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FEBRUARY

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The Awakening of Japan

Biological Reasons for Family Limitation

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By Margaret Sanger

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THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

DEDICATED TO VOLUNTARY MOTHERHOOD

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

VOL IV

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1920

No 2

The Sweep of the Movement

NO READER OF this issue of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW can doubt that the Birth Control movement is sweeping on swiftly and irresistibly in its high mission of freedom and regeneration. Yesterday we were compelled to content ourselves with prophecies born of a faith that Truth must conquer Error and, no matter how much maligned, must ultimately come to its own. Today we can point to accomplished facts—to prophecies fulfilled. Birth Control is here—not only as a gospel of freedom but as a working social philosophy. It is in operation, and the good that it does stands up to proclaim anew its truth.

For the first time in the history of the movement in the United States, its results are registered in official statistics. The results have existed, relief has been brought into hundreds of thousands of homes, but the record always lags sadly behind the achievement. Now, in New York City, at least, the official record speaks. Last year brought more marriages than ever before, fewer births, a lower infant mortality rate and the lowest general death rate ever recorded in the metropolis. New York City is witnessing what other cities have already observed—Birth Control lowers the death rate of infants and of mothers, and hence lowers the general death rate as well.

NO LESS SIGNIFICANT than the statistics just referred to is the growing habit of great general publications of spreading the truth concerning Birth Control. Once a tabooed subject, it has burst its way through the walls of dogma and enforced ignorance, and is now discussed wherever plans of reconstruction are being formulated. It is acceptable subject matter of newspapers and of forward looking magazines. The public has chosen to differentiate between scientific knowledge and obscenity and has of its own clean minded desire for knowledge put the subject of Birth Control upon the idealistic plane where it belongs.

EVEN IN LATIN AMERICA, where the opposition was supposed to be the strongest in the world, the truth is making its way. Mexico, with her dawning feminist movement is, perhaps, taking the lead.

Japan, whose boundary bursting hordes have been at once the magic wand and the terror of the world politician, eager to provoke wars yet dreading their outcome, joins the procession with what strongly appears to be an official or semi-official movement for the relief of overburdened mothers and a curbing of population.

So the evidences multiply—evidences of the success and of the ceaseless world sweep of the Birth Control cause. It is no longer a dream—no longer a prophecy, it is here, now, unfolding in its beneficent effects, before our eyes.

WHAT HAS BROUGHT about these startling results within a few years? First, the constructive thought of the country, which has refused to have its lips closed by the dead hand of yesterday. Next, the economic pressure of the times, which has forced us to look about for immediate relief from the hardships in which we were involved. Third and last, the dominant tendency in all social agencies to have done with palliatives and strike at the root of the evils dealt with. Birth Control is to social progress what sanitation and preventive medicine is to modern medical practice—it removes the cause, rather than wasting time patching up the unhappy result.

All these elements have been made effective by the efforts of many unknown people. And if these faithful ones, who have, for the most part, worked quietly and alone, have been able, under the directing hand of a small group, to accomplish what has already been done, who shall place a limit upon the achievements of the future? If but a small percentage of those who now believe in Birth Control would come forth to join those actively engaged in its propaganda, the womanhood of the world could be freed in ten years and the world itself remade.

The Call to Women

By Margaret Sanger

NO WOMAN WHO has the welfare of her children and of society at heart should bear a child within the next five years. Last month we called upon women to adopt this plan in order that the world may have time to catch up with the task of caring for those people already here. Again we urge this step—and urge it with all the emphasis at our command.

We directed attention last month to the first of a series of interviews with Mr. R. C. Martens, an authority upon the world food situation. Mr. Martens informed us that Europe's food supply is on the verge of exhaustion and that there is a world food shortage. That shortage, he declared, will bring about a crash in world affairs that will result in the

starvation of millions in Europe. It will also have a dire effect upon America, which effect Mr Martens is not as yet willing to discuss in detail.

In the interview published in this number, Mr Martens points out an industrial situation which strikingly emphasizes what he said last month. It also makes exceedingly plain the need of a cessation of births as a reconstruction measure.

THE GIST OF the warning by this authority is just this: the world food supply is short. Millions will starve. Among those who survive, millions will suffer because of the demoralization of industry as it is now conducted. The great crash is inevitable.

Mr Martens does not stand alone in predictions of this nature. Business men know that trouble is here and that more is coming. Financiers have again and again pointed out similar facts. Students of economics have joined their voices with conservatives and with radical propagandists, crying out that something must be done.

The world has too many people to care for under existing circumstances. Its machinery of production is demoralized. It cannot even produce enough food and distribute it. All things are in a stage of transition, and it will be years before the present state of disorganization disappears.

Moreover, the human wrecks of the Great War are to be cared for. Again, millions of children were born in Europe during the war. Most of them have been undernourished, many of them are otherwise defective, perhaps. Both the cripples of the war and these children are, to a greater or less degree, public burdens for the rest of their lives. There will be added to these the helpless individuals produced by the demoralization of our productive machinery.

IN THE FACE of these facts the nations should grapple at once with the population problem. They are not doing so. Instead, some of those madmen whose motto is "After us, the Deluge," are crying for higher birth rates. So the problem of the birth rate comes for solution to those who have always had to solve it—the women, the bearers of children. And what woman, who has thought upon the situation, is willing to bring a child into a disordered world, where lack and misery is likely to be its portion? What woman, through bringing a child to birth, is willing to make the situation worse?

IT WAS SUGGESTED by some of our friends that last month's editorial should have called only for a cessation of births among the poor. In these days of upheaval, what condition is stable? The rich of today may be poor tomorrow. The child born in luxury today may, a few years hence, be in no better condition than the one born in poverty now.

The call goes to all women. Men have refused to apply fundamental remedies to the ills of the world. It is for women to right the situation by decreasing the pressure of

populations. It is for women to exercise the sacred right of motherhood in refusing to bring a helpless child into a world that has nothing to offer it but the prospect of misery.

Havelock Ellis

FEBRUARY IS THE birth month of Havelock Ellis, the foremost sex psychologist of the world. His services in illuminating hitherto little understood phases of woman's sex nature have placed in his debt every woman who has progressed sufficiently to desire freedom and to wish to make the most advantageous use of what freedom, once it has opened to her new fields of expression.

Ellis, as a sympathetic student of the feminine instinct, has had the courage of the scientific crusader. He has undauntedly challenged the puritanism of his time and has persistently held high the torch of Truth that women and humanity might see their way to better things.

A Notable Series Closes

THE ARTICLE BY Ellen A Kennan in this issue is the last of a series based upon first hand information gained in the only investigation of its kind ever made in behalf of the Birth Control movement.

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is deeply indebted to Miss Kennan for the results of her conscientious and effective efforts. It is also indebted to Mrs Mary Knoblauch, whose generous fidelity to this publication made possible this and other important work in behalf of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and the Birth Control movement.

The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Birth Control Lowers Death Rate

THE beneficent results of the Birth Control movement are making themselves emphatically evident in statistics

These results have long been known to those who have been preaching the gospel of family limitation. They have evinced themselves beyond all dispute in other countries as well as in America. And now comes the Department of Health of the City of New York with an annual report that indicates as plain as day the happy effects of Birth Control.

The report of Commissioner Copeland sets forth these facts:

First—Marriages increased from 56,735 in 1918 to 58,983 in 1919—2,248 more

Second—Births decreased from 130,377 in 1918 to 120,932—9,445 less

Third—The infant death rate went down from 92 per thousand to 82 per thousand—the lowest ever recorded in the City of New York

Fourth—The general death rate went down to 12.39 per thousand, the lowest ever recorded. The death rate in 1918 was high—16.71, so a fairer comparison is the rate for the five year period ending in 1917, which was 13.94

There were more marriages and fewer births, which means Birth Control. Birth Control always brings decrease in the general death rates. First, there is always a decrease in the infant mortality rate and, second, there is always a decrease in the maternal mortality rate.

These results were strikingly in evidence in The Hague and Amsterdam, Holland, as soon as the Birth Control movement began to be effective. The latter city has the lowest death rate of any in the world. New York, with its superior climate and other immense natural advantages, may hope, with the general practice of intelligent family limitation, to take that place of honor away from Amsterdam.

The Coming Crash—II

The Second of a Series of Interviews with Mr. R. C. Martens, an Authority upon the World Food Situation

IN THE FIRST of this series of interviews, which appeared in the January number, Mr. R. C. Martens, an authority upon the world food situation, pointed out the world food shortage and illustrated his prediction of The Coming Crash by a brief study of certain phases of Europe's present plight with regard to food and the facilities for importing and distributing foodstuffs. As stated in the introduction to that article, Mr. Martens has had almost unparalleled opportunities to obtain first hand information upon these all important matters, both as former head of R. Martens and Company, with its forty-eight branches throughout the world, and as a business partner of the late Lord Rhondda, until his death food controller for Great Britain. The lifting of the food blockade against Soviet Russia by the Allies has lent emphasis to whatever Mr. Martens may now have to say. He pointed out the necessity of this step in an article in his magazine, *Russia*, a journal of American and Russian foreign trade, as long ago as September, 1918, and showed that the blockade must be lifted because of the necessity of the Allies to obtain food and raw materials wherever they might be able to obtain them—which is to say, from Russia.

"The lifting of the blockade now will have little effect upon the food situation for the next year," declares Mr. Martens, "but it will do much to decrease the hardship of 1922."

Thus, regardless of the lifting of the blockade and the making available of such moderate surplus grain stocks as Russia has on hand, the present food shortage in Europe will be but little relieved, and Mr. Martens' predictions in last

month's issue of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW stand as made.

This month, Mr. Martens discusses another of the causes of the coming crash—the industrial situation.

NOT ONLY IS there not enough food for the world, but the condition of Europe's industries is such that the disaster, when it comes, will be deeply intensified. More than that, the effects of the industrial disorganization, he asserts, will be reflected in intense hardship upon those children now being born, and will have to be endured, by those who live, until they have reached mature years.

Starvation will claim its millions, and because of industrial disorganization, will stalk the footsteps of other millions who escape actual death from hunger.

No nation lives to itself alone. The world suffers when food supplies and world industry become inadequate or break down. The disaster impending in Europe is not Europe's alone—it will have a terrific effect upon America—a phase of the matter which Mr. Martens promises to discuss later. Meanwhile, it is sufficient for the reader to remember that Europe's disaster cannot fail to be ours.

WITH THE END of the war," said Mr. Martens, "there came a collapse of Europe's industries. These industries, suffering commercially from overproduction at the beginning of the war, had been devoted largely to the supplying of war materials. Most of them have not been and cannot be brought up to an efficient peace basis.

"The general reason for this situation is the withdrawal of most of the male population of Europe for five years from productive occupations to destructive ones. Not only did the war cost \$250,000,000,000 and destroy \$100,000,000,000, but during the five years, Europe failed to produce the wealth necessary to keep the modern industrial and commercial machines up to par. This condition intensified one that had prevailed before the outbreak of hostilities—namely, unemployment and a large measure of disorganization due to unemployment, unfavorable trade conditions, lack of new markets, and unequal rises in prices of various commodities. It was to escape this condition that Germany, for instance, struck her blow for new territory. The populations, industrially speaking, had become too great for the home resources of various nations and Germany sought, among other advantages, complete domination of Russia, to take care of her growing numbers.

"THE END OF the unproductive five years of the war found Europe with exhausted credit, a shortage of food and other primary requirements of life, with a broken down inland transportation system, and public utilities deteriorated to a desperate point.

"It also found her burdened with a huge taxable debt. The mortgage on the pre war amount of wealth amounts to 65 per cent.

"Neither transportation systems nor manufacturing industries can be remade out of the earnings as formerly. Moreover, to replace old equipment with efficient machinery costs now from two to three times what it would have cost before the war and the prices are still going up. This, in the face of the fact that Europe's industries are, generally speaking, already bankrupt.

"Nor is this all, by any means. The available industrial

equipment is not now being operated as efficiently as the same equipment in the same condition could have been operated before the war. The war brought with it a lowering of the industrial morale. There were many minor factors contributing to this condition, but one of the chief among them was the fact that men who have been five years away from productive industry and idle when they were not fighting, are not so productive in ordinary occupations when they return. Moreover, they felt the need of relaxation—both those who fought and those who remained at home. They had been under heavy restriction and with that restriction removed, they felt little like going to work.

"ADD TO THIS the undernourishment which those at home suffered, and we have another strong factor in the present lessened production.

"And again, and the most important factor yet, ten million men were lost in the war—lost to industry and lost to their families, who are now presumably in one degree or another, dependent upon the various governments.

"On top of all this put the industrial unrest, strikes, the growing solidarity of the workmen in their opposition to former conditions, rumors of revolutions and actual revolutions. What chance has European industry to restore itself?

"All this means industrial disorganization for some years to come. It means unemployment. It means hardship, and coupled with the food situation, it means starvation. It means want for a considerable portion of the European population for a considerable part of the lifetime of children now being born. And these conditions in Europe will inevitably have their effect upon America. The world is so closely knit together, commercially and industrially, that no part of it can suffer without bringing suffering to the rest."

The Awakening of Japan

By Agnes Smedley

THE INTEREST WHICH Japan is showing in the Birth Control movement is felt as far away from Tokyo as the office of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in New York. Within the past six months fully a dozen Japanese men have visited the offices of this magazine, seeking information about the movement. Many have been government investigators. For hours they have questioned the staff about the movement in this and other countries, its methods, the effect of such methods upon the individual, and the reaction upon society. These men have purchased dozens of books upon various phases of the movement. Skeptics, and sometimes antagonistic to the idea, they have returned time and again for new literature and for further information. Many have become enthusiastic, and one representative of the Japanese government came first as a skeptic and later to gather together and mail to his government all available literature on the subject. Dozens of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW magazine are now finding their way

into Japan, and one young man, after returning home has, with his wife, made concrete efforts to spread the movement and start an unofficial clinic in Tokyo. Information as to methods, proscribed in America, has been translated into Japanese and is circulating widely.

But the most significant phase of the development has been the interest of government men in the subject. Always alert for every means of improving their country's position and keeping her abreast of modern nations, they have seen in the Birth Control movement a means of improving the power of physical resistance of their people. Their aims perhaps have varied forms, but they are legitimate and worthy of a self-respecting, independent people. Their first aim is undoubtedly to keep the Japanese in the position of maintaining their national independence. This must be recognized as the first postulate of Japan—the only independent spot in Asia, and because of that independence the most hated by white nations.

The other aim is the idealistic one of improving the health and condition of the Japanese people for the sake of their own happiness

IN JAPAN ITSELF there is no organized movement. For a number of years occasional articles have appeared in various magazines, but these articles are inspired by similar articles taken from occidental journals. One of the most famous women of Japan, Akiko Yoshano, poetess, and special writer for the *Taiyo* magazine, has been trying to present the subject to the Japanese people through her articles. The *Taiyo* has a circulation of 700,000 and is the leading journal of the "intelligencia" of Japan. The following article by Akiko Yoshano is translated from this journal, and is typical of her general appeal.

"The women of Japan are apt to give birth to offspring rather carelessly and thoughtlessly. The result is that children are born feeble and degenerate. The women who are least able to be wives and mothers are inclined to misuse the reproductive function. The time is ripe to right the wrong by teaching that reproduction is not the central mainspring of existence, but is merely one of the pillars of life. I stand against over estimation of the importance of reproduction, and against the practice of separating it from all other vital things of life.

"I am also opposed to the *Riosai Kenbo shugi* (Good Wife, Good Motherism) movement in our girls' schools. This movement emphasizes the sex side of the life of women and neglects everything else.

"We Japanese women have borne too many children. Of course, after we have borne them, we wish to care for and educate them. But we are not in condition to realize this ideal, or even to clothe and feed them properly. When we see our children without food we realize the helplessness of women. Yet at the same time we feel deeply that we must not injure our children by permitting them to be without education.

"I have no intention of recommending the two child system practiced by European women, but at the same time we Japanese women endure such economic hardships that we are now understanding the wisdom of European women who have adopted the two child system."

THUS IT IS to be seen that the phase of Birth Control which appeals most to Japanese women is the economic side. Japan's population is increasing at the rate of 700,000 a year, and there is not enough food to feed the people. Of rice, alone, the country must import 4,000,000 *koku* (20,000,000 bushels) annually. Further light is turned upon this subject in the *Annual Report of the Central Sanitary Bureau of the Home Office of the Japanese Government*, published in Tokyo in 1919 (in Japanese and English). This report is more scientifically arranged than any similar volume published by the United States Government. It reveals the fact that the birth rate in the Island Kingdom during 1916 was 30.05 per thousand, in one province Aomori, the rate mounted to 42.11. This rate was higher than any other civilized

country, with the exception of Russia, Servia, Roumania and Hungary. The death rate for the same year was 21.5, which was also much higher than any other country with the exception of a few such as those mentioned.

Of every thousand deaths in 1916, 399.1 were children under five years of age. Of these 399.1 children, 263.9 were under one year of age. "It is remarkable," exclaims one of the compilers of this volume (p. 89), "that the death rate among children under 1 year tends to increase year after year. It would seem but a matter of common observation to know that over breeding means a high and useless death rate, unnecessary suffering, and subsequent lowering of the vitality of all the people, mothers and children alike."

OTHER TABLES in the report show that there are 3,795 recorded annual deaths of women directly due to conception and delivery. But the investigations which are missing, as they are missing in the reports of every government, are those which tell just how many of such deaths are among the working class. And of the very high infant death rate, which is mounting still higher year by year, no figures have been compiled to show what proportion of them come from the working class, or, perhaps, from mothers of the working class who have borne so many children that they do not have the vitality to bear others who have the strength to maintain life.

It was, perhaps, with this economic problem in view that so many Japanese labor and government delegates who attended the International Labor Conference at Washington found their way to THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW office. The conditions under which women of Japan work closely affect future generations, and the actual power of physical resistance which strikes at the very root of Japan's ability to maintain itself as an independent power in the future. From the imperial viewpoint alone, not to mention the human side, it would seem but the better part of wisdom for the Japanese Government to take every precaution to preserve the physical strength of women and children, that they not only be able to serve Japan in time of national need, but that they may have cause to be loyal to their native country. The most effective means of destroying the loyalty which the Japanese government demands of its people is to starve those people, to reduce the women to the status of animals by using them as breeders, and to take their offspring and work them in factories from early childhood.

JAPAN COULD NOT better serve the rival imperialistic ambitions of white nations than to permit the continued ruthless economic and physical exploitation of the women and children, as well as of the men of Japan. Yet this economic exploitation is to continue, with the approval and even connivance of the enemies of Japan.

When Mr. G. N. Barnes, British Government delegate to the International Labor Conference in Washington, moved that a special Sub-committee be appointed to consider Asian labor questions, he made a diplomatic stroke which may be as effective, in the long run, as if he had quartered a British

viceroy in Tokyo The Japanese government delegates succumbed to that diplomacy, with only the commercial advantage of Japan in view The result of the findings of the Special Subcommittee was to physically subject Asian labor This even extended to the children

While all the white nations gained the forty eight hour week, Japanese labor is subjected to the fifty seven hour week The silk industries were exempted from this provision, the provision therein being a sixty hour week The workers in the silk industries are practically all women Even Asian children were forced into economic slavery, while the minimum working age of fourteen years for children of white nations was barbarous, children of twelve are permitted, by international agreement, to work in Japan There were indeed a dozen and one "logical" reasons for this, such as commercial necessity and the backward condition of industries Mr Barnes was chairman of the Special Committee which drew up the program His stroke was typically British, he struck at the very heart of Japan, first by inducing the Japanese delegates to accept their status of inferiority to occidental countries, and secondly by forcing the workers of Japan to accept a system which eventually demoralizes a people Great Britain learned at the time of the Boer War what it meant to follow such a course Japanese delegates, with an eye to immediate profits, seem to have ignored the ultimate effect upon the people of Japan

THE ARTICLE BY the Japanese lady, Akiko Yoshano, clearly shows that the interest of Japanese women in Birth Control is of economic origin Yet Japan seems to be following in the economic footsteps of western nations Most of the employers of Japan, who are responsible for this condition, see only their individual profits, they do not see forces which must arise from such a policy, they do not see the greater and nobler Japan for which a people feel loyalty They see women merely as producers of factory hands, they regard the government just as do American employers—merely as a weapon for the protection of their profits and continued subjection of workers The women of Japan, and the many young investigators in America today, are regarding the situation in a different light It is they who must realize that women do not owe loyalty to profit seekers, that they have no duty to breed large numbers of under nourished children, but that it is their privilege to bear only the number of children they wish, and to rear them in comfort and educate them for higher service than industrial servitude As a Japanese lady now in America recently remarked "We Japanese women have always been shy, reserved and obedient But the working woman is now different She is quite bold—quite brave, and she is coming to demand what she thinks is right Our women are unorganized, but they are starting And they are unafraid"

"Within the Year and Time"

(TO MARGARET SANGER)

By Dr Arthur Aubriot Pons

The inspiration of my pen, writes on, dedicating
The fruits of its wisdom to you, Salvator of human rights,
Whose destiny tho yet dark, has brighter stars than now appear
Unto those heavens above us, where reigns supposed justice
and equality

When the prerogative of nations free to express, and free
to will
Their voice to your memory, your name shall be accredited
Human love for human kind here below, as compensation
for your deeds

Live on dear soul, that to us possessed of ignorance and of
moods,
Your words shall awaken in u consciousness, less the greed
Of selfishness, plus the spirit of Truth

What entities thou hast wrought, upon civilization's pulse,
What wisdom thou hast loosened, upon the throats of human
kind!

Who of us dare face your vision and contaminate by seduction
Your views and accredited logic?

Empires fall and nations totter, while time flies on,
Your creed and the good you've wrought remain,
While the sanctity of nature beckons you,
To embrace within its folds, your form
To recompense and cheer, your motive, in fighting onward

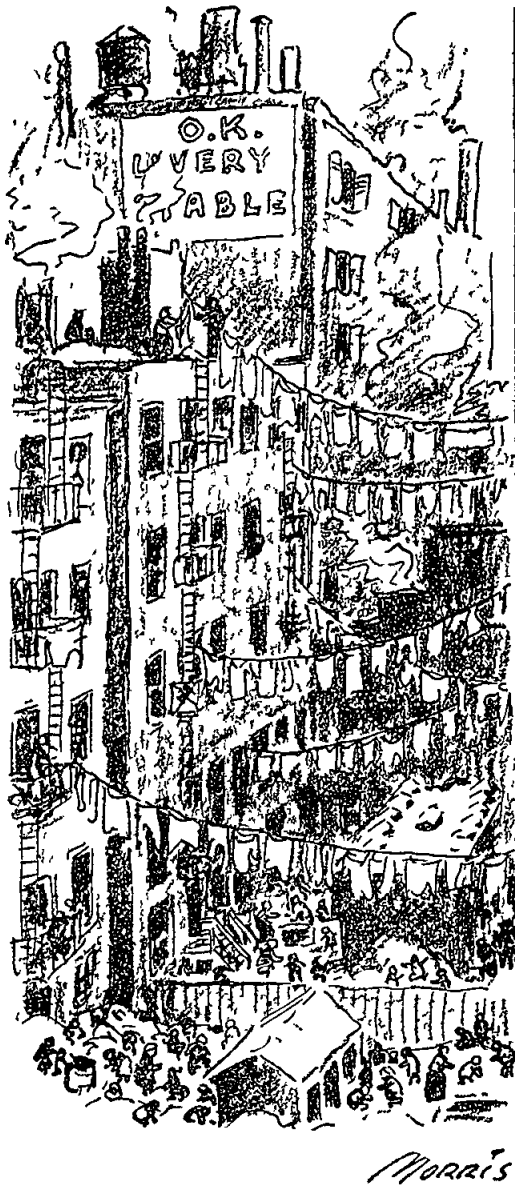
Strength, fidelity, and courage are yours
Not only keep them, but strengthen as you go
Their sacredness to mankind, and to womankind in particular

Your work shall live on when your name is but a memory,
Your creed shall also flourish, not alone upon those who
desire,

But all nature shall warn, as to when and where
Motherhood shall proclaim herself free or slave

Strangle law, precedent and church,
With your creed at my command,
I'll save a million lives,
Decrease Insane, Disease and jail homes,
And raise the moral standards of civilization,
One hundred years ahead of its time
Within the year and time allotted me

IS IT FAIR?

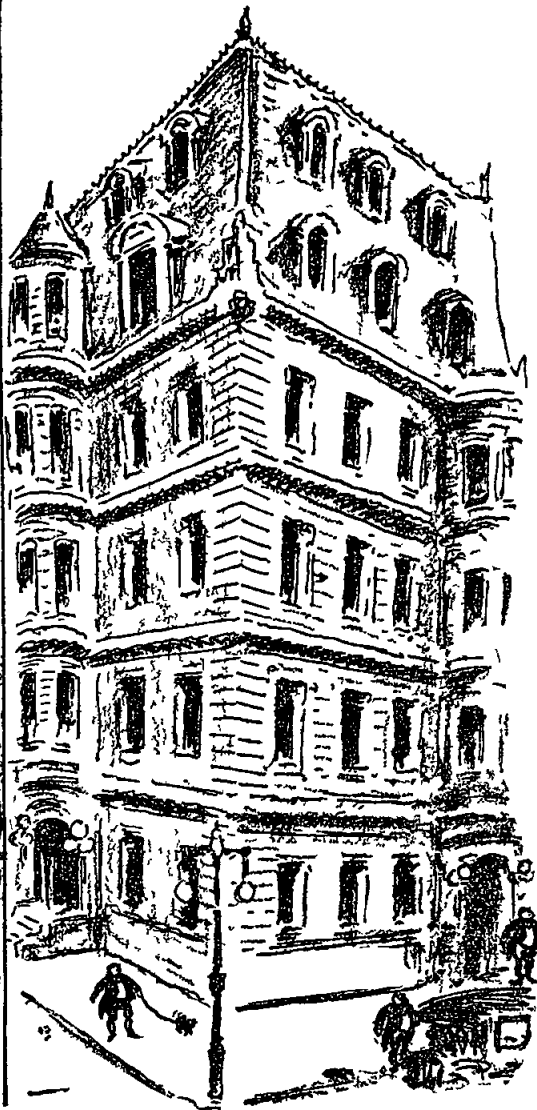


26 Families—80 Children—3 Rooms to a Family

Birth Control Advocate in Office

DR GRACE M NORRIS a pioneer advocate of Birth Control and a ceaseless fighter for justice to women, is coroner of Oneida County, New York, and is said to be the first woman in the United States to hold such an office. Although she had been a resident of the county only a short time when she was nominated by the Republican party, her unselfish services in and out of her profession had so won the hearts of her fellow citizens that her victory was assured.

Dr Norris is not only one of the pioneers of the Birth Control movement in the United States but is one of its most effective workers.



Morris in the New York Mail
1 Family—2 Children—35 Rooms

A Vital Distinction

THAT PARENTHOOD IS the central fact in the theory of the family, none will nowadays dispute, that it should be the only fact, that family and parenthood should be convertible terms, few will admit. And not until these few become many I question if there be any way out of the maze in which our theories of parenthood and of marriage, particularly marriage, are lost. I mean that until marriage and parenthood get into the social conscience as distinct and separable facts, our ethics,—and our conduct—will be uncertain, confused and tragical beyond end.—*Elsie C Parsons*

Great Publications Spread the Truth

ONE MEASURE OF the progress of the Birth Control movement is afforded by the freedom and earnestness with which widely circulated publications of general character now set forth the truths of this movement

Month by month, day by day, these truths are more widely circulated. And as they are more widely circulated, they meet with readier and more general acceptance. It may be said with almost literal truth that the words "Birth Control" are now upon every tongue and in every general, forward looking publication.

Within the past month, to give examples, publications in America whose circulation total runs into the millions have published articles or editorials advocating the basic principles of Birth Control. Only a few of these, perhaps, have come to the notice of the editors of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. Among them is the New York *Globe*, whose readers number, at a conservative estimate, a half million daily.

ON JANUARY 2, this newspaper, which may be characterized as a conservative sort of liberal, published an editorial entitled, "Fewer Babies, Living Longer." After mentioning the campaign of the French militarists for more babies, the *Globe* made the following significant comment:

"The question of the birth rate is one regarding which nearly all the popular notions appear to be wrong when examined in the light of scientific knowledge. Havelock Ellis, famous biologist and psychologist, declares, in an article in *Physical Culture Magazine*, that the outcries we used to hear about the dangers of race suicide were simply absurd. The birth rate is of not the slightest importance except when it is compared with the number of deaths per annum, in order to establish the *survival rate*. How many babies come into the world should not interest us, but how many of them grow up. He shows that a very high birth rate has practically always been accompanied by an equally high death rate, so that the only gain is to the graveyard population.

"In France, for example, which is the stock 'horrible example' of the enthusiasts over big families, the birth rate a hundred years ago was 40 per thousand per annum, and the death rate was almost exactly the same. In a hundred years the birth rate has fallen to less than half that figure, or 19, but the average length of life has doubled, so that the population gains just as fast (ignoring the fluctuations during the war) as it ever did. In England the birth rate has fallen during the period that vital statistics have been kept from 36 to 23, and during the war to 17.8, but the death rate has fallen so much more rapidly that the population still shows a net increase of 1,000 per day.

THE CONTENTION of those who oppose voluntary parenthood that knowledge of Birth Control means race suicide does not seem to be borne out by the facts. Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, and Holland permit and encourage the

dissemination of such information, though similar action in New York is a penitentiary offense, yet Australia and New Zealand are increasing in population faster than any country in the world, with the exception of one part of French Canada. While the Australian birth rate has fallen from 44 to 26, the Australian death rate is only 10, as compared to 14 in England and France. The country where voluntary parenthood is universally practised is growing faster than Russia, where the birth rate is 50, Roumania, where it is 42, Chile or Jamaica, where it is 40. In fact, nature will not be balked, the fundamental instincts of mankind do not permit the existence of the race to be put in jeopardy. The hysterical alarm of those who are ignorant of the facts is needless."

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL of January 15 contained an editorial page feature by Garrett P. Serviss, written for use by the Hearst newspapers and the newspaper clients of the Universal News Service, reaching in all perhaps five or six millions of people, in which Professor Serviss quoted extensively from a fearless utterance on Birth Control by Professor Ellen Hayes of Wellesley College. That an instructor in this thoroughly orthodox educational institution should unequivocally stand for woman's right to her basic freedom is indeed encouraging, and that newspapers and a news service serving millions of Americans should give wide publicity and approval to these utterances is exceedingly fortunate.

Professor Serviss quotes Professor Hayes as puncturing the demand for a packed population in America, and then comes the following:

"'It is the crudest form of collective selfishness,' she goes on, 'for any one generation to act as if it had a final lien on the earth when at best it is only a temporary tenant,' and she quotes somebody's withering sarcasm, 'Few men really care what happens to posterity.'"

"On another aspect of the birth rate question Professor Hayes's words are electric with fervid feeling. 'To cook a thousand meals a year, to make beds and wash dishes a thousand times a year, to bear children—always to bear children, in meekness and resignation, has been held to be woman's lot as ordered by Providence, or, at least, by Nature. What else could a normal woman want to do?'"

"This doctrine, she avers, has survived from savage ages, because 'philosophers, theologians and statesmen, no less than common persons, have failed to perceive that no conclusions based on observations of *unfree* human subjects can safely be drawn regarding what is normal to those subjects.' Now woman is gaining a 'new freedom,' and 'the most notable consequence of the new freedom is that each woman is deciding for herself whether she will marry or not. And in case she does marry, the deciding vote as to the number of children to follow is likely to rest with her.'"

IT IS THE results of this new freedom which Professor Hayes suggests as the great generic cause of a declining birth rate, a phenomenon which, as we have seen, does not alarm her as it alarms statesmen who follow the old Napoleonic doctrine that the most useful woman to the State is the one who is the mother of the greatest number of children

"Anybody can see that the practical fruits of that doctrine must increase the number of wars, and make every war more bloody. It also must increase something which is, in some respects, almost more horrible than war, and that is the congestion of the gigantic modern city. If you want to shudder over the possibilities that they may involve, read H. G. Wells's 'Story of the Days to Come'."

"A satirical philosopher might suggest that the soundest ground on which to base a world's league of peace would be, not limitation of armament but limitation of birth rate. For, after all, is not Professor Hayes right about the ethics of the question? Is it not true that we are behaving very much like unreasoning animals who breed descendants at a faster rate than the means of maintaining life increase? And is it not at this moment painfully evident that the world already, though it is to be hoped only temporarily, has reached a point where its production falls behind the demands made by a rapid rise of the millions to the plane of living formerly occupied only by the thousands?"

After adding a commentary on the fact that the population capacity of the earth, particularly from the standpoint of sustenance, is plainly limited, Professor Serviss makes this pointed observation:

"The great question is whether it is better to leave the restriction of numbers to the rude, unmerciful hand of nature, or to ameliorate the effect by taking control for ourselves."

THE PICTORIAL REVIEW, with its more than a million readers a month, has long exhibited an intelligently friendly attitude toward the women who are asserting the right to limit the size of their families. The February issue, now on the stands, contains a striking article by Eleanor Kinsella McDonnell. It is entitled, "Keeping the Stork in Its Place," and its subtitle is, "How a Woman Opened the Eyes of a Nation." It is the story of the Birth Control movement in Holland with Dr. Aletta Jacobs as the heroine.

Says the writer: "In Holland practically every child is wanted, planned for ahead of its coming, and tenderly cared for after its advent. Fewer children are born, but a greater proportion of them live."

The article is fascinating and instructive in every line. Space forbids long quotations but every reader of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW will find it worth while to obtain a copy of *The Pictorial Review* and read there the account of Dr. Jacobs' victory in the face of social ostracism, the opposition of physicians and midwives, whose incomes were diminished by Birth Control, and learn how, in the end, all these were

brought to understand and to favor the movement which has been of inestimable benefit to Holland.

"With rare forbearance in a government, Dutch officialdom decided to mind its own business," says the writer. "Possibly it had the foresight to interpret the trend world events were taking. Germany was in the full flush of its famous, or infamous, 'Bevolkerungspolitik' (birth politics). As a result of the Prussian Junkerdom's careful fostering of the idea that it was woman's patriotic duty to keep her country well supplied with fighting sons, birth rate statistics were leaping up. From 1871 to 1900 the population in Germany jumped from 41,958,792 to 56,367,178. Already the 'Fatherland' had grown too cramped for its children and Pan German dreams of national expansion and world supremacy had undoubtedly taken shape."

"It is just possible that the leaders of the Dutch nation, which is essentially peace loving despite the war like chapters of its history, were wise in their generation and construed in advance the headlong plunge that awaited the German people at the end of the road they had chosen. At any rate, though the population of Holland took a decided halt as a direct result, it is claimed, of Dr. Jacobs' teachings, she was not spied upon or clapped into jail."

AND AGAIN "THE war has demonstrated more forcibly than all the utterances of economists in the past that it is a good thing for a people to be self supporting, at least as far as the food supply is concerned. Holland had this brought sharply home to her during the great conflict through which she remained a neutral. With many of her ships commandeered by our country and the Allies, and with her imports held down to a minimum on account of the blockade against the Central Empires, she felt the war less than any other neutral, despite the fact that she was in its very theatre, cheek by jowl with Belgium and but a stone's throw from the bloody Meuse. Some people were hungry due to the fact that without her normal quota of imports, Holland had to yield in many cases to Germany's demand for food, because of her dependence on that country for coal. But what was just an uncomfortable pinch for her 6,000,000 people would have been a veritable tragedy for ten or twelve millions, that she might have had."

A Change in Price

BEGINNING WITH THE March number, the price of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW will be advanced from fifteen cents to twenty cents a copy, and from \$1.50 to \$2 a year.

This advance is made necessary by the increasing cost of producing the magazine. THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is a non profitmaking publication devoted to the cause of voluntary motherhood. No individual makes a cent of profit out of it.

All subscriptions received on or before March 1 will be taken at the old rate of \$1.50 a year.

The Child and Charity

By Ellen A Kennan

CHARITY IS NEVER anything more than a palliative measure, it never goes to the seat of the trouble. It always tends to preserve the existing situation, whatever it may be. But what a rare opportunity the charity worker might have to assist the poor mother, overburdened with children! If she dared grasp it! But the law forbids. She must see her charges bringing children into the world that she knows the world would be better without, and she must assist them to do this. The people who maintain charity organizations and pay her salary also control the law making bodies. She may look to the morals of her dependents but she must close her eyes to one of the chief causes of immorality. What could be more conducive to immorality than for a family of thirteen, of eleven, or of ten people to live in three small rooms? What could more effectually destroy self respect and respect for each other? Every year it becomes more difficult for such a family to survive. For every year or two the family income must be stretched to support a new life, and it has already been stretched to the breaking point.

The Jones family is one of many such that I ran across. There are nine children, the oldest sixteen years, the youngest thirteen months, and another baby is expected in a week or two. This family lives in three rooms, four boys sleep in one bed. There is almost no furniture in the house. Mary, twelve years old, is very mature for her age and exceedingly sensitive. She has to care for the children and do the housekeeping. She has acquired the sharp, vulgar tones of her mother, she is rapidly acquiring the deceitful and fawning manners of her mother, the manners that belong to charity dependents.

NEITHER SHE NOR her mother ever address a gentle word to the little ones. The three first born children seem unusually quick and bright, but the fourth child, Fred, has been assigned to the class for defectives. Mrs Jones told me that shortly before his birth the family had been dispossessed, they were thrown upon the street, bag and baggage. The mother suffered much physically and her mental torture was acute, for this was the first eviction. There has been a long series of evictions since then, so many, in fact, that she could tell me almost without emotion that she was expecting a dispossession notice any day, as the landlord had already warned her. One of the younger children has a bad case of erysipelas, the rest look pale and undernourished. Ten years ago this family had to apply for charity—there were only three children then—there are nine now, and they have become permanently dependent and are known as one of the worst "cases." Six babies born since, the family has been a public charge! And another one expected! No provision has been made for the expected baby, neither a doctor nor a nurse. The mother is swollen up double with rheumatism,

the father needs an operation for rupture. The day I was first there, four children had been washed and dressed by their mother to send to the country so that they might recuperate and she might be relieved of their care, as the new baby was expected daily. Before I left they came marching in with long faces, sent back because they had sore eyes. It had been a real effort to get them ready, it was a deep disappointment to the children to lose their visit. Later in the summer the pale, anemic baby, thirteen months old, was to be taken to a nursery in the country. Mary, the twelve-year old, had to get her ready and take her to the place appointed. That very morning Mary ran a nail into her foot, and by the time she got her foot attended to it was too late, the baby too had lost its chance. And so it goes. The whole family is suffering because of the mother's excessive child bearing and the father's meagre wage. When I urged Mrs Jones to ask the nurse or doctor during her coming confinement to give her information as to contraceptives, she said "Oh, what difference does it make *now*! If only somebody had been willing to tell me ten years ago! I tell you, any one else in my place would have poisoned herself long before now!"

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OLD! Five children in less than seven years! The oldest child not yet eight, the youngest a little more than a year old! Not one child well and strong! Leo, the oldest, not yet eight, has already spent a year on St Andrew's Island for trying to choke his baby sister. He's an abnormal child, highly nervous, flies into a temper on the slightest provocation. At school he is in the class for defectives. Max, six years old, is in the kindergarten. He, too, is abnormally nervous. The two boys together make the mother's life almost impossible. In order to talk with me, even for a few moments, she had to bribe them with pennies to go out and play on the street. Any ordinary person in her place would, I think, be driven to murder. (I still marvel at the patience of the poor!) But there are three others still younger. Frances, three and a half, has had a bad eruption on her head for more than a year. Rosie, two and a half, has a bad case of piles. Mollie, the baby, has had boils all over her head ever since she was two months old, and at the time of my visit had summer complaint. Every one of them whines almost constantly. These children are surely a burden heavy enough for any one mother to bear, but this is not the end of her troubles. In addition there is grinding poverty and debt, and as a last final touch at the time I visited the family, the father had been on strike for fifteen weeks! I did not need to ask this mother if she wanted more babies, if she had wanted those she had. Of her own accord she told me how she hated having them, how she had never been given any help by

doctor or nurse, but finally a sister, who is better off, to whom she went for money before the last baby came, in deep disgust at her poverty and much child bearing, got her the desired information. As she told me this she pointed to a little box up on a shelf and said, "I tell you, I'd rather lose my eyes than lose what's in that little box!" I need hardly say what the box contained. A large charity organization has for some time had charge of this "case." But the one thing most urgent neither the charity worker, nor the nurse, nor the doctor dared even suggest to this poor woman—it was a mere accident that she finally discovered it after she had brought five sick, abnormal children into the world.

This mother is not a foreigner—she is an American, born in New York City and is a graduate of a public school. Her mother had fourteen children! No wonder this mother feels it is worth its weight in gold, this little box of hers!

SEVEN CHILDREN IN TEN YEARS! Their ages run twelve, eleven, nine, seven, five, three, two. This would be a high record for a strong woman. Mrs. Silver was never strong, and now she is thoroughly broken in health. Her husband was able to assist her until about a year ago, when he contracted kidney trouble and heart disease. Since then he has spent most of his time in a hospital. While her husband was still able to work, Mrs. Silver acted as janitor in the large apartment house in which they live. Now she goes out cleaning all day and does her work as janitor mornings and evenings, or rather she was doing this till six weeks before the time I talked with her. When I saw her she had just been sent home from the hospital where she had had an operation for abscess on the uterus. Surely not to be won-

dered at when one remembers the seven children in ten years. She lay on the lounge, hopeless and discouraged—she had been trying to attend to her duties as janitor and found she was not equal to the work. Her husband, still sick, has come home from the hospital and had been trying to keep things together while she was away. Now he had gone out to look for work, but nobody wanted a sick man. The seven children had been placed in three different institutions, while their mother was in the hospital, but two had already been sent home, and the others were to be brought home the following day. I asked Mrs. Silver if she had applied to a charity organization for help. She had, she said, and had been receiving help until six months ago, at that time the worker for the charity whose business it was to look after her case, had come to see her and had "hollered" out her errand in such a loud tone of voice that all the other tenants in the house knew why she had come. Mrs. Silver protested, a quarrel followed, and Mrs. Silver told her never to come near her place again. Since then they had been compelled to struggle along without help. Mrs. Silver, weak, exhausted, recovering from a serious operation, her children to be sent home, her husband half sick, no regular income, overwhelmed with debts contracted while she was in the hospital, unable even to do the janitor's work by which the rent was paid, certainly had enough to be anxious about. But there was one more anxiety added to all these. She is only thirty two, the doctor had warned her against future pregnancies. Had the doctor who warned her advised her how to avoid this condition? I asked. "No, he did not. What am I to do?" was her wail. Who will answer this wail?

The Force of the Tide

THE TIDE OF knowledge and constructive idealism sweeps onward, carrying old, vicious, destructive dogmas into the discard. The World's Purity Federation, for instance, is to be congratulated upon having a leadership more nearly in line with modern knowledge and ideals than societies of that type in former days. Its president, Mr. B. S. Steadwell, is particularly to be congratulated upon his recent fearless utterance in *The Light*, the official organ of the federation. He not only goes on record in favor of family limitation, but actually gives in his article information concerning a method which he believes to be safe and natural. He goes even further and declares unequivocally for the right of every person to have full and complete knowledge of that person's body and sexual functions.

It must not be understood, however, that Mr. Steadwell is enthusiastic over other methods of Birth Control advocated by those in the Birth Control movement. He does plainly favor the right of family limitation, however, by his own method. And this, as well as other opinions presented by him, is a far cry in advance of the unenlightened stand of the so called "purity" societies of yesterday.

Here are some excerpts from Mr. Steadwell's article.

"Some may argue that the giving of even this information is a breaking of the law and if it is then the quicker the law is discarded the better, for no legislative body, religious or civil, has any right to establish rules contrary to laws of nature written in man's own body. These laws man should know and obey.

"Every person has a right to know every law of his own body and every fact pertaining to his relations with other people, and to have this information and knowledge in ample time to save from injury or disaster. It is clearly the duty of the state to see that such knowledge is given to all the people or by the state itself.

"In this connection as pertains to the proper age to give sex instruction I like always to think of this rule, 'When a child seeks information on any subject, it is old enough to receive it in a form adapted to its age and powers.' It is a simple but infallible rule, and should a child of itself appear backward in seeking the information, it can easily and safely be led to do so.

" I believe that every normal married pair should bring forth children. I cannot imagine such a pair failing to do so even though they possessed the fullest knowledge as to contraceptive methods.

"But I tell you one 'control' that I believe in and that is that woman should have the sole and full control of her own person at all times both when single and when married and be free from molestation by the state and protected from any forced demand upon the part of husband."

ANOTHER INDICATION OF the force of the rising tide for Birth Control is the attitude taken by John S. Summer, secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. In a recent symposium published in the Pittsburgh *Dispatch* the successor to Anthony Comstock furnished a contribution in which occurred this language:

"Birth Control as distinguished from birth prevention will result from self control. No one exercising self control will bring into the world undesired children. Lack of self control is the source of this inhuman evil."

The tide sweeps on. Those who a few years ago regarded undesired children as blessings now recognize the bringing of them into the world as an "inhuman evil." Fleeing before the storm of scorn and high minded condemnation, they seek to save themselves by admitting the justice of the principles which they have opposed. Judging by present indications, the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice may even yet be forced to go on record against its own creation, that vice-breeding, woman killing provision of the obscenity statutes which makes it a legal offence to impart information concerning contraceptives.

An English Bishop on Birth Control

MANY OF THE clergy both in the United States and England have long been awake to the advantages, moral, mental and physical, of Birth Control. Comparatively few of them, however, owing to a fear of puritanical condemnation, have the courage to speak out. Among those who have come fearlessly to the front for the truth is the famous Dr. Russell Wakefield, Bishop of Birmingham, England. He does not go so far, perhaps, as some of his English colleagues, such as Dean Ince of St. Paul's, but he does not hesitate to point out some truths which are frequently overlooked by opponents of Birth Control.

In an article written especially for the Universal News Service and published widely in the United States, Bishop Russell points out the vital fact that it is more selfish to bring too many children into the world than to have only so many as can be cared for, thus purporting one of the favorite arguments of unthinking churchmen who oppose family limitation.

AMONG THE THINGS the bishop said in his article are these:

"Now let us clear our minds once for all of the idea that restriction of births is a purely selfish action on the part of parents. I admit that there probably are many cases where selfishness on the part of either prospective parent leads to avoidance of children.

"But in my judgment there is far greater selfishness in lack of consideration as to whether children can be well born and suitably environed after birth.

"Many clergymen are finding the difficulties of this subject great indeed. Whereas in former days the clerical home was the one in which there was a large number of children, nowadays statistics tell us that next, I believe, to the doctors in smallness of families come the clergy.

"Restriction is going on, and I believe reluctantly, not only in my own profession, but in the army, where the officer, having to move so frequently, cannot afford to have many children constantly going about from place to place with him. It is going on among the poorer professional men generally, who, finding themselves that it is hard work to live, refuse to condemn a number of their offspring to the same fate. It is going on also among the intelligent working men, who desire to advance their position and that of their children.

I AM CONVINCED THAT the chief factor in the rapidly declining birth rate is a sense of anxiety as to the wherewithal to provide for the children that are born. A realization of the responsibilities of parenthood in these days is being felt on all sides. There are those who still say that large families should be encouraged, but at the present time if a man has a family he cannot get a house to live in, and only, if he has an extraordinary amount of money can be provided for his children.

"Some people urge that you ought to have the spirit of the adventurer in regard to these things, but it is difficult. People today cannot be blamed altogether for not having children.

"I say most emphatically that it is not right that children should be brought carelessly into the world, on the assumption that God will provide for them, if you have not taken all the proper means to see whether you yourself can bring these children up."

The church is beginning to see the advantage, the simple human justice of Birth Control and voluntary motherhood. How long will it be before the state awakes to the criminal stupidity of keeping anti Birth Control statutes upon its books and through those statutes condemning women and children to death or to lifelong misery?

Light for Mexico and South America

ONE OF THE recent important developments in the Birth Control movement is that which is manifesting itself vigorously in Latin America. Every mail brings us, from some country to the south of us, letters of encouragement. These letters give evidence of the fact that independent thinkers have recognized the necessity of woman's freedom as the first step in solving the problems with which the masses are confronted. One man who has been active in behalf of Birth Control in South America writes from a city in Columbia: "Every day that passes away I realize more and more what a great help Birth Control is going to be in the near future. Here in this poor country they need more of that help than any other. People of the lower class here live like pigs. They used to have from six to eighteen children and almost all died before being three years old. If you could look at the statistics in this country you would see that the mortality of children under three years old is awfully high. I saw a report stating that the births in one week had been 128 and the infant mortality 122 among the poor people. This is terrible, Mrs. Sanger, and I wish I could use all my power, money and knowledge to help those poor women of this beloved but unhappy country of mine."

A BIRTH CONTROL GROUP in Colombia is also planning to translate THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW into Spanish for the benefit of the native populations of all Latin American countries. It is needless to say that all available

information concerning contraceptive methods has already been translated and is in circulation.

A group headed by a North American woman in Buenos Ayres has its branch of the movement well under way. Literature is being distributed and a general interest is being aroused.

Coming nearer home, there is also a lively movement in Mexico, with headquarters in the capital city of the republic. In that country, one of the most familiar sights is that of beggar women, mothers of from nine to sixteen children, clustered about the doors of the church, to claim the charity of the worshippers and to divide their gains with the church itself.

To offset this misery, the Birth Control group have translated the literature of the movement into the native language and have distributed it widely. Although the church is opposed to this activity and spares no pains to prohibit it, the present government of Mexico has been liberal enough to refuse to prosecute these workers for humanity. The women of Mexico are moving on toward their freedom. One of the important recent events in the City of Mexico was a feminist conference, which was widely attended and attracted general attention. With women asserting their rights, it will not be long until they claim the fundamental right of controlling their own productive functions.

A new day is dawning for the women of the world and the women of Latin America are claiming their right to the light

A Dutch Scientist Speaks Out

By H. M. Bernelot Moens

[Herman M. Bernelot Moens is a Dutch scientist. He is a professor of zoology and botany, but he has done research in many countries, in embryology, paleontology and anthropology.]

AS A CITIZEN FROM Holland, where we have liberty and free speech, and no hypocrisy and Comstockery, I have been accustomed to discuss and inform others in regard to contraception. Among the intelligent classes generally, it is considered moral to have children when you want them and can bring them up with a chance to be well developed human beings, and immoral to have children when they are not wanted. In every case there should be liberty to have them or not to have them as the parents please.

I have been amazed to find that in the United States the giving of information imposes a fine of \$5,000 and five years in the penitentiary, and I am sure that the best of us Hollanders, if we were in this country, would all be in the penitentiary, especially our physicians and nurses, whose lives would be too short to please the United States authorities, as for the thousands of times they would give information they

would have to serve many times five thousand years in the penitentiary. It is quality and not quantity of children which is desirable. More can be done for quality when the quantity is relatively smaller. The quantities of average human beings who are living, struggling and destroying each other on our planet nowadays is awful. It amazed me in debate to see that even the physicians showed so little information or knowledge on this matter. However, a physician is not always a scientist. A diploma or many diplomas do not always make a scientist. And many of the world's most brilliant men had never diplomas with which to do their work or make their money. Among the many of this class I mention Confucius, Moses, Jesus, Rembrandt and Pasteur.

TO PROVIDE THAT intercourse may not result in conception, I could communicate to you three methods which are absolutely sure, one method that, in ninety nine to one hundred cases, is sure, besides many more or less certain methods, but I will not do it, as the law in this country would put me in the penitentiary, with perhaps the big fine also, even if I did it for philanthropy and used my science for humanity.

(Continued on page 18)

Idiots

By Florence Lucy

FOR A BRIEF but memorable course in modern civilization I commend that human garbage pail, the Children's Hospital on Randall's Island. Here are gathered all grades of feeble minded, from the abject idiot to the merely defective, here is the home of the irredeemably outcast, of those whose absence of mind is permanent and profound.

Visitors are shown with pride a few fine specimens. Mary the hydroceph, whose head is several times too large and whose intelligence is not so far below the average, Benny the cretin, forty four years old, three feet high, leather colored, pleased with pennies, Jimmy the microceph, whose head is not so big round as a fighter's fist, and who at nine years can barely tell his name and age. Of the other classes, epileptics, mongoloids and so forth, there are perhaps less classic examples, but still considerable variety.

More poignant than the isolated monstrosities, though more unheralded, is the pavilion of idiots. These remnants, reduced and soiled (are they ever bathed?), sit about endlessly and forever doing nothing, save for an occasional twitch or cackle. Mostly they are under mosquito netting in summer—advisedly so, since they have not mentality enough to drive off a fly. One woman grinned, moveless and open mouthed, for minutes while a fly paraded on her lips. Two creatures sat side by side, hand in hand, in some sort of dumb communion that was far below the greeting of two dogs. A lump of flesh lay in a wheel chair claspings a hang bag and never moved an eye to follow the visitors. Nor is the pain of parturition less in bring forth an idiot.

IN THE PAVILION of the low grade imbeciles there is at least activity. At this stage of intelligence a little menial work under close supervision is possible, and the high grade imbeciles and the morons work in the fields in summer and at simple handicrafts in winter. Here there is real communication and something approaching human consciousness, but the facial expressions of even the high grade feeble minded range from dull to crafty, with rarely a gleam of that which distinguishes us from our brothers of the field and forest and causes us to walk erect—not even the joyousness of a wholesome animal, merely a strange perverted soddenness or empty galvanic gait not found elsewhere in nature than in man ill born.

MOST PITIFUL, PERHAPS, are the idiot children, with their lives before them—fortunately short lives, as a rule, but hopeless, useless, and consuming the lives of their keepers in unprogressive routine. These babies, crippled for the most part, lie about in beds and chairs and pay no attention to their surroundings. They learn nothing, do nothing, feel nothing unless subjected to extremes of temperature or pain. The little sister of Jimmy the microceph was there,

in worse case than he. Seven, and helpless—crippled, silent, passive, with a head smaller than Jimmy's and less in it. There were ten in that family. The first eight were normal, and some exceptionally bright. Perhaps Jimmy's mother was tired by the time he came. At any rate, the last two are miserable failures—and—are they the last? Or will she go on bearing microcephalic idiots until the Lord chooses to stop sending them?

The absence or diminution of mentality is determined before birth and frequently before conception, for, save in rare cases of pre natal accident, amentia in children follows from feeble mindedness, disease, hunger or fatigue in the parents, or from conception after the rightful age of parenthood. As a cat's last kittens are mercifully drowned, so would the last fruits of many a human marriage be happiest unborn, and many unions be sterile altogether. Against the mute reproaches of the idiot we have only the vociferous procreancy of our first citizens. Which is the louder?

THE FORUM

Under this head THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW will publish comments by its readers upon matter appearing in the magazine. These comments should be brief, so that as many viewpoints as possible may be presented.

The Church and Birth Control

Reading the article on The Greater Crime by M. A. de Ford on page 16 of this month's issue, I came across these words: "so that church and state may keep their grip upon them."

While I think that Mrs. de Ford's article is worthy of thoughtful consideration on the part of the readers, yet it seems to me that she gets somewhat confused when she writes of 'church and state'.

The church at least the Protestant, has always advocated social betterment, and it is today the only institution upon which the New World can solidly stand.

I don't intend to write on Christian Sociology. I am merely saying this because Mrs. de Ford is not discriminating between church and church but rather insinuates that the 'church' favors moral and physical slavery, which is an insult to Christianity.

If we have not open wide our church doors to speakers on Birth Control and have not as a church backed the movement it is not because we want to "keep our grip upon the masses" but because generally speaking, we are still ignorant of Birth Control which, after all, is a new thing.

There was a time when I was opposed to Birth Control and I was sincere in my opposition. A sincere opinion is worthy respect. The church at large has not yet seen Birth Control from the light of "social uplift," and therefore is sincerely opposed to it so much more that Birth Control in the minds of a large majority of Christians, conflicts with their religious convictions. And so it is not so much accusing the church needs as education, with patience, diligence and perseverance. The state needs the same thing.

Alfred D. Aliberti

Biological Reasons for Family Limitation

By Gideon Diedrich

WHY IS THERE SUCH A STRONG conventional opposition in our civilized society to the teaching of Birth Control? Is this orthodox idea that everything pertaining to Birth Control is immoral, unethical, or criminal based upon biological facts or have these been developed in an artificial manner by man himself for a selfish institutional purpose?

In the whole field of biology there is nowhere to be found any natural law or any biologic necessity for a command to multiply and increase in numbers in order that species may be perpetuated. Then why was such a command given only to the human race? The only answer which history can furnish to this question is for the selfish glorification of conquering war lords, and to hide their real purpose they had the command issued through a designing priesthood as being a divine command.

Scientific investigation has now established the fact beyond a shadow of doubt that all forms of reproduction, whether sexual or asexual, are based upon a process of cell division, and that this process of cell division is purely the result of the normal healthy growth of a selfish living unit. There for all that nature requires to perpetuate any living species of plant or animal is to produce a strong, vigorous, healthy life and growth within the *individual*, and then the resulting cell division will always produce sufficient offspring to perpetuate that species. Provided, however, that the species or organization has been maintained in a sufficiently plastic condition so that it can adjust itself to its ever changing environment.

IN THIS PRIMARY REPRODUCTIVE process of cell division there can be no impulse to become a parent, or a desire within the selfish unit to produce offspring for the purpose of perpetuating its species or for any other purpose. We can readily see that in the division of the unicelled organism there can not be any parental care for offspring, as the entire body of what was the parent has been transferred over into what is now two or more offspring.

Now, when unicelled beings organize themselves into complex social colonies, such as all the higher plants and animals represent and such as our own bodies represent, all of the individual bodies are formed through this same productive process of cell division. The parent cell out of which our own bodies developed simply divided into two new cell units, and then these two kept on eating and growing and then divided themselves into four units. This same reproductive process then continued until our whole bodies were formed out of millions and millions of cell offspring from that first parent cell. In all of this there can not be found an implied impulse to become a parent or to perpetuate species.

Next, when such a social colony organism reaches a stage of maturity, a certain per cent of the growing energy must

be expended in vital activity and labor, but this primary reproductive impulse of cell division is ever present within the millions of cell units composing our bodies. And as a result of this dividing impulse, some of the new cells will become separate and make their escape from the parent colony, and as germ cells they then enter upon their separate struggle for existence and seek to develop into new individual colonies. They can do this under proper metabolic or nutritive conditions, whether they are male or female germ cells, for at every cell division each divided half carries with it the entire hereditary power accumulated throughout the entire evolutionary development of its species.

THUS THE ENTIRE REPRODUCTIVE process and perpetuation of species is based entirely upon the individual well being, healthful growth, and vigorous vitality which results in cell division, with no elementary impulse within any individual to become a parent for the purpose of reproducing itself. The parental care for offspring has been developed out of entirely different factors of life than that of a reproductive impulse.

Even sex is not an elementary part of this universal process of reproducing all living beings, as the two sexes have been developed out of the anabolic and catabolic sides of the living process. While sex has become an important secondary factor in the reproduction of all the higher forms of life, yet it is in no sense a primary part of the universal reproductive process of cell division.

Now, when these germ-cells are formed within a mature complex organism through this process of cell division and with no elementary parental impulse of that organism to reproduce itself, they simply endeavor to make their escape from that parent as independent living beings. In the entire vegetable world and in nearly all marine animals the parent organisms pay no further attention to their potential offspring after they have escaped into the surrounding medium of air or water except the germ food provided within the egg, roots and seeds, by the mother nature of life.

IN OVER ONE HALF OF ALL LIVING species there is not even a copulating association developed between parent organisms to bring the male and female germ cells together within the sphere of each other's attractive influence, but in all such cases the germ cells must simply take their chances of ever finding a fertilizing mate, depending entirely upon the currents of water or air, or the feet of insects. If there is a primary parental impulse within the reproductive process to perpetuate species, why was no provision made in all such cases, to bring the male and female germ cells together within the sphere of each other's attractive influence, as it is done in those species where a copulating association has been developed?

The first distinct copulating association between parent organisms is only found in the higher marine animals and land animals, and in all other species the ripe germ cells simply escape into the surrounding medium without any further parental care bestowed upon them. Even our own aquatic ancestors followed the same habit before a distinct copulating association was developed within the human species.

From these facts it is clearly evident that this copulating association which we find in the higher forms of animal life has not been developed out of a primary reproductive impulse or of an elementary desire in any living being to reproduce itself for the purpose of perpetuating species or races of man. That a distinct copulating association between parent organisms has only been developed at such a late stage in the evolution of life also makes it clearly evident that its development must have been caused by some powerful attractive force within the selfish individual to draw the male and female parents together into such an association. Understanding what this force is will enable us to clearly understand the nature of sex attraction and sex passion.

HOWEVER, IT IS NOT the purpose of this article to enter into a detailed analysis of this force, and it will here only be necessary to state that the copulating association and the hereditary impulse thereto, has been developed out of, and is entirely caused by the *rejuvenescens effect*, or a *rebalancing* of the metabolic living process within the selfish individual living being.

It was during the historical playful associations of ego living units that they soon realized the rejuvenating, rebalancing, catalytic effect upon themselves by coming in close contact with each other. This effect was always greater when ripe germ cells were forming, especially between a distinct male and female organism, therefore they prolonged a contact association, pressing the orifices of the germ ducts together, which act finally developed into an hereditary copulating impulse.

Thus sex attraction and sex expression between the male and female is based entirely upon the rejuvenating effect which it has upon themselves, and in no sense an outgrowth or an elementary part of the reproductive process of cell division. It was, however, only through the development of a copulating association that the higher forms of life could have been evolved, and it was also through this fact that the order of mammals could have been developed.

The mammalia branch of animals has simply resulted from the fact that before some germ-cells make their escape from the parent colony, they start their individual evolution, and in their struggle for food they cling to their mothers' tissues as being the very best feeding ground which they could find. To the mother's tissues they attach themselves, simply as parasites, and feed from her until their own organization is sufficiently developed to obtain their food from other sources. The point to which the developing embryos attach themselves in the germ duct is then developed into a *mother's womb*, the most sacred and holy place on the face of the earth.

IT WAS NOT AS AN ELEMENTARY part of a reproductive process to perpetuate species, that mother's womb was formed, but purely through the parasitic habit of mammal embryos attaching themselves to mother's tissues as being the best feeding ground they can find. Therefore no human being, no human society has any moral, ethical, or biological right to dictate to a *mother* when and how often she shall allow a parasitic embryo to feed in her womb. Over this sacred and holy place mother alone has the right to dictate by all the laws and rights of heaven and earth.

A parental care for offspring has been primarily developed out of the anabolic mother side of the living process, but at later stage of evolution, social factors enter into the care for offspring. It is the mother nature of life which allows the accumulation of germ food within the seeds and roots of plants, and within the egg, womb and mammary glands of animals, and this is the very first assistance which a struggling offspring receives from a parent.

And it is always mother who is the first to extend a helping hand, she is the first to bandage the wound and bring comfort and cheer to an aching heart, and it is only through Mother that all the civilizing and humanizing influences have been brought into the world.

Then why should not Mother have complete control over this nest home as well as over her womb, and bring forth offspring when she so desires and when the nest home is prepared and when society is ready to take care of those offspring and not allow them to be ground to pieces in wars of conquest and commercial exploitation?

Restriction of Birth Rate

Speaking of the birth rate, E. B. Ross, in "Western Civilization and the Birth Rate," says "Restriction is a movement at bottom salutary, and the doubted evils in its train appear to be minor, or transient or self limiting or curable. I shall have against me mystics, clerics, a priori moralists, sentimentalists, aesthetes, militarists, capitalists, and politicians, but nevertheless I take my stand with those who hate famine—war, saber tooth competition, class antagonism, degradation of the masses, wasting of children, dwarfing of women, and cheapening of men."

Dutch Scientist Speaks Out

(Continued from page 15)

tarian purposes. It would interest me to know how many of the 110,000,000 inhabitants of this country would like to have this information and based on what reasons. Personally I hope that this law will disappear. Such laws, which I consider a crime against humanity, should never have been made. The lawmakers should have had higher intelligence and nobler character.

Birth Control is the most important factor for the improvement of conditions, and it is the root of evolution for humanity. Let Birth Control therefore be free to help humanity in developing the perfect man.

Self-Determination for Women

By Genevieve Grandcourt

NOT LONG SINCE a man of marked ineffectiveness remarked in my hearing that he thanked God he came from a part of the country where women are women and men are men, and that he would ever withhold his approval of equal rights for women on the ground that its consequence must be to make men effeminate! I was, thereupon, irresistibly reminded of manly men not haunted by such fears.

It would appear that the terms "masculine" and "feminine" often lead to a confusion of ideas.

Down the ages has come the warning that it was when Rome grew "effeminate and ease loving" (as if, forsooth, the terms were associated, if not interchangeable) that the Barbarians swept down upon her and conquered her. But now that the descendants of these same "barbarians"—developing along lines directly contrary to those supposedly responsible for the downfall of the Roman Empire—have demonstrated the futility also of the ultra masculine point of view, we see no particular evidence of the lesson striking home that what the world needs is neither the one nor the other, by itself, but the mean lying between these opposite extremes.

The root of the trouble, as in the contest between privilege and equality in other fields, is perhaps to be found in moral inertia. We are told that "nature has ordained" this or that, as if evolution does not by the very essence of itself consist in the modification of what we are pleased to call "nature." Sex antagonism is flippantly assigned to the existence of fundamental sex differences, and, by implication, such antagonism can be adjusted only by the submission (inevitably hypocritical) of the sex more physically feeble. Also, now and then, an author boldly blazons forth that the male is, first and foremost, dominated by sex, but that this is not so with the normal female, in her, the sex urge is counteracted by her sense of responsibility to the young.

HERE IS A direct acknowledgement that the male, in general, recognizes no duty to make the world into which his offspring are born, a decent place to live in—after the essentially female instincts "concerned with the *cares* of offspring" have served their turn. Apparently, from this point of view, it is entirely reasonable and proper to let the young males once in no further need of maternal care, run riot in the gratification of the sexual appetite, the young females merely biding the time when they can fulfill their allotted mission in coddling future generations, to round the same circle! It is needless to enlarge on the fact that if all men had at all times acted up to this credo, the world would fall to pieces of its own corruption.

Yet it is logic of this sort that is constantly dished up to women, creating sex antagonism. Sex antagonism is here in women for the same reason that class antagonism is here for all, and for no other reason whatever than from an awakened

sense of justice. If there is sex antagonism also in men, it is due to a reaction from conditions he is himself responsible for because of his blindness to the possibilities of a higher faith in humanity, through freedom.

So far from any of his rights being curtailed by woman's participation in the development of a brighter and better world, he should be stimulated to excel her, and thereby establish (if, perchance, it can be established) that physical strength is a more important factor in the world's progress than, in the light of recent events, many of us are disposed to think. For my part, I do not see in the friendly rivalry of the sexes anything but promise of a better understanding. Men will assuredly not deteriorate by learning to know woman as something else than a more or less perfect mirror of their own conception of her. As for the rest, so long as woman goes bravely down into the valley of the shadow of death to give the world its sons and daughters, man will inherit something of her valor, since, our one-sided laws notwithstanding, motherhood is, even now, voluntary among the class that can afford to pay for the information.

THE GIST OF the matter as regards woman, is that she is unutterably weary of being humbugged by men, and is now playing a part on her own account. She knows perfectly well, from the lessons of history, from what she sees about her in the world and within the four walls of her home, that what men value in women or, at any rate, what they seek in practice, is not virtue *per se* but convenience, safety, and above all "a good time." If love fits into the combination, so much the better, of course.

And it has been through the selfishness of some men, not less than through the helplessness of others, that economic pressure has driven woman out into the world. There she has learned the price that woman pays for virtue, not less than the price she pays for vice. She sees no future for herself, her children or the race unless she can somehow assist actively in reconstructing the social edifice men have made such a mess of in the rearing. She is aware of certain surrendered privileges, but they are not worth the price she has paid for them. She feels, moreover, that if man's chivalry has a string to it, she will manage (though not so comfortably) to do without it.

The results of this attitude are bound, in time, to be far reaching. We are warned that it will revolutionize society. We hope it may.

FOR, IT MAY be asked in all seriousness, whether men in general are satisfied with things as they are at present constituted. From the illiterate pauper who sees his daughter debauched and sold into a worse fate than chattel slavery,

(Continued on page 23)

Hard Facts

(Leaves from a Nurse's Notebook)

BECKIE M—36 years old, married 12 years
8 living children,

2 miscarriages (1 self induced)

This patient developed heart disease when 4th child was born

This condition was aggravated during pregnancy and confinement Her recovery was slow

When patient applied to Hospital for medical care, she was in a very serious condition (Convalescing after many weeks of illness due to self induced abortion)

She was brought to the hospital by a friend who had two years previously been ill with pneumonia and who had been sent away for convalescent care

This woman brought her friend to me as I was a nurse and surely could tell her friend how not to have any more babies

"Look at her now!" she said When she found she was pregnant,—had taken some pills, had nearly lost her life and was still very ill The home was all broken up Two children were with relatives in Pennsylvania Two with relatives in Jersey Two were being paid for in a children's shelter The husband had a room with oldest boy in a boarding house

The applicant for aid had the youngest child with her and was living with a cousin

"Please could I not have a doctor tell her what to do to take care for herself?"

I had to tell this mother again (as so many others who come) that we could not tell her as we had no clinics for such instructions

But the patient was admitted to the hospital for treatment Her cardiac condition was serious But here again came the injustice After many, many weeks of convalescent care and the partially re established of the home, this patient was allowed to return home physically unfit to bring another child into the world, and yet had to go on living in constant dread of becoming pregnant again

Upon leaving the hospital, the doctor reported to me that it would be just as well if the family were not reunited, as the woman would never be able to go through with another pregnancy

I asked him was it fair for us to let her go home again and not give her some instruction

He replied "No one would be more pleased than I to see clinics established to give just such patients proper instructions in safe guarding themselves from further child bearing"

In the meantime he was "sorry the patient must struggle on"

Husband earned \$20—25 weekly average, deeply in debt owing to so much illness

ELLA R—40 years
7 living children

Patient did not want any more children as life was such a struggle—the family now larger than she could properly take care of and she wanted to give the children a good education She did not want them to struggle as she and her husband had always done against uneven odds

She said she had induced abortions twice previously and all had gone well She did not know why she should be so ill this time

As in so many cases where these overburdened mothers resort to any means to escape having the unwanted child and heavier burden—there are so many times, as in this case, the fatal "once too often" and a home of motherless children

This patient surely had done her duty toward the state and society She had had 7 children and the odds were all against her

It would seem that she should have had the right to request relief for herself, and the hope of a decent future for her children But no one would help her, and so the poor woman died What will become of the children? That is the crucial question

RECENTLY a nurse came to me in great distress Could not something be done? Reported a case that had been brought to her notice to be placed under observation for medical care

The patient was very much depressed This was her history She told the nurse that both she and her husband had been in a Sanitarium for the Insane for some months—had been discharged about six months ago and still reported monthly to the clinic

They had four children all under institutional care

She told the nurse the reason she felt so sick was because she was pregnant again, and in her 5th month, and was terribly nervous Is it fair to the unborn child to be brought into the world under these circumstances?

Prevention or Abortion?

AN ABORTION IS always dangerous—there is always a risk involved—it is always a strain on the nervous system It is an expensive operation Why force women to have recourse to such means, when there are plenty of cheap harmless preventives that a woman might make use of, if only some one would teach her how? The more intelligent the mother, the more likely she is to resort to abortion, for every instant in her tells her that it is wrong to bring defective children into the world

Mrs X is one of these intelligent mothers, a mother who wants fine babies or none Mr X earns \$40 a week as an operator, when employed, but is unemployed several months a year as his trade is a seasonal one The last two years he

has had stomach trouble and has been compelled to spend many more weeks idle than formerly Mrs X is janitor for a large tenement house She has five children, all are sick, all are very nervous, one is in the class for defectives She has rheumatism when she is pregnant, her legs and feet swell up almost double Her mother had this same trouble She and her husband did not want the last baby, they had managed to get, from a friend, some sort of information as to how to avoid conception, but the method suggested was not a safe one, it failed, there was an "accident" Mrs X was beside herself, she did everything she knew to cause an abortion, worked hard, lifted heavy weights and finally tried to kill herself All in vain! The baby came, sick and nervous like the others Mrs X is just thirty years old It does not require much imagination to prophecy what will happen when she is "caught" again!

MRS M IS ANOTHER intelligent mother who realizes how wicked it is to go on having weak and defective babies She looks like a hunch back, but she tells me her deformity was caused by a dislocated arm which was never set Mr M works in a barber shop and earns from \$15 to \$20 a week, and Mrs M takes in sewing She is 33 years old and has had five children Their ages run 11, 10, 8, 7, 5 When she found herself pregnant again two years ago, she was determined not to bear another child She could not do justice to those she had One child was already in the class for defectives She tried anything, everything, she found a way But the doctor who was called in began to question her, he was not inclined to aid her, if she had been guilty of bringing on an abortion intentionally She lied like a major, insisted it was a miscarriage brought on by lifting He cuffed her What will Mrs M do the next time? She may not survive a second such experience Then what of the five children she leaves behind?

Quality or Quantity?

I HAVE RECENTLY read many newspapers deploring the "alarming fall" in the birth rate, the "disquieting figures" of the recent returns This constant, insensate crying out for more children, and more children reminds me of a little boy who was the wonder and amazement of a ship full of people with whom I went to Australia He ate his dinner—went up on deck for a few moments, looking rather white and ill Then he came down and had another dinner—a process which was repeated until, as he hopefully put it to me, "one dinner stayed!"

People don't seem to care how many deaths they get, but they must have births, births that come to nothing, or that litter the world with invalids or deficients They can't see that this limited birth rate is a wise provision of something that seems to me to be above Nature Nature, left to herself, is prodigal, she likes births—revels in them! She makes tropical forests, she makes vegetation that must outgrow and kill other vegetation in order to find room for itself She makes

animal life that has to prey on other animal life in order to find itself breathing space She has always been breeding more things than she could feed, things "red in tooth and claw" that have had to scramble over each other for a place in the sun, have had to make a meal of each other

And now—well, it seems to me that God, or Humanity is up against this old waster—is taking her in hand at last, and making her less dissipated Can anyone imagine more consummate folly than, in a besieged city, starting a prize scheme to reward child birth?

THE WHOLE WORLD is in siege today and has been for many years Roughly speaking, three quarters of the world's food and comforts are in the hands of one tenth of the people The remaining nine tenths live on the one quarter For five years universal energy has been utterly unproductive—and now there are more mouths in the world than the world's larder can fill, even if distribution were arranged more evenly Hence we get unwanted children!

Surely it is better to have no children at all than unwanted ones! Let anyone who doesn't think so come to a children's home and hear what has happened to unwanted children, the babies of prodigality, lust, or haphazardness, little children starved and frozen, unloved and unloved little children beaten and ill treated, with uncleanness for their bed mate, horror their playfellow Let him hear the thousand excuses given to Inquiry Officers as to why we should take these unwanted little ones!

A widow, crushed, hungry, beat to the earth with her struggle, will say, "I have seven If you could take three or four I might manage I can get a bit of charring, a bit of needle work Only things are such a price now—and such rubbish! I have to work for days for a pair of boots for one of them, and they don't last any time! And where's the food to come from?"

A woman, lying in bed, dying at 40 because her body has been worn to death with many child bearings, constant labor, poor food, damnable housing, said to me pitifully, but almost uncomplainingly

HE'S ALWAYS DRUNK He gives me a few dollars at a time, but nothing to depend on! And there's eight of them to feed and clothe! They're getting like little savages while I lie here If they come in and there's nothing to eat, they up with the tea cups, or a shovel of coals, and throw them at me They used to be nice children, but it's seeing the way he goes on! Oh, please, please take them away to the Homes with you! They're savages now When I'm gone and he has them to himself, they'll be devils!"

So it goes on, little starved, hounded mites, born haphazard, growing up unwanted Some of them survive by sheer fighting, some come to homes of various sorts, many—very many—die, many become criminals After all, what is Nature up to? Has she a plan at all, or is she just a disreputable old woman? Can there be good in this—a little life history which keeps me awake at nights some times? Was this thing necessary for these little children?

Don't let us deplore the fact that we're getting Nature in hand Let us help her to select, to improve, to cease this canibalistic feeding on her young

"You shut yourselves within your park walls and garden gates, and you are content to know there is beyond them a whole world in wilderness, a world of secrets which you dare not penetrate, and of suffering which you dare not conceive"

Meetings of the Month

The most striking feature of last month's activities for Birth Control were the large number of small meetings held at private homes, at which Mrs Sanger was the speaker More than a dozen of these were held, and because the gatherings were small and attended, usually, by women only, it was possible to discuss the subject thoroughly from all angles The meetings were attended by women representing the intelligent thought of the country—women active in social, charitable and similar undertakings

On January 21, Mrs Sanger was the speaker at a dinner at the Gamut Club, at which Mary Shaw was chairman Another address was given under the auspices of the Women's Council of Yonkers at the Women's Institute, on January 22 On January 23, a benefit was given by the Provincetown Players for THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Mrs Frank Cothren was chairman

The meetings at private homes are being continued, and with the public meetings take up nearly all of Mrs Sanger's speaking time until March 15 with dates in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the state of New Jersey and nearby territory One of the notable meetings to be held at a distance, is that arranged for March 1 in a theatre in Raleigh, N C The constant demand for Birth Control meetings is one of the unmistakable indications of the unceasing growth of interest in the movement

Contrary to Reason

"A man's children are not really sent, any more than the pictures on his wall, or the horses in his stable are sent, and to bring people into the world, when one cannot afford to keep them and oneself decently and not too precariously, is by no means an accomplishment of the divine will or a fulfillment of Nature's simplest laws, but is—contrary to reason and the will of God"—*Matthew Arnold*

Book Reviews

THE IRON CITY By M H Hedges Published by Boni and Liveright, New York

In his first novel, "The Iron City," M H Hedges has gone far toward living up to the purpose which he declares in his preface "I have endeavored," he says "to depict the unspiritual side of American life in the hope that when the details of the picture are assembled, we shall see how far we have departed from our great tradition, and how at variance we are to our unconscious life"

The story is that of a thriving industrial metropolis in the Middle West in which the interplay of rival tendencies in American life is concretely illustrated by the complete domination of the city's industries over the church, press and college of 'Iron City' Of particular interest to readers of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW are those

dramatic portions of the work dealing with the dismissal of a woman teacher from a coeducational institution because she distributed pamphlets on Birth Control A teacher in the best sense, she had sought to make her work of the utmost social value, and therefore instructed workers in Iron City factories how to keep the size of their families down to a point where their wages would afford a decent livelihood The scene of her dismissal is one of the illuminating features of the novel

'Iron City' is a relief from the flood of "jazz" romances and "nut sundae" problem novels It gives real promise for the future work and human service of Mr Hedges

THE DANCE OF SIVA Fourteen Indian Essays By Ananda Coomaraswamy Sunwise Turn, 2 East 31st St N Y C 139 pp 27 plates \$3 00

This fascinating group of fourteen essays on Indian conditions and Hindu conceptions of the character of the Creative Self includes two studies that should not be missed by anyone interested in voluntary motherhood feminism, and general sex problems One of these is a survey of the status of Indian women that is a strong study of the effect of industrialism on woman The way to escape that he outlines seems to us a road leading still deeper downward but his attack on things as they are in the West is none the weaker for that, and there is only too much tragic truth in his statement that "the organization of society for competition and exploitation has made possible for the few, and only the very few, more physical comfort and greater security of life, but even these it has robbed of all poise, of the power to walk or to dress or to marry wisely, or to desire children or lovers or to believe in any power not legally exteriorised"

The other essay is of still intenser interest and profounder importance It is on Sahaja expressing the spiritual significance of sexual love where each is both and explaining how the realization of this significance comes only through a long ritual of wooing renunciation of reproduction a sexual relation not forced by mere physical tension, but in which both are satisfied and have found a full fruition of flesh in spirit

Ralph Cheyney

SEX LORE A Primer on Courtship Marriage and Parenthood By Mrs S Herbert Macmillan Co N Y C 143 pp \$3 00

This is a frank straightforward survey of the physiological facts and the folk ways of courtship marriage and parenthood It is definitely prepared for young people It is direct detailed and full of facts Crammed with information yet carefully avoiding technicalities it tells of the sex structure of the chief forms of life and traces courtship mating and reproduction all way up the ladder of evolution from the simplest of animals through savage society to the most modern and sophisticated civilization Its complete freedom from sermonizing makes it an outstanding and pleasant relief from most sex treatises intended for the adolescent But, unfortunately, sex psychology as well as pathology is not explained and many of the most bewildering sex problems that beset the path of youth are not even touched upon Chief and most conspicuous of the questions it seems to us a book of this nature should attempt to answer certainly chief and most conspicuous of the questions that confront boys and girls between puberty and marriage *How shall I appease my sex hunger?* is ignored by "Sex Lore" Eugenics, which to the author mean to prevent the unfit from perpetuating their kind, is praised, and the scrubwoman who boasted "I surely ought to know all about children for I've had ten and buried eight" is blamed but no mention is made of Birth Control Still it calls itself only a primer and as such it is distinctly intended to stimulate rather than satisfy curiosity As an introduction to the study of sex we heartily recommend it

The fifty five illustrations which include a number of full page photographs, are so interesting and illuminating that they deserve a paragraph to themselves They alone would make the book well worth buying Nobody could look at these pictures of various types of animal and human life without being convinced of the Oneness of Life, despite all its diversity

Ralph Cheyney

Self-Determination for Women

(Continued from page 19)

from the poor wage earner who beholds the blithe girl he married transformed into a vixen by the cares of too frequent motherhood, or aged before her time by privation, to the man "higher up" looking cynically upon the marriage market and its abominable bargains, of which, in all probability he is or will be, a victim—is anyone who *can think*, happy with things as they are?

We are told, some times, "But it is life, it has always been so, more or less, it must always be. It is God's will."

For myself, I would answer as Romolo answered Savonarola 'I don't believe it! God's law is something wider else let me stand outside it with those I love'."

To Our Readers

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW cannot publish information as to contraceptives because it is unlawful, in this country, to give such information

One of the objects of this magazine is to show why such laws are obsolete, pernicious and injurious to the individual, the community and the race

These laws must be changed. Read THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and you will understand why

Woman: Her Sex and Love Life FOR MEN AND WOMEN

By WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M. D.

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