

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Dedicated to the Principle of Intelligent and Voluntary Motherhood

Volume One

DECEMBER, 1917

Number Five

WOMAN, REBELLIOUS!

By LILY WINNER

BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S HEALTH

By MARGARET SANGER

THE BIRTH RATE OF FRANCE

By LÉONINE NAPIÈRE

AN ANSWER TO MR. ROOSEVELT

Fifteen cents a copy

One dollar fifty a year

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

104 Fifth Avenue, New York City

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CORNELIA BARNES

Published monthly Subscription price \$1 50 a year foreign countries and Canada \$1 75 postpaid
Bundle rates ten copies for a dollar \$9 50 per hundred

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ANNOUNCEMENT

We have to announce that Elizabeth Stuyvesant and Frederick A Blossom, Ph D, have resigned from The Birth Control Review

Elizabeth Stuyvesant is now devoting her energies to the suffrage movement

Frederick A Blossom is now identified with the Socialist Party and the social work of the Rand School, in New York City

We take this opportunity of thanking these two former co-workers for their devotion to the movement while they were with us, and wish them success in their new undertakings

The Editors

AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS

THE CONTINUED publication of this magazine depends upon the support you are willing to give us. Last year was a year of agitation—a year of clinics, arrests, trials, courts and prison sentences, a year of national publicity. In this movement, as in all others, many flocked to the cause during the time of publicity and fell away when publicity ceased. The birth control movement was particularly unfortunate, because its forward march was halted by the entry of this country into the European war.

Nevertheless, those of us who started this agitation believe as strongly as we did in the beginning that birth control is the most fundamental issue before the American people today. We cannot afford to neglect it, even while we are passing through the temporary trial of war. The laws against the dissemination of birth control knowledge remain upon the statute books and must be changed. It has been left to a few of us to keep up the fight for their repeal.

The publication of this magazine is one of the most important contributions to the movement. But it will become an impossible burden to those who are publishing it unless you, its readers, will work with us for its continuation. You can do this by

(1) Contributing what you can each month to a sustaining fund, for the period of a year or

(2) Obtaining at least five new subscribers or

(3) Ordering from us bundles of ten or more copies of the magazine for distribution in your neighborhood.

Your response will determine the prompt appearance of the next issue. We believe in the absolute necessity of keeping this magazine alive. We believe in its future and the services it can render to the cause of woman's freedom both during and after the war. If you have the same faith, you will not delay in letting us hear from you. We need the encouragement.

THE EDITORS

WOMAN, REBELLIOUS!

By Lily Winner

THE DRIFT of the world toward liberty is nowhere more evident than in the amazing alteration in the position and activities of women. The position of woman is the last stronghold of conservatism. Herein custom reigns supreme,—tradition, the ways of the forefathers. But this stronghold has been attacked. And it is indeed time that justice was done to one-half of human kind. Is it not enough that whereas it takes man but twenty-one years to attain his majority, it has taken woman twenty-one centuries?

It is an age of Feminism. Laws are being altered for woman's benefit. Government is on the verge of radical change by her participation. Our industrial system has forced her to the front more and more. She can no more be numbered among man's chattels. Her equality, if not in likeness, then in unlikeness, is being universally taken for granted. She no longer depends upon man for her bread. Millions of women workers fill the factories. Countless numbers are employed in minor positions in trade. They teach, they write, they paint, they sing. The woman who works is no longer an exception, she is a usual type.

But it is as the whole world changes that woman's position changes. She is on the firing line. She is the sensitive human barometer of change. Indeed, we can measure civilization by the steps taken by woman toward liberty.

And now that the law recognizes her as a self centered individual, not incorporated in another personality, not merged in the family, not the property of the father or the shadow of the husband, but an independent legal unit, she is asserting that individuality and demanding

complete freedom, full choice of all the gifts of life, and free control of her own destiny.

The introduction of woman into industrial life, which was the first step toward her economic independence, was the result of the revolution in industry occasioned by the invention and introduction of machinery. Machinery multiplied and facilitated production. More workers were demanded to feed these machines than the labor of man could furnish. But having attained, almost in like measure with man, economic independence, and having, in rubbing shoulders with the world and meeting and conquering its problems, acquired vision and desire, woman has developed into the next stage—the stage of discontent, of critical and intelligent discontent with the confused conditions that surround her on every side in her struggle under the present system of living. And so we have the new type, the progressive and world-moving type—woman, rebellious!

THE OSCILLATION of the pendulum from quiescence has brought a swift and permanent change. Woman demands the prerogative of choice which man has always arrogated to himself. Demanding and being refused, she goes onward to the next step toward seizing what is refused to her, by defying in action those who have the power to deny her. From Becky Edelson, the first hunger-striker in America, and Ethel Byrne to the present day suffrage martyrs, she is making the great crusade of the ages for the absolute control of her own soul and body. Particularly, must she fight for her own body, to own it and care for it and use it according to her own high desire and purpose.

(Continued on Page 11)

ON CHANGING THE LAW

By *Caroline Nelson*

NOW THAT WE are talking so much democracy, it would be well to repeal the laws which prevent women from controlling their own bodies

The American people have had nothing to do with the writing of these absurd laws upon their statute books. The objectionable legislation was sneaked through about 40 years ago, by the "wardheeling" politicians of the day. England had similar laws, but they could not stand daylight and publicity and they faded away just about the time that ours bloomed into statute life.

Women were not permitted to say a word, one way or the other, when laws designed to prevent them from regulating their motherhood function were drawn up, voted upon, signed and placed in operation by undemocratic men.

But said laws are for the protection of society, declares the would-be statesman. Do they, then, protect society? Protect it from what? From degeneracy? On the contrary, the laws which make it a crime to disseminate harmless methods of birth control give us an army of decent citizens who dare not marry and establish homes, for fear that more children will come along than they can care for. As a direct consequence, illicit relationships of all kinds flourish. Red light districts spread disease and demoralization, from which young boys and girls are not safe. Half a million women are driven yearly into the hands of abortionists, whence they emerge crippled either in body or mind, or both. Hosts of deficient persons are born of mothers whose condition is such that it is impossible for them to give life to healthy offspring.

Furthermore, the parent is expected not only to create life, but to cultivate it. In our modern society, it takes at least 18 long years to nurse a human being to the point where he or she can take his place in the world, with credit to himself and the world. The citizen who calls for reckless and unlimited breeding, as a means of increasing the race, is either an impractical fanatic, or back in his head there is the fear that his own selfish schemes may miscarry unless there is a large, ignorant, degraded population to be used in his interest. The vision of this brand of citizen is so blurred and distorted that it is he, and not the advocate of birth control, who is a menace to the race.

OVERCROWDING is fatal even to animals. While the flow of the human race has been from the East westward, out into the valleys and open prairies, until mankind has circled the globe, and the ever increasing population of the Pacific coast of America looks across apprehensively at the hordes of the Orient—the tide of human enlightenment has always flowed from the West eastward. It was among the inhabitants of sparsely populated Western Europe that the germ of democracy was

developed, and it was in the thinly settled New England Colonies that it first found a soil in which it could grow. Since then, it has been a tussle between the minds developed in the crowded East and those developed on the open prairies and mountains of the West, as to whether democracy should be permitted to grow beyond its infantile stage.

It was a very sparsely settled state that first gave women the vote. Our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, came from the western prairies. And when I say "West," I care not where that particular West may have been at any particular time, whether on the plains of Central Europe 500 years ago, or our Atlantic seaboard 200 years ago, or in Illinois 60 years ago. True, great reformers must necessarily arise wherever there is crowded degradation, but the degraded crowd itself in such localities, is always ready to cry, through its priests "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Civilizations have flourished upon this globe, now here and now there, and they have gone down scarcely leaving a trace behind. The causes contributing to their disappearance may have been numerous. But we are at least certain that idle luxury on one side, and crowded poverty on the other, have never failed to do their deadly work.

THE WORKINGWOMAN cannot ignore her own responsibility. She must not allow blind nature to lead her to the point where she is surrounded by a brood of offspring, which she is unable either to feed or clothe. And, to the eternal credit of the workingwoman, I believe that, once she is informed of the facts, she will accept any punishment, even death, in preference to committing the crime of becoming an irresponsible mother.

America is the only country which makes it a felony to give out birth control information. Nevertheless, the upper circles in American life universally practice birth control. Each college graduate is said to average one-third of a daughter and one-fourth of a son. The law is a farce to them. Are American legislators then so stupid as to believe that the nation can be strengthened by forcing the least healthy and intelligent mothers to breed while the more independent prudently refrain? If they do believe this, they must expect to create an improved race out of the forces of inefficiency, weakness and credulity—a manifest absurdity. It should be added that under their regime, democracy can be of little reality, for democracy demands a nation of uniformly strong and sturdy members.

Instead of calling birth control among the poor and deficient a crime, it should be preached to them as a sacred duty. The laws must be changed.



Drawn by Cornelia Barnes

"We Accuse Society!"

STATUS OF BIRTH CONTROL CASES

In connection with the suppression of the Brownsville birth control clinic, two charges were filed against Ethel Byrne — 1 For disseminating information on birth control, 2 For aiding Fania Mindell in selling "What Every Girl Should Know" Mrs Byrne was convicted in the Court of Special Sessions on the first charge and was sentenced to 30 days in the workhouse. She went on a hunger strike, was pardoned by Governor Whitman of New York and released. The second charge was dismissed, following the reversal of Fania Mindell's conviction for selling "What Every Girl Should Know"

Margaret Sanger was arrested at the same time as Ethel

Byrne and charged with disseminating birth control information. As soon as she was released on bail, Mrs Sanger reopened the clinic. She was rearrested and charged with "maintaining a public nuisance." She was convicted in the Court of Special Sessions on the first charge and sentenced to 30 days in the workhouse, which term she served. She nevertheless appealed the case. The Appellate Division affirmed the conviction, but a new appeal is now pending in the highest court in New York State. The second charge, that of maintaining a public nuisance, was removed by order of Judge Hylan from the Court of Special Sessions to the County Court, to permit of a jury trial. This case is now pending, action apparently awaiting the decision of the highest court on the first count.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT OF BIRTH CONTROL

By Maude Durand Edgren

A FEW WORDS, first, about the morality of birth control, for ignorantly and unfortunately, the idea of birth control has been associated with immorality

Theodore Roosevelt emphasizes the important duty to one's country of keeping up the number of its population, and this duty he puts on the shoulder of those able to produce and care for sound, healthy, offspring. Obviously it is the duty of the race to humanity to keep the population regulated in a normal, healthy and progressive manner. When the wealthy, educated and ecclesiastical members of society neglect to reproduce the adequate number of offspring for the good of the society of which they form a part, they are immoral. They are neglecting a spiritual duty. They are putting selfish indulgence ahead of community welfare. Such people, in my opinion, are immoral and are practicing immoral birth control, no matter how religiously they are living up to all the conventions of society and the church.

On the other hand, the poor families who are breeding diseased offspring or more children than they can support in a healthy, normal, sanitary manner are immoral. There is the immorality of ignorance—ignorance of the laws of birth control. Any institution encouraging such over-production of offspring is immoral.

The State itself is not free from blame regarding these things. A State that allows its citizens already born to suffer privations and become exposed to unhealthful and criminal environments is immoral. A State that does not protect the rights of helpless baby citizens is immoral, even to brutality. Would it not increase and improve the population enormously if the State snatched every infant out of diseased and sordid environments and supplied it with everything a normal, healthy, growing baby citizen needed: nursing, education, comforts, recreation up to the time he or she could be self-supporting?

Thus, the State itself, the wealthy, the educated, the unmarried ecclesiastics are all, generally speaking, shrinking from their duty to humanity in respect to producing and rearing healthy, desirable citizens. They are all immoral and most of them are indulging in the immoral use of birth control.

ROOSEVELT calls the poorer and more unfortunate members of our population the "Submerged Tenth," perhaps because they are unable to rise above the depressing clouds of fear, ignorance and poverty settled about them. Workers for the welfare of humanity should ever be on the alert to send rays of light through these heavy clouds. Even Roosevelt admits that to this class, perhaps, birth control would be a benefit. Indeed, teaching these people the knowledge of the laws of birth control is not only advisable and moral, but necessary to the welfare of the race. A

new-born babe has rights which defective parents would be unable to give him. And if we knew a little more about the laws of Karma and Rebirth, we could plainly see that children born into unfortunate environments often had better far never have been born at all.

This brings us to the deeper spiritual aspect of the matter. It is a mistake to think that when parents give birth to a child, in so doing they create a new soul. The soul, or spirit, of the new-born babe is a divine spark, divinely created. It is blasphemy to suppose that mere human beings could do anything so wonderful. All parents can possibly do is to produce the child's body, its physical abode during this particular earth life. Even this physical body the parents would be unable to furnish if it were not for the seed atom supplied by the incoming soul itself. Actually the parents supply the soil in which, or out of which, the seed atom grows into a human, physical form. This seed atom is the property of the coming child. It is entirely independent of the parents, but before the child can begin an earth life, its seed atom must take root and grow in the body of a mother. The mother, therefore, is the gate through which an individual enters a new life on earth. When a mother refuses to help build a body for an individual desiring to enter an earth life through her body she is depriving that individual of her assistance in the matter. She is by no means killing that individual, who may gain a body through the help of some other mother. If a mother refuses admittance to an undesirable being she is right in so doing and benefits humanity thereby. There are all classes of individuals clamoring to get through these woman bodies. It is for the mother to stand on guard lest the unworthy enter.

A MOTHER can determine what sort of child she will give birth to. A woman whose thoughts are pure and noble and whose life is devoted to the uplift of humanity would, by the law of attraction, draw to her a child with similar inclinations. The attitude of a mother's mind just prior to the reception of the seed atom is all important in determining what sort of child she will bring into the world. A fit of temper or violent passion at this sacred moment leaves the gateway unguarded and invites the wrong sort of entity to enter. Women are shouldering a tremendous responsibility, and the sooner they learn all there is to know about it, the better it is going to be for the coming generation.

Before a human being is reborn into an earth life, he or she is permitted to choose certain parents. No one can choose an environment which is not deserved, or previously earned in another life. We are told that there are many high-class people being kept out of life on earth because no worthy parents will supply bodies for them. On the

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BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S HEALTH

By Margaret Sanger

ONE OF THE first questions asked by women desirous of contraceptive information, is "Will the knowledge of birth control, when put into practice, injure the health of either the man or the woman?"

The conclusion arrived at by some of the most prominent authorities on the subject is to the effect that there are safe and reliable means of controlling birth which will not injure the health of either the man or the woman

Among these eminent authorities may be included such men as Dr Havelock Ellis, Dr Hector Treub, Professor Forel, Dr Iwan Bloch, Dr Anton Nystrom, Dr A Jacoby, formerly President of the American Medical Association, and Dr William J Robinson, who, in his book on the "Limitation of Offspring" challenges any physician or gynecologist to produce "a single case," in which disease or injury resulted from modern methods of birth control

Not only are we fortunate in possessing the opinions of the best known medical authorities, but we are also fortunate in possessing historical facts collected in Holland and New Zealand, where for years the knowledge of birth control has been disseminated among the working class women

In these two countries we find the women largely free from so-called "female complaints" common to the women of the United States There are two practical reasons for this The first one is the fact that women go to the birth control clinic for instruction and information, thus giving the nurse the opportunity to detect any ailment or incipient disease, which, if present, is promptly treated by a specialist The second reason is, that owing to scientific knowledge of birth control, women are saved from the deteriorating and ghastly effects of abortion, which so many women of the United States frequently undergo

Military statistics of Holland prove that the average stature of the male citizens has increased by four inches during the thirty years since the first birth control clinic was opened in Amsterdam

We also learn from statistics in Holland for 1912 that the death rate in Amsterdam, which, in 1881, was 25 1, had fallen in 1912 to 11 2, the lowest death rate reported of all lists submitted. The infant mortality, which in 1881 was 203, had fallen in 1912 to 64 These statistics, together with numerous other reports, which for want of space cannot be related, prove conclusively that the scientific application of birth control among the working class has resulted in a racial improvement.

IN this country our stupid and puritanical laws have been the cause of more than *fifty thousand* annual deaths resulting from abortions These laws have caused hundreds of thousands of women to drag out a futile existence due to nervous exhaustion from too frequent child-bearing These

laws are responsible for the birth of children tainted by syphilis, who become not only a charge upon the public, but also a detriment to the human race

I am going to quote from one of the many typical letters I am constantly receiving from all parts of the country, in order that my readers may get some idea of conditions as they exist among us

A Poignant Plea for Birth Control

"I was left without a father when a girl of fourteen years old. I was the oldest child of five My mother had no means of support except her two hands, so we worked at anything we could, my job being nurse girl at home while mother worked most of the time, as she could earn more money than I could, for she could do harder work

"I wasn't very strong and finally after two years my mother got so tired and worn out trying to make a living for so many, she married again, and as she married a poor man, we children were not much better off At the age of seventeen I married a man, a brakeman on the — Railroad, who was eleven years older than I He drank some and was a very frail looking man, but I was very ignorant of the world and did not think of anything but making a home for myself and husband After eleven months I had a little girl born to me I did not want more children, but my mother-in-law told me it was a terrible sin to do anything to keep from having children and that the Lord only sent just thing, and if I heard anything I was told it was injurious, so I did not try

"In eleven months again, Oct 25, I had another little puny girl In twenty-three months, Sept 25, I had a seven-lb boy In ten months, July 15, I had a seven-months baby that lived five hours In eleven months, June 20, I had another little girl In seventeen months, Nov 30, another boy In nine months a four months' miscarriage In twelve months another girl, and in three and a half years another girl

"All of these children were born into poverty, the father's health was always poor, and when the third girl was born he was discharged from the road because of his disability, yet he was still able to put children into the world When the oldest child was twelve years old the father died of concussion of the brain while the youngest child was born two months after his death

"Now, Mrs Sanger, I did not want those children, because even in my ignorance I had sense enough to know that I had no right to bring those children into such a world where they could not have decent care,

for I was not able to do it myself nor hire it done I prayed and I prayed that they would die when they were born Praying did no good and today I have read and studied enough to know that I am the mother of seven living children and that I committed a crime by bringing them into the world, their father was syphilitic (I did not know about such things when I was a girl) One son is to be sent to Mexico, while one of my girls is a victim of the white slave traffic

"I raised my family in a little college town in ——— and am well known there, for I made my living washing and working for the college people while I raised my little brood I often wondered why those educated well-to-do people never had so many children I have one married daughter who is tubercular, and she also has two little girls, only a year apart I feel so bad about it, and write to ask you to send me information for her Don't stop your good work, don't think it's not appreciated, for there are hundreds of women like myself who are not afraid to risk their lives to help you to get this information to poor women who need it"

THIS IS but one illustration of what women endure through the ravages of syphilis The waste from tuberculosis is no less terrible

Here is another letter which speaks for itself

"Kindly pardon me for writing this to you, not knowing what trouble this may cause you But I've heard of you through a friend and realize you are a friend of humanity If people would see with your light, the world would be healthy I married the first time when I was eighteen years old, a drinking man I became mother to five children In 1908 my husband died of consumption I lost two of my oldest children from the same disease, one at 16 and the other at 23 The youngest of them all, a sweet girl of nineteen, now lies at ——— sanatorium expecting to leave us at any time The other sister and brother look very poorly

"I have always worked very hard, because I had to In 1913 I married again, a good man this time, but a laboring man, and our constant fear and trouble is what may happen if we bring children into the world I'm forty-six years old this month and not very well any more, either So a Godsend will be some one who can tell me how to care for myself, so I can be free from suffering and also not bring mortals to earth to suffer and die"

Does the State ever ask itself if it is economy to support and educate human beings up to the ages specified above, only to lose them in the end, knowing in advance that they should never have been born?

The cases given are only two of thousands of good women whose lives have been spent uselessly bearing burdens that no civilized society should put upon them These things are past and we cannot undo the harm that has been done

to the victims, but we can prevent our younger generation from committing the same crimes If you will compare the letter which follows with the early history of the first one quoted above, you will see a young life starting out which, if left in ignorance, will have the same disastrous experience

"Mine is a pitiful case Having been married over a year and having lost our baby (which was premature) I am now going to have another I am in wretched health I have been in bed for months since I married The doctors all say that motherhood is not for me, but only shake their heads when I ask them for advice as how to keep from having children so fast, at least until my health improves I live in dread that this one will be born dead, too, for my health is as bad as before The doctors are continually treating me, but I never seem to improve

"My husband and I are also deeply in debt—as you know, doctors and nurses can eat up money—and as matters stand we will never be free from debt again unless something is done I want you to know that I am not selfish, for I love children But at twenty-one years I have developed into a worn out, faded sickly woman, and I know that my husband is in time bound to grow weary of the heavy yoke that is put on his shoulders We are doing all that we can to bring this little baby into the world as healthy as my frail body will permit, but after that (should I live) I would like to refrain from having children until I get stronger"

COULD THERE be a more worthy case of the right of an individual to demand, yes, *demand* of science, of the medical profession and of the State, the benefit of the knowledge society has accumulated on this subject?

These three cases represent, in a small degree, living conditions as they are What a waste of human life our ignorance and stupidity is costing us! What an amount of useless suffering will be avoided when women have birth control knowledge!

We are dealing with peculiar facts today, so far as the health of the race is concerned In the early history of the race, so-called "natural law" reigned undisturbed Under its pitiless and unsympathetic iron rule, only the strongest, most courageous could live and become progenitors of the race The weak died early, or were killed Today, however, civilization has brought sympathy, pity, tenderness and other lofty and worthy sentiments, which interfere with the law of natural selection We are now in a state where our charities, our compensation acts, our pensions, hospitals and even our drainage and sanitary equipment all tend to keep alive the sickly and weak, who are allowed to propagate and in turn produce a race of degenerates

What we need to do, is to combine Reason with this higher sense of sympathy, and to encourage the birth of those only whose inheritance is health, and only so many as can be brought up in cleanliness and happiness

THE BIRTH RATE OF FRANCE

By Leonine Napiere

GREAT EFFORTS are being made by the French Government, like that of other countries, to stimulate a high birth rate as a means of replacing the man-power lost in the war. An active propaganda, appealing to women on sentimental grounds not to "allow the race to die out," has been conducted in the newspapers. Legislation has been prepared with a view to awarding prizes to the parents of large families, and penalizing the unmarried and the childless. The dissemination of birth control knowledge, of course, has been more or less discouraged and restricted.

But the mothers of France have declined to be cajoled. The birth rate has been falling steadily since the war. There are two reasons for this. The first is that the limitation of offspring—a deeply rooted racial policy—has been accelerated by the prolonged absence and death of so many millions of potential fathers. The second is to be found in the Frenchwoman's clearly reasoned unwillingness to bring children into the world at a time of economic insecurity.

The women of other nations can be persuaded into weak sentimentality. Put the stamp of spurious morality or religion upon some plot to enslave them, and they will too often accept it without a murmur. But the Goddess Reason rules in France. Extremely patriotic wives and mothers of men in the trenches have told me that, until peace is restored, the Government might as well spare itself the trouble of agitating for larger families. Others have gone farther and asked "Is it fair to require us to bear children until some assurance is given us that they will not be slaughtered 20 years hence in some new, and perhaps more terrible war?"

I do not, of course, claim that every section of France is equally enlightened. Certain Departments, especially in Brittany, are still dominated by the Church, and wherever ecclesiasticism reigns, birth control is anathema.

THE NOVELIST, René Bazin, a member of the Académie Française, who since the war has been preaching the necessity of repopulating France, rather naively proves the case for—rather than against—birth control, in a recent article in the *Echo de Paris*. He begins by presenting two tables, as follows:

In a village near Paris, in the Department of Seine-et-Oise, a house to house canvas revealed that the lamp-lighter had one child, the doctor, two, two men of independent means, without occupations, one each, the manager of a garage, two, butcher, none, wine merchant, none, another wine merchant, two, milkman, one, baker, two, shopkeeper, six, farrier, eight, harnessmaker, two, postman, one, barber, two, grocer, one, teacher, one, delicatessen man, none, stoveman, none, keeper of tobacco store, one. Thus, 36 parents had 34 children between them.

In the little parish of Torcé, Brittany (630 inhabitants,) on the other hand, he found

7 families with	6 children, total	42
2 " " 7 " "	" "	14
5 " " 8 " "	" "	40
1 " " 9 " "	" "	9
6 " " 10 " "	" "	60
3 " " 12 " "	" "	36
1 " " 13 " "	" "	13

Thus, in Torcé, 50 parents had a total of 214 children. There were also several families in the neighborhood with five, four and three children each.

M Bazin thinks that the practical absence of religious dogmatism in the vicinity of Paris, as compared with the piety of Brittany, has a good deal to do with the difference in the birth rates. He is, of course, correct in this assumption. But does he not realize that the standards of living must be infinitely higher in a community where 36 parents have 34 children than in one where 50 parents have 214 children? The modern mind must deplore the clerical influence which keeps Torcé in the bondage of overpopulation, and admire the emancipated spirit of the village in Seine-et-Oise which M. Bazin holds up as a "horrible example."

IN AN ATTEMPT to bolster up his case, M. Bazin prints some interesting letters. The following was received by the Academician from the wife of a railroad employee in Paris:

"Let me describe my situation, it is similar to that of thousands of others. Two years ago, I married a man who earns exactly 148 francs (about \$29) a month. I love children and I have one son, but my health is poor. Until the birth of the child we made ends meet fairly well. I helped out by working as a dressmaker. But now it is almost impossible to keep out of debt, in spite of the fact that my husband does outside work on Sundays and holidays in order to augment our income. I am trying to bring up my son decently, but I do not want—cannot afford—any more children."

The solution offered by M. Bazin for cases of this character is government aid, in the form of pensions or otherwise. But the women of France are too individualistic to desire charity, no matter by what name it is called. They prefer to control their own destiny by means of the voluntary limitation of offspring, and official advice to the contrary will make very little impression upon them.

A NEW PAMPHLET
TO BE HAD FROM THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

The Objects of Marriage

By HAVELOCK ELLIS

25 Cents, postpaid

BIRTH CONTROL IN OREGON

By Meta M Dekker

FOLLOWING two very successful meetings for Margaret Sanger held at the Heilig and Baker Theatre in Portland, Ore., last year, numerous requests for birth control information came by telephone and letter from women who were unable to attend the meetings. As Mrs. Sanger's time in the city was limited, I volunteered to call on as many of the needy cases as I could conveniently reach, and so do a little propaganda work.

In two month's time I visited 183 women living in all sections of Portland. This does not include those who visited me, called me on the phone or wrote me. Dozens and dozens of women sought me for some word promising them relief from intolerable burdens. Everywhere I found women in need of help. Most of those I visited had five, six and sometimes as high as nine children. Very few women with only two or three children asked for aid. Most of the people seeking information were of the class of wage earners whose wages have not increased in proportion to the rising cost of the necessities of life. This class, through various avenues of learning are beginning to see that large families are a handicap. And they may be said to have begun to help themselves when they demand information on a subject of such vital importance to every human being as birth control.

When interviewing the women in their homes, it was very easy for me to have a good talk with them. Most women felt that I had proved a personal interest in them by calling. They did not fail to show deep appreciation. Women told me how they suffered through pregnancy and childbirth, they were perfectly willing to do so for two or three children, but objected to having a half dozen or more. Others told of how the family physician had warned after the first child that giving birth to any more would mean loss of the mother's life. The physician, however, invariably, failed to give any medical advice in the matter. Naturally, these women hailed a movement that would relieve them of their hourly mental worries. For my part, it was borne in upon me what a terrible mental strain it must be to live constantly in fear of pregnancy, when one knows it will mean certain death.

A large class of women seek information on birth control strictly to preserve their health. Hundreds of women are resorting to abortive methods monthly. The abortions are self-inflicted for the most part, and a large percentage end in ill-health due to some dangerous practice. The sufferers feel that when they have the knowledge of birth control, they will be spared this physical tragedy. Some of them take no chances at home, but go to professional abortionists. It means an outlay of considerable money to have this work done. Such women hope to be relieved of this financial strain and worry, too, for it is a terrible worry when the cost of an abortion has to be taken from the monthly income. It

is a mistaken idea that only the well-to-do go to abortionists. Some of the poorer women become desperate and seek some one who will relieve them. Of course these abortionists are not always careful, and many times the patient is left in a weak and nervous state.

ANOTHER class of women seeking contraceptive information are those who are obliged to go into factories and workshops to keep the family together. In most of these cases, the father does not earn enough to support the family, so the wife and mother takes a job in a cannery or some sweatshop to add a little more money to the household purse. The women feel they cannot stand the added burdens imposed on them in entering the industrial life and bring as well more children into the world to suffer the hardships and privations they now endure.

As a result of my observations, I find that it would be a splendid thing to have a clinic where well-trained attendants could give women, who have not had the advantage of an education, the necessary information. Besides, there are the women who are naturally rather dull. These by all means should be helped to limit their families. We need a generation of healthy, vigorous intelligent human beings. Therefore, the inferior strains and stocks should be encouraged to have as few children as possible, so that the average level of racial vigor and intelligence may be raised. This is in accord with the soundest eugenic science. If we withhold birth control information from the worst strains in our population by making it criminal to disseminate this knowledge, and let them do most of the breeding, we shall only be inflicting an irreparable injury on the race, for the more intelligent, energetic and far-sighted will get the information anyway, in spite of all laws.

In one word, my experience in Portland has led me to believe that the great argument for birth control is, that contraceptive information should be especially available to the poorer classes, to prevent dire indigence and improve the average of racial vigor and intelligence.

IN THE LAST issue of the Review, we printed in full the splendidly libertarian opinion handed down by Judge Nathan J. Bijur in granting an injunction restraining the New York Commissioner of Licenses from preventing the exhibition of the B. S. Moss photoplay, "Birth Control." Friends of the movement felt justified in thinking that a victory had been won. But the vindictive opponents of reform were not to be balked. The case was taken before a more conservative court, which reversed the finding of Judge Bijur. This does not mean that the picture has been definitely closed to the public. A final appeal has been made to the Supreme Court, and it is hoped that this highly educational film will be exhibited before long.

WOMANHOOD TRIUMPHANT!

By Gertrude Boyle

SAD CRINGERS to brute-force,
Battered receptacles of passion's dregs—
Drunk in dark chambers of ignorance and lust—
Bearers of a race of slaves!
When will your dull minds awake
To the glad right of choice
When will your dead souls quicken
To the beauty, the creative power of love?



Statue by Gertrude Boyle

Woman! Woman!
Why hesitate to grasp your own?
Why halt before that that comprehends not you
False codes and creeds nought to you,
That your proud heel could crush beneath
With firm step towards the goal
Of glorious Womanhood,
Of free and welcome Motherhood!
Why cramp, why dwarf your being,
Deprive self of very own—

Dearer than all the world to you
Complete, full-blown Womanhood!
Man cannot lead you to your goal,
But will walk proudly abreast,
When once you pace your step
To the triumphant music,
The innate freedom of your soul!

WOMAN, REBELLIOUS!

(Continued from Page 3)

Here she finds the world most obstinately arrayed against her

For the source of life has always been veiled in ignorance and mystery. The impulses and instincts of the body have been ignored or shrouded in excessive reserve. But the woman rebel has discovered she has a body and refuses to ignore it. To her the attitude of the world to sex problems, with its public consciousness that it is male and female and not just human, is as ridiculous as that character in one of Molière's plays, who discovers with much astonishment that for forty years he has been talking prose. We are not especially proud of owning a liver or a stomach, nor are we excessively ashamed of it, so why should one of the greatest primary instincts of humanity be singled out for shame? It exaggerates the brutish element in man entirely beyond its rightful importance, it is an exploitation of the highest elemental instinct that is unwholesome and morbid.

And so, with wide-opened eyes that refuse to be blinded any longer, the woman rebel faces us today fearlessly and insistently. She fights for the mutual responsibilities of the sexes, recognition of their reciprocal attraction, of a fine, clean understanding of the love and passion that weave them together, not alone for economic and political enfranchisement, but for the enfranchisement of her own body, with full control of its functions and possibilities. And chief among these demands is the right to bear as many children as she wishes, whenever she desires to bear them.

These are days of flux and resurge. New social enthusiasms demand crusaders and combatants. We see the tragic shock of race-loyalties flung against the invading tide of internationalism, we see ancient religious altars robbed of their sanctities by the enduring light of science, we feel the impact of life in its fulness—its stir and emotion and stimulus. They are great human themes, glowing with contemporary interest. They are but the key to our age and its struggles, they explain the generation to us.

But the woman rebel is the future woman. Nothing that is human is alien to her. She brings fresh impulse toward spiritual renewal and regeneration, and she will be, not the passive, unwilling mother of the future, but the eager, all-knowing, free and happy channel of the coming children of the sun, children of a natural selection working through human intelligence and love.

WHY MEN STARVE

By W W Chung

MUCH OF THIS world's vice, crime and poverty is easily tracable to the violation of a simple rule "No marriage before the age of maturity, or until financially qualified, and never too many children," should be the watchword of the intelligent

The violation of this rule has made paupers of people, irrespective of their nationality or race. The proof of this is found in the fact, that there are between three and four million paupers in Great Britain and a large army of the unemployed and unemployables in every large city in the United States today.

No power on earth can save people from poverty, so long as they disregard the above rule. No stronger proof of this is necessary than the fact, that over a century's earnest effort to help the poor, on the part of charitable organizations, governments and individuals, has not decreased poverty in the least.

Even education is ineffectual with those who disregard this rule. The failure to observe it has rendered 70 per cent or 80 per cent of the people in China too poor to attend school. Even if education were made compulsory and tuition free, they could not concentrate their minds on their books while they are hungry and cold. Living from hand to mouth, the Chinese workers can no more think about mental culture than a drowning man can listen to music. Their immediate need is bread and garments above everything else. It is the burden of too many children that creates this need.

The financial burden of a large family crowds out education, medical attention, insurance protection and weekly savings against emergencies. The necessity to economize expenses and earn every cent they can, has led to overwork, underfeeding, unwholesome food, insufficient clothing, and overcrowded rooms, all of which conspire to multiply their ailments, reducing their strength and income and increasing their expenses. The financial burden keeps them in a vile environment, which brings them into close daily proximity with every form of vice, crime and temptation. Nearly everything they hear, see or touch is a poison to their health or morals.

WE ARE TOLD that God never send mouths but that He send food. It is comforting to shift man's responsibility to Providence, but unfortunately mouths too often come to one door while food goes to another. If it were the Divine Will that man should multiply rapidly, natural disasters would not occur on an average of once every four years, as has been the case for the last 2,000 years. Modern wars, perhaps, would not have been permitted to wipe out by slaughter and famine one half of Poland's 34,000,000 inhabitants, besides millions of the best and strongest men of all the belligerents.

Overloading a boat with passengers does not endanger the life of any one but those in that boat. Overloading a family with children causes poverty, which gives rise to vice, crime, and disease, affecting many people besides the overloaded family. It is this excessive load that has raised the death rate of young mothers and infants of the people to three times that among rich families. It is responsible for 97 per cent of the cases of child labor. Everybody realizes the need of a law against the overloading of passenger boats, and yet there is just as much need for a law against people bringing up more children than they can support and educate. When that law is enacted, and enforced this world will become a little heaven.

The bringing up of children involves the expenditure of energy, which is limited in man. The larger the family, the less energy the parents can spare for the care and training of each child. Hence the larger the family, the poorer the mental, moral and physical qualities of the children. It is true, some large families have produced some great men, but those great men might have been greater and better, if their parents could have spared more time and energy for their care and early training. As speed cannot be acquired except at the expense of force, quantity cannot be obtained without the sacrifice of quality.

The average age for marriage in all leading countries of the world, including Japan, is between 26 and 29 years. It has been proven by careful tests and incontestable statistics that a more mature age for marriage (or, at least, parenthood) gives the offspring the advantages of better memory, longer life, greater mental power, greater height and weight, greater power of physical endurance and greater resistance to disease. Endowed with these advantages, no man need starve. When these qualities are impaired by immature parentage, the injury cannot be made up by any amount of physical culture and school training.

The most distinguished of the men in the American Hall of Fame, at the time of their births, had fathers well over forty years of age and none of them had a father younger than 25½ years old or a mother under 22. In fact, no man ever became the father of an exceptionally great man before the age of 30. A \$200 prize for refuting a statement to that effect, has never yet been awarded, so far as I know.

THE SILLY TABOO

To pretend that discussion of birth control is indecent is merely to beg the question under a statute which happened to be available for misuse in that way. Our English vocabulary is flexible enough for the discussion of any subject, provided the purpose of the speakers is clean and not corrupt. The taboo is so silly that it must break down once it is firmly and fairly challenged.—*Brooklyn Daily Eagle*

AN ANSWER TO MR. ROOSEVELT

(In the October issue of the Metropolitan Magazine appeared an article by former President Roosevelt, entitled "Birth Control—From the Positive Side" It revealed a desire to arrive at the same results of race betterment which we advocate It swept aside, however, not only the principle of voluntary motherhood, but the existing racial and class conditions which must be taken into consideration if the desired end is to be attained The following is Margaret Sanger's reply, which appears in the December number of the Metropolitan—Ed)

THE TROUBLE with nearly all writers who oppose birth control is that they consider only proximate instead of ultimate effects They want large numbers of high quality citizens Therefore, they contend, let the existing high quality citizens have more children They assume that families now living in comfortable circumstances will be able to maintain their standards, no matter how many additional children are born In other words, they expect quality to take care of itself

We advocates of birth control know that one cannot make quality by insisting on quantity One cannot make better people simply by having more people

Mr Roosevelt says that in order to make a man into a better citizen, we must first have the man The right environment in which to receive and develop the man is of greater importance Society, as at present constituted, does not provide the means of rearing unrestricted hordes of human beings into intelligent citizenship Therefore, birth control has become necessary as a check upon the blind working of ignorance and poverty

When considering the problems of the class known as the "submerged tenth," even the most conservative are willing to admit its need of birth control But it is an error to suppose that the proportion of families sunk in destitution constitutes only one-tenth of the population Figures are available to prove that it is closer to three-tenths, or well over one quarter The census of 1910 shows that 10.7 per cent of married women in the United States went to work outside their homes to help keep their families together There, without looking farther, is a submerged tenth among women alone There is little doubt that the proportion of wage-earning mothers has greatly increased since 1910, and it is equally beyond question that an enormous number of poverty-stricken women are prevented by their excessive family burdens from seeking to earn money outside the home

THEY WHO BAN the open and legal dissemination of birth control practically say—Let the slums spawn if they must, the prime aim is to goad the upper classes into greater fertility Both effects are deplorable There is no greater national waste than the spawning of the slums, with its resultant high maternal and infant

mortality rates, child labor and prostitution As for increasing the fertility of the upper classes, it is certain that the majority of such parents even now have as many children as any rational eugenist could ask them to do, where he in possession of all the facts of each case—health, income, educational needs and provision for the future, etc Admitting that they give birth to fewer children, the fact is that they bring, relatively, to maturity almost as many as the poor succeed in doing The following figures prepared by the French authority, Dr J Bertillon, demonstrate this point

For the whole of France 86.6 per cent of the children of rich parents reach twenty years of age, and only 48.6 per cent of the children of poor parents The figures for Paris give a fertility rate of about 100 births per 1,000 poor mothers, and of about 50 per 1,000 rich mothers Combining these with the former figures, it appears that for each 1,000 rich mothers there would be 43.3 children surviving to twenty years annually, and for each 1,000 poor mothers only 48.6 children In France, as elsewhere, the poor mother is handicapped in rearing her surviving offspring This results in a percentage of unfitness, and the contribution of the high birth rate classes to the adult effective population is consequently no higher proportionately than that of the low birth rate classes

The world over, the intelligent parents of three children or less have been, and are, the upholders of national standards This is particularly true of America

By regarding the bringing of a child into the world as a great social responsibility, the modern American woman shows a fine sense of morality Since the State does not compel marriage, but leaves it to individual choice, she does not see why motherhood, which is a much more serious problem, should be enforced

THE AMERICAN woman of today is physically and nervously unable to compete with her grandmother in the matter of bearing unlimited offspring In Colonial times, the environment was favorable and women specialized on reproduction with eminent success The prospective mothers of this generation are compelled to divide their creative energies between child bearing and social and economic complexities It has been estimated that last year seven and a half million women were engaged in industry in the United States, the majority of them in nerve-racking trades Ten hours a day at a sewing machine or a telephone switchboard are not conducive to either a physical or mental receptiveness to maternity

It is a very common fallacy that the decadence of Greece and Rome was due to the artificial limitation of offspring It is surprising to find a historian like Mr Roosevelt repeating the error During the periods he refers to, birth control was, indeed, practised, and as a result some of the greatest poets, thinkers and geniuses,

generally, of that, or any other age, were developed Birth control was one of the few serious moral forces at work tending to preserve the integrity of the State But, in Rome especially, it was not quite effective enough to combat the soft luxury and vice which had come as an aftermath of an orgy of conquest

The falling birth rate of college graduates, as demonstrated by the statistics gathered in Harvard and Yale by John C Phillips, should not be considered alarming The best thing that the modern American college does for young men or young women is to make of them highly sensitized individuals, keenly aware of their responsibility to society They quickly perceive that they have other duties toward the State than procreation of the kind blindly practised by the immigrant from Europe They cannot be deluded into thinking quantity superior to quality But they can be trusted not to suffer extinction The operation of natural law will prevent the ratio of reproduction from remorselessly falling to zero In this, as in all other population phenomena, a new level of fertility is being sought—that is all

In many other isolated groups, the same process can be observed today The editor of The Journal of Heredity has found that out of 1,512 families of Methodist ministers in America, the average number of children is now only 3.12 The birth rate in the English Society of Friends has fallen from 20 per 1,000 in 1876 to less than 8 per 1,000 in 1915 Or, to take an illustration from an entire racial group, statistics show that the size of Jewish families in Europe has been rapidly decreasing since 1876 They contain now only two to four children, with a growing tendency to restrict the number to two, whilst only twenty years ago they had four to six

But it is well to emphasize that we advocates of birth control are not so much disturbed by the stationary birth rate of the thinking classes, as by the reckless propagation of the ignorant We consider that the falling birth rate is a world-wide movement of civilization

MR ROOSEVELT quotes approvingly the statement of a French newspaper that the present war was really due to the increasing birth rate of Germany and the falling birth rate of France Had Germany had to face 60,000,000 Frenchmen, instead of 39,000,000, this authority holds, the war would not have taken place In my opinion, two over-populated nations would have fought even more readily and long before The war was due to the over-population of Germany and Russia, not to France's stationary population But once put to the ordeal, the French soldiers, sturdy and highly individualistic because they came from small families, proved at the Battle of the Marne and Verdun the efficacy of birth control, by defeating an enemy mechanically much more formidable than themselves

On the other hand, the same Germany who had failed against France easily routed the hordes of Russian soldiers, who owed their numbers to an unlimited system of reckless propagation Germany's birth rate is falling

In 1860 it was 37.9 per thousand inhabitants and in 1912 only 29.1 It is common knowledge that the economists of Europe do not hope for universal peace until the birth rate of Russia also begins to decline

The intelligent class, with its acceptance of birth control, holds the same position in American society that France does among the nations of the world

It is an error to suppose that woman avoids motherhood because she is afraid to die Rather does she fear to live She fears a life of poverty and drudgery, weighed down by the horror of unwanted pregnancy and tortured by the inability to rear decently the children she has already brought into the world Margaret H Sanger

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT OF BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from Page 6)

other hand, low-class individuals are forcing their way through bodies of ignorant women into lives of crime, disease, imprisonment or insanity It is wrong to give birth to such children

How can the afflicted woman in poverty and darkness guard against this? That she should be on guard is beyond question She should be instructed regarding the laws of birth control She should learn that she has absolute control over her own body irrespective of adverse conditions She must know that no child can come through her portals of life without her consent The laws of birth control prevent involuntary motherhood which, to the sensitive, is always immoral

If guarding the gateway of life against undesirable intruders is a duty and a privilege of woman, how much greater is it her duty and privilege to open the doorway to the child who will be a worthy and helpful member of society The prospective mother, realizing her sacred duty, will guard her every thought, word and deed prior to receiving the sacred seed atom which will eventually develop into the body of her child Prayerfully she will strive to make her gift to humanity a blessed one Willingly, joyously, and with protecting mother love, she will help the baby form to grow This is the way motherhood fulfils the highest ideals of morality

Until all women are in a position to realize the above ideal, it is well, for the good of humanity and themselves, that they learn to bar their gateways of life Human progress is accelerated as man learns to control the forces of nature They thus become his servants instead of his being at their mercy It is the same with birth control The proper use of this knowledge will always bless and benefit It is always the abuse, not the proper use, of power that is immoral

Three Books by Margaret Sanger

"THE CASE FOR BIRTH CONTROL" \$2.15 postpaid

"WHAT EVERY GIRL SHOULD KNOW"

and

"WHAT EVERY MOTHER SHOULD KNOW"

Twenty-five cents each postpaid.

ATTENTION!

WILL THE secretaries of the various birth control leagues throughout the country please send to this magazine a full report of the activities of each league during the past year. The points which should be covered are the growth in membership, number of meetings held, approximate amount of literature distributed, efforts if any made toward changing legislation, what work has been done toward establishing clinics, whether league is supported by dues paying members or contributions, and plans for the future. It would also be of interest to note what kind of membership the league has attracted, whether working class, professional, or otherwise. We hope to devote a special number this winter to these reports. It will contain detailed statements by the two New York leagues, as well as an account by Margaret Sanger of what she has accomplished during the past year. An issue of this character will serve to put on record the growth of the birth control movement and should be valuable to each contributing league for propaganda purposes. We should also be glad to hear from groups or individuals who have been working for birth control, but who are not identified with any league.

DEACON CLAVER

By Fuller Miller

Deacon Claver at fifty-six
Was the happy father of seventeen,
And he said, as he helped his third wife mix
Candies and nuts for the Hallowe'en

"The Lord gave command that we multiply
And I at least have kept his command
My name shall live after me when I die,
And I shall have honor within the land"

She knew it was true, but she said no word
Her pale, pale cheek and her sad eyes wide
Gave not a sign to show she had heard
She guessed that she carried her death in her side

And she said in her heart, without bitterness
"I am the third to die of your lust
And God's alarm lest men grow less
But your's the praise—Does that seem quite just?"

"Big and husky you are, I know,
But how many babes could you boast to your wife,
If you were the one who had to go
To the gates of Death to bring them life?"

All truth is safe—and nothing else is safe —Max Mueller

THE JOSTLING HORDES

WESLEY FROST should know something about war. He was United States Consul at Queenstown, Ireland, for several years, and his vivid official reports on the Lusitania and other U-boat disasters made newspaper readers the world over shudder with horror. This man, from the depth of his experience, offered the other day a solution to the age-old tragedy.

"Only limitation of births will prevent future European wars," he told a Los Angeles writer.

"If people could be made to comprehend that it was the overcrowding of European nations, *except France*, that caused this war, birth control would become a patriotic duty and an unwritten policy."

Consul Frost went on to express the opinion that "Margaret Sanger was doing a necessary work in a wrong way. Birth control must be an economic issue adopted as state policy, and not an individual issue adopted as a personal whim."

"Over-population develops the hatred habit for fellow-men. In such hordes, people breathe each others' breath, they snatch each others' food and struggle for each others' places, the only poetry consists of the 'Song of Steal.' These conditions make peoples savage. The blood in their civic veins gets too high-pressure and must burst, or be eased by the savagery of war."

NINE PRUDENT PRESIDENTS

It is the fashion with French statesmen nowadays to preach large families. In this connection, it is interesting to note the fertility record of the nine men who have held the presidency of France under the Third Republic.

President	Number of Children
ADOLPHE THIERS	None
MARECHAL MAC-MAHON	1 son
JULES GREVY	1 daughter
SADI-CARNOT	2 sons and 1 daughter
CASIMIR-PERIER	1 son and 1 daughter
FELIX FAURE	2 daughters
EMILE LOUBET	2 sons and 1 daughter
ARMAND FALLIERES	1 son and 1 daughter
RAYMOND POINCARÉ	None

Fourteen children for nine couples! Can statesmen keep a straight face as they thunder against race suicide, when the couples who have occupied the presidential palace have given so excellent an example of parental prudence?

NOTE

The last issue of this magazine appeared in June. It was announced at that time that publication would be resumed with the October number. Unforeseen difficulties made it impossible to bring out an issue earlier than the present, December, number.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE APPEAL in the case of Fania Mindell has been won. Miss Mindell was arrested in the Brownsville birth control clinic for selling "What Every Girl Should Know," Margaret Sanger's book on sex hygiene. By a 2 to 1 vote, the Court of Special Sessions declared this book to be "indecent," Judges Herman and O'Keefe voting for conviction and Judge Freschi for acquittal. The forces of reaction were bolstered up by Judge James C. Cropsey, of the Supreme Court, who went out of his way to declare that the information in the book was what "no girl should know." Yet the reversal of judgment accorded by the Appellate Division was by an unanimous vote. This victory was of great importance, because several other persons who had been arrested for selling "What Every Girl Should Know," and whose cases were being held in abeyance, had the charges against them dismissed as soon as the final verdict was rendered in the Mindell appeal. The latter cost several hundred dollars in fees for records, copies of the minutes, printing bills, etc. But it goes without saying that under our present system of justice no compensation has been awarded to those who financed the appeal. To date, the Court has not even refunded the \$50, which Fania Mindell was, by its own admission, wrongly fined. Once again it has been proved that it takes money to obtain "justice," and that the workers cannot possibly afford to appeal cases.

NEW YORK has just enfranchised more than 3,000,000 women. The ardent, self-sacrificing workers who devoted years of their lives to bringing this result about deserve the highest praise and the gratitude of their sex. After their long fight, they can now enjoy the fruits of victory. But only too large a proportion of those they have set free politically will be quite unable to take advantage of the vote that has been so dearly earned. There are hundreds of thousands of mothers who are so submerged beneath the burdens of child-bearing that they will not have the time even to cast their vote, much less to take an intelligent interest in the problems of society. Surely the next step is to set these women free. Birth control is the fundamental liberty which they must have. We appeal to the new women citizens of New York State to assist us in waging the battle which now takes pre-eminence—that for the repeal of laws preventing the dissemination of birth control knowledge.

THE WAR has taken the best energies of most radical and forward movements. Persons who formerly were willing to work for the advancement of humanity are now devoting all their strength to the world tragedy. But there are still some of us who believe birth control to be a fundamental solution to the problems of

poverty, prostitution, child labor and even war itself. The intolerance of our public censors prevents us from being very active on the platform or in the press, at least until peace is restored. But there is one way in which we can use this dark period of repression to serve the future of the movement. We can do definite and constructive work by gathering data so convincing that the Legislature of New York State will be unable to ignore the demand for the repeal of Section 1142. Governor Whitman promised last Spring to appoint a commission to investigate the conditions bearing upon birth control, but the war has delayed this official action for the present. The thing for us who are still devoted to our cause to do, is to hasten the appointment of the commission by preparing the material on which it must work. Were we, for instance, to collect the histories of

5,000 women living in prostitution,
5,000 women toiling in factories,
5,000 children toiling in mills,
5,000 inmates of prisons,
5,000 derelicts of poorhouses,

and show what percentage of these people come from large families, so searching a light would be thrown on this new angle of social betterment that the Governor's commission would be stimulated into action and the benighted laws against birth control would be wiped off the statute books. The editors of this magazine would be glad to hear from readers in all parts of the country willing to help either by contributing to an investigation fund or by volunteering their time and services for research work.

THE JUSTICES of the Supreme Court of New York State receive \$17,500 a year. On this pitiable salary, it is, of course, unreasonable to expect them to put in much time on writing opinions which would serve to explain their frequently obscure acts to the public that pays them. For instance, when the Appellate Division, First Department, decided to uphold the Commissioner of Licenses as against Judge Bijur, in connection with the birth control photoplay, they made absolutely no comment. The scholarly document in which Judge Bijur demonstrated that the film was not immoral was thrown out of court with the rubber-stamp comment, "Decision reversed." Again, when "What Every Girl Should Know" won the right to be circulated, the Court merely O. K'd it as being "decent," without handing down a written opinion which would have served as a precedent in future appeals for the right to print the truth. Similar books will have to go through the same ridiculous procedure, and unwind the same red tape which one strong, intelligent opinion would have cut for good and all.