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Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



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DECEMBER

EDITORIAL

Walworth Center—Clinic Organization—English Supporters—
Sixth International—December Meeting—Vanishing American
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THE MOTHER, A Poem, by Florence Kiper Frank

THE PURPOSE OF EUGENICS, by John C Duvall

Tells how to arrest race degeneration

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Urges Labor to restrict the competition of immigration from
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The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

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

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

MARY SUMNER BOYD, *Managing Editor*

VOL. VIII

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No 12

EDITORIAL

TO revisit London, after an absence of two years, is nothing less than an inspiration. From an intellectual and spiritual point of view, London to me seems almost like a fountain of youth. One's flagging enthusiasms are rejuvenated in the bracing air of intellectual freedom one breathes in there. London is still faithful to her age-old tradition of hospitality to new ideas. London enjoys, indeed revels in, free discussion. And so to go back to this fountain of eternal youth is necessary for a complete revitalization of interest and enthusiasm. I do not think this is a mere illusion on my part. English faith in the instrument of Birth Control is expressing itself in the splendid progress of the movement, exemplified in the fine organization known as the Walworth Center. This splendid accomplishment has been achieved in no small degree owing to the fact that the doctors and authorities in charge of the Walworth Clinic are not hampered by obsolete and uncivilized statutes of the type that were written into our federal and state laws in the darkest ages of our history—under the blighting reign of St. Anthony Comstock. At Walworth any woman or man may receive proper instruction upon application to the physicians in charge. No appointment in advance is necessary. The mother may drop into the clinic at any time convenient. She then awaits her turn for advice. Due to the fact that the instruction and ensuing benefits may be shared by all, the physicians in charge are not compelled to undertake a general health examination and to find a special or exceptional cause to undertake the instruction. For this reason, there is no invasion of personal freedom and the sense of parental responsibility is encouraged instead of discouraged. It is the mother herself, awakened to this need of self-mastery and self-reliance, who makes the decision. The Walworth Clinic, so splendidly organized and carried on, stands ready to serve these mothers and potential parents, to answer their needs, instead of dictating their personal and private behavior. The work is inspiring and suggests manifold possibilities for future development. Their activities not hindered

by barbaric obsolete laws, the physicians at Walworth may instruct five women in the time that our physician needs to take care of one.

The report of the work which was sent to me is illuminating. It will be reviewed at length in a later issue.

THE English committee are to be congratulated for their exceptional perseverance and courage in pushing through this work. For they have succeeded despite all sorts of discouragement and lack of funds. But with that characteristic and typically British ability to "carry on" most of the obstacles have been overcome and ultimate success is assured. The initial example having proved its value and its practical importance, other clinics are now in the course of being organized. For the success of the Walworth Center, the committee in charge is mainly responsible for its splendid management and organization. This committee consists of Mrs. Fuller, Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray, Lord Gerald Westley and our friend Harold Cox. Mr. Sumner contributes the house, rates and taxes. A small fee is charged to each applicant. This fee, which makes possible the continuance of the work without doubling of expense, also increases the sense of responsibility of those who derive its benefits, since it is a notorious human trait that people never value advice that is gratuitously given.

PERHAPS the most inspiring event of the visit of our vice-president, Mrs. Rublee, and myself in London was to find men and women of the highest intellectual attainments in hearty agreement with our fundamental principles. The occasion of this discovery was a brilliant dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Wells in Whitehall Court. Among the guests were George Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Shaw, the eminent Lord Buckmaster, one of the most brilliant jurists of Great Britain, Sir Arbuthnot Lane and Lady Lane, the great scientist and educator, Sir Edwin Ray Lankester, Prof. E. W. MacBride,

the eminent novelist, Arnold Bennett, the dramatist and critic, St John Ervine and Mrs Ervine, that rising figure of contemporary Irish literature, Mr Robert Donovan and Mrs Donovan, and Mr W R Salter of the League of Nations

To know that the fundamental importance of Birth Control as an instrument of human and social emancipation is recognized by such brilliant minds, as well as by the intellectual leaders in every field of British life, has indeed been inspiration for your delegates to return to the timorous and fear-ridden atmosphere with renewed enthusiasm and fresh courage, ready to "carry on" until our compatriots awaken from their slumber and are ready to go into battle with real problems of American society

MARGARET SANGER

MRS SANGER has returned from England to work with renewed enthusiasm for the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference, to be held in New York March 26-31. In England the demand for Birth Control has spread so rapidly of late that it is confidently predicted that within a year, Birth Control Clinics will be operated at all Health Centers. The English delegates to the International will have an inspiring story of progress to tell to those from more backward countries. Acceptances continue to come in from all quarters of the globe. India, China, Japan, Mexico and several South American countries, Canada, Germany—even reactionary France—are among the countries that will be represented. The conference is not only expected to be a great success, but to be, in its influence, one of the most important and far-reaching international conferences ever held.

MEMBERS of the American Birth Control League are urged to advertise widely and to bring their friends who are as yet "outsiders" to the public meeting of the League at Carnegie Hall on December 6. This is to be the big educational meeting of 1924, at which the case for Birth Control will be stated by forceful speakers and the accomplishments of the League reviewed. Among the speakers are two physicians, Dr James F Cooper of Boston, whose subject will be "The Doctor and Birth Control," and Dr Dorothy Bocker, who will report on the research work of the clinic. They will give the medical reasons for Birth Control. Speakers who will present other aspects of the subject are the Reverend Charles Francis Potter of the West End Unitarian Church, New York City, whose subject is "Is Birth Control Moral?" and Mr I N Thurman. Mrs Sanger will preside.

THE careful and accurate study of changes in the size of American Families, made by Professors Baber and Ross and published by the University of Wisconsin, ought to serve as a serious warning to the opponents of Birth Control. The study is of middle-class families of native origin. Only completed families are taken and a comparison is made between such families in the present and in the past generation. The result confirms the general belief that native American families are gradually becoming smaller—that the native American stock is not even reproducing itself, and that this element in our population will, unless some change comes about, become of less and less account in comparison with the population of more recent foreign origin. The moral is reinforced by a chapter at the end, written by Miss Jeannette Halverson, in which she gives the numbers of children in families also of American stock, but of people who have so far failed in life as to become dependent. There families unfortunately are not diminishing—the average number of children in the dependent families being 6.5 as compared with 2.8—the average family of the study. Birth Control is named as one of the reasons for the small American family—it might be called a method of securing such a family rather than the reason for it. The reasons lie deeper, and when examined will be found to rest on unregulated reproduction of the masses. As Professor J Arthur Thompson succinctly puts it, in his latest book, "What Is Man?", "coddling the waster may mean handicapping the worthy." If Birth Control were universal and there were fewer inefficient, thrifty and intelligent people would find that they could afford somewhat larger families—families large enough to enable them to keep their place and even increase the proportion of native American stock in the nation.

THE REVIEW is called on more and more by those who want to know what to read on Birth Control in all its aspects. We watch for the publication here and abroad of books, which when approved by experts, we add to our shelves, and we have now a picked collection on Birth Control, population, sex education and social hygiene such as is to be found assembled in no book shop. We are this month advertising our Book-shelf Offers in combinations suited to different groups of readers. We wish to call attention to these offers and to invite our readers, in our mutual interest, to patronize our book-shelves. If the book you want is not on our list let us order it for you. More than that, let us order all your Christmas books for you—fiction, poetry, children's books, whatever they may be. Do your Christmas shopping, as far as you can, with us.

Birth Control in Russia

By E GERTRUDE BEASLEY

GREAT Social upheavals," wrote Marx in one of his letters to Kugelman, "are impossible without the leaven of the women's movement — "Social progress can be measured exactly by the social status of the fair sex." This is an extremely interesting view for an economist of the middle nineteenth century to hold and indicates that he was much more intelligent than some of his present day vulgarizers would have us believe, apparently Karl Marx understood the value of the feminist movement, in spite of the fact that he never posted prescriptions for contraceptives in villages and factories for peasants and workers, and wrote no pamphlets, as far as I can ascertain, on sexual relations or syphilis in the Red Army

Two Women Ahead of Their Time

In discussing the question of Birth Control in Russia, I mention Karl Marx because he is Russia's leader, because he was an excellent authority for his day, because there is scarcely a Russian Communist alive who will discuss any problem with you which has not already been propounded by Marx, and because I believe that Birth Control is one of the most important means of raising the position of women which the German economist looked upon as the measure of social progress. Although Russian women may be proud of their leader, I consider that Russia has produced a few women who are cleverer economists, whose work is more important to progress than the ideas of their Karl Marx. These women are cleverer than Marx (I can think of only two, both Communists) because they are working at both ends of the struggle for a civilized life, (a) from the individualistic standpoint as implied in Birth Control, (b) from the communistic point of view as embodied in an economic revolution

The whole problem of family limitation in Soviet Russia is difficult, discouraging. We might as well come to that point first as last. Russia is, as the late Lenin pointed out in one of his last addresses, the most backward country in Europe, and in the matter of birth limitation she is no exception. Russian women are semi-Asiatic in backwardness, due to the lack of education, the mixture of Asiatic races, to religious and race prejudices inimical to the progress of women, to superstitions and selfish family regulations among religious and ignorant Russian peasants, whose position in the lower classes is not much removed from that of their

neighbors, the Chinese. Add to these difficulties the fact that the average member of the Bolshevik Government is either indifferent or opposed, arguing that family limitation, that is by means of contraceptives, is a "bourgeois" idea, or that it is to be opposed on the ground that a large family is an economic asset, and we encounter a problem as difficult of solution as the sex question in Italy under the Popes, or as Birth Control under Comstockery and the interference of Catholic priests in America.

An English feminist to whom I had mentioned the matter of contraceptives writes "Aren't people funny about contraceptives? I've been trying to get people to move here in that matter, permitting advice at Public Health Centers, but they are all in the Dark Ages still and talk race suicide. As if war weren't already very effective in promoting that!" If England presents an attitude belonging to the Dark Ages on this question, it will be hard to estimate Russia's position. The difficulty comes from the fact that Bolshevik Russia at present exhibits every phase of the history of human efforts to control their numbers from (a) infanticide and parenticide, and (b) abortions, to (c) contraceptives. I say that infanticide and parenticide exist in Russia. These conditions are likely to obtain in any country where the struggle for existence becomes as ferocious as it has been in Russia since 1917. I found infanticide on a fairly large scale in Chita (the capital of the one-time Far Eastern Republic), when I was there more than a year ago. On visiting a creche I was told that the nurses and Sisters had picked up in the streets, or had been presented with more than forty babies during the past three or four months. Only six remained, the rest having died from exposure to the cold (in barrels or baskets left in the streets), or succumbed to pneumonia in the creche because of lack of fuel. It is safe to say that the aged, the feeble, have also succumbed in large numbers. This condition, as Europe has witnessed to a considerable extent since 1914, belongs to ancient, archaic and savage man, who, orators have tried to persuade us, no longer exists.

The second stage of human effort to limit the number of births is by means of abortions. This method, as everyone knows, was legalized at the beginning of the Revolution in Russia and has been practiced on a wide scale since that time. I hazard the guess, judging from what I have seen and read

of the two cities, that more abortions have been performed in Moscow, the capital of once Holy Russia, during the past years than have been performed in the city of Chicago in the same length of time. Legal procedure operates in a multitude of ways, but in the case of abortions, whether or not the surgeon performs an "illegal" operation and extracts a large sum of money, or does it with the sanction of the law, the effect on the health of the mother is the same. And health, as all Marxists—like all members of the Y M C A—agree, is important, though no one with humane instincts denies that abortions are sometimes necessary. However, experimentalists declare that this necessity is usually brought about through ignorance or selfishness. The third step in human effort to control their numbers, which is that adopted by nearly all intelligent people of civilized nations, is the use of contraceptives. This method is scarcely known in Russia.

A Conflict of Opinions

During my residence in Soviet Russia, I interviewed several of the women leaders with reference to Birth Control by scientific means, not the barbaric method of abortions. And since most people believe that all Communists hold the same views on all subjects, I shall relate the different points of view held by the several leaders. Miss Victoria Tzetlin, chairman of the women's section of the Communist Party in Moscow district, held that Birth Control by contraceptives was unknown to the peasant and working women of Russia, abortions being the official method, each hospital maintaining a physician for that purpose. A few women had studied the question of contraceptives but the effect was practically nil. I urged my questions upon Miss Tzetlin: the idea was important, revolutionary. "What is the attitude of the Communist Party with reference to Birth Control?" I asked. "Marxist Communists do not believe in the Malthusian theory of control of population," she said, "abortions were permitted as a war measure, as a temporary expedient, when times are better, men and women will return to their natural relationships. We do not believe in any artificial control of the population, it is not the population, but capitalism which makes war. Under Communism, food will be distributed by the workers and everybody will receive what he requires and no more. Our program is an economic one." I tried to argue with Miss Tzetlin, contending that lovemaking was a thing which people sometimes engaged in for its own sake, without any desire for procreation. What was her solution in such a case? The Communist leader would have none of my nonsense, contending that under a society such as Communism would set

up, women would be glad of their children. She gave the happy information that men and women in Russia can have as many husbands and wives as they like, but that the man is held responsible for his children. In case a member of the Communist Party becomes the father of more children than he is able to take care of, he is punished. No information was to be had as to what would become of these accidental children while the father was being punished, assuming, as she said, that the responsibility for livelihood rests on the father.

A Middle Class View

The chairman of the women's section of the Communist Party of Russia, Mrs. Smidovitch, held views at variance with those of the Moscow leader. The Communist Party of Russia accepted the Malthusian theory of control of population, as shown by the fact that permission had been granted women to perform abortions, and special physicians provided for that purpose. Mrs. Smidovitch, when asked to explain the status of marriage in Russia, declared that the Soviet Government's arrangement did not permit men and women to have more than one wife or husband at a time and that "immoral" persons were punished by law. Men and women separated freely and took companions consecutively. Abortions were harmful to the health of women, but it was better than bearing children when life was so difficult. Why didn't she give out information to the worker and peasant women about contraceptives? I inquired. Mrs. Smidovitch declared she had never heard of this being done in mass, (Bolshevik propagandists are sonorous with praise of Russia's originality!) she regarded it as a personal matter. Her attitude was almost exactly the same as that of the middle-class woman in America, I had been interviewing a typical president of the Ladies' Aid Society in my home town.

Archaic and Savage Conditions

When Alexandra Kollontay, the Soviet Minister to Norway, came to Moscow, I secured an interview with her on the question of Birth Control and sex psychology in Russia. Kollontay declared that contraceptives are unknown in Soviet Russia. "We have done a little for Russian women," she said, "but the women's question here has just begun." She has written extensively on sex psychology, the family, and Birth Control, and plans to bring the question of family limitation by scientific means before the country, as well as before the Communist Party, at an early date. Being an honorable member of the British Society of Sex Psychology, of which Havelock Ellis is the president,* she is well

(Continued on page 364)

The Triplets

By B LIBER

THE doctor had had a few sleepless nights. Some emergency cases and a little child with a peculiar acute trouble and high fever had kept him awake. And now, for the last twenty-four hours, he was busy on the case of a woman who was laboring with childbirth pains. From time to time she would moan a little and then, exhausted and almost indifferent, she would go to sleep again. One had to have patience with these cases.

There was a lull and everything was quiet. Tired from reading, the doctor looked up from his book. It was a poor man's house. Of the four rooms, one was rented to a boarder. The mother's room, in which he was sitting, usually served as a parlor. But today it had been partly emptied so as to keep it cleaner and allow more space around the double bed that had been placed in the center. So the furniture was piled up in the other two rooms. The floor of the narrow kitchen was occupied by a folding bed in which the temporary cook and caretaker, a relative of the family, was sleeping all dressed, ready to jump up at the doctor's call. The father, for whom there was no place in the house, had gone to pass the night at a friend's but he came in frequently and disappeared again. The remaining bedroom had always been worse than the others. But now it contained the six children, who were all young. And, as the mother, who usually shared her bed with two of her girls, occupied it all by herself tonight, they had crowded into two

cots. One little boy, shivering and with his knees in his mouth, was entirely uncovered. The doctor went silently there, put his own overcoat over the child and returned to his chair on tip-toe, ashamed of his undignified and unprofessional action, but glad that nobody had seen it.

Toward the morning the child was born. But when the father peeped in through the door and asked whether all was finished, the doctor whispered to him that another baby was coming. The mother, overhearing that, fainted and, when she came to, she cried bitterly.

"Oh, my God, why am I punished? What have I done? Two at a time! Makes eight! How'll I feed 'em? It's terrible!"

After the second baby there came a surprise, which even the doctor had not foreseen. A third one was delivered and they were all healthy and yelled lustily, in spite of their small size.

The father, a tall and large man with an idiotic grin, was happy and excited. He brought in his brother and in a corner of the room he proudly spoke of his extraordinary prowess.

"Say, doc, it's because I'm strong, ain't it? You know what I mean?" he asked aloud, with a wink of one eye.

"Go to hell with your strength!" said his wife.

But he, undaunted, telephoned to a newspaper and later in the day, all beaming and out of breath, he brought to the doctor's office the paper in which his name and address and a picture of himself and the three babies were printed.*

*On page 355 will be found a review of Dr. Liber's beautiful and moving collection of sketches from the lives of the poor. This sketch was written after the volume was published.

The Mother

They have sought wild places,
And touched the wind-bound Pole,
But I shall go a-venturing
After a soul.

Nine long moons shall I wander,
And who is there will say
What fugitives and dreams I shall meet
Upon the way.

Stark is the journey, unknown,
Yet shall I traverse pain,
For a soul is a shy, bright, wild thing,
And strange to attain.

I shall pluck it out of eternity
O, I shall laugh with glee!
And high in my hand shall I hold it,
For God to see.

God is a bold Adventurer,
He is making moons and suns,
And out to the daring heart of me
His laughter runs.

Men have sought wild places,
And touched the wind-bound Pole,
But I have gone a-venturing
After a soul.

The Purpose of Eugenics

By JOHN C. DUVAL

THE science of eugenics has been defined by its founder, Sir Francis Galton, as the "science which deals with all the influences which improve the inborn qualities of a race, also with those which develop them to the utmost extent." Eugenics is thus a science which attempts racial improvement by bringing to bear certain influences which would affect pre-natal and post-natal development in such a manner as to positively assure a better racial condition. This program is concerned with the "Positive" aspect of the eugenic science which is primarily to raise the biological level of the racial stock and then effectuate a proper training and control of the race thus perfected.

Another phase of the eugenic program is that of "Negative" eugenics which is of equal if not greater importance than positive eugenics. Negative eugenics would insure the racial improvements brought about by positive eugenics against racial deterioration caused by the prolific tendencies and capacities of the unfit classes, which would otherwise operate to modify if not absolutely discount the purposes of positive eugenics. The importance of these eugenic programs to society cannot be over-emphasized as a brief insight into the situation should clearly indicate.

Mental Tests in Our Army

Probably the most amazing and convincing demonstration of the necessity of eugenics resulted from the psychological study of America's draft army. These investigations disclosed the mental status of 1,700,000 men with a relatively fair degree of accuracy, and to say the least these astonishing revelations stand out as a glaring indictment of our *laissez-faire* attitude regarding the innate qualities of our American populace.

Briefly stated, the carefully checked findings of the expert army investigators disclosed the startling fact that fully 70 per cent of the constituents of this huge army had a mental capacity below that of a normal person of fourteen years and only 9 per cent of this entire group could be classed as having a college grade of intellect. It should therefore be clearly obvious that but a finite fraction of this vast number could possibly possess a mentality which could exemplify even a moderate form of genius. Furthermore as the army group experimented upon is fairly, if not absolutely, representative of the American populace as a whole, it seems safe to assume that by far the largest portion of the population of the most advanced nation in the

world is far below a level of intelligence which would seem to be indicative of any rapid strides in the direction of racial or social progress, at least as far as the immediate future is concerned.

Physical Deficiencies

In addition to the inferior mental status of the race at present, it also appears that there is a gross lack of physical fitness, for of the two-and-one-half millions born in America each year, over 19 per cent die within the first year of their existence. One-half of the entire number die before having attained the age of twenty-three, and therefore could not have made any great contribution to society. Out of approximately one-and-one-fourth millions reaching maturity each year, some 40,000 become periodically inefficient due to poor health. About 5,000 are confined in institutions maintained by public funds, while unknown thousands become relegated below the poverty line, chiefly because of inherent physical and mental incapacity. Thousands of others furnish recruits for the degenerate criminal and parasitical elements, and many more are forced to abstain from productive enterprise, because of the necessity of caring for the weak and unruly.

In view of the foregoing statements, it should be clearly evident that a large percentage of those born each year are both physically and mentally incapable of affecting society except in an adverse manner. It also must be considered that there is an enormous biological waste resulting from the death of the one-half million expiring within the first year of their existence. The further losses due to the failure of thousands of others to survive up to the point of full maturity clearly indicate an enormous drain on the biological resources of the nation. From an economic standpoint, the losses are even more obvious, for it is clearly evident that the greatest majority of those who die before having reached maturity could not have contributed anything, aside from the expenses occasioned by their bearing and rearing. Likewise the actual caring for the feeble, insane, and degenerate classes imposes an enormous financial burden upon the small percentage of the two and one-half million who do survive and become the producers, for in addition to providing for their own wants and necessities they must produce an enormous amount of surplus wealth in order to provide for and protect themselves from the parasitic classes. The magnitude of this expense becomes apparent, when

it is considered that the annual amount expended in America each year for the suppression and prevention of crime alone exceeds the entire amount expended upon education in all of its forms

Culpable Indifference

It therefore seems difficult to explain the lack of interest shown by society in the serious problems which it has allowed to exist and so vitally to affect its welfare in such an adverse manner. But even in this enlightened age there has as yet been no astonishing degree of interest shown in a eugenic program which would attempt to solve the problems occasioned by poor heritage, by making an inferior heritage impossible. In fact our attitude toward a program which would benefit society by preventing the propagation of the mental and physical misfits seems to be at present diametrically opposed to all logic and reason. For example, within the past one hundred and fifty years we have deliberately allowed, encouraged, and actually assisted the notorious Juke family to survive and propagate to the number of 1,258, at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of New York of over two and one-half million dollars not only to support but to actually aid this degenerate brood of prostitutes, criminals, and insane paupers to outbreed the most desirable stocks.

Dangerous Human Pests

Yet even in view of these inexcusable conditions, we still believe that it is our religious duty to allow nature to take its course. We therefore actually subsidize the propagation of the Jukes and thousands of others of their kind through the promiscuous dispensation of charitable relief, thereby allowing these classes of degenerates to poison society with their unbridled prolific scum, so that at the present time there are about one-half million of this type receiving attention in publicly maintained institutions, while thousands of others are at large to the detriment of our finer elements.

This situation prevails chiefly because of a sentimental refusal to interfere with the course of nature and apply to mankind our knowledge of the same biological laws which have allowed us to produce grafted fruits, prize bulldogs, and a superior quality of roast pork. However, it is interesting to note that there is no hesitation to interfere with the course of nature when we desire to eliminate or prevent a superfluity of rodents, insects, or other pests, but when it comes to the elimination of the immeasurably more dangerous human pest, we blindly adhere to the inconsistent dogmatic doctrine that man has a perfect right to control all nature with the exception of himself. Likewise when a river threatens to overflow its banks there is a hur-

ried attempt to defeat the purposes of nature and erect levees and dikes as a protection against the threatened flood. In this case the danger is both immediate and obvious, and it matters little that nature has decreed that the river shall overflow its banks. Our only concern in this case is the insurance of safety as rapidly as possible and by whatever means available, regardless of the dictates of nature. But when it comes to throwing up impediments and barriers in the path of an unbridled flood of human scum, we reverse our attitude and not only allow but actually encourage and assist the flood to work its devastation.

To Control the Source of Life

It is one of the prime purposes of eugenics to prevent the devastating influences of such a human flood by controlling its biological source. Such a program involves merely an application to the human species of the same biological laws by means of which man is at present attempting to control all nature with the exception of himself. The eugenic application of these laws would bring about the elimination of the degenerate classes by making their propagation impossible. The human flood would thus be arrested at its source and the problems of hereditary pauperism, disease, insanity and crime would be thereby forever solved within a generation or two, provided of course that the program were thoroughly and continually applied. The enormous amount of expense involved at present in caring for and controlling our hereditary misfits could thus be saved and utilized to encourage the most desirable elements to carry out a plan of positive eugenics which primarily involves encouraging the mentally, morally, and physically fit to marry and reproduce, to the ultimate end of racial improvement if not perfection.

An Educational Program

A program of "Positive Eugenics" is primarily one of education. The prospective parents of the future generations must be educated to realize the racial and social importance of a Platonic relationship based upon the intelligent selection of a proper mate, rather than being guided solely by a romantic infatuation based upon blind physical sensuality. The better classes of educated women must be made to realize that a home and a family are of vastly greater racial and social import than a career and a poodle dog. In general, selfish desire must be made subservient to racial duty. The best stocks must be encouraged to marry and reproduce, for, as far as the future welfare of society is concerned, nothing can equal the importance of eugenic marriages.

(Continued on page 366)

Appealing to the Voters

ON November 17, the subject of Birth Control legislation was brought before the Convention of the N Y State League of Women Voters. Last year the Convention recommended study of methods of amendment of the State Penal Code.

This year the American Birth Control League entertained delegates of the League of Women Voters at luncheon, and in the evening representatives of the Birth Control League appeared before the State Committee of the League of Women Voters to urge a resolution endorsing specific amendment of the State Penal Code.

MRS F ROBERTSON JONES, Director of the American Birth Control League and a delegate to the League of Women Voters Convention, presided at the luncheon. She introduced the first speaker, the Reverend William M Garth, and bespoke the interest of the delegates on the ground that Birth Control is germane to the work of the League of Women Voters on account of its vital importance to the welfare of women and children. With Birth Control, work for mothers and infants under the Shepard-Towner law will be very much more fundamental and the improvement and enforcement of Child Labor laws will become practical, as it is not now for families who have "too many mouths to feed."

The Reverend Mr Garth made his appeal on the same grounds and also on the ground of conservatism. Birth Control laws are bound to come. A body of conservative voters have it in their power to put through laws putting the matter in the hands of the medical profession. If they do not do this there is danger that Birth Control will "run riot" in injurious legislation.

The next speaker, Dr Benjamin T Tilton of St Mark's Hospital, New York, said that no sur-

geon in an east side hospital could feel that there is any room for doubt that the poor need Birth Control on medical grounds. The middle class practice it—or if they do not, they are lacking in intelligence. Poor women, not having access to information, either submit and lose their health in bearing endless numbers of sickly and neglected children. Or else they try unscientific methods of Birth Control that do not work.

Or else, by the thousands, they resort to abortion, and these abortions of the poor are "one of the most dreadful things physicians have to deal with." Help should be given these women before, not after, conception.

Birth Control is not contrary to nature, it assists nature in the prevention of disease. Every hospital and Board of Health Station should have a Birth Control Clinic to which all workers with the poor would gladly direct women. As good physicians shun personal publicity, they must depend on laymen and women to push these laws, and the League of Women Voters is well equipped to do this.

MRS SANGER, who was the last speaker, held up the extraordinary spread of

Birth Control in England as an example to America. There the end is already in sight. Within a year all Health Centers will give instructions in contraceptive methods. That very morning she had received a cablegram from England urging her to put off the Sixth International Birth Control Conference for a year so that the English delegates could attend with the prestige of government backing.

Poverty and unemployment are what have made the English support Birth Control and it will be only a few years before this country will be converted by like considerations.

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MRS SANGER'S NINE REASONS

Children should not be born

First—When either parent has an inheritable disease, such as insanity, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy or syphilis.

Second—When the mother is suffering from tuberculosis, kidney disease, heart disease or pelvic deformity.

Third—When either parent has gonorrhea.

Fourth—When children already born are not normal.

Fifth—When the woman is under twenty-three years old and the man under twenty-five.

Sixth—When the previous baby is under three years old.

Seventh—When the parents' economic circumstances do not guarantee enough to provide the children with the necessities of life.

Eighth—When the woman is exhausted from labor. This especially applies to women who marry after spending several years in industrial or commercial life.

Ninth—For two years after marriage, since a couple need this period to establish the home, and prepare for the great responsibility of becoming parents.

—From the *Woman Citizen*

Birth Control and Organized Labor

By EDWARD G. PUNKE, A M

THE advocates of race restriction are striving for the same end as Organized Labor, namely, the bettering of the condition of life of the human race, and particularly of that portion consisting of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers

Emphasis on the elevation of the standard of life has been a most important characteristic of the labor struggle in the United States since the real beginning of labor unions nearly a century ago

Organized Labor is vitally interested in raising the standard of life of the toiling masses. To obtain that elevation in the standard of living, the prime requisite is the increase of real wages among the working classes, particularly the unskilled and semi-skilled.

Under the present economic system, however, wages are, at least partly, dependent upon the relative supply of, and demand for, labor. Other things equal, the larger the supply of a certain type of labor in proportion to the demand for it, the lower will be the wage of that labor. On the other hand, the smaller the supply relative to the demand, the higher will be labor's pay.

Unfortunately, owing to immigration and other forces, unskilled and semi-skilled labor in this country is relatively too great for the demand for it. This class of workers, bidding against each other, beats down the wage of labor. Moreover, this class, in which there is a vital need for a larger wage, is the most difficult and last to organize. It is therefore largely denied the gains flowing from collective bargaining. Here numbers mean weakness.

A lessening of the number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers relative to the demand for that type of labor is a vitally important measure for organized labor and those really interested in the welfare of the toiler. To a limited extent this is what labor unions strive to do.

Easy, Safe and Beneficial

Judicious Birth Control spread after the manner of dissemination by the Neo-Malthusian League of Holland, or that of Great Britain, offers one of the easiest, safest, and racially most beneficial means for the diminution of the size of the manual working classes. Only the United States, through the asinine stupidity of a few puritanically minded individuals and law-makers, legally prevents the giving of such information to the people. Imitating the Federal Government, which classes all contraceptive information in the same category

with obscenity and indecency, many States have made the dissemination of such knowledge a misdemeanor or felony.

However, despite this Federal and State legislation, Birth Control is now practiced almost universally among the more educated and better situated classes of the population. Through their education, better financial position and social connections, these groups can, and do, obtain the needed contraceptive information. Their low birth rate testifies to the extent to which they practice voluntary parenthood.

On the other hand, the high birth rate of the poorer classes—the unskilled and semi-skilled groups—indicates how effective this anti-Birth Control legislation is for the less well-situated groups. The poor are penalized for their poverty. Thus our present society presents a most topsyturvy condition—those most able to rear and educate a larger number of children have few, while those unable to decently rear and train but a few have many.

Cannon Fodder and Machine Tenders

Further, it is chiefly these poorer classes—the low wage groups—who overstock the labor market with their type of labor, who furnish the children to work despite the various child labor legislation, who beget cannon-fodder and machine tenders. These classes, through their ignorance and stolid hopelessness, are the joy of the war-makers and conscienceless employers. Likewise, these groups—not from desire but from lack of knowledge to do otherwise—propagate offspring most recklessly, without regard for the latter's future education and chance of ever winning a decent livelihood. It is these classes who most urgently need the knowledge and opportunity of employing modern, scientific Birth Control.

Hence the Birth Control movement offers Organized Labor and its leaders a unique opportunity. Today voluntary parenthood is recognized as a most important step toward the regeneration of mankind, toward the elimination of poverty, with its attendant misery and hopelessness, and toward the prevention of over-population, with the resulting threat of more war, with its gigantic reversal of race improvement. Birth Control offers a welcome relief to the working-class mother, who has a child with almost annual periodicity, and sees in the future only a monotonous repetition of this thankless task, ended, finally, by the grave.

Now, by virtue of its name, and of its constituency, Organized Labor is the champion of the working classes—women as well as men—not only of the skilled and better situated, but also of the unskilled and semi-skilled, of the poorest and worst conditioned. Its mission, its purpose in existing, is the raising of the standard of life of the working groups—the emancipation of the toilers from their heritage of long hours, low wages, large families, and the resultant ignorance and misery. Further, it is duty-bound, if it would remain true to its early record of social achievement, to get behind all important movements for racial and social betterment.

Voluntary parenthood, then, for the poor as well as for the well-to-do, has an irrefutable claim to the support of the Labor movement. This is true because Birth Control for the lower classes offers a most important means of elevating the standard of life of these groups.

English Labor, the leader in so many fields, clearly recognizes this. It is putting its shoulders behind the Neo-Malthusian League in Great

Britain. It is helping to diminish the number of laborers competing for a given job, aiding to lessen the number of scabs and unemployables by furthering the dissemination of contraceptive knowledge and materials among the poorer members of its constituency. Briefly, it has grasped the tremendous significance of voluntary parenthood as a weapon in the struggle for bettering the conditions of the workers.

It is only a matter of time, moreover, until American Labor must assume the same attitude, if it is to forward the true interest of its members and of the large unorganized group for which it speaks. This is inevitable. For it will avail Organized Labor little to attempt to unionize all the workers, to limit the number of competitors for a given job, to have helped in restricting immigration from abroad, if it does not aid in limiting "immigration from heaven."

Excerpts from an address before the Fifth International Birth Control Conference, London, 1922

Family Limitation

From the Point of View of a Woman Gynecologist

By FRANCES MABEL HUXLEY, M D

I WISH to bring before you a few points in favor of Birth Control, as one who has been influenced to accept its desirability, solely by facts and conditions which have come before me in the course of my work. As a result, I feel that it is the right of every married couple to know, if they wish to know, how best to regulate their family. It is they who are responsible for the well-being of their children, and it is they alone who can judge their own sexual needs.

Whatever view one may take as to the desirability of Birth Control, it is well to realize that we are no longer faced with the question, "Shall we allow Birth Control or not?" for it is here with us now. It has come and will extend. We can close our eyes to its presence, or help it along more rational lines, but we cannot stop it.

And here I may say also that it is my experience in every class of society that married women—and their husbands—eagerly want, not a child, but children, the exceptions are comparatively very few. Birth Control will not alter this.

Among the well-to-do Birth Control is, from the medical point of view, least required, but it is always desirable to space the members of a family, so that the mother may have full time to recover,

and maintain for a time, her normal health before conceiving again. This means in practice an interval of about two years between confinements. A woman has a right to expect to be well after the birth of her family as before it. A child has the right to be welcome. In practice one finds that such patients are usually very anxious for a first baby, and as soon as it has arrived and they are convalescent they want to know how not to have another—for a time.

Among the less well-to-do, regulation of the family is very important. It is needed for those whose marriage may be delayed for years, if marriage involves a family too. And here the possibility of marriage is surely an aid to morality! It is sometimes stated that the use of contraceptives in early married life prevents conception later. This can only be, I think, where strong preparations are used by the wife, with corresponding injury to the tissues.

Birth Control is needed also for those who go abroad to unfavorable climates where medical aid is difficult of access. One often sees the health of such women ruined by an unfortunate first confinement, whereas if they could have waited for a favorable opportunity, even for the first child only,

their whole life might have been different

But, as I have said, Birth Control is already practiced, and it is among the better educated that it is practiced, even if the methods used are often undesirable and uncertain. When we come to the lower classes, however, methods of Birth Control are not generally known. And what do we get here? A woman of thirty-six, looking forty-six, who has had twelve confinements and three miscarriages, seven children now living. She has at her disposal two or three rooms. She has never time to recover from one confinement before the next is upon her. She tries to shield herself from conception by nursing one child long after it should be weaned, to the detriment of herself and the child, and often without avail.

IDEAL MOTHERHOOD

THERE is no good reason why any woman should completely sacrifice her life by becoming a mere procreative machine. Healthy, happy well-brought up children are a great joy and a great investment. But there should be more to a woman's life than just a big brood, a big brood of weaklings, to fill the jails and the hospitals and the multitude of slavish jobs in industry.

When mothers throughout the land realize that intelligence should be applied to child-bearing, practical motherhood will come much nearer to the present ideal of the word. Babies will be born only to women who are physically and economically able to bear them. Each mother will decide just how many children she can competently contribute to the world—and will choose her time for the contribution in relation to her physical well being and the size of her husband's pay-envelope.

Knowledge of birth control will give American women the opportunity to apply judgment and common sense to their biggest individual and collective problem—
DOROTHY BOCKER, M D, *The Independent*, Richmond, Va

A CANDIDATE ON BIRTH CONTROL

A letter was sent in October by the American Birth Control League to the three presidential candidates and the three candidates for governor of New York asking for a statement of their position on Birth Control. Only one candidate put himself on record. We give his letter herewith.

New York City

Executive Secretary, American Birth Control League

In reply to your inquiry of October 27, let me state that I am emphatically in favor of the necessary legislation, both state and federal, to permit licensed physicians to give the necessary information for intelligent Birth Control.

The present situation causes terrible individual suffering and is socially hurtful. The class in the community best able to rear children easily gets all information necessary to practice Birth Control, not always of the most social sort, while the same information is denied, by the operation of our laws, to the poor.

I believe that the laws you advocate would tend to promote happier and more wholesome homes and a better racial stock. I believe that it is every child's right to be well born of parents who together look forward to the joy of its coming.

I believe that through intelligent Birth Control we have a scientific and humane method of preventing the possible evils of overpopulation.

Sincerely yours,

NORMAN THOMAS,
Candidate for Governor on the
LaFollette Platform

THE FIRST FOOD

Mother, in some sad evening long ago,
From your young breast my groping lips were taken,
Their hunger stilled, so soon again to waken,
But nevermore that holy food to know

Ah! nevermore! for all the child might crave!
Ah! nevermore! through years unkind and dreary!
Often of other fares my lips are weary,
Unwearied once of what your bosom gave

(Poor wordless mouth that could not speak your name!
At what unhappy revels has it eaten
The viands that no memory can sweeten,—
The banquet found eternally the same!)

Then fell a shadow first on you and me,
And tendrils broke that held us two how dearly!
Once infinitely yours, then hourly, yearly,
Less yours, as less the worthy yours to be

GEORGE STERLING

From Selected Poems, Henry Holt and Company

GIRL-MOTHER

Now what will Christmas be
For baby boy and me?
He's little, and he does not know
Why I am crying so
Ten years ago I hung
My stocking. Am I old or young?
Gold watches, rings, a toilet set,
The presents girls will get
Are nice. I want to buy
Them too. What makes me cry
The most is wanting other things I never had
It's wanting life, real life, makes Christmas seem so sad.
—Margaret Loring Thomas,

The Saving of Civilization

By FERDINAND GOLDSTEIN, M D

MOMMSEN says in the concluding sentence of his "Theme of Roman Public Law" — "The Roman Empire of the Principate, as well as the Roman Empire as restored by Diocletianus, which had still in the reign of Justinian military victories, perished not by the barbarians, but by internal decay" This decay was caused by the wrong movement of the population The upper classes increased in such a small degree that the Government published laws to augment their fertility But the lower classes grew enormously, especially because there was a great influx of peasantry from the country to the towns Hence the empire possessed many large towns, but the inhabitants became more and more of the lower classes, and when the evolution was at its height the bishops founded their state of slavery, which had as much resemblance to the Christian ideal as the Soviet republic has to paradise

In modern countries the development of the population is as faulty as in the Roman Empire, for the well-to-do classes increase more slowly than the poor For instance, in Berlin the birth rate in 1912 in the rich Tiergarten quarter was 13, as against 26 in the poor Wedding quarter The President of the Statistical Office in Paris, M Bertillon, published a table showing that female fertility in the different quarters of towns depends on the wealth of their inhabitants The poorest quarters have the highest, and the richest the lowest birth rate In London, for instance, 1,000 women of from 15 to 50 years bore in very poor quarters 147 children per annum, in very rich quarters, only 63

Influx to the Towns

But this difference is of small importance when compared with the influx of the working classes from the country to the towns The cause of this is the weight of over-population always pressing on the country This over-population has nothing to do with that of Malthus He contrasts the population with the amount of their food, but the over-population I mean, is caused by men offering more labor than is needed An estate employing twenty workmen today will require in twenty years almost the same number, or less if machinery to save human labor is used in agriculture But the population increases, and the offspring, having reached the usual age for beginning work, must gain money by labor But work can only be offered to them

when the fixed number of agricultural workers has been diminished by death, all the others are superfluous, and must seek labor elsewhere The agricultural population remains almost the same For instance, in Germany it was in 1882, 18,700,000, in 1895, 17,800,000, in 1907, 16,900 000 The diminution was caused by the increasing employment of machinery

Fertile Peasantry

But in the country not only agricultural laborers are living, but also mechanics, tradesmen, doctors, clergymen, and so on, and these are in the same position as the laborers, for there is no free competition in the country Consequently not only the agricultural population, but the whole of the rural population always remains the same International statistics, when speaking of the country, mean communities below 2,000 inhabitants Every community above 2,000 inhabitants is statistically a town They are subdivided into small, medium and large towns The population in communities below 2,000 inhabitants was (in millions)

Belgium		France		Germany	
1848	1 7	1872	24 8	1871	26 2
1856	1 7	1876	24 9	1875	26 0
1866	1 7	1881	24 5	1880	26 5
1876	1 7	1886	24 4	1885	26 3
1880	1 7	1891	24 0	1890	26 1
1890	1 7	1896	23 4	1895	26 0
1900	1 6	1901	23 0	1900	25 7

These figures give the impression of the rural population being quite sterile, but it is, at least in Germany, extremely fertile, more fertile than the average The surplus of births in the country in Germany, calculating from 1871 to 1900, was thirteen or fourteen millions This huge crowd was driven away by overpopulation

The superfluous population of the country goes to the towns to work in the factories, or emigrates In Germany, many years before the war, it went chiefly to the towns, their natural growth not being sufficient to provide the factories with workmen Hence poverty arose from two causes first, the great fertility of the working class in the towns, and second, the incoming of the surplus population of the country The consequence of this rapid growth of poverty was that Socialism grew enormously with it However, Socialism depends not on poverty alone, but also on the peculiar change of mind affecting the immigrants when they become

townsfolk Socialism in Germany has but small influence in towns growing chiefly by their own fertility

The English towns cannot grow on a considerable scale by immigration from the country, because the rural population is small That is the reason why Socialism in England is without importance The towns of Switzerland grow by the surplus of births, by immigrating Swiss and by foreigners As the latter have not the right to vote, they have no influence on elections When considering the two other sources of growth, the same can be noticed in the towns of Switzerland as in those of Germany and England Zurich grew in a greater degree by its own fertility than by immigrating Swiss, whereas in Geneva the number of immigrating Swiss was greater than the surplus of births, and here Socialists were elected It may be permitted to add that Socialists and Communists know their power depends on poverty and are in consequence against Birth Control

Emigration

When industry is not great enough to employ entirely or almost entirely the surplus population of the country, men are forced to emigrate This is the case in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, in the German Empire of the first decades, in Hungary and Ireland and especially in Italy In Italy the main part of the population is living on agriculture, and therefore the density on the land ought to be small, as in the United States For the main work in agriculture is done by Nature But Italy in 1911 had a density of 121 In consequence its farms are too small, the peasants live in poverty, food has to be imported because the peasants consume the crops they produce, the superfluous population in the country is enormous, as also is the emigration Italy had before the war the largest emigration of all European countries, for instance, in 1912, it was 711,000 or 20 per thousand of the population Some of the emigrants return to Italy, but that makes no difference in considering the overpopulation of the country The main body of the emigrants went to the United States, and you may realize what it meant for Italy when the United States closed the door, as they have done

Old Rome in Modern Guise

These emigrants, as well as the immigrants, consist chiefly of the working classes, and as millions of them are poured in year by year over the world, it must become subject to them, as it was in the Roman Empire The development has already reached a dangerous level, as the spreading of Socialism over the whole world shows In Ger-

many, the too-numerous working classes destroyed the Liberal parties, and with them common sense That was the reason for the madness reigning in the land in pre-war days, and is now the reason for her desperate condition

What is to be done against this pernicious development? Laymen answer promptly that laws must stop interfering with sexual life, that contraceptive means should be sold as freely as pencils or oranges, and artificial abortion should be allowed This extreme would be as dangerous as the opposite For what would be the result? Firstly, the danger arises that nations might be extinguished, and secondly well-to-do classes would be likely to avail themselves of the granted freedom in a much higher degree than the indifferent poorer classes, who would overwhelm the educated people to a greater degree than they do now No, the task of a reasonable demographic policy is to equalize the fertility of the rich and poor Academically speaking, it does not matter how little a population grows, unless there is a difference in the fertility of all its classes When for instance a country has such a low fertility that its population decreases, it may be that even then the educated are overwhelmed by lower classes

The Remedy

Equalization of the fertility of all the classes in a country may be attained by eliminating every demographic law from the penal code, and prescribing in the civil code that only he who has done his demographic duty has the right to dispose of his whole fortune in his will When has a man done his demographic duty? Laymen answer when he has bred two children This is not the case Under the two-children system a nation is not continued In France, generally called the land of two-children families, couples breed on an average of three children, and under this increase the nation was continued Hence it follows that he who has bred three children has done his demographic duty But three children are a heavy burden, and to continue a nation it is sufficient that a couple produce two children, provided they survive the death of their parents

Consequently the Civil Code must prescribe that he who has bred three children, however many of them have died, has the right to dispose of his whole fortune in his will He who has two surviving children shall have the same right But whoever has had less than two children, or who has had two, one or both of whom have died, must give at his death one-third of his property to the state Under such a law the fertility of well-to-do people will rise, whereas that of the poor will be lowered,

(Continued on page 366)

CHEATED OUT OF GIRLHOOD HAPPINESS

Mothers Who Are Children in Years But Old in Suffering

Nearly all girls marry because marriage represents in their dreams the highest happiness. Now and then a girl is forced into it by circumstances—by an overcrowded home, or by difficulty in getting her own living. But most young marriages are from love and romance, the desire of two young people to start life together. And out of their happy start, a few years later, they get hardship and disillusionment. There is no romance in the young wife's stern business of bearing children as fast as they can come. Suffering and hardship dispel all illusions and the girl is lucky if they do not change love to fear and aversion. Society by repressive laws takes the joy out of young love, offers it a sacrifice on the altar of childbearing. Help us to stop this sacrifice.

Seventeen Years Old—Six Babies

Kansas

I got your letter some few days ago. I received my book and like it fine. The reason I send for more information is because I think if any woman needs help I am the one. I am seventeen years old. I married when I was thirteen years old and I am the mother of six children. My first baby was thirteen months old when another one was born, then ten months after that I had twins and ten months later another set of twins. Now I am to have some more. My husband gets awful cross with me when I get this way, because, like you say in your book, he thinks we have got plenty. It is also wearing me down. I never feel well. I write you for help and I will try to help you if you can help me.

In Constant Dread

Missouri

Is there really a living creature who could read your book "Woman and the New Race" and not see the truth of every word in it? I feel that any woman who could set forth a work like that would not deny me the information I ask, law or no law. I am nineteen years old, have been married two and a half years and my second baby is just two months old. I love my babies, my husband and my home, and life and the work it brings would be nothing to me if I could only feel sure I would have no more children right away. I do want another in a few years. Both my babies are girls and my husband wanted a son and I want to give him one, but I would like to wait until my little girls are better on their way in life and I am more mature and stronger. I can feel myself becoming weaker and if I had another baby within the next couple of years it would only be detrimental to the child and the rest of the family as well as myself. I left high school at the age of seventeen to marry a poor man and never have regretted it. I have done all my own work and borne my own

children happily with never a complaint, but I live in constant dread of another baby soon and so does my husband. He has kept away from me for long periods but I cannot ask that of him forever.

It takes a pretty well-to-do family to raise and properly educate more than two or three children so that they will be an asset rather than a liability to the nation. Those who could afford to are the ones who have no children. I know women who have no children and have been married eight or ten years and when I ask them how they do it they say it is just chance. You know that isn't so. Funny how those who know will never tell. If I learn anything I'll tell every woman in moderate circumstances. I know, who has children. The law is very wrong in forbidding the broadcasting of such information, thinking it will be used to ill purpose, for those who use it to ill advantage are the ones who already know it. They aren't waiting for you and me to tell them. In the hospital where my babies were born every woman there was trying to find out the same thing. They asked doctors, nurses and each other. They were all in constant dread of more children. Such a condition is deplorable in this age of freedom in everything else. If there is any way I can help in your great work, by talk, distribution of literature or money donations I wish you would let me. I am a Christian girl and I believe such work is sanctioned by God, for as He loves little children, so I believe He would only wish them to be where there was good care and no suffering.

"I Have All I Can Do"

South Dakota

I was married at the age of fifteen and at sixteen I had a baby girl. She only lived two months. Ten months later I had a baby boy, who is a nice big boy now. I expect another baby, and I will not be twenty until November. That will make four babies for me and I

think I shall have all I can do, as we are poor people and have to work hard to support them. Our two boys are big and strong and have perfect health and I would like to keep them so, but if I have to have a big family I am afraid I will neglect them and spoil their health. I am in perfect health myself, but my husband is not so healthy. I would like to have you help me if you can, as I feel that I ought not to have any more till we can support them better. There are families around me that have from seven and eight children up to fifteen and they can't educate or clothe them as they should. I feel it is a crime the way they are neglected. My first baby died of inflammation of the navel. She was only a small baby but dear to me, and I missed her greatly. My boys are big and strong and I will always try to keep them so. My husband thinks we have plenty of babies, but I can't blame him for our luck.

"My Heart Craves Good Times"

New Mexico

I, like many women, am interested in Birth Control, although I am young yet, but that is exactly the reason I want you to help me. Honestly, please help me if you can. I am a young girl-wife, as you can say, eighteen years old. And just imagine I'm not married three years yet and have two children, or babies rather. Oh, I do not think I want any more children, but what can I do? I suppose next year I'll have another baby—of course I'm not in a family way just now but I may be any time. How I would love to enjoy myself still! My heart is just craving for good times, like going to dances and parties. But getting babies every year, why, life will be an utter misery. Kindly help me. I pray to you like to my God.

Another on the Way

West Virginia

I am a girl of only eighteen and have one child. It is only fourteen months old and I am in a family way again. I have been married only two and a half years. I married a day laborer and can only make enough to get us a little something to eat and wear. We have no home and here I am with one poor little pitiful child and another on the road to this awful world to suffer for the want of care. I am not able to be up half the time. I have always been bothered with something like tuberculosis and don't have the means to be cared for like I should. My baby is so poor and pitiful. I am afraid it won't live long. Only ignorance has driven me into this awful place. I can now see that I would be better off dead than to be bringing these poor little children into poverty and sickness. I think it is awful for me to have to suffer from tuberculosis and bringing these poor little children into the world too. If I only could see a little peace while I live. Please help me if you can. If you can't help me in this case maybe that I can be prepared to help myself after this. Just now I am so discouraged that I believe I could die.

"God Help You to Help Me"

Iowa

I am a girl twenty-one years old, yet the mother of four children, the oldest not yet five, the youngest a babe of three months—two boys and two girls. I was married when I was only fifteen, my first born when I was sixteen. Although I married young I was fortunate enough to get one of the best men on earth, but he, like myself, is ignorant of prevention. We are farmers with limited means and have all the children we can do for now. My husband went to our family physician but he told him nothing could be used that would not be harmful to me. I hope you can help me—may God help you to help me as you have helped other mothers, is my earnest prayer.

Her Youth Wrecked

Connecticut

I am eighteen years of age and I have two little tots, one right after another. I am so run down now that I can barely drag myself along. I don't weigh ninety-five pounds and if I have another child I think it will kill me. So will you please give me your advice how not to have children, for a while any way? I haven't felt well since the first baby came and now I am worse than ever. I start doing my housework and no sooner I bend down for something I get a dizzy spell and I have to hold on to something or else I'd fall wherever I'm standing. I can't eat anything and I'm all in pains.

A Young Girl's Burdens

Arkansas

I am a girl of eighteen but have been married two years and have a baby boy fourteen months old, and as I was always delicate and more so since my baby's birth, I would wish to be a few years older at least before having more. I also have to help care for an invalid grandmother and an invalid mother and help her in her work. We are far from rich and are trying to get our home paid for and a start in life. I love my baby dearly but I nearly died when he was born. If in any way I can aid you in your brave fight for freedom, I will be glad to do so.

"I'd Die If I Had Another"

Pennsylvania

I am eighteen years old and have two children, one eighteen months old and the other two months. Now all I fear is becoming in family way again. How can I take care of myself? I believe I'd die if I had another child soon, with my troubles now. My husband is a day laborer, earns two dollars and a half a day, and I don't see how we could take care of any more. The women voters are going to have a convention in which they will discuss Birth Control. I pray to God that they may succeed. I wish you success in your great work and I pray you to help me, as you are my only salvation.

Book Reviews

A Review by Katherine Bement Davis

BIRTH CONTROL, WHAT IS IT? By Lydia Allen DeVilbiss, M.D. With a Foreword by Dr. Adolf Meyer, Professor of Psychiatry, John Hopkins University. Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, 1923, pp. xvii—186

NO better statement of the importance of understanding what is meant by Birth Control and the need for it can be made than that given by Professor Meyer in his Foreword to Dr. DeVilbiss' book. He says:

"Progress towards the best type of human freedom implies assumption of new responsibilities. From being a dogmatically controlled being, spiritually and civically, the man or woman of today is passing into the phase of undoubted personal responsibility to develop and use individual knowledge and individual judgment in eugenics. Life is not a rule-of-thumb affair. If the present generation is to use the accumulated wisdom of the ages, it must find rational ways of putting it to use. No problem is more fundamental than that of the maintenance of the best human stock and the reduction of the number of the handicapped. We have trusted to the survival of the fittest—and still kill off the best. We allow the least prepared to replenish the ranks of our population. We wonder—and we shall continue to fail to see how the tragedies can be avoided, unless we make some constructive efforts."

Dr. DeVilbiss' book is intended for the general untechnical reader. It brings before them in a simple manner the necessity for Birth Control, something of its history, the present difficulties—legal and social—under which the advocates of education along these lines labor, and a discussion of the laws, federal and state, which prevent the dissemination of proper Birth Control information.

There is no discussion of particular methods, hence the publication and circulation of the book is perfectly legal. It is made up of ten short chapters. They are 1, A Definition, 2, History, Purpose and Method, 3, The Opposition, 4, Women and Birth Control, 5, Increase in Population, 6, Public Health, Maternal and Infant Mortality, 7, The Mental Deficient and Defective, 8, Federal Laws, 9, State Laws and the Case of New York State, 10, A Forecast.

The title of chapter two is perhaps misleading. "Method" is discussed in general terms only. It is recognized that there is no one specific for all cases and that each case should be treated on its merits by the family physician wherever possible. One difficulty is the fact that so many physicians are unprepared to advise. Chapter VI, through the presentation of statistical tables and their discussion, gives an idea of the tremendous toll of lives of women taken by reason of the impossibility of getting to the women who need it most, information that will prevent conception where child-bearing will almost

certainly lead to the death or permanent disability of the mother and the probable death or congenital weakness of the child.

Chapter VIII explains the origin and history of Federal laws which class contraceptive information in the same category with obscene writing and pictures and information or articles for procuring abortion. Dr. DeVilbiss discusses proposed amendments and their possible weakness, and points out that on the whole the medical profession would favor only such amendments as would exempt the medical and public health professions in the discharge of their duties.

To those not familiar with the situation in New York State, Chapter IX is worth reading. It gives an account of the Margaret Sanger Case which was carried through the New York State Court of Appeals, our highest state tribunal. In the opinion occurred the following:

"The physicians' exemption in Sec. 1145 of the Penal Code is broad enough to protect the physician who in good faith gives help or advice to a married person to cure or prevent disease."

There is still some question, however, of the possible decision if court action were brought in a special case under Section 170 of the Public Health Law. It is believed by advocates of the use of proper Birth Control information and methods that both these sections should be amended.

A Practical Program

Dr. DeVilbiss closes her book with a suggested working program which seems to me the most valuable part of the book. After outlining the problem, she presents a very sound program for national or state use where groups of citizens desire safely and sanely to co-operate with the movement.

Of special importance are the following:

"To obtain from these activities (clinics, laboratories, hospitals, public health organizations and members of the medical profession) data concerning the use of contraceptive agents in human beings and to make such data available to the medical profession,

"To co-operate with legislative organizations in amending or repealing laws which restrict or hinder physicians in the proper discharge of their duties from obtaining or prescribing therapeutic contraceptives,

"To encourage and assist investigations and research into biological and chemical problems associated with artificial prevention of conception and to publish the results of such investigations for the medical profession."

This is an immediate and vital need. Until careful scientific research can demonstrate methods of contraception that are safe physically and mentally to both men and women and the use of which will be harmless to possible future children, the whole movement is insecure.

Reviews by Anne G. Porritt

AS A DOCTOR SEES IT, By B. Liber, The Critic and Guide Co., New York

IT might be said that any doctor with a large practice among the poor might have written the sketches that fill Dr. Liber's little volume. But no doctor before him ever did write them, and, perhaps fortunately for the comfort and happiness of the average physician, there are very few doctors that have the vision, the understanding and the sympathy that have made possible these thumb-nail sketches. The man who sees and feels as Dr. Liber does must give himself to aid humanity or go mad.

The book is divided into seven sections, each section containing many sketches, none too long and some very brief indeed. Even the briefest is an unforgettable etching—a bit of human life transcribed on paper, and sometimes illustrated with one of Dr. Liber's pencil sketches. The two sections that are most interesting from the point of view of Birth Control are those entitled "Poisoned Pleasures" and "Pain and Sorrow." In the first of these Dr. Liber lets us into the secret of his own philosophy of human nature and especially of the sex-side of human nature. He writes no philosophical treatise, but in the pictures that he holds up, one after another, one can learn, better than from the most complete and abstruse exposition, his attitude towards such controversial questions as marriage, divorce, prostitution, sex morality, abortion and Birth Control.

In view of the difficulty that Dr. Liber experienced in securing publication for the little volume, it is a matter of pride to us that a number of these sketches first saw the light in the pages of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. We were glad and happy to publish the sketches, for they are so arresting that they form excellent educational material for Birth Control. We are glad to welcome them as they appear in book form, and it seems to us astonishing that, as told by Dr. Liber in the preface, publisher after publisher should have refused to handle the volume. It is greatly to the credit of Dr. J. Robinson of the *Critic and Guide* that in spite of many points of disagreement with the author, he met him on the common ground of advocacy of Birth Control and took the risk of publishing the book. We hope that his courage has been rewarded, and that the book will have a wide circulation. It is a missionary for Birth Control and as such every person interested in the movement must wish it well.

OUT OF THE VALLEY OF THE FORGOTTEN,
OR FROM TRINITY TO NEW YORK, by John
Edmiston Bauman, M.S., M.A. The Chemical
Publishing Company, Easton, Penna. Two volumes

IT is easy to see that, although Mr. Bauman covers vast fields belonging to the sciences of Biology, Embryology, Psychology, and Sociology, his interest is mainly centered on sex. His volumes are not intended for scientific study, but, according to his own claim, his is "a book which presents solutions and programs where

the above programs fail, which is practical and courageous where they are not, which throws light into dark places." The comparison he is making here is with the tendency of Church and State to suppress sex information and all rational discussion of sex problems. How far he has succeeded in his effort is a matter on which readers will widely disagree, but there is no doubt that he has shown immense diligence and very extensive reading and study in the preparation of the two volumes now published. The third volume, which he is holding back for the present, is to deal even more intimately with sex matters than the second, which is also chiefly occupied with sex.

The method of Mr. Bauman's book is more authoritative than scientific. He does not examine facts and theories patiently and critically. He supplies theories and gives certain facts to support them. The theories as regards biology, embryology, and geology are those usually accepted by scientists. It is in the field of sex that Mr. Bauman brings out his own ideas and conception.

It should be noted that Mr. Bauman makes no other claim for his book than that it is the expression of his own conclusions. "Not only," he writes, "are the actual viewpoints and ideas the author's own, but they are set down in their entirety without the counsel or the co-operation of any other human being." In urging these viewpoints and ideas upon the reader, he uses the manner as well as the method of the sensational revivalist preacher. He shouts at the reader in bold black type, he hisses at him in italics, he lays down the law in capitals. Such methods may be valuable in arousing crowd emotion, but a book is an individual and intimate visitor, and such constant emphasis is apt to be annoying and confusing.

Naturally, Mr. Bauman is in favor of Birth Control, but the subject is relegated to the third volume, and only treated in a footnote in those already published. He differs from the American Birth Control League in assuming that Birth Control can be taught in a simple and invariable manner, he does not appreciate that it is a medical problem and that each individual woman needs special advice, suitable to her physical needs. He is, however, rightly emphatic in distinguishing between Birth Control—or prevention, as he terms it, and abortion.

If we might offer a word of advice to Mr. Bauman, we would suggest that in his third volume he uses accepted scientific words instead of coining new ones of his own, which are frequently lacking in beauty and euphony, and that he curb a little his tendency to over-emphasize.

"Nutrition Work for Preschool Children," by Agnes K. Hanna (Publication No. 138), and "Economic Factors in Infant Mortality," are two recent publications of the United States Children's Bureau. The economic study is a reprint of an article by Robert Morse Woodbury in the *American Statistical Association Quarterly*, which is

based on Children's Bureau data and is intended as a chapter in a forthcoming study of Causal Factors in Infant Mortality. The nutrition pamphlet shows the methods used by centers of practical educational work in this field. This work brings the centers in contact with home conditions in follow-up visiting, and the final measure of success, says the pamphlet, "is the extent to which faulty living habits have been overcome and more adequate habits substituted for them. One of the chief discouragements in nutrition work is the large number of homes in which the income is insufficient to buy adequate food, or, if sufficient, is so mismanaged that inadequate diet results." Further evidence that the home of ignorance and poverty is not the place to bring a large family to healthy maturity is presented by Mr. Woodbury's economic study. A table covering seven cities and showing fathers' income, infant births and infant deaths brings out the fact that there is "a marked relationship between infant mortality and fathers' earnings. The higher the earnings the smaller the proportion of deaths. For infants whose fathers earned less than \$450 the rate was 166.9, as compared with only 59.1 for those whose fathers earned \$1,250 or over. The group of babies whose fathers were classified as having 'no earnings' had the highest rate of all, 210.9." What applies to deaths applies to births also—where the most babies died the most were born. "A striking fact," says Mr. Woodbury, "was the small proportion, only 10.5 per cent, of the infants studied, who were born in families in which the father earned more than \$1,250. On the other hand, 4.10 per cent were born in families in which the father earned less than \$650."

—M S B

PERIODICALS

Malnutrition, concludes an editorial writer in *American Medicine* (New York) for October, is not merely an individual handicap, it is a dysgenic factor. Two recent nutrition studies, one American and one English, bring out the fact that a substandard dietary from generation to generation will cause "marked harmful changes in hereditary characteristics." The work of such anthropologists as Davenport and Boas has shown structural changes in the children of immigrant stock after a few generations of American life and it may well be that some of these changes are due to malnutrition. Large families are the lot of the poor and until their lot is lightened there will be little chance of their children having the benefits of ample and well-balanced nourishment to pass on to future generations.

In a recent address Dr. Frank P. Graves, New York State Commissioner of Education, is quoted by the *New York Telegram* of October 30 as deploring the inattention now given to breeding human beings while we are perfecting the breeding of domestic animals. He believes that with the knowledge and control we have already in our possession "we could in the course of a few generations vastly improve our race both physically and mentally

and raise inestimably the general level of intelligence and the possibilities of leadership."

In November *Social Hygiene* Dr. M. J. Exner writes of right and wrong uses of the sex factor in character training. Sex education the child gets whether or not we want him to. If it is not given him wholesomely in the home we cannot prevent him from getting it—and that often without any conscious seeking on his part—unwholesomely outside the home. How preponderant this unwholesome sort of education is is brought out by a study of 1,000 college students, which showed that only four per cent were given their sex education in the home and of the rest, who got it outside, the sex impressions of 91.5 per cent were unwholesome. Sex dominates life, social and individual, and it will always dominate life. Rightly considered, it is the foundation of the nobler altruistic family and social emotions. When parents are themselves educated to see this, it will be raised from the degraded position these figures indicate and used as a means of character training all through the development of child, adolescent and adult.

In the October *Eugenics Review* (London) Major Leonard Darwin discusses tentatively the legal precautions that should surround the marriage contract. He reaches the conclusion that those which appear to be most called for are prohibition of the marriage of the insane and feeble-minded, exchange of health certificates between the man and the woman, so that neither shall marry in ignorance of the physical defects of the other, exhibition of birth certificates, so that the guardians of those under age (23 for the man, 21 for the woman) may be consulted, and prohibition of the marriage if the man's income is below a certain figure.

To the October issue of the *Stratford Monthly* (Boston) Isaac Goldberg contributes under the title "Marginalia on a Great Life," an appreciation of Havell Ellis. Of his place in life and letters he writes "Ellis is a Titan of our modern Renaissance, no realm of human activity is alien to his interest. He is himself a vast library in which life becomes articulate. In such as he the life of art and the art of life merge into the great unity that is significant living. To know this man is to know one of the great personalities of the ages."

The kitchenette, according to an editorial writer in the *New York Times* of October 24, does not deserve the condemnation it has received in some quarters. The kitchenette encourages the "familette." It has been known to contribute to the founding of families by hastening marriages that would otherwise be postponed for years. "Even a baby may be tucked away during its first years." As the word "child" is changed to "children" the family leave the kitchenette for the suburbs. "The kitchenette-dining-room-living-room" is the modernization of that family center, the New England kitchen, "with the slavery removed."

In "The Biology of Population Growth" (*American Mercury*, N Y, for November), Raymond Pearl describes the law of population growth in terms of its mathematical expression, a graph of peculiar form which is the same for countries with low or high birth rates, and substantially the same for countries with or without immigration. In any given area in a given economic condition reproduction is at its height in the center of the curve, when means of subsistence are amplest, slower at beginning and end. If science or change of occupation increases material resources a new curve is traced, but the new follows the same form as the old, reaching its height at the center, diminishing at the ends. Diminishing food supply or better methods of food production determine whether the population "peters out" or passes into a new era, measured by a new curve. Professor Pearl is not alarmed for the future. He believes that chemistry and biology, in conjunction with Birth Control, will prevent population from outdistancing the good supply.

Parenthood should be a licensed profession and only those fully equipped should be allowed to become parents, according to an address by Dr. Hornell Hart, quoted in the *New York Times* of October 19. Dr. Hart believes that the race has deteriorated and that this deterioration can be stopped only by scientific methods of reproduction which will prevent "persons least able intellectually and materially to provide for them" from having "rafts of children," while those better fitted are having very few.

To the November *Pictorial Review* (New York) Havlock Ellis contributes a discussion of "Equal Rights—a Paradox." He claims for women not equality, which nowhere exists between any two living things, but equal opportunity and an equal contribution. This is, however, impossible unless woman is freed from the handicap of unlimited reproduction. He also champions the right of women who are not adapted for motherhood to make the contribution for which they are best fitted, and he adds "They need not be shut out from affection and love, from mating and wifehood."

In a recent issue of the *Medical Times* (London) Norman Haire, Hon. Medical Officer of the Saffron Hill Maternity Center, writes of the necessity of putting Birth Control on a scientific basis. He recognizes that limitation of families is widely practiced. He states that he himself has collected records of no less than 2,500 families who are using contraceptive measures, some of which are undesirable, others actually harmful, and he asks whether it is not better for medical science to direct them than to make vain efforts to stop them. "No unbiased person," says he, "can deny the necessity for the medical profession to turn seriously to the consideration of this problem and formulate some plan for its solution."

The World's Children (London) for October contains the first installment of an international symposium on the subject "What Is Child Welfare?" Of the definitions so

far received from experts, only one includes Birth Control. Professor Ettore Levi, President of the Italian Institute of Social Health, Welfare and Assistance, believes that "The scope of child welfare work is the control and direction of child life from the moment of conception to puberty. We must, therefore, logically associate the work of child welfare with the maternity center and even, at a not distant future, with the Birth Control clinic. For the influence of pre-natal life upon the constitution and character of the child, though as yet imperfectly appraised, is indubitable, and few among us will deny that our generation is heavily handicapped in its work for child welfare by the, as yet, unlimited procreation of the undesirable."

Edward S. Martin's discussion of the Population Problem in the November *Harper's* is in true Easy Chair manner. The question is purely academic—"the country is not losing much sleep over it." Nor need it, for we have no excess population as yet and "we shall not need to settle it till it comes." Furthermore, when it does come we shall have increased knowledge and understanding to meet it. He adds that China and India will help us to gain this understanding. But since plague and famine are the only population control these countries have, it would seem as if their only lesson is to warn us to meet overpopulation before it arrives. If we do not, the world will no longer be "comfortable and interesting to live in" and our only solution may be to "get along without it"—a wholesale race suicide such as even Birth Control was never charged with. However, though Mr. Martin's touch is light, he does recognize that there is, or is going to be, danger of overpopulation in the United States, and it is good to see the problem treated at some length in *Harper's Magazine*.

In *Physical Culture* (New York) for November, Dr. Lee Alexander Stone writes of the necessity for sex education and the teaching of sex hygiene to the young. If the policy of keeping children in such ignorance as prevails today is persisted in he believes that there is great danger that "syphilization will replace civilization."

In "Women's Work Is Never Done," an article contributed to the November special issue of the *Survey Graphic* (New York) on heart disease, Elizabeth Porter Wyckoff states why women with bad hearts should be spared excessive child-bearing. "It is not," says Miss Wyckoff, "a matter merely of living through the actual labor. Almost all young cardiacs go through that fairly well. The doctor talks instead of the strain on the cardiac reserve through the nine months of pregnancy, the care of the baby when it comes, the broken nights for a year or so after it is born, the strain of lifting and carrying it about. The woman with no chance to have her baby cared for has definitely to plan to strain her heart for at least two years if she has a child."

BOOKS RECEIVED

From United States Children's Bureau, Washington, D C, **ECONOMIC FACTORS IN INFANT MORTALITY, NUTRITION WORK FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN, LEGAL REGULATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, LAWS RELATING TO INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

From Wisconsin University, Madison, Wis **CHANGES IN SIZE OF AMERICAN FAMILIES IN ONE GENERATION**, by E A Ross and R E Baber

From the Macmillan Company, New York City, **POPULATION AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEM**, by J Swinburn

From G P Putman's Sons, New York City, **RECOMPENSE**, by John Keable

From W B Saunders, Philadelphia, Pa, **FERTILITY AND STERILITY IN HUMAN MARRIAGES**, by Reynolds and Macomber

From United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education, Washington, D C, **EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY, 1924**

From E P Dutton, New York City, **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN CHINA**, by J B Webster

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

E Gertrude Beasley, Writer and Student of Social Conditions

B Liber, Physician, Editor and Author

John C Duvall, Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University, Syracuse N Y

Edward G Punke, Lecturer on Sociology, former Fellow in Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania

Frances Mabel Huxley, English Physician, active for Birth Control

Ferdinand Goldstem, Berlin Physician

R L Gray, a Citizen of Staunton, Va

Katharine Bement Davis, General Secretary of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, New York City

Anne G Porritt, Writer, former Managing Editor of the Birth Control Review

U S GOVERNMENT FAMILY LIMIT

The Government's idea of child maintenance was always distorted, anyway. The army, for example, allowed an enlisted man \$10 a month for the maintenance of his first born. The War Department did not stop at that. It recognized children after that at the rate of \$5 a month each until the unfortunate enlisted man had \$40 a month worth—that is, six children.

After that the Government disavowed all responsibility. The seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh children were, the Government decided, none of the Government's affair. All offspring in excess of six were private business—*Times*, Hartford, Conn.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS' COLUMN

A Roman Catholic Protests

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

The other day I read one of your magazines for the first time. And as the saying goes, "first impressions are always lasting." I read there a letter by an ignorant bigot that the Catholic Church is opposed to Birth Control because her ministers want to live in princely style. The writer makes such a statement out of ignorance or else is a liar.

In comparison, I know of one Protestant minister not very far from this city and he lives in a beautiful house and keeps four servants. This is just a point that Catholics could say. On the other hand, I have met priests who live very plain indeed. And I also know that Pope Pius X lived very plain and humble. I am a Catholic and a married man and no one has dictated in any manner as to any children I must have. While I always like to be fair and not condemn anything until I am enlightened, the bigoted letter made a bad impression just the same. I am not ashamed to sign my full name.

JAMES IRWIN, New York City

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW takes no responsibility for the opinions expressed by its correspondents. The letter criticized was published simply for its expression of appreciation of the benefits of Birth Control. The REVIEW desires to make no strictures on the lives of Roman Catholic priests, many of whom are hard-working and self-sacrificing, doing their duty according to their lights. We do, however, agree with our correspondent in so far as she states that the priesthood are opposed to Birth Control. This does not apply to the laity in the Roman Catholic Church. We know that there are Roman Catholic men and women who believe in and practice Birth Control. One-third of the women who came to our clinic for treatment during the last two years were Roman Catholics. We hope that the clergy may be brought to recognize what the Birth Control Clinic means to these mothers and what excessive child-bearing means to all families in terms of ill-health and poverty.

EDITOR

A MINISTER ENDORSES

New York

My Dear Mrs Sanger

"I have just read of your work, and have read your book, 'Woman and the New Race.' The work you have given yourself to is a worthy one. I am a minister—an Evangelist. My work takes me into all kinds of communities and homes. My heart is often made to bleed. How often do I see women whose health is ruined, children in need of proper attention and care, and suffering for it, and can never have it, and the mother can't give it, for there are too many, and their ages are too close together—impossible! The mother is cursed, the home is cursed, the next generation is cursed, and the husband is cursed—for no man can be happy under such circumstances."

Colonel Ingersoll; a Prophet of Birth Control

By R L GRAY

ONE of the early believers in Birth Control was that great agnostic and noble soul, Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, who treated of the subject, though not under that name, in more than one lecture. "I believe," says he in one place, "I believe in the gospel of good health. I believe the time will come when public thought will be so great and grand that it will be looked upon as infamous to perpetuate disease. I believe the time will come when men will not fill the future with consumption and insanity."

Since the days of Colonel Ingersoll the movement for the scientific limitation of families has got its name, has raised its enemies and has met their objections. Today every reasonable person agrees to the following propositions: first, that no human being has a right to bring a child into the world that cannot be born healthy. I knew a distinguished senator whose three children died in an insane asylum. I knew another man who married but purposely avoided having children because there was insanity in the family. He, to my mind, was the nobler of the two.

Many people confound Birth Control with abortion, but this is far from the truth. Prevention does not injure health, whereas the number of women injured by abortion is only exceeded by the number it has sent to untimely graves.

The second proposition on Birth Control is this: Even if a couple are healthy and have every reason to believe they can have healthy children, they have no right to bring more children into the world than they can properly clothe and educate. As I understand it, the Birth Control Congress has declared for small families in some cases and larger ones in others. The object of Birth Control is to bring into the world strong healthy children who will have the best attention, with every chance of good health and successful lives. Is that not a noble aim?

The objection is made that if Birth Control is taught it will be used for immoral purposes. But Birth Control is already known for these purposes and at least two of the methods used are said to be injurious to health. So I make the assertion that Birth Control—of the wrong sort—is already used and our object is to teach Birth Control of the right and healthful sort and to have the right people use it. Another objection is that if Birth Control knowledge is given no one will have children and the race will die out. Nothing is farther from the truth. The human instinct is so strong and compelling in most women, and men too, that they will

always want children. I have known women who have spent large sums on doctors in order to remedy some defect that prevented them from having children.

In the last lecture Colonel Ingersoll delivered before he died he makes a plea for Birth Control in words better than any I could choose. His words are almost prophetic of the work that medical science is now beginning. Says he: "Why should men and women have children that they cannot take care of, children that are burdens and curses? Why, because they have more passion than intelligence, more passion than conscience, more passion than reason. You cannot reform these people with tracts and talk. You cannot reform these people with preaching and creed. Passion is, and always has been, deaf. These weapons of reform are substantially useless. Criminals, tramps, beggars and failures are increasing every day. The prisons, jails, poor houses and asylums are crowded. Religion is helpless. Law can punish, but it can neither reform criminals nor prevent crime."

Science Must Free Woman

"There is but one hope. There is but one way. Science must make woman the owner, the mistress of herself, must put it in the power of woman to decide for herself whether she will or will not become a mother. This is the solution of the whole question. This frees woman. The babies that are then born will be welcome."

"Men and women who think that light is the enemy of virtue, that purity dwells in darkness, that it is dangerous for human beings to know themselves and the facts in nature that affect their well-being will be horrified at the thought of making intelligence the master of passion. But look forward to the time when men and women by reason of their knowledge of consequences, of the morality born of intelligence, will refuse to perpetuate disease and pain, will refuse to fill the world with failures. When this time comes, the prison walls will fall, the dungeons will be flooded with light and the shadow of the scaffold will cease to curse the earth. Poverty and crime will be childless. The whole world will be intelligent, virtuous and free."

Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding—PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

News Notes

New York

Mrs Sanger returned to the New York office from her trip to England, in the first week of November

On November 17 the American Birth Control League gave the luncheon to the New York League of Women Voters, which is described on another page of the REVIEW

A NEW activity of the American Birth Control League is the department for co-operation with organized labor and with other agencies through which the work of the League can be brought to the attention of working men and women. Miss Elisabeth Grew, a member of the Fabian Society and a former member of the militant suffrage group, is in charge. The department is a little over a month old and already co-operation has been established with a good number of trade unions and other organizations. Much interest has been expressed and more than a dozen labor papers have asked for general articles on Birth Control and news of the League.

Though no indoor meetings before trade unions have yet been held, Miss Grew has held twelve street corner meetings in crowded quarters of Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Interested groups collected to hear her speak, literature was bought, intelligent questions were asked, and in some cases her listeners have applied to headquarters for further information.

On November 12 Dr Dorothy Bocker spoke on "Child Rights, Mother Rights and Birth Control" at the Spellman Mothers' Club Baby Show held at the Henrietta Day School of the Children's Aid Society, New York City. The meeting was under the auspices of the Urban League, a Negro organization, and 100 Negro mothers listened to Dr Bocker's talk.

Another speaker this month was Adele Kean, who spoke in Yiddish before the Nationalist Yiddish School on November 14. Miss Kean has been running a series of articles on the subject in the Yiddish paper, *The Day*, and has received many pathetic letters and inquiries from mothers.

Dr J H L Cumpston, of Melbourne, Australia, who is Director General of Health of the Commonwealth of Australia, was a visitor at headquarters. He came to study the clinical work and to learn the medical and official attitude on this question, and its legal status. Birth Control has not yet become a burning question in Australia,

but Dr Cumpston feels that the movement will become worldwide. He takes the broad view that it is the duty of the national health officer of a great commonwealth to be prepared with the best information to be gathered throughout the world when the question does come up for decision.

On Thursday, November 13th, the Young Men's Debating Club of the City College, New York City, held a debate on Birth Control.

California

ACCORDING to a report made by W H Lackey, special agent of the Federal Census Bureau, in collaboration with L E Ross, Director of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, California has a greater proportion of mothers in its population than any other state. At the same time the number of children to each mother averages lower than in the rest of the United States. For every 100 mothers in the whole United States there are 330 children. In California, the number of children to each 100 mothers is only 267. This low average and the low birth-rate of 20 per thousand of the population is attributed by the authors of the report to the practice of Birth Control.

THESE figures look encouraging for an organized Birth Control movement in California. The three leagues formed a few months ago are making excellent progress. The Oakland group (Alameda League) hold a well advertised public meeting every month. The speaker at the last of these meetings was Professor Samuel J Holmes of the Department of Zoology of the University of California, his subject "The Proper Control of Population." In Los Angeles, the headquarters of the Southern California Committee, the chairman, Mrs Elisabeth McManus, was guest at a luncheon of the Friday Morning Club, one of the most influential women's clubs in California, and a few days later, November 8, the Birth Control Committee held an evening meeting in the assembly room of this club, with Dr Aaron J Rosanoff and Dr Pomeroy as speakers. A dozen book stores have put the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on their counters and newspapers in that city and throughout the state are giving the movement good publicity.

Work for a clinic in Los Angeles is temporarily halted by the opinion of State Attorney Webb that there is no provision in the law for such a clinic. Professor Kidd of the University of California, a member of the Committee, had previously expressed his opinion that as the law contained no prohibition there seemed no reason why such a clinic should not be operated. Rabbi Rudolf I Coffee of Oakland was speaker at a meeting of the

Los Angeles Committee when these conflicting opinions were discussed, and on October 30 he called on the Attorney General at his offices in San Francisco. Of his interview he writes:

"I asked him if he would interpret Section 317 of the Penal Code so that a Birth Control Clinic might be established in the larger cities of California. I further gave the opinion of Professor Alexander Kidd of the Department of Jurisprudence, University of California, that Section 317 covered advertising, but would not prevent properly qualified persons from giving information to those genuinely in need thereof.

"Mr. Webb was sympathetic and kindly throughout. He appreciated the need for instructing women whose health would prevent them from bearing a child, or who were mentally unsuited to bring normal children into the world. He felt, however, that Section 317 in no wise applied to Birth Control, and believed that legislators have written nothing in our laws covering the subject. His first suggestion to me was to appeal to the legislature in January and have clinics legalized for disseminating information that we would give. I quickly told the Attorney General that such a law could never be put through at Sacramento, because there would be religious opposition from Catholics, from Christian Scientists and all shades of fanaticism. His next suggestion was that we consult the district attorney, inasmuch as this was not a matter for him, but for each of the several counties of the state. He regarded both Mr. Decoto, of Alameda County, and Mr. Keyes, of Los Angeles, as men sympathetic and well able to discuss the matter at length. If either of these two men is agreeable, the clinic may be opened. If there is opposition on the part of the public or the district attorneys, a friendly suit could be started and in six months the Supreme Court would render a decision."

Rabbi Coffee, who is a member of the Alameda County League, shows the spirit of the California group when he adds: "I guarantee you action in this state, and if nothing happens sooner we shall invoke the initiative and referendum in November, 1926. If we win, we win, and if we lose, we have made tremendous educational gains in enlightening the people."

Illinois

THE experience of the Chicago Birth Control Clinic is another example of the fact that women need only to know about Birth Control to demand it. In response to publicity in the Chicago papers, attendance at the "pay" clinic rose from 100 in four months to 132 in two weeks. The address of the Clinic is 308 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Massachusetts

ON November 16, Dr. James F. Cooper addressed an afternoon meeting of the New Thought Forum of Boston. His subject was "Family Limitation."

New Jersey

ON the evening of November 23, Mrs. Sanger spoke on Birth Control before the Unity Forum of Montclair and the following day at an afternoon meeting of the Perth Amboy Council of Jewish Women.

The Present Day Club of Princeton held a meeting November 17 to discuss the proposed amendment to the New Jersey statute on Birth Control. Miss Ruth G. Stratton is the Executive Secretary of the club.

Pennsylvania

ON Monday evening, November 21, Mrs. Sanger spoke at Bryn Mawr, at the invitation of the Liberal Club of Bryn Mawr College.

THE Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the League held a meeting on November 24 at the College Club, Philadelphia, to plan its winter activities. A delegation from the Philadelphia group, consisting of Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Hughes, visited the New York headquarters this month. This branch has taken a box for the Carnegie Hall meeting of the American Birth Control League on December 6, where it will display its flag and show that Pennsylvania is very much alive to the importance of Birth Control.

Washington

AT its meeting in October the Monroe Advance Club passed a resolution endorsing Birth Control.

MEXICO

IN asking Mrs. Sanger to be present at their recent convention the Mexican labor unions have recognized Birth Control as a legitimate part of a labor program. Owing to her visit to England Mrs. Sanger was unable to accept the invitation of the Mexican Federation of Labor to speak at its sixth annual convention at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, during the week beginning November 17.

ENGLAND

OWING to the fall of the Labor government, the resolution on Birth Control which was on the agenda of the Labor Party Conference in October was not introduced, but there is no doubt that the subject is one of the most widely discussed in England today. At Brighton the town council demanded that the Ministry of Health make Birth

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Control Clinics possible at health centers, at West Leyton and Bradford the women's sections of the Labor Party, and at Birmingham a crowded mass meeting of men and women made like demands. Meanwhile the Roman Catholic Church is in opposition, while the Church of England is divided on the subject, which is brought up in practically all church conferences and is described by one churchman as "sweeping the country from end to end." Lord Dawson's recent statement before churchmen at the National Birth Rate Commission hearing should bring the question to an issue within the church. He is quoted in press reports as accusing the clergy of hypocrisy, and saying

"They have the same passions and practice them with the same fervor as the best of us. Yet the church makes them implicitly condemn sex love—which they themselves practice not only for procreation but entirely apart therefrom."

"The mere statement, that Birth Control is immoral, that it is contrary to the teachings of Christianity and condemned by the Bible, will only bring disrepute on those who make them, especially among the young, who matter most."

As yet the only comment on Lord Dawson's statement comes from Maude Royden. She endorses Birth Control.

China

ACCORDING to a writer in the *Chinese Social and Political Science Review*, the Chinese are beginning to take less seriously the commandment making it a sin to have no posterity. "Strange as it may seem," says this writer, "the talk on Birth Control, unwelcome even in many western countries, is having a large audience in China, where the Chinese socialistic conception of the family might be expected to furnish the strongest opposition to it. The truth is that the opposition has been great, but not great enough to stop the talk. The talk has been going on unmolested, starting with a handful of radicals, it is now enlisting the leaders of society. It is the present month that the *Woman's Journal*, similar in its influence to *The Ladies' Home Journal* in America, issued a special number on Birth Control."

"The issue contains twenty-four articles discussing Birth Control from the standpoints of ethics, religion, biology, physiology, medicine, education, sociology, socialism, etc., suggesting actual solution of the problem, and voicing a uniform unconditional approval of Birth Control in China. It would be tedious to mention the special numbers on the same topic of similar magazines. Suffice it to say Birth Control is rapidly gaining ground in China."

COMING EVENTS

On the evening of December 6, at 8 o'clock, will be held the public meeting at Carnegie Hall under the auspices of the American Birth Control League. Mrs Sanger will preside and the speakers will be Dr James F Cooper of Boston, the Reverend Charles Francis Potter of the West End Unitarian Church, Dr Bocker and Mr I N Thurman. The meeting is free.

The culmination of the winter's work will be the Sixth International BIRTH CONTROL AND NEO-MALTHUSIAN CONFERENCE to be held in New York City March 26-31. This will be a gathering of the nations. Delegates will attend from Europe, Asia and both Americas, and a program impressive for its subject matter and its speakers is being arranged.

Other events are

December 4 The Culture Club of Jasper, Alabama, announces an address by Mrs Victor H Williams

December 14 Everett R Meves at the Sunday Forum, Socialist Party, Philadelphia

December 28 Mrs Sanger at the Young Men's Hebrew Association, Roxbury, Mass

January 7 The Girls' Discussion Club, New York, will hear Mrs Sanger

January 27 Mrs Sanger will address the Federation of Women's Clubs and the local Birth Control League of Des Moines, Ia

APPEALING TO THE VOTERS

(Continued from page 346)

Meanwhile American law says that if a wife does not give her husband sexual rights, he need not support her. The law of most states refuses a woman the right to prevent conception. So a poor woman living with her husband must bear a child each year.

Judge Crane's decision in New York State made it possible for the American Birth Control League to open a clinic for cases coming under the head "cure and prevention of disease." But the limits of this phrase are narrow and many women who are "not diseased enough" have to be turned away.

The League recognizes not disease alone, but nine reasons for the use of contraceptives. If Birth Control was permitted within the scope of these nine reasons, a woman, rich or poor, would have a right to "own her own body and her own soul."

AT the close of the luncheon, delegates were asked to sign the following petition to the State Committee of the League of Women Voters.

We, the undersigned, delegates to the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of New York, hereby petition that a recommendation be made to the Committee for the adoption of the fol-

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lowering Resolution

WHEREAS, The League of Women Voters of New York State, at its last Annual Convention, voted that it favored amendment of the State law which prohibits the giving of Birth Control information, and that it recommended to the Assembly District organizations the study of methods of amendment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we endorse such amendment of Section 1145 of the State Penal Code as would permit lawfully practicing physicians to prescribe contraceptive treatment to married persons

At the evening meeting of the State Committee, the Birth Control resolution was introduced by Mrs Lester Tompkins, Borough Leader for Manhattan. Mrs Sanger and Dr Bocker were allowed to state their case, but after discussion, the Committee voted to recommend continued study till the next convention.

On the floor of the Convention next morning the Committee's decision was sustained. Much interest in Birth Control was, however, shown in the discussion. The delegates were invited to visit the Clinical Research Bureau of the American Birth Control League.

BIRTH CONTROL IN RUSSIA

(Continued from page 342)

known to students of this question in England and America, although her most recent articles have been published in German and Russian. Her best work, "Maternity," was published in Russian in 1915, no translations having yet been made as far as I know. During nine years of exile abroad, Kollontay came into contact with the best scholars and investigators of the sex question in the West, which, coupled with her own initiative and interest, makes her perhaps the greatest woman leader, from this point of view, Russia has ever produced. Another great leader among Soviet women is Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, whose efforts of recent years have been concentrated largely on education. I am told that several years ago, the serious, quiet Krupskaya, whom some Russian critics declare will live as a lyrist, wrote some pamphlets discussing the desirability of scientific means of family limitation. Leaving out the humane element in Birth Control, I pronounce Kollontay and Krupskaya great economists, and I bless them not as one fanatic blesses another, but as a fastidious person who looks upon barbarism and savagery in any country as obnoxious and revolting, and who believes science should be used to further the happiness and intelligence of men and women rather than to help them to indulge their worst passions.

*Edward Carpenter, not Havelock Ellis—Editor

(To Be Continued)

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THE PURPOSE OF EUGENICS

(Continued from page 345)

AN efficient program for encouraging eugenic marriages would also depend upon a more equitable distribution of wealth so that a family relationship may be maintained at a decent standard of living It is clearly obvious that the more intelligent classes will not bear children to be reared in an environmental atmosphere which would operate to discount their attempts to maintain a normal home condition Society should likewise subsidize the more desirable marriages wherever necessary Such would involve a redistribution of funds now wasted upon the degenerate elements through the channel of sentimental charity which in reality results in encouraging propagation among the least desirable elements The scientific distribution of such funds would go far toward materially insuring a better race

It seems that when the principles of eugenic programs are universally understood they will be universally applied, sanity will then supplant sentiment and reason will replace emotional prejudice There is but one infallible method of making the race better, that method is the making of a better race Such is the purpose of eugenics

THE SAVING OF CIVILIZATION

(Continued from page 351)

nations will be continued, and most important of all, the superfluous population in the country, the greatest danger of civilization, will disappear

Lawyers generally object that my propositions are faulty I am not infallible I admit it Of greater weight than the objections of lawyers is public feeling If the penal code does not interfere with sexual life, girls as well as married women will have the right to use contraceptive means and artificial abortion will be allowed to both, and this is called immoral But consider that civilization is menaced by the overwhelming growth of the poorer classes Remember Rome, look at modern Germany, and consider the fate of the world if means are not found to equalize the fertility of the rich and poor, the educated and the ignorant If, in spite of history's warnings, morality is more powerful than science, civilization will perish, and I am certain that morality having such consequences will be called by many a strictly moral man, the height of immorality

Read at the Fifth International Birth Control Conference, London, 1922

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