained. Even where such a sound system exists, the differential birth-rate throws a **heavier** load upon it than it would have to carry if the birth-rate among different classes could be more nearly equalized. It is in this connection that Birth Control bears on the only really acute population problem, namely occupational congestion.

A sound system of popular education is a means of restoring an occupational balance. The most important element in such a system is commonly overlooked. It is not enough merely to enable unskilled manual workers to become **skilled** manual or even **clerical** workers. It is most important that as many **as possible** be trained for those occupations where men are scarcest, that is, for the **highest** occupations. So far as industry is concerned, these are those of the **inventor**, the **inventor** and the manager. The scarcity of first-rate inventors, inventors and managers is everywhere the limiting factor in industrial expansion. Any country in which this scarcity is acute will always show a congestion of the manual trades, as evidenced by low wages, unemployment or **emigration**. Any country in which inventors, inventors and managers are numerous and of **high ability** will show an active demand for workers in the lower grades. That is, there will be **high** wages, general employment or **immigration**.

One of the most specific cures for low wages and unemployment in England would be for Oxford and Cambridge to start first-rate graduate schools of **business**, and to use their vast influence to turn the best minds of England for a few generations toward **business pursuits**. If the country could mass its best intelligence for a few generations on industrial problems, its industries would so expand as to employ at high wages all its working population and to attract immigrants from other countries. It would then have an immigration rather than an emigration problem. On the other hand, one of the surest ways to create unemployment, low wages and poverty is to develop a **superficial attitude** toward business, to turn the best of the country into the so-called genteel professions and to leave industry to second and third-rate minds. Second and third-rate minds can never run first-rate industries nor pay first-rate wages to large numbers of workers. Whatever else a country **might achieve** which turned its best minds away from industry, or failed to give them adequate industrial training, it could never achieve the elimination of low wages, unemployment and poverty except by wholesale and forced **emigration** or drastic Birth Control among the manual workers.

**A Lack of Balance**

Occupational congestion is similar in certain fundamental respects to local congestion. Local congestion, a lack of balance between two factors, workers and land. Occupational congestion is a lack of balance between different kinds of labor. Local congestion may be cured in either of two ways, first, by reducing the number of workers, second, by increasing the amount of available land. Occupational congestion may likewise be cured in either of two ways, first, by reducing the numbers in the overcrowded occupations, and second, by increasing the numbers in the underemployed occupations.

The possibility of over-populating the world, while a real one, is too remote to interest the popular mind. Local congestion is a present reality in certain Oriental countries, but does not excite the western mind, except when such countries threaten to flood the labor markets of western countries with cheap labor. Occupational congestion is an acute problem, or threatens to become acute in every industrial nation. The fear of it is at the basis of all laws for the restriction of the immigration of laborers.

It should be pointed out that there is another kind of immigration problem besides that of the immigration of laborers. There has been some immigration into Mexico and the Philippines from...
The Future of Marriage

A Study of the Influence of Birth Control on the Spiritual Progress of Humanity

The present-day interest in sex-novels is not necessarily an indication of a lowered social morality. The focusing of attention on marriage by the continual discussion of divorce, Birth Control, and companionate marriage indicates to a student of social conditions simply that the time-honored institution of marriage is undergoing a change. And since all change in social institutions is interpreted as immoral by short-sighted defenders of the status quo, cries of alarm are to be expected.

Birth Control was something to be mentioned only in shocked whispers a very few years ago, but public opinion has changed very rapidly. Today clergyman after clergyman has come out in its defense until there is a solid body of advocates even in the conservative churches.

There are still many who are against Birth Control,—for others it is another case of the sort made familiar by prohibition, namely, the public denunciation of a course of conduct secretly followed. There are thousands of persons practicing Birth Control who would not fight publicly for a repeal of a law which they are constantly breaking.

In other words, social morality is changing and the law has not caught up. The whole marriage situation is in that dilemma.

When mankind passes from one age to another, it takes some time for the primary social institutions, like marriage, to make the adjustment. We are now at such a time of change.

When man passed from the pastoral period to the agricultural, marriage changed from polygamy to monogamy, a change now recognized as for the better, but which probably caused the guardians of morality of that distant time many hours of wondering what the world was coming to.

We are now passing from the agricultural to the industrial era. Moral sanctions are changing. We need a new ten commandments, a more moral set than the decalog that considered wives property.

What improvement on monogamy can there be? Monogamy meant that a man could have only one wife. It didn't mean that the condition of that one wife was any better than the condition of the many wives. Even when there were "two souls with but a single thought and two hearts that beat as one," the husband was the one.

The new conception of marriage in the industrial era is the idea of the relation between two equal personalities. The economic release of woman has changed her attitude toward marriage.

In the agricultural era woman did all the work of the home. Today she buys the clothes, instead of making them and she sends the washing out, instead of doing it herself.

The ideal of the new marriage which seems to be approaching is that of two growing personalities with equal opportunity for self-development.

The greatest thing in the world is human personality and the spiritual task of the world is the improvement of personality. Individual and social Birth Control is to be advocated because it does free woman to take her proper place as man's equal partner.

Human personality is greater and more important than any of its institutions. Marriage was made for man and woman, not man and woman for marriage. Man improved marriage at least once before it is high time it was improved again.

The Contribution of Sigmund Freud*

By G V Hamilton, M D

I DEAS which can be coined into bigger and better food, raiment, shelter, transportation and physical health values are certainly not to be scorned, but if we are ever going to be civilized we must have an additional need of ideas which can be made effective for our betterment along quite different lines. If degrees of civilization are to be measured not only in terms of available material comforts, but of the modes in which the race tends in the main to respond to its basic urges as well, we have a considerable distance to go before we can lay claim to anything like a complete escape from barbarism. This, it seems to the writer, is a fundamental implication of what Freud has been telling us for more than thirty years. Man, being inescapably the kind of animal that he is, as to various structural and dynamic outlines, must come to accept certain facts about himself and learn to do something about them in a purposeful way. If its basic urges could feasibly come to direct expression as overt behavior and consciously held desires and intentions, he would be even more natural than his brother apes, but of course survival of the race would be impossible on this basis.

Sigmund Freud teaches us that, as a matter of fact, the human adult is more or less unwittingly possessed of reactive mechanisms which will not permit him to translate most of his original impulses into overt mental and physical activities until they have undergone all sorts of modifications and shifts of direction. These modifying and shifting inner mechanisms owe their possibility of development, of course, to factors which are common inheritances of the race, but for each individual their acquisition in forms which, concretely, are characteristic of his inner self, is a product of his training. We can't desire or do—or even know—what we are primarily impelled to desire or do, because a host of tuttional impositions, both planned and unplanned, have been so affecting us almost from birth that this impossibility exists. Freud made this revolutionary discovery, when he set himself the task of finding out what lies back of all that characteristically comes to the surface as the hysterical patient's mental experiences and behavior. His insight into the psychodynamics of these and other types of pathological situations led him to formulate the doctrine of repression, which he declares to be "the foundation-stone on which the whole structure of psychoanalysis rests."

Unwholesome repressions, which can perhaps be most simply conceived as inwardly operative bad habits which prevent one's primary urges from coming to direct expression, are not only conducive to nervous symptoms but to frustration, futility and, too often, brutality in the beliefs, attitudes and practises of perhaps the majority of us. Of course Freud's most direct service has been to nervous persons, but in a broader sense his insights into the workings of human nature promise a vastly greater benefit to the race in its struggle to civilize itself; they give us clues as to what we can do to prevent the bad subterranean habits which undeniably distort and pervert the original mainsprings of thought and endeavor. The "Super-ego" of Freud's metapsychology is that part of each individual which has been largely fashioned for him by the impositions of parents, society and the state, and which determines, often in spite of his intellectually-held convictions, how he shall function both mentally and behaviorally.

A Misapprehension

We are apt to associate Freud's doctrines exclusively with primary sex impulses and their deflection from what they set out to be when they are first released within the organism, but he must also be credited with doctrines which disclose equally penetrating insights into the struggles of the ego to protect itself against disadvantages and to assert its importance before the tribe. It was necessary first to give separate consideration to these two fundamentally inseparable phases of the personality's function, and the mere facts of clinical experience required him to start with sexual impulses in his efforts to develop a systematic theory of human nature which should do justice to his insights. This procedure brought him a good deal of undeserved criticism from persons who assumed that Freud attributed a too great importance to sex, and that he ignored the non-sexual aspect of our nature.

Since the appearance of his book on "Narcissism" (Vol. I, self-love as distinguished from love of persons other than self) he has so convincingly disclosed the nature and importance of our ego trends that the reading public, which always likes to have all its explanatory eggs in one conceptual basket, is in danger of forgetting that, after all, sex urges

are, and have been for ages, the chief concern of the prohibitionists. They have taken a cruel and destructive advantage of the circumstance that, owing to the nature and intensity of human sex urges, the assertion of such urges must always be governed by certain obvious biological and social experiences. The prohibitionists, whether as parent, society or state, is in a position to develop in the child repressive habits which will ever afterward deny it adequate release of sexual tension and incline it toward seeking, without knowing why, partial release in substitute satisfactions which range in ouchness from gossip backbiting to planning murder on an international scale.

Corrective Procedures

It is fortunate that Freud developed his theories and formulations of fact while busied with practical efforts to help the victims of unwholesome tutalional impositions. He has not only shown that they stand in the way of our becoming civilized, but has given specific and usable advice as to how we should proceed to remove those obstacles. Two of these corrective procedures deserve mention in a review for a publication which owes its origin to the Birth Control movement.

(1) Every good advertiser knows that if you can convince that part of a human being which functions automatically and at a lower level than the conscious level you will be more effective than if you merely address yourself to his intellect. Now the period during which the most important sex instruction is given, whether deliberately in words or by the implications of parental attitudes toward sex, is largely covered by the first five or six years of the child's life, which is a time when automatically rather than intellectually operative convictions are most easily acquired. Of still greater importance is the fact that, if they become fixed during early childhood, no amount of intellectual correction in adult life on the part of the individual who holds them can wholly throw them out of gear with the base urges which they were originally intended to relegate. If you are overwhelmingly convinced during early childhood that all that pertains to sex is to be feared and abhorred, almost nothing that you can do about it when you grow up will enable you fully to escape the consequent interference with your capacity for adequately releasing sex expression. The moral of this is, of course, to avoid establishing convictions concerning sex in young children which are likely to make for bad re-

(2) A second practical point which Freud has made in his discussions of sex repression relates to Birth Control. It must have required considerable courage for him to have said in Austria, in 1908, "It cannot be denied that contraceptive measures become a necessity in married life at sometime or other, and theoretically it would be one of the greatest triumphs of mankind, one of the most tangible liberations from the bondage of nature which we are subject, were it possible to raise the responsible act of procreation to the level of a voluntary and intentional act, and to free it from its entanglement with an indispensable satisfaction of a natural desire."

There can't hope to become civilized so rapidly that all children of the next generation will be given sensible sex instruction, and even if such a miracle could be accomplished, there would remain the problem of doing the best that we can to mitigate the lot of those of us who are already born and past the period of childhood. With very few exceptions the adult American is so dealt with during his childhood that he is now incapable of obtaining a fully adequate release of his sexual tension. The unwittingly, automatically operative repressive bad habits to which allusion has been made will not permit it. Nevertheless, freedom from the fear of involuntary parenthood is significant. In the course of my research in problems of sex in the marital relation I have been told by women that the nearest they ever came to a satisfying release of sex tension was when they deliberately sought to conceive.

The writer is honestly convinced the Freud's theories are too labored and metaphorical to conform to the standard of a scientific realism, which requires that all explanatory formulations shall be as simple as the need of doing justice to the facts involved will permit. Nevertheless he believes that they are enormously important because they give intelligible expression to insights which rank Freud with the great discoverers of the world. The reviewer also holds that as a method for scientific research Freud's technique, as it stands, is practically valueless because it violates the most fundamental of the rules of scientific evidence. But here, again, it must be said that because it has been for Freud a congenial medium for expressing his genius as a student of human nature if must be given the most respectful consideration.

1 It is gratifying to note a recent book by Mrs. Sanger, that offers in simple and non-technical language the kind of advice that should be given to parents who wish to be intelligent in the matter of sex instruction.

Sex Among the Moderns*

By SAMUEL D SCHMALHAUSEN

For the sake of a greater clarity of comprehension, let us pause to consider how man has handled his sexual situation historically. The co-existence of prostitution with honorable marriage is a fact that speaks too eloquently in behalf of an unsolved inner contradiction in the emotional nature of man. That neurotic conflict may be visualized as the overlapping and interference of two impulses the desire to worship the madonna and to embrace the whore. No one who is competent to analyze man's attitude toward the love-life can afford to undervalue the import of this deep dualism in his nature. The most ironic fact in human behavior is the evil circumstance that made man spend his spontaneous passion on prostitutes, leaving him with a stale residue of desire for his wedded wife.

PROSTITUTION is the dark poetry of sex desire. That married women should have been so long morally blind and psychologically obtuse, contenting themselves with the vapid residuals of passion, is one of those colossal facts almost beyond comprehension. The prostitute gave to man with a coarse playfulness what the dignified women of the race could never give with their sterilized sobriety. Something strange and new and shatteringly real is happening in the world before our very eyes. I refer to the intelligent and pathetically sincere attempt of respectable women to win back to themselves the sweet disreputable bliss of spontaneous sex desire, squandered throughout the ages (and oh! so lavishly) upon courtesans, whores and prostitutes.

Though moral simpletons know it not, the younger generation is unwittingly seeking to solve the most baffling problem of life, to wit, freedom of love in a setting of dignity. The new candor in sex behavior is a very great step in the direction of interlinking the spontaneity of passion (until recently looked upon as quite shameful) and therefore to be tolerated only as a sneak behavior in blind alleys under prostitute auspices) with the lovely dignity of compassion. Sexual love as happy recreation is the clean new ideal of a young generation sick of duplicity and moral sham and marital insincerity and general erotic emptiness. Sex as recreation is the most exquisite conception of lovers who have learned how to look with frank delighted eyes upon the wonder in their own stirred bodies.

From an analytic point of view what were the choices of the male. Promising sex fulfillment?
Only these masturbation, prostitution, free love, marriage, and—abstinence Realistically summarized, man's choices took the form of masturbation, prostitution and marriage, with special preference for the last two. Woman's choices were largely limited to abstinence and marriage. The results whether viewed psychically, psychologically, or sociologically have been disastrous, fertile breeders of distraction, unhappiness, misery and shame.

We confront a younger generation in clean and brave rebellion against these wretched choices for sex expression. A hygienic ideal, cleansed of hypocrisy, free from the misery of repression, is capturing the awakened minds of an increasing number of men and women who perceive in sexual comradship a source of incomparable significance for personality-enrichment. To minimize the tyranny and humiliation of masturbation, to defeat the mad logic of abstinence, to cancel the existence of the unclean evil of prostitution, to purge conventional marriage of its coercions and inbreeding neurotic complications, in fine, to create more free and felicitous conditions for sex fulfillment, is the exceeding great task and perilous enterprise of liberated youth. Passion radiantly humanized by compassion is our enriching new ideal.

The charming conception of married love celebrated by Marie Stopes, the tender-hearted appreciation of companionate marriage wisely sponsored by Ben Lindsey, the clean scientific candor of sex-enlightenment found in the works of Elis Carpenter, Key, Schreiner, Meisel-Hess, Robinson, Robbe, Popenee, Dunlap, Sanger, Fielding, Dell, Gruenberg, Davis, Denny, the universal tendency on the part of fine men and women to honor sex love as an experience of beauty and dignity, most persuasively embodied in the philosophy of Mrs. Bertrand Russell, what are these evidences of courage and candor if they be not signs of a new enlightenment?

Man's mind, for so many dark and dirty generations sexually torn between madonna and whore, seeks the recompense of a new and richer solace in a spontaneous passion-devotion to his sweetheart. The consolation of adoration which he once discovered in a sterile respect for the madonna, the compensation of vivid experience which he once could find only in the unclean passionate pursuit of the whore, these disquieting loyalties have been laid to rest, harmonized in the profounder, because more sincere, dedication to sex love as a thing of dignity and beauty, without apology or shame. Thus we witness the birth of a new type in society, the lovable sweetheart who combines with her own personality the dignity of the madonna-conception with the free vivacity of the whore-conception. Man will no longer commit the insane folly (woman will not permit it!) of spending his spontaneous passion on prostitutes, leaving for his real mate the disingenuous passion of marital duty.

Three interesting problems belong to our age of emancipation the dignifying of sexual desire, the humanizing of passion, and the assigning of social status to experimental relation. Underlying these momentous problems and yet outstripping them in general significance is the problem of what I should like to call the sexualization of marriage.

WOMAN has developed sexual personality. She means to devote an increasing beautiful attention to the erotic life. Somehow she must contrive to give passion a freer reign in the realm of love. The quintessence of the sexual revolution lies in woman's delighted acceptance of the love relation as recreation. What we must not forget is the sheer inevitability of the new candor which expresses itself in erotic camaraderie.

To sum up, marriage as conventional coercion is on the verge of bankruptcy. Marital love as ritual and routine is no longer honored as either sacred or sweet. Morality as the sheer perverse tyranny of abstraction is dethroned. Experience as the open sesame to life more abundant is being welcomed as essentially good. Sexual love, for the first time in human history, will be universally honored as a quickener of life, an illuminator of human nature, an experience of infinite promise for woman as for man. Passion's coming of age symbolizes the culturally inevitable subordination of fecundity to birth control, with its happy by-product of recreation in heu of procreation as the inspiring bond of sex union.

Where all other panaceas fall, love may yet save the world. The mother image fades into obscurity and out of that strange obscurity emerges the image of the sweethearth as the inspiration of man's life.

It was the night, the night of all my dreams
Across the lofty spaces of that room
You stole, and where the moonlight's silver streams
Cloudily slanted upon the gloom,
More silver radiance met them where you moved,
And all the beauty of that hazed West,
Wherein the moon was sinking, lay approved
Because thus lay your pale, slow-curving breast
I shall remember,—aye, when death must cover
My soul and body with its rayless tide,—
The madness and the peace of that wild lover
Drunken with life's whole wonder at your side
I shall remember in life's stormiest deep,—
Even as that night I knew you there in sleep.

—One of the many enchanting poems in Arthur Davison Ficke's book of magic, "The Sonnets of a Portrait Painter"
Maternal Mortality and Medical Women

By Vera Brittain

A FEW weeks ago the public mind was greatly perturbed over the fact that every year three thousand women die as the result of childbirth. A Conference on Maternal Mortality, to which the Queen sent a message, was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, and in different parts of the country important persons made reference to the subject. One remark especially, made by Mrs. Baldwin in a speech at the Mansion House, was very much quoted and discussed: "I have always felt," she said, "that if Dame Nature had been more generous with her gifts and let us share child-bearing between male and female, this very important subject would have been dealt with long before this.

It seems, to say the least of it, curious that throughout the recent controversy on the training of women doctors, hardly a writer has called attention to the connection between this remark and the claims of the medical women students to whom three important London hospitals are about to be closed.

A cynical but honest Frenchman remarked long ago that we have always enough philosophy to support the misfortunes of others. Since midwifery, once a female profession, was lost to women through becoming a subject of study at Universities to which they were not admitted, maternity has been too often the source either of unwholesome sentiment or of jests far from delicate. Enjoying only the satisfactions of parenthood, and eternally free from its pain, its peril, and the majority of its tasks, men both medical and unscientific have found a peculiar mirth in jokes about twins or triplets, about father being left by mother to mind the strain and shock of prolonged labor, while practically every married woman, intolerable confinement "Let my mind not dwell on what is before me," wrote Elizabeth Fry — by no means a neurasthenic or egocentric woman — in her Journal before the birth, in 1822, of the youngest of her many children. Until days with the memory of our parents, those acclamations the idea of all women as burdened and suffering, the one shibboleth appeals to the primitive instinct of pugnacity, and the other to that equally primitive instinct which seeks to establish superiority by means of protection. In so far as the fact of maternal sacrifice has been accepted as inevitable, it has had its uses in keeping woman the subjugated sex.

The subjugated sex was bound to find herself so long as the medical profession remained in ignorance of the vital principle of asepsis. A man of average health had a reasonable chance of escaping altogether the bygone perils of hospitals, doctors, and "Sarah Gamps," but woman, with her normal fate of maternity, was a permanent subject for their blind experiments. Until the time of Lister, a natural, and among some primitive races a comparatively painless function, was changed by the bungling of "civilized" mankind into a deadly and crippling disease. Confinements were nothing less than a series of unhygienic catastrophes, any one of which might become the source of lifelong weakness if not of invalidism. So recently as 1847 Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis discovered that the high mortality among maternity cases in the student wards of the lying-in-hospital at Vienna was due to the infected hands of the students, and greatly reduced the death-rate by insisting that each one should wash his hands after every case in a solution of chloride of lime.

THE danger of assuming that either peril or sacrifice has been accepted as inevitable, it has had its uses in keeping woman the subjugated sex.

The women who actually died of puerperal fever were probably more fortunate than those who passed out of it into insanity or permanent injury. Owning to the absence of anaesthetics, an even greater number never fully recovered from the strain and shock of prolonged labor, while practically every married woman, ignorant of the alleviations of Birth Control, suffered physically and mentally from the nervous dread of yet another intolerable confinement. "Let my mind not dwell on what is before me," wrote Elizabeth Fry — by no means a neurasthenic or egocentric woman — in her Journal before the birth, in 1822, of the youngest of her many children. Until days with the memory of our parents, those acclamations the idea of all women as burdened and suffering, the one shibboleth appeals to the primitive instinct of pugnacity, and the other to that equally primitive instinct which seeks to establish superiority by means of protection. In so far as the fact of maternal sacrifice has been accepted as inevitable, it has had its uses in keeping woman the subjugated sex.

The improvement in the conditions of childbirth since the middle of the nineteenth century has, of course, been mainly due to the great advance of medicine and surgery in general. To some extent — but much less than many individuals who are out...
of touch with the mass of the people suppose—it has also been occasioned by the change in men’s attitude towards women. Many a man to-day, if he loses his wife, loses not the submissive housekeeper, sicknurse, and, in mistress to his comfort who could so easily be replaced, but the equal and unique companion who shares all interests and his tasks, and who yet can perform also this vital and most necessary task of continuing the race. But even the more recent discoveries of science and the alteration which half a century has brought to the status of womanhood have not yet caused medical men sufficiently to regard obstetrics as the great constructive side of medicine and surgery.

Tom hates these baby cases!” the wife of a flourishing West-End practitioner once complained to a relative of mine, in confident expectation of sympathy because her husband had been called up at night to bring an infant into the world. “Few students, unhappily, take it (midwifery) as seriously as it ought to be taken,” remarked the Times, commenting on the Maternal Mortality Conference of February 23rd. “Many doctors,” asserted Miss Chamberlain at the Conference, “do not seem to appreciate what can be done by modern treatment.” Another speaker confirmed her. “In my experience midwives do their duty, but doctors often do not know what to do—if some of them,” added Lady Selborne, “took the precautions they take when performing abdominal operations, I believe the mortality among their maternity cases would be diminished.”

“No greater calamity,” to quote the Times once more, “can befall anyone than to fall into the hands of a hasty, an impatient, or a careless surgeon. Haste, impatience, and carelessness are not less disastrous in maternity work. Disastrous, too, is the tendency to underestimate the reactions of the human organism to pain or injury.” Yet birth, even of first children, takes place frequently enough in the absence of the responsible practitioner, who has left the mother’s bedside in the hope of sandwiching it another case or two before the final stage. “Could ye not watch with me one hour?” is a poignant phrase which many, a woman has repeated in her heart to the husband and the medical man who, fearful or impatient of Nature, leave her alone to face the supreme crisis of life until the last moment or beyond it. Few men are as yet sufficiently civilized to estimate a risk that they never take and to imagine a type of pain which they never feel, and which even a woman who has endured it finds difficult afterwards to recall to memory. There are, of course, some great men of science who have spent their powers in gynaecological research, and a few influential laymen who are ready to devote their energies and their funds to the same purpose. But to the general run of the profession, obstetrical work appears to be an irksome side-issue.

For these reasons the Queen’s message, which suggested that maternal mortality could be reduced by the education of mothers, the wider provision of first-rate medical and midwifery services, and careful inquiry into the causes of each maternal death, might well have added as a fourth measure the training of more medical women for this special work. Just as only a woman architect can understand from what avoidable toil the housewife may be released by the simple expedient of a well-planned kitchen, so women doctors alone know what unnecessary suffering the mother can be spared in childbirth. Though the restriction of medical women to gynaecological work would be an undue limitation of their powers, it is reasonably certain that women are more interested in than men in preventing disease and in raising the standard of health among members of their sex.

The fact that, for a long time to come, women doctors are likely to find the majority of their patients among women or children, is the last reason in the world for withholding from them any opportunities for study and research which might increase their numbers. As the mothers of the next generation of both men and women, the health of women is of more importance to the community than that of men. It is a strange and deplorable coincidence that the already limited openings for the training of medical women should be further cut down at the very time when public attention has been directed to the urgent need for keener and more skilled obstetricians.

From the Nation and Athenium (London) by courtesy of the Editor.

[It is not by making childbirth safe that woman will emancipate herself from her age-long position of subjugation. So long as she is unable to choose for herself whether and when she shall be a mother, she remains in slavery to her function of reproduction, even though medical science should succeed in making childbirth not only safe but entirely painless. Only by Birth Control can the woman really free herself. When women are in full control of their own bodies, then the world will honor motherhood and learn that it is worth while to do everything possible to make it safe and desirable. It seems strange that the author of this article overlooks this obvious truth—Elo]

Those who cheerfully lay the women of the race on its altar need their sense of duty cultivated. Woman’s willing contributions to family, race and state are quite disproportionate enough without adding involuntary sacrifices. Thomas D. Eliot.
Should Lives Be Planned?
Or Is Chance the Higher Ideal?

We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to our friends who, to aid the cause of Birth Control, have been willing to give glimpses into the intimate stones of their own lives and thus throw light on the working of Birth Control in the planning of families. The letters plainly show that one objection brought against Birth Control is utterly false—Birth Control does not mean childless families, or even one-child families. It means that reason and foresight are used in this most important of all enterprises—the enterprise of bringing new life into the world—and that parents are no longer taking less thought over the creation of a child than they would over planning a new house.

A Planned Life

When I was in college I did not take my sweetheart's word for it, but watched his behavior to make sure he really loved children. Then while he took his Ph D at Cornell, I went to Columbia, ostensibly to get my M A but in my mother's view to take a look at a few more young men to make sure I already had the best one available. But what I knew I really went for was to study infant dietetics and statistics of infant mortality.

Then I was married and my son (who is in college now) arrived in exactly nine months. I had a misfortune in six months more and then I was in dread ful w o r r i e n t for fear of another or child sterility—for I was too ignorant to know that this is to be chiefly dreaded only in venereal cases. So we practiced much continence and also ferreted out what contraceptive methods we could find, in order to be certain I should get in finest condition before another child. My second came in three years and after him, due to faulty contraception, a pair of twins and two misfortunes, all within four years.

I had always planned to have eight children and I think I could have managed it, if I had known earlier of more perfect contraception. But as it was, my health was taxed and I have been able to bear only my sixth in this, my forty-third, year. But I cannot complain, as they are all in absolutely perfect health, except one case of hay-fever, and all, except of course the baby, at the top rank of scholarship. And I myself have practically finished the work for the Ph D degree. I have found it necessary to have outside activities to keep me from "talking the children up by the roots all the time to see if they are growing." So I have never for a single year laid down my studies of infancy begun twenty-five years ago, and I believe in time I shall be quite an expert. My only outside "position" is on the Executive of the Birth Control Committee in my state.

Spanning a Century of Progress

Two things have made our short married life seem to span a century of human progress. For our son, two years and a half ago, my wife spent fourteen hours without ether or morphine (let alone scopolamin) until she went into the delivery room exhausted. False labor had kept her awake the night before. For our daughter, in the Maternity Hospital in Cleveland, she had fifteen minutes of "unpleasantness" and six hours under ether. The six-pound girl has trebled her weight in five months, while the boy took a year to do it. The new hospitals equipped with modified twilight sleep seem as far removed from the brutal old maternity wards of otherwise reputable hospitals as their surgical divisions are from the good old days when a blow on the head or a drink of whiskey were the only anaesthetics. When will painless child birth be the natural expectation of every bride in America?

Paralleling the amazing difference in deliveries is the profound change wrought in our married life by the New York Clime of the Birth Control League and the enlightened Ohio physician. We married counting on the oldest contraceptive textbook I know and the only one freely circulated through the United States mails in spite of Section 211 of the Penal Code viz., the Bible (Genesis 38:9). In addition we had the inadequate knowledge then obtainable in drug-stores and expected our obstetrician would give us knowledge the necessary precision of detail we knew hearsay technique must lack.

I was at that time teaching at my University and, by overtime work, was earning enough for three, though the preparation of my thesis was suffering from my teaching load of 185 students. So we planned joyously for our first child our first year. What we did not know was that after my wife's illness in the winter we had no business planning to begin a pregnancy in the spring. The result was five month's sickness, aggravated for my wife by an extremely nervous state she could not wholly understand, since our wise government so successfully restricts the circulation.
of Havelock Ellis’ essays on the Mental State in Pregnancy. Add to that an old-fashioned labor and a mid-forceps delivery and you have a badly battered little woman.

We had no idea the Pennsylvania law could affect the giving of contraceptive information by physicians, but I was turned down cold by our obstetrician. “There is no reason why she shouldn’t have another right away.” At about this time our marriage touched rock bottom, for it seemed that my wife was pregnant again. She had had a backache for five months, was extremely nervous, and probably not working, two times, the day after times, in her mind. She was to be given her work during the first delivery. Her obstetrician had advised ——, but when she became pregnant said he was opposed to Birth Control anyway. After two years contraception she was thought to have healed, but is now in her sixth week in hospital after being threatened with another mishap. This time the child will live and its mother is gamely speculating on whether she will have to spend nine weeks in the hospital next time. No, modern girls would never have any children if they knew how to avoid them.

Then came the rebound. Our immediate fears turned out to be groundless and we heard of the Clinical Research Department. Due to her condition it turned out they were able to help her, even under the present New York law. With the worry removed, her physical condition improved rapidly until July, last year, after a month of tennis, she was in tip-top shape and we summoned the little daughter who completes our family, for the present at any rate.

With the excellent start, my wife was able to play tennis another two months and hardly knew what it was to be sick. When the healthy pregnancy was topped off with a painless delivery we felt that we had indeed shipped into another century. We face the future confident that, though I shall never earn very much, we shall be able to give our two children a good education, and obtain expert advice about them from time to time, keeping ourselves and them in touch with the main developments in the sciences which will eventually make it possible for the whole world to live happy and at peace.

For the Sake of the Child

Editor

Dr. Frederick C. Holden of the Committee on Maternal Health, New York, has made a study of maternal and infant welfare in various European countries, and his interesting report read at the last meeting of the American Medical Association appears in the official Journal. There is a sentence in that report which is full of significance, and which yet may be overlooked or its importance not fully grasped. Frankfort-on-the-Main, like several other German cities, has a Municipal marriage advice bureau, and the author tells us that “the Frankfort experience is that if a child desires to grow up it will stand considerably better chance of selecting delicate or sickly parents who will limit their progeny, rather than robust parents who will not.” In other words, limitation of offspring by Birth Control is an unquestionable, statistically proved, factor in diminishing infantile mortality. Something we, advocates of Birth Control, have been maintaining right along.

The cause of Birth Control is gaining support from numerous and sometimes unexpected sources.

W. J. R., M.D.

Two More Doctors’ Views

Editor

I am interested in the cause for which you have fought so valiantly, and believing that it is far better to limit the number of offspring according to the husband or wife’s mental, moral, physical, or financial ability to care for them than it is to bring them into the world and for one reason or another be unable to offer them the opportunities that they are entitled to. I should like some literature regarding the subject for my personal information, and if you will direct me as to how I may obtain the same I shall greatly appreciate it and will be only too glad to reciprocate should you want to call on me for some favor in the future.

K. H. P., M. D.

Editor

You have not asked my opinion of Birth Control, but, as it can be expressed in very few words, I will hazard it: In an experience of twenty years in general practice it has seemed to me that the rich and middle classes have had all the information they need, and I can see no valid reason for not extending the same privilege to the poor. I do not believe it would correct all the social evils, but I do believe it would be a long step forward.

C. B. K., M. D.
Standing Room Only

Professor Edward Alsworth Ross of the University of Wisconsin has produced a most interesting and useful book on the population problem to which he has given the suggestive title of "Standing Room Only". Like all other books, it has its defects, and in dealing with it, perhaps it is best to call attention to the defects first, so that one can deal at greater length with its indisputable merits. The first and perhaps the most serious defect is the amount of space devoted to statistical tables and diagrams. Of necessity any book dealing with the population problem must quote some statistics, but a few are enough for illustration, and they should be selected with great care. The danger of using large numbers of statistics is that many of the figures are totally unreliable, being based upon inaccurate data. We in England have quite a useful saying, "There are liars, there are damned liars, and — there are statisticians!" Another point which most readers will agree with me in thinking a mistake is Professor Ross's substitution of the phrase "adaptive fertility" for the well-understood words "Birth Control". It is difficult to see what one gains by this change in nomenclature.

Now for the merits of the book, which are many. In its early pages it deals with a statement, very popular among opponents of Birth Control, that the present decline in the birth-rate in most civilized countries is itself the result of the growth of civilization. Professor Ross shows that there is no evidence whatever in support of this common assumption. He also shows very effectively that the theory now being put forward in France, that the decline in the rate of growth of the French population is due to the fact that France is an old country, cannot be supported by solid argument. He quotes M. Leroy Beau-hen's words: "Sterility is one of the most marked characteristics of the growing old of individuals, so also is it with peoples". It is a plausible statement, but Professor Ross wipers it out completely with the reply: "If age sterilizes, then it is the peoples of the East, of India and of China, that ought to show a falling birth-rate not young, lusty people like the Canadians, the Australians and the Californians?"

Progress and Population

Coming to the main point contained in the title of his book, he shows that a modern population might easily double in twenty years. This fact is largely indeed mainly, the result of the progress that mankind has made in the prevention of disease and in the improvement of the means of nourishment. We draw our food now from all parts of the world, we preserve it carefully from putrefaction, and we get a variety of foods, and this variety itself probably helps towards the strengthening of human beings. Simultaneously we have succeeded very largely by the discovery of inoculation—in wiping out almost completely many of the worst diseases from which mankind in previous centuries used to suffer. But, as Professor Ross rightly says, these improvements in the means of living must involve a much more rapid increase in population unless simultaneously there is a decline in the numbers born. On that point he bases a thoroughly justified attack upon the attitude of sections of the clergy towards Birth Control. Two or three centuries ago, when children died almost as soon as they were born, nobody worried about an excessive birth-rate. Today an excessive birth-rate means that "the land is filling as never before," and consequently the arbitrary attempt of cabbages clergies to dictate the conduct of spouses in the privacy of their bed-chamber will be looked upon as a perversion of religion and an insufferable impertinence?"

Bare Subsistence

To illustrate these general propositions Professor Ross gives many striking facts with regard to the condition of the inhabitants of various countries of the world. He shows how in India under British rule and in Porto Rico under the rule of the United States, owing to the prevention of internal warfare and the checking of disease, the local populations are increasing with a previously unknown rapidity, and he uses the very neat phrase that the white race is to-day "serving as midwife to the blacks and the browns". But, simultaneously with this growth in the population of blacks and browns owing to the skill of the "white midwife," poverty continues. In some cases possibly it even grows. Those Socialists who hesitate about the wisdom of Birth Control lest it, by removing poverty, should remove the most effective weapon from the Socialist armory, profess to explain the poverty of the black and brown races under white rule by arguing that they are robbed of their wealth by the white capitalist. Professor Ross just touches on this point. He might perhaps have expanded his argument a little further by pointing out that what the white capitalist takes from the black or the brown work people is considerably less than he gives in the shape of the increased efficiency of production obtained by the use of his capital. The final conclusion of this useful book is that unless we proceed promptly to check the birth-rate, so as to counterbalance the decline in the death-rate, the population of the world will continue to grow till there is standing room only. And long before we have reached that stage, needless to say, most of the beauties of the earth will have been wiped out. Every square yard will be cultivated to its utmost limit for the production of elementary foodstuffs.

Harold Cox
THE NEW COLONIAL POLICY, by Helmer Key Pages viii 214 Methuen & Co, London, 1927

THE central message of this book is clear Europe is in a precarious situation economically, and the only hope of relief lies in extensive, carefully planned and directed emigration.

The process by which the author reaches this conclusion is not so clear, nor is it entirely convincing. Grant at the outset that he has laid out a difficult task for himself To summarize the economic situation of the world, and to discuss means of preserving an ‘economic equilibrium between the continents,’ in a volume of scarcely two hundred pages, necessitates short cuts that are prejudicial to both accuracy and logic. Dr Key continually speaks of Europe as if it were a homogeneous unit economically, and, on the other hand, refers to ‘overseas countries’ almost without discrimination, as if they were all alike in the rôle which they play, or might be made to play, in the economic destinies of Europe. Characteristic of the sweeping generalities that dot the pages is the following: “The colored races usually lead a nomadic life and move their herds from one pasturage to another.” There are also certain perplexing contradictions which it is hard to reconcile.

Thus on page 3 the author states that after the war Europe was compelled “work with dearer raw materials and higher costs of production,” while on page 34 he quotes (apparently with agreement) Professor Cassel to the effect that Europe “is in a position to obtain a larger quantity of raw materials and foodstuffs for a given quantity of manufactured goods than before the war.”

Dr Key's main thesis is that at the present time Europe possesses a productive plant capable of turning out a volume of goods far in excess of that which can be profitably disposed of under existing world market conditions. This is naturally accomplished by a surplus of man-power. “Overseas countries” as a whole, on the other hand, are under-developed, and capable of producing much larger quantities of primary goods than they do. But to accomplish this, they need additions of more skilled and energetic workers than the native population afford. The logical thing, therefore, is for Europe to supply this deficiency, thereby getting rid of her surplus, and at the same time providing for a large increase in the output of foreign foodstuffs and raw materials by which her own industrial life may be raised to a gratifying pitch of prosperity While seeming to concede that the world as a whole is over-populated, the author nevertheless appears to believe that there are vast regions “overseas,” which he scarcely attempts to identify, to which the huge excess of European population may be shipped with general benefit to all concerned.

There are two surprising things about this book. The first is that the doctrines set forth should be designated new colonial policy, since they differ scarcely an iota from those that have prevailed for generations, with the exception, as Dr Key points out, that the natives are now treated better than they used to be. The other is that any careful and conscientious student, writing after a devastating war, which followed, and was in many ways the result of, the keenest century of emigration that the world has ever known, should still believe that a reliable and permanent remedy for the dire consequences of that war, and of over-population in general, is to be found in further emigration. Emigration plus universal birth control is one thing, emigration by itself is a snare and a delusion.

HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD


WHO our ancestors were, what qualities they possessed that were admirable, and the reverse of admirable, and the processes and laws by which these were transmitted has, for centuries, been a concern of absorbing interest to all classes of human beings. Until within comparatively recent times, however, much of this subject has been shrouded in mystery and superstition. We owe to the discoveries of the microscope and to the work of a comparatively few scientific men, such as William Hins and Gregor Mendel, our present knowledge of this phase of life.

It is the author's "solemn conviction," and the reviewer heartily agrees with him, "that an adequate knowledge of reproduction is the sacred birthright of every human being, that by it we are made better men and women, and that in it lies our greatest protection from the evils of sexual vice, which are so prevalent, and which are so often caused by Ignorance." Further it is inconceivable to the reviewer, how any man or woman can achieve the fullest complement of happiness, and make the decisions that must be made, without adequate understanding of this subject. There is no question that with it, many pitfalls are avoided.

The subject matter is presented in simple, easily understood language. The facts and discussions are grouped in twenty chapters under five general topics. The first deals with the general phenomena of life and the human body. Here the basis of life is discussed, both from a chemical and structural standpoint, with a wealth of illustrative matter based on the lower animal forms. You learn about evolution, the different kinds of cells and their functions,
and in particular the make-up and various activities of the parts of the human body.

The second topic is concerned in a general way with growth, cell division, reproduction and sex, and fertilization and heredity. In other words, we learn how we become larger, how our bodies are repaired, and we gain some understanding of why we grow old. That human beings develop from eggs is still a surprising fact to multitudes of intelligent, educated people. That we owe so much to forty-eight little rod-shaped chromosomes in each of our cells, is a still more bewildering idea to the majority of mankind, as very few of us realize that such important structures even exist within our bodies.

The treatment of the subject of heredity is not as clear as it might be. When the author states that "It is not only possible, but definitely certain, that we can reinforce any good points we have inherited, and neutralize any evil, so that we can pass on to our offspring a better heredity than that which was ours," the reviewer finds himself in emphatic disagreement, for this sounds akin to the inheritance of acquired characters. While the possibility of the inheritance of acquired characters is admitted by students of genetics, there seems to be but slight evidence in support of such a belief. The author may not intend to convey such an idea, but the phrasing is such that a large percentage of his readers would either regard it as ambiguous or as implying that intensification of a character by suitable environment or training would be inherited.

The third and fourth sections treat the reader to a discussion and description of reproductive processes in plants and animals with the larger emphasis on the latter. Among the plants, you learn how ferns, pine trees and apples multiply. Among the animals, the population-increase methods, from corals and earth-worms to birds and rabbits are described, including the cockroaches.

The last general topic takes up the system in detail by which human beings produce more and more human beings. This is described in simple, easily understood language, and in such a manner that the most sensitive of natures can find no cause for embarrassment.

**Orland E. White**

**MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CONTRACEPTION**

Being the Report of the Medical Committee appointed by the National Council of Public Morals in connection with the investigations of the National Birth-rate Commission, London, 1927.

*We are told in a prefatory note that the National Birth-rate Commission "was composed of sixty recognized authorities in religion, science, statistics, economics, and education." Some of the members of the Medical Committee are already known to readers of the Birth Control Review, having contributed essays to a collection published a year previously under the title, "Medical Views on Birth Control," a book which has already been reviewed in these pages.*

While it is repeatedly stated throughout the book that this report is medical, and is not concerned with ethical considerations, it seems impossible for this group to refrain from injecting ethical issues. For instance, on page 5, in connection with the discussion of methods of contraception, we find the following statement: "Abstinence, while it is the obvious, and from the ethical point of new the ideal procedure when it is desired that no children should be born, is impracticable to the majority of young married people."

However, the book before us represents considerable progress from the position expressed in the book published the year previously, such progress evidently resulting from a reluctant yielding on the part of the Committee to the pressure of social realities.

Thus, in spite of the view represented in the above quotation, the Committee is led to say, "We are of opinion that no impediment should be placed in the way of those married couples who desire information as to contraceptives, when this is needed for medical reasons or because of excessive child-bearing or poverty."

The second part of the book, which occupies three-fourths of its bulk, consists of statements and evidence submitted to the Committee. In the opinion of the reviewer, this part alone contains anything of value. Various persons who are in actual touch with practical problems of Birth Control have contributed to this part of the book. A particularly valuable discussion is that by Dr. Robert L. Dickinson of New York.

It is worthy of note that most interesting parts of the evidence submitted to the Committee find no place in the report of the Committee, but are merely reprinted in the second part of the book. For example, the following paragraph is in the statement by Lord Dawson of Penn: "If our 'pastors and masters' would but accept control of conception as a necessary feature of our present-day civilization, and still more, cease from feebly excusing it on so-called medical grounds, and, on the other hand, unite in bringing before the public the importance of adequate parenthood, constructive guidance would take the place of futile controversy."

Another example may be cited from the evidence submitted by Dr. H. Crichton-Miller: "In all matters of social liberty there are those who would like to know that every youth who consorts with a prostitute is certain to get venereal disease, they would like to know that every pickpocket is going to prison, that every time a man has sexual relations with his wife, conception is certain to follow. Now these are people who feel that human freedom and human control in his, including the human possibility of going wrong, are bad things. They want to see people punished every time they depart from the moral law. Life is not built upon those lines, and we would do well to remember that people must have freedom, and freedom always means the possibility of abusing it."

What is our
Periodical Notes

_The Outlook_, (New York) of August 20th contains an excellent article by Helena Huntington Smith, on "Birth Control and the Law." The author attributes much of the difficulties of the Birth Control movement to the backwardness of the medical profession, and comments on the fatuous procedure adopted at many hospitals of warning a woman against pregnancy as dangerous to her life, and yet giving her no instructions in contraception. Commenting on the sale in the streets of the Birth Control Review, she writes: "The Birth Control Review is not only harmless, it is within the law of both state and nation, and the reason it is hawked about the streets of New York is that the news-stands refuse to handle it. The large news companies are terribly sensitive about the appearance of what somebody might think is evil, the smaller dealers are not sensitive, but have been baffled by threats of prosecution from Roman Catholic devotees. So this innocuous journal, which is full of appeals, statistics and little poems about motherhood, suffers all the discomforts of pariahdom, without being illegal at all."

Harpers for September, in an article by Olive Gilbreath entitled "China's Covered Wagon," gives a vivid picture of the sufferings endured by the poor and oppressed in an over-populated country such as China. She describes the flight of hundreds of thousands of Chinese peasants into Manchuria, whither they go to seek land to till in order to keep themselves alive.

_The China Crise_ (Shanghai)—In a late July Number (July 26) Jameson Chen discusses the Chinese family system, as tested by the modern ideas of love and marriage that are making headway in the Orient. In other recent numbers the subject of Birth Control is discussed by Kan Lee's "Overpopulation and its Remedies," asks for a "voluntary reduction of numbers" by later marriage and Birth Control. Quentin Pau's "China and Birth Control" advocates the eugenic platform of larger families for those "high up in worth" and free access to Birth Control by the poor and those least likely to produce good citizens, and Edward Kwong lays stress on education that will break the hold of ancestor worship and on Birth Control.

The principal point of information that the reviewer gained from reading this book is that in England, as in this country, not eminent authorities but the nature of things is about to lead us toward a solution of important problems.

_Aaron J. Rosenoff, M.D._

_The_ _Plains_ _Talk_ (Sept.)—"Can Books Ruin Girls?" is based upon Katherine Bement Davis' studies of unmarried college graduates. Answers to questions as to the first literary source of sex stimulation and of sex knowledge brought out the fact that the Bible and "The Mothers Magazine" were as often the first sources of interest in these subjects, as were the Decameron and Mlle. de Maupun, and that "in a society based on the scientific principle, any law should have to prove its way onto the statute books. We must start with a presumption in favor of liberty of thought." "Meddler" by Caroline Slade in the same magazine has a special interest for those who feel that family social work without Birth Control as part of the program is wasted labor. In the estimate of Mrs. Slade, herself a social worker, about half the social work in the home is impertinence and bunk—bunk that is costing the public a tidy sum.

Conference Bulletin for August 1928. This brief digest of the Sessions of the National Conference of Social Work says of Dr. Stone's paper before the Health Division: "Dr. Hannah Stone of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League describes especial credit for the consummate skill with which she presented the delicate subject Family Limitation. Her paper treated the matter with such sincerity and so much common sense that there was no evidence of any offense having been given to the most conservative." "American Mercury (September)—Ellsworth Huntington of Yale writes of the alms of the Eugenists, in whose platform Birth Control for those who need it most and today find it hardest to get, should, he believes, hold a foremost place."

_London_ Mercury (June) A reviewer of the Petty Papers (Constable, London) draws attention to Sir William Petty's suggestions for increasing the population of 17th Century Britain. In a quant essay on the "Maintenance of Mankind" he urged that measures be taken to double the home population, that is 9,700,000, over a period of 25 years and to send during that time 600,000 persons to the colonies. To this end, he advocates legislation that "shall permit men and women to cohabit upon any covenant they please," the endowment of motherhood and the public maintenance of children.

The World Tomorrow—New York—(September) Percy L. Clarke, Jr writes of "Yellow Peril or White." He shows that today the white population of the world outnumbers the Chinese by 2% to 1"—The peril is no longer therefore yellow against white, but white against white in the struggle for a foothold on the earth. But whether the peril be yellow or white, the civilized world remains in peril so long as population increase is uncontrolled by reason.
Eugenics and Birth Control
More Replies to Margaret Sanger's Letter

From A B Wolfe, Professor of Economics, Ohio State University

I have your letter with regard to the possibility of combining the Birth Control Review with the Eugenics Society Magazine. I should be extremely sorry to see any such move. I think it would mean that the function now being fulfilled by the Birth Control Review would no longer be served.

The Birth Control movement is now strong enough to forge ahead, probably with or without a journal or organization or change in the laws. Nevertheless, I think the organized movement ought to continue until the laws, as well as public opinion, are modernized and there is legal right to establish and maintain Birth Control clinics all over the country.

I have for some time questioned and regretted the amount of space and the emphasis given in the Review to the eugenics aspect of the population problem, both in the articles and in the books and reviews. Frankly I think that is putting the argument for Birth Control upon a far less secure basis than we have in the problem of the quantity of population and the physical and spiritual cost of involuntary maternity. I am somewhat skeptical of the scientific quality of a great deal of the matter which gets into the eugenics journals, both here and abroad, and I hope very much that you will not merge the Birth Control Review with any other publication, just yet, at any rate.

From Raymond Pearl, Director, Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University

I am really not in a position to form any adequate judgment. It seems to me that the decision made should depend altogether upon the merits of the proposal offered from the eugenics side. The Birth Control Review is a going concern, and so far as I know the eugenics people have no magazine which is a going concern. Therefore it seems to me that they have most to gain from the proposed alliance.

From Walter B. Pitkin of Columbia University, N Y C

Your inquiry raises some very large questions, some of which I find difficult to answer in a manner satisfactory to you. Under certain conditions I think it would be an excellent plan to combine the Eugenics Society magazine with the Birth Control Review, but I fear on first thought that those conditions can hardly be brought about. I have always regarded your League and its publication as being primarily humanitarian in the best sense of the word. Its proper function in society, so I have thought, has been the prevention of futile suffering and poverty and the incidental injury to home life which arises from uncontrolled births. The Eugenics Society, on the other hand, impresses me as being exclusively a reform movement which reaches out far beyond any immediate welfare activities and involves itself sooner or later in rather extensive governmental policies. With some of these policies I am in complete agreement. I certainly favor sterilization of feeble-minded types and habitual criminals, and I think I could easily be persuaded to back some carefully supervised euthanasia as well as some equally well supervised up-breeding of the human stock through methods other than marriage. But I feel that if I were to attempt these things through an organization like the Birth Control League, I should jeopardize the immediate utilitarian purposes of the thing. And I sincerely feel that it is much more important to protect the living than it is to scheme the predetermination of future generations.

What guarantee have you that the enthusiasts in the Eugenics Society may not in the near future commit the organization to some program of human improvement which will run counter either to the common sense of mankind or to the highest probability of science? And what revolts against the Eugenics Society and all who are connected with it? You may well suspect from these rhetorical questions that I am much more suspicious of the Eugenics Society than I am of the Birth Control League.

From S J Holmes, Professor of Zoology, University of California

In reply to your inquiry concerning the advisability of combining the Birth Control Review and a Eugenics Society magazine, I may say that the step does not seem to me wise. The Birth Control Review is doing a very good work in its field, we need also a Eugenics Society magazine, and I hope that both would serve the cause of...
the two fields of Birth Control and eugenics. One encounters a variety of opinion in regard to the relation of Birth Control and eugenics, although the eugenists are coming rapidly to be more and more proponents of Birth Control. I had hoped to see a eugenics magazine published and devoted largely to research carried on in this country. The Birth Control Review stands for the popularization of a movement, if I understand the matter correctly, and I think that the attempt to combine these two alma in one periodical would be a little unfortunate.

From Lowell Brentano, of Brentano's, New York

In general, from my knowledge of the magazine business I would say that it has often been found advisable to take two magazines of moderate circulation and similar editorial policy and make out of the combination one more important and profitable magazine. However, before a decision on this point is reached, all sorts of questions, such as cost of manufacture of both magazines, the distribution and overlapping of their circulation, if any, the distribution and overlapping of their advertising, if any,—things and facts of this nature must be considered.

I might say offhand that if an analysis of these questions seems to point towards a cheapening of cost and an increase of prestige by combining the magazines, I certainly would advise doing so.

From Mrs Clyde L. Eddy

"A Question of Policy" moves me to add my protest against combining the Birth Control Review with a Eugenics publication. You have a magazine which is dignified, literary, authoritative. It could not possibly be offensive to any reader. It seems to me that the thing for which the Birth Control Review stands is quite the most important subject in the world today and so much in the way of individual happiness would be sacrificed if the issue becomes befuddled as it inevitably will when the magazine is combined with any other.

Show us the half-wit who can read about Eugenics and not feel especially called upon to bring up a large and "select" family, regardless of circumstances, to carry down the ages his superior germ-plasm.

From Miss Mary Winsor, Haverford, Pa

I hope that the Birth Control Review will be continued as a separate magazine if possible. Unless the cost makes it too difficult, the Review should by all means continue until Birth Control in this country is put on a much firmer foundation. That means until we have altered all the laws that need to be altered and established clinics in all states.

I consider the Review of very great value and important to our work and hope that it may be continued as a separate organ and not yet merged in any other journal.

From Abraham Myrson, M.D., Athenist

Frankly, I do not see much connection between Birth Control and eugenics, except perhaps in the very broad sense that the higher grade people exercise Birth Control too much and the lower grade people exercise it too little. I do not believe that having large families hurts the race to any great extent, but I take the more simple humanitarian attitude that it is rather tough on the mother and father and is socially injurious.

I am thoroughly out of sympathy with types of eugenist, and so would feel that any union with a magazine which promulgated hasty, ill-founded generalizations, made by what I call scissors and paste-pot eugenists, would be a poor one for any magazine.

This, you see, is rather a frank statement of my views and needs no further elaboration.

From Professor Robert Morss Lovett, University of Chicago

On general principles, I should be in favor of such consolidation, but I recognize that there may be reasons against such action of which I am not cognizant.

BIRTH

Oh little child I hold beneath my heart,
Who try to tear the walls of flesh apart
Which bind you captive through these restless days!
Your little feet shall bleed on human ways,
Your little hands shall strike on treacherous spears,
Nor shall your wounds be soothed by mother tears.

And yet I bear you to the joy of things,
To sun-flushed autumns, pioneering springs,
To lustrous music where mad waters sound
To the rich homely fragrance of the ground.

Oh little child, I long to give you birth
To bear you to the majesty of earth,
To bear you to a world where men still dare
To speak for justice through their hearts despair,
Where men still mount their faith's brave citadel,
And seek their visions in the face of hell!

—Lucia Tenny in Contemporary Verse
UNITED STATES

THE announcement was made early in September that Margaret Sanger was relinquishing the Presidency of the American Birth Control League, and that she planned to devote herself for the next few years to scientific research for the betterment of contraceptive methods, and the establishment of Birth Control Climes in parts of the United States not yet served in this important matter. She announced that she believed it possible within five years greatly to reduce the rates of maternal mortality through a proper use of contraception.

The Board of Directors elected Mrs. F. Robertson Jones to fill Mrs. Sanger's unexpired term. Mrs. Jones, as Acting President, carried on the work of the League with great ability and success during Mrs. Sanger's long absence in Europe last year.

During the spring, Dr. James F. Cooper, the Medical Director of the Clinical Research Department, made a tour of about 4,000 miles, the largest part of the time being spent in the Southern States. The tour started at Richmond, Va., on March 12, with an address before the Academy of Medicine there, and ended with attendance at the Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, at Minneapolis, Minn., June 11th to 16th. Twelve States were visited, and forty-two medical societies addressed. Addresses were made to a Sociology Class, a State College, and to several men's clubs. The attendance at the medical meetings was, generally speaking, very good, being always greater than the average attendance. In the larger cities the addresses were given at the regular meetings. In the smaller places, between the larger cities, special meetings were called for the purpose of hearing Dr. Cooper when he stopped on his way through. On such occasions it was sometimes difficult to get the members together. Nevertheless the attendance was always good and the interest keen. Dr. Cooper remarks: "The popularization of the idea of Birth Control has sent many people to the doctors and these doctors are now seeking the best advice available to use in their practice. I made the same observation on this southern trip as on a previous tour in the far west, that doctors are actuated very largely by humanitarian impulses and their sympathies are aroused by suffering from domestic and economic as well as health causes. They are quite as ready to give contraceptive advice for the relief of extreme economic conditions as for health reasons."
right, that he had been approached that morning to help raise 
ten million dollars for starving Chinese, but he would prefer 
to help raise money to send over Birth Control literature 
and practical help.”

Another summer event, important for Birth Control, 
was the Mills College School for Adult Education held at 
San Francisco in August. At the sessions, not only did 
such men as Dr Lichtenberger of Pennsylvania University 
and Rabbi Neuman speak in favor of Birth Control as an 
esential of marriage reform, but a whole morning was 
given to the discussion of Birth Control and its present 
status in California. Speakers at this session were Dr. 
Ann Martin, president of the Alameda County Birth Con-

New Hampshire

trol League, Mrs Clara Taylor Warne and Mrs W W 
Ann W Green, president of the California Federation of 
Women’s Clubs, who urged public spirited women to recognize Birth 
control as “the main issue in life.” This session was given 
wide publicity in the press.

Massachusetts

DR WALTER F ROBIE, widely known as a writer on 
sex subjects, and as a steady advocate of Birth Con-
trol, died at his summer home at Lake Dennison, on August 
29th. He was a native of Vermont, but had practiced in 
Baldwinsville, Mass for thirty-five years. His office has 
long been a place of pilgrimage for married people in 
need of help in the control of their families, and in regard to the 
many sex problems that disturb married life. Dr Robie 
was one of the courageous physicians who attended the 
First American Birth Control Conference in New York 
City in 1921. His writings were of considerable import-
ance in the days when there was little reliable literature on 
sex questions. They included “The Art of Love”, “Rational Sex Ethics”, “Sex and Life”, and many others.

England—

A Summary of the Status of Birth Control

THERE is in Great Britain no law forbidding propa-
ganda in favor of Birth Control, the establishment of 
Birth Control clinics, or the sale of contraceptive 
apparatus. The only legislative restriction which exists— 
and it is a serious one—is that Maternity and Child Welfare 
Centers and all Institutions receiving grants of public 
money are forbidden to give information on Birth Con-
trol to women who attend there. One definite advance 
has however been made in the last few years, namely that 
doctors attached to these Centers or other Institutions 
are now allowed to refer women to Birth Control clinics, 
if considered desirable on purely medical grounds.

At present information on the subject is obtained in the following ways:

1 Women attend recognized Birth Control clinics. The majority of these clinics are affiliated to the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics. There are ten or more in the country. Information is always conveyed by a doctor and careful records are kept. In addition to the fees paid by patients, these clinics are supported by voluntary contributions.

2 There are also a number of so-called Birth Control Clinics which offer advice to persons attending them. Their object is purely commercial and a considerable profit is made by supplying appliances. The information at these clinics is not given by a doctor

3 Information is also to a large extent obtained by people who answer the numerous advertisements appearing in the press. In most cases the information so supplied is of a very doubtful character and frequently includes abortifacients and pornographic literature.

4 Appliances may be bought at a number of ordinary chemists’ shops, or alternatively, at extremely undesirable “rubber stores”, where the sale of contraceptives is often combined with the sale of obscene books. In neither case does the person applying receive an examination or obtain other than printed instructions.

The four chief organizations that are interested in Birth Control in this country are — “The New Generation League”, “The Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics”, “The Society for Constructive Birth Control”, and “The Workers’ Birth Control Group”. These are unanimous in desiring the Government to remove the ban on Welfare Centers for the following reasons:

1 The number of Birth Control Clinics is small compared to the number of Welfare Centers. The latter sprang up in large numbers throughout the country in the early days of the war. To-day there are as many as seven in a single borough of London alone. These Centers give ante-natal and post-natal advice to married women, arrange for health lectures and in addition frequently organize concerts, jumble sales, etc. These Centers receive grants from the local authorities, of which half is refunded to the latter by the Ministry of Health. The Birth Control Clinics are not allowed to receive any grants of

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public money at all. It is naturally a very great struggle to raise sufficient money to carry them on and their numbers are few in consequence.

A very great number of women already attend Welfare Centers. There is no difficulty in locating them nor in the special purpose known for which the women go there. There is, therefore, no shyness in being seen to enter, as there is in the case of a Birth Control clinic.

The great shortage of Birth Control clinics and the reluctance sometimes felt in attending them has the effect of making women get information through one or other of the undesirable channels already referred to.

The fact that the doctor at the Welfare Center, if he refers patients to a Birth Control clinic, is supposed to do so on medical grounds alone is a serious drawback. Medical grounds are usually interpreted to mean that there is a serious risk to a mother's life if she bears another child. No account need be taken of economic necessity, nor of inherited physical or mental weakness, provided the mother herself is strong.

Legislative Position

Various efforts have been made in the last four years to persuade the Minister of Health, or the Government to remove the present restriction. As far back as May, 1924, a delegation of influential people, representing every important Birth Control organization in the country and including several doctors, waited upon Mr. Wheatley, then the Minister of Health in the Cabinet, and urged him to lift the ban. He stated in reply that he had no intention of making any alteration in the present policy. He did not feel that, as many people in the country are opposed to Birth Control, it would be unfair to use public money for the purpose of giving information on the subject.

Mr. Chamberlain, the Conservative successor to this Office, received a deputation from Members of Parliament but his attitude, though slightly more sympathetic, was substantially the same as that of Mr. Wheatley. It was, however, made clear by Mr. Chamberlain that doctors attending Welfare Centers might refer patients to Birth Control Clinics on medical grounds. This was not previously established and must be reckoned a distinct advance.

On February 26, 1926, Mr. Thurtle, a Labor Member, introduced a motion on the subject in the House of Commons. It ran as follows:

"That leave be given to bring in a Bill to authorize local authorities to incur expenditure, when deemed expedient, in conveying knowledge of Birth Control matters to married women who desire it."

The wording was unfortunate, as it suggested that a special grant of money should be made for the purpose, and the motion failed to win the support of the House.

On April 28, 1926, Lord Buckmaster introduced the following motion in the House of Lords:

"That His Majesty's Government be requested to withdraw all instructions given to, or conditions imposed on, Welfare Committees for the purpose of causing such Committees to withhold from married women in their district information, when sought by such women, as to the best means of limiting their families."

After a memorable debate this motion was carried—the voting being 57 in favor and 44 against. Though the Government has not taken any action as a result of this motion, none-the-less the effect of this debate has undoubtedly been to strengthen greatly the hands of all Birth Control organizations and has quite definitely helped to raise the status of the movement.

Labor Position

The Workers' Birth Control Group, to which reference has already been made, is an organization which works within the Labor Party and the Co-operative Movement, and has for its main object the removal of the ban upon Welfare Centers. The Group has endeavored—so far without success—to get the Labor Party Executive to agree to this policy. A resolution urging them to do so was passed by a large majority at three successive Conferences of Labor Women. At Huddersfield in May, 1927, the resolution ran as follows:

"That this Conference of working women, while not asking that Birth Control propaganda be made one of the objects of the Labor Party programme, re-affirms its decision that the ban placed by the Ministry of Health on the giving of information on Birth Control at Maternity Centers receiving grants of public money should be raised. It urges the Labor Party Executive, in preparing their report for the next National Conference, to give full weight to this decision, now declared for the third time, and requests that they will receive a deputation appointed by this Conference to place its views before them."

This resolution was carried by 581 votes to 74.

As a result a deputation appointed by the Huddersfield Conference waited upon the Executive Committee on June 27, 1927. At a later meeting of the Labor Party Executive the position was again reviewed and it was finally agreed by them to make the following report to the National Conference at Blackpool:

"The National Executive Committee have given full consideration to the statements and arguments advanced by the deputation, but it has decided to recommend the re-adoption of the finding reached by the Conference at Liverpool in 1925, when it declared that 'the subject of Birth Control is in its nature not one which should be made a political party issue, but should..."
remain a matter upon which members of the Party should be free to hold and promote their individual convictions"

At the Blackpool Conference the reference back of this paragraph was moved but was lost by a large majority.

In May 1928, the Labor Women's Conference met at Portsmouth. At this Conference Mr. Arthur Henderson and Miss Wilkinson were appointed to explain to the women the reasons why the Labor Party Executive opposed the reference back. To the disappointment of the Workers' Birth Control Movement and others interested in the movement, the Women's Conference supported the Executive by a narrow majority—257 votes to 254—and the reference back was lost. It was clear, however, that the Conference were whole-heartedly in favor of removing the ban, it was only deemed wise to make the question of its removal a Party issue. The present position of the Executive is therefore "that the subject of Birth Control is in its nature not one which should be made a political party issue, but should remain a matter upon which members of the party should be free to hold and promote their individual convictions." This decision cannot be further discussed for another three years.

At the moment, it is where the matter rests. No other party has as yet made the present the question of the removal of this ban a political issue. It is extremely difficult to get a private member's Bill on controversial questions such as this through the House of Commons, and unless a Bill expressly declaring that Welfare Centers should be free to act in this matter as they think right without forfeiting their grant be passed, no change is likely to take place.

It should be mentioned, as it undoubtedly has a definite bearing on the subject, that a Committee of Inquiry into the causes of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity has been appointed by the Minister of Health, and Organizations in favor of Birth Control are hoping to place evidence before this Inquiry to show how far too frequent pregnancies and the common use of abortificients may affect the mother's condition and render her liable to puerperal sepsis. The need for proper Birth Control information has not so far been regarded by Public Authorities as a cause of maternal mortality.

MARGARET POLLACK

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The Modern Girl

HAS the girl a philosophy? Perhaps not. But had her mother? If the latter hoped to marry sometime, have some children, and he supported somehow her daughter merely plans a similar program with sharper outlines. She intends to marry at a more specific date if she can bring it about, have a definite number of children at desirable intervals, and earn a definite sum toward the upkeep when she needs to. Mother was a trifle vague about where she came from. Daughter knows more about apes, cells, chromosomes, and complexes. Perhaps both are somewhat vague as to where they are going, except that daughter definitely does not want to go where Mother went. She wants a husband who does not have to work so hard and get so irritable as her father, a mother who is not left forlornly without occupation after her children leave home, and no more children than can comfortably have their teeth straightened and their tonsils out. And she is determined to have more of a grip on the bank account than her mother, to help to swell it with her own earnings, married or single, and to do so in chiffon stockings and silk underwear.

These girls not only plan to attach a husband, but to have children—about three. Shaw, in 1903, may have written "Man and Superman" as a satire. But in 1928 it is the sober truth. The female of the species is looking for a mate. And she is feathering her nest for the young.

But with all their relentless plans, the girls are just At a certain conference, an earnest little blonde told her audience, "I think that we educated girls ought to have six children." But she was laughed to scorn. "Six?" they jeered. "Who will support them?" Sin is too many to ask a man to support. But three he must make up his mind to, they have decided. They will keep a job and support themselves the rest of the time. But during the infancy of the three, he must bend to his task.

Recently a young bride we know of, won a three-hundred-dollar prize for an exhibition dance, in an amateur contest. She raced into the office cloakroom, that high altar of all confidences, and shook her check. "I got the prize," she shouted exultingly. "Now Jim and I can have a baby!" So now and then Jim is relieved of the necessity of supporting either wife or baby, if his wife is sufficiently accomplished. Scare-heads on girls to the contrary notwithstanding, we find them much more interested in planning for children than their "boy friends." The latter love their babies when they are born. But the pastime of planning for them very far in advance, leaves the average young and impeccable Jim rather cold. In any case, why argue about the right and wrong of Birth Control? The only ones likely to be raising a family from now on, have made up their minds. Sin is too many. Three is about right. The girl will do what she can, and Jim must do the rest. The question is settled.

-ELEANOR ROWLAND WEMBRIDGE in the Survey
The Tragedy of Over-Population

However great the capacity of Oriental races may be, the enormous difficulty of raising the efficiency of the bulk of the people is recognized by all who are acquainted with those countries. It involves a great rise in the standard of living. All the great countries of the Orient are alike in having an agricultural population much in excess of that required for the greatest production per head. All are alike in meeting the increase of that population by subdividing the land among the children, with the result that the holdings become smaller and smaller, so that really economic cultivation becomes impossible. Where this has been going on for a long period the majority are thus compelled to content themselves with a product sufficient merely to keep them alive in fairly good years, without the possibility of accumulating capital that would enable them to improve their cultivation.

In this, as it seems to me, is to be found the explanation of the small purchasing power of Far Eastern Countries and the low-wage competition which they carry on with the more advanced industrial countries of the West.

As to the condition of the villages, the testimony of the Aga Khan is striking. "I could safely challenge," he says, "any widely travelled and observant fellow-countryman, familiar with social economics on each of the great continents, to deny after due reflection that the present condition of Indian agriculture and of the 219,000,000 human beings dependent thereon is the greatest and most depressing economic tragedy known to him."

It has already been recognized that with the aid of capital and skill agriculture may be made to yield more per head. But a limit to such improvement is soon reached. Agriculture speedily passes from the stage of what is technically called increasing returns to one of diminishing returns. This is now so universally known that it does not need to be stressed. But I venture once more to insist, in defiance of the prevailing teaching of economists, that it is the diminishing returns in agriculture, especially if we use that term in the wide sense in which it is used by Italian statisticians so as to include also the working of minerals, that are the root cause of diminishing returns in other industries.

In the most densely populated areas of India and the other countries of the Far East where the great bulk of the population are engaged in agriculture there is no hesitation on the part of anybody in speaking of overpopulation, and very few question the opinion that the extreme wretchedness of the population is to be largely ascribed to that as a cause.

It is more difficult to prove that highly developed countries dependent largely or mainly on manufactures, commerce, and the investment and management of capital, can be spoken of at any time as overpopulated, but at least certain that all of these, in virtue of the very conditions under which their varied industries are carried on, are locally overpopulated with reference to the housing accommodation and even the adequate supply of good food and other requirements of such healthy existence as is necessary even for the greatest possible economic production. How terribly true this is any one will vividly realize who will read the earnest and honest little book by C. P. Blacker, "Birth Control and the State." It is such overcrowding as is there described (see especially p. 46) that the reactions of our trade with overpopulated countries elsewhere tend to perpetuate.

So far this struggle has at least been eased, as has been already noted, by the existence of vast tracts of unused land where there is no need to force production to the utmost, where comparatively little labor gives an ample return at least in necessaries, supporting a large surplus of labor to supply conveniences and luxuries. But for how long will this relief last? Dr O. E. Baker in "Land Utilization in the United States Geographical Aspects of the Problem" is of opinion that the United States reached the height of agricultural land supply relatively to population about 1890 and that the people of this country have entered a period which will necessarily be marked by a continually increasing scarcity of land. Professors E. M. East and Warren S. Thompson maintain that, when the cost of agricultural implements is included, the United States reached the stage of diminishing returns between 1890 and 1900. Professor East is further of the opinion that Argentina may indeed have still forty-five years for increasing returns in agriculture, but that after 1964, at the latest, overpopulated countries will, as he puts it, "cease to be boarded by overseas hotels unless current effective causes change." Again Dr. Baker in a paper on "The Potential Supply of Wheat" gives the white man a century of grace in which to consider this path on which he is moving and to profit by such lessons as he can draw. Of course there will be nothing sudden in the destined change. The year 1964, we may be sure, will not be very different from the year 1963. That unquestionably is all the better for him.

The remedy most generally offered by those who have the courage and insight to face the problem, as it is, goes no further than to recommend the control of population without stating how it is to be brought about. True, some of those cited consider without censure the use of contraceptives as a means of Birth Control, and it is of no little significance that Sir William Beveridge has at last come to regard this practice not merely as a menace. All that I have read and thought on this subject leaves me in no mind to question the contention of Sir William.
A CORRECTION WITH FURTHER INFORMATION

New York

Editor

I was greatly surprised to find myself credited with co-authorship of the article "Soviet Birth Control Policy" which appeared in the last issue of your magazine. The article was written entirely by Mr. Brown, and except for the fact that I discussed the situation with him beforehand, and corroborated his impression that Birth Control information is distributed freely and widely in the Soviet Union, and certain facts regarding abortions, I have nothing to do with the article. While most of the facts stated agree with my own information, I by no means share the point of view implied in some of the statements.

While describing the actual practice accurately, I believe Mr. Brown exaggerates the extent of the opposition among Soviet officials. I too have found a hostile attitude on the part of many Russian communists to Birth Control propaganda, but only in so far as it has been linked with the Malthusian theory of over-population, which is at variance with the Communist theory that distribution rather than insufficiency of supply is the cause of social ills. Faced with the practical situation they have, however, adjusted their theories to facts with a realism which makes any comparison with the "Tennessee brethren" hardly justifiable. There is no hidebound official attitude on this question, but a wide variance of opinion.

The first official step was taken in 1923 when the 2nd Congress of the Motherhood and Infancy Section of the Department of Health of the Soviet Union authorized a special medical commission to investigate all known methods of contraception, and develop new and more certain ones. Finally, the 1925 Congress passed a resolution definitely endorsing the dissemination of Birth Control information through consultations and clinics as a method of fighting abortions.

As a result of the work of the Commission, the Department of Health has issued several pamphlets, published by the Government, describing all known methods in detail.

As regards the question of the detail of public platforms to Margaret Sanger, I personally &-cuse the possibility of Mrs. Sanger visiting Russia with Dr. Lebedeva, head of the Motherhood and Infancy Department. Her viewpoint was that a visit by Mrs. Sanger would be welcomed by medical groups, but that any widespread propaganda either by Mrs. Sanger or any of her own people for that matter, would be unadvisable, considering that the women are still largely illiterate, and contraceptive materials not available in the villages. The technique of the Western world in these matters has penetrated slowly even to the cities of Russia, and ignorant peasant women have done much injury to themselves in resorting to crude methods. This is largely responsible for the attitude frequently met in Russia that no method of preventing conception is sure, and that all are harmful. The medical authorities feel very strongly that all dissemination of Birth Control methods must be in the hands of doctors, through consultations and clinics.

Dr. Lebedeva assured me that when the special commission mentioned above has succeeded in perfecting

(Continued on next page)

OUR CARTOONIST ADDS A THIRD TO THE TRIBUNE'S PICTURES HARD TO RECONCILE
a method they are now working on, which they claim to be superior to any now used, more active policy will follow.

Meanwhile, propaganda in the sense of budding up public opinion to demand new legislation, or the repeal of antiquated laws such as we have in America, is unnecessary, as there is no legal obstacle, but rather government sanction to the giving of Birth Control information in the Soviet Union.

JESSICA SMITH

AN OPPORTUNITY

Local Birth Control Committees and clubs and social agencies whose members are anxious to hear Birth Control discussed in its relation to race improvement are offered an opportunity this winter. A lecture tour is planned for Mrs Cora B. S. Hodson, F.L.S., Education Secretary of the British Eugenics Society and Secretary of the International Federation of Eugenics Organizations who will be in the United States from November 1st to February 23rd. Mrs Hodson is on four months leave of absence from her society and she is coming to America to get in touch with thought on Birth Control and Eugenics on this side and to study the California experiment in sterilization. Being on leave, she is not speaking as an emissary of the society and is free to express her own unfettered convictions which are grounded upon a very solid scientific preparation and practical experience.

She was a student of Lady Margaret College, Oxford. Later she did research in Physiology, Biology and Psychiatry under the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at London University and at Bologna. As medical research officer of the Ministry of Munitions she made studies of the energy output of women and later did similar work for children. In 1927, she was Honorary Secretary of the World Population Conference.

Mrs Hodson will be in America will be prepared to lecture on any of the following subjects:
- Researches in Human Heredity
- Psychological Aspects of Human Heredity
- The Feminist Movement and the Race
- Marriage Problems
- Population Problems (or, Birth Control in Europe)
- Lantern Lecture on Racial Types in Europe
- Pedigree of Pauper Families (Showing some interesting new points in the heredity of certain defects).
- This material also forms the basis of social studies as to the trend of current philanthropic work.
- University Education of Women in England.

Arrangements for lectures and information concerning Mrs Hodson's dates, etc., can be made through the American Birth Control League, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Application can also be made to the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, 1700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

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