

JULY, 1924

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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No 7

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	195	A Bibliography of Eugenics, by Samuel J Holmes— Annie G Porritt	206
A Review of the Work of the American Birth Control League— A Welcome Announcement by the President of the American Medical Association Encouraging News from Austria—Inspiration for the Next International Birth Control Conference		BOOKS RECEIVED	207
BIRTH CONTROL IN AUSTRIA, by Johann Ferch	197	PERIODICALS	207
Tells of remarkable progress in Central Europe		NEWS NOTES—New York—Virginia	209
THE ETERNAL FEMININE by A M Stephen, (poem)	198	Pennsylvania—California—National—England	209
WHEN 'HACS BLOOM WITHIN THE PRISON YARD, by Richard Brazier (poem)	198	Canada—Australia	210
BIRTH CONTROL AND SEX HYGIENE, by Rachelle Yar- ros, MD	199	France Japan—Coming Events	211
This article is of special value because the writer is a practising physician giving Birth Control information and advice		OUR CORRESPONDENTS' COLUMN	212
SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS	204	James H Maurer comments on the Webb article	
Mothers Letters telling of the hardships of forced motherhood		PRESS CLIPPINGS:	
BOOK REVIEWS		Birth Control, by David Fouse	213
My Forty Years in New York, by Charles H Park- hurst—Norman Thomas	206	Emigration and Race Suicide	213
		Europe and the Birth Rate	214

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The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

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

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

ANNIE G. PORRITT, *Managing Editor*

VOL. VIII

JULY, 1924

No. 7

EDITORIAL

THE first half of 1924 has gone by and it behooves us to look back and see what we have accomplished since the opening of the year. Is there real progress, or have we only been marking time in the movement for Birth Control? What is the record of the American Birth Control League for these six months? Before answering, let us first state **again** what our **organization** stands for and what are the methods we have adopted for **carrying out** our aims. Ours is no **negative ideal**. It is not, as some people profess to **believe**, **race suicide**, or the **extinction** of **babies** and of **family life**. We **believe in babies**. We **believe in parenthood**. But we do not **believe in** unwanted or unhappy babies, nor **in** forced or **accidental** motherhood. We **believe** 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. To **realize** these beliefs—to **rid** the world of the **misery** and **distress** due to over-large families and unwanted and unwelcome **babies**—the world must be educated. Our policy includes the **distribution** of literature on every aspect of the subject, by means of **circulars**, pamphlets, **articles in** every **periodical** that **will admit** them and the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**. We also encourage, in every way **in** our power, the **establishment** of **Birth Control clinics**, both as **specialized establishments** and also in **connection with** hospitals and Health Centers. In order that **this** may be done we **are** obliged in many states to engage **in agitation** for the repeal of **repressive laws**, which forbid the **imparting** by **physicians** of Birth Control **information**.

THE last year in **carrying out** these policies we **distributed** 610,008 pieces of free literature, published 114,000 copies of the **REVIEW**, sold tens of thousands of books and pamphlets, and enrolled over 15,000 new members in the League. This gives but a **faint idea** of the extent of our work. We **received** at Headquarters over seventy thousand letters from mothers **appealing** to Mrs. Sanger for

aid. We held four great **Birth Control Conferences**—one in **Chicago** which included the **eight Middle Western States** and the others in **New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania**. We held Birth Control meetings in **33 cities** and gave 41 lectures in **New York City** alone. Our **legislative work included** the **introduction** of amendments in two state legislatures and the **formation** of **eight legislative committees**. Most important of all in the practical work of **Birth Control**, we secured the opening of a research bureau in **New York** where 1,200 women received aid in strict compliance with the restrictive law of the State. We also aided in the establishment of two **clinics in Mexico**—opened under the **auspices** of the state, and in plans for other **clinics** which have not yet actually been opened. All this work was **carried out** through the voluntary **subscriptions** of tens of thousands of helpers. Most of the **gifts** were small sums **given** with **pain** and trouble, but with a glad **readiness** to help, by mothers who knew the **bitter** need of Birth Control. Some of the **gifts** were large and were **given** by women of clear **vision**, who preferred to go to the root of social **evils** and not to spend **their** money on surface palliatives.

AND now what we have to say for 1924? First of all, we can say that every phase of the work has been **vigorously** carried on. The **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** has appeared month by month, and each month has seen the **addition** of 500 or more new **subscribers**. The demand for literature—both free leaflets and also for books and pamphlets—is keener than ever before. Sick mothers—women with **tuberculosis**, kidney disease, heart disease and taints of **insanity** or other defectiveness, crowd to the bureau over which Dr. Bocker presides. The **patients** are too many for one physician and in **April**, Dr. Kuhner was engaged to **assist**. The amendment to the New York State law was **again** introduced in the **Legislature** at Albany, after many strenuous weeks of **work** on the part of the

League and its Legislative committees Work in the Middle Western States—following up the Conference of October, 1923—has resulted in a widespread interest in Birth Control and a far better understanding of its principles. The National Council of the League—a Council which consists of seventy-three men and women, all of national reputation—came together and seriously considered the policy of the League with regard to Federal legislation. Every member of this Council has made a contribution to the work for Birth Control. Some have given money, some have spoken at meetings or contributed papers to the *REVIEW*, some have served on committees or been active in legislative work. Each issue of the *REVIEW* carries a list of the names of all the members of the Council and every name connotes real service to the cause of Birth Control. Perhaps the greatest progress that the movement has made this year is progress that is largely due to these men and women. Through constant propaganda, through speeches and writings, America, and indeed the whole world, has begun to think of Birth Control. Nobody can get away from the idea, and the idea carries so precious a gift to humanity, that men and women cannot dwell upon it without desiring it and working for it.

MOST encouraging and inspiring is the evidence that came to us last month that our crusade for medical recognition of Birth Control is succeeding. Two outstanding pronouncements by eminent medical men came within a few days of each other. The first was from Dr. Llewellys F. Barker, Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, in an address to the Psychiatrists in session at Atlantic City. The second came from Dr. William Allen Pusey, in his inaugural address at Chicago as newly elected President of the American Medical Association. Dr. Barker urged the necessity of curbing the increase of the less fit if the nation is to keep its place eugenically. He did not actually mention Birth Control, but the whole of his argument necessarily favored it. Dr. Pusey was more outspoken, and the Chicago newspapers carried large headlines "DR. PUSEY FOR BIRTH CONTROL." When the President of the American Medical Association ranges himself on the side of Birth Control, we can hopefully look forward to many converts from the rank and file, who have hitherto been hesitant to announce their stand.

MOST encouraging and inspiring is the news from Austria, contained in the article, appearing this month, from Herr Ferch. Twelve clinics are in actual operation and three more about to open their doors. The medical profession is giving willing co-operation, and all contraceptive work

is done under medical supervision. Over ten thousand women have already been aided, and thousands more are flocking to the clinics. And all this work has been done since the International Birth Control Conference in London in 1922. At this conference Herr Ferch was an outstanding figure. He both gave and received inspiration from it, and it was on his return to Austria that he started the wonderful work that he describes. Austria is a poverty stricken country and desperately needed Birth Control. But it was Herr Ferch who gave the devotion, the labor and the ability necessary to supply the need. He is one of the heroes of the Birth Control movement, a standard bearer of liberation to the enslaved mothers of the Old World. We congratulate Herr Ferch on the magnificent beginning he has made in Austria, and we congratulate Austria on possession of Herr Ferch.

NEW inspiration for the Sixth International Birth Control Conference which is to be held in New York next year, flows from the story of Herr Ferch's work. The value and importance of such International Conferences are strikingly illustrated by the account of his achievements. It was at the London Conference of 1922 that he received both stimulus to new work, and the practical education that enabled him to plan it out. At such a Conference, men and women attend from the four corners of the earth. They are interested in the question, but more or less ignorant of how the movement is being carried on in other countries than their own. They hear of each other's work. They compare notes and readjust their own ideas and methods. They learn of the need and demand for Birth Control all over the world, and find that they form part of a great army fighting poverty and ill-health and misery in the most fundamental of all possible ways. They give and receive. They leave the Conference with renewed courage and wisdom for the special work in their own field, and in the future some of them look back, as does Herr Ferch, to an International Conference as the starting point of their special endeavors. We hope and believe that the Conference of 1925 will be as inspirational and stimulating to many of its participants as was that of 1922 to Herr Ferch.

A FINE example of devotion and courage was set last month, when eleven members of the League went out on the streets of New York to sell the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*. This work has been carried on for many years by Kitty Marion and a few courageous colleagues. The addition of eleven volunteers made possible an intensive campaign which produced wonderful results. We recommend their example to advocates of Birth Control in other cities.

Birth Control in Austria

By JOHANN FERCH, Vienna

AFTER my return from the London Conference in July, 1922, I made a picture exhibit, which represented in 120 slides, the suffering and joy of motherhood. This made it possible for me through collections at the close of the performance, and through the profit on the entrance money, to maintain the Women's Protective Clinic. I undertook in Vienna, against the opposition of the League against Forced Motherhood, a guarantee to raise the money. The picture exhibit has already been held 157 times in all Austria, many times before thousands of people. The exhibit demands indeed the reform of the law, but it points especially to the hygienic regulation of birth through good means of protection.

Thus was founded on the 11th of January, 1923, the first Women's Protective Clinic. Later, two more followed in Vienna, nine are working in different provinces of Austria and three more are in preparation. Each clinic is open for two hours a week, in the evening. The women are usually treated free. There is an ante-room and a second room for a woman working without pay. She gives to the woman seeking to protect herself an order on one of the physicians offering for this service—in Vienna there are 41. The name is not demanded. The woman goes with this order to the chosen physician with whom we have made an agreement. The physician examines the woman, who pays for any appliances used, but not for the advice—that is paid by the League against Forced Motherhood, and indeed the physicians often accept lower fees. The woman leaves with the doctor one part of the order, which he sends to the League to be honored. Destitute, needy women—for example wives of the unemployed or mothers of many children, receive, on giving a remaining portion of the order, a repayment of the cost of appliances, if they present it at the next session of the clinic. Besides the woman has the right, with a third part of the order, which she keeps, to go to the physician monthly after menstruation, for one-third of the ordinary fee.

Not a Chanty

Douches are also given for one-third of the fee at the clinic by an attendant, giving service there. The difference in the fee is paid to her by the League. The transaction is far from being a chanty, it is done with the greatest discretion and tact. Medical advice and information concerning abortion, or names of abortionists are not given, otherwise there would be a conflict with the law.

Our clinics work with the permission of the health officers, are openly announced, and enjoy good support from the press, except the chauvinistic and clerical. But we are not concerned about these, because indeed the poor and clear-sighted people of Austria are not clerical. We prepare for them continual defeats, because even the clerically disposed call our work good—mitigation of suffering. In reports and meetings no opponent appears because the weight of facts would overcome him.

Results

The Vienna clinics have up to the end of January, 1924, been visited on about 100 evenings, by about 6,440 women, in the provinces by about 3,600 women—the places have been opened up only gradually and succeed in reaching the masses only slowly.

It appears frequently that the physicians find the women diseased and send them to the hospital—five times early cancer. Often also they detect tuberculosis, heart disease and syphilis among women, who have concealed their pregnancy, already begun. To those suffering from such diseases they give advice to go to a hospital, where in severe cases, abortion on account of illness is performed. Very few women know that in these cases abortion, in a hospital, is permitted.

Also in Germany people are beginning now to think of setting up such clinics. We have an understanding with various towns in that country.

All the clinic workers, except the physicians, work without pay, which is very effective with the people. The clinics enjoy throughout good reputation, and will in the future flourish still more. In our meetings many physicians speak as friends to our intentions.

Our second activity extends to the abolition of the Abortion law. We purpose that poor and sick women in the first three months of pregnancy shall have the right, for social and health reasons, to interrupt the pregnancy, especially when, for certain women, contraceptives have not worked. Our legislative plan was defeated in Parliament at the end of December. It was opposed by the clericals who are all rich, mostly narrow-minded country people, and also by the nationalist militarists. But we hope, because the majority of the population are on our side, that there is a better prospect before us.

It is worthy of note that we make use of all means of propaganda. One must work in these

(Continued on page 212)

The Eternal Feminine

By A M STEPHEN

Chained to the wheel of man's **desire**,
Soul of my soul, **O** woman heart,
With you was crushed the **teeming** spawn,
Fruit of your womb, **in** street and mart

The **whip** of lust and the Juggernaut
Of man-made laws and a **priestly** lie,
Ground **in** the dust your soul of fire,
Bruising the **wings** **wherewith** on high

Our **spirits** had found the **hidden** gleam—
The glory of **life**, fulfilled and free,
And wrung from the chaos of human wrong
A **kingdom** set by the golden sea

Arrogant, **blind**, **in** our brutal pnde,
We scorned your **gift** as an unclean **thing**
In the mire of a loathsome creed, we lost
The **flaming** jewel of Love the **King**

Holding you less **than** the cattle brought
In **lowing** herds to the shambles **red**—
Meat for our **bodies** and ease for our **flesh**—
Serving your masters, the **living** dead

Who knelt **in** your shrines to Mary pale,
Isis and Ishtar mothers of God,
Not as a woman we sought your grace
Your **lilies** bloomed on a **foetid** sod

The **gibbering** homes of the vacant **mind**,
Carion flesh on the blood-soaked field,
The **swarming** broods of slum and **dive**—
These were the **fruits** **which** we made you **yield**

Blind were we to the **children** **fair**
Of your woman-soul The works of man,
Music **in** marble and song **in** stone,
The **artist's** dream of the **cosmic** plan

The deathless page and the word made flesh
By a poet's **passion** a lover's **pain**,
The canvas flushed **with** the joy of **life**,
The hero's croan and the matchless **strain**

These are thy **gifts**, Madonna **mine**,
Which fired his soul who **died** for thee'
Leave **shrine** and temple, cross and **veil**
Lift up thine head We would know thee, **free**!

When Lilacs Bloom Within the Prison Yard

By RICHARD BRAZIER, Convict No 13103

When **lilacs** bloom **within** the prison yard,
How **bitter** are the thoughts they **bring** to me
Of **toiling** **life**, and youth uncouth and hard,
With Love alone to **light** its misery

This love that came to me, a factory lad,
And set my feet on paths afar to roam,
And filled **with** joy her heart, who knew I had
To new worlds fared to build our love a home

For we were **tired**, so **tired**, my love and I
Of **city's** **grime** and factories' **roaring** din,
Of blackened streets and **furnace-lighted** sky,
Of sunless slums all dank and drear **within**,

Where human lives are but as trodden **dirt**,
And Love **itself** by **sordid** gain defiled
From such a **life**, **with** **pain** and hunger **girt**,
I sought a world where Love could **live** **unspoiled**

And so one **night** we walked the countryside,
Far from the haunts of **toil** and wanton **pain**,

And there our last good-byes were fondly ened
When **lilacs** bloomed **in** May along the lane

When **lilacs** bloom **within** the **prison** yard
How **bitter** are the memories they **bring**,
A **star-lit** lane, a lass who sobs so hard,
Those last farewells that lovers hearts so **wring**

How those scenes of youth all **rise** before me,
Imparted to my **mind** by **prison** flowers '
I hear **again** her **voice**, strongly and bravely
Planning anew our **lives** those **parting** hours

Now all **is** lost ' my hopes are shattered,
Forgotten all my dreams of yesteryears,
And things of life **that** **might** **have** mattered
In dust **silent** they **lie** all wet **with** tears

For now I know there'll be no **returning**,
That seas apart we ever must **remain**,
That she must **wait**, lonely, ever **yearning**,
Where **lilacs** bloom **in** May along the lane

Birth Control and Sex Hygiene

By DR RACHELLE S YARROS

Associate Professor of *Obstetrics, Medical* Department, University of *Illinois*

IT has taken humanity so long to build up certain ideals, which guide, conduct and make for a rational development and true civilization, that it is not at all surprising that most people should hold fast to the past, instinctively or even consciously, fearing that all will go to pieces if these standards are disturbed. Luckily, however, some minds cannot stand still. They are sensitive to changes in needs and conditions. When we think at all, we realize that, were it not for new ideas, the world would be static and there would be no progress. One must admit, however, that the tempering influence of the conservative masses sometimes serves a good purpose, since it keeps the radicals from suddenly forcing extreme changes which might sometimes lead to disaster.

There are certain fundamental problems that have been seeking new interpretation and solution, that, for instance, of our economic system, which is causing general unrest and has led to the formation of different groups of reformers, from the most moderate to the most extreme. The other outstanding problem is that of sex. While most of us are willing to admit that some changes in the relation between capital and labor are apparently inevitable, the vast majority of people refuse to admit that there actually is any such problem as that of sex. They absolutely refuse to face the fact that sex promiscuity leads to physical and moral disaster to the individual, family and race. And they also refuse to admit that all is not well within the institution of marriage. Yet in this field, too, we find various groups pressing for reforms, from the most extreme to the moderate.

Marriage Problems

My object in this paper is two-fold, first, to emphasize the importance of birth control within marriage, not only when it is imposed by economic or health considerations in the strict sense of the phrase, but also from the standpoint of rational contentment, harmony and happiness in marriage, and, second, to meet certain major objections, medical and lay, to the practice of birth control.

Let me begin by quoting a significant resolution adopted at the All-American Conference held in Washington in 1921. This resolution was proposed by a group of prominent psychologists, who met

with many leaders in the social hygiene and venereal disease control movement, and who had played an active part in that work during the war. The purpose of this conference was to review the results achieved, as well as to re-define the position of the social hygiene movement insofar as it concerned the civilian population under normal peace conditions. The resolutions as follows:

"Resolved, That the complexity of the question of the relation of continence to the total well-being of the individual is recognized. Although it is generally admitted that, after maturity, continence in the sense of total abstinence from sexual intercourse is not a physiologic state, nevertheless, the dangers and disadvantages to the individual and to the race which ensue upon the infringement of continence in the unmarried man or woman are so serious that they outweigh the possible disadvantages of sexual abstinence."

In other words, the resolution declared that, while continence was not actually injurious to health, it was not conducive to physical and emotional well-being of the adult individual. If this be true—and even the most moderate psychologists assert it to be so—then it is necessary for every worker in the social hygiene movement to face the problem honestly and recognize that birth control, in all its phases, is an integral part of social and sex hygiene.

Advice to Married and Unmarried

In practice the problems that present themselves to us are these. First, what instructions and advice should be given to unmarried adult men and women who come to us with their problems, second, what advice should be given to those who are married or about to be married.

As to the former, in my judgment, the advice to be given cannot be other than strong warning against promiscuity and prostitution, because of the menace of venereal disease and the moral deterioration resulting from such relationships. This should be accompanied by the strongest possible advice to seek real love and family life with all its joys and responsibilities, and at the same time the possibility of regulating the coming of children, which may be dreaded because of lack of means, should be properly explained. As to advice to married couples, while we must always encourage fatherhood and motherhood under normal condi-

* A Paper read at the Birth Control Conference, Chicago, October, 1923

tions, and while we should also explain what an important part self-control and sublimation ought to play in love and marriage, yet we must not overlook the significant part that sex gratification plays wholly aside from procreation, because, as has been said, "it helps to cement love and friendship, both physiologically and psychologically"

Sex Problems in Married Life

The sex problem in married life, though a theme for novelists and dramatists, has been practically neglected by scientists and physicians, and therefore the vast majority of people, because of Ignorance and superstition, naturally insist that there is no such problem, in spite of all the evidence that faces us in the large number of divorces, and in the vague but profound discontent of tens of thousands of married people. But those who recognize these difficulties diverge widely in the reforms proposed. There are those who believe that the institution of marriage is responsible for all these evils and should be abolished, and there are also moderate persons who believe that this human institution, as such, is not radically at fault, and that what we need is a better understanding of marriage and of the rights of man and woman in it, greater freedom for personal development, more definite economic independence for the woman, and, above all, a proper understanding of sex and of the means of calling out or fostering love in marriage.

There are, no doubt, people who believe that procreation is the only justification for sex relations in marriage, and who follow the biblical injunction which, they say, distinctly precludes all methods of preventing conception. There is another group who believe that self-control should be the only method practiced whenever the need or desire to regulate the family comes into question. If these groups honestly believe in and live up to their ideas, and are happy, there is, so far as they are concerned, nothing further to discuss.

Birth Control Natural

There are, however, a good many who apparently share the same so-called exalted belief or ideal, but who find that they cannot live up to it. These frequently lapse, either in marriage or outside of it, by resorting to prostitution, exposing themselves in the latter case to the dangers of venereal disease and to the pangs of guilty conscience. But the bulk of married people, and especially the men, although they may not have given the subject much consideration, feel instinctively that they have a right to reasonable gratification of the sex urge, regardless of procreation, and that such gratification is an im-

portant factor in marital concord and happiness. In many cases, to be sure, the woman, because of false upbringing and fear of pregnancy, dreads sex gratification, to the extent of making herself believe that she has no such feeling, but there is no doubt that she too suffers. It is with these last groups that birth control becomes a very important issue.

Let us try to restate the whole problem in a way that will make it simple and consistent with modern psychology, economics and morals.

Is it not a fact that most civilized peoples have practiced one form or another of birth control, regardless of professed religious or social views, and is not that of itself proof that some form of birth control, even if it be self-control, is a natural phenomenon of the sex relationship? Quite certainly it is based on biological, economic and social needs, because uncontrolled mating would have led to overpopulation and would have impeded the progress of our race, as it has done among savage and even certain civilized peoples. We must admit, then, that birth control is as natural as the longing for offspring, and that they have travelled more or less hand in hand. Self-control and sublimation have, indeed, helped to put love on a higher basis in marriage, but the longing for sex relations, with limited families, has brought about the need for contraceptives.

Parental Instinct Not Lost

In my opinion, it is unreasonable for thoughtful people to maintain that marriage is only for procreation, when we fully realize that, the further removed we are from savage life, the more essential become such elements as love, respect, comradeship, friendship, and understanding on the part of both husband and wife in a happy family life.

The opponents of the birth control movement do not seem to care to know that people who believe in limiting the family are not necessarily, or at all, people who have lost the instinctive desire for children and the joy in planning for them. They jump to their conclusion and then proceed to make all kinds of charges, bemoaning the alleged fact that the modern woman, because of her better education and Independent spirit, is unwilling to assume the responsibility of motherhood. This notion is baseless. To begin with, the modern man is just as modern as the modern woman. That does not mean that either the modern woman or the modern man is any less anxious than their forefathers were to satisfy the inborn longing for children. Witness the fact that in nations which definitely believe in and are familiar with birth control methods, as in others practicing birth control but not proclaiming it, the population, though reduced, is by no means

in danger of extinction. This is true of Holland and France, England and the United States. The question, therefore, resolves itself not into childless unions, but into regulation and spacing of children, with due regard to the normal and joyous expression of the sex instinct in moderation. We may admit at this point that often a very good argument is advanced by the opponents of the movement—namely, that there is the danger that the intelligent part of our population will reproduce too sparingly and not contribute its quota to the replenishing of the human race. It is here, however, that the positive aspect of the birth control movement should be emphasized. We should make every effort, in training boys and girls who are mentally, morally and otherwise fit, to inculcate proper doctrines—as to their duty to assume responsibility in the maintenance of the race, though not to the extent where it might interfere excessively with further personal development.

Birth Control Not Injurious

It may be useful to refer in passing to Havelock Ellis' book and some of the more recent books on the subject of falling birth rates in different countries and their relation to the death rates, and on the main causes of these phenomena. These books show that the whole matter is very complex and that the alleged moral deterioration of women and their alleged shirking of the responsibility of motherhood have very little to do with the situation.

It is further contended by the opponents of birth control that such control is morally and physically injurious. It is plain that those who say that, in spite of the thousands of heart-rending letters and personal appeals from sincere, high-minded mothers and fathers, who ask for scientific and clean information that will help them to limit the number of children and yet lead normal sex lives, and in spite of the fact that these appeals are made for the sake of the children already born, or for the sake of the health and welfare of the mother, and therefore of the family, have set up some peculiar and superstitious standard of morals that has nothing whatever to do with the actual living conditions. Such a standard of morals would be pernicious and absolutely inconsistent with the evolutionary conception of morals. That conduct is ethical which leads to the highest development of the individual and the race. It is, therefore, distinctly immoral to let people reproduce in a way that is bound to lower their standards and bring them down more nearly to the state of animals.

Evil of Unrestrained Reproduction

Those who have practiced medicine for years among the poor and foreign elements of our community, know how injurious unrestrained reproduction is, not only to social health and well being, but also to the development of the type of citizenship essential to a successful democracy. What morality is there in letting a woman have eight, ten and twelve children, if her husband earns barely enough to support two or three in fair comfort? A mother under those conditions is almost always a physical wreck. (There are of course exceptions, but those are women who have unusually good constitutions.) Depleted health in the mother means poor care for the children, so far as preparing and using the foodstuffs properly is concerned, and lack of attention to the simplest rules of hygiene. Such overburdened, weary mothers every social worker is familiar with, and they run into the thousands. What good results are possible when a mother wastes all her energy bringing numerous children into the world and in the end is able to bring up so few? Moreover, in many instances, the few who survive grow up without receiving their mother's care and attention during the most tender years. They get their training on the street, because the mother is too busy having children and tending the sick. Is it at all surprising that we are multiplying serious problems of immorality, vice and crime under such conditions?

Reproducing the Unfit

Again, is it not immoral to keep on reproducing hundreds of thousands of mentally, morally and physically unfit? Are we not all convinced that these unfit are responsible for a great many of our problems? The answers are obvious, and it is also obvious that while we are discussing and determining what kinds of acts for sterilization and elimination of the unfit are to be passed, or who exactly are the unfit, we should, as a practical measure for reducing the number of the unfit, provide the social agencies dealing with such cases with facilities for obtaining accurate information as to birth control.

One other favorite argument of the opponents of birth control is to make birth control synonymous with abortion. This is particularly unfair. As a matter of fact, thoughtful people who have studied the subject have pointed out over and over again that information with regard to birth control, dispensed by competent and high-minded physicians, would be the most powerful means of decreasing the number of abortions. In my own experience of many years of practice, I have realized more and more what a great influence a physician can exert on women in deterring them from such

practice I have had many a woman come to me distracted and almost Insane, because of another pregnancy, saying that she is ready to die, if need be, rather than have another child in her already depleted state of health. Yet in many such cases I have been able to quiet these women and bring them back to their normal sense of responsibility to themselves and to their families. In such cases it is necessary to point out emphatically the dangers of abortions, both to life and health, and then offer the women the comforting assurance that, with proper information, they need never have another child. Such consultation takes time and patience, sympathy, understanding and firmness, but in return it brings the greatest gratification to the physician, who should, according to the traditions of the medical profession, be ever ready to enhance his usefulness.

Birth Control and Abortion

I may note here with regret that even some physicians assert that the birth control movement is responsible for a large number of abortions, but, when pressed hard for an explanation, these physicians say that since birth control methods usually fail, the disappointed women resort next to criminal abortions. How much the raising of hopes of avoiding pregnancy is responsible for the fact that in certain cases both husband and wife are willing to seek help in abortion is a point extremely debatable. The question really is, what is our duty when couples feel that for good reasons they cannot afford to have any more children? To my mind there is no question that it is our duty to give the proper advice as to the use of contraceptives, if we are to save hundreds and thousands of women from criminal abortions, with all the disasters which follow.

Whatever information there has been available concerning contraception, most physicians have consistently shut their eyes to the problem and left this information to be disseminated by people who do not possess requisite physiological and anatomical knowledge and do not know the dangers involved in the use of certain drugs and appliances. The failure and injuries are in my opinion largely due to that fact. To the physicians who honestly say that all contraceptives fail, and that, whenever they do not fail, it is because either the husband or wife is sterile, we can only answer that these statements are unwarranted and unscientific. In the first place, every physician who has carefully studied methods and given advice concerning contraception in suitable cases, has numerous instances on record where contraceptives were effective for shorter or longer periods, as well as instances where,

owing to some negligence or indifference on the part of the couple, or to some mechanical defect in the contraceptive used, pregnancy has resulted.

Contraceptives and Sterility

As to the claim that the use of contraceptives is responsible for a large number of cases of sterility, that too must be challenged. It would be extremely difficult to prove conclusively that in no case does contraception produce sterility, but we can say that since in a large number of cases in our experience people have used contraceptives for from one to five years after marriage and then had children, and have also spaced their children voluntarily, it is clear that contraception does not carry with it the dangers that the opponents of the movement stress so strongly. In this connection we may note the argument that, if people acquire the habit of using contraception, they are likely never to want children. Here again we can cite the condition in our own country. Although there isn't any doubt that some married couples decide not to have any children, to one of such cases there are many who deliberately plan to have a certain number of children. Many people use contraceptives before starting a family, many use them to space their children, but the largest number have families, provided they are not essentially sterile from some other cause. Who knows accurately how many of those cases of sterility are due to a chronic infection with gonorrhea? Certainly such cases are frequently attributed by outsiders to the use of contraceptives.

Women Who Desire Children

If we need any other argument to support the fact that the desire for children on the part of women is not dying out, we can consult our own private records as well as those of dispensaries. We find thousands of women of all ages who are seeking medical aid, and sooner or later are ready to go through all kinds of treatment, and even serious operations, in order to become mothers or to bear more children. This applies to all classes, rich and poor. If we compare the number of those seeking to have children, or more children, with the number of those anxious to avoid having children altogether, the latter class dwindles into utter insignificance. To this day the hardships that come from childless marriages seem to fall largely on the woman, and not altogether because she hasn't any occupation, although this may play some part. Apparently women have a greater longing for the gratification of the parental instinct.

Another medical assertion, namely, that the use of contraceptives is responsible for many of the inflammations of the reproductive organs, is largely

due to the preconceived notions **with which** these **physicians** start. They often do not trace correctly the causes of these **inflammations**. If such **inflammations** are actually found, and we all have had some such cases, they are either due to the **ignorant** method of application of drugs that are too strong or the use of legitimate mechanical **devices** left in position too long.

It is **admitted** that if we should send out **promiscuously** contraceptive knowledge, there would be danger not only of **failure**, but of neglect and abuse. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we should **insist** that such **information** be **given** only by competent well-informed **physicians**, and that each case receive **individual** attention and instruction. Even with the poor and uneducated, **judging** by my experience, the task is not as discouraging as is frequently alleged, provided one is **willing** to **give** a good deal of **time** and attention to each **individual** case.

Constructive Birth Control

I have dwelt on the negative phase of **birth** control, because it is so **misunderstood** and even misrepresented, and also because **this issue** of **limiting** the family for **physical** and **economic** reasons stares us **physicians** and social workers constantly in the face and presses for **immediate** solution. But the **constructive** aspects of birth control are of equal **importance** and, as I have said before, should form an **integral** part of the Social Hygiene and Birth Control movement.

First, Birth Control in the constructive sense does not always mean **limiting** the number of **children**, it stands equally for the idea of **encouraging**, in suitable cases, an **increase in** the number of **children**. Here the physician has a great **opportunity** to do a **service**, by **dispelling** fear of pregnancy and of **difficult** labors, which fear we find some women **entertain** vaguely as a result of **superficial opinion**. **Patients** often come to us **with** the idea that they **are** not strong enough to have any **children**, or more **children**, and yet, when we **examine** them carefully, we find them **quite** well. **Their** fear being unfounded, we can easily persuade them by a little encouragement to undertake additional **responsibility**. Even in cases where financial difficulties are **given** as a reason for **avoiding pregnancies** altogether, one can often **successfully** show that many of the things modern couples of extravagant standards **think** they must have, are really not **essential**, and that the joy that **will** come to them **with** a **child** will more than compensate for some material **inconveniences**. I can testify from my own **experience** to the apparently **unlimited opportunities** we **physicians** have to persuade our **patients** to do the

right thing, even if they begin by **positively disagreeing with** us.

Birth Control and Marital Happiness

Secondly, constructive Birth Control must concern itself frankly **with** marital happiness. I agree **with** Havelock **Ellis** and the modern psychologists that a good deal of the unhappiness in married **life** is due to **irritability** and **discontent** of the husband, **feelings** caused by lack of sex **gratification** and apparent indifference on the part of the **wife**, which **indifference** is often due, as we have said, to an almost paralyzing fear of conception. Our policy should be to **dispel** ignorance of men and women in sex matters, to teach them frankly and earnestly how to retain and foster love in marriage, how to make "an art of love," in Havelock Ellis' words. We must teach them that sex gratification in **moderation** plays a very important part in life, apart from the rearing of a **family**, because it is necessary to intimacy and tender **affection** between husband and **wife**. To demand excessive continence in marriage is to make marriage a failure.

Finally, constructive **Birth** Control, as thus explained, is of necessity a vital part of sex hygiene. A fundamental change in the mental attitude of men and women towards the sex relationship can only be brought about through the **training** of the individual from **earliest** youth in **physiological** science, ideals and standards of conduct. By **overcoming** our own **inhibitions** and by clearly defining our own **ideals** we may become truly helpful in **training** the next generation.

Sex Instruction for Marriage

A feature that I consider of the utmost **importance**, during the present period of transition, is the giving of **detailed** sex **instruction** to people **contemplating marriage**, or about to be married. The vague notions that the average boy and **girl** pick up about the physiology and psychology of marriage are **certainly** incapable of **guiding** them successfully in this complex relationship, in fact, these notions in many ways distinctly invite unhappiness. **Friction** and misunderstanding inevitably result from misstatements upon or denials of perfectly **legitimate claims**.

Information given to those contemplating marriage, or newly married, cannot be too **comprehensive**. It might well cover, in addition to the matters named, such questions as personal freedom in marriage, a certain **economic** independence for the **wife**, **continued** pursuit by the wife of mental, social and **artistic** interests, and the **various** means of cultivating **friendship** and sympathetic **companionship** between husband and wife.

SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS

Who Has the **Right** to Compel Women to Bear Such **Suffering**

The girl who marries at 18 or 19, and who is given no instruction in Birth Control, has before her the possibility of giving birth to from ten to twenty children. Should she bear twelve before she is 38, what does this mean in terms of her own life? It means that she undergoes in these twenty years of her girlhood and womanhood, nine years of pregnancy, with all its disabilities and pains, a whole year of months following childbirth, and further years of nursing and care of tiny infants, each one probably weaker and more demanding than its predecessor. A thrill of indignation and sympathy goes through the community, if it is found that an innocent man has suffered ten years of undeserved imprisonment, and yet society, by refusing Birth Control, callously inflicts these even harder sentences on young and innocent girls.

Tired Out at 23

New York

I am 23 years old and have had four children—a boy, May 30, 1921, twin boys, June 4, 1922, a girl, February 16, 1924. The first baby is living and very strong and healthy. The twins were only eight months, one lived six weeks, the other seven. The girl seems to be strong, although I tried very hard not to have her. I took some pills and visited a certain doctor, in a nearby town, five times, but all without any result. The doctor, who has attended me each time, told me I would have twenty children. God knows that isn't very encouraging, when you haven't money enough to take care of even one the way it should be taken care of. We do not own a home or anything, except children and a mountain of debts. I guess we never shall be able to have anything, if the children keep coming about every year. I am afraid that if I am to have any more, it will drive me crazy. I try to do my best to take care of the two we have now, but I haven't much strength. I get tired out and am very nervous and ugly most of the time.

I am very anxious to go to work this summer, as my husband hasn't been able to find any steady work since last November, and I wanted to help to get the debts paid up. But it is impossible as it is very hard to find anyone to take care of the children, unless I would pay them as much as I earned, which would not be very profitable, although it would be a great relief to get away from the children, especially the baby, for a few hours every day. My husband is very good. He helps take care of the children and also helps me with the housework, but why bring innocent little souls into the world when you haven't the means to take care of them. We have tried very hard not to have any of the children, but luck or something seems to be against us, and so I have to suffer nine months of torture out of every twelve or fifteen months. That hardly seems fair to the mother or the children, as I cannot give proper care to the living ones, or give the coming one much of a start in life.

Life a Narrow Enclosure

Arkansas

I am just 23, have been married not quite four years, and am the mother of three children—the oldest 3, another 2 and another 11 months. Can't you just know how I need your help? You understand the nervous, depressed spells we all have. Having them so close together has weakened me so much, of course, I know that something must be done. What should I do if another came? I do all my own work. We are not able to have outside help, and sometimes I am so tired and my arms ache so I cannot sleep.

Oh, you know how it is! I never go out, only to my mother's about once a week. I haven't any recreation at all. Life seems just like I was in a narrow enclosure, and I just can't find time to emerge from it,—not for one minute. It's terrible not to have one minute for myself. I love my babies dearly. Don't believe I'm grumbling. I'm just trying to let you know how much I need you to tell me something, so I won't have any more.

My baby still nurses and I have nervous hysterical spells, and I fear all the time I will become pregnant again. For the love and help you are giving, please, please help me.

Health Ruined

North Carolina

I am twenty-eight years old, and when I was married eight years ago my health was normal and I was as happy as anyone might wish to be. Then a year and a half after, my first baby came and now I have had five before the oldest was seven years old. My life is such a wreck. I could almost cry when I think of it. I wanted children, but not so fast. My health is ruined and my nerves. I have no patience with my children and less with my husband. I feel like I want to scream sometimes when he touches me. I have tried every harmless prevention I ever heard of, but to no avail. Please tell me something which would mean returned happiness to me.

A Dreary Outlook

California

I am almost 27 years of age, hubby one year younger We have been **happily** marned two and a half years We have two **beautiful**, healthy httle **girls**, one **19** months, the other two months

Since the second baby came, I'm not myself any more Every part of my body aches and **it** makes me cross and **irritable** when I see there **is** so much work to be done around the house I do all of my own work, bathe both **babies** every **morning**, and of course, have **quite** a lot of **washing** every day

My husband and I are both the eldest of a large number of **sisters** and brothers He went to work at **14** years, I at **15** years We have **neither** of us had very much pleasure in our hves, no, not even **in** the first year of our **married** hfe I became pregnant the second month, and **until** the seventh month was so **sick** that I could not eat a **single thing** without **vomiting** **Morning**, noon and **night**, it was the **same** thmg The doctor gave me **some-thing**, but **it** **did** not **relieve** me Well, I've often wondered why my husband came home at all **during** that **time** When he came **in** from a hard day's work, he had to prepare **his** own meal, and **if** I got the odor of **anything** **cooking**, **it** made me feel just as **sick** as **if** I had eaten **it**

I thought the **time** would never pass But at last baby came and I was well again But not for long I was **horrified** last July to feel that same awful **feeling** come over me I lost no **time** and went to the doctor My baby was not **quite** **nine** months old The doctor told me that I'd have to wean my baby, as I was pregnant Well, there wasn't **anything** to do but to **submit** to the **inevitable** An **abortion** never entered my **mind** I don't **think** I was so **sick** with the second one The **sickness** only lasted for five months, but now, although my baby **is** two months old, I seem to have lost all strength and **vitality**

If I thought there wasn't any more **babies** to come for a **while**, I am sure I could get well again But when I **think** that almost any **time** **something** will happen **again**, **it** makes the future look very dreary **indeed** I have **it** better than some of the women whose letters I read We are both healthy and my husband **is** **kind** He would do **anything** for me and blames **himself** for all I went through But I feel that **it** **is** my duty to protect myself, and, as we're both **ignorant**, I am **asking** you to help me, as you have helped others

Eleven Children

Texas

I feel **it** **is** my duty to **write** to you and see what you can do for me I **live** on a farm and I have been **helping** **in** the fields **until** two years ago **Since** that **time** I have had **kidney** trouble I have **been** **married** **17** years, and have brought **11** **living** ch~ldren **into** the world, and had one three months **miscarriage** **in** the **17** years Now I feel hke I ought to have a rest for four or five years

My husband says I **have** done my duty to the world after **having** so many **children** We **still** love each other as we **did** when we were first **married** My mother had ten **living** ch~ldren and three born dead My husband's mother had twelve **living** **children** My first baby **died** after **living** **3** hours, and my seventh baby **died** after **living** **20** months Both had heart trouble All the rest of my **children** are healthy I have never taken any drug to keep from **hav- ing** **children**, as I thought **it** wrong and dangerous

Nine Children at 31

Illinois

I am the mother of **nine** ch~ldren and ready to **give** **birth** to another, most any hour I was **31** years old the 22nd of January, so you see there **is** plenty of **time** for several more, **which** I don't want We have our hands full, as my husband works by day labor and **it** **is** from hand to mouth He **is** **blind** in one eye, and I am sorry to say that the doctor **is** **afraid** he **will** be **blind** in both before long Also our oldest boy **is** **blind** We are always **having** a doctor **in** the house for one thmg or another What I want to know **is**, **is** there **anything** that a person can do to keep from **having** any more Let me know, and I **will** **think** **it** the greatest thmg on earth For I can see such **terrible** **crimes** **in** **children's** **lives** even **in** a small town What must it be **in** the slums of large **cities**?

Would Rather Die

Illinois

I am the mother of **eight** ch~ldren seven **living** and one dead, am only **35** years old, and have been married **14** years next August My oldest **child** **will** be **13** next September, so you can see how often I have gone through the awful **suffering** of **childbirth** My last baby, two months old, **is** very **frail**, but sweet and **bright** **otherwise**

Now **if** you can tell me **thing** to prevent, I **will** be more than grateful I would rather **die** than go through **this** **again**, and **besides** my husband **is** only a poor **railroad** telegrapher and only makes a bare **living** for us, and you know about how far **\$150** to **\$160** a month goes **with** a **family** of mne

I have four httle **girls** **growing** up and shudder to **think** they **will** ever have to go through the long years of **suffer- ing** I have done At present five of the seven have **whoop- ing** cough, **which** **is** dreadful, as I lost my **little** boy two and one-half years old, **with** the same thmg **in** **1915**

A Cry for Help

Kansas

I am the mother of **nine** ch~ldren and soon **will** be **again** I am **33** years old, and come to ask for help, for **if** any- one ever needed help along **this** **line**, **it** **sure** **is** me My health **is** **breaking** fast, and I can't do my duty to my **children** as a mother should

Book Reviews

Norman Thomas on the "Policy of Herod"

MY FORTY YEARS IN NEW YORK, by Charles H Parkhurst, The Macmillan Company, New York

"THIS globe is destined to be sometime the scene of unspeakable tragedy. We have recently had four years of it, due in part to the crowded condition of population. One shrinks from considering too intently the &—tant years. But these years are coming. They are certainly on the way. When the strain becomes over-severe legislation may adopt the policy of Herod, and enact the slaughter of male children from two years old and under, or make it a capital offence to live above the age of forty. I am only trying to make the reader realize the inevitable, and to have a lively sense of one aspect of the social problem. If we cannot avert tragedy, we may be able to some extent to postpone it. The world's population will be able to live together a great deal longer, if we have an abiding sense of each other, than if we have only a sense of ourselves, if we think socially than if we think individually."

A statement like that coming from a respected clergyman like Dr Parkhurst, cannot be disregarded. It is typical of a new sense of alarm that is growing on mankind. What Dr Parkhurst proposes is more terrible than any law a conqueror ever applied to a conquered people. The basis of a "policy of Herod" is nothing less than despair of the ability of men to live together on this earth. Is Dr Parkhurst's despair well grounded? Is it only possible for man to postpone the tragedy Dr Parkhurst foresees? The answer is, a thousand times no! Things may be dark in the world, but they are not so black as this. Over-population need never compel us to resort to the "policy of Herod," and that for two reasons. The first is that with the growth of international-mindedness, for which Dr Parkhurst himself pleads, and with the growth of scientific knowledge, it will not be impossible to support a greater population than the world now sustains. We know of no competent student who says that the world is over-populated. Particular countries are over-populated, and racial and national feeling makes that over-population a menace to prosperity and to peace. Our unscientific social arrangements make the impact of over-population greater, because of the gross waste in our system of production, such waste as Stuart Chase so tellingly pointed out in his pamphlet, "The Challenge to Waste," a year or so ago. Much, therefore, may be done by scientific, world-wide co-operation.

THE second means by which over-population can be averted is, of course, Birth Control, which Dr Parkhurst does not mention. One might think that even a theological moralist would find Birth Control preferable

to the "policy of Herod." This remedy is not new in the world's history. Various religious rites and some cruel physical practices have always constituted a form of Birth Control. I think it is true, as that careful student, Carr-Saunders, says, that the general tendency of man has always been to keep population within limits roughly fixed by economic facts. The determination of what these limits ought to be has been crude and inexact, and the methods of Birth Control barbaric. Scientific Birth Control makes possible for the first time a more rational and infinitely less cruel handling of the problem.

I am not here arguing the whole case for Birth Control—that rests on more considerations than the one matter of population. I am merely recording my deep regret that a clergyman of Dr Parkhurst's standing should talk, even in a blue mood, of the "policy of Herod," when he might do so much to avert it by advancing the policy of intelligent Birth Control, and that not merely among the fortunate rich, who already know all there is to be known, but among the poor, who in this as in so many matters are discriminated against.

The passage which I have quoted, and to which I have taken sharp exception is the only very gloomy thing in Dr Parkhurst's rather interesting reminiscences. The book by no means rises to the front rank of autobiography. It is not as interesting as Dr Parkhurst's life must have been, but it is not dull nor devoid of a certain shrewd and kindly wisdom. He tells unemotionally of his struggles to clean up New York. It was a great struggle and left a lasting impress on the life of the city. Had he understood a little more of the economic situation which made easier both the power and corruption of Tammany Hall, he might have done an even greater work. As it is, he did enough to make him a less gloomy prophet than would appear from the sensational passage suggesting the probable necessity of a "policy of Herod."

A Review by Annae G Porritt

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EUGENICS, by Samuel J Holmes, University of California Press, Berkeley, Cal

PROFESSOR HOLMES has performed excellently well a gigantic task in the compilation of this bibliography of Eugenics and kindred subjects. The volume runs to over 500 pages and contains some 10,000 titles. It was a work of great difficulty, for Eugenics is hardly yet a science, and the literature of the subject is scattered in multitudes of books and periodicals which treat primarily a great variety of other subjects. The idea of the work, Prof Holmes tells us, grew out of the need experienced when writing "The Trend of the Race." No claim is made that the lists are exhaustive—it was not possible for a

pioneer to find and include everything written on the subject. But the importance of having such a bibliography as a back-ground for future workers can hardly be exaggerated. The section devoted to Birth Control is shorter than might have been expected. It contains only 262 titles, but the brevity is explained on looking over the other sections, and finding many books bearing on this subject included under other heads. For example, books on Heredity of Human Defect, on Hereditary Factors in Delinquency and Pauperism, on Race, Birthrate, and other topics are necessary for a complete library on Birth Control, but are not included in the Birth Control Section. The Bibliography does not touch the great mass of literature concerning population. This question belongs to Sociology rather than to Eugenics, and in this respect Birth Controllers cover a wider field than the Eugenists, for they consider the understanding of the population question essential to a proper grasp of the principles of Voluntary Control of Reproduction. The compiling of a bibliography is usually a somewhat thankless task, but Professor Holmes deserves the gratitude of all Eugenists and all advocates of Birth Control for this most useful volume.

BOOKS RECEIVED

From E. P. Dutton and Company, New York: **DAEDALUS**, by J. B. S. Haldane; **ICARUS**, by Bertrand Russell; **F. R. S. THE MASTERY OF FEAR**, by William S. Walsh, M.D.

From the Brandford-Brown Educational Co., Inc.: **GAHON, O. HERESY—THE BISHOP BROWN CASE**.

From Archives of Psychology, New York: **ADOLESCENT INTERESTS**, by F. I. Davenport, Ph.D.

From the Macmillan Co.: **THE DREAM**, by H. G. Wells; **BEHIND AND BEFORE**, by W. E. Heitland.

From the George T. Hastings Publishing Co.: **LOVE EVOLUTION AND RELIGION**, by George T. Hastings.

From John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., London: **THE MORALITY OF BIRTH CONTROL**, by a Priest of the Church of England.

From the Critic and Guide Co., New York: **AS A DOCTOR SEES IT**, by B. Liber.

From the Danite Publishing Co., San Francisco, Cal.: **THE INSIDE BATH**, by Danite.

From Mabelle Shapleigh and Alfred Kahn: **THE BIRD AND THE FISH**, A Play, by Mabelle Shapleigh and Alfred Kahn.

Madame Olga Petrova has dedicated her new play **HURRICANE**, (The Four Seas Company, Boston), to Margaret Sanger.

PERIODICALS

George Madden Martin, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, writes on "American Women and Paternalism" in a manner that invites controversy and emphatic dissidence. One point that she makes is, however, favorable to the policy of the American Birth Control League. She

vigorously advocates the passage of laws through State Legislatures, rather than the dependence on Congress for Federal action.

Heywood Brown, the well-known columnist and author, in the *Cosmopolitan* for June, comes out in defence of Birth Control. He shows that the Roman Catholic standard of morality, as enunciated by Archbishop (now Cardinal) Hayes, which approves of the birth of even hideous, misshapen infants, not only is not accepted by men and women outside of that church communion, but is utterly shocking to their moral sense. He scores the law of New York State, which compels a woman to become sick from over-bearing before she can be helped at the "lone Birth Control clinic" of New York City. And he emphatically asserts the inalienable right of every baby to be wanted.

The *American Mercury* for June contains an article by Margaret Sanger on "The War Against Birth Control." It is a searching analysis of the psychology of the opponents of the movement, as exemplified in Anthony Comstock, in his successors, and in the Roman Catholic hierarchy. She points out the indirect benefits that have accrued to the Birth Control movement from the persecution to which it has been subjected, and also the constant drag and hindrance, due to the army of fanatics ranged up against it. Strong emphasis is laid on the danger to American liberties lurking in the attempts to suppress free speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press, made in the name of morality by these bigots.

In the same issue of the *American Mercury*, the Editors—H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan—comment on the enormous benefits to civilization which accrued from the sweeping away of population by the Black Death. We are accustomed to the statements of historians concerning the vast improvement in the condition of the workers which resulted from the sudden diminution of their numbers. But it is new to attribute to the same cause the brilliant period of the Renaissance. "The Renaissance," they write, "is easily and sufficiently explained by the fact that the Black Death, raging from 1334 to 1351, exterminated such huge masses of the European proletariat that the average intelligence and enterprise of the race were greatly lifted, and that this purged and improved society suddenly functioned splendidly, because it was no longer hobbled from below. More, it killed

its millions selectively, the death-rate among the upper classes, as every schoolboy reading the Decameron of Boccaccio knows, was immensely less than the death-rate among the submerged. The best brains of the time thus suddenly emancipated, began to function freely and magnificently. There ensued what we call the Renaissance." We do not desire a return of the terrible pestilences of the Middle Ages, but why should not equally favorable results ensue from the universal adoption of Birth Control?

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News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

June 2 Mrs Sanger was the guest of the Rand School Faculty Club, when she spoke on Birth Control and its Relation to Labor.

June 3 There was a large and enthusiastic meeting at the home of Mrs Ruth Litt, at Patchogue, L I, at which Mrs Sanger and Dr W H Garth spoke. It is purposed to form a legislative committee to support Birth Control legislation from the group that attended this meeting.

June 4 Mrs Sanger addressed the Public Heights Forum of Brooklyn, at Public School 15, on the subject "Is it wiser to continue the limitation of population by War and Poverty, or through Reason and Science?" There were over three hundred present. The address was followed by questions and brief speeches for and against Birth Control from the floor. A resolution endorsing the principle of Birth Control has been drawn up for presentation to the Forum at its next meeting.

June 11 A Birth Control meeting was held at Welcome House, 319 East 17th Street, New York. Miss Rosenberg acted as chairman. There was a large attendance of mothers.

Baron and Baroness Ishimoto, the leaders of the Birth Control movement in Japan, after a short visit to the United States have left for Europe. They will return in September. The Baroness during her stay in New York, visited Headquarters of the American Birth Control League, and was greatly interested in the clinical research work of Doctor Bocker. She reported good progress in the movement in Japan. She intends to visit clinics in England, Holland and Germany. Both she and her husband are deeply interested in the plans for the great International Birth Control Conference to be held in New York in 1925.

Dr H J Pelc, of the Ministry of Health at Prague, Czecho-Slovakia, and his wife who is also a physician, called at Headquarters in June. Both are interested in family limitation in connection with public health work. The visit was unofficial.

Another caller was Mrs Wm Polacheck of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is anxious that a Mothers' Health Clinic should be established in the city of Milwaukee, and is confident that it would receive the endorsement of labor groups and social workers there. She is deeply interested in Birth Control as a most important phase of public health work.

Pennsylvania

Mr Everett R Meves of Camden, N J, spoke before the Friendship Liberal League of Philadelphia on Sunday even, May 25th, on "The Morality of Birth Control. There was a large audience, and great interest was shown in Mr Meves' presentation of the subject

California

At the Social Workers' Conference, held at Long Beach, Cal, a resolution was presented that the Conference endorse the establishment of Birth Control Clinics in California. The resolution was laid on the table until next year, in order that the question might be more fully considered

NATIONAL

THE Social Workers of the United States met for their Fifty-first Annual Conference this year in Toronto, Canada. The Conference lasted from June 25 to July 2, the Maternity and Infancy Section meeting on June 30. A request was sent from the American Birth Control League that a place on the programme of this section should be made for the presentation of the subject of Birth Control. The request was refused.

All the delegates who attended the Fifth International Conference in London in 1922 have been invited to take part in the Sixth International Conference, which is to be held in New York in 1925. Numerous communications have already been received at Headquarters from foreign delegates who are hoping to attend.

ENGLAND

THE subject of Birth Control held a prominent position at a great conference of the Women's Labor Party which was held in London in May. There was a vigorous discussion, in which Mrs Bertrand Russell and Mrs Rose Davies took part, and the following resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority:

This Conference, while in no way criticizing the views of those who, for scientific or moral reasons, are opposed to the practice of Birth Control, expresses its opinion that the Ministry of Health should permit public health authorities to provide, for those who desire it, information on the subject of Birth Control, and that in cases where local health authorities desire to give such information, the Ministry of Health should not on that account withhold the usual grant.

The third English-Speaking Conference on Infant Mortality will be held in Caxton Hall, London, July 1-3. The presidential address will be

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given by Rt Hon James Wheatley, M P, Minister of Health in the Macdonald Cabinet. Mr Wheatley is a Roman Catholic, and is personally opposed to Birth Control, but it is unlikely that a conference of the kind can be held in England without the question of contraception being raised.

The yearly meeting of the "Society of Friends," of Great Britain, which was held at Llandrindod, Wales, the last week in May, took up the subject of Birth Control, as presented in the resolution passed by C O P E C in April. A minute was drawn up that it was the opinion of the meeting that this was a problem the responsibility for considering which must not be avoided, and that a committee should be appointed to go thoroughly into the matter.

CANADA

THE danger to society from the multiplication of the mentally defective was discussed by the Health Officers' Association of Ontario at a meeting in Toronto on May 20. Sterilization was strongly advocated to prevent the procreation of the unfit, and it was also suggested that all persons should be compelled to pass physical and mental examinations before being permitted to marry. Dr Hill of London, Ont., contended that another requisite was Birth Control, an opinion endorsed by Dr C J O Hastings, Medical Officer of Health of Toronto, who had given the principal address and whose paper had precipitated the discussion. "We should not lose sight of the fact," he said, "that all our churches were blaming the Almighty for all the deaths due to typhoid a few decades ago. Surely we are manly enough and big enough to shoulder our responsibilities and utilize our intellects."

AUSTRALIA

SINCE 1912, the Australian Government has granted a bonus of \$25 to every mother on the birth of a child. It has always been claimed by many prominent women that this money bonus was comparatively of little value, and that better provision for the care and treatment of mothers would be of greater benefit to the community. Recently Dr Edith Barret, of Melbourne, criticized severely the working of the bonus system in a paper read before the Victorian National Council of Women. She pointed out that the bonus had done nothing to diminish maternal and fetal mortality, and that, since its introduction, the decline in the infant mortality rate had been slight and could be attributed to other causes than the \$25 grant. Since 1912 the birth rate of Australia has steadily declined, showing that the bonus has had no effect in promoting the birth of more babies—which was one of its declared objects when enacted.

FRANCE

THE French Red Cross is extending its work into French Congo, and making an effort to check the infant death rate in that dark country. According to figures given by the Red Cross, French Congo has **580,000** inhabitants, 38 percent being women, 34 percent men and 28 percent children. The mortality from birth to eight years of age is **68** percent—two out of three. It was also stated that "the first-born almost invariably dies." So far the high infant mortality has served roughly for the survival of the fit. A check on the death rate demands also a wise policy of **Birth Control**.

JAPAN

DR RUDOLFB TEUSLER, the founder and director of St Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo, Japan, is keenly interested in **Birth Control**. The Hospital was destroyed in the earthquake of last September, and Dr Teusler is now in this country collecting funds for its rebuilding. While in New York he called at the Headquarters of the American Birth Control League. He interviewed Dr Bocker concerning the work of clinical research in which she is engaged, and carried away with him much information and literature which he intends to use in Japan.

COMING EVENTS

THERE is to be a Round Table Conference on "Population and Related Problems," at the Institute of Politics of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass, July 31-August 29. Professor Henry Platt Fairchild of New York University, who will conduct the Round Table, will include **Birth Control** in the program, as it is obvious that any treatment of the subject of Birth Control would be incomplete without it.

There will be a meeting in July at the residence of Mrs Caspar Whitney at Irvington-on-the-Hudson. This will be under the auspices of the League of Women Voters. Mrs Whitney is First Vice-Chairman of the New York State Branch of the League of Women Voters. Letters have been received from State Presidents of the League of Women Voters expressing an interest in the subject of Birth Control.

All Souls' Forum at Summit, N J, have requested Mrs Sanger to speak on the subject of "Civilization and Population," some time in December. This Forum is made up of prominent people who are interested in questions of common welfare. The meetings are held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church. Oscar B Hawes, Minister, will be the Chairman at Mrs Sanger's meeting.

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MR. JAMES H. MAURER, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, sends us the following comment on the article on "Child Labor and Birth Control," by Gertrude Webb, published last month. It will be recalled that this article blamed the parents for wilfully exploiting their children to earn money.

While there is considerable truth and logic in the Webb article, I cannot help but feel that she greatly overestimates the number of parents who want big families for the sole purpose of exploiting them. My study of the subject leads me to reason along different lines. Parents get big families because they don't know how to avoid getting big families, not because they want them, but because they come. They have no more control over children coming, then, than they have over a storm coming. Most of these parents are poor, and the children of parents with big families, therefore handicapped intellectually, and often physically. Sending the children to work is, therefore, not a question of choice, but of necessity. The father's income is not sufficient to provide for a large family, so whether they like it or not, the children must work or starve. The father's wages are not adjusted according to his needs or size of his family. Of course stringent Child Labor Law, properly enforced, will help some, but first we must abolish enforced idleness and criminal exploitation of the fathers, make it possible for parents to support their children, or place in the hands of the poor the information now possessed by the rich of how to regulate the size of their families so that they may conform to their incomes. This seems the easiest way out, since it seems to be a long way off before incomes will be regulated to suit the size of families.

JAMES H. MAURER

BIRTH CONTROL IN AUSTRIA

(Continued from page 197)

movements of social betterment with little popular leaflets—not learned. Not medical, but appealing ethically to the feeling of responsibility towards the child, also to the right of a woman to a happy life. That works most powerfully.

I must also note that we are forbidden to employ a physician directly in our clinics—not by law, but by the medical associations which, out of corporate feeling, desire to supervise all activities, and do not favor the entrance into ours. Indeed quite inhuman, but we must bow to it. Midwives may not openly place pessaries, nevertheless they do it secretly. But we wish to act legally and we send the women who come to us to the physicians.

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A mawkish modesty and a perfectly irrational attitude toward the facts and processes of human generation have closed the minds of the race to these wonderful, unconscious, personal experiences. The average mother knows little more than the female of the jungle about the romance and beauty of the genesis and development of the child to whom she is the nest. Ages ago, what we now keep in silence and darkness, was so manifest that it was the object of veneration and worship. With our fuller knowledge we ought to give it a place where its righteous significance will be appreciated by everyone. The normal facts of life are tokens of infinite wisdom. As death is better understood, men are liberated from the bondage of its fear. As the facts of conception and embryology are more widely known, the love of children will increase and the poison of lust will disappear. Charmed by the beauty and intelligence of life in its genesis, men and women will rejoice in becoming father and mother. As the naturalist, watching the salamander's egg in its evolution, seemed to see God directing the processes, so each new marital unit will wish to honor itself by being the willing co-operators with Life in giving God new sons and daughters — Rocky Mountain News

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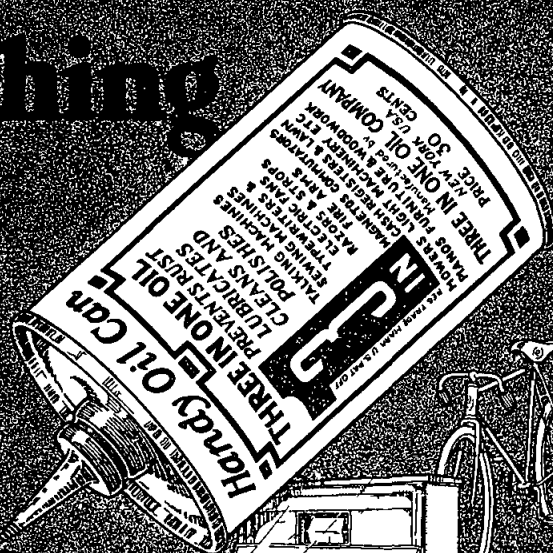
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That Europe will exhibit signs of **civilization** in this respect, however, is to be doubted Forethought and discretion on a grand scale and among scores of races are rather unthinkable France alone of the nations of the world deliberately **limited** her population during the **nineteenth** century to a **maximum** reasonable for her possessions, and was for years in an **economic position** superior to any of her **rivals** Unfortunately, France went through four years of suffering at the hands of her larger **neighbor**, who, because of a **previous** policy of population **expansion**, had come to need more room The French, the peers of the world man for man, were saved against greater force by others Her statesmen, nevertheless, having once more had a **glimpse** of power in **international** affairs, are now **calling** for a greater retinue to sustain that power, **giving** the threadbare excuse that they merely want **protection** Nor is France alone in this **Expansion** is **again** the pre-battle cry of Europe Publicists are as united in their course as were the Gadarene swine, and to the same **destructive** end They close their eyes to the **futility** of **expecting** over-population to save small countries in a trial by force, they **fail** to grasp the **economic significance** of a low birth-rate, and they **raise** the cry of decadence to encourage the promiscuous **production** of more people in their already overburdened lands It seems a **pity** — *Oregon City Enterprise*

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