

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Edited by Margaret Sanger

TWENTY CENTS A COPY

MARCH, 1924

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Published by

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC., 104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y

VOL VIII

MARCH, 1924

No 3

CONTENTS

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN Notes on Matters of Interest to Our Readers	67	J MAYNARD KEYNES ON OVERPOPULATION	79
Birth Control and Federal Legislation The Stand of the American Birth Control League on this Important Question.	68	The Mothers, Ye Are All One Letters showing that college education does not ensure free motherhood	80
NEWS NOTES—The United States New York	69	Social Control and Birth Control, by H A Miller A paper read at the Chicago Birth Control Conference.	82
New Jersey	70	WHAT ARE BABIES FOR? by Maude Royden The famous English woman preacher gives her voice for Birth Control	84
Illinois Colorado California Porto Rico	71	ODE TO WOMAN, by Linn A E Gale (poem)	85
England Australia, South Africa Canada	72	Birth Control by Radio, by I N Thurman	86
Some Biological Factors in Birth Control by C C Little	73	BOOK REVIEWS	
THE EXAMPLE OF THE CLERGY	75	ONE LITTLE BOY, by Hugh de Selincourt—Margaret Sanger	88
PRESS CLIPPINGS		ONE LITTLE BOY—Howard Nelson Rubien	88
UNPROFITABLE CHILDREN—BERTRAND RUSSELL	76	PERIODICALS	88
MARGARET SANGER'S OWN CORNER	76	LATE NEWS—THE SYRACUSE CONFERENCE	89
The Psychology of Sex, by Hugh de Selincourt Another installment of this remarkable study of the development of sex	77		
THE RIGHT KIND OF BABIES by Arnold Bennett	79		
MR. DOOLEY ON BIRTH CONTROL	79		

Published by THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

Monthly on the first of each month

Subscription price, \$2 00 a year

Entered as Second Class Matter, March 11, 1918 at the post office at New York, N Y, under the Act of March 3, 1879

The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

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

MARGARET SANGER and ANNIE G. PORRITT, Editors

VOL VIII

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The World We Live In

A GAIN Birth Control furnishes the occasion for a test of American liberties. This time the scene is in Syracuse, and again it is asserted that it is the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, exercised through the Knights of Columbus, that is inspiring politicians to trample on the Constitution of the United States, and to deprive Americans of the right of free speech and the free discussion of their laws. As we go to press the fight is on. In Syracuse the Common Council is trying to make the discussion of Birth Control legislation a crime. But liberty-loving Americans are rallying to our aid, and before our readers receive their *Reviews* we hope that the dastardly attempt to destroy our liberties will be foiled, and that we shall have been able to hold the projected mass meeting and conference undisturbed.

THE American Birth Control League has often been asked its position in regard to the amendment of the Federal laws which bar Birth Control information and material from the mails. The position was made clear at the First American Birth Control Conference in November, 1921, and has been consistently held ever since. Recent events, and especially the establishment of Birth Control clinics in the widely separated cities of New York, Chicago and Denver, have caused not any change in that position, but a development of the programme of the League to include a careful amendment of the Federal laws. The position of the League, the reason for this position, and the attitude it is taking in regard to Federal legislation are carefully explained in this issue of the Birth Control Review.

THE popularity and wide discussion of the Bok Peace Plan and the large space devoted to work for peace in the newspapers and periodicals plainly show the desire of the nation to rid the world of war. But while other organizations are dealing with the twigs and branches of the evil, the American Birth Control League is attacking its root. The world has learned that the pressure of population—the desire either for markets or for territory—is at the basis of all wars that can in any true sense be described as “inevitable.” Until the nations have learned to restrict their increase to numbers for which they can provide without spilling over on their neighbors, there is little hope for permanent peace. Only through Birth Control, widely practised and made part of the morality and public opinion of the nation, can such restriction be effected in harmony with our ideals of democracy and humanitarianism. If our people really desire peace, let them rally to the support of the greatest of all peace plans—BIRTH CONTROL.

HUGH DE SELINCOURT, whose remarkable Study of Sex Psychology has been running in the *Review* since January and will be completed in our next issue, has recently published a new book—“One Little Boy.” We consider this book of so much importance that we are devoting our Book Review pages to it both this month and next. In the form of fiction the author tackles one of the most troublesome problems with which young mothers are apt to be faced, and the result is an achievement of which the most expert craftsman might well be proud. Mr. de Selincourt faces the facts of life with calm and serene courage, recalling in his lofty spirit his friend, teacher and guide, Havelock Ellis. At the same time he puts his lesson in a form which the unlearned and simple can understand, a form that can be apprehended by those who most need it.

Birth Control and Federal Legislation

HITHERTO the American Birth Control League has taken no active step towards securing the amendment of the Federal laws which affect Birth Control. These laws, sections 211 and 245, were enacted under the constitutional provision which gives Congress control of the mails and of interstate commerce. Section 211 prohibits the mailing of Birth Control information and materials. Section 245 prohibits the importation into the United States, or the conveyance from one State to another, of any such information, printed or written, and of any such articles by express companies or common carriers.

The Federal law does not affect the internal affairs of the individual States. It does not prohibit the establishment of Birth Control clinics, or the giving of Birth Control advice and prescriptions by doctors in their public and private practice. It does prevent the widespread advertising of contraceptive devices or compounds, and it prevents the circulation of books and pamphlets in which Birth Control methods are described.

THE American Birth Control League, from its inception, has set itself against the indiscriminate dissemination of so-called Birth Control information. As expressed in its platform of Principles, it holds that "children should be conceived in love, born of the mother's conscious desire and only begotten under conditions which render possible the heritage of health." It also holds that responsible controlled motherhood "can only be attained if women first receive practical scientific education in the means of Birth Control." Scientific education implies the individual treatment of each woman according to her physiological needs, and this is impossible if she depends on advertisements or printed matter which may or may not have been written with a thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology, of the biological factors in conception, and of the nature and action of drugs and medicines.

Holding this view, the American Birth Control League was convinced that a campaign for the repeal of these Federal laws was of secondary importance until some educational work had been done. The first object was to remove in the public mind the idea that Birth Control implied one simple method that could be told by one person to another over the back fence, that it was the same for everybody, and that once told, nothing further remained to be done. For the last two and a half years it has been working by means of conferences

and of the *Review* to educate the public in the many aspects of the subject—sociological, economic, social, biological, physiological and psychical. It has worked for the establishment of Birth Control clinics in New York State under the limitations of the New York law, which permits the giving of Birth Control information in cases of disease, and in other States where the State laws do not place this restriction on the medical profession.

THE OBJECT of the League is that all over the United States there may be established clinics at which, under skilled medical supervision, Birth Control advice and instruction will be given to all women needing this care, and that the medical profession may be freed from the restrictions now placed upon it by State enactments, so that doctors may give Birth Control information both in their private and their public practice. The Federal laws do not directly affect this State legislation, and if all Federal restrictions on the use of the mails and on common carriers and express companies were removed, the medical profession would still, in all the States which have anti-Birth Control laws on their statute books, be legally prevented from giving oral Birth Control advice and prescriptions to their patients. The result would be, that while women were debarred from real scientific knowledge of the subject, they might through the mails receive information entirely unsuited to their needs.

From certain points of view, it has seemed to the President and Directors of the American Birth Control League that little good and even possible harm might accrue at the present stage of development from an amendment of the Federal laws, eliminating all restrictions on the carriage of Birth Control information and materials, especially if this were done before sufficient data had been gathered to justify such action, and before campaigns of education had been carried on widely throughout the States, and especially before the establishment of at least a few model Birth Control clinics, which would serve not only as object lessons on the method of treating Birth Control, but also for the collection of data necessary for the use of the medical profession.

THE REMOVAL of the Federal restrictions would almost certainly be followed by a flood of widespread advertising, of hastily written and probably misleading books and pamphlets purporting to give Birth Control information, and of supposed preventives which might or might not prevent

and which certainly could not meet the needs of the numerous women who require personal physical examinations and personal prescriptions to suit their individual idiosyncracies. To begin the work for Birth Control by campaigning for unrestricted use of the mails would seem more like sinking Birth Control to a hopelessly commercial and empirical level than establishing it on a firm scientific basis, with the prospect of ever-increasing developments and improvements until the ideal contraceptives are obtained.

During the last few years educational work for Birth Control has been very actively carried on, and the New York experiment in clinical research, started in January, 1923, marks the beginning of what may be described as the second or practical era in Birth Control. It is now proposed to establish a Birth Control clinic in Chicago and one in Denver. Other clinics will quickly come into existence in all of the States where the State laws permit them to be carried on. The medical profession is taking a new interest in Birth Control and doctors are asking for information on a subject that was not included in the curriculum of their medical schools.

AND NOW the League has reached a point where some amendment of the Federal law may aid rather than hinder its work. It has not worked to have restrictions on the mails and express companies swept away. But it does desire to free the medical profession for the new duties that it is anxious to see the doctors undertake, by making it possible for them to communicate freely with each other concerning facts and data of Birth Control, and also by enabling them to secure the material necessary for their prescriptions. To meet this new situation, which is developing out of the establishment of clinics in various States, it has secured the drawing up of a bill which, while not opening the mails to the commercial exploitation of Birth Control, would free the hands of the medical profession and enable the clinical data to be passed from one group of doctors to another.

The bill was drawn up for the League by Mr. Robert E. Goldsby with the aid of Dr. J. P. Chamberlin of the Columbia Law School. Its provisions cover communications from doctors to each other and to their patients, and also the transport of Birth Control material from manufacturer to dealer, and from wholesaler to retailer, and to physicians. It would facilitate the establishment and working of Birth Control clinics, and it would aid the doctors in assuming the new duty of giving Birth Control advice and prescriptions. It would leave the law as it now stands with regard to promiscuous dissemination of Birth Control advice and

the advertising of supposed means of contraception. As drawn up, it reads as follows:

Section 211

Any article, instrument, substance, drug, or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception, or any written or printed information or advice concerning the prevention of conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed by a duly licensed physician (a) to another person known to him to be a duly licensed physician or (b) to one of his bonafide patients in the course of his professional practice.

Any article, instrument, substance, drug or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed in the regular course of legitimate business by

- a. an importer to a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs, or by a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs to an importer,
- b. a manufacturer to a wholesale dealer in drugs or by such wholesale dealer to a manufacturer,
- c. a wholesale dealer in drugs to another such wholesale dealer or a retail dealer in drugs, or by such retail dealer to such wholesale dealer,
- d. a retail dealer in drugs to a duly licensed physician or to another person upon the written prescription of a duly licensed physician, or by such physician or person to such retail dealer.

The proposed bill contains similar provisions for the amendment of Section 245.

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

BIRTH CONTROL was discussed at a meeting of the Federation for Child Study and the Women's Conference for Study and Service of the Ethical Culture Society, held at 2 West 64th Street, New York, on January 28. The practical side of the work, as exemplified in clinical research, was described by Dr. Dorothy Bocker, who told of her work with poor and sick mothers. Mrs. Anne Kennedy presented the case for the amendment of the New York State law. She urged the voters to support the bill which has been prepared by the American Birth Control League, and which would free doctors to give contraceptive information in their public and private practice. Mrs. Anna Garland Spencer added her voice in favor of Birth Control. The chairman of the meeting was Mrs. Theodore Rosenberg.

DR. DOROTHY BOCKER spoke, giving an outline of her work for the past year, at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Frances B. Ackermann, Bronxville, on January 30. She emphasized the enormous amount of human waste through

the wearing out of mothers and the sickness and death of children, due to lack of Birth Control Mrs F Robertson-Jones linked up Birth Control with the housing question, and showed something of the waste and degradation of human beings that results from crowding large families into very few rooms. The chairman of this meeting was Mrs Anne Kennedy. So much interest was shown by the women of White Plains, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe, Port Chester, Pleasantville and other neighboring towns who were present that plans were made for several other meetings to be held in the near future.

Dr Dorothy Bocker addressed an audience of 200 at the American Labor Party Forum in Brooklyn on February 3.

A MEETING of special interest was held on February 4 at the Colony Club, New York, under the patronage of Mrs Dexter Blagden, Mrs Lewis L Delafield and Mrs Richard Billings. Mrs F Robertson-Jones presided and the speakers were Mr Heywood Broun, Dr Dorothy Bocker and Rev William H Garth. The meeting was crowded, and there were women present from Syracuse, Philadelphia, Boston and Hartford.

Heywood Broun, who was the first speaker, took up the religious aspect of the opposition to Birth Control. He pointed out that there was much mental confusion in holding that the laws of God and the laws of Nature are one and the same. If man had always to submit to the laws of Nature, the coming of a great plague would have to be accepted with resignation, it would be in the hands of God who should live and who should die. Would that, he asked, be God's will? God demands co-operation from men—he wants the human will to exert itself, man to use his intelligence. This seems to be one of the reasons why man was put upon earth—to use his intelligence to control the forces of Nature. We are not always asked to obey the laws of Nature—to follow the example of animals. Is it not better that man should improve upon and soften Nature?

Dr Dorothy Bocker again gave her story of a year of practical work in Birth Control. She urged the waste of allowing tuberculous mothers to have children, while spending public money on maternal and infant hygiene. She called attention to the fact that even the lowered infant death-rate, which has come about with much work and expenditure, is 58 per 1,000, while the general death-rate is 11 per 1,000, and asked why so many more babies died than adults. "Simply for the reason," she replied, "that these babies are not started out in life with enough energy. If the women were instructed in

Birth Control most of these infants would never come into existence." She then illustrated the need for such information by citing cases that had come to her, and ended by asserting that those who did not adopt Birth Control as a principle and fight for it were accessories before the fact in the crime of imposing so many hardships and causing so many deaths among women and children.

Rev William H Garth, the next speaker, urged the reasonableness of the demand that is being made by the American Birth Control League. He described the movement as sane and sound, and asked what was the use of building charitable institutions of all kinds while allowing children to come into the world who haven't a ghost of a chance of living a decent life? What chance, he asked, has the child who isn't wanted? What chance has the child when the weekly wage doesn't permit proper care to be given to it? He quoted Lord Dawson's description of the purposes of marriage, as given to the Convocation of Bishops in 1921, and emphasized the fact that God made body as well as soul, and both should be cared for and cultivated. Taking some of the often-quoted Bible texts and injunctions which are supposed to be against Birth Control, he showed how completely these were misunderstood and misused, and how inapplicable they were at the present day. He emphasized the reasonableness of the demand made on the New York Legislature, in the bill of the American Birth Control League, and assured his hearers that the time was at hand when the idea of Birth Control would be accepted as truth, just as many ideas of old, after having been opposed and persecuted, had afterwards become the foundation of thought of later generations.

THE 13th Assembly District League of Women Voters listened to an address on Birth Control given by Miss Pauline Daniel, at the Stockton Tea Room, New York City, on February 5. Miss Daniel spoke from the human-welfare point of view, and showed that Birth Control would obviate the necessity for much of our present expensive yet largely ineffective charitable work.

The Syracuse Legislative Committee met on February 7 at the home of Mrs O Howard. State Conference of February 28 and 29.

The staff of the Jewish Maternity Hospital, 270 East Broadway, New York, were addressed on February 12, by Dr Dorothy Bocker.

Mrs Robertson-Jones addressed the members of the 22nd Assembly District League of Women Voters, February 14.

On February 15, Mrs J Bishop Vandever and Mrs Anne Kennedy addressed the Coney Island Local of the King's County Socialist Party

At a meeting of the Federated Child Welfare Association, held at the Hotel Astor, New York, on February 15, Dr Dorothy Bocker gave an address on "The Basic Right of the Child" Mrs Anne Kennedy followed Mrs Park Mathewson was the chairman of the meeting

New Jersey

Rev G A Studdert-Kennedy, King's chaplain, and well-known advocate of Birth Control, in an address at Princeton to 2,000 students and professors, touched on the population problem of Great Britain, and warned America that its immunity from the bitterness of unemployment now faced by so many British war veterans, is only temporary, unless the United States quickly realizes its position

Dr Thomas B Lee, President of the New Jersey State Board of Health, in an address to the State and local health officials at their annual meeting, on February 14, is reported in the daily papers to have advocated the sterilization of criminals and imbeciles, and Birth Control He pointed out that the poorest families are most often the largest, and that they have the same desire for luxuries as people of means This causes many crimes Birth Control, he said, will remedy the situation

Illinois

The Chicago Birth Control Clinic advanced another step towards complete legal recognition when, on January 22, Judge Harry Fisher of the Circuit Court refused the plea of Archbishop Mundelein, who asked that the judgment in favor of the clinic be set aside The opposition forces had enlisted the aid of Dr William O Krone, alienist, who testified that certain methods of Birth Control were conducive to insanity The evidence of Dr Krone was so confused and contradictory that Judge Fisher ordered him from the witness stand and stated that his testimony was unworthy of credence Another witness for the opponents of Birth Control was Dr Francis L Gerty, of the Cook County Psychopathic Hospital, who gave testimony as to the evil effects of Birth Control methods on neurasthenics As he acknowledged in reply to a question from Mr Harold Ickes, attorney for the Birth Control League, that these neurasthenics were not fit for parentage and that he recommended strict marriage laws and segregation to prevent them from having offspring, his arguments hardly seemed applicable to normal people Judge Fisher, in sustaining his former judgment in favor

of the clinic, stated that "the court cannot see anything but cumulative evidence in support of the clinic All the witnesses agreed that there were instances where the need for Birth Control was great They did not agree as to the methods If physicians cannot agree on this point, they can hardly expect the court to decide" It is noticeable that most of the physicians who oppose Birth Control are ignorant of the methods, and have no experience in their use The lack hitherto of clinical data on Birth Control has greatly retarded this branch of medicine

Colorado

The Colorado Birth Control League has been completing its organization in readiness for active work Mrs Elizabeth Quereau has been elected treasurer, and Miss Ruth Vincent secretary The work contemplated is two-fold Educational and propaganda work that will be spread widely throughout the State of Colorado, and practical work centering in a clinic to be under the charge of Dr Mary L Morgan, and to be conducted in Denver The State is fortunate in not having any restrictive law which would prevent the opening of such a clinic, by a duly licensed physician

California

Professor S J Holmes, of the University of California, brought forward the problem of degeneracy in an address to the Pacific Southwest Theological Conference, held in the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, in January He predicted a dark future for the race "if religion does not join hands with science in an effort to check the birth of imbeciles"

It is interesting to note that the newspaper story on the "New York Birth Control Clinic," which appeared after the luncheon of January 9, was immediately copied into the papers of the whole wide world It was translated into at least a dozen languages, and clippings have been sent us from Australia and Egypt, from Tokyo and Hongkong, from the Philippines and Hawaii, as well as from the chief cities of Europe and from practically every State in America

PORTO RICO

The outstanding fact about the population of Porto Rico is overcrowding There is a density of 378 to the square mile, and the standards of life among the peasantry are deplorably low In spite of a high death-rate the population increased between 1910 and 1920 by 16 per cent, though there is no immigration and considerable emigration The Children's Bureau has recently been making a sur-

vey of the island from the point of view of the welfare of the children. Its report is not very cheering, but how the death-rate can be checked without at the same time inculcating Birth Control, it is not easy to see. The conditions in the island are thus described:

Housing and sanitation are very primitive, most of the people living in rural districts in thatched huts worth about \$20. The number of migratory workers, due to the seasonal requirements of the sugar and tobacco crops, is large. Most of these have no homes of their own and almost no possessions and the problem of educating and caring for their children is serious. Development of great sugar and tobacco plantations has reduced the amount of land given to grazing and the raising of common food products. The population, already dense, is rapidly increasing and the problem of feeding this number of inhabitants is serious. The infant mortality rate is 162 per thousand babies born alive, as compared with 76 for the United States.

Activities initiated by the American and Junior Red Cross for the improvement of conditions are noted in the report.

Among these activities were a fresh-air camp, the encouragement of playgrounds, games and athletics for boys and girls, the encouragement of health-teaching in the schools, the extension of dental clinics, physical examination of school children, the introduction of mothers' and babies' conferences, a campaign for the prevention of blindness, the creation of a child-hygiene division in the Porto Rico Department of Health, "baby-week" in San Juan, treatment of children in rural schools by two traveling physicians, a survey of homeless children, and a survey of abandoned mothers, made in cooperation with the W C T U.

These are desirable and necessary measures for improving the condition of our fellow-citizens, the children of Porto Rico. But without Birth Control the problem of overpopulation of the island will only become more complicated and difficult of solution. Before the coming of the United States into the island, Nature took care of the problem by means of yellow fever, smallpox, bubonic plague and typhoid. The first two diseases have been practically eliminated, and the second two are now under good control. Having thus thwarted Nature as regards the death-rate, what excuse is there for allowing her full sway in regard to the birth-rate?

CANADA

British Columbia

On the evening of Thursday, January 24, the Canadian Birth Control League held its first 1924

meeting, in the Woman's Building, Thurlow Street. Mr. A. M. Stephen, Hon. President, occupied the chair. Mrs. J. Scott-Drummond, Corresponding Secretary, read the minutes and correspondence. It was determined to draft a letter to the Department of Justice at Ottawa asking for a revision of the Statute dealing with the matter of contraceptive information. It was further resolved that members of the Dominion Parliament be asked to support the request of the League. Preliminary arrangements for a Conference to be held in Vancouver later in the season were discussed. At the next meeting, it is planned to discuss Mrs. Sanger's book, "Woman and the New Race."

ENGLAND

A public discussion of Birth Control, conducted under the auspices of the Labor Party, was held at Hammersmith, one of the crowded suburbs of London, on January 26th. Birth Control propaganda and the advisability of government measures to prevent the reproduction of hereditary mental defects were the subjects chosen. The discussion is of importance in view of the fact that a Labor ministry is now in office in England.

AUSTRALIA

An Australian correspondent reports that the government of that Commonwealth has recently prohibited the circulation of Birth Control literature. "Perhaps you are aware," she writes, "that we have no more freedom of speech on the subject than you have in your country. Our population is small and our territory large. Nevertheless, we have our share of poverty here and an army of unwanted children. Also we have an astounding number of abortion cases, and they are increasing so quickly that the heads of the hospitals say it is becoming very serious." Judging by English and American experience, this action of the Australian Government is likely to arouse much feeling and to stimulate the growth of Birth Control sentiment.

SOUTH AFRICA

A Birth Control League is soon to be formed in Johannesburg, according to news received in a letter from a correspondent in that city. Information concerning the best method of conducting such a league and concerning literature available for its use was requested. Although South Africa is not yet overcrowded, there is great need to keep up the quality of the white population, which must always form a minority among the millions of natives.

(For late news see page 90)

Some Biological Factors in Birth Control

C C LITTLE, *President, University of Maine*

A Paper Read at the Chicago Birth Control Conference

IT was not so very long ago that the experimental biologist, who was more than mildly interested in Birth Control or, as it might perhaps be called, Prevention of Defectives, would have been branded as a crank or an agitator. Today, with the increased sense of responsibility resulting from the world war and the great pressure of abnormal and uncomfortable social conditions, the viewpoint has changed.

There is not the slightest question but that limitation of the production of human beings is an issue of the greatest interest and of more or less immediate importance. At present, and for the near future, however, there is a large amount of educative work to be done before public opinion is ready for a general move in the direction of progressive legislation in this field. While this work is being done, time is afforded to undertake and to complete a series of experiments with laboratory mammals, which will serve as a guide to the solution of future human problems and as evidence for or against the employment of various methods of procedures.

Whole books are being written on, and schools of philosophy developed about abnormalities of this or that instinct as produced or fostered by the artificial tendencies of modern civilization. In all such efforts the "comparative" viewpoints as covered by experiments with the smaller and faster breeding mammals is practically neglected.

Medicine in its various phases of anatomy, physiology and pathology, has had to develop a firm foundation of comparative studies. Genetics and psychology are driven to lower mammals for experimental evidence in the applicability of one or another principle to humans.

Birth Control, which is a phase of the study of controlled reproduction, has not developed beyond the lowest "kindergarten" stage this side of its work.

The object of this paper is not so much to argue the need for such development—for in time the need will argue itself—but rather to point out certain fields in which experimental work could profitably be done at once, and to urge those who are in a position where they can bring about the adoption of some of such program to do so at once.

Scope of Experimental Work

The experimental work with small mammals should not only deal with treated or observed animals themselves, but with young which were in

utero at the time of treatment and with young born later. The observations and records should also extend to the descendants of both such types of young.

In the case of humans, we are all too long-lived and selfish to wonder or to worry very much about the possible effects which any of our treatments or methods might have upon the third or fourth generations which would be descended from treated individuals. It will not be easy to impress ordinary sources of financial support with the seriousness of this issue.

The medical man is judged successful by the results which are obtained in the relatively near future after he has applied treatment. If the individuals treated have behaved properly and their immediate offspring have been healthy, the physician has justified his treatment and has been labelled as successful. It would be a rash man who would question the value, permanency or inherent soundness of clinical methods resting on such a slim foundation alone, and yet that is exactly what we must do at this time if we are to remain fair to the standards which should characterize experimental work.

Let us consider an example of what I mean. Sterility of a temporary nature can be induced in mice by the use of a certain treatment which we may call X. Before the treatment the animals are fertile, after it they are sterile for a time, and then again become fertile. If the progeny produced upon the return of fertility in treated animals are normal in appearance and healthy, the technique is in a fair way of being announced as highly successful. Let us, however, suppose that the treatment is given a male animal, and consider what the various types of his breeding behavior may well mean if they are reduced to modifications of his sex-cells, or sperms. The following tabulation will show the successive processes.

Before treatment—

Sperm normal

Immediately after treatment—

Some sperm killed. Others so damaged as to fail to fertilize or to produce non-viable offspring.

Sterility results

Longer after treatment—

Sperm descended from slightly damaged cells might now be produced. These could be functional, but carry injured hereditary material. Fertility

Still longer after treatment—

Normal sperm again formed—fertility

It is clear that when sperm which is slightly injured, but still functional, is being formed, that the chance is given for individuals to result which are normal in appearance, but of abnormal character as regards the material which they have inherited. Such individuals, if inbred or if mated in certain ways, would, in all probability, hand down to their descendants certain abnormalities of organization which might well express themselves by morphological variations of a teratological nature.

Since the possibility of such a situation exists, there is clearly an obligation on the part of those who are advocating, practicing, or investigating methods of temporary sterilization to continue their experiments to a point that includes several generations of descendants of treated individuals. Obviously, those who are primarily interested in the development of the practice of sterilization in humans will be unable to follow through many generations by personal observation. They are, therefore, more apt to minimize or to disregard this aspect of their problem and to adopt the attitude that if the immediate results are good the practice is sound and beneficial. Such an attitude will, however, seriously prejudice the permanent advance and final adoption of the very principles which are desired. With scores of problems bearing directly on the inherited effects of temporary sterilization available to investigators of fast breeding laboratory mammals, it is inexcusable to advocate hurried adoption of clinical methods or legislation for one or another type of treatment until some years and much effort have been spent in scientific investigation and experimentation.

These observations as to the scope and extent of work in the experimental phases of the Birth Control problem should, I believe, apply also to work with agents which prevent fertilization as well as those that produce temporary sterilization and stop the formation or liberation of functioning sex-cells.

Remembering then the threefold aspect of any investigational work which is undertaken, namely, the individual treated, its immediate progeny, and its more remote descendants, we may take up very briefly some of the lines which might be followed up profitably.

Organization of Experimental Work

The whole subject of decreased reproductive activity under experimental conditions, in laboratory mammals, may be subdivided under three general headings, as follows.

A Experiments without arousing the sex-instinct, i. e., isolation followed by late mating

B Experiments with the sex-instinct as nearly as possible normal

C Experiments with the sex-instinct inhibited at intervals

The first of these subdivisions is simple and self-explanatory. The immature individuals should be segregated and should remain so during various proportions of their maturity. They may then be mated and the results contrasted with a control series.

The second subdivision is more complicated, for it involves the employment of methods to prevent fertilization. Such methods may, of course, be employed either early in the reproductive cycle, during alternating periods or towards the close of reproductive activity. These three processes should be kept distinct, for their effects upon the material used might well be very different.

The third subdivision also has the possibility of application at alternate periods or near the close of the reproductive cycle. It involves complete inhibition of instincts already functioning. This will be brought about by isolating the individuals themselves.

Of course, one might, under each of these headings, amplify the subject by outlining literally scores of specific experiments that should be undertaken. To do this is, however, far beyond the scope of a brief paper of this sort. It will suffice to outline some of the matters of fundamental importance which should be borne in mind and measured during experimental work in the field above described.

Topics for Investigation

For convenience we may first consider those topics which may be investigated in the treated animal itself. These include the incidence of disease, the length of life, the causes of death, and the psychological modifications as compared with carefully chosen controls. About these things we *know* wonderfully little, although we *speculate* much. Practically no carefully planned experimental study has ever been made of these all-important topics. As I have previously stated, the lifetime of a human is usually so long that no one has patience enough to wait until opportunity arises to collect certain of the data referred to. All this, however, can and should be done with laboratory mammals in whose behavior a definite indication of the reaction of humans might be found.

The study of modifications in the progeny either immediate, direct, or remote is even more important and fascinating. Here one may record the breeding record of experimental animals as compared with controls in respect to the number of abortions, stillborn young and rate of embryonic and infant

(Continued on page 90)

The Example of the Clergy

IN spite of the specter of unemployment, there are people in England who are alarmed at the constantly decreasing birth-rate. To such people, Mr A G Gardiner, one of the best known veterans of Liberal journalism, makes answer in *John Bull*, a paper that has opened its columns freely to the discussion of Birth Control.

It is true that the vital statistics for the second quarter of this year are remarkable. The birth-rate—20·7 per 1,000 of the population—was lower than any previously recorded except during the war. But this isn't a new feature in our social life, nor ought it to be looked at without regard to the mortality statistics. Both the birth-rate and the death-rate have been declining for a generation. Year by year fewer children per thousand of the population have been coming into the world, but, on the other hand, fewer people per thousand have been going out of the world.

Every child that is born into the world has a better chance of living to a green old age than it ever had. The frightful infant mortality—often more than 200 per 1,000—which used to be the shame and scandal of the industrial towns, has been enormously diminished, and the improvements in sanitation, in cleanliness, in the knowledge and treatment of disease, have made the general life of the people longer in duration and better in quality than it was in the past.

High and Low Death-Rates

Why should we throw our hands up in despair at the declining birth-rate and neglect to rejoice at the falling death-rate? Why should the preachers of panic ignore the fact that the infant mortality of the country during the past three months was the lowest on record, and 18 per 1,000 below the average for the past ten years? If the choice is between a thousand infants being born into the world of whom 200 are doomed to die in their first year, and only 800 being born of whom 66 die, can any reasonable person doubt which is preferable from the point of view of the commonwealth?

For the high death-rate is only a symptom of the general poverty of the life that survives. It means that the standard of vitality of those who live is miserably low, and that multitudes of them, instead of being an asset, will be a burden to society. Until we realise that the important consideration in the matter is not the quantity of life, but the quality of life we produce, our whole attitude to the problem of population will be ignorant and mistaken.

I wish the alarm which exists in some quarters at the falling birth-rate could be turned into indignation

at the conditions which await thousands of those who have the misfortune to be born. Take the case at Willesden which is reported in the paper that lies before me. A landlady applies for an ejectment order against a family who occupy one small room in her house. The family consists of father, mother and five children—seven persons living and sleeping in one small room. The father and three of the children are consumptive and the mother is about to give birth to a sixth child. The landlady wants to get rid of them, not because they do not pay their rent, but because of the danger of infection—a very natural ground of concern. But the only place the unhappy father has been offered is a council house at a rent of 26s a week, which he says is about the amount he earns at his job.

What is one to say of a pitiful tale like this? What are the chances of those little children in the years that lie before them? Are we to rejoice at that prolific mother bringing more tainted life into that crowded room of doomed children, or ought we not rather to feel that until society can give the shelter of a decent house to its new life, it would be better that that life should not come into being?

No Moral Wrong in Birth Control

This Willesden case does not stand alone. There are thousands and tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of such cases in the country today, in the rural districts no less than in the towns. And in the face of such hideous facts I am driven to the conclusion that the moral aspect of birth restriction is profoundly changed. No moral wrong seems comparable with that of bringing into the world children who never can have a chance, and who are condemned to disease and squalor from the cradle to the grave.

From the moral point of view it might be reasonably urged that the verdict is with those who act on the principle that the quality of the life they engender is of more importance than the quantity. I can only assume that it is on that principle that the English clergy, who a generation ago were known for the large dimensions of their families, have now with one exception the lowest birth-rate to their credit of any class of the community. In the circumstances of today they are an extremely needy class. They cannot afford large families, and being responsible people with a sense of what is due from themselves to their children they do not have large families. That fact is all that needs to be said on the moral aspect of the controversy. The morality that is good enough for the clergy ought not to be a sin in the Willesden consumptive and the dweller in the slum.

Press Clippings

Unprofitable Children

AND Ecclesiasticus says "Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children." If we are to have children it is surely only right that we should have wholesome ones. The connoisseur in horses, cattle, homing pigeons, and 100 other creatures of use or beauty, has mastered a branch of the science of Eugenics. Immense time and study has been devoted to the eugenic improvement of dogs. But the very experts who take infinite pains over breeding dogs are quite indifferent to any possibility of eugenics for their own and other people's progeny with the result that our hospitals are full of puny babies, and babies born blind or with horrible deformities of body or mind—"unprofitable children" being a very mild description of the poor little things' agonising handicap.

Howbeit our very humanity leads us into paradoxes of pitifulness. I know of at least one infants' hospital—and there are scores—where diseased and crippled babies are being kept alive, by all the arts of medicine and surgery, when every single member of the devoted staff is aware that these maimed morsels of failing humanity have no hope for the future, and, to put it plainly, would be better dead.

What is to be done about it? We cannot present the medical profession with the right to put these mournful atoms out of their misery, and in any case the medical profession would not thank us for throwing on them that frightful responsibility of judgment. Clearly we must go on being humane—till light comes to us from the darkness in which we are now groping. And is it too much to surmise that the solution of this awful riddle will not be in the curing of the incurable but in the prevention of the existence of the incurable? Is it too much to hope that a day will dawn when the birth of "unprofitable children" will be a rarity instead of a commonplace?—*Newcastle Sun*, England

Bertrand Russell

On the Destruction of Mrs. Sanger's Pamphlet

NO one denies that pleasure in obscenity is base, or that those who minister to it do harm. But when the law steps in to suppress it, much that is highly desirable is suppressed at the same time. A few years ago, certain pictures by an eminent Dutch artist were sent through the post to an English purchaser. The postoffice officials, after enjoying a thorough inspection of them, concluded that they were obscene. (Appreciation of artistic merit is not expected of civil servants.) They therefore destroyed them, and the purchaser had no redress. The law gives power to the postoffice to destroy anything sent through the post that the officials consider obscene, and from their decision there is no appeal.

A more important example of the evils resulting from puritanic legislation arises in connection with birth con-

trol. It is obvious that "obscurity" is not a term capable of exact legal definition, in the practice of the courts, it means "anything that shocks the magistrate." Now an average magistrate is not shocked by information about birth control if it is given in an expensive book which uses long words and roundabout phrases, but is shocked if it is given in a cheap pamphlet using plain language that uneducated people can understand. Consequently, it is at present illegal in England to give information on birth control to wage earners, though it is legal to give it to educated people. Yet it is wage earners above all to whom the information is important. It should be noted that the law takes no account whatever of the purpose of a publication, except in a few recognized cases such as medical text-books. The sole question to be considered is: If this publication fell into the hands of a nasty-minded boy, could it give him pleasure? If so, it must be destroyed, whatever the social importance of the information it contains. The harm done by the enforced ignorance which results is incalculable. Destitution, chronic illness among women, the birth of diseased children, over-population and war are regarded by our puritanic law-givers as smaller evils than the hypothetical pleasure of a few foolish boys.—**BERTRAND RUSSELL** in *The New Age*

MARGARET SANGER'S OWN CORNER

M S L The best person to advise you in regard to Birth Control is your doctor. As you evidently need such advice, go to him and ask him. If he is unable or unwilling to help you, write to me again, and send your address.

G B asks if two children are the right number for parents to have. It is impossible to give a yes or no answer to this question. The number in a family should be in accordance with the health of the mother, with the income and circumstances of the family, and with the desires of the parents. Some women ought not to have children at all. Others may welcome and care adequately for four or even more.

Here are two questions about the opposition of the Roman Catholics to Birth Control.

I D N asks "Have you a pamphlet answering the Catholics?"

My reply is that I have never been able to find out what there is to answer. If **I D N** will send me their objections, I will be glad to try to meet them.

F McM writes "Why do the Catholics object to Birth Control?"

All I can say is, I don't know. I would like to find out.

When the birth interval is so short that the mother is unable to bring her whole vitality to bear, one child, as it were, spoils the next—**R J EWART, M D**

The Psychology of Sex

By HUGH DE SELINCOURT

PART III — THE SUPPRESSION OF CURIOSITY AND ITS RESULTS

LET US look for a moment at that terrible bogey that scares all parents — I mean self-abuse. The mother who has been able by love and understanding to establish friendly relations with her child, who has been able to share his interests and answer his inquiries as they came to the surface truthfully and without shame, will have very little to fear. Suppressed curiosity causes localized irritation, through the action of boredom, having nothing to do, for the mental effort to solve the mighty problem which is always being presented to his young mind creates fatigue and saps initiative. Then the forbidden area, growing ever more sensitive, becomes the main field for his great passion of self-assertion—increased, paradoxically enough, by his love for his mother. "Don't" may be momentarily effective and convenient, from the parent's point of view, but it increases, because of this fundamental passion of self-assertion natural and right in a child, the desire to do the forbidden thing.

I was speaking of this to a friend of mine, who, being a gardener, had a finely trained perception for the delicate operations of Nature in flowers. Not having observed it himself, he was properly incredulous, though being my friend he believed in the honesty of my opinion, if not in its accuracy. I told him that his perpetual injunctions to his small son, William, aged seven or eight, not to put his hands in his pockets, simply forced William to put them there. He hinted at the efficacy of a slap behind the ear, teasing me, because we had agreed that a slap behind the ear was the last resource of exasperated ignorance and, however admirable in relieving a father's much-tried feelings at the moment, reacted most abominably on the father afterwards. "You see," I said, "at sight of you young William shoves his hands in his pockets."

"Seem' s believin', matey!" he replied.

A Test Case

Very few people, I may mention, are able to see what they do not want to see, but my friend is an exception. A few mornings after, being a Saturday, young William had escorted his father to work, my theory, being thus fairly enunciated, having meanwhile been the subject of many jokes and of a small bet. My friend was sweeping up the leaves on the drive, I was talking to him when

young William hove in sight, mooching along, looking for birds' nests. He was some way off, we saw him but he had not spotted us. Directly he did, however, he came towards us, immediately shoving both hands into his knickerbocker pockets.

The action hit my friend rather hard, so I hastened to assure him it was only a coincidence. He paid his bet, however, we became better friends.

Leaving the Nest

But the mother whom love has made wise, who enjoys her child's confidence, will share with him the difficulty of self-control, not by asking him to do impossible things for her sake, but by showing him how he can turn his whole body into a little work of art, and make and keep it strong and tough. Nakedness and physical exercises offer scope for his energy of which she will avail herself to the full. And slowly, as the confidences become more intimate, the sense of other life than his own—imagination—and the sense of holiness will be imperceptibly growing and developing until at puberty they flower into full consciousness.

And here a narrow and constricted view of sex blinds us perhaps more than at any other time to the significance of what is happening. For the development of the actual physical organ of sex is a small part of the great event. It is really only a sign and a symbol that his mind and spirit are aware of themselves, of the life around him, his imagination stirs and his sense of holiness. He is ready for art and religion and science, not as means to assert himself by passing examinations, but to learn more of this world that has opened to his view. And now, just as the umbilical cord has been cut between mother and son, just as she has weaned him from her breast, so now will she wean him from her mind. She will encourage him to have his own ideas, to find his own friends, to read what books he chooses, to study what appeals to his own interest. The more vivid and alert her own mind and interests are, the more likely are his to be vivid and alert. She will not laugh at his adorations and enthusiasms, she will miss no chance of sharing his laughter at the comic side of things which adolescence finds it difficult to appreciate alone.

She is helping the bird to leave the nest. There is an element of sadness in all change, but keep the nest sweet and vital, and the boy or girl will always be anxious to return. We have but one mother. The more gaily free the young one feels himself

to be, the more he will be able to appreciate the care of his nurture. The law of friendship is, according to Bacon and to Shelley, that joys shared are doubled, griefs shared are halved. You are losing a child, but gaining a friend, for his sake, as well as your own, help him to be independent of you.

Knowledge and Experience

Up to now I have been, you will have observed, giving a view of sex in its full pervasive sense, as we now *know* it to be, but as few of us have *lived* it. We are rather in the position of the boy at puberty—he knows from his mother a great deal, and he feels in his bones that what she has told him is true. Now he has to live it. Our knowledge is ever in advance of our experience, and far in advance of our customs. The law must always voice the lowest common measure of the community's consciousness. It cannot recognize fine shades and distinctions, it must generalize. That is why customs always seem archaic and false, and it is easy to forget their necessity.

Our youth has not been trained up for ease and comfort and success, as the word is generally used. The world is not made to fit him, he will have to fashion his own life, with all the conditions of life dead against him. But he will have a guide within his own heart, he will have the friendship of his mother, and the support of Nature, the great mother of us all. All that is living in art and life will be on his side, and slowly within him a great purpose will be formed—his work.

He will try many experiments with work and in love—he will know more anger and frustration from these experiments and these kisses than delight and confidence. But in all this ambush of young days the power of working and the power of loving will strengthen and become clearer to his vision. Radiant happiness will alternate with black despair, the awful callous cruelty of the world will sicken him, its shining beauty will uplift him, he will be treading the difficult path of manhood.

Sex Perversions

I do not propose to examine the manifold irregularities of sex, due for the most part to stoppages of the sexual instinct in infancy. The commonest *perversions* are to be seen in crossness and ill-tempered gossip, equally observable in members of both sexes, combined with a tendency to gloat in virtuous horror over the misconduct of other persons, this perversion is catered to by the Press in the reports of divorce proceedings, and by societies for the suppression of vice and other well-meaning organizations.

There is much talk nowadays of *sublimation*, by which is meant that one form of energy is raised and expressed in a different manner. But it is well to remember that this acts both ways. It depends very much what is sublimated. It is possible and all too common to see greed and licentiousness sublimated from its physical sphere, where it does comparatively little damage, to the sphere of politics and business, where the mischief done to the community is incalculable. The worst lust is sublimated to the most rigid and cruel virtue, that spreads round it the cold taint of punishment and repression.

But the saddest and commonest perversion is due to the cleavage, begun in infancy, between sex and affection. This brings it about, by the sinister action of shame, that sex is connected in the boy's mind with what is disreputable and is separated from its essence, which is imagination and the sense of holiness. It acts as a persistent irritant upon the sex organ, which soon becomes a thing of shame. This is even more detrimental to the boy than it is to the girl, because she is one step nearer to Nature, but to both boy and girl it is sadly detrimental. It turns the love of the young man into licentiousness, and the girl into a slave. The young man has a "good time" with girls he does not respect—then perhaps decides to settle down with a wife with whom he soon becomes bored to extinction, for he has probably acquired very strict ideas of how a man should behave to a decent woman, which securely lock the heart of any decent woman against him.

This split between sex and affection leads to the buying of women as prostitutes or wives, to untold hopeless misery, and the sorrow and disappointment of men and women who have never known the joy that lies within them, except as a dream and an illusion.

Other less common perversions, such as homosexuality, masochism, sadism and the various fetichisms and aberrations are far less obnoxious than these commoner perversions which I have mentioned. At worst, they are but the sounding of *one* note in the great orchestra, to the exclusion of others. It is well to remember that they are *latent* in all of us, and are usually due to a persistence of an infantile tendency caused by repression.

The man of science would not dream of defying the laws of nature. He gets his results by discovering the laws of nature and obeying them. He knocks and it is opened unto him, and the most surprising scientific invention of our time—whatever it be among so many—is merely nature doing for man what she would always have done if man had known how to ask.—W HASLAM MILLS

*The Right Kind of Babies

By ARNOLD BENNETT

SEEING that grave misconceptions about birth-control still exist in the minds of many people, I will state a few general propositions about the matter

Birth-control is regularly, almost universally, practised by all the educated classes of this and other countries. Only the lower classes do not practise it, and the reason why they do not practise it is ignorance.

Birth-control is strongly supported by the leading medical authorities and the leading sociologists.

The last thing desired by the advocates of birth-control is the distribution of indecent pamphlets likely to appeal to a prurient mind. Birth-control can be, and is, adequately explained in perfectly decent and sober phraseology.

Advocates of birth-control most assuredly do not desire the extinction of the race nor the lowering of the physical standard of the race. And they do not desire to pander to the shirking of parenthood by healthy and well-to-do parents. On the contrary their main desire is to improve the race.

But they insist on the absurdity of a high birth-rate if a high birth-rate means a high infant mortality-rate. And they point out that in some parts of Britain, owing to the absence of birth-control, one baby out of ever four dies in infancy.

Thus tens of thousands of mothers undergo the tremendous ordeal of motherhood, and parents suffer the anguish of bereavement and the burdensome cost of births and funerals, and whole families are rendered miserable and penurious—with no resulting good whatever and a vast deal of resulting harm.

The advocates of birth-control see a national danger, an unmistakable tendency towards national decline, in the uncontrolled, wholesale, and animal-like breeding which at present goes on in the poorest and the least healthy classes.

Their efforts at reform are specially directed to the education of these classes in a matter of the highest importance for the welfare of the nation.

The advocates of birth-control do not want empty cradles. On the other hand they do not want cradles full of puny and useless infants whom their parents have not the means to nourish and bring up properly, and whose mere coming into the world involves deprivation, loss of health, misery, and even tragedy for the households in which they appear.

The advocates of birth-control have no fear that married couples will lose the habit of having children. They know that nature is unconquerable and does not change.

*Reprinted from *John Bull* London

Press Clippings

J Maynard Keynes

Is not a country over-populated when its standards are lower than they would be if its numbers were less? In that case the question of what numbers are desirable arises long before starvation sets in, and even before the level of life begins to fall. Perhaps we have already sacrificed too much to population. For is not the improvement in the average conditions of life during the past century very small in comparison with the extraordinary material progress of that period? Does it not seem that the greater part of man's achievements are already swallowed up in the support of mere numbers? —J M Keynes in *The Nation and the Athenaeum*, London

Mr. Dooley

I TOOK th' statistics to Father Kelley. He's an on-prejudiced man, an' if th' race was dyin' out he wud have had a soundin'-boord in his pulpit long ago so that whin he mintoned th' wurrud 'Hell,' ivry wan in the congregation wud have thought he meant him or her.

"'I think,' says Father Kelley, 'that Dock Grogan is a little wrong in his figures. He's boastin'. In this parrish I allow twelve births to wan marredge. It varries, iv coorse, bein' sometimes as low as nine, an' sometimes as high as fifteen. But twelve is about th' av'rage,' he says. 'Th' race ain't dyin' out very bad in this here part iv th' wurruld. On th' conth'ry it ain't liable to, ayether,' he says, 'onless wages is raised,' he says.

"'Th' poore ar-re becomin' richer in childer, an' th' rich poorer,' he says. "'Tis always th' way,' he says. "The bigger th' house th' smaller th' family. 'Tis a way Nature has iv gettin' even with th' rich an' pow'rful. Wan part iv town has nawthin' but money, an' another nawthin' but childer.

"'A man with tin dollars a week will have tin childer, a man with wan hundherd dollars will have five, an' a man with wan millyon will have a private golf course.

"'Nature,' he says, 'is a wild dimmycrat,' he says.

"'I guess he's right. I'm goin' to ask ivrybody to come out some afternoon an' show thum th' way th' r-race is dyin' out. Th' houses is full iv childer, they block th' tram-cars, they're shyin' bricks at th' polis, pullin' up coal-hole covers, playin' ring-around-th'-rosy, makin' paper dolls, goin' to Sundah-school, an' indulgin' in other spoorts iv childhood."

"Ye ought to be ashamed to talk about such subjicks, ye ol' batch," said Mr. Hennessy. "It's a seeryous question."

"How many childer have ye?" asked Mr. Dooley.

"Lave me see," said Mr. Hennessy. "Wan, two, four, five, eight, siven, eight, tin—no, that's not right. Lave me see. Ah, yes, I forgot Terence. We have fourteen."

"If th' race iv' Hinmissys dies out," said Mr. Dooley, "'twill be fr'm overcrowdin'."

"THE MOTHERS, YE ARE ALL ONE"

Letters showing that a college education does not ensure free motherhood

Nine times out of ten, the letters which come to us are from poor and ignorant mothers—mothers who feel their poverty and their ignorance most keenly when it is a question of saving their children from misery. But there are also letters which show that material comfort and educational advantages do not avail unless the knowledge to control motherhood is also accessible. Without this knowledge, even the college-bred woman is just as much a slave as her poor illiterate sister. She may have within her the potentialities of genius. She may have been dowered by nature with the finest gifts. But all these must be dormant if she is the victim of undesired, uncontrolled motherhood. We give here a few letters from women who are neither poor nor ignorant, and who are yet in bondage, because they have not learned the truth that makes them free.

"She is so Young"

Washington, D C

I have a little daughter, nineteen years of age, who was to have been married in six months to a young naval officer. A transfer to another ship will send him to the Orient at once, and both young people have insisted on an immediate marriage so that my child may join her husband as soon as he arrives at his post after their honeymoon. My own married experience has been too horrible to put into words, and I am appalled at the thought of what may befall my little girl in some far-away place where I cannot reach her. She wants a little family, but would like to avoid it until these two years in the Orient are over and she is nearer home again.

Can you and will you tell me how to help her? She is so young and in love, and frightened all at the same time.

Too Great a Risk

Iowa

You may find it difficult to believe that a college-trained, comfortably-situated couple, such as we, have been unable to obtain any reliable information whatever, but that is the case. The physician who attended me at the birth of my little daughter warned me that my hope of surviving a second child-birth was one in a thousand—but he gave me no knowledge of prevention. My husband, although willing and eager to protect me, is as ignorant as I. Thus the happiness of an ideally happy marriage and motherhood, is constantly clouded. It is not a case of unwanted babies. Even now we are planning to adopt a little girl, but does it not seem that I should be permitted to avoid that thousandth chance, when there are women who can have babies safely? Is not my matured life of greater value to society than a broken home and two motherless children? It would seem so, and yet you, Mrs Sanger, are the first to encourage me in that belief. The pressure of custom and tradition combined has made me feel a coward, criminal and traitor, and yet stronger

than this pressure is my determination to remain with the baby for whom I paid so high a price.

Is there a solution for me and my husband—the soul of kindness and consideration, but bound by ignorance? He, as well as I will deeply appreciate anything you are able to do for us.

Conflicting Duties

New England

I am the minister's wife of the College Community Church in X and my social position demands much time. Whereas I have two babies—a little girl about two and a boy six months—I feel almost distracted when I find that I am five days overdue. Not only do I feel unable physically to go through motherhood again so soon, but mentally my troubles will be very hard to bear, as I feel that I can neither do justice to my children, my husband, or society, in having another child so soon. Is total abstinence good for either man or woman? Will you give me some safe method of preventing conception, that we might adopt in the future? Is it feasible to have some slight operation which I understand does not unsex a woman, but does prevent conception? Is this correct, and is such an operation physically harmless? I shall welcome most heartily any information you can give on Birth Control, as I cannot physically have any more.

Helpful, but not Enough

Missouri

I am a college graduate who staunchly believes in Birth Control. I have finished my college training since the war, and I know that sex problems are being discussed by the intelligent group as never before. I have had such courses as biology, physiology, genetics, eugenics, sociology, social hygiene and sanitation. Then, too, during the year Government doctors visited our college, and gave lectures to men and women in mixed groups and alone. They would also talk informally to groups of girls and answer all questions. These informal talks

sometimes became very personal, showing the girls were hungry for wholesome sex knowledge of which they had been kept in ignorance

One doctor, I remember especially, talked on the beauties of marriage where Birth Control was practised intelligently. He told it in such a frank, beautiful way that from that time, I saw sex life in a wholly different light than ever before. And I can only see the injustice of laws that prevent such valuable knowledge from being disseminated in this our so-called enlightened country.

I have been married a short time. My husband and I want as many children as we can care for properly, and not impair my health. But we do want to plan for the coming of these children, and for this reason I appeal to you to tell me what the dependable methods are.

If college women, who have studied and read widely on such matters, cannot secure information, what can the life of the ignorant woman be? I wish you success in the good work you are doing and hope that you will find hearty support from women of all ranks.

A Parsonage Home

Pennsylvania

The home in which I am the father and husband is a parsonage home. We have three children, 7 months, 4 years and 6 years. My wife and I are 33 years of age. We are convinced that we have all the children we are able to give anything like a fair chance in life. My wife is extremely susceptible to pregnancy, and our life is marred by fear and harmful denials all through our physical relations. If you have knowledge of absolutely dependable contraceptives, you could restore the joy of the "love life" in our home by making it available for our use. This letter is a frank request for such knowledge.

Debts to be Repaid

Iowa

In a few months I will be married, and as both my husband and myself have borrowed money in order to obtain our college education, it will be necessary for me to work for a few years.

When we are financially able we want to have our little family, but we both think it would be a crime to bring them into the world when we would be unable to care for them properly. That is why I am writing you for advice now. We wish to know some way of preventing conception, a way that is safe not only as far as we are concerned, but also for the babies we wish to have when we are able to take care of them in a proper manner.

Early Marriage and Birth Control

Illinois

Some time ago it was my pleasure to listen to one of your lectures delivered on the subject of Birth Control,

and I wish to express my sentiments as entirely sympathetic with your thoughts on the subject. It is my belief, and I am sure that it is yours, that the education of young people relative to Birth Control would serve very largely as a factor for the promotion of a higher degree of morality rather than act detrimentally.

I am a young man, aged twenty-four, a University graduate of the class of 1922. I am engaged to be married, but in no position to assume the added financial responsibilities of the support of children, and will not, in all possibility, be so situated for several years. My feeling is that my case is typical of thousands of others who could and would marry providing an intelligent means of prevention were known.

A Well-based Opinion

Tennessee

I have recently read your book "Woman and the New Race" and while I claim no originality, you aptly express views which I have entertained for many years. I have practiced law since 1890 and not infrequently have handled divorce cases. Confessions to confidential counsel, as well as to physicians and priests, are often startling. Certainly the dissemination of the information to which you refer, would do much to check the divorce evil. The real cause for divorce is seldom made public. The real grounds are often veiled. Lawyers, as well as doctors, could disclose much, were they permitted to tell.

While you say in your book, and you are probably correct, that the more intelligent classes are informed, and the evil results in a large measure are found among the ignorant lower classes, that is not altogether true. Many of the intelligent middle classes, while using some methods, do not, for lack of knowledge, apply the best methods, and evil results follow. Again, among the classes referred to so-called conscientious scruples, predicated upon false teachings and false religious ideas, prevail more largely than in other classes, and they refrain from following intelligent lines of action, with evil results.

I would like very much to get further information on your line of work. I often come into contact with specific cases, and know what the difficulties are. To apply the remedies is a problem.

Conservatism has ever been a bar to progress. Laws are continued in force because they are old, dogmas and beliefs are true, in the minds of some people, because they have always been believed. While the laity usually charge the legal profession with all of their ills, the charges are unfounded. Legislative bodies are not usually controlled by lawyers, but reform movements are generally advocated by members of the profession, and not infrequently they resort to technicality to get around objectionable rules. In the matters which you assail, the trouble lies largely with the clergy and with the fanatical, overzealous moralist. The people have been educated along false lines and upon a false basis.

Social Control and Birth Control

By H A MILLER

Professor of Sociology, Oberlin College

POPULATION is a social problem. The propagation of population is an individual matter. The birth rate is an incident of sex satisfaction and family purpose. The sex urge is indeterminate and always in unstable equilibrium. It seems to be the first task of every social group to establish a control over sex. In primitive tribal life this control is often exceedingly strong. Religion, law and public opinion are always used in the effort to maintain a control over sex, and yet it is always bursting even these bonds, so there is unusual alertness on the part of each of these agencies to prevent any flouting of their power or lowering of their prestige.

After painful struggle, the monogamous family has been established as a standard goal, and while it has been difficult to maintain its integrity there has been no yielding in the effort to strengthen it. It is on guard against the spread of divorce, free love, birth control and even the discussion of sex matters. The tabu has only been in part broken up by the seriousness of the disease problem arising from sex promiscuity.

The result is that any threat to the slowly accumulated control over the troublesome tendency of sex is met with the utmost resistance. To the average representative of religion, law, or the public, Birth Control means some variation in the matter of sex from the accepted system.

As a matter of fact, social control has effectively asserted itself in the matter of the birth-rate. The age of marriage, the selection of mates within social limits, monogamy and civil marriage have set definite limits to the birth-rate. There would be no change in principle if the control were extended further.

The Demand for Population

On the other hand there is the constant demand for more population from the group at large. This has no relation to the satisfaction which parents may have in the children in the family. The first source of demand is for numbers to be used for defense and offense. Numbers have protective value. Secondly, there is the economic advantage of numbers to exploiters, both in the form of labor and in unearned increment to land. Megalomania, which is in every-one, aids boosters' clubs in their efforts to increase the numbers in the community, and, while the effort is chiefly directed to attracting

population from other communities, it is fairly obvious that the ultimate source of population must come from births, and this acts as a contradiction to the claims of over-population. A third urge to population which bears directly on the birth-rate is from religious or culture groups, which seek to increase themselves, because of their confidence in their superior values, and who want more souls in the battle for righteousness and enlightenment.

The sex and parental urges on the one side, and the call for population on the other have been rationalized and formulated into mores, so that it is almost impossible to look at the problem of population without a complexity of bias.

While the present open objectors to Birth Control are dominated by the religious approach to the matter, the rest are influenced by both fear of what may happen if there is any tampering with the sex control, and a desire that their own numbers may be increased.

The conservatism with regard to this matter is of the same type as prevails in other matters, except that it is more deep-seated. Such change as has taken place in its control has been largely unconscious. The rise in the standard of living, with its postponement of marriage, and the additional deliberate limitation of the number of children, has been unpremeditated in its effects on population.

New Adjustment Necessary

Birth Control, as it is proposed by this conference, calls for a completely new adjustment, and must run counter to the bias of very different groups. These may be classified as those which have a religious interest, those which are fearful of some loss in sex control, those who wish a large family to take care of them in their old age, and those who want larger numbers for war purposes. This last group has probably greatly diminished.

The first two have been greatly affected, in spite of their active opposition to Birth Control, by the limitation of numbers by their own adherents whose rising standard of living has made them practice what they have professed to disapprove. The groups that want large families and those that simply accept them are harder to influence.

It has been the custom of people to consider this whole matter as a personal question, and the permeation of the public with the social point of view on a matter which has seemed to be so intimate,

even though it has always had its social aspects and social control, is only to be secured slowly. It is true that as a personal matter many women wish restriction, but it has hardly become a generally accepted idea in the circles in which they live.

We must consider society not as a unit, but as an aggregation of various groups whose controls are quite divergent from one another. Already we have satisfactory restriction of births in some groups and altogether too much in others, and there are some signs of the growth of eugenic responsibility in the increasing size of families in still other groups. What this conference is interested in are those groups which, through ignorance or social or religious pressure, have relatively unlimited families. We generally class these as being either the lowest economic and intellectual classes, or immigrants whose standards of living are low.

Difficulties of Application

There are two difficulties involved in the application of Birth Control to these groups. One is the objection which is raised to a consideration of the desirability and possibility of control.

The reason for this situation is similar to that of all cultural lags. Attitudes and mores persist after external conditions have rendered them obsolete. Through the ages the death-rate has been so high that too many children were never born to more than maintain equilibrium, but medicine and sanitation, together with economic surplus, have multiplied the population with a decreasing ratio of births. We have here a contrast between a mechanical influence on population and a conscious influence. The death rate can be reduced without the necessity of its being known by those who are kept alive. A few years ago I was having lunch with a Lithuanian undertaker and a priest in an Illinois mining town, and to make conversation I asked the undertaker how his business was. He immediately straightened up and with much interest said that it had greatly fallen off. I asked what had happened, supposing that a new water system had been introduced, and he said that it was because there was a new law requiring the undertaker to have a death certificate from a physician or call the coroner, and the coroner, if there had been no reason why a doctor had not been called, was entitled to a fee of twenty-five dollars. It had only taken a few cases for the news to spread, and people, who had no traditions of dealing with physicians, called the doctors to save the coroner's fee, and thereby unintentionally cut out the undertaker's bill, and, as the priest ruefully added, his fee also. The undertaker went on to say that, because it was difficult to collect doctor's fees, the practice among these people was mostly in the hands of young medical gradu-

ates, and they had better results with the babies than the older men. Now a new social situation was created by the keeping alive of a lot of children who would normally have died, and there has not been adaptation of social control to meet it. The great medical school and hospital established by the Rockefeller Foundation in China will inevitably have the same effect in China, and the population will get entirely away from old systems of life, and there will be inevitable tendency to disorganization.

There is no way to meet this change, brought about by what may be called the mechanical effect of medicine, except by a proper attitude towards the problem of present society, instead of the inherited attitude towards a past condition.

Birth Control Self-Determined

But herein lies the second difficulty. If population is to be restricted, is it to be dictated or self-determined? I think we all agree that in general it must be self-determined. There are at present elements of the population which can be restricted from above without much objection. The segregation of feeble-minded arouses little opposition, but when we get above this line, there is a difference of opinion, and while it is probable that the quality of population will eventually be selected pretty rigidly, most people will question the ultimateness of the methods and standards that are now in use. There are multitudes of pseudo-scientists who will glibly tell who should be born and who not. They may measure by economic position or by army tests. They may simply have the Nordic complex. We must look upon all such processes of classification as promising rather than final, and be chary about advocating present Birth Control more than tentatively on the basis of data offered by these fields of science.

Except gradually, very gradually, Birth Control must be self-determined, but self-determination is primarily subject to social control.

The real job is to get society to want what it ought to want. The story is attributed to John Dewey that one thawing winter day he was seen by a neighbor standing restlessly on the sidewalk while his son was getting cold and wet playing in the slush. Dewey said "I am trying to think of some way to make that boy want to come out of the gutter." Our problem is a similar one. We have to enable individuals to become conscious of what has happened to society, and to make society see that conscious evolution is much less expensive than natural evolution, and that, while we do not yet know much, we do know that the goal of conscious selection is a desirable one. These ideas can become controlling ideas by the activity of discussion such as we are having at this conference.

What are Babies for?

By MAUDE ROYDEN

Maude Royden, the most famous woman preacher in the world, gave convincing reasons for Birth Control in an article contributed to *John Bull* in December. She sums up her reasoning on the subject in the following paragraph

"It seems as though it was really a better policy from every point of view—that of the mothers, that of the children, and that of the race itself—that women should not be exhausted by overmuch child-bearing, and that they should be able to use the energy which otherwise they would have lost, in giving to the children they bring into the world a happier, more prosperous, and more peaceful home, and devoting their energies also to altering the conditions of the country in which they live in such a way as to give to all its children a better chance than at present they possess"

War, unemployment, the housing question and the health of the nation all have their part in Miss Royden's reasoning "If the birth-rate is too high," she writes

"We are reminded that no cause of war is more fruitful than over-population. Again and again a nation has outgrown its boundaries and begun to behave like a burglar and a highway robber simply because it was too full of people, and its people had to get somewhere or get off. No one wants to get off, so the people in question moved out instead and naturally had to move out on top of somebody else. Hence 'the next war'."

"Just now the question of unemployment in Great Britain is gloomily referred to as insoluble because we have got too many people in the country. We are not able to produce enough to support our population. It is the fault of our deplorably high birth-rate."

Babies for the Army

"On the other hand, we are told—not alternately but actually at the same time—that the birth-rate is alarmingly low! Not enough babies are being born. No great nation can go on being great unless it produces enough babies—and especially enough boy babies—to have a big army."

"It needs quite a big margin of babies to make an army adequate for the demands of modern war. In fact the most prolific mothers in the world can hardly give us babies fast enough for our needs. How on earth are we going to fight the next war at all if we have not got a big surplus of boy babies growing up now to throw into the trenches?"

"It looks rather like a vicious circle, does it not?"

If we have too many children we are providing one of the most fruitful causes of war, so we must have a great many children in order to have enough soldiers to fight the war with when it comes. It does not sound quite sensible to me, and I think if we are to expect married women to bring a great many children into the world we had better try them with something that sounds a little more reasonable than that.

"It seems to women very difficult to prevent nations from going to war if they have the chance, in fact, hitherto no one has been able to do it at all. So they are rather inclined to decline the responsibility of bringing babies into the world merely in order to provide nations with an excuse and a possibility of going to war again."

Women Control the Birthrate

"On the other hand, they can and do control the birth-rate. I am not prepared here to discuss which methods of control—if any—are right, I merely wish to point out that in fact there are various methods of controlling the birth-rate, from abstinence to contraceptives and abortions, and that many women know of these methods, and many others know that they exist even if they do not yet know how to use them."

"The old idea that it was absolutely inevitable for a woman to have her babies just as fast as ever she could has disappeared for good and all. And women are increasingly able to control the birth of their children as they choose."

"What do they see? They see that parents who have only a few children are more easily able to find housing accommodation for them than those who have large families. In these days of 'housing problems' that is a very real consideration. They notice also that such small families are more possible to educate, that they have more space to grow up in, more peace of mind, stronger and less worried parents (especially mothers), and, in fact, a much better chance of growing up fit and healthy in mind and body than those who are born of parents who desire large families."

"They notice, too, that the death-rate is very apt to go up with the birth-rate, and that the death-rate and the damage-rate always go up together. In other words, mothers who hurt themselves by bearing children too fast, and bear them into a world which is very far from being ready for them, are apt to lose their children and to cripple those that survive."

"Does it seem irresponsible of women in these circumstances to prefer a low birth-rate to a high one? Even if they are not sufficiently well-educated to look

beyond their own country, or, indeed, their homes, they surely see enough to justify them in claiming that it is a sense of responsibility that is keeping the birth-rate down today

"But if they can look abroad and make the whole world their school, they will have even greater right to make this claim. They will find that in those countries where the birth-rate is highest the death-rate is almost invariably high also. They find that in India where the birth-rate is very high, the death-rate is simply appalling. They find that the same holds true of other Eastern and Southern countries where the status of woman is low, and where she is regarded as little more than a breeder of children

Low Birthrate and Healthy Babies

"They find, on the contrary, that in certain countries where the birth-rate is very low, the death-rate is so low that the number of children who grow up well and healthy exceeds those in countries where the contrary is true

"Nor is this a question of climate or of easy natural conditions. In New Zealand, for example—a new country with a splendid climate—the death-rate among children used to be as high as it was among ourselves. Now it is the lowest in the world, the women having set themselves quite deliberately to bring it down by every possible means—schools for mothers, clinics for children, better housing, better education, laws against the adulteration of food, and so on. Something of the same kind has happened in Australia, where the climate is by no means so favorable as in New Zealand. The women there, too, are setting themselves with all energy to save the lives of those children they have brought into the world

"In a word they are not going to bring upon themselves the blame of having over-populated a country until at last it was essential for it to go to war in order that it might kill off its superfluous population. They are going to bring into the world just as many babies as they think fit, and their idea of fitness will be governed by the readiness of the world to give those babies a decent chance."

With such object lessons before them of the evils of an unrestricted birth-rate and the advantage of smaller families, are the women to blame, asks Miss Royden, if they prefer Birth Control, to chance motherhood?

*Lord give to men who are older and rougher
The things that little children suffer,
And let keep bright and underfired
The young years of the little child*

—JOHN MASEFIELD

Ode to Woman

By LINN A E GALE

Dedicated to My Wife and to My Mother

Thru interminable centuries
They have trumpeted in our ears
And blazoned in our books
Economics on Men,
Panegyrics of the prowess
Of the "Male of the Species"

Let us hear for a while
Of another subject,
Of the Women of the Race

Men's comrades and companions,
Men's wives, mothers, sweethearts and sisters,
The Women, brave, gentle, self-obliterating,
Whose birth-pangs gave Men life,
Whose patient care rears Men,
Whose loving loyalty sustains Men,
Whose deep devotion inspires men,
Whose sunny smiles cheer Men

Oh, yes, Men have dug tunnels,
Built bridges, erected skyscrapers,
Created kingdoms, established empires,
Done deeds of valor and virtue,
But Men have also shed seas of blood
Deluged the Earth with tears,
Ordained oppressions and odious oligarchies,
Concocted cheap chicaneries,
Connived diabolical cruelties,
Set up slave-markets and sweatshops,
Squeezed profit from their brothers' toil,
Made machines of their brothers' bodies,
And forced them to auction their Souls

Man has his grandeur and his glory
And Man has his shame and sordidness

Woman has had little of pomp and power
Scant of crowns and celebrity,
But much of sacrifice and suffering,
Much drudgery and debasement

Grudgingly, angrily, surlily,
Man has agreed to give her
Equal pay for equal work,
Scoffingly, sneeringly, snarlingly,
He has conceded her
Equal participation
In making the laws
That both sexes must obey

After ages of injustice,
Serfdom and exploitation,
That which is Woman's by right
Becomes hers by statute

Birth Control by Radio

By I N THURMAN

BIRTH CONTROL is a big subject that lends itself to treatment from many angles. I shall be quite content, however, if, as a result of my first radio venture, my large, invisible audience gains this one thought, namely, that Birth Control is neither a fad nor a fancy, but a ripe, earnest, thoroughly balanced and nobly motivated movement for the betterment of mankind.

I know there are many who are not with us and that not a few are stubbornly against us. It is not that they worry us. Indeed, judging by the experience of every other forward movement, all this opposition constitutes a happy augury. Only the other day, Dr. Macleod, who with Dr. Banting discovered Insulin, medicine's greatest contribution to the cure of diabetes, said in his address before the scientists of the nation, who recently convened in Chicago: "Advancement in scientific knowledge is comparable with that of an army against a strongly entrenched and powerful enemy. The enemy is composed of the forces of ignorance, prejudice and superstition, and advances against it are slow and depend on the support and co-operation of the many units which make up the attacking army." We cannot, therefore, escape the onslaught of ignorance, prejudice and superstition. But there is one enemy who is exceedingly obnoxious and disconcerting. It is that combination of levity, frivolity and ignorance that makes people grin at us when they should knit their brow in solemn thought. You can strike your enemy when he scowls at you threateningly. You do not know what to do with him when he plays the jester or the fool.

Cast a glance at the problem of Birth Control and decide for yourself whether it is a funny or a serious problem. Here is a mother—*millions of mothers*—struggling with a hopeless array of little ones who have passed to the great beyond because of starvation and neglect? What of the many, many hours of suffering and torture they had to endure? What of the ghastly lines of age and weariness that crept into their mothers' faces? What mother that goes down to the shadow of the valley to bring her child into the world can bury it without leaving behind her own happiness in that little grave?

Or think of this! Think of the many cases that are infinitely worse than death—the thousands, the hundreds of thousands of children that are born or develop into hopeless cripples, the blind children, and above all the feeble-minded! I should not wish it on the worst enemy of Birth Control—the har-

rowing and unceasing curse of bringing up an idiot or an imbecile or still worse, a case of hypochondria or of dementia praecox. You think these cases are rare and exceptional. Tear off the mask of respectability from each and every one of us, tear down the doors of our family closets and see whether these cases are so rare and exceptional!

Birth Control says: You can never give the little ones a fair show, you can never give their mothers a square deal, you can never give society its due, unless you apply to the breeding of the human race the same principles of science and of common sense that you apply in the cultivation of plants and even in the rearing of animals. And these principles call for proper time, proper space, proper light, proper food, a proper chance for digestion and absorption.

It is strange—is it not—how elementary and self-evident it all seems when applied in other directions, and yet how incessantly we must pound away on these principles when it comes to Birth Control!

Take Immigration for example. We have put up the bars—why? Because we do not believe in letting in the immigrant any faster than we can absorb him, from the point of view of our comfort and happiness as well as his own. Why not apply the same principle to Nature's immigrants, the legion of the unborn, whose coming, if wisely and humanely controlled will be a blessing to ourselves as well as to them and whose ill-absorption, if literally dumped upon us, means want and sorrow to them and still harder sledding for their families in particular and the rest of the world in general?

Ah, but you must not interfere with the propagation of the species, proclaims our well-meaning adversary. As if morality itself did not do it by prohibiting procreation except in holy wedlock. As if every civilized nation on earth did not stress quality as against quantity—as witness China with her five hundred millions, mostly coolies, and India with her three hundred millions, mostly starving and diseased, as against the comparatively small populations of England and France—What people perform more faithfully and conscientiously their duty toward one another, the people who are breeding with the rapidity of microbes and germs, or the people among whom the coming of a child is a real event? Is it altogether without meaning that reproduction is most prolific among the most hopeless and depraved peoples?

(Continued on page 89)

Book Reviews

A Review by Margaret Sanger

Introducing Hugh de Selincourt

ONE LITTLE BOY, by Hugh de Selincourt New York Albert & Charles Boni

APPROPRIATELY Hugh de Selincourt dedicates this book to Havelock Ellis. In his ability to face facts of life that are as a rule sedulously avoided even by the most desperate of realists, by the very calmness and serenity of his courage to spiritualize phases of life that are dismissed by the all-too-prurient as "ugly" or "unpleasant," and to reveal the organic relationship of these facts to the very root and heart of life, Hugh de Selincourt must be acclaimed as the legitimate disciple of the most inspiring humanist of our times.

I do not mean to suggest that "One Little Boy" is any mere "case-history" of sexual aberration. On the contrary Hugh de Selincourt has achieved something which might baffle even more expert craftsmen of fiction. He wastes no time on non-essentials. He brings the young mother of his story face-to-face with the sexual awakening of her young son, a lad of eleven. He makes this attractive young Englishwoman, who has been left a widow with two children, awaken to the realization of her own inability to cope with these primal mysteries. Mrs. Hullertson found that a child's pursuit of truth is relentless. "To him there is no danger in knowledge you travel light at the age of eleven, speeded by natural modesty and unweighed by false shame."

"Mrs. Hullertson felt that Graham was somehow a challenge to the foundations on which the fabric of her life was built. Her wish to be his friend was too genuine to allow her to be satisfied in fobbing him off or damping him down with the commonplaces that slipped from her tongue. It was no good dismissing his questions as naughtiness; they were patently genuine yet she was unable to answer them." How Mrs. Hullertson appeals to the schoolmaster for help, the absolute failure of that worthy to meet a universal human problem, though one hundred and fifty growing boys had been entrusted to his guardianship, how Graham must perforce turn to other sources for answers and guidance, and the final solution, all make a significant and vivid tale. "One Little Boy" is a book for every parent, a book especially for every mother. Nothing published in recent years possesses to such a degree the power to awaken parents to the problems they must face in directing the deep-rooted impulses of their children into normal healthy channels.

"One Little Boy" is interwoven with irony and satire. But there is no stridency, no anger, in the pen of Hugh de Selincourt. Like his master Havelock Ellis, there is only gentleness, tenderness, understanding. This curious blend of qualities makes possible an even greater daring in frankness of expression than the ordinary, since the author

unites unusual power of expression with a fine delicacy of perception. He is never offensive nor shocking. When we finish reading "One Little Boy" we realize as never before that the sins of the fathers which are visited upon the children are too often psychic sins—the sins of prurency, hypocrisy, suppression and inhibition, diseases which may be more devastating to the younger generation than actual physical ailments. Unless we are honest, straightforward and frank ourselves, we cannot expect our children to be healthy.

Because Hugh de Selincourt has himself become a master of the difficult art of life, because he possesses calm courage and luminous vision, this theme becomes beautiful instead of bitter. One shudders to think what it might have become in the hands of a man who understood life less, even though he might be a greater craftsman in fiction than Mr. de Selincourt.

This book is infused with the life-giving beauty of a great spirit. Not without significance is the fact that he lives in a sixteenth-century house in Sussex once occupied by Shelley. Hugh de Selincourt possesses something of the flame-like purity of Shelley. And in another sense he is a descendant of William Blake, proclaiming with the poet:

"Thou art a man God is no more

Thy own Humanity lean to adore"

There is, moreover, something Greek in his outlook on life. But this classical aspect is never akin to the orchidaceous æstheticism of Pater. For devout as he is in his worship of beauty, Hugh de Selincourt has reached the profounder conviction that there can be no true beauty in humanity without health. Perhaps it is this realization that has led him to desert the hectic bustle of London life, to flee far from the literary market place, to cultivate his garden in the "green and pleasant" land of Sussex, or to play cricket on the village green of Pulborough. Unlike Mr. Shaw, he has not beaten the drum before his own show booth. And so, even in England, where some ten or twelve of his books have already been published, Hugh de Selincourt remains comparatively unknown. But, as in the case of W. H. Hudson, his reputation is bound to attract more and more attention among those who are interested in the everpresent and profoundly simple truths of human life.

I can think of no more praiseworthy inauguration of a young and ambitious publishing house in this country than the introduction to American readers of the best novel yet written by so fine a spirit as Hugh de Selincourt. For he is so much more than merely a novelist engaged in telling an entertaining story. He should become one of the guiding spirits of our young century. No one more penetratingly or more eloquently has expressed for us the eternal beautiful unity of body and spirit, no one has more reverently, and yet without the faintest trace of sentimentality, depicted the sacred relationship that exists

between mother and child. For this reason, for exhibiting the courage and daring to present this book "One Little Boy" to American readers, I must express my unqualified gratitude to Messrs Albert and Charles Boni.*

A Review by Howard Nelson Rubnen
(Member International Council for the
Education of Exceptional Children)

"ONE LITTLE BOY", by Hugh de Selincourt
Albert & Charles Boni 1924

THERE have been two methods of writing about a child. The one method has been to tell nothing at all about the sexual life of the child, the author would dwell entirely upon his character's life at school, his friendships, difficulties, embarrassments and little achievements. Booth Tarkington and Owen Johnson have succeeded by this method in producing interesting stories which are, however, utterly unconvincing because they ignore so much of a real child's life. On the other hand, "A Young Girl's Diary," James Joyce's "Portrait of the Artist," and the books of May Sinclair lack the interest of a novel because their preoccupation with the child's thoughts has kept them from a sustained and interesting plot.

Hugh de Selincourt, in "One Little Boy," has written about a little boy who has been publicly flogged and humiliated by his school teacher because he had been discovered in what his master called, "a gross indecency." Broken hearted, the boy turns to his mother for sympathy and affection, only to be rebuffed, his mother had been convinced by the school teacher that the only way to prevent indiscretions in the young was by a discipline so severe that the fear of punishment would effectively restrain them. The little boy is so disheartened at the lack of sympathy and understanding which he receives from his preceptors that he becomes dejected and morose. A young girl saves the situation by showing the lad a deep sympathy and devotion, and becomes an inspiration and ideal to him.

The author is a profound student of child psychology and a singularly adroit writer. He has handled an embarrassing situation with great tact and delicacy. An example of his poetic conception is to be found where the young girl tells the lad that, "If you finger a rosebud it never becomes a rose," and its contrast where the school teacher means to convey the same idea but succeeds only in saying, "I will not have filthiness in my school. I will not have dirtiness and obscenity. Evil shall not be allowed to creep into our midst unobserved and unchallenged." Throughout the novel the author has succeeded in keeping up the difficult impression of a light, sweet, beautiful story, although it is really much more. It is a searching study of the effect of fear and the feeling of guilt upon a child—and the subsequent salvation of that child through love and confidence. It shows the futility of attempting to restrain a child by the same means used to restrain adults.

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—fear of punishment and consciousness of guilt. A child's nature is so sensitive and impressionable that a great fear or a threat will not only be ineffective, but will be actually detrimental to his whole spiritual development.

The book should be a great help and inspiration to mothers, for every mother is troubled by the problem of her child's conduct, and too many mothers are like this boy's mother—devoted and affectionate, solicitous to a fault, but lacking sufficient determination and strength of character to impose her authority upon her child. So much has been written about the care of children, but how little is really effective can be judged by the constant embarrassments and clashes between mother and child. However, the book is not to be considered for an instant as a psychological thesis, but as a beautiful and charming picture of a crucial period in a child's career.

PERIODICALS

Mother and Child, the official organ of the American Child Health Association, with the January number changed its name and appearance. It comes out as a larger magazine under the title of *Child Health Magazine*. The initial number contains an interesting account by Dr. Vivian B. Appleton of the work that is being done to check the high rate of infant mortality in China. We are in thorough sympathy with every effort to diminish childhood death and suffering, but we strongly feel that it is highly dangerous to add to the overcrowding in China which must be the consequence of such work, when unaccompanied by Birth Control.

Another article in the same issue concerns the lowering of infant mortality rates in the United States. In this we are informed that out of "every hundred babies that die before their first birthday, forty-seven, or almost a half, died because they were malformed, or born prematurely, or injured at birth, or were born inadequately equipped to adjust themselves to the demands that life put upon them." In other words almost half the babies that died, died because of conditions which indicated a need for contraception—for delay of pregnancy until these conditions had been corrected. It is clear that there is a limit to the work that can be done in saving babies when this work is not reinforced by scientific instruction of the mothers in Birth Control.

The Scientific Monthly, for February, in the section on "The Progress of Science" conducted by Dr. Edwin E. Slossom, carried a note on "How Women Control the Future." One half of the inheritance of each child born into the world comes from the mother. Of the formative influence in the early years, which are all important in the making of men and women, Dr. Slossom attributes some 60 to 70 per cent to women as mothers and teachers. What folly it is to think we can have a great and free race so long as the mothers who have the predominant influence over the coming generation, are enslaved to unwilling maternity!

Dr. Donald R. Hooker, in *Social Hygiene*, for January,

surveys the field that should be covered in the work of Social Hygiene. He finds that Birth Control is included in this field, and alludes to one aspect of the subject that is often overlooked. "We are all pleased to believe," he writes, "that we are the result of voluntary parenthood, that our coming into the world brought joy and not trouble to our parents. What of those not so fortunate, who dragged down their mother's health, or who voluntarily placed an economic handicap on the whole family?"

The New Generation (London), for January, gives an interesting account of a lecture to miners and miners' wives in South Wales by Miss F. W. Stella Browne. Her description of unemployment and bad housing conditions brings vividly home the great problem that Britain is facing, with an ever increasing population and no work for the boys and girls who are old enough to enter the ranks of wage-earners.

BIRTH CONTROL BY RADIO

(Continued from page 86)

Why are we so slow to consolidate our gains (to use a military expression) and march on to further conquest? We have come to know the value of education, and particularly the education of the young. We have adopted the term kindergarten, a garden of children, denoting cultivation even as flowers are cultivated. Why not take the next step, which is really the first step, logically speaking? Why not Birth Control? Why struggle with the problem of turning our jungle into a garden, with the children already crowding into it, instead of seeing that they wait outside, in line, so to speak, until the ground is adequately cleared and the garden made ready for their proper reception. The lowliest farmer will not think of sowing his acreage until he has first arranged it with scrupulous care. The most amateurish gardener will carefully space his plantings so that each plant might have proper space and light and sustenance, why should MAN, the most wonderful of all the products of Nature, be shoved higgledy-piggledy into the world, without thought, without care, hit or miss, catch as catch can? Why should human birth be treated so lightly that to its blind and inordinate multiplication has been attributed almost every evil we know of from poverty to war and from pestilence to murder?

Just a word on what Birth Control is NOT, and I am through. Birth Control is as little synonymous with Abortion—as it is with infanticide. We have a horror of killing, once life makes its appearance, whether in the foetus or in the full-grown child. Conception marks the impassable boundary of Birth Control. There alone lies the initial and final responsibility for birth, so far as we are concerned. After that the deed is done and cannot be

undone without the earmarks of destruction. Birth Control means just Birth Control—not violence but control—not the knife but the intelligence—not the destroyer of life but its guardian, its champion, its friend. Here's to life thrice-sacred! May it hereafter be ushered in thoughtfully and reverently!

LATE NEWS

On February 18, a crowded mass meeting was held at Schenectady, under the auspices of the Schenectady Birth Control Committee. The meeting place was the Albany Theater which has a seating capacity of 1300. At half-past seven the theater was filled and the doors were closed to prevent overcrowding, and the police had to turn away over 1000 persons. The speakers were Dr. Benjamin Tilton, Rev. W. H. Garth and Margaret Sanger. Dr. Tilton made a fine impression by his dignified and serious presentation of the subject, backed by great scientific knowledge and long experience. Rev. W. H. Garth spoke on moral aspects and demolished the hypocritical objections which are so apt to cloud the minds of people. His speech met with an enthusiastic response from the audience. Mrs. Sanger, who received a cordial welcome, took as her subject, "The Need of Birth Control in America."

The great success of this meeting is largely due to the energy and devotion of the Schenectady Birth Control Committee, which ever since its formation has worked with greatest harmony with the American Birth Control League and most effective zeal in its own territory. Previous to the meeting of February 18, it had promoted a meeting which was addressed by Professor E. A. Ross. The publicity for the Albany Theater meeting, which included electric announcements and advance screen notices was managed by Mr. Victor Starzenski. Rev. Ernest Caldecott, who is a member of the Committee, showed his earnestness by aiding in taking up the collection, after the address.

Another event of Monday, February 18, was a luncheon tendered to Mrs. Sanger by the Federated Woman's Clubs of Albany Co. Mrs. Edward P. Pressey, the President of the Federation, which includes 5,000 members, took the chair, and Mrs. Sanger's address was received with great cordiality, and a resolution was passed endorsing the amendment of the N. Y. State law, and also the work of the American Birth Control League.

On February 19, Mrs. Sanger, Dr. Bocker and Rev. Wm. H. Garth appeared before The Codes Committee of the New York Legislature at Albany with a request that the Committee itself introduce the Birth Control amendment. The request was

rejected, it being stated that one of the senators had under consideration the introduction of such a bill

A Startling Occurrence

Plans were well advanced for a State Birth Control Conference to be held at Syracuse on February 28 and 29, when the astounding news arrived that the Common Council was determined to suppress entirely any attempt to discuss the question in their city. On February 19, by unanimous vote the Common Council adopted an ordinance which would make "any person or persons who shall congregate for the purpose of disseminating information about the subject of Birth Control," guilty of a misdemeanor. At the time of going to press the Mayor had not signed this remarkable and un-American ordinance. The Birth Control League was, however, taking immediate and energetic steps to safeguard the constitutional rights which the Council desired so wantonly to trample under foot.

Fortunately Syracuse has two excellent committees which came at once to the rescue. One is the Birth Control Committee of Syracuse, whose members are—Mrs Lieber Whittic, Mrs O Howard Cobb, Mrs Charles Andrews, Mrs Gilbert Durston, Mrs D D Warne, Mrs E D Frank, Z Fag Fowler, H S Richardson, Mrs J M Ross, Mrs James N Dietz, Mrs William H Haun, Mrs H C Sprague, Mrs J L Besanson, Mrs A E Larkin, Mrs Martin Knapp, Mrs F S Housinger, Mrs Horace Eaton, Mrs A Z Prescott, Mrs Harold MacGrath, Mrs H C Sprague, Mrs H M Greenland, Miss Louise Hawkesworth, Mrs E S Van Duyn, Mrs Canough, Mrs W W Knapp, Mrs Carl T Hawley, Mrs Garth W Cate, Miss K Butcher, Mrs Burton Michael, Mrs Uttford Badgers, Mrs Grace Ross, Mrs Bert Williams, Miss Louise Brandt, Miss Anna W Morrison and Mrs John Tallman.

The second Committee is the Citizens Committee, which was formed for the special work of carrying through the Conference. Some additional members are—Rabbi J Bienenfeld, Mr and Mrs Almus Oliver, Mrs Marshall Durstan, Mr and Mrs Caleb Candee Brown, Mr Charles Andrews, Rev and Mrs A P Van Dusen, Rev J H Applebee, Mr Harold MacGrath, Dr and Mrs Cornell N Smith, Dr and Mrs Noble R Chambers, Rabbi Benjamin Friedman, Mr Aaron T Levy, Mr and Mrs B N Bump, Rev R J Bruce, Professor and Mrs George Wheeler, Mr H C Sprague, Miss S Louise Brandt, Dr Horace Eaton, Rev and Mrs W T Clemens, Professor and Mrs William S Knickerbocker, Dr and Mrs Mark A May, Dean

and Mrs William F Bray, Mr Martin H Knapp, Professor Carl T Hawley, Mrs F R Hazard, Mrs I Reese Sifferlen, Miss Harriet May Mills, Mr Burton Michael, Miss Blanche Weaver Baxter and Dr and Mrs Perley O Place.

The programme of the Conference, as arranged before this astounding unconstitutional interference was announced, included a mass meeting to be held on the evening of February 28 in the Mizpah Auditorium, and a session the following morning in the Onondaga Hotel. A luncheon is arranged to follow this session and in the evening a meeting for the medical profession only. Mrs O Howard Cobb is Chairman of Arrangements.

The action of the Syracuse Council recalls the arbitrary action of Mayor Hackett in Albany last year, when a meeting, announced for the discussion of a pending amendment to the State law was suppressed. It is worthy of note that as a direct consequence of this attempt at medieval tyranny, special interest has been shown in Birth Control in this section of the State. The excellent Birth Control Committees of Schenectady and Syracuse are partly to be attributed to Mayor Hackett.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr L Emmett Holt, who was one of the early friends and supporters of the movement for Birth Control. Dr Holt did valiant work for babies both educational and practical, and not the least of his contributions to their welfare was his insistence that babies should be well born—that they should be welcomed as due to the free choice of their parents. The babies of America lost a good friend in Dr Holt.

SOME BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

(Continued from page 74)

mortality. The birth weight, rate of growth, rate of maturity, length of life, incidence of disease and causes of death among the progeny and descendants of experimental animals should be compared with controls. The sex-ratio, incidence and type of morphological and anatomical abnormalities and modifications of psychological phenomena are also in themselves splendid fields for research. Geneticists are even now deeply interested in work in these and in allied fields. A beginning along lines of investigation has already been made. The biological foundation for scientific study of the factors involved in experimental limitation of reproduction is laid, and an aroused interest on the part of just such a conference as the present, will, it is to be hoped, provide the opportunity for making some of the experimental work possible.

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