

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW INTERNATIONAL NUMBER

AUGUST, 1921

25 CENTS

## BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS

### IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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

- ENGLAND—Malthusian League, 124 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S W 1
- HOLLAND (1885)—De Nieuw Malthusiaansche Bond. Secretary, Dr J Rutgers, 9 Verhulststraat, Den Haag. Periodical, *Het Gellukkig Huisgezin*.
- GERMANY (1889)—Sozial Harmonische Verein. Secretary, Herr M. Hausmeister, Stuttgart. Periodical, *Die Soziale Harmonie*.
- FRANCE (1895)—G Hardy, 29 Rue Pixerecourt, Paris. Periodical, *Generation Consciente*.
- SPAIN (1904)—Liga Espanola de Regeneracion Humana. Secretary, Senor Luis Bulfi, Calle Provenza, 177, Pral. la, Barcelona. Periodical, *Salu y Fuerza*.
- BELGIUM (1906)—Ligue Neo-Malthusienne. Secretary, Dr Fernand Mascaux, Echevin, Courcelles.
- SWITZERLAND (1908)—Groupe Malthusien. Secretary, Valentin Grandjean, 106 Rue des Eaux Vives, Geneva. Periodical, *La Vie Intime*.
- BOHEMIA AUSTRIA (1901)—Secretary, Michael Kacha, 1164 Zizhov, Prague. Periodical, *Zadruhy*.
- AUSTRIA—Secretary Rudolf Grossman (Pierre Ramus) Klosterneuburg (bei Wien) Nied Ost. Periodical *Erkenntnis Und Befreiung*.
- PORTUGAL—E Silva, Junior, L da Memoria, 46 r/e, Lisbon. Periodical, *Paz e Liberdade*.
- BRAZIL (1905)—Seccion Brasileira de Propaganda. Secretaries, Manuel Moscova, Rua d'Bento Pires 29, San Pablo, Antonio Dominguez, Rue Vizcande de Moranguapes 25, Rio de Janeiro.
- CUBA (1907)—Seccion de Propaganda. Secretary, José Guardiola, Empedrado 14, Havana.
- SWEDEN (1911)—Sällskapet 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. Secretary Mrs B. E. Page, 521 Longwood Ave., Glencoe Ill.
- CLEVELAND, OHIO—League for Voluntary Parenthood. Mrs C C Rand, 1031 East 141st Street, Cleveland, Ohio.
- ELIZABETH CITY, N C.—Mr and Mrs W O Saunders.
- HARRISBURG, PA.—George A Herring, 1804 Penn Street.
- LOS ANGELES, CAL.—Dr T Percival Gerson.
- NEW YORK
- The Committee of One Thousand. Dr Ira S Wile, 264 W 73rd Street, chairman.
- International Birth Control League. Dr Wm. J Robinson, president, 12 Mt. Morris Park West.
- The Woman's Committee of One Hundred. Mrs. Amos Pinchot, chairman, 9 East 81st Street.
- Voluntary Parenthood League, 49 East 59th Street. Mary Ware Dennett, director.
- BROOKLYN—Jessie A Dastre, 673 Vanderbilt Ave.
- PITTSBURGH, PA.—The Birth Control League of Western Pennsylvania. Rita F Stein, 924 Mellon Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., 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.
- SEATTLE, WASH.—The Seattle Birth Control League. Minnie Parkhurst, 516 Third Ave., West, Seattle, Wash., secretary.
- SUMMIT N J.—Rev Franklin C. Doan.
- WASHINGTON, D C.—The Birth Control League of the District of Columbia. Mrs. Anna Wexler, 1926 New Hampshire Ave., president.
- BLOOMFIELD, N Y.—N J B C League. Mrs Clara Carter, Beach Street.

## First American Birth Control Conference New York City, November 11, 12 & 13, '21

To those who have been working for Birth Control, the Conference of November 11—13 comes, as a welcome opportunity for a co-operative service, no matter how small or large your part will be in the historic events of this meeting, it will aid Margaret Sanger and co-workers in carrying out the ideals of the Birth Control movement.

If you are anxious to obtain any information or to offer your services write at once to Mrs. Anne Kennedy, c/o Birth Control Review, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

# THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

DEDICATED TO VOLUNTARY MOTHERHOOD

MARGARET SANGER, Editor

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VOL V

AUGUST, 1921

No 8

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## *First American Birth-Control Conference November 11th—13th, 1921*

**A**LL PROGRESS IS the reflection in age old mirrors of mankind's movements toward the light of another day

And a movement lives so long as it adheres to the principles that brought it into being

Birth Control can be no exception to this time worn law The fact that the economists, scientists, doctors and social workers have signified to Margaret Sanger that the time has come to call the first conference where Birth Control may be discussed as a national and international subject, is a vital indication that her pioneer work has taken root in American thought and now demands action

To Margaret Sanger's loyal workers, the calling of this conference is the highest point yet reached in her long years of educational propaganda

It is an answer to her early struggles in the face of apathy and lack of interest, her sufferings in prison, her legal battle that she carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, and her unselfish devotion to the cause

It can mean but one thing a success along the lines of her original vision, a success without one compromise with untruths, a success of an ideal for race betterment that will be accepted everywhere in the world's tomorrow

To this conference of November 11th to the 13th, there will come the most significant minds of America, and the years of preparatory work accomplished by Margaret Sanger and her faithful friends can seek no clearer answer than such a recognition of Birth Control as the Science of Population

**T**HIS number of the REVIEW has been given over to an International discussion in order that material will be at hand for the conference where comparisons may be made between America and other countries

Regret is naturally in order for the reason that this great country lags behind in progress

It will be one of the duties of the conference to see that such a condition is rapidly changed, and that our people are educated to believe in the truth rather than in superstition

A careful study of this International Number will reward the reader with many interesting facts

To the careful student will come the realization (if it has not come already) that Birth Control is no longer a localized matter—but that it has risen in the minds of the world as an answer to the "explosive populations" that brought on the recent tragedy of war

Likewise, to the student of life as it is rather than as the superficials prefer to imagine it, there will come the hope that under the lash of necessity to curb the overwhelming populations of various countries that burden the workers with support of the drones and unfit, our people will grasp the essentials of Birth Control and adapt it to their needs

The next three issues of the REVIEW will be given over to the problems of the conference It is hoped that every believer and worker for Birth Control as well as the open minded and intelligent in other fields of activity, will follow these issues carefully, attend the conference, and co operate in every way possible

—H H

## THE GHOST OF MALTHUS

(From the New York Globe)

SOMETIMES A GRIMMER shadow than that of wars and pestilences falls across the vision of one who considers the future of mankind. This is the spectre of over population, first summoned up to frighten mankind nearly a century and a quarter ago by the Rev T R Malthus. Mr Malthus observed that population tended to increase more rapidly than food. He inferred that except for certain checks the whole of mankind would be reduced to the bare level of animal existence. These checks, as summed up by Harold Cox, editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, writing in the *Dial*, "are all resolvable into moral restraint, vice, and misery," the latter two causes appearing to be the most efficient.

The great achievements of the machine age were made after Malthus wrote, but they postponed rather than abolished his problem. The world's population has increased enormously during the past century. Between 1901 and 1911 the gross increase in England and Wales was greater than the total increase during the whole of the eighteenth century. Between 1851 and 1911 the population doubled. If this rate were to continue the British alone would equal the present population of the earth in less than three centuries and a half. But other great populations are also increasing, or held down only by hunger. Perhaps a half of mankind do not now know what sufficient food means. "If," says Mr Cox, "the 300,000,000 inhabitants of India and the 500,000,000 inhabitants of China consumed food at even half the scale that Englishmen and Americans think necessary there would be little, or indeed none, left for the rest of the world."

A DECENT STANDARD of living for the whole of mankind is not now possible, if population increases as rapidly as the food supply, or more rapidly, it never will be possible. Unless there are limitations on the human increase the next stage in history will be wars for survival. Before then there will be a silent war in which the most prolific races and groups, who are at present those with the lowest standards, will multiply at the expense of those with higher standards.

Mr Cox's remedy is the favorite and simple one of present day radicals. It is one which is repugnant to many people. Yet suppression and denunciation are not sufficient answers. If this recourse is to be avoided others must be found, or our descendants will die like rabbits a few generations hence, in some year of drought, before then we shall be plagued with wars of undreamed of destructiveness and ferocity, and grinding poverty will be the lot of increasing millions of mankind before the next generation is dead. The subject is surely the most appallingly important one that the world has to face.

LITERATURE, advertising the Birth Control movement is being distributed by Selma Melms, who, accompanied by her husband, Ammon Hennacy, is making a 2,500 mile propaganda hiking trip throughout the Eastern and Middle Western states. Birth Control clinics will be advocated and groups will probably be formed interested in Birth Control.

Mr Hennacy, who until recently was Secretary of the World War Objectors, will emphasize the need of opposition to the next war.

## AN INTERESTING LETTER

New York, April 20, 1921

MY DEAR MRS KENNEDY

The success of Margaret Sanger's book, "WOMAN AND THE NEW RACE," has been very gratifying to us, and we have already sold three large editions of the book. At the time that the manuscript was first offered to us for publication it seemed to us only fitting that there should be adequate discussion and literature upon so vital a movement as that of Birth Control. We believed "WOMAN AND THE NEW RACE" was a dignified, forceful, and truthful justification of this movement, and it would seem, judging from the reputation the book has acquired, that our confidence in it has been amply vindicated.

Sincerely

BRENTANO'S

## NOTICE

It will be noted by readers of the REVIEW that this is an enlarged number. However, even with extra pages, we are unable to include material from certain countries that should have had representation.

We regret that all of the material could not have been included in this first International number. It will be printed in the forthcoming issues.

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## Recent Activities of the Neo-Malthusian Movement

By Dr C N Drysdale, O B E F R S E  
President of the Malthusian League

ALTHOUGH THE GREAT war which has caused the downfall of several social movements, seriously affected the neo Malthusian movement in this country, mainly by the withdrawal of its leaders and most active members on war service, the flag has been kept steadily flying, and our paper *The Malthusian* has appeared without intermission, while everything proves that instead of being in danger of suppression like the movement in France, the movement has gained enormously in influence and popularity so much so that it is becoming difficult to cope with or to chronicle its advance.

For the first two years of the war the campaign which had been started in the streets and small halls of the poorest districts of South London was continued, and large numbers of practical leaflets describing the methods of Birth Control were distributed. The darkening of the streets on account of the Zeppelin raids, and the calling away of our officers forced us to discontinue this work, and as the writer was put in charge of the scientific work of the Admiralty Experimental Station which was situated in Scotland until it was removed to London in the Spring of this year, active propaganda has only just been resumed. Mrs Drysdale has now become Hon Secretary of the League, and has created a most active organization during the last two months. New offices have been taken at 124 Victoria Street, Westminster, including a lecture room for educational meetings, and the South London Campaign has been revived with increased energy. Our 44th Annual General Meeting was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on May 25th and was well attended. After the formal business our address was given on "The Neo Malthusian Ideal and How It May Be Realized" a copy of which is sent herewith.

AT OUR HOUSE WARMING "At Home" on June 17th we had the great pleasure of welcoming Mrs Sanger, and of hearing her account of the recent activities in the U S A with especial reference to its effect on the Japanese representatives who were enquiring into the possibilities of Birth Control as an antidote to the poison of militarism which is being fostered in Japan by its rapidly increasing population and consequent need for expansion. The need for Birth Control propaganda in the populous Eastern nations of Japan, China, and India is extremely urgent, and many small attempts in this direction have been brought to the notice of the Malthusian League, so that we are convinced that if Mrs Sanger can make her proposed visit to Japan it will give the necessary impetus for an important Birth Control movement, both in that country and in China. A well known journalist, Mr Edward Cecil gave a spirited address on "The Common Sense of Birth Control," and Mrs Drysdale outlined the future policy of the League. The meeting was well reported in many of the principal papers.

Our South London Campaign was revived at the beginning

of July, and has proved an unqualified success. Two doctors, one a lady, have offered their services freely for practical instruction and advice, so that for the first time we have been able to introduce what is practically a clinic into our activities. Two solid weeks' work have been completed in the Southwark and Camberwell districts, including seven open air meetings in the streets, two general meetings in halls, and six meetings for married women at which practical instruction was given, and the doctors attended to assist in fitting the women and giving detailed advice. The open air meetings were especially satisfactory, and it is remarkable to see how sympathetically and respectfully our doctrines are received by the poorer classes. There has been practically no opposition except from one or two men, obviously of Roman Catholic proclivities, and our resolution calling the attention of the public health authorities to the need for giving Birth Control information at the hospitals and health centres has been passed in every case without a single dissentient. Copies of the *Malthusian* have been eagerly bought at all these meetings, and the forms of application for our practical leaflet on Birth Control have been distributed, with the result that shoals of applications have been coming in to our office. At the indoor meetings people were able to fill up their application forms and receive the leaflets on the spot. A very pleasant feature of the campaign has been the meeting with some who remembered our previous propaganda on the same lines seven years ago, and who have expressed their gratitude for the information and their pleasure at seeing the work resumed. It is intended to carry on this propaganda at full speed now that it has been recommenced under such favorable auspices, and it is hoped that its effect will be shown before long in the vital statistics of the district.

PREPARATIONS ARE ALSO being made for the opening of a permanent clinic in the autumn. It is not intended to make it purely a Birth Control clinic, but to work it on the lines of the already existing Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, with the addition of Birth Control information, the object being to show how this feature may be incorporated with the existing organizations, and to form a model clinic where completed records are kept, statistics and diagrams compiled of the results achieved, and the efficiency of the various contraceptive devices can be studied.

Mention should also be made of the independent propaganda which has been started by Dr Marie Stopes and her husband, Mr H V Roe, who inaugurated a clinic in North London on the 17th of March last. A large meeting was held in the Queen's Hall on May 28th, the subject being "Constructive Birth Control" at which the chair was taken by the Rt Hon G H Roberts, J P M P, and speeches were made by Dr Jane Hawthorne, Dr Killick Millard (Medical Officer of Health

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## A Holiday—A Short Story

By Ethel Watts Mumford

MARY GILLESPI WAS A country bred girl, a girl of the hills, of green meadows and whispering brooks, and long cool stretches of marsh that spread to the mothering embrace of the sea. Now in the superheated tenement where she lived, amid heavy odors of humanity, its food and its offal, she trod the weary mill of mere living. If she could only get back, but how? She and Teddy had planned to escape. Teddy had been a carpenter, and a good one. He could go back to the fishing fleets of the North, but he was dead, and the little savings had gone to the expenses of a funeral—and then, two children—and one coming! She worked in an office building at night and into the dawn, scrubbing floors, afraid each time the janitor passed that he would notice her condition and fire her. It was a mortal fear that sent hot flushes over her whole strained body, for it was some how scratch and paw the money of a scant wage, or have the children taken from her. And now, another—a posthumous baby. She loved it for the thought of Teddy. It seemed like his life prolonged beyond the grave. And yet, if it should be a *girl*!—a *girl*—to grow into a woman, to suffer and bear hopelessly and helplessly—that was a thought she thrust from her. Already her terrified conscience beset her day and night with the thought of Little Mary, aged five, and Dora, three years old.

It was summer and sweltering, and her time was approaching, sometime soon, a few weeks, and then the public ward, the agony, and then to be sent out, weak and trembling, to make room for another victim. Daily the fear and horror grew. The little sleep she could catch after her early home comings and the first demands of the children, was nightmare haunted. Oh, if she only had some one to turn to—but she was alone, an orphan and an only child. Back there in the village there might be some who remembered, but she could not bear to confess her fallen estate. And Teddy came vaguely from “somewhere in the West.” He had been a ship’s carpenter when she had met him.

WITH SHARP, PAINFUL steps time advanced. All her dreadful past experience and her trembling foreknowledge was fulfilled and repeated—the ward, the agony, and last and final realization—another girl. She turned her face to the wall and fainted, not alone from pain and exhaustion, but from utter collapsed heart break.

Still the iron steps of time advanced, and she was spewed forth into the pitiless street. A kindly neighbor came for her and assisted her to reach the tenement, the new baby folded in a clean rag of blanket. They did what they could for her, the over driven, miserable females around her—women they had ceased to be, if they ever had developed that far, they were females, quarrelling and slobbering over their males and their young.

Indifferent, nauseated with existence, silent with the tripli-

cate despair of her three girls and their all too unproblematic future Mary Gillespi struggled up, filched a few days of rest from the work that must claim her or she perish. She would wait till after the holiday, the Fourth of July.

In search of coolness, some measure of relief, she sought the park early. Staggering the long cross town walk, the new baby in her arms and Mary and Dora skirt hanging on either side, she had barely strength enough to reach the oasis in the city’s heart, and sink upon a bench. And no sooner had her weak limbs relaxed, than she was conscious that she must go all the way back, trudging the long hot streets, back to the little room, and the eternal walk up to reach it. Tears coursed down her cheeks. The shrieks of excited delight of the children rolling on the grass, tore her ears. They were *girls—females!* With a gnawing, poisonous hatred she glowered at the boy babies and toddlers that passed by. All about her were women, at that day and hour mostly women of her own kind and sharers of the yoke of intolerable sex. Why? why? why? Was God just that he afflict one half of his creatures? She laughed, harshly, bitterly. There was no God, of course not—or if there was, why didn’t he punish the half of his creatures that preyed on the other half. And yet—poor Teddy, she had loved him and he had been a good man. She wept again, and from utter weariness, she slept.

SHE WAS AWAKENED by the crashing music of a military band. She became aware of crowds all about her. Across the green an orator, swaying with the force of his enthusiastic utterance, was declaiming, “In the course of human events” She could catch the words now and again. Idly she listened. Her aenemic brain skurred itself to attention. “Freedom” “Intolerable conditions” “People who knew nothing of the needs and desires of the Colonists made their laws, exacting penalties, imposed taxes” “Tyranny” “Unrighteous” “Self expression” “Let the people rule, for they know their necessities, their sufferings, their ideals and aspirations.”

Mary Gillespi, out of her own bitter life, supplied an analogy. Women—Women! If they’d all rise up. Why should they be crushed and mangled? Why couldn’t they demand escape? But how? To whom could they go? And her girls, her little girls, what chance had they got? Sure, there were happy mothers and happy children, sometimes, somewhere, but the likes of her and hers—child ridden—struggling practically to meet ever growing needs. There weren’t nothin’, nothin’. And love was a Nature trap, and it would snap fast on her girl children and kill them slowly, atrociously, as it had snapped on her. And that man, that man up there, on the platform, he—he dared drule about Liberty! Freedom!—and “all men being born free and equal!” Men!—Men!—but women? If they weren’t helped by some thing or somebody outside of themselves and their sex—they were just slaughter cattle. The orator ended in a laudatory

(Continued on page 10)

## Woman's Error and Her Debt

By Margaret Sanger

THE MOST far reaching social development of modern times is the revolt of woman against sex servitude. The most important force in the remaking of the world is a free motherhood. Beside this force, the elaborate international programmes of modern statesmen are weak and superficial. Diplomats may formulate leagues of nations and nations may pledge their utmost strength to maintain them, statesmen may dream of reconstructing the world out of alliances, hegemonies and spheres of influence, but woman, continuing to produce explosive populations, will convert these pledges into the proverbial scraps of paper, or she may, by controlling birth, lift motherhood to the plane of a voluntary, intelligent function, and remake the world. When the world is thus remade, it will exceed the dream of statesman, reformer and revolutionist.

Only in recent years has woman's position as the gentler and weaker half of the human family been emphatically and generally questioned. Men assumed that this was woman's place, woman herself accepted it. It seldom occurred to anyone to ask whether she would go on occupying it forever.

Upon the mere surface of woman's organized protests there were no indications that she was desirous of achieving a fundamental change in her position. She claimed the right of suffrage and legislative regulation of her working hours, and asked that her property rights be equal to those of the man. None of these demands, however, affected directly the most vital factors of her existence. Whether she won her point or failed to win it, she remained a dominated weakling in a society controlled by men.

WOMAN'S ACCEPTANCE of her inferior status was the more real because it was unconscious. She had chained herself to her place in society and the family through the maternal functions of her nature, and only chains thus strong could have bound her to her lot as a brood animal for the masculine civilizations of the world. In accepting her role as the "weaker and gentler half," she accepted that function. In turn, the acceptance of that function fixed the more firmly her rank as an inferior.

Caught in this "vicious circle," woman has, through her reproductive ability, founded and perpetuated the tyrannies of the Earth. Whether it was the tyranny of a monarchy, an oligarchy or a republic, the one indispensable factor of its existence was, as it is now, hordes of human beings—human beings so plentiful as to be cheap, and so cheap that ignorance was their natural lot. Upon the rock of an unenlightened, submissive maternity have these been founded, upon the product of such a maternity have they flourished.

No despot ever flung forth his legions to die in foreign conquest, no privilege ruled nation ever erupted across its borders, to lock in death embrace with another, but behind them loomed the driving power of a population too large for its boundaries and its natural resources.

No period of low wages or of idleness with their want among the workers, no peonage or sweatshop, no child labor factory, ever came into being, save from the same source. Nor have famine and plague been as much "acts of God" as acts of too prolific mothers. They, also, as all students know, have their basic causes in over population.

THE CREATORS of over population are the women, who, while wringing their hands over each fresh horror, submit anew to their task of producing the multitudes who will bring about the next tragedy of civilization.

While unknowingly laying the foundations of tyrannies and providing the human tinder for racial conflagrations, woman was also unknowingly creating slums, filling asylums with insane, and institutions with other defectives. She was replenishing the ranks of the prostitutes, furnishing grist for the criminal courts and inmates for prisons. Had she planned deliberately to achieve this tragic total of human waste and misery, she could hardly have done it more effectively.

Woman's passivity under the burden of her disastrous task was almost altogether that of ignorant resignation. She knew virtually nothing about her reproductive nature and less about the consequences of her excessive child bearing. It is true that, obeying the inner urge of their nature, some women revolted. They went even to the extreme of infanticide and abortion. Usually their revolts were not general enough. They fought as individuals, not as a mass. In the mass they sank back into blind and hopeless subjection. They went on breeding with staggering rapidity those numberless, undesired children who become the clogs and the destroyers of civilization.

Today, however, woman is rising in fundamental revolt. Even her efforts at mere reform are, as we shall see later, steps in that direction. Underneath each of them is the feminine urge to complete freedom. Millions of women are asserting their right to voluntary motherhood. They are determined to decide for themselves whether they shall become mothers, under what conditions and when. This is the fundamental revolt referred to. It is for woman the key to the temple of liberty.

EVEN AS BIRTH CONTROL is the means by which woman attains basic freedom, so it is the means by which she must and will uproot the evil she has wrought through her submission. As she has unconsciously and ignorantly brought about social disaster, so must and will she consciously and gently undo that disaster and create a new and a better order.

The task is hers. It cannot be avoided by excuses, nor can it be delegated. It is not enough for woman to point to the self evident domination of man. Nor does it avail to plead the guilt of rulers and the exploiters of labor. It makes no difference that she does not formulate industrial systems nor that she is an instinctive believer in social justice. In her

submission lies her error and her guilt. By her failure to withhold the multitudes of children who have made inevitable the most flagrant of our social evils, she incurred a debt to society. Regardless of her own wrongs, regardless of her lack of opportunity and regardless of all other considerations, *she* must pay that debt.

She must not think to pay this debt in any superficial way. She cannot pay it with palliatives—with child labor laws, prohibition, regulation of prostitution and agitation against war. Political nostrums and social panaceas are but incidentally and superficially useful. They do not touch the source of the social disease.

War, famine, poverty and oppression of the workers will continue while woman makes life cheap. They will cease only when she limits her reproductivity and human life is no longer a thing to be wasted.

**T**WO CHIEF OBSTACLES hinder the discharge of this tremendous obligation. The first and the lesser is the legal barrier. Dark age laws would still deny to her the

knowledge of her reproductive nature. Such knowledge is indispensable to intelligent motherhood and she must achieve it, despite absurd statutes and equally absurd moral canons.

The second and more serious barrier is her own ignorance of the extent and effect of her submission. Until she knows the evil her subjection has wrought to herself, to her progeny and to the world at large, she cannot wipe out that evil.

To get rid of these obstacles is to invite attack from the forces of reaction which are so strongly entrenched in our present day society. It means warfare in every phase of her life. Nevertheless, at whatever cost, she must emerge from her ignorance and assume her responsibility.

She can do this only when she has awakened to a knowledge of herself and of the consequences of her ignorance. The first step is Birth Control. Through Birth Control she will attain to voluntary motherhood. Having attained this, the basic freedom of her sex, she will cease to enslave herself and the mass of humanity. Then, through the understanding of the intuitive forward urge within her, she will not stop at patching up the world, she will remake it.

## Dutch Neo-Malthusian League

Erected November 1, 1881

PRESIDENT OF HONOR

By Dr J Rutgers, M D

Mr S L v Riet.....Pres	Mrs T Kiersch de
Mr J Geurts .....1st Sec	Jong .....2nd Sec
Mr C Geurts.....Treas	Mr G J Kiersch, Esq
Mr H S de Vries...Vice Pres	Mr C v d Pol

### 39th YEARLY REPORT

**T**HE YEAR 1920 was a difficult one for the Dutch N M L. The universal meeting at Utrecht, April, 1920, disapproved the tactics of the board of directors and a new one was formed.

The new board of directors is more democratic, every member does his own work in order that more can be done in the future for propaganda.

The number of members of the league was 6,418 on the first of January, 1921.

From April to ultimo December we received 992 letters for information about Birth Control. About 125 letters come in from every part of the world and every one asked us, tell me the methods for Birth Control! In the "*Pectorial Review*" Mac O'Donnell wrote an article, "Keeping the Stork in His Place," and told some things about the Dutch N M L with her secretary Dr J Rutgers.

Many physicians asked for a report which told all about the league and they received one.

Some interesting things about the Dutch Neo Malthusian League

1 The Penal Law tells us

"He, who either some remedy for the prevention of pregnancy

"show publicly,

"Either such remedy or services for the prevention of pregnancy to offer

"openly or unasked or

"openly by spreading of any pamphlet unasked, indicate as obtainable,

"shall be punished with detention of two months at most, or fine of two hundred guilders"

(Dutch Penal Law, art 451)

2 There are in Holland 54 clinics, 8 doctors and 56 nurses, the latest formed by doctors

3 More than 1,000 persons asked yearly for information, consultation is gratis. Many women come for help. The common price is about 5 guilders by person (understand here, payment for articles advised). When they can prove that the price is too much, the League will pay partly or whole.

4 It is not comfortable to give an answer on the question of indisputable claims about the Neo Malthusian on the public health.

We must appeal to our statistics of illness and disease.

I recommend the manual *The Life Insurance Examiner*, Spectator Company, New York and Chicago 1888 page 186, by Dr Ch F Stellman.

b Another pronouncement favorable for the Neo Malthusian we borrow out of the manual written by Prof Schroeder "The illness of the female genitals." He wrote "the most women who have cancer on the lowest part of the uterus, have often had many confinements."

Schroeder "Krankheiten der weiblichen Geschlecht organe 9th edi page 348

(Continued on page 12)



## Birth Control in Japan

THERE ARE SIGNS of alarm in Japan at the extraordinary rate of increase of the Japanese population. The belief that a war of aggression is inevitable unless something drastic is done to prevent further overcrowding of the island realm of the Mikado is becoming every day more common there.

As the problem of overpopulation becomes increasingly acute, Japan tends to cleave more and more sharply into two camps of opinion. In one are the militarists, the nationalists, the "jingo," to whom a steadily growing birth rate means the wherewithal for realizing their ambitious dreams of a Greater Japan, the maintenance of a source of man power for armies which are to carry the Japanese flag from the islands which have cradled the Japanese race to mainland regions, where that race may spread and flourish without hindrance.

In the other camp are those who believe in a peaceful Japan of the future, living in harmony with her fellow nations. These Japanese look with horror upon the idea of wars of aggression. Casting about for some means of checking the phenomenal growth of the Japanese population, they have turned their thoughts to Birth Control. There is an element in Japan which thinks that, by the introduction of Birth Control, the unprecedented rate of increase of the Japanese population will be kept within reasonable bounds and Japan saved from a militaristic aggression which otherwise would be unavoidable.

### MIDDLE CLASS AND BIRTH CONTROL

A CURIOUS PHASE of the situation is that the crisis of over population in Japan has been rendered acute by the great strides forward which the Japanese have taken within the last half century. In proportion as Occidental civilization has advanced among them, as social welfare work and better hygienic conditions spreading through the land have lowered the rate of mortality among the people, the problem has assumed a seriousness tending to overshadow all the other problems of the new Japan. The Japanese of other days were kept from increasing at too alarming a rate by natural checks on population. Unsanitary living conditions was a chief check.

But enlightened progress and industrial development have completely altered matters. The Japanese of today are confronted with a crisis which never loomed before their forefathers. Here are extracts from a letter on the subject written by a Japanese magazine editor, which was received in New York a few days ago.

"In the first place, the middle and laboring classes are keenly feeling financial pressure. In the second place, the middle class is conscious that it must resort to Birth Control. This fact caused me to publish a special number on the Birth Control question last March, to which many prominent Japanese scholars contributed interesting articles. I am glad to say this special number evoked a hot discussion of the question among public men. Some scholars and women have started a movement for the cause of Birth Control."

BOOKS AND MAGAZINE articles on the population problem are appearing in Japan in constantly increasing numbers. Some are the work of Japanese authors, others are written by foreigners domiciled in Japan, or are translated from foreign languages. "It is significant," says a writer in an American publication advocating Birth Control, "that the arguments for or against the rapidly increasing numbers of the Island Kingdom, take as primary tenets, imperial expediency. The increase of population is considered only in the light of political expediency, never in terms of human happiness or misery." As an example of this, the writer points out that B. L. Putnam Weale, the well known authority on the Far East, states in his "The Conflict of Color" that density of population will in the future decide to a great extent the grand movements in world politics. "Education, material improvement and the birth rate are the modern touchstones of success," he says. "It will one day be admitted that the real key to a thousand vaguely defined problems lies in men's breeding capacity—in their capacity to obey nature's most imperative political law, which is multiply and increase, or die."

That is the idea of the Japanese militarists. To become a formidable world power, they argue, capable of measuring strength with any rival out of the Occident, Japan must have a population of at least 100,000,000—which would mean nearly the Mikado's realm almost to its utmost capacity. "More people, more territory!" is their slogan.

The present population of Japan is about 56,000,000. It is increasing at the rate of somewhere between 700,000 and 1,000,000 yearly, a rate in excess of that in any other country. In 1911 the birth rate among the Japanese was 33.7 per thousand for the whole country. In some of the provinces where congestion of population is especially acute, it was higher. And this, be it remembered, applies to ten years ago. Now matters are still more serious.

THE DENSITY of the Japanese population per square mile, according to recent statistics, was 320. This is less than in densely populated countries like Belgium and England, but the problem of accommodation is less acute there than in Japan.

"Belgium and England are wholly arable, Japan is almost wholly mountainous," writes Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, in "American Democracy and Asiatic Citizenship." "If we eliminate from the figures the area of unproductive lands of each country, the population per square mile works out approximately: England, 466, Belgium, 702, Japan, 2,688." In other words, figured thus, Japan's density of population is more than 5½ times that of England and more than 4 times that of Belgium.

An idea of the alarming growth of the Japanese population may be gained from this extract from the Encyclopaedia Britannica's article on Japan.

"According to quasi-historical records, the population of the empire in the year A.D. 610 was 4,988,842, and in 736 it had grown to 8,631,770. It is impossible to say how much

reliance may be placed on these figures but, from the 18th century, when the name of every subject had to be inscribed on the roll of a temple, as a measure against his adoption of Christianity, a tolerably trustworthy census could always be taken. The returns thus obtained show that from the year 1723 until 1846, the population remained almost stationary, the figure in the former year being 26,065,422, and that in the latter year 26,907,625. There had, indeed, been five periods of declining population in that period of 124 years. . . . But after 1872, when the census showed a total of 33,110,825, the population grew steadily, its increment between 1872 and 1898 inclusive, a period of 27 years, being 10,649,990.

#### QUESTION OF SUBSISTENCE

"SUCH A RATE of increase invests the question of subsistence with great importance. In former times the area of land under cultivation increased in a marked degree. Returns prepared at the beginning of the tenth century showed 2,500,000 acres under crops, whereas the figure in 1834 was over 8,000,000 acres. But the development of means of subsistence has been outstripped by the growth of population in recent years. Thus, during the period between 1899 and 1907 the population received an increment of 11.6 per cent, whereas the food producing area increased by only 4.4 per cent. . . . The birth rate, taking the average of the decennial period ended 1907, is 3.05 per cent of the population, and the death rate is 2.05."

That the problem is becoming still more serious since the above figures were compiled may be gathered by a comparison of the growth of the Japanese population between 1872 and 1898, shown above, and the increase between the latter year and the present day. Whereas the increase between 1872 and 1898, inclusive, was somewhat over 10,600,000, bringing the total population of Japan in 1898 to a little under 44,000,000, the increase in the twenty-two years from 1899 to 1920, inclusive, has been in the vicinity of 12,000,000, or considerably greater than for the twenty-seven year period preceding it.

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

The cost of living is already such in Japan, according to Professor Morimot of Sapporo University, that 98 per cent of the people there do not get enough to eat. No wonder the Japanese are earnestly studying possible solutions of the over population problem.—*New York Times*

#### NOTICE

The Birth Control Conference to be held November 11th, 12th and 13th, needs every kind of helper. It is a good opportunity for those who have long been interested in the movement. Write at once to

MRS ANNE KENNEDY

104 Fifth Avenue

New York City

#### A HOLIDAY—A SHORT STORY

(Concluded from page 6)

burst "Be thankful, be grateful, my listeners, that you live in an intelligent age and country, that you share alike the blessing—of Freedom and Liberty—and the pursuit of happiness."

SAVAGELY, HER WHOLE body filled with indignant fury, a last spurt of flame in her burnt out heart, soul and body, Mary Gillespi snatched up the bundled baby, and with a sudden vicious lunge, regained possession of Little Mary and Dora. It was no good being a woman. It was Hell!—and it was all a lie. "Freedom," "Liberty," "Pursuit of Happiness!"—a lie—a lie! She shrieked it at the top of her meagre lungs, as she pushed her way through the gaping crowd.

"A crazy woman!" "Some nutty foreigner!" they shrugged and let her have passage. No one made a move to stop her, or offered her help.

"A lie! A lie!" she repeated. Mumbling incoherently, she made straight for the reservoir.

It wouldn't take long. She'd seen a woman drown once back there—at home by the sea.

"Too late to save 'em," said the policeman. "I'll have to telephone for the boat and grapplin' hooks. Suicide—the heat, o' course."

To his ears came the strains of the band and the hoarse vocalization of the crowd on the Mall—

"O'er the land of the Free—  
And the home of the Brave!"

#### A DRAMATIC LETTER

DEAR MADAM

I heard you were in favor of Birth Control and I would like you to give me some advice on how to prevent having children. I am a young girl of twenty-four and have no mother or father or in fact nobody to give me any advice on the matter. My husband is young and both being brought up in the country, we know nothing about such things and I do not want to do anything to myself to injure me.

I am the oldest in the family and have to bring up a brother and sister. I also have one baby of my own born in October. I suffered so with her that I do not want to have another very soon. I had to stop nursing her on account of me being in such a run-down condition, and I have already spent several dollars on different foods for her. She is also very nervous and I have to be very careful of her on account of her navel which she ruptured from crying so hard. Each belt I buy for her costs four dollars and the expense from where I live to where I get the belt costs me a dollar.

We are not in very good circumstances as my husband is only a laborer. He couldn't get back to his trade when he got a house we had to buy one which took all we had and besides a mortgage on it to help pay it off.

Now since my baby has stopped nursing on me I have had my changes once which was on December 31. My husband has been careful each time but I am afraid I am pregnant again as I am over a month now. So will you please write me and tell me if there is anything I can do. I would not mind if the

(Concluded on page 20)

# France

Report translated by M De Vrieze

Paris, April 20, 1921

DEAR MADAM

Inclosed please find the article you asked for There is little to be said, inasmuch as the law has interfered with the spreading of Birth Control propaganda

I am fifty years old and in poor health, and I have neither the strength nor the means to brave arrest and imprisonment

I am following with the greatest interest the work you are carrying on in America and wish to congratulate you upon the progress made

Should the government be overthrown at the next election—and I hope it will—it is not impossible that the movement might be revived On the other hand, it seems as though war were to devastate Europe for years to come and who can say what will happen next?

Cordially yours,

G HARDY

THERE is not at present in France any organization spreading Birth Control propaganda

During the war I attempted to bring together the scattered forces of various organizations (*Generation Consciente*, *Renovation*, *Le Malthusien*) whose work had followed upon that of Paul Robin since 1894 The war and the censorship hindered my efforts "Le Neo Malthusien," a magazine which I had established, was suppressed, and my home was entered and searched

After the armistice had been declared, I renewed my attempt and "Le Neo Malthusien" appeared until July, 1920 At this time a law was passed interdicting all Birth Control propaganda, or the spreading of knowledge of contraceptive or abortive methods This legislation was the work of reactionaries and of men who, for "patriotic reasons" were afraid of depopulation It violates deliberately all French laws with regard to the freedom of the press, and utterly disregards the famous declaration of the rights of man

All Birth Control propaganda, whatever form it may assume, is pitilessly condemned Publication, sale, or transportation of literature dealing with Birth Control methods is forbidden, lectures on the subject are prohibited

Formerly we were tried by the Cour d'Assises and a jury, now we are dealt with by the judges of the Tribunal Correctionnel In the first case, it was possible to obtain the indulgence—the approbation, even—of the members of the jury The publicity of the trial was propaganda When we appear before the Tribunal Correctionnel we are at the mercy of judges who, if hostile, may pass sentence in secret session A French law forbids the publication of proceedings before the Tribunal Correctionnel

THE LAW AGAINST Birth Control propaganda was enacted at the instigation of associations subsidized by captains of industry and wealthy merchants, and supported in their

action by politicians and "eminent professors" Among these associations I might mention *L'Alliance rationnelle pour l'accroissement de la population française* This association had very little influence for a long time Since the war, however, things have changed At the last election, some of its members were chosen to fill high government posts

All these leagues assume a philanthropic attitude They prove their devotion to large families by soliciting help of one kind or another premiums, bonuses, reduction in taxes, etc., for those whose stupidity has brought into the world more children than they can properly care for They spread the works of Mm Paul Leroy Beaulieu, J Bertillon, P Bureau, G Rossignol, etc They publish pamphlets which treat wildly of race suicide, they compare the rapid increase of the German population to the slow growth (termed by them "depopulation") of the French population

And so, while we, Birth Control propagandists, are being persecuted, those whom I call "surpeupleurs" (over populationers) are organizing, with the help of public authorities they are attempting to set at naught the headway we have made

Public opinion has paid little attention to the new legislation The press, echo of the government, has accepted it serenely The war having claimed more than two million victims in France, repopulation is universally considered to be an urgent need

HERE AND THERE, however, a voice was raised in protest against the proposed law Among the deputies Mm Morucci and Berthon, Socialist representatives, made strenuous efforts to prevent its passage The ignorance of the members of the Bloc National was denounced in articles written by Mmes Louise Bodin, Nelly Roussel, and M Sixte Quenin, and published in "L'Humanite" and in "La Voix des Femmes" Certain anarchistic associations gave lectures in which the statements of the Birth Control partisans were cleverly opposed to those of the anti Birth Control forces

But all this is not concerted action, it is not a coherent, steady movement

And then, of course, there was no delay in the application of the new law Although we had stopped all propaganda, the homes of some of the leaders were searched as a result of lying police reports We have been accused of violating the law The investigation continues . . . Another law, which aims at the sale of preventives, is being drafted

It is impossible to carry on Birth Control propaganda in France without braving arrest and imprisonment Only in some other form and at great expense could it be taken up again We ought to have a magazine that would not have to depend upon the sale of Birth Control literature It should refute the arguments of the "surpeupleurs" from the eugenic point of view

THE FOLLOWING WORKS were published before the war by various Birth Control organizations

*Contre la Nature, Malthus et les Neo Malthusiens, Population et Prudence Procreatrice, Pain, Loisir, Amour*, by Paul Robin

*La greve des Ventres*, by Fernand Kolney

*La loi de Malthus, Malthus et ses Disciples, La Question de Population, Population et Subsistances*, by G Hardy

*Elements de Science Sociale, La Pauvrete, sa seule cause, son seul remede*, by Dr G Drysdale

*La chair a canon*, by Manuel Devaldes

*Socialisme et Population*, by Leon Marinont

*Le Mariage, l'amour libre et la maternite, L'Education Sexuelle*, by Jean Marestan

*Y a-t'il assez de subsistances?* by Ch V Drysdale (a post war publication), etc

Many works dealing with practical contraceptive methods have had a very wide distribution, more than 100,000 copies being printed in several cases. Some of these titles are

*Generation Consciente*, by Frank Sutor, *La Preservation Sexuelle*, by Dr Liptay, *Moyens d'eviter la grossesse, L'Avortement*, by G Hardy, *Moyens D'eviter les Grandes Familles* (translated from the Dutch)

SOME OF THESE publications have been translated into foreign languages. Among the most practical are *How to Prevent Pregnancy, Mittel zur Schwangerschaftsverhutng*, by G Hardy

To sum up, then, the question of population interests the French government from the patriotic and economic stand points only. Our population should not decrease while that of other countries is on the increase. Labor is scarce, salaries are too high, profits too low, and the industrial or agricultural worker is too independent and too happy. Human flesh is needed for war, industry and prostitution. And then again, the war having killed two millions of people, it is necessary that these be replaced by as many, or more, births.

If we could have a magazine, we could answer that the war was brought about by over population that it would be better for the nation, the family, the individual, rationally to regulate over population by contraceptive methods, by voluntary scientific procreation practiced internationally, rather than to regulate it by war, the barbaric suppression of the most fit. I hope some day to hear publicly discussed these ideas and the biological and economic laws upon which they are based.

When the Bloc National, which is now crushing us, shall have been overthrown, we will take up again with renewed vigor the fight in favor of ideas which are to contribute very largely to universal happiness.

G HARDY

## DUTCH NEO MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE

(Continued from page 8)

c. The Dutch Neo Malthusian League recommends for Birth Control precautions

Is this hurtful for health? No. The simple precautions, which are recommended by the Dutch Neo Malthusian League are purely harmless for the health. By washing and injection (which is the main point thereby) the cleanliness of the body is extraordinary. Just by taking precautions, it must have a very favorable effect on the health. Cleanliness of the body is the first and principal condition for the health that no germs come on the inside. Complaints about this or that (flowing pain a c o) manifold come forth by married women, many times hold up after regular use of precautions. (Dr J Rutgers, "The worth of the N M for the health")

5 The Dutch Neo Malthusian League always warned against abortion, but it does not make a study of the number of victims.

In the yearly report 1919 20 we find a o and above all things the pamphlet "The danger of abortion," has many a one retained from a inconsiderate deed.

Also in the small book "What every married couple should know," Dr J Rutgers warned against it.

6 The Dutch Neo Malthusian League did give out from April till December 1920 for propaganda these publications

Blue sketch .....	884
Public morality .....	572
Truly health .....	1,722
The danger of abortion .....	1,792
In hard times .....	1,080
Prosperity and growth .....	1,140
To all fathers and mothers.....	740
Higher morality .....	915
What every married couple should know.....	1,161
Why small families .....	23,000
The happy family .....	26,000

The league has 23 local organizations and every one can give out his own publication, only the Chief Direction governing in order not to have difficulties of the law.

For the Chief Direction

H S DE VRIES, Vice Pres

Charged with the foreign correspondence

## SONG

Oh, the dawn is grey and my love is old,  
Shrunk and haggard she stoops along  
With her cheerless lips that have learned to scold,  
Palsied hands that once filled me with song

It is pitiful now to see her so,  
To taste her voice and feel her eyes  
I, too, am old and I ought to know,  
But what shall we do when our memory dies?

—HAROLD HERSEY

## GERMAN REPORT

### A NEW BILL PERMITTING ABORTION BEFORE REICHSTAG

Reichstag,  
1 Elective Periods,  
1920

#### MOTION

Frau Schuch, Dr Radbruch and associates The Reichstag  
RESOLVES

to give constitutional consent to the following bill

#### DRAFT OF A BILL to

#### CHANGE THE PENAL CODE

The Reichstag has resolved, with the consent of the members of the Council of the Empire, to proclaim the following law

#### §1

The following §219a is to be inserted in the Penal Code

The Acts designated in Articles 218 and 219 of the Penal Code are not punishable if performed by the impregnator, or by a certified reputable physician, within the first three months of pregnancy

Berlin, 31st July, 1920

Frau Schuch, Dr Radbruch, Frau Ansorge, Bias Buck, Franz Frohme, Girbig Hausmann, Frau Hauke, Heilmann, Hellmann, Hildenbrand, Hoffmann (Kaiserslautern) Hunch, Janschek

Berlin, March 14, 1921

**J**UST A SHORT message which will undoubtedly interest you very much

I came home from a huge meeting which was called by our 'Syndicalist Women Association' on Birth Control, the success of it was really inspiring, and worth the while mentioning

Over two thousand people of both sexes crowded one of the biggest halls in Neukolho, listening most attentively to the speeches of Dr A Bernstein, Dr Goldstein, Frau Rosa Schwan Schneider, Comrade M Winkler editor of the Syndicalist and Sister Kyndle

All the speakers have given way to strong criticism against the medical men who though they know how dangerous it is for the poor working people to create large families yet they decline to do anything to prevent them They have condemned the law and severe punishment for abortion and reproached the Socialists who were in power and left that barbarous law untouched

They spoke of the disadvantages a house full of children means to the working people, of the impossibility for the mental development of the women, the danger for the child and consequently for the whole human race

Great emphasis was laid by all the speakers to help the women with preventives, to teach them how to avoid conception Comrade Winkler demanded that the people should ignore the law of abortion which only exists for the poor today, whereas the rich never cared for it

**T**HE APPLAUSE which each speaker received proved that the words spoken went straight to the hearts of the listeners It also convinced us how eagerly the proletariat of this country are to be enlightened on the sex problem, and especially on the limitation of the family

The success of this meeting encouraged us so much that we have decided to arrange similar ones in every district of Berlin, and suburbs, and do our utmost that the comrades all over the country should work on the same lines

Isn't it deplorable that the Anarchists and Syndicalists should be the only ones who work in this direction, whereas the Social democrats all the years kept on preaching the gospel of large families, and what a blessing for the social revolution when the proletariat keeps on increasing? What a mad idea!

MILLY ROEKER

Stuttgart, April 12th, 1921

To the Honorable,  
New York Women's Publishing Co., Inc.,  
104 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City

#### DEAR LADIES

Conforming your wish, I give you hereby my report and opinion concerning the population question in Germany

The Neo Malthusian Propaganda since 30 years had a remarkable effect The number of births per 1,000 in 1900, 36.5, was in 1909 only 32 and in 1913 only 29.5 The number of deaths in 1900, 23, was in 1909 18.1 and in 1913 16.5

There will be no question, that this decline of the Death Rates has been reached to a great part by the decrease of poverty in the smaller families But as you see by the above difference between Birth and Death Rates there was still an augmentation of the population nearly every year of about 1.3 per cent or 700,000 to 800,000 a year, so that the increase amounted to nearly 4 millions every 5 years Now as our country is very intensively populated—about 6,500 in a German, or over 300 per American or English square mile—our agricultural production, although so much raised as possible, was not sufficient for our food necessities and we were therefore restrained to very large imports, which we could only obtain and pay for by industrial exportations The average size of a German farm property being only 9 acres against the nearly 10 fold in your country, the German farmer, after covering his own want of food, has not very much to sell, much less than an American farmer From a German farmer's family, having 4 children, only one or two could find there an existence, the others were therefore obliged to get an industrial occupation and for that purpose to go most to the cities more and more overfilled and with *very bad housing circumstances*, against all government orders were nearly without success, because by the so indigent existence the deficiency of room was anyhow not so hard, as the deficiency on food Many families were, and are, so poor, that 2 or 3 children together had only one bed

(Continued on page 18)

# Neo-Malthusianism or Birth Control in Austria

By Pierre Ramers

**D**URING THE TIME of the monarchy any and every public propaganda of conscientious self control in matters of race propagation was severely prohibited. Nevertheless the propaganda was carried on in an underground way by a small minority within the labor movement.

The first agitation in this line was done in the year 1910 by the group "*Welfare for All*", publishing an anarchist publication under the same name. This paper published frank moral neo malthusianism articles and essays, declared itself for the self determination of womanhood in matters of sex, and especially in matters of birth. All these articles were confiscated legally by the monarchist regime of police and judicial procedure, but the publishing group succeeded in securing the editions of the paper, so that the copies were reaching its subscribers.

Besides this we published at that time a little green slip, entitled, "Directions for Mothers and Women." On this slip which was distributed gratis and also put into each copy of one edition of our paper, there was given the methods, the actual way and means, how a woman can prevent an unwelcome pregnancy. It was also at that time one of our co-workers by the name of Josef —, published with the aid of our group, the first neo malthusian pamphlet ever appearing in the light of day in Austria. The pamphlet was very carefully couched, and showed only how disastrous *too many* children are and gave some means of prevention, showing them. It was, of course, promptly confiscated by the authorities, but a large portion of its edition could be secured from the grips of the police invasion.

**T**HE TIMES ABOUT which I am speaking were fertile in discussion of this problem. In Germany there was going on a certain brisk agitation of neo malthusianism, mainly carried on by Dr. Julian Marcuse, Dr. Bernstein and literally by Dr. Fritz Benphasher. They were literally opposed by the entire social democratic movement, the attacks being headed by personalities like Kautsky, Rosa Luxemburg, Clara Zetkin and others, since become very famous in the so called "communist" movement, which, until today is *anti neo malthusian*, in Germany as well as Austria.

Since the overthrow of the monarchy in those countries there is to a certain extent, an even increased antagonism against the principles of conscious birth prevention. In Germany Dr. Goldstein (Berlin) was publishing a small periodical, entitled "Enlightenment." It was suppressed by the "revolutionary" authorities and its editors had to undergo many raids of pious people in his meetings, which made it impossible for him to continue in his public propaganda on a larger scale.

As to Austria, there has come up, right after the "revolution," a new association, called the "Covenant against forcible motherhood." Its aims are the abolition of all laws tending to prohibit abortion. This association wishes that scientific,

medical abortion should be within the reach of every woman, notably mothers. Now and then public meetings to that effect are being held. The speakers of this agitation are mainly Johann Ferah, a former type setter, now author, and Dr. Fritz Wittel, a physician. The awkward thing on the part of the former is that he is against the propagation of Birth Control methods, and exclusively wishes only the propaganda of the right of abortion.

**A**T THE SIDE of this movement there is the neo malthusian movement, which is in Austria solely represented by the anarchists and their "Covenant of no governmental socialists." Right after the revolution, preparations were made for the publication of a pamphlet which was, for the first time, absolutely outspoken on the subject. There appeared again in the autumn a small pamphlet without consequences! How to prevent unwanted conception and pregnancy. An indispensable aid for all. Though the entire pamphlet was written and typographically set up in Austria, still there was started a false publishing firm of befriended people in a foreign country, so as to waylay any and every state prosecution, which was and is, to be feared. The first edition of the pamphlet was 20,000 which went speedily off, so that in the middle of 1920, there already appeared the second edition, comprising the same amount as the former one.

Public gatherings about the subject of neo malthusianism are hardly, if ever, held in Vienna or Austria at large. Church and State are very much against this propaganda and it is therefore only carried on by the extreme left of the labor movement, viz. the anarchists. As for the socialists, they are either indifferent or hostile, the "communists" absolutely against the subject. Austria does not, unlike Bohemia, possess a somewhat liberal bourgeoisie, the Austrian bourgeoisie is uniformly clerical, bigotted, and thus neo malthusianism lives for its wealthy circles only in the privileged practices of house doctors, and in the very few chemist shops in which neo malthusian means can be procured at very expensive rates.

**T**HOUGH THERE IS hardly any public lecturing agitation carried on in Austria and Germany, still the authorities are very much alarmed by the subterranean advances it is making. There are rumors that the laws, forbidding the sale of means of prevention existing in the monarchy are to be forfeited in the republic. The only thing which is preventing these measures are the protests of some physicians, notably some of the foremost authorities on sex questions. Dr. Wilhelm Stekel—also one of the pioneers of liberty in sex—who point out that the total prohibition of means of prevention means the inevitable increase of sexual diseases.

However small the neo malthusian movement in Austria is, it is not going to stop or to be stopped. Its propaganda is slowly, but surely making headway.

# Birth Control and Woman's Liberty

By Harold Cox

UNTIL RECENTLY THE question of Birth Control has been more or less tabooed by the newspaper press. Newspapers which will publish columns of reports of sensational divorce cases appear to regard the discussion of the problem of the birth rate as not quite seemly. Yet of all human problems it is finally the most important. Some aspects of the problem are debatable, others have no room for argument. It is a possible question for debate whether a nation will be stronger by breeding slowly, as the French did before the war, or by multiplying babies recklessly, as the Russians and the Chinese do. But it is beyond dispute that if in any given family the babies follow one another too rapidly, the health of the mother suffers and the children receive inadequate attention. It is this aspect of the question which I, as a man, submit ought to appeal to all women.

We have heard much lately about sex emancipation, about the right of woman to vote and to work. I am in the fullest agreement with women who assert that sex ought to be no bar to the enjoyment of civic rights, or to the claim for industrial freedom. But for the married woman, neither of these rights is comparable in importance with the rights to the control of her own body. A married woman in the poorer classes is liable at any moment to be subjected to the prolonged discomfort of pregnancy, ending in the pains and dangers of parturition. That pregnancy and parturition are natural phases of life does not alter the fact that in their physical effects they are equivalent to a serious disease, and a woman has the right to claim that she shall not be subjected to the discomforts and dangers involved unless she deliberately desires to bring a child into the world. The average woman probably desires to have at least one child, some women desire to have quite large families, but no woman desires to have a new pregnancy forced upon her before she has fully recovered from the effects of the last child birth, or before the baby then born has grown out of babyhood.

YET UNLESS THE woman and her husband know how to control conception, the pregnancies may succeed one another with a frequency which makes the woman's life one long disease and leaves her no leisure to watch over her up growing children. That is not only an injustice to her, it is a wrong to the race. If the mother is weakened by too frequent pregnancies her children will be born weak, if they are unable to enjoy a mother's care during early childhood, they will suffer both in health and character. Many of them will die. One of the best established of statistical facts throughout the world is that a high birth rate means a high infantile death rate. Every year, in this country as in all countries, tens of thousands of women are compelled against their will to produce babies who are doomed within a few months to die. The sufferings and anxieties imposed upon these mothers are an absolute waste for which there is no compensation. The nation gains

nothing from the birth of these babies, who flicker out their lives for a few days or months. The cost of bringing them into the world, with the cost of their brief maintenance, is a net loss to the community.

Surely, then, from the national as well as from the women's point of view, it is right that married couples in all classes should take measures to avoid conception when they do not want children. To suggest, as some theological writers have done, that conception should be avoided by abstinence from the basic relationship of married life is to mock at human nature. The vast majority of the population will not so abstain. Except in the poorer classes the problem has already settled itself. Throughout the middle and upper classes, the control of conception is almost universally practised. It is also very widely practised by well to do artisans, and in many countries by agricultural laborers. But there remains a considerable mass of people, especially in the slums of our large towns, who continue to breed recklessly. Possibly some of these people are of the type that never take thought for the morrow, but it is difficult to believe that there are many women, even in the poorest classes, who would run the risk of an unwanted pregnancy if they knew how to prevent conception. At any rate it is worth while that all should be taught, even if only some avail themselves of the knowledge. For this reason I hold that Dr Marie Stopes and her husband, Mr Roe, have rendered a real service to the community in opening a Mothers' Clinic in a poor district of London (61 Marlborough Road, Holloway), where married women will be able to obtain from a qualified nurse the necessary information. This is a practical piece of work that is worth a million speeches about a new world.

IT MAY BE suggested that if this knowledge spreads the result will be to produce a substantial reduction in the rate at which our population is growing, perhaps even to stop its growth altogether. I hope so. During the first decade of the twentieth century our population was increasing at a rate which, if continued for 360 years, would have produced for England and Wales alone a greater number of inhabitants than the whole world contains. Obviously, such a rate of increase could not be maintained for that period, or even for a quarter of it. Before the century ended we should be killing one another to find room to live. Undoubtedly there would be some national risk if the population of our country were to decline very rapidly while the population of countries that might be our enemies continued to grow. But it is fairly certain that all the higher races are already adopting the policy of Birth Control. If occasion should arise, the slow breeding races must league themselves together for common defense.

At the present time England is, in my opinion, over popu

(Continued on page 20)

## NEO-MALTHUSIAN MOVEMENT

(Concluded from page 5)

for Leicester), Admiral Sir Percy Scott, Councillor H V Roe, Dr Marie Stopes, and Mr Aylmer Maude. A proposal to form a society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress was put forward. The large audience was greatly interested, and the chairman gave a powerful address on the national importance of this question. There was no opposition, but a protest was raised by a Roman Catholic priest as the audience was dispersing.

The sudden and strenuous activity of the Birth Control campaign has evidently come as a bombshell to the Roman Catholics, who have been sending emissaries to take notes at our meetings, and warning their followers not to attend them. A protest against our South London Campaign appeared in the Catholic Press from Father O'Mara, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, and articles and pamphlets have been written by Roman Catholics denouncing our propaganda and that of Dr Marie Stopes. These protests can but enlist public sympathy on our side, as they are written in such a disgusting tone, and with such callous disregard of human suffering, that they cannot fail to alienate all unprejudiced readers from them. We have no fear of interference as a result of their efforts, as it is evident that both the Government and public opinion is overwhelmingly on our side. In a lecture given by the writer at the Richmond Young Women's Christian Association recently to an audience of the Women's Citizen's Association, under the Chairmanship of Lady Nott Bower, not only was there no opposition, but several ladies including the Chairman were only concerned as to whether compulsion or even sterilization would not be necessary. This fact alone shows how public opinion has been educated by the revelations of the serious amount of defectiveness during the war, and the discussions concerning venereal disease, while the political enfranchisement of women has emboldened them to express their point of view openly in public affairs. An important meeting has also just been held at the Medico Legal Society which the recently appointed Professor of Gynecology, Dr Louise McIlroy, depreciated Birth Control on national and religious as well as medical grounds, but was opposed by Lord Chief Justice Russell, Dr Haden Guest, Mr G B Shaw, and the President, the Rt Hon Lord Justice Atkin. There was no legal support for Dr McIlroy, and only the medical men, Dr

Armand Routh, who has always been an opponent of Birth Control and Dr Connor expressed any objection to contraceptives on medical grounds.

**B**IRTH CONTROL PROMISES to be the great subject of discussion in the coming season, and with the activity with which we hope to press forward the propaganda, and the powerful support of many public authorities, such as the Dean of St Paul's, Mr H G Wells, Mr G H Roberts and other Labor Leaders, as well as other prominent persons who are nearly ready to come forward, the success of our cause is assured. The Eugenics movement in England has now become almost completely sympathetic to the Neo Malthusian cause, and will prove a valuable ally.

Although the public press has not yet come forward openly in support of Birth Control, there are signs that it will do so very shortly. The serious industrial situation and high cost of living since the war has revived interest in the population question, and the *Morning Post* has boldly asserted that there are ten million too many people in this country. Also the discussion concerning the Japanese treaty has revealed the serious difficulty with which the world is confronted on account of the rapid increase of the Japanese population, while articles are appearing on the famines in China and India and the general shortage of food.

Two important events are looked forward to in August. Mrs Sanger hopes to attend the League of Nations Congress in Geneva, and it is possible that the resolution sent up by the Malthusian League three years ago may be revived. As President of the International New Malthusian Bureau of Correspondence and Defense, the writer is also calling a meeting of experts on contraceptive devices at the Hague on August 29th and 30th, in order to secure the most authoritative and up to date opinion as to the most reliable and cheapest contraceptives. The Malthusian League is also sending a Medical representative to investigate this matter before the conference. After this conference new practical leaflets will be prepared, and it is hoped that the information elicited will prove of considerable value to the Birth Control movement.

We are deeply interested in the rapid progress of the Birth Control movement in the U S A, and send our heartiest congratulations to our American friends on their remarkably active and successful propaganda.

## Birth Control and the Immigrant

By John Di Gregorio

**T**HE IMMIGRANTS, of late, have been made the target of the solicitous cares of all kinds of "Americanizing" agencies. They have been exhorted to learn the English language, to read the Declaration of Independence, to memorize the Constitution, to get into the spirit of our fatherly laws, to quiver with awe before our just courts, to be subservient to their employers, to produce more and take less, to be industrious, thrifty, frugal, and content, and to acquire all other knowledge of virtues that are supposed to form the foundation and inspiration of the sane, safe and orderly American

citizen. The fact that all this deignful solicitude has fallen, for most part, upon unresponsive ingrates does not detract at all from the merits of the noble efforts and it merely shows that people born abroad are, as a rule, incapable of grasping the altitude of Americanism with all that it implies and that they can only appreciate such vulgar things as good wages, fair treatment, comfortable and dignified living, and the like.

There is one good feature of native accomplishment, however, which has been overlooked by the above extolled agen

(Continued on page 18)



# The Greatest Need in Puerto Rico

By Elisabeth Freeman

IF ONE WANTS a lesson in Birth Control I recommend them to pay a visit to Puerto Rico

During the nearly twenty three years of American occupation, the population has increased from 953,243 (1898 1899) to 1,263,474 (1918 1919), on an island of about 3,600 square miles or 300 persons to every square mile

As there is no definite regulation about registering births it is difficult to gather statistics, but the report of the Health Officer states there are 7,603 babies under one year die each year 3,666 between one and two years of age, 4,245 between two and five years and 4,063 still births

In view of these figures (Health Officer's 1919) we find from the same pen "A scientific and well based sanitary organization must direct its utmost effects to the accomplishment of the three fundamental objectives which integrate social hygiene dynamics, that is, to decrease mortality, INCREASE NATALITY, and to obtain greatest longevity within the limits fixed by nature on human existence, a trilogy, which resting on *nuptiality* and on sound fecundity, constitutes the characteristics of modern sanitary science"

The living conditions of the workers are deplorable Mothers breed under conditions that our Government considers far from fit for pigs to breed in Of course there are profits in breeding high grade pigs, and the same can be said of breeding an ignorant diseased race in Puerto Rico, because the exploiters of labor consider them only fit for long hours and poor pay When remarking to an American of long residence in Puerto Rico about these ghastly living and working conditions, he remarked, "They are happy in their poverty" A typical bourgeois viewpoint To think of happiness in the primitive huts made of palm leaves, or gasoline cans, or stray boards and boxes, families of eight and ten persons living in one room 8x10 feet The heads of these families earn from 70c to \$1 50 per day and the mothers earn a little extra by washing or bending over a frame making their beautiful embroidery

SANITATION AND HYGIENE are unknown in these hovels, oftentimes built beside open sewers, where stagnant water pulutes the air No attention to hygiene can be given during pregnancy, to the diseases of the father and pregnant mother, especially to gravid intoxication, to the various dystocias, wholly preventable, to tuberculosis, syphilis, etc If a child overcomes such tare and is born to life with the stigma and characteristics of congenital debility it is doomed to an early death, those who live are doomed to lives of neglect, disease and undernourishment It is reported there are 25,000 homeless children in the Island These children are ill clad and driven to stealing for food It is a shocking spectacle to see a ragged child beg a penny and when he or she receives it, run madly to the nearest bakery or grocers and buy bread, sharing it with their less fortunate hungry brothers One

realizes that this large number of homeless children breeds thieves and shiftless citizens, even if we do not take into account the suffering and hardship of bringing them into the world

The Bureau of Education reports there are 450,000 school children between 5 and 18 years, of this number 185,000 attend school—only about 41 per cent of the children—this means 265,000 are unable to obtain education, first because there are not sufficient schools, second the children are compelled to have suitable clothing and wear shoes This may sound a simple matter, but when a man has ten or more children under 15 years of age, (and this is the rule rather than the exception) and he is only earning 70c to \$1 50 per day, and also possibly keeping several mistresses and their families, it is impossible to feed and clothe this brood In the country a child rarely has any clothing before it is eight years old

IN HIS MESSAGE to the Legislature the Governor said, "Puerto Rico will not be ready to assume its proper permanent status until we have lifted the great masses of our people out of their present condition of illiteracy, disease and poverty

"This is an immense task, especially when we consider the *dense and rapidly increasing population of the Island* In order to accomplish it we will be obliged in all the years to follow to use all public money available to push forward the general education of the people, to wage relentless war against wide spread diseases, especially hook worm, malaria and tuberculosis, to diversify and develop our agriculture, promote and protect our commerce and communications, and increase in every possible way our industries so as to furnish employment at fair wages for the great and increasing population that live in Puerto Rico"

From this Island hundreds of millions of dollars worth of wealth goes every year into the pockets of the capitalists of the United States and Spain yet one meets poverty in an unbelievable form and very little done to alleviate it

It is into these unfair conditions that women are asked to "increase natality" With absolutely nothing to look forward to making their home a better place for their children to be born into With no voice in their Government and no understanding as to how they can change their status They want to know how to prevent overbreeding but no one is allowed to tell them and they are resigned and go on being cattle instead of human beings

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Have you volunteered your services to Mrs Anne Kennedy for the Birth Control Conference of November 11th to 13th? Write today!

## GERMAN REPORT

(Continued from page 13)

THEREFORE THE Neo Malthusian Propaganda shows also the most effect in the large cities

*Number of births per 1,000 in Prussian cities*

	1875 80	1881 85	1886 90	1891 95	1896 1900
Aacken ----	43 2	41 3	38 3	37 1	35 7
Altona -----	44 1	39 3	38 2	37 9	34 3
Barmen ----	48 0	40 1	38 2	35 7	35 5
BERLIN -----	44 9	38 4	34 9	31 6	28 9
Breslau ----	43 2	38 8	37 3	36 8	35 9
Charlottenburg -----	46 9	41 4	38 7	36 1	31 6
Danzig -----	41 4	38 3	37 1	34 8	35 5
Dortmund --	54 6	48 7	44 2	43 1	45 8
Elterfeld ---	45 5	41 5	38 7	35 6	35 6
Essen -----	53 5	48 7	44 1	45 9	46 2
Frankfurt					
a/Main --	35 2	30 0	27 8	28 7	30 6
Halle a/L --	41 3	39 5	38 5	38 9	36 2
Hanover ----	40 2	35 6	34 7	35 4	35
Königsberg					
1/P (P) --	39	36 5	35 4	32 8	32 4
Kaefeld ----	46 4	44 4	42 6	35 7	30 9
Magdeburg -	39 5	37	41 7	39 1	35 1
Posen -----	40 1	36 1	34 9	31 6	32

The general movement in Germany is indicated above

However, this reduction, the still larger increase of population was more than sufficient to influence unfavorably the wages, which otherwise most likely would have shown a better tendency

SINCE 1914, THE beginning of the war, all circumstances were quite altered. The young men, beginning with the 20th year of age had to go to the Army, the number of marriages was very reduced, and as also the married men until 40 were conscripted for war purposes and for years separated from their wives, the births were also much reduced, while on the other side heavy losses on the battlefields diminished the population. Again since the end of the long war, November, 1918, things are much otherwise. The marriages so long suspended by the war show a very large increase, also the number of births

But the present circumstances in Germany—extremely heavy taxes, the low value of our money, enhancing of all necessities, deficiency of labor in many establishments, the export difficulties, caused by the imposed hostile regulations by France and England until 50 per cent of value—are so, that nearly nobody in Germany can come to a clear idea, how these things may come to a supportable end and so also I myself not to a sufficient impression, to give you at present therein a suitable report

The public opinion since the war has also rendered it difficult to maintain publicity and propaganda concerning the Neo Malthusian questions, but I believe that this reserve shall not endure a long time. Which way their development may take, is at present not clearly to foresee

I remain very respectfully, MAX HAUSMEISTER, *Secretary*

## BIRTH CONTROL AND THE IMMIGRANT

(Concluded from page 16)

cies in their preachments to the aliens, and that is, Birth Control, the high art so generally, skillfully, and deftly practised by the "best people" in the country. The omission is all the more regrettable and culpable, because the immigrants that come to these blessed shores need a working knowledge of Birth Control more than all uplifting exhortation put together. In fact, is it of any benefit to them to know the language, the customs, and the laws of the country as long as they are burdened with the exhausting care and concern of a lot of children which they can neither feed, nor clothe, nor educate properly?

THE TRUTH OF the matter is, that those self appointed agencies are the very ones that combat Birth Control. Knowingly or unknowingly, both by commission and omission, they aim only at one result to keep the immigrant down to the state of a tame and obedient serf. They have no other purpose. If they did, if they were not hypocritical and fearful, they would realize that a large family makes the life of the immigrant a continuous misery, they would teach the newly arrived that children are a blessing only when they can be attended to and cared for, they would impart to them one of the most helpful ideas of self defense—Birth Control

In order to realize how much the immigrants need such instruction, one must reflect that most of the people coming here from Europe and other places, are poor peasants or poor artisans with nothing in the world except their willingness and their ability to do something that will secure a better living for them. This is the long and short of immigration's driving power, all the talk about the search for liberty or any other chimera being pure fiction. The men along with the women, as soon as they arrive, must find employment, and, whether they are handicapped by children or not, they must keep on toiling day after day without cessation. Often the women must go to the factories until the very eve of becoming mothers and must leave their offspring to take care of themselves as best they can. These people come here totally ignorant of preventive measures, often without even a suspicion of the existence of such measures, and they keep on bringing children into a world that offers no protection and no sympathy.

In addition to being ignorant, some of these people are afraid of interfering in any manner with the merciless ways of nature owing to religious scruples and they accept with stolidity all the children that the Lord chooses to send to them.

UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES the dictates of law, of custom, and of religion, are cruelty in itself and result in the most appalling effects upon the parents and upon the children, and it is hard to understand why such a large portion of mankind submit supinely, without protest and without rebellion, to the impositions of stubborn relentless traditions!

Under such circumstances it behooves the people who hold as sacred the lives and the well being of their kind, and not myths and phantoms, the people of heart and of mind to fight

vigorously all the elements of reaction whether clothed in law, in custom or in religion, and to help the helpless to get free from their deadly tentacles

The fight that has been made heretofore in this country has surely been wholehearted and well meaning, but it has been in the nature of a defensive fight, low voiced, almost reverent and certainly deferential to the enemy, whereas it should be aggressive, loud, penetrating and denunciatory

Who are those who oppose Birth Control, anyway? The most hidebound conservatives, the militarists, the big employers, the churches in a word, all the forces that would stay progress, that would forbid all pleasures, that would cast social life into an unbreakable mold. Why should they be spoken to submissively? What right have they to impose upon the poor such an unbearable burden as an unlimited number of children? Why don't they practice what they preach? And why can't they be attacked openly for not practising what they preach? What right has the Catholic Church, for instance, the church that condemns its direct servants to sterility for life, to condemn its followers to unbound fertility? Why shouldn't we open the book of history old and modern, and expose the sham and the scandal of enforced celibacy of the preachers of non interference with the will of God?

It is to be hoped that the fight for Birth Control will take a new turn and that soon there will be not one, but scores of publications smashing at the ramparts of darkness, expounding in many languages the ideas of freedom to the foreign born women, and of self respect, self reliance and self mastery to all poor immigrants that form so large and so worthy a part of our population

MRS MARGARET SANGER,

Dear Madam

Could you inform me as to the method or methods you advocate to control child birth? Can you send me this information by letter? If so it will be very much appreciated. If not will you please tell me if there is any means of obtaining this information? I have read quite a bit along this line but nothing that gives the method. I am sorely in need of this information. I have two children and have miscarried within 5 years. My health is in no condition to bear children and if you could give me this information or inform me as to how I can obtain this information, it would be much appreciated. May I hear from you soon?

Yours truly,

BIRTH CONTROL—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By Margaret Sanger

(Concluded from July Issue)

OPPONENTS OF BIRTH CONTROL have often objected to this practice on the ground that it was injurious to the health of the woman who practices it, and that it often renders the woman sterile. This accusation is untrue. It grows out of the confusion between Birth Control and abortion. Repeatedly performed abortions, it has been proven, may have the most injurious effect on women and may render them sterile. Abortion is dangerous alike to the mother and the child. It is a

practice that must be combatted with all the weapons at our command. Abortions often produce inflammations and dangerous infections. Often they are unsuccessful, especially when an unfortunate woman attempts to induce them herself. The result is often a permanent injury to the child.

In order to combat this disgraceful custom of abortion, into which thousands of American women are forced by the cruelty and stupidity of our laws, nothing is more effective and hygienic than the alternative of Birth Control. As a great English authority on sex, Havelock Ellis, has pointed out, in order to do away with the need for abortion our main reliance must be placed on increased foresight in the determination of conception and increased knowledge of the means of preventing conception. In addition there must be awakened a great social valuation of mothers and children. There can be no doubt that in many charges of criminal abortion the real offence lies at the door of those who fail to exercise their social and professional duty in making known the more natural and hygienic methods of Birth Control, and who in their blind servility to the customs of the past are committing irreparable crimes against the future of the race.

Abortion is the great indictment against a civilization that tries to enslave motherhood. High infant mortality rates are the inevitable result and consequence of bringing too many children into the world. Add to these unfortunates the victims of the great racial diseases, tuberculosis, venereal disease, and all transmissible maladies of this type, and one gains a comprehension of the extent of dependents who are becoming an ever increasing burden upon society.

THE PRESENT SITUATION, in all countries of the world, and for all races, is of the utmost seriousness. While the better types in all countries are restricting their numbers in order to improve the quality of the humanity of the future, the undernourished, the diseased and the feebleminded are encouraged to reproduce and multiply their numbers by the political leaders and the untrained sentiments of society at large. In our blind worship of mere numbers, we are losing sight of the invaluable qualities of self reliance, independence and health, without which neither an individual, a nation nor a race can long survive in the world struggle. To meet this problem as a great scientist has recently pointed out, *we need not more of the fit, but fewer of the unfit*. It would be unbelievable, unless it were not a cruel fact of our American civilization, that syphilitics, consumptives, epileptics and semi idiots are permitted to propagate their own curse, both what is called legitimately and illegitimately. Is it not time to protect ourselves and our children and our children's children? The propagation of the degenerate, the imbecile, the feeble minded, should be prevented. We have no way of controlling the syphilitic and gonorrheic who pass their blights on to women, deteriorate her offspring, and commit an unpardonable crime against the human race. As a great scientist has said "We have come to this, that half of us are obliged to watch, and nurse, and support the other half, *most of whom should never have been born*"

In the gloom which shrouds the future of civilized com

munities, the same great authority, William Bateson, points out, there is one factor which gives encouragement and hope the decline in the birth rate. It is not the *maximum* number that we need but the *optimum*.

**I**N THE GREAT problems of the future, in the programs of reconstruction and re creation of human society, of what importance is the problem of Birth Control? My readers of the Orient may well ask this question. Our answer is definite. None of the problems of the future of humanity can be solved at all, I must assert with all the emphasis at my command, unless they are solved scientifically. Too long have we attempted to advance and better poor struggling humanity upon the basis of politics, of sentiment, or of religions. Each of these has dismally failed. You may act according to the most benign and humanitarian motives, you may even find these satisfactory in four cases out of five, but in the fifth case, you may destroy all the efforts you have accomplished in the other four. It is hard to believe that what you instinctively feel to be kind, is in the long run, cruel. Yet in our sentimental and religious praise of fecundity and fertility, we are encouraging the most dangerous and unfit elements in the community to spawn and reproduce themselves. We are learning that too many charities and philanthropies are not merely accomplishing nothing toward the prevents of the evils they attempt to palliate, but are actually the deep seated causes of aggravation.

The Great War has taught us that the world is but one community. Just as in any city, the indigent and dependent classes must be supported by the self reliant and prosperous, so we are gradually learning that the over populated countries are a menace to the peace and security of the less densely settled ones. When overpopulated countries learn that there is neither strength nor cohesive force in mere numbers, but in the development of a strong and healthy self sustaining population, a new direction will be given to national aims, and much will be done toward the elimination of waste and war. The strength and wealth of a country are to be sought, not in mere numbers, but in the number of self reliant and independent men and women, who have physical, intellectual and productive value. Is there any more truly patriotic doctrine? Put into effect the world over, Birth Control would make possible the growth and intensive development of happy nations. Without it, no League of Nations can ever eliminate contentions and war. Birth Control is the only true foundation of national strength and security.

**T**HE CRITICS OF Birth Control never tire of condemning this doctrine as negative, destructive, dysgenic, and conducive to "race suicide." Statistics prove the contrary. The population of Holland is increasing. The stature is increasing. It is likewise evident that Birth Control is, wherever practised, correlated with personal hygiene and cleanliness, with individual responsibility and intelligence. It awakens a new interest in, and heightens the social and racial value of, fewer but better children. It decreases the infant mortality rate, it increases the survival rate. It is therefore of pivotal importance to the future of the world.

It shows us that the problem of human happiness is composed of three parts to be solved in this order and this order alone: good birth, good education, and good social and international organization. The efforts to solve one of the latter parts of this world problem are futile unless we begin with the basic and fundamental one. The struggle, the servitude, the wars between nations, between societies, between individuals, are the inevitable consequences of this widespread ignorance. Revolutions bring only changes of classes, spoliations of privileged persons for the benefit of newly privileged persons, without any lessening of the sum total of human suffering. The right to live, to work, to mutual aid, to self expression, are all made impossible through this uncontrolled fertility of the unfit, made void and senseless. Birth Control points, to all peoples under the sun, the one and only way which can lead all nations to well being, independence, and dignity,—to peace, justice and happiness.

*Finis*

## BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S LIBERTY

(Concluded from page 15)

lated. Millions of people are living in over crowded districts of over grown towns. Their lives are spent in crowded factories, in crowded streets, in crowded bedrooms. They are for ever jostling one another, with insufficient elbow room for the movement of their bodies, and no chance of solitude for the development of their minds. Under such conditions our race may, indeed, continue to increase for a time in numbers, but it will certainly decline in greatness. Nor can we avoid these evils, as is often thoughtlessly suggested, by means of emigration to the colonies. The people who have been born and bred in the crowded districts of our great towns will not emigrate, and most of them would be useless if they did. In that direction there is no hope. If we wish to raise the average standard of our race, and to enlarge the opportunities of life for all the inhabitants of our island, we must induce the masses of our town bred people to cease from multiplying their numbers. The first step to that end is to spread the knowledge which gives to women power to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

## A DRAMATIC LETTER

(Concluded from page 10)

baby was older, and when she was born I was torn very badly and had to be sewn.

Kindly excuse me for taking so much of your time as perhaps you won't be interested in my affairs but I thought you would understand better if I told you everything. I don't think I am capable of having a large family as I am not strong enough to do what is right by them. I suffer from severe headaches and I was anaemic before I was married. So if there is any advice you can give me will you kindly do so.

Mrs —

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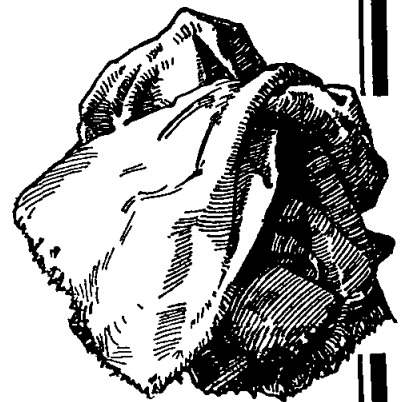
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