

# THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*Dedicated to the Principle of Intelligent and Voluntary Motherhood*

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Number Two

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## THE BROWNSVILLE BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC

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### HUNGER-STRIKING AGAINST AN UNJUST LAW

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# THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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The Federation of Neo-Malthusian Leagues,  
Dr Alice Drysdale Vickery, President.

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NOTE—We ask our friends to help us make this Directory as complete as possible—Ed.

ELIZABETH STUYVESANT, *Treasurer*,  
*The Birth Control Review*,  
104 Fifth Avenue, New York

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1917

Please write clearly

## EDITORIAL NOTICE

Because of lack of space we have been obliged to omit the department entitled *What the Birth Control Leagues Are Doing*. We expect to print in next month's issue a full report of the movement in the various centers of activity, with special notice of the legislative campaigns in Massachusetts Minnesota and California and the strong movement launched in Los Angeles and by the Woman's Club of Chicago

*"Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."*



*"I am not at all unhappy. Loving thoughts seem pouring in to me and protect me from other thoughts"—Extract from prison letter from Margaret Sanger, February 9, 1917*

## GROWTH OF THE BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT IN THE U. S.

Frederick A Blossom

Exactly three years ago, a lone woman, filled with a vision of the new era which is dawning for her sex, set forth with the courage of a Joan of Arc to combat the enemy. In a fearless publication, *The Woman Rebel*, repeatedly suppressed by the postal authorities, she sounded a clarion call to the women of America to arise and assert their right to the dignity of independence.

From the beginning Margaret Sanger realized the fundamental importance of what she very early entitled "birth control." She saw clearly that economic independence, civic and industrial justice, equality of the sexes in the eyes of the law and the church would be of little avail without freedom from "the slavery of involuntary motherhood."

Here and there an occasional male champion, from Ezra Heywood and Moses Harman to Jacobi and Robinson in our own time, had raised his voice in ineffectual protest against the enforced ignorance of American women. It remained for a trained nurse, herself one of the working class to announce in the first article of the first number of her publication, with that unswerving directness which has always been a marked characteristic of Margaret Sanger's methods. "It will be the aim of *The Woman Rebel* to advocate the prevention of conception and to impart such knowledge in the columns of this paper."

Seven of the nine issues of *The Woman Rebel* were suppressed by the enlightened paternalism of our post office department but the birth control idea, like John Brown's soul, has gone "marching on" until to-day, with the sole exception of the temporary war flurry, it is unquestionably the most universally discussed topic throughout the length and breadth of this land. After centuries of officially fostered ignorance, the women of America know at least that unwelcome motherhood is unnecessary.

Under the inspiration of Margaret Sanger's leadership, "birth control leagues" have been organized in a score of cities and states to work for more humane and modern legislation on this topic. Five such organizations exist in New York City alone. Two bills have already been introduced at Albany and two more are in course of preparation. A Pacific Coast Federation of Birth Control Leagues is projected and an eastern federation will undoubtedly be consummated in connection with the annual charities convention to be held in Pittsburgh this spring. A national organization will be the next logical step.

A steadily increasing number of articles on birth control in both popular and scientific publications, the most noteworthy of the recent ones being those of Professor Warner Fite in the *International Journal of Ethics*, Dr. S. A. Knopf in the *Survey* and Professor Robert J. Sprague in the *Journal of Heredity*, attest the growing importance of the family limitation idea.

Even that model of cautiousness, the city editor, so careful not to point the way but merely to indicate the trend of public opinion, is feeling the new breath and, like a well-

greased weathervane, changing his position to suit the prevailing current. Newspapers which a few months ago could scarcely find courage to print the dreadful words "birth control" tucked away in the center of a news paragraph, are to-day bravely setting them in cold type in their headlines.\*

Birth control meetings are becoming the order of the day and so thoroughly respectable that "first citizens" now occasionally venture to be seen in attendance. City clubs, women's societies, public forums are opening their platforms to the discussion of the limitation of offspring. Sermons favoring the new gospel have been preached in several churches and synagogues. The Woman's Club of Chicago is considering the establishing of a clinic in order to test the law by "direct action." The corresponding organization in more conservative New York, after two months of travail, has created a special birth control committee.

Although adhering in the main to its traditional role of blindfolded enforcer of existing law, the bench is showing sporadic symptoms of an awakening to the changing public opinion on birth control. It is no longer an unusual occurrence for a more enlightened judge to suspend sentence or acquit a violator of the present outgrown statutes. Occasionally a Wadhams of New York, a Phillips of Cleveland or a Stelk of Chicago actually endorses the criticism of those statutes. The action of a Des Moines judge who judicially advised a couple to secure and eat of the forbidden fruit is as yet rare and only too likely to remain so.

A surprising feature of the present status of the movement is the failure of the social worker and the physician to give organized support to a cause the deep and vital social meaning of which cannot fail to strike them at every turn in their daily work.

Individual instances of vision and courage, however, offset the backwardness of their professional organizations in taking the stand indicated by a sense of justice and an intelligent, far-seeing interest in the welfare of humanity. Settlement workers, Jewish social workers, district nurses and occasional representatives of "organized charity" are giving public endorsement to this youngest but most vigorous of "social reforms," which has from the start received recognition amounting almost to support from the *Survey*, official organ of the social worker in America.

That birth control is not a medical problem has been unintentionally made very clear by the action of the medical profession itself. The untiring efforts of such men as Jacobi, Robinson, Knopf, Wile and Goldwater and of practically the entire body of women physicians can only partly offset the effect of the three-to-one hostile vote of the New York County Medical Society in convincing the public that this important social problem cannot safely be left in the hands of their profession.

\*They recently stained—just once—the lily-white page of that watchful guardian of the morals of New England, the Boston *Evening Transcript*.

It is clear that the birth control movement is entering upon a new phase. The period of agitation, necessary in order to arouse the public mind, is gradually giving way to a period of constructive work. The original aims of the movement and the demands of its leaders are changing insensibly as the movement develops. The first unconditional demand for the abrogation of all laws on this subject is being supplanted by more deliberately considered plans for making accessible to all who desire it the most reliable scientific instruction in the prevention of conception.

Margaret Sanger's daring experiment of a public birth control clinic in open defiance of the law, coupled with Holland's thorough demonstration of the clinic idea, has shown the country the practical solution of the birth control problem.

It must be evident even to the most blindly partisan members of the opposition that the birth control movement in this country cannot be checked. At best it can only be retarded at this point or that. The ultimate triumph of the principle of rational limitation of offspring is as certain as anything within human reach. It is as immediate as the civil enfranchisement of our women and will come hand-in-hand with that forward step.

When Margaret Sanger leaves her prison on March 6th, unlike the Joan of old, martyred by the same mercilessly reactionary forces of church and state, she will not go to the stake but will come forth a free woman, spiritually, intellectually and physically stronger to resume her leadership. She will find the band of comrades not disorganized or disheartened, but increased in numbers, confirmed in faith and immeasurably strengthened in their devotion to her as their leader in the fight to free humanity from the bondage of ignorance and superstition.—*Published simultaneously in the New York Call*

## THE NEED FOR FREE DISCUSSION OF BIRTH CONTROL METHODS

*A. L. Goldwater, M.D.*

There is one phase of the subject of birth control that appeals, if not exclusively, at any rate with the greatest force to the medical profession. We are frequently asked by other medical men: "Tell me the very best and safest method of contraception, one that is positively certain and at the same time free from danger to health, besides being acceptable from an aesthetic standpoint. Are the best means chemical, mechanical or a combination of both?"

Now, while I think that it is possible in any given case to give advice that will meet the special indications and requirements of that case, the fact that so many injurious, harmful and unsafe methods and devices are not only used by the ill-informed laity, but even prescribed by experienced physicians is to my mind one of the strongest arguments that can be advanced for removing the veil of secrecy with which the law has enveloped the subject.

If there is no ideal method of birth control, then there ought to be. The eugenicist, the sociologist, the hospital and

charity worker, the penologist, the specialist in tuberculosis, epilepsy, bone deformities, heart and kidney diseases, not only has the right but it is his duty to demand. Tell us, and at once, what we can do to prevent the multiplication of the imbecile, the epileptic, the consumptive, the host of mental, moral and physical defectives and perverts who are increasing so much more rapidly than the more normal members of the community." And the economist swells the chorus with this righteous demand: "Tell this poor man and poor woman how they can keep the size of their family within reasonable proportion to the size of their income."

But science is not able to answer at present with complete authority: "Do so and so."

Through private endowment and public appropriation, millions are spent each year to help the farmer improve the quality of his potatoes, corn and apples, to help the stock breeder raise cattle that will have better flesh and better pelts, cows that will yield more milk, horses that will have better speed or stamina, sheep that will yield more wool—all for the use of man. But if I wish to test out a certain method of contraception on a series of cases at my clinic, while other observers are testing out other methods at their clinics, and then after two or three years we wish to publish our combined results to the scientific world for further test and application, it is not only a violation of the law punishable by fine and imprisonment but, in this state, the physician is threatened with the further penalty of the revocation of his license to practice.

Is this not almost unbelievable? Just imagine the situation. In every other field of scientific endeavor and investigation, the realms of art and science co-operate with each other to add even the smallest new item to the sum of human knowledge. I have read that Edison spent five million dollars and called to his aid the botanist, the geologist, the chemist, the explorer, the worker from every technical field, before he perfected the film for his first commercial incandescent lamp. The Rockefeller, the Widener and the Brady Foundations are devoting millions of dollars to the investigation of the problems of polyomyelitis, pneumonia, psoriasis and other ailments. The astronomer, the chemist and the physicist, with the financial help of a Yerkes or a Lowell, work for years to determine the weight of Jupiter and the number of its satellites, the amount of helium in the sun, or the distance of the North Star from its nearest neighbor and the length of time it will take to travel from the furthest star to the earth.

Yet when, after weighing my patient and her three children, I find that they are continuously undernourished because the amount of her husband's income is insufficient to properly feed, house and clothe them and I wish to advise her upon the length of time that should elapse before she adds another child to her family, I am a criminal.

Is it not inconceivable that intelligent persons should claim that such laws ought to remain on our statute books?

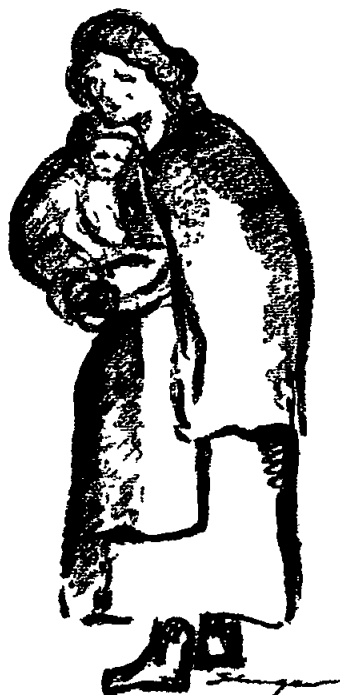
[EDITORIAL NOTE.—Dr. Goldwater made the motion for the appointment of a committee of the New York County Medical Society to investigate the question of birth control from the medical point of view and presented the minority report of that committee in favor of a revision in the present law.]

# THE BROWNSVILLE BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC

*Elizabeth Stuyvesant*

*With Illustrations by William Sanger*

Perhaps we were conscious, intellectually, that we were launching the most important sociological experiment since the establishment of babies' dispensaries, when we opened the doors that crisp morning of October 16th to the forty-five mothers who had waited patiently for the coming of Margaret Sanger. As propagandists, too, in the first dramatic thrill of that bold step, we may have felt that we were doing something sure to arouse the attention of the American people and furnish a constructive answer to the question of "birth control." But as four very human women, at the entrance of those forty-five earnest mothers, the big, absorbing thing for us was their impelling human appeal



For weeks we had watched the plans for the clinic take shape, Mrs. Sanger having come home from her study of the birth control clinics in Holland determined to demonstrate to America the social value of this way of getting clean, reliable instruction to those who need it most.

Her sister, Mrs. Ethel Byrne, also a trained nurse, had declared her readiness to share in the work and in the legal responsibility.

Miss Fania Mindell, interpreter in three languages and one of the leaders in Chicago's earliest interest in birth control, had waited eagerly for this opportunity to prove her faith in the idea, as well as her attachment to Mrs. Sanger,

although knowing as well as the others what would be the legal consequences of her act.

As for me, it was hard to imagine any illegality in doing for Margaret Sanger's clinic what I had for several years done for the Associated Charities of a large city and for a chain of five day nurseries where the children of the poor were cared for while their mothers worked. It had even seemed a natural and straightforward thing to accompany Margaret Sanger while she purchased the necessary equipment for the clinic, the desks, chairs, scrubbing brushes and soap, in addition to a set of the articles necessary to demonstrate to these mothers, most of them foreign-born and all unused to medical terms, just what they should ask for at the drugstore.

The week preceding our "formal opening" at 46 Amboy St., Brownsville, Brooklyn, was spent visiting the homes in that neighborhood to spread the news. This was the only form of announcement possible, as we did not wish the police or King Comstock II to block the experiment before it had had a fair chance. The newspapers, which had announced this newest move in the fight for birth control, were eager to discover and publish the address of the clinic, but in this case we could not use that ally, so valuable in the agitation phase of any reform, we had to carry the message ourselves to the women of Brownsville.

With a small bundle of handbills and a large amount of zeal, we fared forth each morning in a house-to-house canvass of the district where the clinic was located. Every family in that great section received a "dodger" printed in English, Yiddish and Italian.

## **Mothers!**

Can you afford to have a large family?  
Do you want any more children?  
If not, why do you have them?  
Do not kill, do not take life, but prevent

Safe, harmless information can be obtained of trained nurses at

46 Amboy Street  
Near Pitkin Ave. BROOKLYN

Tell your friends and neighbors. All mothers welcome. A registration fee of 10 cents entitles any mother to this information.

*Margaret Sanger*

Brownsville is the most thickly populated section of Brooklyn. Here the working people live. Here are the dwelling-places of the very poor, a whole city of Jewish and Italian inhabitants housed in the most assiduously investigated and frequently condemned type of tenement. Block after block, street after street, as far as one can see in every direction, there is an endless stretch of dreary walls bursting

with their excess of wretched humanity. Unkempt children swarm the alley ways and fire escapes and you seldom see a woman without her inevitable baby.

Not one of the women in that section but must have heard Margaret Sanger's clarion call "Do not take life but PREVENT." Everywhere we were received in the friendliest spirit and with surprised expressions of gratefulness and joy. Not once were we rebuffed or our motives misunderstood. Women—and men—themselves took up the work of spreading the news throughout Brownsville, but the authorities who were scouring the city to unearth the proposed den of iniquity never secured any clue from these people.

Our landlord and his friendly wife were our most active assistants. Mr. Rabinowitz spent hours of his own time

For, by this time, our location had been discovered and widely published. People began coming from far beyond Brownsville, not only from every part of New York and Brooklyn, the East Side, Manhattan, the Bronx, Long Island, Staten Island, Coney Island, but from New Jersey and New England as well. One young carpenter came from Philadelphia to tell Margaret Sanger about an invalid wife and three children born dead.

That receiving room of ours was the liveliest social service office I have ever seen. Two jovial policemen called each morning—and discussed the weather. The postman never forgot his exclamation of wonder with each day's offering of fifty to a hundred letters and never left without his cheery "Farewell, ladies. Hope I find you here to-morrow." Then there was the friendly chat with the daily gath-



adding touches here and there to make the two bright and spotless clinic rooms more snow-white still—"more scientific looking," as he said. His wife gave out handbills to every person who passed the door and also to the mothers who came to the Babies' Dispensary across the way, so that every woman who applied there for help in the care of her babies was told of the other-help across the street. Later, when the work became so overwhelming that we could not go out for lunch or supper, we were sure to hear, as the day wore on, Mrs. Rabinowitz call downstairs "If I bring a little tea now, will you stop the people coming?"

Stop the people coming? Nothing, not even the ghost of Anthony Comstock, could have stopped those people from coming! All day long, and far into the evening, in ever increasing numbers they came—a hundred women and a score of men on our banner day.

ering of reporters, always speculating on how much longer we'd 'last." And the visits from neighbors to wish us good luck—the grocer's wife on the corner, the widow with six children who kept the lunchroom down the street, the fat old German baker with his daily donation of doughnuts and an occasional foreign-born doctor to say he hoped all would go well with us.

It seemed cruel to ask those women—their need was so obvious—even the simple facts we wanted for our records: name and address, nationality, number of children, husband's trade and earnings. But these everyday questions touched a spring that let loose a flood of experience so real, so deep, that you felt you were looking at life for the first time. So much cold truth, so many hopeless facts to show how little there was in life for these people, such heart-breaking confidences in response to a word of sympathy,

that you came, at the end of the day, to wonder how the world could go on with so much sadness in it

To Miss Mindell and me these women told the constantly reiterated but ever varying story of low wages and high rent, of irregular employment and steadily rising prices for beans and lentils, of no work at all and a diet of black bread and black coffee. They told us of so-called homes with two rooms and only one window, with two beds for a family of seven, three cots and a soap-box for eight children, of years of heavy toil by fine, hopeful men and women with, at the end, only sickness, funerals, debts—stories of wives broken in health and husbands broken in spirit, sons sent to prison and daughters to prostitution, and always the helpless tale of children that were not wanted but came in never-ending numbers

Newly married couples, with little but faith, hope and love to go on, told of the wee flat they had chosen, of his low wages and her still lower earnings, but of their determination to work it out together if only the children would not come too soon.

Wrecks of women came just to tell their tragedies to Margaret Sanger and urge her to save other women from the sorrow of ruined health, overworked husbands and broods of sickly, defective and wayward children growing up on the streets, filling the dispensaries and hospitals and fling through the juvenile court

A gaunt skeleton of a woman suddenly stood up one day and made an impassioned speech to the women present: 'They come with their charity when we have more children than we can feed and, when we get sick with more children or trying not to have them, they just give us more charity. I tell you, some day they will make a monument to Margaret Sanger on this spot where she came to help women like us.' She had been married fifteen years, had seven living children, four dead, and had undergone twenty-eight self-induced abortions

Women of every race and every creed flocked to the clinic with the determination not to "have more" than their health could stand or "he" could support. Jews and Christians, Catholics and Baptists made this confession to us, whatever they may have professed at home or in church. Some said they did not dare talk this over with their "men" and some came urged on by their husbands, men came themselves after work and some brought timid, embarrassed wives, dragging a string of children apologetically

When I asked a bright little Catholic woman what she would say to the priest when he learned that she had been to the clinic, she answered indignantly: "It's none of his business. My husband has a weak heart and works only four days a week. That's twelve dollars and we can barely live on it now. We have enough children."

Her friend, sitting by, nodded a vigorous approval. "When I was married," she broke in, "the priest told us to have lots of children and we listened to him. I had fifteen. Six are living. Nine funerals in our house. I am thirty-six years old." She looked sixty.

As I walked home that night, I made a mental calculation of fifteen baptismal fees, nine funeral expenses, masses

and candles for the repose of nine little souls, the physical suffering of the mother and the emotional suffering of both parents, and I asked myself "Was it fair?"

A socially significant group were the puzzled, groping women, misled and bewildered in a tangled jungle of popular superstitions, old wives' remedies and horse-block advice—all the ignorant sex teaching of the poor, their unguided fumbling after truth. Unconsciously they dramatized the terrible need of intelligent and scientific instruction in these matters of life—and death.

The most pitiful of all were the reluctantly expectant mothers, who had hoped here to find a way out of their dilemma. It was heart-breaking to have to send them away but there was nothing else to do. Their desperate determination to risk all, their threat of suicide haunted one at night. For them, birth control came too late.

The inflexible rule of the clinic in this respect did not, of course, prevent the fabrication of slanderous rumors, for which, however, even the searching investigation of the authorities failed to find the slightest confirmation. The records of the four clinic trials do not contain a shred of evidence or a word of testimony to bear out the malicious charge of malpractice.

The woman detective who finally brought to an end the clinic's usefulness had no trouble in learning all there was to know. Mrs. Whitehurst, a police matron, walked into the clinic one morning with a borrowed baby and an old shawl thrown over a stylish suit. Looking very well fed and comfortable, she told Miss Mindell a terrible tale of many children, many abortions and a superhumanly terrible husband. To Mrs. Byrne she told a similar story, but with accidental modifications.

Miss Mindell and Mrs. Byrne understood. All the contraceptive methods known to Mrs. Sanger were told to this representative of the law. She was shown the equipment of the clinic and even the plans for the birth control movement were explained to her.

She insisted upon purchasing part of the equipment used for demonstrating, which, notwithstanding Mr. Sumner's gratuitous insinuations to the contrary, was sold to her for just what it had cost Mrs. Sanger. Her two-dollar bill was pasted on a sheet of paper, labeled "spy money" and pinned to the wall, where the police found and seized it when they raided the clinic on October 26th.

No one else purchased anything but friendly counsel and instruction, which was "sold" for the nominal registration fee of ten cents—to such as could pay that much.

As Mrs. Whitehurst left that morning, she paused in the outer office to listen to the conversation of some women waiting their turn.

"I was the youngest of twelve. My mother died when I was born."

"I married at fifteen. We have had fourteen children. Eight are dead."

"I have never been well since my first baby came. My children are all poorly and my man he has the consumption."

I have often wondered if Mrs. Whitehurst liked her profession that day.

## "HAVE WE A SON NAMED SAMUEL?"

Charles Hiram Chapman

"One of the greatest perils in America to-day is that women do not permit themselves to bear children

"Think of the crime to the unborn generations! Think of the children who might become John Wesleys and George Washingtons. Thank God, Susannah Wesley was not that kind of a woman! They had seventeen or eighteen, maybe nineteen children. They used to call the roll it is said every evening

"One evening Mrs Wesley is said to have told her husband that their son Samuel was missing. Have we a son named Samuel?" he is said to have asked her. They called the roll again, and, fortunately, Samuel had appeared in the meantime and all was well. She was a woman of the right kind

If I were to make the best wish I could for this country I would wish that it had a million mothers like Susannah Wesley. —Rev S. Parkes Cadman, D.D., Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr S. Parkes Cadman is long on sentimentality and short on common sense. His failing, so common among preachers, is that he judges by his emotions without regard to facts. If we lived in a world where emotions governed and facts were of no account, he would make an admirable administrator and his advice would be inestimable. As matters stand, his sermon was nonsense.

He does not even seem to know what birth control, or family limitation, aims at. His remark that "more children are murdered than can be computed" shows his ignorance in all its glory. Family limitation seeks to stop this child murder, which Mrs Sanger and the rest of us deplore as deeply as Dr Cadman or any other preacher can. Child murder is effected principally by way of abortion. The prevention of conception when children are not desired would make abortion a useless crime. Is it possible that such men as Dr Cadman perceive no moral difference between the prevention of conception and the murder of a living child?

Conception may be prevented by abstinence as well as by medical and mechanical devices. If we are to follow Dr Cadman all these are equally wicked. Abstinence prevents "John Wesleys and George Washingtons" from being born even more effectually than medicine does. What a load of guilt our brethren, the Catholic priests, must bear about with them on Dr Cadman's theory. What a sinner every man is who does not produce children as rapidly as he can, since each one might be a Wesley or a Washington!

Dr Cadman throws the whole blame on the women, after the manner of the pulpit in all ages, but to my mind the man who does not beget babies in rapid succession is as guilty as the woman who does not bear them. I seem also to see a heavy load of sin weighing down the maiden who delays matrimony, or who does not marry at all. Think of the John Wesleys and George Washingtons every spinster of your acquaintance has kept out of existence.

I speak particularly of the John Wesleys that spinsterhood consigns to non-existence because Dr Cadman makes so much of Mrs Wesley's radiant fecundity. She had certainly eighteen children and Dr Cadman inclines to believe

that she may have had nineteen. One of the brood seems to have been mislaid. The good preacher "thanks God that Susannah Wesley was not the kind of a woman" who refuses to do her full duty in the line of babies. He wishes "this country had a million mothers like Susannah Wesley." It has. There are probably several million just as thoughtless and improvident as she was. Dr Cadman can rest in the sweet confidence that Providence has granted him this wish if it never grants another. The country is full of foolish women who continually bring into the world babies for whom there is no place and no prospect of usefulness or happiness.

I might point out to Dr Cadman that most of Susannah's babies were of no use. Only John and Charles amounted to a hill of beans. The rest were nonentities, like all the Washington brood except George. I might also point out that, while large families are a social and economic good in pioneer times when population is thin, they become a distinct evil when population grows dense, since they are sure to exacerbate the bitterness of the struggle for existence.

What we want in families is not so much mere numbers as quality, and the quality of offspring, as every breeder knows, depends largely upon the nutrition and care they get both before and after birth. The fact that poor parents cannot properly nourish and shelter large broods of children ought to be decisive of the birth control question for minds which are accessible to reason.

If ministers like Dr Cadman really wish to see workingmen produce seventeen and eighteen children to the family like Susannah of holy memory, let them begin by making adequate provision for their support. The good Doctor might start the ball rolling by giving half his salary to the cause.

### Birds of a Feather

"My wife has borne to me fifteen children. Anything short of this would have been less than her duty and privilege."—Elder George F. Richards of the Mormon Church.

"A woman has the right to be the help-mate of man. That is all the right she has. That is enough."—"Medicus," in the Medical Review of Reviews, February 1917.

"God's command, while it did not specify the exact number of children allotted to woman, simply implied that she should exercise the sacred power of procreation to its utmost limit."—Elder Rudger Clawson of the Mormon Church.

"Even if the life of the mother is in danger, a physician has no moral right to destroy the child's life. I say now and with all seriousness that it is better that one million mothers die than to have one innocent little creature killed."—Father A. J. Schulte, professor of Liturgy in the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook, Pa.

# HUNGER-STRIKING AGAINST AN UNJUST LAW

E F Myhus

Ethel Byrne's successful hunger and thirst strike in protest against her imprisonment for spreading knowledge of birth control is a brilliant victory for woman in her long fight against laws debarring her from freedom of mind and body

Not since the days when Mary Wollstonecraft first raised the standard of revolt against the iron despotism of convention and law has such bitter censure been cast upon an educational movement as that with which the birth control propaganda is now assailed. The young are forbidden to acquire this knowledge and the married are warned that the miseries they endure through compulsory motherhood are the just ordinances of God and Nature.

Ethel Byrne was sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment in the workhouse for giving birth control instruction to poor women. Immediately she declared a hunger and thirst strike and for five days and nights neither food nor water passed her lips. Separated from her friends, surrounded by callous, cynical custodians, she never wavered—she remained true to the cause of woman, true to humanity, true to herself.

When her life was ebbing, forcible feeding was resorted to. The violence that was inflicted upon her at this time, despite her weakened condition, is a blot on the escutcheon of American chivalry and a stain on the character of those who carried out the ignoble work assigned to them by Commissioner Burdette G. Lewis.

The whole country seemed to stand still and anxiously watch this lone woman's fight against an iniquitous law and

against the authorities who were mercilessly enforcing it. The sneers of Commissioner Lewis, who scoffed at the idea of "an honest-to-goodness hunger strike," the surly brutality of the prison officials, the gibes of her attendants, all failed to shake the indomitable courage of the woman upon whose shoulders, in this supreme moment of a great reform movement, had fallen the mantle of liberty.

Finally the authorities had to acknowledge that Mrs. Byrne's spirit was unconquerable and that to inflict further torture was futile. Governor Whitman hurriedly gave the necessary order for her immediate release, conditional upon a promise to refrain from again violating the law. The promise was not given by Mrs. Byrne, who was too weak and ill to be consulted, but by her sister, Mrs. Sanger.

Mrs. Byrne, by her hunger and thirst strike, has *broken the back of the law*. In forcing the State to release her after only one-third of her sentence had expired, she has demonstrated that the will of the individual can be more powerful than outgrown legal formulae.

While hundreds of thousands of men are dying abroad in pitiless combat, here was a woman dying for love, that the world might be bettered and that knowledge and light might illumine the dark corners of the land. Her stand has rallied thousands to the ranks of the birth control movement. Legislators, lawyers and those high in office now see that women are determined, that they are not afraid to resort to extreme measures in order that mankind may be aroused to the responsibility of parenthood and lifted out of the quagmire of ignorance and superstition.

Everett, Wash., Jan. 31, 1917

Dr. Frederick A. Blossom,

Dear Sir —

The Women's Christian Socialist League of this city has requested me to write Mrs. Margaret Sanger to tell her of our appreciation of the good work that both she and her sister, Mrs. Byrne, are doing and to say that we admire their courage and self-sacrifice.

We believe that the time has come when all should have knowledge of birth control, no matter how humble or poor—indeed, it is all the more reason they should have enlightenment.

When birth control is fully understood, we will have a finer and more perfect race. It certainly would be a great help to overcome poverty and the present wage problem.

Thanking you in advance for forwarding this to Mrs. Sanger, I am

Yours truly,

3521 Hoyt Ave

Mrs. J. Westberg

"In the long run the basic social problem is that of population"—Professor Albert Benedict Wolfe

"The poor wouldn't use birth control if they had it."

Dear Miss Todd

February 21

The women here in Brownsville need help very bad. Mrs. Sanger has got put away in the penitentiary for being friends with us, but she said we was to use her place while she was gone. If we can have a meeting over here in the clinic, I will put a fire in the stove and ask the women to come Saturday.

We women here want to find out what the President, the Mayor, and the Judges, and everybody is trying to do. First they put Mrs. Sanger in jail for telling us women how not to have any more children, and then they get busy for the starve of the ones we've got. First they take the meat and the egg, then the potato, the onion, and the milk, and now the lentils and the butter, and the children are living on bread and tea off the tea leaves that is kept cooking on the back of the stove.

Honest to God, we ought to call a meeting and do something about it. Yours,

Sarah Goldstein,

125 Amboy Street, Brownsville, N. Y.

## NEW YORK'S TRIBUTE

It was high time For three years Margaret Sanger had been giving unsparingly of everything she had for the liberation of the women of America Untiringly she had traveled east, west, north and south, calling on them to throw off the shackles of ignorance and demand their right to voluntary motherhood She had been persecuted and feted, slandered and praised for her self-sacrificing work for humanity, until she had become one of the most famous women in America to-day

But her own city, where she had toiled for years among the workers themselves and where her first-hand contact with the many-sided tragedy of enforced motherhood had first roused her to her daring crusade of emancipation, had never yet given appropriate voice to its admiration and approval of her work.

It came with dramatic suddenness Within half an hour after Ethel Byrne had been declared guilty in the first of the Sanger clinic trials, plans had been made by the Birth Control League of New York for a monster mass meeting in Carnegie Hall With the enthusiasm and devotion that only a leader such as Margaret Sanger can inspire, the small group of workers in that young organization threw themselves into the big task of preparation In less than three weeks, the most impressive birth control meeting ever held in New York took place

The circumstances could not have been more dramatic Coming fresh from the court room, where the attitude of Judge Freschi, replacing the over-harassed Judge Garvin as presiding justice, had suddenly given hope that the remaining Sanger cases might possibly be tried on their merits, without fear of prejudice, Margaret Sanger stepped out on the platform, the embodiment of the faith of America in the coming liberation of her women from the age-old bondage

It was a woman's meeting, with Helen Todd, the stately suffrage leader and vice-president of the Birth Control League of New York, as chairman, and Dr Mary Halton as the additional speaker, while women from the Brownsville clinic filled the platform

The rapt attention and the salvos of applause which accompanied Margaret Sanger's address equally testified to the deep impression of earnestness and courage which she made on that huge audience, which filled the boxes with New York's best known men and women and crowded the balconies with enthusiastic followers of the cause

Every birth control league outside of New York City had taken a box in token of its loyalty to the one woman who had spread the gospel of "conscious and voluntary parenthood" from coast to coast

It was more than New York's testimonial to Margaret Sanger It was the nation paying its tribute to a peerless woman and a fearless leader in the eternal struggle of humanity upward and onward toward the ultimate goal of the greatest liberty and the highest development of the individual —F A B

## CARNEGIE HALL MASS MEETING

This is a meeting of protest Protest against what? Protest against a prosecution that has become a persecution Persecution of whom? To our shame be it answered—a woman And what has been her crime? Effort to free her sex from the most ancient, burdensome, and pernicious of all forms of human slavery, slavery in that which should be the freest thing under Heaven—motherhood

This victim of legislative and judicial tyranny seeks to liberate the family, the community, the state, the nation, the world, from the curse of children that are undesired because undesirable This is her infamy She endeavors to reduce the vast labor and expense of human society in caring for its unfortunates by providing a means to minimize their number And for so doing she is branded a criminal

But what man in this audience will name a more basic, simple, sensible proposal than that of Mrs Sanger? Is there any statesman in our Congress or in any parliament of Christendom who can suggest a better statecraft than that of the old maxim "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"? Our intelligent farmers control the birth of their cattle But our statesmen are too short-sighted to allow the control of the birth of the nation's children Could human stupidity go further?

In a country founded on the principle of self-government, the laws deny woman the governance of her own person in the most sacred and momentous of all concerns It is a travesty on civilization We shall never become a truly civilized people until we begin at the fountain-head of any rational society and make maternity not a degraded thing of compulsion or of chance, but the free, deliberate and joyous choice of consciously prepared womanhood

Mrs Sanger's voice is that of one crying in the wilderness of sensuality, selfishness and ignorance For a time it will meet sneers, ridicule, scorn But it already appeals to the higher intelligence of this generation and is finding willing ears among those who most need to heed its appeal The freedom it proclaims is not less sacred than that for which our forefathers pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor Mrs Sanger's voice, like the muskets of Bunker Hill, will be heard around the world

Whatever be the results of the coming trial, let us not be discouraged Posterity may forget the shame of a particular conviction, but it will never forget the barbarity of a law that made such a trial possible History will record Mrs Sanger and her sister as martyrs to as noble a cause as ever enlisted human sacrifice Be it ours to help create such public sentiment as will purge American statute-books of a disgrace that cries to Heaven.—*Kepler Hoyt*

No parents who are in ignorance of methods of birth control can possibly give a child an ethical birth The principle of ethics occurs only when there is rational choice There can be no such choice except where there is freedom to choose and there can be no freedom to choose unless there is knowledge —*Rev Harvey Dee Brown*

## NEW YORK SPEAKS ITS MIND

Resolved, that we extend our greetings to the courageous band of pioneers who have blazed the way for the birth control movement in this country

That we express to-night our especial endorsement of the educational work of Margaret Sanger during the past three years, the fruits of which are seen in the present nation-wide interest in birth control

That we voice our approval of and admiration for Margaret Sanger, Ethel Byrne, Fania Mindell and Elizabeth Stuyvesant for their courage and social vision in opening a birth control clinic in this city to demonstrate the practical value of the clinic idea and to create a legal issue on which to test the constitutionality of the law

That we condemn as archaic and inhuman the laws which prohibit the giving of instruction in contraception, and as anti-social and unprogressive the courts and other authorities which insist upon a rigid interpretation of those laws, without regard to the radical change of public opinion on birth control

That we unqualifiedly condemn the action of the District Attorney and the judicial officers of Kings County in denying to Mrs Sanger her right to trial by jury and to Mrs Byrne a stay of sentence pending appeal to a higher court, and also in refusing to hear medical and sociological testimony so that these cases might be tried on the merits of the vital human issue involved, and not on legal technicalities and formal rules of court procedure

That we extend our deepest sympathy to that brave champion of American womanhood, Ethel Byrne, in her martyrdom for birth control, and protest vigorously against the cruel and arbitrary action of Burdette G Lewis, Commissioner of Correction, in denying to her friends and relatives access to her bedside

That we declare our firm determination to do our utmost to secure such change in state and federal laws as shall put birth control knowledge within the reach of all who need it

And finally be it resolved that we pledge to Margaret Sanger our unwavering moral and financial support in her campaign to establish the principle of voluntary motherhood in this country—*Resolutions adopted at the Carnegie Hall mass meeting, January 29, 1917*

## Prison Reform As She Is Practised

After keeping the managing editor waiting four days for a reply to his request for a pass to visit Mrs Sanger on urgent business Burdette G Lewis, head of New York's "model" prison system, sent word by his secretary that he had "already granted one pass for a visitor to Mrs Sanger" and that he did not "feel like granting any more" Which, of course, settled the matter in accordance with the good old American standard of "justice"

Query Suppose Mrs Sanger had had the political connections of the famous Mrs Dunphy of Randall's Island?

## THE WOMAN REBEL

TO MARGARET SANGER

Walter Adolphe Roberts

At last a voice that knew not how to lie,  
A call articulate above the throng  
Of those who whispered of a secret wrong  
And longed for liberty and passed it by  
The voice of one with rebel head held high,  
Whose strength was not the fury of the strong,  
But whose clear message was more keen than song,  
A bugle to the dawn, a battle cry

There is a new rebellion on the earth  
Because of your voice militant, that broke  
The silence that the puritans had made,  
Because you hailed the sacredness of birth,  
The dignity of love emancipate, and spoke,  
A woman unto women, unafraid

(First printed in "The Masses")

## An Admirable Meeting

Anita C Block

The birth control meeting held at Carnegie Hall last Monday evening was indeed a triumph of women, for women, by women. Conspicuously absent were any manifestations of those qualities which the male mind asserts are characteristically woman's, such as over-emotionalism, hysteria, the obtrusion of the personal over the general, of the sentimental over the scientific. For a meeting which, under the existing crisis in the birth control movement, could easily have been made sensational, its quietness and dignity throughout were almost palpable.

Plain, unvarnished facts, facts in themselves eloquent with the terrible sufferings of women under our cruel anti-birth control laws, were what the audience needed, and what it in full measure got. Facts and truths that prudery has until now kept hidden, that have probably never before been presented so fearlessly and frankly on any public platform, were bravely stated by women for the sake of women and of the race. The importance of birth control in relation to the problems of prostitution, of abortion, of celibacy, was clearly stated. The need for bringing the sexual problems of humanity into the light of day was affirmed.

Considering the strain and stress under which she was laboring, Margaret Sanger deserves high commendation for her poise and restraint, and for the kind of address she made, admirable in its wealth of valuable information.

The meeting struck exactly the right note—that of being instructive and persuasive, rather than agitational. It was an achievement that showed clearly the rapid strides with which women are advancing.—*New York Call*

"The artificial sterilization of matrimony was the most revolutionary discovery of the nineteenth century"—*George Bernard Shaw*

## THE SANGER CLINIC CASES

Jan 23—Writ of habeas corpus issued by United States District Court Judge Augustus N Hand on the ground that Mrs Byrne had been convicted for violation of a statute that contravened the Federal Constitution Mrs Byrne was brought to court, the writ was dismissed and she was remanded back to the Workhouse

Jan 23—Notice of appeal filed with Clerk of Special Sessions and served on district attorney, appealing conviction of Ethel Byrne

Jan 23—Order to show cause for a certificate of reasonable doubt in case of Ethel Byrne signed by Judge Callahan, motion returnable before Judge James C Cropsey, January 25th

Jan 25—Motion argued before Judge Cropsey

Jan 29—Case against Fania Mindell tried before Judges Freschi, O'Keefe and Hermann The question narrowed itself down to whether the book, *What Every Girl Should Know*, was indecent

Jan 29—Case against Margaret H Sanger called and trial started Counsel argued that the indictment against Mrs Sanger in the County Court, on a similar charge, superseded the charge in the Court of Special Sessions and asked that the case be so marked Counsel's objection was overruled

Jan 29—Judge Callahan signed an order to show cause why a writ of prohibition should not issue to restrain the judges of the Court of Special Sessions from trying the case against Margaret H Sanger

Feb 2—Case against Margaret H Sanger reopened and further evidence introduced by the district attorney and both Fania Mindell and Margaret H Sanger found guilty as charged, Judge Freschi dissenting in the Mindell case Cases adjourned to February 5th for sentence

Feb 2—Ethel Byrne pardoned by Governor Whitman

Feb 3—No decision having yet been made by Judge Cropsey on a motion to admit Mrs Ethel Byrne to bail and for a certificate of reasonable doubt, counsel informed the judge's secretary of the pardon and stated that it would be useless at that time for the judge to consider the matter further

Feb 3—Motion for writ of prohibition argued before Judge Cropsey Decision reserved

Feb 5—Motion for writ of prohibition denied

Feb 5—Fania Mindell fined \$50 00, which fine was paid Margaret H Sanger offered a suspended sentence if she would promise the court never again to violate this statute She was willing to promise pending the appeals, but not indefinitely, whereupon the court imposed a sentence of thirty days in the Workhouse

Feb 5—Judge Cropsey denied the motion for a certificate of reasonable doubt in the Byrne case

Feb 6—Margaret H Sanger transferred from the Workhouse to the Queens County penitentiary

Feb 8—Notice of appeal filed in the cases of Fania Mindell and Margaret H Sanger

## WHAT EVEN A JUDGE SHOULD KNOW

Judge Hermann of the Court of Special Sessions, Brooklyn, fined Fania Mindell fifty dollars for selling a copy of Margaret Sanger's book, *What Every Girl Should Know* As the judge, we are told, is a bachelor, perhaps his maiden modesty prevented him from looking into the book to see just how 'obscene' it is The following typical passages will show what an indecent piece of literature Miss Mindell sold and how justified his honor was in punishing her

"A woman does not need to be a college graduate, with a special degree in the study of botany before she can tell her child the beautiful truth of its birth But she does need to clear her own mind of prudishness and to understand that the procreative act is natural clean and healthful that all nature is beautified through it and consequently, that it is devoid of offensiveness If the mother can impress the child with the beauty and wonder and sacredness of the sex functions, she has taught it the first lesson"

"Every girl should first understand herself, she should know her anatomy, including sex anatomy, she should know the epochs of a normal woman's life and the unfoldment which each epoch brings she should know the effect the emotions have on her acts and finally she should know the fullness and richness of life when crowned by the flower of motherhood

"The sexual impulse is the strongest force in all living creatures It is this that animates the struggle for existence, it is this that attracts and unites two beings that they may reproduce their kind it is this that inspires man to the highest and noblest thoughts it is this also that inspires man to all endeavors and achievements to all art and poetry this impulse is the creative instinct which dominates all living things and without which life must die If then, this force this impulse plays so strong a part in our lives is it not necessary that we know something about it?"

O noble judge! O excellent young man!

NOTE—A few printed copies of Attorney Goldstein's brief in the case of Ethel Byrne giving his argument on the constitutionality of the law with excerpts from medical and sociological authorities, may be had at the office of *The Birth Control Review* for fifty cents postpaid

## Birth Control is Humane and Patriotic

I regard the movement for scientific birth control as both humane and patriotic humane for mothers who exhaust themselves in bearing children beyond their strength, and patriotic because fewer children among the poor means better education and health for the children

Mrs Sanger deserves the aggressive support of those who regard the present law as the product of unscientific social theories two hundred or more years out of date, a religious bigotry which it is my business to oppose and a mawkish sentimentality which comes near to being selfish hypocrisy

The first step toward the repeal of the law is Mrs Sanger's brave stand—*Rev Charles H Lytle, Second Unitarian Church, Brooklyn, N Y*

The great elementary physical side of love so far from having about it anything animal or debasing or self-indulgent, is utterly right—a fair and noble meeting, a sacrament, the intended foundation of the spiritual unity This ultimate surrender and intimacy is not alone necessary for the perpetuation of the race, but is one of the exalted expressions of love between husband and wife—*Dr Robert L Dickinson, Marital Maladjustment*

## DUNCES, DOCTORS AND DRYSDALE

A "birth control number" of the *Critic and Guide* must sound like a painted lily to those who have followed Dr W J Robinson's persistent advocacy of family limitation in the columns of his monthly periodical. It must be admitted, however, that the February issue, being entirely given over to birth control, contains somewhat more than the usual amount of matter on that particular subject.

Half the issue is devoted to an account, in Dr Robinson's indefatigably combative style, of the now famous meeting of the New York County Medical Society, on December 26, 1916, which furnished the final proof that birth control is not a medical but a social question and that the medical profession, as so often in the past, is lacking in social vision and cannot safely be entrusted with this vital problem. The consequences, both to the profession and to the birth control cause, of the three-to-one vote against any modification in the present law, are correctly estimated by Dr Robinson.

"It makes very little difference to the birth control movement," he says, "whether the New York County Medical Society goes on record as favoring or opposing birth control, but it is of enormous importance to the medical profession. An opinion is prevalent among a large section of the public that the medical profession is out of touch with the people as a whole and that its members are smug bourgeois who care but for their own selfish interests and have little sympathy for the physical and economic sufferings of the poor."

The ludicrously unscientific character of this so-called "scientific session" of the society does not escape Dr Robinson's caustic pen.

"There are some arguments against birth control, but not one of them was brought forward by the opponents," he remarks. "Dr Kosmak, who read the majority report, said that any attempt to modify the law was 'untimely.' It is 'untimely' to attempt to diminish prostitution, venereal disease, abortion, infant mortality and the misery and wretchedness, filth and horror of our slums."

"From one point of view," Dr Robinson concludes, "all true friends of birth control should rejoice at the defeat of the minority report. It will help to clear the atmosphere."

"Never again will physician or layman demand birth control as a eugenic or hygienic measure simply. To demand birth control in order that we may give our tuberculous, cancerous, epileptic or insane patients contraceptives is hypocrisy, because this has never been prohibited. There is no case on record where a physician was prosecuted for advising his patients to use contraceptive measures."

"The economic side is much more important than the purely pathologic. There are thousands of women who cannot, strictly speaking, be considered ill, but to whom, for several reasons, an additional child is a horrible spectre. It is to such women that we want to be able to impart contraceptive information."

"Let us frankly state that birth control is a measure of the utmost importance to humanity from every point of view—economic, social, moral, racial, hygienic and eugenic."

It is to be regretted that, in Dr Robinson's detailed narrative of that too much heralded meeting, no mention is made of the plucky fight of Drs Wile, Goldwater, Kahn and Tannenbaum against hopeless odds of ignorance, self-interest and religious prejudice. Had they, too, been content to play the role of ironical observer of a *comédie humaine*, the vote against birth control would have been a perfunctory matter and the *Critic and Guide* would have lacked material for an entertaining, if not highly edifying, story.

The remainder of the number, except for a few communications from New York physicians and a series of abortion tragedies by the editor, is devoted to a treatise on birth control by Dr C V Drysdale, which is substantial enough to deserve separate consideration.

## After Thirty-Five Years of Birth Control

All children you now see are suitably dressed, they look now as neat as formerly only the children of the village clergyman did. In the families of the laborers there is now a better personal and general hygiene, a finer moral and intellectual development. All this has become possible by limitation of the number of children in these families. It may be that now and then this preventive teaching has caused illicit intercourse but, on the whole, morality is now on a much higher level and mercenary prostitution, with its demoralizing consequences and propagation of contagious diseases, is on the decline.

The best test—and the only possible mathematical one—of our moral, physiological and financial progress is the constant increase in longevity of our population. From 1890 to 1899 it was 46.20, from 1900 to 1909 it was 51 years. Such a rise cannot be equalled in any other country except Scandinavia, where birth limitation was preached long before it was in Holland.

None of the dreadful consequences feared by the advocates of clericalism, militarism and conservatism have occurred. In spite of our low birth rate, the population in our country is rising faster than ever before, simply because it is concomitant with a greater economic improvement and better child hygiene.

One must have been a family physician for twenty-five years like myself in a large city (Rotterdam) to appreciate the blessings of conscious motherhood, resulting in the better care of children and a higher moral standard. And all these blessings are taken away from you by your government's peculiar laws, made to please the Puritans. (Extract from letter of Dr J Rutgers, secretary of the Neo-Malthusian League of Holland, to Dr S A Knopf.)

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- NOTE.—The zeal of our postal department in watching over the tender morals of the nation prevents our including in the above list Margaret Sanger's pamphlet, "Family Limitation," giving the results of her investigation, in this country and abroad, of the best known methods of preventing conception

Two books by Margaret Sanger  
"WHAT EVERY GIRL SHOULD KNOW"  
and  
"WHAT EVERY MOTHER SHOULD KNOW"  
Twenty-five cents each, postpaid

*Jailed for Birth Control*, the story of the trial and imprisonment of William Sanger, edited by James Waldo Fawcett, ten cents a copy

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FREE SPEECH

One certain Martha Sanger is traveling around the country preaching the nasty doctrine of birth control Besides being indicted by the Federal government, she has been denied the use of theatres or halls in several cities in which she has attempted to deliver her filthy lecture She complains that she is being deprived of her constitutional right to freedom of speech

Many of the daily papers have taken up her defense, on the theory that it is contrary to constitutional guarantees to suppress public utterances on any subject The specious argument is made that, when anyone has a notion they feel impelled to put before the public, such a one has a right to speak

It is immoral to say that a bad cause has any rights and that those who advocate it have a right to do so Evil speaking can claim no more moral right than evil acting A lie has no rights and the liar has no right to lie

It is a queer twist, both mental and moral, that holds the teacher of immorality or falsehood has an equal right to teach as the teacher of morals and truth Every code of morals insists it is immoral to teach and advocate immorality and falsehood Every code of laws punishes incitement by speech to law-breaking The answer of American law to such freedom of speech was given after the Haymarket riot The decision in the case of the anarchists of Chicago, who by their public utterances incited to murder, was good morals and good law

There is no more absolute and untrammelled right to freedom of speech than there is to freedom of action—*Truth, "a monthly magazine for the dissemination of the truth concerning the doctrine, history and practices of the Catholic church"*

*Error of opinion may safely be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it—Thomas Jefferson*

*Without free speech no search for truth is possible, without free speech no discovery of truth is useful, without free speech progress is checked and the nations no longer march forward toward the nobler life which the future holds for man Better a thousandfold abuse of free speech than denial of free speech The abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people and entombs the hope of the race—Charles Bradlaugh*

*If there is anything in the universe that can't stand discussion, let it crack—Wendell Phillips*

### Showing Up Father

In a vociferous attack on birth control before the New York County Medical Society, at the famous meeting of December 26, 1916, Dr Arthur Gibbon, in a speech studded with jests which might possibly have been in place in a bar-room or stable, boasted of being one of thirteen children and related how his father used to say to him "I'd have had twice as many, me boy, if I hadn't been smart"

One wonders if the elder Gibbon used to make the same boast to the priest

## MORE SPIES

Mrs Ralph D Mitchell, club woman and charity worker, was arrested yesterday on a charge of distributing obscene literature, after officers had visited her home at 2079 East Ninetieth Street with a search warrant to get birth control literature

Vice Squad men say they found birth control circulars in a dressing-table in Mrs Mitchell's bedroom. The titles of the pamphlets were "The Fight for Birth Control,"\* by Margaret Sanger, "Marriage and Love," by Emma Goldman, and others. The literature was taken by the police as evidence.

When the officers arrived at the Mitchell home Mrs Mitchell was with her four children.

Mrs Mitchell's arrest was brought about by Jeannette Lavan, in the employ of the police. She attended a meeting of birth controllers, where she was told to go to a downtown printing office to obtain birth control literature.

She says she went to this office and was directed to Mrs Mitchell's home. In a conversation with Mrs Mitchell, she alleges she was told to go home and the literature would be mailed to her. The literature duly arrived at her home.

The arrest of Mrs Mitchell marks the beginning of a campaign by the vice squad against birth control propaganda in Cleveland. Vice squad men searched a printing office in the Caxton Building yesterday. No literature was found there.—*From Cleveland newspapers of February 20*

## Capital Resolutions

WHEREAS, birth-control provides a most natural and effective means for the reduction of poverty, with its disease, vice and crime, and for the production of a superior race, and

WHEREAS, the dissemination of information as to birth control methods, even by physicians, is at present penalized by law, and

WHEREAS, Mrs Sanger, Mrs Byrne, and Miss Mindell, of New York City, are being prosecuted and imprisoned for giving such information to some who most need it, and

WHEREAS, there has just been founded in New York City a periodical known as "The Birth Control Review," for the purpose of aiding in the legal defense of the above parties, in obtaining the revision of legislation in the interest of birth control, and in the encouragement of birth control itself, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Secular League of Washington, D C, that the League approves the principle of birth control, that it favors such legislation as will authorize the giving of scientific knowledge as to birth control methods by physicians and registered nurses, that it extends its sympathies to Mrs Sanger, Mrs Byrne, and Miss Mindell, and that it welcomes "The Birth Control Review" as a much needed magazine, calculated to perform a most important social service.—Feb 11, 1917

\*Probably a discreet city editor's way of saying "Family Limitation"

*Make checks payable to Hiram Myers, Treasurer*

THE BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK  
104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Feb 21, 1917

To the Friends of Birth Control—

When Margaret Sanger comes out of prison she will have to face the second case still pending against her, while the appeals in her first case and those of her two assistants are still to be heard by the higher courts.

Margaret Sanger should not be required to carry this burden alone. She has done her part and more. *We must do ours.*

The Carnegie Hall mass meeting netted \$1000 00, which will cover the court costs and legal printing to date. About \$3500 00 more will be needed to fight these four cases through to a finish. If this money is not raised, the cases will have to be dropped and Margaret Sanger's effort to establish the unconstitutionality of the present law will fail. Her imprisonment will go for naught.

Let us raise this sum as a tribute to Margaret Sanger before she comes out of jail. Give what you can and give it quickly. Take up a subscription among your friends and send it in at once. *Every dollar will count.*

MARGARET SANGER DEFENSE COMMITTEE

## The Race Suicide Bogey

Although the announcement has been made with monotonous regularity in recent years that each successive birth-rate was the lowest on record, it has been followed, no less monotonously, by the statement that the death-rate was also the lowest yet recorded. When we add to this the lament of the *British Medical Journal* that the prospects of the medical profession are declining, owing to the fewer births and the consequently improved health of the children, we may suspect that there is not much wrong with the world.—Dr C V Drysdale, *The Small Family System*

27 East Eighty-First Street  
New York

Sunday

Dear Dr Blossom —

I have just read the first number of the *Birth Control Review*

It is brilliant. It is artistic with the restraint all real art shows. And it is convincing.

It makes me glad to work for the cause!

Sincerely,

AUGUSTA P HOPE

Chairman of the Finance Committee of the  
Birth Control League of New York