

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

\$1 50 A Year

Fifteen Cents

June

Western Women  
Demand Information

By *Margaret Sanger*

Babies and Imperialism  
in Japan

By *Agnes Smedley*

Dedicated to Voluntary Motherhood

## Bondage

THERE are probably a million women in this land who conceive children in hate of husbands they abhor, bring them forth in bitterness of spirit to be reared in an atmosphere of discord . . . yet the purists and pietists "view with alarm" the vast increase in the number of divorces; are weeping because women will not suffer in silence a bondage that is bestial.

—BRANN, the Iconoclast

French Junkers Demand  
Brood Animals

By "*J' Accuse*"

Birth Control the Crying  
Need of China

*Dr. W. J. Hanna*

"Wake Up", Advises  
A Medical Journal

Fiction — Verse — Letters — Editorials

## THE BEACON

[Mail Order Book Service]

Offers to assist discriminating book buyers, those who are remote from big book centers, as well as others

Specializing in the mail order service, we can assure our patrons of unusual promptness and care in delivery and of infinite individual attention to their wishes

We take pleasure in sending regularly, to anyone interested, our Monthly Bulletin of Books, covering various fields of literature. Special facilities for securing out-of-print and foreign books. Correspondence invited

## THE BEACON

[Mail Order Book Service]

134 Montague St.,

Brooklyn, N Y

## The Woman's International League

BRANCH of WOMAN'S PEACE PARTY—  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WOMEN  
FOR PERMANENT PEACE

*Will Hold a Series of*

### Woman's Freedom Conferences

PLACES AND DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

Supper promptly at 7, followed by discussion,

which will be led by the women and men most interested in freedom for women in every field of activity. TICKETS \$1 00

*Subjects*

**Woman in Political Action**

**The Economic Status of the Wife**

**Marriage, Divorce and Illegitimacy**

**Women and International Relations**

*For Tickets or Further Information,*

*Write to the LEAGUE, at 70 FIFTH AVE., N Y C*  
*Telephone CHELSEA 4410*

## Books On Birth Control and Kindred Subjects:

- Man and Woman**—By Havelock Ellis The book which reveals to each other Women and Men as they are..... **\$2 00**
- Parenthood and Race Culture**—By C W Saleeby A Scientific Treatise in Popular Style for Parents and Prospective Parents... **2 75**
- The Century of the Child**—By Ellen Key An Illumination of the Child's Place in Society **1 50**
- Heredity**—By Thompson A Study in Hereditary Influence from the Eugenic Standpoint **3 50**
- Population and Birth Control** A Symposium by William J Robinson, Achille Loria, Charles V Drysdale, Ludwig Quessell, Eden Paul, Edward Bernstein, D Dunlop, R Manschke, S H Halford and F W Stella Browne, edited by Eden and Cedar Paul..... **3 00**
- What Every Mother Should Know**—By Margaret Sanger A Book That Teaches the Mother How to Tell the Truth of Sex of the Child Paper, **25c**, cloth..... **.50**
- Limitation of Offspring**—By William J Robinson Answers All Arguments Against Birth Control ..... **1 50**
- The Sex Side of Life**—By Mary Ware Dennett A plain talk to young people..... **.25**

- List of References on Birth Control**—By Theodore Schroeder Bibliography of 1,400 Books, Articles and Pamphlets..... **.35**
- The Small Family System**—By C V Drysdale An Argument for Birth Control from Moral, Ethical and Health Standpoints..... **1 50**
- The Love Rights of Women**—By Havelock Ellis A Book That Every Man Should Read ..... **.25**
- The Objects of Marriage**—By Havelock Ellis A Reverent, Inspiring View of the Conjugal Relation ..... **.25**
- Uncontrolled Breeding**—By Adelyne More A Startling Scientific Treatise on Overpopulation as the Cause of War..... **1 00**
- Small or Large Families?**—By Dr C V Drysdale and Havelock Ellis Birth Control from the Individual, Racial and Moral Standpoints Birth Control and War..... **1 00**
- What Every Girl Should Know**—By Margaret Sanger Sex Instruction for Adolescent Girls In Plain, Simple Language Paper **25c** cloth ..... **.50**

**BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City**

# THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

MARGARET SANGER  
*Editor*

DEDICATED TO VOLUNTARY  
MOTHERHOOD

MARY KNOBLAUCH  
*Managing Editor*

VOL III

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1919

No 6

## Editorial Comment

*By Mary Knoblauch*

**M**EN, it is solemnly affirmed by some of our opponents, marry in order to have children. We do not doubt it. We approve. We think too, that it is just as generally true of women.

What we would like to know is why these particular opponents of Birth Control believe that a general knowledge of contraceptive methods would do away with marriage, increase immorality, and finally end the human race. It seems to us that an unsentimental survey of the situation leads to just the opposite conclusion.

In the first place, it is not correct to assume that Birth Control is synonymous with race suicide. This is an error fostered by the stubborn minded advocates of things as they are.

It has been granted that most men, when they marry, wish to have children. The question then is, how many children do most men want? And what kind of children?

To discuss these questions intelligently, our present system of monogamy, and our economic conditions must be taken into account. King Solomon, for instance, could increase and multiply more unrestrictedly than any respectable wise man of today. He had hundreds of wives, and thousands of concubines to help him on with the plans. Moreover, he was never, apparently, confronted with the high cost of living. The modern man is limited to just one wife. From an economic standpoint, one is, usually, quite enough.

**H**E CAN'T HAVE MORE CHILDREN than this one woman can bear. If she is overborne, the children will not be healthy. No man wants sickly children. No man—we are speaking of intelligent men, not what the French call "rabbit fathers,"—wants more children than he can support decently. The more he loves his children, the less he wants to see them suffer for the lack of things he should be able to give them, but can't. Many a man of the poorer classes, becomes, after he marries, a mere stoker on the ship of life. All his time, his energy, his strength go simply into a desperate struggle to fill the mouths he has called into being. If he wants children, he must also want to enjoy them, not just to feed them. Very often he can't even do that, and his morale is so exhausted by his ineffectual struggle against the rising tide, that he isn't fit physically or mentally to be a father at all.

The young man who has not married sees his former cheer

ful companion turned into a dull, harrassed and dreary creature, whose home is the wretched abode of poverty and wailing children,—not happy, wholesome children to be proudly displayed, but children whose entrances and exits are simply alternate expenses and causes of despair. He wonders why men marry. He reflects on the charming accounts he reads in nice books, of snug little homes, or comfortable flats kept tidy by a pretty wife, and enlivened by entertaining children. He concludes that such things are fiction, and that the facts are drab, and to be avoided as long as possible. He resorts to vice, with its myriad unhappy results. Perhaps if he were better educated in regard to sex matters, he would avoid the pitfalls, but as it is, he plunges in.

**A**ND HERE WE WOULD have a word with the moralists, particularly with those who oppose the giving of contraceptive information, even in the clinics, on the ground that it would increase immorality. It takes two to make the immorality they speak of. Where there is no demand, there will shortly be no supply. That is good economics. Therefore if a man could marry and have the kind of a home and children that he reads of, the chances are that he would prefer it to the sordid substitute he so often chooses. If he knew that he could have as many children as he wanted, instead of so many that he didn't, like the old woman who lived in a shoe, know what to do, he would be very much less dismayed at the prospect of "settling down." He would marry, when he felt like marrying, not when he could afford to, and those other women, the by products of his immorality would have to find something more dignified to do. This seems to prove a double case for morality. Does anyone deny it?

That man's desire for paternity is much affected by economic considerations connected with the support of a family is plainly shown by the unawareness he has always cultivated for those children he is not required by law to support. The child with only one parent is the product of a man made civilization. We are not accusing, nor excusing anybody. We are boldly stating the fact, that in the nature of things a child has two parents. That is the way he is made. From the days of Father Abraham, and his offhand dealings with Hagar, until very recently, the men have made the laws. Until very recently it has been possible, according to law, for a child to have only a mother to account for his presence here. It is not necessary for us to air our moral prejudices on such a proceeding. We do think, however, that it sheds some light on man's paternal instinct. A married man admits his share in the creation of his children, he even boasts of it. He resents any inference that his wife could do it alone. Why is

it then, since very little moral odium attaches itself to his illicit paternity, that he has so skilfully framed the laws to escape in the one case, the honor he claims as due him in the other? It must have been the fear of the economic burden which he was not ready to assume

**T**HE CASTBERG LAWS of Norway, which the State of Kansas now contemplates adopting are very interesting in this respect. These laws, passed, it may be noted, since the women have had a say, assume that every child has two parents. The accused father is held to be guilty until he has proved his innocence. This he can't do by simply swearing away the character of the child's mother, a simple and convenient device still practised by many who are not ready to assume the burdens of paternity. He must produce in court the other parties to the case. Even then his troubles are not all over. Each man liable for the child is held by law to be liable for its support.

If men could marry when they wanted to, without the fear of being swamped by too numerous a family, Castberg Laws would not be required to remind him of their responsibilities. The fatherless child is not only a sad thing, he is incredible. He is the stupid result of depriving men and women of the right of self determination in regard to the most fundamental acts of their lives. Other countries have tried with great success the experiment of instructing their citizens in the art of limiting their families in accordance with their circumstances. It is not Race Suicide that has resulted but Race Regeneration.

## The Same Old Lesson

**S**TILL ANOTHER EXAMPLE of the treatment which women have always received from society and of the treatment they will always receive until they insist upon something better, is the discharge of 1,600 women employees by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company. In a time of crisis these women were called upon to take up new work as a public duty. They have become accustomed to this work and have adjusted their lives to it. They have been used—they are now thrown upon the scrapheap.

Women have always been thus used and thus discarded when no longer needed. They are used without regard to their own interests—they are discarded with just as little regard. The church has played upon their higher impulses and upon their devotion in order to build a vast organization for its own profit. The state has made use of women through these same impulses in order to increase its population. Industry has done the same thing to fill the gaps left by the conscription of men during the war.

None of these has ever done anything for women. None has ever given them any particular part in the structure they have built up. Their position has been that of a servants—and that is all. There are no women generals, no women statesmen, no high place in the church is open to women. There is not even a woman at the "peace table." Regardless of the great part women have played in the events leading to the

peace conference, no woman has been permitted to act as advisor in the task of bringing peace to the world.

**W**OMAN HAS BEEN A STEPPING STONE to power, she has not been consulted as to the disposal of power and honors.

So the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company is merely doing what has always been done. It is doing just what every other industry will do. Appeal to woman's higher impulses. Use her. When no longer needed, to the scrapheap! Who cares? Society doesn't. And it won't care as long as women submit to such treatment.—M H S

## Greetings from Rabbi Coffee

**R**ABBI RUDOLPH I COFFEE, of Chicago, has long been an ardent supporter of the Birth Control movement. At the stockholders meeting of the Board of Directors, April 6th, he sent the following message.

DEAR FRIENDS —

At your meeting Tuesday afternoon, many loyal supporters will be with you in spirit. Among the number please list the undersigned. Surely, I speak for all your associates who are missing when I bid you be strong and continue of good courage. God grant wisdom to your deliberations and courageous zeal to the noble labors you are furthering.

If not in this day, positively future generations will rise up to declare your activities both blessed and conducive to a better race of men and women.

RUDOLPH I COFFEE

## The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

104 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N Y

### Editors

MARGARET SANGER

MARY KNOBLAUCH

Editor

Managing Editor

MAUDE EDGREN

LILY WINNER

BLANCHE SCHRACK

*And in Recognition of a Vital Spirit that Still Animates this Magazine, JESSIE ASHLEY*

### Art Editors

CORNELIA BARNES

LOU ROGERS

Published monthly. Subscription price \$1.50 a year, foreign countries and Canada \$1.75, postpaid. Bundle rates: ten copies for a dollar, \$9.50 per hundred.

*Owned and Published by*

**The New York Women's Publishing Co., Inc.**

Entered as second-class matter March 11 1918 at the post office at New York, N Y, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

*Issued on the first of each month*

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

NOTICE —When requesting change of address give both old and new address

# Western Women Demand Information

By Margaret Sanger

**A**FTER ALL, IT'S an ill wind that blows nobody good. California authorities are so busy keeping Tom Mooney in jail, fighting labor unions, rounding up I W W, arresting and deporting Hindus and chasing Bolsheviks, that they don't have time to stand guard over advocates of Birth Control. That was the reason, perhaps, why two lectures in which information concerning contraceptives was given, were not in terfered with by these same authorities.

California women are anxious for practical knowledge of Birth Control. They do not care so much for the theory—what they want to know is how to avoid having children. I have visited a number of cities and towns in the state and have found the same feeling prevailing everywhere. There is a weariness of indirect methods. There is a lack of interest in legislative measures. Only women who are the heads of clubs are still hopeful of having the laws changed. The rest simply refuse to think about laws any more. They want the information.

**T**HE ATTITUDE OF a group of workers in San Francisco is an accurate indication of the attitude of women generally in the state. I was invited to lecture before this body and did so on the night of April 26th. It had become plain to me that these women had lost faith in legislation, just as they had lost faith in courts. They demanded something more than they demanded four years ago

or two years ago. Then they had been satisfied to know the relation of Birth Control to life's social problems. Now they want the relief that Birth Control can bring and they don't want anything less.

It was suggested that I might be arrested for giving information regarding contraceptives from the public platform.

"Go ahead," said the women, "we're *with* you—not *behind* you."

That spirit was reflected everywhere.

In the period allotted for answering question, ten or fifteen women were upon their feet at once—not to discuss generalities, but to ask advice upon their own practical problems. Four years, and two years ago, when I lectured in California, hardly a woman would rise in public to ask for personal advice about Birth Control.

**T**HE DEMAND FOR actualities rather than theories exists not only in regard to Birth Control but in regard to other matters as well. For example, the decided shift to direct action indicates how thoroughly they have put aside their faith in the machinery of law making and law enforcement.

California women know what they want from the Birth Control movement and they are not afraid to demand it. They will stand by any person, group or organization in action. And they are interested only in action.

## Hypocrisy

By Genevieve Grandcourt

**W**HEN A MAN OBJECTS TO Birth Control on the ground that it advocates the taking of life—for it is nearly always a man who is quite serious in advancing this argument—and we answer that we are aiming only at prevention, he sometimes comes back with "the prevention of life is murder." Considering that his sex, for thousands of years has, through the law of supply and demand, created and maintained an army of prostitutes, a class, which by the very nature of its calling, cannot be, or, at any rate, usually are not mothers, it is to laugh when he mentions murder, either of body or soul! Considering that his sex for thousands of years has found no better way to settle the problem of over population than by wholesale murder disguised as war, it is also to laugh when women are rebuked for wishing to limit their families.

It may be argued that if woman has a remedy, or even a partial remedy, for these two outstanding evils, it is a pity that it has not been used, rather than abused, so long, that, to speak alone of prostitution, it has at least, the excuse of existing because of the necessity which knows no law.

We cannot bear too heavily upon the fact that it is the sex on which the burden of evil doing falls most lightly that has had the monopoly of sane, or insane, thinking on these matters. Perhaps if men had been compelled to endure some of the consequences of his sin (even to the extent of recognizing, not to speak of providing for, their illegitimate children), their necessities in certain respects might show an astonishing capacity for shrinkage. However this may be, they have filled the professions, they have been admittedly the thought purveyors of the idea that woman's place is the home, her sphere motherhood, and, by inference, the more ignorant the motherhood, the better. While the effects of man's assumed right to gratify his propensities have descended in the form of social diseases unto more than the third and fourth generations.

**T**THIS AGE IS CONFRONTED, as no age ever has been confronted, with a menace which is the direct result of the double moral standard. And it was not until women doctors and nurses made their appearance, that a revolution in thought

was set in motion. For, notwithstanding the fact that this change in attitude is ascribed to revelations due to advanced bacteriological research, it is extremely doubtful, in the light of past experience with the male moral courage, whether, acting singly (with woman still adhering rigidly to the place assigned her in the home<sup>1</sup>) man ever would have initiated the present publicity campaign.

Women are crying out from the house tops against prudery, and the Birth Control movement is crying louder than any other. "Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." "Open the doors, let in the light." "No more secrecy!" No more hiding and false modesty—of which women and children are the victims."

IN CONNECTION WITH ALL THIS, it may be well to read and re-read the account of St. Matthew and St. Mark as to what Jesus was discussing when young children were brought unto Him, and "His disciples rebuked those who brought them." And after reverently considering these passages in the Book whose precepts we so hypocritically profess and so sedulously ignore, let us not forget that Jesus was discussing sex. It was as if the disciples called out "Hush! Not before the children," and wanted them hustled out of the way, "But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased and said unto them, 'Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.'"

We know that, on other occasions, Jesus said that He was the Truth, that He was the Light, that whosoever followed Him should not walk in darkness.

So let the little children early get fundamental truth and light—the first inkling of the source of their physical being—in some other manner than through the oblique reference or the lascivious joke. The child's mind is a clean slate on which we can write whatsoever we will of good or evil. If our conception of the origin of life is filth, the child's mind will reflect and register filth, if it is clean, wholesome, scientific, uplifting, the result will show in the child's entire outlook—from the earliest formation of his impressions even through the turbulent years when his (and her) sex impulse is strongest.

AND, AFTER ALL, it is not alone from children or even for women, that the light has been hidden. Many of us are still as superstitiously fearful of the unknown as the savage cowering before the "wrath of God" in the thunderbolt. Why do we hide our faces from the only thing that can save us? Because we are reaping what we have sown of injustice and lack of faith in the underlying goodness of mankind. A new heaven and a new earth is promised us, that "We shall not all sleep, but that we shall all be changed," that we shall eventually conquer our last enemy—death! But we strive to evade a destiny whose effulgence perhaps is too blinding for our present vision. Man and woman must work hand in hand to bring these things to pass. Both are needed for the creation of physical life, just as inevitably are both needed for the creation of a just, properly balanced mental life, what one lacks, the other can supply, provided we demand justice and eschew hypocrisy, and believe in humanity, provided, especially (to follow the thought of President Wilson) that the moral forces of the world can, by any possibility, be organized.

## Babies and Imperialism in Japan

By Agnes Smedley

THE POPULATION PROBLEM in Japan is today inspiring numerous books and magazine articles by both Japanese and Occidental writers. It is significant that the arguments for or against the rapidly increasing numbers of the Island Kingdom take, as primary tenets, imperial expediency. The increase of population is considered only in the light of political expediency, never in terms of human happiness or misery. Mr. B. L. Putnam Weale, for example, states in his *Conflict of Color* that density of population will in the future decide to a great extent the grand movements in world politics. To his mind, density of population is the determining factor in political evolution. "Education," he writes, "material improvement, and the birth rate are the modern touchstones of success."

"It will one day be admitted," he continues, "that the real key to a thousand vaguely defined problems lies in men's breeding capacity—in their capacity to obey nature's most imperative political law, which is multiply and increase, or die."

These ideas have their counterpart in those of Japanese writers, particularly the militarists—advocates of a larger

Japan—who believe that to become a world power Japan must have a population of at least 100,000,000, that Japan's primary task is to win numbers during the next few years and to gain more territory. To their minds, density of population is a healthy sign of development.

"TO HAVE EMPIRE, say the imperialists, we must have children, we must have children, say the capitalists, to have cheap labor and successful industries. Let us have children, cry all the Japanese people, in order to maintain our institutions, our religion based on ancestor worship and family piety, our ancient rule of simple living and hard work!"\*

Mr. Weyl says that not even the Japanese Malthusians regard the rapidly increasing population with alarm, and that at a convocation of economists at Kyoto in February, 1917, to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Malthus, there were many excellent papers on the population problem, not one of which struck a note of pessimism.

\*Walter E. Weyl, in February, 1918, *Asia*

The Japanese do not regard the rapidly increasing population with pessimism. Every phase of national policy which might enhance Japan's prestige and strengthen her position in the world, turns upon this question. Expansion (with the possibility of annexation), industrial and territorial gain depend upon it. Children, a never ending supply of children, are necessary for such a program. It is the task of the vast majority of the people, the workers, to supply this requirement. Therefore, education, religious teachings and codes of ethics, are made to conform to what is considered national need.

**DURING THE PAST** sixty five years Japan's population has doubled. For one hundred and fifty years antedating the Restoration, the population was practically stationary. During this period the people gradually learned ways to control birth. Again quoting Mr Weyl

"Among the Samurai and afterwards among well to do merchants, late marriages came into vogue, and in the large cities skilled physicians practiced birth prevention. Among the common people abortion was quite usual. Thus by one means or another, by famine, disease, pestilence, birth prevention and infanticide, the population was held in check."

Today, however, religious, economic and patriotic motives are used to encourage the people to breed. The population, numbering 56,000,000, is increasing at a rate of from 700,000 to one million a year, a rate far exceeding that of any other country. In 1911 the birth rate was 33.7 per thousand. The density of the population is 320 per square mile. While this is less than Belgium or England, the problem of accommodation is greater than in either of these two European countries.

"Belgium and England are almost wholly arable, Japan is almost wholly mountainous. If we eliminate from the figures the area of unproductive lands of each country, the population per square mile works out approximately England, 466 Belgium, 702, Japan, 2,688."<sup>2</sup>

**JAPAN IS PASSING** through the pangs of a transition period, she faces the necessity of transforming the country from an agricultural to an industrial one. She has reached her agricultural limit and the factories and mills are calling for millions of cheap laborers. But even so, the development of her industries can not long find employment for so many people as are being produced. Internal pressure is being brought to bear and outlets for expansion and emigration are being sought. To meet these needs, Japan has already waged two conflicts—the Chino Japanese and the Russo Japanese wars. The necessity of preservation and expansion have forced her to build up a heavy military machine, and there is no likelihood that such equipment will be reduced until her population and expansion problems are solved. The political leaders of the country regard this as but a phase of natural development. *They do not recognize, or if they do recognize it, they deny, that unrestrained breeding is one of the root causes of distress and misery among the working class, of war, and of the evils which follow in the wake of war.*

<sup>2</sup>\*American Democracy and Asiatic Citizenship by Dr Sidney L Gulick, p. 16

**THE DENSITY OF POPULATION** and the decreasing means of subsistence react first of all upon the working people. The keenest indication we have of such reaction is that of infant mortality. "Infant mortality is the most sensitive index we can have of social welfare. It measures mercilessly the intelligence, health, and right living of parents, the morals and sanitation of communities and governments, the efficiency of physicians, nurses, health officers, educators."<sup>3</sup>

By the rate of infant mortality in Japan we may understand that social conditions are very distressing. There are other indications also, such as the recent rice riots and labor unrest, but none so persistent and fundamental as infant mortality. Of the total number of deaths throughout the Empire, 38 per cent are of infants under five years of age. In 1911, there were 413,999 deaths of infants, while the still born numbered nine per cent of the total births, or 157,392. These rates seem to be increasing yearly.

**"JAPAN'S PROBLEM TODAY,"** says Dr Gulick, "is how adequately to feed, clothe, house and educate her multiplying millions and give them that larger, richer life of the modern world for which their intelligence, industry, education, ambition and world outlook are fitting them."

But just how is Imperial Japan meeting this problem? Not by social reform along lines which cut at the root of social and national difficulties, but by encouraging the people to "increase and multiply" that the Empire may expand. This tendency is regarded by Occidentals as menacing, because it challenges their continued inexcusable domination of the Far East. But if it is menacing to Occidental domination, it is also menacing to the happiness and comfort of the Japanese working class itself. The cost of living is already such, according to Professor Morimoto, of Sapporo University, that 98% of the people do not get enough to eat. Their need, he says, is more spiritual and material food. The conception of the State is, however, entirely political. Imperialism never sees through human eyes, but only through the eyes of power, prestige and aggrandizement. The same method of educating people to cut at the root of social and industrial evils by consciously and voluntarily limiting the population does not find recognition in the scheme of imperialism. The paths leading to the highest social and political idealism are unrecognized by rulers and statesmen. And the people, particularly the women upon whom the burdens of empire building fall, are given no voice in determining national policy. Neither have they any interest in the desires and designs which move their rulers to encourage them to produce an unlimited number of children for imperialistic purposes.

**MR TOSHIHIKO SAKAI**, in his *Short History of the Social Movement in Japan*, has made mention of the feminist movement. He states that the Russian Revolution has done much to awaken the women and the inarticulate working classes to a realization of their position and their needs. But both these forces are comparatively weak at the present time and have no effect upon national policy. If the spirit of rebellion

<sup>3</sup>\*A. M. Pooley, *Japan at the Cross Roads* p. 296

continues to grow among the women, there is the possibility that they may attack the population and thereby the social problem at its roots, by claiming personal freedom for themselves which will enable them to limit the size of their families to correspond with their desires and means. Such a movement must come from the people, however, and from women themselves. Rulers will never consider individual human happiness and thought as requisite for the development and endurance of a nation. This is not true of Japan alone, nor are imperialistic traits and designs the monopoly of that country. Japan is but an echo of ourselves, insofar as its national policy is concerned. Everything which can be said of its present rulers can be said with greater force of our own and other imperial capitalist countries.

## Sordid Breeding

**A**N INTELLIGENT well to do and somewhat smug lady, at a meeting where birth control was discussed said, "yes, I admit all the arguments, but really what's the use in trying to get the information to the poor, when they won't use it? A lot of them deliberately have all the children they can so as to have enough support when they are old. So what's the use?"

The lady was partly right, partly wrong. Her cynical "what's the use?" is a confession of lump inertia, and her sweeping assumption that the poor wouldn't use knowledge if they had it, is knocked to pieces by the thousands of letters which come to those who are known to be active in the Birth Control movement, from the suffering poor pleading for information.

But, alas, her statement that there are people who simply breed to get their old age provided for, is only too sadly true, and a fearful indictment it is upon our alleged civilization. The pitiful, grey, resourceless lives of those who dully go on having babies as fast as "God sends them," because they know of no other means of escaping the gutter or almshouse, is about the deepest shame of modern society.

Whose fault is it, that such people remain without economic opportunity, without education, without perception, and with just comprehension enough to realize that their earning power and chances are so limited that their only alternative is to use and misuse their bodies for the production of ill-conditioned progeny in the hope that the children's earnings may cover their bare necessities of their dismal old age?

Who is responsible for this travesty of parenthood? Is it the poor who are caught in the net of ignorance, or is it the well to do who throw up their hands in disgust and exclaim "what's the use?"

—M W D

Always in our dreams we hear the turn of the key that shall close the door of the last brothel, the clink of the last coin that pays for the body and soul of a woman, the falling of the last wall that encloses artificially the activity of woman and divides her from man —*Olive Schreiner*

## The Hymn of the Never-Existing

By A B C Sterrett

(Dedicated to M H S)

**W**E WHO never weary,  
We who were never sad,  
Bless ye who never bore us  
To woes such as ye have had.

Ignorant of all sorrows,  
Feeling no least regret,  
Stabbed by no thought remorseful,  
Never our eyes are wet

Sins which were not committed  
Weakness we could not know,  
Never upon our faces  
In anguished markings show

Ours a dumbness blessed,  
Ours a dimness fair,  
Deaf unto all earth's harshness,  
Rest we without one care

We, who have felt no burden,  
We, neither sad nor worn,  
Bless ye who never bore us,—  
We, who were never born!

## Shall This Woman be Denied

**D**EAR MRS SANGER A couple of weeks ago I saw one of your canvassers on Broadway and 42nd Street, but did not have the opportunity of speaking to her.

I am a mother of a child 5 months, and the wife of a husband who was crippled in this war.

I am compelled to return to business again, due to present conditions and would appreciate any information you could give me on Birth Control, as I feel it is my duty to try to provide better for my child and husband, who is still in the hospital.

Trusting you will give me your kind attention, which will be gratefully received by one who gave all she could for her country.

Mrs J D

## THE CALLOUS MALE

"Listen, Monsieur de Gregriau, it is to you that I speak. You take your pleasure in your acts, and yet instead of having pity on my daughter you only laugh at her. It is very evident that you have no idea what childbirth is like."

—*Mme de Sevigno*



# French Junkers Demand Brood Animals

By J'Accuse

**T**HE MARCH NUMBER of the French *Neo Malthusian* has just arrived. This fiery little sheet has been having troubles of its own. Four numbers have been suppressed—for no reason the editors assure us, except the impudence of the censor. Now the censorship is abolished and the magazine is promised regularly, for the first of each month.

The editors have not spent the period of enforced silence in sitting upon the stool of repentance. Far from it.

They begin by publishing the result of an enquiry begun in the suppressed numbers, on the progeny of the better known advocates, some of them academicians and Deputies, of "over population." The "impudence" of the censor may have been influenced by the embarrassment these gentlemen felt in being shown up as more fluent in preaching than in practicing. However that may be, the records of their families is as follows.

One of them had three children, one had two, two had one, and seven had none! The editors seemed to feel that no comment was necessary. They merely stated that they were going to continue their researches.

We have translated two of the shorter articles from this same edition, and submit them herewith to our readers.

## HUMAN CHATTELS

**N**EVER HAS THERE BEEN at any time so much talk of the rights of peoples to dispose of themselves. But one must go a long way back in history to find an epoch where they were so little consulted as during the Great War. In deed, if they had been consulted, I know very well what would have come to pass.

Even in France, even in this country under a democratic régime (which I should rather have doubted if the papers had not repeated it so frequently), it has been the custom to speak of citizens under arms as "human material." A daily paper from one of the coast towns actually said, in announcing the arrival, some weeks ago of a troop ship, that it had arrived with 800 tons of French troops. Perhaps this was a printer's error, tons having been printed for men (*tonnes hommes*), but it is an amusing slip which is a sign of the times.

And now someone brings to my notice the case (I say "case", because it seems to me rather pathological), of a physician in the vicinity of Dunkirk who, moved by the depopulation problem, proposes nothing less than the following remedy.

**E**VERY WOMAN OWES TO THE COUNTRY,—by virtue of what, the author does not bother to tell us,—three or four children at least. Every girl, who having reached the age of twenty, is neither married nor pregnant, nor already a mother, shall be obliged by law to be impregnated according to the principles of artificial fertilization, until pregnancy re-

sults. This performance to be repeated later until the requisite number of children are produced.

I do not know whether the author of this legislative project has spoken in his work of the "necessity of conserving and increasing the national human chattels," but it would not surprise me if he had and the expression seems to me, under the circumstances, appropriate. I will wager, however, that this hot patriot is either a bachelor, or a married man with but few children, after the fashion of all those who think as he does.

Because those who know the burdens, the privations and the responsibilities of a numerous family, especially among the poor, are much more moderate in their language and are content to solicit aid for them and a lightening of the taxes. However that may be, the contempt in which the so called sovereign people is held by certain classes could not be better expressed. They are reduced to the state of a bit of furniture—a *commode* or a *clock*, which it is proper to use as one likes.

**W**HAT THEN, BECOMES IN ALL this of liberty, the dear, the so much vaunted liberty for which so many unfortunate soldiers have given their lives?

The Senators, Cazeneuve and Cheroa, would proceed more insidiously, but only to arrive at the same end. They know of what the young girls dream, and that there are hours in which the sense no longer permit one to think of the consequences of self abandonment. They are not ignorant of the fact that in many miserable dwellings, already surcharged with children, there are nights when the keen desire for a few moments of pleasure, moments which are immediately regretted, cause forgetfulness of the desperate situation which the appearance of a newcomer will produce before the already insufficient mess of pottage.

They are aware of the results of these moments of aberration. They know the desolation, the shame, the cruel privations with which in that case, the parents pay for the production of the soldiers and workers which are demanded of them—as if humans were bound to breed only that senatorial laws and bourgeois prophets might accomplish their ends. But—what does it matter to them! They desire that the act, no matter what the circumstances are, should bear its fruit, and they intend to prevent the giving of information, by anyone whomsoever, that will lead,—not to the exterminating of the human race,—but to tasting the joys of love while avoiding conception, even when conception would be a disaster.

**T**HUS THE PHYSICIAN HIMSELF, in the presence of tainted couples, syphilitic or tubercular, or others in the presence of wives afflicted with hemorrhage, heart maladies or malformations for whom a maternity might be a death warrant, must keep silence under penalty of being accused of propaganda against conception.

I know of a way of obtaining children,—many children Let the State maintain them and aid the unfortunate mothers Let there be an estimate of the minimum salary on which a workingman or an employee can bring up decently three or four children, and let the rich, the Deputies and government officials included, be made to bring up, each at his own expense, as many times three children as his revenues exceed the minimum salary of the employee or workingman

Here is a sure method, and one that will not cause a tear But will the Senators who have in general incomparably fewer children than the people whom they reprimand, care to bind themselves to such an understanding?

## STUPID AND INDECENT

**A**LTHOUGH THE TRAGIC events through which we have lived are still too near for us to grasp their full significance, we can draw even today some plain truths from them

In the first place, this atrocious war has proved, among other things, that battles are won less by men than by cannons All our military critics have been emulating one another for four years in repeating this to us

In the second place, even if it is, in certain cases, advantageous to line up an almost indefinite number of combatants and to be able to throw men to Moloch without counting them, this advantage has inevitably a disastrous counter result,—the necessity of feeding from behind the lines so formidable a population The idea of the famous blockade was evolved from this consideration It was the impossibility of living on her own products, which in great measure, conquered Germany

**N**O NATION, MOREOVER, can ever base its strength or its security on its numbers Because, as soon as its power appears incontestable, it becomes a danger for the neighboring nations, and thus provokes a league of all those whom it menaces, or seems to menace, and so is submerged by even greater numbers And yet it is in the very hour when these truths break forth self evident, in the hour too, when unprecedented economic difficulties beset us, when the high cost of living, scarcity, the dearth of indispensable materials and supplies opens before us the perspective of famine, misery and all manner of degeneration, when the generation of an age to procreate counts, at any rate on the male side, scarcely anything but cripples and sick men,—this is the time which the fools who govern us have chosen to shout at the top of their voices, "There are not enough of us," and have attempted to throw into prison the wise ones who say, "We are still too many"

And our legislators, while so many grave and urgent tasks solicit their attention, amuse themselves by hastily concocting laws, imbecile, and happily useless as well—against the only remedy for all these ills which weigh us down, that is rational procreation

This is, in all truth, so very grotesque, that it isn't worth while, perhaps, to do more than laugh at it I admit, how

ever, that it is difficult for me to laugh just now I see too much mourning I hear too many sobs, and with the tears of martyred mothers, and the despair of the inconsolable, purveyors to the field of carnage, who curse their fecundity, I feel only revolt and anger rise within me I think that in such circumstances the call to repopulate is an insulting and cruel jest, and that the stupidity of our "bad shepherds" is only equally by their indecency

NELLY ROUSSEL

**T**HE WORLD IS SMALL and very round The same conditions seem to prevail in America as in France

In Pennsylvania the following bills were presented in February to the State Legislature

1 A bill forbidding the advertising, publishing, selling, distributing, or otherwise disseminating information tending to diminish the number of births of human beings Hand in hand with this bill were two others, one for sterilizing certain persons to prevent the indiscriminate marrying of the mentally unfit, another for prohibiting the marriage of insane or epileptic persons, or of the unsound mentally or physically unfit This bill also provides for tests and examinations before a board of medical examiners

If these bills pass, and do not nullify one another, the balance of the argument seems to be in favor of Birth Control

## "IF SHE HAD ONLY KNOWN"

New York City,

**E**DITORS OF THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW —

Tonight I purchased and read some of the articles in your BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Curiosity prompted me to buy your literature, or whatever you call it, and my conscience and sense of duty forces me to write you in reference to the impression I have of your efforts, after reading part of your December issue I am a widower and a father of three children now in an orphan asylum Their mother died a year ago, a victim of pernicious anemia which no doubt was due to the fact that she lacked the proper knowledge of regulating the natural courses of nature but, with my consent, had numerous abortions performed or performed them herself, the result being that she forfeited her own life and left three motherless children, as for myself, I am in the prime of life and deprived of the comforts of a home and the companionship of a loving and a dutiful wife, all for the lack of knowledge bearing on the limitation of the size of families

"This letter may seem a little out of place coming from a man, but nevertheless had my wife been in a position to have had advice from some reliable source, such as you claim for your organization, I would not be writing and if you find the smallest spark of inspiration in what I have written, I believe that my children will live to see the day that that spark with others will be a flame to heat their fireside of happiness

"Trusting that this will be received in the same spirit which it is written and kept confidential as to business address and name, I wish to be a loyal supporter"

# The Buried Life

By Samuel Schmalhausen

CHILDREN, LIKE BIRDS and beasts and peasants, are crude in their desires, frank in their assertions anent their desires. When they are still too young to "know" better, we guardians of purity forgive them. We invent symbols, diminutives and fairy tales to accelerate the conversational flow between adults and children. Children are children, we say to ourselves, soothingly, and do not perceive the equivocal buried intention behind our petty romances.

"The Doctor buys the baby at a high class department store" is an adequate account of procreation for the little imp, so we say to ourselves, soothingly. God has played a malicious trick with the life stuff, functions which evoke the contradictory emotions of love and disgust are discharged by the same organs. The love life in childhood functioning is absent, in that same functioning the disgust life has already begun its physiologic expression as a master of direct necessity. When the child speaks of its body and its needs it can speak only crudely, for its every remark symbolizes a function of its disgust life (from the adult viewpoint!). The adult can't speak to it of the love life because it has had no experimental background for the housing of naked truths. Consequently the painful dilemma arises. Shall we feed a child's curiosity on fairy tales or on truths which, (in the very nature of its physiologic sex phase), can arouse only dumb incredulity or disgust?

Educated mentors solve the dilemma by instilling fairy tales. Uneducated tormentors meet the situation by curbing, or utterly tabooing, curiosity. No one speaks naked truths. No one lacks the courage, the vocabulary, the technique, the conviction. The pathologic results is that children stop asking questions about their bodies. Or in adult phraseology, their curiosity has been "forbidden." It hasn't. It has only been diverted, repressed, side tracked.

THE EVILS OF HUSHED secrecy are numerous and tragic.

Children soon learn to distrust their parents on the most vital questions of living. Parents suspect their children of pruriencies. Neither trusts nor consults the other. Silence is not always golden, it is more often wooden. The silence of the sexes is a dead weight on childhood's conscience. Children commit their violations and shames in dark secrecy. Parents commit their violations in darker secrecy. Misery loves company, but misery is too self conscious, too proud, to seek it. In the unsweet loneliness of their privacies, parents and children work out their heart breaking salvations. And life is too callous to weep.

The dirty and distorted notions about life and love which little children "pick up" in gangs, on street corners, in bed, by hearsay, on the school premises, in adult society, in all the twilight alleys of gossip and scandal, are the chameleon, damaged goods later refurbished for show and barter at the Bargain Counters of Life: love and marriage.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE can't possibly be clean when childhood is dirty. The adult conspiracy of silence supported by the juvenile conspiracy of dumbness is responsible for the sexual perversions of men and women. Conventionality exercises a double restraint on instinct, first, it taboos frank curiosity as indecent, second, it enforces celibacy beyond the power of normal endurance. The age of puberty tells the tale very graphically. Puberty is the sexual stir of self consciousness. Puberty becomes shipwrecked in terrible straits. On the shoals of necessity it flounders fitfully. Hacked by the reefs of doubt and despair, it lunges forward and backward in moods of terror. What would it not give for peace, the peace that never arrives to steady it. Only more rolling and tossing and rocking and lunging in crazy spurts of emotion.

The pathos of puberty is its shameful ignorance. Conventionality and evil doing restrain truth telling. The inexperience of youth mistakes longing for life. Passion plus ignorance yields despair, reinforced by satiety or by revulsion. Nature has endowed children with the instincts of adults, it has not equipped them with the knowledge of adults. The disharmony between instinct and understanding is directly responsible for the moral chaos of youth and young love. For youth, love is blind. Have you ever talked with an adolescent who could stammer a sane word about his sex life or about his love affairs? I haven't.

ONCE UPON A TIME there lived some noted scientists who rejoiced at the prolongation of infancy in mankind with its possibilities of increased education. Little did they, in their overwrought enthusiasms, divine the perplexities of prolonged "infancy." Did they ever dream of the huge costs in mental waste and moral confusion which the postponement of maturity involves? What of the intense suffering of the numerous civilized, (saddled with conventional inhibitions), whose intellectual absorptions are dearly purchased at the expense of sexual normality? What of the costly sacrifice of marriage to ambition, of sex to art, of love to duty? Does any one know how dearly we pay for our "purities?" Has any one studied the relationship between deferred maturity and moral duplicity? Between moral chaos and the struggle for refinement? We all know that civilization refines our ideals of love and sex far beyond our instinctive capacities for the fulfillment or honorable realization of such ideals. We all know the more obvious results. Prostitution, doll's houses, abortions, miscarriages, polygamies, dualities, duplicities, illegitimacies, sterilities,—the marital disharmonies. Unspeakable! We call this mad concatenation of lunacies, conventional civilization! Men who evade these problems of disharmony are the happy ones, the realists are tortured by the facts

**L**ONG CONTINUED REPRESSIONS of sexually minded instincts produce pathologies. Pathologies are morbidities thrown off by steaming hot impulses, restlessly agitating the depths of subconsciousness. The neurotics (no person is free from the taint of neuroticism) are the desolate examples of thwarted desire. Symptoms are merely the superficial signs, deep down in buried memories lie the rascally desires whose forced suppression has bruised the peace of the conscious mind and made "normality" impossible to the sufferer. Symptoms are so many entrances into the subterranean byways of the buried life, or (if you like) so many red lights exist for the outcast impulses of consciousness. Neurotic symptoms manifest themselves in diverse ways, in hysteria, in phobias, in bizarre dreams, in phantasies, in fanaticisms, in all manner of disturbing reveries. Psychoanalysis imparts a wonderful (and to me, most pathetic) significance to the proverb "We dream our lives away." Indeed we do, we desire so much, we achieve so little. Into the void, the spirit of dreams pours poetic phantasies and rich fulfillment. Our dreams compensate our aching hearts for our lacks. We do actually dream our lives away, for waking, we are mere slaves.

Everybody knows something of the tragedies of the buried life. How women, bullied by male aggressors, learn to give themselves unwillingly. How refined girls wake with a start to see themselves besmirched by sex. How philosophic young men labor with spiritual might to dyke effectively the rushing streams of sexual suggestion. How children's minds are polluted by scraps of perverted fact and fancy trickling down from the life sexual. How fecund mothers grow weary from an exhausting travail and a passion wounded by overindulgence. How the "prima nox" is wrapped in real and fantastic terror (especially for the sex shy young woman) too gruesome to narrate. How sexual congress, its regulation, effects, *raison d'être*, becomes to the betrothed a theme of morbid anxiety and significance. How love may be marred by whim and passion by mood. How a sudden breathless confrontation of the truth about sex may bewilder and outrage the novices in mating. And a thousand slimy disturbances. Lovelessness after marriage. Celibacy by design. Moral fanaticism. Remorse. Moodiness and frequent separation. Divorce in fact though not in law. Estrangement without apparent cause. Perversity and duplicity. The waters of bitterness. Living death. "Marriage is divine in its inception, infernal in its conception, hellish in its deception."

**T**HE ESTHETIC JOY OF LIVING thrives on novelty and harmony. In the personal life moods are all important. When moods clash, harmony is broken, novelty forfeited. The marital intimacy is naturally a coalescence of joyous moods. Violate the harmonic bond and discord reaps its evil reward. The artistic value of wooing in this sweet enthrallment of moods, self abandon with delight. That married couples so soon forget the diplomacies and enticements of the prenuptial days is a shattering indictment of their characterlessness. Wooing after marriage is infinitely more important and compensating than blase mates are willing to avow.

The production of atmospheres and harmonies and inductive moods constitute a genuine technique. Every lover should

be an artist. Every married man should be a lover—and strive for the fine perfection of remaining so. Compulsion dirties and degrades marriage (or any other relationship, for that matter). Necessity is the father of sexual revulsion. Delight is a mood, necessity is an imposition. You can't impose delight. If married people only had the decency, the simple courtesy, the artistry, to cease *imposing* upon one another, how much sweeter, fresher, sexual life would be! Cruel rebuffs are not taken lightly. The sexual impulses are very obstinate—abnormally proud—and insist upon being catered to. Defeated desire turns assassin and yearns to inflict vengeance. However, the day of reckoning is not of one's choosing. Due to uncontrollable circumstances, it may be long delayed. The interim between rebuff and realization is the hatching period, the time of plotting and scheming for self satisfaction. Plotting is notoriously an underground experience. Defeated desire betakes itself to the subcellars of consciousness and spreads its dominion there.

**P**SYCHOLOGICALLY THIS sub basement existence engenders a morbidity, a passion saturated with the poison of repression. The conscious mind is the keen eyed detective guarding the gates against the assaults of the vindictive, subterranean wishes. Sometimes when the watchman is off duty or has foolishly abated his spying, the persecuted wish steals through and breaks in upon consciousness. The conflict between repression and expression is the fiercest. The endopsychic detective hurls his conventional taboos and his inhibitory commandments at the escaping prisoner, and the released convict fights back passionately, pleading necessity.

In this emotional conflict, the mind is badly shaken, bruised by the indelicate jolts of the contestants. The whole body reports the conflict, registering each assault in some neurotic symptom. These neurotic symptoms are the external signs of inner convulsions. A great scampering and scurrying of the wishes of the underworld witnesses to the depth and despair of these outcast wishes, grown morbid through seclusion and brutal frustration. Briefly presented, this is the Melodrama of the Subconscious, the Tragedy of Morbidity.

## VOLUNTEER!

**Volunteers are needed to sell the Birth Control Review in Both New York and other cities. A few women interested in the movement are selling the magazine on the streets daily in New York City. Anyone willing to help in this work should communicate with Elizabeth Colt, in care of The Birth Control Review, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.**

# The Scrub Woman

By Harria Gray

SOMETIMES I STAYED at my office in the evening and that was how we became acquainted. She was one of the cleaning women who came nightly to scrub the office building.

She liked night work, she said. It gives her time days to look after her babies. Her story came to me bit by bit, usually as she reached the side of my desk in her journey round the room on her knees she would turn her eyes up to mine and sink back for a rest. She had four children. One was born before ever he went to prison. The rest had been born, one after each of the three prison terms he had served. She was twenty eight, married at sixteen. Her face was lined and seamed, but she had masses of soft brown hair that made it seem possible she was young.

Her husband was in prison when she first talked to me. As our acquaintance grew, she told me more and more how she dreaded his coming out. She was fond of him, but she didn't want any more children.

"It's a sure thing he won't be out long. And it's little I get from him but babies when he is home," she said. But she seemed absolutely without bitterness. "The trouble with him is only that he never had a chance," she answered me.

I ASKED HER if that wasn't a convict's common excuse?

And she said yes, she guessed it was awful common that people didn't have a chance. It made her shudder for the future of her own children. The doctor at the dispensary said give them so much milk and so many apples and vegetables and eggs, and meat now and then. But she couldn't possibly feed them as he said she should, even if they did grow up poorly nourished. And he told her to keep them in the open air a great deal. "And not a one of them with the warm shirts and drawers a child should have, to say nothing of heavy shoes and stockings," she said.

"Beside all that," she went on, "there's bad things a child learns when its mother can't look after it. I'd like to bring mine up proper, but it takes it out of you considerable, working nights. So you just don't have it in you to keep awake all day."

The children were often sick. Two of them had sore throats now. "Thank God, ma'am, you don't know how it sounds, a baby with fever calling for you, and you bound to go out for the night scrubbing offices to get food and rent money. It wouldn't be so bad if my oldest girl wasn't sick, too. She knows a lot about taking care of the baby. It was like pulling teeth to come away to night."

THE DOCTOR AT the clinic early in the year had told her the baby had a tendency to tuberculosis, and she should be especially careful that he was well nourished. "I ain't had an egg myself since then," she said. It bothered me to look at her.

"He's out next week," she said one night, coming in hollow eyed and unusually silent. She had stopped in her usual position beside my desk, and was looking up into my face. My office on the twenty third floor of the Trinity Building had windows opening to the west, and she was bathed in the rays of a Manhattan spring sunset. Somehow I wished she wouldn't sit back right in the sunshine, it seemed to accentuate all the care and trouble in her young old face. And besides that, the sunshine seemed to mock me by shining on this poor creature of our twisted, perverted civilization, half starving, exhausted in her youth when the earth was blossoming radiantly each year with plenty and beauty.

"MAYBE IT'S WICKED to say," she confessed, "but it's true. I wish he wasn't coming out at all. I can't keep him away from me. I've tried before. It's the law he can come to me because I'm his wedded wife, but the law won't feed the baby he'll give me. What would I do with another when I can't feed the four I got as they should be fed?"

It was four months later that she told me she was "three months gone." Her husband had told her it was against religion for a man and a woman to stay apart. She hadn't the money to take her babies and go where he couldn't find her. And a legal separation would cost her time and money. He had been sent to prison again, this time for a long term, and she felt free of him.

"But I can't take care of another baby," she said despairingly. "There won't be enough milk."

I didn't stay at my office evenings much after that, and it was over a year before I saw her again. She looked wan and thin and sick, but then she always had I thought that I saw a gleam of something new in her face. Or did I just imagine it? She waited until she was at the side of my desk again, and then she sat back and let the sunshine bathe her in its generous red warmth.

"The baby, ma'am?" she asked. "You remember the baby I was going to have?"

I REMEMBERED. "You know I said I couldn't take care of it. And I don't have to, ma'am. The law is takin' care of it for me."

"The law?" She enjoyed my surprise. Not blatantly, but with the calm of one who had something of great significance to add.

"It's an idiot," she said, her voice in a whisper, but her eyes looking levelly and limpidly into mine, "the worst kind of an idiot."

"Oh, that's too bad," I exclaimed. She started in surprise. "My other four can now have all the food and clothes my wages will buy."

(Continued on page 19)

## The Crying Need of China

DR W J HANNA, a missionary physician in southern interior China, has written the following letter to Margaret Sanger. Dr Hanna's long experience in China, his actual contact with the people, entitles him to speak with authority upon the necessity of birth control in a country where so many social practices have found source in the evils of over population.

"Thank you for your kind letter. The 'Birth Control Review' is coming regularly and we greatly appreciate the magazine.

"One is perhaps apt to think that many of the questions concerning the rights of women in the present day are due to the intense civilization of our Western lands. With regard to some phases of the subject this is no doubt true for one finds in Eastern lands no such demands on the part of women for the vote or social equality with men, etc. But it comes with a shock to the missionary physician in far away interior China to find in the darkened minds of the Chinese women a longing for enlightenment on the vital subject of Birth Control.

"One does not think of the Chinese women as having any other desire than to beget large families—especially of sons. But such is a mistaken idea. In conservative China the young women are not wooed, there is no courtship preceding marriage, everything is arranged by the parents through a middle man, and the bride sees her husband for the first time on her wedding day. The husband is a stranger to her and his approach is almost invariably resented. In fact resentment seems

to be the normal attitude of a Chinese woman toward her husband, and that of shame the normal attitude of the husband toward his wife. It is one of the first rules of married life that husband and wife must not be seen speaking to each other.

"Sexually or otherwise, the Chinese wife has no rights. She is the property of her husband and of his parents. If she bears sons her lot is somewhat alleviated, and her presence tolerated. How true it is in China that 'the greater the birth rate, the greater the death rate.' Imagine China with her four hundred millions doubling the population in, say, twenty five years! In spite of unrestrained breeding the population of China is probably not increasing, pro ratio, any faster than that of France. The death rate, especially infant mortality, is fearful. Life is held very cheaply. In the face of poverty, of over crowding, of oppression and lovelessness is it any wonder that many a poor woman looks with envious eyes at our three healthy boys and their happy mother, and pleads with us for 'medicine' to help her keep down the number of children for whom there is no room, no food, no clothing, no welcome?

"Birth Control is the crying need of this land, and no more humane work awaits the missionary physician and nurse than instruction that will, to some extent at least, help life the burden of its down trodden motherhood.

"Wishing you all success,

"Yours sincerely,

W J HANNA "

## Preventives or Panaceas

SUPERFICIAL THEORIES advocated by reform magazines and charitable agencies are attacked here by a veteran worker in the Birth Control movement. One such magazine, a weekly of national circulation, and a spokesman for its own particular school of charity administration, recently received this letter in reply to a communication urging the writer to renew her subscription.

Dear Sirs: You have very kindly sent me your magazine for some time without any renewal of subscription on my part for which I sincerely thank you.

To be perfectly frank with you I have not subscribed because I cannot make myself believe that Associated Charities of which your magazine is the spokesman, are very far seeing or very courageous in their reconstruction program when they leave out of the question the reconstruction of the race in its inherent character, health and intelligence. In other words leaving out of discussion any and all propositions that deal with the propagation of the race.

You had a series of articles showing how the feeble minded multiplied themselves in the most inhuman way in Minnesota and I had expected that you would have at least one article showing how such degrading and dangerous states of affairs which exist more or less in all states should be prevented but I was disappointed. You showed in other articles how thousands of children are born into an environment where their little bodies and minds are stunted in poverty and degradation and how the death rate of infants the first year is cut down while the infants, after that, are forgotten by the very associations which fos-

tered them. There is nothing new in this. We know all this only too well. We know that our farmers by our governments are cautioned not to propagate stock from unhealthy conditions as it will breed degeneracy and disease that often effect the healthy stock. But when we come to our own kind our government is silent and to all practical purpose, even hostile in this important matter. Here we flounder down in ignorance.

That is, we let the mass of ignorant people remain irresponsible propagators, while we, the 'reconstructors' carefully regulate our families with the help of knowledge. We take infinite pride and love in our two or three children, while we know that twice that many would ruin us and that thrice that many would dump us into the slums where we would go shabby, and our children would go hungry to school. But we do not make one real honest to goodness move to educate the mass of people to be as 'wise' as we are.

We think it is bright to frown down Birth Control and to evolve all sorts of intricate schemes on how to redeem the poor and the sick and the foolish. We act as though we were afraid of looking the facts in the face. We don't like to take off nice garments roll up our sleeves and become the drabman. We all like to tap on the superstructure. But inasmuch as the child is the society of the future that society will be weak and foolish or good and strong, according to the care and knowledge in which it is born and reared.

The real reconstruction, therefore begins with sane healthy and responsible parenthood. The feeble minded must be prevented from breeding and motherhood must become a science where the mother's health and the parents means shall be duly taken stock of because a

child's future stands in the past. I look upon this as the corner stone of reconstruction. With it left out, I must admit that the charity workers will widen their scope and activity, but at the real cost of true progress and peace.

Perhaps you are contemplating taking up this question perhaps you are now rolling up your sleeves preparatory to descent upon this irresponsible race propagation and to work this reconstruction from the bottom up. If so, I dare say your name will shine bright in future history though you may have to fight for your life now. In the mean

time I feel that your magazine differs little from many other magazines that come to my desk with reconstruction programs and other programs, and I feel that it is my duty to give every support and energy to break down the insane social psychology that prevails and which prevents us establishing sane parenthood that shall produce as far as possible only sane and healthy children. This alone will give us a sane and healthy society.

Very sincerely

CAROLINE NELSON RAVE

Oakland California

## "Wake-Up!" Urges Medical Journal

**T**HE ADVICE OF American Medicine to physicians upon the subject of the Birth Control movement is, in effect, "Wake up!"

In an editorial in the March issue, this eminent medical journal bluntly advises members of the profession to begin to think upon this and similar subjects. The editorial follows:

**T**HE SUBJECT OF Birth Control continues to create interest and discussion. A symposium on the subject, appearing in the Medical Review of Reviews, March, 1919, contains a number of expressions of opinions and beliefs of physicians. The subject matter expressed in the numerous letters resulting from a questionnaire, offers nothing that is new in the way of argument either for or against the subject.

The most significant contribution of the symposium is secondary in nature and incidental in origin. While answers were received from 47 physicians, four did not wish to express any opinion, two were too busy to give it attention, twelve had not given the subject sufficient study to warrant the expression of an opinion, two had gone to war, and three thought the matter should not be discussed in war time. These facts are enlightening, particularly as 25 per cent of the replies stated that the writers had not given the subject sufficient study to warrant the expression of an opinion. It scarcely seems possible that physicians constantly facing the facts of life, understanding well the difficulties in family relations, developments and adjustments, should escape the impress of social conditions and therefore feel incompetent to express an opinion.

It were far better from the standpoint of judgment, to possess opinions contrary to current trends, traditional beliefs, to be ultraconservative or ultraradical, than to evidence a lack of interest in the phenomena of life constantly presenting themselves to medical men. It is almost unbelievable that such a large proportion of physicians should admit a lack of knowledge upon a subject concerning which they might be and are consulted by members of the laity. It is undoubtedly more rational to think wrong than not to think at all.

**P**HYSICIANS, REPRESENTING AN educated segment of humanity, should possess some ideas, theories, beliefs, opinions or judgment upon every one of these simple, direct, frank queries. If the medical men desire to maintain their cherished reputation along educational, medical and humani-

tarian lines, they cannot escape the necessity of thinking. To avoid being on the wrong side of a question, hesitancy of expression is useful. To dodge an issue by wilful silence is cowardice. To agree with the demands of a majority is no more evidence of good faith than an honest conviction as to the correctness of the views or ideas of a minority.

Neutrality in thinking processes testifies to indecision, lack of interest, or mental hebetude. Acknowledgment of ignorance may be an honest confession but when tinged with a sense of fear of being registered is a weak evasion. Where do physicians stand on the subject of Birth Control? What does the physician think concerning birth release? Are doctors unwilling to give their opinions to the public? Apparently a regrettably large percentage of the profession requires time to think, or the courage to think out loud, and Birth Control is merely a type of topic that shows one weakness that demands a remedy.

## Birth Control in Judea

*Ecclesiasticus, XV, 8 XVI, 4*

—Ancient Hebrew Literature

Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children,  
Neither delight in ungodly sons  
Though they multiply, rejoice not in them,  
Except the fear of the Lord be with them  
Trust not thou in their life  
Neither respect their multitude  
For one that is just is better than a thousand  
And better it is to die without children,  
Than to have them that are ungodly

### WOMEN AND MORALS

"Good government of the empire depends upon morals, correctness of morals depends upon right ordering of the family, and right ordering of the family depends upon the wife

"Purification of morals from the time of the Creation until now, has always come from women. Women are not all alike, some are good, and some are bad. For bringing them to a proper conformity there is nothing like education."

—Lau Ting Yuan (1690—1733)

## THE EDITOR'S UNEASY CHAIR

**T**HIS INTERESTING COMMENT by Dr A Ravogli would seem to indicate that he is on the side of those who believe that procreation is the sole use of the sexual instinct and that self-control or the procreation of children are the only alternatives. This alternative would seem to some very hard to bear. Those with lively emotions would suffer most, as their instincts would be gratified, as Dr Robinson has pointed out, only six or seven times in a lifetime (taking the moderate family advised by Dr Ravogli as a standard). This enforced abstinence would seem more unnatural than safe methods of preventing conception. We learn to swim when we venture into deep water, otherwise we would drown. Why is it more unnatural to learn to regulate the consequences of our act in other matters, especially where a third innocent party may be concerned?

**DR RAVOGLI** says

"In entering the discussion of Birth Control, without doubt we touch the most delicate problem of sexual life, and the sanctity of the reproduction of the species. Yet even in so delicate a question, some points arise which require study to make them understood to the mass of the people. The babe is generated not by his own will, but because father and mother have generated him. This babe developing *in utero* is protected by the law, and it has the right to its development and to its existence. The idea of an unwelcome babe is wrong, is sinful, is criminal. When the babe has been generated it has the right of protection. Moreover, it has the right to the best treatment the family can afford. In order that the increasing number of babes may not interfere with the cares and with the attentions needed by the newly born babe, it is desirable that the number of the children be somewhat limited, so that the financial condition of the father be not overburdened.

Some rules on Birth Control may be invoked in those cases where the number of the children is too rapidly increasing, causing some of them to be weakly and in poor health. In all families where the parents talk of ten or twelve children, only two or three remain alive, the others have all died. On the contrary, if a family of five or six children at the right interval of two or three years, all are living in good health, are intelligent, and are a great pleasure to the parents.

"We do not advocate the use of any artificial contraceptive means, but what we advocate is the natural self-control. It is absolutely repulsive that a mother, giving her breast to a babe of seven or eight months, should be in family way again. This shows lack of self-control and of thoughtfulness for the good is the wife and of the family.

"In order to inspire the necessity of self-control in sexual matters, we believe that good, regular teaching on sex education at home and in the schools will be the best way to regulate the number of the babies in the family.

**"TO MAINTAIN THE MYSTERY** in sexual matters is to perpetuate the ignorance which for so many years has shrouded the life of procreation. The parents often misinterpret the curiosity which young children express in reference to the difference of the two sexes. And about reproduction, they content the curiosity of the children with the story of the stork or of the bag of the old doctor. The explanation of the reproduction of plants and animals is very well adapted, especially for the boys, to give them some knowledge on the reproduction of the species.

"School girls need this kind of instruction just as much as do the boys. For them it is a much more delicate matter and requires more tact. But it has to be overcome, without removing the veil of modesty and delicacy. This instruction in girls clears up many mysteries, gives reverence for motherhood, prevents girls from going astray. This teaching gives to boys and girls the wholesome truth of the sexual life.

"With this sex education, the husband and wife will be able to exercise self-control in sexual matters, which will be the most valuable, natural contraceptive means, and will prevent sufferings among the children on account of a too numerous family."

## Birth Control Would Help

**"ACCORDING TO THE** evidence available" says Dr Grace A L Meigs, in *Maternal Mortality*, "these (maternal) death rates are apparently not decreasing. During the 23 years ending in 1913 in this country no definite decrease in the death rate from the diseases caused by pregnancy and confinement can be demonstrated nor can any decrease in the death rate from puerperal septicemia be shown.

"In the registration area as a whole the death rates have shown no decline in the years between 1890 and 1913. The death rate from all diseases caused by pregnancy and confinement, which was 15.3 in 1890, fell to 13 in 1902, and then with annual fluctuations rose to 16 in 1911, in 1913 the rate was 15.8. The annual average for the period 1901 to 1905 was 14.2, for the period 1906 to 1910, 15.5.

"The death rate from all diseases caused by pregnancy and confinement for the group of eight states which have been included in the death registration area from 1890 to 1913 also has shown no decrease during the course of these 23 years."

*Maternal Mortality* is a booklet issued by the Children's Bureau of the U S Dept of Labor.



## BOOK REVIEWS

**THE SEX SIDE OF LIFE** By Mary Ware Dennett, 350 West 55th Street, N Y C. 16 pp Price 25 cents.

I like the way that Mary Ware Dennett deals with plain facts without sentiment in her booklet, "The Sex Side of Life," a reprint of an article in the *Medical Review of Reviews*. It is a wholesome, straight, honest talk about matters too little and too vaguely discussed.

Though intended for both boys and girls, one feels unconsciously that it is addressed to the very young boy—to the boy who is entering the period of adolescence. To this boy it will have great value. It does not answer the big question of his life—what to do until he finds the girl he can marry. It does, however, answer the questions concerning the cause of the changes within him. Such questions arise in every boy's mind early in his development.

The difference between the sexual natures of men animals and plants is emphasized. Personally I like to think of all sentient things as one—one impulse, one desire, progressing to "one far off divine event toward which creation moves."

"People's lives," writes Mrs. Dennett, "grow finer and their characters better, if they have sex relations only with those they love. And those who make the wretched mistake of yielding to the sex impulse alone when there is no love to go with it, usually live to despise themselves for their weakness and their bad taste. They are always ashamed of doing it, and they try to keep it secret from their families and those they respect. You can be sure that what people are ashamed to do can never bring them real happiness. It is true that one's sex relations are the most personal and private matters in the world, and they belong just to us and to no one else but while we may be shy and reserved about them, we are not ashamed."

The booklet is fearless and frank.—M. H. S.

**ADOLESCENCE.** By Stephen Paget. E. P. Dutton Co. 46 pp Price \$1.00

This monographed lecture does what most lecturers do with this subject. Firstly it miscalls itself adolescence because it is only the mature mind looking for a *modus docendi*, and secondly it no sooner gets to the point of its teaching than it shies like a colt, turns and bolts away. However Dr. Stephen Paget strikes a valuable note when he says that the story of sex should be divulged to young people in as sacred a form as confirmation delivers the secrets of the church, that the spirit and the body should be equally worthy of ritual. This is true, and not before we realize the disrupting power of dividing body and spirit will we have a wholesome respect for our bodies and a practical use for our souls. To say nothing of the joy in the living when body and soul undivided do not know where one leaves off and the other begins! E. R. PEYSER.

**RIGHT AND WRONG AFTER THE WAR** Bernard Idelings Bell. Houghton, Mifflin Co. Price \$1.25

A forward thinking book by a clergyman. The Reverend Mr. Bell realizes that the old ways of teaching and of comprehending Christian ethics are no longer vital. The church, to remain a vital force in the community must take cognizance of the changes in the world. The world of individualism, commercialism, competition has tumbled into the grave dug for it by the great war. The trend of the modern world is toward combination, co-operation, co-ordination.

The church can no longer regard poverty as the result of sin, and comfortably shake off responsibility for the condition which leads to the submerging of a tenth of the population by sporadic poulitices of charity. She must face the new problem of a more equitable distribution unblinkingly, even if by so doing she causes discomfort to some of her largest supporters.

The sex question is handled no less valiantly. The feminist movement is also one to which the church must yield with good grace. Mr. Bell points out the fact that the really great women of the world have never submitted to artificial restrictions, but have done the work of free beings. On the subject of Birth Control he quotes Sydney Webb to the effect that 'If a course of conduct is habitually and deliberately pursued by vast numbers of otherwise well conducted people, forming probably a majority of the whole educated class of the nation we must conclude that it does not conflict with their actual code of morality. Here again the church must declare herself and stop preaching one thing, while conniving at another.

Communal problems, such as housing, the saloon, the segregation of vice, child welfare, are all broadly and constructively treated.

The last chapter deals with national and international problems. It seems rather a relapse. He chooses to quote from Matthew 34:6, rather than from Matthew 26:52. We had hoped that the church would have been led to discuss, not good wars and bad wars but some means by which all wars could be rendered as obsolete as the doctrine of infant damnation.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

**Adolescence.** By Stephen Paget. E. P. Dutton Co., 46 pp Price \$1.00  
**Background for Social Workers.** By Edward J. Menge. Richard G. Badger, Boston. 214 pp Price \$1.50  
**The Child's Unconscious Mind.** By Wilfrid Lay. Dood, Mead & Co. 329 pp Price \$2.00  
**The Kingdom of the Child.** By Alice Minnie Herts Henniger. E. P. Dutton Co. 173 pp Price \$1.50  
**Woman of the Hour—Past—Present—Future.** By Dr. Elsie Louise Morris. Austin Pub. Co., Los Angeles California. 237 pp

### PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

**Advice to Prospective Mothers.** By The State Department of Health, Albany, N. Y. 16 pp Free  
**Africa in the World Democracy.** By Horace M. Kallen and James Weldon Johnson. Nat. Ass'n for Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. 30 pp Price 10 cents  
**1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th annual reports of Managers of State Reformatory for Women.** Clinton Farms, N. J. 12 to 22 pages each  
**County Jails.** By Dr. Hastings H. Hart. Nat. Com. on Prisons and Prison Labor, Broadway and 116th Street, New York. 15 pp Price 10 cents  
**Handbook on Capital Punishment.** Pub. by Nat. Com. on Prisons and Prison Labor, New York. 32 pp  
**Mobilizing the County Jail.** By H. L. Baldensperger. Pub. by Society of Friends, 150 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia. 32 pp  
**National Committee on Prisons Organization.** N. Y. 31 pp Price 10 cents  
**The Negro Question.** By Moorfield Storey. Pub. by Nat. Ass'n for Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C. 30 pp Price 10 cents  
**Persecution of the Radical Labor Movement in the United States.** Pub. by N. Y. Defense Committee. 27 East 4th Street, N. Y. 8 pp  
**Poverty in Baltimore and Its Causes.** Pub. by Alliance of Charitable and Social Agencies, Baltimore. 58 pp  
**Social Hygiene (Quarterly).** Pub. by American Social Hygiene Ass'n. 105 West 40th Street, N. Y. 300 pp Price 75 cents  
**Survey of Proposed Social Legislation in Connecticut.** Pub. by Conn. State Federation of Churches. Middletown Conn. 8 pp  
**The Use of Prison Labor on U. S. Gov't Work.** Pub. by Nat. Com. on Prisons and Prison Labor. 32 pp  
**Yes, but—** By Mary Ware Dennett. Voluntary Parenthood League. 206 Broadway, N. Y. C. 24 pp Free

# The Malthusian Doctrine Today

By C V Drysdale, D Sc  
(Continued from May issue)

A REMARKABLE EXAMPLE of the correspondence of birth and death rates in various parts of the community, at the same period, is given in the case of Paris. Although the birth rates vary all the way, from 11 in the Elysee quarter to 24 in the workingclass quarter of Buttes Chaumont and Menilmontant, the death rates are so closely dependent on them that the survival rate in the high birth rate quarters is no higher than in the low birth rate ones, the correlation being actually as high as 95. This example is exceptional, and in London, where so much private and municipal charity exists, the correspondence is much less close, but it is quite sufficient to show the importance of the law.

VARIATION OF BIRTH and death rates from year to year.—We now come to the great illustration of the law of correspondence of birth and death rates, in seeing how the death rate changes in a country as the birth rate rises or falls.

(a) In the majority of civilized countries the birth rate has been more or less steadily falling for some years. In quite a number of them the fall commenced in 1877, the year of the Knowlton Trial, and the death rate has fallen from about the same time.

(b) In five countries—Russia, Roumania, Chili, Jamaica and Ireland—no very definite trend of alteration of the birth rate is noticeable, and neither does there seem to be much progress in diminishing the death rate. (It appears now, however, as if Russia has started on the way of civilization.)

(c) There are four countries in which the birth rate is recorded as having risen—Bulgaria, Ceylon, Japan and Ontario (in Canada). In every one of these the figures show a rise in the death rate, despite all modern medical improvements.

(d) Most striking examples of correspondence are given in the towns of Berlin and of Toronto.

(e) The only examples of countries in which the death rate has not altered in close correspondence with the birth rate are Australia and New Zealand, where the people are probably better fed than in any other part of the world.

These examples will be quite sufficient to convince all unbiased people that the law of correspondence between birth and death rates, deduced from the Malthusian doctrine of pressure of population on food, is by far the most definite and important in the whole range of sociology, and it affords the most striking verification of the doctrine.

The only countries which show no definite sign of over population are Australia and New Zealand, though in the former there has been a definite fall in the death rate as the birth rate has fallen. In New Zealand, however, the death rate has been almost independent of the birth rate, which indicates that there is no pressure of population on subsistence at all, while in Australia there is practically no indication of present over population. It should be noted that in these two

countries, as well as in Ontario, the lowest death rate has been about 10 per 1,000, which may be taken as about the present ideal for a moderately increasing country.

SO FAR OUR PROOFS of the pressure of population upon subsistence have been inferential rather than direct. We first showed the extraordinary rate of increase of population which would result from unrestrained fertility of the food supply being able to keep pace with it for long. Secondly, we showed that if population were steadily pressing upon the means of subsistence, as the previous argument had indicated, there should be a close correspondence between variations in the birth and death rates, and we showed both by diagrams and by the method of correption, that this was the case.

Now we come to the third and apparently the most important demonstration, that of comparing the actual production of food with the needs of the population. This is by no means an easy matter to determine, as the data, until recently at any rate, did not enable us to get the food consumed in each country separately, so that the enquiry had to be made for the whole world. On the other hand, the difficulty then arose that neither the population nor the food production of certain eastern countries were recorded.

In order to arrive at the most correct conclusion on this point, M G Hardy, of Paris, decided to institute a comparison of the total food production and population of all the countries for which statistics are available, as the remainder, such as China, are notoriously underfed, and contribute little or nothing to the food of other countries. His first essay on the subject was published about twenty years ago, under the title of *Population and Subsistence*, and he has from time to time since revised his figures as fresh statistical information has come to hand. His latest work has appeared in the French publication *Generation Consciente*.

M HARDY'S METHOD is as follows. First, he collects, from the best statistical sources the data concerning the production of the various kinds of food in all the countries for which records are kept. Secondly, he collects the data concerning the population of these countries, with their division into men, women and children, and on the basis of the relative consumption of food of these various classes, he reduces this to the equivalent number of adult men. Thirdly, by dividing the total food by the equivalent population, he obtains the average daily ration of food available with equal distribution and reduces this to the amount of proteid, carbohydrates, and fats, and total energy value. Fourthly, he collates the requirements given by various medical and other authorities to maintain an adult man in health and vigor, which he calls the standard ration, and compares the available ration with the standard ration.

As some of the data cannot pretend to high accuracy, M Hardy does not claim that his result is perfect, but he has taken every precaution to avoid favoring the Malthusian conclusion. Where different figures are given by various authorities for the amount of food he has always chosen the higher figure, and he has taken the lowest estimates of population. At every point in his investigation he gives the benefit of any doubt to the side of our opponents. His calculations have been made for two years, 1887 and 1907, both of which have been recognized as years of exceptionally high world production.

[To be continued in the July number]

## In the Maternity Ward

By E. Ralph Cheyney

The silence sheer of night was shivering split by sharpest darts of ice  
That shuddered through my breast, while in my bowels found a lodging place  
All God's great loneliness before He tossed the teeming golden dice  
And generated life through all the aching vasts of empty space—

I suffered sorely at your shrieks unique, so weirdly strong and shrill,

Oh, women brave who fight for Life with Death, lips bitten but hearts of mirth!

We wish our sheltering love to bear wee clinging fruit to live when we lie still,

But shame on Science that so little does to ease the pangs of birth!

Our battle's won, and both survive! Through torture, Love, you achieved our will,

And you can rest. But I think of how our girl may grow to have this pain,

And, till there's not one woman forced to bear a child against her will.

I know one father who can never rest with easy heart again.

### DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE FIGHT FOR BIRTH CONTROL?

Then fill out this blank and send it with \$1.50 to MARGARET SANGER, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City, for One Year's Subscription to

#### THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

[Edited and Published by Volunteer Effort, Without Profit to Any Individual]

Name .....

Street and No. ....

City .....

## THE SCRUB WOMAN

(Continued from page 13)

I stared at her. Then there came into her eyes that look of exaltation I had seen before, which reminded me of Italian peasants before a wayside shrine.

"It happened in answer to my prayer," she said. "I prayed God day after day for nine months to help me out of my trouble. I prayed while I scrubbed down here at the offices, and I prayed while I made coffee for my children's breakfast, and I prayed while I put 'em to bed at night. They ain't got enough as it is, God," I told Him. "And won't you please help me not to have another mouth to feed?" I didn't believe hardly at first that He really would. But at last I got to feeling sure about it. Though I never dreamed how He would do it. But in His mercy He sent me this little blithering thing with queer, put in eyes, knowing the law as be's for the likes of it. The doctor got it took away. It was an answer to my prayers, I guess, all right, if prayer was ever answered."

Her voice was reverent as she finished and went about her scrubbing again. The sun sank behind a misty veil of soft cloud, and the quick shadows of an early winter day deepened gently as I turned to my work.

### Did You Read "The Truth About Mexico" In GALE'S MAGAZINE

If not, you missed something. And if you are not reading GALE'S MAGAZINE every month you are missing something all of the time.

Linn A. E. Gale, publisher of GALE'S, is a former American newspaper man and the leader of an influential band of fiery and dauntless Radicals that is conducting an active propaganda for Socialism in Mexico. He is the man of whom the mayor of Amsterdam, N. Y. (who was defeated through Editor Gale's startling exposures) said: "He ought to have his throat cut!" It has been said that he writes words that burn in letters that blister!

Perhaps you don't know it, but Mexico is being swept by a mighty wave of Radical sentiment stimulated and accelerated by the young American editor and his fearless aggressive journal.

GALE'S MAGAZINE also contains such articles as

"Bolshevism in Mexico"

"Russia, a Socialist Fatherland"

"Two Leagues of Nations or One?"

"Amnesty, If Not, Why Not?"

"Making It Easier to Murder"

\$2.00 a year    \$1.00 for 6 months    20c a copy

NO FREE SAMPLES

Remit by P. O. Money Order or Draft

GALE'S MAGAZINE

Apartado 518 Mexico City D. F. Mexico

Enclosed find P. O. money order (or draft) for \$.....

for which send me GALE'S MAGAZINE for.....years

Name.....

Address.....

# A Poser for the "Purists"

By Mary Ware Dennett.

THE SO CALLED "PURISTS" advocate the abstinence of marital sex relations except for procreation

But abstinence is one method of Birth Control It certainly prevents conception

To teach the prevention of conception is prohibited by law throughout the United States

Therefore the "purists" are guilty of breaking the law

Query —Why are they not prosecuted?

There is a further legal point in regard to abstinence It is itself not sanctioned by law

According to common law precedent the wife gives her "services" to her husband in exchange for her "necessaries" "Services" are interpreted to mean household services and "consortium," or sex relations "Necessaries"—are interpreted to mean food, clothes and shelter

THE LAW DOES NOT sanction a wife's withholding her "services," either household or sexual If he does, it is deemed desertion, and in many states desertion is a ground for divorce

Thus it seems that abstinence is not only illegal—because it is a method of Birth Control, the giving of information about which is prohibited by law, but it is also illegal because it is withholding the "services" which a wife is by law bound to give in return for her "necessaries"

In other words, so far as the law is concerned, there is no room for abstinence It follows therefore that the only sort of family which is legally approved in these United States is that in which there are as many children as it is physically possible for the parents to produce

"The Land of the Free!"

## Birth Control Organizations

### IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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

#### CONSTITUENT BODIES

- ENGLAND (1877) —The Malthusian League. Secretary, Dr Binnie Dunlop, 48 Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Periodical, *The Malthusian*.
- HOLLAND (1885) —De Nieuw Malthusiaansche Bond Secretary Dr J Dutgers, 9 Verhulststraat, Den Haag. Periodical, *Het Gellukkg Huisgezin*.
- GERMANY (1889) —Sozial Harmonische Verein. Secretary, Herr M Hausmeister, Stuttgart. Periodical, *Die Soziale Harmonie*.
- FRANCE (1895) —G Hardy, 29 Rue Pixerecourt, Paris. Periodical, *Generation Consciente*.
- SPAIN (1904) —Liga Espanola de Regeneracion Humana. Secretary, Senor Luis Bulffi, Calle Provenza, 177 Pral la, Barcelona. Periodical, *Salu y Fuerza*.
- BELGIUM (1906) —Ligue Neo-Malthusienne Secretary, Dr Fernand Mascaux, Echevin, Courcelles.
- SWITZERLAND (1908) —Groupe Malthusien Secretary, Valentin Grandjean, 106 Rue des Eaux Vives, Geneva. Periodical, *La Vie Intime*.
- BOHEMIA AUSTRIA (1901) —Secretary, Michael Kacha, 1164 Zizhov, Prague. Periodical *Zadruhy*.
- PORTUGAL.—E. Silva, Junior, L da Memoria, 46 r/e Lisbon. Periodical, *Paz e Liberdade*.
- BRAZIL (1905) —Seccion Brasileira de Propaganda. Secretaries, Manuel Moscusa, Rua d'Bento Pires 29, San Pablo, Antonio Dominiguez, Rue Vizcande de Moranguapez 25 Rio de Janeiro.
- CUBA (1907) —Seccion de Propaganda. Secretary, Jose Guardiola, Empedrado 14, Havana.
- SWEDEN (1911) —Sallskapet for Humanitar Barnalstring. President, Mr Hinke Bergegren, Vansdisvagen 15, Stockholm, Va.
- ITALY (1913) —Lega Neomalthusiana Italiana Via Lamarmora 22, Turin. Periodical, *L'Educazione Sessuale*.
- AFRICA —Ligue Neo Malthusienne, Maison du Peuple, 10 Rampe Magenta, Alger.

### IN THE UNITED STATES

- ANN ARBOR, MICH —Mrs L. A Rhoads, 1318 Forest Court
- BANGOR, ME —Dr P E Luce, 40 Central Street
- BOSTON, MASS —*The Birth Control League of Massachusetts* P O Box 1358. Mrs. Oakes Ames, president.
- PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Dr L. A Young, 5152 Haverford Avenue.
- CHICAGO, ILL.—*The Citizen's Committee on Family Limitation*. Secretary, Mrs. B. E Page, 521 Longwood Ave., Glencoe, Ill.
- CLEVELAND, OHIO —*Birth Control League of Ohio* Mrs. A W Newman, 10601 Ashbury Avenue, secretary
- DETROIT, MICH —Mrs Jessie A Rene 919 Brooklyn Avenue
- ELIZABETH CITY, N C — Mr and Mrs. W O Saunders.
- HARRISBURG, PA —George A Herting, 2436 Reel Street
- LOS ANGELES, CAL.—Dr T Percival Gerson.
- MINNEAPOLIS, MINN —*The Minneapolis Birth Control League* Mrs. Helen C. Thomsen, 1208 Vincent Avenue, N, secretary
- NEW ORLEANS, LA.—H. G Shockley, 428 Delaronde Street
- NEW YORK  
*The Committee of One Thousand* Dr Ira S Wile, 230 W 97th Street, chairman.  
*International Birth Control League* Dr Wm J Robinson, President, 12 Mt Morris Park West.  
*The National Birth Control League* 200 Fifth Avenue Mrs Maxwell Hyde.  
*The Woman's Committee of One Hundred* Mrs. Amos Pinchot chairman, 9 East 81st Street.  
*Voluntary Parenthood League*, 206 Broadway Mary Ware Dennett, Director
- PITTSBURGH, PA —*The Birth Control League of Western Pennsylvania* Rita F Stein 924 Mellon St, Pittsburgh, Pa., secretary
- PORTLAND, ORE.—*The Birth Control League of Portland* H C Dekker 652 Elliott Avenue, president. Mrs J R Oatman 549 Fifth Street, secretary
- RADNOR, PA —*The Main Line Branch of the National Birth Control League* —Mrs Walter M Newkirk, secretary
- ROCHESTER, N Y —A. I Howser, 227 Parsells Avenue
- ST LOUIS, Mo —Grace Anderson, City Dispensary, 11th and Chestnut Streets.
- ST PAUL, MINN —*The Minnesota State Birth Control League* Secretary Mrs. Grace M Keller, 230 Vernon Ave, St. Paul
- SAN FRANCISCO CAL —*The Birth Control League of San Francisco* 239 Geary Street. Margaret McGovern, president
- SEATTLE, WASH —*The Seattle Birth Control League* Minnie Parkhurst, 516 Third Ave, West Seattle, Wash, secretary
- SUMMIT N J —Rev Franklin C Doan
- WASHINGTON, D C —*The Birth Control League of the District of Columbia* Mrs. Anna Wexler, 1926 New Hampshire Ave president