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# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*Edited by Margaret Sanger*



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HOLLAND (1885)—De Nieuw Malthusiaansche Bond Secretary, Martina G Kramers, Apeldoorn Periodical, *Het Gelluckkig 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*

BOHEMIA-CZECHO-SLOVAKIA (1901)—Secretary, Michael Kacha, 1164 Zizhov, Prague. Periodical, *Zadruhy*

SPAIN (1904)—Liga Espanola de Regeneracion Humana Secretary, Senor Louis Bullfi, Calle Provenza, 177, Pral la, Barcelona Periodical, *Salu y Fuerza*

BRAZIL (1905)—Seccion Brasileira de Propaganda Secretaries, Manuel Moscosa, Rua d'Bento Pires 29 San Pablo, Antonio Dominguez, Rue Vizcande de Moranguapez 25, Rio de Janeiro

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CUBA (1907)—Seccion de Propaganda Secretary, José Guardiola, Empedrado 14, Havana.

SWITZERLAND (1908)—Groupe Malthusien. Secretary, Valentin Grandjean, 106 Rue des Eaux Vives, Geneva. Periodical, *La Vie Intime*

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*

AUSTRIA—Der Bund gegen den Mutterschaftszwang Johann Ferch, President Wien, XV/1 Gablengasse 31 Periodical, *Sexual Reform*

PORTUGAL—E Silva, Junior, L da Memoria, 46 r/2, Lisbon. Periodical, *Paz e Liberdade*

AFRICA—Ligue Neo Malthusienne, Maison du Peuple, 10 Rampe Magenta, Alger

JAPAN (1921)—Voluntary Parenthood League Baroness S K. Ishimoto President 10, Hinoki cho Akasaki ku, Tokyo

INDIA (1922)—Hindusthan Janamvash Sabha (Indian Birth Control Society), Delhi Honorary Organizer, Professor Gopalji.

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# THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

Four Steps to Our Goal—Agitation, Education, Organization, Legislation.

MARGARET SANGER, Editor

VOL VI

NOVEMBER, 1922

No 11

## Margaret Sanger to the Readers of The Review

ONCE IN A WHILE we should look at our work from a distance, with a clear and impersonal vision, to try to see ourselves as others see us. Wherever I have gone, even in the most remote places, such as Ceylon, Kandy, Aden, Alexandria and Cairo, I have found in bookshops where foreign literature is sold, that people come requesting literature on this subject, asking particularly for some literature from America. It was also a keen pleasure to find so many people had first heard of Birth Control and "learned more about it" from buying a magazine on Broadway from our faithful co-workers. One very shy little English stewardess who was working on a small boat coming from Hong Kong said to me, in a conversation during which we discussed large families and the cost of living, that she had once seen a "paper" being sold in the streets of New York "telling all about that," and she had regretted ever since that she hadn't the courage to go up and get one—wouldn't I see if I could get one for her when I got back. She had three children and "quite enough too." Indeed it has been my happy experience during this trip around the world to find out for myself that even at the other end of the earth the American Birth Control Movement stands out upon our national horizon as the most vital social movement on this continent.

It was not without a certain fear and reluctance that I set out for the Orient eight months ago. Our movement in this country was entering a dangerous and crucial period. Could it survive the attacks and the risks following our first Birth Control Conference and the breaking up of the Town Hall meeting? In addition there was confronting us the gigantic task of organizing the Birth Control League, and raising funds to carry it forward. Nevertheless, convinced that if we could extend our sphere of influence to Japan and China, if we could in short "girdle the globe," our American movement would thereby be incalculably benefitted, I set forth.

IN VIEW OF THESE fears, the splendid work accomplished during my absence is therefore all the more gratifying. Due to the unceasing and energetic endeavors of my co-workers, the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW has doubled its circulation. Our organizers are busily planning three State conferences for the near future—in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. A strong, live list of new members of the League is constantly growing. During my absence of eight months, the American Birth Con-

trol movement has proved that it is a live, healthy, growing organism, daily gaining in strength and widening its influence. These results are all the more remarkable in view of the deplorable apathy and bland indifference to this greatest of all contemporary problems exhibited by our politicians and the official representatives of our American civilization. By contrast, the intense and intelligent interest evidenced by the finest minds both of the Orient and the Occident acts as an inexhaustible source of courage and dynamic power. Fighting with us, in every country of the world, are the bravest and most courageous and far seeing intellects of this age.

To realize this triumph, to point to the concrete irrefutable evidence that this is a fact, one may turn to the remarkable edition of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* of August 17, in which, under the brilliant editorship of John Maynard Keynes, the problems of population and Birth Control are discussed by such prominent authorities as Mr. Keynes himself, Signor Benedetto Croce, the most powerful and influential intellect of contemporary Italy, Guglielmo Ferrero, the eminent historian, Baron Keikichi Ishimoto of Tokio, Professor Alfred Franzis Pribram of the University of Vienna, and a number of other distinguished students of these problems. Both the Baron Ishimoto, a representative of Japanese thought, and John Maynard Keynes are in agreement concerning the world importance of the problem of Birth Control. "Birth Control is now the most important question of the world," writes Baron Ishimoto. "In England, America, France, and Germany the stage of argument is already past, and these countries are now entering on the stage of practice." Speaking of the population problem of Japan, this authority asserts that "there is no other adequate remedy. It is most important for the people of Japan to make a serious and careful study of the question."

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES concludes a striking analysis of the population problem from the point of view of the economists with the challenging declaration that this "is not merely an economist's problem, but in the near future the greatest of all political questions. 'It will be a question,' this brilliant thinker goes on, 'which will arouse some of the deepest instincts and emotions of men, and feelings may run as passionately as in some of the earlier struggles between religions. When the instability of modern Society forces

the issue, a great transition will have begun, with the endeavor by civilized man to assume conscious control in his own hands away from the blind instinct of mere predominant survival."

Let us never forget that what is called the Problem of Population is always, in the final analysis, the problem of Birth Control. Birth Control, we advocate as the only feasible, intelligent and practical solution to population problems. The latter problem is not merely the question of over population, or underpopulation. Essentially this problem is not of the too many or the too few. It is a problem of *quality* rather than of *quantity*. Our concern is not so much with the mere number of men, women and children in this world, but with the creation of a healthy and efficient race. If we can, through Birth Control, develop all the latent powers of the coming generations, we may rest assured that they will more readily solve problems of adjustment and adaptation. We are indomitably convinced, in brief, that if we apply our fullest powers of intelligence, enlightenment and keen sighted vision to the task of the creation of the next generation, we shall, in the long run, do more to bring order, sweetness and light out of the present social and sexual chaos than by complacently relying upon sentiment or tradition.

In conclusion it is with renewed and rejuvenated enthusiasm and increased vitality that we take up again our work in America, encouraged and grateful to our loyal and energetic co workers who have so courageously "carried on" in our long absence.

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU at Washington has recently issued a report on "The Working Children of Boston," which contains food for reflection on the subject of mothers who go out to work. From 15 to 19 per cent of the mothers of children, in a group of about 4000 investigated, were working outside of their homes as well as caring for their families. Of these working mothers, the largest percentage were wives of native American men, and next in order came the mothers of native born children of foreign fathers. The foreign mothers of foreign born children formed the smallest group—most of these women confining themselves entirely to work in the home. Some critics will undoubtedly lament the degeneration of American women which tends to drive the mothers into wage-earning. It is significant that Dr Helen Sumner Woodbury, who compiled the Report, attributes the readiness of mothers to go out to earn to an entirely different cause. The difference between the American and the foreign mothers in this respect, she writes, "is probably in part due to a greater tendency on the part of mothers whose children were born in this country to go to work themselves, rather than send their children to work." The reports of the Children's Bureau do not include in their tables of statistics the number of children in each family. It is impossible from these reports to deduce how much child labor and how much of mother labor is due to the size of the family. "Insufficient earnings of father" does not indicate whether these wages are insufficient because there are too many children to be maintained out of them. The only indication in this report that large families do cause

both child labor and mother labor, is contained in a statement concerning reasons for leaving school in which there is a reference to their earnings being needed at home "because of large families." It would surely be worth while for the opponents of child labor to make a careful investigation into this question of large families and to ascertain to what degree child labor is due to the fact that parents bring into the world more children than they can properly support and educate. That the mothers are willing to make any sacrifice for their children is shown in their readiness to go to work themselves rather than take their children from school to aid the family income. Such mothers are crying out for Birth Control, and the legalizing of its teaching would release them from a double task which is more than the nation has a right to demand of them.

WE CALL ATTENTION this month to the remarkable article by Dr Donald Hooker, on the effect of the X Ray on Reproduction in Rats. The researches here described open the door to a whole new field of scientific achievement. The work is yet in its infancy, but its possible results are beyond our present comprehension.

IN THIS ISSUE Mrs Anne Kennedy, Executive Secretary of the American Birth Control League, gives a sketch of the movement for Birth Control in this country from its earliest beginnings to the present time. Such a summary of the movement ought to be of great interest to our readers.

THE ARTICLE BY Dr Holmes on "The Church and Birth Control, is an honest, fearless and outspoken protest against the chains of sacerdotalism which would restrain the progress of mankind.

READ WITH ATTENTION and sympathy the facsimile letter from Anna J and judge of the depth of the need to which our mothers are giving voice.

## News Notes

THE COMING WINTER will see much activity in organizing State Branches of the American Birth Control League. Mrs Sanger will leave New York on November 13 to attend the First State Birth Control Conference of Indiana, which will be held at Indianapolis, and to make a tour of the States of Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, speaking in the larger cities.

THE FIRST OHIO STATE Conference on Birth Control will be held in November. It is intended to hold this conference at Cincinnati. In New York a State Birth Control Conference will be held at Buffalo. The date has not yet been fixed, but it will be in early part of December. Mrs Sanger's lecture tour will close at Syracuse, on December 7th, with an address before the Woman's Congress there.

MRS EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER of Baltimore, at the request of the President, Miss Florence M Dibert, spoke on Birth Control at the convention of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Women's Clubs, at Reading, Pa, Oct 11

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE had a booth at the Physical Culture Exhibition at Madison Square Garden, New York October 23 28, where Birth Control literature was sold and distributed. The arrangements were made by a committee of which the chairman was Mrs J B Vandever

MRS GEORGE H DAY, Sr, member of the Board of the American Birth Control League, and Mrs A G Porritt, Managing Editor of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW attended the annual convention of the Conn State W C T U in New London, on October 18th, with the purpose of interesting the delegates in Birth Control

SO GREAT IS THE popularity of the Birth Control Clinic in London, which was started last year under the auspices of the Neo Malthusian League, that additions have had to be made to its medical staff. The Clinic forms part of a Welfare Center for prenatal care and child welfare, but the most important part of its function has proved to be the instruction

by medical experts, in contraceptive methods. The women are given individual care and teaching, and the method recommended to each one is adapted to her personal needs. The absence of any legal restriction on prevention of conception in England, makes possible this skilled instruction, which takes the place of abortion, or of the clumsy, disagreeable and non hygienic methods that women often resort to when they can get no better instruction. Dr Norman Haire is the Medical Officer in Charge of the Clinic

PROGRESS IS REPORTED from Germany by Dr Helene Stocker. She writes that she has discussed the question of Birth Control clinics for Berlin with the legal adviser of the German Mutterschutz society. This man is a member of the Prussian Senate and he promised to bring up the question at the next meeting of the Berlin Council. Whether any step has been taken towards establishing municipal clinics for the instruction of mothers in methods of preventing conception has not yet been reported

THE WELCOME MEETING to Mrs Sanger was held in Carnegie Hall on the evening of Monday, October 30. An account of this meeting will be given in our next issue

## The Effect of X-Ray Upon Reproduction in the Rat

*A Paper Presented at the International Birth Control Conference*

*By Donald R Hooker, M D*

IN THIS REPORT I wish to make four points which are of especial interest in connection with the present Conference

Those who have worked on mammalian breeding experiments realize how slowly convincing results mature. Therefore, while I have been working for two years on this problem, I still regard it as essential to emphasize the fact that what I say is strictly a preliminary statement

Clinical experience and such animal experimentation as has previously been done have demonstrated that x radiation will cause sterility, but we are ignorant of the dosage, duration and by effects of such treatment. If the x ray or radium is to be applied to human kind as a means to control and regulate procreation, it is desirable first to study the effects produced on the lower animals. We need to know what such exposure does not do as well as what it does do

In the reproductive glands, of the male at least, are certain structures which are not known to play any part in the elaboration of the reproductive cells, but which exert a significant influence on the general bodily economy. These structures—interstitial cells, as they are called—function in growth, the development of secondary sexual characteristics, etc. It is the absence of these cells and not of the reproductive cells proper which is responsible for the physical characteristics of the castrated animal. While the interstitial tissue is not regarded as necessary to normal sperm formation, its absence, except

in special conditions, precludes normal sexual life in that it is requisite to normal sex desire

My first point then is to show that x ray sterilization does not destroy these interstitial cellular structures. This is of moment because any method applicable to Birth Control must not abrogate the natural expression of love in marriage

A SERIES OF RATS of approximately the same age were paired and their increase in weight observed. At 70 days of age some were castrated, and some were suitably exposed to x ray, while others were run as controls. If it were possible to exhibit the growth curves of these animals you would see that those which were castrated (male and female) exhibited the typical over growth characteristic of this condition. The x rayed and control rats (male and female) grew at corresponding rates. The x rayed and control males were examined for sperm motility at 147 days (21 weeks) of age. In the former no sperm were found. In the latter sperm motility was entirely normal

Both control and x rayed females had offspring, the former, however, at a much earlier date than the latter

It should also be stated in this connection, although demonstrated in other experiments, that males rendered sterile by exposure to x rays continue to exhibit normal sexual activity, that is to say they copulate with the females

This experiment therefore shows that x ray sterilization in

the male (1) does not lead to bodily overgrowth characteristic of castration, and (2) does not inhibit the expression of normal sex activity

My second point bears upon the dosage requisite to establish sterility. It is no doubt known to this audience that x ray exposures are defined for clinical purposes in terms of an erythema or skin dose, that is the dose sufficient to cause a reddening of the human skin. It is likewise known that excessive exposure to x rays leads to serious burns. Obviously therefore, the application of the x ray in Birth Control would not be considered unless the dosage required fell well within the margin of safety from burns or other ill effects.

**M**ALE RATS are rendered sterile by an exposure of a total of two skin doses applied in four treatments at intervals of three or four days. This has been shown in breeding experiments. Such treatment does not always produce non motile sperm, but apparently the vitality of the spermatozoa is so affected that the fertilization of the ovum does not occur. Larger doses given in the same fractional treatment destroy all sperm motility or establish a condition of aspermia. The duration of a sterility brought about by an exposure to two skin doses has yet to be established with nicety. It is a matter of some weeks in the rat. The span of life in the rat is about one thirtieth that of man, twelve days in the rat's life roughly corresponding to a year for you and me.

The production of sterility in the female rat is much less easy to accomplish. For example, fractional doses, as indicated above for the male, up to a total of five skin doses may be given without striking effect. There is some indication that pregnancy may be slightly delayed, but this is not convincing. The difference in result for the two sexes is no doubt due, in part at least, to the fact that to reach the ovaries the radiation has to penetrate deeper than is the case with the testes. I have thus far worked only with unfiltered rays. It remains to be seen whether or not those of a suitable screen relatively intensifying the more penetrating rays will produce the desired result.

The fact that x ray sterility (in the male) is not permanent constitutes a third point of present interest. This fact rests up on clinical observations as well as upon laboratory experiment. Since the clinical observations have been essentially accidental and give us no information as to the dosage and duration of effect, it is desirable that work on animals should be much extended before we attempt to orient ourselves in the field of practical application.

**M**Y FOURTH POINT concerns the procreative normality after a period of x ray sterility. Is there danger that offspring or children will be abnormal? In a quite considerable number of observations, I have failed to find any indication, the litters have been normal in size and there have been no monstrosities. Dr Raymond Pearl, who has worked with fruit flies, with which experiment may be done wholesale, tells me that his incidental observations on this point have been similar to mine. It must be stated however, that Dr Little, working on white mice at the Carnegie Laboratory for Experi-

mental Evolution, is of the opinion that the offspring of x rayed parents are not uniformly normal. Obviously our data on this phase of the question must be extended until unqualified conviction is attained.

No experimental attack on the problem of Birth Control would be complete without consideration of the control of the oestrous cycle insofar as that regulates the external manifestations of ovulation. The work of Stockard and of Evans in America has shown that the domesticated rat is especially suited to such study, since in this animal the oestrous cycle can be readily followed. The results of my studies are still inconclusive, but either the x ray or radium emanations may prove to be effective in regulating the oestrous cycle. At any rate it is not too much to ask of science that she shall establish control over the feature of sex life as well as over procreation. In modern civilized life the efficiency wastage incident to periodic menstruation in women, unless related to presumptive pregnancy and childbirth, is a matter of practical concern. Consequently the ideal method of Birth Control should be to eliminate menstruation except when children were desired. Some day esthetic methods applicable to the broad control of procreation in both men and women will be placed in our hands, it will remain for us to use them with intelligence and wisdom.

FROM ANNIE BESANT, P. T. S., MARCH, 1922

*Extract from Official Letter*

**T**HERE IS ONE general matter to which I invite the careful consideration of the thoughtful among you. The sex problem is everywhere in the air. The hygienic condition of modern society in the West has become so terrible that it is now publicly discussed, lest Society itself should perish. It is poisoned with a disease which is the direct result of vice, and we are all publicly appealed to, to help medical men to fight the disease, and to save women and children who inherit it from vicious fathers. To men and women is committed the divine power of creation on the physical plane, committed the divine power of creation on the physical plane, and Nature significantly points out that this power creates on two planes, the physical and the mental, and that as it is exercised more and more on the mental, it diminishes on the physical, the higher the human evolution of the mind and the non physical emotions, the less the power of physical creation. The least evolved human types multiply the most rapidly, "genius is sterile" very often, science says. The largest families are found among the poor and less evolved, and those who are most plainly and even insufficiently fed.

I am inclined to think that, along this line of higher mental evolution, will come the lessening of the sex impulse, but this is too slow a process to save mankind in the near future. Early marriage with Birth Control—which less than fifty years ago was regarded as a mere excuse for profligacy outside marriage, and as justifying the use of the foulest language towards its advocates—is now taught by men and women of the highest repute, of learning, of science, by religious teachers as well as by doctors.

# Freedom

By Bolton Hall

**A** FREE PEOPLE" should take notice of the movement for Birth Control, regardless of whether they have any interest in prevention or any special information about population or misery

The question at issue is freedom, not only of the press, but of thought and of speech. It is the policy of modern restrictionists to attack Liberty in its most woundable spots. Of all of these, that one most exposed to prejudice at present is the vital field of sex. Invasions, arrests, search warrants, brutal punishments will be condoned when they are supposed to be in the interest of morality, although lesser outrages would raise a storm of indignation if they were directed against gambling in stocks or in land.

The older writers seem to have a better grasp of the fundamental necessity for liberty than we have, as witness the following from Buckle, the great author of the *History of Civilization*

"Liberty is the one thing most essential to the right development of individuals and to the real grandeur of nations. It is a product of knowledge when knowledge advances in a healthy and regular manner, but if under certain unhappy circumstances it is opposed by what seems to be knowledge, then, in God's name, let knowledge perish and liberty be preserved. Liberty is not a means to an end, it is an end to itself. To

secure it, to enlarge it, and to diffuse it, should be the main object of all social arrangements and of all political contrivances

"The proposition which Mr. J. S. Mill undertakes to establish is that society, whether acting by the legislature or by the influence of public opinion, has no right to interfere with the conduct of any individual for the sake of his own good. Society may interfere with him for their good, not for his. If his actions hurt them, he is, under certain circumstances, amenable to their authority, if they only hurt himself, he is never amenable. The proposition thus stated, will be acceded to by many persons, who, in practice, repudiate it every day of their lives."

Mill's Essay on Liberty, appropriately bound up with his forcible Essay upon The Subjection of Women, is great literature and no one can read Mill's Essay without a thrill.

Eternal vigilance is not the full price of Liberty. The price of Liberty is Resistance, Contempt, Martyrdom and Death for those who wage the unpaid and ungloried war for our liberties. For men like Moses who sacrificed their lives for the right to speak the living truth, and for the countless others who have suffered scorn and poverty and sickness for Liberty, we should bring not only admiration, but our humble help, though it can be expressed by many of us only with a dollar.

## An Extract From H. G. Wells

**B**EGGING—FROM FOREIGNERS—is just a sport in Italy," said Sir Richmond. "It doesn't imply want. But I agree that a large part of Italy is frightfully overpopulated. The whole world is. Don't you think so, Martineau?"

"Well—yes, for its present social organization."

"For any social organization," said Sir Richmond.

"I've no doubt of it," said Miss Seiffert and added amazingly, "I'm out for Birth Control all the time."

"The world swarms with cramped and undeveloped lives," said Sir Richmond. "Which amount to nothing. Which do not even represent happiness. And which help to use up the resources, the fuel and surplus energy of the world. They do nothing to carry life on. They are just vain repetitions—imperfect—dreary blurred repetitions of one common life. All that they feel has been felt, all that they do has been done better before. Because they are crowded and hurried and underfed and undereducated. And as for liking their lives, they need never have had the chance."

"How many people are there in the world?" she asked abruptly.

"I don't know. Twelve hundred, fifteen hundred millions perhaps. I'd have two hundred and fifty millions, let us say. At most. It would be quite enough for this little planet. Any 250,000,000 would do, they'd be able to develop fully, all of them. As things are, only a minority can do that. The rest never get a chance."

"A new age," said Dr. Martineau, "a new world. We may be coming to such a stage, when people, as much as fuel, will be under a world control. If one thing, why not the other? I admit that the movement of thought is away from haphazard towards control—in things generally."

"I wish I could imagine your world," said Miss Grammont, "of two hundred and fifty millions of fully developed human beings with room to live and breathe in and no need for wars. Will they live in palaces? Will they all be healthy? Machines can wait on them. No, I can't imagine it. Perhaps I shall dream of it—my dreaming self may be cleverer."

—H. G. WELLS, in "Secret Places of the Heart"

**W**HEN Sol Stephen, manager, and his assistants at the zoo went to clip the stork's wings today, three of the birds flew out of the pen and one of them flew out and circled above Oklahoma settlement in Avondale. The dusky female citizens looked up, recognized the visitor and immediately were smitten with consternation. Chattering with superstitious fears they tried to "shoo" the long-legged visitor away, but the stork lighted on a porch and regarded them with serious disapproval.

"For de love of Gawd, Mr. Sol," one of the women told Mr. Stephen when he arrived in pursuit of the recreant. "Keep dat stork away from up dere. We got too many chillun already." —*News Despatch* from Cincinnati, dated July 5, 1922

# The Birth Control Movement in the United States

*A Paper Presented at the International Birth Control Conference*

*By Anne Kennedy*

**T**HE FIRST DEVELOPMENTS of the Birth Control idea in America were entirely sporadic. Among the early champions of the thought were Dr Knowlton and Robert Dale Owen. These men were responsible for pamphlets dealing directly with methods of family limitation. Moses Harman was also a member of this group of pioneers, but the idea of family limitation was not crystallized or organized into a movement until 1912, when Margaret Sanger came into the field as a crusader for Birth Control.

She began a practical study of the subject in France as well as in the United States, and found at this time no books available in America dealing with this subject—even theoretically. However, her investigation led her to the federal statutes where she discovered that in 1873 Congress had enacted a law prohibiting contraception information from passing through the United States mails. Many State Legislatures followed the federal precedent by classing Birth Control as obscene and passing statutes penalizing the giving of contraceptive information. At this time, there were isolated members of the medical profession, such as Dr Abraham Jacobi and Dr William J Robinson who came out in unqualified terms for the voluntary control of procreation.

In February, 1914, Margaret Sanger began her agitation for Birth Control with the publication of the *Woman Rebel*, and organized the First Birth Control League in America. In the columns of that remarkable paper she stated her aim to be "to advocate the prevention of conception." The directness of her attack led men of science to come out openly and emphasize the importance of the idea of family limitation. "Birth Control" was used as a slogan to express the aim of the campaign. It immediately found its way into print and public discussion.

**T**HE YEAR 1915 WAS notable for several arrests in connection with Birth Control agitation. Margaret Sanger was arraigned in the federal courts to stand trial for obscenity. This case, however, was dropped in 1916, after an appeal had been made by prominent men and women of England and America to the President of the United States. The support of this group of well known English people did much toward stabilizing the idea in America. William Sanger was also arrested for giving a pamphlet, outlining the practical methods of family limitation, written by Margaret Sanger, to a Comstock agent. In Boston, Mass., Van Kleek Allison was sentenced to three years imprisonment for circulating a pamphlet dealing with the practical discussion of the subject. Great indignation was aroused by this prosecution in Boston, and the first state group was formed in Massachusetts.

The year 1914 was eventful in the agitation for Birth Control. Margaret Sanger aroused attention by challenging the New York State law. She chose Brownsville, one of the poor

districts of Brooklyn, and opened a clinic or mothers' health centre. She was assisted by her sister, Mrs Byrne, and Fania Mindell. Newspaper publicity, combined with spectacular crowds of mothers, with babes in arms, waiting for admittance, brought about her arrest and those of her assistants by the New York State authorities. Mrs Byrne was sentenced to thirty days in the Workhouse. She immediately went on a hunger strike which lasted eleven days. Governor Whitman of New York granted her a pardon. Fania Mindell appealed her case to the higher court and the decision was reversed. Margaret Sanger served thirty days in the Queens County Penitentiary rather than accept the immunity offered by the presiding judge of the Court of Special Sessions, who said he would suspend sentence on condition that she would agree not to violate the law again. "I cannot obey a law I do not respect", was the phrase used by her, and this phrase embodies the spirit of the pioneer workers for the cause.

In the same year of 1916, the National Birth Control League was formed around the nucleus of the Birth Control League founded by Margaret Sanger in 1914. Leagues were also organized in various cities throughout the United States. The arrest of many people for their activities in connection with the work served as an educational means for extending the idea.

**T**HE FOLLOWING year, in New York City, a Committee of One Hundred was formed—and a group of influential men and women signed a statement of their belief in voluntary motherhood as essential to individual and national welfare. The Committee aroused among the intellectuals much local enthusiasm for the cause of Birth Control.

February 1917 saw the first issue of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. From a circulation of two thousand, in a few months it reached ten thousand. Although the World War claimed the services of many of the workers for Birth Control, the magazine steadily advanced into a wider field. It was truly a crusading spirit that carried the workers in this cause into a street selling campaign. Day after day the magazine is held aloft in the crowded thoroughfares of New York City. Kitty Marion is entirely responsible for the unflagging zeal of this work.

Step by step the prejudice, both individual and authoritative, has been fought with great success, until now this phase of the educational work is respected by the police authorities throughout the City of New York. The selling of this magazine on the street with its caption "Birth Control" has attracted and interested thousands in the cause. It is interesting to note that Japan received her first constructive thought on Birth Control, as a means of limiting the population, through the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. The circulation of the magazine has become international. South America, Mexico, China, Japan, Australia, India, New Zealand and European countries are



all on the mailing list. College libraries and social agencies place it in their reading rooms. The REVIEW has been published every month since its first issue, and is a tremendous lever in forming constructive public opinion.

The publication of books, pamphlets and leaflets—both practical and theoretical—has run into the hundreds of thousands.

MARGARET SANGER'S own books "What Every Girl Should Know" and "What Every Mother Should Know" were of special interest in that they offered the first direct appeal for simple sex education. Today there are many books published on hygiene, economics and sociology that have some reference to this movement. Fiction has also embodied chapters on the Birth Control idea. Plays and scenarios are being produced in New York dealing with many angles of the question.

In 1919 the National Birth Control League went out of existence and its director, Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett, formed the Voluntary Parenthood League, with the definite aim to secure the repeal of the federal law, which closes the mails to contraceptive information and devices. Up to this time there has been no success in securing this amendment.

Margaret Sanger, during her years of work, has outlined a definite and constructive program for the movement. It is embodied in these four words: "agitation, education, organization and legislation."

The third step in this progress was reached in 1921 when a three days' National Conference, the first in America, was called. It brought together biologists, economists, sociologists and medical men and women from all parts of the country, aroused the widest interest and attracted attention from the labor and social groups. This Conference proved a tremendous success. The sessions were crowded, especially the medical session, where six hundred doctors were present and many failed to gain admittance. Great eagerness for definite contraceptive data was displayed by some of our most eminent physicians.

THE LAST EVENING of the session was a notable one in the history of the Birth Control movement, for through the dictation of an archbishop of the Church of Rome, a police captain closed the doors of the hall where the session was to be held, and caused the arrest of Mrs. Sanger and Miss Mary Winsor. More than national publicity was given to this incident. As the Hon. Harold Cox was also scheduled to speak at this meeting, it aroused great indignation not only among the thousands awaiting entrance to the hall, but also among the advocates of free speech and fair play throughout the country. It proved of vast educational advantage and won thousands of supporters to the cause.

A public investigation of this outrage was demanded by some of the most prominent men of America. A city commissioner held sessions which were of great publicity value, but his report to the mayor of New York is still awaiting publication.

At the time of this Conference, the American Birth Control

League was formed with the support and active interest of some of our ablest men of science. A charter has been granted to this League by the State of New York, and in so doing, the League is recognized as an educational institution under the law of New York State.

In the few months since its inception, the League has grown enormously. The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is its official organ. There are several other departments connected with the work of the League. That of the organization department must be especially mentioned for its excellent work during the last eight months. The States of Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts have State groups where definite leadership has been organized to meet the individual needs of the separate States. Hundreds have been enrolled in the national organization as life members. Organizers and speakers have been sent to different cities to develop interest and support for the national as well as the State groups. Colleges, clubs and welfare organizations—both civic and private—are asking for speakers on the subject. A book shop is also part of the educational effort of the organization.

The interest in the American Birth Control League in America is not confined to any group or class. The League has found it necessary to permit international affiliation to Leagues in Mexico, Hawaii, Japan and China. Through the opportunity to take part in this most interesting Congress, the American Birth Control League feels that it is in touch with the world on this most important work. It looks forward to a tremendous campaign during the next few years, in which it will have the cooperation of prominent medical and scientific men and the stimulation of undiminished zeal and inspiration on the part of our own board, president, officers and members.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE WIVES?

*The following extract, clipped from the "Philadelphia Record" of June 8, is reminiscent of the inscriptions on old New England tombstones. There is this difference, however, that the average number of wives in colonial days was not more than three, while it has taken the lives of six of Mr. Baker's spouses before he could boast the thirty three children of whom he seems so proud.*

Harlan, Ky., June 7—Robert Baker, 84, father of 33 children, told American Birth Control advocates today their "stuff was bunk." "I've heard tell of these people in the cities who claim there ought to be law against having all the kids you want," Baker, self styled world's champion papa, asserted.

"If a man's got a good herd of cows and a house there's no sense in limiting the number of kids he can have."

Baker is the milkman of Harlan. "What America needs is birth release laws instead of Birth Control laws," he continued.

"No, I can't say when it is best to have your first child. But don't wait until you are certain you're able to support it."

"Have the child first and that'll give you something to work for. You'll support it, all right."

Baker said he was father for the first time when he was 17. His last child, Bobby, was born this week. Bobby's mother is Baker's seventh wife.

## "For Lack of Knowledge My People Perish"

*The question is sometimes asked whether the letters we publish are genuine, whether they really come from living mothers who are describing actual facts of their own lives. It is easy to answer this question. Not only is every letter that has ever been printed in our pages the actual and literal utterances of the woman who appeals for aid, but these letters are but a very few of hundreds and thousands that have reached Mrs. Sanger during the short period since she started her agitation for Birth Control. This month we give a reproduction of one of the letters. With all its mistakes and imperfections it shows that the mothers of the nation are to be trusted, and that, if only they have the teaching they are so earnestly seeking, they will build well and wisely the living substance of a greater and better nation.*

Dear Mrs. Sanger

I wrote for your book, entitled "Woman and the New Race" and received it yesterday. It is a wonderful book and I think you are a wonderful woman. The only expression that I can think of is that you are the savior of women.

My mother died in childbirth and I am told that before each child was born, she became despondent to such an extent that she lost her senses, and the last child was the cause of her death, and I have lived without a mother's love or care.

My baby is eleven months now, and I am in constant fear of another pregnancy. The fear that is born in me I cannot help, but the worst of it is the fear of poverty. We owe still for the birth of my first child. We have no money to buy furniture, so we live in a furnished apartment, three rooms, and pay so much that we just exist. The thought of another baby would drive me crazy, I am positive. Even now the baby is in need of clothes, and I have nothing but clothes I had before I married. Please help me and God will bless you. Tell me what I can do to prevent any more misery and I will have new courage to fight the battle of this existence.

Dear Mrs. Sanger

Mother sent for one of your books "Woman and the New Race" and we both read it. We think your book expresses the truth, and are willing to help you in your good work in any way we can. I think the knowledge of Birth Control should be freely distributed among the people.

I wish you would tell me what to do so I don't get any more children. I have a dear little boy of three months and have had one abortion.

Mother had six children and one miscarriage—four living and two dead. My father was a heavy drinker and rarely made more than forty dollars a month. I never wanted any children (although I love them) as our lives as children were very hard, and I did not want them to have to go through the same miserable existence that I did. We were deprived of many things we actually needed, and there was always an insufficient amount of food to go around, and it is the same today. I had to work when I was but ten years old.

I married a man who has six children by a former marriage, believing things would be better for me. But no—I worked the first eight months of my married life, and had to go out and do general housework for just my food and bed when I was four and a half months pregnant. There were weeks at a time during last year when I had nothing to eat, and how my baby lived I do not know. Often I prayed that it might die (knowing it was sinful to think that way, but also believing it was more sinful and a shame to bring children into the world to starve) but God would not have it so. I nurse my baby, but as soon as he is old enough, I will have to go back to work.

Some time ago several working girls and myself visited a Babies' Home, where mothers leave their children while they go to work, and also some were left there for adoption. It truly made me sick at heart to see those little bodies wasting away and dying by degrees, for lack of the love, food and other necessities of life to which they were justly entitled, but of which they were sadly deprived.

Please help me! I will be very grateful for any information you can give me. I want also to tell my sister—she has four little children, and they are striving hard to make ends meet. I know very little about my own body and the care of it. If I am ignorant, how can I teach my children anything?

Dear Mrs. Sanger

I am taking a liberty in writing to you and hope you will not be offended. I have read your book "Woman and the New Race." I would do anything in my power, even risk my life, to help you in your great work.

I am the mother of four children three of whom are living, the oldest nine years old. I would thank you with all my heart if you would tell me sure means to prevent me from having any more. I had the flu three years ago and it left me with such bad health. I have bronchial trouble. I was three months in the family way when I had the flu, and when my baby was born he had the glands from the time he was three months old, and died when he was thirteen months old. I feel so bad at times I almost wish I was dead. I almost worry myself sick from one month to the next for fear I will have more children. These I have, do not get proper care and I am not able to hire help.

I have a little boy seven years old, who gets spasms and he has as many as three a day, and part of the time he goes to school, and then I am worried almost to death about him. I also have a sister who has three children, the oldest four years old, and she has missed two weeks and thinks she is pregnant again. If you could tell me something to bring her around all right, I am sure she would bless you. She says she will kill herself but that she will get rid of it, and I am afraid she will kill herself if she doesn't find some relief, and I don't know what will become of her children. She is only twenty one years old. I am twenty six.

Mrs. Sanger if you will please answer this letter as soon as you can I will certainly thank you with all my heart.

## What Shall Our Answer Be? Tell Us!

East Steeltown O Feb 21-21

Miss Margaret Sanger  
104 5th Ave NY

Dear Miss Sanger

I received Your respectable letter that promise my future Happiness. I am Slavick nationality Married for three years, have two children Boy and Girl this is Dearer to me than emething else in the world Now Miss Sanger, to keep this children Dear to me for ever and to see them Healthy and Happy we need Your Help, to make them the man and women that the Future society will need. I am 24 years old my Husband 25 Live very Happy so far But to maintain the Love and Happiness in the family of Steel worker is Hard thing to do under social system of today That why we need you Help here in the Big Steel center Dear miss Sanger here is thousand of other cases that wold make the Hardest Stone to Break to peaces if he fel the pain and suffering in our Town. we will gladly send you the contribution for this cause wheever possible.

Respectfully Yours,  
Anna & Tony J

# Too Many Children!

## Give Each Child Its Chance

Child Labor  
Brings Down  
the Father's  
Wages



No Time to Play—Fetching Home Work After School



Overcrowding  
and Health  
Can Never Go  
Together

Eight Persons Sleep in This One Room

The Lonely Child  
Develops Neither  
Mentally Nor  
Physically



Left at Home While the Mother Goes to Work



A Happy  
Childhood  
Lays a Sure  
Foundation  
For Life

Enjoying His Birthright of Mother Care and Happiness

# The Church and Birth Control

By John Haynes Holmes

NOTHING IS MORE discouraging today in the field of religion than the extraordinary attitude of the church, and most churchmen, toward the various perplexing problems of married life. Divorce, of course, presents the outstanding illustration of this lamentable fact. On the authority of one of the most questionable texts of the Gospels, and in defiance of the whole tenor of the New Testament that "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life," the church clings fast to the rigors of ecclesiastical tradition, and makes the slaves of unclean bondage persons who may be guilty of no more terrible a sin than that of an honest mistake as to their fitness to live together as husband and wife. The shocking part of the church's attitude on the divorce question is its utter disregard of moral values. It would seem to be an elementary proposition of ethics that, as a man and woman should not be joined in marriage unless they love, so they should not be held in marriage unless they continue to love. Absence of love would seem to be as imperative a reason for ending a union as for not beginning it. But the church, like Shylock, must "have (its) bond." Though the spirit of life perish, the letter must be sustained.

An equally intractable, if less conspicuous, attitude is that held prevailingly by the church on the subject of Birth Control or voluntary parenthood. Here again is the citation of Scriptural authority—the matching of the legendary injunction to our first parents, to "increase and multiply," against the accumulating biological, psychological and sociological data which make up the substance of modern knowledge! On this question, as in so many others that have preceded it—see Andrew White's "Warfare of Science with Theology"—the church refuses to learn anything. It prefers myths to facts, tradition to experience, darkness to light. It insists that life shall continue to be lived as it has been lived, for no better reason than that it always has been lived in this way and in no other. Stupidity can go no farther, as ignorance can be no grosser.

BUT THERE IS a more serious question involved here than that of knowledge of the facts of life. It is the question of life itself—of what life is and how it is to be guarded and controlled. The church, oblivious of its high spiritual function, is utterly materialistic in its contention that production is the one standard to be observed in married life. It is the husband's business to beget and the wife's business to bear, children. As many children as possible, the more the better, regardless of the mother's health, the child's prospect of life and proper upbringing, the rights of other children, the economic condition of the family, and other conditions which would seem to have some relation to the problems as to whether a couple shall fructify or not—this is the dictum solemnly laid down by the church! Production, quantity—as though human life today were on no higher level than that

of early tribesmen, or of pigs and rabbits, or, for that matter, of automobiles and cotton cloth. If such a standpoint is not materialism, I frankly know not what materialism is. Certainly it goes far toward making of the home a factory, of parents a machine, and of children an economic product!

To any one who has any sense of what we know as human values, it seems an elementary proposition that there is some thing else involved in the facts of conception and birth than the mere problem of large scale production. Not quantity but quality, not how many children but what kind of children, is a question that takes us straight from the basis of material to that of spiritual standards. To "increase and multiply" may be a sound principle for animals, or primitive man, but for those who have attained to some understanding of existence, some consciousness of the power of direction or control in human evolution, some vision of a better world and a desire to fulfill it, this principle is so inadequate as to be immoral. It robs man of his dignity as a creative being, removes him from his place in the universe of the spirit, denies him kinship with God. To control his destiny, to guide his life to highest issues and accomplishments—this is the task of man if he be an immortal soul. And this means, among other things, to bring children into the world when they are wanted, when conditions are most favorable for their reception, and only in such numbers as may not hazard the perfect flowering of each separate individual life. Birth Control, or voluntary parenthood, rightly understood, is only one more chapter in the history of man's emancipation as a spiritual being, by which we mean his dedication to spiritual uses.

THE ONE IMAGINABLE answer which can be made to this contention is that we are confusing ends with means. Substitution of the standard of quality for that of quantity in child bearing is all right, but the method proposed and advocated these days, says the church, is all wrong. Birth should be controlled, of course, but by abstinence and not by contraception.

The answer to this answer might well be the simple statement that the logic of abstinence as advocated by the church, has been the abrogation of marriage. But such an argument is of course unsatisfactory, as it is unworthy and unnecessary. What really matters here is the fact that, in its plea for abstinence in the marriage relation, the church is again betraying the arrant materialism by which its thought is dominated upon this question. Abstinence, not contraception—why? Because, from the ecclesiastical viewpoint, sexual intercourse is a shameful thing, a mere physical or animal indulgence, wholly degrading if not redeemed by the process of child production. Now if there is an uglier or a more sordid interpretation of a great life function than this, I do not know it. Sexual intercourse outside the marital state is, of course, abhorrent—here abstinence is a moral law to be rigorously observed. But what

is marriage but the establishment of the conditions under which intercourse is right? It here has a two fold character, of which the lower is the physical which concerns procreation. Along with this, and higher because essentially spiritual, is the amative or love character of the rite. Intercourse is here to be justified quite as much as a means to the mutual expression between two wedded souls of the tenderness and devotion which hold them together and makes their lives a single life, as a means to the mutual creation of a new life. No one who does not see this truly divine character of intimate relationship between husband and wife, can begin to comprehend what marriage is. There is no severance here between physical and spiritual. Sexual intercourse in the marital relation is no base concession to the animal part of life—an experience to be hidden, thrust aside, tolerated simply as a necessary function for the continuance of existence upon this planet. It may be ugly, as a thing of lust, very true. But it may also be beautiful, as a divine expression of love. In this case, it has rights of its own, which make abstinence itself a sin.

What the church needs is comprehension of the significance of its own essentially spiritual attitude toward life. It needs to discover moral values as related to the institution of marriage. When this is done, the church will advocate and not deny contraceptive Birth Control.

### PRESS CLIPPINGS

THE WELFARE OF the state does not depend upon the number of its inhabitants, but upon their character. Imbeciles, epileptics, syphilitics and tuberculines are undesirable. Therefore the state has a right to limit their number as far as possible.

If we take just a casual survey what do we find? Hospitals, supported largely at public expense, for the blind, for the deaf, for the insane. All of these disasters—I say “all” in not too strict a sense—might have been avoided by the proper selection of husband and wife. But this is not all that we see. Everywhere there are institutions for children with deficient moral development, as well as for those that are imbecile or nearly so. Reformatories are springing up all over the country where the State attempts to eradicate a naturally implanted instinct to crime, the possessor of which should never have been born. Finally, we see the organization of poorhouses, where the flotsam and jetsam of humanity are collected—men and women who have made a failure of life from every point of view, but who are neither insane nor necessarily the subject of hereditary disease, but simply lacking in those qualities of industry and judgment which mark the dividing path between success and failure. If I were to collect statistics showing the enormous burden upon the community of all these derelicts the result would be simply astonishing. Thus, from an economic point of view—and that should never be lost sight of—the prevention of bringing the imperfect and defective into the world should never be lost sight of.—HARVEY W. WILEY, “The Rights of the Unborn,” *Good Housekeeping*, October 1922

YESTERDAY I SAW a young man and woman and their three children. And I was told four of their children are dead. I said “That is a crime!” It is not simply a misfortune—it is a deliberate crime which deserves condign punishment.” No woman can bear seven children in ten years and preserve her own health and theirs. No man who asks or permits this deserves to be a husband or father.

Birth Control is science and sense applied to the bringing of children into the world, and of all who need it we Negroes are first. We in America are becoming sharply divided into the mass who have endless children and the class who through long postponement of marriage have few or none. The first result is a terrible infant mortality of every 10,000 colored children born 1,356 die in the first year, while only 821 die among whites. The second result is the senseless putting off of marriage until middle life because of the fear that marriage must necessarily mean many children.

Parents owe their children, first of all, health and strength. Few women can bear more than two or three children and retain strength for the other interests of life. And there are other interests for women as for men and only reactionary barbarians deny this. Even this small number of children should come into the world at intervals which will allow for the physical, economic and spiritual recovery of the parents. Housework is still a desperately hard and exacting occupation. It can and should be simplified and lightened by the laundry, the bakery, the restaurant, and the vacuum cleaner, but with all that, it remains a job calling for strength, time and training. Social intercourse, which is largely in the hands of wives, is a matter of thought, effort and delicate adjustment. The education of children in the home calls for intelligence, study and leisure. To add to all this the physical pain and strain of child birth is to give a woman as much as she can possibly endure once in three, four or five years.—W. E. DUBOIS in *The Crisis*, October, 1922

### MOTHERHOOD

GEORGIA DOUGLASS JOHNSON

Don't knock on my door, little child,  
I cannot let you in,  
You know not what a world this is,  
Of cruelty and sin  
Wait in the still eternity  
Until I come to you  
The world is cruel, cruel, child,  
I cannot let you through

Don't knock at my heart, little one,  
I cannot bear the pain  
Of turning deaf ears to your call,  
Time and time again  
You do not know the monster men  
Inhabiting the earth  
Be still, be still, my precious child,  
I cannot give you birth

—*The Crisis*, October, 1922

## Cradle Slackers!

By Edith Paul Graham

**M**UCH LAMENTATION has ascended towards heaven concerning the Cradle Slackers. But why shouldn't the women of the world strike?

Do Nations and Men and God expect women to enter the jaws of Death that they may produce stalwart sons to be the forfeits on the fields of crimson?

By the practice of Birth Control women hold the power of preventing war. Is it not better never to be born than to be used as "cannon meat?" If women refuse to give birth to sons to die in gore and to be food of screaming vultures, and cease raising daughters to face the loss of *their* sons and so on down the line—there can be no more war. War must be fed. It must be fed strong men and young. Women must do the feeding.

Therefore, it is high time for the mothers of the World to demand the disarmament of *all* Nations and to claim the super protection of World Federation.

*Make the World—Safe!*

When it becomes a sane proposition to rear sons and daughters the cradle forcers will not have to lament over the evil of Cradle Slacking! Women, the world over, are ready and willing to do their duty even when that duty calls for the exercise of more heroism than does the facing of death on the battle field, providing those in authority stop the ruthless waste of young life.

Modern justice requires, not the destruction, but the *conservation of life!*

Instead of paying gigantic board bills to appease that most craven of gods—Mars, let us spend our money for schools, colleges, free amusements, the bettering of all living conditions, and for the raising of a better grade of humans. We do not need *more* humans, but we are in dire need of superior ones!

Remember the fable of the lion and the mouse. It is not *quantity* but *quality* that counts!

*Fear kills quality*

Remove the fear of war and of over production. Give women the guarantee of a warless world, give them the safety of Birth Control, and they will repay with that greatest of all earth's blessings—the super baby!

### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

*Fielding, William J., New York, author and critic*

*Edith Paul Graham, writer, California*

*Bolton Hall, Lawyer and author, New York, active in movement for land law reform*

*John Haynes Holmes, Unitarian, Pastor, Community Church, New York*

*Donald R. Hooker, M.D., Professor Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore*

*Anne Kennedy, Executive Secretary, American Birth Control League, Inc.*

*Martina G. Kramers, Secretary, Neo Malthusian League of Holland*

**W**ITH THE CURRENT number the price of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW per single copy is reduced to 20 cents

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In an article in a well known monthly review last month I was arrested by a singular assertion concerning the rights of children.

The writer claimed the right of the child not only to "life, liberty and happiness," and the right to "legal parents," but also the right of the next generation to "Exist." Most of these inherent rights of the child are maintained by all advocates of Birth Control. But the right of a child unborn to *exist* can hardly be contended. The right of the child, born, to subsist is the categorical demand of all who have faced scorn, ridicule, opprobrium, to bring home the earnest message of limiting population at this crucial time by means of Birth Control.

E F R

**A** LETTER RECEIVED FROM New Jersey brings an echo of the Town Hall Meeting last November. It reads as follows: "I want to go to the meeting on October 30, in honor of Mrs. Sanger, and my sister wants to go too. She has a boy eight years old, and we cannot leave him alone. Please tell me if you think the New York police will interfere with me if I bring him, as I remember last year they said they closed the meeting because little children were there."

### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of The Birth Control Review published monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1922, State of New York, County of New York ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Annie G. Porritt, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Managing Editor of the Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are: Publisher, New York Woman's Publishing Co., 104 Fifth Avenue; Editor, Margaret Sanger, 104 Fifth Avenue; Managing Editor, Anne G. Porritt, 104 Fifth Avenue; Business Manager, Ruth Albert, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and address of individual owners or if a corporation give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.) New York Woman's Publishing Co., 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City; Mrs. Juliet Barrett Rublee, 242 East 49th Street, New York City; Mrs. Mary Knoblauch, 7th Avenue and 55th Street, New York City; Mrs. Frances B. Ackermann, Bronxville, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: (If there are none so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

ANNIE G. PORRITT, Managing Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September 1922 (SEAL) Frank M. Davis, Jr., Notary Public (My commission expires March 31, 1922).



## Book Reviews

### *A Review by Martina G. Kramers*

DAS SEXUALLEBEN IN SEINER BIOLOGISCHEN BEDEUTUNG, ALS EIN HAUPTFAKTOR ZUR LEBENSENERGIE FUER MAN UND WEIB, FUER DIE PFLANZEN UND FUER DIE TIERE (Sexual Life in its Biological Importance as a Chief Factor of Life Energy for Man and Woman, for Plants and Animals) By J. Rutgers M.D. First Part, Dresden, Giesecke

Dr. Rutgers' long experience as a physician in Rotterdam and his sympathy for suffering arising out of the repression of natural feelings and instincts enabled him to understand his patients, and prompted him not only to bring them relief, but also to set his great intellect to work on the ailments of the human race due to these causes. He resigned his practice as a physician and devoted fifteen years to Neo Malthusian propaganda, not only among the well-to-do but also among the proletariat. This was possible in Holland since we enjoy perfect liberty of the press and of assembly. During his active life this real benefactor of mankind never ceased his scientific researches in biology, trying to build up a new system of evolution of organic life which might complete Darwin's theory. His increasing age made him realize that he could not do both practical propaganda and scientific work, so he abandoned the former and began writing pamphlets and essays on sexual life and Birth Control. This year appears his standard work in German and in this short review we will try to convey some—though inadequate— notion of its importance.

The book is not a compilation of well-known facts, but an entirely new aspect of evolution. In the beginning of organic life on earth when sex did not exist, multiplication was by cell division. Subsequently sex became the principal instrument of regeneration. Dr. Rutgers shows how when further growth is inhibited, single cells are again produced by atavism as in the original life on our planet after which the whole series of evolution is repeated during the embryonic stage of the individual, but with better chances of success than in the previous race evolution. So here is a new theory of evolution, apart from Darwin's. This new aspect of life, more fully developed in Chapters 5, 7 and 40, throws an entirely new light upon questions of individual life, since the reaction of sex impulse on the adult individual is of primary importance for him or herself as well as for the race. Thus Dr. Rutgers' book is a new guide for sex life in all periods of human existence. The details of our sexual life are studied in their causes and effects after the comparative method, always seeking parallels among plants and animals. The author shows that it is not only desirable but practically possible for each individual to govern his or her sexual life in positive or negative directions, as seems best, an attainment never reached through religious exhortations or parental lamentations.

The book is planned in six parts or pamphlets: anatomical, physiological, ethical, biological, psychological and pathological, all written in simple and comprehensible language. Part I, the fundamental one, 'The Formation of the Organs', has now appeared; the others will follow soon. It is hoped that it may soon be translated into English.

In the Italian Review *Raspegna di Studi Sessuali* Dr. Aldo Micheli notices Rutgers' work in highly appreciative terms. He says "Rutgers is a man who has thoroughly thought out his subject and has even lived it through. In a new and all-embracing vision he puts together scientific truths until now considered apart and thus makes his work not only a magazine of science but also a revelation of life. His fundamental principle is the beauty and triumph of sexual love, but apart from this we find many new and interesting ideas in the work of this Dutch sexologist of which the first part contains only a glimpse but which are to be more fully developed in subsequent chapters. We recommend everyone to read this book. No one will regret the time thus employed, for the abundance of new ideas and original and sometimes startling combinations of familiar truths cannot fail to interest the reader whilst the great sincerity and the kind heart of the author breathe through the whole work."

### *A Review by William J. Fielding*

LITTLE ESSAYS OF LOVE AND VIRTUE, by Havelock Ellis. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1922.

Havelock Ellis is perhaps unique among all contemporary writers in the range of his qualifications to discuss the intimate problems relating to sex and love and life. Surely we know of no individual possessing at once his scientific grounding, philosophic insight, human understanding, penetrating wisdom, subtle humor and, above all, the infinite capacity for combining and blending these manifold qualities into rich harmonious expression.

The subjects included in the present volume are 'Children and Parents', 'The Meaning of Purity', 'The Objects of Marriage', 'Husbands and Wives', 'The Love Rights of Women', 'The Play Function of Sex' and 'The Individual and the Race'. Two of these essays, the third and fifth in the order given, had previously been published and widely circulated in pamphlet form by Mrs. Sanger. However, when reread as a part of the complete text of the book, an added value is imparted to them by supplementing material in the associated essays.

The counsel given is so uniformly wise that it is difficult to refer to any examples that are outstanding. Anything cited must therefore be considered representative. In answering one of the leading spokesmen in England, the Anglican Bishop of Southwark who denounced Birth Control, Dr. Ellis aptly characterizes this assumption as "the attitude of a handful of Pharisees seeking to thrust the bulk of mankind into Hell." Besides the obviously hypocritical there is a large group, apparently suffering from social myopia, who cannot distinguish between the primary and the secondary end of marriage, the secondary functions in human evolution being frequently more important than the primary, as the author clearly shows.

To those who maintain or pretend that the conjugal act is degrading and especially to the theological exponents of this contention, he says "Sex intercourse is the great sacrament of life—it may be the most beautiful sacrament between two souls who have no thought of children. To many the idea of a sacrament seems merely ecclesiastical but that is a misunderstanding. The word sacrament is the ancient Roman name of a soldier's oath of military allegiance, and the idea in the deeper sense existed long before Christianity and has ever been regarded as the physical sign of the closest possible union with some great spiritual reality."

It is a pleasure to follow the sound reasoning of a eugenicist like Dr. Ellis, who is also cognizant of the far-reaching environmental factors that vitally influence mankind. It is characteristic of his mature thought and intellectual balance that he gives full consideration to both genetics and environment in discussing human problems.

The old charge of race suicide which had once been hurled with much vehemence at Birth Control, has practically fallen into desuetude. But Dr. Ellis turns the enemies' old guns on themselves. He not only proves logically and statistically, that general contraceptive knowledge results in a healthier and more prosperous population, but that in the final analysis it is unrestricted human breeding, with its inevitable concomitants of disease, poverty and war which is the real menace of race suicide.

### *A Review by H. M. V., Cambridge, Mass.*

SOCIAL CIVICS by William Bennett Munro and Charles Eugene Ozanne. 697 pp. 1922. New York, The Macmillan Company.

The only serious question which could be raised about this interesting textbook is whether there is such a field of study as Social Civics. With the increasing complexity of modern living it is, however, quite right and natural that high school boys and girls should be given a knowledge of all the factors possible in their environment. But these factors lie unfortunately in various fields of knowledge, in sociology

history government economics ethics and religion These fields are by no means mutually exclusive and government in the broadest sense touches them all The authors have, therefore, tried to link up with the drift and purposes of governmental action and policy" factors lying in these diverse fields The result is a textbook which in spite of all difficulties has a reasonable unity is interesting to an extraordinary degree and is by no means the manual of generalities which books on social civics are apt to be The treatment is singularly free from dogmatism and sentimental emotionalism There is little recourse to preaching Though patriotism is described as 'a mixture of pride, gratitude and faith—pride in the great community to which a man belongs gratitude for what it is doing and faith in what it may do for posterity' the patriotism which the book as a whole stimulates, is based not on the blind exercise of these emotions but on a careful analysis of what our government does and stands for Combinations of capital and combinations of labor are discussed with candor and insight The arguments for, and the arguments against socialism are given side by side The influence of Russian communism on our own radicals is presented without venom and an excellent chapter is devoted to the United States and The League of Nations The final five chapters of the book, in fact give a good foundation for the much needed study of the United States as a factor in world politics

The first five chapters deal with the origin and forms of government Then follow three chapters of special merit which present the problems of popular control of government, the status of suffrage and the methods of elections the aim and practices of political parties Chapters IX to XVI describe with great clearness the organization of government in the United States, local state and national and discuss the present day problems involved This section of the book embraces the material which is commonly taught as civics The particular value of these chapters is greatly enhanced by the eleven following chapters in part economic in part social, which cover the dry bones of government with living flesh It is here that the authors discuss such vital subjects as industry and commerce, public utilities and public ownership, education and public health, and the various welfare problems

Of the seven hundred pages of the book, over a hundred are devoted to reading references, suggested group problems and short studies, stimulating questions and topics for debate A word of commendation should be said for the illustrations which are wisely chosen from masterpieces of American mural art

### PERIODICALS

*The North American Review*, (New York) for September, contained a ridiculously inadequate article by Mary Vida Clark on "The Rights of Children" The writer urges the right of a child to life—to be at all Apparently she would deny the right of a mother to any choice in the matter Every child that can possibly be born must have this "right to exist" There can be no drawing of lines Reasoning from her own emotions she writes We could hardly conceive a world in which we were personally deprived of participating How monstrous it would seem to us if we had actually been denied existence because of the preference of our parents for French millinery or what not! Naturally a writer who can set down such rubbish as this, has nothing to say, worth saying about how a child is to secure such essential rights as food clothing, housing education and opportunity

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in the over-crowded world which would be the consequence of the supposed right of every potential human being to exist

Mr G Stanley Hall in *Salvaging Civilization* in *The Century* (New York), for October, gives a dismal picture of the present condition of the world Or rather he gives a composite photo of many dismal pictures which have been painted by such men as McDougal Ross, R H Johnson, Ireland, Klein, Couper Hyndman Stoddard, Irwin Day, Morris and Young He then offers for consideration various proposed remedies, including that of improving the human race by checking the propagation of the unfit and increasing that of the fit—in short by wise and deliberate Birth Control The end of the matter as he sees it is that salvation depends on love and service and that these must spring out of the soul of the individual man and woman

### BOOKS RECEIVED

From The Century Co, New York *THE SOCIAL TREND* by Edward A Ross

From E P Dutton and Co New York *HEREDITY AND CHILD CULTURE*, by Henry Dwight Chapin M D

From Julius Puttmann, Stuttgart *SEXUAL REFORM UND SEXUAL WISSENSCHAFT* by Dr A Weil

From G P Putnam's Sons New York *SEX AND COMMONSENSE*, by Maude Royden

From Wm Heinemann Ltd, London *SAFE MARRIAGE* by Ettie A Rout

From Leonhardt Verlag, Wien *DIE NICHT MUTTER WERDEN DÜRFEN UND ZÖLIBAT* by Johann Ferch

From C Barth Verlag, Wien *AM KREUZWEG DER LIEBE*, by J Ferch

From Cambridge University Press The Macmillan Co, New York. *AGE AND AREA*, by J C Willis

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### PRINCIPLES

The complex problems now confronting America as the result of the practice of reckless procreation are fast threatening to grow beyond human control

Everywhere we see poverty and large families going hand in hand. Those least fit to carry on the race are increasing most rapidly. People who cannot support their own offspring are encouraged by Church and State to produce large families. Many of the children thus begotten are diseased or feeble minded, many become criminals. The burden of supporting these unwanted types has to be borne by the healthy elements of the nation. Funds that should be used to raise the standard of our civilization are diverted to the maintenance of those who should never have been born.

In addition to this grave evil we witness the appalling waste of women's health and women's lives by too frequent pregnancies. These unwanted pregnancies often provoke the crime of abortion or alternatively multiply the number of child workers and lower the standard of living.

To create a race of well born children it is essential that the function of motherhood should be elevated to a position of dignity and this is impossible as long as conception remains a matter of chance.

We hold that children should be

- 1 Conceived in love,
- 2 Born of the mother's conscious desire
- 3 And only begotten under conditions which render possible the heritage of health.

Therefore we hold that every woman must possess the power and freedom to prevent conception except when these conditions can be satisfied.

Every mother must realize her basic position in human society. She must be conscious of her responsibility to the race in bringing children into the world.

Instead of being a blind and haphazard consequence of uncontrolled instinct, motherhood must be made the responsible and self directed means of human expression and regeneration.

These purposes which are of fundamental importance to the whole of our nation and to the future of mankind can only be attained if women first receive practical scientific education in the means of Birth Control. That therefore is the first object to which the efforts of this League will be directed.

### AIMS

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE aims to enlighten and educate all sections of the American public in the various aspects

of the dangers of uncontrolled procreation and the imperative necessity of a world program of Birth Control.

The League aims to correlate the findings of scientists, statisticians, investigators and social agencies in all fields. To make this possible, it is necessary to organize various departments.

**RESEARCH** To collect the findings of scientists concerning the relation of reckless breeding to delinquency, defect and dependence.

**INVESTIGATION** To derive from these scientifically ascertained facts and figures, conclusions which may aid all public health and social agencies in the study of problems of maternal and infant mortality, child-labor, mental and physical defects and delinquency, in relation to the practice of reckless parentage.

**HYGIENIC AND PHYSIOLOGICAL** instruction by the Medical profession to mothers and potential mothers in harmless and reliable methods of Birth Control in answer to their requests for such knowledge.

**STERILIZATION** of the insane and feeble minded and the encouragement of this operation upon those afflicted with inherited or transmissible disease, with the understanding that sterilization does not deprive the individual of his or her sex expression but merely renders him or her incapable of producing children.

**EDUCATIONAL** The program of education includes the enlightenment of the public at large mainly through the education of leaders of thought and opinion—teachers, ministers, editors and writers—to the moral and scientific soundness of the principles of Birth Control and the imperative necessity of its adoption as the basis of national and racial progress.

**POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE** To enlist the support and co-operation of legal advisors, statesmen and legislators in effecting the removal of state and federal statutes which encourage disgenic breeding, increase the sum total of disease, misery and poverty and prevent the establishment of a policy of national health and strength.

**ORGANIZATION** To send into the various States of the Union field workers to enlist the support and arouse the interest of the masses to the importance of Birth Control so that laws may be changed and the establishment of clinics made possible in every State.

**INTERNATIONAL** This department aims to co-operate with similar organizations in other countries to study Birth Control in its relations to the world population problem, food supplies, national and racial conflicts and to urge upon all international bodies organized to promote world peace the consideration of these aspects of international amity.

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Of the scores of books on Sex that I have read I regard this as the best for the married or for those who expect to have that misfortune thrust upon them. It is written in the most dignified and chaste language, gives much valuable information that any lay reader may readily understand and must have a large influence in ameliorating the unfortunate conditions that are so sadly common in wedlock as a result of ignorance and of the absence of the high ideals inculcated by the author.

I am glad to recommend the book to all my readers.  
Sincerely and fraternally

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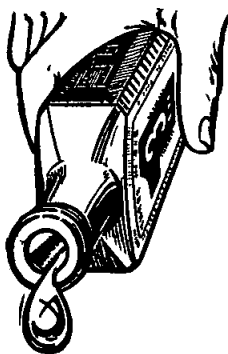
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