THE POPE'S ENCYClical
Quotations and Comments

THE ANNUAL MEETING
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Editorial

A n annual meeting is always a landmark and especially so in a movement still comparatively young. Last month saw the tenth anniversary of the American Birth Control League, and any worker who is inclined to feel discouraged, because the world seems slow to recognize the enormous value of birth control in the solution of many of man's most serious problems, should glance back over those ten years of the League's existence and rejoice that such tremendous progress has been made. At the meeting on January 15th there assembled a large, serious and deeply interested group of people who reported the actual steps taken towards the realization of our goal — bringing contraceptive information and service within the reach of every woman who needs it. The records were of clinics organized and opened, of doctors and social workers increasingly ready to cooperate, of the slackening of governmental opposition, whether from federal or local authorities, of toleration supplanting bigoted persecution, and of a gradual enlightenment of the public as to the meaning and importance of birth control. The noteworthy progress reported from Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan showed that the Birth Control League is by no means a local New York organization, but that its constructive work is beginning to permeate the nation. Connecticut is the only state reporting a legislative campaign. In other states legislative work — usually a barren form of activity — has given way to constructive action, for restrictive laws, where they exist, are based on a total misconception of the value of birth control as a medical measure and are not enforced, once it becomes evident that they are plamly against the common good. The morning session is fully reported in this issue. Together with the luncheon meeting and the afternoon symposium on Child Welfare and Birth Control or What the White House Conference Left Out it presented a vivid and rounded picture of the movement and the work of the League. Resolutions, given on the following page, were adapted

The encyclical of Pope Pius XI has shed no new light on the attitude of Catholicism towards birth control. It has, however, brought the subject into the open and will, we venture to predict, stimulate other religious denominations into taking a definite stand. Following the publication of the Encyclical, the League sent a letter to thirty bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, pointing out that the issue between the Catholic Church and the rest of the civilized world seemed clearly drawn, and asking for expressions of opinion for publication. The response was curious. Some declined, but added that they were in entire agreement with the position on birth control taken by the Lambeth Conference. One offered the information that he was one of the sixty-seven dissenting bishops. One, Bishop T. Dallas of Concord, New Hampshire, wrote: "Please tell your meeting that I think the Pope is right." The confusion of thought arises, apparently, because the Pope has linked his attitude on birth control with his attitude on marriage. It goes without saying that ministers in general believe in permanent monogamous marriage as an ideal. Many ecclesiastics, therefore, find themselves in partial agreement with His Holiness. But beyond a certain point, non-Catholic can follow him. Birth control exists. Its use will decrease poverty, sickness and unhappiness, and the birth of the unfit, will increase health and happiness, and will better social conditions. To understand and use and promote birth control is the way of enlightenment and hope. To deny its existence and forbid it is the way of retrogression and death.

By a curious chain of reasoning, Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the Horse Association of America, blames birth control for the farmers' difficulties. In that smaller families mean fewer mouths to feed, and suggests as a solution that the farmer grow more fodder for animals and employ more horses to eat the produce. Thus birth control works some good for horses at least. Seriously, here
is another instance of the prevalent misunderstanding of birth control, and the assumption that it means fewer children. In reality it means better children, few sickly children of bad heritage, and more healthy, vigorous children of good heritage. It means more healthy, happy, wanted children, and has no objection to more healthy horses, too, we hasten to inform Mr. Dimsore and the Horse Association of America.

Resolutions

Adopted by the American Birth Control League at the Annual Meeting, January 15th, 1931, New York and sent to President Hoover, Secretary Wilbur, Chairman, and Dr. Barnard, Director, of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.

Whereas, The White House Conference has adopted a program for child health and protection, which the President has commended to the public as the "Children's Charter," and

Whereas this program includes among its provisions for every child "the right to grow up in a family with an adequate standard of living and the security of a stable income as the surest safeguard against social handicap," and "full preparation for his birth, his mother receiving prenatal, natal and postnatal care, and the establishment of such protective measures as will make child bearing safer," and

Whereas the realization of such rights for many children is seriously jeopardized when their number and needs in a family exceed the limitations of Income, health and homemaking abilities of their parents, which limitations may be reduced by parental education, advice and aid for families with under-privileged children, and instruction where necessary in measures for family limitation, therefore be it resolved that

The American Birth Control League endorses the "Children's Charter" and pledges support towards carrying it into effect throughout the nation.

Furthermore be it resolved that

The League calls the attention of its members to the following pertinent observations:

1. The Children's Charter demands "for every child who is mentally handicapped, such measures as will early discover and diagnose his handicap, provide care and treatment, and so train him that he may become an asset to society rather than a liability." Obviously avoidance of conception is a measure to be considered in some cases when advising husbands and wives who cannot reasonably be assured that their children would be free from the most hopeless of these handicaps which they might transmit.

2. The "establishment of such protective measures as will make child bearing safer" requires especially careful attention to the safeguarding of women whom physicians have advised against conception because of heart or kidney diseases, physical limitations or other conditions which cause unwarranted risks when associated with pregnancy.

3. The Charter’s advocacy of protection “against labor that stunts growth, either physical or mental, that limits education, that deprives children of the right of comradeship, of play, and of joy” involves questions of adequate income, home and school facilities, and environments which are only attainable for many families when the number of children and the years between their respective births are such that parents and society can protect them in these vital needs.

4. Finally it is of the greatest concern that application of the "Children's Charter," be preceded by intelligent planning toward that objective of "The Child's Bill of Rights" which Mr. Hoover described as "the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body." Wise marriage, and parenthood only for those who can provide good heredity for their children, will promote this right. Fair dealing with the adults and children of each generation demands the opportunity of marriage and parenthood for the greatest number of citizens, consistent with this fundamental right of all children. Voluntary parenthood is a means to this end, when based upon prerequisite instruction on the importance of normal well-born children to the home, the family, and the nation.
"We Are Deeply Touched..."

Excerpts from the *Encyclical* of Pope Pius XI, issued from Rome, January 8, 1931

When we consider the great excellence of chaste wedlock, venerable brethren, it appears all the more regrettable that particularly in our day we should witness this divine institution often scorned and on every side degraded.

First consideration is due to the offspring, which many have the boldness to call the disagreeable burden of matrimony and which they say is to be carefully avoided by married people not through virtuous continence (which Christian law permits in matrimony when both parties consent) but by frustrating the marriage act. Some justify this criminal abuse on the ground that they are weary of children and wish to gratify their desires without their consequent burden. Others say that they cannot, on the one hand, remain continent nor on the other can they have children because of the difficulties whether on the part of the mother or on the part of family circumstances.

But no reason, however grave, may be put forward by which anything intrinsically against nature may become conformable to nature and morally good. Since, therefore, the conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose, sin against nature and commit a deed which is shameful and intrinsically vicious.

Small wonder, therefore, if holy writ bears witness that the Divine Majesty regards with greatest detestation this horrible crime, and at times has punished it with death. As St. Augustine notes, Intercourse even with one's legitimate wife is unlawful and wicked where the conception of the offspring is prevented. Onan, the son of Judah, did this, and the Lord killed him for it.

Any use whatsoever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offence against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin.

As regards the evil use of matrimony — to pass over the arguments which are shameful ones — not infrequently others that are false and exaggerated are put forward. Holy Mother Church very well understands and clearly appreciates all that is said regarding the health of the mother and the danger to her life. And who would not grieve to think of these things? Who is not filled with admiration when he sees a mother risking her life with heroic fortitude, that she may preserve the life of the offspring which she has conceived? God alone, all bountiful and all merciful as He is, can reward her for the fulfillment of the office allotted to her by nature, and will assuredly repay her in a measure full to overflowing.

We are deeply touched by the sufferings of those parents who, in extreme want, experience great difficulty in rearing their children. However, they should take care lest the calamitous state of their external affairs should be the occasion for a much more calamitous error.

No difficulty can arise that justifies the putting aside of the law of God which forbids all acts intrinsically evil, there is no possible circumstance in which husband and wife cannot, strengthened by the grace of God, fulfill faithfully their duties and preserve in wedlock their chastity unspotted.

But another very grave crime is to be noted, venerable brethren, which regards the taking of the life of the offspring hidden in the mother's womb. Some wish it to be allowed and left to the will of the father or the mother, others say it is unlawful unless there are weighty reasons which they call by the name of medical, social or eugenic "indication."

As to the "medical and therapeutic indication" to which, using their own words, we have made reference, venerable brethren, however much we may pity the mother whose health and even life is gravely imperiled in the performance of the duty allotted to her by nature, nevertheless what could ever be a sufficient reason for excusing in any way the direct murder of the innocent? This is precisely what we are dealing with here. Whether inflicted upon the mother or upon the child it is against the precept of God and the law of nature: "Thou shalt not kill", the life of each is equally sacred, and no one has the power, not even the public authority, to destroy it.
A Fundamental Cleavage

By REVEREND ELIOT WHITE

Dr. Whzte, Assistant Minister of Grace Episcopal Church, New York, delivered this address at the Annual Luncheon of the American Birth Control League on January 15th.

JULIUS CAESAR began his Commentaries by announcing "all Gaul is divided into three parts" Pope Pius XI by his recent Encyclical divided all humanity into two parts—the Includers and the Exceptionists. The first consists of all who believe that the divine declaration in the last verse of the first chapter of the Book of Genesis is unqualifiedly true "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold it was very good." The second division consists of all upholders of papal infallibility, who must now understand the Bible to say "God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, with the exception of sex and its fulfilment, it was very good.

All the "Exceptionists" must now receive, ex cathedra, and without the slightest demur, the Encyclical's declaration that expression of the sex life between a properly married husband and wife, except with procreative intention, even after they have brought as many children into the world as they are convinced they can conscientiously provide for, "is an offence against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin." Although the Creator at the first looked upon sex and its fulfilment and saw that, as truly as stars, snowflakes and roses, it was very good, this papal edict pronounces it as itself sinful. and declares that "the natural process of generating life has become the way of death," even within the churchly sanction of sacramental marriage.

This uncompromising and sharply defined statement completely demolishes all wavering opinion. The reaction to it on the part of every hearer must be absolutely for or against it, which is at least a help to clear thinking on the whole subject. It is revealing the line of cleavage between Includers and Exceptionists in every church. That line runs not vertically through any one organization, but horizontally through all, it resembles a geological "fault," in strata of rock or slate, and like that is liable to result in earthquakes. All the Exceptionists seem suddenly enlisted among the "faithful" of the Pope's jurisdiction. For to that banner are rallying all who, whether Catholic or non-Catholic in name, regard sex as inherently tainted with evil, uncleanness and shame, to be sanctioned, and that rather grudgingly, only when fulfilled with procreative intention. And so for the Includers, who still persist in remembering that declaration in Genesis, they are also vocal in every fold except the papal, wherein nevertheless present silence does not necessarily signify entire acquiescence.

The Pope declares himself "deeply touched by the sufferings of those parents who, in extreme want, experience great difficulty in rearing their children," but he adds "However, they should take care lest the calamitous state of their external affairs should be the occasion for a much more calamitous error." Now if this "calamitous error" consists in the use of any contraceptive means whatsoever—even though a family be already far too large, the wife and mother in mental torment and even in peril of death should she bear another child, with extreme poverty at the same time crushing the household out of all semblance to a home—then, frankly, after having now listened to the pronouncements of an ecclesiastical, exalted, but himself vowed to celibacy, we must in all fairness also give hearing to the married.

The following quotations are from genuine letters to one of the noblest of the world's women, who receives thousands of similar appeals from living and suffering American wives, and they are what the historian calls "fully documented.

"The reason I send for information is because I think if any woman needs help, I am the one. I am seventeen years old. I married when I was thirteen years old. I am the mother of six children My first baby was thirteen months old when another was born, then ten months after that I had twins, and ten months later another set of twins. Now I am to have some more. My husband gets awful cross with me when I get this way; he thinks we got plenty. It is also wearing me down. I never feel well."
Another letter

"I was married at the age of twelve years. One month before my thirteenth birthday I became the mother of my first child, and now at the age of thirty I am the mother of eleven children, ten of them living. My health has been poor the last two years now, and I don't believe I could ever stand it to have any more. Please won't you send me information so I won't have any more children, for we have more now than we can really take care of."

The writers of these two letters may have been a little cheered at hearing that the Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion, which includes the Episcopal Church in the United States, had the courage to make at least one carefully guarded official statement upon birth control in the summer of 1930. "Where there is a clearly felt moral obligation to limit or avoid parenthood, the method must be decided on Christian principles. The primary and obvious method is complete abstinence from intercourse as far as may be necessary in a life of discipline and self-control lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, in those cases where there is such a clearly felt moral obligation, and where there is a morally sound reason for avoiding complete abstinence, the Conference agrees that other methods may be used, provided that this is done in the light of the same Christian principles. The Conference records its strong condemnation of the use of any methods of conception control from motives of selfishness, luxury, or mere convenience."

Would those tragic and despairing girl-mothers who wrote the letters quoted, who are now forbidden by our observantist and deplorable restrictive laws to secure the honest, (non-"bootlegged"), and scientifically furnished contraceptive information which they cry out for be accused by the Lambeth Conference of seeking it "from motives of selfishness, luxury, or mere convenience?" Perhaps the 67 bishops who voted at the Conference against even the carefully qualified permission that the majority adopted, so accuse these letter-writers. It may be that by the time of the next Lambeth Conference, 1940, some of them will even read documents like these cries of agonized young lives much of whose torment could so quickly and blessedly be relieved, and decide to vote the other way.

We cannot close our ears to two more letters, as incontrovertible life documents as the former.

"I am writing to see if you can help me. I was married when I was 14 years old and now I am a mother of 16 children, 14 living, and now I am on my way for another child, three months I was sick with this one, two months in bed and I am not able to stand on my feet yet. The doctor said if I ever have another child I should die, but I am on my way with the seventeenth. One child is married, and I have 13 to take care of, and I am not able to do anything. I am only 39 years old, and all wore out."

And this

"I have tried so hard not to become pregnant, but now am again, after having given birth to 14 children. It seems to me that it was more than one woman should be asked to bear. Husband has cancer, and I have wanted to give all the comfort to him possible, but now my heart is broken and makes me feel like giving up. Now I am along three months again. What should a woman do? I love babies, but how can one do justice to a little bunch like this? I sometimes do not see how I ever have stood it. All I don't see why the law should not be in favor of contraceptives, unless that it is in man's hands and he does not have to suffer the consequences."

After hearing these tortured voices, "the faithful" must have to apply their attention very exclusively to the text of the Papal Encyclical, to be wholly submissive and free of any possible mental and spiritual revolt, as they read once more that birth control through contraception in any form is an offence against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin. And that although the Pontiff declares himself "deeply touched by the sufferings of those parents who, in extreme want, experience great difficulty in rearing their children," yet he must warn them to "take care lest the calamitous state of their external affairs should be the occasion for a much more calamitous error."

So, then, Petrus loquitur. It is hard to imagine impulsive and great-hearted Saint Peter so speaking. And assuredly we discern not in such pronouncements the compassion of Jesus of Nazareth.

Fellow churchmembers, the time has fully and urgently come, to divest our minds and hearts of prejudice and ignorance in this entire matter of sane and legalized birth control the world over. To work for the repeal of obsolete and socially injurious statutes which still hinder the distribution and dissemination of scientific and humane education in sexual hygiene, and actively to further the establishment of clinics for the free education of adults in the technique of parenthood—in conception as well as contraception—to help end this ignorance and agony which threaten deterioration for mankind.
Comments on the Pope's Encyclical

REVEREND J A MAC Callum
Minster of the Walnut St Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

There is much encouragement for the social reformer in this deliverance of His Holiness Pius XI. In tone and outlook it is very much like what would have been said by any churchman fifty years ago. Meantime the tide of opinion and practice has moved forward with increasing acceleration. Birth control has reached the stage where it has become a complex in the papal mind. This is because the Pope has become aware that many of the faithful are limiting their families by the use of contraceptives. It is a safe prophecy that they will continue to do so, as anyone who has educated Catholic friends can verify by comparing the size of their families with those of them parents and grandparents. Some day another Pope will issue another encyclical in which this vexing problem will be eased out of the picture. Already, in other instances, Rome has done this very thing many times, and has developed the technique of changing front. A notable illustration is the reversal of the Church's attitude on the taking of interest, which handicapped Catholic commerce and industry for generations and gave the advantage to Protestant competition. It is the old story of organized religion versus science. Science always wins in this conflict. Every non-sectarian hospital in the world aims to save the mother in childbirth if both cannot be saved, but His Holiness, in the interests of a dogma, would sacrifice the mother who is known to the unknown child. His opposition to birth control is equally unsound and doomed to a rapidly increasing obsolescence among those for whom he speaks.

REVEREND CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER
Founder of the Humanist Society

The importance of this encyclical lies in the fact that the head of the most powerful division of Christianity announces the refusal of that Church to recognize as moral an accepted practice in modern marital relations. When a majority of intelligent, honest citizens deliberately accepts a practice, it thereby becomes moral, whatever any religious leader may say to the contrary. Contraception is here to stay, and if the Catholic Church refuses to sanction it, so much the worse for that Church.

The reason behind the issuing of this encyclical is probably the fact, well known to social workers, that the new generation of Roman Catholics is quietly disregarding the teachings of that Church about birth control. There are fifty-four clinics in the United States giving contraceptive information and in every one of them the Roman Catholic women come in equal numbers with the Protestants and the Jews.

The Pope seems to lay most stress on the statement that contraception is contrary to nature. Then let us respectfully suggest that he be consistent and lay aside his spectacles and stop shaving.

MARGARET SANGER
Chairman, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control

Evidently the Pope believes in birth control, although he countenances only one method, namely, continence. Physicians agree, however, that it is unwise to attempt the general application of any single method. Fortunately the Pope does not anywhere command us to have large families. It is true that he quotes the Biblical injunction, "Increase and multiply and fill the earth," but as these orders have now been earned out, the earth is reasonably full. By crowding together we may still have a few patches left for growing potatoes, but it is widely recognized that humanity suffers from over-population.

I agree with the Pope's statements that "the cultivating of mutual love, and the quieting of concupiscence," as well as procreation, are purposes of marriage, and I applaud his quotation from St. Augustine saying that "children should be begotten of love," but I question the traditional theory that procreation is the primary purpose of sexual union. Reproduction may, indeed, be the most tangible result, but who shall say, and how can he prove his contention, that this is the primary purpose? Consider the fact that nature demands sexual union during certain periods of life and under certain circumstances when there is no possibility of child bearing. What is the logic of that, if the primary purpose is procreation?
The Pope maintains that any performance of the sexual act in a way which frustrates procreation is a "sin against nature." Yet he allows "virtuous continence," which must be somewhat of a sin against nature since it frustrates the "quitting of concupiscence," which, he admits, is one purpose of marriage. However, I think that to say "sin against nature" is only a manner of speaking. All of us, the Pope included, are habitually defeating the ways of nature, the advance of civilization has been achieved largely by triumphing over nature.

RT REVEREND ARTHUR S LLOYD
 Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New York (Protestant Episcopal Church)

AS I READ the Pope's Encyclical, I felt that the whole Christian world ought to be grateful for his very clear and explicit statement as to what has been the mind of the Church from the beginning with regard to marriage. To me it seems disaster that the necessary breaking away from ecclesiastical domination, which we call the Reformation, should have carried with it that change in the public mind which induced men to forget what the Church through the ages had received. It was a loss to civilization when the Christian world ceased to think of marriage as a sacrament, nor can we measure the loss that has come to the whole family in the attitude towards divorce, regarding it as an accident and not as a moral disaster.

I think the whole Christian world will thank him for his explicit declaration that abortion, so far as this is used to enable people to escape responsibility, is murder. I do not believe anybody questions this, but it is well to have it stated.

But when he comes to the matter of birth control, I cannot go with him. So far as I can see, the Church has nothing to do with this. It is a matter for medical science to determine whether it is against nature. If it is, science itself will forbid it. If it is not, then it is a matter for the individual.

I was grateful for the statement issued by the Lambeth Conference. This seemed to me reasonable and entirely in line with the Revelation to which the Church is witness, but I confess I was the more pleased because this statement is likely to have influence in putting an end to what has seemed to me to be monstrous, depraved and self-indulgent people have access to the findings of scientific investigations, for their own indulgence, while honest and righteous people are deprived by the law of the land from the relief and help that science might afford them. This seems to me a dreadful thing.

After all birth control is in line with every other finding of increasing knowledge of physical laws. All can be used for destruction, but I am persuaded that they are intended for the relief of unnecessary suffering and distress. In every case, the evil can be overcome only by adhering to the law of life which has been revealed to us, and it seems to me that the business of the Church is constantly to bear witness to this. Nor may it without fault leave off from pleading with people not to destroy themselves by seeking present relief from normal responsibilities.

DR HARRY ELMER BARNES
N Y Telegram, January 10th

THE Pope has commented unreservedly on the views of the modern scientists and aesthetes with respect to marriage and sex. Suppose the process be reversed for a moment and let social experts with modern perspective pass dignified judgment on the dogmas of His Holiness.

The scientific and historical view is that morals are the product of man's trial-and-error methods of conquering the problems of physical existence and social life. In various parts of the world, meeting different living conditions, man has evolved widely divergent folkways and customs. Some, for example, have favored polygamy and others monogamy.

But in each and every case the particular social group, whether Mohammedan, Christian, Buddhist, Shintoist or what, regards its codes as divinely revealed and completely perfect. In the case of the papal moral views, the folkways lying back of them were those of the ancient Hebrews of Palestine, modified by later Persian and Hellenic influences.

A moral code is valuable and valid in proportion as it promotes a happy and efficient Me on the part of those who practice it at any given time and place. It changes with radical alterations in the life conditions of the group.

On sex the papal view is that the sole purpose of sex is procreative. The scientist and aesthete hold that the recreative is quite as important as the procreative end, and is the most decisive advance which man has made over the annuals in this field.
With respect to procreation, the Pope holds that no limit should be placed on the production of children, and that “men are begotten, not for the earth, but for heaven and eternity.” The modern attitude is that children are born for this life, and no more should be born than can live happily and decently here and now.

BEN B. LINDSEY
Founder and Judge, for twenty-eight years, of the Juvenile and Family Relations Court of Denver, Colorado

THE attitude of His Holiness the Pope on birth control seems to be due to what he calls “the law of God.” I cannot admit that anything is “the law of God” just because it is so announced. There are too many denominational and other interpretations of what the “word of God” means, any longer to give anyone the right to declare what the law is.

As I understand it, the “word of God” (or one of them) that commands to continence is “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Doubtless other “Godly” authority is claimed for the rule that there can be no relationship of the sexes, even in lawful wedlock between man and wife without “sin” and for the threat of damnation if there is any artificial interference with its procreative purpose. And to the “word of God” His Holiness adds the authority of St. Augustine. That cloistered ascetic of the early centuries, who knew as little about marriage as he knew about what is going on in the world today, is reported to have declared “The husband who hath sex relations with his wife interfering with the begetting of a child hath made of her a harlot.”

The answer to this medieval rule is its very statement. That carries absurdity enough, if not indeed insult, to the intelligent married people of today. I do not believe that sex is “sin.” This is the attitude of most intelligent people. They take no stock in the application of the so-called “word of God” relied on by the Pope, much less that of the ascetic priest of the Dark Ages.

I will not be misunderstood when I reasonably ask His Holiness how many “bad women” and “adulterous men” there are in the churches, according to these rules of the Vatican. How many wives are there who have the right to divorce on the ground of adultery? No wonder his Holiness the Pope announces that divorce shall not be permitted, even on that ground.

In all seriousness, this “Bull” against birth control is the greatest boost that birth control has had for fifty years. The Pope’s strange declarations on this question of sex and sin come with a shock to the intelligence of the twentieth century. People will now be more determined than ever before on their firm refusal to have their private lives fixed by the asceticism of the first century, when some of these saints did not even believe in marriage because they were sure the end of the world was at hand. Unafraid people will find more cause than ever, without “guilt” or “sin”, to rebel not only against tyranny but sheer stupidity.

EDITORIAL, New Republic, January 21st

THAT the editors of The New Republic, like most Americans, disagree fundamentally with the principles advanced by the Pope is a fact that goes without saying. The reasons for this disagreement have been often expressed and need not be repeated here. We are more interested at present in the effect of the Pope’s encyclical on non-Catholic Americans. That it will have such an effect is not to be doubted. The Pope is addressing himself not merely to the dignitaries of his Church, but also to those who guide the State. And he calls on “those who hold the reins of government” to preserve and enforce the laws against birth control, to make divorce more difficult (or preferably impossible), to cooperate with the ecclesiastical authorities in order that through the united activity and energy of both powers, the tremendous evils may be checked which menace civil society as well as the Church.” And our rulers, civil and ecclesiastic, will not be deaf to this appeal. The Catholic Church is a minority in this country, but in many states it holds a veto power. It can turn elections, many Protestant legislators are afraid to vote against its wishes. It cannot impose its ideals on marriage on non-Catholics, it has not succeeded in preventing Catholics themselves from practising birth control. It can, however, support the hypocrisy of the New York divorce laws and the farce of our national laws against distributing birth control information. It can help to preserve that opposition between law and custom which is one of the most dangerous features of our present civilization.
Annual Meeting: January 15, 1931

THE morning session of the Annual Meeting was devoted to the work of local organizations and departments of the League. The reports printed here, necessarily much shortened, give an idea of the growing scope of the League's activities and the progress of the movement.

ILLINOIS

"The Illinois Birth Control League has had a very successful year. We have now six clinics—No 1 at the headquarters in the business district, No 2 in the Northwest Polish District, Nos 3 and 4 in dispensaries of the Chicago Lyng-In Hospital, No 5 in the Jewish People's Institute, No 6 at Mary Crane Nursery (Hull House).

We have given advice to 1679 women—an increase of 339 over last year's patients. Of these women:

- 876 were American-born white
- 234 were American-born colored
- 569 were foreign-born

The nationalities and religions vary in the different centres, there were:

- 967 Protestant
- 498 Catholic
- 207 Jewish
- 7 Miscellaneous

It is impossible to describe the social status of these women except by classifying the occupations of the husbands—which were as follows:

- 119 Executives and Merchants
- 231 Professional and Students
- 316 Office men and Salesmen
- 299 Tradesmen and Mechanics
- 515 Laborers
- 17 Farmers
- 182 Miscellaneous

This last—Miscellaneous—includes women who are teachers, stenographers, or otherwise employed in business. Most of the laborers are foreign-born—the majority being Mexican and Italians. They are also of the more ignorant class of colored people.

Forty-eight, however, of our colored patients are the wives of professional and business men—postal clerks or letter-carriers—they are very ambitious for their children and eager to give them good educations and opportunities—they often say: 'We don't want more children than we can do justice to.' Our doctors find these women their most satisfactory and intelligent patients.

We find that in all classes economic reasons are given as the principal cause for seeking the advice—in the professional and business classes this is doubtless due to the higher standards of living, and to the fact that in many cases both husband and wife are employed and wish to delay having a family until such time as they can provide a proper home, for we constantly have reports of voluntary pregnancies—where the parents feel that they are ready to have children.

Our budget for the year's work was $13,000. About half of this amount was raised by membership and subscriptions, the rest by fees from patients and sale of supplies. Owing to the unemployment situation and the resulting necessity for family restriction, we have had many cases for which no charge whatever has been made.”

HELEN G. CARPENTER, President, Illinois Birth Control League

PENNSYLVANIA

"During the past year our organization has continued the extension of its educational work throughout the 67 counties of Pennsylvania. Many of these counties do not have organized committees, but we have members in all but seven. The most outstanding piece of work in organization this year was the formation of the Allegheny County Committee. The Executive Director went to Pittsburgh in May and by mid-June a full committee had been organized, with Dr. H. C. Westervelt as chairman, headquarters were established, and office and field secretary engaged. Pittsburgh has continually increased its membership, has conducted several important meetings and has two physicians qualified and willing to receive needy patients who come through the Allegheny County Birth Control League. Bethlehem, Easton and Clearfield are the new additions to our local organizations, which now include, in addition to these three, Erie, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Lancaster and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Birth Control League.

The following committees are actively func-
tioning Literature, Speakers Bureau, Meetings, Publicity, Endorsements, Doctors, and Maternal Health. The Maternal Health Committee is in charge of the Maternal Health Center, which was organized two years ago. Over fifty social agencies in and about Philadelphia are bringing their patients to this center. Careful research work is carried on by the staff of physicians. Physicians come from all parts of the state to observe at this center, and are prepared to receive patients in their own counties.

Pennsylvania is fortunate in having outstanding physicians on its Councils and Boards. Through our Doctors’ Committee, the technique of birth control has been discussed in the senior class of the University of Pennsylvania and in the Women’s Medical College of Philadelphia. We have noticed the increased interest of physicians in all parts of the state during the past year.

Our office will have been established four years this April. Our membership has almost doubled in the last year and our activities have increased more rapidly than in all three previous years.”

ALLEYNE C. MARTIN, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

CONNECTICUT

"The Connecticut Birth Control League reports its renewed attempt to secure a change in its remarkable and unique law. It is the only state which prohibits the use of contraceptives. Its law reads:

Every person who shall use any drug, medicinal article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception shall be fined not less than fifteen dollars or imprisoned not less than sixty days or more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned.

Section 6246, Revised Statutes

In the last legislative session (1929) the League attempted the repeal of the law. This was much criticized as too ‘radical’ a step, and this year the following amendment to the law is proposed:

Provided that this section shall not apply to any person using such drug, medicinal article or instrument on the prescription of a legally practising physician.

The chief advantage of the new bill is that it has been taken up heartily by a group of doctors, a petition, signed only by practising physicians, is to be presented to the Committee in charge of the bill. The League has secured a good friend in Judge Epaphroditus Peck of Bristol who championed the 1929 bill against his own political party and who stands ready to introduce the new bill.”

ANNIE G. PORritt, Acting Chairman, Connecticut Birth Control League

(Bill Peck introduced the bill on January twenty-second and it was referred to the Judiciary Committee of which he is a member.)

BUFFALO

Mrs Chauncey J. Hamlin reported on the activity of the local Buffalo Committee. Four meetings were held last winter at which Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, Dr. James F. Cooper, Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild, and Leon J. Whitney presented birth control from four different aspects—the moral, medical, economic, and eugenic. These meetings were held under the auspices of the League of Women Voters and were broadcast over station WGR. In each case the speaker met appropriate local groups, social workers, physicians, etc. The Buffalo committee hopes to establish clinical service this year. The members are Mrs. George F. Plimpton, Mrs. Alfred Schoellkopf, Mrs. Ansley Sawyer, Mrs. Chauncey J. Hamlin, and Douglas Falconer.

MICHIGAN

Mrs. Donald McGraw, Field Secretary for the American Birth Control League, announced the organization of a state committee consisting of Mrs. Willard Pope, Mr. Mayer B. Sulzberger, Mrs. Harry Farbstem, Mrs. Harry W. Kerr, Mrs. James Watkins, Mrs. David Levy, all of Detroit, and Mrs. Margaret Winslow of Ann Arbor. The Mothers’ Clinic of Detroit has been in existence for three years. Clinics are soon to be opened at the Women’s Hospital and Harper Hospital, and plans are afoot for providing additional clinical service in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and some industrial towns such as Flint and Pontiac.

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA

"The life of a field secretary for a national birth control organization is full of amusing incidents, discouraging circumstances, and many hopeful indications of an increasing interest in birth control. It is impossible not to be amused (as well as grieved) at the ignorance of supposedly well-in-
formed people about what contraception—actually is. They speak of it with such vague awe that one cannot be sure whether they think it is a major operation or a magic formula. Even among doctors I often have to explain that we mean contraception and not abortion, by birth control.

I have been trying to find, in a given community, the resources that are available for contraceptive service and the best way of getting this to the poor women who need it. I went first to Roanoke, Virginia, where a previous organizer had spent a few days, some months earlier. Here we have a good group of cooperating doctors, the backing of all the social agencies, and an excellent chairman for the work. The best plan for organized service seemed to be to get it into the out-patient department of the Roanoke Hospital. The superintendent and many of the doctors were favorable and the matter was finally thoroughly discussed by the Executive Board—the first time, I was told, that an appreciable number of doctors in Roanoke had publicly admitted that there was such a thing as birth control. They decided that it was not a thing to be hasty about, and that definite action about a clinic would have to be postponed for the present. The chairman of the committee and the superintendent have agreed to keep agitating the matter until something is definitely arranged. In the meantime the city doctor has contraceptive supplies and the Family Welfare Society, the Visiting Nurses, the Red Cross and the local chairman refer cases to him or to other cooperating doctors.

In Asheville, North Carolina, things are moving much more rapidly. I was able to form a committee of eight leading women, representing nearly all the important women’s organizations in town. There is no city hospital where a clinic could be opened but there is an unusual number of good doctors who do charitable work and who include contraceptive instruction in this service.

I next went to Charlotte, N. C., noted among other things for its large church-going population. They had scarcely heard about birth control but were interested and willing to learn although extremely cautious about letting their friends know of their interest. I was able to get a list of cooperating doctors, a chairman for a birth control committee, and the cooperation of all social agencies. I was asked to speak before the county medical society and at a luncheon sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The doctors refused to discuss my paper openly but the next day some of them called me by phone to announce their interest and cooperation. The work in Charlotte has made only a beginning, but we are assured that all women known to the Family Welfare Society can receive contraceptive instruction.

From Charlotte I went to Atlanta, Georgia. About two years ago an effort was made to open a birth control clinic in Grady Hospital there. These plans never materialized as there were internal difficulties and jealousies among the doctors, an overcrowded hospital and clinic and no social service of any kind to push the work. At present there is little than can be done there, but there are one or two other medical agencies who are willing quietly to include contraception with their other medical work. This means that there will be a place where the social agencies and the local committee can refer cases and will be a good beginning. The Atlanta Tuberculosis Association has already passed a resolution making contraception a part of their regular service. While reaching only those women who have tuberculosis, or in whose family there is a tubercular infection, this is important in setting a precedent that will help with the work throughout the city and state.

Margaret Huntley, Field Secretary, American Birth Control League

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

Mrs. Francis N. Bangs, Chairman, gave an account of the work of the Junior Committee to Dr. Elizabeth Pissort, Medical Director of the Madison House Advisory Bureau, who reported that the Bureau opened on October 22nd, and has had forty-three cases to date. The Junior Committee has financed this bureau and plans to open services in five other settlements this winter.

HEADQUARTERS

Mrs. Roger Howson, Executive Secretary, reported on the office work and listed three main sources of contact with the public visitors, who came in astonishing variety from all over the country and abroad, letters, bringing machines for material, for literature, medical and general information and for contraceptive advice—this last class averaging about 300 a month, and the telephone bringing continual requests for addresses of clinics and physicians, speakers for meetings, and statements for the press, etc.
"The Review has endeavored to record the growing and world-wide interest in birth control through its editorials, news notes, book reviews and accounts of conferences, local organizations and clinics, and has endeavored to show how birth control affects the social life of the community. Birth control can be viewed from many angles and followed into many fields, law, criminology, social work, sex education, religion, peace, public health, and so on. In addition to general material the Review has had two special numbers—one on The Churches and Birth Control, which showed that the progressive religious organizations in America are behind the movement, and that the Catholic Church is the only one actively and absolutely opposed, and a Doctor's Nuder, January 1931, which showed that the vanguard of the medical profession recognizes birth control as an integral part of medical practice but that further teaching of contraception in medical schools and further research is needed.

The emphasis on heartbreaking stories, on propaganda, on passionate pleas, is no longer necessary. But we must show the relation between birth control and many other problems, from the most personal ones, such as the marriage relationship, to the general ones of international peace and world unemployment. We must have more special numbers focusing on particular subjects, such as an anthropological number, planned for the early spring, a social work number, a eugenics number—numbers focusing on particular subjects, and of viewpoints. We shall, I believe, look back on this period as the second in the history of the movement. We are passing steadily into the third period, when birth control will no longer be a reform, a cause, but will be recognized as a part of the general scheme of social and racial betterment. To reach this period we must achieve a new social outlook, and to develop this new outlook is the fundamental work of the Review."

Stella Hanau, Editor, Birth Control Review

"The reports we have heard—from state and local organizations, members of the staff and committees—show how active the League is. I want to say a word about another group of workers, the directors. The League is very fortunate in having on its Board men and women who have been in the birth control movement since its beginning, who have gained wisdom from long experience but have not lost the enthusiasm of pioneers.

I am glad to have this opportunity to discuss our policy and program. At the last annual meeting we reported that we planned to engage again in legislative work in New York State. And we did so. We had an experienced legislative worker in Albany through most of the session, but she found the Roman Catholic opposition stronger than ever. Legislative after legislative would consider introducing our bill, saying he himself was thoroughly in favor of it but must consult his constituents. After a week-end at home our assemblyman or senator would report that he could not possibly sponsor our bill, as it would mean the loss of Catholic votes. In the early years of our Albany campaigns the Catholics did not seem to take our efforts very seriously, but last year they were thoroughly roused, and organized to oppose us. The directors have finally come to the conclusion that it will be best for the League to discontinue its efforts to get the New York law amended. These campaigns are very expensive, they stir up the opposition, and in view of recent developments in medical opinion, they now seem unnecessary.

The great need now seems to be the organization of birth control service for the poor in the thirty states which as yet have no such service. From several of these states we have had appeals for help and we have either sent organizers to them or plan to send them this year. Among these are Kansas, Missouri, Virginia, and Ohio. Usually the best way to get this service provided is to organize a state league, which will work for the establishment of birth control service either in a hospital, health station, settlement, or independent clinic, first in some central city, then in surrounding towns. Sometimes it is best as a first step to find, in various towns, physicians who in their private offices will give contraceptive advice to women referred to them by social workers."
The cooperation of social workers is very important, for they come in contact with the women who for their own good and that of society should not have large families, and who therefore most need contraceptive advice. We give social workers the addresses of physicians qualified and willing to give birth control advice, and of birth control clinics, we explain to them that the giving of birth control advice orally by physicians is legal in most states. Many of them do not understand this. Most of them say that they are heartily in favor of birth control, but cannot openly cooperate for fear of the disapproval of their board or of some contributor. We hope that soon the boards of welfare organizations will realize that the prevention of dependency is much better than attempts at its cure, and will insist upon their workers encouraging women in their care to get reliable medical contraceptive advice. We hope also that soon many contributors will make this a condition of their subscribing to a welfare agency.

Last year the League had three large meetings at the National Conference of Social Work in Boston attended by social workers from all over the country. Our booth, with members of our Board of Directors and of the Massachusetts Birth Control League in attendance, was one of the busiest at the conference, and gave us an opportunity to explain away many misunderstandings and to gain the cooperation of social workers from many states. This securing the cooperation of social workers we consider one of the most important parts of our work. For they are in contact with the underprivileged classes, and have a great opportunity to get them to practice birth control.

If birth control is to be eugenic, if it is to make for race improvement, those who because of pauperism, ill health or incompetence, are unqualified for parenthood must use contraception to avoid parenthood or restrict it. And the others, those who are healthy, intelligent and financially able to provide for children, must use birth control, not to limit their children to one or two, but to space the births of their children so that they can have a good sized family without injury to the mother's health. If birth control is to be made eugenic—and this is the aim of the American Birth Control League—there must be fewer ill-born children and more well-born.

ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES, President, American Birth Control League

A Quiet Steady Confidence

By REV ALLAN KNIGHT CHALMERS

Excerpt from address delivered at the Annual Luncheon, January 16th

IT HAS always seemed so queer to me—the further that is raised in people's minds by the subject of birth control I suppose it comes more than anything else from two wrong concepts about sex. There is a fact of life, I wish we could find some better word for it than sex, which has in it possibilities of great beauty. Man first abused and then became ashamed of that beautiful possibility, and we have suffered for centuries under this curious stigma. Religion fostered it with its repressions and smudged across the glory of man's birth that horrible taint "iniquity was I born, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Furthermore, there seems to be a persistent effort, unfortunately very much fostered by religion, that man must stay on the level of the animals and use this urge in life for the one function only—conception. We forget that there is a spiritual exaltation, an uplifting sense of togetherness in life, which comes in this instinct. We must not forget that there are two ends involved. Two people become one that they may be one, but two people also become one that they may be one.

From the sociological side, we are not thinking very clearly on birth control. We talk glibly of the so-called natural method of population control. Let society produce all the children it can, and then by famine and pestilence and war take off the surplus. China faces famines periodically and we are asked to give for famine relief, but no attention is paid to the foundational necessity that children have a right to be wanted and a right to have a decent chance to grow.

As far as war is concerned, the time-honored method of population control, I may be very queer, but I cannot see how man works it out when he believes in the morality of war and the immorality of birth control. If birth control is a compromise with the bestial in man, which I doubt, how much more is the survival of the unfittest in war, a fact of physical grossness and spiritual insenstivity.

Of course, all people cannot see it. They have been trained too long in the old ways of thought. We must let them have time to grow, meantime keeping a quiet, steady confidence in the positive rightness of our belief.
The Marriage Consultation Bureau

By ISABEL BECK, MD

The author shows that fear of pregnancy is responsible for much sex maladjustment, which, in turn, leads to mental difficulties and divorce.

The problems of mental sex adjustment are so intimately bound up with the success or failure of marriage that their analysis and solution are of both social and individual importance. In view of the fact that of all occupations in life marriage has been given the least intelligent forethought and preparation, it is not surprising to find that adjustments may require years or may never be achieved. The ideal solution of the situation would be a comprehensive program of sex education, both for the medical profession and the layman, and the education of public opinion as to the desirability of pre-marital examination and advice. Pending this solution, the establishment of marriage consultation bureaus to which men and women could come with their problems, would be of inestimable value. The physicians in charge of the bureaus should have had training in contraception, gynecology and psychiatry, and should preferably be married. Here the patient would find sympathy, understanding, and help for troubles which are just as important as the more conventionally accepted ailments from which they seek relief.

Although maladjustments may rest on physical incompatibility or on pathological grounds, such as homo-sexuality, emotional infantilism and fixations, the most usual are those in which frigidity and lack of interest in the sex relations are largely founded on the fear of pregnancy. This fear is one of the most powerful deterrents to any sort of satisfactory relations, and can devastate the spiritual values of marriage more effectively than any other single factor. Only the intelligent application of contraceptive knowledge can salvage these marriages.

Mrs G's story is rather typical. She was an American-born woman, thirty years of age, a college graduate. She was married at the age of twenty-three and was very much in love with her husband. During the first five years of marriage they had used the usual contraceptives with the result that she bore three children and had two abortions. By this time she had lost all interest in the sexual aspect of marriage, and after the last abortion refused to have relations with her husband because of her fear of pregnancy. They quarreled a great deal on this point. She sought contraceptive advice at a friend's suggestion because she was sure her husband was unfaithful to her and felt that she was responsible for the situation. She was given a clinically reliable method, and a year later reported that their marital difficulties had been smoothed over.

The girl whose attitudes have been distorted by miseducation or Ignorance, and who has not been prepared to undertake the realities of the marital relations, cannot be expected to blossom into a responsive wife without allowing for years of adjustment. Re-education alone will not accomplish the desired end, unless a readjustment period is accompanied by a safe contraceptive method which will eliminate the factor of fear of pregnancy.

Mrs M's marital unhappiness is an example of a combination of various factors. She was an American-born woman twenty-seven years of age, with a high school education, who had been brought up in a fairly affluent but highly conventional home. All the knowledge she had on sex had been acquired from her school friends, since her mother had never made the slightest attempt to enlighten her. When she married at the age of twenty-four she had very little notion of what she was going into. She was fortunate, however, in having a husband who was considerate of her, but even under these circumstances her marital relations were revolting to her. For a whole year only extra-vaginal intercourse was practised, her husband was unhappy and at this instance she went to see the family doctor, who did not prove of much assistance. After eighteen months, and in spite of the fact that the marriage had never been consummated, she became pregnant. After the baby was born her distress was worse than ever because of the super-imposed fear of...
pregnancy. After eight months of abstinence, she consulted her obstetrician, who sent her for contraceptive advice. She sought help because her husband’s consideration was beginning to wear out and she feared disaster. She was given a contraceptive method, advice and instruction appropriate to her case, including a supplementary reading list. Six months later she reported that she was getting along nicely and felt that she was on the road to normalcy, and that they were both very happy at the outcome.

There are thousands of marriages in which sex maladjustment is creating unhappy situations. Some reach the psychiatrist in the form of neuroses, some sublimate into other channels, some achieve nothing more than prolonged vague dissatisfaction and unhappiness, and a certain number terminate in the divorce courts.

The idea suggests itself that the marriage consultation bureau, by working in conjunction with the family and divorce courts, would be instrumental in preventing a certain number of divorces in which sex conflicts and inhibitions form the unrecognized core of the desire for divorce.

As an important component in the treatment of sex problems, birth control proves itself an integrating social force in the creation of happiness and in the preservation of the family unit.

Medical Ethics from the Stone Age

By G. VICTOR JANVIER, M.D.

Dr. Jammer’s answers to our questionnaire were received too late for inclusion in the Doctor’s Number.

M. AN’S chivalry towards women should demand protection for her. I wish I could inflict on one hundred men out of every thousand the solitary confinement over many months, during pregnancy and the nursing period. I wish these men might undergo the hazards of pregnancy and a painful delivery, the compulsory too early return to housework, as well as the care of a family. I wish I could put upon them the mere inconveniences of frequently recurring pregnancies.

Inside of a year, all hoary obstructive laws would be undergoing revision!

Accurate scientific technique in modern prevention should be available to every progressive physician. Every county society should have one man specially trained in gynecology and prevention. This physician should visit the doctors in every town of five thousand or more inhabitants and train these doctors for this great work. The women in the smaller towns adjacent could then avail themselves of this opportunity.

The only way to make a thorough careful study of scientific prevention, the only way in which a clinic can be really successful from every angle, is to have as chief of clinic a physician possessed of sympathy, a pleasing personality, a real background, a special training in obstetrics, gynecology and prevention

He or she will be an active worker in all clinics and research activities and function as something more than mere scenery. This clinic should have as consultants and advisers at least one or two obstetricians and gynecologists of high standing.

These also must know more of prevention—than the average specialist in these branches today. Every clinic should be a teaching center for accepted physicians in good standing and for the instruction of senior medical students.

My answer to your question addressed to obstetricians regarding child spacing is: Every conscientious, consistently human, scientifically and practically trained obstetrician knows that the woman who has the means at her command to space her babies 2½ to 3 years apart, has the best chance of bearing healthy children and of conserving her own health and vigor so that she may be young at 50 instead of old at 35. How utterly asinine and cruel and how unchivalrous, to gravely warn a woman against becoming pregnant, give her no advice, and wave her out of the office to become a prey to constant fear!

Let us have less religious bigotry, less false medical ethics from the stone age and more of the basic teachings of Christ himself. He preached no double standard of morals or mercy. He did not favor the male as God’s chosen vessel! Let us give all women their deserved opportunity for a fuller life and personal liberty.
A Preventive Measure

By C. L. BONIFIELD, M.D.

WHEN I think of medicine being practiced at its best I always think of some general practitioner grown old in the service of a limited chelowte in some small and rather isolated community—such an understanding character as Dr. Weelum McClure in "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," or Dr. Serocold in the recent book "Bearing" that name. Having officiated at the birth, supervised the growth, witnessed the courtship and marriage of his charges, he knows the heredity that has produced them, the environment that has moulded them into the human beings they are. Practice with him, if not a science, is an art founded on knowledge and guided by an almost unerring instinct. He is their philosopher, their mentor, their friend. One can imagine with what care such a physician advises as to the mating of those under his care, and as to when and how many children should be borne.

In the more complex civilization prevailing in urban communities no one man can fill the place of the man of whom we have spoken, but the profession, ever mindful of its best traditions, has delegated its duties to individuals or to groups to accomplish the same things for which he strives. This was the spirit that prompted the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati to appoint a Committee on Maternal Welfare, and this is the spirit with which it has functioned.

Nature seems absolutely careless as to the welfare and life of the individual but provides for the perpetuation of the species with the greatest prodigality. Much of the food we consume is provided for us in this way. Wheat, corn, rye and oats are the seeds of plants. The eggs of fowls and fishes might be called the seeds of those forms of animal life. At birth the female human being has thousands of ova in her ovaries. Probably less than four hundred ever mature. There are said to be about two million spermatozoa in the semen ejaculated at one time. With ova and spermatozoa provided in this superabundance, can it be wrong to prevent their coming together at inopportune times? To make sure that some of the spermatozoa and ova shall come together nature has endowed the average human being with a strong sexual appetite.

This is so true that it is practically impossible for a normal man and a normal woman to live together for months or years in the intimacy that follows matrimony without sexual indulgence. It would make nervous wrecks of one or both of them if it were persistently tried. Experience has taught civilized people that one woman can give birth to and rear only a limited number of children. The number varies owing to the physical strength and vitality and the financial condition of different women. Every expectant mother hopes to have a healthy child and to be able to rear it well in a suitable environment. Knowing these things is it at all surprising that she attempts to have her children born at a time that seems best for them and for their parents, with reasonable intervals between their births that she may regain her vigor, and the child already on the scene may become a little less helpless? To accomplish these reasonable desires she cannot ask her husband to refrain from sexual intercourse. He would not do it if he promised. He would either persuade or force her to yield or he would wander from his own fireside. She, therefore, resorts to some contraceptive method. Everyone knows that this is commonly done by women in every walk of life. Some methods adopted are harmful, some inefficient. When efforts at contraception fail, abortion is often resorted to. It is certainly better for these women to obtain advice as to contraception from a well-qualified physician than from an ignorant layman. The well-to-do can always secure advice. The traditions of the profession demand that advice be supplied to those who need it most but are not able to pay for it.

The Committee on Maternal Welfare hopes eventually to operate clinics to take care of various phases of maternal welfare. It thought a clinic, where contraceptive advice could be given to those who for good and sufficient reasons need it, was the most urgently needed. The first year of the committee's existence, therefore, has largely been devoted to establishing and operating such a clinic.

What our nation at the present time most needs is wiser and stronger leaders. Its next most urgent need is citizenship with sufficient intelligence and education to recognize true leaders and follow their leadership. If the nation continues to grow it will be because the capacity for self-government grows and this implies that our present level of intelligence be maintained if not improved.

*Excerpts from an address delivered at the meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, November, 1930.*
Unfortunately, a people does not have a tendency to improve without conscious effort on its part. On the contrary, it has a tendency to deteriorate. Modern civilization has placed in abeyance the natural law of the survival of the fittest by keeping alive the unfit. When the unfit reach maturity they reproduce their kind. Professor Brigham claims that the intelligence level in the United States has decreased in the last fifty years.

Mankind is the highest expression of life on this planet, but life in mankind is controlled by the same laws that control its lower neighbors. Like tends to reproduce like, one of them. This is the law that permits the breeder to improve the animals in which he is interested. This law is the basis on which eugenics must rest.

There are three possible methods of preventing racial deterioration that can be used with hope of at least a limited amount of success. Contraceptive methods may be used to prevent the very poor from having more children than they can properly nourish and clothe. The second way is segregation of the unfit. The third is sterilization.

Segregation is extremely difficult to enforce with sufficient stringency, to make it efficient, and is very expensive. Sterilization can be accomplished by simple surgical procedures attended with little danger, and with slight discomfort. State laws should be so changed that it can be given a much wider application.

**Massachusetts Doctors Take the Initiative**

Owing to the uncertainty which exists in Massachusetts regarding limitations upon the legal right of a physician to employ adequate contraceptive measures for women suffering from organic disease, it has seemed to a group of physicians to be advisable to introduce at this session of the State Legislature the following bill, Senate No. 43, with the accompanying petition.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-one

An Act relative to the Application of Sections Twenty and Twenty-one of Chapter Two Hundred and Seventy-two of the General Laws as affecting Physicians, Chartered Hospitals and Medical Schools, and Standard Medical Publications

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives an General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section twenty-one of chapter two hundred and seventy-two of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding thereto the following —

The provisions of this section and of section twenty shall not be construed to apply to an article or prescription used for the protection of health, or for the cure or prevention of disease, by a duly registered physician lawfully practising or by the direction or prescription of such physician, nor shall said sections be construed to apply to the treatment and prescription given for said purposes by chartered hospitals, or to affect teaching in chartered medical schools or writings in standard medical journals or the publication of standard medical books.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court Assembled

The undersigned citizens, who are all practising physicians of Massachusetts, respectfully petition for legislation in the form of the bill appended hereto for the purpose of removing the uncertainty in the minds of physicians and their legal advisers as to whether by the existing provisions of Sections 20 and 21 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws of Massachusetts the freedom of action of duly registered physicians and of hospital staffs and medical schools in giving treatment, prescriptions and instruction for the protection of health and the prevention of disease is restricted.

There exists in this Commonwealth a very urgent need for providing under proper auspices, effective contraceptive advice and treatment to women of all classes who are suffering from organic diseases of the heart, lungs, or kidneys, or from other physical weakness, and to whom a further pregnancy is likely to be fatal, or at least permanently injurious.

The statute mentioned contains no restriction upon the giving of oral contraceptive advice, but in the normal practice of a physician, and in the regular work of hospitals and medical schools, there is occasion for providing and demonstrating the means and method of treatment, and for written and printed advice, prescriptions, and instruction concerning the proper use of the things pre-
scribed or recommended, and it is therefore important for the medical profession and those working with them to have a clear understanding as to the extent to which they are affected by the provisions of the above mentioned Sections 20 and 21 in the proper and legitimate practice of their profession.

It is believed by the petitioners that these provisions were not enacted with the intent of making them applicable to registered physicians, and that as matter of right no such hampering restriction should be put upon a physician in the performance of his fundamental professional duty of relieving suffering and preventing disease.

Many physicians, hospital staffs, and medical school instructors, however, feel uncertain as to the effect of these statutory provisions, and as a result of that uncertainty there are many women, especially among patients of the larger hospitals, whose lives are jeopardized by lack of effective advice and instruction.

WALTER P. BOWERS
ROBERT L. DE NORMANDIE
FRANKLIN S. NEWELL
LINCOLN DAVIS
SHELDON WARREN
LEO V. FRIEDMAN
BURTON E. HAMILTON
JOHN H. TAYLOR

The signers of this petition have wide and varied interests.

Dr. Walter P. Bowers is Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine and former president of the Massachusetts Medical Association. Dr. Lincoln Davis is a visiting surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate in Surgery at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Robert L. De Normandie is Chief of Obstetrics at Waltham Hospital, and a consulting obstetrician at the Massachusetts Women's, Newton, Melrose and other hospitals. Dr. Leo V. Friedman is an obstetrician at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and an associate clinical professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Burton Hamilton is a heart specialist on the staffs of the Boston Lying-In and New England Deaconess Hospitals and an instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Joe V. Meigs, surgeon, is on the staffs of Massachusetts General Hospital and the New England Deaconess Hospital. Dr. Franklin Newell is a consulting obstetrician at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Clinical Obstetrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. William H. Robey, a heart specialist, is a visiting physician at the Boston City Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. John Rock, an obstetrician, is on the staffs of the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston Lying-In and the Free Hospital for Women, and an assistant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. William M. Shedden, surgeon is on the staffs of the Massachusetts General and the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospitals, and is an assistant in Anatomy at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Howard Sprague is a heart specialist, assistant at the Massachusetts General Hospital and assistant in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. John H. Taylor is physician to out-patients at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Shield Warren is Pathologist at New England Deaconess and New England Baptist Hospitals, and an instructor in Pathology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. George Gilbert Smith is Urologist at the Massachusetts General and the Palmer Memorial Hospitals, Surgeon at the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital, and an instructor in Genito-Urinary Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

Those who are interested in further details concerning the legal aspect of this question will find a discussion of the subject, with legal opinions concerning the interpretation of the Massachusetts Statutes, in the New England Journal of Medicine for January 23, 1931.

It is unnecessary to discuss the desirability of having the law so changed that physicians may instruct patients who are unfit to bear children in the technique of contraception. Many physicians at present do not hesitate to instruct their private patients, the large city hospitals, where this type of instruction is especially needed, are reluctant to take action of this sort for fear of being thought to be acting contrary to law.

Physicians throughout the State have shown great interest in this bill and over 1200 have already endorsed the petition.

The Massachusetts Federation of Churches, representing ninety per cent of the Protestant Churches in the state, also approved the bill by a unanimous vote of its Executive Committee on January 6th. In addition to this official action over four hundred ministers have endorsed the bill by personal signature.

Contributed by Mrs. Oakes Ames.

Our laws against birth control are another example of legal foolishness. The prohibition law does not prohibit, and the laws against the use of contraceptives are equally ineffective. Practically everybody uses birth control measures. The law interferes with the free presentation of knowledge of the more harmful measures of accomplishing this object. And bootlegged birth control knowledge, like its alcoholic companion, has a destructive and devitalizing influence that could not possibly be computed.

Bernarr Macfadden, Phala News, Dec 31
Italy's Birth-Rate

"During the past year the population of Italy increased by 515,000," says a report from Rome in The New York Times, January 21, 1931. "This was the largest increase ever recorded, the previous high record being 460,000, during 1928. It is too early yet, however, to speak of the success of Premier Mussolini's campaign for increasing Italy's birth-rate, since the abnormally high excess of births over deaths last year may be the result of that campaign, but it may also be due to fortuitous causes. The next few years will show.

"Births during 1930 totalled 1,085,000 and deaths 570,000. The birth-rate increased from 25.2 to 26 per thousand, and the death-rate decreased from 16.1 to 13.7 per thousand compared with the previous year. The net excess of births over deaths increased from 9.1 to 12.3 per thousand."

If this report is true, and there is no very serious reason to doubt that it is, the statisticians and population experts may scratch their heads and admit that the phenomenon is little short of amazing. For a country of any considerable size to break its previous record of annual population growth by about 25 percent in a single year is not far from miraculous. The birth-rate hopped up 0.8, from 25.2 to 26 per thousand population, which is a considerable feat in these days of falling birth-rates. But what is most startling, the death-rate declined from 16.1 to 13.7 per thousand population, in a single year. Now a death-rate of 13.7 is not surprising, because it is from one to four points higher than most of the so-called Nordic rates in Europe or the New World. It is the sudden drop of 2.4 in a single year that demands our consideration.

During the year 1930 the United States had a record low death-rate, but it cannot boast of any think like a 2.4 drop. Of course, the death-rate of this country is below the 12 per thousand mark (which is remarkable considering the high death rate of the negro population), and the lower a death-rate gets the less likely it is to drop further. Many population experts believe that it is about time for an increase in the death-rate of most civilized countries because of a large percent of old people.

As the Times report says, the next few years will determine how successful Mussolini's campaign for a high birth-rate and larger population has been. True, the figures for a single year may be very misleading. It was only a year ago when we read that "Italy is alarmed as birth-rate drops in 1929," and that the "first 11 months show 29,-460 fewer babies than the same period last year (1928)."

While Premier Mussolini and the Pope may congratulate each other on the vital statistics of Italy this year, it should not be forgotten that a single year may be misleading, and that from 1924 to 1929, the trend in the vital statistics of Italy gave these eminent personalities little reason for rejoicing. Notwithstanding all the Ingenious efforts of the Premier and the Pope, the birth-rate of Italy steadily declined from 28.2 in 1924, to 27.5 in 1925, to 27.2 in 1926, to 26.6 in 1927, to 26.1 in 1928, to 25.2 in 1929. So we see that the hop of the birth-rate back to 26 per thousand does not even pull it up to the 1928 level, not to mention the 28.2 birth-rate of 1924.

On the other hand, while the distinguished Premier is to be congratulated for the establishment of law and order in Italy and the promotion of public works which have helped reduce the relatively high death-rate which Italy in conjunction with other Roman Catholic countries possesses, the trend in the marriage rate of Italy between 1927 and 1928, should have given both the Premier and the Pope food for serious thought. Notwithstanding the heavy tax on bachelors, the number of marriages in Italy decreased from 246,000 for the first ten months of 1927 to 220,000 for the first ten months of 1928.

It is interesting to speculate on the future of any country, especially one that has been so much in the world's eye as regards population problems. Notwithstanding last year's vital statistics and abnormal population growth of Italy, the trend of
the birth-rate and perhaps the trend of the death and infant mortality rate will be downward. But notwithstanding this trend, which will of course be condemned by the Premier and Pope from year to year, and all the material efforts of Mussolini, Italy, which is overpopulated already, will feel the pressure of population keenly from year to year, sooner or later the Italian people will either demand release from their spiritual and material taskmasters, or will be goaded on by at least one of them to enlarge their borders.

Many persons have written of conditions in Italy and forecast the future. One person's prophecy is probably as good as another's, it may be of interest to try some of the Biblical prophets here.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God. Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you. Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations."

(Ezekiel, V, 10-13)

G I B

LARITHMICS
An Addition to Social Terminology*
By HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

Two possibilities of devising a uniform scientific terminology are to limit a word from everyday language to a restricted meaning and to coin new words. The disadvantage of the former lies in the conventional implications which cling to old words, especially true in sociology. The latter procedure is justifiable only when there exists a clearly defined concept, recognized and used by a large number of workers, for which no appropriate word can be found in common language. There has grown up an entirely new body of thought, the study of the quantitative aspects of human population, for which the term "population" is now used. This word, however, refers to the qualitative aspect as well as to the quantitative aspect. Larithmics (from Greek roots meaning people and number) is suggested as an appropriate term for the study of the quantitative aspects of population.

* Excerpts from an article in The American Journal of Sociology, September, 1930

Today, owing particularly to the introduction of a new factor commonly designated as "birth control," population growth has become, at least potentially, one of the greatest of all instruments for human progress, to be handled just as objectively and rationally as the political system, the agricultural system, or the family system. There has accordingly grown up an entirely new body of thought and study, not extensive and distinct enough to be considered a separate science, but restricted and coherent enough to deserve and need a name. This is the study of the quantitative aspects of human population.

For this new study there exists no current word. To fill the gap, the present tendency is for the word "population" itself to be dislodged from its proper connotation and given a limited and numerical significance. The various "population conferences" that have been held recently have scarcely even recognized, as far as their discussions went, anything but the quantitative aspects of the subject.

The unfortunate nature of this trend need hardly be explained. "Population" ought to be the big, inclusive term, combining both the qualitative and the quantitative aspects of this great human interest. Fortunately, we already have a well-established term to indicate the study of the qualitative phases, in so far as they are connected with heredity—"eugenics"—and a less well-established word—"euthenics"—to indicate such quality as is secured by culture. The need of a corresponding word to cover the numerical aspects is recognized by practically all the specialized workers in the field, in this country at least.

In this emergency, the writer has been casting about for the right word to fill the gap. For obvious reasons it has seemed desirable that it should be built up from Greek roots. When the passage in the Old Testament where David "numbered the people" was recalled, it appeared that here should be found the precise roots sought for. Reference to the Greek revision of this document, the Septuagint, revealed that the two words in question were laos, people, and arithmos, number (cf. 2 Samuel 24:2 and 1 Chronicles 21:5). Further consideration confirmed the appropriateness of these roots. The next step was to combine them in condensed form, which done, there emerged the word "larithmics".

This word has been submitted to several of the special workers in the field and has, on the whole,
been cordially received. The purpose of this article, accordingly, is to introduce it to a larger audience—arithmetics, the scientific study of the quantitative aspects of population.

This word has the following advantages. Its meaning corresponds precisely to the concept involved. It is euphonious, smooth, easy to learn, to spell, and to pronounce. It balances perfectly with eugenics. Like every such new word, its eventual success depends upon the reception given it, upon its adoption and use by writers and speakers who have occasion to allude to the concept it covers.

Arithmetics, like every science, is divided into two phases: the pure, or theoretical, which is the study of how populations come to have a given size at a given time; and the practical, or applied, which is the study of what the size of population in any community ought to be to promote any accepted social objective and of how the desired size may be achieved and maintained.

With the introduction of this new term the whole field of population study may be diagrammed as follows:

**POPULATION**

Arithmetics

Quantity

Pure Explanation

Applied Engineering

Eugenics

Quality by heredity

Euthenics

Quality by environment


Since the outbreak of the World War problems of population have not only commanded increasing attention at the hands of social scientists but have even become fashionable conversational hors d’oeuvres among the genteel. For the coerced delection of collegians several mediocre textbooks have hitherto appeared. Dr. Thompson’s book also bears the earmarks of a text. Nevertheless it will prove of value to scholars, students, and dilettantes in the field of population study, for it makes accessible much material long hidden in the cloistered pages of technical journals and in the forbidding tables of statistically rich monographs.

The comprehensiveness of this work testifies to the author’s wide study of population problems, both in the library and at first hand. He touches upon population theory, deals with the social and demographic composition of population, and elaborates upon the various factors affecting trends in population growth. He devotes four chapters to the city, two to international population problems, and one to the optimum. The future growth of the American population and the social and economic consequences incident thereupon, the qualitative aspects of population, the relation of population to agriculture, industry, and commerce, the characteristics and trends in the American Negro population, and finally the prerequisites of population policy are treated. Tables and graphs enliven and add much to the worth of the book.

That the population question is many-faceted is obvious from the table of contents. Unfortunately, however, the author has failed to polish every possible facet. The history of the birth control movement and of the factors contributing to its spread are practically omitted. The development of preventive medicine and modern sanitation and their possible effects upon longevity are slighted.

The studies carried on by the author and his colleague, Professor Whelpton, lead to conclusions similar to those of Drs. Kuczynski, Dublin, and Lotka. In many countries population growth is ending. Hence future populations will be stationary and loaded with older persons. Future business leadership, therefore, must learn to utilize older workers, to adapt industry to slower increases in demands for essentials, and to relatively greater increases in demands for comforts and for commodities preferred by older persons. While Dr. Thompson suggests the possible necessity of paying parents to produce an adequate number of children, he does not emphasize sufficiently the fact that such a policy will almost inevitably be necessary in many countries if the economic evils of depopulation are to be averted.

Professor Thompson not only believes that positive eugenics is doomed to failure but asserts that no eugenic program other than curbing of the multiplication of the unfit is necessary. Present selective processes are not weeding out those stocks which he considers desirable. Unfortunately the
man's numbers
and their relation
to his welfare ....

POPULATION PROBLEMS

By Warren S. Thompson
Director of Scrpps Foundation
for Research in Population Problems
482 pages 6 x 9 $3.75
McGraw Hill Publications in Sociology

This new book deals with those problems of population growth and the factors stimulating or retard ing it which are of such national interest to thinking people today. The book attacks the situation from all points of view: both early and present-day theories. It presents valuable charts and tables which analyze the make-up of populations and show their distribution over the earth.

Among the comments which population problems has called forth, are

"It is the best text book on the subject I have ever met."—E A Ross
Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Wisconsin

"An examination of Population Problems convinces me that it is a work of distinction."—J E Cutler
Professor of Sociology, Dean of the School of Applied Social Sciences, Western Reserve University

"I am delighted that such a comprehensive text on population has been made available. I know of no other book in the field which contains such clear and thoroughgoing analyses of the major population issues in the United States."—Donald R. Young
Wharton Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

ON APPROVAL COUPON

McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc
370 Seventh Ave., New York

You may send me a copy of Thompson’s Population Problems ($1.75) on approval. I understand that I am to return this book after ten days or retain for it.

Name
Address
Position
Institution

B C R 1 2 8 1

few existing studies of this matter by no means prove the validity of the view maintained.

In his suggestive chapters on the city as a unit of economic organization the advantages and the disadvantages of the city are marshalled into competing battalions. But the net results of the conflict are not given in anything approaching dollars and cents, for data are lacking. Yet, until we are able to translate urban life into an economic balance sheet, we cannot definitely decide for or against the city as an institution.

Although an ardent advocate of birth control Dr. Thompson takes exception to the generally accepted doctrine of an economic optimum balance between numbers and resources. He states that there are many optima of equal intrinsic north, such as the religious, the cultural, the political. He implies, too, that abundant prosperity may prevent the development of an ethically desirable set of values and practices. From these views the renewer dissents. The realization of optima other than the economic involves repudiation of the economic optimum and of birth rationalization.

For contraception finds its chief defense in the economic welfare it makes possible. That economic prosperity frustrates the realization of the aims now held in high esteem is hardly supported by available evidence. Not economic prosperity but rather the mal-distribution of prosperity may multiply against welfare. To renounce economic criteria is to retreat into the morass of mysticism. As a matter of practice the optimum may be ignored in countries where population has ceased to grow. There, since depopulation is as economically undesirable as further population increase, the problem is to build a socio-economic organization around a stable, non-growing population. Herein lies the nearest practical approach to the realization of the advantages of the optimum.

The criticisms we have suggested in no way detract from the value of Dr. Thompson’s study. It is undoubtedly the best general work in the English language now available.

Joseph J. Spengler

"Money breeds money." Some of it, alas! seems nowadays to have joined the birth control movement.

Boston Transcript
Book Reviews

IS SEX NECESSARY? or WHY YOU FEEL THE WAY YOU DO, by James Thurber and E. B. White Harper's, New York $2.00

IS THE world round? Can steam make an engine go? Can electricity light a lamp? These and hundreds of other questions have been asked throughout the ages—at first in all seriousness and solemnity, and then the unknown becomes the obvious and we laugh at the same question.

Unfortunately, some questions whose answer is obvious are still being asked, and in all too great solemnity. Some people are still asking, either through word or action, is sex necessary? and two writers have made that question the title of a book. Strangely, these writers do not attempt to answer their question through abstruse pages of medical cases, or through formulas of spiritual escape from the flesh, or through rules of psychology, or through any of the more familiar ways in which books on sex have been written.

In their method of writing, the authors have identified sex with joy. They are aware that sex is much more in need of laughter than solemnity, and yet in the humorous vein of many sentences he observations such as the following: “The term ‘reaction’ seems to be used in this book to include not only those quick, unpremeditated reflexes which cause so much trouble, but also those slowly formulated prejudices, doubts, and suspicions which cause even more trouble.”

The authors, both members of the editorial staff of The New Yorker, claim to have perfected a method of which to conduct their researches and write their findings without interfering with the business of living. Other writers, they declare, have been so busy writing about sex that they haven’t had a chance to get about. Furthermore, the authors of this revolutionary revelation of the secrets of life lament the widespread reading of books on sex in place of actually getting acquainted with people. “To prepare for marriage, young girls no longer assembled a hope chest—they read books on abnormal psychology. If they finally did marry, they found themselves with a large number of sex books on hand, but almost no pretty underwear. Most of them, luckily, never married at all—just continued to read.”

Zealous effort is expended in attempting “How to Tell Love from Passion” and in probing “The Nature of the American Male.” The dialogue concerning “The Lilies-and-Bluebird Delusion” on the wedding night is an insult to lilies. “Frigidity in Men” is admitted, and is often shown by the “recessive knee” and the “declination of the kiss.” The authors warn untaught men in “A Discussion of Female Types” to give weighty consideration to the company they keep. There is some hope for the great dilemma of “What Should Children Tell Parents.” Some children have told me that instead of quoting from books they have tried leaving the book lying around, opened at pertinent pages. Even this faded to work in most cases. The mothers usually just picked up the book, dusted it, closed it, and fitted it neatly in some nearby shelf. They thought it was dusty. Numerous drawings illustrate conclusions both made and not made.

This book is a most welcome relief from a vast literature of “scholarly treatises” on sex. It is unique in that its humor is not indecuate, but rather, provocative of thought. Humor of the type used in this book is sorely needed in all our human dealings, and adds a warmth to our thinking which is indispensable. Certainly if sex is necessary, no less is humor.

WAYNE EVANS

HEREDITY, by F. A. E. Crew. Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York $60

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF HEREDITY, by Paul Popenoe. Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore $1.00

A POPULAR work on heredity (or genetics) from the pen of Dr. Crew is something for which to be grateful. Dr. Crew is one of the earlier appreciators of the once forgotten but now epochal work of the monk Gregor Mendel. Moreover, he is at present lecturer in genetics—the science of heredity—and director of the research department of the University of Edinburgh. What Crew does not know about heredity simply is not known.

Dr. Popenoe, on the other hand, as the title of his book would imply, is a practical man—a social Hygienist of long standing. In his present valuable work, he has set himself to answer certain quite specific questions, such as

WILL YOUR SON
Be a Genius? Heredity and the "Infant Prodigy" Your Children's Chance to be Talented Heredity and the Average Length of Life Proving Paternity by Heritable Characters Selecting a Child for Adoption

Dr. Crew's book affords the foundation principles for complete understanding of Dr. Popenoe's conclusions, whether or not you see "eye to eye" with all the latter's views. At any rate, Crew presents the facts that you must face, either as a student, or as a parent or prospective parent. One thing is certain: no one can possibly attain an intelligent viewpoint on the subject who has not read either these little books, or their equivalents. Indeed, it is uncertain where (unless to some extent in Dr. Terman's new book) one could obtain the facts presented by Dr. Popenoe. He is the only investigator in America in some of the lines he has pursued. Crew's book, moreover, is important to the layman because he has made the facts of heredity plain to the non-professional, though one could find them elsewhere if one desired to spend the time and labor to look them up. Popenoe's work is in another class, what he presents is largely new.

Despite this general high appreciation, it is necessary, in full justice to the subject, to add a scientific protest against one at least of Dr. Popenoe's conclusions. He thinks that persons who inherit good physical constitutions should, willingly, have large families. As a matter of fact, this advice is not scientific at all. He states (page 87) that the small family system "has knocked the spokes out of this wheel of evolutionary progress." The "priestesses of birth control" do, indeed, "warn all intelligent people against breeding like rabbits," but they do not warn any married couple against breeding like human beings. If the strong couple produces not ten children, but perhaps two, this is not Dr. Popenoe's business, or society's, but their own. Surely it is no affair of the extreme eugenists to dictate to married men and women how many children they should have. What we want is not larger families from the fit, but smaller or no families from the unfit.

No advocate of birth control, so far as I know, has ever advocated contraception except in cases where it was quite obvious that the prospective mother and father would be unable to bequeath a decent heredity, or an adequate physical and educational career, to their offspring. From a strictly scientific—that is to say genetic, biological-point of view, the more richly endowed human beings should produce the largest progeny, probably no one denies this. But we do not live in a scientific age, so far as sociology, economics, morals, religion, psychology, etc., are concerned. One may well ask are the "prosperous"—the "biologically fit" under our present economic system—really the most fit to survive and propagate under a saner society?

To propose as a scientific thesis that the beneficiaries of the present system should have larger families for the benefit of humanity at large is one of the greatest errors of our current super-eugenists. Before they can become the arbiters of the birth-rate, we shall have to evolve a method whereby those actually fit to survive—not the economically comfortable but the intellectually and physically superior—shall have larger opportunities. When that time comes, it will be time enough for Dr. Popenoe and his school to choose those of us who are to produce the big families, and those who are to limit themselves to one or two children or none. Until then, let us concentrate on teaching contraception to the many who would be unfit to survive or propagate under even the most beneficent and just social regime.

Maynard Shipley

HEREDITY IN MAN, by R. Ruggles Gates The Macmillan Co., New York $6.00

This is a revision of a work first published five years ago. It is a veritable encyclopedia of facts relating to all aspects of its subject. Here one may learn everything that is extant regarding every human trait from stature and eye color to baldness and from blood groups and allergic diseases to dipsomania and musical abhity. There is a closing chapter of excellent quality on race crossing. The chief criticism of it is that it too exclusively concerned with facts and too little with principles. It thus lacks intellectual stimulus. Moreover, it is deficient in literary merit.

F. H. Hankins

THE HISTORY OF BIOLOGY, by Eric Nordenskiold Translated from the Swedish by Leonard Bucknall Eyre Alfred A. Knopf, New York $6.00

It is a pleasure to review a book that is concise and comprehensive in its presentation of a subject that is encyclopedic in its proportions. The treatise is a chronological account of the de-
development of biology, based on a course of lectures given at the University of Helsinki, Finland Classical antiquity and philosophy are shown to be the roots out of which modern biology has grown Though the print of the book is necessarily small, because of the amount of text, the format is good The book is interesting and easy reading, and is recommended for a more scientific understanding of the subject than is presented by the popular histories of philosophy and biology.

Morris H Kahn, M.D.

RECENT GAINS IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, edited by Kirby Page, Harcourt Brace and Co, New York $3.00

In his Foreword, Kirby Page says "Smug contentment and sullen despair are equally perilous to society." Happily for the world, happily for America, sullen despair is for the most part, confined to Siberian prisons. But I am not sure that there is not too much of smug contentment oozing out of the majority of the essays that comprise this timely book. "Bigger and Better" seems to stand out of the pages like an irressible aftermark. Naturally Kirby Page desired first to enumerate "gains," and only the last four chapters have been thrown open for the complaints of pessimists, a type perhaps not so welcome in this country.

The first examination into "Recent Gains in Government" has been put into the able hands of Charles A. Beard who focusses attention on recent affairs in Nicaragua, the Philippines and Mexico. Stuart Chase in "New Outposts of Business and Industry," tries to strike an optimistic note, but after enumerating the comforts and luxuries of the plain citizen, such as "silk stockings, Arrow collars, The Story of Philosophy, and membership in the Elks," he speculates, "How much happier these things have made him is, of course, another question. For the skilled workers, the clerks, the middle classes generally, they have operated to intensify the struggle of keeping up with the Joneses—aided and abetted by the massed forces of advertising, directed by skilled psychologists."

Mary Van Cleeck's "Recent Gains in Industrial Relations" is stimulating in view of the recent Gastonia struggle. She too agrees that the present industrial and economic development "stands in need of searching criticism by the social philosophers of all countries."

Norman Thomas discloses for the average citizen the deeper issues of the peace problem, and his essay on "Race Relationships," though not a complete inquiry, contains an encouraging statement of positive gains. Rockwell Kent takes an individual and healthy attitude in his chapter — "Art," and equal in merit in its field is the discussion on "Advances in Science," by Professor Jordan. Dr. Dewey's critique is both admirable and patriotic, though one deplores his slurs on the European immigrants who "have realized opportunities here that they never had at home." Surprising also is Dr. Dewey's reference to culture as "that elusive word." It is a very tangible word. He is surely philosopher enough to know that culture is not quantitative and that if Europe "shirked" the task of making culture a penny-in-the-slot system, it knew better. The one discussion that justifies the whole book is that on "Progress or Decadence," by Professor Harry Ward. What Professor Ward thinks on this subject should be heard by every thoughtful American.

A tribute must be paid to Mr. Kirby Page for his critical and arduous compilation. The result is a provocative book.

J Vihaya Tunga

Books Received

THE FINE ART OF MARRIAGE, by Horace J Bridges Published by the Author, Chicago, Ill. $1.00

THE WORLD'S POPULATION PROBLEMS AND A WHITE AUSTRALIA, by H L Wilkinson P S King & Son, London, England 18s

SCIENCE AND GOOD BEHAVIOR, by H M Parshley Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis $2.50

THE SOCIAL WORK YEAR BOOK, edited by Fred S Hall and Mabel B Ellis Russell Sage Foundation, New York $4.00

THE REFRAIN FROM PARENTHOOD, by Jean Ayling Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co, Ltd, London 10s 6d

ADOLESCENCE, STUDIES IN MENTAL HYGIENE, by Frankwood E Williams, M D Farrar and Rinehart, New York $2.50

GENERATIONS OF ADAM, by A L Wolbarst, M D Newland Press, New York $2.00

PHYSICIANS' MANUAL OF BIRTH CONTROL, by Antonette F Konikow, M D Buchholz Publishing Company, New York $4.00
News Notes

UNITED STATES

The American Birth Control League held its annual meeting in New York on January 15th. The morning session is reported in this issue. Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild presided at the luncheon. Speakers were Reverend Allan Knight Chalmers, Juhan Huxley, Charles G. Norris, and Reverend Eliot White. The afternoon session, a symposium on child welfare—the What the White House Conference Left Out—will be given in detail in the March issue.

According to a decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit, New York City, December 29th, the manufacture of contraceptives is illegal. "There is no statute forbidding the manufacture or sale of contraceptives," the court said. This decision was handed down in a suit of the Youngs Rubber Company against another concern. The defendant contended that Youngs was entitled to no protection of its trademark because it was making an illegal product.

The American Hygiene Association held its annual meeting in New York, January 23rd and 24th. Rachelle S. Yarros, Savel Zimand, Max J. Exner, H. E. Barnard were among the speakers.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Birth Control League will present a bill at the forthcoming General Assembly, amending the present law to legalize the use of contraceptives. This bill was first introduced in 1923.

LOUISIANA

Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger of the Touro Synagogue, summarized the traditional Jewish attitude on birth control in a January sermon as follows:

First. The ancient Jewish law does not regard contraception as immoral.
Second. It inveigled against birth suppression, not birth control.
Third. Even the prime duty of being "fruitful and multiplying" was considered voidable under certain conditions.

If these conclusions were reached in the study of ancient sources, then there should be no inhibi-

tion on the modern spiritual leader from carrying on the study in the light of social, economic and industrial changes, pressing on us today.

We must consider always the holiness and crucial importance of domestic relations as the Jew has fostered them. But we must also consider the evil of uncontrolled parenthood on the part of those who lack health, finances and intelligence as likely to rob the child of the inheritance to which it is entitled—the heritage of health, security and proper guidance.

The child moves us. We place him on the pedestal of love. We make every sacrifice for his care. By a spiritual lead we think not only of our own child—but of the child as the symbol of life and progress.

It is that symbol and not blind tradition that must move us as we are meeting the new problems of a changing world.

It is the welfare of the child and not the dignity of tradition that determines our attitude toward these modern problems.

NEW YORK

The Right Reverend G. Ashton Oldham, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, addressing the Albany Ministerial Association on December 15th, said:

"In America we are conscious that thousands of persons are practising birth control. The Conference of Bishops in London merely urged that the problem be met frankly and openly on the theory that nothing of value can come from platitudes."

OHIO

A debate on "Will the Dissemination of Birth Control Information Raise the American Standard of Living?" was held at the Cleveland Public Forum on January 2nd.

ENGLAND

Medical officers of thirteen birth control clinics met in London in December to present data relating to the failure of contraceptive methods. Information was based on 6322 cases. Among these there were 685 failures to prevent pregnancy, but only 95 were unaccountable, i.e., failure occurred though the prescribed technique had been properly carried out. The remaining 590 were
traced to causes such as incomplete following of instructions, lapses in use of methods, faulty applications, etc.

A series of lectures on "Contraception and Allied Questions" concluded on December 11th with a lecture by Dr. St. Opes on "Positive and Negative Control of Conception in its Various Technical Aspects." The lectures were free but restricted to physicians and medical students. The series is cited by birth control workers as an indication of growing approval of the movement, in that the chairman included eminent physicians, a cabinet minister and a bishop, and that the lectures were held under the patronage of King George V.

FRANCE

A NATIONAL alliance for encouraging the increase in population and opposing birth control is active in France. The New York Times, in an editorial of January 7th, says "The trouble with France is not the birth-rate but the death-rate. The National Alliance would score better results by not worrying about birth control and campaigning for sanitation."

JAPAN

(Contributed by R Isha, a graduate student at Clark University)

According to the Tokyo daily Asahi (Morning Sun), 4,800 women come monthly to the eleven health services of the city of Tokyo. Over 20% of the cases request information on the control of birth. The city health services recommend that these patients go to the birth control clinic managed by an assemblyman named Majima. During the months of May, June, and July of 1930 the clinic advised 462 persons. The reasons for seeking advice were classified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sufficient child</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ill-health</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ages of the women were classified as follows:

- 17-24: 13%
- 25-29: 28%
- 30-34: 32%
- 35-39: 15%
- 40 and over: 12%

As to wages of the husbands, 78% of the patients' husbands received less than 100 Yen ($50) per month, while the remaining 22% had an income over 100 Yen per month.

The number of children per patient was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Japan Weekly Chronicle, December 18, states that at the end of last year the Commission on Population and Food made recommendations to the Government that appropriate arrangements should be made to give medical advice regarding marriage, childbirth, and contraception to those in need of it, and that research should be conducted into the whole subject of eugenics.

Last year the Municipality of Tokyo worked out a plan bearing on birth control, but it fell through owing to the opposition of the Home Office. In spite of this lukewarm attitude of the governmental authorities, says the Asahi, the question of birth control will press for earnest official attention sooner or later.

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Letters from Readers

THREE MORE QUESTIONS FOR DOCTORS

TO THE EDITOR

May I suggest three additional questions to supplement the excellent ones in your January issue? I hope some of the doctors who read the Review will answer them.

1. Do you consider scientific contraceptive information "indecent" or "obscene"?
2. Would you like to have the subject of contraception completely removed from all the obscenity laws?
3. Do you think any laws limiting the circulation of contraceptive information could be generally enforced?

MARY WARE DENNETT

ASTORIA, L. I

A GOOD EXAMPLE

TO THE EDITOR

Enclosed please find cheque for four dollars in payment of two subscriptions, one to be sent to the Public Library, Malden, Mass., the other to the Newton Free Library, Newton, Mass. I should like both subscriptions to begin with the January number which I consider an unusually fine one.

M. A. WILCOX

NEWTONVILLE, MASS

LET US NOT FORGET GENETICS

TO THE EDITOR

It would seem that too little weight and respect is bestowed on the subject of genetics Is this because this vastly important matter is scarcely yet become a science?

In The Survey of January I, appears what the editors justly label as "a brilliant article" by H. A. Overstreet of the College of the City of New York. This professor of philosophy describes how the recent centuries saw the sad triumph of rationalism over religion, leaving us bereft of the hope of immortality and of any sense that our poor short lives on earth have meaning and purpose to them. This is the debit side of the recent historic period, to it should be credited certain opposite items among which Professor Overstreet chooses to name (a) improved scientific and economic technique, (b) an increasing humanity of man to man, to the child and to woman, (c) birth control.

He then turns to the new period now opened in the history of thought in which he feels meaning and purpose and dignity are returning to man's estimate of his own soul. This turn for the better, beginning with Darwin, has gone on to the idea of "emergent evolution" in which we ourselves may partake as creators, and to the newer discoveries of physics, with "matter" discarded, Professor Overstreet, having paid this tribute to biology and physics, says he has also hopes of psychology, on what line, is not stated.

Note that the question of immortality, which he raised in the beginning, is never returned to Is it not here that genetics, that most promising of the branches of biology, has something to say? Some profound speculations already arise out of the little at present achieved in genetics for instance, that "we are all descended from Alfred the Great", that the members of our race are all closely related and infinitely knit by blood to each other (far, far more closely than I to Alfred?)—just as I am found to be more closely related to my brother than to my parents), that, as recently stated in the Birth Control Review human races each consist of four kinds of creatures—men, women, gametes and sperms. The race, with its indelibly (?) imprinted norm of height and intellect and so on, the gonad with its sometimes suppressible but immortal (?) qualities—dominant and recessive! Just what kind of a wide immortality is here may not be clear, but at least the word and the high emotions it produces are returning to us Jennings in his Biological Basis of Human Nature, has treated lovingly of these high matters.

Another with whom one would gladly discuss genetics is Mary Sumner Boyd. In the January issue of this magazine she reviews my book Seventy Birth Control Climes most satisfactorily. She remains "optimistic in believing that birth control can help solve the problems of quality of population." She says I was not so optimistic. Let me protest that I was merely more cautious in my genetics, saying that we can have as yet no certainty about the final net result after birth control completes its swing from the upper classes over to the lower. For it is quite conceivable that among the lower classes their lesser worldly ambition and lesser worry over the future may leave
them, for an indefinite time, in spite of much birth control. still more prolific than the upper. In that case, the upper classes may countenance other means to check the growth of the lower, such as civil war, or compulsory Insurance taken out of the wages of the parents for every child born, or, on the contrary, subsidies to educated parents in order to bring up the upper class birth-rate. But these agencies will exist as themselves, not as birth control, and their results upon the birthrates will be their own and should not be labeled the results of birth control.

I also noted that we do not know for certain which classes are "lower," especially as regards physical and emotional in-born traits. And how can we predict a change in "quality" caused by birth control when we have scarcely defined any in-born class qualities as yet, except perhaps the I.Q.? Even in the present uncertain state of genetics, everyone agrees that the establishment of birth control clinics for the clients of the charlatans is pretty likely to be a step towards improved racial quality.

Caroline H. Robinson

Phila[delphia], Pa.

We must select and limit racial stock

To the Editor

It is important to keep the stock (such as it is) from degenerating. It is however in my mind of secondary importance for unless in the next hundred years or so we learn how to select the stock, and limit it, I almost feel as if the life of the inhabitants of this planet is hardly worth preservation. Send me some fodder about this birth control business. I look on it as much more vital than the work of librarians, or ushers, or prelates or parsons, but I confess to a feeling that the ignorance of reproduction even amongst the most enlightened is appalling. We shall, even when you people get going, make terrible mistakes, but there is nothing which will ultimately save life on this planet unless it be the breeding of the people.

L.D.

Cheshire, England

Happy marriage through sex compatibility

To the Editor

I have been a reader of your Review for a number of years and am heartily in sympathy with the birth control movement from all angles. It seems to me, however, that there is one side to the subject which has never been sufficiently stressed and that is the spiritual value of mutually delightful intercourse between husband and wife. I believe it to be a fact that most marital discord, which all too frequently ends in divorce, begins at least with sexual incompatibility. Furthermore, I believe that when two young people love each other and marry (even though the girl's sexual education may have been faulty and inhibiting) there is a far greater probability of a happy marriage if the fear of unwanted pregnancy can be removed.

I should like to see one issue of the Review give a symposium on this subject, perhaps in some small degree counteract the recent pronunciamento from Rome.

T. R. Buttrick, D.D.S.

Detroit, Michigan

An encouraging letter

To the Editor

I was very pleased to see the abstract of my Zurich address in the Birth Control Review, and only wish it could have some influence on the powers that be on the League of Nations, but have little hope of getting them to take any interest in fundamental questions.

I am always glad to receive your magazine, the Birth Control Review, and to see the great progress the Cause is making in the United States. We have conquered over here so far as the teaching of birth control is concerned, but we are still a long way from getting its profound influence on social and international problems understood. I hope and believe that you in the United States will do a great deal in this direction.

C. V. Drysdale, M.D.

England

Heredity and Human Affairs

Genetics gives fauz warnng to the sensible but timid social worker, to the short-sighted physician, to the perverted Comstockian, and to the sophists of the church, that civilization is in a dangerous situation, for which only one remedy is specific. Devises proper methods for safeguarding its use, if you will. But see that it is used to reduce the survival of the unfit, or the next generation will hold you to account.

E. M. East.
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