INTERNATIONAL NUMBER



Dedicated to the Cause of Voluntary Motherhood

Volume Two

MAY, 1918

Number Four

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE WAR

By ANNA STEESE RICHARDSON

FREEDOM IS THE GOAL

By EUGENE V DEBS

MESSAGES FROM ENGLAND, FRANCE AND HOLLAND

Fifteen cents a copy

One dollar fifty a year

THE BIRTH CONTROL Review

104 Fifth Avenue. New York City

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Published monthly Subscription price \$150 a year, foreign countries and Canada \$175, postpaid. Bundle rates ten **copies** for a dollar, \$9 50 per hundred.

Entered at the Post Office at New York, N Y as mail matter of the Second class

Address correspondence and make checks and money orders payable to MARGARET SANGER

NOTICE When requesting change ot address, always give the old address as well

Owned and published by THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S PUBLISHING CO. Inc, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York, N Y

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The Federation of Neo-Malthusian Leagues,

Dr Alice Drysdale Vickery, President.

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BIRTH CONTROL AND THE WAR

By Anna Steese Richardson

(Written especially for The Birth Control Review)

ANY AUTHORS LIVE TO WRITE — or write to live I sometimes thmk I live to read letters Certainly letter-reading is my beat and biggest literary job Every month I write to an audience of nearly three million women Sometimes I thmk that my entire audience is moved to take its pen in hand simultaneously It is a dull day indeed, when eighty to a hundred letters do not demand my personal attention

And these are not ordinary letters-to-the-edltor, asking how to restore the original color to fading garments—or hair, how to give a St Valentine's party, or how to drape a bride's veil No, the letters which come to my desk are human documents, welling up from hearts full to bursting Often, alas, between the lines, I can read that a human life is at stake

My mall serves a twc-fold purpose It is an infallible guide in selecting subject-matter for articles, and it is an *absolutely reliable indication* of the trend of thought among women, especially in matters of personal, family and public health And the trend of thought in medical matters is becoming steadily broader and more independent

Therefore, I do not believe that the American women will yield to the hysterical slogan "Have children!" We women of America are learning from family history, the records of our mothers and our grandmothers, observation, study and experience that what this nation needs and every nation needs is stronger children reared by healthier mothers. In the face of war, we need quality not quantity, and quality in offspring is to be attained only through birth control War calls for special forms of endurance and self-sacrifice, best rendered by a healthy body and steady nerves Birth control prevents the **reproduction** of those unfit for such service, and enables the fit to postpone bringing children into the world until the wife is physically able to bear a healthy child and the family income is adequate to supply the nourishment, environment and education necessary to build up a race of efficient fighting men

THE DEMAND FOR CONSERVATION should not stop at coal, food, gasoline and other munitions of war Let us conserve one of our most precious forces woman-power Only the fittest of women, physically and economically, can be spared to bear children in the next few years The strength of the rest must be conserved for war service of a more practical sort Never in the history of America have such heavy demands been made on women, their strength, energy and efficiency In thousands of cases, the woman must release some man for miltary service, by taking his place in one of the industries or as the head of his family

The man she replaces did not stop to bear children He

stuck to his job and so must she The man she replaces as head of their household did not scatter his energy by bearing children He concentrated on the job of supporting his family The woman who takes his place must concentrate her energres in the same way The day has come when American mothers must give their best, their all, to rearing the children already born, to fitting them for the grave responsibilities just ahead This is no time for bringing delicate, under-nounshed children into the world, to face such perils as milk and wheat shortage

And women are **beginning** to **realize this—at** least the women who **write** to me--the women who read and thmk **and** keep abreast of the tunes — and who want the supreme **privilege** of **feminism—the right** to health and to the successful **rearing** of **children** through voluntary motherhood It is a wise physician who recognizes and satisfies this demand on the part of his patient, whether she lives in a **modern** apartment surrounded by **conveniences** or in the roughest shack on a **prairie** ranch

Here is an extract from a letter, significant and typical

"After receiving your very kind letter, my husband and I have decided to come to New York and consult a specialist I have reached the point where I feel that if my doctor here does not know what is wrong with me, he is not fit to handle my case, and if he does know and will not tell us, then I do not want him to prescribe for me"

Another wife writes

T^F I CANNOT CARRY a child to full term, then why in the name of all that's merciful, doesn't my doctor do something to prevent conception? I have just gone through the revolting experience for the third time Abortion or death! Why not prevention and some sense of security in living? My doctor replies that birth control is illegal But he is licensed to perform therapeutic abortion My soul hums at the injustice Am I to be a woman condemned to fear and suffering, or will the Birth Control League set me free?"

Another victim of therapeutic abortion writes

"When I plead with my doctor, he replies that there is no such thing as a 100 per cent contraceptive But there would be if physicians and medical colleges gave as much research and experimentation to contraceptives as they do to licensed abortion"

Women who thmk along these lines, who can quote medical terms because they have read the best in medical norks ind periodicals, are a menace to family physicians whose heads are still buned in the sands of narrow ethics and traditions

A simpler letter this, but not one whit less earnest

"Will you help me? I am the wife of a farmer and we have interest and payments to meet I have five children, and eighteen months is the longest rest I had between births I do all my own work, cook for the hired men when we can get them and work in the fields when we can't I have chickens and milk to take care of and the children to sew for If I didn't have the best husband in the world, ^r couldn't stand the thought of another baby coming I wouldn't mind if we could get help or had means, but if anything goes wrong, what will become of my husband and the children who need me? And I am tired, so tired that for the first time in my life-I am afraid of being taken from them After our last baby came, I asked the doctor to help me out He said there was nothing he could do, but I notice his wife stopped with two Well, he should worry It's another twenty-five for him, even if he doesn't get here in time, and we have to pay it in driblets, too After this baby is born, I mean to help myself somehow What is blrth control? Where can I buy books about it?"

"I mean to help myself"

That determined note rings through hundreds of letters Family physicians must hear 1⁺ before I do It should set them thinking

A CONSERVATIVE FRIEND who has often relieved my "neediest cases" with clothing, medical attention or cash, took me to task for endorsing blrth control

"Why do you have anythmg to do with the dangerous doctrine?" she inquired

"Because of these letters" And I handed her a sheaf of them She was **quite** shaken by the **reading**

"It's **shocking**," she murmured **with** a shudder "Such Ignorance **is appalling** These women do not know how to protect themselves What sort of doctors do they have?"

"Doctors who do not **believe in** blrth control," I retorted "Neither does mine, bt —"

"He does not endorse it—he merely supplies it to patients who can afford to pay for it—patients like you—"

Her eyes flashed

"Are you suggesting that Dr Blank would perform a criminal operation"

I could hardly believe my ears This woman of intelligence, leader in club, civic and war relief work, did not know the difference between criminal abortion and blrth control And then I realized as I have often realized it before, that the enemies of physical emancipation for women deliberately, maliciously, confuse the two terms This woman whose strength and beauty had been conserved for years by contraceptives has been fighting the movement to grant the same protection and privilege to her less fortunate sisters because her physician has misled her, intentionally or otherwise

We will never have voluntary motherhood until we tear away the v d of hypocrisy and misrepresentation by which physicians hide the truth from their patlents, and especially the smugness of those medical men who inform their overburdened patlents that there are no safe and sure contraceptives, while they protect their own wives and, incidentally, their own bank accounts by practising birth control in their private lives These are the worst offenders against the health and the freedom of American women

Birth Control Leagues have been formed in many localities and then allowed to languish or die But the day is coming when they will be supported by the very women who once drew back their skirts War is a great awakener of women It stirs their souls and opens their eyes to the futility and emptiness of traditions Haphazard, unregulated child-bearing as woman's world-duty is a dying tradition

From the President of the English League

47 Rothernak Road # 9 5, 01 2 2 4 4 18 Dear most Sanger, It is quite a delight to hear from you again I have thought about you so officer & wished I could are your paper This Lo. muches as excellent Schould like to send you and annual subscereption, & hour the copies Bound as companion or umes to the malthuscan It will please me very much to write an article from the point of ever " right to control onaternity : I have responsibility for the grality the children born & the envisor I prochects of happy construce the are born into Its monatrons that a for where husband has degenerated into a banks, or an mespable citizen or some a selfe & and iffer last partices show led suffered pres for his wife, do son ffee for a has country my carl la is fuccedes in your after undy god the & the stary

Mothers of the Future

"In the eyes of the new morality the ideal woman is no longer the meek drudge condemned to endless and often ineffectual child-bearing, but the free and instructed woman, able to look before and after, trained in a sense of responsibility alike to herself and the race, and determined to have no children but the best "—Havelock Ellis, "Essays in War Time"



THE DUTCH NEO-MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE

By J Rutgers, M D

N JANUARY 27th the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Dutch Neo-Malthusian League was held in Utrecht, Holland, where sixteen of the 27 local subdivisions were represented and many of the trained nurses were present The President in the chair, Mr Mineur from Rotterdam, welcomed the audience and especially two comrades, members of the headquarters of the Belgian League "In these times of war," he said, "with such an immense waste of life, the mothers should refuse to bring into life more food for cannon Posterity will judge between us and this Moloch"

"Referring to actual conditions in Holland, as a neutral country," he said, "at the beginning of the war mortality, and especially infant mortality, was less senous than could have been expected, perhaps this fact was due to the public expenditures for the benefit of all poor families where the husband was under arms, and to the large distributions of the relief committee, both preventing the common evils of poverty But now the lack of all necessities of life is causing the mortality rate to rise What a blessing it is, in this calamity, that we have saved so many thousands of mfants from being born and thus prevented their suffening from famine"

The annual report of the Hon Secretary, Dr J Rutgers from the Hague, showed that, **notwithstanding** unfavorable **circumstances**, the **number** of members of the League had **ircreased** by about 100 There are now 6,376 members **in** our small country

Members of 3,323 families appealed during the past year to our headquarters, asking full information about preventive means, and the League sent out 6,555 copies of a practical pamphlet. To this figure must be added a small number of the English translation of the same pamphlet and a considerable number of the French translation

Some 10,000 propaganda pamphlets and a still greater number of propaganda **leaflets** and cards were spread over the whole country, especially among the numerous foreigners now residing in Holland The official organ of the League, entitled "The Happy Family" and edited by the president, was ctrculated to a total number of 25,000

T^O THE PUBLICATIONS of our League has now been added a bnef compendium about the population question according to up-to-date views Nature always restores the equilibrium between the number of individuals and the available food quantum, so it is with plants and with animals As to human beings, this natural regulation 1. reinforced by our human intelligence The happy results are the decline of mortality, especially of infant mortality, and above all a greater length of life Should the individual checking of births ever go too far, then at last the community would feel its responsibility and its interest in helping women to hear the burdens of motherhood!

Many hundreds of women, rich and poor, called at our

clinics spread over the country in the different cities, where trained nurses, especially instructed by the League, have their hours of consultation These clinics are centers of sex hygiene and cleanliness, and do more against the evils of abortion than all efforts of moralists and criminalists ever have been able to do Between 200 and 300 of the poorest families received contraceptives cost-free, all others at moderate terms A special propaganda was pushed by the League in the coal district of Limburg among the miners of different nationalities

Surely when war is terminated, the thousands of foreign families that in times of greatest distress have found here in Holland, peace, welfare and a liberal hospitality, will bless our modest little country and will apply our ideals in their own homes with the greatest enthusiasm!

The Hague, Holland

MINNESOTA REPORT (Received too late for the last issue)

THE MINNESOTA STATE Birth Control League bad tts Incephon at the Margaret Sanger lecture May 18, 1916, but was not organized until her visit here June 12, when it was the plan to open a clinic at once with Miss Louise Brown in charge After an investigation of the law we found this impossible, so organized along educational lines and launched our campaign of publicity and education

We started a **lively discussion** in the **Mail** Bag of the St Paul **Pioneer** Press and Despatch and **in** the **like** column of the **Daily** News which is open to the **public** Letters began to pour **in**, **keeping** the secretary busy two full days a week at headquarters all during that summer Some of our members gave **birth** control **information** of a **practical** nature, but the League confined **itself** to **education** and **legislative** work. We ordered ten **copies** of Dr **Robinson's** book and kept them **circulating** all over town and out through the **state** About **this time** the **movie**, The Unborn, came to St Paul **purporting** to be an expose of the movement. To combat **this misinformation** we got out five thousand leaflets and stood all that week at the theatre door **passing** them out Many of our members wrote **articles** for the local papers and we had good **notices** for all **meetings**

Perhaps the most **important thing** that was done was a **learing** secured **in** December by us through the Trades and Labor Assembly of **Minneapolis** before the **Minnesota Child** Welfare **Commission**, a body **appointed** by the governor to **consider**, **revise** and suggest laws for the benefit of **children** and present them to the **legislature** More than a hundred people were present We had fifteen speakers

Immediately following this meeting we had our attorney prepare a tentative bill and it was placed in the hands of the Commission They refused to endorse it, as they had about forty bills of their own, some quite radical, and they did not

(Continued on page 8)

FREEDOM IS THE GOAL

By Eugene V Debs

HE STRUGGLE OF THE WORLD today 15 fundamentally for the freedom of the race Man is still his own enslaved victim—the keeper of his own dungeon cell He yearns for freedom, but resists all attempts to achieve it Tradition and convention mould his thought, direct his course, and shape his career He lives a mean, barren, joyless life, but sets his face like flint against any man or movement that threatens to change it

And this is the man who has stood over woman like a primitive brute and with a menacing scowl defined her "sphere" Utterly incapable, after all the ages, of ruling himself, this thing of arrogant egotism and sodden Ignorance still dominates and dwarfs the life of woman and darkens by his lordly abuse of power the divine destiny of the race

Man who has enslaved himself and grown to like his fetters, flatters himself upon his mastery of woman He is strong and she is weak, and therefore he must command ard she obey, and this mverted and perverted relation between man and woman is reflected in the festering vices of every state of human society from primeval savagery to the highest modern civilization

Man's brutal **domination** of the **life** of woman has been the **crime** of **crimes against** both from **childhood** of the race, and each **succeeding generation** has been compelled to atone for **it in** tears and blood

All along the track of the **centuries**, the world has been **morally** and **spiritually** beggared and starved by man's **piti**less **denial** of womanhood's **incomparably** beneficent **fruition** and flowering

In denying woman man has degraded and damned himself Woman is his inferior in no respect whatsoever, save that alone of sheer brute strength, to that superior distinction man is entitled, and to that he owes his savage supremacy today

WOMAN NEVER YET HAS HAD the chance to show the world what she is and what potential power she possesses to elevate and ennoble the race and bless and beautify the world She has belonged to man and served him with inexpressible fidelity, at her own expense She has suffered infinite agony in silence and sighed vainly through the ages for deliverance from her fetters, while her self-constituted keeper taunted her outraged womanhood and branded her with the vulgar stigma of inferiority

But the dawn of another day is breaking upon the world and woman is at last awakening from the nightmare of the ages The light of the new day beams from her eyes and the spirit of rebellion thrilis her eager soul

O, for a million woman rebels to catch the clarion cry of Margaret Sanger and proclaim the glad tidings of woman's coming freedom throughout the world' Woman in the past has been weighed down by fetters forged by man, today she rises winged into the empyrean

She boldly defies the power to which her mother meekly paid the homage of submission, and with dauntless courage and self-reliance she issues her declaration of freedom to the world

She demands the whole of freedom for the whole of womankind The ballot is but a paltry concession to her revolutionary aspiration and determination The right to vote, to a voice in human relations is elementary, and it is the shame and reproach of man that lie robbed woman of her birthright and gloried in her humiliation and in his own brutal conquest

Woman the mother is also the conservator of the race Within her sacred body she bears all future life, and with infinite love and tenderness she watches over her own, and had she never been enslaved, repressed and denied, the world today would breathe out love and peace to all its children instead of being rent and torn with savage hate and slaughter

FREEDOM, COMPLETE FREEDOM, is the goal of woman's struggle in the modern world, the struggle in which she must persist at any cost until she is absolutely free from man's insolent and debasing domination. She, the mother of man, shall be the sovereign ruler of the world She shall have sole custody of her own body, she shall have perfect sex freedom as well as economic intellectual and moral freedom, and she alone who suffers the agony of birth shall have control of the creative functions with which she is endowed

Speed the day uhen woman shall be free' lhen, too, shall man be free and they together, emancipated from the degrading Ignorance and superstition of the past, shall walk the highlands of vision, mate in perfect love, and people the earth with a race of gods

ANOTHER VICTORY

W^E ARE PLEASED to announce that Postmaster Burleson has granted second class mailing privileges for *The Birth Control Review*

Up to the present time the financial strain has been so great that the regular monthly appearance of the magazine has been uncertain From now on, however, there is every possibility of its success With your help it can be so

R^{EADERS OF this paper often complain because there is no contraceptive information given in its pages}

The laws in nearly all the states (as well as the federal law) make it a crime to inform women of the means to prevent conception These laws must be changed. It is the work of *The Birth Control Review* to direct public opinion along such lines as to bring about this result

AN ARMY OFFICER ON BIRTH CONTROL

By Lieut Harold Hersey, U S N G

T N CONSIDERING THIS SUBJECT in a bnef space it will be necessary to reach our conclusions with little regard to detail

Birth control means but one thing to me—the bettering of the human race through a commonsense method of reducing useless births, granting a fair chance to each individual by not overcrowding the world and scientifically preparing the parents for healthy children We do not have to point to the timeworn examples of the East Side and other poverty centres to help us prove our case The brilliant and sacrificial methods of Margaret Sanger make this unnecessary Yet were she absent from this movement—a movement that revolves around her and radiates from her like the spokes of a wheel—we have an example today that transcends all others, the army

Let us stop here a moment and consider one question The army consists of what? The best blood of the land, you reply Certainly The most superficial knowledge of the medical requirements and the recently evolved mental tests answers this at once A man who goes to join the American Expeditionary Forces in France must not only be of the highest type physically, but he must be of high average mentality He must even be a specialist—an aviator, an infantryman, an artilleryman, or engineer

We have only to ask some of the doctors who examine recruits in thousands to find that their eternal regret is that so many suffer from unnecessary defects, physically and mentally And why? Simply because our sentimentality has not permitted us to give each child a chance, to give the mother the benefit of superior knowledge so that she will rot automatically bear useless children in dull repetition It is true that so long as capitalism exists there will be a need for large numbers of men, just as there is a need for large sums of money with which to hire these men But I have reason to hope that this condition will change and business will grow normal as it was before the Civil War, and adapt itself to humanity and not expect humanity to adapt itself to capitalism

THE ARMY IS a practical example of the need of a healthier, stronger, better equipped race We should not neglect any opportunity to try for this end Let us hope wars will not continue but if the human race shall still desire them as a means to settle their dull arguments, the need for legal control of birth, becomes an issue that cannot be neglected, no matter how it offends your stay-at-home mioralist and parlor philosopher

In the future the standard of the ideal soldier will become higher, more exacting We must prepare for this condition We cannot expect to make aviators out of weakings and the day is not far off when wars will be partly fought in the air, if not almost entirely so Even Wells' tiresome prophecies are beginning to sink into the conventional toppwce by this time

One has only to spend a year **in** the army to see how men Improve under regularity of conduct and scientific care It makes one **desire** that back home the people will see to it that coming demands for men shall be satisfied not in a sloppy, haphazard fashion, but in an intelligent, scientific manner worthy of the American people We need not go to an extreme We need not be fightened because the idea seems new Enough has happened in the past four years to convince us that anything is possible Then let us sit down and consider this birth control proposition in its true light, not in the distorted fashion of the nincompoops who run our colleges and orate on economics, the jitney philosophers who turn out books each year more notable for bulk than erudition, the yelping dogs who bark at every new vehicle, that comes down the country road If birth control will help to provide our coming armies with cleaner, better men, why not adopt it?

Only one phase of this question is considered here because of space The military establishment of a peaceful race finds itself face to face with a large issue—it needs men of large calibre Suppose for a fleeting instant that years ago Margaret Sanger's great task had been accomplished and we had bent our energies to the duty of decreasing useless births and the spreading of legal knowledge which would prepare mothers for the art, rather than the animal right of bearing children, how much easier it would be to select and tram this vast force with which we shall eventually whip a desperate and degraded foe?

We have **only** to look about the streets and see the **piti**ful **specimen** of **humanity masquerading** as men and women to make **this wish** an all-consummg **desire** In the army we only want healthy, brave men, why shouldn't you who stay at home crave the same **thing** for the same reason?

MINNESOTA REPORT (Continued from page 6)

want to jeopardize the passage of their bills with anything so dangerous as birth control However, we gamed much publicity and about fifty letters came by the next mall

We then ordered **about** two hundred **copies** of the Survey, **in which** was Dr S Adolphus Knopf's **article**, and sent **them** to the **legislators in** an attempt to **predispose** them **in** favor of **birth** control, **in** the **interest** of **repealing** the law **against it in this** state

We have in our files membership cards in the city and surrounding country to the number of two hundred and twenty-five

We have joined the National League and paid our dues

Our files and scrap book **contain** letters, data and **informa tion** that is wonderfully interesting and convincing

> GRACE KELLER, Secretary, The Minnesota State Birth Control League

UNIVERSAL PEACE AND BIRTH CONTROL

By G Hardy,

Edztor of Géneration Conscrente, Pam

LL THOSE WHO HAVE NO FAITH in the blessings of war and who wish to spare poor human beings a recurrence of its abominations, are seeking for effective means to make it impossible

It is to be feared that the methods extolled, so far, by **publicists**, diplomats and statesmen are not calculated permanently to dry up the source of sanguinary conflicts. These methods will doubtless leid to a "durable peace"--every peace has been "durable"—but they will fall to make it perpetual and universal

Humanity-even though it should be constituted into a society of nations—is dominated by a biological fatahty, which urges it toward discords and into murderous combats, a fatahty which we are apt to refuse to see or to take into consideration. It is that, nevertheless, which has made a sport for centuries of pacific good intentions and which will toy with the latter just so long as we fail to apply the sole specific capable of banishing it

When conditions of life are too hard, the promises, engagements, conventions and treaties between countries become "scraps of paper" When overpopulation has become marked, when the disequilibrium between the resources of each nation and its population Increases, when said population is no longer able to find a means of existence save by flowing over into lands often overcrowded themselves, save by crowding neighbors themselves already overcrowded and consequently ready to crowd others, then distress aggravates itself, and barbarism is unleashed This occurs not only on geographical frontiers, but is carried far afield in quest of industrial and commercial outlets

Desperate competition then becomes the rule, the need to exist is law War is the result of an economic struggle grown too intense

A T THE END OF the present cataclysm, what will treaties be composed of, but of clauses tainted whether one wishes to admit it or not—by greed and commercialism? Each nation will try to obtam territorial advantages, raw materials for its industries, outlets for its commerce—the greatest possible latitude, in a word, for the growth and activity of its population

Once imposed, once accepted, these treaties, duly approved perhaps by the League of Nations, will be respected by each country only so long as economic conditions remain as they were at the time of the agreement. But if population in each land becomes too great, no one of them will be able to enjoy for very long the advantages conceded Competition will get to work, mildly at first, then progressively violently and pitilessly. There will come about quickly enough and too soon, alas! a tightening up of the life of each nation, local and general economic distress, jealousies, misunderstandings, lusts, threats and finally the explosion of latent warfare into bloody battles

Reflect that the population of Europe was increasing before the declaration of war by more than 4,000,000 inhabitants each year From 1870 to 1911 Europe added about 150,000,000 to its population The initial cause of the war was extreme overpopulation (in spite of emigration) of all the European countries

Germany is one of the most guilty nations, the most guilty ptrhaps from this point of view, but all the other nations of Europe—with the exception of France—have in divers degrees some reproach to level at themselves, because they all have populations which have Increased too rapidly in relation to their resources and the possible growth of said resources Each one has found itself, in order that its surplus citizens might thrive, compelled to demand a larger and ever larger place in the sun Each one has been forced, directly or indirectly, frankly or in underhand fashion, to challenge the place occupied by others and to protect itself against the encroachments of its neighbors

Unless after the war the growth of world population 15 checked, the same causes will lead to the same effects and that more rapidly than one 15 apt to think For new peoples, with exaggerated powers of multiplying their numbers, are ready to enter the desperate competition The yellow races, as a result of foresight or pressing necessity, are demanding their share in the partition of the planet

THE SOCIETY OF NATIONS, therefore, will not end the difficulty One can even foretell that, in spite of such a society, States which are now united will drift apart if, because of the uncontrolled reproduction of their inhabitants, conditions of existence become too difficult

It will doubtless be said that the Society of Nations will immediately bring about disarmament and the suppression of militarism, and thus the end of all war

In-that case, it will do away with one evil only to aggravate others which in their turn will restore the one originally suppressed For overpopulation will produce abominations other than war and which will be jus^F as bad as the lastnomed

The over-abundant **population will** be pushed back to low water mark by repressive and extremely **violent** measures Abject poverty **will prevail** all over the earth Human **beings will** suffer from the lack of bread, the lack of leisure, the lack of love Celibacy and prostitution will run riot Extreme poverty will bring about the class struggle, which **itself will cause—in** the name of order-repressions, bloody conflicts and, under one name or another, War

About the green cloth, the diplomats should find something better to do than to wrangle over shreds of territory, to call brute force into play, and to invoke history and antiquated treaties

If they really want to bnng happiness to mankind and (Continued on page 10)

OUR MORAL MINIMUM

By Lily Winner

THE ESSENCE OF moral responsibility is moral freedom And if we are not free to do right or wrong, can there be any real virtue in right or guilt in wrong?

Creatures of habit, our habits become our individual groove, but while habit may he our bypath, custom is our great public highway We submit to custom, not voluntarily, but through obligation We have no choice We are not free A compliance with at least average moral standards is exacted by the community more searchingly and successfully than by law Water no more surely seeks a common level than does society It is not only *not* difficult to be decent and respectable, as those terms are usually used, but it is difficult to be otherwise And in robbing the individual of responsibility in this way, society exacts not a maximum of morale, but a minimum

The result is not a healthy one "For appearances' sike," not for righteousness' sake, is the rule Such mechanical discipline of conduct, conforming to conventional requirements along easy and usual lines, dispenses with real individuality Popularized, stereotyped "goodness," the symbol only of petrified moral ideas long since lifeless and devitalized by time, makes for minimum human beings instead of maximum human beings. It is this moral minimum recognized and worshipped by soclety that makes real progress so hard, that crucifies the great souls who have broken away from the beaten path, the level highway, into new and glorious virgin country It is because of this moral minimum that the birth control movement must fight continually, spending its resources and vitality not in education, not in giving its message, but for its very existence, for the right to grow This pitiful waste of energy, this flinging of precious strength against the dead wall of established custom of moral inertia, is the most pernicious result of our moral minimum

T MAY BE ARGUED by those inveterate conserva-**I** T MAY BE ARGUED by more increased in the set of the aught that time has preserved and sanctioned, that this mechanical discipline is good and necessary because, with the quicksands on every side, with strong passions and hot blood, men must be driven unwittingly and unquestioningly along the safe highway so that honor, honesty, truthfulness and public spirit may be exacted and secured from the multitude by the powerful safeguards of custom But that which protects, also excludes, thus to save the common, imperils the uncommon, such deadly leveling chokes growth This tyrannical system makes for a race of slaves, a race of people without morality It makes for dull minds, elemental passions that never know refinement or spirituality, and a total absence of ideals This sameness of rule is death to individuality

To be genuine, a man's life must express him It must be his graphic, though perhaps inarticulate, autobiography It should bespeak him, flow out of his deepest innermost self, out of the core of him It is the primary impulse of human beings to live their own lives, to let what is most characteristic in them speak through their acts It is unnatural to do other than this, to follow conventions that are not self-approved, to imitate our fellow-men without sincerity, to follow the beaten way O, the privilege of being ourselves, of speaking only the word that is true, of striving for ends that mean most to ourselves! Such genuineness means the development of the basic virtues of truthfulness and sincerity, and on such primary virtues, civilization can progress, and on those alone

Society must throw aside its system mongers and set free its men and women of initiative, of vision, of independence, to work out the high, rare way for themselves and for their fellow-men Let the new and the untried have voice and action, spontaneously and freely Keep the common level of society constantly rising, a stream pure and vital, because it is a moving, living stream

UNIVERSAL PEACE AND BIRTH CONTROL (Continued from page 9)

end the cataclysms of war, let them frankly consider the source of all our ills and undertake to disseminate among the proletarians of their respective countries the means of limiting the multiplication of the species, of controlling blrth!

There is no more rapid means of procuring for each individual the things necessary to a worthy, free and independent existence There is no more certarn specific for bringing about the union of peoples, no more efficacious method of creating a new humantty happy in work and happy in peace than birth control

Do Your Bit for Birth Control

F RIENDS OF THIS movement will be pleased to learn that the New York Women's Publishing Co has been incorporated for the express purpose of financing and directing the management of this magazine. They have issued a thousand shares of stock at ten dollars a share. It is necessary to have at least half of these shares subscribed to by June first. Each shareholder is entitled to a year's subscription to the Revww and a vote in its management. Will you help? Send in for subscription blanks and solicit your friends for funds. Let us make this magazine the best and most fearless in waging the war against the Ignorance, subjugation and sex enslavement of womankind

FROM A SCRAP-BOOK

By Gertrude Boyle

The Passage of Self

SIDE! DARE NOT retard my passage! Asrde, ghosts, phantoms of society and law, Ere I walk through you, Lre I trample you down! In my berng strrs the rage, the righteous wroth Of themtghty army of souls you have oppressed Down through the ages of Civilization!

W^E ARE INDIVIDUAL, creative, according to how much we dare be ourselves, dare to think and act originally, to strike from the shoulder, live from the heart, the soul, the impulse, where precedent is not

considered necessary, nor stupid imitation that stunts and shrivels the nature so When one dares to be true to self, what a wonderful vista opens up—a world where everything abides by a law born from itself, all fitting into a beautiful, mosaic court of the universe!

RT-ALL FORMS poetry, music, dancing, painting, sculpture, architecture-IS but the expression of the individual coming in contact with the universal Creative art, of course, I have reference to Imitative art, the blind copying of another's creation, does not give this outlet to expression of individuality, and therefore is not of the same rank nor value in character building, in the satisfaction and fulfilment of the ego Interpretative art-that that takes what already exists and recreates it, imparting a fresh vigor, touching it with the artist's personality, making us feel anew the thrill of the creator's spirit-such art, such power is of higher rank, almost equaling creative art, yet demanding different qualities of mind-a little more restriction, less of the bold freedom of creation-the direct flash of Spirit It is more like working in reflected light, not in the burning glare of the sun, which only strong eyes can stand

- In Creative Art one is baptized with fire from heaven!
- In Interpretative Art, by one of the high priests!
- In Imitative Art-not at all

I truly believe that every one can be creative, if not in art in the limited sense, surely in art in the very big senseof beauty, of truth, that which reaches out for beauty, for truth in the art of living, the art of thinking, the art of loving, of working, of dressing, etc How few ever give a thought to the expression of self in any of these! We get so in the habit of imitating, even to the extent of the arrangement of our hair, the manner of our walk, our talk We forget that each one has a divine, a human right to express self, to be individual in all things As Shakespeare said "To thine own self be true and it must follow as the mght the day, thou canst not thus be false to any man" This has been my watchword in moments of indecision, and by its magic, its guidance. I have passed unmolested the guards at the imaginary posts of duty, and entered unharmed the forbidden fortress of the soul, of truth, beauty, love-life



CONVENTIONALITY, styles and fashions, you are the great prisons of humanity incarcerating the spirit and the vigor of the race! And you, false codes of ethics and of law, the cruel jailers Opinions, judgments, desires, joys and sorrows are manacled by you, ay, you would even dare shackle Love—ofttimes do when it is so weak, so foolish as to heed you!

The great artists are souls capable of rising above the common level of blind obedience to man-made law, insipid conformity to conventionalities, and able to chisel and hew their way through the world of things, blazing a trail through the wilderness of thought, of conflicting ideas, untrammeled emotions, who dare ignore, trample under fwt, if need be, the obstacles in their way, the barriers that hold the masses back, using man-laws only when it be to their advantage to do so, boldly breaking them when they retard their progress, their passage of self, check their freedom of expression, their cosmic will to live, to be!

Education-the popular conception of it—makes no consideration for the wonderful beauty and usefulness of infinite variety It blindly, arrogantly, Ignores all that—all the profound laws of nature and of spirit, that, would we but seek to understand and abide by, could make of us a glorious, free race of beings!

O Conservatism, Conventionality, Authority'

Forever adhering to dead things, wrapt in the grave-cloth of fear,

Forever skulking through catacombs and tombs of the past, shunning the strong, wholesome sunlight of the now,

Wardy creeping along some narrow way with reverted head and faltering step

How long, O lovers of Freedom' of Progress!

Must we be shadowed by thw felon-spectre, Conservatism, Cowed by the sepulchral monsters of outgrown laws?

NOTICE

We earnestly request that all **outstanding bills** for **litera**ture be **paid** and all letters and **communications** be **directed** to MARGARET SANGER,

104 Fifth Avenue, New York City

LETTERS FROM WOMEN

LETTER NO 12

WAS TOLD BY a friend to write to you in regard to birth control We are poor people and we have only been married six years and have four children living, and I had one miscarriage I was only married two months when I got like for my hrst child My youngest baby is only six months We love our children dearly and would not part with any of them for all the world But, Oh, I do not want any more and if you can give me a word of advice, Oh, please do It is all we can do to buy what wholesome food we need and buy what clothes we can, just to get along with My husband's health 15 anything but good, although he works hard every day He is a good honest man and provides the best he can We want to give our children at least a high school education, but if we have more I am afraid we couldn't afford to raise them as they should be I will be 26 In July and my husband was 32 in January I hope you can give me a word of advice on birth control Please answer I beg to remain. Mrs L A at once

LEITER NO 13

I HAVE READ AN article about your clinic on birth control It has been a question in our home and I am interested enough to write to you for an answer We are homesteading on the plams of eastern Colorado where there is no railroad nearer than 35 miles and medical aid is a long way off

Something should be done to diminish the size of families My nearest neighbor's wife died last Wednesday a week ago, burial was last Sunday A family of ten children, two of which are married, is left Married in 1893, and it is reported she died of childbirth prematurely because of overtaxing with family cares You will be conferring a blessing by giving the system you pursue We have three boys and a girl and have been married sixteen years on Christmas It is not only for ourselves but for others that I desire this We feel four is about all we are able to nurture and educate properly

I am enclosing my praver for your deliverance from police interference and may God reward you, for you are obeying his commands Sincerely yours,

Mrs J R W

LETTER NO 14

AM A MARRIED WOMAN, age twenty-four years, have one child now ten months old I am mu behind in my regular periods

I un unable to care properly for another baby We are in expense now with our one My husband is earning \$1800 a week, we pay 600 a week for our furnished room, one dollar and a half for milk, fifty cents a week for baby food, and living as economically as possible, we spend from three to three-fifty for food for ourselves which consists of dry vegetables, bread and coffee We never have meat or fresh

fruit or vegetables, at the high cost of living now, many times we go two days at a time on only bread and coffee We were living in an old farmhouse out on Long Island when a new buyer bought the house, he told us to vacate as soon as possible, as he was going to use the home for another purpose That was January 29th, this year On February 11th we had to send our furniture to storage, because we dtd not have the money to pay for the moving and came to this furnished room, the only respectable one we could locate at a reasonable price We are compelled to remain here until we can get the necessary funds to cover the cost of moving and storage My husband's blind father and aged mother who aere living with me at the time had their furniture sent to storage too on account of lack of funds, he has them to look out for too, that helps to make matters worse We do not mean to plead poverty, but I aant you to knew conditions and the reason why 1 do not want any more children until we are able to properly care for them We are both lovers of children and are willing to raise any amount if we have their means of support My husband is very much in favor of birth control

I have trued to work to help out, but got run down and the doctor said I was in a very poor condition and it would require constant treatment to bring me back as I should be I am very nervous and at times when things don't go as I expect them to and with worryment on my mind, my nerves get the best of me and I feel as though I was paralyzed I am all in I did not get proper treatment from the attendant during my confinement and that has quite a good deal to do with my physical condition now I am a nervous wreck now and cannot get proper food or treatment nor care for my one baby without any more Please let me hear from you I do hope you can help me

Trusting to hear from you soon, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Mrs C B

LETTER NO 15

H AVING READ OF the hundreds of poor families you are helping by your sound advice as how to control unwelcome births, I, too, am applying for your help which, if granted, will make me indebted to you for all my life

My husband is a weaver, earning an average of 12 dollars pei week We are married four years and have given birth to three children Conditions, physical and financial circumstances, could not possibly be worse than they are now Have weighed 130 pounds before I married, I non weigh 98 pounds Am sure that another birth, besides the financial rum it will bring, will mean suicide for me I therefore implore you, Madame, to help me, as you helped so many other women

Hopmg you will not turn me down, I am sincerely yours,

ELLEN KEY: A SKETCH

By Caroline Nelson

I N THE FIRST DAWN of freedom woman shaped her ideals in the masculine mold Motherhood and home-making had been her only occupations as a slave, therefore, as a natural reaction, she turned away from them in her newly found freedom She wanted a professional or a business career Love and fatherhood are only incidents in the llfe of man, so she felt that love and motherhood should also be incidents in the llfe of a woman Children should be brought up in institutions by "experts" and communal kitchens, and lodging-houses should free the woman for her "career' This was the theory of the "new" woman measuring herself with the measure of her brother

A certain teacher in Stockholm was thinking deeply on those subjects a few decades ago She made her home up four flights of stairs in a single room, grateful to have that much of a home, after her father had lost the family estate in the fight for political reform That school teacher was Ellen Key She had been brought up in a beautiful home where love and harmony ruled Yet, her mother was a very radical woman, for her time, who loved to discuss advanced ideas, and who firmly believed that all tyrants ought to be done away with She refused a noble title and insisted that the common designation of housefrau was good enough for her When a woman seventy years ago in a little out-of-theway country like Sweden showed such splendid moral courage, we realize that she was worthy to be the mother of the greatest living woman today Her father, Emil Key, also gave Ellen a splendid social example by working in the Riksdag for eighteen long years to extend the governing power to the people For years she was her father's secretary and learned the ins and outs of politics, perhaps that was why in later years she showed little interest in political reforms

As birth controllers we believe with Francis Galton, the father of eugenics, that the making of a noble human being begins two or three generations back We are therefore not surprised to find that Ellen Key has a long line of great and worthy ancestors We no longer believe that the child comes into the world psychologically blank, but with an ancestral soul that potentially contains the strength or weakness of the past

PERHAPS ELLEN KEY had this in mind when she said "The young should be pure not for the sake of being pure, but because within their being lies the future race with all its trembling hopes" Young men have come to her and told her that she has inspired them to live pure lives by making them realize the responsibility that was theirs toward the potential child

Naturally, Ellen Key has stood for the emancipation of women ever since she could reason, but from the experience in her childhood home she has contended that home-making and motherhood were not incompatible with woman's freedom

Ellen Key, too, was a keen student of human nature As a teacher she studied the boys and girls and found that psychologically there was a fundamental difference in their inherent characteristics The boys in their leisure time would discuss anything abstractly, from the theory of heaven to that of hell, while the girls' talk invariably turned around the personal She became more and more convinced that the straining of women for a world career, with the ideal of wifehood and motherhood submerged, was misused energy, because what they gained in clearness of perception of life they lost in warmth and depth

This was all the more brought home to her when she became an intimate friend of Sonja Kowalewaky, the world's great woman mathematician and scientist at that time, who confided to her that she would gladly have given all her fame for a home and child, that all she had striven for had been turned to dust and ashes by the void in her heart

But one of the **characteristics** of Ellen Key is that she thinks long and seriously on a problem before propounding it in public Thus she was nearly fifty years old before she launched the philosophy that the true sphere of women is love—the love that recuperates the individual in the home in an atmosphere that uoman alone can create—and the maternal love by which llfe alone can be perpetuated and ennobled

Her first lecture on that subject was given in Copenhagen in 1895 It was called "Woman's Misused Energy" She showed that woman could never excel man in his sphere out in the world, anymore than he could excel her in the sphere of home-making and the mothering of the young Of the two spheres, that of woman she held to be the most Important, the most arduous, and the most life-ennobling

HOW A STORM BROKE lose over Ellen Key's head The suffrage women angrily denounced her as a reactionary who wanted woman to sit and wait for a man to become his drudge in the good old-fashioned way She had become a traitoress to the woman's cause Insidious lies and slander began to circulate about Ellen Key's private life It was said that she had two illegitimate children The story was made possible by a young girl, who took the liberty of addressing her in a letter as "Little Mother" This epistle Ellen Key naively left open on her desk for some busybody to Inspect How could Ellen Key know so much about the erotic life, it was asked, when she had never been married?

But Ellen Key refused to retract, or to defend her personal honor, always resewed, she became a little more secluded and shy, but she admitted that she several times "saw red" The friends of Ellen Key knew that she lived the strictest and purest life The Bohemianism that writers love to revel in, she hated In fact she hated city llfe and fled from it at every opportunity, today she is spending her last years in her own home built in the forest, overlooking beautiful Lake Wettern It is impossible in a short sketch of this kind to do justice either to Ellen Key or to her philosophy But we all know that the theory that institutions can do more for children than parents can do for them in their own homes is utterly fullacious We know that those "expert" child-trainers, which some reformers would have us behave could be turned out in institutions, have proven to be nothing more than very ordinary women seeking to make a living, who could do little more than wash and feed the children, while the latter died for want of mother love

Does Ellen Key beheve in birth control? The answer is that she has never made it a point to teach birth control directly She has taken birth control for granted But she does not beheve in eliminating motnerhood, as the professional and upper-class women often do for the sake of filling a position or to gratify social aspirations Ellen Key realizes that the evolution of the race proceeds not according to natural instincts, but according to its own reasoning process, and that this process may be so blundering that great harm may befall it. One of the greatest possible ills is that women may be led away from motherhood

But by motherhood Ellen Key does not mean the mere giving of birth to chtldren To her, motherhood should be eagerly expectant and inspiring combined with the art of bringing the child to maturity a credit to the parents and to society She distinctly says that motherhood does not mean the throwing of human offscum into society Again, she says

"Ethical may also be called Woman's Revolt against the unreasonable waste of energy, personal and social, in bringing more children to life than may be well cared for"

And this is what we birth controllers are fighting for, to be permitted to stop the demoralizing waste of the worker's lives in bringing more children to life than they can care for This movement is surely ethrcal, in the highest sense of that term

If Ellen Key had been born in America where doctors have been sent to the penitentiary for long years, for the "crime" of giving out preventives to poor women, and where nurses have been forced to flee the country for the same reason, Ellen Key would certainly have spoken for birth control But she was born in a country where preventives and information along that line can be circulated open and grven freely Moreover, her chief in the People's Institute, Dr Anton Nystrom, where she lectured for twenty years, spent a great deal of his time travelling up and down the land in the interest of birth control propaganda And we have already seen how the very women who should have stood by her tried to besmirch her character without the slightest foundation

A woman 15 always a mother deep down in her heart, whether married or unmarried, and she has at all time supreme right to speak of all those things pertaining to the function of motherhood The idea that an unmarried woman must not discuss the reproduction of the race, shows how badly we need an Ellen Key—a woman who remained a lone watcher by the fireside to expound the erotic life in its significance to the young and to the race, and who declares that she has fallen in love with love

Vance Thompson's "Woman"

I N HIS PREFACE the writer states that he does not beheve one should write at the top of one s voice, and heeds his own advice to the extent of not shouting But he does speak to you in the fervent, emotional tone of the revivalist, his heady enthusiasm and dauntless optimism betraying the fact that he has only recently been converted himself. There is justification, though, even for an enthusiasm which leads him into the reckless assertion that women have distinguished themselves as philosophers, for under the impulse of his enthus~asm women catch an inspiring vision of themselves as human beings directing their own destinies. To make them want the open life of a sane and wholesome human being is half the battle, for women as a whole do not want it

Dealing with the position of women today the author finds them obsessed by sex and economically dependent upon men because men have made them so, and now, having made woman "all sex," he bewails the frivolity and pettiness of the creature he has fashioned The author rightly sees man as the sentimental sex, and it is precisely where he becomes sentimental himself that his book is weakest Coming to the question of birth control he grows eloquent and maudim over the babies who are not allowed to be born—"the infamy of soul-killing" he calls it, and is harried by his sentimental indignation into the absurdity of stating that the "common murderer" (as distinguished from the "Malthusian murderer") is not a murderer, because he repents before he dies

H AVING SCORNED statistics, he gives them to you now to prove that for every being that dies, one is born 'It is the out-breathing and in-breathing of the cosmic life," he savs 'It is balanced and it is eternal Do you think the mountebanks can stop its endless flow? That they can check it? Not wen by that one life and a fraction that comes and goes with the second can they alter the eternal balance of life"

If it is a "cosmic law" which nothing can check or stop, it would seem needless to suffer any anxiety over the feeble efforts of a few human beings to change it As a matter of fact, the author is nght in saying that you cannot "alter the eternal balance of life," for if you check the birth rate, the death rate drops With a high birth rate, we are told, there is a corresponding high death rate

The advocates of birth control are not working arbitrarily to lessen the number of babies born. They are concerned rather that only those shall be born who can he well taken care of and given a fair chance in life, and for them the "infamy of soul-killing" is in the needless deaths of so many babies, born in circumstances where it is almost certain beforehand that they will die of neglect and starvation—Bianca Van Beuren

THE MALTHUSIAN DOCTRINE TODAY

By C V Drysdale, D Sc

(Continued from the last issue)

ALTHUS GOES ON TO SAY that in human beings their reason has impelled them to seek some means of escape and that this has given rise to various restric tions which frequently produce vice and misery of an-other kind in place of the starvatron which must attend unrestrained reproduction To give illustrations of these various checks to popu-lation is the main object of his book He proceeds at once, how-ever, to show more exactly how fast population would naturally grow if food were ample and on the other hand to estimate the possibilities of the actual increase of food

In the Northern States of America, where the means of subsistence have been more ample, the manners of the people more pure, and the checks to early **marriage** fewer than in any of the modern States of Europe, the population has been found to double **itself**, for above a century and a half **successively**, in less than 25 years **Even during** these **periods**, in some of the towns, the deaths exceeded the births a circumstance which clearly proves that, in some parts of the country which supply this deficiency the increase must have been much more rapid than the general average

Sir Wm Petty supposes a doubling possible in so short a time as ten years

But to be perfectly sure that we are far within the truth, we will take the slowest of these rates of Increase, a rate in which all concurring testimonies agree, and which has been repeatedly ascertained to be from procreation only

It may safely be pronounced, therefore, that population, when unchecked, goes on **doubling itself** every twenty five years, or increases in a geometrical ratio

years, or increases in a geometrical ratio The rate according to which the productions of the earth may be supposed to increase will not be so easy to determine Of this however, we may be perfectly certain, that the ratio of their increase in a limited territory must be of a totally dif ferent nature from the ratio of increase of population A thonsand millions are just as easily doubled every twenty-five years by the power of population as a thonsand But the food to support the increase from the greater number will by no means be obtained with the same facility Error the accounts we have of Churc and Iapan it may be

From the accounts we have of **China** and Japan, **it** may be **fairly** doubted whether the best **directed** efforts of human **in** dustry could double the produce of these **countries** even once **in** any number of years

F IT BE ALLOWED that by the best possible **policy**, and great encouragement to **agriculture**, the average produce of the **island** (Great **Britan**) could be doubled in the first L twenty five years it will be allowing probably, a greater in crease than could with reason be expected In the next twenty five years it is impossible to suppose that the produce could be quadrupled It would be contrary to all our knowledge of the properties of land

That we may be better able to compare the Increase of population and food let us make a supposition, which without pretending to accuracy, is clearly more favorable to the power of production in the earth than any experience we have had of its qualities will warrant

Let us suppose that the yearly additions which might be made to the former average produce instead of decreasing which they certainly would do were to remain the same and that the produce of this island might be increased every twenty five years by a **quantity** equal to what it at present produces The most **enthusiastic** speculator cannot suppose a greater Increase than this. In a few **centuries** it would make every acre of land in the island like a garden

Malthns then compares the Increase of population and of food

Taking the whole earth, instead of this island, emigrating **Laking** the whole earth, instead of this island, emigrating would of course be excluded and, supposing the present popn lation equal to a thonsand millions, the human species would increase as the numbers 1, 2, 4, 8 16, 32, 64 128 256, and sub sistence, 1, 2, 3, 4 5 6, 7, 8 9 In two centuries the population would he to the means of subsistence as 256 to 9, in three cen-turies as 4096 to 13, and in two thonsand years the difference would be almost incalculable

In this supposition no limits whatever are placed to the produce of the earth It may increase for ever and be greater

than any assignable quantity, yet still the power of population being in every period so much superior, the increase of the human species can only be kept down to the level of the means of subsistence by the constant operation of the strong law of necessity, acting as a check upon the greater power So ends the first chapter which briefly sets forth the es-sential points of the Malthusian doctrine, and which we have therefore quoted somewhat fully In what follows we shall attempt to illustrate this doctrine as clearly as possible and to prove its truth by modern statistical information. So far from in any way concedring anything to the critics of Malthus, we can assert that his doctrine stands today practically perfect in form and substance

A S MOST PEOPLE seem to have found great difficulty in understanding the real meaning of Malthus's doc trine, we shall now attempt to make it as simple and definite as possible

The root principle is, as Malthus puts it, 'the constant tendency in all animated life to increase beyond the nourish-ment prepared for it' Or as the first Principle of the Malthusian League has it

Population' (unless consciously and sufficiently controlled) has a constant tendency to increase beyond the means of sub sistence

Even concerning this definite statement there has been a great deal of dispute We often hear it said that as it is im-possible for people to live without food it is absurd to say that possible for people to live without food it is absurd to say that population has a constant tendency to increase faster than food To say that anything has a constant tendency' to be-have in a certain manner does not in the least mean that it can do so It only means that it has a force acting on it which continually strives to make it behave in that way An apple hanging on a branch has a 'constant tendency'' to fall to the ground, i e there is a force continually endeavoring to make it fall. But while the stalk remains unbroken it does not fall in the least, and it might easily be pretended that there was no force or tendency to fall because it did not do so It is however of the greatest practical importance to

It is however of the greatest practical Importance to realize this tendency' of everything to fall to the ground and to know how great it is, otherwise we could not design houses and bridges which would be safe

Similarly although population cannot increase faster than food is found to support it, the number of births or new lives brought into existence in each year (unless greatly restrained) is far greater than the increase in the harvest so that there are is far greater than the increase in the narvest so that there are always a great many more new arrivals than new rations of food The constant tendency' of population to increase beyond nourishment means that if food really were ample, so that everyone who wished could marry without fear of want and have children without restraint or hardship the increase of population would be far more rapid than it really is, when food is as a fact much less than would be needed to cope with such an increase

The simplest possible way of looking at the matter is to consider a typical wage carning family When a young couple sets out in life on a wage of say thirty shilings a week, this is for the moment sufficient for them to purchase enough food after providing for rent and other necessities But if they know nothing about means of prevention, they have started with their marriage an automatic tendency to increase faster than they can obtain food In such households it is common for a new baby to arrive every eighteen months—often every year and sometimes twins, etc

Let us put the cast of proper food for each child as 5 shillings a week Suppose that the woman marries at the age of 22, and that they manage their first two children on their 30 shillings a week Then we have Age 22 23½ 25 26½, 28 29% 31 33½, 35 36½, 38 39% 41, 42% 44

Number of children ("Population') 0, 1, 2 3, 4 5 6, 7 8, 9 10 11, 12 13 14

Wane required ('Snbsrstence'') 30s, 30s 30s 35s, 40s 45s, 50s, 55s, 60s, 70s ? ? ?

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL COMMENT

SCURRILOUS ATTACK on the birth control movement, coupled with a singularly childish eagerness to capitalize the results it has accomplished, finds expression in the April issue of The Medical Times The article in question is entitled "Hygienic Birth Control," and appears in the "Miscellany" department conducted by Arthur C Jacobson, M D Probably, Dr Jacobson's department is taken seriously by only a limited number of medical fossils But he distorts facts so outrageously and makes a valuable suggestion from so unfair a point of view that we cannot let his article pass without comment "Now that the Court of Appeals (New York State) has dectded that birth control is not a matter for rag-tag and bobtail ministration and administration," he writes, "it clearly behooves the reputable wing of the profess~onto establish clinics for hygienic birth control advice The language in which the court's decision is framed leaves no doubt as to the propriety of scientifically informed and well intentioned physicians giving information as to birth control to selected cases The indiscriminate dissemination of birth control information is, in the view of the court, an offense against public decency and altogether indefensible, but the distinguished jurists recognize very clearly that there are cases in which contraception is properly regarded by the existing law as a humane and justifiable practice, when applied by reputable physicians upon scientific indications" Dr Jacobson ignores the fact that if Margaret Sanger had not opened a clinic, served thirty days in jail for doing so and then appealed to the highest courts from her conviction, the decision which settles all doubts for him would never have been rendered "If, in view of the Court of Appeal's decision," he goes on to say, "we fail to give properly organized succor to the class of cases concerned, we shall stand convicted of neglect and stupidity, and encouragement will be given to tinkerers and disreputable practitioners to continue their crude ministrations, and to yellow, maloderous agitators to perpetuate their verbal and printed wheezings and their sickening laudations of themselves " In other words, the medical profess~on,which was too inert and cowardly to initiate the reform when there was danger attached to it, is advised to take charge and monopolize the credit "The decent requirements of our prtvate patients are well looked after, and they constitute at present a privileged class in respect to birth control," Dr Jacobson admits "On the other hand, the sexually exploited women among the poor are not properly advised and instructed We venture to express the opinion that an endowed institution for the application of hygienic birth control to such among the poor as stand in legitimate need of it would accomplish far more practical good than any foundation now existing Such an institution, administered by men of high standing in the profession, could exercise a wise control over undesirable parenthood as well as over

the field of purely obstetuic problems Thus our largely theoretic eugenic principles would find practical application and our social workers realize that something constructive had at last materialized " We shall welcome all the institutions and clinics that the readers of The Medical Times may be inspired to found Fven if administered along more conservative lines than we should advocate, they will do some good Cut we protest **against** the argument that the) are principally needed to make birth control respectable, and the **inference** that the Court of Appeals brushed some of the cobwebs off Section 1142 without the least prodding from agitators, "malodorous" or otherwise We are amused at the lack of ordinary fair play from the doctors Why, the very term, birth control, which Dr Jacobson uses so glibly, was written into the English language by Margaret Sanger and first used by her in the columns of The U oman Rebel in 1914 If Dr Jacobson is not aware of that fact, we respectfully call it to his attention

T IS SO MUCH more "respectable" and "proper" to put one's energies into any activity which will alleviate and temporize social evils than to face hard facts, root up old prejudices, and deal with fundamentals The latest palliative proposed is the opening of maternity clinics in every district of New York The aim of the clinics will be to co-ordinate the local medical and health agencies so that any mother in the district will have near her home a center where she can go for pre and post-natal care and medical advice This, it is predicted, will ensure a material reduction in the death rate of babies and mothers The clinics are to be under the direction of a committee of prominent women and well-known physicians At a meeting held in this city recently there were present women physicians who, as experts on maternal and child hygiene, were especially invited to advise the committee in the conduct of the clinics, and it is a sad commentary on the professional American woman's courage that at this meeting not a voice was raised in behalf of millions of wretched, poverty-stricken women who are worn and broken in spirit and in health under the tyrannical yoke of too frequent child bearing Such centers will at least give a splendid opportunity for this representstrye group to learn from the mothers themselves who vis t the clinics, the tragic need of birth control among the pcor We call their attention to the opinion rendered a fewmonths ago by the Court of Appeals in this State, in which this august body states it is not a crime or an offense for a physician to give birth control advice to women suffering trom a disease or nilment That poverty is a disease infecting with its obnoxious poisons, individuals, families and nations, no sociologist will deny. It is safe to predict that under existing conditions no number of pre-natal or maternity clinics can greatly reduce the maternal or infant mortality, unless the physicians in charge include in their instruction contraceptive information or methods of birth control