

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



## *The Fight Against Birth Control*

By MARGARET SANGER

SEPTEMBER, 1924  
Twenty Cents

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# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N Y

VOL VIII

SEPTEMBER, 1924

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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, Editor

ANNIE G PORRITT, Managing Editor

VOL VIII

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## EDITORIAL

TOO much importance cannot be attributed to the International Birth Control Conference which is to meet in New York, March 19-24, 1925. There have been five of such Conferences in the past, the Fifth having been held in London in 1922. But the Sixth is the first to be held on this side of the ocean, and it is now the first time that the United States can claim to be the logical center for such a gathering. At previous conferences, the delegates came from the countries of Europe, from the United States, with a few interested individuals from the Orient. Next year great and flourishing Birth Control Leagues which in 1922 were only just coming into existence—largely as the result of Margaret Sanger's world tour in the preceding spring—will send delegates from Japan, China and India. Such leagues were essential, for Birth Control must be world-wide and not confined to merely the Occidental countries, if it is to confer its promised blessings on humanity. It is true that for very many centuries the population of China and Japan were stationary. But Western civilization has now introduced death-control into these countries, and if this innovation is not followed by Birth Control, it may prove to the world a curse and not a blessing. Japan can no longer contain its millions. India, with ever more mouths to fill, finds itself on the brink of recurring famines. China is learning to keep its babies alive, instead of balancing its high birth-rate with an equally high death-rate. The world stands in constant fear of over-population, and the only remedy consistent with our new morality is preventive Birth Control—the subject of the SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL AND NEO-MALTHUSIAN CONFERENCE.

THE Middle West and the Pacific Coast will both be well represented at the International Conference. This is the gist of the reports received from Mrs. Anne Kennedy, who has undertaken a trip across the Continent to arouse interest in the

coming event. The Middle Western States were greatly stirred by the Conference at Chicago in October of last year. A Birth Control Committee of the Middle Western States, headed by Dr. John Favill of Chicago, then came into existence. This Committee serves as *liaison* for the group of eight States, and Mrs. Kennedy reports activities looking towards the establishment of Birth Control Clinics in at least three of them. In Milwaukee the group interested has reached the point of planning for the opening of a clinic in the fall, when Mrs. Sanger will be invited to be present at its inauguration. In California, interest in Birth Control has been continuous since Mrs. Sanger's visits to that State, and over the border in British Columbia, the Vancouver group, led by Mr. A. M. Stephen, has kept up an active agitation in close touch with headquarters in New York. All these States will send delegates to the Conference who will make their contribution to the papers and discussions.

THE calling of an International Birth Control Conference is a reminder that Birth Control is not only a medical problem. There are problems that belong chiefly if not entirely to the doctors. Such is cancer control, in regard to which there is no controversy of an economic, philosophical or ethical nature, and no question except such as concern the origin of the disease, its prophylaxis and the methods of its cure. Birth Control, on the other hand, is a medical question only so far as regards methods of contraception. It is not a medical problem when approached from the standpoint of economics, politics or ethics. At a Birth Control Conference, economists, statisticians, advocates of peace, students of all social questions which concern poverty, the prevalence of sickness, dependency, delinquency and mental and physical deficiency, psychologists and philosophers, and students and teachers of ethics have all a contribution to make to the subject. In fact there is scarcely a reform put forward in these days of reform movements which

touches life so intimately or on so many sides. It is because of the uncertainty that still surrounds the subject in the minds of many who have not yet given it careful attention, and because of the need of education and instruction of even professors, educators and theologians, that the American Birth Control League is sponsoring the Sixth International Birth Control Conference.

**T**WO most difficult problems face the British Government at the present time. These are unemployment and the housing question. Both are the results of an increasing population, greater than the country is prepared to support. Yet the British Government in the person of Hon. James Wheatley, Minister of Health, obstinately refuses to rescind the order against giving Birth Control information at the Public Health Centers, or even telling where such information may be obtained. Instead Mr. Wheatley has just pushed through Parliament a housing bill, which it is hoped, may bring about the building of perhaps 50,000 houses, within the next two or three years. In the meantime, according to Mr. Wheatley's own estimate, England is adding 400,000 people yearly to her population. This means that each year 200,000 young men and 200,000 young women reach the marriageable age. Already the overcrowding among the working and middle classes is excessive and it would take several years of active house building to catch up with arrears, even if no new families were established. What is the outlook for all these young people? On the one hand, every avenue to employment overcrowded, and only a government dole offered for subsistence. On the other, no houses—no home for a newly married couple. There is a special provision in the bill that preference in allotting the houses shall be given to large families, a proviso that excludes from the benefits of the act the thrifty and responsible people who have not ventured to bring children into a world which offered them neither a home nor a living. What hope can there be of a Labor Government that penalizes thrift and foresight, puts a premium on reckless reproduction, and blocks the avenue to saving knowledge?

**T**HE theory of Mr. C. E. Pell that the birth-rate falls automatically with the fall of the death-rate, and that deliberate contraception has little to do with the matter receives a severe shock from figures recently published in France. That the French have practised contraception for several generations past is well known, as is also the fact that their rate of increase is extremely low. But it has not been equally recognized that the French have given less thought to their death-rate than they

have to their birth-rate and that the frantic efforts to encourage people to have more children are really expenditures of strength and resources at the wrong end of the scale. The figures referred to show that, while the population of France is approximately equal to that of England and Wales, France in 1923 had 761,861 births, as compared with 758,386 for England and Wales. But the French deaths numbered 666,990, while in England only 444,869 persons died. This difference in the death-rate gave England a natural increase of 313,517 for the year, while in France the population was augmented only by 94,871. In the first quarter of this year, the record was even worse, for while the births still exceeded those of the English, there were 24,039 more deaths than births. Last year, in its efforts to increase the number of births, the government distributed 763 millions of francs in bonuses and bounties. In the light of the figures we have quoted, it would seem as though this money would have been better spent in health campaigns for the saving of children already born, rather than in encouraging reckless reproduction, which can scarcely fail to increase the already high rates of infantile and maternal mortality.

**H**EADQUARTERS of the American Birth Control League occupies a suite of offices in a twenty-story building at 104 Fifth Avenue, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets. It is almost impossible for anyone, who has not been in close touch with our activities, to form any conception of the amount and range of work carried on from these offices. The League therefore extends a cordial invitation to all friends of Birth Control, who are in New York either as residents or visitors, to come to Headquarters and to get better acquainted with our work. Along with this invitation we also make an appeal for volunteers who will give their services either for a regular number of hours a week, or occasionally, when they can spare the time. There is always much to do in connection with our campaigns of education. Many women find it easy to fold letters and leaflets, to fill envelopes and to do similar tasks. Such help is of much value to us, and enables us greatly to extend our usefulness. Telephone us at Chelsea 8901-2-3-4 and let us know when you can come.

Our New York readers are urged to keep in mind the Birth Control booth at the Women's Activities Exhibit, Hotel Commodore, September 22-27. Mrs. J. Bishop Vandever and Mrs. George H. Day, Sr., are in charge of the booth. They will be glad of offers of help from volunteers. Please telephone Headquarters if you can spare any time.

# The Fight Against Birth Control\*

By MARGARET SANGER

THE long and bitterly fought war against Birth Control was described by Margaret Sanger in the July issue of the *American Mercury*. In the opening paragraphs she comments on the difficulty with which the ideas of love and procreation are dissociated in the human mind. One reason for the difficulty is suggested in the quotation from William Blake with which she heads the article

"and priests in black gowns were walking their rounds  
and binding with briars my joys and desires"

The article continues

"For ten years I have challenged this union of ideas, and in that turbulent period I have discovered that in this great commonwealth it is still considered 'lewd, lascivious and obscene' to suggest their dissolution. When the diabolic words, Birth Control, first made their appearance in print, my obscure little journal was forbidden the mails, seven Federal indictments were lodged against me, and I was denounced, condemned and hounded out of the country. Since that time books on Birth Control have been suppressed, meetings called to discuss the underlying problem have been illegally broken up, and police officials, city councils, mayors, priests, archbishops, and other self-appointed meddlers have joined in obstructing and overriding all the constitutional guarantees of free speech. Their methods have been of infinite variety, their purposes audacious, and their organization and cohesion admirable.

"These ten years of suppression and persecution have taught me many things. Despite the personal inconvenience I have undergone, I can now look upon the incessant activities of this new caste of thought controllers. Perhaps I really owe them a debt of gratitude, for I have come to see that they discharge a useful function in our great national pageant, enact a picturesque and perhaps even necessary role in our human-all-too-human comedy. Without the aid of their frenzied opposition the idea of Birth Control might never have been broadcasted to the remotest outposts of civilization.

"It is not my purpose here to argue the cause of Birth Control. I wish merely to touch upon certain aspects of the psychology of these thought suppressors—aspects perhaps unfamiliar to many who have never incurred their enmity.

## II

"In the first place, let us recognize that in the ordinary acceptance of the term, morality is nothing but the sum total, the net residuum, of social habits, the codification of customs. Decent, conservative and altogether respectable cannibals find nothing immoral in anthropophagy. The only 'immoral' person, in any country, is he who fails to observe the current folkways. Thus nothing can be so absolutely 'moral,' as Samuel Butler suggested as complete mental stagnation. To think about something new is as painful to the true conservative as to exercise an atrophied muscle. To doubt the wisdom of tradition is frowned upon. To introduce a new idea is to awaken a violent protest. More than once new inventions and discoveries of great value have been punished as crimes against the public good.

"Contrary to a widespread illusion, no sort of conduct among primitive and barbaric tribes is more rigidly regulated than the sexual. Custom controls the sexual impulse as it controls no other, and infraction of the traditional rules is punished by the severest penalties. In contrast with this tyranny of the primitive *mores* civilization has brought about the gradual extension of the sphere of individual liberty and of personal choice. It has substituted heterogeneity in behavior and thought for rigid and routine servility to custom.

## Imposing Sex Silence

"But during the past half century in the United States we have been the witnesses of a counter movement. Manifestly, it has been impossible to enforce upon the ebullient and inchoate groups which make up our population any hard and fast set of rules for sexual behavior. It has been perfectly possible, however, to enforce a strict silence concerning sex, and to forbid, under the threat of severe punishment, any frank or open discussion of its problems. This counter movement, therefore, has been not so much an attempt to codify and ritualize sexual conduct among the population at large as an effort to control thought and speech upon the subject.

"Fifty-one years have passed since Anthony Comstock, patron saint of our morality mongers, succeeded in having his psychosexual hyperaesthesia codified into State and Federal statutes. Section 211 of the Penal Code which legally links contraception with obscenity is based on his cur-

\*From *The War Against Birth Control* *The American Mercury* (Alfred A. Knopf New York) Edited by H. I. Mucken and George Jean Nathan July, 1924

ously morbid conception of human functions. The only lawful justification of love, he believed, was the procreation of children. Except for this avowed purpose, all intercourse should be made punishable by fine and imprisonment. Unless men and women could prove the virtuous motive of their cohabitation, they should be—and indeed I am informed that in certain sections of the United States they often are—thrown into jail. The Comstockian legislation against contraception was thus aimed at those who held that, independent of prospective parenthood, sexual relations had a legitimate excuse and value of their own.

#### *Anthony Comstock*

"Comstock, though he is dead, remains the archetype of the successful moral censor. His fanaticism generated a terrific energy. Galvanized into incessant and frenzied activity by the intensity of his obsession, he discovered obscenity everywhere. He came to be a national pontiff of prurience. Congress quailed before his passion. He convinced sheep-like legislators that unless his last-minute measures were enacted into law, American society would be hurled over the cliff into the abyss of eternal damnation. He gained greater and greater authority. He swayed Congress and the state legislatures, he became the moral censor of the Post-office, and finally he controlled even the port of New York.

"Havelock Ellis has told us that anything that sexually excites a prurient mind is obscene to that mind. Obscenity dominated Comstock's mind. 'Men think they know,' some one has written, 'because they feel, and are firmly convinced because they are strongly agitated.' There was never any doubt in Anthony's breast and his certainty was always translated into action. He hounded men and women, regardless of their dignity and good intentions. Because, at the age of 75, Moses Harmon published an article discussing matrimonial relations without evasion, he was sentenced to hard labor at Leavenworth. Through the force of his fanatical zeal and the inexhaustible resources of his energy Comstock was able for years to terrorize and anaesthetize the American mind. Armed with his newly legal forged weapons, his tyranny became complete. Always he was able to work 'within the law'.

### III

#### *THE REPERCUSSION*

"In one respect the self-appointed guardians of American morality differ today from their heroic ancestor. Speaking on the basis of my own experience and observation, I cannot escape the conclusion that those who have made the Birth Control

movement the object of their particular enmity are totally ignorant of what may be termed the classical tactics of suppression. They are like schoolboys playing with chemicals. Where they have hoped to enforce silence, they have been surprised and shocked by the force and repercussive effect of unexpected detonations. They themselves are often compelled to run to cover. Instead of silencing an idea or a book, they merely dramatize it. Over and over again they have worked miracles of publicity that would have been impossible to a regiment of press-agents.

"The Birth Control movement in America has had the good luck to incur the wrath of two distinct schools of censors. At first the Comstockians focused their attention on us. But with the passing of that patriarch any experienced observer must have noted the rapid decline of the Comstockian school. It has now become almost senile. No longer is it actuated by the stupendous frenzy of its founder. The grandiose gestures of the Golden Age are now things of the past. The neo-Comstocks are making, it is true, occasional spurts of activity, successful mainly because of the feebleness of the literary challenges to Mr. John S. Sumner. But I venture to predict that, in a future not too distant, there will be a gradual disintegration of the whole school. Times are changing. We are no longer in the Victorian era. Despite itself, American society cannot again bring to fruit so perfect a specimen of dynamic psychosexual hyperaesthesia as Anthony Comstock presented. And without the impelling force of an overwhelming pathological prurience, no virtuoso of his caliber can arise among us.

#### *Roman Catholic Opposition*

"Today the chief warfare against Birth Control is waged by the Roman Catholic clergy and their allies. From the psychological point of view the fact is not without its significance. For at least fifteen hundred years the church has occupied itself with the problem of imposing abstinence upon its priesthood—an intelligent and trained body of men who have been taught to look upon complete asceticism as the highest ideal—and it is not surprising that such a class of professional celibates should be psychically sensitive to the implications of the idea of contraception. Taught to look upon all expressions of physical love as sinful, it is but natural that these men should combat a school of thought so diametrically opposed to their own. Thus the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church and its representatives, high and low, is logical and to be expected. The philosophy of Birth Control insists upon the maximum of personal liberty in every sphere of human behavior that is compatible with

the maximum of personal responsibility. Rightly or wrongly, it throws back upon the individual full responsibility for his behavior. It requires him to act upon the basis of reason, experience and prudence. True morality, we claim, is the outgrowth of experience and of the exercise of rational intelligence upon that experience.

### *Catholic Ethics*

"The Catholic scheme of ethics, on the contrary, demands strict obedience to the laws and prohibitions that have been codified by authority. That authority declares in no uncertain terms that 'all positive methods of this nature (contraception) are immoral and forbidden.' In a Christmas pastoral Archbishop (now Cardinal) Patrick J. Hayes ventured so far as to assert that

even though some little angels in the flesh, through the moral or physical deformities of their parents, may appear to human eyes hideous, misshapen, a blot on civilized society, we must not lose sight of this Christian thought that under and within such visible malformations lives an immortal soul to be saved and glorified for all eternity among the blessed in Heaven.

"From exponents of the philosophy represented by this utterance the early advocates of Birth Control were prepared for the bitterest opposition. As a matter of fact, we welcomed such opposition, hoping only that the battle might be carried on according to the rules of decency and honesty. Neither the theory nor the practice of Birth Control has ever been thrust upon women unwilling to accept it, least of all upon Catholics. We have conceded to Catholic and all other clergymen the full right to preach their own doctrines, both of theology and of morals. When, however, the Catholic clergy attempt to force their ideas upon non-Catholic sections of the American public and transform them into legislative acts, we believe we are well within our rights as American citizens when we voice our protest. The unsportsmanlike tactics and strategy of these opponents to Birth Control may be illustrated by two examples of attempted suppression.

### *A Frontal Attack*

"Three years ago, as a fitting conclusion to the First American Birth Control Conference, a public meeting was arranged at the Town Hall in New York City. The subject chosen for discussion was the ethics of Birth Control. It was our aim to use this occasion, not for agitation, but to determine the opinions of representative men and women of all professions. Opponents of the doctrine were to be given a fair opportunity to state their objections. But the meeting was summarily closed by the police, acting, as subsequent investigation proved,

on the instructions of Monsignor Dineen, secretary to Archbishop Hayes! When I attempted to speak, I was dragged off to a police station, and with me went those who protested against this illegal and unwarranted abuse of authority. The case was promptly dismissed by the magistrate the following morning. The ecclesiastical instigators of the suppression did not appear against me. But the investigation which followed indicated that the police who broke up the meeting had received their orders, not from police headquarters, but from the clergy!

"The boomerang effect of this performance was indicated by the reverberations in the press. The idea of Birth Control was advertised, dramatized, made the recipient of column upon column of publicity. Only an infinitesimal section of the public had been aware of the first American Birth Control Conference, even fewer persons knew of the proposed meeting in the Town Hall. The clumsy and illegal tactics of our opponents made the whole country aware of what we were doing. Even the most conservative of American newspapers were placed in the position of defending our doctrine. Letters showered in upon us. Many new members joined the League. At a later date, in a much larger auditorium, crowded to the doors, the meeting was held. Thus our first national conference was crowned with triumph. Indeed, the momentum of the publicity we obtained by this unlawful interference carried us over many months. Instead of cutting off the public discussion of Birth Control, the episode made the whole country talk about Birth Control. There were symposiums, editorials, letters from 'constant readers'—all of which had the effect deliberately sought by us, of keeping our idea interesting to the public at large.

### *Other Tactics*

"Other tactics were invoked by the avowed enemies of Birth Control in a more recent attempt at censorship. When a state conference was arranged in Syracuse our clerical opponents brought pressure to bear upon the Common Council of that city—the members of which, unless I am mistaken had all taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and that of the State of New York. An ordinance was introduced making it a misdemeanor to discuss the subject of Birth Control in the city of Syracuse, and with but a single dissenting voice it was passed. To become a law it needed only the signature of the mayor. A violent protest now arose. Many who had not hitherto shown any interest in Birth Control sprang to the defense of the constitutional guarantees of free speech and peaceable assembly. The mayor, finally, vetoed the ordinance and the state conference was successfully held. By this episode the inhabitants

of Syracuse were not merely introduced to our idea, they were in addition taught something about the Constitution

"I might recount almost innumerable other instances of crude and usually unsuccessful attempts at illegal suppression. Hotels have been boycotted by such organizations as the Knights of Columbus because the managers have purveyed luncheons to advocates of Birth Control. Halls contracted and paid for have been withdrawn at the last minute on account of pressure brought to bear upon their owners. Permits to hold meetings have been refused by mayors or other city officials in cities in which there was a powerful Catholic constituency. Few politicians, though they have sworn to uphold the Constitution, dare jeopardize their future as office holders by incurring the displeasure of clerical authorities who control the thoughts of their adherents.

"It is hardly necessary, I hope, to reiterate here that we concede to Catholics and to all other churchmen full freedom to preach their own doctrines, whether theological or moral. But when they attempt, through illegal tactics, to force their opinions and codes upon non-Catholics they should be and will be challenged.

#### IV

#### ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

"I do not wish to convey the impression that my ten years of experience have driven me to the conclusion that suppression is an unmixed blessing. It is true that the idea of Birth Control has been made to thrive by these ill-advised attempts to extirpate it from the American mind. But its vitality is not merely the chance result of such clumsy, clownish antics. If we had not been determined, with all the courage and stamina at our command, constantly, promptly and unflinchingly to challenge the assumed authority of these self-appointed censors, our movement never would have profited nor advanced.

"Looked at from a broad point of view, the disadvantages of opposition have probably outweighed the benefits. If a powerful ecclesiastical organization, armed with the vast authority of tradition, can countenance and even encourage an impudent disregard of the Constitution of the United States, the document which insures to that organization itself the freedom to perpetuate itself and extend its influence, does the fact not set an evil example to any lesser organization or group which sets up shop to interfere in other people's affairs? Public opinion in America, I fear, is too willing to condone in the officials of the Roman Catholic Church what it condemns in the Ku Klux Klan. Today American 'purity' is protected by an interlocking directo-

rate of professional meddlers, a bloodless but bloodthirsty tribe, scanning the horizon for any and every outbreak of human passion, galloping post haste to the scene of every such *verboten* manifestation like a tribe of Indians descending upon a pioneer's wagon. Any Dogberry clothed in brief authority, any psychopathic person with an 'obscenity' complex may inaugurate the hunt. I have run the gauntlet in this new American sport and I know how well the new Inquisition is organized.

#### The Secret of Success

"Sporadic protests against the program of organized encroachment upon the citizen's constitutional rights, indignation meetings called by radicals, Liberals and intellectuals when some book is banned, anaemic, half-hearted denunciations of all censorship, campaigns for free speech, so often inaugurated and so rapidly dropped—such phenomena as these appear to me as one who has been more or less in the trenches for ten years, as not unsuggestive of an awkward squad of school boys armed with bean-shooters, advancing against the machine guns and poison gases of a trained army. Nevertheless, as I have tried to show, a little group of women under the direction of one who may be a fanatic have been able to wrest victory from this army. The secret of our success, if I may be permitted for the moment to call it a success, is to be found in the fact that we have never wasted our time and energy whining about our constitutional right to free speech. We have simply spoken out. We have asserted the truth as we have found it. We have spoken openly, honestly, aboveboard, and without equivocation or hypocrisy. We have repeated ourselves, we have reiterated our truisms, we have been, perhaps, at times tiresome and boring, but by following that program—by saying something and standing by what we have said—we have recaptured, for ourselves at least, the right to be heard. In this, I am convinced, we have set an example to others who have ideas to propagate—some of them, perhaps, of infinitely more importance to the American public than Birth Control. But so far they do not seem to be courageous enough to challenge an authority that invades every field of thought. We have, as a nation, not yet awakened to the realization that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

"Vituperation of the purity brigade may be an amusing substitute for mah jong and radio concerts for the intellectually detached, and indignant libertarians may derive some satisfaction from making loud-mouthed protests after somebody or something has been suppressed, but such activities contribute exactly nothing toward a cure for our na-

(Continued on page 261)



# War and Birth Control

By JOHN C. DUVALL

*Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University*

**W**AR is not primarily an human machination but rather an human application of a principle based upon an inexorable law of nature. War is an expression of an human attempt to control or modify a natural condition which affects all forms of life, both plant and animal. This condition exists because of the fact that as yet, it has been impossible for food supplies and tenable space upon the earth to increase in a ratio sufficient to insure survival of all of those who are reproduced. It is therefore natural that as conditions are at present, all beings born into the world cannot possibly survive.

The human species likewise has the tendency and capacity to reproduce far in excess of available food and tenable space. Man is therefore subject to the same natural laws and conditions which affect all forms of life, and when population increases beyond the bounds of natural supplies the inevitable result is that famine, disease, or pestilence becomes operative to check its further increase.

In recent times however, as a result of the development of impatience and intelligence, man has developed certain supplementary measures, such as infanticide, homicide, and war, to assist nature in controlling human population, and likewise to effectuate this control to suit his own convenience and desire. The backward races of India throw their excess babies into the Ganges river, the peoples of China expose their surplus infants to the elements, and the inhabitants of the frigid zones are forced to kill off the aged non-producers so that the more fortunate may survive.

Of course such barbaric methods are abhorrent to the highly civilized nations. The practice of infanticide or homicide can scarcely be entitled to civilized consideration, much less to toleration. But these advanced nations are nevertheless subject to the same natural laws and conditions as cause the more backward peoples to drown, expose, or otherwise eliminate their surplus population. It is therefore evident that as the highly civilized nations are confronted with the conditions which affect all races and peoples, it likewise becomes necessary for them to develop a means whereby the same results may be obtained.

## Diabolical Population Control

At the present time civilized nations are meeting this situation through a diabolical process of con-

trol which is immeasurably more horrible than even the most hideous of barbaric methods. In this case the system is not concerned with the exposure of infants to the elements, but rather with the exposure of expensively reared adults to shrapnel fire and mustard gas. Surplus babies are not thrown into a Ganges river, but the best of young manhood is drowned in a river of blood. Also the dispatching of the aged is obviated by the mass slaughter of the battlefield whereby the same results are accomplished.

But in any event it matters little whether the method employed is that of the barbarian or the terrifying system of the civilized man, the results are the same in their ultimate effect, as they arise from the same underlying causes. Population is kept within the confines of available resources by the application of either of these systems, whether as a result of natural consequence or human application thereof. The various agencies of famine, disease, pestilence, infanticide, homicide, or war arise from the same *natural* condition and until that condition is understood and modified, one or more of these agencies must operate to accomplish its terrible but inevitable and necessary purpose.

It should, therefore, be clearly evident that programs such as Leagues of Nations, disarmament conferences, world courts, and religious fanaticisms, being based solely upon such superficial considerations as political, economic, or emotionally sentimental apparitions, can at best operate only to delay war rather than result in its absolute prevention. Although such programs may be designed to approach the political, economic, or religious ideal, unless the *fundamental* cause of war is understood and removed, unless overpopulation is *prevented*, the inevitable result will be a destruction of the surplus. War is a means of accomplishing this result.

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*Amongst the better class, birth control has long been an established practice, and it is rapidly growing amongst the better educated working class citizens.*

*The over-population of this country is becoming a most serious problem. If the population goes on increasing at its present rate there is nothing can save the country from anarchy. Unless birth control becomes more general we shall never catch up with the housing shortage.*—NEW-CASTLE SUN

# God's Call to Birth Control Eugenics

By RALPH BEVAN

**A** LOW cost of living is not the only requisite to progress. Diminution of poverty, however, is the fundamental essential on which a higher average of health, culture, generosity, and capacity for useful happiness generally, must be built. The most pressing problem is to reduce the difficulty of obtaining necessities by removing its cause.

The radical view is that the high cost of living is brought about rather by an excessive accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, leaving an insufficiency for the masses, than by an inadequacy of the total quantity of wealth. Unfair distribution, however, is only a secondary cause of the present pressure on the means of existence which underlies the high cost of living.

This point is convincingly emphasized in the masterly article in the *American Economic Review* for March, 1920, on the "Nature of our Economic Problem." Here Professor Henry B. Gardner, head of the Economics Department at Brown University, publishing his presidential address to the American Economic Association, declares that the most trustworthy calculations that have been made are those of King, for the United States and of Bowley, for the United Kingdom, both relating to the few years just before the war. These, being independent, yet mutually corroborative, are cogent evidence of the approximate accuracy of both. And on King's authority the ante-bellum annual production of the United States was \$30,530,000,000, amounting to a product of \$332 per person in a year. With savings necessary to maintain production, and taxes, deducted, the product of the richest country in the world, equally divided, would have yielded only an annual income of \$1,300 for families of five. This clearly, even at that time, could have furnished little more than the bare necessities of healthy and decent existence.

## The Shortage of Wealth

Having resolved the H. C. L. into a pressure on wealth which, while partly resulting from undue accumulation by a few, is mainly consequent on an inadequate supply, it remains to consider means of alleviation.

Of the expedients for removing the shortage of wealth, namely, increase of its quantity and eugenics—or facilitation of scientific birth control among the least productive classes—increase of the supply of wealth, in so far as it is practicable, is surely preferable.

World team-work in the production and conservation of wealth—that alone, however, cannot prevent ever recurring crises of overpopulation nor their calamitous, aggravative effects—*strikes, revolutions, wars*. The impulse of race preservation is often more imperious even than the instinct of self-preservation. While present ideas regarding birth-control prevail, multiplication of population will soon more than offset any surplus supply of life's necessities brought about by education in practical economics. It must be realized that instinctive emotions are divinely intended to be controlled by the intellect in the interests of human welfare. This, as the later product of evolution, is the higher element in consciousness. Only acknowledgment of the proper supremacy—the Divinity—of intelligence, complementing education in the ethics of economics, can prevent repeated pressure on wealth—future wars ever more colossal—more crazing.

## The Rule of Reason

The right of far-sighted reason to regulate blind impulse, for the promotion of human happiness and perfection must be recognized. Convictions against the having of children who cannot be prepared for worth-while living without excessive struggle—such promptings are not superstitiously to be censured. Rather are they to be treated as divinely inspired. Disinclinations of the least productive, thrifty, healthy, generous, and otherwise least useful classes to aggravate overpopulation—while multiplying their own misfortunes—such scruples should be respected as inner workings of divine wisdom. A more enlightened attitude toward birth control among religious and medical advisers—that is the only permanent key to diminution of poverty and lasting peace—to the greatest perfection, happiness, and progress of the race.

To cease urging the least productive and useful to multiply—to countenance limitation of births according to the parental earning capacity—this is to glimpse the dawn of a golden era. Those, who would bury the suggestion of voluntary birth control under a flood of obloquy, court a succession of ever more calamitous wars and of multiplied costs of living. Then only alternative is a series of compulsory reductions of the birth rate. And these fleeting and painful reliefs cannot but be finally capped by pressure on wealth and land so agonizing as to persuade the hardest-hearted of the duty of birth control.

As surely as the earth's surface is limited, the ultimate checking of the birth rate was from the first ordained by God. The problem of the physically, nervously, and morally healthiest methods of birth control must inevitably be faced. The intended reign of reason over the blind instincts is unequivocally intimated. Shall stubborn superstition as to the supposedly purposed supremacy of blind feeling invite further wars and aggravated poverty? Shall dilatory obedience to Divine command be punished by the infinite agonies of tardy, precipitate, blind and disastrous modes of controlling births? Or shall prompt obedience minimize the risk of other wars and worsened poverty and win the illimitable benefits of cautiously and scientifically instituted birth control?

### Preferable to War

It is unanswerably demonstrable that no efforts of human genius at enlarged production, however strenuous, can conceivably make possible the present rate of the race's multiplication for "any lengthy period."<sup>1</sup> The growth even of the most productive, thrifty and useful classes can be accompanied by a more rapid advance in food supplies for "only a very limited time."<sup>2</sup>

Yet scientific birth control by circumspect education of medical and religious advisors may require generations to institute. Even now it may be too late to avert war for some nations, and aggravated poverty, serious and prolonged, for most. Further delay means not only the multiplication of incalculable hereditary tragedies, but increased risks of another world war and of agonizing economic pressure, world-wide and protracted. Dr O. E. Baker, Economist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, warns this nation that its greatest production per person is probably near, and possibly past, and that every increase of its population is likely to aggravate the high cost of living.<sup>3</sup> And according to Professor Pearl,<sup>4</sup> American grandchildren must face a much lower standard of living "even at the best." If, then, an authority so high predicts such grave consequences, despite immediate regulation of births, what ever-worse wars and other illimitable evils may not reasonably be expected from any considerable postponement of birth control eugenics!

Only the most progressive medical experts will concede the existence of a sure and harmless mode of controlling births. The writer has learned the practical impossibility of obtaining such an admission from others. This indiscriminating attitude

of the doctors seems the greatest single cause of human suffering. There is, then, no alternative but to express a reasonable conviction. The encouragement of overpopulation is unnecessary. Unhealthy suppression of the most imperious impulse can be avoided. This is not the place for lengthy proof or argument. We may, however, express a confident belief—and one founded on weighty authority—as to the prevailing opinion among the most enlightened experts. When all the evidence in favor of an open-minded and exhaustive inquiry is in, it will be found that there are sure methods of preventing births without foregoing the legitimate pleasures of marriage. These modes, even if not entirely healthy or harmless, are at least infinitely to be preferred to the colossal tragedies—wars, disease, countless burdensome lives—more or less directly resulting from the indiscriminate favoring of births.

### Reason Divine in Origin

Is birth control in contravention of divine instinct—the supreme law of race preservation? Quite the contrary. Control of births would be practised under exceptional circumstances in the interest of that same human welfare which the instinct of race preservation exists to promote. The purpose and essence of the law is happiness, that preponderates in the life the instinct exists to multiply. In peculiar circumstances it is proposed to violate the law's letter as the only means of observing its spirit. The instinctive feelings have divine authority. Yet they are but general guides to the good of individual and race. Reason is no less divine in its origin. And the latter is the later development of evolution—the higher element of man. It is intended to regulate, guide, and control the blind instincts—in unusual cases to prevent their defeating the very welfare which is the only justification of their existence.

### Control Entrusted to Man

Closely allied to the above is the objection that limitation of births is an impious interference with divine prerogative. The mysterious has always inspired awe. It would be strange, indeed, if the most miraculous of mysteries had not been a fruitful source of superstition.

True, the actual processes of birth are in God's hands alone. But He preferred to govern its initiation through man. Else why did He entrust the latter to human control? Admittedly, He did not originally give man wisdom in this matter. But He endowed him with the means of knowledge. The case is but part of the general order. Man was started in ignorance and consequent misery. Thus only could he enjoy the satisfaction of learning,

<sup>1</sup> Appendix A, Vol. 1, Census of Australia, pp. 33, 454.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix A, Vol. 1, Census of Australia, pp. 454-5.

<sup>3</sup> *American Review of Reviews*, April, 1923, p. 440.

<sup>4</sup> *New York Times*, October 8, 1922.

utilizing, and controlling divine laws and instincts for the overcoming of human suffering. Usually we assume that we are to take advantage of any accessible knowledge for the promotion of human welfare. We think thus to make use of a divine gift is to execute the will of a benevolent God. The instance in question is peculiar only in the sacredness of the responsibility involved. Is this not a distinction demanding especially the grateful exercise of far-sighted reason for the guidance of blind instinct to prevent the aggravation of human pain?

We grant that birth should be controlled by God. The point is that it ought not to be governed by God's lower nature revealed in man's sexual impulse. It is infinitely preferable that so sacred a responsibility as the creation of life be regulated by God's higher being. That is manifested in human intelligence aiming at the greatest average welfare.

### **Pain Essentially Evil**

But a more searching objection may be raised. The fundamental position that pain is an evil—that it exists only for the satisfactions of minimizing it—may be attacked. And if it can be successfully contended that suffering is good in itself, then doubt is thrown on the justifiability of birth control.

Except only, nevertheless, where control of birth or death is necessary, pain is axiomatically regarded as God's sign that His law is being violated—as a divine signal to do whatever is necessary permanently to remove the suffering—to promote that human welfare which is God's supreme end for man. Yet where voluntary death or prevention of birth appears the only escape from great tragedy, neither of these is treated as obedience to divine command. Inconsistently, on the ground that pain is a good-in-itself to be gratefully per-

petuated by cheerful resignation, both are passionately condemned as sins against God. Under such circumstances, however, either act would control blind instinct, of race preservation or of self-preservation, to decrease human agony.

### **God's Loyalty to Happiness**

Acts to be consistently viewed only as answers to God's call to cut out misery otherwise incurable by control of birth or death—these are held execrable impieties. What is the explanation of this anomaly? Clearly the 'superstitious feelings of horror of death and of sacredness of birth. Yet why do those exist? Only because in general the preservation and multiplication of life forward happiness. Nor does that reasoning seem sound by which the spirit animating this marvelous universe is conceived as more active in blind impulses aggravating woe than in thinking reason controlling such instincts in the interests of human perfection.

The most fundamental element in all inspiring religions is faith in the underlying goodness of the universe—in God's loyalty to human happiness. Are all the greatest religions founded on sand? Is the universe one colossal lie? If not, the Deity is kind. The inconceivable burden of the world's anguish due to the war and to hereditary imperfections—this is the clearest kind of a divine command to resort to the only expedient that can rapidly and permanently remove the bulk of human tragedy. The present sad crisis seems the plainest call from God to birth control eugenics. By no other resource can the pressure of population be lastingly relieved. Only by thus taking advantage of the law of heredity can the individual productivity, thrift, health, unselfishness, adaptability, and usefulness of the race be effectually improved.

## **Overpopulation**

*By* BERNARD SACKS, M D

**T**HE present population of the earth is 1,650,000,000 and is increasing all the time. This number sprang from the original two, Adam and Eve, or maybe we came from a couple of Bolshevik monkeys.

Notwithstanding all the hurricanes, such as the glacial period, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, in spite of all the wars, religious persecutions, pestilences, epidemics and diseases, the human race kept on multiplying and increasing.

Now that human thought tends to eradicate wars, science teaches the prevention of epidemics and diseases, prenatal care and the care of infants preventing the enormous waste of human life, and

every baby born to be born to live, we can easily surmise that in the near future population would increase in a still greater ratio, the earth will become overcrowded to such an extent that we will become packed up like the sardines in the subway.

Even now in China, people live all the year round on boats because there is no room for them on land.

Even now in England they are confronted with a problem of about 2,000,000 surplus population, and Australia does not want them because they need the room for themselves.

Considering that the Polar and Arctic regions

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# Gleanings

By ANNE KENNEDY

**I**N boarding the electric train for Milwaukee, my seat companion proved to be a young mechanic on his way to the "City of Opportunity." We talked of La Follette, the present prosperity of Wisconsin, due to the enormous dairy business of that state, and finally a young man's opportunity, under the present economic system, for a happy and successful marriage.

"Marriage isn't what it used to be. There are no homes to rent for \$15.00 per month. Look how much it costs to get from your home to your job and back every day. Sixteen cents carfare and extra for transfers. It takes all I can earn for the I. D., board, room, a clean shirt and bed. Now how can I ask a girl to tie herself to me on any such proposition. Say, aren't the girls independent—all of them hunting jobs, and keeping them too. They wear up-to-date clothes and make a fellow feel he's got to make good. Now how can marriage and happiness for both parties be worked out? I know lots of fellows who cut and run from the wife and kids because they can't manage the rent—and all fine fellows too. Marriage is a little business all its own, and a fellow fails to make good in it because he hasn't studied his equipment to make it go. His expenses increase and his salary stays where it was in the beginning. He doesn't think of that—the kids coming and all. Does his boss and landlord point this out to him? No, they want married men, but don't help him to meet the problems that often break his home up. Now there's a girl right here in Chicago earning \$18.00 a week, but we can't marry on what comes in my pay envelope, so I'm going to Milwaukee to see if I can land a bigger job. Hate to leave—she's a fine kid—but I get discouraged when I think of what I want to do and don't see any way to do it!"

I reached down in my bag and handed him our pamphlet, "Can You Afford a Large Family." He read it through and with enthusiastic gratitude, turned and said, "Gee, this is the first light I have had on the subject."

**I**N the dignified and beautiful Historical Building in Des Moines is housed the Medical Library for the State of Iowa. It was quiet and cool, and I wandered around the building until I found the door labeled Medical Library. Upon entering I found, peering at me from a table stacked high with books, a little brown-wren of a woman with sparkling eyes and quick decisive movements.

Every medical treatise seemed touched with this sparkling personality, and she had equally galvanized her life into the entire library. "Yes, I am the pioneer in this work. These 6,500 volumes are sent on request to any doctor in the State—a traveling library, at a cost of the postage only. This keeps the doctors up-to-date. I send them a list of new books. Within the past two years, the business has grown to such an extent that I now need an assistant. When I came here, I found only a few Des Moines physicians making use of this library. Then this idea came to me of reaching the country doctors too. No other State employs this method. Yes, I'd like to install this system in all medical libraries. Books on Birth Control? Certainly I'll order them. I'll send right away for your BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and the Conference Reports and your clinical data. I'd better order two of each. It will be popular. Doctors are waking up to the question. I wish they would send me on to your International Conference as a delegate. I believe so thoroughly in your cause. I'll help you to educate the physicians—they certainly need it. I'm very glad you came in."

\* \* \* \* \*

**T**HE woman who sat at my right at a committee luncheon said "Yes, I'm for progressive movements. I'm a Quaker, fought for suffrage for 25 years and stuck by the W. C. T. U. all that time. They are more progressive than they used to be. At the Convention in Philadelphia, they discussed your resolution on Birth Control in Committee. All national women's organizations should be behind this cause. This is a cause to help MOTHERS. Why do the women hang back?" With a merry twinkle in her eye "We have a hard time with speakers from the East. Your women come out West to lecture on this and that and ask a high price for educating us. Some of the lecturers are poor speakers and only use a lot of words. They offer no help in solving any of our real problems. Yes, I'll go on your committee."

\* \* \* \* \*

**T**HE telephone rang in my room. "Are you from the Birth Control League in New York? The Denver Juvenile Court sent me over to get some of your literature. Can I get it?" A tall, fine looking chap met me in the lobby, and asked for all of our pamphlets and leaflets to send to the president of a Woman's Club in Tucson, Arizona,

(Continued on page 255)

# IS BIRTH CONTROL A MAN'S PROBLEM?

*Letters From Men Who Think It Is*

*The question is often asked Why don't the men take an interest in Birth Control? While the vast majority of the letters appealing for Birth Control information and advice come from mothers—from married women who have already borne many children, and whose health and circumstances make the prospect of further pregnancies a terror, there are not lacking letters from men They come from husbands and fathers, who feel that it is wrong to bring children into existence, unless they can be given a fair chance in life We give these letters to show our readers that men are keen to know how to protect their wives from overburdening maternity They prove that Birth Control, while primarily a woman's problem, affects the life and happiness of both sexes Men will be happier, as well as women and children, when scientific Birth Control information is accessible to all who need it*

## Threatened Wreckage

North Dakota

Having read your wonderful book "Woman and the New Race," I am writing you as a last hope of avoiding a separation of myself and wife We have been married 25 years, and during that time, my wife has had nine children and no less than ten abortions, even though we used all kinds of preventatives we could hear of When my wife is in that condition, she, of course, is nervous and irritable, and has told me she hates me—when in that condition At present we are not living together, but if we only knew of some harmless preventative, there is no doubt but we would live happy and contented together, as man and wife should, after our struggle of 25 years Therefore I am writing you to beg of you to advise me how to prevent conception If you will only do this for us, you will, no doubt, be the means of preventing another wrecked home, and thereby, at least, have two more friends for life I have spent lots of money and many days and nights of worry trying to find a way to avoid conception, or hiring a doctor to cause an abortion—trying to protect my darling wife from a family that no woman on earth could properly provide for, and believing all the time that it was wrong to cause an abortion The last one I paid a doctor \$100 for performing, and gave a nurse \$25 to care for her until she was out of danger Now won't you please do us this one great blessed favor, and I am sure God will reward you

## Starting Right in the New Country

Wisconsin

This morning I received a letter from my wife in Germany, in which she writes me that the passages for herself and our two children are bought and visa obtained, and she will arrive here within two months, and I should keep my savings from now for our new home here This

news makes me the happiest of men, especially because it was so hard to obtain I myself am in this country since five months After three weeks looking for work, I found a job, \$24 00 a week, and restricting myself to the utmost (cooking and washing for myself) I could save \$15 a week which I sent her to buy ship tickets

My wife's and my own highest wish would be to know about means to stop getting children for a couple of years This is for us the only way to get ahead We are married since 1920 I am 29, and she 24 years old I don't need to describe to you the living conditions of the working classes in Germany, it is widely known

I dare to say that, although hard working, both of us, we form a happy, life-worthy family But increasing of the family would mean down-going and both of us have been outlooking for the last year for means to prevent pregnancy In my search I found here in the Public Library your book "The Pivot of Civilization" I believe I am now on the right way in my search I trust to you to instruct me—I beg you for our happiness—in right and safe methods of Birth Control I promise you, I won't be selfish and content in knowing it, but will become and continue a little laborer in your great social work

I myself am the second of 14 children, all alive, less my elder brother who died by my side at the war front When in 1917, I went home for ten days holiday, I was made acquainted with a newly-arrived sister-baby I took courage and asked my mother would it be the last one Mama replied me "My boy, since long myself had wished a stop, but I don't know how, and your father every time said, 'In God's name it will grow up with the others, and better so than commit a sin' My dear boy, learn you from the sufferings of your mother, when you're going to marry, and procure for your own children a happier youth than you had yourself"—and mama turned away and wept bitterly I had to return to France after a few days, but those words I could not forget until now

## To Help His Mother

Ohio

I am a young man, just 19 years old, and have a mother and father living, and have four other brothers and three sisters besides me also living. I am the oldest, and as we are foreign people, my mother does not know how to read or write in American language. So I have found out in the paper about you and am writing to you for my mother's sake, as she is only 37 years old, and had ten children and two of them died, and the last two of them were born blue or about dead. And she tells me she would rather die than have another child. So I am writing to you a long letter. The youngest is three-and-a-half years old, and I tell you it is as hard on me. Mother says that I had to start to work about, not yet 15 years old, to help father to support the family. So I would be much obliged to hear from you. I have failed to mention that I have the book, "Woman and the New Race" and have read every word in it, and also explained as much as I could to my dear mother.

## Two Brothers' Stories

Missouri

My brother lost his wife five years ago. She was very energetic. She gave birth to the first child in nine months, the second in the following eleven months and the third in the following twelve months. She got very ill in giving birth to the third child, and stayed sickly and gave birth to the fourth in the following twelve months. She contracted tuberculosis, and still she gave birth to the fifth child.

The fourth child died four months ago from some throat trouble within 48 hours. The fifth child is just living and that is all, the three older ones are not what you would call healthy children as they did not have a mother's care.

I have been married for four years and have three children, the oldest is three years and three months, and the youngest four months old.

When we were married, my wife was eighteen and I was twenty-seven. She gave birth to the first child in nine months, the second in sixteen months later. She suffered very much with the second. She came near losing her life and the child also. She tried to nurse the child, but he was always crying, and kept falling off until he turned yellow. So I called my old family doctor, from my home town, and he examined the baby and found he had a cleft palate. He was not strong enough to nurse, and we had to feed him with a dropper until he got older.

After the birth of this baby my wife was in a condition of misery for five days. She was as near a corpse as I ever saw anyone. When I put my hand on her face it was like a lump of ice. She remained quite ill for three months.

The doctors got together and said she should not have any more children for a few years, until she grew stronger,

but that was as far as they got. They did not give her anything to protect herself with. And she gave birth to a girl four months ago. She happened to be strong enough to pull through, but I am afraid if she takes another chance it will be one too many for her, and the same thing will happen to her that happened to my brother's wife.

Of course, after two or three years it might again be safe, but now, no. We are the happiest couple in the world, but if something happens to my wife, I don't know what will become of me and the children.

You certainly can make us very happy and save us lots of restless nights, and I do hope that you will be able to convince this Government to put up Birth Control clinics.

## Mere Warnings Useless

New York

Some weeks ago I was walking up Broadway. I noticed a woman holding something like magazines, and as I came closer, I read in large type BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. As soon as I saw that, I became interested and bought one of the copies. After reading it through, I found it very interesting, and I agree with every point brought out by the Birth Control organization.

I saw some letters reprinted, written by mothers, but I was surprised at not seeing any from husbands, because, in my opinion, it is just as much business of a father to know how many children he can bring up as it is of his wife. He is the one that is bringing in the daily bread, and should know how much he can bring in, and should see that the stop is made at the proper time, by helping to make it a law, so that advice can be had when needed.

I am 45 and father of eleven children, eight of which are living. That is in twenty years of married life. My wife is much younger. She was getting weaker all the time and was warned by doctors that she was having too many babies, but only warned, which did not do any good. Finally when she gave birth to the last one, two years ago, she became very sick. She was hanging between life and death for seven months, and was in bed a whole year. She is not well now. It would mean sure death if she would have to give another birth, where, if she could have been advised seven years ago, this could have been all prevented.

When the prohibition law went into effect, it was the best thing that ever happened in this or any other country. But when the Birth Control will become the law, it will be better than prohibition, for I happen to be in the neighborhood of large families, and I know of some families of seven to twelve children, where one would be too many, and every here and there a charity has to come to the rescue. Therefore Birth Control should not only become a law to advise, but it should be a law to compel such families from bearing children. I promise to do what little I can to put it through, and I wish you and the committee the success to make it a law at an early date.

# What We Sta



HE COMPLEX PROBLEMS now confronting America as the result of the practice of reckless procreation are fast threatening to grow beyond human control

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

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

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

We hold that children should be

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

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

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

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

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

## Aims

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, Inc., aims to enlighten and educate all sections of the American public in the various aspects of the dangers of uncontrolled procreation and the imperative necessity of a world program of Birth Control.

The League aims to correlate the findings of scientists, statisticians, investigators and



# For *Principles and Aims of the American Birth Control League, Inc.*

social agencies in all fields To make this possible, it is necessary to organize various departments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, Inc**, proposes to publish in its official organ the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, reports and studies on the relationship of controlled and uncontrolled populations to national and world problems

The American Birth Control League, Inc, also proposes to hold annual conferences, to bring together from all parts of the country those interested in the various phases of the subject, thus promoting the organization in every State of branches of the League which shall carry on the work of educating the public and pushing such legislation as is necessary to permit proper medical instruction in Birth Control

# Birth Control and Public Health\*

By C KILLICK MILLARD, M D , D Sc , M O H , for Leicester

MAY I be allowed at the outset of this discussion to refer to the fact that it was at a meeting of this branch in October, 1902, twenty-one years ago, that I ventured to make my first public utterance in favor of Birth Control. It was in the course of an address which I was giving as President of the Branch, under the title of the "Role of the 'Anti' An Apology and an Appeal," and I wrote

"There is another 'Anti' whose special subject is the population question. He holds that large families amongst the poor are a fruitful cause of poverty and its attendant evils, and he teaches that human beings are not bound, like the lower animals, by the law of nature under which they must, once they are married, reproduce their species to the utmost extent of their physiological capacity, regardless of their ability to nourish and support their offspring. One is compelled to admit that such a doctrine has much to commend it on the grounds of prudence, foresight and solicitude for the welfare of such offspring as may already exist, and certainly, if it were generally adopted and acted upon, it would greatly diminish our terribly high infant mortality. Yet the doctrine has been received with intolerance so bitter that few care to discuss it, and, as a consequence, many people arrive at conclusions on the subject on one-sided evidence alone."

## A Sample of Intolerance

It will be observed that the term 'Birth Control' was not mentioned, the reason, of course, being that at the time I am speaking of this term, which is a comparatively modern one, had not been introduced into this country. As a sample of the intolerance with which the subject was regarded, even as recently as 1911, we may cite a book entitled "Racial Decay," by O C Beale, published in that year. This is an exhaustive work, running to over 400 closely-printed pages, in fierce condemnation of Birth Control and the use of contraceptives, and it abounds in such expressions as these, many of them quoted with approval from other sources: "Filthy practices," "bestial corruptions," "abominations," "immoral filth," "Malthusian apostasy," "pure and unadulterated selfishness," "revolting and terrible," "Satanic gospel," "filthy merchandise," "incon-

ceivable blasphemy," "eternal curse," "damnable wrong." It refers to Birth Control as a "cancerous growth growing towards our utter destruction" and speaks of "children being shut out from the banquet of life."

Yet a man of the caliber of Theodore Roosevelt, referring to this book, said he believed it to be better worth the study of every sincere patriot than any other book that had been written for years!

We may observe that the view, clearly indicated by the above quoted expressions, that there was something inherently "unclean" in the practice of contraception, was formerly very widely held. This has been one of the great obstacles raised by prejudice to the impartial consideration of the subject which the earlier advocates had to combat. It was no doubt a survival of the old ecclesiastical doctrine that anything connected with sex—even sex itself—was "unclean" and only tolerated by the Deity for the necessary and express purpose of procreation.

## A Welcome Change

It is pleasant to reflect on the remarkable change which has taken place in the attitude of thinking men and women today. Neo-Malthusianism, rechristened Birth Control, is no longer a tabooed subject, as it used to be, not to be mentioned in polite society. On the contrary, it has become distinctly fashionable and is openly discussed around dinner tables and over the tea cups in the most irreproachable circles. Bishops and other dignitaries of the Church, eminent physicians and surgeons, distinguished authors, gallant admirals, leaders of society, politicians, social workers, all find it necessary nowadays to be quite *au fait* with the subject of Birth Control and many have given it their cordial blessing. The most reputable papers and magazines, including progressive Church papers, which a few years ago would not have looked at the subject, now publish articles on it and open their columns freely for its discussion, whilst books on the subject, especially by women writers, dealing with the practical side of the question in the most intimate possible way—the authors and vendors of which would almost certainly have been prosecuted a few years ago—are now sold openly at every bookstall.

Of course, it is not suggested that all controversy is at an end. There is still a sharp conflict of opinion, and there are individuals here and there to whom the whole subject is still anathema, but

\* This address of Dr Millard was made to the Medical Officers of Health of the Midlands, England. It was published in *Public Health*, the official organ of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. The concluding part will appear in our October issue.

it is possible now to discuss the question freely and openly, without apology and without necessarily raising hot passions and storms of moral indignation

Birth Control, as the term is usually understood today, implies the voluntary restriction of the size of the family. The term is not strictly scientific, and a better one is "conception control," but as the term Birth Control has now become firmly rooted in the English language it will not be easy to alter it. The subject may be approached from many different points of view

We propose to touch briefly upon the following

- 1 The Cosmopolitan or World-wide Aspect
- 2 The National or Imperial Aspect
- 3 The Public Health Aspect
- 4 The Eugenic Aspect
- 5 The Physiological Aspect

We do not propose to deal here with either the personal or the Ethical Aspect

### 1 The Cosmopolitan or World-wide Aspect

Here we are faced with the question. Is it desirable that the human race all over the world should continue to increase and multiply to the utmost extent of which, under the conditions existing, it is capable? The answer to this question involves a consideration of the principle associated with the name of Malthus that population tends to increase faster than the food supply, with the result that population ever tends to press upon the means of subsistence. We have further to consider that more and more of the older countries of the world are finding their native food resources insufficient to feed ever-growing populations, and consequently are having to draw upon the food resources of distant parts of the world to an ever-increasing extent, and that simultaneously the undeveloped fertile areas of the world are rapidly diminishing. In view of these indisputable facts we have to face the prospect that should the population of the globe continue to increase at the same rate in the future as has been the case during, say, the past century, there would be a real danger at some not very distant time of a world-shortage of food. Any such shortage would inevitably lower the standard of life, increase the competition between the different nations, with the resultant increased danger of war, disease and famine. The fact that it may be possible, by improved methods of agriculture to increase the yield of the land can only postpone the day when the inevitable shortage will occur for we are up against the inexorable Law of Diminishing Returns

### 2 The National or Imperial Aspect

From this point of view we have to consider

whether Birth Control would be beneficial or otherwise to our country, irrespective of its effect upon the rest of the world. There are many people who would be quite content to see the population of other countries stationary provided that the population of our own country and colonies continued to increase. Such people are influenced by so-called patriotic motives which make them desire that their own country should grow greater relatively to other and rival countries. But if this sentiment is laudable with one country, it is laudable also with others. Closely allied to this sentiment is that which regards men as potential soldiers and pins its faith to big battalions. Before the Great War there was a very real fear in the minds of many that any falling off in the rate of increase of the population in this country would be disastrous in the event of a war with Germany. Similar fears were felt in France, and were, of course, reciprocated by Germany, with the result that there was a veritable competition in birth-rates comparable to the competition in armaments. We have to consider whether such a competition is healthy or otherwise, and whether it can be endorsed by those who put the cause of international peace above that of national aggrandisement. Incidentally, it may be observed that even in war quality counts for more than quantity, and that it was the high birth-rate nations Russia and the Balkans, which first gave out in the Great War

### *Overpopulation and Emigration*

As regards Britain, the feeling has certainly been growing since the war that this country is over-populated. By this is meant that we should find the conditions of life less difficult for the masses of the people if our population were smaller, or at least were increasing less rapidly. Probably the housing shortage, and the obvious impossibility of overtaking it so long as population continues to grow faster than new houses are built, partly accounts for this feeling. Moreover, the large number of unemployed has brought home to us the fact that we are dependent upon the markets of the world for the sale of those manufactured articles by which alone we can obtain the necessary supplies of food and raw materials from abroad to support our teeming millions

To meet this over-population, organized and state-aided emigration to our colonies on a large scale is being warmly advocated in certain quarters. Unfortunately our colonies are only willing to receive carefully selected lives, they have no use for the old, the weakly or the thriftless, so that emigration however beneficial it may be to the colonies, is rather an expensive and exhausting process for the old country. Moreover it has never been car-

ried out and is hardly likely ever to be carried out, on any scale at all adequate, if it is to be a real remedy for over-population

### 3 The Public Health Aspect

The aspect of our subject which specially concerns us as medical officers of health is the effect which Birth Control is likely to have upon the public health. This is bound up with the study of vital statistics, birth rates, death rates, illegitimacy, infant mortality, etc. This aspect is no longer of academic interest only, but has become a question of practical administration. It is being urged respectively that information and instruction on the practical side of Birth Control should, or should not be given in connection with maternity and child welfare work, e.g., at ante-natal clinics, and the Minister of Health is being appealed to by the rival protagonists to allow or to prohibit this.

#### *Undisputed Facts*

There are certain facts which are beyond dispute.

1 The birth-rate is very much higher among the poor than amongst the well-to-do. It is generally believed that this is chiefly, if not entirely, to be accounted for by the practice of Birth Control amongst the well-to-do. In support of this there is the fact that in Victorian days, prior to the advent of the Birth Control movement, the well-to-do classes had very much larger families than they have today, indeed their birth-rate was but very little smaller than that we see amongst the poor today. The fall in the birth-rate which has been so continuous for the past half-century, has been chiefly confined to the higher strata of the community. Moreover, the fall in the birth-rate is gradually invading successively lower strata, which is what we should expect if it be due to voluntary influences.

On the other hand there are those, notably Mr C. E. Pell (author of "The Law of Births and Deaths"), who believe that the decline in the birth-rate is almost entirely due to natural causes, that there is, in fact, a natural law under which fertility decreases as comfort and material prosperity increase. Whilst not denying that there may be some truth in this, it seems hard to explain, by Pell's theory, the difference in the size of the middle-class family today compared with what it was in the Victorian era, unless we are expected to believe that this natural law has only recently come into existence. Nor does it explain away the remarkable coincidence between the fall in the birth-rate and the advent of the Birth Control movement. The birth-rate in this country has been falling more or less continuously since 1876, the year in which the

Bradlaugh-Besant trial gave such an advertisement to the movement.

2 Another undisputed fact is the high degree of correlation between birth-rates and infant death-rates which, as a general rule, tend to vary directly, although undoubtedly there are some striking exceptions. It is difficult to resist the conclusions that there is a causal relationship at work, and that a high birth-rate tends to produce a high infant mortality. Certainly it is easy to understand why this should be the case. With a high birth-rate, infant life is likely to be "held cheap." Unwanted babies will not receive the same amount of care and attention as those whose advent is desired, and apart from this, with a large family and limited means, it cannot be possible for new arrivals to receive so much care and attention.

3 A third fact which can hardly be gainsaid, is that a given weekly wage, which will just suffice to maintain a small family of, say, two or three children above the poverty line, will fail to maintain satisfactorily a large family of, say, six or seven. It is true that many working men and women, who are thrifty and capable, do often succeed in rearing a large family on an astonishingly small income, but this does not affect the general truth of our statement. Consequently, as long as the amount of wages which a man receives bears no relationship to the size of his family, we are justified in asserting that large families are one cause of poverty.

4 A fourth fact is that too frequent child-bearing has a detrimental effect upon the health and strength of many women, especially among the poor, who have to look after their families single-handed and on inadequate means. Although it is true that some women keep well and strong in spite of a numerous family, this again does not disprove the general truth of our statement.

5 Fifthly, it is certainly the case that very many women amongst the poorer classes live in positive dread of becoming pregnant again, because they realize that an additional mouth to feed will only intensify the existing struggle for existence.

6 Whilst we must admit the great advantages to the child of being one of a family rather than an only child, it can hardly be denied that the members of a large family amongst the poor are often seriously prejudiced and handicapped by having to start work early in life.

A consideration of all these facts justifies us, I submit, in concluding that Birth Control tends to be beneficial from the point of view of the public health and that an unrestricted birth-rate tends to be prejudicial.

(To be Continued)

## The Danger—The Remedy

**M**EN everywhere tend to multiply to the limit of sustenance, and, since that limit is a fluctuating one, a season of crop failure exposes them to famine. Increase, crop failure and famine, this is the normal cycle of life for an incontinent people. The majority of mankind has always been and still is in that class. The constant background of history is a succession of these cycles. Where relations between nations are complex and confused, as in Europe, the sequence is obscured, and famine and pestilence are more or less systematically commuted for their more merciful alternate—war. But in the record of a hermit country, such as was Japan for two centuries and a half, where war was excluded by organization and isolation, the cycle was repeated with monotonous regularity. Men thought of famine as we do of death, as a thing sure to come though you could not tell just when.

This equilibrium which we may fairly characterize as the normal lot of mankind has long been the condition in India and China, where the efforts of philanthropy and science advance the fighting line but gain no permanent advantage. It was the condition in Europe throughout the Middle Ages, though here famine was more often commuted to war than in the East. It is true in Russia today.

But for the last two or three centuries a favored portion of humanity has been granted a suspension of sentence, a suspension so long that it is mistaken for a permanent reprieve. During all these centuries of crowding and intermittent famine half the world was unknown and virtually unoccupied. Suddenly this empty world was discovered and appropriated by the more favorably situated of the old world peoples. They were slow to realize the advantage, and but a part availed themselves of it.

**B**UT to that limited part these discoveries brought an opportunity so vast that it changed for a time the fundamental laws of their being. As the barriers to occupancy were slowly broken down, and the inertia of the situation overcome, all the pent up energies of the race were released and expansion proceeded unchecked. If the potato crop failed in Ireland, half Ireland moved overseas. If there was revolution in Germany the defeated party came to America. If Russia persecuted her dissenters, from the orthodox faith, they found asylum in the new lands. Each year the movement became easier and the swelling tide increased. The new lands not only received the immigrants but sent back food to those who remained. Thus, while Europe was peopling a new world, she doubled her population at home. And still famine remained afar, the ban upon increase seemed lifted. Nature seemed even to have put a premium upon it. Coinciding, as the movement did, with a vast series of scientific discoveries and mechanical inventions, and favored of necessity for a time by the law of increasing returns, increase

of population has for a century connoted an increase in well-being. Superficial thinking has been quick to throw the time honored philosophy into the discard and grasp the proffered optimism. Nature is not niggardly but bountiful, famine is not necessary and therefore it is disgraceful, a concomitant of savagery and sloth. Thus a contributor to the *Boston Transcript* makes the confident assertion that, when our population reaches the figure of two billions, there will be more food per capita than now and we shall just be beginning to be comfortable.

**T**HIS comfortable optimism leads to many agreeable conclusions. The notion that there is pressure of population in Europe is a myth. If Belgium imports four-fifths of her food why can't the rest of them do it? Why can't they house as many as they have standing room for? The sufficient safeguard against famine is enterprise, thrift, civilization. The numerous population of Europe is not a source of hardship or danger. It is an advantage—a source of strength. This may sound a little extreme as is wont to be the case, when we formulate into definite propositions those vague assumptions to which we commit ourselves under the lead of interest and predilection. But left in their usual hazy and unconscious form they form one of the major premises of our modern psychology.—H. H. POWERS, "Grave Consequences," *Atlantic Monthly*, July, 1924.

**D**O you know that Birth Control is the most momentous fact in the history of mankind, that if wisely used to increase the birth-rate of the superiors it is the most effective instrument for race improvement within the power of man, but if wrongly used to decrease the superiors, while the inferiors continue to breed with undiminished vigor, it will wreck the race that tries it?

Do you know that if your political, educational and economic conditions permit it, Birth Control will cause the patriotic, the prudent, the fatherly and motherly, those endowed by nature with rich unselfish instincts, to beget the majority of the nation's children, causing an increase of morals, intelligence, beauty, unselfishness and all that makes a sound foundation for a great human breed, but that so far your social and economic forces have pushed these most precious of all racial strains to the biological wall?

Do you know that nothing can possibly improve the condition of the poor like decreasing their numbers through an extension among them of birth limitation?

A. E. WIGGAM, *The New Decalogue of Science*

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Some sort of medal ought to be given to Mr. Leander Colbert Gentle of Atlanta, who has just produced his twenty-eighth child and hasn't even worn out his second Wife. Only eleven of the little flock have died.—NEW YORK WORLD

## Book Reviews

### *A Review by E Ralph Cheyney*

NIGHT, by Harold Brainerd Hersey, profusely illustrated by Ellhott Dold Privately printed for subscribers only by Eugenics Publishing Co., Inc., New York

LOVE has long been the favorite theme of poets. But *sex*, the fundamental fact of love as it is of life itself, sadly lacks adequate interpreters among the poets. Mr Hersey's poems collected in "Night," are revelations of the sacrament of sex. He speaks of them as the fruit of four years' work spent in the "golden light" of the present's greatest pioneer and seer—Havelock Ellis. Here is *one* poet alive to beauty, avid of truth. Psychologists, biologists and other scientists have far outstripped those of us who are poets in that very province wherein lies our chief responsibility: the exploration of sex, the seed-bed of our emotions, imaginings—all that makes us what we are—and the expression of the radiant truths such exploration reveals.

Command of imagery, power of concentration, keen poetic vision characterize the forty "Nocturnes" in free verse and the one poem in conventional form that constitute this volume. Sentimentality or cynicism never mar their beauty. At once cerebral and sensuous, they will be read with delight and to advantage by every lover to whom poetry is not a closed book and who loves with imagination, intuition and insight.

Mr Hersey writes

Of "Dawn—A spider weaving a web of glittering light"

Of a drowsy bird, "Winking folded wings"

Of a memory "Like a love letter hidden in a nun's stocking"

Of a girl "Appearing like another orchid tossed upon the ground after a thunderstorm"

Of a woman "Smooth as a candle the flame of her spirit burning ever downward into her loins"

Of another "Trembling now because you have kissed her breasts and run your hands quietly, quietly over her thighs"

Some readers may consider that he over-celebrates hands, especially "Slim hands that gently praised the flesh or fought a hundred sensuous wars." But countless poems could well be written to glorify each, however humble, part of the human body (holiest of holies).

The drawings and decorations by Ellhott Dold are equally sophisticated, yet sincere in theme and technique, and represent an equally noteworthy contribution. Massing his blacks and white much as did Aubrey Beardsley, Dold draws a line that is voluptuous without being vicious. There is one droll, fascinating figure appearing in all of the drawings that—well, get the book!

### *A Review by A M Stephen*

I, A MINOR POET, by Ralph Cheyney

WE are passing through a transitional period in our racial history. Therefore, we must expect the signs of transition to be reflected through the plastic mediums of art and literature. My entire sympathy is with those who are reaching out to an undefined future and who are bravely striving to express the tumultuous, inner urge of forces which are modelling a new age. In the slim little collection of verse entitled, "I, A Minor Poet," Mr Ralph Cheyney records his impressions of life in this chaotic and bewildering maelstrom of thought and emotion incidental to the birth of the New Order.

There is here, in his booklet, "flower and fruit of the flesh," sometimes tinted by the sunlight of divinity and sometimes colored only by the dusky browns and muddy reds of Adam, the dust-born. At times, a fine, rhythmic line, a bit of daring imagery grants to us a glimpse of poetic strength and beauty. Again, the impulse sinks earth-bound by a materialistic realism clothed in words which have no place in the high regions of pure poesy. One would willingly forget the phrase which describes a woman's breasts as "empty, shrunken, wrinkled bags," when in the next bit of verse she is likened to

"a naked flame that dances high before  
the anarch wind

That blows the universe along

She is a fragrant summer dawn, the holiest of  
holiest shrined,

A soul transfused with light and song"

I cannot help feeling that this Minor Poet, as he modestly terms himself, has become introspective by reason of contact with the artificial life of a large city. His gift of incisive thought, his epigrammatic style, his capacity for rhythmic expression would, if developed in an atmosphere of wide-open, sun-lit spaces, singing waters and mountain winds, be productive of blossoms of the spirit as well as flowers of the flesh. Those who are interested in studying the strange and difficult ways by which we are *discovering the essential identity of soul and flesh*, those who love to find one capable of expressing deftly and strikingly the moods which are usually dumb, those who wish to know more of the fascinating dream-world lying within the realm of the subconscious will want to possess a copy of Mr Cheyney's collected verse.

NINETEENTH CENTURY EVOLUTION AND

AFTER By Marshall Dawson Macmillan Company,  
New York Price, \$1.50

THE keynote to this work is sounded in the opening chapter, where the author dissolves the generally accepted idea that the evolutionary account of man's

origin conflicts with the Biblical account "God created man (Genesis 1, 27)," however, no *method* of creating man is stated, and this method has been left for evolution to explain

The chapters following present in a clear and forceful manner the basic laws governing evolution and theology, convincingly demonstrating that in the light of Twentieth Century evolution, Bible religion is not discordant with scientific evolution, but rather, the two should, and *must*, join hands in the task of human reconstruction

Biology and eugenics have been duly acknowledged in the laws governing human evolution. It is regrettable that Dr Dawson fails to recognize, even for a moment, the influence that wisely applied principles of Birth Control will have on Twentieth Century evolution

The author's gift for humanizing his work makes this volume of especial interest to the layman, and one which ought to prove a powerful peace-maker in ending the latest warfare of religion against science

E H LUND

**CRUCIBLES OF CRIME** By Joseph F Fishman, Cosmopolis Press, New York  
**CAUSES AND CURES OF CRIME** By Thomas Speed Mosby, C F Mosby Co, St Louis, Mo

**MR FISHMAN**, the author of the first of these two volumes, was for many years a federal inspector of prisons, and writes from personal observation in all parts of the United States. The "crucibles of crime," of which he writes, prove to be the prisons themselves. Of the federal and state prisons and penitentiaries he generally speaks well, but the county and local jails leave much to be desired. The bulk of the volume is devoted to a description of their filthiness and vicious influence upon prisoners. Hence the sub-title of the book—"The Shocking Story of the American Jail." Mr Fishman concludes with some admirable suggestions for the improvement of our local system of temporary imprisonment.

The second volume is of a very different character. It is a philosophical discussion of the psychology of crime and punishment. Written without knowledge of the more recent developments in the science of Psychology and Social Psychology, it serves rather as a convenient summary of the best thought in the fields of criminology and penology a decade ago, than as a constructive contribution to the contemporary study of these subjects.

A N HOLCOMBE

**MYSTICISM, FREUDIANISM AND SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY** By Knight Dunlap, St Louis, C V Mosby Company, 1920

**IN** Chapter I of this little book, Professor Dunlap presents a very clear statement of Mysticism, Freudianism and Scientific Psychology a third kind of

knowledge that cannot be demonstrated, cannot be explained, and that grows out of something beyond sense. One *feels* that a proposition is true and is satisfied therewith. Then one is a mystic.

There are many forms of pseudo-mysticism. One of the most recent is that that has been foisted by Dr Freud and his followers, the psycho-analysts. Psycho-analysis, according to Professor Dunlap, defies all effort at scientific statement. There is no method of control that the psycho-analysts, themselves, can suggest. It is, therefore, impossible to repeat a psycho-analytic test, and consequently psycho-analysis has no place in the literature of science.

The volume contains but three chapters, the first on "Mysticism," the second on "Freud and the Psycho-Analysts." In the third, on "The Foundations of Scientific Psychology," the author lays down very clearly the conditions in which psychology as a science may grow. It is a more than usually useful little book for the general reader who honestly wants to know what are the backgrounds and the surroundings of this psycho-analysis that is upon everybody's lips.

ROBERT H GAULT

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS—A Study of Present Day Social Conditions** By Ezra Thayer Towne, New York, The Macmillan Company

**THE** revised edition of Professor Towne's "Social Problems" forms an excellent, if somewhat colorless compilation for the use of high school or college students. In it, he discusses population, immigration, various aspects of defectiveness, crime and punishment, poverty, and conservation of resources and of life. There are two points in which the revision has failed to bring the book up to modern conditions. The section on prohibition, although the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment is noted, ignores entirely the many problems which the enforcement or non-enforcement of national prohibition has created. Also since the first publication of the book in 1916, the question of keeping world population within the means of subsistence has assumed new importance and has become a real problem even in the United States. Professor Towne discusses marriage and divorce without alluding to the demand of women for the right to control their own powers of reproduction, just as he discusses population without regard to the differential between the birth and death rates, and the inevitable consequences of such a differential. In fact, he writes as if he had never heard of the movement for Birth Control, either on its economic or its vital side. A few years hence it will be a matter of astonishment that a book on Social Problems could be published in the year 1924, with the complete omission of one of the greatest, if not the greatest of these problems.

A G P

## PERIODICALS

*Child Health* (New York), in its July issue, gives a brief account of the National Conference of Social Work which was held at Toronto, June 25th to July 2nd. It is difficult to feel much interest or confidence in a Conference which deliberately ignores the primary cause of so much of the sickness, poverty, high infant mortality, and prevalence of physical, mental and moral defectiveness. It is a fact, however, that Birth Control found no place in the Conference Programme.

The campaign against abortion in Germany is described by F. W. Stella Browne in *The New Generation* (London) for July. She tells of the prosecution of 600 women who had applied for relief to a quack named Heizer. This quack, after taking their money, betrayed the women to the government. A similar campaign was carried on in Wurtemberg last year, but out of 2,000 cases investigated by the police only six were brought into court. Saxony, more enlightened than the other provinces, issued an amnesty for all women who under the stress of poverty and hunger had been guilty of abortion.

*Today's Housewife* (New York), is giving a series of pictures of large families. Whether these are intended as honorable mention or dreadful examples is not stated, but few fathers or mothers would be spurred to emulation by the sight of these over-grown families.

*The Vegetarian Magazine* (Juliaetta, Idaho), gives a friendly send-off to the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in its July issue. We are grateful for the aid it is giving to the cause of Birth Control in the wide territory through which it circulates.

*The Stratford Monthly* (Boston) for August, prints an article on "Germany from Day to Day," by Barrett H. Clark. There are many glimpses of life—fine and sordid, and incidentally we are shown how low pay and lack of housing operate to encourage Birth Control. We are shown Herr B., a government employe, trying for three years to "find two rooms at the rate he now pays for one, in order that his wife may have a baby." Lacking the necessary room, they do without the child.

*The National Leader* of Minneapolis has been opening its columns to a discussion of Birth Control. The discussion aroused wide interest among the farm women of the Middle and Far West, through which wide territory the *Leader* circulates. The Editor was scrupulously fair in printing letters representing both sides. But it is clear that the demand for Birth Control among the farm women is almost universal, whatever attitude the writers may take on the advisability of public discussion of the subject. Here is a representative letter from South Dakota: "As far as I can tell, farm women are not divided on the subject—they are all in favor of it, and they have good reason to be. Where is there so much

extra work for a woman as on a farm? And when our babies are born it is rarely possible to get help. We are lucky if we can get anyone to stay two weeks. Then we must take up the work again with the additional member to care for. Is it strange that we complain of large families? I am against the maternity bill. Better spend the money to give Birth Control information so that these poor unwanted babies need never be born. Among my acquaintances I have yet to find the first one who is opposed to Birth Control for herself."

*The Modern Review* (Calcutta) for July, contains an interesting account of the change in the family in India, as seen by R. K. Mukerjee. New ideals are contending with the older morality, but the author is hopeful of the outcome. "The ascetic frenzy has passed," he writes, "but the new tradition of a healthy abundant sex-life has not yet evolved. India has built up a rich tradition of sanity in sex, and this must now be marshalled for individuals of every degree of education and social level, so that the present phase of degeneration of family and marriage may quickly give place to a new type of family and marriage."

In the July issue of the *Eugenics Review* (London), Major Leonard Darwin discusses "The Future of the Race." He lays stress on the danger attending the proposal to lighten the burden of rearing a large family. Two results, he predicts, would follow. "In the first place there would ensue a great increase in the population, together with an inevitable lowering of the standard of living. In the second place there are good reasons for anticipating that this increase in numbers would occur to the greatest extent amongst the inferior types."

## BOOKS RECEIVED

From Longmans, Green & Co., New York. AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOK OF CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION, compiled by Ed. Fuller. The Proceedings of C O P E C. From S. Ganesan, Triplicane, Madras, India. A GUIDE TO HEALTH, by Mahatma Gandhi.

*If care of our descent perplex us most,  
Which must be born to certain woe, devour'd  
By Death at last, and miserable it is,  
To be to others cause of misery,  
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring  
Into this cursed world a woeful race,  
That after wretched life must be at last  
Food for so foul a monster, in thy power  
It lies, yet ere conception, to prevent  
The race unblest, to being yet unbegot  
Childless thou art, childless remain so Death  
Shall be deceived his glut, and with us two  
Be forced to satisfy his ravenous maw*

—MILTON—Eve to Adam—"Paradise Lost"



## News Notes

### UNITED STATES

#### New York

**T**HE course on Sex Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, was given this summer by educators who are recognized authorities on each phase of the subject. Effective methods for the teaching of sex hygiene in the public schools were discussed by a representative of the Public Health Service, with the aid of a motion picture film. There is a growing feeling that teachers should understand the psychology of the adolescent and be able to help their pupils in solving their sex problems.

#### Massachusetts

The population question received much attention at the Institute of Politics, held at Williams College in August. Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild of New York was leader of the Round Table on Population and Related Problems. Taking issue with R. H. Tawney of the British Labor Party, he maintained that the Malthusian Theory was a permanent factor in the life of the world.

The outstanding feature of the discussion was the stand taken by Rear-Admiral W. L. Rodgers, who boldly declared that the time would come when because of its increasing population the United States would be obliged to undertake aggressive war to secure "what they want at the expense of others." "I do not suppose," he said, "that the United States will ever desire to make war against any country before a continental population passes 200,000, but after that, if there remains any manhood in our mixed race of descendants, they will assuredly do so." So long as population continues to increase at its present rate, all expedients for preventing war seemed to him hopelessly ineffective.

#### New Hampshire

At the Conference of the Young People's Union, held at Star Island in July, the inaugural address was delivered by Rev. Edgar S. Weirs, Pastor of Unity Church, Montclair, N. J. The conference was for an intensive study of ways and means to relieve humanity of its present social ills, and Mr. Weirs pointed out that the first necessity was the improvement of the race through Birth Control and through the segregation or sterilization of those manifestly unfit for parentage.

#### Illinois

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Chicago by the Illinois Birth Control League. This was the report sent by Anne Kennedy after interviews with Mrs Carpenter, Dr Yarros and other workers there. The Clinic, for which a license was refused by Dr Bundesen, Commissioner of Health, has not yet been opened, in spite of the mandamus issued by Judge Harry Fisher. The decision of Judge Fisher was appealed by Commissioner Bundesen, and is now before the Appellate Court. As soon as the final decision is rendered (if favorable to Birth Control) the League will proceed with the clinic.

The Birth Control Committee of the Middle Western States, headed by Dr John Favill, Associate Professor, Chicago University, is taking an active interest in the coming International Birth Control Conference. Mrs Walter L Benson, Secretary, is planning to go through the eight States in the group and organize branches and secure support for the Conference. The Committee is also engaged in a campaign of education of doctors. It will watch legislation affecting Birth Control during the coming sessions in any of the eight States in which such legislation may be introduced. The Committee came into existence as a result of the Chicago Conference of 1923.

### Wisconsin

The question of the establishment of a Birth Control clinic was under consideration in Milwaukee last winter. A committee was formed there after the Chicago Birth Control Conference which was held at the end of October, and the American Birth Control League lent its aid to the plan. In spite of the fact that the Wisconsin laws allow the carrying on of such a clinic, there were obstacles to its inauguration. When Mrs Anne Kennedy, Executive Secretary of the American Birth Control League, Inc., reached Milwaukee at the end of June, she held conferences with several of the women interested in the project. She found that Mrs William Polacheck, wife of the President of the Polly Manufacturing Company, was ready to take charge of the work, and to head a group of men and women favoring Birth Control. Mrs Polacheck hopes to interest the charitable organizations of the State and City. It is planned to open a free Birth Control Clinic in the Fall, and to have Mrs Sanger present for its inauguration.

### Iowa

The establishment of a Birth Control Clinic in Des Moines was the subject of several conferences, while Mrs Anne Kennedy was in that city on her trip across the Continent. For this purpose an

amendment to the law is being sought. The group of women interested are under the leadership of Mrs. Carrie Harvisin Dickey, and it is planned to secure Mrs. Sanger as speaker at the City Federation meeting on January 27th.

#### Colorado

At Denver, Mrs. Kennedy met with the Birth Control Committee at luncheon. Miss Ruth Vincent, Chairman, said that the Committee was planning for a mass meeting in November at which they desired to have Mrs. Sanger as speaker. They would also arrange for her to speak before County and State Medical Societies. The feeling towards Birth Control in Denver seemed very favorable.

#### Utah

Mrs. Anne Kennedy called in Salt Lake City on July 26th, on her way across the continent. She met there a number of prominent club women and laid before them the proposal that a public meeting, with Margaret Sanger as speaker, should be held in the City in the fall.

#### California

After many stops on her way across the continent, Mrs. Kennedy reached San Francisco on July 28th. On July 30th she was entertained at luncheon by the Alameda County Social Service Club. She has received requests to present the cause of Birth Control before various women's clubs and men's organizations in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and other cities in California. Everywhere she is awakening much interest in the International Birth Control Conference which is to be held in New York March 19-21, 1925. On August 1st, she met with a group of 15 heads of clubs in Oakland, at the residence of Mrs. Frank Law. Here a temporary organization was formed, with Mrs. Danforth as Chairman. On August 21st she spoke at a luncheon of the Business and Professional Woman's Club. She reported that she had also been invited to speak at a luncheon of the Exchange Club—an organization of business men.

#### CANADA

At the opening meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Toronto, on August 7th, the President of the Association, Major-Gen. Sir David Bruce, spoke on the Future of Medicine. He emphasized the importance of preventive work and said that the time had gone by when the chief function of the medical profession was the treatment of the victims of disease. This new regard for prevention encourages the hope that the Medical Profession will more and more be impressed with the importance of Birth Control.

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## ENGLAND

THE agitation aroused by the refusal of Mr James Wheatley, Minister of Health in the Labor Cabinet, to withdraw the prohibition against the giving of Birth Control information at Health Centers does not die down. The women of the Labor Party, who were largely responsible for the majority of the party at the last election, are in arms against a decision which practically restricts the knowledge of Birth Control to the wealthy and denies it to the poor. The advocates of Birth Control emphasize the fact that they are not asking for compulsory legislation. All they ask is liberty and free access to knowledge which is now denied them. The fear of an increase of immorality among young people is still put forward by some of the opponents, but there is a growing sense of the injustice of penalizing a girl for a sexual slip by the "awfulness of nine months hard labor and tried for your life at the end," while the man, equally guilty, gets off scot free. By means of public meetings, newspaper correspondence, and the circulation of pamphlets and leaflets, the subject is being brought home to every Englishman and woman. Mrs Bertrand Russell is taking an active part in the agitation. Among the women members of Parliament, Miss Dorothy Jewson is taking the lead in the advocacy of Birth Control. Miss F W Srella Browne is continuing the courses of lectures to working women which she has been giving during the past year. In speaking to the Women's Sections of the Socialist and Labor Party, she gives full practical instruction. Her lectures are crowded, and the subject is well received.

A tribute to Mrs Annie Besant was paid on July 25th at a great public meeting held in London on the fiftieth anniversary of her entrance at the age of 27 into public work. The speakers included Miss Margaret Bondfield and five other Labor Members of Parliament. It was recalled that Mrs Besant had almost gone to prison for spreading the knowledge of Birth Control, which "deans in fat cathedral stalls" could now preach freely to respectable church-goers. Her work for the workers of the world was emphasized and the audience warmly seconded the tributes of the speakers. At the close Mrs Besant rose and expressed her gratitude not only to those now living, but to the early colleagues so long passed away.

## AUSTRIA

THE imprisonment of two eminent Vienna surgeons for having procured abortions without absolute justification has brought a large proportion of the doctors into the fight for Birth Control. The Union of Socialistic Physicians, which comprises

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about half of the profession, organized a mass meeting of protest, at which various physicians emphasized the need of birth restriction. It was asserted by Professor Bum that social, medical and eugenic reasons combine to form a categorical imperative to restrict the birth rate. The law was scored by Dr. Goldschied as "brutal, harsh and useless," and the right of parents to decide for themselves when or whether they would bring children into the world was upheld, especially since the "state does not care whether the new-born infant is fit to live" and "does not point out where it may find food, clothing and fuel." In the resolutions passed by the meeting and sent to the authorities it was emphasized that "of the two possible means to restrict the birth-rate, contraceptive measures are to be preferred, as they are less harmful than the artificial interruption of pregnancy, which is always fraught with a certain degree of risk." The meeting was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

### GLEANINGS

(Continued from page 255)

who wanted to study the subject of Birth Control. But it was his individual problem of a tubercular wife that he wished solved. Had he asked his physician? Yes, but the physician wasn't interested. We soon had the physician on the telephone—a doctor of prominence in the City of Denver—and made an appointment. The young man went away from that interview happy, but it was the physician who interested me. "You know, we, as a profession, are not interested in sociological problems—what is the cause of a condition? Unless it is medical, it does not interest us. Yes, you are knocking pretty hard on the door of the profession. As a member of the program committee of the County Medical Society, I suggest you have Mrs. Sanger come out here and present the educational side, and then give us a report on the clinical work. The younger doctors will fall in line quicker than the deans. It would be interesting to have an experimental clinic in connection with the New Hospital and Medical School established by the Rockefeller donation, in connection with the University."

### THE FIGHT AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 248)

tional disease. If the American public is ever to be brought safely out of the mental coma into which it has fallen, something more than persistent criticism of the professional meddler is imperative. An ounce of courage is worth a ton of criticism."

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**OVERPOPULATION**

(Continued from page 258)

are uninhabitable, that the tops of the Himalayan Mountains, the Alps, the Rockies, etc., are not very pleasant to live on, and considering that a great area of land must always be reserved for farming, raising cattle, etc., to provide us with food (now that Steinmetz is dead and there is no one to invent some kind of electrical or microbic food), we can see that this globe of ours is a very small place after all.

If it were not for wars and flu's and earthquakes, we would have been in trouble with the landlord long ago

Now that we don't eat the children any more, we don't throw them into the rivers, we don't burn them as sacrificial bribes to the gods, in order that we may get rid of the surplus that is constantly accumulating, I offer for your approval the following remedies

1 Leave things alone. Nature will take care of it somehow. Lead a contented vegetative, animal life. We die anyhow, and after us the deluge. It is the easier way. Thinking implies a certain exertion of the brain, you disturb the even tenor of your way, the thing is unpopular—you may be branded as a radical or an undesirable citizen, you may even go to prison.

2 a We may solicit the aid of God by prayer and dropping coins into the contribution box—to hurry along a glacial period. Meanwhile we can beg him to send down some great pestilence as the Black Death, or a few earthquakes, or a couple of flu epidemics

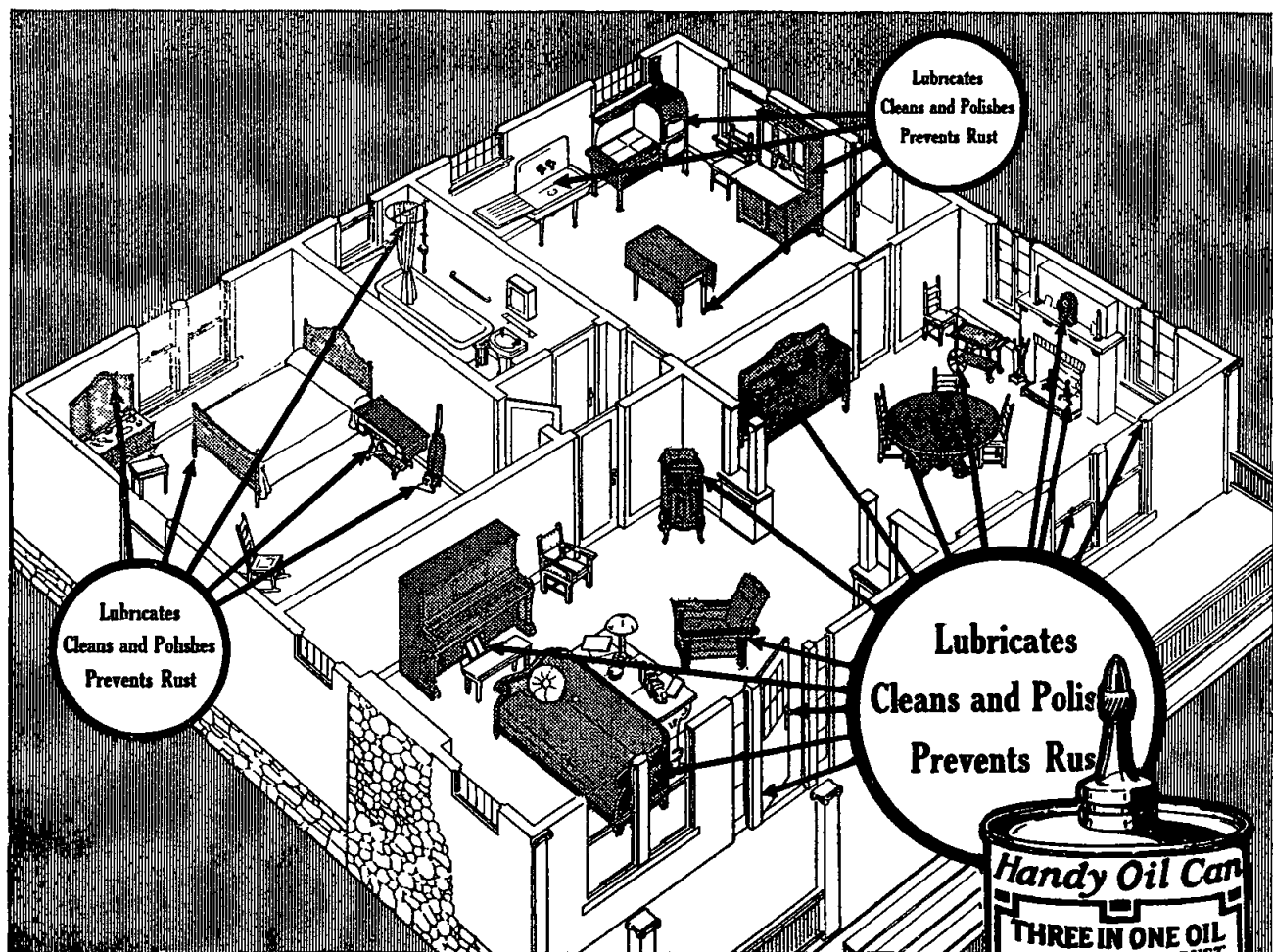
b We can always start a war

c We must get rid of the inferior colored races—the Blacks, the Yellow and the Red races must be exterminated—of course you must convert them first to religion because their souls are very valuable

d The white race then may proceed as follows. Let the Christians exterminate all Jews and Moslems, then the Protestants kill all Catholics, then let the Ku-Klux-Klan kill everybody except the one-hundred-per-cent, then let the Nordic race with blond hair and blue eyes kill off all the dark complexioned

e As a last resort the Nordics may cultivate large colonies of Typhoid, Flu or other bacilli and distribute them, as occasion requires, by means of aeroplanes, and manufacture cheaply on a large scale, poison gases and smoke the surplus population to hades

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