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THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

DEDICATED TO VOLUNTARY MOTHERHOOD

MARY KNOBLAUCH, *Acting Editor*

Vol IV

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No 7

To The Law Makers

UNDER THIS TITLE the French Neo Malthusians have issued a **manifesto** to the law makers and the voters—who in France as here are supposed to stand for and behind all new **legislation**. The **manifesto** translated from the last number of the Neo *Malthusian* reads thus —

"The Neo Malthusians teach

That maternity, as it may have **disastrous** consequences not only to the **Social State** but also the health of the mother, **should**, even more than **marriage**, be a matter of **volition** rather than **submission**

That it is a **question of conscience** not to have **children** except when it is **possible** to assure them in advance of at least the **minimum** amount of proper **hygiene, education and nourishment**. It is **wise** therefore, to **proportion** the number of **children** to the **family resources**

The Neo Malthusians **consider** that it would be superhuman and therefore **Utopian** to try to **impose** on the poor and those unable to procreate healthy **children** the voluntary **restrictions of celibacy** or absolute **continence**

To **avoid procreation** in all cases where it is **neither** desirable nor **desired**, the Neo Malthusians encourage contraceptive methods, notably **precautions, which, being** daily advised by **medical men as hygienic** or clean, are fraught with no **serious** consequences. They warn of the danger of **secret abortion**, but from the **medical and legal aspect**, an afterthought **which** for the most part could be **avoided**, if the women were better **Instructed** and knew how to **avoid** maternity except by **their own volition** and under favorable **circumstances**

No one, therefore, can **impute** to the Neo Malthusians the **disastrous** consequences of popular **practices** which they have **neither invented nor advised**. These **practices having for their object abortion by primitive means** are the natural **fruits of ignorance and necessity** and will **disappear** when the **Ignorant necessity** no longer exists

Laws are **in operation, which**, under the pretext of **increasing** the birth rate propose to **interdict** all Neo **Malthusian speaking and writing**, as well as the **giving** of contraceptive **information**

These laws will be **anti republican**, and **anti democratic**, in **efficacious** and dangerous. **Anti republican**, because under a government **recognizing** the right of **opinion and liberty of discussion**, it is **impossible** to admit that a citizen may be **interdicted** from **examining** the **sociological thesis** of **Malthus** or from **giving his verdict** for or against it

ANTI DEMOCRATIC, BECAUSE these **laws** aim at nothing **less** than a **shameful speculation** in the human **passions** and the **ignorance** of the poorest women to obtain from them at the **price of their misery and despair**, **children** for whose **up bringing** the State will leave them almost the **entire cost**. These laws, moreover, will act as a **compensation** for the half **sterility** which the **possessing class** enjoy, for this class **despite** their revenues have a birth rate nearly three **times** lower than that of the poor

Inefficacious and dangerous because they can **neither induce** women resolved to **refuse it** to accept maternity, nor **remedy their misery**, they will therefore only succeed in **multiplying secret abortions**, the popular methods of which no longer have to be taught, and **which** are resorted to by reason of **imperious necessity**, a **weighty motive** which will not **wait** for **sanction** nor stop at any means

It is very rare that a woman is **entirely without maternal desire**—especially the women of the **working class**

If the State demands from the French women a more numerous **offspring**, it will be **sufficient**, but it will also be **necessary** to assure to those **children** first of all a **cradle**, and to act in such a way that maternity, **instead of being, as it** nearly always is, an **anxiety** and a heavy burden, shall always be a **joy** and a source of **profit**

If the financial **situation** does not permit the State to put such a program into **operation**, the State is not **qualified** to **constrain** a **population** already exhausted by war **rations** and the **High Cost of Living** to bear the burden of a numerous **family**, for the **population** is even less able than the State to support such an **undertaking**. For the reasons stated above, we call on all **sincere** democrats and **socialists** to vote **against** the measures **which aim at suppressing** the **liberty of exposing** the Neo **Malthusian doctrine**

Is the Propaganda for an Increased Birth Rate the Proof of Moral Decay?

THE CATEGORIC DEMAND made by M. Clemenceau to the French people "To pay their taxes and bear children," is the keynote of the campaign for an increased birth rate wherever and whenever that campaign is waged

Is such a campaign sane or safe? Is it the result of straight thinking, honest Inquiry into conditions and humanitarian puposes, racially speaking?

To demand citizens for the State, as if the State were not composed of its citizens, seems a false and backward departure for the twentieth century to be making

The republican form of government which France and the United States are supposed to enjoy, is an institution based on the democratic idea of government by the consent of those governed. The state is an instrument made by the people, of the people, for the people," to work for their common interests of which they themselves are the best, indeed, the only, judges. The idea that a few shall dictate to the many what they shall do and how much they shall suffer is not an altogether satisfactory development of republican government.

The French propagandists for an Increased birth rate would go so far as to coerce the citizens to mcrease and multiply, regardless of depressing conditions and exhausted vitality.

The manifesto of the French Neo Malthusians to their government published elsewhere in this review ably sets forth many of the objections inherent in such methods.

There are however other dangers involved in the clamor for a careless over issue of citizens which are not brought out in the manifesto. Dangers which lurk in commercialization in whatever field that hateful enemy of honest dealing seeks to operate.

In the *International Journal of Ethics* for April, Edward Alsworth Ross of the University of Wisconsin, inquires in an illuminating discussion of commercialization in general—is it increasing or decreasing? In this crucial matter of race production the tendency to commercialization seems not only to be increasing, but to be the final expression of an atrophied political intelligence.

PROFESSOR ROSS SAYS "Into the production of a good or a service, various motives may enter, which hold the profit motive in check" 1 "Pleasure in Creative Activity" What pleasure or merit can there be in blind production unguided by the will? When it comes to producing children there should be pleasure in bearing a child. There should be merit in producing a healthy member of society and in assuring it, as nearly as human foresight may, a happy and decent life. If all connivance of the parents in such a result is stopped by the State, in what do they differ from a sausage machine? And in what are their moral responsibilities greater?

2 "Pride in the perfection in one's product" No pride can be taken in results over which one has no control. Every failure can be explained away and every merit also.

3 "Accepted standards of excellence which forbid the putting forth a ware or product below a certain degree of excellence"

This certainly should be applied first as conscientiously to the production of the race as that of any other ware or product. It should apply, but it is not applied. The unfit, mentally, morally, physically not only marry but breed. If the State asked, not for more, but for better children the propaganda would be reasonable.

4 "Pride in the perfection of one's product" Every parent should have that pride, but upon what is it based if his parenthood is ignorant and almost compulsory?

5 "Solicitude for the welfare of the customer or patron" If the State prevents the parents from expressing this solicitude, it would seem that the State should bear the consequences which will very probably be C3 children of whom there are already too many. What the state actually does do for such children may be learned from the letter to the Neo Malthusian League from a young Frenchman which will be

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found in this issue And it is not only in France that such things occur

In his article Professor Ross goes on to state that where the "Profit motive gains the upper hand of these nobler motives there is commercialization which is a result and proof of moral decay

AND THIS IS just what the clamour of the *surpenpleurs* would seem to be

In forcing the wanton product-onof children on the unwilling, or upon those seeking bonuses and medals, or sordidly breeding children whom they hope will support them later in life, they can only bring about the same demoralizing results in race product-on that commercialization has induced in every other field

For example, and again to quote from Professor Ross The great social distance between producer and consumer has led to the adulteration of food products The baker "who kneads chalk, alum and plaster" into his loaf under a commercialized system, may not be a villain He may merely be an automaton instead of a baker He is given materials to work with, he does not know or care what they are, and the stomach of the ultimate consumer is no affair of his He produces for the market

So a government which exhorts and endeavors to compel its citizens to breed, not knowing their qualification, turns them into automatons instead of parents And the parent automaton is likely to be even more disastrous than the baker automaton

Safe behind a cordon of underlings, officials dare to instigate crimes they never would have the nerve to commit themselves

THIS HAS BEEN found true in the State before this When taxes were fumed out, for instance, or when the poor were farmed out a hundred years ago in our own proud Bay State

In every line of business, public or private, social progress is made only when the unethical profit motive is expelled

Therefore the Neo Malthusians do well to protest against the proposed infringement of their liberties and their rights to the information which enables them to become voluntary parents And we, who are now in the position into which they refuse to be forced, would do well to come forward and stand for the right as it is given us to see the right Then, in race product-onas Professor Ross finds in other commercial forms good will, justice, democracy will triumph over sordidness, Ignorance and vice This great step forward has been taken and the results proved in New Zealand, Holland, Australia Should the French children and our own be doomed to suffering which is the result of commercialized stupidity? Shall they be required to furnish in their own persons the proof of that moral decay, which is the unfailling result of commercialization?

Woman and Marriage

IN A RECENT number of The Freeman, Lawrence Housman (under this title) writes a delightful article, summing up the tendencies of the Victorian Age and gazing boldly at the future

Marriage, he says, as practised in this era of complacent mediocrity, exploited women for the benefit of men It provided man with a home more economical and more comfortable than the harem It also permitted him, so far as the law was concerned, to have a friend or two besides So long as he erred only in this respect, his wife could not escape him The law protected him in his domestic possessions

In the course of time woman discovered that she was a slave by law and in the name of religion and the usual run of family virtues as well

The results of her discovery are becoming more evident every day The time when every woman of gentility waited upon matrimony has passed In the Victorian Era the "waiting woman," flourished greatly Marriage was her only career She exhibited her accomplishments, and concealed her age in the hope of attaining a position of dependence This position once secured, the "waiting woman" had no time off She must continue producing children while fecundity lasted, the rate being not for her but for her husband and "nature" to decide All right of consent was denied the woman This was the compulsion, moral and economic, of religion, custom, law Sexual obedience was a married woman's duty It may be admitted that the women received a measure of protection, economic and physical under this regime The old English game laws protected pheasants, but not to secure any benefits to the pheasant, only to place its life more surely at the mercy of the pheasant shooting landowners

In like manner the protection afforded women did not give them freedom

The mind of society is no longer Victorian The demand for divorce has greatly increased Society no longer believes in the unrestricted family Neither physically nor economically can the home support such a claim for the untrammelled operation of nature, comparatively few women today are prepared to commit themselves to the product-onof seven, ten or twelve children These facts are simply stated No judgment is passed, one way or the other on these "deserters from nature"

IN THE FACE of such a situation the Roman church, sternest of moralists where marriage is concerned, allows two mitigations of destiny—abstinence by mutual consent and what may be called conjugal opportunism

This admission of Birth Control on certain lines, is also an admission that nature where too productive, may be dodged, tho not tampered with, without sin But there has been no equal insistence that the sex function of woman should not be overdriven in pregnancies, and unnaturally stimulated during pregnancy under the rule of marital obedience The Church seems to have regarded slavery, that is, as natural and to have countenanced as well as tolerated it As an omen of the women's side of the modern problem, Mr Housman cites a picture in Punch, some forty years ago A small boy said to a still smaller girl, "Come here, Sissie, I want you," and Sissie going on her own way replies philosophically, 'no, t'anks' I want myself"

The modern woman still wants marriage, wants a mate, wants

children, but—she also “wants herself” The zealots are full of indignant assurances that a woman can find herself in no way so surely as in the production of children It may well be true that to bring life into the world is about the biggest physical and spiritual experience that a woman can undergo It may also be true that in producing, not one or two, but five, ten or fifteen children, a woman may, after finding herself for a time, lose herself again, and that quite abysmally She may feel that she has become a driven drudge, all the more as she sees that what is tearing her to pieces is for her mate, merely Indulgence, his pastime is her purgatory

(Mr Housman is discussing only the woman's case, and that more or less abstractly What couldn't he say about the children produced by this hurried and worried system—Editor's note)

THE DOCTRINAIRES SO eager to impose on women the moral duty of pauseless maternity impose also upon the unmarried youth a discipline of sexual abstinence, i e., celibacy as a stone wall, or marriage as a floodgate are the al-

ternatives they provide The two things stand together The seventh commandment is invoked to maintain the law of property If you deprive a husband of what is his due you drive him to sin

Therefore the inevitable antagonism between Victorian morality and the modern woman's claim to self possession Marriage, Mr Housman thinks, will have to adapt itself to that claim There is first the same unconscionable tyranny in demanding that a woman shall not be free from child bearing for three or four years, if she so desires, as there was in the old English law that a laborer has not the right to rest for three days without work and should be liable to forced labor if found idle

So, today, the married woman who is secure in her economic Independence will labor at race production as much as she sees fit and no more

The moralists who try to dictate to her will fall, for control is going to be practised To two forms “the Roman Church has already given its sanction, the State and society in general will before long have given their sanction to others

Clinics the Solution

By Margaret Sanger

[NOTE Mrs Sanger, who, at the invitation of leaders of the Malthusian movement in England, went to that country in the latter part of April to lecture on Birth Control finds in England, as in America that the great need is for clinics She is, therefore, devoting special attention to the establishment of Birth Control clinics in Great Britain Since the previous number of THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW went to press, Mrs. Sanger has been lecturing in London to general audiences at Caxton Hall and elsewhere and has delivered an extended series of addresses—all that her time would allow—before the various branches of The Woman's Co operative Guild in the metropolis She has also lectured in Cambridge In July, she has among other engagements lecture dates in Glasgow, other cities in Scotland, and in Belfast]

CLINKS—CLINICS IN which women can be given direct and individual instruction in contraceptive methods, are the solution of the problem of getting the Birth Control message to those who most need it Theories and philosophies are quite all right for the educators Printed matter will carry the message to those who have been educated But the woman who has been denied such advantages, and whose toil so thoroughly saps her energies that she cannot absorb what is written in the simplest fashion, needs personal instruction She must be told by word of mouth and shown by demonstration what to do and how to do it Otherwise much of our labor, so far as direct results go, is in vain The answer is clinics

I had these facts deeply impressed upon me once more, when on May 28th here in London, I delivered one of a series of lectures before a branch of the Woman's Co operative Guild This organization is much interested in Birth Control Its membership is by far the most intelligent and wide awake of any body of women workers here Despite the fact that the Malthusian League has distributed many thousands of leaflets

carefully setting forth practical information regarding contraceptives, and Marie Carmichael Stopes has distributed other thousands of similar pamphlets from her own pen, these women were not satisfied They demanded the information from the platform and it was given

If pamphlets could have met their needs fully, those needs would have been met by the leaflets of the Malthusians and these by Dr Stopes, herself an advocate of clinics But, weary from their day's work, these women found even pamphlets unsatisfactory They wanted to be told by word of mouth More, they need direct instruction at the hands of persons competent to give such instruction They need clinics

Clear sighted individuals in England are quick to see the necessity of Birth Control clinics when the subject is presented to them When I spoke at the university town of Cambridge, Mr Noel Porter, a friend of the movement, opened his home for the meeting when it was discovered that there was no hall vacant for the date This gave him an opportunity to invite specially many persons of influence and importance, including many who had never heard of Birth Control as a solution for social problems The meeting was highly enthusiastic and successful When it was suggested that a clinic be opened at once in one of the midland towns where women are killing themselves and their unborn children with poisonous drugs, in order to prevent the birth of unwanted babies, the audience responded eagerly Contributions amounting to £60, or \$300, were made on the spot, as the nucleus of a fund to establish the first Birth Control clinic in England

SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE operated to prevent the people of England and especially the working people, who need

family limitation most, from getting the full benefit of the efforts of the Malthusian League, and had it not been for the powerful deterring influence of some of these factors, there would not only be plenty of Birth Control clinics in England today, but there would certainly also be a far different state of society. Some of these factors are worth considering for the light they will shed upon problems encountered by the movement elsewhere.

The Malthusian League which was founded in 1879, has definite aims and principles which, if they had been applied, would have long since brought about a better order of society. Its program, however, is in opposition to that of the Labor Movement, and as a consequence, the working people, to whom the League's message is addressed, and who need it most, have been reluctant to accept the Malthusian principles.

The attempt of Marx to refute the theory of Malthus has also interfered with the beneficial effects of the work of the League. There seems to have been a bitter quarrel among the economists, especially in Germany and England, growing out of the attitude of Marx toward the Malthusian principle. Judging the matter now, it seems safe to say that but for the apparent refutation by Marx, the doctrine of family limitation applied to social problems would have ere this produced a new order of society.

Happily, a change is apparent now.

Many of the old Marxians who, ten years ago, believed absolutely that Marx had refuted Malthus and that "supply" was not so important if sufficient attention were given to "distribution," have changed their views. They are cautiously but courageously admitting part, at least, of the Malthusian principles.

The state has not stood in the way of the advance of the Birth Control movement in England as it has in America, but the church has exercised a powerful opposing influence.

There have been no vicious laws in England to brand the communication of information regarding contraceptives as a crime. On the other hand, the influence of the church, which still has its tentacles deeply imbedded in the psychology of the English working people, has been so strong that it is only within the past few years that such information has been given openly.

THERE IS A certain religious attitude of mind among the workers which those in power well understand and make use of. They have taken advantage of it to sway the English worker as they could not have swayed a body of people of like intelligence in any other country in the world. An example of what is happening is afforded by George Lansbury, editor of the London Herald, one of the most powerful of all labor papers. He lectures and debates upon such subjects as "The Church and the Social Crisis," hoping to influence the church to take part in the Labor Movement. Naturally when those of influence in the Labor Movement are anxious for the support of the church, they are not going to antagonize churchmen who oppose Birth Control by pushing that idea forward. This

is particularly true since the Labor Movement has not apparently awakened to Birth Control while the church, as a whole, has opposed it.

The suffragists have not yet given the cause of Birth Control the support that they might have given. These women who have created world wide fame for themselves and their cause are mostly mothers of small families or have no children at all. They have not as yet made it their task to share with their sisters who toll, the information by which they have limited their own families. The men workers, like the suffragists, have fought their own battles, but they have overlooked the basic problems of their wives. Thus, in England as in America, the women workers and wives of workers have been forced to bear children as fast as the children could arrive. Church, state, the Labor Movement and their own more fortunate sisters have alike left them to the doom of enforced and excessive maternity.

It is true that they have been afforded hundreds of palliative measures to help them bear this burden cheerfully. Society must not hear their groans. Most of the workingwomen are figuratively enfolded in these agencies and the guardians in charge have developed the instinct of warding off anything not pleasing to the delicate ears of the upper classes. The result is a "moral protection" that has robbed the working woman of the knowledge that would have given her freedom from poverty and unwilling motherhood.

In spite of all this, the natural intelligence of the English women workers is making itself felt. The economic pressure, is helping to make workmen's wives think. As they begin to think, they begin to ask insistently what they can do to prevent bringing to birth children who are not wanted and who die in infancy.

These women are the hope of England. They want to help themselves. They want to be free to love the children they have. They want to take some part in life other than as slaves. And it is among such women that I have been working.

THE ENGLISH PEOPLE need a stirring up of interest in fundamentals, — particularly in Birth Control. The church, however, stands porter at the door of light and it is hard to open that door and let the light through without conflict. Moreover, the retrograde report of the Birth Rate Commission and the fact that the war has been over but a short while are made excuses for the plea that this is not the best time to put forward the issue of Birth Control.

The press wags that "only the poor are having children, while the middle classes are remaining stationary in numbers." Recommendations of emigration and other reactionary remedies for overcrowding among the poor have aroused no enthusiasm among the workers, but the subject of Birth Control remains taboo among the workers themselves. The Malthusian League has had as its subject, mainly, the education of the legislative and professional classes, and of the thinkers. Considering these facts, in addition to the opposition of the

church, and the **indifference** and **opposition** of **Socialist** and Labor leaders, **it is** remarkable that the **Malthusian** movement has **attained** its present stage

Every day, however, **brings** fresh proof to the advocates of **Birth Control** that they are **right**. Every day **brings evidence** that the clearest thinkers are **coming** to agree with them.

The **suffragists** are **still tinkering** with **politics** or the League of Nations, but could these women, the most courageous and

fearless of the earth, be aroused for **Birth Control**, they would make short work of the obstacles **in** the path of woman's freedom. They are **cautious** and slow **going**, but they, too, are **thinking this** way, and when once the **political habit** of thought has been cast off and a fundamental human **interest** is taken up, there **is** no doubt that **Birth Control** **is** the **idea** that they will set themselves to put **into** the **social fabric**.

London

Babies—The Workingman's Luxury

By Gertrude M Williams

THE WAGES OF common labor are not low because they are used to coarse food and cheerless living, **it is** the maintenance of their numbers **in** the face of these meagre **conditions** that keeps wages low." This is quoted not from the New York Call, but from "Principles of Economics," vol 2, p 229, by F W Taussig, Professor Economics at Harvard University.

Arthur Twining Hadley, President of Yale University states that, "statistics show that **high** comfort and low birth rate go hand in hand. The history of civilization **is** in large measure a history of **this** development of prudence and comfort, (i e low birth rate) Economics, p 48.)

Alfred Marshall, Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge says, "It **remains** true that unless the **checks** on the growth of population in force at the end of the 19th century are on the whole increased it **will** be impossible for the **habits** of comfort **prevailing** in Western Europe to spread themselves over the whole world and **maintain** themselves for many hundred years" (Principles of Economics, vol 1, p 180)

What is the **attitude** of organized labor toward the **problems** of birth control? It has never **paid** any **official attention** to the matter. Perhaps it has **considered** the rate of increase of population too **statistical** and **high** brow a subject to be of any **immediate importance**.

Labor as **organized** today however, **is attaining** such strength and power that it **is thinking** about more **indirect** influences than actual hours of work and rate of pay. The modern labor **organization aspires** to broader **activities** than in the past, to be an **influence** leading its members on, and **guiding** toward a fuller **participation** in those **privileges** of a well rounded life which have **previously** been rather **monopolized** by the **leisure** class.

So the labor **unions** are **starting** schools and lecture courses for **their** members, arranging club rates for **tickets** to concerts and theatres, **investigating** the **possibilities** of **co operative** buying and of **organizing** their own **banking institutions**. One of the most **significant** steps has been the **securing** of **scientifically trained** expert **statisticians** and **investigators** to form **their** own research bureaus. In the future labor plans to meet **capital** a step further up toward **equality**, armed with some of **capital's** weapons of facts and figures and unanswerable

publicity material as to the **relative rise** of wages, cost of living and the like.

WHEN THE LABOR researchers come to the subject of the relation of population and the birth rate to wages and the standard of living, they will find facts which relate **back** to their problem with **startling immediacy**. They will meet statements, such as those just quoted, from the pages of our most **unimpeccable academic authorities**, which yet have something of that **rasping asperity** of radical propaganda.

Labor's **'interest** in the economist's **condemnation** of **unrestrained breeding** is very **direct**. It is the working people who produce the great mass of each next **generation**, not only as a **majority** of the people, but because they reproduce out of all proportion to their numbers. And it is the workers who are **vitaly** concerned in the **maintenance** and **raising** of the average standard of comfort. The **primary function** of the trade union is defined as **'protection** of the standard of life" (Sydney Webb). Modern labor organization owes its **beginnings** to the efforts of workers to make some **joint defence** of **their** standard of living against the **terrific encroachments** at the **time** of the **introduction** of **machinery** and the factory system, the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century. The rest of the population are already far enough above that **minimum** of a standard of actual **physical necessities** so that its **fluctuations** do not **immediately** affect them.

When Professor Taussig writes, "High birth rates, high death rates, backward **industrial conditions**, low wages—these commonly go together. A **limitation** of numbers **is** not a cause of **high** wages, but **a** **condition** of the maintenance of **high wages**," he **is formulating** a statement of tremendous **import** to a labor **organization** charged with **"protection** of the standard of life" of its members.

A Hottentot **walking** through the streets of New York's tenement section on a hot night, and comparing them with the streets of what **is** called the residence **section**, might **easily jump** to the **conclusion** that the birth rate among the poor **is** much **higher** than among the wealthy. **But** there are **allowances** to make for the fact that there are a greater number of **families** per block, and of people per room in the poor **section**, and that the well to do take **their children** out of town in the summer. So **it is impressive** to **see** in **actual** figures how great the **disproportion** is. A table prepared by Dr Jacques

Bertillon, the famous French **statistician**, is interesting, being based on four of the greatest **cities** in the world. He gives the **proportions** of **births** per thousand **married** women per year in those **cities**

	Pans	Berlin	Vienna	London
Very poor quarters-----	108	157	200	147
Poor -----	95	129	164	140
Comfortable -----	72	114	155	107
Very Comfortable -----	65	96	153	107
Rich -----	53	63	107	87
Very Rich -----	34	47	71	63

(From a paper read before the International Statistical Institute, St Petersburg, 1897)

TOTALLING THE COLUMNS of the four **cities**, there are

612 birth in the very poor quarters to **215** in the very rich, a **ratio** of **practically** three to one. For every wealthy man **lavishing** luxures on a family of three children, there was a workmg man **struggling** to **provide** shoes and food for **nine** children

Numerous **similar** tables for **various cities** and **countries** bear out the same fact, that the great bulk of the next generation, out of all **proportion** to their numbers, is **born** and **reared** among the workmg people of the world. Sir Arthur Newsholme states the case with **academic caution**, in commenting on a table for London, in which the classification was based on the number of servants kept per **100 families**, as shown in the census. He writes, "The above facts suggest the **conclusion** that among the **rich** in London the prevention of child bearing is **systematically** and largely **practised**, that among the very poor the **practise** is probably almost unknown, and that the mass of **population** which lies between these two **social extremes** occupies an **intermediate position** in regard to such **preventive measures**" ("Readings in Social Problems" compiled by A. B. Wolfe, p. 80)

The **economists** do not fail to **interpret** the results of this **disproportionate birth rate** in terms of actual **living conditions**. Sidney Webb describing an **investigation** of the falling birth rate, made by his wife Beatrice Webb, speaks of "the penal consequences" attending the birth of each succeeding baby in four fifths of the households of the nation because of their **inadequate incomes** (Popular Science Monthly, vol. 69, p. 512). A scientific investigation made by B. S. Rowntree of the economic condition of **77,000 inhabitants** of the city of **York**, a typical **British provincial town**, some twenty years ago has become a **classic**. The book "Poverty" recording the **findings** is accepted as a standard reference book by schools and colleges. Mr. Rowntree in addition to his writing is a successful **business man**, being a **director** of Rowntree & Co., Ltd.

For **definiteness**, Mr. Rowntree divided poverty into two classes, primary and secondary. He includes under **primary**, "families whose **total earnings** are **insufficient** to obtain the **minimum necessities** for the **maintenance** of merely physical **efficiency**," as distinguished from secondary poverty which includes "families whose **total earnings** would be **sufficient** for the **maintenance** of merely physical **efficiency**, were it not that some **portion** of it is absorbed by other **expenditure**, either

useful or wasteful." Briefly, neither class is a family able to satisfy the sheer physical demands of **animal existence**.

MR ROWNTREE FOUND **six** "immediate causes of primary poverty." Of these **six** causes, the second in importance, affecting **22** per cent, nearly one quarter of all the causes, was largeness of **family**. Incidentally, the largest cause of this primary poverty, affecting over half the cases was "regular work but low wages."

As illustrating the **grim severity** of the standards on which the **investigation** was based, and what he means by the phrase "mere physical efficiency," Mr. Rowntree explains that in **estimating** the standard of **living**, he allowed a family budget just sufficient to cover the **minimum physical necessities** of life, they "must never spend a penny on **railway fare** or **omnibus**, must never go into the country unless they walk, never **purchase** a penny newspaper, or spend to buy a **ticket** for a popular concert, **write** no letters to their absent children, for they cannot afford to pay postage, never **contribute** to **church** or chapel, or to help a **neighbor**. They can not save, nor can they **join sick clubs** or trade **unions**, the father may **neither smoke nor drink**. In case of **illness** there is no allowance or **medical aid**, and in case of death, the body must be buried by the **parish** (p. 1334). Yet even this cruelly meager standard constituting "mere physical efficiency" was beyond the reach of **187 families**.

Discussing the **size of family**, Rowntree writes, "The fact remains that every laborer who has as many as three children must pass through a **time**, probably **lasting** for about ten years, when he will be in a state of 'primary' poverty, in other words, he and his family will be underfed" (p. 135). He adds that though we may see well **nourished looking** working men spending their money at saloons, "what we do not see is that in order to give him enough food, the mother and children habitually go short, for the mother knows that all depends upon the wages of her husband."

ROWNTREE'S INVESTIGATION WAS made twenty years ago, and since then the war has intervened to ruse the **scale of wages considerably**. The cost of **living** has advanced rapidly enough to **keep conditions** just about as they were however, as is indicated by numerous **investigations of living conditions**. There is for instance, the statement of Harold Surfield of the **University of Sheffield**, England, in a book published in **1919**, based on after the war conditions. Mr. Surfield writes, "It is **mathematically impossible** for a man and his wife and **six children** below fourteen to be adequately maintained on a laborer's wages. Even with the greatest **thrift**, the children must be underfed, **insufficiently clothed**, and **improperly housed**. Yet there are many such families."

Prenatal Influence counts for something. The advent of a newcomer in a normal, prosperous family is hailed with joy. Can it be so if the parents have already all they can do to make both ends meet, and know that one more mouth to fill will mean their sinking below the **poverty line**? Is it remarkable if the woman in such **circumstance** has recourse

to dangerous operations, or to drugs which may cost her her life? We must abolish the unwanted child and help the super mother" ("Infant and Young Child Welfare")

There is poignant tragedy to be read between the lines of some of the matter of fact statistics presented by economists in regard to women and poverty. There is the statement made by Royal Meeker, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics, and quoted in the last number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, giving a study in the changes in percentage distribution of expenditure, as the family grows. When the working man first marries, he and his wife spend about the same amount for clothes. With the arrival of each baby, the woman's expenditure drops, until with the fourth or fifth child, she spends almost nothing and is virtually unable to leave her home, even if she had time and strength to do so, because she has nothing suitable to wear on the street.

There is the chart given by Rowntree in his study of "Poverty," showing by a curved black line the variation above and below the line of physical efficiency of the average working man's family which is recorded in his investigation of 77,000 inhabitants of York. Below in the reading matter, it is explained that only twice in the average workers' lives does the financial strain relax, during the few years of youth just before marriage, when they are attaining the maximum of their earning power, before they take up the burdens of maturity, and years later in old age, when life is almost over, and the children they have brought up are contributing in turn to their support. And there is the casual statement that "the women are in poverty during the greater part of the period that they are bearing children." (p. 137) When one thinks of the care and attention lavished upon women of the leisure class during their pregnancies, this makes bitter reading, as one remembers what "poverty" as used by Rowntree means.

MOST TRAGIC OF all, more appalling than the horrors of war itself, are the conditions revealed by a study of the infant death rate in poor workingmen's homes as compared with those of the well to do. In his investigation of the city of York, Mr. Rowntree found that, whereas in the poorest section one out of every four infants dies before it is a year old, a rate of 247 per thousand, in the well to do section of the city the death rate is only 94 per thousand.

The Children's Bureau connected with our Department of Labor in Washington has carried on a study of infant mortality in eight typical industrial cities since 1912. Julia Lathrop, head of the Bureau makes the statement that "in general the lowest income groups are the highest mortality groups in all of the cities studied." To take one example there is Johnstown, Penna., which appeared on the front pages of our newspapers for several days during the recent steel strike, when it ejected all American Federation of Labor organizers from the town as a menace to the community. The death rate of infants under one year old, per thousand live births in families where the father earns \$1250 and over is 87, while, where the father earned less than \$550 for the year, the rate was 260 (Statement of Julia Lathrop in American Labor Year Book, 1919-20)

Translated into terms of human suffering these figures make one shrink back. They mean such sacrifice and going with out, they mean an aggregate of so many months of weary pregnancy, working in factories, scrubbing office floors, taking in washing up to the last possible minute, carrying the babe in a body undernourished and maintained on a standard below the minimum of physical efficiency,—and all for nothing, only to see the little life flicker out before the baby is a year old.

ONLY SECOND IN horror to the infant mortality rates are the statistics showing the inferior physique and vitality of the children born in the large families of the poor. Mr. Rowntree reports that in his study of York, it was found that among boys of 13 leaving elementary school, the poor boys to begin their life's work, the boys from the poorer sections of the city average 11 pounds less in weight and three and one half inches less in height than the boys from well to do homes. When their health was classified in the four grades, Very Good, Good, Fair and Bad, over half (52 per cent) of the boys in the poor section were registered as in the lowest grade, Bad. Figures such as these taken in conjunction with the previous statements showing the difficulty of rearing a family on a workingman's income, make the question of whether the working people shall have contraceptive information a matter of national concern. It affects so vitally and obviously the physique and morale of the nation itself, in the person of the younger generation.

The Women's Co-operative Guild of England published a collection of letters from working women a couple of years ago, telling with that wonderful directness and simplicity of actual human documents, their experiences in maternity. There is little self pity or sentimentality about these women. They have been brought up to accept all this as a traditional part of woman's life. Some have it easier, some have it harder. Brief quotations from typical letters will give some sense of what the laws refusing contraceptive information to women mean in terms of blood and agony. For any adequate sense of what they mean, only a God himself could rightly judge.

Then came the shortage of money. I began to stint myself in order to provide for my little one. Many a time I have had bread and drippings for my dinner before my husband came home, and said I had my dinner, as I would not wait. My next baby was born dead, and my next only lived five months. When I was laid up again we were very hard up, I had to let the young person who looked after me go before her time was up. After I paid her and my rent and coals, we had no dinner the Sunday simply because we could not afford any. I always tried to get on and keep us all respectable, but it was hard work. I also managed to get the doctor paid before I wanted him again. Two and a half years after I had another baby and she has taken more to rear than all the rest, she cannot go to school. She takes such a lot of fits both night and day. My next baby was born about 18 months after, and when she was 5, I had the misfortune to go to bed again, I had a very bad time although it was my



The Soft Hearted State

—From *Folkets Dagblad Politiken* (Stockholm)

"I had nine children and the State did not interest itself at all in them, even to see that they had food. Then I tried to prevent the coming of the tenth and the State stretched out its protecting hand over it even while it was in my body."

tenth child I was chloroformed and the baby lived a half an hour I am sure you **will be tired reading** all my troubles, but I assure you I had to work hard in my home, and out of it to keep us all together I have a good husband and he **helps** me all he can Three of my daughters **is** under the doctor now, and I am of the **candid opinion it is** through me working so hard and not **getting** plenty of food and **attention during** that **period**" ("Maternity" p 151 and 76)

APPEALS FOR A swarming **population** and **warnings** **against a falling birth** rate usually come from **publicists** and writers of the most **conservative** type, **members** of the class of **society** who themselves **maintain** the lowest **birth** rate **Evidently** in the matter of **bearing children**, as well as in the performance of the manual labor of the world, they are **quite** content to **limit their share in** such noble **duties** to exhortation

That the poor should **continue** to reproduce as they do in the face of such **overwhelming penalties** is of course due to the **fact** that Nature has made the **instinct** for **reproduction** one of the two fundamental **instincts** of **life**,—the other being **hunger**

There are contributing influences When a **family** **sinks** below the level of comfort and decent **living**, the parents often seem to lose all sense of **responsibility**, and propagate heed **lessly, blindly, like animals** They are so **badly** off that **nothing** matters

The other **influence** is found in the laws **against circulating** information for the **prevention** of **conception** The women of the **leisure** class have **this information** very generally The laws **against giving it**, operate really as a class **distinction** **preventing** only those women who need it most **tragically** from **having access to it** Common sense suggests that **this** would be the result of such laws The figures prove that it **is**

The well to do woman with her own personal **physician** is able **quietly** to secure the **contraceptive information** on a dozen grounds The poor **woman** going to a **public clinic** of course **has** no such **opportunity** **Investigations** have shown repeatedly that doctors in **clinics** refuse to give **this information** even in the most extreme cases, where another **conception** means death to a **woman** who is perhaps the mother of a large **family** of **little** ones who need her Poor women who have their own doctors are also unable to secure the **information**, as is proven by the **Road** of letters that pours in on every woman whose name is **mentioned** in the newspaper as **connected** with the **Birth Control** movement The **Birth Control organizations** and the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** do not **give out** **contraceptive information** because it is **against** the law, and they are working for the repeal of such laws, so that they may **give it out** legally, and they **advertise** this fact **widely** Yet a **despairing multitude** of women and their husbands **continue** to send their **pitiful** appeals for help in their **individual** tragedies

THIS ATTITUDE ON the **part** of doctors appears to be partly due to a vague sense that there are some **laws** about the matter and they may get into trouble **if** they meddle with the **subject** By a recent **decision** it has been pronounced legal

for doctors in New York state to **give** contraceptive **information** to women who need it But the doctors show **little interest** in the matter In **the main** they seem to feel that **this is** woman's **traditional** job, no matter what the cost to the woman and her **family** in the **individual** case Luther, famous as a reformer, bluntly phrased it for them, **standing beside** the bed of a woman **dying in childbirth** "If a woman grows weary and at last **dies** from child **bearing**, it matters not Let her only **die** from **bearing** She is there to do it"

The **instinct** of the **privileged** class to keep **this** secret away from the masses of the people undoubtedly **originated** when every country was almost **chronically** at war, and needed a **maximum population** for **fighting** The phrase "cannon fodder" expresses the **situation** with forceful **brevity** Or as **William Pitt** said, "The man who has a large **family** is a benefactor to **his** country," blandly **ignoring** the mother with that **characteristic** egotism of a male statesman, and also **omitting**, more **insidiously** any **qualifications** as to the **quality** of that large **family** It was about the same time that the **British** ruling class gave a demonstration of **their** motives almost naive in its frankness In 1806 when **British** statesmen were haunted by the specter of an **insatiable** Napoleon at large, they granted **exemption** from taxes to all fathers of more than two children born in wedlock As soon however as Napoleon was safely landed on **Saint Helena**, **this exemption** was at once repealed

As Labor **steadily** advances and **applies** some of the **leisure** it is **fighting** for today to further **education** and more general **information**, its **attention** will be arrested by such statements as the one already quoted, "The fact remains that every laborer who has as many as **three children** must pass through a **time** probably **lasting** for about ten years, when he **will be** in a state of **primary** poverty he and **his** **family** underfed" The book "Poverty" has been **resting** on the shelves of **libraries** for twenty years, but the **working** man has not been in a **position** to take it out and read the pages over **aggressively** heretofore The **Birth Control** movement would **accomplish something** tremendously worth **while** if it succeeded in effectually **bringing** such sentences to labor's **attention** Of course more than **birth control** is needed to meet the **situation** It is a **grim** and **bitter** injustice that a **laboring** man should not be financially able to have three children, and as many more as he and his **wife** want But any such readjustment would **strike** at the very roots of our **social organization** and involve changes that must probably be a matter of years A **campaign** to **wipe out** the laws preventing the **establishment** of **clinics** for the frank **dissemination** of **contraceptive** information to the mass of working men and their wives, is an **immediate** and **perfectly practical** step

THERE ARE **BABY** **clinics** in the crowded sections of big cities, where the poor mother may **take** her baby to be weighed and measured and to get advice on **his** **feeding** and care It is only a **logical** development to supplement these with **clinics** where the young **workingman's** wife or **bride-to-be** may **obtain** the **information** which would make it **possible**

for her and her husband to save a **little** money ahead, and have **their families voluntarily**, with decent **intervals** between, to allow for recovery of health to the mother, and recovery of the pocket book to the father. This is not a **chimerical idea**. Such **clinics** have **existed** for years in Holland, and to a more **limited** extent in England.

Labor has made its way along a rough steep path. What ever **gains** in **enfranchisement**, **education**, **protective legislation**, and now today in **participation in management**, the **working class** have made, have come as a result of **their own efforts**, of demands **which** they have backed up through **generations** of **persecution** and **imprisonment**, and often at the cost of **life** itself.

When labor becomes **conscious** of **this** great drain on **its vitality which is sapping** its strength as a class, and **helping** make **it possible** to hold **it down**, **something will happen**. At the rate that labor is doing **things** today, **this** may not be long. Some day, one of the **virile** young **organizations** of industry **which** are **riding out like Don Quixotes**, **tilting** at all sorts of **windmills** that labor has never **lifted its eyes** to before, **will** take up **this question** of the **relation** of the birth rate to wages and the standard of **living**. And labor **will** demand that **this class legislation** be removed from the statute books, and that their women be **given** the same control of their **lives** and **bodies** that is already enjoyed by **their sisters** of the leisure classes.

"The Past's Blood-Rusted Key"

"IT IS THE opinion of Judges **Hiscock, Collin, Cardozo** and **Andrews, given** in the N Y State Court of Appeals on January 8, 1918, that **physicians may give contraceptive information to prevent disease**"—Quoted from the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** of June

If Mrs Lmder's **physician** had known **this**, would he have sent her back home **uninstructed**? Mrs **Linder**, after the birth of her **third child**, contracted **melancholia** and was committed to the asylum, where she was kept for a year when she was sent back to her home and husband apparently cured. Her **physician** in the asylum, however, warned **both** her and her husband that she must bear no more **children**. What an empty form such a **warning** was! It eased the doctor's **conscience**, that was all. As well ask a **starving** and **thirsty** man to refrain from **eating** the grapes that grow under **his window**! We all know the **proximity** forced upon **working people** in **their narrow** quarters. Extra **beds** cost money and **require** extra space. Men and women whose lives are **devoid** of color or pleasure, whose **emotions** are starved in other **directions** find it almost humanly **impossible** to control themselves in the **sex relation**. Even a philosopher with the **compensations** that money and **opportunity** can **obtain** does not find it easy to **practise** selfcontrol and **continue living** with the woman whom he **loves**! Why ask **it** or expect **it** of such a man as Mr **Linder**, **working** all day as an operator on cloaks at a small wage, a wage **insufficient** to supply the **necessities** for the **family**, to say nothing of **diversions**? What an empty mockery the **warning** was! A **physician** may be wrong, the **profession** is not **infallible**, to take a **gambling** chance is a **human** weakness. Soon Mrs **Linder** was pregnant **again**, and had to return to the asylum where her baby was born and where she **still** is confined with **little** hope of recovery. The baby has been placed in the orphan asylum. The three other **children**, Mrs Lmder's aged mother and **their** father are **caring** for. The **grandmother's** heart is full of hate for Mr Lmder—it's all **his** fault that her daughter is in the asylum. She is arousing the same hate in the **children**. **Sidney**, eight years old, a **delicate** and very **sensitive child**, feels keenly the absence of **his** mother. He is a very **silent child**. At school he

has been placed in the class for **defectives**. **Abie**, whose birth brought on the first attack of **melancholia**, died when seven months old. It is **idle** to expect doctors to be made of the stuff of martyrs—only the few who are of heroic mold have the courage to defy an unjust law. If there is no law for **bidding** the **physician** to **give information** to such a woman as Mrs Lmder, then let the fact be spread broad cast. **While physicians** are not martyrs, **neither** are they monsters. They do not revel in cruelty. But Mrs Lmder's doctor was cruel to Mrs Lmder, cruel to her husband, cruel to the grandmother, cruel to her other **children**, but most of all cruel to the **child conceived** and born as a result of her **ignorance**. The blame **cannot** be **rightly** laid on **either** the husband or the wife.

AND HOW ABOUT the **physician** in this case? Could he legally **give** Mrs **Weiss** the **desired information**?

Mrs **Weiss'** husband was a clock maker until three years ago when he became **sick** and had to **give up his** work. Since then it has been very hard for poor Mrs **Weiss**. When I asked her what was the matter with her husband, she put her hand to her head as she said "He's got pains in his head, sometimes he's queer and he don't know what he's **doing** and **just sits** and stares. He has a peddler's cart down on the **side** walk, but he can't push it about, so he just keeps it in one place. I have to keep **running** down to the **side** walk to see **if everything's** all right." Mrs **Weiss** is only 30, she already has four **babies** and is five months pregnant with a **fifth**. The oldest **child**, Charlotte, **eight** years old, and the only **child** of school age is in the class of **defectives**. There is an **interval** of nearly four years between Charlotte and Max, thanks to the fact that Mr **Weiss** preceded Mrs **Weiss** to **America** by **several** years. **Annie**, 2, and the baby, 15 months, have been born **since** Mr **Weiss** has been **sick**. Mrs **Weiss**, five months pregnant, was **lugging** around her puny baby of 15 months, as she **did** her house work and at **intervals** ran down the long **flight** of stairs to the **sidewalk** to see how her husband and **his** peddler's cart were **getting** on. Of course she was **dirty**, slovenly and tousled, of **course**, her two dark **stuffy** rooms were filthy and **disorderly**, of course

the children were **sticky** and messy' She was bewildered, **discouraged, dejected**! Why should she not **be**? Stouter hearts and stronger heads than hers have failed under **lighter** burdens' What **is** there ahead of her? A **sick** husband **steadily** growing worse, an **increasing** family, a **dwindling** income If her husband **lives**, she can **still** hear five or six more **babies** Surely Mr **Weiss**' doctor knows the **situation** in the **family** Even **did** he also know of the recent **decision**, would he be safe in **giving** Mrs **Weiss** the **information** desired? The ordinary doctor does not want to run the **risk** of a **prison** sentence Who can blame **him**? So Mrs **Weiss** and countless others **will** be forced to **drift** along Which reminds me of a **quotation** from George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman" "To be in hell **a** to **drift**, to be in heaven **is** to steer" Do we not **consign** by our laws most of these poor mothers to hell?

PHYSICIANS TELL US that one sort of goltre **is** produced by child bearing—Mrs Home has such a goltre She has had it for the last **six** years Four children have been born **since** she has had the goltre and the **goltre** meantime has been **growing** steadily worse Also **rheumatism** of the heart has developed The state of her **nerves** can better be **imagined** than **described** She has had eleven children altogether, three of whom are dead The rest are **all** **living** at home **Samme**, 10 years old, the first **child** born after the goltre developed, has an acute nervous trouble, Dave the next **child** died when three years old, Jerry who **a** now five, **did** not **begin** to **talk** till he was four years old The baby, cross and nervous, **is** **only** two and a half How **will** he develop? Mrs Home **is** forty **eight** years old, so probably her **child** bearing days are

over The ages of her eleven run, 24, 22, 18, 17, 15, 13, 11, 10, 8, 5, 2½ **Certainly** in the case of the last four children she has taken her **life** in her hands each time she has **become** pregnant **Did** her doctor know that **it** was lawful to **give** **contraceptive** information to prevent **disease**? Probably not Otherwise Mrs Home would have seven **instead** of eleven children to her credit, she herself would not be the complete nervous wreck she now **is**, there would have been three **sickly** and nervous **babies** less in the world, the five other **living** children would have had a few more **opportunities**, and **would** not have had to **begin** so early **contributing** to the support of the others

The fact that the above **decision** has been handed down **should** not cause any one to relax **his** or her efforts to get the law repealed **which** makes **a** a crime to **give** **contraceptive** information There **is** always so **much** quibbling in our courts over the **interpretation** of any law that a **physician** can hardly be **blamed** from **keeping** entirely out of the grasp of the courts, **from** refusing to make himself liable to **accusation**

But there **is** a deeper and more fundamental reason that **must** never be forgotten the law is an **insult** to free womanhood If a woman **is** an **intelligent** human **being**, surely she has a **right** to the control of her own body Who is **competent** to say how many **children** a woman shall have? Who **is** competent to say whether she shall have any children? Surely the men, (not **even** women, mark **you**!) long **since** dead, who framed the law ought not to be **reaching** out **their** dead hands over Mrs **Linder**, Mrs **Weiss**, Mrs Home who are merely symbols of countless others' Why try to unlock the present **with** the "past's blood rusted key"

A Prayer in the Country

I HAVE BEEN FOR some weeks in the country, **walking** from **this** village to that **aimlessly** I came everywhere on farms **big** and **little**, and everywhere I have seen the absorbed care **which** the farm men **give** to the cattle, many of whom are soon to calve

On the **hillsides** the shepherds watch **with** **loving** care, day and **night**, over the ewes in labor, over the new born lambs

A lovely **sight** **this** tender care of helpless **things**—**things** in **pam**—by rough men who earn but **little** money

And then I passed through the **villages** themselves, and went into the farm **workesr**' homes Mere "buts and bens" they were, **with** no **slightest** **convenience** to lessen the eternal work of the women **looking** after them. Walls that had not been **repaired** or papered these 20 years. no **smk** no proper stove, **stairs** that were very **precipices** of danger to **little** feet, roofs that let **in** wet, floors that made the women ever **crossing** them bent **with** **rheumatism**

And I thought of the cattle in **their** **splendid** stalls, the well mended pens for the sheep, the men kept to make them clean **and** in **repair**

In the cottages women in **their** pain bore children an hour or two after they had stopped work, and rose in a few days to resume that work In those cottages a **child** of ten mothered a whole brood of neglected little ones because mother had to work in the factory Father, the laborer **tending** the cattle, **did** not earn enough to keep them all without her money too

One **night** the woman of the cottage in which I was prayed aloud "Oh, God' if you have more children to send to us, **send** them not to us as human **beings** Let them be cattle and sheep, that they may be well tended and fed and housed, cot left to utter chance as my **babies** must be left"

PATIENCE PATERSON,

—London Herald

The "Poilu" Returns

THE FOLLOWING LETTER from a correspondent of the Neo Malthuszen is of interest in connection with their manifesto which is printed elsewhere in this issue

I married against the wishes of my family at the age of twenty one my pregnant compamon I was earning six and a half francs a day The child was born No one could have lived more modestly than we, yet we suffered many privations

In 1912, I had a second child The hardships increased, and gloom settle down upon my humble home My children fell ill Life, in spite of my desperate efforts became more and more difficult In 1914, in the month of May, a third child was horn Oh' God' What an existence' What misery, and what cruel anguish

Then the war came I went like so many poor fellows, leaving wife and children in the most profound distress

In June 1915, being temporarily relieved on account of "suspected bronchitis"—everyone knows what that means—I returned to Paris My wife, worn out, exhausted, fell ill and had to go to a hospital I was left alone with my three children, one of whom had Pott's Disease

What was I to do?

I ask your attention, Sir, to what follows My wife, having been admitted to the Saint Louis, I asked, after having explained my situation and showing that I was not in a condition to give my children the necessary care that some one would kindly look after them until their mother was able to leave the hospital

The healthy children were admitted The sick child was refused, and I was advised to enter it at the Trousseau

I went to the Trousseau, explained my case and asked that the sick child be admitted until his mother should be out of the hospital

Is your child clean?—they inquired

My child does not talk and cannot ask for what he wants Then it is impossible Bring back your child when he is clean

Exhausted, penniless, clad in the heroic garb of the "Poilu," I left, bewildered and even sicker than before, my little cripple in my arms I wandered about like a lost soul The passers by pitied me

WHAT WAS I to do? Where was I to go? To whom should I apply for help?

I returned home, and, at my wits end, I wrote to M Mesurier, director of Public Charities, insisting upon my unusual case

No reply

Several days later in the most profound despair, I took my sad little burden and returned to the Trousseau

They knew there of the request I had made to M Mesurier Again they refused to take my baby

The child, however, needed attention, and needed it at once So I insisted The surgeon refused I insisted again The

director was called Once more I explained my case The director invoked the rules, the lack of room, declared besides, that the child was not ill—a child with Potts disease And—told me to take him to the Herold

I had come to the end of my patience I rebelled Oh—I was calm, but firm' "My child," said I, "will remain here I will not take him back I will leave him with you until his mother leaves the hospital"

Turning to an intern the director said, "Admit him!"

So there was room, the rules did not prevent his admission, and my child was so ill, that he died eight days later, despite the most irreproachable care

Such is public chanty Such is the "mother of the poor" Such an enterprise it is that boasts of bringing, keeping, caring for, saving the little ones of those who are ignorant enough, and thoughtless enough to call into existence offspring whom they cannot rear happily, even if they kill themselves trying to do it

I had, however, the good fortune to find an excellent friend He acquainted me with your theories He showed me your pamphlets Once again joy visited my fireside When I recall all the suffering of my family, all the privations we have undergone, all the misery we have endured, Oh' I cry aloud, I never would undergo it again

I have now only one son—for I lost my daughter He is seven years old He will remain the only child He will be, I hope, happy I do not, in any case, wish that he should endure what I have endured, or suffer as his mother and sister suffered I will bring him up a Neo Malthusian, yes, conscious procreation is indeed the means of escape from poverty, misery and Ignorance And I am your ardent disciple, I will proclaim to the young that the great cause you are agitating is the one that will prevent for them and for their dependents great sufferings in this life

SCHULE

Open Forum

A LETTER FROM A THINKER

Population and War

EDITOR GLOBE—Your paper has been entertaining us recently with reports of increased population throughout the country And you seem to think this is cause for congratulation Some cities have even made increased population a slogan

There is another side to this story, however Population increases geometrically and is the cause of all wars, for it provides the means

You can have a thousand "leagues of nations" (or notions), but you will never prevent war until you do away with the cause-terrific population coming into the world haphazardly and generally settling on "other peoples' feet"

The struggle to feed this "gang" is terrible, result (most acute after a war), high cost of living!

Don't preach Increased population! (Miss) G F HOGAN

New York, April 16

Birth Control Review,
New York City

The food situation in the world is serious enough, it seems to me, to justify an extension of birth control propaganda to include the practice of abortion. There must be a decreasing birth rate for some years to come and all means ought to be employed to bring it about if we are to avoid aggravation of all the evils of overpopulation.

Abortion used to be looked upon with horror. For that matter, so did contraception. Today all intelligent and well informed persons realize that both attitudes are unwarranted and foolish. Such antiquated opinions arise from inherited prejudice. As a matter of simple fact, the technique of abortion has been so perfected by modern surgical science that it is no more serious an operation than having a tooth pulled. In only very rare instances, where the work has been improperly done, are there any bad effects. For a woman to submit to an abortion at the hands of a skilled operator is really on the average considerably less dangerous than allowing the pregnancy to go to term. This is a fact of tremendous importance. It cannot be stated too often or known to too many.

We shall never have true voluntary motherhood until the absurd laws against abortion that disgrace our civilization are so amended as to penalize only incompetent and bungling operators. That is, abortion per se should not be subject to any penalty whatever, but malpractice might very well be more rigorously regulated than now.

One million abortions in the United States every year are ample enough proof of the futility of present laws against the practice. I cite Dr W J Robinson as authority for this estimate. Other physicians to whom I have shown Dr Robinson's figures thought they were an underestimate of the truth rather than otherwise.

So inoperative is the law against abortion in this country that we are justified in saying American public opinion tacitly sanctions the practice if no injury is done the prospective mother.

I can think of no argument favoring birth control that is not equally valid in support of abortion scientifically done. The time seems to me ripe for a full, honest and intelligent discussion of the whole question of abortion.

A most powerful argument in favor of abortionists found in eugenics. We know that the rich, the well to do, and the more intelligent and prudent women have such operations by the hundred thousand every year. As long as this is the case nothing is being done—or really can be done—to stop the practice, it would be vastly better for the race if inferior stocks would resort to this method of family limitation in the same numerical proportion as fitter and superior strains. If there is not the same opportunity for abortion for all grades of women, and about the same widespread practice of it, effects decidedly dysgenic will certainly result.

Let us frankly admit that "birth control" means just what it says and includes both prevention of conception and abortion.

Let us not hesitate in this crisis to do our utmost to avoid the horrors of famine and starvation with which the world is threatened.

HERMAN DEKKER

May 28th, 1920

Dear Mr Dekker

In reply to your letter dated the 15th of May I can give you only my personal view of the matter.

I cannot myself see that Birth Control in the sense in which the term is used in the Review it at all related to abortion.

In fact I shall most resolutely maintain that abortion is quite contrary to the idea involved in our major premise.

That idea is that parenthood should be conscious and voluntary, that conception should be the result of an understanding of what parenthood means. Therefore it seems to me that Birth Control should and would preclude abortion—only scientifically rendering such after thoughts unnecessary.

Thanking you for your interest, I am

Yours sincerely,

MARY KNOBLAUCH

Book Reviews

PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN CREEDS By Edward Carpenter
Published by Harcourt, Brace & Howe New York

Edward Carpenter is one of those practical philosophers who never falls into the temptation of cracking the head of the reader with a disagreeable fact. Rather his attitude is this: here is a fact—let us together take a look at it and see what it means.

He writes the present book with both eyes wide open to facts that he doesn't like as well as those which are more welcome and never had any writer a subject in which the attitude was more valuable to either writer or to reader. One may agree or disagree with Carpenter, but one cannot read 'Pagan and Christian Creeds' without being stimulated to illuminative thought upon many of the vital problems of the day, for our philosopher has been digging into the past to reveal the roots of the things that now are.

Of particular interest to those who seek more light on sex problems is the chapter on 'The Sex Taboo.' The world today is roughly divided into those who ask why there ever was a sex taboo and those who inquire in horrified tones how anyone on earth should have the temerity to suggest that it be removed. Each of us who is impatient with the other crowd should take time to read Carpenter's book and should give careful and unimpassioned attention to this particular chapter. If we are not satisfied with the answer given, it is more than probable that if we do not waste time quarrelling with the author an answer entirely satisfactory to us all will suggest itself—probably the authors answer reached by another approach.

Book shelves are growing entirely too fat, and publishers are wasting good paper and ink and labor in producing volumes that might very well be left to circulate in manuscript. 'Pagan and Christian Creeds,' for one who is alive to world tendencies of the day is worth any hundred average volumes that may be selected. Moreover, Carpenter has the supreme gift of presenting his message in an entertaining manner without cheapening it, and that gift is conspicuous in this volume.

THE SHADOW By Mary White Ovington Published by Harcourt, Brace & Howe

Miss Ovington's latest book 'The Shadow' is a sociological novel dealing with a phase of the problems of the day from a new angle. 'The Shadow' is American Colorphobia. It seems to me that one

of the most terrible arraignments of society as today organized is the fact that not one human being merely but hundreds, thousands, yes, millions are sacrificed dally for no other earthly reason than that their skins happen to be dark. Luckily for Hertha Ogilvie, the heroine of 'The Shadow' she discovers that she is not colored at all and, therefore, may leave behind her the temble soul warping, soul crushing experiences to which the Negro race in this country falls heir. If there is a shadow in her life, at the end of the story it is cast behind her—her face is to the sun and her feet are set within the pleasant places. Let those who read this book remember this. There is no single place, within the United States today, where a colored man and a colored woman may know as Hertha Ogilvie did, that the "shadow" is behind, no plan, where they may face the sun.

Although the book is three hundred and fifty two pages in length, the interest is sustained from the beginning to the end. It is not often that the almost purely intellectual novel accomplishes as much. There was a balance about it, nothing is overdone, nothing overdrawn. At the big moments for there are big moments there is a power and a repression rather unusual in the American novel. The descriptions are delightful and often very beautiful. Hertha's first snowstorm in

New York is particularly attractive—it is so delicately, so gracefully, so joyously done. Miss Ovington has the power, also, of creating atmosphere. Her portrayal of the South is vividly realistic, one feels actually, the heat, the languor, the brooding beauty, even the laziness of it.

It is not the easiest matter for an author to maintain throughout, the attitude of the spectator, the mere recorder—the feelings become so easily entangled—but Miss Ovington never vanes from this purely objective point of view. The characters are well drawn and always psychologically true to themselves. Miss Ovington shows herself an accurate and keen observer of human nature and she has created at least two truly noble characters. Mrs. Williams Hertha's foster mother, and the big bodied big heaned lovable Irish Kathleen.

"The Shadow" could only have been written by one who had a breadth and depth of experience, a bigness of vision and a grasp and an understanding of the problems of the day. Miss Ovington has shown herself through to be sane, dispassionate, just, and yet to possess a large and very kindly heart towards all the earth's oppressed. The book is not only well worth the reading but also well worth the owning.

ANGELINA W. GRIMKE

Financial Statement

Mrs. Frances B. Ackerman, Treasurer,
New York Women's Publishing Company, Inc.,
New York City

Dear Madam:

We have made a detailed cash audit of the books and accounts of the New York Women's Publishing Company, Inc., for the period February 26, 1918 to December 31, 1919, and submit the results in the accompanying statements.

It is our opinion that the statements presented herewith reflect the true financial condition as of December 31, 1919, and the results of operations from February 26, 1918 to December 31, 1919.

Respectfully submitted,
HURDMAN & CRANSTON,
Certified Public Accountants

NEW YORK WOMEN'S PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

EXHIBIT "A"

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

December 31, 1919

ASSETS

Cash	\$65 03
Due from Subscribers to Capital Stock	14 00
Furniture and Fixtures	61 50
Goodwill	182 37
Total Assets	\$322 90

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock

Capital Stock Outstanding	
(Authorized \$10 00)	\$3,720 00
Capital Stock Subscriptions	20 00

Less Deficit

Net Loss, February 26 to December 31, 1918 (Exhibit "B")	\$1,597 71
Net Loss, Year ended December 31, 1919 (Exhibit "B")	1,963 26
	\$3,560 97

LESS Accounts Payable

Charged Off --- 14387 ----3,417 10

Net Equity, December 31, 1919 8322 90

\$322 90

NEW YORK WOMEN'S PUBLISHING COMPANY,

Incorporated

EXHIBIT "B"

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

Income

Subscriptions and Office Sales	\$2 901 92	\$1,388 39
Street Sales	2,361 69	359 40
News Stand Sales	1,188 20	
Advertising	133 00	
Gross Income	\$6,584 81	\$1,747 79

Printing and Paper	\$3,558 61	1,609 37
Folding and Mailing	85 64	114 29
Cuts and Drawings	100 00	175 00
Delivery Service	370 00	
Office Salaries	2,909 00	742 00
Rent	212 53	1500 3
Printing, Stationary and Postage	219 63	149 46
Advertising	248 71	116 77
Taxes	10 00	
Miscellaneous Office	680 71	282 23

Total Expense \$8,394 83 \$3,339 15

NET LOSS ON OPERATIONS \$181002 \$1,591 36

Add Other Expense

Children's Research Expense	410 00	
Organization Expense		68 85

Deduct Other Income

Donations	72 26	44 50
Miscellaneous Income	184 50	18 00

Total Other Income \$256 76 \$ 62 50

NET LOSS FOR PERIOD

(Exhibit "A") \$1,963 26 \$1,597 71

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