The Ethics of Parenthood
By Dr. Walter F. Robie

Comments on the Federal Council Report
Pros and Cons

Soviet Russia Fights Abortion
A Public Health Program

N. Y. Academy of Medicine
Endorses Birth Control

Delaware League Organizes
BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Unemployment

Constant Fear

My husband has been out of work for nearly a year, and we live in constant fear of having another child at this time. I am the mother of five living children and one dead.

A Mother at Work

My husband has been out of work for seven months, and has no prospects, and at the present time I am the sole means of support for our family. You can imagine that with a stenographer's salary and a baby a year old to look after, we are in a critical position. However, we can keep going, but if we have another baby, it would mean the loss of my job, and we would be in a hopeless situation.

We are living with my mother-in-law, and as she is absolutely against birth control, can you answer in a plain envelope, as it will save our having words over the matter.

Can Manage with Three

I am unemployed and have been for five months. Out of all pity it isn't fair to us, to our present children and to the unborn children for one so situated to have to bear the burden of a large family. We love our little ones so we want to do all that is possible for them. We can manage with three but the picture with four seems dismal.

The Road to Child Labor

We have six children, five of them in school and a baby two and a half years old. I have had two abortions since then, but feel I cannot go on this way. My husband has been out of work all winter, and if we should have another baby I don't see how we can keep all the other children in school. Two of the children are in High School. We would just have to let them try to earn something. I do all my own work, am well and healthy, and thirty-four years old.

A Young Couple

I have a little boy six months old and I would not like to have any more children until we can afford them. We started housekeeping not very long ago and we have many debts. My husband has been out of work for eight months, and it is all we can do to keep our little baby fed and clothed.

A Family of Eight on Part-Tune Wages

I am the father of six children. Part of the time I am out of work, and it is hard for us to make our wages meet the bills. Now what my wife and I would like to get some medical advice on birth control, for we cannot get on this way any longer. We have been married 12 years. I am 34 years old, and my wife is 31. Our children are aged 11, 9, 8, 4, 2 and a baby 6 months. I hope you can help us somehow.

Two Abortions a Year

My husband has been out of work for over six months and no help is in sight. I am 31 years old, have a girl of 11 and a boy of 8. I can't afford more children. I have practiced home-made contraceptives to no avail and I average at least two abortions a year, which I perform myself and which are gradually ruining my health. I have called our Health Bureau here and so far find no place to obtain information. I have just now gotten up from an abortion and don't want to repeat it again.

For the Rich Only

A year ago I lost my job because the man I was working for failed in business. I've had no steady work since, and on top of all the rest of the trouble, my wife has had an abortion and is expecting a baby now. We got scared of another abortion, so we went through with it this time. I've tried hard to find out about birth control, but people put you off with stuff that's no good, and where I live they say its against the law. I bet my boss who laid me off gets it all right from his private doctor and his wife doesn't have to go through such hard times. I don't believe in class differences, but it gets one sort of upset to see something you need so badly held back for the rich.
Coupled with this indication of the trend of the medical attitude towards birth control, the news that the Special Commission on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage of the Presbyterian Church, has unanimously endorsed birth control in the report it will submit to the General Assembly in Pittsburgh in late May, makes this a red letter month in the history of the movement. As in the case of the Lambeth Conference and the Federal Council of Churches, the approval seems to be "guarded." But we need not ask more of these great religious organizations than the recognition of the necessity for birth control, and its moral justification in creating happier marriages, and a better race.

An unofficial, but nevertheless stringent censorship of birth control was brought to light by Mrs. Caroline H. Robinson, when she attempted to advertise her authoritative book "Seventy Birth Control Clinics." The so-called "high-brow" publications—the New York Times, the Survey, the Cleveland Plaindealer, the Nation, the World Tomorrow, the Crisis, Opportunity, and the Family—accepted the advertisement. The Cosmopolitan, College Humor and the Crowell Publishing Company magazines, (including Women's Home Companion, the American, Colliers and Country Home) refused. Four Philadelphia papers, the Evening Bulletin, the Record, the Daily News and the Public Ledger refused to run the advertisement. It should be noted that the Philadelphia press has given most helpful backing to the birth control movement in its news and editorial pages. Apparently a different kind of blue pencil governs the advertising departments. Mrs. Robinson’s book is entirely legal, and is sponsored by the National Committee on Maternal Health. No one can force these eminent publications to state their reasons for refusing this advertisement, but we can draw our own conclusions and be on our guard against this kind of censorship.

Close on the heels of the endorsement of birth control by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, comes word that the New York Academy of Medicine adopted resolutions a year ago, (April 7th, 1930) endorsing birth control as a public health measure. These recommendations embody the results of study and investigation carried on by the Academy during the past eleven years. They have now been given to the public for the first time in the Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine for April, 1931, and through an April 21st release to the press. The future of birth control is in the hands of the medical profession, and we hall as a significant step forward the unequivocal stand of one of the leading medical bodies of the country. It cannot fail to fortify the individual physician, and convince the public that birth control is an integral part of medical procedure. The recommendations (full text is given in the News Notes on page 153) may be summarized as follows:

I. Medical colleges and hospital clinics should give instruction in control of conception.

II. Hospitals and dispensaries should continue or organize birth control clinics wherever the service is needed.

III. There is need of the special birth control clinic. Clinics outside of hospitals should have a staff of doctors trained in the treatment of the disorders of women, with a board in active control made up of specialists in gynecology and obstetrics of recognized standing, who will make regular inspections. With diagnoses and supervision properly provided, such outside clinics should receive the endorsement of the medical profession until hospital clinics meet this public health need.

IV. Federal and state law should be changed to make existing prohibitions inappropriate to duly licensed physicians, dispensaries and the public health authorities, in protecting the health of their patients or of the community (1920-1921).

V. The absence of education of the public in sexual matters by the medical profession is medieval.
According to the latest vital statistics from Russia, the infant mortality rate has fallen from 287 per thousand in 1912-13 to 127.5 per thousand in 1928-29. We cannot fail to link this spectacular record with Soviet Russia's maternity care program. We give in this issue an account of Russia's fight against abortion by means of free dissemination of contraceptive advice to prevent unwanted pregnancies—so far as is possible—and by means of hospitalization of abortions. From far across the world comes another proof, if proof were needed, that repressive measures must go, and that birth control must be made available to all in well-functioning, easily accessible clinics.

The forces that brought about the defeat of the Birth Control bills in Massachusetts and Connecticut were strikingly similar. At the Committee hearings in both States, the sole opponents of the bills were Roman Catholics, and in both States it was not an opposition voiced by individuals of the Catholic Church, but an organized opposition led and instructed by the Church authorities. In Massachusetts this opposition was strong enough and noisy enough to defeat the bill in committee. In Connecticut, the fear of the Roman Catholic vote did not deter the Judiciary Committee from giving a majority vote to an amended form of the bill, which strictly limited contraceptive advice to cases where, in the opinion of the physician, "pregnancy would be dangerous to the life or health of the woman." This would have made the law narrower than it is in New York State, for the provision "for the cure or prevention of disease" opens the door to a consideration of the dangers to the child as well as to the mother. But no considerations of life, health, or happiness influenced the Pope when he issued his recent encyclical, and the Catholic Church in America has accepted the dictum that contraception is mortal sin, and demands that the law of the land shall be framed to embody in statute this item in the code of morality of the ancient and unchanging Church. In Connecticut, the Catholic opposition was more orderly than in Massachusetts. But it was definitely episcopal, and the task of opposing the bill was laid upon the attorney to the Diocese, who announced that he was present to represent the Roman Catholic Bishop and Church in Connecticut.

Here is a situation which may well give anxious thought to those Roman Catholics who remember that they are Americans as well as churchmen. Here is religious intolerance of the most typical nature. The great Protestant Churches—the Episcopalians at the Lambeth Conference, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, branches of the Methodist Church of the United States and many member churches—have declared for the righteousness and desirability of birth control in cases where true morality points to its need. The Roman Catholics know that in demanding that contraception be considered criminal they are openly demanding something that is contrary to the very basis of Americanism. Instead of separation of church and state with equal rights for all religious denominations, they are asking that the religious tenets of one church shall be by law binding on all the men and women in America, even on the members of those churches which have openly repudiated these tenets. Do these Roman Catholics remember the past presidential election and the outcry that they and their fellow churchmen made over the "religious intolerance" that made an issue of the faith of one of the candidates? If they are wise, such Catholics will dissociate themselves from the opposition to birth control bills. Any good Catholic might well support a bill such as was presented in Massachusetts or Connecticut. It would in no way affect the conduct of any man or woman who was obedient to his church teaching. It would not make birth control obligatory.

If a woman is willing to sacrifice her life or her health to her religious conviction, the sacrifice is hers and will be deemed by her church to be acceptable to a merciful God. But if she does not use contraception because she cannot secure the information, wherein lies the merit? Let the Catholic Church guide its own people, but let it not dominate the lives of those who are not in its fold.
The Ethics of Parenthood

By WALTER F ROBIE, M D

In this section from a forthcoming book "Rational Living," compiled from the writings of the late Dr Walter F Robie, this pioneer American sex hygienist points out the dangers of abstinence as a form of birth regulation, the positive necessity of birth control in preserving mental health and its ethical value as a factor in happy marriage.

The subject of birth control has passed the academic stage of broad generalizations and profound abstractions, and much can now be gained by analyzing ourselves, by determining whether we are willing to subscribe to the doctrines which we insist that our brother and sister shall abide by.

Marriage as the necessary and most desirable state ought to be participated in by as many people as possible. Since childless marriages condone only to the health and happiness of the participants, and do nothing for the future, they should be encouraged among certain classes of the unfit, but should be frowned upon between sound and virile people, at the acme of selfishness. On the other hand, marriages which result in a progeny so numerous as to shorten the lives of father or mother, or prevent the happiness and progress of either, or deprive the offspring of proper food and training, should be frowned upon from every standpoint—economic, humanitarian, moral and religious. Since no intelligent man or woman who has escaped the trammels of tradition and dogma can fail to see the truth of the above statement, it is obvious that in our civilization we need both birth control and birth encouragement in about equal proportions.

The present state and national laws, which are a disgrace to any civilized country, make criminal, under most circumstances, the dissemination of any information to the laity concerning birth control, yet I say, with no fear of contradiction, that there is hardly a fertile, married, Protestant pair, in the intellectual classes, who have been married ten years, who have not sought, received, or given information on this subject, or who have not practiced some form of birth control. Further, though definite information as to educated Catholic families is less available, the limited number of children in such families makes the above statement true also for them. To be sure, while the present ban exists, the advice given and received is often imperfect, and the methods employed are frequently inadequate or injurious. What causes this universal law-breaking among the educated of all creeds and nationalities? It is just this. Experiences teach that uninterrupted child-bearing will kill, long before her time, almost any civilized woman.

Experience and science teach (in spite of occasional sporadic objections by mono-idea-ists, for whom purity and abstinence are synonymous, who would willingly sacrifice the health, happiness and morality of all to the veritable Moloch of their one-sided, unscientific, ignorant idealism) that normal, mutual, moderately frequent sexual relations between husband and wife preserve the home and build the homes of the future. The abrogation or practical abrogation of such relations means instant increase in neurosis and other illnesses, increased promiscuity, increased divorce, increased unhappiness, increased menace to society by the numberless fanatical propagandisms which are the sequel to lives lived entirely against nature's dictates. In short, without this factor of moderate, mutual satisfaction of the sex hunger, the home and civilization would soon be things of the past.

Individual preservation is instinctive. Race preservation is the anxiety of the student and the altruist. While insuring this preservation it may be possible or necessary to modify nature, but nature must not be thwarted. Contraceptives are unnatural, say some. Very true, but eating with a knife and fork from porcelain, resting on beautiful damask, to the accompaniment of music, and with scores of other accessions, is not natural. Nature has here been modified with no higher motive than aesthetic reasons and Increased enjoyment. Again, a modification of nature, or an adaptation to conditions occurred when our bodies became comparatively hairless, and, again, a modification of a modified nature occurred when we put on clothing. Our extensive sanitary appliances are anything but natural, but they please the aesthetic sense and
preserve many lives that would be sacrificed were nature here unmodified. If the race had followed nature in all things as closely as our critics insist it should in the matter of reproduction, we should today be unicellular amoebae instead of men and women, or we should still be in a crystalline, inert, undifferentiated stage, a stage from which, apparently, the intelligences of the critics alluded to have not yet emerged.

All that we have and are comes from nature, modified by time and necessity, through changing conditions. Nature is prodigal everywhere, and in her lower forms she ensures perpetuation, by her very prodigality, in spite of immense wastage and constant destruction. Modification of nature which gave man a thinking brain, enables him, if he will think with his brain, to prevent much of this sad wastage and the misery which ever increases with the capacity to suffer. Probably there is no living species which would not, were it not for natural enemies and the errors of instinct and intelligence, soon cover the earth till neither food nor abiding place were possible.

LIMITATION MUST ACCOMPANY ALTRUISM

Man, whose intelligence increasingly preserves many individuals who would be lost by any other genus, must limit its reproduction. Malthus and others, despite all dispute, have shown that, without famine, disease, and war, man would be no exception to the rule of geometrical increase, and the earth would soon be peopled beyond the possibility of finding subsistence. Hence, some have argued that these horrors, being inevitable, were good. But we have averted much pestilence, we hope we have had the last great war, we have relieved many of the famine-stricken in an attempt to thwart this inevitable rule of nature, and is not this the better way, is it not characteristic of a race with ideals? But all this is a modification of nature which must accompany birth control.

The most unselfish altruism is utterly diabolic in its results without limitation of offspring. We preserve and pamper a few now, that more may suffer and die in anguish later. We preserve the unfit, which is laudable, we do nothing to limit their production, which is damnable. If this policy of the conservation of the unfit without limitation of reproduction is persisted in, we may see the provident, progressive and normal portion of mankind sacrificed to feed and house the improvident, the decadent and abnormal portion. Opponents of birth control have apparently reasoned with entire ignorance of the inevitable, logical result of their position. They are unanimously in favor of peace, preservation of the helpless and unfit, better feeding and housing conditions, prevention of disease, everything that tends to increase happiness and insure comfort and long life for everyone. On the other hand, their brief is for unrestricted reproduction which, taken together with their altruistic program, means misery, want, and ultimately utter annihilation.

EFFECTS OF ABSTINENCE

Leaving, for the time, the discussions for and against birth control, we find that there are two principal classes of those who are in favor of some form of limitation of offspring, those who are in favor of so-called moral control and those who are in favor of the intelligent use of some harmless and suitable chemical or mechanical agency. Those who belong to the former class, while they have made a distinct advance from the position of those who are opposed to any and all forms of control, are still governed by the unscientific, illogical, a priori arguments of those who are in favor of no control whatever. I heartily agree with their ultra-idealistic concept in so far as it encourages early marriage, happy homes, better health and truer virtue, and discourages promiscuity, venereal disease, vice and misery. Moral control, within proper limits, by man and wife, is highly desirable, but, earned to the extent which Foerster and others advocate, which is, practically, intercourse for procreation only, it is the surest way to make a moral woman a confirmed faddist, a neurotic, or a case for the alienist, when her idealistic conceptions are stronger than her instincts, or to make of her, when her instincts triumph, a clandestine transgressor against her marital vows, and even, in some cases, a common prostitute. It is also the surest way to make a man of highest moral instincts a failure, a neurotic or a clandestine or open devotee of promiscuity.

Let us justify this statement which, though it may astonish some, is already known by many to be absolutely true. Woman has so long been ashamed of her sex. It has so long been considered a sign of higher morality for woman to be devoid of sexual passion, that her so-called superiority in morals is thought of as consisting of a supposed freedom from sexual desire, or an ability to control or ignore it absolutely. Sooner or later in life,
every normal woman who marries a true man for love comes to know the falseness of this supposition. But on the whole, woman has hied up to her part, has talked about sexual slavery in woman and sexual hypertrophy in man, and from her general attitude on sex matters has often persuaded a loving and devoted, though woefully ignorant husband that a good woman has no sex desire. Then, if his will is strong and his principles are correct, he unduly restrains himself, to his own and her detriment, and they live out a miserable life together, bringing into the world one or more not-wanted, half-loved unfortunates. If his will and principles are not strong, he goes to the demi-monde, seeking not so much the gratification of his passion as the psychological which his home can never afford without complete sexual affiliation. The very woman whom he has outraged by his infidelity usually finds, too late, her true self, and, after the possibility of sexual harmony with her husband has been forever lost, suffers as he did before his fall, and in many cases falls herself, in the same way and for the same reason.

Sex Impulse Must Be Nourished

The mistake hes in our clinging to the exploded fallacy of woman’s asexuality, or transcendence to passion. Several things tend to the continuance of this false belief. Girls are taught that sexual thoughts, sexual knowledge, sexual feelings, are immoral, shameful, unworthy, and belong only to the prostitute class. The aspirations of maidenly adolescences, even more than those of young manhood, are for honor, purity, and service. The girl makes every effort to hie up to the traditions which she has been taught. The biological fact that a woman is receptive rather than aggressive sexually favors the development of the shy, modest, retiring girl, and these qualities often keep her well out of the way of the aggressive male. A woman’s full sexual maturity, especially under the old regime, frequently does not occur till some months or years after her marriage. It never occurs unless her husband loves her and understands something of feminine psychology, and unless she herself comes to recognize the purity and ideality of physical love as fundamental and necessary for the perfect soul-love or spiritual communion which

*A woman who is frigid, in other words, one who has no sexual desire, is abnormal. During twenty-five years of investigation of sexual questions but two clear-cut cases of this abnormality (actual absence of sexual feeling) have been revealed to me.
Soviet Russia Fights Abortion

By W. LEBJEDEWA

The author, an official of the U.S.S.R. Research Institute, discusses the causes of abortion, and shows how it is decreasing and the birth-rate is increasing under Russia's policy of birth control instruction and the legalisation of abortion for social reasons.

The Russian government has instituted a complete program for the protection of mothers and children, two of the chief items in this program are the organization of maternal care—both medical and social, and the fight against abortion.

Long before the expectant mother reaches the confinement hospital, she is cared for by one of the government advisory clinics. These clinics do more than look after the pregnant woman, and might well be called "Advisory Boards for Women," since their work includes the health protection of women from the beginning of adolescence to the climacteric. This health service comprises:

1. Advice to the expectant mother.
2. Diagnosis of pregnancy, and issuance of certificate for legal vacation with pay during pregnancy—two months before and two months after confinement.
3. Treatment of tubercular and syphilitic pregnant women to safeguard the coming child.
5. Advice regarding the prevention of conception, as a means of fighting abortion.
7. Sex education of school children.

This program is already in operation in the larger cities, and is being rapidly extended to the smaller towns and rural districts.

It may seem strange that we take a decided stand on the question of abortion in connection with the care of mothers and children, we feel, however, that we are approaching a solution of the problem, and our results are being watched by the countries of Western Europe.

It is a matter of general knowledge that the last quarter century has been characterized by a pronounced decline in the birth-rate.

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<thead>
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<td>16.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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It will be seen that in comparison to prewar Russia, the decline in the birth-rate in Soviet Russia has been extraordinarily small. The Soviet birth-rate at present is high, the normal increase in population amounting to about 3½ million per year.

Abortion has always been the most common measure of keeping down the birth-rate, for the causes of birth-decline and abortion increase are closely related. The increased employment of women in industry, serious housing shortage, unemployment, the desire of women to take part in the social and political life of the country, the decline in infant mortality, which regulates in a "normal," but unfortunate way, the size of the family. In view of these causes, it is not surprising that attempts to control abortion by prohibitive legislation have never been successful. Statistics show that in Western Europe, despite repressive legislation, the increase in abortion during the last decade is greater proportionately, than in Soviet Russia. Repressive legislation seems to have no deterrent effect on women who decide to procure abortions, but it has a detrimental effect on their health. It is no secret that the well-to-do classes in Western Europe, by paying the price, can have abortions performed by excellent physicians, but that the poor classes have to bear the burden of repressive legislation and suffer at the hands of quacks. The maternal mortality rate from septic poisoning after con-
fine ment and abortion combined (per 1000 cases) in the following table speaks well for our point of view regarding restrictive legislation on abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Berlin</th>
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>3 92</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>3 55</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>2 75</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>

How can the problem of abortion be solved? Abortions are a total loss, both to the individual and to the state. Centuries of repression have not been able to reduce their number, and the figures increase year after year. The legal complications surrounding the woman who wishes an abortion, and the physician who takes care of her force the entire proceedings underground, into the hands of ignorant quacks. Bearing these facts in mind, Soviet Russia passed a law in 1920, permitting abortions in hospitals for social indications, and prohibiting any but licensed physicians from performing abortions. By “social indications” is meant a large number of children in the family, or lack of adequate means to provide for the coming child. The permit for the hospital is issued by a committee consisting of a doctor and two women deputies. Such a committee works in connection with every advisory clinic. The results look promising, witness, for example, the comparative figures from Leningrad and Berlin given above. It must be confessed that we have not succeeded in eliminating secret abortions, but we have every reason to believe that we shall do so with time and patience. The number of abortions outside hospitals is decreasing, and will decrease faster as we enlarge our hospital facilities and provide better education for women.

How does this policy of legalized abortion affect the birth-rate and general morality? The figures cited above show clearly that our birth-rate is increasing, in spite of (perhaps because of) our attitude toward abortion. Our average normal increase exceeds by 3 1/2 times the normal population increase in Western Europe. In five years the population of Soviet Russia will have increased by 17,500,000. As regards morality, such matters can with difficulty be expressed in figures. The current stones of very young girls resorting to abortion since it has been legalized are false. Statistics show that in Moscow and Leningrad only 7 3% of abortions were performed on women under twenty years of age.

Let us remember, however, that even an abortion performed in a hospital under the best circumstances is not without its effect, both physical and psychic. Many maternity clinics, among them the clinical department of our state research Institute, are investigating the after-effects of a abortion. The fight against abortion holds an important place in our educational program. Every lecture or forum dealing with the hygiene of women stresses the harm resulting from abortion. It would, however, be naive to expect too much from educational propaganda. The most effective method of fighting abortion is to develop better means of preventing undesired pregnancies. In our instructions for workers in the advisory clinics, we direct them to devote one or two sessions each week to giving advice on the prevention of conception.

THE REAL ISSUE

By GEORGE A LUNDBERG, University of Pittsburgh

Present controversy over the subject of population control is largely due to a misunderstanding of the issue involved. The assumption seems to be that it is a question as to whether there should be or should not be population-on-control. This is clearly a mistaken notion, for there always has been, and is now, among all peoples such limitation of population-on-control is purely a question of what method or technique shall be employed. Here we are confronted with two principal alternatives. Either we must control population by the humane and scientific methods of modern birth control, or the same result will be achieved by the barbarous methods of war, pestilence, famine, abortion and infanticide. This is the real and only issue. If the present opponents of the birth control movement are compelled to face this issue, few would hale the temerity to argue for the second alternative. It avails nothing to sidetrack the issue by arguing for ideal solutions which are based on the assumption that man is a different type of being than he is. We must deal with the question on the basis of man as he exists and as he has existed throughout the ages.
Birth Control, a Public Health Approach

By LYDIA ALLEN DeVILBISS, M D

PUBLIC health nurses and social workers, in
increasing numbers, have been calling attention
in the need for protection from pregnancy for
large numbers of women under their care. It is
impracticable if not impossible in many cases for
these nurses or workers to give these women access
to birth control information, and in some instances
even to recommend it. They cannot risk involving
their respective organizations in a so-called religious
or political controversy.

This lack of birth control information or, to
use a more exact term, therapeutic contraception
among the poor sick is undoubtedly responsible for
a large proportion of the infant and maternal deaths among these groups, and, admittedly, this
lack of proper information as to preventive measures constitutes one of the most difficult problems
with which modern public health has to deal.

Public health is concerned with reductions in the
sickness and death-rates. The authorities and the
medical profession are not proud of the high mater-

nal death-rate in the United States, particularly
since deaths from child bearing are classed as pre-
ventible, and these deaths are not from a disease
but from what should be considered a normal psychological process. While frequent studies have been
made of the possible reduction of the maternal death-rates by such various devices as prenatal care
and supervised obstetrics, yet there has been no sizeable investigation into the probable underlying
causes for this high rate in the United States.

In the absence of an underlying principle or cause of a high death-rate, the public health expert in-
terested in the reduction of a particular death-rate
looks for the strategic point of attack. Obviously
the strategic point of attack in the high maternal
mortality rate is the poor maternity risk.

If it were possible to eliminate a sufficiently large
number of poor maternity risks, by proper therapeu-
tic contraceptive procedure, it is logical to con-
clude that the effect would be a quick lowering of
the number of maternal deaths. It should also show a reduction of the infant mortality rate. And
what is quite as important as either, it should show a decrease in sickness and death incurred in the
large numbers of abortions and interrupted pregnan-
cies from whatever cause.

For the purpose of making a limited study along
these lines, a small group was formed in Miami
under the name of the Mothers Health Committee.
The declared purpose of this group was to procure
proper medical and surgical treatment for poor sick mothers. Poor sick women were referred to the
Mothers Health Committee by health and welfare
agencies, and also by private individuals. The
Mothers Health Committee investigated, prepared
a careful case report and in turn referred the patient
to the proper source for treatment. The Mothers Health Committee acted only as an organizing agent.

For the purposes of this study the poor matern-
ity risk was defined as a woman who was not able
to bear a child with safety to the life and health
of mother and baby. This definition might seem
to be taking in too much territory, but in practice
it does not. A woman entertains no uncertain risk
to bear a child. If the child is doomed to stillbirth
or an early death because of insufficiently treated
syphilis, that woman cannot, for the time being at
least, be considered a good maternity risk. Neither
can the feebleminded woman, the insane, or those
with serious inheritable defects and diseases be
considered good maternity risks for they notoriously augment the infant death-rate.

The poor maternity risks are found most abund-
antly in the public health and welfare clinics. With-
out exception these women are more or less aware
that they are bearing too many children to be con-
sistent with safety to themselves and their babies.
They would prevent too rapidly recurring preg-
nancies if they knew how, and they are always
grateful to one who brings them expert assistance.
It is a well-known fact that the woman of intelli-
gence today can obtain all the contraceptive in-
formation she may need or desire. It is the poor
woman without friends and without money, and
frequently without normal intelligence who is de-
ferred this assistance. It is therefore quite as much
for the protection of society as for the protection
of the women themselves that the public health and
welfare agencies should take cognizance of this
situation.

The Mothers Health Committee in Miami is still
too young and has not handled the requisite number
of cases to prove by the statistical method that the elimination of the poor maternity risks will actually reduce the maternal mortality rate. It has, however, in the some sixty closed cases (sterilization operations) proven that its operation has reduced human misery, it has enabled economically submerged families to get back on their feet, it has removed the constant fear of pregnancy which was disrupting the married life of some couples, and it has removed the stigma and fear of passing on to unborn children serious physical and mental defects. Which would in all likelihood render one so born a public charge in his generation as his parents are in this one. And it has proved that the proverbial few dollars spent in prevention has saved the hundreds spent in cure.

The Mothers Health Committee, in a short time, has come to enjoy the full confidence and cooperation of the health and welfare agencies, both official and voluntary. Some few of them have proven to their satisfaction that it pays to provide the Mothers Health Committee with funds to organize preventive care for poor sick mothers rather than to continue to pay for expensive prenatal care, obstetrical supervision and postnatal care for their poor maternity risks with the attendant high maternal death-rates.

STATISTICAL REPORT OF MOTHERS HEALTH COMMITTEE*

Medical and Social Work by Dr De Vilbiss, assisted by Dr Louise De Vore

GROUP I—NORMAL INTELLIGENCE

Patient deemed able to administer temporary contraceptive methods satisfactorily, pregnancy would be unfortunate, but not necessarily tragic.

Number of cases given temporary contraceptive prescriptions 23
Reported failure using method 1
Reported failure not using method 1
Cases reported by Dr I A Agos (6) and Dr Homer Pearson (4) — total 10
No failures reported

GROUP II—SUBNORMAL INTELLIGENCE

Also cases in which pregnancy is deemed dangerous to life and in which the permanent method (sterilization) is indicated.

Total cases 31
(a) Closed Cases, by operation 15
Salpingectomy, results all excellent 4
1 psychopathic personality
2 feebleminded
1 insane
Vasectomy, results all excellent 7
1 dipsomaniac
1 psychopathic personality
1 psychopathic personality and sex pervert
1 moron
1 manic depressive
2 active tuberculosis

Radium 4
1 chronic bleeding, 6 children, 7 abortions
1 moron—17 children
1 active tb, feebleminded
1 active tb, suspicious carcinoma

Results are all excellent, except last case which is in City Hospital under supervision.

(b) Closed Cases by removal to other cities 4
Habitu- al paupers (transients) no record 3
Transferred to care of physician in Tampa 1

(c) Open Cases — needing constant supervision—all have had temporary prescriptions, some of them several times 12
Active tuberculosis 2
Feebleminded 1
Already pregnant 1
Surgery indicated for abdominal conditions 8

Note It is from group 2, Open Cases, that failures occur—though no fault of temporary prescription.

1 husband refused to let her use prescription
1 admits she ran out of supply and failed to return for more
1 improperly used prescription

The student of eugenics can do little more than insist that certain hereditary traits, deaf-mutism, for example, or haemophilia, make breeding from the stocks tainted by them undesirable, he cannot tell us what fitness means or show us how to breed the qualities upon which racial adequacy depends.

—HAROLD J LASKI
Progressive Deafness and Contraception

By HAROLD HAYS, M.D., F.A.C.S.

I BELIEVE that it is the opinion of the majority of otologists that patients who have a tendency towards deafness should be extremely careful about becoming pregnant or being allowed to go on with the child-bearing period. In exceptional instances where the reaction of the patient towards her pregnancy can be watched carefully and where repeated hearing tests can be made during this time, it may be possible that a woman with defective hearing can get by and have the child she desires. In the majority of cases the cost to the woman is too great and I have found it necessary where such deafened patients have become pregnant to insist upon an abortion being performed. Such an abortion is justifiable in law. Why should not such women be taught contraceptive methods so that they would not have to go through an operation which, in some instances at least, may prove disastrous?

Physiologically, the pregnant woman is not the same woman she was before she became pregnant. Endocrinologists, as well as obstetricians, are well aware of the fact that there is an alteration in the internal secretions at the time of pregnancy and that there is a particular tendency on the part of the thyroid gland to send out an excess secretion. This alteration in the body mechanism may take various forms. I have seen women who secrete such an excess of thyroid extract that there is an apparent enlargement of the thyroid gland. I have seen other women whose entire physical and mental make-up have become so changed during pregnancy that one would not recognize them as the same individuals.

Statistics prove that many women become increasingly hard of hearing after each pregnancy until the time arrives when they are almost hopelessly deaf. Such a change in the ears may not be manifest during the pregnancy itself but only shows itself after the laborious time of bearing the child is over. One can not say that such women would not have become deafener as time went on anyway, but when definite cause and effect can be ascertained it is beyond reason to suggest that such women should be allowed to have children.

One or two examples will suffice. A young woman came to me a number of years ago, she went through two pregnancies. After the first pregnancy she had noted that her hearing had become worse. After the second baby was born her hearing was decidedly worse and beyond repair. I have no doubt that a considerable amount of her hearing could have been saved if she had followed contraceptive methods or had had an abortion performed. A second woman whose hearing showed a considerable loss claimed that her hearing had become decidedly worse after her first baby was born. She was pregnant again and I advised her to have an abortion performed. She consulted a second otologist who agreed with me. A short time ago another young woman presented herself with a moderate loss in hearing. She had been married about one week. I advised her against pregnancy and stated that under no circumstances should she allow herself to have a child.

We otologists make it a rule to advise the performance of an abortion in the majority of pregnant women who are deafened—how much better it would be if we could take the trouble to teach them contraceptive methods? All of us dislike abortions, and surely it is unfair to allow a woman to go on to the stage where it is necessary to have one performed. It is possible that some high-minded individuals may take exception to a definite ruling on a subject of this kind, but when one sees the heart-rending life of the majority of deafened mothers, one feels that something ought to be done to make life more bearable for deafened women.
Comments . . . . and Comments

of Christ in America

**PRO**

REVEREND DR. WITHERSPOON DODGE, pastor of the Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga.

The Federal Council has made a historic statement in being the first church body with enough intelligence and boldness to preach what all people—including its own members—have always practiced, now practice and always will practice, in some form. Such universal practice alone would seem to justify the inherent righteousness of the custom, just as the universal belief in some kind of God validates the essential ground of religion.

The churches whose chief aim is to build themselves up and perpetuate their institutions will continue to array themselves against birth control, because the more children their members have the surer their future growth will be, but the churches which exist for the sake of humanity, apart from all self-interest and the perpetuation of superstition, will progressively advocate those humane principles which protect people against all needless suffering, handicap and unhappiness.

Mas F. ROBERTSON JONES, president of the American Birth Control League.

The significant fact is that Protestant churches, represented by this forward-looking council, consult modern scientists—physicians, psychologists, sociologists—and say, “birth control is right.” And the Roman Catholic Church consults the teachings of St. Augustine, a Carthagian of the 4th Century, and says, “birth control is wrong. It is a sin.”

Different standards of right and wrong, and squarely opposed views on a matter as fundamental to family health and stability as birth control, become apparent today.

The report of the Federal Council, which declares that birth control is necessary and moral, is a long step toward the organization of a united front in a movement which already has the support of all clear-thinking people.

**CON**

REVEREND WENDELL CORCORAN, Notre Dame University.

This doctrine, which has been sponsored by the short-sighted Amazons of America, reeks with the stench of any other sin of immorality. It is the doctrine that is making America the land of the childless home and the homeless child, a land where the lap-dog is taking the place of the child, a land where bad women walk with good dogs. Continue this practice and the son of the yellow man or the black will one day fill the president’s chair at Washington.

REVEREND CHARLES E. COUGHLIN of Detroit.

This report has obtained front page publicity on a subject that should not be mentioned in decent society. It is the great betrayal, an example of the age-old attempt of the moneyed classes to keep the masses in subservience by teaching them to limit their children by immoral, unnatural and inhuman means. We will make no compromise with indecency and sin, but fortunately this is not an issue between Catholic and Protestant. This is an issue between Christian and pagan. The fault lies in this unchristian capitalistic civilization which denies the laborer a just and living wage on which he could rear a normal child. The moralists may say, birth control by contraception is one of the most heinous of sins.

Remember, that God has always limited population as he saw fit to limit it—by war and pestilence and famine, and the marriage customs of peoples. The people of the past did not have to surrender their souls and their posternity to the god of political economy, and neither do we.

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL J. CURLEY, Washington, D.C.

It is a very sad affair. It simply means that Protestantism has yielded to the demands of materialism, and sex passion run not
PRO

DEA. HENRY NEUMAN, Leader, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

The action of the Federal Council of Churches is a heartening reminder that it pays to keep steadily at the business of educating public opinion. The work of advocates of legalized birth control is far from finished. But it has received encouraging support from this report of the Federal Council. I am inclined to think that the encyclical of the Pope will also operate in this direction eventually. It is a good thing to have the opposition brought out into the open and shown, as in this Papal letter, to have so little to rest upon.

BISHOP WARREN L. ROGERS, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

The action of the council of churches in sanctioning birth control on the basis of economic considerations and the problems of over-population is very much the same as that taken by the Episcopal church at the Lambeth conference in England last year.

The idea behind such sanctions is to assure the children brought into the world a fair chance. The problem of birth control is much more a matter of economics and medicine than of religion.

Scientific advance and our changing civilization have brought this problem to the fore. In Bible times, when life was almost entirely agrarian and there was always work to do, it simply did not exist. But today, when thousands are thrown out of work when factory wheels stop turning, it becomes a real problem, requiring a new outlook.

Certainly there are other reasons for marriage besides procreation.

MARGARET SANGER, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control

This is the longest step forward in the history of the birth control movement. This is a document of the new age.

Today is a most significant one in the history of the birth control movement. Today for the first time a large representative group of churches and women has gone on record as being aware of the tremendous mass of scientific information which we possess, medical, sociological, and psychological, and as applied it directly to the important question of the sex relation between married people. How grateful we must then be to this progressive

CON

REV. JERSEY HUSSEIN, S. J., St. Louis University

It is pitiful but, in the light of modern literature, not surprising, to believe Protestants, Jews and Catholics alike to see a body of men and women, whom I shall carefully refrain from considering as representative of any Christian creed, striking their colors to paganism and weakly surrendering to a doctrine which, however popular it may be, is equally contrary to nature and scripture.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN J. KEAN of Brooklyn

We wonder what they mean when they say "guarded birth control." They might just as well speak of guarded murder or guarded manslaughter. There can be no compromise with a thing that is inherently wrong.

REV. D. F. H. KNUBEL, President of the United Lutheran Churches in America

The duty of the Church is now possibly more than ever to proclaim the holiness of the sexual relation, as well as temperance in the use thereof. There will then be no need for birth control.

Even if the State should ever discover facts and conditions which could conceivably render necessary the exercise of birth control, only such an arrangement for it should be devised as would because of its stringency give no comfort to those who, consciously or unconsciously, are promoting loose morals. Anything else would serve to weaken the foundations of the home, and therefore, of the State itself.

JAMES McGINNESS at a Carroll Council Communion Breakfast

Members of religious orders have placed their stamp of approval on the most dastardly thing in existence, birth control. They wear the garb of Christ, but slap Him in the face. If we are to have a nation of real citizens, we must observe the moral laws of nature. No real scientific body has endorsed birth control, and they do not deny that it is a step towards insanity.

REV. FULTON J. SHEEN, Catholic University of America

Since a week ago last Saturday we can no longer expect them to defend the law of God. These sects
and representative body which in straightforward and unequivocal terms—the result of clear thinking—puts its stamp of approval on this subject of individual as well as international importance and necessity.

Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.

I believe that when children are born into the home, there should be proper provisions for their education and upbringing.

If the parents are unable to afford to have children then they should practice birth control.

I believe there should be legislation passed making it possible for every young married couple to be instructed in birth control methods.

Reverend George Matchin Stockdale, St. James Methodist Church, New York.

The way of progress, like that of true love, never does run smooth. We must expect these tremendous divisions of opinion. On whichever side we happen to be, the important thing for all to remember is to be kind to one another despite our differences.

This is so very vital in this matter of birth control. Since more and more the alignment is coning to be the Catholic Church against the rest of the world on this issue.

Editorial, Daspacht, Columbus, Ohio, March 23rd.

Birth control was born of that prolific mother of many things—necessity. Economic pressure, physical ailments, and ordinary human selfishness combined to create a demand for a means to limit families, and man's ingenuity was applied to the problem.

Opponents of birth control frequently shout their cuffs and snort that "self control" is the proper alternative for married people who do not, for one reason or another, desire children. Thus theory sounds good, but it wrecks itself upon the shoals of human nature. There is little reason to believe that continence in married people is either desirable or possible, except for a few ascetics and eccentrics who refuse to recognize the biological urge as the basis of love and marriage. The churchmen who have indorsed birth control have taken a sane view of the matter and exhibited a sound understanding of the trend of public thought.

PRO

will work out the very logic of their ways and in fifty or one hundred years there will be only the Church and paganism. We will be left to fight the battle alone—and we will.

We are the only ones who know anything about paganism. We were born in the midst of it, we saw it die, and, with the grace of God, we will see it die again. But before that time those who are sincere will begin to return to their Father's house.

William Gerry Morgan, M.D., president of the American Medical Association.

If this social practice were to be universally indorsed and adopted, it would open the door to unbridled dominance of the basest passions, and give license to the most widespread physical abuses.

To establish the habit of thwarting nature, is, in the long run, a dangerous practice, and invariably leads to moral degradation and disaster. It would strike a death blow to self control and to the dominion of the home. The arguments in favor of birth control are subtle and seductively given to self indulgence and selfishness.


If the Federal Council correctly interprets the corporate conscience of the majority of American Protestants, it has done more than merely surrender the historic morality of Protestantism—it has joined the massed enemies of orthodox Christianity and now fights with them.

Liberal Protestantism is really (so it seems to us) and we speak with all respect for the noble solitude it displays for human welfare, its passion for the building up of a better order of society) a new religion, but it is no longer Protestantism—it is pagan humanitarianism, it is the creed of social service built on shifting and unstable expeniments, but not on the demonstrated facts of materialistic science.

The traffic in illegal contraceptives, already huge, may soon rival the traffic in bootleg liquor. Who does not know that sexual immorality is flooding the world?

If the thesis nailed by Luther to the church door at Wittenberg three centuries ago marked the birth of the Reformation, the thesis of the Federal Council, when considered in connection with the similar approval of contraception by the Anglican bishops at Lambeth and by the Umtanans in this country, may mark the death of the Reformation.

CON
"Married Love" Vindicated

BY GEORGE BEDBOROUGH

FOR THIRTEEN YEARS Dr Marie Stopes has knocked at the door of the United States Customs with this excellent guide to married felicity. Until last year the Customs officers have had instructions from Washington to deny its admission. Many who had ordered the book from England received the laconic notification that "One obscene book called Married Love has this day been ordered to destruction, being inadmissible under Section —"

Some time ago two bold, bad, but highly reputable social workers in Philadelphia refused to accept this notice. They appeared in court to defend their right to receive a perfectly proper book, free from the slur put upon it by the ruling of the Custom house. Mr. Morris L. Ernst, who had already taken steps to press the New York courts to end this insult to a good book, joined in the Philadelphia proceedings, these resulted in a victory for Dr. Stopes, by the ruling of Judge William H. Kirkpatrick on October 30, 1930. It was assumed that the Philadelphia precedent would govern procedure in New York, the government, however, refused to take so sensible a view, and the fight went on. Finally the case was heard on appeal in the United States District Court before Judge John M. Woolsey.

Reading the enlightened decision, admirably expressed, of this cultured, modern, thoughtful judge, one can but regret the twelve years in which the book has been vilified and excluded. The following extracts give a fair idea of the points made by Judge Woolsey. It should be stated that Mrs. Stopes' book, is not directly a birth control book, the present decision does not settle the questions of contraceptive information and its dissemination.

UNION STATES OF AMERICA, 

VERSUS

ONE OBSCENE BOOK ENTITLED MARRIED LOVE

Extract from the judgment of John M. Woolsey, United States District Judge, Southern District of New York, April 6th, 1931

I dismiss theibel. In this case
I hold that Judge Kirkpatrick's decision is—

tablished the book Married Love as having an admissible status at any point around the Customs barriers of the United States. It is perfectly obvious, I think, that if a vessel had been libeled at Philadelphia, and there acquitted of ability to forfeiture, on her coming around to New York, she could not properly be libeled again on the same count. That is the real situation in the present case.

In Murray's Oxford English Dictionary the word obscene is defined

Offensive to the senses or taste or refinement, disgusting, repulsive, filthy, foul, abominable, loathsome.

Offensive to modesty or decency, expressing or suggesting unchaste or lustful ideas, impure, indecent, lewd.

And "immoral" is defined as

Not consistent with or not conforming to moral law or requirement, opposed to or violating morality, morally evil or impure, unprincipled, vicious, dissolute.

The book Married Love does not, in my opinion, fall within these definitions in any respect.

Dr. Stopes treats quite as decently and with as much restraint of the sex relations as did Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett in The Sex Side of Life, which was held not to be obscene by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

The present book may fairly be said to do for adults what Mrs. Dennett's book does for adolescents. Married Love is a considered attempt to explain to married people how their mutual sex life may be made happier.

Dr. Stopes' book emphasizes the woman's side of sex questions. It also makes some apparently justified criticisms of the unopportune exercise by the man in the married relation, of what are often referred to as his conjugal or marital rights, and it pleads with seriousness, and not without some eloquence, for a better understanding by husbands of the physical and emotional side of the sex life of their wives.

I do not find anything objectionable anywhere in the book, and I cannot imagine a normal mind to which this book would seem obscene.

Instead of being inhospitably received, it should, I think, be welcomed within our borders.
Population Pressure in Biblical Times

Nowhere in literature or history are the terrible evils of population pressure and the need for contraceptive birth control brought out more forcibly than in the Bible.

Led to believe that the Scriptures condemned contraceptive birth control, I read the entire Bible for the special purpose of verifying this impression. I was, however, agreeably surprised to learn that there was not one single passage in the Scriptures that condemned contraceptive birth control. On the other hand, I discovered passage after passage that described in the most forceful manner the crying need for a safe and effective method of birth control.

I discovered in studying the Bible that the method of birth control condemned in the Scriptures, namely, coitus interruptus, or Onanism, is also condemned by the birth control movement and the medical profession generally. In fact, the method in question is nearest akin to those so-called "natural" methods of the opponents of contraceptive birth control and is often called by the same misleading name, "self-control." There are a few passages in the Bible that at cleverly twisted may seem to condemn birth control, but when these passages are analyzed, especially in the light of the Bible as a whole, the misinterpretation disappears. For instance, in the first chapter of Genesis, "God blessed" man and woman "and said, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it." When this command was given there were only two persons upon the earth.

Again after the flood when there were only Noah and his family, God repeated the command to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth," and to "bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and multiply therein." With these commands the most ardent enthusiast for birth control would be entirely in agreement under the circumstances. But as we may see later, when conditions changed, no such command was repeated, instead God punished the Hebrews with famine and pestilence "because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you." (Ezekiel 5:7)

It was during these conditions that such passages as the following were written: "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear, break forth into singing, and cry aloud, that thou didst not dwell with child, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord." (Isaiah, 54:1)

And again, "She that has borne seven languisheth; she hath given up the ghost, her sun is gone down while it was yet day; she hath been ashamed and confounded and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah, 15:9)

And again, "For thy waste land and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

"The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me, give place to me that I may dwell." (Isaiah, 49:19-20)

No command to multiply is repeated under these conditions. Rather we read such passages as the following.

"And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.

"So we boiled my son, and did eat him; and I said unto her on the next day, give thy son, that we may eat him; and she hath hid her son." (II Kings, 6:28-29)

Here is the real underlying and fundamental cause of war—hunger, or the social unrest caused by poverty, unemployment, and bad housing, themselves products of uncontrolled reproduction.
"They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger for they pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field" (Lamentations, 4:9)

To what lengths a hungry man will go in his struggle for existence against population pressure is described in the following passage

"Thus saith the Lord, for three transgressions of the Children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof, because they have nipped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border" (Amos, 1:13)

'Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth' (Isaiah, 6:8)

The New Testament speaks of a eugenic program more drastic than modern advocates of birth control would care to support

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth forth not good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock" (Matthew, 7:17-20, 24)

There are also passages in the New Testament that have been twisted and taken from the context by the opponents of birth control to fit their program. For instance, "But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew, 19:13-16)

When the whole of this passage is quoted the fallacy of this supposed evidence against birth control is exposed immediately without a word of explanation. These were the circumstances

"Then there were brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands upon them, and pray, and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew, 19:13-16)

This passage is an example of the extent to which opponents of birth control will go in the attempt to gain their point.

G I B

TRENCHANT ARGUMENTS FOR BIRTH CONTROL

CHILD MORTALITY IN RELATION TO SIZE OF FAMILY
ENGLAND & WALES 1911

INFANT MORTALITY RATES BY ORDER OF BIRTH
8 CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES 1911-1916

Thompson
Book Reviews

MORALS OF TOMORROW, by Reverend Dr Ralph W. Sockman Harper and Brothers, New York $2.50

BEWARE, Reverend Doctor! Do you realize the implications of such a title, “Morals of Tomorrow”? Morals then, you suggest, may not be axiomatically identical tomorrow, with those of today and yesterday.

Shocking possibility to some of your critics! Refreshing assurance to others of your readers, that by sincere and courageous thinking and acting they may rid morals of the static inhibitions and preconceptions which still distort them: And also have good hope of opening an invigorating trail to the high peaks of a more exhilarating moral outlook than at present.

In his chapter on Machine Age Morals, Dr Sockman (who is pastor of the Madison Avenue Methodist Church, New York City) arranges in a single sentence the over-valuation today of mere technological skill in comparison with educational and inspirational values. “At present we pay high salaries to our engineers for laying the foundations of our skyscrapers, we pay a low wage to the school-teachers for laying the mental foundations of the youth who are to live in the skyscrapers.”

Commendable is the author’s frankness on the theme of sex, especially in his chapter, Woman’s New Codes. He writes of that emotion of the heart which, drawing a man and a woman together, is fulfilled in ideal love in “the tumultuous activity of the whole being, and drives the two personalities together into a oneness of the flesh. Nothing satisfies real love except this complete mingling of two natures. It is a possessing and a giving. The man and the woman feel a glow of reverent gratitude to each other for the giving of self, and both experience the surge of new vitalities.”

So is the lonely “voice in the wilderness,” of Havelock Ellis, nearly two generations ago, now relayed to more conservative listeners—“There are two main functions in the sexual relationship, or what in the biological sense we term ‘marriage’ among civilized human beings, the primary physiological function of begetting and bearing offspring, and the secondary spiritual function of furthering the higher mental and emotional processes.”

The Lambeth Conference of the Bishops of the Anglican Communion, held in England in 1930, and also the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, in their report of March, 1931, by giving guarded but nevertheless decisive approval of birth control, of course thereby corroborate such a conclusion as Dr Sockman reaches in this same chapter on Woman’s New Code. That the Church must face those conditions which give rise to the proposal by conscientious persons of recognizing ‘companionate marriage’ Hitherto, he continues, “the term has so shocked most moralists that they have met it largely with blind antagonism.”

The adjustments of two Independent and high-spirited personalities after marriage are not easy, and when these are complicated within a few months by the new relationship of parenthood and the economic difficulties which ensue, the problem does often become bewildering. It is because of this too hasty complication of life for the young couple that Judge Lindsey and others suggest postponement of children for a time until the economic adjustment is made, and the husband-wife relationship has had opportunity to develop.

Dr Sockman then carefully distinguishes this from “trial marriage,” wherein, unlike the companionate marriage (which is entered into as a lifelong union of mutual faithfulness), the relationship is regarded as possibly only temporary. He has been carelessly misunderstood as meaning by companionate marriage some form of “free union,” “illicit relationship,” and the like, but for all attentive readers and students, the author has amply guarded himself as giving no slightest countenance to such false definitions. And he adds, in further approval of the true companionate marriage—“To live together as husband and wife, for a limited time without children, in order that each may give undivided attention to the other. Is commendable.”

No matter how controversial and even “dangerous” some of the topics which Dr Sockman treats may still appear, his claim in his chapter Authority for Free Minds cannot be disputed, that “if the Church is to win public recognition for its moral authority of this type, it will have to pay the price. It will have to prove itself a true teacher pursuing facts with unaltering diligence, and facing up to their implications when found. The Church must approach moral situations with the
MAY, 1931

The book makes a trenchant and constructive contribution to the more vital moral thought and action of the future. 

Rev. Eliot Write

**WHO'S OBSCENE**, by Mary Ware Dennett Vanguard Press, New York $2.00

Any books have been written concerning the general subject of obscenity. It remained, however, for Mary Ware Dennett to tell the story of a specific case which points to its own conclusions. Generalities, philosophical reasoning and practical applications are of importance, but a more effective presentation of the absurdity of censorship is presented by telling the detailed facts of a particular case than by any amount of abstract discussion.

Mrs. Dennett was charged with crime because her book contained certain theological heresies. The prosecution of the case was an indication of the fear of knowledge on the part of those conventionally forbidden. Just as in the South people are afraid of the teaching of science, so in the North people fear the teaching of subjects which have for a long time been taboo. Fortunately, the Circuit Court of Appeals in New York is made up of liberal men, who concluded that Americans are entitled to other than bootlegged information on a subject which concerns them so vitally. Mrs. Dennett's pamphlet was a great contribution to the cause of enlightenment on this tabooed topic. Her prosecution, so well told in the book, gave its own answer to her prosecutors.

The book is well written, interesting and effective.

Arthur Garfield Hayes

**ADOLESCENCE STUDIES IN RIESTAL HYGIENE**, by Fianhwood Williams Farrar and Rinehart, New York $2.50

This is a volume of collected papers, but those who have already read some of them in the various journals where they were published will be glad to have them in this convenient form. And for the few who have not previously been acquainted with Dr. Williams as lecturer and author, a delightful surprise is lurking in the brilliant style which he brings to his presentation of psychiatric material—a style which always renders his writings enjoyable as literature as well as of professional interest.

For example, in describing the general attitudes toward psychoanalysis, who else could have produced such an apt and entertaining simile as the following?

"Psychoanalysis fell naturally to the hands of the psychiatrists as it was developed in their domain of activity, and to the psychologists who were working in adjoining fields. But few of them would touch it. Most of them stood about like a scared boy who has come upon his first garter snake. Some poked at it with a long stick others stood about fascinated but jumped every time the snake jumped, and finally rushed off to tell the world amazingly about snakes."

Many vital topics are covered in the first part of the book—parent-child relationships as they affect adolescent and adult adjustments, college and university mental hygiene problems, problems of sex adjustment, et cetera. The last part is given over to a description of mental hygiene alms and methods, with considerable attention to the prevention of delinquency and the field of child guidance. But a much wider horizon is lighted up than can be indicated in a brief review, and only by reading the book can the richness of its subject matter be conceived.

Phyllis Blanchard

**AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY OF THE FAMILY**, by Edgar Schmiedeler The Century Company, New York $3.50

The Catholic Church is very conservative. It holds fast to that which is good. Although priding itself upon not changing, it has always made concessions to the spirit of the age. It has no difficulty in making a night-about-face when the facts of science are too strong for it. Evolution is now taught in Catholic colleges.

Edgar Schmiedeler, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Saint Benedict's College, has written *An Introductory Study of the Family* for the Century Catholic Textbook Series. While his book might seem almost antediluvian in its orthodoxy to a
non-Catholic, still would have been considered heretical a generation ago. The author has read and quotes many books that are not strictly "Kosher". Catholics realize that they can no longer neglect the wider world outside the fold and Dr. Schmiedler makes use of many heretical sources.

The author says, "The Church always sought to accommodate her laws to the changing circumstances of time and place." His book is an incident of the evolutionary process. The author is too intelligent not to realize that birth control is the best solution for certain economic difficulties of the modern family. His adherence to the present position of the church is obviously half-hearted. He makes the stock claim that birth control is unnatural, but he must realize that this is a weak position to be taken by a church which bases its claim upon miracle. Birth control is obviously no less natural than celibacy within the married state.

The Holy Catholic Church has recently lost much prestige by playing cheap ward politics with fiddling-Nero Mussolini, an episode as tragic as her captivity at Avignon. Nevertheless, much human wisdom is still with her. Intelligent men and scholarly men have been elected to the papacy, and such may be the next incumbent of the throne of St. Peter. As soon as a pope is elected with any knowledge of ethnology, the ridiculous childish blunder of his present Holiness in speaking of the sin of Onan will be repudiated. Onan was condemned by a jealous tribal God not for practicing birth control but for refusing to give children to his brother's widow. At the present time ecclesiastical law forbids marriage to a widowed sister-in-law—but this prohibition was the real sin of Onan.

Joe Gould

The Fountain of Life, by Havelock Ellis

Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass

$4.00

In this text we have the previously published series of Impressions and Comments under one cover, with a new title, apparently taken from the Book of Proverbs XIII, 14. It is a "heavy" book and will not be read in one sitting, but it will be read through by any cultured reader who opens it. The book is one that tempts the renewer to write another, by way of renewal, in order to set forth adequately the vaned and fascinating contents found in what must necessarily be one of the last books of this profound thinker. The various notes set down between July 1912 and August, 1922, that comprise the book, give a kaleidoscopic picture of one of the really great minds of our age as it passes from topic to topic, from lovely stanzas of hill, valley and sea to the beauty of women, from stoned cathedral, tapestries and pictures to music and literature, from anthropology to mysticism.

Though discursive in style, the eminent hedonist brings so much erudition and economy of diction to bear on each topic that one feels that in a few sentences he has read a great essay. In the section dealing with Divine and Human Things a cosmic epic is compressed within a few pages.

Sartre and irony give rich flavor to many of the passages as, for example, in speaking of our religious morbidity, where this sentence concludes a very amusing comment: "Apparently our traditions are too strong for us, we cannot dispense with Hell. If robbed of it in the future we must have it here and now." As a supreme naturalist Ellis carries consistency even to a defense of the Mass (p. 113) surprised paradoxes impinge on the mind, notably in his comment on immorality (p. 120). He defends Taoism as against Deism, as on page 122, the Omega rather than the Alpha. Let the logicians resolve this "The World is everlasting, everlasting Monotony. It is just as you prefer. You will always be right." Perhaps the logicians, especially those who include theological casuistry in their fields, may find the thesis difficult in which the author considers human sacrifice in a religion less reprehensible than a defense of war on the part of a religion (p. 158). The next page reveals a hedonist defending pain as part of his philosophical economy. His analysis may provoke argument if not agreement.

The author writes with extreme indignation and great force on the Great Betrayal—the World War. His bitterness over the War and his realistic expressions concerning the slogans with which the people lashed themselves into frenzies of hatred during the struggle, the hypocrisy and futility of it all, are set forth in no temper. His justifiable lack of restraint in these sentences reveals how indignation can blind a great mind to the inevitable results of what has been called the herd instinct. It completely misses the general irrationality of group psychology. Yet he prefers the loss of lives of the soldiers to the blasting of Rheims by shell fire. He defends his views on this
by saying that it is by his traditions that “Man is Man and not by the number of meaningless millions whom he spawns over the earth.”

Ellis holds that there is in the Old Testament no better book that Ecclesiastes, an opinion with which Hemingway and many other moderns would concur, but he is partial also to The Song of Songs. His realistic appreciation of this beautifully sensual book would not please the modern, catholic student of exegesis though it doubtless would accord with those of the Renaissance. He grows ecstatic over Jesus and the Gospels (pp. 275, 276) and conceives the latter in their account of Jesus as “the highest achievement of Man the Artist.”

He concludes by saying that he is skeptical of many people who seem at first to accept his views, as they have not gone through “the long and painful noviciate which would alone create a new heart within them.” He feels happier when he sees that the Canadian police inspectors disapprove of his book. He will doubtless be more assured by the efforts of the Irish and the Puritans of Boston who have oddly united to make Boston a museum of antique culture.

This book can be profitably read for leisurely diversion and instruction only by the cultured few. It is not meant for, nor will it be understood by, the vulgar. — John B. O’Leary

DELAWARE BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE LAUNCHED

A COMMITTEE to effect the organization of a state league for birth control was appointed at the meeting held at the DuPont Biltmore Hotel in Wilmington on April 17th, under the auspices of the American Birth Control League. The group of prominent men and women who attended were quick to see the value of forming a state league, and the great good which would flow from a better understanding of the birth control movement. It was decided that the League should be affiliated with the National League and that it should proceed toward the establishing of clinics as soon as possible. As there are no anti-birth control laws in Delaware, the movement should encounter no difficulties.

Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, president of the American Birth Control League, spoke on “Birth Control—Today and Tomorrow” and expressed her great satisfaction at the formation of the ninth state league, there are now state organizations in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Michigan and Rhode Island. Mrs. A. C. Martin, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Birth Control League, discussed “Some Problems in Organizing for Birth Control.”

Dr. T. H. Davies presided at the luncheon, and the following well-known advocates of birth control spoke: The Reverend H. Adye Prichard, of Saint Mark's Church, Mount Kisco, N. Y. on “Morakty and Birth Control”; Professor Roswell H. Johnson of the University of Pittsburgh on “The Need for Birth Control”; and Dr. Jay F. Schamberg of Philadelphia on “Birth Control from the Physician's Standpoint.”

A resolution endorsing the work of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control was unanimously adopted and a copy forwarded to Margaret Sanger. It read as follows:

One of the primary necessities for family and therefore for public health is an intelligently determined interval between pregnancies, to be secured by regulating the inception of life and not by interfering with life after it starts, and the lack of knowledge as to how to secure such an interval frequently results in serious disaster for mothers and babies and indirectly for the entire community, be it so.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Conference gathered here under the auspices of the American Birth Control League, that the imparting of information regarding contraception is a wholly proper medical function, and that where legislation exists hampering physicians in the proper exercise of this function, such legislation should be repealed.

Dr. A. C. Yost, executive secretary of the State Board of Health, which has already endorsed the principle of scientific birth control, presided at the organization meeting. The following organizing Committee was appointed: Mrs. William S. Bergland, Chairman pro tem., Mrs. George A. Elliott, Secretary, pro tem., Mrs. Crawford H. Greenwall, Mrs. Charles W. Baker, Jr., Mrs. Thomas G. Bradford, Mrs. Wilham Bradford, Mrs. Lawrence N. Thomas, Mrs. William Packett, Mrs. Charles Warner, Miss Helen S. Garrett, Dr. Margaret I. Handy, Mrs. James N. Gmnz, Mrs. Newn Booth, Mrs. Samuel Bird, Mrs. Robert Ferriday, Mrs. Charles F. Reese, Jr., Mrs. Harold G. Iorns, Mrs. Carlton F. Bridgham, Mrs. Walter Dent Smith, Mrs. J. Sellers Bancroft, Mrs. Bryant White, Mrs. George L. Schwartz, Mrs. Elmer O. Kraemer, Miss Mary R. de Vol, Mrs. Theodore Pyle, Mrs. Harry Braunstein.
News Notes

Connecticut The Birth Control bill which was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee on March 24th, was rejected in the House after a lively debate on April 1st, by a roll call vote of 172 to 76. In the Senate the following day, only a few votes were cast in its favor, but it was vigorously supported by Senator Caplan, Senate Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Senator Barton. The bill would have legalized contraception when advised by physicians. It was amended in the Judiciary Committee to cases when pregnancy would endanger the mother's life or health and this limited bill was vigorously opposed by Roman Catholic members Senator Barton supported the bill, but offered two amendments—one to repeal the Connecticut law which prohibits contraception entirely, and one to delete the penalty clause from the act, and so reduce it to a "a pious gesture." "The State," he said, "has no business telling me, or you, or anybody else how we shall conduct our marital affairs."

A few days after the rejection of the bill, Mr. Francis E. Jones, who had appeared at the hearing as the personal and authorized representative of Bishop Nilan and the Roman Catholic diocese of Connecticut, gave to the press an open letter which he had sent to the members of the two Houses, thanking them for their favorable response to the demands of the Roman Catholics. He wrote:

"In rejecting the favorable report of the Judiciary Committee on the subject of permitting the use of contraceptives and in declining to enact the substitute or committee bill into law, our general assembly has, in both its branches and on non-denominational and non-political lines, by an overwhelming expression of its sovereign will, emphatically refused to follow where the fathers dare not tread and to apply a flaming torch to a fuse which, however superficially innocuous and alluring it might seem to be, is yet connected at its invisible end, as with clock-timed precision, with explosives foreboding no good for the medical profession, or for the health, or morals or the happiness of man, woman or child, or indeed, in the final analysis, for the supremacy of the white race, or for the existence of the commonwealth."

Though the bill was defeated, decided progress was made in Connecticut in connection with it. The medical profession came out strongly in its favor. A favorable report was given by the Judiciary Committee. The vote in the House, which at the previous session numbered only 17, was increased to 76, for the first time speeches were made and votes were cast for it in the Senate. The Connecticut Birth Control League adopts the words of the protagonist of the bill in the legislature, Judge Epaphroditus Peck, and looks forward to "the final success of the cause, which when it comes, as it undoubtedly will come some time, will be due to the general spread of a more enlightened attitude."

New Jersey A meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Association of Hospital Social Workers was held at the Maternal Health Center on March 30th and excellent cooperation was reported with hospitals throughout the state. The clinic is serving 241 communities and attendance is increasing. It is estimated that the number of patients at the end of this fiscal year (April 31st) will equal the number for the first two years combined.

Miss Henriette Hart, executive secretary, spoke at the Bethlehem Birth Control League meeting on April 7th, and spoke during the month in Glenridge, Summit and Plainfield. Dr. George Bedborough of England addressed members of the State Council and their friends from the Oranges, Madison and Princeton at the home of Mrs. Edward S. Scudder of Newark on April 30th.

Kentucky Fay H. Marvin, Director of Public Welfare of Louisville, speaking before the Lions Club on April 1st, advocated birth control as one way of combating the present depression. This precipitated a discussion in the Courier-Journal, culminating with this statement: "Birth Control and child health are so closely interwoven that there is no separating them. Anyone interested in birth control can obtain literature by writing to the American Birth Control League, New York City." It is significant that the League received over one hundred letters in a week as a result.
NEW YORK The New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in session at Grace Church, Brooklyn, on April 13th, adopted the following report on birth control after a sharp debate.

We recommend such legislation as will permit a physician to render medical information on the subject in this connection we direct attention to the doctor's bill. Should this bill be enacted into a law, it would give greater freedom in extending to needy persons such information as would be in accord with the highest principles of eugenics and the best health of the individual.

The New York Academy of Medicine adopted the following Recommendations in April, 1930 (see editorial page).

1. The New York Academy of Medicine, as a medical organization, should be concerned solely with the medical and public health aspects of birth control, and not with its economic considerations.

2. The contraceptive clinics already in existence in the various hospitals, and operating under the law, solely in the interest of the health of the individual, should be continued, and all institutions in which this service is required should organize similar clinics as integral parts of dispensary and hospital service.

3. All extra-mural clinics, when their existence is temporarily justified, should have a medical personnel of competent physicians with special training in gynecology, the clinics should secure the services of local gynecologists and obstetricians of recognized standing and authority to serve in an advisory capacity and to formulate and enforce suitable rules and regulations concerning the medical indications and the giving of contraceptive advice and to make regular inspections to see that these rules are observed. Efforts should likewise be made on the part of these extra-mural clinics to obtain the services of experienced physicians in the several branches of medicine to aid the staff in the diagnosis and conduct of the more difficult cases. The extra-mural clinics, if so safeguarded and supervised, should receive support of the medical profession only until a sufficient number of hospital clinics has been developed to meet the public health demand.

4. A movement should be begun to include in the curriculum of medical schools instruction in modern contraceptive measures and in the indications therefor. The hospital clinics should likewise be asked to offer similar instruction to practicing physicians.

At a luncheon given by the N Y C Committee of the American Birth Control League at the Elks Club, Brooklyn, on April 7th, plans were drawn up for a survey of philanthropic and health agencies of Brooklyn to determine the sentiment regarding the establishment of clinical service in birth control. Speakers were Dr Samuel C. Kohls, executive secretary of the Federation of Jewish Charities, and Miss Mary Palefsky, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Social Service Bureau. Among those present were Mrs J. M. Schaap, of the executive board of the Council of Jewish Women, Dr Anna Levine of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, Dr. Helen Miller of the medical board of the Birth Control League, and Mrs Frances N. Bangs, Mrs Thomas Lamont, J. P. Mrs Hayden Smith, Mrs William Palmer Dixon, Mrs W. K. Kohls and Mrs Carol K. Nash, members of the N Y C Committee. Miss Palefsky was appointed chairman of the survey committee.

Margaret Sanger and Henry Pratt Fairchild spoke at an open meeting at the American Women's Association, held under the auspices of the Clinic Research Bureau on April 14th. Over 400 people attended.

Pennsylvania The Bethlehem Birth Control League held a most successful meeting on April 7th, at the Hotel Bethlehem in which Dr. Fairchild spoke on "Population and the Prevention of Dependency." Dr. A. Lovett Dewees, President of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation and Miss Henriette Hart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Birth Control League, were also on the program. Professor H. M. Diamond of Lehigh University presided. Mrs Geo L. deSchweinitz, Chairman of the Bethlehem League and Mrs. Ohver Holton, Treasurer, are responsible for the success of this meeting. Among the patrons were Rev. and Mrs. Frank W. Sterrett, Prof. and Mrs. Chas. Maxwell McConn, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond M. Walls, and the Hon. and Mrs. Robert Pfeffer.

One of the outstanding activities in the State at the present time is our Birth Control Bill No. 1210 in the House of Representatives, introduced by Hon. Matthew Dunn of Pittsburgh and refer-
red to the Committee on Public Health and Sanitation. The bill seeks to liberalize the laws concerning the giving of contraceptive information. Great interest has been shown by many of the leading physicians of the State in this legal aspect of the birth control work. Dr. Jay F. Schamberg, President-elect of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, Dr. Norris W. Vaux and Dr. Owen J. Toland, obstetricians of Philadelphia, have been successful in drafting a doctors' bill which will be presented shortly in the Senate. It has been endorsed by most of the members of the Gynecological and Obstetrical staffs of the following hospitals: University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Temple University Hospital, Hahnemann Hospital, Abington Hospital, Philadelphia Lying-In Hospital, Jefferson Hospital, Jewish Hospital Dr. H. C. Westervelt. President of the Birth Control League of Allegheny County, has been successful in getting the endorsement of many of the prominent Pittsburgh physicians.

Among many letters that are being sent to our Representatives at Harrisburg is a significant one from the Rev. John M. Versteeg, showing the active interest that the Methodist Church is taking in birth control.

By order of the Executive Committee of the Social Service Commission of the Pittsburgh Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, representing approximately 125,000 members, I am informing you of its action taken today in support of Bill No. 1210, endorsed by the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, suggesting that all possible facility this Bill be released out of Committee and submitted to the consideration of the House, and that our hearty support of this Bill is in accordance with the action taken last October at our 107th annual session, from which we quote:

"There is an increasing conviction that, while cooperation with God in creation sanctifies existence as nothing else can, men and women must keep in mind the demand for a Christian consideration of motherhood and the exigencies of our social order. There are circumstances where, for adequate ethical reasons, parenthood should be avoided. We call upon the church for a fair and full facing of all the facts involved, and we recommend such legislation as shall make it possible for physicians in the families which they serve or accredited clinics to give such information as shall make the assumption of parenthood a consecration and not an accident."

An increasing number of patients are being referred to the Maternal Health Center by 82 Welfare organizations (Public Health Nursing organizations, Hospital Social Services, Church Federations and Relief Societies). Membership in our statewide organization is continually increasing.

**ENGLAND**

A large group of distinguished people met in London on March 17th to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the first English birth control clinic, and to honor Mane Stopes, founder of the clinic, and head of the Society for Constructive Birth Control. Appropriate toasts were proposed to "Our Guests," "The Health of All Mothers and All Babies," etc., and messages were read from Henry Pratt Fairchild, Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf, Dr. Graefenberg, Mary Ware Dennett. The American Birth Control League was represented by Dr. Carohnie Maule and Mrs. Rachel Keeling, who delivered greetings from Mrs. Jones. Among the speakers were Dr. Branslaw Mahnowski, Dr. Leuenbach of Denmark and Miss Maude Royden.

**JAPAN**

A birth control union has been formed in Tokyo under the leadership of Dr. Miyajima, member of the Tokyo municipal assembly. About two hundred members met on the first time on January 17th, and decided that 1. The union shall join in and be affiliated with the International Birth Control Union. 2. The union shall investigate various studies on birth control and make reports of them. 3. The union shall publish opinions against irrational attacks on birth control methods or establishments which are found to be unscientific. Baroness Ishimoto is the president.
Letters from Readers

Legislative Hearings

To the Editor

I think that the value or non-value of the presentation of contested matters at a legislative hearing is a rather interesting subject. The Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut Legislature at the present session has had quite a little experience along that line. When a hearing before the committee was assigned on a bill to repeal the state prohibition enforcement law, the prohibition forces sent word to every organization which they thought likely to be favorable asking them to send to the hearing as large a representation as possible, and particularly urging them to come several hours in advance and fill the committee room, with the suggestion that they should bring their lunches.

As a result of this, the committee room was packed to suffocation several hours before the hearing was to begin, the committee could enter their own room only by the assistance of a squad of state police, and then found their chairs and desks occupied by earnest advocates of temperance, the advocates of the bill, who arrived at the time set for the hearing, were not able to get into the hall except by the assistance of police, and then the three or four who were to speak had to do so standing in the middle of a dense and hostile crowd.

I think that a demonstration of that kind does not help the cause that it is intended to favor. In fact, I know that several members of the committee, who were strongly opposed to the bill in advance, felt strongly inclined to vote for it as a rebuke to the methods of the opposition.

The hearing on the birth control bill was conducted differently. The ladies of the birth control league took very little part in the hearing, and put forth some of the most prominent physicians in the state to advocate the bill from the professional point of view. These gentlemen rather intelligibly and forcibly rendered the minds of their proposition, the committee room was not over-crowded, and the opposition, which was quite numerous, had an opportunity to present their point of view. The result was that the committee made unexpectedly ordered a favorable report on the bill.

The object of every committee hearing is to enable those who favor the bill to explain its terms and state the reasons why it ought to be passed, and for those who oppose the bill to state the arguments against it. This can usually be done by half a dozen speakers on each side as well as by a greater number, and I do not think that the attendance of a great number of strenuous advocates or opponents who are simply there to show the violence of their emotions, and not to present any argument, is of any particular value. It may be assumed that upon any important question of real controversy there are in any state a hundred times as many persons keenly interested on each side of the question as could by any possibility get into any committee hearing, and it really does not make a lot of difference with the committee whether one two-hundredth of one per cent of the population of the state are present to express their feeling or only one five-hundredth of one per cent.

Epaphroditus Peck

Bristol, Connecticut

From a Catholic

To the Editor

I have found the Birth Control Review very interesting and shall from now on look forward to its coming.

Although I am Roman Catholic, I heartily agree with your program and wish for your continued success. In my work with the poorer families (immigrant families) I see daily the great need for such work as yours and I hope some day to take an active part in it myself.

Maxine Steinitz, Jugo-Slav Sec'y, International Institute of the Y W C A Cleveland, Ohio

An Anthropologist's Comment

To the Editor

The articles by Drs. Warner and Aptekar in your April issue strike me as eminently sane and fair presentations of primitive man's beliefs and practices. I take it for granted that man, having long since deliberately taken charge of his own destiny by starting on a cultural career, has no choice but to seek a remedy for every ill that besets him. If, therefore, our civilization is now in danger of being wrecked by the overproduction of inferior...
stock what more natural than that we should apply the principles already tried out in the plant and animal world?

Incidentally, might we not easily have many more well-bred children if their upbringing was made economically possible?

N C Nelson, Curator of Prehistoric Archaeology American Museum of Natural History

New York, N Y

FROM A TRAVELLER IN JAPAN

To the Editor

I think this excerpt from a young college student's letter to his family may interest your readers:

"The land in this section was all cultivated with rice fields and other vegetation, very small fields, each family, of which there were many, having their own and working them themselves. Thatched roofed farm houses were all along the hne, and the "fields were full of folk." They seem to have no metal or modern machinery and I doubt if any one could sell them any, because each man's property is so small and he has so many in his family and labor is so cheap that it would not be practical to have any machinery. They seem to do the work well and efficiently with the old-time methods and there is no need to change under the present conditions. Japan seems to me to be overpopulated. And I am sure it will be worse very shortly because I seem to see about ten children to every adult. What this country needs is "bigger and better" birth control, but there is no prospect of such a thing in the near future because the government will not allow any talk of literature on the matter. The way it is now there are not enough mothers to carry their own babies. Grandmothers, men and even six year old children have to be rushed into service to give the wee ones an airing. I do not see how a country so overpopulated can progress physically, educationally, economically, or any other way."

New York

E D J

PUZZLED BY CATHOLIC DOGMA

To the Editor

In a recent issue one of your correspondents questioned the Catholic views against birth control, even in cases of insanity, and asked for an explanation. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Church, after accepting and rejecting various theories, has decided that "souls are created (by God) at their infusion into the body" and "are multiplied correspondingly with the multiplication of human organisms."

It is evidently on this idea that the Roman Church bases its laws against birth control. This theory, of course, places the burden of creation on mankind, with the Deity occupying second place—in other words, making the will of God in creating souls subject to the will of the flesh in creating bodies. (To some sensitive souls however, this may seem a bit blasphemous.) The Catholics evidently believe that an immortal soul is denied existence through the control of birth, which they classify as sin—but if it is also denied existence through continence, it is no sin.

The Catholic clergy have argued that birth control is animalism. But just where the difference is between animalism that is consummated in children and animalism that is not, seems rather obscure. After all, if the conception of a child is rooted in animalism—just how the birth of that child sanctifies it, is a little puzzling. It would seem more Christian to insure a child parents who are not animal rather than those who are—and just why a man who has twenty children is less than a man who has one, is still a little vague.

If truth could be reached by theological arguments and theories, we would probably all be nearer to it—but even in the Gospels the test of the truth is said to be "by their fruits." It would seem that to even a Catholic the "fruits" of this doctrine of promiscuous breeding would be evident enough. The prisons and the asylums do not lie to us—no matter how we lie to ourselves.

New York, N Y

E R Dowling

IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CABRYING ON A CONSPIRACY IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE?

To the Editor

Apropos the article by Mr. Norman E. Himes which appeared in your April issue, it may interest your readers to know that in a large city in Massachusetts a certain prominent savings bank recently advertised for a Protestant stenographer. Forthwith every Catholic depositor in the bank withdrew his or her account.

The wife of a professor in a leading Eastern Massachusetts university reports that their family physician has had no Catholic patients since
May, 1931

he signed the petition recently circulated by the Massachusetts Birth Control League to liberalize the Massachusetts statute on contraception. These cases bear all the outward earmarks of concerted effort on the part of Catholic priests to interfere with the income of the parties concerned.

Query: When will the birth control movement become aggressive enough to fight such cases in the courts? Admitting that it is perfectly legal and ethical to withhold one's patronage for whatever reason one sees fit, is it equally legal to induce others collectively to withold patronage? Is not this "malicious interference" with a professional market? In labor cases that have come before our courts, a secondary boycott, interfering with the market of a manufacturer, has repeatedly been declared illegal. And so the law stands today.

Fair Play

Massachusetts

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of the Birth Control Review, published monthly at New York, N. Y.

For May 1, 1931, State of New York County of New York

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid personally appeared Stella Haanou who having been duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she is the Editor of the Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation) etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor and business managers are:

   Publisher: American Birth Control League, Inc., 152 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.
   Editor: Stella Haanou, 152 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.
   Managing Editor: None.
   Business Manager: Sonia Fernet, 152 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.

2. That the owner is (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If owned by a corporation the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm or other unincorporated concern, its name, address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given:

   American Birth Control League, Inc., 152 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.
   Not for profit corporation.

   Mrs. Edward Robinson, President, 151 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.
   Mrs. Warren Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer, 152 Madison Ave, N. Y. City.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are (if there are none so state) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners stockholders and security holders, if any contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the corporation but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given, also that the said two paragraphs contain statements emphasizing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which the stockholders and security holders do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees. Hold stock and securities as a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner and thus affiant has no reason to believe that any other person association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

   STELLA HANAN
   Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of March, 1931.

[Signature]

WILLIAM M. MANDOUR

(My commission expires March 31, 1932.)

Depression Hits the REVIEW

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This is the anthracite coal section and retrenchment is the order of the day all along the line. When conditions change, and I get a pay envelope again, I will be back on your subscription list. I came to the Review late in life, but now you see my tone and would like to support it for the good it may do younger folks, who will otherwise make the same mistakes I did. I assure you that I will be back when Dame Fortune smiles a little, and hope you will keep the Review up to the present high standard.

I do not like to lose a copy of the Review, have been taking it since 1925, right after I first heard of it. But we are in the drought and money is so scarce. However if you could or would send it on till wheat harvest I could pay up then. I know birth control is a vital need, and am for it until the poor have it as well as the rich.

Very sorry that I cannot renew my subscription just now, as my husband has been out of work, and just as soon as he gets work I'll send in the slip.

I regret not being able to renew my subscription, expect to be back with you soon, and you will not need to remind me. Birth control is as "near to my heart" as ever. I wish I could place birth control in close proximity to a fat bankroll, rather than to such an intangible as a heart.

The subscription small as it is, makes a difference in my little budget, and I shall have to drop the Review for the present. However I am interested and always will be in the splendid work you are doing. Just now I can do nothing except send my good wishes and sincere hope that your work will spread and spread.

I like it, but am dead broke right now. Later, perhaps.
THE ETHICS OF PARENTHOOD
(Continued from page 136)

study the food question and our unwillingness to study, or let the doctor study, the sex question has made us slower in obtaining results in the latter field than in the former.

Many people try to be sensible about their sex relations, just as they try to be about their eating and drinking. Most of these families have from one to ten children. All wish them and intend to have them as far as circumstances will permit. These wives and husbands use unavoutous methods of prevention, suitable or agreeable to their different preferences. As the result of perfect understanding, these methods cause no cheapening of love, comradeship, or affection, nor is there any conscious transgression. The exaltation of sense, invoked at proper intervals by these moral, sane, robust, unafraid husbands and wives, leads to a greater daily harmony and more constant soul communion than I have been able to discover among any of the few whom I have observed who are making attempts (usually futile) at a celibate marriage, though I have seen some of the latter faith become neurotic, quarrelsome, discouraged, pessimistic.

Laws against giving contraceptive information are a disgrace to our country, a relic of mediaevalism, a high crime against women, a serious misdemeanor against any legislature which will tacitly consent to their continuance or lift a voice for their perpetuation. No congressman or senator should be re-elected who does not support human, modest, constructive birth control measures.

The intelligent people of the country are more or less quiet on the subject of birth control, they will not long be so, since there is a sentiment in favor of the education of the public in these matters, which is part of real patriotism, the sentiment to uproot the inhuman clauses of present laws as insistent as is the determination in the minds of all good citizens to weed out the superimposed tyranny which would deny to any people knowledge on any subject. There is an increasing body of responsible people who realize that Americanism must mean everything which is the foundation of justice and well-being. In America must be founded on the verities, not alone on patriotic emotion. If there is any one thing calculated to antidote half-baked revolutionary impulses, it is the knowledge by which wage-earners may gauge the size of their families according to their health and their earnings. Those who wish to keep the people ignorant of this information are untrue to the best spirit of America, untrue to the ideal of democracy, they do not belong here, and they certainly should have no part in the making of our laws.

In spite of laws which perpetuate misery and crime, many people have common sense, and some people have knowledge, and some intelligent and informed people place morals and humanity above law. Prevention of conception is perfectly legitimate for husbands and wives who desire it. In this connection it may be well to mention that the fear of an undesired pregnancy is the chief obstruction to the perfect affiliation of many couples. I have discussed this in my books Sex and Life and The Art of Love, and must here content myself with the briefest statement.

CHILDREN THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE

All married people who have reasonable prospect of healthy offspring should anticipate a family of children as the greatest privilege, and undertake the raising of such a family as their chief contribution to racial progress. It is generally best to postpone pregnancy for a year or two after marriage. It should never be necessary to postpone marriage because the young people, in love and eager to marry, are not able at once to undergo the expense of children. Families should differ in size according to health and economic conditions, each couple should be entitled to decide when they should have children and how many they should have. Childless couples (when fertile and sound) are a menace to civilization, their early supreme selfishness acts to destroy the ends they had anticipated, and they finally become dissatisfied and anti-social. On the other hand, families with too many children for the father to support or for the mother to bear, are a menace almost as great. Such families nurture immorality and crime, they drain the public resources, they rob both father and mother of all the rights and the joys of living.

The illegality, under present disgraceful laws, of the dissemination of proper contraceptive information to those who need it, makes it incumbent on each individual couple to repudiate unjustifiable laws, which are no doubt also unconstitutional, and seek comfort, health, and efficiency for themselves, to choose between poverty and handicap on the one hand and proper food and sufficient early training on the other, for their children. Every doctor and
humanitarian should advise people, faced with this contingency, to seek until they obtain some form of adequate protection which interferes neither with health nor with perfectly satisfactory, mutual sexual relations.

I fear no worth-while criticism if I assert dogmatically that sexual intercourse has a two-fold significance, a social and a procreative. Without the former, health and happiness would rapidly disappear, and we should become unfitted for the latter, the procreative function. No normal couple can follow literally the doctrine of intercourse for procreation only and be fit to train their children to become trustworthy elements in the community.

BOOKS RECEIVED

_Marry or Burn_, by George Ryley Scott Greenberg, _Inc., New York_ $2.50
_Sin and Sex_, by Robert Briffault Macaulay Co., _New York_ $3.00
_A Primer of Mothers_, by Dr. Wilhelm Stekel, Macaulay Co. New York $3.60
_The Dangerous Life_, by Judge Ben B. Lindsey and Rube Borough, _Horace Liveright, New York_ $3.00
_Comparative Birth-Rate Movements Among European Nations_, by J. Sanders Cold Spring Harbor, _Long Island, New York_ $1.50
_Woman's Mysterious Influence Over Man_, by Bernard Francis and S. Dana Hubbard, Independent Book Corp., _New York_ $1.50

Wanted Volumes 3 and 4 of "Proceedings of the Sixth International Birth Control Conference" These volumes needed to complete broken sets. The Review will pay $100 each for any available copies

Wanted May, 1930 Review (Church Number) Will give free subscription for each copy received.

The American Birth Control League announces to its members and readers of the Review that Dr. Stephen Nichan, from whom the late Dr. James F. Cooper sublet an office at 33 Madison Avenue, N.Y.C. is no way connected with the League.

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