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By Professor E. A. Ross

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THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

DEDICATED TO VOLUNTARY MOTHERHOOD

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

VOL. IV

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1920

No 3

Has Suffrage Reached Its Goal?

THE RECENT CELEBRATION of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony brings to mind the lofty ideals of that courageous champion of the rights of women, and causes one to wonder whether women, now that they are in politics, will hold fast to such ideals or will permit themselves to be submerged in the selfish and futile stream, to become part and parcel of the thing that masculine politics always has been and now is.

Women are being assiduously courted by all parties. They are being led up into the mountains of political influence, tempted with office and with high places in the party organizations. Many of them are already playing politics in the old way—swapping influence for personal preferment and serving this selfish interest or that for the usual mess of pottage. Such women are becoming cogs in the old, worn out political machines, which, *without their aid*, would pass away, giving way to better agencies of social development.

WILL WOMEN ONCE MORE permit themselves to be subjected to purely masculine uses? Will they once more surrender the expression of their inner selves? Will they lend themselves to the perpetuation of old evils they denounced from the platform and in the press?

Or will they strive to live up to the ideals which they expressed when they were fighting for suffrage? Will they preserve the spirit of Susan B. Anthony and other great leaders of the battle for the ballot? Will they use their intuitive powers to dig deep into evils of the day, cut at their roots, and have done with them? Will they use these same powers to build up new and better systems in the place of the old? Will they go at the work of reconstruction with courage and with vision?

THUS FAR THE SYMPTOMS have not been encouraging. Suffrage has not as yet lived up to the promises made for it. It was recently pointed out to us in an argument before the Supreme Court of the United States, that in none of those states where women have for years had the ballot, has there been any attempt to amend or repeal the laws against Birth Control. No effort has been made by women for the relief of the overburdened wives of farmers, tenant farmers and miners. Largely owing to these vicious, dark age laws, women have been condemned to go on bearing unwanted children, ruining their own health and happiness and handing down to posterity a heritage of weakness and misery.

We promised when we sought the ballot that we would make use of it to apply fundamental remedies to the evils which exist all about us. We said that we would sweep our country clean of such evils. Now that the ballot has been placed in our hands, even those who are most active in politics seem to have forgotten this promise. Most of them can be active only by virtue of the fact that they have practiced Birth Control. They have only to look within themselves to realize that this is woman's basic need—the means to her fundamental freedom. Yet, the statutes remain unchanged, and in those states where suffrage is oldest, there has been not a single effort to dispose of these barriers to woman's most important right.

Will this attitude continue? Will woman once more forget her own needs, and the most vital needs of society, to play a man's game in a man's way? If the women active in politics go on in the old way, their overburdened sisters can not look to them for the restoration of their fundamental rights. They cannot fulfill their promise to make a better world, until those rights have been restored.

Put Your House in Order

By Margaret Sanger

THE WOMAN WHO READS the interview with Mr. R. C. Martens in this number and who ponders carefully its significance can hardly be in doubt as to her duty to the race and to the nation during the next five years.

Europe is already beginning to starve, and panic is imminent in the United States. Unless Mr. Martens and others almost equally well informed are in error, our people will at some time within the next two or three years feel the pinch of hunger as they have never felt it before.

The only way to meet this crisis is to cease to bring forth more mouths to be fed. Women must put the national house in order. They must stop bearing children until there is more assurance of peace within and without the country—until there is a better prospect that their children will not suffer for the necessities of life. Any other course is sheer folly.

Some of the women of America, at least, have awakened to the wisdom of this course. For the most part, these women have been such as have been closely in touch with the inner workings of our industrial and financial systems. These have recognized at once the necessity of making ready to

meet the disaster which the world is facing. Men, too, have come forward to approve the suggestion that no more children be borne until the world is in a more settled condition. And almost without exception these have been men who are better informed than the average—men who know the courses of the basic currents of our national life.

THAT THE WORLD'S present condition of shipwreck is due largely to surplus population is plainly indicated not only by what Mr. Martens has to say, but even more plainly by the observations of others, notably Frank A. Vanderlip, one of the foremost of American financiers. In a copyrighted interview with the United Press, February 6, Mr. Vanderlip said: "Just now the people of Austria and other Central European countries are exhausted and dying of starvation." In other words, the great crash is here, so far as Central Europe is concerned.

And again: "The present situation was evident a year ago. But the people who made the peace treaty paid no attention to economic data. They had not taken into consideration the fact that the populations of Europe, under the influence of an industrial age, had grown to far larger numbers than Europe's fields can feed."

Not only Europe, but the world as a whole, has more people than it can feed under the present system of production and distribution. In the face of this fact, so amply and terribly substantiated, it is not only a mistake but a crime to bring another child into being until conditions improve.

Masculine statesmanship, commercial policy, and industrial management have wholly failed to cope with the problem. The all but hopeless case must be taken in hand by the women if we are to avoid the supreme catastrophe. The one sensible, humane and wise thing to do in the face of increasing disorganization of the world's productive and distributive machinery is to curtail the number of those who are to suffer and to starve.

A Notable Contribution

VERY FEW AMERICANS understand the population question as well as Professor E. A. Ross, whose article is the leading feature of this month's issue. Professor Ross's contribution assumes additional importance when it is known that it is one of the key chapters of his forthcoming book, "The Principles of Sociology."

This thinker stands so high in his sphere that a book from his pen is welcomed as an event in the history of the development of social science. Whatever he has to say is eagerly read wherever men give broad consideration to social problems.

Being an economist as well as a leader in the formulation of the science of sociology, Professor Ross is one of those pioneer investigators who has contributed for many years to the fundamental thought of the Birth Control movement not only in the United States, but in England.

For Eugenists

IT is with great pleasure that the editors announce an article by Henri Bergen, Ph. D., on "Eugenics and The Social Problem," in two installments, to begin in the April number.

Mr. Bergen's contribution is a profound study of his subject from the thorough standpoint of the biologist. Those readers of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, who are interested in Eugenics and who wish to go deeply into the subject will find that Mr. Bergen has presented a penetrating, impartial analysis of the case, such as would be difficult to find elsewhere in such clear and condensed form. The editors consider this study so important that they take this means of calling attention to it and of urging those readers who are interested in Eugenics from a scientific standpoint to give it careful consideration.

A Court Victory

As THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW goes to press, word comes that the case of George Swazey, convicted of disorderly conduct for advocating at a street meeting the repeal of the laws against imparting information concerning contraceptives, has been reversed by the Court of General Sessions.

Mr. Swazey was fined \$50, with an alternative of serving 10 days in jail, by Magistrate Charles T. Harris, on August 15. The Court of General Sessions, in an opinion by Judge William H. Wadhams, held that Birth Control advocates are within their rights in advocating the repeal of the laws in street meetings.

Virtue is more dangerous than vice because its excuses are not subject to the restraint of conscience.—*French Proverb*

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The Growth of Population

By Edward A. Ross

Edward A. Ross, professor of sociology in the University of Wisconsin and author of many sociological works, is recognized as an authority on sociology throughout the world. It is significant that he was one of the earliest scientists in the United States to advocate Birth Control. It is also of interest to recall that this advocate of family limitation, and not Theodore Roosevelt, is the inventor of the term "race suicide."

ASIDE from migration, the increase of population depends on the margin by which births exceed deaths. Formerly these were largely "natural" phenomena, with which the human will had little to do. Population growth was an uncontrollable matter like weather, which set the student of society no problems because there was no way by which he could influence it. In the course of forty years, however, certain forces have come into play among the advanced peoples which have greatly affected both birth rate and death rate. The sociologist has good reason, therefore, to grapple with "the population question."

THE SENSATIONAL LOWERING OF THE DEATH RATE

Owing to the great advances in medical science and the arts of healing and surgery, the better education of physicians, improved public sanitation, the greater enlightenment of people in hygienic matters, the rising plane of comfort and the smaller proportion of infants in the population, the advanced peoples cut down their mortality from a quarter to as much as two fifths in the third of a century before the outbreak of the World War.

The reduction of the mortality during the first years of life has, indeed, been sensational. The first census taken by the Japanese in Formosa indicated that the Chinese there lose one half their children before they are six months old. Some years ago regularly a third of the Russian babies and a fourth of the Bavarian babies failed to live as long as one year. On the other hand, in the best Scandinavian or American communities not more than one infant in twenty fails to survive the first year, and in New Zealand, where the baby saving campaign has been pushed farther than anywhere else, there are cities which lose but one infant in 26¹.

BABY SAVING, besides preserving many sound constitutions, enables some of inferior stamina to reach maturity, so that the very success in conserving lives, adds to the difficulty of reducing the mortality of older lives. Moreover, there is no doubt that individuals are enabled to survive and reproduce themselves who transmit to their children a poorer physical inheritance than was found among those who grew up before the art of infant saving was so advanced.

Compare, for example, America and China in respect to natural selection. Out of ten children born in America at

least seven reach maturity. Out of the same number born in China, only two grow up. The Chinese lose the three weakest just as we do but in addition they lose five more who can survive under American conditions but not under Chinese conditions. If at birth the white infants and the yellow infants are equal in stamina, the two Chinese who grow up ought to possess greater strength of constitution than the seven whites who grow up. As parents the latter cannot be expected to transmit as valuable a physical heredity as the former, so that in respect to toughness of physique the people with the less searching and relentless elimination of the weaker infants, is at a disadvantage. The proper moral to draw from this is not to relax our efforts to prolong life, but to apply the principles of eugenics to reproduction.

HOW FAST CAN POPULATION GROW?

The greatest fecundity of which we have statistical measurement is to be found in Russia, British India, and French Canada. Whole populations here show an average of 50 births per thousand annually, while there are communities in which the birth rate is 55 or even 60. Now the lowest mortality possible in a population containing so large a proportion of young lives is 25 or 30 per thousand. So that the maximum rate of increase of man under the most favorable conditions is about 3 per cent yearly. This means that the population doubles in about 25 years or expands in a century to sixteen times its original volume.

MALTHUS' DISCOVERY

A CENTURY ago Robert Malthus startled the world by demonstrating that following its natural bent, the human race multiplies faster than it can increase its food supply, the result being that population tends ever to press painfully upon means of subsistence. So long as mankind reproduces itself freely, numbers can be adjusted to subsistence only by such destructive agencies as war, famine, vice, and disease. To be sure, this ghastly train of ills may be escaped if only people will prudently postpone marriage. Since, however, late marriage calls for the exercise of more foresight and self-control than can be looked for in the masses, Malthus painted the future with a sombreness which gave political economy its early nickname of "the dismal science."

ORIGIN OF MAN'S EXCESS OF FECUNDITY

His early critics could not conceive that a benevolent Creator would send man into the world with a fatal propensity to over multiply. Darwin, however, read Malthus and conceived the idea that every species becomes involved in a struggle for existence because all species bring forth more young than ordinarily can be brought to maturity. The doctrine of or

ganic evolution has repaid Darwin's debt to Malthus by explaining why every living form tends to multiply to excess

A species inherits the impulse and capacity for greater reproduction than it needs for continuance under ordinary circumstances because it had to have enough to get past the worst conditions it has ever encountered. No doubt countless species or varieties have become extinct because they did not reproduce fast enough to survive certain crises. All the forms we see about us today are those which had in their reproductive constitutions a sufficient factor of safety

THE specific fecundity of mankind became established hundreds of centuries ago and insured it the power of expanding even under the hard conditions of primitive life. In the most advanced stage of civilization this capacity is about *four times* what man needs in order to maintain his numbers and *three times* that which will cause population to grow about as fast as the food supply can be augmented. Hence for man to shut his eyes and propagate without taking thought for the morrow is to act as if he were living in olden times when a twentieth of the population died in a year instead of today when not over an eightieth dies in a year. For him to let himself go in respect to the instincts centering about reproduction is almost as disastrous in its effects as for him to give free rein to his pugnacious instinct, his destructive instinct, or his acquisitive instinct

MALTHUS AT PAR AGAIN

Through the mid part of the nineteenth century the lesson Malthus sought to drive home was obscured by the fact that, although the population was multiplying freely, life was getting easier. In the course of the century Europeans much more than doubled in number and yet were better fed than at the beginning. The explanation, however, is not that Malthus was all wrong, but that the art of agriculture was making giant strides and that out on the expanding frontiers of the white race, great virgin tracts were brought under cultivation while steam transportation enabled their produce to be hurried to the bare larders of the Old World. Since no one perceives where the twentieth century is to find its Mississippi Valley, Argentina, Canada, or Australia to fill with herds or farms, it is necessary for the whites to slacken their rate of increase or to give up most of their social gains and go back to their old hard lot

THE FALL IN THE BIRTH RATE

WHILE, owing to the great lowering of the death rate, most of the advanced peoples were, at the threshold of the World War increasing perhaps faster than ever before, the behavior of their birth rate is profoundly significant. A marked sag in fecundity made its appearance in France about sixty years ago. In 1878, when the famous Bradlaugh-Besant lawsuit gave wide publicity to the idea of Birth Control, births began to decline in England and in the next thirty-five years they fell off a third. In the next decade the child crop began to be curtailed in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Australia

and New Zealand. Before the close of the century Finland, Italy and Hungary swung into line while in the first decade of the twentieth century the militarists of Germany and Austria became agitated over "our diminishing fecundity." In the United States, despite an immense influx of early marrying and fecund immigrants, the proportion of children under 5 years to women of child bearing age shrank thirty-five per cent between 1860 and 1910. In comparison with 1800 the proportion of children seems to be about one-half.

The root causes of the spreading aversion to the large families are certain tendencies characteristic of modern society

CAUSES OF THE FALL IN THE BIRTH RATE

ONE of these is *democracy*. Caste barriers are down so that more and more a man's standing depends upon himself. The lists of life are open to all and the passion to "succeed" grows with the value of the prizes in view. Never before have so many common people strained to reach a higher rung in the social ladder. But children impede such ascent, so the ambitious dread the handicap of an early marriage and a large family. As for the unselfish, who aim only to assure their children a good start, they will not desire more children than they can equip well for the battle of life.

Owing to the break up of custom, our economic wants expand faster than ever before. People will not limit themselves to the traditional standard of comfort of their class. Wants and tastes once confined to the social elect, spread resistlessly downward and infect the masses. Advertising, window dressing, conspicuous consumption and waves of fashion, carry the craving for luxuries hitherto looked upon as the prerogative of the well-to-do, down among the millions of limited means and these in their eager haste to gratify these new wants, keep down their increase.

Malthus foresaw neither of these developments nor did he anticipate how women would come forward. The child generally costs the mother more than it costs the father. Nevertheless, so long as woman is reputed to be inferior, her maternity pangs do not count. The great movement of the last seventy years which has burst the fetters on woman's mind, gives the wife more weight in the marriage partnership and causes the heavy cost of maternity to be more considered by her husband as well as by herself.

PROBABLY these forces opposed to prolificacy would have left no very conspicuous mark on the birth rates of nations had there not occurred at about the same time a diffusion of knowledge of the means of Birth Control. Percolating slowly down from stratum to stratum, this knowledge continually increases the proportion of families.

While so far the fall in the birth rate has already exceeded the fall in the death rate, the two movements obey different forces and they may not keep together. It is hard to see how the mortality in a normal population can be brought lower than 10 in a thousand, whereas there is no telling to what point its fecundity may sink. In New England, for example, the birth rate of the native stock appears to be less than its death rate,

so that it is being swamped by the foreign born element which breeds three times as fast as it does

SOCIAL CONTROL OF FECUNDITY

Society, however, is not without influence upon the desire for offspring. Whether a young couple shall avoid progeny, content themselves with a child or two, or undertake to rear a real family, depends much on the current opinion about children. If they are looked upon as blessings and if a normal sized, well reared family is a source of pride, few couples will remain child shy. Thus by substituting sound ideals for selfish and frivolous ideals, society may do much to raise births to the point at least, of race continuance.

IF social appreciation of children does not suffice society can induce the foresighted and prudent to rear more children by altering the economic incidence of child bearing. At present the child-producing family handicaps itself in comparison with the child shy. If by free medical care of the child bearing mother and her children, free schooling, free meals in school, and so on up to the point of state allowance for healthy children born to healthy couples, the economic burden of race continuance were largely transferred from the individual to the community, no doubt the child crop of the superior strains would increase. It goes without saying that such aid would most stimulate the reproduction of the more

shiftless elements unless it were reserved for couples which came up to a certain standard of inheritance, capacity, and character.

As soon as one element withholds its increase more than another element, it diminishes its share in the heredity of the generations to come. Now since those who limit their family to a moderate size, are, on the whole, the prudent, self controlled, and capable people, or those who have a high standard of what they owe their children, whereas those who have families of ten to fifteen are, on the whole, the more thriftless and reckless, or those who have a low standard of what they owe their children, is not Birth Control disgenic? Does it not cause the race to be recruited from the less desirable strains? Formerly owing to the poverty and ignorance of the parents of large families, fewer of their children survived than of the families half as large. But now that the child's prospect of surviving depends less on the intelligence and resources of its parents and more on the intelligence and resources of the community, the conscientious breeders have little advantage over the rash breeders.

Something may be done to correct this situation by social policies which restrain fathers from exploiting their young children. By means of compulsory school attendance laws and anti-child labor laws responsible parents may impose upon greedy fathers the standards of child culture to which they

(Continued on Page 17)

The Coming Crash—America's Prospect

The Last of a Series of Interviews with R C Martens, an Authority on the World Food Situation

IN TWO PRECEDING interviews, Mr R C Martens, an authority on the world food situation, has outlined the situation in Europe as regards food and industry, with incidental comments upon finance. Mr Martens predicted an exhaustion of Europe's food supplies, which would begin to make itself felt in February. Those who have paid intelligent attention to world affairs know that the exhaustion has begun and that hunger is already claiming its victims. Mr Martens' observations and predictions with regard to the industrial and financial situations have also been amply confirmed to those who can read between the lines of news reports coming out of Europe. The desperate attempts to reestablish credit, to eliminate the tangles in international finances, the repeated calls upon the United States for help in reconstruction and in financing Europe, all confirm what this authority has said through the pages of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.

In the present interview, Mr Martens discusses the situation in America and explains in detail what he has remarked in the preceding interviews—that no nation nowadays lives to itself alone and that famine and industrial breakdown in one means the same condition in others, sooner or later.

While Mr Martens is not an advocate of Birth Control, the facts which he sets forth mean but one thing

to the student of population problems as they arise out of world food supplies. The unavoidable lesson of these facts to such a student is that the peoples of the world must curb their birth rates or they will but multiply the effects of the disaster which is now making itself felt in Europe and which must inevitably extend itself to America.

As a result of the European situation, the United States must face huge financial losses, panic, unemployment and finally a shortage of food, Mr Martens predicts. The accuracy of his former predictions bespeaks most serious consideration for what he now has to say.

"AMERICA AND THE world are living in a faked position today," said Mr Martens. "We are now facing one of the first conditions that I predicted when I first began discussing these problems for publication. This is the great drop in foreign exchange. This drop has resulted in the stoppage of European orders to our merchants and manufacturers. It has also resulted in the cancellation of orders previously placed."

"Europe cannot buy from us at the present cost of commodities. There are two reasons for the increase in cost: first, the cost of materials has doubled or trebled, and second, the shipping rates are colossally high. The rate of exchange,

working against Europe, has constituted another and a huge burden upon the European buyer

"As an illustration of what is happening, a ton of coal before the war cost Italy from twenty to twenty five lira. It now costs from 500 to 650 lira—thirty times as much. Coal is the basis of transportation, since most transportation depends upon it for power. So the price of coal forces up the prices of transported food stuffs and other necessities of life, which in turn force still other prices up. In such a situation, it is inevitable that there are fewer buyers from abroad

"HERE IS THE way this condition is affecting America

Last year's European trade was conducted by American manufacturers, merchants and bankers on extended credit. Since last year the rate of exchange has fallen twenty five to sixty per cent. That trade was conducted on the basis of foreign currency. When the American business man now collects from Europe, he has to adjust his collections on the present rate of exchange. Thus, while the banker, merchant or manufacturer expected a profit of from five to ten per cent, he now faces a loss of from twenty five to sixty per cent in the payment he receives on goods delivered last year. This means a net loss to him ranging from fifteen to fifty per cent.

"The trade balance in favor of the United States and against Europe last year was between \$5,000,000,000 and \$6,000,000,000. Europe owed American business men that much money. At least half of that sum is still owing to Americans. It means that when it is adjusted, there will be a loss of nearly \$1,500,000,000 on last year's business.

"THAT, HOWEVER, IS but one item of loss to American business men. As Europe can no longer buy our surplus products to anything like the extent that she formerly did, this surplus will have to be thrown largely upon the markets. For a time, and only for a time, this will work to the advantage of the average person in America. Prices will fall.

"On the other hand, merchants, manufacturers and bankers who have either bought or financed the production of these commodities when the market was at its height, will sustain huge losses. These losses will eventually run into the tens of billions of dollars.

"The result will be unemployment, industrial disorganization, and so on. But this is really only the beginning of the trouble.

"Agriculture is the primary industry of the country, and agricultural wealth is the primary wealth. Grain farmers have done well lately in the United States owing to the guaranteed price of wheat. That guaranteed price covers the present year. But in the meantime, Europe is not able to buy as much wheat as formerly and the surplus wheat will be dumped into the home market. The price will go down, the government will have to make good its guaranty and that will leave hundreds of millions to be made up by the taxation

"Still the end is not yet. In the present year, in spite of the guaranty of wheat prices, the farmer has put in a comparatively small crop of winter wheat. This is because labor is both high and scarce—workmen are not very much inclined to take employment upon farms. So the farmer will this year produce less wheat than in any recent year. With the government guaranty removed and prices falling, the farmer will produce still less in 1921—less, in fact, than will meet our home requirements. The shortage in 1921, however, will be met by surplus wheat supplies held from 1919 and 1920. But in 1922, there will be no such surplus to fall back upon and the people of the United States will be hungry. There will be a shortage, not only of wheat, but of many of the primary necessities of life, if industrial history follows its natural course.

"WHAT DO ALL these conditions, piled one upon another, mean?" They mean first, a financial panic of huge proportions in the present year. They mean an industrial crisis and unemployment for a great part of the workers in 1921. And they mean absolute and total economic breakdown in the United States in 1922."

Add a condition like this to the want which always exists among the unskilled workers, and it is not hard to understand that people will be starving in the United States.

IN CONFIRMATION OF his prediction of starvation in Europe, in his interview in the January number of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, Mr. Martens cited the following facts, gleaned from current news.

News from Russia is unreliable and no accurate estimate of the situation can be made.

In Poland, there is starvation in the towns and partial starvation in the country, and epidemics have become prevalent.

In Austria, the conditions are still worse than in Poland.

In Germany, there is a pronounced shortage of many of the necessities of life, and consequent increasing social unrest.

In Italy, there is a great shortage of necessities and great labor unrest which daily intensifies the situation.

Hungary is suffering, but to a lesser degree than Austria.

Sweden and Norway are experiencing a shortage of the primary necessities and there is great unrest there.

France, which is more self supporting than some of her neighbors, is as yet feeling only a slight shortage.

England is as yet little affected by the food shortage, because for the last six months she has devoted half of all her shipping to bringing in food from her colonial possessions and elsewhere, in order to fend off want.

Holland is not suffering from a shortage of food but is on the verge of a political upheaval.

[It will be remembered that Holland and France are Birth Control countries and are therefore able to keep their numbers within the bounds of prospective food supplies.—Editor.]

Wasting Our Human Resources

By Margaret Sanger

ONE PERSON IN a half million, perhaps, has some sort of comprehension of the terrific rate at which we people of the United States are wasting our most precious resources. These particular resources are not rich soils, forests, mineral deposits and the like—though we waste those prodigally, too—but the lives of the people. So called “natural resources” are of no use until they have been developed by the genius and skill of human beings. It is in the strength, genius and skill, of the people that the real wealth of a nation lies. These qualities reflect themselves in health, happiness and longevity, as well as in ability to utilize natural resources, and these human assets we waste even more riotously than we do the assets which have come to us from the generous hands of Nature.

The sum total of this waste, expressed in dollars, runs into incalculable billions, and this does not take into account the still more terrible sum of misery brought about by our present callous and unreckoning policy.

This condition will continue unabated while we have unlimited human resources to draw upon. We have wasted our “natural wealth” like a nation of “drunken sailors” and are only now beginning to make the first faint effort to conserve it for sound uses. We will go on destroying our human wealth in the same fashion until we come to the realization that this wealth also has its limitations. We shall then, in the natural course of things, make better and higher use of this wealth and become a truly great people. But we will do this only when, through Birth Control, we have limited the supply of human beings and have brought to their senses those who are content now to waste human lives like chaff.

IN *National Vitality, Its Wastes and Conservation* (Fisher), which is Senate Document No. 416 of the Sixty first Congress, it is shown that “in the United States there are probably at all times about 3,000,000 persons seriously ill, and every day 1,700 unnecessary deaths.” It does not take long to discover that the loss of the productive time of these 3,000,000 sick persons, most of whom, perhaps, are suffering from the diseases recognized as preventable, runs into the billions. And other sums of national wealth, equally staggering, are lost through the unnecessary deaths. Seventeen hundred deaths a day is more than one death each minute, and even computing each life as worth only \$1,700 to the country, it means that the United States is wasting, in this item alone, nearly \$3,000,000,000 a year. The conservation of these lives and the proper utilization of these human resources would pay off our national debt within a few years. If we could also apply to the national debt the cost of caring for the unnecessarily sick, the United States could very shortly face the world without a cent of financial obligation.

Of the 1,500,000 who die in the United States each year, according to the report quoted above, 150,000, or one in ten,

are consumptives. One in six of the persons constantly and seriously ill are also suffering from tuberculosis. Of the 20,000,000 school children in the United States, one in ten will die of tuberculosis if they continue to die at the present rate, according to Lewis M. Terman, in a report of a medical survey of the Public School System of Oregon.

YET THE UNITED STATES has never taken any serious measures to deal with the “white plague.” There are associations of individuals who have been trying for years to arouse both the people and the government of states and nation to this peril, but the terrible toll taking goes on and the governments, which have both the power and the resources to grapple with the problem, still neglect to attack it in an effective manner. Meanwhile, except for more or less palliative state and local measures, the causes of tuberculosis are permitted to operate in full force. Save where labor unions have forced a shorter day, the hours of work continue to be so long as to exhaust completely the worker and expose his system to the attacks of the ever present scourge. The Fisher report calls attention to this fact thus: “The present working day, from a physiological point of view, is too long, and keeps the majority of men and women in a continual state of over fatigue.”

An example of the extent to which individuals are permitted for their private profit to waste the vital resources of the nation through maintaining breeding places for tuberculosis and other diseases is that to which attention is called by Lawrence Veiller, in *Housing Reform*, issued by the Charities Publishing Company of New York in 1911. Said he: “In the lower East Side of New York City dwell 500,000 people, most of them immigrants. In 1910 there were over 10,000 tenements with ‘air shafts,’ furnishing neither sunlight nor fresh air.”

DURING THE YEAR ending June 30, 1914, for example, there were admitted to the United States 1,250,000 immigrants, most of whom were compelled to seek the company of other millions who had come in other years, in communities where the housing conditions were often but little better than those described. While such conditions exist, there is little hope for curtailing either the sickness rate or the death rate from tuberculosis in the United States.

Neither can there be hope of curtailment while 2,500,000 children are permitted to give up their strength in factories, or men are compelled to kill the tissues of their lungs in ill ventilated factories or in the “dusty trades” where the protection afforded them is too often inadequate when such protection is afforded at all.

Again, the tuberculosis toll cannot be reduced to its lowest level until women are educated in the use of contraceptives. Pregnancy renders tuberculosis fatal at certain stages and

always aggravates it. Moreover, to continue to deny tubercular women the use of contraceptives means that every year there is a fresh crop of children coming into the world pre-disposed to the disease.

WHILE THE GREAT WAR was in progress, the United States government took a most commendable step toward educating the people as to the danger of venereal disease. It was only a beginning, however, and if the tremendous waste of vital wealth is to be competently checked, direct and vigorous efforts must be made by state and federal agencies to arrest this scourge. Thus far, nothing appreciable has been done, except to patch up a few of the wrecks and send them forth, quite as likely as not, to communicate their diseases to others. Bulletin No. 8, issued in June, 1915, from the office of the Surgeon General of the United States Army, showed that one man in five of the class from which men were drawn for the army suffered from syphilis. It was estimated by Fisher, in the report referred to, that there are 2,000,000 syphilitics in the United States. Most of these syphilitics are perfectly at liberty to infect others, if they are in the stage of the disease at which it is communicable. And the heritage of syphilis is the heritage of disease in manifold forms, ranging from insanity or total physical disability to general ill health. To say nothing of its huge total of physical and mental suffering, this disease alone represents financial loss to the nation of billions.

TUBERCULOSIS IS NOT the only disease that reaps a rich harvest from the 2,500,000 child laborers of the United States and from the weakly descendants of such laborers. The wearing out of the youthful body, the lack of recreation, the sapping of the basic forces of life, brings all manner of diseases to these unfortunates and if they are not claimed by death, they bring another crop of human weaklings who in their turn become victims.

One of the expedients which we must inevitably adopt, in order that the problem of disease and its causes may be intelligently handled, is that of registering the sick. Physicians should be required to report all cases of serious illness each day. Simple records should be kept by departments of health. Thus, the health authorities would have at their disposition a mass of data that would enable them to plan and execute effective campaigns for the elimination of disease. The individual, seeking to improve his own health, could consult these records which would cover his health history from birth.

According to R. C. Richards, chairman of the Central Safety Commission, and to the Final Report of the (Federal) Committee on Industrial Relations, filed in 1915, there are 35,000 killed each year in industrial accidents and 700,000 injured. Again the cost in misery, maintenance of the injured and loss to the nation reaches an appalling total. As H. H. Moore points out in *The Youth and The Nation*, "this means that every day in the United States nearly 100 are killed in industry and nearly 2,000 are injured—that one man is killed every fifteen minutes and one is injured every minute, twenty four

hours a day." The explanation is lack of proper safeguards—a greed for private profit that is each minute of the day robbing the nation of untold wealth.

A STILL MORE FAR REACHING cause of loss of vital wealth than any yet mentioned is the want of the masses, with its terrible harvest of unhappiness, disease and crime. King, in his *Distribution of Wealth and Income*, estimates that "over 50 per cent of the wealth of the United States is owned by only two per cent of the people." Other authorities place the percentage of wealth owned by two per cent of the people nearer to ninety per cent. Towne, in *Social Problems*, says that there are probably 10,000,000 persons in the United States living in poverty, while there are 5,000,000 dependent upon some form of public relief. Senator Borah, who is a Republican presidential possibility, and who spoke presumably from the best figures that could be compiled from information in the Census Bureau, said in a speech in the United States senate, August 24, 1917, that seventy per cent of the families in the United States had an income of \$1,000 a year or less and that a man supporting a family thus is an "industrial peon."

When these conditions prevail, what must be the terrible harvest of disease, crime, and weakened family stock, to produce through generations, more and more disease and crime! This in itself is sufficient to wipe out a nation, but for fear these unfortunates may limit their numbers, the governments of the nation and of most of the states use all possible means to stop the spread of Birth Control information, which would automatically check the multiplication of this hardship and social loss.

ONLY TWO OF the factors of national loss and racial weakness springing out of a system that piles up huge fortunes on one hand and slums on the other, can be considered here. The census shows that in 1910 there were 100,000 children before juvenile courts, of which 14,000, mostly boys, were sent to so-called corrective institutions. It is well known that these boys are more than likely to go to penitentiaries or jail later on, owing to the influences surrounding them in reform schools.

As shown by the National Child Labor Committee in Pamphlet 276, the juvenile delinquency increased thirty four per cent in Berlin during the war. It is hardly likely that the youth of the United States has shown a more favorable reaction, and the conditions as to juvenile delinquency are probably much worse than they were in 1910.

In 1910 also there were 11,498 persons in jails, penitentiaries and similar institutions in the United States—and most of these, as every student of sociology knows, come out stamped with disgrace and educated in crime.

The United States has yet to solve the problem of dealing with criminals and it has not yet learned either to stop creating them or to permit overburdened mothers to so limit their families that they will not bring into the world children who are in danger of becoming criminals.

AS EARLY AS 1890 there were in the United States 400,000 feeble minded persons, according to Goddard, in *Feeble mindedness, Its Causes and Consequence*. This, taking into consideration the difficulty of detecting certain degrees of feeble mindedness, the tendency of families to conceal mental defects of their members, and the haphazard way in which statistics as to feeble minded are gathered, is probably a very low estimate, even for thirty years ago. Be that as it may, something of the appalling result of permitting the perpetuation of mentally feeble strains is shown by two classical examples. When it is remembered that most of the feeble minded are free, either all their lives or at some time in their lives, to reproduce their kind, the situation takes on an ominousness the bespeaks prompt and effective action.

Martin Kallikak, Jr., a feeble minded man, married Rhoda Zabeth, a normal woman, in 1803. They had ten children. From these children have come not less than 470 descendants, and of the progeny of Martin Kallikak, Jr., there were 143 feeble minded, 36 illegitimate children, 33 sexually immoral persons, mostly prostitutes, 24 confirmed alcoholics, 3 epileptics, 82 who died in infancy, 3 proprietors of houses of ill fame and 3 criminals. Birth Control would have been an inestimable blessing there, and even more of a blessing to the Jukes family.

There were 1,200 descendants of the founder of the Jukes clan in 75 years. Of these, 130 were professional paupers, who in all spent 2,300 years in poorhouses, 50 prostitutes, 7 murderers, 60 habitual thieves and 130 common criminals. One authority estimates that the loss of potential usefulness, cost of prosecutions, expense of maintenance and so on, for this family amounts to \$1,300,000 in 75 years.

There are thousands of Kallikaks and Jukes at large in the United States to perpetuate their kind. Social agencies, physicians and departments of health have much to answer for when they fail to tell women of such families how to avoid having children. Unfortunately, however, they encourage rather than discourage this multiplication of misery and social loss through the reproduction of such defectives as these.

THERE ARE SEVERAL million women in industry in the United States. There are other millions who work quite as hard or harder in their homes. These women are potential mothers, when not already actually mothers, as in usually the case. Most of them are over fatigued each day, most of them, perhaps, are already suffering from disease. They achieve little relief by their labors. As nearing pointed out in *Wages in the United States* (1911), "probably two fifths or more of the women wage earners earn less than \$6 a week." Wages are higher now, but in most cases, the rising prices have outstripped the increase.

"It is now generally believed to be in accordance with the laws of hereditary descent," says Dr. Nathan Allen in the *Law of Human Increase*, "that the mother, not the father, transmits the vitality and stamina, the strength of the physical system to the child. It becomes, then, vastly important that the mother herself have the right kind of constitution." The time is coming when we shall look back with horror upon

our present policy of permitting the mother stamina to be killed by toil. We shall also wonder why we were blind enough to compel a mother incapable of transmitting strength to her children to bring such children into the world.

CAN THE NATION endure with these great factors of destruction and waste operating unchecked? It cannot. It will die as other nations have died and give place to more vigorous peoples.

What is the remedy? Only this—to take our vast stock of human wealth in hand. We have wasted it prodigally because we have had an unlimited supply. We have had more than we could use in the highest way and to the best advantage. We have been content with quantity, rather than quality. Let it be repeated that we shall continue this course until we resort to the limiting of our numbers—to Birth Control. When our numbers are cut down, these human resources will appear to us in their true light—as the most precious of all our possessions. We shall guard the health and the happiness of each individual for the service that he can render to himself and to the whole of society. We shall make the best possible use of our material. We shall conserve human vitality for constructive social uses. We shall guard it more zealously than we now guard our gold.

Taming the Stream

IF THE VILEST mortal that lives sees proper to marry, the law issues the license for the asking, and leaves the offspring and society to shift for themselves, as best they can. Even paupers while in the almshouse, and criminals while in jail are in every way encouraged and given license to marry, and are protected by the law. No thought is taken for the unfortunate offspring, or for the body politic, or social, and the irreparable evils that must fall upon all. The church adds its sanction, and its ministers aid in making these civil contracts, by performing a ceremony with prayers and benedictions. There is an endless procession of children from all these sources coming into the mass of population to live lives of crime, immorality, want, suffering, misfortune and degeneracy, transmitting the taint in constantly widening streams generation to generation, with the ultimate certainty of the deterioration of the race, and final irreparable degeneracy—
C. H. Reeve in "The Prison Question"

Birth Control Needed Here

It seems to me that while the difficulties in the way of ideal conditions which are produced by family dependence and poverty must be recognized, it must also be acknowledged that it is a fatuous policy of the state to permit a minor to sacrifice during his years of possible physical development that which he cannot hope to regain or correct completely in his later years, to sacrifice a material portion of that practical efficiency which would otherwise be his and which he requires to give him that place in life to which he is by nature entitled—
Dr. Albert H. Freiburg (Cincinnati)

A Priest on Birth Control

By Rev T V Jakumowicz

Pastor of Polish National Catholic Church

OUR CIVILIZATION instead of advancing is retrogressing to barbarism. The forcing of young girls into marriage will bring forth idiots and morally insane. This also leads the race into degeneracy and, eventually, race suicide. Unless the child can be born well and brought up well it is better it would not be born at all. A mother is physically strong only when she bears her first child in mature age. When she becomes a mother she has to rest a long time to recuperate and bring up well her first child before she is in condition to have another one. Frequent children cannot be healthy ones, physically or mentally, and economic conditions will keep them in deficiency and misery. After a few generations, the nation instead of having strong and brave people will have weak and cowardly ones, and gradually will fall into degeneracy. For the sake of the country and the nation it is necessary to resort to contraceptives.

Abortion is a crime, celibacy is immoral, prostitution is an abomination. The only honest, decent and moral remedy is prevention of conception.

FROM THE MORAL and philosophical view, every unwelcomed child is a burden to itself and to society. Unhappy lives of millions are caused by their being forced into existence.

Physicians from their profession, priests from the confessional, know of thousands and thousands of women seeking destruction of their unborn children because they want no more babies.

Why should they be forced into compulsive motherhood or why should men be compelled to unnatural celibacy?

This compulsory celibacy is a frequent cause of men's immorality. A man confesses that he assailed or seduced a girl because his wife is sick and afraid to have children. If there were a way to prevent conception he would be moral and good. But he has now seventeen children and the doctor said that the next pregnancy will kill her. Recently there was an action for separation in Pennsylvania because the woman wants no more children.

We know that priest-ridden Poles, Slavs and Italians have weak and sickly children because there are too many and they are underfed.

In these children that are born year after year, there is always an inborn immorality.

Polish men are often immoral because they have been born of too young mothers or preceded by many born before.

There was a case in Nebraska of a girl of 12 who became pregnant. Priest and parents compelled the man to marry her now she is a mother of sixteen children, she is only 29 years old, and just a skeleton.

Dr. John Doe in Lincoln, Nebraska, was arrested for procuring abortion. Four hundred names were found on his register—women that want no more children.

A Wilkes Barre court granted divorce to a woman on the ground of no support because there are fourteen children and the husband was without work for three months. He could have no means of supporting them. Whichever way we turn this proposition, we always find that the only remedy to this ever increasing evil is Birth Control.

"EMANCIPATION" AND EQUAL suffrage will not make a free woman. Freedom has to be attained and this attainment will be realized only when woman will not be an unwilling but a willing mother and when maternity will not be forced upon her. Woman enduring forced maternity cannot be free, she may be emancipated politically and economically but remains a slave of superstition and to the lure of marriage as a trade in a factory to produce children. Woman will attain her freedom by Birth Control.

CHICAGO IS COMPOSED mostly of foreign population. There are 500,000 Poles in the city, there are 22 Polish Catholic churches. There are 100,500 baptisms registered every year, many not belonging to any church at all. This birth rate increases annually which shows that every woman becomes a mother every year. They usually pay baptismal fees of \$5.00, which makes the sum of \$502,500. It is self evident that if Birth Control was introduced this sum would not go to the priest's pocket. This is one of the reasons why priests are against Birth Control. From the spiritual and religious view, Birth Control is plausible, because it will give time to a mother to recuperate her forces and to conceive by the spirit of intelligence before she conceives in flesh and blood.

From the philosophical view the intelligent life should not be forced into manifestation by the law, but by love. A humanitarian view is that if a being is to be born, it has the right to be born well. If the above reasons are considered they give preponderance to the argument for Birth Control.

IT IS FOR THE SAKE of humanity, for the upliftment of the human race, the perpetuation of freedom and liberty, the preservation of the "Old Glory" of the brave and the free, that Birth Control should be legalized in America. If there are any barriers in the statutes they should be intelligently removed. The well being of humanity, the health, life and freedom of womanhood, is higher than any human objection. It behooves us to cry, "give us freedom and stake everything else." This voice should go to every court in America.

America is the nation of the free and the brave. America should care for the freedom of woman. During the war and after, many traditional rules were set aside—why not set aside an objection against Birth Control?

Mine is a small voice but it is the voice of millions who are in favor of Birth Control. If this is the sentiment of Justice—of Righteousness and Independence. Let us be trustful that after all liberty shall reign supreme.

The French Population Problem

TODAY IN FRANCE there is a bitter struggle between two forces over the national birth-rate. Imperialists are demanding of the French women more children. They are trying to induce the French workman to produce larger families.

On the other hand, the workers themselves are refusing to accede to this demand, and are using some rather outspoken language to emphasize their refusal.

Clemenceau, before his retirement, went through the country clamoring for larger families. Millerand, his successor as premier, has taken up the cry and is offering bonuses to mothers.

Most of what the public learns here from the newspapers is on one side of the debate—the imperialist side. Word comes to us from private sources, however, that the men and women of the workers are so indignant over this propaganda that they are tearing down government posters and substituting an appeal to their fellows, the substance of which is “As long as France has enough people to maintain an army, she has too many. An army means waste—an army means warfare.”

The stationary population of the French nation has long been a subject of deep interest to economists. French economists, however, seem not to have dealt altogether honestly with the matter, for they have closed their eyes to the effect of syphilis upon offspring. This disease is one of the factors to be considered if a real understanding of the French population question is to be arrived at. Mrs. Grandcourt, author of the following article, has lived in France and looks at the population problem with the eyes of a Frenchwoman. The facts she has marshalled in her analysis of the situation, throw an interesting light upon the whole matter, and suggest a powerful reason why many families, who otherwise would have one or two or three children, make an intelligent and humane use of contraceptives to avoid having any children at all.

By Genevieve Grandcourt

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH century, France made up approximately one quarter of the entire population of Europe, which was then a little under 100,000,000. At the beginning of the twentieth century, she contributed but a little more than one ninth of the entire population of Europe, which had increased to 343,000,000. In the 80's, a German politician compiled figures to show that Prussia and England could multiply at about an equal rate, doubling their populations in 55 years, while it would take 183 years for the same process in France.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, the increase in France was in round numbers, 3,700,000, as opposed to close upon a 30,000,000 increase in Germany.

In fine, from being the most densely populated of all the great European countries, even as recently as 1850, she became in the short space of half a century, the sixth in num-

bers. The annual excess of births over deaths declined 11,000 in the year between 1899-1900.

The following tables are taken from the United States Daily Consular Report of July 11, 1905, signed by Thornwell Haynes, at Rouen, France.

AVERAGE YEARLY INCREASE IN POPULATION OF FIVE LEADING EUROPEAN NATIONS BY DECADES FROM 1850 TO 1900

COUNTRY	1850 TO 1860	1860 TO 1870	1870 TO 1880	1880 TO 1890	1890 TO 1900
France	93,000	23,000	130,000	73,000	46,000
Great Britain	156,000	256,000	340,000	285,000	375,000
Germany	235,000	307,000	442,000	419,000	692,000
Austria Hungary	181,000	304,000	180,000	348,000	395,000
Italy	108,000	178,000	166,000	200,000	200,000

NUMBER OF CHILDLESS FAMILIES IN FRANCE AND SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CHILDREN TO OTHER FAMILIES

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER OF FAMILIES	PER CENT
None	1,808,839	16.68
One	2,638,752	24.33
Two	2,379,259	21.94
Three	1,593,387	14.69
Four	984,162	9.07
Five	584,582	5.39
Six	331,640	3.06
Seven	289,771	2.67
Unknown	234,855	2.17

A physician connected with the Paris Faculty of Medicine reports that an investigation of the children born in 100 families between the years 1901 and 1910 revealed conditions practically as follows:

- 16 families without children
- 50 families with one or two
- 23 families with three or four
- 8 families with five or six
- 3 families with larger numbers

In the same decade, the average proportion of births to each one thousand inhabitants was 21.

What are the reasons for this decline?

We quote from Dr. C. V. Drysdale:

IT HAS BECOME the fashion to speak of the depravity of France, of her alcoholism, of her disregard for law and order, and of her terrible *crimes passionnels*, and to ascribe them to the falling birth rate. If this were the case it is obvious that these evils would be most intense where the process had gone furthest, i. e., in the cantons of lowest birth rate. But we have the authority of Dr. Bertillon himself to show us that it is just these cantons in which the greatest moral improvement has taken place, and that where the French have obeyed the Church's command to increase and multiply, there also holism and crime abound.

It has, indeed, been frequently remarked that the controlling reason why France has shown herself, in recent years, "the most universally pacific and civilized" of the European nations, is that she has been the least reckless of them in propagating numbers which her own soil cannot support.

Such disadvantages as have arisen from a prevision sound in principle, lie on the surface. We find them in *bad laws*.

REGARDING PROFESSOR PINARD, a recognized authority on maternity, and elected last fall to the Chamber of Deputies, we read in a cable to the *New York Times* (Nov 27, 1919)

"He contends that one factor in the regrettable smallness of French families is *bad laws*, and he will seek to correct them in addition to agitating for laws encouraging bigger families. He sees this as an essential to the rejuvenation of France."

The laws he has in mind refer, of course, to the present difficulties surrounding the legalization of marriage—difficulties which it is not easy to reconcile with the French reputation for logic.

Bertillon in his *DEPOPULATION OF FRANCE* (page 180) says "There is no country where the necessary formalities for the legalizing of marriage are so numerous as in France," and remarks that notwithstanding this, marriages are almost as numerous in France as in other countries, the difference being (but this seems to us vital, where the question of their fertility is concerned) that *they are contracted at a period later in life!* On page 184, he says that France is the only great country where the consent of relatives is necessary to the same extent and for men who have passed their majority. Again, we read, "It is without doubt the case that were the number of marriages higher in France, the number of births would sensibly augment." On page 185, he gives credit to "the distinguished Deputy from the North, Abbe Lemire," for introducing in June, 1907, a law simplifying the formalities concerning marriage, saying that in six months from the time this law was passed, it facilitated the union of 17,000 persons. The year 1907 thus became the Red Letter Year for marriages in nineteenth century France, unless one went back to 1813, *when marriage was the only refuge against conscription!* In three years, this law, inadequate as it seems to be, appears to have determined the marriage of 48,000 persons, *i.e.*, 24,000 couples!

Bertillon goes on to explain that the effects of this law were first noticeable in the poorer sections. And naturally. Because, though the more intelligent classes may be duly annoyed at red tape, they somehow contrive to see their way through it, whereas the ignorant usually understand such matters indifferently at best, and presently in despair of knowing what should be done in a given instance, end by doing nothing. Such conditions favor concubinage, the least of whose social evils is paucity of births!

IN A THESIS PUBLISHED by Vigot Freres of Paris, Dr Charles Boulay says that in a population of 4,425,000 men between the ages of twenty to thirty, 2,440,000 were bachelors! A foot note to this page (20) is corroborative of the opinion

expressed by Bertillon that there is a definite correspondence between decreases in marriage and those of births.

Still another French writer declares that were the *dot* less attractive to the average Frenchman, the fact might operate to the country's advantage from the standpoint of happier and more prolific marriages. At least one scientific authority finds explanation of sterile marriages, where, for reasons of inheritance, progeny is desired, in the artificial and unhygienic conditions under which girls of the so-called better classes are brought up. Bourget says, "The convent is also hol to the romantic maiden."

WHEN IN 1915 I PAID a visit to a French lady near Paris, it was to be greeted with the proud announcement that her son had been "passed for military service." "He is all I have," she said. "at least, all I can give France. The child of my first marriage was born blind." She went on to say with great bitterness that she was not supposed to know why he was born blind, but she did know, and her one obsessing thought for years was the crime it would be to have another child by that man.

A nurse, recently returned from France, spoke to me the other day of a woman who has "borne dead child after dead child, and will probably continue to do so as long as she bears any child at all."

Prof Fournier has stated, "The child born of a syphilitic father and a healthy mother, is exposed, by the fact of the paternal syphilis, to die before birth. The foetus is killed in the uterus, and this fact (established by observations as authentic as they are numerous) deserves to rank as a scientific fact."

IT IS RECOGNIZED in papers issued by the Paris Faculty of Medicine that this trouble most often comes to the woman through her marriage, and in his book *SYPHILIS AND MARRIAGE* (Chap 5 and 6), Fournier mentions not only the danger the man runs of communicating this disease to his wife, but, in this manner, of thereby *doubly* infecting the unborn.

In the rare cases in which the mother alone gives the infection, the results are more deadly than in the cases in which the father infects only the child. The following tables taken from Fournier's book show the frightful mortality.

85 Births From Syphilitic Mothers

Number of surviving children.....	27
Number of deaths (abortions, premature accouchements, infants still born, dead within a short time after delivery)	58

Accordingly, 58 deaths out of 85 births, or, as Fournier says, a proportion of "more than two deaths to every three births."

167 Births from Syphilitic Mothers

Number of surviving children.....	22
Number of deaths (abortions, premature accouchements, infants still born, dead within a short time after delivery)	145

"Only one infant surviving in seven to eight births." Fournier explains that in considering this second table, the syphi

litic influence must be understood as complicated "by poverty, privations, irregular and insufficient food, excessive labor, fatiguing vigils, debauch, and often professional debauch (the word is strictly exact), excess of every kind, alcoholism, lack of common hygiene, lack of special treatment, etc."

Another doctor in Paris gives figures as follows

28 Births from Syphilitic Mothers

Infants dead (abortions, accouchments before term, deaths in from 1st to 45th day) -----	27
Infants surviving -----	1

OUT of 20,400 CHILDREN born in Paris clinics from 1890 to 1899, 617 were still born, and in 264 of these cases, syphilis was assigned as the cause. Prof Pinard remarked that this was an understatement, and Dr Landouzy concurred in the opinion. In another period, 15,000 still born children were victims of this scourge. Statistics immediately before the war (they are unavailable since that event) reveal still more terrible conditions.

Pinard is authority for the statement that when the mother has difficulty in carrying the child to maturity, syphilis is the most frequent cause. We are told that statistics of the children born dead in France are not included in the general statistics of birth. If this is not the case, we stand open to correction.

(To Be Continued)

Defeating the Nurse

By C T

IN LISTENING TO DISCUSSIONS of the proposed change in laws to permit the imparting of Birth Control information by doctors and nurses, one who is a public health nurse is struck with the wonderful possibilities of public health work among women when such a change is made.

There is no need to go into a long description of the difficulties of public health work at present. When one sees how women by the hundreds and thousands are using all kinds of destructive appliances and strong solutions, through which their health is impaired for the rest of their lives, and fill our free dispensaries daily, one cannot help feeling anxious to do one's part either by educating the public to the need of such a change in the law or else by helping the poor unfortunate women themselves by directing them to a reputable physician who will teach them how injurious it is to use the above mentioned means, and, if possible teach them the use of non injurious means. Since these women are using harmful things, why not teach them the use of harmless ones and thus prevent the illness of seventy five per cent of the patients at gynecological clinics. Dr Ryston of the Washington University, St Louis, Mo., who is the head of the Gynecological Clinic made a report in 1916, proving that seventy five per cent of the patients in his clinic, who have suffered with all kinds of women's diseases, have brought on their illness through using the improper methods to prevent conception.

HERE IS WHERE my disappointment came. Mrs R attracted my attention when she told me she was using some appliance that injured her and caused her to have an operation in January 1919. She also said she induced several miscarriages before using this destructive implement, and, that at present she is using strong solutions and still is nervous for fear she might have an extra mouth to feed. She added that her husband is a common laborer and hardly makes enough to feed and clothe their four year old girl and three year old boy. They have to live on the top floor, rear, in an apartment that consists of four rooms of which two rooms have no windows, as they cannot pay more than \$12.00 rent. Besides, her husband had been sick with pneumonia and had not worked for a long time. Her desire was not to have another child at least until his health improves. It occurred to me that her arguments were very well grounded, and as a public health nurse I felt it was my duty to warn her not to use destructive methods. Well, I explained to her that by continuing their use, she would destroy her health and probably never be able to have any more children, and also told her a note would be given to her introducing her to a reputable physician, who, if there were need for her to know of proper methods, would give her the proper instruction without any charges.

ON THE NEXT day a note was given to the patient for the doctor. A day or two later, a Public Health supervisor, who is employed by one of the leading organizations of Public Health work in the country, came to me and said that she had captured the note and would see whether something could not be done to me. Well, the reader will understand what I thought of her, and can probably imagine how one would talk to such an individual. When a Public Health nurse, who comes in contact daily with such miseries as outlined above, can have such an attitude, what shall we expect of our senators who are so remote from such experiences?

I also feel that, if in my small experience I met with such an incident, there must be hundreds and probably thousands of just such public health nurses. Therefore I suggest that the conversion should begin with the voters, among whom are the public health nurses of New York State. Until they demand with no uncertain voice a change in these laws, we can expect nothing from the lawmakers.

Spiritual Aim of Marriage

There is something pathetic to me in finding among us some who are still only able to recognize the animal's physical end of marriage as worthy of our imitation. It has taken Nature unknown millions of years of painful struggle to evolve man and to raise the human species above that helpless bondage of reproduction which marks the lower animals. So much of our confusion and complexity of life comes from blindness which cannot know that aside from the animal end of propagation in marriage there is another more exalted spiritual end—"The Love Right of Marriage," Havelock Ellis.

Friendly Criticism of the Yankee

DEAR MRS SANGER I have never taken much interest in the American Birth Control movement, because I think that in its economics it has been saturated through and through with quackery, while the English one has taken its stand on the established results of economists and scientific writers on agriculture. Even Dr Drysdale, who is not very widely read in economics, greatly understates the population doctrine, in comparison with practically every professor of political economy in Europe and America. In our time there have been four monumental treatises on economics, written respectively by Alfred Marshall of Cambridge, N G Pierson of Holland, F W Taussig of Harvard, and Adolf Wagner of Berlin. All of these writers fully endorse Malthus, and the Dutchman and the German think he might have put his case much more forcibly and still been right. Pierson says that if Malthus had simply said that every increase of population, however slow, is an economic evil, he might have shortened his book considerably, and would have stated what is absolutely incontrovertible.

All this follows from the Law of Diminishing Return, which is implied in Malthus, and was afterwards clearly propounded by Ricardo. It amounts to this, that after the initial stages of a new colony have been passed, all future agricultural production can be obtained only by constantly increasing effort.

THE OTHER DAY I was in Seattle, and the man who swept out the hall and bedrooms of the hotel told me that he went there about 25 years ago. He then got \$3 a day and could buy beef for 9 cents a pound. Now he gets \$2.80, and beef is at least 35 cents. Why? Simply because in 1895 most of the beef in America was produced without human labor at all, except that of a few cowboys who rode over two or three hundred miles of territory to watch the cattle. The beef fed itself on the prairies. Now most of the beef eaten is raised on fenced land and fed with food laboriously produced by human labor. The reason is that the United States then had less than seventy million people, and now has about a hundred and ten. Owing to the Law of Diminishing Return, beef now costs vastly more in human labor.

Most men of ordinary common sense can see this at once. The other day Senator Beveridge of Indiana said in a speech:

"What are some of the causes of increased cost of living that are normal and beyond control of government? The first is the enormous growth of population. A few years ago there were only sixty million people in the United States, today there are nearly a hundred and ten million. Each of those sixty millions could, for natural reasons, get many necessities of life far more cheaply than the same essentials can possibly be procured now by any of our hundred and ten millions."

I HAVE LIVED 27 years in the Far West, and have had constant opportunities of watching the Law of Diminishing Return in operation. When I came, lumber was \$12 a

thousand, today it is \$45. Cordwood has at least doubled. Why? Because in those days there was plenty of wood close in, now it is scarce and many miles out.

Practically all economists, all agriculturists, and all men of ordinary observation, are agreed on the above points. A few cranks, however, almost invariably townsmen who did not know the difference between a cow and a horse, have derided the Law of Diminishing Return. Henry George, by one of the most ludicrous pieces of reasoning in the English language, imagined he was refuting it. Marx, Hyndman, and Kropotkin, have made attempts almost equally absurd. Unfortunately these are the sort of persons who pass for wise men in the United States among "advanced" people. It has been the same in every movement. The brains of America seem to go into engineering and electricity, and the quality of intelligence left for all other subjects is appalling. There have always been a few real thinkers, such as E C Walker of New York, and the late C L James of Eau Claire, but the average "advanced" Yank is quite an impossible person.

Sincerely yours,

R B KERR,
Canada

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.

A Mormon Viewpoint

SALT LAKE CITY

MY DEAR MRS SANGER

Your circular letter reached me yesterday and I would not wish you to remain ignorant of my attitude on this question of birth control. I am deeply converted to the fact that all God-fearing men and women should have their children as God and nature may determine. It may be at times sickness interferes rightfully to prevent a too frequent maternity but poverty is no bar and in short I am extremely old-fashioned in my own belief on this subject. The Bible is my guide and the laws there taught are my rule of action.

At the same time I feel that every man and woman has a right to their opinion on this or any other subject if they do not interfere with the rights of others. I sincerely trust that the United States Courts will prevent the passage of the law which you so ardently desire. It cannot help human life to prevent its appearance upon this earth. Existence is a prize too dearly gained by the spirits on the other side for them to give up easily an opportunity for birth upon this earth.

You will recognize my frankness in this matter and I voice the sentiments of the women of the "Mormon" Church when I say that wifehood and motherhood are the greatest boon ever granted to women, while any laws which would prevent this would destroy the possibility of life and prevent the opportunity for progress here and hereafter

Yours cordially,

SUSA YOUNG GATES

Editor of The Relief Society Magazine

This very unusual letter is published because it expresses a rare viewpoint. Many members of religious organizations have written to us to commend our work. One such expression, coming from a priest, is published in another part of this magazine. It would be interesting and instructive to hear what members of other religious organizations have to say. The editors feel sure that Mrs. Gates, who has spoken with such fine frankness, in disagreement with our views, will welcome such a discussion as much as we. We therefore invite such a discussion from adherents of the churches. Communications should be sent in at once and we suggest that they be limited to 200 words.

Overbreeding

The following clippings were taken from different news papers on the same day

Strain of Over-work Kills Georgia Hen

Valdosta, Georgia—Here is a hen that actually and literally laid herself to death. She laid 12 double eggs in 12 consecutive days. On the thirteenth day she died. Experts say that the strain overwork killed her.

English Woman Has Ten Babies in Six Years

London, England—Mother of ten children in six years is the record of a Lancashire woman, whose husband was killed in the war a few months ago. Triplets have just been born to her, the second set, and she is also the mother of twins.

Birth Control Meetings

A number of meetings at private homes, at which Margaret Sanger discussed the principles of Birth Control, were held during the past month. At one of those, held on February 2, the audience was made up of Red Cross workers. On January 31, a lecture on sex hygiene was delivered before a club at the Manhattan night school. Here the audience was made up of girls employed in the daytime in factories, department stores and telephone exchanges.

On February 1 a lecture on Birth Control was given before a packed house at the Modern Thought Forum, 195 Lenox Avenue. Another important meeting was held under the auspices of the Ladies' Branch of the Workmen's Circle in Newark, N. J.

For the month of March the following public lectures, among others, have been arranged: Raleigh, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., Cleveland, O., and Yonkers, N. Y., dates not definitely fixed, for women only at the Modern Thought Forum, 195

Lenox Avenue, New York City, four Saturday night lectures, March 6, 13, 20 and 27.

The meetings in private homes, where before audiences of women, the subject can be discussed freely and thoroughly, will be continued throughout March. Arrangements may be made by communication with Mrs. Sanger's office, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The Growth of Population

(Continued from Page 7)

already accommodate their own conduct. The reversion of children from assets into liabilities works a surprising change in the attitude of a certain type toward the large family.

IT is possible, moreover, for public opinion to discourage immoderate fecundity. When each trudges the road by himself it is solely his own affair how many bundles he loads himself with. But when we go by train, it is everybody's concern how many bundles a passenger brings aboard. The more one brings, the fewer others can bring and the greater the general discomfort. Hence an opinion grows up as to what is a reasonable amount of luggage for a passenger to travel with.

In the same way, once it is realized that only by a certain self control in propagation it is possible for a people to enjoy health, comfort, and length of life, an idea forms as to what is a reasonable family, and disapproval is shown those who without warrant exceed this. No doubt the exceptionally endowed who offer society a "full quiver" of children will find favor, but the subcommon—who are most reckless in multiplication—will be made to feel community resentment when they propagate as if the world could not have too much of their ilk. The man of poor stock who begets a family of ten or fifteen will be looked upon as a fool or an egoist.

NATIONAL CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION INEVITABLE

But what of forethoughted parentage by the advanced peoples while there are peoples and races which multiply blindly and threaten to flood their neighbors with their surplus population? Now that cheap travel stirs the social deeps and beckoning opportunity fills the steerages, immigration becomes ever more serious to the people which hopes to rid itself utterly of slums, "submerged tenth" and "poverty" classes. Wherefore should it practise family prudence if hungry strangers may crowd in and occupy at the table the places it had reserved for its children? Shall it in order to relieve the teeming lands of their unemployed abide in the pit of wolfish competition and give up the prospect of a betterment of the lot of the masses?

THERE is no doubt that the rearing of barriers to immigration will give notice to the backward peoples that enlightened humanity is not willing to cramp itself in order that these peoples may continue to indulge in thoughtless repro-

duction Let a people make themselves miserable by multiplying like animals not endowed with foresight and reason, but why should this people expect other peoples to allow themselves to be made miserable in order to accommodate its over flow?

Unless family restriction becomes general over the world, it is vain, therefore, to expect acknowledgement of the right of any well behaved and self supporting human being to settle where he will From the standpoint of the brotherhood of man such an acknowledgement would be most desirable But there is no blinking the fact that it would handicap the advanced peoples and in time cause the world's population to consist more of unthinking races and less of thinking, aspiring races

The barriers which are sure to rise will not aim to hamper the interchange of culture elements among the peoples or to hinder the movement of such bearers of culture as students, scholars, missionaries, travellers, officials, and business men But they will prevent the movement of great numbers from areas of high population pressure to areas in which a low population pressure is deliberately maintained The imputation of such a barrier is not that the excluded people or race is inferior but that the excluding people does not propose to incommode itself and lose its own field of future internal expansion in order that the excluded may be relieved of the natural penalty of their heedless propagation Such a policy smacks not so much of hateful discrimination as of that wise conservation of national resources for the benefit of posterity which is becoming general among the enlightened peoples

Editor's Comment

PIONEERS OF BIRTH CONTROL By Victor Robinson, Ph D, M D The Voluntary Parenthood League, 206 Broadway, New York. This volume is charmingly written It is marked by a simplicity of expression, an exquisite diction and a rhythmical construction that sets it, as a bit of literature, above ordinary books of this kind.

Unfortunately, however, 'Pioneers of Birth Control' is a man's book about a woman's movement and thus misses not only the perspective but the inner meaning of Birth Control It is important to the movement that this fact should be pointed out and because I, personally, have been very kindly treated in the work, it is perhaps incumbent upon me to perform that task

"Woman's Share" in the Birth Control movement occupies a single brief chapter at the end of the volume Women are mentioned, quite briefly elsewhere but with this seemingly incidental chapter, devoted largely to my own activities, woman's work for Birth Control is dismissed Naturally then, the author misses the real meaning of the Birth Control movement, which is a movement for woman's freedom and through her freedom for the regeneration of the race

Quite as naturally, he overlooked the fact that while men have been scientific investigators, authors and commentators, and even advocates of Birth Control, it has never become a movement in any country until some woman electrified and crystallized it by her championship of contraceptives as a means of woman's liberty Men have always either followed the lead of women in this matter, or have advocated contraceptives merely as a side issue of sex reform, free speech or the

economic adjustment It has always remained for woman to do two things first, to make Birth Control a gospel of mental and spiritual liberty for women, and second, to rally a movement about that conception of the subject

The author has kindly set forth what has happened of late years in America, but in England, as in America, it was not until Annie Besant, fired with the vision of fundamental freedom, defied the law in behalf of her sisters, that Birth Control became a living dynamic movement So high was her motive, so fine her character, so spotless her reputation, that not all the derision, disdain, innuendo and open insinuations of a foul minded Puritanism against her could avail She literally electrified England, because she was a woman and such a woman, and the Birth Control movement there became a living fact From England her influence spread to the Continent and Dr Aletta Jacobs of Holland was inspired to action Dr Jacobs was no longer content to urge contraceptives in meetings of medical congresses She began her long triumphant fight by opening a clinic Today Holland is well supplied with Birth Control clinics and has the most practical, completely successful Birth Control movement in the world And that movement is the progeny of a woman's courage and idealism.

Too much credit is not given to those pioneers in the advocacy of contraceptives who fought the good fight as an incident to other movements nor can too much credit be given them But if the Birth Control movement is to be understood, if its real message is to go forth, if utterances upon the subject are to have their full effect, the vitalizing, clarifying, unifying influence of woman must be recognized For it is out of woman's age long suffering, her inner urge to freedom and progress that the Birth Control movements in all countries have been born And nowhere has Birth Control become a movement, except where some woman has arisen to demand this fundamental right, and to concentrate attention and devoted effort upon it, to the exclusion of all other issues

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To Our Readers

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- ENGLAND (1877)—The Malthusian League. Secretary, Dr Birnie Dunlop, 48 Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Periodical, *The Malthusian*.
- HOLLAND (1885)—De Nieuw Malthusiaansche Bond. Secretary, Dr J Dutgers, 9 Verhulststraat, Den Haag. Periodical, *Het Gelukkig Huisgezin*.
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- BRAZIL (1905)—Seccion Brasilena de Propaganda. Secretaries, Manuel Moscosa, Rua d'Bento Pires 29, San Pablo, Antonio Dominguez, Rue Vizcande de Moranguapez 25, Rio de Janeiro.
- CUBA (1907)—Seccion de Propaganda. Secretary, Jose Guardiola, Empedrado 14, Havana.
- SWEDEN (1911)—Sallekapet for Humanitar Barnalstring. President, Mr Hinke Bergegren, Vanadisvagen 15, Stockholm, Va.
- ITALY (1913)—Lega Neomalthusiana Italiana Via Lamarmora 22, Turin. Periodical, *L'Educazione Sessuale*.
- AFRICA—Ligue Neo Malthusienne, Maison du Peuple, 10 Rampe Magenta, Alger.
- MEXICO (1918)—Mexican Birth Control League, Secretaries, Mr and Mrs Linn A E Gale, P O Box 518, Mexico, D F, Mexico. Periodicals, *Gale's* (English) and *El Comunista* (Spanish).

IN THE UNITED STATES

- ANN ARBOR, MICH—Mrs. L. A. Rhoads, 1318 Forest Court.
- CHICAGO, ILL.—Illinois Birth Control League
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- CLEVELAND, OHIO—Birth Control League of Ohio. Mrs. A. W. Newman, 10601 Ashbury Avenue, secretary.
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Mrs. Helen C. Thomsen, 1208 Vincent Avenue, N, secretary.
- NEW YORK
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The Woman's Committee of One Hundred. Mrs. Amos Pinchot, chairman, 9 East 81st Street.
Voluntary Parenthood League, 206 Broadway. Mary Ware Dennett, Director.
- PITTSBURGH, PA—The Birth Control League of Western Pennsylvania. Rita F. Stein, 924 Mellon St., Pittsburgh, Pa., secretary.
- PORTLAND, ORE—The Birth Control League of Portland. Mrs. J. R. Oatman, 549 Fifth Street, secretary.
- RADNOR, PA—The Main Line Branch of the National Birth Control League—Mrs. Walter M. Newkirk, secretary.
- ROCHESTER, N Y—A. I. Howser, 227 Parsells Avenue.
- ST LOUIS, MO—Grace Anderson, Superintendent of Municipal Nurses, City Dispensary, 11th and Chestnut Streets.
- ST PAUL, MINN.—The Minnesota State Birth Control League. Secretary, Mrs. Grace M. Keller, 230 Vernon Ave., St. Paul.
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