OCTOBER, 1924

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE. INC.

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

Four Steps to Our Coal - Agitation, Education, Organization, Legislation

MARGARET SANGER, Edstor

ANNIE G PORRZTT, Managing Editor

Vol. VIII

OCTOBER, 1924

No 10

EDITORIAL

Dr Rutgers **18** dead Only those who have been in close touch with the Birth Control movement **in** Europe, and who have come mto contact with the wonderful personahty of the veteran leader. can realize the loss to the world, and especially to women, when Dr Rutgers passed from the scene About twenty years ago, Dr Rutgers gave up his general medical work and devoted himself entirely to Birth Control—both to spreading the idea and to carrying out practical work For fifteen years, he labored among the poor, and especially among the poorer mothers, bringing hope and relief into thousands of homes At the same time he continued enthusiastically his scientific researches, the results of **which** he published in successive books As age crept on him, he found himself unequal to the double work, and withdrew from active service, but continued to pour into his books the wealth of his knowledge and the hight of his idealism He was mdeed a pioneer in the great and beneficent revolution in sex ideals of which Havelock **Ellis** is one of the **chief** prophets If women could realize what Dr Rutgers' work has meant for thew liberation and happiness, every woman in the world would desire to lay a flower on his grave

SOUND common-sense characterized many of the statements concerning populat~omade by Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild in the paper he read on August 15, and in his contribution to the Round Table discussion, at the Institute of Politics at Williamstown His attitude of facing the problem squarely, and suggesting remedies came as a ray of hope after the outspoken pessimism of Rear-Admiral W L Rodgers, who could see no future for the nations, but—the-cycle of ever-increasing

populat~onfollowed by aggressive wars in which the stronger nations would so far exterminate the weaker ones as to make room for their own swarmmg hordes Professor Fairchild, hke Admiral **Rodgers, saw** the danger of **increasing** populat~on, but he faced the problem from its two aspects—that of **immigration** and that of natural mcrease—and urged the bringing of population mcrease under the control of the reason and the will Unless this is done, and only a small beginning has as yet been made, he questioned whether man would be able to escape disaster in the near future But, instead of aggressive war by the strong nations, Professor Fairchild urged "a moral doctrine for the world" by which all nations should undertake to solve their own problems of over-population and immigration by rational measures of control, instead of by aggression on the rights of other peoples" "One thing is unquestionably true," he added. "that the old idea of movement as an escape from the evils of over-population must be definitely eliminated from national ideas It must be defimitely understood among all the nations of the world, not only that forcible acquisition of external territory can no longer be tolerated, but that the trans-shipment of population into other territories, against the will of the recipient people, is a violation of international ethics

In Professor Fairchild's opinion, immigration into the United States does not greatly increase populat~on What it does is chiefly to slow down natural mcrease among Americans who have reached a much higher standard of comfort and intelligence than the incoming immigrants. The competition of these aliens, with lower standards of living, he characterized as "cruel, bitter and unfair" to American labor. It had resulted, in the decades before the war, in the slow but sure dechne of the general level of comfort among the unskilled workers, and it was inevitable that the American people, who checked their own increase in order not to be compelled to sacrifice their stand-

aids, should resent a decrease in comfort for the sake of adding a certain number of foreigners to the population "A society which has an intelligent interest in the well-being of its people," he stated, "would concern itself not with the increase of numbers of those not yet conceived, but with the provision of guaranty for their well-being, as well as for that of the present generation" "After a society has reached a certain point in its development," he added, "it has to choose whether the products of its industries are to be devoted to maintaining a larger population on the same or lower standard of living, or to providing a higher standard of living for a population of the same size It cannot do both " That Birth Control was the remedy to which he looked for a check on the disastrous growth of population he made quite clear "No one will question," he added, "the obligation which a society owes to people who have been born, but to those who hare never been conceived, it owes no obligation that they should be born '

CLIPPIh^TG which was sent to us by a friend on the Pacific Coast suggests a method of helping the cause of Birth Control which we should be glad to see generally adopted This clipping is from one of the great San Francisco daily news-It bears the headline "Examiner Wins Praise for News Section" Then follows a short letter praising the improvement and display of one of the local News Sections of the paper the letter winds up, "as an individual, long interested in the work of the American Birth Control League, permit me to express my appreciation for the ungarbled accounts vou have printed from time to time, of the motives of this organization" The whole of the letter is "boxed," and is well displayed at the head of the column People are always ready to find fault with the daily press, but it is rare for them to express their pleasure and gratitude when these are due Editors and newspaper men are human, and that they appreciate recognition of their efforts to serve the public is shown by the treatment accorded this little letter In general, the press has dealt not only fairly but generously with the Birth Control movement and has given it publicity which was essential to the spread of the movement If our readers would watch for opportunities to express their recognition of fair and open-minded reporting of Birth Control meetings and activities, the result would be more and better publicity for the movement

IN almost all the attacks on Birth Control made by Roman Catholic speakers, abortion is confounded with the prevent-onof conception. The difference between the killing of human beings after they have come into existence and the guard-

ing against the very beginnings of life has been so clear and unmistakable that it looks like deliberate milice rather than abysmal ignorance that the two Yet when Dr John C should be still identified Coyle, of New York City, spoke on the subject at a joint session of the Central Society and the Woman's National Catholic Union in Allentown, Penn, on August 26, he repeated this unpardonable insinuation He urged that when once God permits "the formation and growth of a human being, his will must not meet with human opposition The child unborn, as well as born must have its chance" He then went on to speak of the killing of unwanted children by savages and pagans, evidently with the Intention of leading his hearers to class the advocates of Birth Control with the slayers of children, and added that it was "as wrong to prevent an innocent life from coming into being as to destroy an innocent life in being . This **last** sentence is surely a terrible condemnation of his own conduct and of all the priests, monks and nuns of the R C Church, for what are they doing but continually preventing thousands of innocent lives from coming into being' If it is true that it is wrong to prevent an innocent life from coming into being, it makes no difference whether this prevention is by cellbacy, abstinence or any other means of prevention It is the fact that a life has been prevented that **D**₁ Coyle condemned as a What then about himself

HEN Judge Crane rendered his decision in If the Brownsville Clinic case, appealed by Margaret Sanger, he opened a door to much useful work for Birth Control The case was decided in **1918,** and in pronouncing the opinion Judge Crane gave a rendering of Section 1145 that brings both liberation and responsibility to the medical profes-The importance of the decision lies in the interpretation of Section 1145, exempting physicians from the prohibitions of Section 1142 when the prohibited articles or mstruments were used "for the cure or prevent~onof disease" The exception, said Judge Crane, is broad enough to protect the physician who in good faith gives such help or advice to a married woman to cure or prevent disease He then gave a **definition** of disease from Webster's dictionary which covers pain, sickness, illness, disorder It is under this opinion that a Bureau of Clinical Research, under a capable and fully qualified doctor, was opened January 1, 1923 m connection with our Headquarters at 104 Fifth Avenue, New York This Bureau has now become the Mecca of sick and suffering mothers, who are examined and given scientific instruction in Birth Control The many cases which do not come under Judge Crane's decision are still compelled to wait for an amendment to the law

Daedalus or Icarus:

IS SCIENCE TO BE MAN'S SERVANT OR HIS MASTER?

By Marcolm H Bissell

PROPHETS are said to be without honor in their own country, but anyone who gives us a picture of the future can always be sure of atten-This in some measure accounts for tion at least the popularity of Mr Wells' recent books and for the numerous attempts on the part of other writers to tell us the kind of world our descendants will live in One man's guess may be as good as another's when it comes to describing the civilization of a hundred or a thousand years hence, yet too often the wish is father to the thought, and the enthusiastic believer in this or that panacea rides his hobby to his heart's content, without much regard to actual probabilities or to the fundamental facts of human nature It is therefore particularly significant to encounter a book in which a judicial point of view is maintained throughout, in spite of the startling and almost unbelievable suggestions which it contains

Such a book is Daedalus, or Sczence and thc Future, by J B S Haldane of Cambridge Uni-It contains less than one hundred pages, but no book of recent times is more likely to arouse the reader to vigorous reaction Whether one agrees or disagrees with the author's conclusions and few are likely to agree with them in toto—he is sure to receive a thorough mental shaking-up before he has read many pages The conservative and the adherent of tradition will be stirred to fury by the ruthlessness with which their cherished ideals are handled, even the radical will find himself almost gasping at the boldness of the picture Mr Haldane has drawn One can imagine the scornful wrath with which Mr Chesterton would review But whatever one's reactions, he will the book be stirred to thought if he is capable of it. And he will also be entertained, for the book sparkles with witty sallies at the complacency of the traditionalists and makes numerous agile side-thrusts at the stupidity of present-day civilization

The author has assuredly achieved his purpose In his brief introduction he states that he experts to be criticized for his "undue and unpleasant emphasis on certain topics" But, he continues "this is necessary if people are to be induced to think about them, and it is the whole business of a university teacher to induce people to think" There, in a word, is the keynote of the book

Taking up the Challenge

The effect of Mr Haldane's challenge was not long in making itself felt. Mr Bertrand Russell soon appeared with a companion volume entitled Icarus, or the Future of Sczence. This is quite a different kind of book, written from another point of view, but almost equally thought-provoking. These two little volumes—each of them can be read in half an hour or so—furnish about the most stimulating mental food in small compass that has appeared in recent years.

The books must be read to be appreciated review of them can give an adequate idea of them qualities While at first reading there appears to be a marked contrast in the two points of view presented, this is more apparent than real If Mr Haldane is more hopeful than Mr Russell that man will eventually become a rational being, he has no illusions that the change will be a deliberate and voluntary one But a discussion of the views of the two authors would lead us too far afield, Mr Haldane's volume alone touches almost every phase of human interest, from mathematics, chemistry and economics to philosophy, art, spiritualism and religion We shall therefore be obliged to confine ourselves to a brief summary of the conclusions presented, with special reference to those relating to birth control

Mr Haldane holds that the biologist is the most romantic figure in modern life, and he goes far toward justifying the claim While his predictions are startling, he is careful to state that they are in every case based on a ork that has already been accomplished He feels that on the whole our descendants will be much better off than we are, although to many readers his picture may not be altogether alluring He looks forward to the complete triumph of rationalism over superstition and tradition, and to the regulation of human affairs by a kind of vast scientific world-organization The food problem will be solved by the chemical manufacture of a "completely satisfactory diet," the general nature of which is outlined, and shown to be amazingly near accomplishment already As a result, agriculture will become a luxury and mankind will be completely urbanized Cheap and universally available power will be obtained by using wind energy to generate electricity, part of which will decompose water into oxygen and hydrogen to he recombined and again supply power in times

^{*}Published by E P Dutton & Co, hew York

of calm Industry will thus be decentralized, and smoke and ashes will be things of the past Disease will be entirely eliminated and death will cease to be regarded with horror, but will be welcomed as we welcome sleep

But it is in the application of biology to human life that the most startling changes are to occur Reproduction will be completely separated from sexual love Children will be born ectogenetically —that is, the entire process of fertilization of the ovum and development of the embryo will take place outside the body of the mother, thus permitting the carrying out of eugenic principles to a degree previously impossible Passions and emotions will be controlled by stimulating or retarding the secretions of the ductless glands, whose influence on human character and behavior we already know to be very great In this manner we shall be able to deal with perverted instincts by "physiology rather than prison" and to regulate passions "by some mole direct method than fasting and **flagel**lation"

A few quotations will illustrate the stimulating nature of Mr Haldane's book Many others equally arresting right be given

"Einstein showed that experience cannot be interpreted in terms of the time and space"

"Within the next century sugar and starch will be about as cheap as sawdust"

"There is no great invention, from fire to flymg, which has not been hailed as an insult to some god"

"If reproduction is once completely separated from sexual love, mankind will be free in an altogether new sense"

"We must learn not to take **traditional** morals too **seriously**"

"We can foretell **little** of the future save that the **thing** that has not been **is** the **thing** that shall be, that no **beliefs**, no values, no **institutions**, are safe"

"In the late war the most rabid nationalists were to be found well behind the front line In the next war no one will be behind the front line It will be brought home to all whom it may concern that war is a very dirty business"

"The tendency of applied science is to magnify evils until they become too mtolerable to be borne, and the average man whom all the prophets and poets could not move, turns at last and extinguishes the evil at its source"

Mr Russell is far less confident that science will prove a boon to mankind A long experience with statesmen and governments has made him sceptical "I am conipelled to fear," he says, "that science will be used to promote the power of domi-

nant groups, rather than to make men happy "He points out that the chief effect of science has been to increase organization. Individual freedom is constantly becoming less, and the majority of mankind is tending toward a condition of complete subjection to the wishes and ideas of those who control industry. The individual is helpless in the face of organization. Organized groups, such as labor unions and political parties, keep him from exercising free choice, and by means of the press, the schools and even the movies, he is constantly subjected to organized propaganda

International Cooperation Needed

All this in itself might not be a serious matter were it not for the extreme nationalistic character of these organized forces "The harm that is being done by science and industrialism is almost wholly due to the fact that **while** they have proved strong enough to produce a **national organization**, they have not proved strong enough to produce an **m**ternational organization" This is unfortunate because It leads to international competition instead of cooperation Rivalry, rather than love of gain, is the real driving force behind the competition of **nations**, as is proved by the fact that although rival trusts would benefit by combining, they prefer the zest of competition to mcreased wealth national cooperation, therefore, can never be brought about "while big business is controlled by men who are so **rich** as to have grown **indifferent** to money "

Mr Russell's cynicism is much in evidence, especially in all matters involving political or governmental activity He has little faith in the intelligence or unselfishness of the average citizen, and still less in politicians and office-holders "Administrators in the future will be presumably no less stupid and no less prejudiced than they are at present " It must be admitted that there is reason for his scepticism. In this connection he calls attention to a very common fallacy, namely the as**sumption** that a reform measure advocated by men of sclence would, if adopted, be administered by men sımılar ın outlook to those who advocated it This, of course, is a delusion, for a reform, once achieved, is handed over to the average citizen Here Mr Russell seizes a fine opportunity for satire at the expense of "Prime Ministers, Bishops, and others whom the State considers desirable"

Even biology will, Mr Russell fears, be used to oppress mankind If we knew enough about heredity to produce the kind of people we desired, the knowledge would be used by those in power to breed a subservient population Similarly, if we ever learn how to control emotions and dispositions by regulating the secretions of the ductless glands,

the ruling classes will see to it that their own children are given the disposition to command, while the masses are molded to obedience, so that "against the injections of the State physicians the most eloquent Socialist oratory would be powerless." We suspect that Mr Russell is not in his most serious mood here, but the picture, even if overdrawn, is enough to give us pause

The Value of Bzrth Control

Both Mr Haldane and Mr Russell see in some form of world organization the only prospect of salvaging civilization Mr Haldane thinks such organization inevitable as the result of the applications of science, Mr Russell is less confident, although he admits a tendency in that direction But he is not quite sure that civilization is worth salvaging, anyway Mr Haldane's argument seems more convincing, but all well-mformed readers will agree that a society which through prejudice and bigotry refuses to look facts in the face, and brings about its own dissolution by a failure to recognize the need of blrth control, richly deserves its fate

It is scarcely necessary to state that Mr Haldane appreciates the value and desirability of birth control, the new liberation of humamty through the separation of sexual love and reproduction, which he so vigorously emphasizes is exactly what birth control seeks to establish. He does not even consider it requisite to argue the point, he goes so far beyond mere birth control in his prediction of "ectogenesis" that few of us, perhaps, will be willing to follow him. Yet if we are honest we cannot but admit that there is nothing illogical or immoral or impossible in such a farther step in man's conquest of nature

Mr Russell also frankly recognizes the importance of birth control He pays his respects to its opponents in various terse and satiric phrases, of which the following is an example 'Government opposition to birth control propaganda gives a hological advantage to stupidity, since it is chiefly stupid people whom governments succeed in keeping in ignorance "But in spite of his belief in the **necessity** of blrth control to prevent overpopulation, he foresees certain dangers He fears that population will not merely become stationary, but The white races will practice volmay diminish untary restriction of their numbers while "uncivilized" races remain prolific, with the ultimate result of the extermination of white civilization by a "rising tide of color"

This is a familiar bogey, but we are surprised that as critical a scholar as Mr Russell should allow it to disturb him He has evidently come under the spell of Lothrop Stoddard But Stoddard's arguments are unsound and his whole thesis

is a delusion It has been most effectively disposed of by Professor East in his "Mankind at the Crossroads," where it is clearly shown that the only danger menacmg the white race is its own stupidity in refusing to recognize the menace of overpopula-Even if this brilliant and careful analysis were not available, a little reflection should hate convinced Mr Russell that his fears were unfounded In the first place, the universal adoption of birth control by the white nations would greatly reduce the **incentives** to war among them, and hence the need for employing colored mercenaries against each other **Secondly, if** the white race as a whole were to attain a stationary population, its position would be enormously strengthened as a result of the mcreased efficiency of its civilization elimination of the great amount of waste of both human and other resources which is inevitable in any organic group with a high birth-rate, would make the white race impregnable to the attacks of less civilized races Intelligence and control of resources are far more **important** m the modern world than mere numbers Only the moonceivable eventuality of an ahance of all the other races of the world against the white race could seriously threaten white civilization, and by the time the colored races reach the stage where this would be possible, they mll long since have been forced to adopt If, on the other hand, birth control themselves another race, such as the yellow, should develop an intelligence and a civilization so superior to those of the whites, as to enable it to supersede the latter, who could regard **this** as a calamity?

War No Check on **Population**

Mr Russell has fallen mto another common error is assuming that war is a check on overpopulation. The utter fallacy of this idea has been demonstrated by Harold Wright in his book on "Population" War actually accentuates overpopulation by exhausting resources and disturbing economic life to a much greater relative degree than it reduces human numbers

On the whole, both Mr Haldane and Mr Russell have produced telling arguments in favor of blith control, although neither of them had this purpose primarily in view Mr Haldane has, we think, minimized the difficulties in the way of producing artificial food on a commercial scale, but the mere suggestion of such a possibility makes the need for the establishment of blith control all the more imperative. We shudder to think of life in an age with an unbounded food supply and without blith control! Starvation would perhaps be preferable to an existence in a world without privacy, solitude or natural beauty

(Continued on page 302)

Birth Control and Medical Practice

By DR HERMANN ROHLEDER (Leipzig)

BIRTH Control is a branch of hygiene and hygiene is a branch of medicine, therefore doctors should be the leading authorities on Birth Control For us, as doctors, it has two aspects (1) the hygienic-therapeutic, and (2) the hygienic-prophylactic

THE HYGIENIC-THERAPEUTIC ASPECT

It is generally recognized that women with heart disease are seriously endangered by pregnancy, they may suffer serious aggravation of the malady thereby, and may even die Nearly all text-books on obstetrics emphasize this, and there are many references to it in medical works. In some bad cases artificial miscarriage has to be resorted to, and the majority of doctors approve Surely from a humanitarian point of view, prevention of conception is more justifiable than abortion

That serious disease of the lungs, especially advanced tuberculosis, demands that doctors should recommend Birth Control, 1s, in my opinion obvious It is still a much discussed question whether or not tuberculous girls should become pregnant When Kirchner declared that the marriage of consumptives should certainly be forbidden, he was speaking praiseworthily from his hygienic stand-But his recommendation is quite impracticable In view of the great prevalence of tuberculosis, Blrth Control is the only way out of the difficulty Blrth Control is more important here than in all the other diseases put together sumption is not an indication for Blrth Control it is the indication for it To allow consumptive women to waste away through pregnancy is Inhuman and utterly unworthy of the medical profession The recommendation by doctors of sexual abstinence to married couples is unpardonable, for they must know that it will not long be kept up by any married couple Happily our ideas are gainmg ground Kaminer in "Disease and Marriage" says "We must regard it as one of the principal duties of the physician to prevent conception in tuberculous women, with all the preventive means known to science "

Diabetes mellitus in its more severe forms is also an indication for Birth Control, for pregnancy has always a most unfavorable influence in those forms of the disease in which the sugar excretion reaches a high percentage If a married woman is found to be diabetic, even shightly so, the doctor ought to

Summary of an address made in London at the Fifth International Birth Control Conference)

mform her of the danger of a pregnancy making her **mild** case a serious one Diabetic **girls** may marry, but they should have no children

A high degree of contracted pelvis is an indication for Blrth Control unless the woman is willing to have a cesarian section. But in no case ought one to go so far as to allow, as has been done, a woman to undergo cesarian section repeatedly until she collapses at the sixth time. On this case, my deceased colleague and friend, Dr. Mensinga of Flensburg (Geimany) the inventor of the Dutch pessary, remarked "His the doctor realized at all the helplessness and hopelessness of such an existence." Is it creditable to him—this wanton torture to the bitter end.""

Chronic kıdney disease in women makes Blrth Control advıce a medical duty on much the same grounds as for heart dlsease

Venereal disease, and especially syphilis, makes Birth Control by the use of the condom obhgatory, in order to prevent infection of others, and in order to prevent the infected person from going from bad to worse, as most frequently happens with advice of sexual abstinence. Sexual abstinence is here the best thing, but the disease may be long lasting and such abstinence a practicable impossibility.

THE HYGIENIC-PEOPHYI ACTIC ASPECT

Birth Control has to be considered in the case of serious mfections, such as tuberculosis and syphilis. The decided inheritability of the tendency to tuberculosis and the gravity of such inheritance are well known. If all doctors were to advise Birth Control to consumptives, a great part of this social problem would be solved.

Certain constitutional diseases call for Birth Control on prophylactic grounds Diabetes is one As Senator says "The progeny is endangered in a double manner by diabetes mellitus, because children of diabetic mothers are born in a weakly condition, and because of the hereditary nature of the disease, which is estimated at 20 per cent" Haemophilia is another constitutional disease which has a strong inheritability, and Ripke rightly says "Bleeders ought not to reproduce"

That serious nervous diseases, epilepsy, hysteria, and mental diseases should not be further handed on is admitted by all doctors. These, therefore, call for the consideration of Blrth Control Indeed many doctors have written in favor of sterilization in these cases.

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The World Crisis of Population

By Edward Alsworth Ross

KITHOUT being aware of it, civilized mankind is in a most critical situation. Its most precious contemporary acluevement—the diffusion of decency of life, and comfort throughout all classes in society—is in danger of being swept away by a new deluge—this time, not of water but of babies. For at present mankind is increasing in number as in no previous period for which we have record. The watchful lookouts who pace the walls of Zion, instead of taking their ease in her courts and streets, see the approaching peril to humanity's future so near and visible that they should be pardoned if they cry the alarm with strident voices.

The number of members of the human family is supposed to be 1,700,000,000, which is twice what it was estimated to be ninety-two years ago Last year one of my students died at the age of ninety-two When she was born the world had but half as many inhabitants as it has today Thmk what it means, that within a single lifetime humanity has gamed as many members as in all the previous thousands of centuries!

The Divine command, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth," was uttered to eight people who were all that remained of mankind after the Flood. There are now 250,000,000 times as many people as there were then. How much longer is this emergency mandate to be considered as still in force?

In the five year period, 1906-1911—the growth of human numbers has been calculated to be one and one-sixth per cent per year, which must be many times greater than anything of the kind which has occurred hitherto in the history of our race Had this rate of expansion prevailed steadily through previous centuries, all the human beings on the globe could have been produced from a single pair in seventeen hundred ninety-one years, ie, Adam and Eve could have set up housekeeping as lately as the days of the Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius If you take, not the contemporary rate of Increase, but-the rate which prevailed between 1804 and 1914, about 2,400 years would suffice to produce the present population of the globe from an Adam and Eve living at the time of the Battle of Marathon

One thing is beyond all dispute, viz, that the contemporary expansion of humanity, which is due, in part to the amazing success of medical science and public hygiene in fighting off disease, and in part to the rapid agricultural exploitation of new

and fertile lands in the temperate zone, cannot continue much longer. There are no more Mississippi Valleys, Australias, Canadas, and Argentinas to bring under the plow, so if mankind insists on continuing the present rate of propagation, hie, within the experience of individuals now living, will become so 111-nounshed, harrassed, and difficult that the death rate will quickly rise in spite of the best that doctors and health officers can do

The Increase of Population

The human family has doubled in number in ninety-two years, but at its present rate of expansion it will have doubled again within sixty years, that is, by 1983 In a hundred years, the same rate would have expanded the populat~omf the world to three and one-sixteenth times the present population, and this is all the human beings which, according to the calculations of food and agricultural experts, could possibly be fed if every available acre on the globe were tilled and producing as much as it is capable of contributing. In two hundred years, there would be ten times the present population of the globe, and then, even if mankind were fed by a fall of heavenly manna, they would he so crowded and would poison one another so terribly that life would hardly be worth living

The populat~onof England and Wales at the opening of the nineteenth century was about nine million, but by the opening of the twentieth century, it had Increased to 32,500,000, i.e., multiplied three-and-one-half times in one hundred years "Had our forefathers since the days of William the Conqueror," says Mr Bland, "been in a position to achieve a birth-rate and a death-rate similar to those of England and Wales in the nineteenth century, the present populat~onof this tight little island — without allowing for any contribution from Scotland — would be somewhere in the neighborhood of 150,000,000 In line with this, is the statement made by Dean Inge before the British Birthrate Commission "In the Middle Ages birth-rate was about 45, and the death-rate about the same Within the last century the death rate has been reduced from the mediæval rate to 14, and, if the birth rate were maintained at anything like its natural level, about 40, all over the world, the populat~orof the globe, which is now 1,700,000,000, would in 120 years have reached 27,000,000,000, or about ten times as great a number as the earth could probably support "

Examples of Population Growth

Europe is supposed to have had 80,000,000 of inhabitants in 1700 In one hundred years this was more than doubled and in the last fifty years Europe's rate of mcrease has been unprecedented in history Austin has calculated that from 1772 to 1872 the mcrease was at the rate of 16% for each 20 year period Smce that time it has been much more rapid, practically 20% in the period 1872 to 1892, and 26% in the period 1892 to 1912

Calculations made from the census statistics collected by the Registrar General of England show that, in 1916, Europe had 465,000,000 of people In addition, great streams of emigrants had flowed away from Europe smce 1800, and it has been computed that the descendants of these in the Americas, Africa, and Australasia number 185,000,000 Thus it appears that Europe and its offspring outside have more than trebled in number since 1816

Again, there has been an enormous Increase in the native population of the lands to which Europeans have gone Although, having reached the saturation point, the population of North America, Egypt and India was formerly at a standstill, the arrival of European civilization and European governments with their irrigation and public health measures have caused population to start forward at an amazing rate The most outstanding example of the **stimulating** effect of European contact upon the Increase of the native population is witnessed in the case of Java In the words of Professor Willcox "This island increased its population, the great mass of whom have no trace of European blood, from about **4,000,000** in **1800** to about **30,000000** in **1905** It is less than one-third as large as California, contains not one great city, and yet has nearly thirteen times as many inhabitants as this state, or about one-third as many as the whole United States This single case of Increase in the aboriginal population of Java, under the influence of Europe, is enough to outweigh all known decreases in all other parts of the world several times over"

What U S Has Done to Help Porto Rico

Or mark what has happened in Porto Rico In the twenty years following the American occupation of Porto Rico its population has increased a quarter of a million, or 36%, owing to the commercial expansion and industrial development following the American occupation Governor Yaeger of Porto Rico states that the greatly enlarged opportunities for employment, Instead of raising the standard of living and increasing wages, resulted chiefly in increasing the numbers of the laborers

Likewise there has been an extraordinary increase among mdependent peoples who have adopted the white man's civilization on its material side. The population of Japan, which had been nearly stationary for two hundred years, grew from 33,000,000 in 1871 to 54,000,000 in 1914. Japan is increasing at the rate of threequarters of a million annually, and at her present rate, in another forty years she will be attempting to maintain a population equal to the continental United States.

On the other hand, where European civilization has not yet been deeply felt, as in China or Central Africa, or inner Arabia, or Persia, population has been stationary or has even decreased

The Fall in the Birth Rate

The recent fall in the crude birth-rate of the more advanced peoples has inspired a vast deal of denunciation and jeremiad. Every thoughtful person has heard of it, but few outside statisticians and public health officers have noticed the extraordinary lowering of the death rate which has been brought about in the last forty rears. Yet, in most countries, it quite neutralizes that shortage of the baby crop which has inspired so many gloomy prophecies.

Compare the fourteen European countries with worth-while vital statistics, in respect to them records for the half-decade 1881-1885, and for the last half-decade before the War, viz, 1906-10 **period,** you will find that in *nine* of them, the death rate fell further than the birth rate, so that **in 1910** their natural Increase was greater than it had been a quarter of a century earlier, before forethought had given much evidence of its presence among the masses If only the public could be made to realize that in the last quarter-century for which we have complete statistics (1881-85 to 1906-10) the death rate of Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Scotland dechned about a fifth, that of Amtna, Belgium, Denmark, England and Wales, Hungary, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland, a fourth that of Australia, **Bulgaria** and Holland, about a third In 1900 the death rate in our "registration area" was 176 per thousand of the **population** In **1921** the rate was 117, a reduction of a third in twenty-one years

Save our **ingenuity** in devising contrivances for blotting out human life, nothing in our time is so sensational as our success in vanquishing certam diseases. For example, a few years ago the deaths per 100,000 population from the fevers, including typhoid, typhus, and malaria, were only one seventy-third as common as the deaths from these fevers in India. There is no climatic or geographical reason for their prevalence in India and these same diseases plaved havor in this country a century ago. They scourge us so httle today be-

cause public authority has applied the discoveries of preventive medicine

It is this agency that has chased from us those grizzly servitors of Azrael, bubonic plague, cholera, yellow fever and small-pox Moreover, another four of his reapers, viz, typhoid, diphtheria and croup, tuberculosis and penumonia have had them sickles dulled.

Saving the Babies

The progress of chdd saving alone suffices to offset a large part of the fall of the birth-rate Peeps into the mfant mortality of the less advanced peoples suggest that, nght down through history, from a third to two-thirds of those born have **perished in** the cradle A decade ago, a quarter of the babies born in Hungary in Russia faded to live a year In Chde, in 1913, I found the loss to be a third, in some cities 47 per cent Before the War, Moscow parents were losing half them infants within a twelve-month In 1910, in the innermost province of Chma, an American medical missionary, with twenty years of practise, gave me his opinion that from 75 to 85 per cent of the children born in the his district die before the end of the second year

On the other hand, thanks to modem hygiene and medicine we are saving innfants with a success that our forefathers would have attributed to magic Already there are more than a dozen peoples that lose less than a tenth of their children in the first year of life Our country is not high up in this class but, nevertheless, there are twenty-five American cities which save nineteen babies out of twenty In New Zealand there are good-sued cities that lose in the first year only one mfant in twenty-seven

That human life should be preserved with such success is an utterly new thing in the experience of humanity In all the life of our race, extending over a thousand centuries and more, the hke of this has never been known It behooves us to adapt our behavlor to it as we adapt our behavlor to artificial hght or power machinery or the automobile people are to die only a third or a fourth as fast as they used to die, it a plain that it will never do for them to be born as fast as ever, so we have before us an endless vista of restriction of the size of families We must leave unused an increasing portion of that fertility which became established in our species long ago, in order to meet a rate of wastage which no longer presents itself in civilized life The more advanced peoples really do not dare use more than half their natural fertility and we shall soon see the time where they will not dare use more than a thrd of it

Headed for Saturation

As it is, we are headed straight for a world saturation which will make toil, poverty, anxiety, and low expectation of hee the portion of the masses in all countries It was some job during the War for the allies to feed a portion of the Belgians Well as things now are, food for two new **Belgiums** must be found every year In the words of Professor East, "The tillers of the sod must prepare, plant, **cultivate** and harvest each year nearly forty million acres more than they did the year before" The end of rapid expansion is in sight Within a life time, we shall arrive at a nearly stabonary state of **population** Shall the **equilibrium** between **births** and deaths be struck by adjusting the birth-rate to the death rate of ten per thousand per annum, which we may look for before very long, or shall it be struck by allowing the growth of crowding. overwork, and underfeeding to raise the mortality to 24 per thousand per annum, which is the present birth-rate? The answer to this depends on whether we shall strike the stationary state about the time we have a populabon of **150,000,000** or about the time forty years later when we shall have 200.000.000

I doubt very much if Americans generally will ever consent to endure the wretched life which the Chinese masses have brought upon themselves by overmultiplication. Before descending into such a vale of wretchedness, curtailment of the size of the family will certainly become a general practise, but shall such curtailment be postponed until the pressure of numbers shall have wiped out much of the ease and comfort which the exploitation of a virgin continent has spread among us, or shall it be adopted in time to prevent a decline in the American standard of life?

The **arrival** of **family limitation** and the unchecked **dissemination** of knowledge of the means of such **limitation** are as **certain** to come as **anything in** the world If eventually, why not now?

AN APOLOGY

We wish publicly to express—what have already been privately accepted—our sincere apologies for the lapse in the August Review when we omitted to give credit for our beautiful cover picture to the Metropohtan Museum of Art. We highly appreciate the privilege of using, on the cover of our Review, the reproductions of these beautiful pictures and statues, which are exhibited for the enjoyment and edification of the public in the great art galleries of the Museum, and we greatly regret the seeming discourtesy of using one of them without due acknowledgment.

For him to whom sex is impure, there are no flowers in wature—Thoreau

Birth Control and Public Health

By C KILLICK MILLARD, M D H

Continued from the September issue

4 The Eugenic Point of View

We have also to look at this question from the point of view of Eugenics This is clearly allied to the point of view of Public Health, indeed Eugenics may be regarded in one sense as the Public Health of future generations

No one will deny that the present position, with its differential birth-rate between the upper and the lower strata of society, is most unsatisfactory Birth Control is being largely practised by the more desirable stocks, whilst it is being neglected by the less deslrable, and although this is compensated to some extent by the reduced infant mortality which usually accompanies a lower birth-rate, the fact remains that our population is being unduly recruited from those elements which, humanly speaking, are the least fitted to make good parents

It must be frankly admitted, therefore, that Birth Control, as we see it today, is distinctly dysgenic in its operation. How can this be remedied? It would appear that there are only two alternatives

- (1) Induce the more desirable stocks to abandon Birth Control and have larger families, or
- (2) Induce the less desirable stocks to adopt Birth Control and have smaller families

Does anyone seriously think that the first alternative is in the least degree practicable? The educated and "thinking" classes hale decided that restriction of the size of the family is desirable. The clergy, doctors, schoolmasters, in short the intelligentzia of the nation today all have small families. Who shall go forth and persuade them to act differently? Birth Control has been on its trial for at least two generations (in reality very much longer) and I suggest that no civilization which has once discovered it is at all likely to abandon it. We may as well recognize frankly that Birth Control has come to stay

The Logical Course

We therefore have to fall back upon the other alternative, viz, to induce the less desirable stocks to follow the example of the more desirable stocks and to practise Birth Control also This is surely the more natural, the more logical and the more progressive course How far is it practicable? It may be objected that we shall never succeed in persuading the more reckless. thriftless and thought-

less elements in the population to exercise the considerable measure of forethought, circumspection and self-control which the successful practice of any method of Birth Control demands I frankly admit the difficulty and it is quite possible that we shall never be entirely successful, but this is no reason why we should not set this alternative before us as an ideal to be aimed at Much, I beheve, could be done by sympathetic practical instruction, and by providing adequate facilities. Also we may reasonably hope for improvement in methods now that the subject is being seriously studied not only in this but in almost all civilized countries What is needed is a method which is at once simple, safe, effective and inexpensive The experience now being gamed in the two Birth Control clinics which are being carried on in London should help us in deciding how far the lowest strata of the population can be taught Birth Control The following is from a description of a visit to Dr Marie Stopes's Clinic which appeared in the *Daily* News for June 20, 1921, from the pen of Mr Herbert Ashley, Secretary of the London Council of Social Service

A Visit to a Bzrth Control Clinic

"To social workers who are willing to sweep aside false "modesty" and to think with courage, one fact is apparent that the mother of the poorer classes who bears a child unwillingly, rebelliously, bitterly, and with anguish, is not she who best serves our race Such children are a loss to the State, an anguish to their mothers, and a misery to themselves

With such thoughts in my mind, I called at Dr Marie Stopes's Clinic in Holloway In a drab neighborhood it is a beautiful place

The whole atmosphere of the place is one of con-

The whole atmosphere of the place is one of confidence and purity The founders of the Clinic, who are supported by many thinkers in many different walks of life, have taken upon themselves a work which will save untold expense to the whole community, as well as untellable misery to Individuals."

I see no reason why a similar description should not be applicable to all Birth Control Clinics. I would suggest that whatever our views may be on this question of Birth Control, it is up to all of us who are medical officers of health to watch the work of these clinics carefully and sympathetically

The problem of the most degraded stocks, e g, the feeble-minded, calls for special treatment No

doubt when public **opinion** is ripe for it—and it is certainly moving m that direction—measures will be introduced for the permanent sterilization of those unfortunates as an **alternative** to segregation Already legislation with this end in view has been passed in some countries

5 The Physiological or Medical Aspect

Lastly we have to consider the physiological or purely medical point of view What effects physiological, pathological or psychological—have contraceptives on those who habitually use them? This is an aspect which, of course, specially concerns the medical profession It is much to be regretted, but none the less true, that we are not as a profession, at present, able to answer this question with any degree of certainty or unanimity In an anonymous letter which appeared in the July number of Publzc Health over the nom de plume of "X and Y," and headed "The Dangers of Birth Control," the opinions of certain practitioners and gynecologists were cited, expressing the belief that the use of contraceptives was injurious to health Elsewhere I have collected a number of opinions on the other side, and I have also published (Report of Fifth International Birth Control Conference), the results of two special inquiries I instituted, by means of questionnaires, amongst medical practitioners, men and women, including gynecologists Suffice it to say here that these inquiries satisfied me that the consensus of medical opinion today was that no serious ill-effects need be apprehended from the use of some at least of the contraceptives in common use My own feeling is that amongst those who have been most emphatic in alleging that serious 111-effects follow the use of contraceptives there has been a great deal of unconscious exaggeration and of confusion between post hoc and propter hoc, due to strong prejudice on supposed ethical and patriotic grounds, and that this to a large extent discounts their testimony In this connection the medical evidence against the use of contraceptives, given in a recent cause *celebre*, and for which large fees were paid, makes interesting reading, especially the answers elicited under crossexamination

Conclusion

Let me conclude with an expression of my own personal opinion I regard the ideal of responsible parenthood, accompaned as a necessary corollary by regulation of the size of the family, as a much higher and more worthy ideal than the principle of unrestricted breeding which prevailed prior to the days of Birth Control It is all very well for the opponents of Birth Control to say that responsible parenthood has always been held as an ideal It is common knowledge that until Birth Control

came into vogue the orthodox teaching used to be that **children** were "sent" and that it was the duty of married couples to take all that came

I regard the use of contraceptives as the only practicable or desirable method of effecting regulation of the size of the family in the case of normal individuals, and I regard their use for this purpose as perfectly legitimate and a necessary part of the hygiene of marriage where restriction of the size of the family is indicated Properly selected and properly used, I do not believe that they have as a general rule, any seriously deleterious effect upon health, though I am quite prepared to believe that their ignorant or improper use may in certain cases have been productive of harm

I regard the suggestion that the use of contraceptives may cause permanent sterility as a bogey, quite unsupported by adequate evidence, but I recognize that if young married couples begin using contraceptives before they have had a child, and if, later on, when they desire a child, they fail to get one, it is very probable that they will reproach themselves and regard it as a "judgment" I recognize also that nowadays many young people are apt to practise Birth Control where there is no real need for it, and that they do not sufficiently appreciate the immense and permanent value of children in marriage, or the fact that after a certain age in the woman the likelihood of conception diminishes

For these reasons I think it better, as a general rule and under normal conditions as regards housing, that young couples should always make sure of at least one or two children before adopting Birth Control and I disagree with those who teach otherwise

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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THE SINS OF THE FATHERS

Mothers Beg to be Saved From Bearing Diseased Babies

No reasonable man or woman believes that any child should be born with a heritage of syphilis. If there is one thing on which all doctors are agreed, it is that syphilitic parents should not produce children. Clinics for the teaching of Birth Control ought to form part of every campaign against social disease. No mother wishes to bear a syphilitic child, and the sin of binging such children into existence lies at the door of soczety that forbids the prevention of their conception. Who would dare to say that such pleas as these ought to be denied.

My Child Might be Born Blind

Pennsylvania

I am a young married girl of nineteen Last year I gave birth to an eight-months baby, born dead My husband was troubled with syphilis some years ago, and the same doctor that treated him then was our doctor when the baby was born And he told my husband not to try anything hke that again until he came in and took a blood test He said that it may have been the reason of our baby being born dead But he didn't tell us anything to keep from **getting** that way And three months ago, I failed to get my monthly sickness My husband went in and asked the doctor to give me some medicine, but it didn't do any good He went back again and the doctor told him he could not do anything more He told him to take me to a doctor in the city after I was two months Then I took sick and was unable to leave the house for six weeks I don't know if I could have it done or not, since I am more than two months going Your book says that it is very injurious to the health and that children ought not to be born to parents troubled with the diseases mentioned in this letter If you know of any way that I don't have to give birth to another child, please write and tell me at once, as my child might be born blind, or suffer from some other disease If you can help me this time and tell me of Birth Control, so keep me from having babies for a few years, until I am older and stronger and I think then my husband will be out of danger of our children being injured

It Nearly Tore my Heart Out

California

Since reading your book, "Woman and the New Race," I have regained hope—It has made me feel that the time is coming when all women will be able to stop having children, when they brought enough into the world—But until then we have to continue to bear children, because we know of no other way

I have been married four years this June When we were first married I became pregnant in the fourth month, and in the second month of pregnancy, my body broke out in purple spots Not having the least idea what

could cause it I consulted a doctor immediately. He took a blood test of both my husband and me. When I went back for my answer, it was "syphilis" and of the worst form. It nearly tore my heart out, and my mother's as well, for I had always had such a horror of the very sound of the world. Then my husband told me he had got it from his first wife. So I had to be operated upon—it was not quite the same as abortion and yet a whole lot worse.

Then we started **taking** blood treatments, three **times** a week I could scarcely stand the **inoculations** I had to keep an **ice** pack on **it** all **night in** order to sleep, the **pain** was so dreadful My husband had no trouble

The doctor said we could not risk having children for they would be afflicted. For a year we took those treatments, and during that time I was operated on three times. I used every available preventive that other people used, but I had no results from them. The doctor said I could not stand another operation—that it would kill me. So it remained for my husband to protect me. After much persuasion I got him too use precautions, but it was a constant nagging, for he hated to do it. Yet he claimed to love me dearly, and I told him there was one way of proving it

We went to Colorado The chmate was better there and I felt better right away We had blood tests there and both were negative Soon I was pregnant again I had the baby, and he was perfect so far as we could see But the disease was in his blood And I have had several symptoms since, and there is little doubt that it is dragging me down—I am a nervous wreck The baby is 15 months old, and I am six months with another Because we are poor, we cannot stand the operation so often, and it can only mean for me to go on having one night after another I cannot nurse my babies for my milk is poison

And now my husband and I quarrel whenever I remind him that he could prevent it if he would My affection for him is waning, and he looks elsewhere for pleasure It is no wonder I cannot hold him But if I did not have children, I could make myself as attractive as any girl, and then his attention would revert to me

There must surely be some means of prevention, and

no one would be more thankful to hear of it than I It is not because I do not love chaldren I love my baby so much that it drives me crazy to think that his blood is diseased. We went to a clinic for awhile, and I saw other babies there taking treatments. It made my heart ache to see them jam those needles into the tender little bodies. Poor httle helpless creatures, who are not to blame, yet they must suffer from others' folhes!

A Disgrace to Humanity

Pennsylvania

I am not writing for myself I am a marned woman with two healthy, bright ch-ldren and an earnest advocate of Birth Control, the same as my husband But I have a very dear friend who was married at the age of eighteen to a young man of very doubtful character, against her parents' consent This man, when married, was the victim of a bad case of tuberculosis and of the so-called social disease They have had three ch~ldren,not more than 10 or 11 months apart The first is living, but is not **right** and very dehcate—a **disgrace** to humamty The other two **died** at a few days of age The woman is a physical wreck, awaiting death as her easiest rehef Her family physician refuses to help her in her desire to have no more chaldrento be brought into the world to suffer and die I want to do something for my friend, as her plight is a great worry to me With the facts narrated here can you not send me some information to help her Anything you send me will be more than appreciated

Praying for her Baby's Eyes

Louisiana

I am a weak, run-down, sickly woman, been married five years This tells the story—a radiant bride at 20, at 25 what? If you could see me you would not have to guess

My first child was still born I had an awful time My next was a miscarriage at six months. In two months I was pregnant again, and by staying in bed for seven long months, I went full time. But my baby was almost bhind I spent three months praying night and day for my baby's sight, and God heard and answered my cries, for at 22 months he has pretty blue eyes. But I would rather die than have another one, for my husband is a sufferer from gonorrhea. I have begged him to leave me I would rather be separated than have any more. Please help me. I think the law is hideous. It ought to be a law against diseased men to marry pure, clean girls, to bring sickly chaldreninto the world to suffer, and oh' the suffering the poor wonien have to endure

Groping in the Dark

Indiana

I grope in the dark for the knowledge for which I am searching I am a young woman, twenty-SIXthis month, and a high school graduate Before I married in 1922

I was employed as assistant post-master at a small mining town in Montana Soon after my marriage, I noticed that my husband had terrible sores, which, even though he doctored them persistently, refused to heal I suggested that he go to a doctor and have his blood tested, which he quite readily did. The test was sent to the State Board of Health, and a report came back, 4-plus—syphilis. My husband became enraged, and refused to take treatment, all the while denying the same

At this time I was pregnant three months What could I do but go through with it to the end? When the baby came, the doctor refused to speak to me about syphilis, and we have had to doctor the httle fellow ever since I determined not to have another child, but three months after my confinement, I was again pregnant I can't stoop to abortion, and must I go on bringing these httle deformed, defenceless creatures into the world?

Helpless from Birth

California

I am today the mother of six living chaldren and have had two miscarriages My oldest son is now twelve pears old, and he has been helpless from his birth. The rest of my chaldren are very pale, and I have to take them to the doctor quite often. One of my daughters has her left eye bhnd

I have tned to keep myself away from my husband since my last baby was born, but it causes quarrels and once he left me saying I wasn't doing my duty as a wife Each tune with my babies I am sick for a long time, and I have to take chloroform

My husband, I have learned lately, had syphilis before we were married, and on account of that loathsome disease he is never in good health. I do work for other people, besides taking care of my family and the house. I am in no good condition to bring another baby into the world Please help me if there is a way

The Babies All Daed

Maine

I have given birth to three children They all died I have also had several miscarriages I asked the doctor why this was so, also if he could give me something to prevent child-birth He would not answer either question

My husband is sick and is not able to go to work half the time, so naturally the burden falls on me At times it is very hard for me, so I am writing to you to ask for advice

I would rather have the children, if they would live, but I can't seem to go full time, or to have them alive, and yet I get pregnant again and again Surely it is not intended that a woman should go on his this. Some one told me that my babies die because my husband has a disease, but I do not know about that The doctor will tell me nothing. Surely you can help me I should be very glad to hear from you

The Passi

By MARGARET SANGER

ROM its stormy beginning, now something more than one hundred years ago, that struggle for human freedom and the battle to liberate woman from the cruel slavery of enforced motherhood which today is known as the Birth Control movement, has produced a long list of martyrs and heroes known and unknown—an honor-list of brave men and courageous women who, without thought of recognition or official medals, unflinchingly have carried on the thankless battle against blind prejudice Some of them, like those dauntless pioneers, the Diysdales, have won a place in the history of human freedom that can never be wrested from them Others must remain anonymous, though their valor has been scarcely less Propagandists, publishers, booksellers, active agitators like those men who first circulated the "diabolical handbill" at the very outset of the Neo-Malthusian movement—all have carried on the torch and kept our ideal alive

OTHERS have worked directly in the heart of the poor, in the midst of conditions and in the face of obstacles that would have discouraged men less staunch in their convictions, less loyal to the ideal of a liberated and regenerated humanity. One of the noblest heroes in this latter field has been Doctor J Rutgers of The Hague the news of whose recent death has just come to us from Hol-The severity of this blow to our cause is alleviated only by our realization of the profound influence exerted by this valiant worker in our movement The work of a whole lifetime devoted with the highest idealism to a love of his fellow-men has not been in vain The influence of Doctor Rutgers has been profound For he was one of the first to realize that this whole problem of voluntary contraception is not one merely of controversy and discussion, of theory and polemic, the moral rightness of which may be decided solely by preachers or teachers It is a problem of practical science, to be tested by intelligent men and women quietly, modestly, without any blaring of trumpets, actuated by the courage of his convictions and a profound love of humanity, Dr Rutgers gale the Neo-Malthusian movement, as it was known during the latter half of the nineteenth century, a new direction and a new life His Instrument was the To him we owe the estab-Birth Control clinic lishment of Birth Control clinics in Holland

In 1915 I went to him to learn all the practical aspects of scientific contraception I shall never forget the long hours I spent under his guidance in those Dutch clinics, learning from this quiet humanitarian much more than merely the practical education I had gone to acquire from him First of all he taught me, not so much by word as by practical demonstration, the paramount importance of the clinic as a means of educating women in the hygienic and eugenic aspects of Birth Control He taught me that real Birth Control could never be merely a matter of printed and published information, but of practical and scientific hygiene And so from Dr Rutgers I came to see that the clinic must be the true goal of all adequate and thorough education in Birth Control As conceived in the mind of this valiant worker and humanitarian, the clinic becomes the surest instrument toward individual liberty and the regeneration of the race profoundly eugenical and an institution of real hygienic education

WHILE to Doctor Aletta Jacobs must he awarded the high honor of being the first physician in Holland to offer practical advice to poor mothers, it was Dr Rutgers' great achievement to organize the clinics, to educate nurses and midwives in this delicate work and to effect the establishment of clinics in the lesser cities and towns of the Netherlands

In the face of unforseen and almost insurmountable obstacles Dr Rutgers carried on this great work to the point when the benefits of the clinics could be scientifically computed and practically demonstrated, to that point, in short, when the work, organized by the pioneer in this field, was officially recognized by the Dutch government as a humanitarian effort of national importance. By his devotion and tireless efforts, Dr Rutgers had carried to fine fruition a lifework that at the beginning was almost blighted by neglect, misunderstanding, indifference and the enmity of his opponents

I am proud to realize that through my efforts educators and social workers of other countries have been taught the importance of the clinic as a true instrument of eugenic education. My enthusiasm for Dr Rutgers' clinic has led others to visit The Hague and to investigate his results for themselves. So that his example in the near future

of a Hero

may have widespread influence, not only in the Occident but in the Far East as well

How much the contemporary Birth Control movement owes to the example of Holland, the pioneer nation in this field, we all realize How much Holland owes to the fine and unflinching idealism of Dr Rutgers, it is too early to say His is an influence the benefits of which cannot be determined in a single generation nor in two When we point to Holland as an outstanding example of

what can be accomplished and what has been attamed in the quality of breeding as opposed to the blind and inidiscriminate reproduction of mere numbers, we should not forget that this practical national demonstration of our conviction is the outcome of the tireless patience and Indefatigable idealism of a single man—Dr J Rutgers

Let us honor his memory as that of one of the true heroes fighting for the liberation of humanity through the Birth Control movement

By MARTINA G KRAMERS

UR cause has sustained a great loss by the death of Dr J Rutgers, the chief promoter of the movement for Birth Control in Holland

He was not its initiator — that high merit belongs to Mr S von Houten, ex-Prime Minister, to Dr Aletta Jacobs, our first M D and her husband but Rutgers popularized the movement by bringing the Neo-Malthusian League into touch with the laboring class, and making contraceptive advice and contraceptive implements cheap diminishing of our birth-rate and infantile deathrate during late years attest the efficiency of this course In his medical practice in Rotterdam 1879-1904 he came to see that, among all social reforms, Birth Control was the most needed for the uplifting of womanhood and of the subjected class equally At first his doctrine was not always understood and it found no general sympathy, but that position changed gradually Rutgers' preaching was not so much by words as by deeds, and his patients honored and loved him. He did not begin his career in the medical profession, his father sent him to the university to study theology, and in 1874, when he was 24 years old, he actually was appointed as minister in the village church, but he soon felt that this was not his vocation and he began a new university course, as a student of medicine From his old theological pursuits he always retained a well-founded hostility to the doctrines of St Augustine and St Paul on asceticism and the dualism of body and soul

WHEN Dr Rutgers became secretary of the Neo-Malthusian League in 1900, there was still a strong current of public opinion against it He warded off many attacks from official authorities, both on the platform and in the press, and had to refute many false accusations, e.g. the promoting of immorality and of abortion Even

among the leaders of the Socialists there was a great deal of misunderstanding as to Neo-Malthusianism and the activities of the League But Dr Rutgers knew neither dejection nor slackening in the work, he stood up for the doctrine and helped the women untiringly Meanwhile he extended the foreign relations of our League, which had always existed with the Drysdale family and the British League, and was instrumental in establishing the International Neo-Malthusian League or Lzgue de la Regeneratzon Humaine, of which Dr Alice Drysdale Vickery became the president

FTER 1904, when Rutgers left his medical A practice and went to live in The Hague, he had more time for attending congresses and writing biological works His investigations in biology led him to show that throughout nature's plan, in all plant and animal life, sex-attraction and love have a prominent part in race progress, and that it is criminal to treat sex as an unclean or unmentionable subject His last great work "Das Sexualleben zn seiner bzologzschen Bedeutung," which was published by A Giesecke in 1922 in Dresden, is a compendium of his views in this respect. It is about to be brought out, in an English translation by Dr Norman Haire, by the same publisher Apart from many contributions to periodicals and reviews and pamphlets for the Neo-Malthusian League, Dr Rutgers also wrote a more detailed work on Male Sex-Life in Dutch and "Eugenles and Birth Control" (Gzesecke, Dresden 1922)

By his second wife, Maria Hoitsema, Rutgers came into touch with the women's movement, and soon became a great advocate of enfranchisement, political and economical This was a matter of course, since he always stood for independence and self-government for women and free disposal of

(Continued on page 302)

Coney Island

By KITTY MARION

ONEY Island in full swing on a Sunday or holiday beggars description, at least my description, even after selling the *Bzrth* Control *Revzew* there during two seasons

What crowds, what enormous endless motley crowds! And what a field for Birth Control education!

Many thousands of people, including mothers, living in the "backwoods" of New York City, who never leave the vicinity of their homes except to take their children to Coney, see the *Revzew* for the first time

Many hail it with glad sur prise, for they thought "it was all stopped" They are under the impression that when the **Brownsville clinic** closed nearly eight years ago, and Mrs Sanger sent to jail, the Birth Control movement was ended Of course, I enlighten them on the wonderful progress the movement has made all over the world since then, and tell them about our present clinic, where women can be instructed by a doctor, to prevent or cure disease And I ask them to tell all their friends about it, and to join the American Birth Control League and help get the law amended, so that clinics can be open in all overcrowded, povertystricken districts, and poor mothers instructed how to prevent the conception of babies that they don't want, and who only become a useless burden to the

People from other states and other countries are glad to see and buy the *Revzew* A man from Philadelphia was very bitter at having been born one of seven, and reared in a slum. His childhood had been miserable, but he was doing fairly well now. He had one son and was not going to have any more. Another man wished his father had known of this, he had had twenty children by two wives, and only two grew up. Still another man was one of nine and his wife one of ten children. They had *one* son and he was going to have all the educational and other advantages he and his wife had missed.

One man bought the *Revzew* saying, "I don't need it for myself I'm an old widower, but I want to help humanity"

Ever so many war veterans have bought it One told me his wife had had three babies in three years and they dreaded any more coming

An Alderman, flashing his badge, said he was very interested as he bought the paper A woman from Texas said Birth Control was badly needed where she lived, and she would do all she could to

spread it A man from Russia wished Mrs Sanger would go over and instruct the women there. Two people from different parts of Connecticut came up at the same time. I always discover out-oftown people when I ask them to join the League They seem under the impression that, not being New Yorkers, they are disqualified. Of course, I disillusion them and tell them how necessary it is for every American to join the League and strengthen it, to bring pressure to bear upon the legislatures. One of a group of Greeks who could not read English yet, asked about literature in their native language, so I referred him to our headquarters

English visitors who want to "know more about it," I refer to the New Generation League in London A lady who had just received a letter from a charity organization asking for a contribution towards sending poor children to the country, and also asking her to suggest how best to alleviate poverty, was going to reply "Judicious Birth Control" and to forward a copy of the Revzew We agreed that mothers who had to depend upon charity for things for their children should be taught to prevent conception, instead of bringing more victims of charity into the world No one can grow a moral back-bone on charity,

A Catholic woman told me how glad she was that something was being done to save others from what she had suffered, having ten babies, two of which died She looked poor so I offered her a Revizew, but she was "afraid to read it because the priest would refuse her absolution" Poor soul, was there ever such mental and spiritual bondage?

However, even the Catholic Church can't fool all of its flock all of the time, judging the number of Catholic women who do buy and read the Revzew If they don't tell me they are Catholics, the rosary in the pocketbook is sufficient evidence

Quite recently a priest bought the Revzew I would have been more surprised than I was, had there not been a noticeable increase in clerical buyers lately I asked him to get in touch with our headquarters and join the League, etc, but he smilingly shook his head and with a foreign accent, said, "No, no, we Catholics are opposed to this" "That is because you do not know what it is," I replied "Oh, yes we do," he said "but it mterferes with God's work" I ventured that nothing could interfere with God's work that all work was God's work, my work was God's work, or I could not pos sibly do it, that surely God wanted perfection in

the human race, and that **Birth** Control would help to bring that about But he could not see it **in** that **light** and said something about God's way and punishment I pointed out that **wealthy** Catholics practiced Birth Control and God seemed to be pretty good to them I told him he would change his mind when he read the paper and he said "we always read your paper, we read everything to keep up to date," In spite of being an opponent he was very **charming** and hkeable

Soon after he had gone, a pale, thin, little wreck of a woman with several small children regular doorsteps— stopped near me some difficulty in keeping them together and the two older ones broke away and ran after their father I offered her a leaflet saying she might be mterested in it She took it and thanked me with a pathetic smile I asked her if they were all her children They were—seven They wanted to go home but all the cars were crowded, and her husband had gone to find a taxi "But there are taxis right here at the corner," I said "Yes," she answered, "but he wouldn't take one o' them, he's so stubborn, he makes so much trouble for '-- "and for himself," she added after a slight pause "Of course," I said, "whenever you make trouble for others you make it for yourself, but it is high time we women got together and stopped men making trouble for us," to which she gave a smile and a nod While talking to her I looked the five children over and none struck me as being normal, two had very large heads and dull faces They all went in pursuit of father and later passed with him still looking for a taxi He was better dressed, fed and cared for than his wife and children

Oh, yes, we'll have no more babies,
We'll have no more babies, oh yes,
We've morons and paupers, and drunkards and dope fiends
White slaves and procurers, too
We've bandits and slayers and madmen,
and victims of all sorts of badmen
And to stop the recruiting to their ranks,
We'll have no more babies, oh yes

After standing for several hours amid that human flood surging up and down, in that babel of tongues in which the English is conspicuous by its scarcity, with vendors of all sorts of "delicacies" crying their wares, myself chiming in with "The Berth Control Review, 20 cents a copy," the taximen and bus men yelling for fares, the rattle of the traffic, frequently pierced by the shrill police whistle, the too-near merry-go-round organ grinding out "music"('), I feel that Dante's Inferno would be a nice quiet little haven of rest and peace When I feel weary and think "What's the use" an in-

significant looking little man or woman will come up and in broken Enghsh express his or her appreciation of what we are dome. Their cry is always "too much baby, too much poverty, too much misery", Many say "God bless you, for your good work"

Most of my buyers speak broken English, Japanese and Chmese among them Many foreigners are well educated They speak correct English with an accent Many colored men and women buy the *Revzew*

It has struck me very forcibly at Coney Island that the physically and materially worst looking people with the most children take the least notice of the *Revzew* As a man, after buying it and watching the people pass for a while, said, "they'd all buy it, if they had the courage except those that need it most" This Labor Day a group of Italians to all appearance three mothers, tmy women, and their children, all small, were trying to cross Surf Avenue, without getting lost or run over Such a to-do! I tried to count them but that was impossible, they were squirming all over the place

I managed to slip a "Can you afford to have a large family," leaflet to one of the mothers Some of the onlookers, mterested in their progress said, "they need that all right," pointing to the *Revzew* They looked like a troupe of rag dolls scurrying across

Though some people give me scornful glances and remarks and "look daggers," many give encouraging smiles and nods and call out "that's the stuff," "that's the best on earth," "That's what we need," "Birth control, I should say so, look at 'em," "You've come to the right place," "Fine work, keep it up," and so forth Some intimate that they have seen me before by crying "Hello Macy's," or "Hello World Bulding" A soldier called out, "I don't believe in it" I called back, "I do" Coming closer he said "I believe in getting all you can" "I don't believe in getting mstitutions full of idiots," I replied "Oh, neither do I!" he exclaimed quite soberly, then added with a loud laugh as he passed on, "but we got thousands of 'em in the army," much to the amusement of all who had heard our "crosstalk"

A man, well dressed and important looking, somewhat the worst for "hootch" refused his change, tore and threw the paper at me, saying "You're a disgrace to womanhood," after which he crossed to the sidewalk and stood ogling and leering at "womanhood" as it passed, until a friend happened along and took him away, for which I felt truly thankful A ragged man offered me a nickel, saying "Is that to help some church or something?" I replied, "No, this is to open clinics

(Continued on page 301)

Book Reviews

Is Birth Control a Problem of Child Welfare

By HORNEII HART

In the competition of ideas as well as in animal species there is a survival of the fit. When a textbook passes into a revised edition, it is an indication that it has performed a recognized service in the intellectual world. For ten years Mangold's "Problems in Child Welfare"* has been the standard work in its field. Departing from the traditional philosophical approach to the problems of childhood, Dr. Mangold has endeavored, as far as readily available materials permitted, to place his discussion upon a scientific foundation of statistical data. It is highly significant, in a text which has been and will be so widely used as this, to note the attitude of the author towards the problems of eugenics, differential fecundity, and birth control

"The Child and Heredity" is the title of the first section of the book On page two to four, the

author says

Thus defective heredity is responsible for a large proportion of the ch-ldrenwho are condemned to such life-long abnormalities as idiocy, imbecility, bachnardness, deaf-mutism, criminality, and certain forms of constitutional disease ther an unfortunate fact that some of these defective groups are much more prolific than the normal By segregating idiots, imbeciles, instinctive criminals, and other groups in institutions this (prevention of reproduction) can be accomplished But custodial care must be permanent to make this plan successful So large a proportion of these classes are eventually released that one group of social workers favors sterilization as the best preventive measure Without doubt the most serious cases of defect can be handled either through sterilization or custodial care From the eugenic point of view, in fact, these offer fener difficulties than do thousands nho suffer from slighter defects But these people will not refrain from intermarrying with others who are similarly defective, while sterilization cannot even be mentioned No generally accepted program of action to solve this question has as jet been developed

It will be noted that Dr Mangold makes no mention of the applicability of birth control to this problem. The index indicates that he discusses the limitation of birth-rate on page 33. The following

quotation from that and the succeeding page indicate his point of view

The voluntary avoidance of large families is probably the principal cause for the decline in birth rates.

Natural and artificial causes are both contributing to a decline in our birth rates, but in so far as they do not deplete our population, they do not offer a serious problem. Opposition to a judicious limitation of size of family is reactionary and unsocial.

Further recognition of certain aspects of the point of view of birth control advocates appears on page 25

Fecundity is less Important than intelligent motherhood, and the brutal birth rates of the past have not made society more efficient. The mother of many ch-ldrenhas only stood more often by the open grave. A reasonable birth rate has decided advantages, because the mother, concentrating her thought upon a few healthy children is charged with power to promote their future welfare but if her energy is dissipated among a company of short-lived and unnanted ch-ldren, the social consequences cannot be hopeful

Objection may be raised to the next following sentence "A reasonable increase in population is a goal of all thinkers on social subjects, and the small families that threaten the extinction of the race cannot be condoned"

Attention is called by Dr Mangold to the very low birth rate among college graduates and the higher birth rates among foreign than native-born stocks. He Ignores, however, the accumulations of data which show the higher birth rates among the poor than the well-to-do classes and among the unskilled than among the skilled and professional classes. He fails even to mention such studies as those of the Jukes and Kallikak families

The dominant emphasis in the book, aside from the sections in the introduction and the first chapter from which quotations have been presented above, is upon euthenics rather than eugenics, upon improvements in the environments of chaldren rather than upon endeavors to improve the quality of the stock from which the children are begotten and by which they are reared Apparently Dr Mangold overlooks entirely the fact that the excessive birth rate among the poor and ignorant not

Problems in Child Welfare by George B Mangold, Ph D, Director Missouri School of Social Economy Revised Edition New York McMillan 1924 602 pages

only mulutiplies defective germ plasm, but also greatly increases the proportion of children brought up in undesirable environments. He seems to feel that public sentiment is not ready for any constructive action toward improvement of the racial stock. As illustrating this attitude it might be well to quote a paragraph from page 18

Occasional writers say that the child has a right to be well-born The author does not believe that such a right has been established Public opinion favors the reduction of infant mortality to the lowest practicable point, it demands health improvement, the elimination of child labor and other opportunities for children, but it does not positively demand even such reasonable control of human inheritance as will reduce the proportion of inferior human beings, either from the standpoint of mental or physical deficiency The right to be well-born is a goal that society must eventually achieve for its children, but public sentiment today does not accept this principle In fact a large element of the population still believes that society has no right to Interfere with the mating instinct, even though the inevitable consequences in many cases will be birth of inferior or defective childrcn Evidences of this fact are the reluctance of states to pass sterilization laws, the tendency of the courts to declare such laws unconstitutional, the tardy enactment of laws prohibiting the marriage of the socially diseased and the non-enforcement of such laws in most of the thirteen states which have taken this legislative step. At best the so-called nght to be well-born is merely a hope, but some day it may be realized

Recognizing as he does the fundamental importance of eugenic reforms and feeling the unsympathetic attitude of the public toward such measures, it is to be wished that Dr Mangold might have undertaken a more thorough study of the available data in this field and a more vigorous endeavor to help to create the sentiment whose absence he deplores It is to be hoped, however, that the reference he has made will help to direct public attention to the need for greater emphasis upon voluntary motherhood and upon the readjustment of our present disastrously disgenic differential fecundity

A Review by Malcolm H Bissell

BEHIND AND BEFORE By W E Heitland The Macmillan Co, New York

To quote from the publisher's announcement, "This book contains two essays on the relation of history, politics, and eugenist warmings. The first deals with the Importance of a knowledge of past history to politicians and active citizens, the second with the population question as propounded to statesmen by biologists." In addition to these two essays, there are twelve brief appendictions.

dices dealing for the most part with political subject5. The last two, however, and the longest, are devoted to a discussion of the race problem as viewed by Lothrop Stoddard and Madison Grant.

The conclusion reached in the first essay seems to be that the efficient government of states is an almost hopelessly complex problem in which racial and other non-political factors enter to such an extent that only qualified experts can deal with them, and that "popular sovranty expressed in votes" is not adequate to meet the situation. Thoughtful students will probably agree with this conclusion, but the author's argument would be greatly strengthened by a more direct and concise treatment, as it is, the reader feels that much of the discussion does not lead anywhere in particular

The second essay also suffers from a lack of cohesion, and at times wanders far from its announced subject, the population problem It contains a number of provocative suggestions, such as the question whether the exploitation of natural resources implies the exploitation of human beings The question is also raised as to whether children in large families develop their qualities better than those in small ones In the case of well-to-do parents, there are undoubtedly some advantages in large families, and the only child is, of course, almost always at a disadvantage However, since large families are usually found among poor people, the question in general can be answered most decidedly in the negative The harrowing letters written to Mrs Sanger by members of large families are perhaps the most effective answer to Mr Heitland's query

We do not believe that the necessity of birth restriction applies only to "undes~rables," as the author suggests. Many humble families, not favored by fortune, cannot be classed as "undes~rables," yet they are the ones who usually suffer the most from inability to restrict their offspring to the number they can properly care for. Nor does it seem necessary to adopt such a hesitant position as Mr Heitland takes in his criticism of Hubbard's views regarding the racial dangers of family restriction.

The appendices, which make up the last sixty pages, are perhaps the best part of the book. The author is here more direct and to the point The discussion of "Legality and Circumstance" in relation to the problem of secession and the American Civil War, is particularly lucid and instructive, while the criticism of Lothrop Stod dard's alarmist views is timely and on the whole sound, though perhaps not severe enough This statement applies still more to the discussion of Madison Grant's "Passing of the Great Rare," a book which has enjoyed a popularity out of all proportion to its merits as a serious scientific study Mr Heitland apparently accepts the Nordic dogma almost in entirety, but in his conclusions he exhibits a much more open mind than Mr Grant, and his statement that "a race that will not labor with its hands is on a road that does not lead to survival" is worthy of serious thought

AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOK OF CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION Compiled from official sources by Edward Fuller With an Introduction by Percy Alden, MP Longmans, Green & Co, New York and London

NEW Year Book has made its appearance, and while, as Mr Alden says in the preface, year books are as the sand on the sea-shore for multitude, this volume is one which deserves a wide welcome, for it fills a place hitherto vacant, and meets a need felt by workers in the wide field of child welfare all over the world Mr Ednard Fuller, the compiler of the book, describes it as "a record of State and voluntary effort for the welfare of the child, including education, the care of the delinquent and destitute child, and conditions of juvenile employment throughout the world" The volume carries out this promise of the title page It gives, in bnef, concise and yet comprehensive foim, the facts concerning these aspects of child life throughout the world One may turn to its pages to know what the government has done for children in the United States, in France, Russia or Siam A few pages have to suffice for the largest and most civilized countries, and the smallest territory or group of islands is accorded at least a paragraph. The book is an epitome of what mankind is doing to and for its children

Nor does the title page describe the full scope of the volume Mr Fuller has recognized that Child Welfare begins before birth, and he includes in his pages information concerning the marriage and divorce laws of each country, the laws affecting illegitimacy, and also the laws concerning Birth Control and the voluntary efforts made to bring contraception within reach of the mothers

In thus introducing Birth Control as a necessary factor of Child Welfare, Mr Fuller has taken a position far in advance of the Child Welfare organizations of this country. One wonders whether the compiler would have been as open-minded had he lived in America instead of in England, for it must be recalled that in England Birth Control is perfectly legal, while here it is hampered by both Federal and State laws

According to Mr Fuller, the only countries, besides the United States, where there are laws against Birth Control, are France and Belgium, in both of which the laws are of post-war enactment and are due to a fear of depopulation as a consequence of the war, and Sweden, where the sale or distribution of contraceptives is prohibited The custom of Birth Control is noted as firmly established in Hungary, and tribute is paid to the good effects of the movement in Holland The recent estabhshment of a Birth Control clinic in Mexico is noted and credit for this is given to the American Birth Control League An unbiased account is given of the careful work that is being done for the unfortunate children of Russia, and it is noted at the Second Conference of Russian Maternity and Child Welfare Associations in 1923, it was "maintained that advice on Birth Control should

be given in cases where the woman's health demanded that she should not have children "

Holland comes in for commendation for its low infant mortality rate—the lowest in all Europe, and especially for its low rate of maternal mortality—"24 per 1000 hve births, probably the lowest rate of maternal mortality in the world" It is also noted that the illegitimate birthrate in 1921 was only 05 per 1000 of the population Concerning Birth Control, Mr Fuller with

"Pnvate initiative in the Netherlands was responsible for the first Birth Control chinc in the world (1885,) and there are now similar clinics in all the large towns The clinics are maintained by the Neo-Malthusian League (Nieuw-Malthusiaanche Bond,) which has also engaged in the training of large numbers of nurses to teach women the art of contraception, both at the clinics and elsewhere The clinics are free to the very poor, while others pay according to their means The league was granted a Royal Charter of **Public Utility** in **1895** Pari passu with this activity for the control of the birth-rate, there has been not only a steady decline in the latter, but a much greater decline in the rate of infantile mortality Moreover, there has been a corresponding reduction in the proportion of military conscripts of low physical grade, and a marked increase in those of high grade Whereas, in 1884, the proportion of conscripts, (aged 18) over the height of 5 ft 7 inches was only 32 95 per cent, it had risen by regular stages to 5159 per cent in 1918"

Self-styled "investigators" endeavoning to discredit Birth Control, have stated that they failed to find any Birth Control clinics or any evidence of the usefulness of their work in Holland It is evident that no such difficulty was experienced in the work of compiling this Year Book

One omission we hope to see remedied when the Year Book reaches its second edition No mention is made of the chnical research work in actual Birth Control practice that has been done in New York under the direction of Margaret Sanger, nor of the efforts to establish Birth Control clinics in other cities The omission is probably due to the fact that much time has evidently been occupied in the gathering together of the facts contained in this volume, and to the impossibility of bringing the information up to date in the first issue of a year book covering an entirely new field While we regret this defect, we welcome most gratefully the full recognition that Mr Fuller has given to the Birth Control movement, and we hope that his book will form a new precedent for wnters on Child Welfare problems A G PORBITT

THE SOCIAL MISSION OF CHARITY, by William J Kerby The Macmillan Company, New York

A BOOK carrying the *Nihil* Obstat of the Roman Catholic Church is not one to which the advocates of Birth Control would look with hopefulness Yet this volume

Church, and of a revision of opinions that are found to be wrong It contains a sincere confession of Ignorance in regard to social work and an acknowledgement that the Roman Catholic Church has not always kept to the highest standards as set by more scientific Social workers "No beatitude," writes Mr outside its membership Kerby, "was pronounced in favor of those who serve a noble cause in a faulty way" "The Church alms to take account of the results of thought and expenence at all times She is eager to appropriate to her practical wisdom all of the results of human thought and experience, "Science proposes surgical procedure with criminals and imbeciles to prevent the perpetuation of these anti-social types The Church refuses her approval, until she can gain time to understand whether or not such a procedure is a violation of the natural right which the victims have not necessarily forfeited in their condition or by their be havior" "The law of universal change operates in our charities as it does in the rest of the world" Surely a book in which we can find such statements does not shut the door entirely on a possible revision of the edicts against Birth Control We recommend the book to the careful study of the more bigoted of our opponents in the Roman Catholic Church

in the Social Action Series, is one to which we offer a

welcome, for it holds out a possibility of advance by the

PERIODICALS

In the Fortneghtly **Review** (London,) W L George, the **novelist** and strong advocate of **Birth** Control, **1s** publishing serially, "The Story of Woman" He traces sympathetically the slow process of **liberation** by **which** women emerged from **their** sub-human **condition** as the possession and chattels of men, and came to take **their** place as almost the equals of the long favored **superior** sex

Professor H S Jennings of the Johns Hopkins University, gives an enlightening discussion of the present status of knowledge concerning Heredity and Environment in the *Political* Science Monthly (Lancaster, Pa) for September He shows that is is by no means a simple matter to distinguish how far characteristics in an individual are due to environment and how far they are a matter of inheritance

In an interesting article in the August number of the Contemporary Revzew (London) J Lyng discusses "The Problem of the Australian Aboriginals" He shows that when the English went to Australia in the eighteenth century, they found the country over-populated from the point of view of the natives, who had not reached the agricultural, nor even the pastoral stage "Out of consideration for the food supply" the natives were in the habit of checking the growth of population by killing some of the new-born children Yet the Continent of Australia was then maintaining only one inhabitant to every 20 square miles Overpopulation evidently depended not on the density of the inhabitants, but on the scantiness of

this means of subsistence—a relation which holds good in much more civilized countries

Lothrop Stoddard, in the Saturday Eventing Post for September 6 contributes another article on immigration and heredity, under the title of "The New Reahsm of Science" In these articles Mr Stoddard emphasizes the necessity for the United States to close the door against the floods of alien races if the country is to remain united in political ideals and government

Jesse Lynch Williams, the well-known author and writer of short stones, contributes an article to the Peoria (III) Transcrzpt, for July 30, on the present status of marriage and the difficulties attending it, especially with regard to the bringing up of children "Only one child in four," he writes, "has a fair physical chance to grow up in this would-be Christian civilization. And this is what the New Generation regards as the New Sin Bringing into the world children you are unable to support. And its punishment is visited upon the children and the children's children, even unto the Fourth Generation"

The September *Pictorial* Revzew (New York) contains another of the vigorous eugenic articles from the pen of A E Wiggam It is called "Ancestral *Hand-Me-Downs*" In these articles Mr Wiggam, in simple familiar language, is teaching the American people the principles of heredity, and the evils of uncontrolled breeding

The New Generatton (London) for August, contains an article by Mrs B I Drysdale describing a visit to France In it Mrs Drysdale pays a tribute to the thrift and good sense of the French in refusing to bring into the world children for whom they could not possibly properly provide Instead of a "rabbit-like brood," the French couple is content with "one or two children, carefully educated at home and at school—ready to maintain themselves in turn as their parents have done"

Physical Culture, New York, is carrying an interesting series of articles on Birth Control We especially call attention to those in the July and August issues

Mr French Strothers publishes in the September issue of The World's Work a popular presentation of the principles of Heredity An editorial in the same issue attempts to answer Professors East and Ross, but without scientific background. It sees no danger to our civilization in a yearly increase of two millions to the population

BOOKS RECEIVED

From the Macmillan Co , New York The Social Mission of Charity, by William J Keiby

From D Appleton & Co, New York, RACE HYGIENE AND HEREDITY, by Hermann W Siemens, MD Translated and edited by Lewellys F Baker, MD

From the Publisher, Stockholm. BRANDS EXTRA-NUM-MER MOT, PREVENTIVLAGEN 296 Bzrth Control Revzew

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S COLUMN

1 Protest from I rance

Editor, Birth Control Reviews

A number of vour Review (August, 1923) has accidentally come into my hands, and I have read with in terest the article entitled "Progress of the Birth Control. Movement" But you will not wonder at the fact that the last words have made a painful impression on me They simply show that you only know France from heal-say "France militaristic and desirous of world conquest

I have lived among the Fiench people for the last 35 years. I have a cousin in the French Senate, several friends in the Chamber of Deputies, and I follow French politics closely. Now I can assure you that this is a huge mistake, and that Piesident Poincare was quite right nhen he declared that "French imperialism is I bogey that has been locked up for many years next to Napoleon's tomb."

The French have no wish to stay in the Ruhi, and will leave it when Germany begins to pay what she owes. The reason for which France keeps up her aimy is that in 1914 she was very near being beaten by the Germans and does not feel safe.

The reason for which the Government does not encourage Birth Control is because we have too much of it already. The one or tao children family is quite general among our persantry, the backbone of the country. In thousands of cases the one child has been killed in the war and nobody remains to take the place of the father on the farm. The result will be that within less than 20 years, Germany will have a population double of that of France. If, as is to be feared, the racial and imperialistic tendency gets the over-hand and declares war, the consequences may be very serious to France if she does not take her proper precautions.

The outstanding patriotic duty in France today is to repeople the country, and to encourage lurge families. I mean families of more than two children, especially among the farmers. If your population in the United States had decreased by several millions during the last ten years, and if you had the Japs, instead of peaceful Canadians, on your northern border, I believe that you would do the same

H MFRLE D'ALBIGNE Minister of the Reformed Church of France

We are glad to print M d'Aubigne's protest, and we acknowledge that there is probably some truth in his conviction that, if the circumstances of the United States resembled those of France, there would be demands here that we should engage in a cradle competition. Nevertheless we believe that such a competition would be unwise and nrong, and we are utterly out of sympathy with any attempt, either in the United States or in France, to prevent people from having access to scientific information

through Government action French families may in some cases be too small, and it is within the right of the French nation to encourage a sentiment in favor of larger families. But we would remind M d'Aubigne that the French birthrate is approximately equal to that of Great Britain, but that, whereas, with 758,386 births, there was a natural increase in England and Wales in 1923, of 313,517, in France with 761,861 births, the increase ads only 98,871. These figures seem to indicate that the birth rate was amply high enough—in England it seems to have been too high—but that the French death rate might reasonably be reduced.

EDIFOR

In Fauor of Sterilization

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL RLVIEW

I am deeply interested in Birth Control, but in a different way from nhat you advocate I am a German, came to this country in 1865, am now 78 years old Perhaps you think, what does such an old fool want to do with Birth Control? It is this way After I got a little start with the English, I subscribed to the Scientific American in order to get more proficient in English reading. That was in 1874, and at that time the Scientific American had an article about criminals and their treatment. At that time there were 66 inmates in the Massachusetts Penitentrary, serving terms from 15 years to life Now the Scientific American traced these criminals to one Icwd woman It said if that woman had been sterilized, there would not have been these criminals We here in Missouri have non about 3,300 convicts in our penitentiary Then we have four insane asylums in which altogether there are about 4,610 insane persons and about 333 employees to take care of them Then we have two reform schools, one for boys and one for girls. Our penitentiary is now selfsustaining, but the insane asylums cost about \$5,000 a month each The Scientific American proposed to sterilize all criminals, and I, for my part, think all insane persons should be sterrlized, also those afflicted with syphilis If all the outlaws and insane persons were sterilized that aould be sufficient Birth Control, and would not cost the taxpayer so much money I tried sterilizing on tomcats It makes them so much nicer I have one now He is sure a fine cat Not long ago he brought home a rabbit and laid it down in front of my wife She feeds him Now if vou aould agitate the matter through your paper, it might call the attention of the public If the sterilized criminals would behave so much better in proportion to the tomcats, it would be a great improvement

GEORGE BUTTLE, Eugene, Mo

Our correspondent is right about the saving that would accrue to the community if the flood of diseased and defective infants could be stopped at its source. The American Birth Control League stands for sterilization under proper safeguards

EDITOR

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

A BIRTH Control booth was one of the features of the Women's Activities Exhibit at the Hotel Commodore, September 22 to 27 The work was under the chairmanship of Mrs George H Day, Sr, of Hartford, Conn Mrs Day was assisted by Mrs J Bishop Vandever, Mrs H J Tiedeman, Mrs J S Browning, Mrs Polly Randall, Mrs Fenley Hunter, Mrs Frances B Ackermann, Mrs Beverley Robinson, Mrs C W Carter, Mrs A G Porritt and Miss P Daniels

A resolution which, harmless and well-intentioned on the surface, is fraught with danger for progressive movements and freedom of the press, was passed by the Knights of Columbus just before the adjournment of the annual convention in August They then adopted a recommendation to "organize and finance a movement for fighting the dissemination of immoral and harmful herature" As the movement will be directed by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, it is a distinct threat to Birth Control

California

MUCH interest in Birth Control was aroused by the visit of Mrs Anne Kennedy, Executive Secretary to San Francisco and Los Angeles Everywhere she went she interviewed men and women of prominence in political, university and social life, and met with much encouragement and stimulus Following are a few notes on her more important meetings—

August 15 At a meeting held at the St Francis Hotel, San Francisco, a committee was formed as a branch of the American Birth Control League, with Raymond H Arnold of Oakland as chairman The committee is to work for an amendment of the California law affecting Birth Control San Jose, Palo Alto and Vallejo were represented at the meeting, and it is expected that the organization will take in a large area around San Francisco It was through the efforts of Mrs Kennedy that this committee came into existence

August 16 Mrs Kennedy addressed La Vero Foundation at an evening meeting, at which Mr Fred Rivers presided A spirited debate followed

August 18 The **Soroptomist** Club, the Business Women's organization of Oakland entertained Mrs Kennedy at luncheon at the Hotel Oakland, and listened to an explanation of the aims of the American Birth Control League

September 3 Mrs Kennedy was the guest of the Gamut Club, a Los Angeles men's organization

September 5 A branch of the American Birth Control League was formed at Los Angeles, with Miss Elizabeth McManus as temporary Secretary The occasion was a luncheon at the Hotel Clark, with Mrs Henry Boesche presiding Mrs Anne Kennedy made an address, and convinced those present of the need of Birth Control

September 6 Mrs Kennedy spoke at the Metaphysical Library of San Diego She was exceedingly well received

Texas

AT Houston, on September 11, the Workmen's Council of the City was addressed by Mrs Anne Kennedy, in their Hall The Chairman was Mr J L Keeper The interest aroused was manifested in many intelligent questions

Unanimous approval of the programme of the American Birth Control League, providing for the establishment of Birth Control clinics, was given on September 15, when Mrs Anne Kennedy addressed the Woman's Forum at Dallas The chairman was Mrs W S Bramlet, and Mrs Kennedy was introduced by Mrs C E Zigenbein The meeting was for women only, but the following day Mrs Kennedy addressed an audience of both men and women

Utah

AT the meeting of the American Prison Association in Salt Lake City, in August, Judge Jacob Kanzler of Portland made an outspoken plea that society should stop the rabbit-like breeding of the feeble-minded and the criminal Unless steps are taken to alter present conditions, he urged, the asylums and other state institutions will become an almost unbearable burden, and the whole tendency will be, not towards better conditions, but towards more and more delinquency and crime

CANADA

THE omission of Birth Control from the programme of the all-American Conference of Social Workers, which was held at Toronto in July, was severely commented upon by the Canadian Forum After commenting on the multiplicity and the subdivisions of Social work agencies it continued—

Social servants will find, however, that their efforts will be severely handicapped so long as they allow the search for truth or the pursuit of social welfare to be hindered by taboos, whether these are connected with supposed political expediency or theological

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conceptions, or merely with social customs which were developed in more primitive environments and have lost their validity today Thus, the programme of the present conference included papers on the care of children in foster homes, illegitimacy, juvenile delinquency, difficulties of placement in industry, and the hke (problems which will indeed persist despite our host efforts,) but one looked in vain for any declaration of the fundamental truth enunciated by Mathus, that, so long as people continue to bring into the world more children than they can properly support, so long will vice and misery be the consequences An excessively high birth rate hes at the very root of many of our social problems It is startling to find that not only does the programme of this conference contain no reference to the subject but even that a small group of ignorant busybodies, speaking in the name of social service, have recently taken credit to themselves in public for their success in preventing its discussion Works on the subject which have been publicly recommended by no less a churchman than the Dean of St Paul's have been banned as a danger to religion in Canada Such a policy of obscurantism will not succeed with the intelligent or the well-to-do-its chief effect being to ensure that restriction of the birth rate will be confined to those classes where it is least desirable. while larger families will continue to be found among those least able to support them At present we combat evils affecting child life on the one hand, while obstructing efforts to abolish a chief cause of these evils on the other Sooner or later it will he recognized that this is stupid

ENGLAND

MR WHEATLEY, the British Minister of Health, is not being permitted to forget the Birth Control question Another women's deputation on the subject is recorded in the Manchester Guardian of August 15, this time headed by Mrs Harrison Bell and bearing a resolution in favor of Birth Control passed by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations The deputation protested against the order of the Health Minister prohibiting the giving of Birth Control information at Health Centers, and stated that the alternative proposed by Mr Wheatley, of referring women to private practitioners or hospitals was not working successfully Mr Wheatley, in replying stated that the question of Birth Control was highly controversial, and that he feared that if it were taught at maternity centers "many women, not only on account of religious, but on account of other objections, too, would be deterred from attending these centers "He promised to enquire into any cases in which women were refused the information at hospitals, and insisted that Parlia-

ment must act before he would give consent to the mtroduction of **Birth** Control at the Health Centers

A deputation of women of the Labor Party waited on Mr Wheatley, on August 13th It was headed by Dr Marion Phillips, and this time the specific demand was for an expert inquiry mto the whole subject This Mr Wheatley was not able to refuse, and it is felt that the result will be such an education of the Labor Cabinet as to make it inevitable that the Ministry of Health will change its policy of obstruction

Birth Control had a prominent place in the programme of the Summer School of the Independent Labor Party which opened on August 18th, at Cloughton, Yorks An article by Mrs Bertrand Russell was included in the booklet prepared for the use of the students. In this, Mrs Russell recounted the efforts that had been made to secure permission from Minister of Health Wheatley for the giving of Birth Control information at Health Centers, and gave facts and figures showing the need for such instruction. Her researches had led her to believe that the lack of Birth Control, rather than its practice, was the menace to motherhood and to a happy married hfe

The Annual Convention of the British Labor Party will be held in London during the week of October 6th and it is announced that the Women's branches are preparing to press for resolutions favoring Birth Control It will be difficult for the Cabinet to resist, if the party makes a strong stand against the repressive attitude of the Minister of Health If Mr Wheatley finds it impossible conscientiously to withdraw from his position, his resignation will probably be the next demand of the women

AUSTRIA

A DETAILED account of Birth Control work m Austria was printed in the July **Review** The article was by Johann Ferch who is the leader and the mspiration of the movement there A letter from Mr Ferch dated August 20th, gives further news of progress In Austria, he writes, the idea of controlling birth is making great strides ahead Vienna has four and the Austrian provinces eight clinics Moving pictures and lantern slides are used as a help, and all the newspapers continuously print articles about Birth Control

GERMANY

THE Austrian Birth Control **agritation** is being extended by Mr Ferch **into** Germany and the German parts of Czecho-Slovakia Societies have been started which are working hard, holding meetings

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with lantern slide lectures The work is not hampered by any prohibitive legislation, and the daily newspapers are showing themselves ready to take up the cause Mr Ferch looks forward to translating the pamphlets (mostly of his own writing) into all languages and pushing them in Italy, France, Scandinavia, Hungary, Poland, etc

COMING EVENTS

The 1925 Birth Control Conference

THE date for the Sixth International Birth Control and Neo-Malthusian Conference has now been fixed. It will open at the Hotel McAlpin, New York, on Thursday, March 26th and will last until the 31st. There will be no sessions on Sunday, March 29th, but it is intended to hold a public meeting in the afternoon. Various features for the benefit of the delegates will enhven the proceedings. Delegates are already promised from England, Germany, Austria, Italy and Japan, as well as from all parts of the United States, especially including the Pacific Coast, and from Canada Legislative Work for 1925.

New Jersey and Connecticut are both planning campaigns of legislative work for the coming winter In Connecticut a bill legalizing Birth Control was introduced in 1923, but was defeated in the Lower House It is intended to remtroduce the bill, with some modifications, to make it more ac-

ceptable to the medical profession

Mr Everett J Meves, who has already done much for Birth Control both in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, is planning to conduct a campaign of publicity in favor of an amendment which shall put the medical profession on a safe basis in prescribing Birth Control to all women who desire the information Mr Meves is Secretary of the Birth Control League in Camden, N J

BIRTH CONTROL AND MEDICAL PRACTICE

(Continued from page 280)

Chronic alcoholism and morphinism affect the offspring most seriously. The curse of dipsomania is not sufficiently realized by us. At least 20 per cent of all feeble-minded children are the offspring of drunkards.

Pauperism is another affliction which calls most insistently for the question of Birth Control Every pauper and everyone who is unable to nourish his already existing family has certainly no justification to bring still more children into the world. The pauper should lose the right to reproduction. Through its doctors the State must see to the reduction of pauperism, the State for its self-preservation, must see to it that social poverty be not increased by these people.

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CONEY ISLAND (Continued from page 291)

where poor mothers can be instructed how not to have the babies they can't afford to clothe and educate" "Here, take it," he said, thrusting the nickel into my hand, and hurried away

A woman jeered "birth control, I should think the good Lord takes care of that" "He does with people who use the intelligence he gave them," I replied Flappers of both seves buy the Review Sometimes a group of them stand a little way off, looking over at the paper, and giggling I appear perfectly unconscious of them and at last one of them squares his or her shoulders and takes the plunge, to the suppressed laughter of the others I always impress upon them that Birth Control is the most serious and Important question on earth, especially to the young people who have the power of making the world a better place to live in

Some people are quite concerned as to "where would you have been if your mother had practiced that? A foreign born man, evidently trying to convey that, very agitatedly called out "Vere vould ve be if ve vouldn't be here?" Another said "if Roosevelt could see you he'd have a fit" and I pointed out to him that Roosevelt's wife didn't have a baby every year, nor abortion after abortion, that their children had been well spaced and taken care of, and that there was no need for people who could not take care of children to have larger families than Roosevelt "That's true, too, lady," he admitted

Many apparently fairly well-to-do young couples with one baby, sometimes two babies, say they can't afford to have any more, they find babies a great expense Many over-burdened fathers are glad to "take it home to the wife," and judging from the accompanying "burdens" the wife will he glad to get it One worried-looking man with four had brought them out to give mother and the new arrival some peace and quiet Often a group of husbands and wives with a swarm of children will halt a little way off and after evidently debating the question come over, or a child will be sent to get one Some will pass on, casting longing or scornful glances back

A woman asked "Is that to do away with the babies?" I said "No, it's to prevent doing away with them" Sometimes a proud father will hold his baby up high and call out, "Nothing doing, look at this" and I call back, "That's all right if you can feed and clothe and educate it properly," at which those who have heard usually express approval Mostly judging from the baby's general appearance father's pride is justified, but occasionally he ought to be prevented from repeating the offence One said, "I am going to have as many as I want"

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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"As many as you can decently look after?" I replied, with approval from hearers One couple with a baby about 18 months oid, looking the picture of health and happiness, looked thin and sickly themselves, as if they starved to feed the baby, which is very laudable no doubt, but the woman was pregnant and did not look strong enough to survive the next ordeal

The same evening I noticed a poor-looking couple with a baby, gazing very intently at the Review from a short distance I moved a httle towards them with the crowd and they came towards me as if merely to pass, but in passing the man looked anxioussly at me saying "how much" "Twenty cents," I said, at which he sadly shook his head and went on, but I gave his wife who was behind him a leaflet and told her to come to the clinic There are so many such cases In all the merry-making of Coney Island they seem hke skeletons at the feast

DAEDALUS AND ICARUS

(Continued from paps 279)

Science may or may not prove a boon to mankind No doubt Mr Russell is right in his contention that it is no substitute for virtue and that what we need most of all is more kindliness Yet we believe Mr Haldane is essentially correct in his claim that science tends to force man mto greater **cooperation with his** fellows However, we cannot wait a few centuries for invention and research to solve our present problems, and there is little chance for an Increase of kindliness in a world where unwanted children bring bitterness and hopelessness to overburdened mothers and discouraged fathers, where the derelicts and misfits of humanity multiply apace, and the pressure of hungering millions starts the rattle of the war-drums Birth control, after all, is more than an economic need, it is an ethic demand

THE PASSING OF A HERO

(Continued from page 289)

their faculties, their time, and no less their body Quite in accordance with their ideas, Dr and Mrs Rutgers were opposed to the double moral standard, the traffic in women and state regulation of vice When in 1911 the Government abobashed the houses of prostitution, they were both prominent among the reformers, although, in politics, they held opposite views to those of the Government

Rutgers was always strong and great enough to try to understand his adversary's ideas and enter into his views. He never lost an opportunity of finding points of sympathy with every living creature. He was most kind and serviceable. He was an ideal social reformer, and the world is the poorer for his death



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Edited by MARGARET SANGER

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