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Number One

Crystal Eastman on

# **FEMINISM**

Dr. Anna E. Blount on

# EUGENICS

Gertrude M Williams on

# THE WOMAN VOTER

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## BIRTH CONTROL IN THE FEMINIST PROGRAM By Crystal Eastman

**EMINISM** MEANS drfferent things to different people, I suppose. To women with a taste for politics and reform it means the nght to vote and hold office To women, physically strong and adventursome it means freedom to enter all kinds of athletic contests and games, to compete with men in aviation, to drive racing cars, to get up Battalions of Death, to enter dangerous trades, etc To many **it** means social and sex freedom, doing away with exclusively feminine virtues To most of all it means economic freedom,--not the ideal economic freedom dreamed of by revolutionary socialism, but such economic freedom as it is possible for a human being to achieve under the existing system of competitive producbon and distribution,—in short such freedom to choose one's way of making a living as men now enjoy, and definite economic rewards for one's work when **it** happens to be "home making" This is to me the central fact of feminism Until women learn to want economic independence, i e, the ability to earn their own living Independently of husbands, fathers, brothers or lovers,—and until they work out a way to get this Independence without denying themselves the joys of love and motherhood, it seems to me feminism has no roots Its manifestations are often delightful and stimulating but they are sporadic, they effect no lasting change in the attitude of men to women, or of women to themselves

Whether other feminists would agree with me that the economic is the fundamental aspect of feminism, I don't know But on this we are surely agreed, that Birth Control 1s an elementary essential in all aspects of feminism Whether we are the special followers of Ahce Paul, or Ruth Law, or Ellen Key, or Olive Schreiner, we must all be followers of Margaret Sanger Feminists are not nuns That should be established We want to love and to be loved, and most of us want children, one or two at least But we want our love to be joyous and free-not clouded with **ignorance** and fear And we want our **children** to be **deliberately**, eagerly called into being, when we are at our best, not crowded upon us in times of poverty and weakness We want this precious sex knowledge not just for ourselves, the conscious feminists, we want it for all the millions of unconscious feminists that swarm the earth, —we want it for all women

**I** IFE IS a **big** battle for the complete **feminist** even when she can regulate the **size** of her **family** Women who are **creative**, or who have **administrative gifts**, or busrness **ability**, and who are **ambitious** to **achieve** and fulfill themselves **in** these **lines**, if they **lso** have the normal **desire** to be mothers, must make up **their minds** to be a sort of supermen, **I think** They must develop greater powers of **concentration**, a stronger **will** to "keep

at it," a more determined ambition than men of equal gifts, in order to make up for the time and energy and thought and devotton that child-bearing and reanng, even in the most "advanced" families, seems inexorably to demand of the mother But if we add to this handicap complete uncertainty as to when children may come, how often they come or how many there shall be, the thing becomes impossible I would almost say that the whole structure of the feminist's dream of society rests upon the rapid extension of scientific knowledge about birth control

This seems so obvious to me that I was astonished the other day to come upon a group of distinguished feminists who drscussed for an hour what could be done with the woman's vote in New York State and did not once mention birth control

As the readers of **this magazine** well know, the laws of **this** state, **instead** of **establishing** free **clinics** as necessary centers of **information** for the facts about sex **hygiene** and **birth** control, actually make **it** a **crime**, even on the part of a doctor, to tell grown men and women how to **limit** the **size** of **their families** What could be a more **pressing** demand on the released **energies** of all these valuant suffrage workers than to repeal that law?

HIS WORK should especially commend itself, now

in wartime when so many kinds of reform are outlawed There is nothing about Birth Control agitation to embarrass the President or obstruct the prosecution of the war If limited to the New York State laws it need not even rouse the indignation of Mr Burleson It is a reform absolutely vital to the progress of woman and one which the war does not Interfere with While Amerrcan men are fighting to rid the old world of autocracy let American women set to and rid the new world of this intolerable old burden of sex Ignorance It should not be a difficult task

I don't believe there is one woman within the confines of this state who does not believe in birth control I never met one That 15, I never met one who thought that she should be kept in Ignorance of contraceptive Many I have met who valued the knowledge methods they possessed, but thought there were certain other classes who would be better kept in Ignorance The old would protect the young The rich would keep the poor in ignorance The good would keep their knowledge from the bad, the strong from the weak, and so on But never in all my travels have I come on one mamed woman who, possessed of this knowledge would willingly part with it, or who not yet informed, was not eager for knowledge It is only hypocrisy, and here and there a little hard-faced puritanism we have to overcome No genuine human interest will be against the

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# A SUMMONS TO OUR WOMEN CITIZENS

By Gertrude M Williams

WW OMAN'S CAMPAIGN for the vote has been organized on such a tremendous scale that it brought some of us up with a round turn, suddenly to realize that here in New York state, at least, we had what we wanted

Of course we have realized intellectually that giving women the vote was not going to secure the millenium Many of us have been much more Interested in what the vote is going to do for women, than in what women are actually going to be able to accomplish with their votes

But an abstract realization is different from confronting the fact itself Now that we are citizens, we realize as never before the responsibility that lies before us of educating ourselves in its use There are many phases of civic life which will appeal to woman naturally because of their relation to her traditional interests,—the schools, street cleaning, all phases of municipal housekeeping, the administration of charitable institutions

Of more intimate and direct appeal to women than any of these subjects, however, is the question of birth control. On this vital subject, every woman voter should inform herself, and make up her mind It fundamentally affects women as a sex, and a is a determining factor in the health and well-being of the next generation

The next generation, always a primary consideration, is rendered more important than ever by the war Our armies sailing overseas are taking away thousands of young men on the threshold of manhood The richness of life for the next generation is to be diluted in proportion as these young soldiers do not return, or come back maimed and crippled

There are already tremendous gaps **in life** Entire Industnes are breaking down because the men **in** them were needed for war work Art and letters are languishing Science and invention, except in so far as they apply to the machinery of war, have nearly come to a standstill Across the water, entire villages and towns and countries will have to be rebuilt What a sturdy, virile next generation we shall need for such Herculean tasks I

A S IF MOCKING at our needs, we are menaced by another danger **almost** as **overwhelming** as the losses of the battlefield,—the spread of venereal **disease which accompanies** war, and **which** renders both men and women unfit for the parentage of the next **generation** In reference to **the situation in** England, an **article in** the **conservative Nineteenth** Century **magazine** for September, 1917, under the frank **title**, "The **Fight against** Venereal **Infection**," says

'From all parts of our Empire a million mu, have come overseas Over one-third of that million becomes infected with venereal disease every 12 months, many thousands are constantly sick in venereal disease hospitals"

Our own Official Bulletin, published daily "under order of the President by the Committee on Public Information, George Creel, chairman," in a report on the "Health of the United States Expeditionary Forces," quotes the report of our Surgeon General on the present admission rate per thousand men

| Typhoid          | 00           |
|------------------|--------------|
| Malaria          | 10           |
| Meningitis       | 10           |
| Scarlet fever    | 19           |
| Dysentery        | 2 <b>0</b>   |
| Measles          | <b>27</b> 1  |
| Venereal disease | <b>181</b> 5 |

England, with three years of war behind her, is naturally feeling a later stage of its effects English magazines mirror the more constructive reaction to war problems over there The most conservative English magazines have recently printed numerous articles on two campaigns being waged in England, both as a result of the war, and both of them having a very close relation to the subject of birth control

One is this fight against venereal infection referred to above The other is a baby saving campaign The Contemporary Review for July, in an article on England's "National Baby Week," says

"In 1915, in war-time, death carried off more British babies than British soldiers Therefore, the obvious way of repairing the wastage of the war is to save the babies Since five million young adult males of the country are under arms, and many thousands get killed every year, while the war lasts the birth rate must drop It is, therefore, more important than ever to preserve the lives of the children who are born

"The figures of infant mortality are terrifying In the United Kingdom alone a baby dies every five minutes Two hundred and fifty babies out of every thousand die before birth or in their first year"

And the Nineteenth Century for June states

"The fact that out of the 100,000 children born alive who fall to survive to the first anniversary of their birth, 20,000 die in the first week, and 30,000 in the first month proves that, in their case at any rate, the cause of death must be one that was operative before birth. It has been found that the bodies of premature and dead children, and also of those who pensh in earliest infancy have been proved to be Infected with the micro-organism of syphilis "

A CAMPAIGN for birth control information joins forces very practically and directly with these two campaigns For only through giving women information as to how to prevent conception, can we avoid the wastage of bearing all these thousands of poor little diseased infants, predestined to due before they are a year old, or if they survive, to become in a majority of cases inmates of prisons, insane asylums, and houses of prostitution, as reliable statistics prove And only through giving women information

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Drawing

By Rockwell Kent

## **AS THE RADICAL SEE IT**

HE MOTIVES for the radical's refusal to bring unlimited offsprmg into the world were ably set forth in the late Octave Mirbeau's ejaculation of disgust ralled out by a project of law for checking depopulation, introduced by one M Piot into the French Senate some years ago

"I dispute that depopulation is an evil," wrote the distinguished author "In a social state like ours, in a social state which fosters preciously, scientifically, an special cultures, poverty and its derivative, crime, m a social state which, in spite of new investigations and in spite of new philosophies, relies solely on the prehistoric forces—murder and massacre—what matters to the people—the only class, for that matter, which still produces children—this much-discussed question of depopulation?

"If the people were **clairvoyant**, logical **with** their wretchedness and **their servitude**, they would **desire**, not the **cessation** of **depopulation**, but its redoubling We am constantly being told that depopulation is the gravest danger which threatens the future of the country In what, pray, dear Monsieur **Piot**, and you, also, excellent **legislators**, who lull us ceaselessly with your twaddle? In this, you say, that there will come inevitably a time when we shall no more have enough men to send out to be killed in the Soudan, in Madagascar, in **China**, in the **bagnes** (penal **colonies**) and in the barracks You are dreaming of **repeopling** now, then, only for the sake of **depeopling** later on? Ah, no, thank you! If we must **die**, we like better to die at once and by a death of our own choosing "

# **OVERCROWDING THE WORLD**

## By H C Dekker

ERTAIN FIGURES regarding population increase and birth rates and death rates are of special interest to all who study the pros and cons of birth control In war tunes that interest is accentuated, the question of numbers and food supply comes to the fore more sharply at such tunes In the following paragraphs I present a few significant figures beaning upon the growth of population in the world at various periods From these figures it can readdy be seen that there is a direct connection between birth rate, death rate, overpopulation and war

Speculation as to how rapidly population can double has been of perennial interest We have more evidence on this point now than probably ever before in the world's history Consider the following table, giving the combined population of England, France, Prussia, Russia, Austria, Italy and Spain, covering four centuries

| 1480 | 46,700,000  |
|------|-------------|
| 1580 | 59,250,000  |
| 1680 | 73,032,000  |
| 1780 | 109,881,000 |
| 1880 | 285,134,000 |

Note that **in** the **200** years between **1480** and **1680 the population did** not **quite** double, but **in** the century **between 1780** and **1880** it more than doubled

Here ts another table, **in** a way **checking** the **first.** It **rep**resents the populabon of the **United** Kingdom at vanous dates

| 1066 | 3,500,000  |
|------|------------|
| 1381 | 3,860,000  |
| 1528 | 5,676,000  |
| 1672 | 7,720,000  |
| 1712 | 9,429,000  |
| 1754 | 10,658,000 |
| 1780 | 12,560,000 |
| 1801 | 15,717,000 |
| 1811 | 17,927,000 |
| 1910 | 41,458,720 |

WHILE BOTH tables are based on estimates, they are derived from the most authentic sources available. It is noteworthy that the rate of increase between 1528 and 1754 in the last table is about the same as the rate in the first table Similar population figures would indicate that about the same forces were at work in the United Kingdom in the years mentioned as on the Continent, that is, economic and social conditions were about the same

Observe, also, in the last table that it required 600 years to double between 1066 and 1672 The Malthusian will see in this feature corroboration of his theory of population These figures reflect a very close relationship between food supply and population The period of machine industry is marked by an unprecedented increase from 15,717,000 in 1801 to 41,458,720 in 1910 This was precisely the era of greatest expansion in capitalist enterprise with its application of steam and electricity to industry and transportation, assuring the **production** and **distribution** of a more **abundant** food supply

According to the following figures, France increased in population 50 per cent in 75 years even before modern power machinery came on to the stage

| 1713 |   | 17,000,000 |
|------|---|------------|
| 1788 |   | 25,000,000 |
| -    | - |            |

Havelock Ellis cites the opinion of a "French gentleman

well acquainted with the constitution of his country." to the effect that in the 18th century it was necessary to have a war every 12 or 14 years, in order "to carry off the refuse of the people."

The following table gives the tremendous increase in the total European population within the past 140 years

| 1772 | 142,000,000 |
|------|-------------|
| 1872 | 299,800,000 |
| 1912 | 454,600,000 |

All statistical evidence at hand tends to prove that the pressure of **population** in Europe becomes greater and greater Each 20-year period sees the population increasing

## at an accelerated rate.

Thus Europe as a while increased more rapidly between 1872 and 1892 than between 1772 and 1872, and more be-

tween 1892 and 1912 in the preceding 20-year period This steady acceleration in the rate of increase is of the utmost significance and furnishes one of the strongest arguments to the Neo-Malthusian.

The following percentages represent increased population

in the 40 years of peace between 1872 and 1912

Serbia, 70, Russia, 90, England, 59, Austria-Hungary, 40, Belgium, 40, Germany, 62, Japan, 57, Java (under Dutch rule), 60

North America as a whole is estunated to have increased about 700 per cent., while the United States grew from 5,308,000, in 1800, to 101,000,000 (estimated), in 1916, an increase of more than 1000 per cent

T HE POPULATION of the earth in 1814, according to such authorities as 1914, it was 1,650,000,000 Mulhall, was 700,000,000, in Mulhall says the population of the earth at the death of the Emperor Augustus as estimated by Bodio, was 54,000,000 Had the number increased from that time to the present at the rate observed in the past 100

years, there would not be standing room on earth today. In twelve centuries alone the population would have reached

113,152,000,000—a figure too extravagant to consider seriously as capable of being sustained by the earth's fertility

We can hardly **avoid** the **conclusion** that an **exceedingly high** death rate is all that has kept population within bounds prescribed by food production There is probably a frequent excess of population over food—something very

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## EUGENICS IN RELATION TO BIRTH CONTROL

By Anna E Blount, M D

Chairman of Eugenics Education Society of Chicago

EAR BY YEAR, as the earth turns round, man mcreases his responsibilities Epictetus, the great Stoic, said "Of things that exist, some are in our power, some are not in our power" This saying is as valuable as ever, but progress consists in taking as many things as we can out of the second class, and putting them into the first one

Why weep at the **devastation** of an earthquake? It is beyond our power Some scientist may one day **discover** how the earthquake can be controlled **Till** then, let us give our attention and energy to things moveable to our will, **cuch** as war, pestilence and famine

But Epictetus thought pestilence out of our power We of our tune know better Each thing that we take out of the one category and place in the other marks a mile-stone of civilization's onward march The dryness of the desert, the coldness of winter, the mountain barrier to travel, are all measurably controlled by man Our ships steam across Par-ma, where stood a mighty range of hdls A true radical, a true progressive is busy bringing things over from the one class, and putting them into the other

Such a true **radical is** the **eugenist** His vision is of the voluntary control of the **quality** of future humantty He would purge the **world** of **imbeciles**, **epileptics** and the msane by **ceasing** to breed them With no harm to any human **individual**, he would **eliminate in** time those of surpassing moral and **physical ugliness** 

Why struggle to find wonderful ways of **managing prisons** and almshouses, when **in** three **generations** we can make pnsons and **alsmhouses well-nigh** unnecessary?

Already eugenic factors are feebly at work We begin to segregate the imbecile, sterilize the hereditarily insane, and refuse marriage to the syphilitic

In the words of Francis Galton, the founder of eugenics, written some fifty years ago "Man has already furthered evolution very considerably, half unconsciously, and for his own personal advantage, but he has not ye' risen to the conviction that it is his religious duty to do so deliberately and systematically"

**S** IDE BY SIDE with our new conception of responsibility for the quality of humanity has grown up a related sense of our responsibility for the quantity of humanity, and for the relative numbers of individuals of the different qualities

We plant trees on the mountam-top for our grandchddren to harvest **in** a hundred years, we sow **rice** in the marshland, and rye on the steppe, but only the human harvest do we plant largely from the worst seed, and largely in the worst **soil** 

Karl **Pearson** has proved that one-fourth of the parents have one-half of the **children** Alas, it is this fourth that **furnishes** the poorest heredity and the poorest **environment**<sup>†</sup> And if the submerged fourth really wanted all those **chil**- dren there would be some compensation, in the increase of the sum of human happiness But, alas, they do not! They earnestly want *not* to have them, and yet the children continue to arrive as by-products of passion and ignorance

Family limitation is here It is a fact I see it in constant operation all about me Few of the well-to-do people I know blush to say that they have only as many children as they think they ought to have, or as they personally desire

It is only where women are poor, or **tied** down by the care of **little children**, or isolated, or profoundly **ignorant**, that **birth** control ls *not* **practiced** and just in these places **it is** most needed, for the welfare of the **individual**, and of the race

So many **statistics** he to hand to prove the **things** I have just **said,—which** are, indeed, usually **admitted** at the outset —that **it is** almost **idle** to quote them

Where is the **birthrate highest?** In Rusma, where **nine**-tenths of the people do not read and write

Where is the mfant death-rate lowest? In Australia and New Zealand, where family-limitation is legal and respectable What is the average family of English intellectuals? About two and one-half Of French physicians? One and one-half Of married imbeciles? Six, or seven or eight, depending on the country

Exactly because **birth** control **is** here for the **wise** and **provident**, we need it also for the **isolated** and Ignorant, we need tt, voluntary or enforced, if necessary by **celibacy** or **segregation**, for the **seriously defective** 

**W**<sup>E</sup> ALL KNOW that **it** would be a **different** matter to be one of **two children living** on fifteen dollars a week, from **being** one of ten, on the same **income** Every added **child** makes the **environment** for the new baby more **impossible** And **environment**, **in** the long run, selects the **heredity** The envlronment of the European peasant breeds peasants A poet born into **it** would **die** or **go** to Pans The slum **environment** breeds **children** that can withstand the **conditions** of the **slums** They are selected because they can **resist dirt** and germs, and poor food A **genius may** appear among them, but they are not selected for genius I can hear **still ringing** in my ears, **after** a quarter of a century, the **crues** of some that I have known, bang slowly **eliminated** by **their inability** to withstand hunger and **dirty milk** 

Yes, the environment selects the **surviving stock** You get the snake for the grass, and the eagle for the **mountain**-top, and the god for **Olympus, if** you please

And so, to me, it seems that the gradual Improvement in the human race rests on making parenthood a voluntary function Perhaps it was not so half a century ago, when nearly all families were unlimited But to have unlimited families of imbeciles, and strongly limited families of scientists is disastrous, unless somebody can prove that we

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# FOURTEEN REASONS AGAINST WAR BABIES

HE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE, of Great Britam, having been harshly criticized in some quarters for its war leaflets, advising people not to have children dunng the time of the war, it drew up and published the following summary of its principal reasons for advocating birth control for soldiers' wives

<sup>1</sup> Children born now cannot be of the slightest use in this war, even if we grant the need of greater numbers for future protection

<sup>2</sup> We do not want more children now to make up "the wastage of war" The deaths in the war, terrible though they may be, are small in proportion (about 100,000) to the births in a normal year (about 1,000,000), and they can be made up ten tunes over in a single year after, if desirable

<sup>3</sup> The Malthusian League was the first to call attention to the need for economy and increased productive effort, which is now strongly endorsed by the Government and by economic authorities of every shade of opinion War Increases consumption and waste of food and necessaries of hife (which are always insufficient), and checks production

4 From the purely economic standpoint the engendering of children is the greatest of all extravagances in war time They mcrease consumption of food and necessaries, and prevent their mothers or other attendants from helping in war work or productive work

5 Putting the cost of maintenance of a child at from five to ten shillings a week, the million children which are annually born in the United Kingdom represent a direct expenditure of fifteen or twenty millions a year, and a considerable indirect expenditure

6 Besides the lessened production of food, the taking up of ships and railways for transport purposes diminishes the possibility of bringing food from abroad, and we are also losing ships through mines and submarines

7 The great demand and lessened supply of food, etc, 15 shown by the great mcrease in the cost of living which has occurred since the commencement of the war A reduction m the birth-rate 15 the only method of checking this rise

8 From the eugenic standpoint, this is the worst of all possible times for engendering children The young, strong and virile men of our country have been taken away, leaving the physically and mentally unfit, the Immature, and the aged behind Our women are working in the munition factones, or helping m other ways, and are in anxiety as to the fates of their men folk Drinking and venereal disease, which are the greatest evils for offspring, are increased by the unrest and overwork caused by the war

9 Our production is now much less than our consumption, and the war is being run by borrowing on a colossal scale After the war we shall have to meet cur liabilities The more children we raise now, the greater will be the economic difficulties after the war, and the less opportunity will there be for our young men returning from the war to 1 larry and have children Every child born now is not only a dram on the community, and probably a cause of higher death-rate among others, but it will hinder the parenthood of our war heroes later

10 In any case, the economic strain on the middle classes has almost certainly caused a reduction m their already low birth-rate Unless the poor and unfit follow their example, there must be a most senous increase of that dysgenic infuence which their relatively high birth-rate has had during the last few decades

11 In war time doctors and nurses are especially needed for the front and for the military hospitals Hence, either the mothers and new-born babies must receive madequate attention, or they withdraw one of the most essential necessities from the army

12 If those who talk about the **need** of **children** in war time would **think** of a war between two households or two small communities, they would not make such absurd statements Every one, men, women and **children alike**, would be **busied** in fighting, loading and collecting ammunition, obtaining and preparing food, improving defences, nursing, etc The addition of fresh mouths to feed and the incapacitation of women by pregnancy and **childbirth** would be a calamity

13 Such figures as come to us from Germany show the folly of imagining that we must have a high birth-rate to compete with her Berlin is actually becoming depopulated by excess of deaths over births, and the higher Germany's birth-rate is, the fewer people she will have after the war Again, our present co-operation with France has chiefly been rendered possible by the reducbon of econonuc nvalry between us as our birth-rates have fallen As tune goes on, this co-operation between the low bath-rate nations will extend and develop into closer umons and federation, and united we shall be able to keep in check any nations who persist m the brutal policy of (attempting to) "mcrease and multiply (and overrun) the earth "

14 Whosoever calls for additional children is not only a believer in the doctrine that war will and must recur, but is doing his best to ensure it Those who preach low birthrates are quite alive to the fieldssity for military strength and national safety now and in the future, and they see that the best way to secure it is to have small families born at the right time and under good conditions, and to secure international solidarity by abolishing the cut-throat competition between nations in eternal economic rivalry, caused by the futile attempt to provide for their high birth-rates

A state whose **population continues** to mcrease in obedience to unchecked instanct can progress only from bad to worse -H G Wells

# THE TRIUMPH OF MINORITIES

## By Luly Winner

HE BIRTH CONTROL movement is today one of the most significant minorities in our life Its propagandists are more than propagandists, they are disciples in a holy cause, they are bearers of a great message to the mothers of humanity, and in the end they shall prevail

This is a democratic age, when almost all questions are decided by a show of hands We are governed by our majorities In a democracy the majority selects rulers, and the minority, however large, submits The majority decides our national policy, our fashions, our mode of life, making for a practical unanimity, which means at least the acquiescence of the party in opposition For why should the few stand apart from the many, why should their convictions and opinions contradict those of the vast majority?

Yet all of thts expresses an attitude that in general is fallacious and misleading Such submission to the majority is merely expedient, it is only skin-deep In other and higher fields of human interest, the opinion of the majority is not authoritative

What part does the **multitude** play in placing the laurel wreath upon the brow of the master **musician**? What part do the masses play in the **survival** of the fittest in literature, by which the few great creators become the **classics** of all time? The **discovery** of **scien**tific truth is not with the many, but with the few And **spiritual life**, too, is first **discerned** from the **dizzy moun**tain tops, and not from the **populous valley** at our feet

In a word, the **decision** of the really great **questions** that are the **chief business** of **humanity**, is to be made, not by the many, not by the greatest number, but by the greatest competence, not by the **counting** of heads, but by the **consideration** of the brains that may or may not be in those heads

**E** VERY NATION, **in** a word, **is** represented by **its** best and highest, and the best and highest are its fewest The prophets of humantty have ever been few They have been prophets because they rose htgher than the common level They did not, in the common sense, represent their nation, but they regenerdted it. It is amazing to what extent universal history is made up of the biographies of a few great men Socrates in his age was Greece The pupil of Socrates was Plato and at Plato's feet sat Aristotle-and Hellenism, that tremendous intellectual leaven that permeated and fashioned the whole intellectual life of mankind for centuries may be summed up **in** these three men The name of Luther represents the Reformation The life of Luther caused the spiritual disillusionment of half of humanity Every great **religion** seems to be the lengthened shadow of a man Christianity is Christ Buddhism is Buddha Judaism is Moses

When the great and terrible world war is over and the harvest of death is done, when, crippled and tangled and bewildered, Civilization shall look about her and slowly creep out of the debris of the frightfullest cataclysm of centuries and find herself mostly a mourning, bereaved world of women, what will be the greatest problem of all?

This is too large a theme for so short an article, but to generalize bnefly, it is obvious that, as Industry is the very backbone of modern progress, the greatest problem the world will have to face is the rebalancing of production, with its concomitant riddles of labor and distribution

The giant munitions industries that have lured away the former female labor of stores and factories, will pour forth their multitudes to join the rising flood of the labor market, composed, as it inevitably will be, of old men, crippled men and women, and it will be the women who will have the heaviest burdens and responsibilities to bear

A ND HOW is the woman to bear these burdens if she is blinded and bound by ignorance of the processes of her own body? How, with children clinging to her skirts, can she put her shoulder to the wheel of industry and keep the great machinery of progress going? Shall this great machine become a Juggernaut, crushing beneath its wheels the mothers and their children that should be the future generations, or shall these women be the masters of the machine, until the world will have regained its equilibrium and brought order out of the chaos and shambles? To be the masters, these women must be free of the slavery of involuntary childbirth They must have full control of their own bodies before they can, with those bodies, control and guide the machinery of industry Woman must have the blessed knowledge that will make her a mother by choice Instead of a victim, robbed suddenly of her opportunity to stand alongside her sisters on equal terms in the ternble competitive struggle that will face all women durmg the next few years Birth Control That will be the greatest problem for the women who will have to take the places of their husbands, sons and brothers slain in the World War And it is this light on the mountain tops that those who are giving of their best to this movement see clearly, that urges them on in the great fight to tear the bandage of prejudice from the eyes of humantty It is a great message that they are carrying, this small but earnest minority, but it is a message that the world needs too greatly, that women reach their hands for too eagerly, to be long ignored

And even a **comparative** handful of men and women with the message of truth cannot **fail** The **mind is** fed

(Continued on Page 15)

## A SUMMONS TO OUR WOMEN CITIZENS

(Centinued from Page 4)

as to how to prevent **conception**, can we teach them to **regu**late the **size** of **their families** in **proportion** to **their** incomes, so that they can take proper care of the **babies** born to them, and cut down this tremendous infant **mortality** 

Carleton Parker, Dean of the University of Washington, in an article in the November Atlantic Monthly, writes

"It is reasonable to argue that **working-class** parents suffer in the wnventional way in the death of **their** children The Federal **Children's** Bureau reports, 'For all **live babies** born **in wedlock** the rnfant **mortality** rate is 1307 in a thousand, **it rises** to 2557 when the father earns less than \$10 a week, and falls to 84 when he earns \$25 or more'"

Dr Alice Hamilton has given some impressive figures on the relation of our high infant mortality to large families, in the Bulletin of the American Academy of Medicine She reported an investigation of the families of 1,600 wageearners Deaths per thousand births in families of

| - | section per |      |      |          |     |
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That is, the death rate in families of eight and more is two and one-half times that of families of four children and under

Summing up briefly, all these statistics support the position taken by advocates of birth control They argue that voluntary parenthood, the power to limit the size of families is a tremendously vital need If men and women, especially those of limited means, were able to plan for their families, not having more children than they are able to care for properly, it would raise the average of the next generation as nothing else could

There is no danger that the race will die off Parental instinct is too strong and sure for that Statistics from all foreign countries where birth control is more freely practiced show that with the drop in the birth rate comes a more than proportionate\_drop in mfant mortality This is due to the fact that parents having fewer children are able to take better care of those they have The net result is not a decrease, but an increase, in population

These figures on infant mortality and the increase in venereal disease with its inevitable added effect upon infant mortality make their appeal to the woman voter As a citizen, responsibility for the conditions which she bequeathes to the next generation rests directly upon her shoulders. If she believes that more general knowledge of the means for family limitation would meet these evils, it is her duty, and it is in her power, to amend the present state laws which make it a penal offense to give birth control information, or to give, lend or sell, articles for this purpose. The penalty may be one year in prison and \$1,000

Beside this obvious call upon the woman citizen, birth control makes a subtler appeal to the woman suffragist. It closely parallels, physically and **spiritually**, the freedom for **which** suffragists have fought so gallantly along **political** and **spiritual** hnes

In the **feminist** phdosophy, **political** enfranchisement of women **is** only one step **in** a broad program of **emancipating** woman and developting her **individual** personality to its normal freedom Kathenne Anthony m "Feminism in Germany and Scandinavia" writes

"It is not placing the cart before the horse to say that the conquest of the political franchise and of economic rights a a valuable means toward the creation of a more independ ent state of mind in the individual woman The restoration of woman's self-respect is the gist of the feminist movement "

After generations of "indirect influence," the women of New York state at last have the power to do for themselves They no longer need to fall back on gigantic petitions and all the roundabout, and often humiliating machinery of indirect Influence

Today as voting **citizens**, they have the power, **if** they will **organize** to do **it**, to amend the laws affecting birth control **in** this state Voluntary motherhood appeals to them from many **points** of view,-as a war measure, as a eugenic measure, most closely of all, as a human measure, **affecting** every woman, and **leading** them another step along the path to which **their political enfranchisement** unlocked the gates

## THE OBJECTS OF MARRIAGE

*I he* Objects of *Morriage* Havelock Elhs, The Medical Review of Reviews (Copynght by Margaret H Sanger), 25 cents

T HERE HAS always been too much emphasis placed upon the purely utilitarian aspect of marriage, or upon the frigid theological conception of the wedded state The puritans have had their way with it, and the average young man and young woman are ashamed to associate ideas of beauty with the relationship Glamor and romance, they have been taught, end with the preparatory penod of courtship Marriage means domestic drudgery and pre-occupation with the necessary, but more or less immodest, business of child-bearing

A precisely contrary view to this repulsive doctrine 15 taken in the little volume under review Havelock Ellis, the greatest of modem psychologists, sees, as the objects of marriage, mutual development by means of sex, spiritual growth as well as physical well-being, the finding of a new and unsuspected beauty in hfe He is no iconoclast smashing the edifice of the moralists with brutal hands, because he realizes that human beings do not turn in a moment from things they have been taught to hold sacred But he points the way to freedom and leaves the reader to choose whether he will accept it or cling to the gloomy errors of the past His emphasis of birth control as a liberating agency 15 one of the most important points of his argument

This is a pamphlet which should find a place in the **library** of every one, whether married or unmarried, who a at all **interested in modern** trends -W R.

## SUPERMAN ARISES

**OE-LINED** Womb of Now, What man art thou delivering forth? What being doth issue from the loins of War

Lo, Superman arises !---Shod in iron, Helmed in spirit, Winged with flame The world has broken **its** shackles, **Humanity** at last bursts its chains I Rejolce flesh-entombed man is resurrecting. **Shedding** the cerecloth of ages, Freeing self from bondage of Ignorance, From the dust of oppression, Eons man has been matter-enslaved!

Behold, Superman advancmg upon chaos and night!-

Slaying with sword of spirit The monsters of **discord** and darkness. Scorching their evil with wmgs of flame Beware oppressors, his **pinions** of fire, Through earth, **through** hell they shall bum his wry!

#### **OVERCROWDING THE WORLD** (Continued from page 6)

quickly adjusted by Nature-although there is no way of representing that condition statistically If we knew the absolute physiological minimum needed for nutrition by each person on earth and if we had the exact amount of the different kinds of food available each year or period of years, we should be able to tell very easily whether or not there is overpopulation But as it is we can only say theoretically when such a condition exists We are, however, quite within the truth when we declare, with Malthus, that population always tends to exceed food supply

That high fecundity is responsible for grouppressure against nahonal borders, menacing neighboring groups, is dearly demonstrated in the case of Germany

In 1909 that country had a populabon of 64,000,000 Its yearly birth rate was 32 and its death rate 17 per thousand With a net increase of 15 per thousand annually, Germany would have had a population of 75,000,000 in 1920 If the same rate had been maintained, by 1952 her populabon would have been 107,000,000 With a reduction of the death rate to England's 14 per thousand, her population would have grown even faster

Now, Germany's area in Europe is only 208,780 square miles, her soil none too fertile by nature, and her climate in wrater for the most part harsh Texas alone has an area of 265,896, exceeding Germany by a difference about equalling the area of Illinois, with 56,665 square miles

Under such conditions several things might happen Either a great many persons in Germany would have to die or there would be what Bernhards calls a "Volks-Wanderung," or folk migration Such a migration has always meant trespassing on grour a occupied by other peoples, and war Another possibility was restriction of the birth rate, which was, in fact, being practiced to the extent that Germany had one of the most rapidly declining birth rates m Europe

Evidently the amount of birth control that will be practiced in Germany in the next 25 or 50 years will be a great factor in determining whether or not there is to be another European war of even greater magnitude than the present one Unless the German people curtail their own fecundity or die more rapidly than they were dying in 1909, it will be a question of perhaps only twenty-five or fifty years before Germany is overrunning her own borders again and breakmg into the house of her neighbors

To **sum** up **in** one sentence The first **condition** of general peace and settlement of international disputes by arbitration, which the horrors of the war ha made all the more imperative, is that the nations must know how to confine population within the limits of their national agricultural fertility Otherwae, we may as well reconcile ourselves to living in a world in which equilibrium between production and reproduction is brought about in the way Malthus described by the primitive brutality of Nature rather than by intelligence.

Rejoice, O Earth O Heavens Superman is risen I Toward Godhood he's winging h a way



## **IMPRESSIONS OF A DEBATE**

By Linest I Brennesen

IGILANCE-ETERNAL is demanded in keeping free from polution the benevolent spring of bit in control Challenged by Di Elmer Lee, editor of "Health Culture," that birth control was neither individually nor collectively beneficial, Margaret Sanger took the aftir 1ative on "Resolved that Birth Cont-ol is Conducive to the Virility and Welfare of the Human Race" Conducted under the auspices of the Brooklyn Philosophical Society, on November 18, this debate attracted a large, attentive audience of thoughtful mothers, fathers, and serious young people The willingness to stand on the part of so many unable to secure seats was indicative of the deep interest felt by the public in this vital question

Margaret Sanger opened the discussion by stating that a woman should have the inalienable right to decide whether she will or will not give birth to a child The mother's own mental and physical sufferings attending child birth, the sufferings of a weakly, diseased or deformed child, and the lack of such necessities as will keep a child physically and morally healthy, so that it may never become a public charge or menace—all these points should be considered Denied the proper and timely guidance or privilege to shape her own destiny, woman is too often faced with the grievous realization of her own mistake, and in utter despair hopes for relief in the dangerous practice of abortion

Quoting from her new book, "The Case For Birth Control,' Margaret Sanger offered mcontestable statistics, compiled by noted authorities, on the high percentage of deaths and diseases attending the act of giving birth to a child In her estimation, as is obvious to any open mind, these many sad deaths with their long trail of heartrending sorrows, as well as the multitude of diseased with their infinite tortures, would never have occurred had birth control been practiced in those cases

**B** RINGING THE audience to a closer realization of existing sorrows and her conscious impelling duty to succor where possible, Margaret Sanger related a pitiable case of a friendless woman coming under her observation Revelations of such sympathetrc intimacy with unfortunate cases allow, as in no other way, a true appraisement of the earnest spirit which proposes that no man, law, or other barrier shall prevent her from saving others from treacherous pitfalls

In view of preponderant evidence tending to show that birth control will absolutely prevent death and suffenng, Margaret Sanger asserted that the practice is a necessity which benefits the individual and society True she admitted, it does not conform to one of a number of manmade "barnacled" laws, but then, it is the only salvation which brings immediate relief, as no existing law can And, inasmuch as her personal observations and the records of other countries have shown the samity and value of this measure, it is difficult to understand why the poor women of this country should be deprived of that privilege Furthermore, it is a matter of common knowledge that birth control information is readily piocurable by a woman able to purchase it lhere is certainly no just reason why the same information should be denied a woman less fortunately situated

Dr Elmer Lee followed with a gratuitous self-diagnosis and informed the audience that he felt very much "oppressed at birth control" May no punishment await the hope that his oppression has since ripened to impression. He announced himself as the finder of the key to the solution ot the poor woman's troubles as mentioned by Margaret Sanger Ilus, he claimed, was perpetual self-control and restraint from any sexual intercourse whatsoever, numerscally expressed, 365 days in a non-leap year He classified as illicit any sexual ielation except that for the one avowed purpose of procreation The doctor held that no sexual relation should serve any purpose but that of increasing the population If this is not looking upon woman as a sort of child-bearing contrivance, E certainly is contiguous to it Man, in turn, was frigidly advised to seek amusements and pastimes apart from sex Not a word concerning affection v as even hinted at

**D**<sup>R</sup> ELMER LEE then stated that nothing must ever interfeie with Nature, that no matter how justifiable birth control may seem, it was imperative to let Nature hold sway, uhether a mother die or a diseased cripple or imbecile suffer, that it was his inflexible law, never to interfere one iota with Nature! Now, as a matter of easily available record, man to his colossal advantage, has always defied Nature First he refused to stay on all fours, next he provided himself and others with food, clothing and warmth when Nature could not give him these, then he fearlessly crossed the stormy deeps, chained the lightning, hurled his greetings across continents, side-tracked rivers to his fancy, brushed away the mountains, reached into the bowels of the earth for precious objects, flew through the air faster than any bird, and made impetuous Death await more politely his bidding

Another **assertion** propounded by Dr Elmer Lee was, that disease is not transmissible from parent to child Should he consult a host of **easily accessible** records, he **might pos**sibly consider it strange that they differ so widely from his theories To tell the audlence that no disease is transmissible, particularly mentioning syphilis, was a reprehensible attempt to lull the ignorant into a false sense of security It weakened the invisible chains of conscience and menaced the little innocents of the future

That **diseased** parents do not produce **diseased** or weak or **crippled children** as the result of **disease is a flimsy doctrine which like** the **wings** of wax **fashioned by Daedalus**, **might** serve to bear one during the darkness of Ignorance, **but** at the first dawn of **enlightment** would melt, and the fate of **Icarus** would follow

# LETTERS FROM WOMEN

LETTER No 1

#### 12-11-17

AM A POOR married woman in great trouble and I'm writing to you for help I was married in June 1915 and I have two children little boy 21 mon & a girl 4 mon and I will be only 17 years old this month and Im in the family way\* again and Im nearly crazy for when my husband finds out that Im going to have another baby he will beat the life out of me My husband sn't very strong, he had two operations since were married and cant do no hard work and doent earn much and then theres always trouble, when we havent enough money he goes and drinks for all that he gets a hold of He is so mean to me because these two children were so close together and If he knew I would have another Im sure he would leave me to my fate and go away for thats what he says and Im so weak and young and weigh only 96 lb I don't know what I'd do with two llttle children and another one coming Wont you please help me I heard other women saying you were very kind to those unfortunate mothers I dread to think of mother baby for this girl will only be about 10 months old and my llttle boy only 27 months Im sure Im in the family way though my family doctor won't tell me for he doesn't want to tell me My breast milk is nearly all gone I still nurse my baby but there is hardly anything in them I don't feel no pains now but in Sept and Oct I felt awful pains in both sides mostly in my left where the womb is I consulted a doctor and he said it was swollen he put some medicine there and said it would get well He said I didn't look in the family way but he was laughing, that was 2 months ago Im awful worried and don't know where to call for help Im sure Im about three months or nearly 3 So won't you be kind enough and tell me or send me something so that I wont have any more Please do for Im lost if I have one more baby, Id rather jump in the nver it wouldn't be worse Please write to me and help me I heard you wer kind and helped others and please help me for Im in great trouble too Id give or do anything not to have another baby please help me for Im sure you can Im entirely at your mercy Im going to wait for your ans day and night, please don't forget me Anything you will tell me to do I will do for Im entirely at your mercy if you won't take pity on me then Im lost

Please ans as soon as **you get this** for Im just **crying** and **waiting** for your help for you know **everything** about family **limitation** Please send me the **Family** Limitation book and **if** you send those **things that** are **writen in** there for **birth** control please send them to me and I will pay you for all your trouble **anything** you **will** ask I **havent** much but I rather starve a couple weeks or months and get enough money to have so I wouldn't have another baby Ans as soon as **possible** for **Ill** be **waiting** every **minute** please **trust** me and help me Im at **your** Mercy Mrs L S

#### LETTER No 2

Phila, Pa

Having read so much about you in the dally papers concerning vour wonderful work in Birth Control, write to you for advise I am a young woman Twenty two years of age, married when not quite twenty one, and since which tlme I have two children fourteen months apart My first child a llttle girl was rather healthy until five months of age when I became pregnant for the second I was then compelled to stop nursing the first and from that tlme on it took all the energy and money I could gather to doctor her back to health When she was fourteen months old, just about able to walk, my llttle boy was born At his birth I had so many hemmorages and lost so much blood that my physician almost gave up hope After two weeks I was again down statrs washing, and ironing for two babies and doing my housework at the same time In view of this fact I again had a relapse of three days of Tonsilitis with a fever of **104** degrees For this reason I had to stop nursing the baby and my milk dned up, since which the he has been under the doctor's care as nothing seems to agree with him My doctor now tells me the child has Ricketts, and advises me to give him Mammala, for food, Orange juice and white of egg, three times daily, bath in sea salt every day, lime water several times a day, and also gave me tablets to be dissolved to bathe his head so as to harden the bones With all this I have my housework, washing, ironing and another baby **19** mos old My baby **1s** a llttle past four months old now, and from all indications I am pregnant again I am almost frantic, as I have not had hme to regain my strength and what llttle I have is taken up with a sick baby As already stated, I am just past twenty two years old and have been married two years last May I have had no sleep for two weeks and have been up continually these last three nights, and in view of the fact that we are moving, I can hardly "pull myself together" sufficiently to pack I must ask you to please excuse my writing as I am wheeling the baby with one hand and writing with the other

If there is any charge for your **advice** please let me know, as I feel as time goes on that I will do something desperate and for the sake of my two babies, I am trying to avoid this Your kind attention will be more than appreciated by Sincerely yours,

Mrs J D

#### LETTER No 3

I have been **reading** of your lecture in St Louis on birth control and cannot rest till I write you

I am the mother of five **children**, the oldest 8 years old and I am only 24 years old was married at **15** years

I have tied down so much with children since I was married that I have just became despondent

I love **babies** but I have had them too fast and have **tried** everything I could hear of to keep from getting pregnant

<sup>•</sup> The tragedy of such cases is that the victims so often write in after it is too late for birth control to help them -ED

again but everything failed then I have tried several Medicines and have had two bad miscarriages and at last I have broke my health It seems that if I were to have another one soon that death would be welcome I am so nervous and these five children are even more than I can handle alone as I can't afford help It worries me now to see them neglected My only trouble is the worry on me from month to month for fear of becoming pregnant again I would be happy if I only knew that I would not have another babe till my girls were old enough to help me Ohl I wish you could just realize my position A care and a worry all the time We are now trying to pay for a farm

I want you to send me one of your pamphlets or write me and give me what advice you can on birth control for if anyone ever needed it, I do I think you are doing a good work for there are other mothers in the same fix I am in

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Very Resp't Mrs F O

### LETTER No 4

#### C,S D

Two years ago next January I lost a seven months baby He lived one day Then the next July I had a four months miscarriage and now I have a three months old baby and she is a strong healthy baby

I am a young woman twenty three years old and I'm not very strong I do not have tune to get over one **stckness** before I **become** pregnant **again** My health **will soon** be all gone at that rate

Next spnng we will go back on our Homestead fifty miles from town and we cannot afford more children till we prove up and it would be dangerous for me to he pregnant because I am so likely to miscarry I love babies and I want more children after we prove up

Would you give me information on how to take care of myself so I will not become pregnant?

Yours truly, Mrs K T

## LETTER No 5

C, N J, Oct 25, 1917

I have been married three years in Sept just past and have two children, a boy, the first was born eleven months after marnage and 1s now two years and 2 months old and a little girl who came almost 16 months later and who is now nearly 11 months old I am now nearly two months for another and under the present circumstances is not welcome for my life, since before my first baby came has been miserable I was brought up m a poor but honest family where love was predominant, and dnnk away in the back ground for we are temperance, and when, shortly before the boy came my husband took to dnnk I was surprised and hurt and later as it got a worse hold on him and he was so mean you may **imagine** what my **life** has been, he struck at me twice with his clenched fist but I side stepped hun and I was pregnant too He never gave me much money, only \$6 per week and I had his mother to feed also as she is living with us, and when I told him how sometimes I had to

go hungry on that amount he called me a D-har To prepare for the last baby's coming he gave me two dollars and then not until the last minute, just six days before birth I could not nurse my second baby because of insufficient nourishment as many a time I went all day on coffee and bread even after she came, and after three months put her on a bottle as she was nearly starved She was a terribly cross baby and many a time he would put on his hat and coat and spend his tune in a saloon because he didn't intend to hear **it** He doesn't seem to care how many I have nor does he want to be careful so as to help me nor to care for than after they come as I have to **dingdong** all the tune now for a few dollars to buy winter clothes They have very little even of the necessary things and no others I can not afford any more children now what with winter coming on with coal and wood to buy also clothes and food so high and so little money, I don't know how we will live He has told me many tunes to get out, also if it wasn't for the chil**dren** he would be many **miles** away from me I very seldom quarrel with hun only when I can't stand any more of his cranky talk He is never home early evenings, I can never count on when he is coming, and when he has a short pay, he takes it out of me, and I have milk and this summer ice also the paper to pay for besides the table to buy for on that amount I must ask him for money every time I need it also tell how much I want and what I am to do with it, if it exceeds two dollars he has a fit also he seldom gives me more He is always drunk or half so and he neglects his duties at home, I have had to saw, cut and split great logs of wood, haul coal, make fire, sift ashes, get up first in the cold. (for he will not let me keep a fire over night) even when pregnant and in snow and slush, rain or shine, he doesn't want to spoil me so he says I have no crib for the babies or extra bed so they deep with me and he on a cot, and when I get up in the morning I am all wet and cold He has told me many a time that nothing in the home is mme, that his money bought it all, therefore it is his

I have no one to depend on as my mother and father are poor working people having a family of their own and neither of them are well one or both doctering all the time, and the more they would do for me, the more he would have for dnnk and my father says a poor working man has enough to do to bring up his own family these days Also my husband earns more money per week than my father and has less expenses also it is his nght to care for us I would love to have and raise a family if my home life was happier but I can't see it now I dearly love children and always said as a child I was going to have a bakers doz When I was single I had few friends but always had a bunch of children out for a walk and treat to ice cream or candy and they all knew and loved me, too

I could tell you many more **things** but I **guess** it would till a book, **besides** have told enough for **you** to see the **futi**ity of any more **babies coming** to my home while **things** are **like this Hoping** you can tell me what I wish to know, I remain, **Suscerely** yours

Sincerely yours,

Mrs G C B

## SOCIALIST WOMEN, TAKE NOTE

THERE ARE ELEVEN Socialist Assemblymen to take their seats in Albany on January 1 There is much encouragement in the fact that the usual, normal Socialist has been so well drilled in his economics that he already knows the main arguments for

birth control It will not be necessary to send a delegation to inform these eleven men of the necessity for contraceptive information among the working women

But kt women not forget that these men are men--and men are not naturally **inclined** to make woman's freedom thetr **life's** work They **will** be swamped and overwhelmed **with** all **kinds** of **issues** and **will**, **like** other **legislators** before them, be **likely** to leave **birth** control where **it is**, unless **their attention is** called to **it** We therefore request every roman who **lives in** the **districts which** these men represent to make **it** her personal duty to call upon her assemblyman a, d **fortify him with** knowledge--with human **facts--and irstruct him** to make the repeal of **Section 1142** the **iminediate** act of the **Legislature** 

A man said to me the other day, seeing the Birth Control Review in my hands "if those people have thew way, what will become of the populahon of Europe after the war?" I asked him "But what's becoming of it in the warp' Cursously, there are people who believe in war who have the cheek to call birth control murder—Horace Traubel

### EUGENICS AND BIRTH CONTROL (Continued from Page 7)

need more **imbeciles** than **scientists** To have thousands of unwelcome **children** from overworked workmg women, and to have a one-chdd **family** or spinsterhood for women **geniuses** is equally disastrous

At present, any woman **ignorant** enough will have **unlimited children** She may be feeble **in** health, a hater of **children**, a nervous wreck, the most **unwilling**, and the most **inefficient** of mothers, **Still** she breeds And why? Her **physician is** the dispensary **physician**, perhaps of some **religious society This physician gives** her no advice about **limiting maternity** "It **isn't** done," as yet in **dispensary circles** It **is** only done m the privacy of the office I am glad that I live in a state (Illinois) where such advice may legally be **given**, in either office or **dispensary** But being legal does not help, unless some one **brings** knowledge to these unhappy women

To me it is clear, and I think everybody should be **able** to see, that once motherhood becomes a **voluntary** function, there must grow up a race of mothers who love and choose **maternity** To be a mother will be to *want* to be a mother The love of children will have a **survival** value, for the world will slowly be filled by those who best love children

God speed the day when the **unwilling** mother, **with** her weak puny body, her sad, **anaemic** unlovely face, and her **dependent whine**, will be no more In that day we shall see a race of American thoroughbreds, if not the superman

## FIRST FRUITS IN ST. LOUIS

Health Commissioner Starkloff of S t Louis is alarmed at the falling birth rate in that city He admits that it a &rectly due to birth control propaganda. The statistics of his department show that there has been a decline in births smce **1908** There never has been any marked drop, however, unhl 1916, when the figure fell to 14,217 In 1908, there were 15,813 children born in St Louis The decrease last year from the birth rate of 1915 was about 1,000 During the eight years, there has been a considerable increase in population, thereby once more proving the Malthusian law that a low birth rate invariably results in a larger and better population This last point the Commissioner conveniently ignores in his lament Nor does he mention the fact that these first **fruits** of the **birth** control movement in St Louts are due almost **entirely** to the work done in a quiet way by one little nurse, who has carried the message &rectly to the poor mothers with whom she is constantly in contact

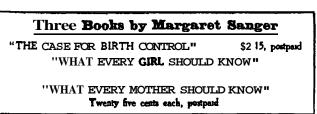
## BIRTH CONTROL AND FEMINISM (Contrnued from Page 3)

repeal of this law Of course **capitalism thrives** on an over-supplied labor market, but **with** our usual enormous **immigration** to be counted on as soon as the war **is** over, **it** is not likely that an **organized** economic **opposition** to **birth** control **will** develop

In short, if feminism, conscious and bold and intelligent, leads the demand, it will be supported by the secret eagerness of all women to control the size of their families, and a suffrage state should make short work of repealing these old laws that stand in the way of birth control

## THE TRIUMPH OF MINORITIES (Continued from Page 9)

by knowledge But knowledge is not all The soul is touched by smcerity, and sincerity begets sincerity, life spnngs from life, alike the life of the spirit and the life of the body The teacher with faith and sincerity and strength of conviction begets these attributes in his pupils and makes of them disciples who pass on the message with a passion for propagation that spreads a splendid contagion from one soul to another And so, though the first moment may be merely an enthusiasm for a fine and inspiring idea, for a cause, for a principle, the message will take root and grow, like a tiny seed, and however tmy the seed, it may be the atom of ferment that shall leaven all humanity



# **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

N DECEMBER 10, Jonah J Goldstein, attorney, argued the final appeal in New York State of Margaret H Sanger's case, before the Court of Appeals sitting at Albany Judgment was reserved The most Important point raised by Mr Goldstein, and the one to which he devoted the major part of his argument, was to the effect that Section 1142, by its absolute prohibition, has the effect of forcing conception upon every married woman, often against her conscience and volition He challenged the **constitutionality** of the law. because it deprives woman of the right of individual liberty, and makes no distinction between the married and unmarried, those who are capable of bearing children and those whose physical condition make childbirth undesirable The State does not compel marriage, but does practically enforce motherhood It raises no objection to a union which is sterile for natural causes, but is perfectly willing to grant an annulment of marriage should the woman refuse to perform the functions of Pretending that the laws of nature must not be sex Interfered with, the State forbids married people to avail themselves of the assistance of science-which is nature under guidance Consequently, many of our young people are debarred from marrying through their economic inability to assume responsibilities which they are not allowed to limit No more tyrannous infringement of personal liberty could be imagined Mr Goldstem's argument was a notable contribution to the cause of woman's freedom in New York state It was ably and fearlessly presented The opposing counsel, however, while he spent much trme in disputing the technicalities involved in the case, pointedly and characteristically ignored the entire phase of the problem which Mr Goldsteln had brought out, as **outlined** above

POLYGAMY, trial marriages, lateral marnages and concubinage are now being sponsored by the Kaiser's Government and praised by German intellectuals as highly moral, advanced and efficient populatron The New York Tribune published an armeasures ticle on December 16, which demonstrated that these practices were becomming widespread and had proved workable in a number of ways To our surprise, however, the Tribune expressed horror at the innovation and went to some pains to show that decent Americans were shocked at this latest exhibition of Teutonic "depravity" We had fully expected that The Burth Control Review, and perhaps a few other magazines of radical tendencies, would have been the only ones to protest For, really, this German scheme appears to be solving problems that are shared by all the warring Governments and which have hitherto defied the social experts The birth rate will rise, for it is true that illegitimacy has jumped from 15 to 45 per cent a year ago Women for whom no places could be found in the munitions industries are receiving

a measure of support from their plural husbands Prostitution is being rapidly reduced, m Hamburg, for instance, the "red light" district is stated officially to have **disappeared**, there **being** no longer any demand for the services of its unfortunate denizens Venereal diseases are on the decline All of the above results, with the exception of the increased birth rate, are ardently desired by us We object only to the means which are being used to bring them about, and would suggest birth control as a more scientific substitute But the militarists who control the destinies of modern nations do not believe in birth control It is amazing that they should not seize upon the new German efficiency plan with the same readiness that they adopted chlorine gas and other bright ideas in the game of war We should think that having decided to make the present era one of conquest, any measure which promises to replenish the armed forces and keep down disease would be welcome Polygamy, from the militarist's point of view, is undoubtedly such a measure

MRS HONORE WILLSIE, editor of *The Delmeator*, called upon the women of America to raise the best "cannon fodder" on earth Mrs Willsie made this proposal at The Woman's City Club luncheon held at the McAlpin Hotel, New York, a few days ago in the interest of the dub's "save the babies" drive

The **idea** expressed seemed to be that the **babies** of today be saved and bred and educated **in** order that they may become the finest cannon fodder on earth, and **this being so will in** twenty years hence, defy the world to fight them

She pointed to Germany as an example of efficiency in making this war "the greatest hell on earth" and was Impatient that America does not beat them to rt Such logic! It seems inconceivable that any woman in her nght mind dare stand before a group of intelligent women—many of them mothers—and deliver such a message

The thing which is so disquieting in her message is not her unnatural thirst for war—but her desire to imitate—to imitate men,—to do what they do,—to think, to say, as they do—to follow where they lead For this she is willing to keep the world in its present Ignorance, and perpetuate the same poverty, misery and human wretchedness which has enslaved the world since the domain of man The mind ci such a woman cannot concave of a world, which will not tolerate warfare She cannot conceive that woman will ultimately free herself from the entanglements of machinemade morality and stand erect, free to think, free to act, free to lead and create a world of her own visions

THROUGH a regrettable error, we stated in the last issue that the Appellate Division handed down no written opinion when it reversed Judge Bijur's favorable ruling in the "Birth Control" photoplay case We have since learned that a long opinion was rendered and published in the official record