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Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

A Letter

from

G. Bernard Shaw

BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS

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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 IX

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No 1

EDITORIAL

LORD DAWSON of Penn, physician to the King of England, has with incisive courage again come forward as one of the most authoritative champions of Birth Control. In his recent evidence given before the National Birth Rate Commission set up by the English National Council of Public Morals, Lord Dawson roundly denounced the current hypocrisy of the churches and made a strong plea for sex love as essential to a happy normal life. Sex love, asserted Lord Dawson of Penn, is and should be the physical expression of a lasting affection, cementing the unity in marriage of spirit, mind and body. "The right view is that sex love has, apart from parenthood, a purpose of its own. It is something to prize and cherish for its own sake. It is an essential part of health and happiness in marriage."

Without the physical desire and its periodic satisfaction for its own sake, the union is a poor spiritless thing, feebly cemented—without glow or fire.

Sexual union under proper conditions makes for health. When love has come and men and women are united in marriage, sexual intercourse is right and desirable, provided both parties are fit. There is nothing shocking in these simple truths so courageously stated. But there is something supremely fine and noble in a man who dares to state such simple wholesome truths in an unfaltering voice to his nation and to the world, as Lord Dawson has so courageously done.

FURTHERMORE, Lord Dawson has the insight to recognize that there can be no substantial happiness in marriage without the recognition and acceptance of the ethics of Birth Control. By Birth Control he means what we all mean: that the conception of children should be a matter of choice, not chance. The regulation of childbirths is being brought about, in the opinion of Lord Dawson, by these factors: (1) increasing density of population, (2) increasing sense of the value of child-life and of the responsibility of parenthood, (3) the desire of parents to equip to the very best

of their ability their children, both in body and mind, (4) the social and domestic difficulties in the homes of growing numbers, (5) the desire of increasing numbers of women for a larger share in the work and the interests of the world—a share they cannot take if enslaved to unceasing and involuntary maternity. Church authorities, continued the physician to the king, have evaded the real problem. They have counseled restraint and abstinence. At times they apologize for sex-love, at times they seem to ignore this dominating force. "That is the moving force," to quote further from Lord Dawson's evidence—"and man glorifies in its possession. Why not take account of it? Why not give it its place? Why apologize for it? Mere statements that it is immoral, is contrary to the teachings of Christianity, or is condemned by the Bible, will only bring disrepute on those who make them and especially among the young, who matter most." Bravo! Lord Dawson of Penn! Our only regret is that there are no men in public life in America courageous enough to speak so openly on the legitimacy of sex love and its importance to the individual and the nation and the world at large.

IT IS especially gratifying to the directors of the American Birth Control League that Lord Dawson's pronouncement is in agreement with our stated policies and program. This agreement with our principles is doubly satisfying not only because Lord Dawson of Penn is one of the most distinguished medical authorities of Great Britain, but his position as a legislator in the House of Lords gives emphasis and authority to his opinions. Discussion of the principles and the methods of Birth Control, he says, should be kept separate. The methods of Birth Control should be set forth by the scientists whom they properly concern. This position is that of the American Birth Control League and determines our program, both practical and legislative. We hold that laws should be revised to enable the physician to work in clinics. Lord Dawson, whose reported evidence be-

fore the English Birth Rate Commission shows every sign of deep and clear thinking upon Birth Control and all its allied problems, has arrived at the same conclusion. On the other hand, he realizes as we do that the great broad principles of the doctrine, which touch at every point the fundamental problems of humanity, must be openly and frankly and seriously discussed.

PLANS for the **SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL CONFERENCE** are under way. Supporters of Birth Control in many countries are expressing their desire to attend. But the poverty of Europe, which affects both individuals and organizations makes it very doubtful whether some of these delegates can get here unless the American Birth Control League can pay part of their expenses. The International should not be deprived of these men and women for money reasons. For our benefit and for theirs we must have them. But to have them we must have funds. **OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FUND** must be sufficient to provide not only the general expenses of the Conference

but to help bring foreign delegates over. We ask our readers to contribute to this fund and to urge their friends to contribute. A coupon for this purpose is to be found on the news section of the **REVIEW**.

WITH profound regret we announce the resignation of Mrs Annie G Porritt as managing editor of **THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**. For the past two years Mrs Porritt has fulfilled this difficult post with untiring energy, devotion and keen intelligence. Under her editorial direction, **THE REVIEW** has assumed an added dignity. Especially from our English friends have we received much praise for the appearance and tone of the magazine under the editorial guidance of Mrs Porritt. We take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to Mrs Porritt for her always conscientious and cheerful co-operation with the hope that her much-needed rest will restore her without delay to the best of health. We regret the loss of Mrs Porritt as managing editor. Her successor is Mrs Mary Sumner Boyd.

An Urgent Appeal in the Tresca Case

ON November 23, 1923, Carlo Tresca, editor of *Il Martello*, an Italian anti-Fascisti weekly, was convicted of the crime of publishing in his paper a two-line advertisement of a book on Birth Control. On November 10, 1924, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed his sentence of a year and a day in Atlanta Penitentiary. The miscarriage of justice in this sentence is indicated in the endorsement by a number of prominent people to Mr Tresca's application to President Coolidge for a commutation of sentence. The formal endorsement reads, in part, as follows:

"The petitioner was convicted upon one count only in an indictment containing eight counts under Section 211 of the U S Criminal Code, for the offense of causing to be mailed an advertisement giving information as to how and by what means conception may be prevented. The advertisement was of a book, the Italian title of which literally translated, means the art of how not to create children. The other seven counts of the indictment charged the mailing of this book and other books. On these seven counts the petitioner was not convicted, but the owner of the bookstore at which the books were mailed, testified that he himself had mailed the books, and furthermore that he had inserted the advertisement in the paper while petitioner was absent on his vacation. This bookstore owner, subsequently indicted for the same offenses, pleaded guilty and has served four months

"The petitioner's conviction on the eighth count has been sustained by the Circuit Court of Appeals and is undoubtedly sound, though it must be pointed out that not only was there no evidence that he had any actual knowledge of the advertisement but that there was undisputed evidence (a) that he denied actual knowledge of it (b) that he was away on his vacation at the time, and (c) that the other man, who subsequently pleaded guilty and served his sentence, was the man who had knowledge of any who inserted the advertisement. It should further be pointed out that the actual issue of the paper containing the advertisement never reached the eye of a single member of the reading public. It was stopped and returned by the post office authorities and only remailed when the offending advertisement had been physically deleted.

"Under the circumstances outlined above, it is urged that to cause this man to serve a penitentiary sentence of a year and a day is not in accordance with the real ends of justice. The principal offender in the case received and served four months.

"In other similar federal cases, so far as available records show, only small fines have been imposed, and in similar cases under state laws the average sentence was 30 days, and the longest six months."

We earnestly appeal to all our readers to join in this protest to President Coolidge against the punishment of an innocent man.

MARGARET SANGER

Two Notable Occurrences

Comments by G BERNARD SHAW

Dear Mrs Sanger

I cannot attend the Conference in March next, and if I could I doubt if I could say anything else that I have not already said. But two things have happened here lately that may interest you. The judicial committee of the House of Lords, in finally deciding against Dr Marie Stopes, has taken the old ground of simple tapu. Dr Stopes won on every other point, in spite of the attempt of the judge who tried the first hearing of her case to interpret the jury's verdict in her favor as a verdict for the defendant. Four Lords, three of them over eighty—that is, men who would have been superannuated many years ago if they had been ordinary civil servants, have boldly decided that all references to the reproductive organs are obscene. This takes us back to the eighteen-seventies, when Huxley produced what was ranked as the modern classic text book of physiology without mentioning the forbidden subject of reproduction.

By this the Lords have fortified their position impreguably. There is no arguing with tapu. If people regard reproduction as an obscene subject, or a funny subject (and they are usually the same people), there is nothing more to be said: nothing remains but to live them down, and to be particularly careful meanwhile not to waste time, life, and money in appeals to the law, which is always fifty years out of date. Probably these same ancient Lords, if somebody had accused Dr Stopes of indecent exposure because she wears a modern dress which leaves her ankles visible, would have found her guilty without a moment's hesitation. I am now an old man myself, and I assure you I never knew that women, as distinguished from little girls, had ankles until I was taken to the pantomime and found that the fairy queen had not only ankles but knees. The shock I received at about six years old, when, without any warning, I went into our drawing room and saw a woman without a crinoline, probably produced a complex which psychoanalysts may be able to trace in my works to this day.

The second notable occurrence is the discovery that there is not room in London for all the people who want to be there. The streets which used to be merely crowded are now choked. This has a certain bearing on birth control. As you know, I have always treated with contempt the notion that the earth is on the curve of diminishing return in the matter of food. That capitalist explanation of poverty ought not to impose on a rabbit, fertile as rabbits are. The fact that productive labor is being crushed by the burden of parasitic labor (to say nothing of parasitic idleness) has no bearing on the food question. The question of room is far more important. We could feed ourselves if we were as crowded as gannets on the Bass Rock, but life would be intolerable under such conditions. All cities are now frightfully overcrowded, and the dispersal of their population over a reasonable acreage might possibly produce a population question. Some day we shall have to ask ourselves, not how many people it is possible to have under Bass Rock conditions, but how many people it is comfortable to have. If uncontrolled fertility does not keep within this limit we shall have to fall back on controlled fertility.

However, that is a speculation as to what might or might not happen after Socialism had effected the redistribution of income which is the most pressing necessity of today. Meanwhile, birth control should be advocated for its own sake, on the general ground that the difference between voluntary, rational, controlled activity and any sort of involuntary, irrational, uncontrolled activity is the difference between an amoeba and a man, and if we really believe that the more highly evolved creature is the better we must as well act accordingly. As the amoeba does not understand birth control, it cannot abuse it, and therefore its state may be the more gracious, but it is also true that as the amoeba cannot write it cannot commit forgery: yet we teach everybody to write unhesitatingly, knowing that if we refuse to teach anything that could be abused we should never teach anything at all. Faithfully,

G BERNARD SHAW

Free Motherhood in Denmark

A Remarkable Report of Progress in a New Field

By THIT JENSEN

Hitherto we have been unable to give any news of the Birth Control movement in Denmark, carried on by Mme Thit Jensen. This courageous woman started the agitation almost single handed, but the demand was there, and she secured an immediate response from the women of her country. This account is taken from a letter, written hastily and informally and not with any thought of publication. The picture it gives is so graphic and cheering that we are impelled to let our readers have it in Mme Jensen's own words—Editor

SEVERAL good friends in the United States have untiringly furnished me with American newspapers and magazines, and in one of these I read an article about Margaret Sanger. I introduced her at once to my readers in the newspaper (*Politiken*) for which I write. An offended cry from all sides was the instant result, and my friends warned me earnestly not to do it, that I would lose the respect of all honorable men and women. That was a year ago. I wrote one more article on the same subject, took a trip to The Hague in Holland, had an interview with Mme Aletta Jacobs, M D, and returned to start the Birth Control war in Denmark.

It was the beginning of a hard fight. I have been in many, but this was the worst. I was quite alone, but I had one of the leading newspapers in my country as my arena, and the use of the newspaper hall when I lectured on Birth Control—or Free Motherhood, as it is called here. The hall was crowded with people for twenty-four consecutive evenings, so that there could be no doubt that the question was a burning one for both men and women.

It is probably not necessary to tell you all the troubles I went through, they are the same, I suppose, for pioneers everywhere. Of course all the mental "thumbs" in Denmark, as in all other countries, confounded Birth Control with abortion, and screamed about murder, the Catholics especially, trying to hinder the cause by calling it a sin against God, as they did in New York. But having read the New York newspapers, I profited by their experience, and laid my little war plan accordingly. My editor showed me an article written by a Catholic ignoramus, and asked me if I wished that nonsense published. "Absolutely necessary," I replied, "to publish that, so that I can start a fight

with the Catholic Church." All nonsense from that source was welcome, because I knew our own church (the State Church of Denmark is Protestant) would never engage to fight hand-in-hand with the Catholics. And I was right, as soon as I attacked the Roman Church, I had no more trouble from my own. It has been my principle always not to defend any cause, but to attack everyone who wrote or spoke against it. Perhaps the Protestant was behind my other troubles—I don't know. I only know it was the hardest battle I ever fought. And I was quite alone.

I lectured over the whole country and found that most people agreed with me. Naturally, common people have common sense. Progress would not be so difficult, if it were not for these stupid, self-constituted guards of antiquity. Especially is a tired-out, sick, ugly woman, mother of a dozen children—most of them unfit to live—an iniquity, a thing of shame to an old cultivated world. And she cannot soon enough be followed by the other type, more worthy of civilization—the healthy, clean mother, able to develop a healthy, clean race.

But no! The precious guards of such antiquities made it a point to warn women against me, because, they said, I was anti-Christ. Some wrote that they wished they had the power to have me put in confinement, others, that I should be outlawed. Several poor women, wives of ministers in the country towns, wrote to the newspapers, warning the public against attending my lectures, but it only resulted in crowds gathering at the hotels where I spoke. When, as happened several times, I was not allowed to speak in the hotel, I spoke instead in a moving-picture theater.

Through Scorn and Laughter

Then I translated into Danish Margaret Sanger's brilliant book, "Woman and the New Race," under the title of "Frivillig Moderskab" (Free Motherhood). The comic theaters took up the word and made fun out of it. You have not that experience in the United States, perhaps, here in Europe it is customary to turn every important cause into a joke, and to make every serious and idealistic human being ridiculous. Through this fire of scorn and laughter every man or woman will have to pass, who wishes to accomplish something good.

Well, I finally started a Union! It was called "The Union of January 19, 1921" (started on my birthday, because that was the only evening I had no lecture), a Union for Self-information. Three physicians, one man and two women, are now members of the board of directors. They all give information to members of the union, and anyone may be a member. The Danish law does not forbid either the buying of contraceptives or instruction in regard to their use, it only forbids any kind of advertisement concerning them. The problem, then, was to bring to women the knowledge *where* they might get the information, *where* to buy, and finally, to open their minds to their duty.

I think that, although only a year has gone, the worst of the noise is over. Many of our first physicians are now friends of Birth Control, and have quite openly declared their viewpoint. As soon as I return to work, I will get busy and try to arrange for the establishment of an office or clinic for the poorer classes. I shall then be forced to lecture, and I should be very grateful for whatever information you could send me as to the work in other countries. I know about England, Holland, the United States and Norway. In the last named country there is a clinic newly opened by Mrs. Kate

Anker Møller, M.D., of Christiania. I have corresponded with her, and from Sweden I have had sent me many articles from newspapers that are interested in the cause. I have planned to lecture in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden, and in Norway, where I have given lectures before. It is a curious fact that in Denmark the Social Democratic Party is against Birth Control, in Sweden it is the Labor Party's paper which has taken it up. I have received an invitation to lecture in Austria, where the Women's Labor Party is interested in the matter, and finally, I know that Birth Control is discussed in Germany.

If Mrs. Sanger is not too busy to undertake it, a lecture tour in Scandinavia, perhaps also in Germany and Austria, would be of the greatest importance. I could arrange to be her interpreter here in Denmark, and I have friends in all the Scandinavian countries who would do the same.

I see in one of your papers that there is to be a Congress of Birth Control Leagues held in the United States next year. I expect to go out to California in 1924-1925, and will very much enjoy stopping in New York to meet the Birth Control fighters from all over the world.

Well Born — Ill Begotten

POEMS BY WILLIAM BLAKE—1757

INFANT JOY

"I have no name,
I am but two days old"
What shall I call thee?
"I happy am,
Joy is my name"
Sweet joy befall thee'

Pretty joy!
Sweet Joy, but two days old
Sweet joy I call thee
Thou dost smile,
I sing the while,
Sweet joy befall thee'

INFANT SORROW

My mother groaned, my father wept
Into the dangerous world I leapt,
Helpless, naked, piping loud,
Like a fiend hid in a cloud

Struggling in my father's hands,
Striving against my swaddling bands,
Bound and weary, I thought best
To sulk upon my mother's breast

WILLIAM BLAKE

Emigration and the Birth Rate

By ROBERTO MICHELS

THE present food shortage is synonymous with pressure of population and struggle for existence, and is owing to a relatively excessive birth rate, people have more children than they can provide for. Certainly the neo-Malthusians are right in one sense: food supply has increased so slowly that two things are needed for the elimination of poverty, a social system encouraging effort, and a low but eugenically selected birth rate.

However, to quote one of the greatest English economists, John Stuart Mill: "Besides the importation of corn, there is another resource which can be invoked by a nation whose increasing numbers press hard, not upon their capital, but upon the productive capacity of their land. I mean emigration, especially in the form of colonization. Of this remedy, the efficacy as far as it goes is real, since it consists in seeking elsewhere those unoccupied tracts of fertile land which, if they existed at home, would enable the demand of an increasing population to be met without falling off in the productiveness of labor."

Births Overtake Emigration

As Gonnard has stated, the leakages caused by emigration are rapidly closed by an increasing birth rate. In the first moment after a strong emigration, population is naturally decreasing, but this effect is often only temporary. In the year 1857 emigration assumed accentuated dimensions, while at the same time the birth rate grew from 3.85 per cent to 4.15 per cent. Anyhow, the law is not general. An example of the non-existence of the law is given by Ireland, from which in the years 1851 to 1891 3,304,842 people emigrated (82,627 per year average) without having an equal number of successors by birth rate.

The facts (first) that modern emigration implies a disproportion between the area of a country, the means of subsistence, and the population living on it, and (second) the danger that a very large percentage of the emigrants are, in the long run, lost to the mother country, because they embrace the nationality and mentality of the nations where they enjoy hospitality, gave rise in times of strong national feeling, such as during the Great War, to the hope that after peace the phenomenon would cease, or at least confine itself only to the colonies of the country concerned. In the minds of many economists that hope became during the war almost a certainty with the growth of the old manu-

factures and the rise of new branches of industry, due both to the necessity of being self-supporting and the potent help of the State. Indeed, during the war, industry absorbed everywhere, even in the weaker and industrially less advanced countries, the whole surplus population, nay, forced even the military authorities to leave a good many of the young men at work in order to render possible the regular service of the absorbing machinery of production. Why should not these new industries survive the war, procuring profit for everybody and putting an end to emigration?

But the economist patriots were the victims of a terrible delusion. Their war-nights' dream broke down in the most definite way. Peace showed that many of the new branches of industry had been mere glass-houses, whose fruits were not able to resist the open air of competition, because depending absolutely on the *etat fournisseur*. On the contrary, emigration came up again immediately, and with the utmost violence.

The American Commission of Emigration, sent by the United States Government to Europe with the precise order to get information on the proportions European emigration would take if unrestricted, made enquiries which gave amazing figures with regard to the masses liable to emigrate.

The present crisis has led the English Prime Minister to say in Parliament that it seemed almost impossible to prevent frequently recurring periods of serious unemployment, and that the present crisis was so grave that even England might have to face the problem of emigration. This admission of over-population startled the House. In Italy the emigration problem immediately became as serious as it had been before 1914. In the defeated countries the need of emigration was similar.

Today it can be stated without exaggeration that every State and every nation is a closed unit, economically as well as demographically, and that nothing is more difficult than to get passports, unless you belong to the class which, instead of desiring to earn a living abroad, is ready and able to spend money there.

The Value of Colonies

It may be altogether preferable that the migrants should pass to the colonies politically dependent on the mother country, because only in that way can they be preserved for the nation to which they

belong. It must be considered as one of the most important tasks of every State by every means in its power to make its colonies accessible to the maximum possible of its own countrymen, offering them conditions of life and wages not inferior to those at home. However, it would be impolitic and inhuman to close to emigrants the way to foreign states, or to the foreign colonies. England is perhaps the only State in Europe whose citizens do not emigrate except to English-speaking and English-governed countries. With the exception of some small numbers of wealthy people enjoying their wealth in some of the luxury towns of the South, and who constitute a very small section of the community, there are no English who live under foreign rule. The other nations came too late in the distribution of the world, and are therefore obliged, in the case of high birth rates, to send their surplus population to foreign countries.

The Problem Before Japan

As Sir Sidney Low stated in the Press some months ago —

"In fifty years Japan will have 100 millions of people, a population nearly equal to that of the United States, locked up in a group of islands not much larger than the United Kingdom, and far inferior in natural resources. Japanese statesmen see their country faced with the prospect, at no distant date, of a desperate struggle for sheer existence. The people must get food and elbow-room somehow, or they must perish. From her own ricefields, cultivated as they are to the last inch, she cannot raise food enough to keep her growing population alive. She must either send her superfluous millions away, or develop her industries sufficiently to be able to buy abroad all the imported supplies she needs."

The exportation of manual labor is generally the effect of unemployment. Such labor is absorbed, replaced, and tends to cease with the increase of industrial development, as happened, for instance, in Germany, when for forty years the emigration to America amounted to about 200,000 persons yearly, and disappeared when Germany became a highly industrial country. Friedrich Naumann put the question in the following terms. He stated that a nation with a good birth rate has either to export goods or to export men, and that it is preferable for a country to export goods. Of course, for Germany after the war, the question changed greatly.

In other countries, for instance in Italy, inhabited by a vigorous, strong, healthy people, with profound family feeling and very large families, but lacking coal and iron, and, therefore the technical

possibility to become a first-class manufacturing and exporting nation, the question cannot arise. For Italy and other countries emigration is a vital question, and its unimpeded course is essential. Even their foreign policy will depend on the way foreign states treat their emigrant nationals.

But Italian emigration is not only a part of "sacred egoism," in sending her sons abroad, Italy is conscious of making at the same time a very valuable gift to foreign states. Indeed, emigration is often due to, or is the result of, division of labor. Historical traditions and technical inheritance and capacities on one hand, and perhaps even physical differences between the different races, have created in many countries very definite conditions of the division of labor. We know countries where certain categories of economic services are fulfilled almost exclusively by foreigners. For instance, Italian navvies build the railways in Switzerland.

In order to avoid conflicts between immigrant and native labor the best way would be that immigrants should perform a certain type of labor for which they are better equipped than the laborers abroad.

Therefore, the most urgent question for overcrowded countries is this: they have to take measures against the numerous measures of the states which in ordinary times need immigrants, but which, driven by the economic crisis, not only refuse to accept new ones but tend even to extradite the strangers within their gates.

Population is still badly distributed over the world, both from an economic and from a demographic point of view. Therefore, one of the cures of mankind ought to be to spread men and women in such a way that a determined population should be settled in territory fit to support it. That is now still possible. For how much longer it is impossible to tell, as we do not know exactly the creative factors of the future.

* Excerpts from an address at the Fifth International Conference, 1922.

Wherever emigration prevails it is the evidence of a country where the population presses on the means of subsistence, from which pressure it seeks to be relieved by successive discharges. We may be sure that every country is throughout in a suffering condition which requires to be disgorged from year to year of its redundant families. There may be a few spirits alive to the charms and romance of adventure, to whom emigration would prove a lure rather than a terror. But averagely speaking, there must be a great experience of distress and destitution to account for the voluntary exile of thousands from the land of their forefathers.—THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D., Celebrated Scotch Preacher, 1780-1887.

Birth Control for Health and Morals

IT IS only three years ago, as Mrs Sanger reminded her audience at the meeting over which she presided at Carnegie Hall on the evening of December 6, that the doors of the Town Hall were closed against the Amrecian Birth Control League. Since then there has been a great change in public opinion. On December 6 the doors were wide open, the police fraternized with representatives of the League and asked them for literature. Carnegie Hall was comfortably filled not by those whose curiosity had been roused by headlines, but by thoughtful people who were convinced of the fundamental necessity for Birth Control on personal and social grounds.

In the boxes and on the floor were nurses and doctors in numbers not seen before at Birth Control meetings. The church was represented by such leaders as Harry Emerson Fosdick, who with a large scattering of social workers were interested in the moral and humane aspect of Birth Control. The world aspect was represented by officials of League of Nations and the Peace societies. A Masonic Lodge showed its approval by a group donation. It was a representative and intelligent audience that listened to the program which covered the moral and medical sides of the subject.

Dr James F Cooper of the Boston University School of Medicine and Dr Dorothy Bocker were the two physicians who spoke. The subject of Dr Cooper's address, "The Doctor and Birth Control," was the general medical need. Twenty thousand women, said Dr Cooper, die every year in childbirth and hundreds of thousands suffer from the after effects. The death rate of infants is more than ten times that of mothers, and in addition tens of thousands are born too weak to survive the first year of life. Other thousands are born defective, to be a burden to themselves and to others. At least 85 per cent of this terrific human loss is unnecessary, because it is due to the fact that women undertake maternity when their health will not permit it. This waste Birth Control would prevent.

Birth Control would prevent also 85 per cent of the abortions which occur at the rate of a million a year and which have made the United States notorious throughout the world. This is the proportion either self-induced or induced for therapeutic reasons. Until Birth Control is made possible under our laws the wholesale practice of criminal abortion, "a despicable thing in our system," will continue. A few years ago physicians knew little or nothing about contraception, but today

safe and reliable methods are known, and the medical profession is in a position, where the law allows, to save life, health and happiness by "preventive obstetrics"*.

Dr Bocker's paper was a report on 3,000 cases treated in the Clinical Research Department of the League, where sick women can be given advice without violation of the law. The diseases ranged from insanity to heart disease and were all of a very serious nature. The "average" woman who was treated in the clinic is thus described by Dr Bocker.

"A woman of thirty years who has been married eight years, has been pregnant five times and has three children, the other two pregnancies either being abortions, miscarriages or dead children. The family income is \$28 00, and she herself works two and a half months a year to help out."

The Moral Aspect

The moral aspect of Birth Control was the subject of the paper given by the Reverend Charles Francis Potter of the West End Unitarian Church, New York City. He did not ask timidly, as churchmen did a few years ago "Is Birth Control Immoral?" He put his question, "Is Birth Control Moral?" and maintained that it is "the greatest moral reform challenging the present generation." It would, he stated, do away with feticide or abortion, our modernization of the ancient practice of infanticide. It would also prevent the moral, physical and economic wrecking of families by over-reproduction, with sacrifice of the welfare of both parents and children.

The objections he considered inadequate. That Birth Control is "unnatural," he conceded, but so is obstetrics, surgery and indeed all civilization. That it is akin to abortion he denied, believing it to be the great means of fighting abortion. That it would break down virtue by removing the fear of pregnancy he doubted, and he weighed against a possible small percentage of immorality the enormous mass of terrible suffering which it would do away with. He pointed out as one very striking answer to this type of objection the fact that those very people who object to the effort to spread Birth Control use it themselves. Before humanity today lies the choice of overpopulation, abortion, continence and Birth Control. The first two mean misery. Continence is not a practical solution, except in the form of absolute celibacy, because each single violation of abstinence means potentially a child, and because a starved sex life is injurious.

*Dr Cooper's paper will be published in a later issue.

(Continued on page 29)

The Hundred Neediest

Is This Charity or Is It Social Waste?

By JAMES WALDO FAWCETT

IN New York the annual charity classic is the appeal published just before Christmas by *The Times* in behalf of the so-called "One Hundred Neediest Cases" reported to the organized philanthropies and social service bodies of the city. The thirteenth of these yearly lists has just appeared, and if there is a finer argument for Birth Control to be found we do not know of it.

It will be well worth our time and space to analyze these one hundred cases, which I have before me. But before proceeding it is necessary to point out that the reports are written with considerable skill, and in certain instances with almost a genius for concealing the facts. If we could go behind the obvious in many of these little studies of poverty and distress, we might discover cumulative evidence of the most valuable kind. But, since that is now impossible, we must content ourselves with reviewing the reports as they are given to the public, not forgetting, however, that there has been a definite effort to put the best available face upon each problem.

We have in the hundred cases at least 457 children, an average of 4.57 per case, or nearer 5 children, as a few cases of unmarried old people should be dropped out. Only in two or three of the entire collection is there any reference to the number of children born to the couples listed not now living—if we could know how many children these people have buried we should be in better position to judge the facts. Also, in the reports concerning a single child, the evidence is not complete, in at least 21 of the total 100 cases only one child is specified, but we have the right to surmise that the majority of these were not the sole issue of their parents.

In six of these cases there was no mother, 37 had no father, one a dying father, one an insane father, and one a father awaiting trial for murder. These families need not fear a further increase in birth rate. We cannot add to this group six families deserted by both parents and two deserted by the father, for it is a fact well known to charity workers, that such "deserters" are away today and here tomorrow. In some cases either one or the other parent is not mentioned, but in most of the others both parents were, as far as the record shows, at home and able to have more children at regular yearly intervals.

And more children born into what conditions? In four cases either mother or father was tuber-

cular, and we know that at least one of the living children had already contracted the disease. Four fathers had heart disease, one was a cripple, two blind and others incapacitated for other reasons. One father of six is described as a "jail bird." Many of the mothers were ill or sickly.

About a dozen of the hundred cases were old people, and some of these illustrate the vanity of the hope that a large family of ill-nourished, ill-conditioned children can be counted on to be a comfort in old age. One old woman had two grown sons living, one of whom was "lost" the other a "mental charge." Another had "raised a large family"—all dead. Another had had twelve—all dead. In another case a grandmother was bringing up a dead daughter's child, of her own six children the only one still living was an invalid.

Here are half a dozen abstracts of cases.

Number 2—Eight children, oldest 14, two in an institution, others with parents, "living" in two rooms.

Number 12—Seven children, oldest 13, father was tubercular when younger children were born.

Number 32—Eight children, oldest 15, youngest 1 year, mother blind, age 35, father died soon after eighth child was born.

Number 47—Eight children, oldest 13, youngest just born before father's breakdown-heart case. This family of ten "lives" in three rooms.

Number 71—Six children, oldest 17, youngest 2, father dying of cancer, mother "worn and aged" at 39.

Number 84—Four children, "a fifth coming soon," father in hospital, the others in "three dark and almost bare rooms."

Finally (case Number 40—a fit text for a sermon on "Fathers by Chance") Three children, oldest 7, father ran away with family savings of \$10,000.

A tremendous waste in material and spiritual values is represented in these cases, that cannot be denied. One of the principal causes of the poverty displayed throughout is that of unrestricted breeding. Take Case No. 73 for example. This woman was made pregnant within two months after a fourth confinement and necessarily bore a child after the death of her husband.

Someone has said that what is wrong with the poor is their poverty, these "one hundred neediest cases" prove that one of the things that is wrong with them—or with society as an institution—is too many children.

Malthusian India

Where Plague and Famine Keep Down Population

By BASANTA KOOMAR ROY

THOUGH geographically and nationally India is one and indivisible, sociologically and ethnologically India is a world in itself. Diverse races, diverse religions, diverse castes, diverse costumes, diverse languages and diverse stages of culture make India a subject of serious study and research.

The population of India is about 320,000,000—a fifth of the total population of the world. The numerical strength of the different religious groups of India are as follows: Hindus, 216,734,586 (68.56 per cent of the total population), Mohammedans, 68,735,233 (21.74), Buddhists, 11,571,268 (3.66), Animists, 9,774,611 (3.09), Christians, 4,754,064 (1.51), Sikhs, 3,238,803 (1.03), Jains, 1,178,596 (.37), Parsis, 101,778 (.03), Jews, 21,778 (.01), etc., etc.

India is primarily an agricultural country. The vast majority of her population lives in villages—small villages scattered all over the fertile fields of that ancient land. Centres of industrial development are few and far between. The ghastly smoke from gruesome chimneys has not yet much defiled the atmosphere of India.

A glance at the occupations of the teeming millions of India will reveal in a moment the outline of life in the land of the Ganges and the Indus. Pasture and agriculture, 229,045,000, fishing and hunting, 1,007,700, industry, 33,167,000, transport, 4,331,000, trade, 18,115,000, army and navy, 758,000, air force, 1,000, police, 1,423,000, public administration, 2,644,000, profession and liberal arts, 5,021,000, domestic service, 4,570,000, etc., etc.

The growth of population in India has been varied in different decades. On the whole the growth has been rather slow. Writes the Indian Year Book, an English publication: "The real increase in the population in the last 39 years is estimated at about fifty millions, or 19 per cent. This is less than half the increase which has taken place in the same period amongst the Teutonic nations of Europe." The total increase of India's population in the decade of 1872 to 1881 was 47,733,970, 1881 to 1891, 33,418,341, 1891 to 1901, 7,046,385, 1901 to 1911, 20,795,340, 1911 to 1921, 3,786,084. The net increase from 1872 to 1921 has thus been only 112,780,120.

This is so in spite of the fact that marriage is almost universal, and Birth Control is religiously un-

known. Practically no one is unmarried in India except deformed persons, saints and prostitutes. About 46 per cent of the males and 48 per cent of the females are married. Five per cent of males are widowed and 17 per cent of women are widowed. The unmarried are very young. Three-fourths of the bachelors are under 15 years of age, and a large proportion of the spinsters are under 10 years of age. Only one bachelor in 24 is over 30, and only one spinster in 14 is over 15. In all India there are about 10,000,000 widowed men, and 10,000,000 widowed women.

Disease and Famine

The real causes for the slow growth of population in India lie in the enormity of deaths from preventable diseases and chronic famines. In 1921 the total deaths registered was 7,385,112. The deaths from fevers were 4,761,237, cholera, 450,608, dysentery and diarrhoea, 229,576, plague, 69,682. The vast, vast majority of such deaths can easily be prevented by governmental sanitary measures, and the proper feeding of the people. On the one hand the British government is most criminally negligent of proper sanitary measures in India, and on the other hand the same government's merciless methods of exploitation keeps the people so poor that underfeeding makes them easy victims of diseases. A sympathetic English official once declared that fever in India was "an euphemism for insufficient food, scanty clothing and unfit dwelling." The total number of deaths from plague from 1896 to 1921 far exceeded 10,000,000, averaging nearly 500,000 a year, according to official figures. According to Indian estimates the plague mortality is much higher than that given out by the British officials.

Apart from state negligence of sanitary measures, the woeful illiteracy of the masses plays a prominent part in the ghastly mortality figures of India. In ages when England was inhabited by savages, India developed a system of education with schools, colleges and universities for liberal, technical and scientific education. India's contribution of abstract philosophy is now known all over the world. And though little is known by the general public, the experts and orientalists know that the Hindu contributed much towards the very birth of arithmetic, algebra, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine and surgery.

Responsible British authorities have admitted that before the British became the rulers of India there were schools in every village. But today in four out of five villages there are no schools. Eighty children out of a hundred have no schooling whatsoever. There are no free primary or high schools, and no compulsory system of primary education. According to figures published by the Stateman's Year Book for 1924 out of 142,623,691 males only 10,841,438 can read and write, and out of 150,807,889 females only 2,782,213 can read and write. Facilities for industrial education are few and far between, and there is not even one agricultural school for the farmers of India—an agricultural country. In the United States the per capita annual expenditure on education is \$4.00, in England and Wales, \$2.50, and in India only \$0.02. Progress along any line is absolutely impossible in a land where such illiteracy is the order of the day. Illiteracy breeds ignorance, and ignorance superstition. Ignorance in India is raging in such a virulently epidemic stage that the millions that go down to their premature graves every year do not even know the real cause of their destitution and death. They blame fate for everything that happens to them, and instead of clutching at an axe to cut at the roots of his misery, the Hindu folds his hands in prayer for relief.

The mortality from plagues, fevers and other diseases shrinks into comparative insignificance when we consider the toll of human lives taken by India's chronic famines. In olden days of backward transportation system, and immature economic development there were famines in England and every other country of Europe and Asia, more or less.

Famines in Olden Days

In India famines in olden days were not so severe as in England, because the Hindu had a fertile country and a system of village storage warehouses for the preservation of one year's grains in advance. Sir William Digby is undoubtedly one of the greatest authorities on famines in India. In his monumental work entitled, "Prosperous British India," Sir William reveals quite a few authentic and startling facts and figures regarding India, specially famines. He tells us that in the Fourteenth century there were three famines in India, in the Fifteenth, two famines, in the Sixteenth, three famines, in the Seventeenth, three famines, in the Eighteenth Century to 1745, four famines. But things changed quite decidedly under the British rule. In the Eighteenth century from 1769 to 1800, there were seven famines, in the Nineteenth century, thirty-one famines. In the first quarter of the Nineteenth century there were five famines

with 1,000,000 deaths, and in the fourth quarter, eighteen famines with 26,000,000 deaths.

Messengers of imperialism are busy telling the world that India is over-populated to such an extent that the people simply have to die of starvation. The density of population per square mile, however, in England and Wales is 618, and in India only 175. Even a great economist like Professor Richard T. Ely writes in his "Outlines of Economics" "In India the population presses so closely upon the food supply that any considerable failure in the rice crop is sure to result in famine and starvation." Such surety is due only to ignorance of facts. India is one of the greatest food-producing countries in the world.

India's Output

She produces one-third of the world's supply of rice, tea and cattle, one-third of its cane sugar, and one-tenth of its wheat. India always produces more food than she can consume herself. Even in the worst years of famines when Hindus die of starvation in millions, India exports food stuffs to England. In 1899-1900 India had one of her worst famines, and yet British India's export of grains amounted to \$60,332,445. In 1917-18 India exported food and drink worth \$247,179,360. And it was estimated that in the terrible years 1917-19 32,000,000 men, women and children perished of hunger whereas in the world war only about 8,000,000 were killed on both the contending sides. And yet, in his budget speech on March 1, 1919 the British Finance Minister to the government of India, Sir J. Meston thus admitted "Export of cereals rose by over 50 per cent to a total in 1917-18 of 5,400,000 tons valued at \$180,000,000. In the case of wheat the record figure of 1,500,000 tons was reached. In the earlier months of the current year, India's contribution of food stuffs was maintained at an even higher level than in 1917." And this when the people died in millions! in millions!

The Responsibility

Says General Briggs in his "Land Tax in India" "The flourishing condition of the country under the Moghul Emperors is recorded by all European travellers who have visited the East within the last three centuries and the wealth, the population, and the national prosperity of India far surpassing what they had seen in Europe, filled them with astonishment. That the condition of the people and the country under our government presents no such spectacle, is every day proclaimed by ourselves and we may therefore assume it to be

(Continued on page 30)

LIKE MOTHER LIKE DAUGHTER

"The Hungry Generations Tread Them Down"

Here are the married lives of two generations or three, not happy married lives but lives of poverty, dread and suffering. Here are daughters understanding and pitying their mothers out of the fullness of their own experience. Here are mothers determined to save their young daughters, recently married, from what they themselves went through when they were young married women. These generations repeat each other's history. Young girls, very young girls, escape by marriage out of homes where many mouths have created abject poverty, and where a worn-out, ailing mother is not able to take proper care of her big family. Now these young girls find that they have not escaped at all. They see that they themselves are doomed to lives of poverty and ill-health, from the same cause as their mothers. They see that their children, too, will be neglected. They see their girl-children doomed in their turn to tread the same round. Can we not save the third generation from this fate?

Hungry and Ragged

Missouri

I am surely with you in this great work of yours. I think it is right. I think it is a sin to bring a lot of children into the world that can not be raised right. I have always been an unfortunate one myself. I know all about poverty and the tragedy of too many children by what my whole life has been. I am the oldest child of a family of ten children. My mother lost one at six months old. The rest of us are still living. My mother is now 45 years old and has no health at all. Besides suffering from asthma and hay fever she has various female troubles caused from too many children. My father has always been a poor common laborer and couldn't make enough to take care of us properly. My mother knew nothing about birth control. She tried various ways to prevent having so many children but everything failed her. We had to go hungry and ragged lots of times. I quit school and went to work out when I was fourteen years old. I wanted a better living and nicer clothes. I resolved when I was a girl that if there was any means of prevention and I could find it out, I would not have more than two or three children, and I would raise them right. I would dress them reasonably nice and give them a good education. I am 27 years old now and have four children. I have a good husband but we are poor and have to work hard for every cent of our income. We live on a small rented farm and besides doing all my housework, washing, ironing, sewing and all, without help or a single modern convenience and taking care of our four children, I have to help my husband outside a good deal. I have to help milk cows, raise chickens, and calves, and help raise the garden and I also help my husband in the hay field all I can when I am not pregnant. When I have to do so many things outside of my housework I have to neglect my housework and children. But we want to give the children we have

a fair chance. We want to give them a good education if we possibly can, but I don't want any more. I feel like I have all I can do to do right by the ones we already have. I was almost desperate when I became pregnant the last time. I worried all the time I carried my baby because I knew I would have to neglect the poor little thing when it came, because I have so much to do. But I wouldn't get rid of one for anything, because I feel like that is one of the worst sins there is. It is murder. But I do want to prevent conception.

Not Right or Necessary

Nebraska

I am writing you for information for my eldest daughter soon to be married. I want her to have the knowledge and power in her own hands to regulate the number of children she is to bring into the world. I am the mother of thirteen children. They are all well, healthy in body and mind, and I have no regrets except that we were unable to give the older ones the educational advantages that they should have had. But I don't want my daughter to go through the hardships that I went through. I don't think it is right or necessary. And certainly it is not fair to the children themselves. I want a personal letter from you and the information that will save my girl from the things that made life hard for me.

"I Suffer Like She Did"

Pennsylvania

I am writing to you for help which I only hope and pray you will give me. I am a sickly woman, have been married three years and have had two miscarriages and my baby now is only four months old. She is a poor, little sickly delicate child, has been sick ever since she has been born and the doctor has told us that there should not be any more or he was afraid I never could stand it. Oh, Mrs. Sanger, I have read the book of

Woman and the New Race, and it sure is grand My husband has read it too, and he was so anxious for me to write to you for he said he knew you would help me No one knows the pain and suffering but a mother I beg of you to help me and anything I can do to help further your wonderful work I will do My mother died at child birth and left thirteen children I was the oldest I raised them all and now am suffering like she did

Bitter Memories

New York

I have been married three years and am just 24 In a few months my second child will be born I will not be able to take care of any more than two because I will be unable to keep them As it is, we will have to make some sacrifices in preparation for number two My husband is not very strong, much older than I and I have no wish to probably be left penniless with a houseful of children and so I appeal to you My mother had seven children of whom the oldest died at birth When the second was 11, my father died leaving not a cent My mother was unable to work owing to an ulcerated leg with thirteen holes We were put in a home, my mother in hospital, at frequent intervals on the occasions when her leg healed she would endeavor to make a home for us The city allowed her a small pittance and the anguish, poverty, suffering and hunger we went through, the memories of which must remain with the four surviving children all their lives Two died of consumption You will now understand my fear During pregnancy I am a wreck, unable to do anything and suffering in various ways I have been having three needles a week in my arm so perhaps you will help me

"No Wonder She Died"

Indiana

My mother died when I was but 12 years old leaving a large family of ten of which I was the oldest, also a little baby which died a year after its mother My mother's death was caused by child birth Little I knew about it, then, but am very much interested about it now, for she had a child every year and a month apart I realize what she went through with No wonder she died at the age of 36 years Her last wishes was that I would never marry or have any children Now Mrs Sanger, my wish is to raise my two children up to be good citizens with a mother's care and not have to be knocked around from place to place like we were because of too many to take care of and no mother to guide them

"Not for Myself"

Michigan

Seeing about your wonderful book on Birth Control I thought to myself, now at last I can get the information I have wanted for years—not for myself any more, for I am an old woman now and my troubles are over

in this line But I have been down in the valley of death a good many times through child-birth Twelve children I have had, but through poor health only raised four It is truly a wonderful book But the information I thought would be in it was not in it—the prevention and control of child-birth I hope and pray you will send this information to me I will tell you why I have a dear little mite of a daughter only weighs ninety pounds She has been married fourteen months and has an eight-pound son of one month Both mother and baby came near dying, and now I am wondering if this thing must happen every year until something awful happens

An Unusual Mother

Kansas

I was not surprised nor astonished at your book, Woman and the New Race It was just what I expected So like what my mother used to teach me, or rather her brood of six Married when she was 18, motherless herself, her mother died when she was born, her first baby came before she was 20, died at birth, her second 18 months afterwards, her third, two years later and her fourth, 14 months later, a baby boy Three years after his birth came another boy then 18 months later another boy, then 19 months later I came, and 11 years later my mother at age of 44 another boy At 48 death claimed her, leaving six children living People used to think her crazed to talk to her family, 4 boys, 2 girls, and teach them the fundamentals of life, the happiness, the joy, the misery and suffering as well as hate of married life Never once did she hide the doctor book, if we wanted to look at it It was our right When their children asked the why and cause of so many things I have heard other mothers tell their children to hush, or if a book, take it away and forbid them to look at it Many the child, boy or girl has asked my mother vital questions their mothers forbid We were taught what joys motherhood brought, what sorrows, how a mother walks in the shadow of death, how wrong it was for men to have illicit affairs with woman before and after his marriage, and what he could expect after his marriage We were taught the different diseases and cause, among parents and children Never did we talk about it to our playmates or among ourselves We always taught these things were sacred and were to be revered The two most holy things on earth were bride and groom with perfect love, and the new born babe It is the Lord's work, but when the number gets beyond control then that is of the devil The Lord limited child raising long ago or Mary would have had more children, but she didn't and she was able to give the best to Jesus The Lord helps those that help themselves I was married at the age of 18, to let my father marry again I have two beautiful children, born in less than two and a half years, and love them devotedly, but in order to do justice by them it is my duty to not have more

Motherhood in the News

In our pages of letters from mothers we present first hand evidence of the need of Birth Control. In the columns of the daily papers is to be found further evidence from life, the objective evidence often of police court fact. Some of this evidence we shall endeavor to present each month.

"WHEN MOTHER TURNS TRAMP"

SCARCELY a day passes that one cannot find in the daily press some shocking, heartrending tragedy of enslaved motherhood. It may be tucked away in some odd corner, some little news item of five or ten lines, that could be expanded into a novel by Thomas Hardy or Dostoevsky—the tragedy of a woman enslaved, degraded, or destroyed through being a victim of thoughtless, irresponsible instinct. Or again, the tragedy may be blazoned forth on the front page. The public reads, shudders, and passes on to the next scandal. Editors comment on the case, and publish letters from the heads of charity organization societies, who attempt to apologize or explain why the case escaped their attention. But few recognize in these tragedies the real truth, the crying need for responsible instead of chance parenthood.

Here is a recent case. We report it verbatim from the New York *Herald-Tribune*.

For two months Miss Mae Thompson, almost penniless and absolutely homeless, kept her four children at her side and out of the clutches of institutions for the homeless, which she feared even more than the poverty which she could not dodge.

At 4:30 a. m. yesterday, however, the fugitive and her charges were run to earth by the law. It was at that black, chill hour that a policeman, summoned by the agent at the subway station at Fiftieth Street and Broadway when he found the door of the women's room fastened, wrenched open the door and discovered Mrs. Thompson asleep with two-year-old Samuel in her arms and Anthony, nine years old, Harry, eight, and Daniel, six, sound asleep on the floor beneath their blankets of newspapers.

Mrs. Thompson had raided the trash can to furnish the den she had chosen for the night. There were newspapers for mattresses, newspapers for blankets, and she had made a screen of newspapers to keep out the draft which howled and moaned in the ventilating shaft. She had made the door fast with a cord.

"Don't take Sammy from me!" wailed the woman at sight of the bluecoat, and at the sharp anguish in her voice there was a tremendous rattling of newspapers and out popped the heads of Anthony, Daniel and Harry.

In the West Forty-seventh Street police station, where the policemen served the shivering woman and her brood with coffee and milk and sandwiches, Mrs. Thompson said she was separated from her husband

and for two months had been a Hagar of the city.

By day, she said, they frequented woods on the outskirts, near subway terminals. The children played with acorns, dressed sticks bravely in crimson and yellow leaves and enjoyed themselves thoroughly while she foraged for food.

Stale bread from the back doors of bakeries, potatoes and apples bought from peddlers, given to her by market men or discovered in highways frequented by market trucks, furnished the bulk of their food.

These meals Mrs. Thompson would cook gypsy fashion in a fire built in the woods. Sometimes she heated water at her fire and bathed the children and herself.

When night fell and it began to get cold they would seek the warmth of the subway. Until the children could no longer keep their eyes open, they would ride back and forth between the Bronx and Brooklyn, and between Brooklyn and Van Cortlandt Park.

Mrs. Thompson was sent to Bellevue Hospital for observation, and her children—Sammy among them—were sent to the Children's Society, despite her tears and shrieks.

Under the title, "When Mother Turns Tramp," the *World* offers this interpretation of this tragedy of American motherhood.

How disturbing a picture, this woman and her four small sons, who spent their days in a woods, cooking begged food in cans, and their nights in a subway! It wrenches all our ideas of motherhood and childhood, those conceptions so deeply rooted in simple things: work, play, home, food and quiet sleep. This woman had none of these. Like some squalid caricature of the Flying Dutchman, she was driven here, there and back again, eating miserable food by day, then going with her brood to the subway to rattle about, going nowhere, by night. When it was time to sleep, they huddled on a bench, when it was time to wake, they slunk forth to begin the same senseless round again. Why is this such a shock to us? We feel sorry for her, we uneasily imagine ourselves in her place, but our impression does not stop there. There is a terrifying meaninglessness about it that gives us pause. Is our existence, then, without point or reason unless related to these simple things we pass over so lightly: work, play, home, food, quiet sleep?

But the real truth of the matter is to be found elsewhere. The tragedy of this mother is indeed great. But it is not so great as the heart-breaking, callous thoughtlessness of the traditional attitude of American society. Our laws seek to pre-

vent women, no matter how poverty stricken or diseased, from practicing Birth Control. Then when women are half-crazed and overburdened with children, it exercises no paternal guardianship. What greater indictment against this society can be drawn up than this fact that a young mother with four

children may wander in starved and maddened isolation for two months through the highways, byways and subways of the richest and greatest city of the country, and that this stalking tragedy of motherhood aroused no more than a passing and inhuman curiosity?

Birth Control In Russia

By E. GERTRUDE BEASLEY

(Continued from December)

I PASS on to the attitude of American "exiles" in Russia, the views of a pure Americano, pure white, pure Protestant, red-blooded-he man, economic-necessity-to-the-last-ditch, ex-engineer-student-of-Yale, member of the Russian Communist Party, and his wife. "Economic necessity is every damn thing there is in life," the first declared. When he had finished his homily, I asked his wife what was being done in Russia with reference to Birth Control. "Why these people don't want Birth Control," she began, "a large family is as great an economic asset as a good flock of sheep." "God, yes," assented the husband. Such economists forget that the most ignorant farmer controls reproduction among his animals according to his best economic prognostications. Occasionally through desire for speculation or due to an over-estimation of the amount of food and shelter available, great herds die off from the cold and starvation, as often happens with cattle on the plains of Texas. It is universally known that men exercise considerable control over the progeny of their herds. If man should exercise as much concern with regard to the size of the family as he recognizes is necessary among his flocks, we might be able to cope with war and famine. But the American Bolsheviks would have nothing to do with a social arrangement, whereby a man would care as much for his children as he cared for his sheep. Men's bones might bleach in the valley of the Volga for another ten centuries, infanticide and abortions might curse Russia till the crack of doom, the important thing was to fit life to the theory of economic necessity. Perhaps we shall live to hear Russia cry out, "Save us from our friends, American exiles!"

The views of the shouters-with-the-crowd, the hangers-on in any country during a social upheaval, portray the psychology of certain strata. Russia has her shouters,—propagandists, clerks, secretaries, journalists, interpreters,—who are often more pro-Bolshevik than the Bolsheviks themselves. It constitutes a "beezness," a vocation, a part-time livelihood. I was once in conversation with one of these middle-men with reference to the

women's question in Russia. He had read Havelock Ellis's books and those of other writers on the sex question, but, from his point of view, the women's movement was very discouraging. For one thing women couldn't think, at least not very much. There never had been a great woman philosopher in the whole history of the race. He challenged me to name one. I couldn't, at least according to his definition of a philosopher, and so turned my criticism on "philosophy," the essence of mental processes which have sprung from men's minds. Had man's philosophy really been of much help to us? Had it made us happier or more intelligent? I had found that many writers on philosophy assumed that their value as philosophers resided in their ability to make themselves obscure, in their deftness at coining and rehashing abstruse phrases.

Bear Sons for the Revolution

"If every woman were as clever as your wife," (who gave indications of holding interesting views on the sex question) I said "war would be impossible." I explained. War was the greatest handicap to progress, the question of progress was perhaps the most important problem of philosophy. Of course, there were a few intelligent women, he agreed, but the average woman was impossible. I wondered if part of his conversation weren't burlesque. He sighed. "But if women can't do anything else perhaps they can bear sons for the revolution," he said in a mysterious voice. I questioned him hoping it was burlesque. No the man was serious. I am told that occasionally one finds members of the Communist Party who hold the same view—hard-headed atheists who are offended at being told that their psychology, their thinking puts them in the same class with some Baptists or with members of the Catholic clergy. Obviously voluntary motherhood is not one of the prejudices of such "philosophic" purposeful folk.

And the old bourgeoisie what is their attitude towards Birth Control. Considering the fact that the average Russian sympathizer with the Tzarist regime has after seven years of Bolshevism, al-

ready become as sterile and emasculated, socially and intellectually, as the average Southerner in America, (barring myself as a notable exception) it is important to record that many of them practice Birth Control in one form or another. Although the intelligent Russian woman of the last generation learned family limitation from the bourgeoisie of Europe, a description of a method used by them indicates that their procedure in some cases consists of a modified form of abortion as carried on by the Chinese. A case in point. A daughter of a "general," of the well-to-do, educated class described a method to me, the procedure being the employment of a nurse or mid-wife to pierce the womb with an iodine needle. As to sheer barbarity, I compare this method to the Chinese woman's idea of driving a nail in her side during pregnancy in an effort to destroy the fruit of her womb. One grows bold enough to hazard the guess that many of these gruesome situations are made necessary owing to the fact that the Russian husband, like husbands in general of our "male civilization," are not so tender or so considerate with their wives as some of the savages of the Pacific Islands are.

A Bourgeois View

This, however, is merely the opinion of an old maid. The bourgeois woman in Russia is interested in controlling the number of her offspring first, because life is very hard for her, second, for the reason that all intelligent women want to decide when and under what conditions they will bear children. Husbands and wives among the old bourgeoisie state frankly that the Bolsheviks have taught them nothing about sexual relations, about marriage. Monogamy in Russia has never been anything but a decoration for polygamy, they declare. One husband went so far as to say that monogamous marriage had never been anything except the natural institution of polygamy, in any country on earth (including England, France, Italy, and, he believed, America) unless perhaps among some classes in Germany. Germany was the land of monogamy. Russia, he declared, has always been one of the greatest polygamous countries in the world, and this being true, Birth Control is, of course, desirable. It must be remembered that the bourgeois husband's opinion has no significance under Soviet law, as the case of a bigamous woman becoming a mother will indicate. Under such circumstances each husband is forced to pay a share of the amount required for the support of her children.

My experience with the Moscow Press was illuminating with reference to the attitude in Russia towards the woman's movement and voluntary

motherhood. The official *Izvestia* asked me to write an article about Sakai Toshihiko, the Tokyo Socialist, who was killed by Japanese gendarmes during the earthquake disaster in Japan. I mentioned Sakai's interest in the women's movement. But upon receiving a translation of my article, I found that most of what I had written with reference to his interest in feminism had been expurgated. The same thing happened to the article which I published in *Ogenyok (The Flame)* concerning Sakai's life and work. If the articles were shortened merely for lack of space, it nevertheless indicates that the editors regarded Sakai's views on the women's question as of least importance. (Sakai once stated that the Japanese Government was bitterly opposed to the teaching of Birth Control because the Imperialists knew that in increasing the population was an argument for aggression and the extension of territory.) I presented a manuscript on "The New Movement in Japan" to *Novoe Vostok (The New East)*, Russia's erudite and scientific journal on the Orient. The editors found much new material of interest to them in spite of the verdict, "You are not a Marxist" (When I was a child of twelve years, an old woman once came to me, during a Baptist revival, and said, "Little girl, you are not saved." I shall not attempt to describe my feeling at the time. I merely record here that when the Moscow editor told me, "You are not a Marxist," the same feeling recurred.) A specialist on the new social phenomena in Japan, one of the editors selected an article covering twenty-four pages of "*The New East*," although very little of the chapter on the women's movement in Japan dealing with the Birth Control movement, the efforts to stamp out venereal diseases, legislation and the vote for women, etc., was used. Most of this material dealt with the "ideas of bourgeois women" the Communist editor said, this being deemed sufficient reason for omitting it.

Party Cleavage on Birth Control

One other example of the attitude of the Press in Russia is this question. I submitted two articles, "Feminism in China" and "The Women's Movement in Japan," discussing Birth Control and sex psychology in both countries, to the Communist women's journal, *Kommunistka*. Madame Kasparova, chairman of the women's section of the Communist International, received and accepted these articles for publication. The Communist leader was enthusiastic and asked for several other small articles on social conditions in China and Japan. She appointed a day on which I was to receive payment for the articles. The secretary being absent I was asked to come back the follow-

ing week to receive the money. When I appeared a second time for settlement, the secretary informed me that the "committee" had refused the contributions. She brought out copies which the Comintern had made of them, and handed back the originals. I protested, saying they had no right to keep copies of my articles inasmuch as they were not using them, but the secretary informed me that the Comintern kept copies of each article presented to them, whether or not an article was accepted and paid for had nothing to do with the matter of retaining a copy of it! I explained this incident to a leading Communist and asked what it meant. The answer was "Those old ladies merely don't know, Kasparova is an intelligent woman (referring to Birth Control and the sex question) but her hands are tied by a lot of old-fashioned women."

It is perfectly evident that there is a distinct cleavage in the Communist Party with reference to family limitation and sex psychology. Many Communists entertain the same fear, the fear of "race suicide," in case contraceptives become widely known in Russia, as is held by the church and the militarists. The slogan used to be "More sons, Oh Lord, for the church, for imperialism, and I suppose we must now add, for the Red Army!" On the other hand, the most intelligent members of the Party understand the necessity for scientific means of control of the population, to them it is a problem which an international economy, a world government will have to solve. In these people there is much hope.

Radical Press Opposes

"How may science modify the class struggle?" I once asked a company of critics and futurist poets, belonging to the staff of the radical publication known as *Lef*. The consensus of opinion was that nothing could modify the class struggle, as a matter of fact, the Communists were never concerned with its modification, they meant to keep the struggle as acute as possible in order to bring a crisis, a revolution, putting the proletariat in power. I gave the poets the amusing information that science (through feeding, through injection, through treatment of the glands) could modify men's passions for ownership, for power. They laughed at the idea of giving proletarian pills to the capitalists, the most effective pills they had found for the bourgeoisie were bullets, they said. The theory of changing people's dispositions through feeding would probably pass, but scientific control of the population looked as though it were in the world to stay, they were further informed. How did they regard the idea of Birth Control? I asked. If peasant and worker women in Russia had a few

children, which seemed to be the desire of most women, instead of a dozen as many of them had, the present struggle for existence would be greatly ameliorated. The poets refused to see my point that Birth Control would raise the standard of life and so mitigate the struggle, they informed me that the proletarian revolution had nothing to do with Birth Control, besides Russia needed as many babies as possible, people to occupy her vast holdings, to develop her resources. Mrs. Breck, the beautiful Russian woman whom the futurist poet, Mayakovsky, has recently "immortalized" in a book of poetry called, "For Her and For Me," was present. The poet's Love began to talk. "I know everything about scientific Birth Control," she said, "and I guarantee to teach any woman you send to me, but only in case she pays me enough money!" Her smartness amused the poets greatly. Many Russians, like the world at large, still hesitate in the matter of helping the proletarian women of the world become as clever as a poet's mistress.

Care Little for Women

The chief trouble with the Bolshevik party in regard to the women's question, is that it cares no more for its women than other political parties care for theirs. I found the practice in this matter typically bourgeois. Leading Communists and old bourgeoisie alike unite in declaring that there is more prostitution in Moscow at the present than there has ever been in its history. A Communist leader, after making this statement, sighed and said, "And during militarist Communism there was hardly a case of prostitution." I have observed women workers in many factories in Moscow, serving the same number of hours and often doing the same work, who were receiving from one-half to two-thirds of the wages of men. And when I have inquired of the managers or the Shop Committee why this was so, they all without exception gave "bourgeois" reasons, the same inhumane and stupid talk which one receives from capitalists in America. When the Soviet Government or private owners in Russia discharge workers, women workers lose their positions first. Last year there were 20,000 working women in the city of Moscow without employment. They are beginning to protest a little though their voices are very weak, Russian women are still awed by male politicians. Coupled with economic and sex exploitation of women is the condition of women's health. During the war and revolution, venereal diseases spread to an appalling degree and abortions have killed or wrecked the health of a fair number. Nearly every young wife I knew in Russia complained of sexual disabilities, (I am unwilling to say the percentage

(Continued on page 30)

Book Reviews

CONTRACEPTION A MEDICAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION

Reviewed by Margaret Sanger

THE COMMITTEE on Maternal Health of New York is to be congratulated upon the appearance of Dr Dickinson's report, which is perhaps the first essay of its kind to be published in this country. Even among those members of the medical profession who have taken the time and trouble to inquire into the actual present status of the practice of Birth Control in this country, definite scientific and statistical knowledge has been woefully scant. "The gist of what is known is here given," states Dr Dickinson at the outset, "together with an account of the attempts to secure clinical data." The investigator reiterates the appeal that has so often been voiced in these pages—for the need of investigation by the medical profession. He agrees (though perhaps unconsciously) with the aims of the American Birth Control League, and with Lord Dawson of Penn., that "the medical profession alone can determine many physical questions bearing on structure, function, and abnormal or diseased states." In addition to this mechanical side, the various mental and moral reactions that come chiefly to the knowledge of the doctor, as the father-confessor in matters of sex, should be taken from available records for consideration. He repeats the appeal of the American Birth Control League for the correlation and co-ordination of medical records and clinical data. Not the least illuminating phase of this study is to be found in his appended diagrams which throw considerable and valuable light on this hidden phase of human life.

With these outstanding virtues, it is the more lamentable that Dr Dickinson has been unable, or has not seen fit, to publish fuller information about the Birth Control clinics of Holland. There is evident in his report an inclination to discredit statements made concerning the "52 clinics" of Holland. As, since my visit to Holland in 1915, I have been guilty of making these statements again and again I feel called upon here to say something in defense of them. Although in person I visited only five of these clinics I would refer those interested in this matter to the Annual Report of the Nieuw-Malthusian Band for the year 1920. Dr Rutgers was then president of the Dutch League,

and in his report stated that a new board of directors had been formed. Dr Rutgers at that time relinquished the presidency and the new board of directors, "more democratic" in spirit, took charge of the work. A period of disintegration seems to have set in, temporarily, and subsequent reports of the work have been less encouraging. But it is not enough to judge the work in Holland, which has covered such a long period of years, by a temporary depression due undoubtedly to the resignation and subsequent death of Dr Rutgers, whose indefatigable devotion and tireless efforts, obtained notable results. The report of the Dutch League reported not 52, but 54 clinics, 8 doctors and 56 nurses in charge, and admitted that the year 1920 had been a difficult one for the Band.

"Without Bias"

"Our search discovers no investigation of 'Birth Control' made in a scientific and ethical spirit and approaching the subject *"without bias,"* asserts Dr Dickinson. I regret that I must agree with this statement. But I am even more sorry that his own report despite its protestations of impartiality, should itself be tainted with bias the more so as he has had the advantage of scientific training and should approach the problem without *parti-pris*. On page 20 of his report he speaks of "the clinic run by Dr Dorothy Bocker next the office of Mrs Margaret Sanger's 'Birth Control League'." Surely it cannot be devotion to scientific precision that has led Dr Dickinson into this combination of misstatements. Such lack of precision is hardly in accordance with the spirit of scientific impartiality which is in the opinion of the present authority the great present need in investigation of clinical data. In the first place the organization to which Dr Dickinson refers, is not "Margaret Sanger's" it is the American Birth Control League legally incorporated under the laws of the state of New York. In the second place, the "clinic run by Dr Dorothy Bocker" is a research bureau conducted under the personal direction of Margaret Sanger with Dr Bocker as medical director. Merely in the interests of accuracy and impartiality we offer these corrections here. Without a recognition of the manifold difficulties under which such pioneer work must be carried on in these United States our aims and limitations may be misinterpreted by future investigators.

(First Report of the Committee on Maternal Health of New York) By Robert L. Dickinson, M.D., F.A.C.S., New York City. Reprinted from *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* St. Louis, Mo. (Vol. VIII, No. 5, November 1924).

The whole subject of contraception, as Dr Dickinson so rightly concludes, is susceptible of handling as clean science, with dignity, decency and directness. This indeed has from its inception been the aim of the American Birth Control League. Because of its unswerving adherence to these principles, it has won a place of respect among impartial scientists both here and abroad. Despite the complexity and menacing aspects of the problem it has attacked, despite its limited resources, despite the intellectual inertia of the medical profession and the languid interest of the American clergy, the League is gradually enlisting the competent co-operation of cool-headed, impartial and unbiased scientists, and because of its irrefutable claim for respect, it will continue to do so.

Reviews by Anne G. Porritt

SEX EDUCATION SERIES, NOS 1 TO 6 By Bernarr MacFadden, MacFadden Publications, Inc., New York City

THESE six paper-covered books, very attractive in appearance, cover a wide range of sex education. Three are addressed to boys and men and three to girls and women. Taken in their order, they are "Sex Talks to Boys," "Sex Talks to Girls," "Talks to a Young Man About Sex," "Talks to a Young Woman About Sex," "Talks to a Prospective Husband About Sex," and "Talks to a Prospective Wife About Sex." Each one contains a fund of valuable information which is too often lacking when it is vitally needed. Those addressed to boys and men show a grasp of the subject, an ability to present it in attractive form, and a wholesome recognition of the importance of healthy physical life, including healthy sex life, which do not always characterize the books that in recent years have been brought out to fill the great need, now widely recognized, for sex education. It might be objected that the later chapters in the Boy book are somewhat difficult for boys of average education to understand, and that in many cases the wording could have been made more simple. But it is no doubt better to write a little above the head of the reader, than to make him conscious of an attitude of condescension. The books addressed to young men and young women necessarily cover much the same ground. In both, the danger of venereal disease is taken up, and disease has no sex, it attacks male and female with equally bad consequences. Its methods of infection are the same with both sexes, and it can be avoided by both by following the same rules and precautions. Mr MacFadden does not show the same insight into the nature and needs of girls and women that he shows in regard to his own sex. It would be of little value to a young husband to read the books written for girls and prospective wives but it would be quite advisable for the young wife to read those

intended for boys and young men. Girls need to know what sex means to a boy or a man, and they can learn from these books, much better than the boy can learn what sex means to a woman from the companion volumes. Mr MacFadden is a man not a woman, and he cannot be expected to have the insight into the woman nature that he evidently has into that of boys and men. In spite of some shortcomings from the woman's point of view, the little handbooks are of value to both sexes and it would be a happier and more wholesome world if all young people had been put through Mr MacFadden's course of sex teaching.

MANHOOD AND MARRIAGE By Bernarr MacFadden, MacFadden Publications, Inc., New York City

This volume of 364 pages, well printed, and neatly and attractively bound, should be in the hands of every young man who is approaching, without thorough instruction, the age of marriage. In writing and compiling it, Mr MacFadden went to a great deal of trouble and care to secure that nothing should be included that could be deemed objectionable or shocking, that is to anyone but the confirmed prude who holds that the Almighty made a great mistake when he endowed living creatures with sex. A large part of the book is taken up with the pathological side of sex—its misuse, its diseases and weaknesses. Perhaps this is necessary and the warnings and instructions are based on knowledge and good common sense. The causes of wreckage to what might have been a happy marriage are carefully considered and the duties as well as the privileges of a husband are emphasized. But there is one point on which Mr MacFadden is not clear. He recognizes, as everyone who thinks must recognize, the evil of unlimited child-bearing, or child-bearing imposed on a woman against her will. He realizes that children should not be accidents, but planned for in advance. And yet he says that "children are desirable in practically every instance." He gives faint praise to Birth Control as preferable to abortion. But he advises "a continent life as the best means of avoiding conception," and without having made any study of the clinical data which are now accumulating on the subject, he decides *ex cathedra* against any and all methods of Birth Control which are available. It is a pity that a book which contains so much that is excellent, should be so misleading on this important point. Many a young man would marry and be a better citizen and a happier individual, if he had the right understanding of Birth Control and could know that he was not assuming a burden the extent and weight of which he would have no power to limit, a burden that would endanger his standard of living, his hope of self-development and even his ambitions for the future of his children. If this volume taught him that marriage does not necessarily mean an uncontrolled family, it would vastly add to its present great usefulness.

BOOKS RECEIVED

From G H Doran, New York, *WOMAN AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT*, by Alice Henry \$1 00

From E P Dutton, New York, *WOMEN AND LEISURE, A STUDY OF SOCIAL WASTE*, by Lorine Pruette \$3 00

From Boni and Liveright, New York, *THE INHERITANCE OF ACQUIRED CHARACTERISTICS*, by Dr Paul Kammerer Translated by A Paul Maerker-Branden \$5 00

From Women's Educational and Industrial Union, Boston, *CO-OPERATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH REPORT NO 2, CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE*, by Lucille Eaves and Associates

From J Bielfeld, Freiburg, Germany, *THE TRUTH WE OWE TO YOUTH*, by Henry Hamill

From Houghton, Mifflin Co Boston, *WHOLESOME CHILDHOOD*, by Ernest Groves and Gladys Hoagland Groves \$1 75

From the Anglo-Eastern Publishing Co, London, *THE ILLUSIONS AND REALITIES OF LOVE*, by Thomas Herne 2sh 6d.

From Harr Wagner Publishing Co, San Francisco, *MENTAL TRAINING OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD*, by Lillian J Martin, Ph D, and Clare de Gruchy

From Houghton, Mifflin Co, Boston, *IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENTS*, by Havelock Ellis \$3 00

From Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, *THE CHARACTER OF RACES*, by Ellsworth Huntington \$5 00

From Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, *THE WHITE MONKEY*, by John Galsworthy \$2 00

From Houghton, Mifflin Co, Boston, *THE LITTLE FRENCH GIRL*, by Anne Douglas Sedgewick \$2 00

SONNET

Nursed of your pity, bred of your jungle lust,
Cave-dwellers in your cliffs of brick confined,
The weak and wretched, botched and maimed and blind,
Befoul the sweetness of our common dust
These craved not birth The waste by Life out-thrust,
Your pious labor it hath been to find,
Mocking the Gardener whose care consigned
Weeds to the wayside, shards to the hands of rust
True love hath spoken in the Perfect Man,
Who bade you spare not, branch or root,
Aught that might mar the beauty of the flower—
The august splendour of the hidden plan
The tree must perish if it bear not fruit
Love is not love, bereft of saving power

G M STEPHEN

The Milbank Fund

The announcement that in January the Metropolitan Health Demonstration of the Milbank Fund goes into operation in the district between Fourteenth and Sixty-fourth Streets on the east side of New York City is interesting news The Milbank Fund is described as a fund "for the promotion of health, the lowering of the death rate, the increasing of the efficiency rate and the lengthening of the average American life" The Metropolitan Demonstration, which is the third demonstration undertaken in this state by the fund, proposes to coordinate and supplement all health agencies in the district in order to accomplish this ambitious program Yet Ernest Brennecke, in the *New York World*, describes the deliberations of the Advisory Council of the Fund in the following terms

"They were discoursing solemnly, one after another arose and spoke on a single topic old age, and the lengthening of human life And the questions they brought up, again and again, were these 'Is it really worth while to live long?' 'Do we really want our lives to be extended?' 'How much are we willing to pay, in cash, for added years of existence?'"

This mood of discouragement was expressed in many ways One who expressed it in concrete terms was Dr William H Welch, Director of the School of Hygiene of Johns Hopkins University, who is quoted as asking "Aren't we just keeping the unfit alive at the expense of the fit instead of letting nature do the weeding?"

Others outlined the purpose of an effective public health program "The proper carrying out of a plan to conserve life is tantamount to an effort to give each and every member of the community a sound mind in a sound body," said Dr William H Park of the New York Health Department "It is quality of life and not quantity that counts," Dr Watson S Rankin, State Health Officer of North Carolina, is quoted as saying

These are pre-eminently the objects of Birth Control It would insure quality and not quantity so that every child that came into the world should have a sound mind in a sound body The seed sown would be of such quality that nature would not have to weed out the unfit, and the prolongation of life would be a natural consequence of the improved stamina of the race The race would have something to live for Yet with millions at its disposal and in a mood of discouragement over the quality of human life as it is, the Milbank Foundation does not appear to be considering adding Birth Control Clinics to its program for public health

OUR CORRESPONDENTS' COLUMN

Extracts from a Letter from a Doctor in Italy

I am afraid that it will be difficult, if not impossible for me to attend the International Birth Control Conference in New York in March 1925, since it is not easy for me to be so long away from my work in Rome, and the present economic conditions make travelling almost out of question for an Italian. I shall not fail, however, to keep you informed as to the progress of Birth Control propaganda in Italy. Your own publications and other information, which have been discussed in Italy, as to the movement for constructive Birth Control in England and America, have aroused much interest. Opinion on the whole is still unfavorable, but the question has been raised and will be increasingly discussed in medical and scientific circles.

I have discussed the subject of Birth Control at a conference held at the Psychological Institute of the University of Rome.

In the first weeks in August, I was present at the International Conference on Tuberculosis, held at Lausanne, where twenty-eight different countries were represented. One of the most important papers was that of Professor Forssner, of Stockholm, who spoke on Birth Control, Pregnancy and Tuberculosis. Both the speaker and other members of the Conference who followed him considered the question from the clinical, rather than the social point of view. I was therefore the only member of the Conference who brought forward an alternative to the previously accepted procedure of the interruption of pregnancy in tubercular patients by therapeutic measures, now regarded unfavorably by Professor Forssner and those who accept the recent conclusions of medical practice. I urged upon the Conference that Professor Forssner's point of view considered only the tubercular mother in circumstances of financial independence, able to protect herself and her infant from the dangers of tubercular disease, whereas to the woman of the poorer classes every such pregnancy is a tragedy and should be avoided in harmony with the principles of Constructive and Eugenic Birth Control. My argument was favorably accepted by a large majority of the Conference.

On September 20 the Italian Conference of Eugenics met at Milan. The International Board of Directors were present and the question of Birth Control was by me and by others exposed and discussed theoretically. I was surprised to have obtained so much in so short a time.

For practical purposes I consider that public opinion in Italy would be totally unprepared and absolutely against it. Our country has a high birth rate and a relatively low death rate and has therefore a large population and small economic means. That is to say, it is a country in which constructive Birth Control on a eugenic basis ought to be applied. But the average education is, in my opinion, too low yet to avert the danger of having such propaganda misunderstood.

I am convinced that persistent discussion of the problem in scientific circles is at present the form of propaganda which promises the greatest success in Italy and that the problem will gradually be pursued to its logical outcome. I shall not fail to keep you informed on the matter.

ETTORE LEVI

With the death of Albert de Silver, who on December seventh was thrown to instantaneous death from the platform of an express train, the American Birth Control movement has lost a true and courageous friend. Mr. De Silver, who was one of the directors of the American Civil Liberties Bureau, was a man with a passion for fair play and for justice. It was inevitable that the flagrant violations of the spirit of fair play and of free speech in our various encounters with our reactionary enemies should be brought to his attention. He sprang to our defense with courage and enthusiasm, especially at the time of the now famous Town Hall meeting, when he demanded an investigation of the true causes for the raid upon the Town Hall. With this sudden inexplicable death, America has lost a truly great man, a man who had lived to keep alive the ideals of freedom and justice which were so dear to the founders of this nation. Albert de Silver cannot be replaced, as his name cannot be forgotten.

THREE YEARS AFTER

At a meeting held in Carnegie Hall on Sunday night Mrs. Sanger recalled the fact that three years ago—to be precise, on November 13, 1921—a birth control gathering was illegally broken up at the Town Hall.

That action was denounced in many quarters as an utterly unwarrantable interference with the constitutional rights of the persons involved.

Yet, though the Mayor ordered an immediate investigation by the Commissioner of Accounts, the latter has made no report, and the conclusion he drew from the evidence placed before him remains a profound mystery to this day. *New York Evening Mail*, December 9.

In old countries only a limited aggregate number of children are compatible with the general well-being so that those who have more than their share of this limited number prevent many others from marrying or having a family at all, thus disregarding the great moral right which is still so little recognized—the right of each woman to her due share of offspring.

A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE—1854

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

THE most important event of the month was the public meeting held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League, which is described at length on another page of this issue

On December 2 Mrs Sanger addressed two hundred students of the Yale Divinity School on "The Need for Birth Control in America" This is not Mrs Sanger's first invitation this fall from a great university, for she spoke before 500 Bryn Mawr undergraduates the week before The fact that these two university groups early in their college year invited a lecturer on Birth Control indicates the serious and widespread interest in the philosophy of Birth Control expressed by the younger generation The subject is now being studied by Yale divinity students in preparation for a debate The Yale lecture received widespread publicity in the daily press of the country

The department for co-operation with labor has begun indoor lecture work before union and other groups Miss Elizabeth Grew's first indoor address was given in the last week in November, when she spoke before three hundred men, members of Local 10, of the Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union Among the organizations she addressed in December was the Polish Socialist Alliance, a group of men and women who listened with close attention and followed the address by a question period The Women's Branch of Workmen's Circle Number 610 (Monticello, N Y) listened to a long lecture, then stayed for more than an hour after to ask questions and buy literature On December 8, 200 men in Local 51 of the Painter's Union were addressed, and on December 11, Local 48 of the Italian Cloak and Suit Union At the close of the latter meeting an application was made for an Italian speaker to address a general meeting of the Italian cloakmakers

In November Dr Dorothy Bocker spoke before a hundred negro mothers In December further educational work was done with this race, Dr Bocker speaking before a group of negro physicians and Miss Grew before 75 negro men and women at The Forum, a Harlem organization Miss Grew considers this one of her most satisfactory meetings

In the last week of November students of the City College of New York held a debate on Birth Control under the direction of Professor Redmond

Among the visitors to headquarters were a group of young Chinese students from the School of Social Science at Columbia, who desired to inform and equip themselves with literature on Birth Control for their return to China

In his Thanksgiving message Governor Alfred E Smith thanked God for the blessing of a high birth rate The Governor has at the same time put himself behind a movement designed to make use of this birth rate in the right place—on the battle field A news item in the *Herald-Tribune* tells of a campaign he is heading to enroll 1,000,000 members in this state in the United States Flag Association The president of this association is Elihu Root, behind it are great financiers, hand in hand with the chief of the United States Chemical Warfare Service, the chief of the United States Militia Bureau and other representatives of the War Department

California

ON November 26th, Baroness Ishimoto who stopped in California on her way to Japan was guest of the San Francisco Center of the California League of Women Voters

New Jersey

THE Camden League has been especially active in December On December 1, a local league was organized at Riverside, with Mrs Laura A Winkelspecht of 548 Fairview Street as president Mr Everett R Meves, secretary of the Camden League, addressed this group on Birth Control and World Peace

On December 3, Mr Meves spoke to an audience of 200 men at a shop meeting held under the auspices of the Y M C A at the Camden plant of the Congoleum Company

On December 10 the Camden County Medical Society voted to hear a medical address on Birth Control The speaker chosen is Dr James F Cooper of Boston

On December 7 Mr Meves was in Pennsylvania speaking on "Marriage, Traditional and Scientific" at the Friendship Liberal League of Philadelphia On December 14 he addressed the Twentieth Ward Socialist Forum of Philadelphia on "The Economic Necessity of Birth Control"

On December 16 he held a noon meeting at the Wilkes, Martin, Wilkes Company Lamp Black Plant, at Camden,

ENGLAND

DR MARIE STOPES has lost on the appeal to the House of Lords which the defendant, Dr Sutherland, took in the libel brought against him by her. In her action Dr Stopes alleged that Dr Sutherland had made three defamatory statements about her work. These statements were so worded as to carry with them certain very objectionable implications and to them Dr Stopes quite rightly took serious exception.

In the trial court a special jury found that the words complained of were defamatory but were true in substance and fact. The jury also found, however, that the words were not fair comment and, therefore, damages were awarded and assessed at one hundred pounds in favor of Dr Stopes. The Lord Chief Justice held that the fact that the statements were "unfair comment," did not overcome the jury's finding that they were true in substance and fact, and, consequently that the verdict must be treated as in favor of Dr Sutherland.

On appeal to the Court of Appeal the decision of the Lord Chief Justice was reversed and judgment entered for Dr Sutherland together with damages. From this decision Dr Sutherland appealed to the House of Lords which has just decided that the appeal should be allowed. This in effect is a decision in favor of Dr Sutherland. In other words, the fact that Dr Sutherland had succeeded in keeping technically within the letter of the law was considered as of more importance than the breach of its spirit which the jury apparently regarded as of paramount concern, and for which damages were assessed by them in the amount of one hundred pounds. To laymen the decision of the House of Lords is bound to appear a miscarriage of justice.

The press in the main and with the exception of the Roman Catholic papers comments unfavorably on this verdict. It comments favorably on Lord Dawson's recent pronouncements and publishes correspondence from people of all classes, among the most interesting being letters from mothers of the working class. The answers of many of the churchmen who have replied to Lord Dawson, read like attempts to be on both sides at once. Dr Sutherland loses no opportunity to express himself, and his statements are sometimes curious reading. In a letter to the *Daily Mail* he says "When social conditions are improved the fertility of the race falls, a beneficent provision against over-population, whereas under conditions of poverty the birth rate rises to make good the leakage from high death rates." Read Birth Con-

trol for the "beneficent provision against over-population," and the doctor's statement might have emanated from the other side.

Meanwhile, under Charles Bradlaugh's motto, "Few But Fit," the *Star* (London) analyzes the vital statistics for the last quarter of 1924. These show a lower death rate in England by 24,000 and a slightly lower birth rate in the third than in the second quarter of the year. "It is evident," says the *Star*, "that Birth Control ideas are spreading. There is one aspect of the figures that gives us unallowed pleasure. It is the fall of infant mortality, which is 53 per thousand, the lowest rate recorded in any quarter. So far as this quarter is concerned the death rate is nearly halved. We cannot doubt that the simultaneous fall of the birth rate and death rate is not fortuitous but intimately connected. Infant life has become more precious."

AUSTRIA

TO the energy of Johann Feich is due an effort to translate a series of lectures on Birth Control applicable to all countries into all languages. Already his moving picture lecture has been translated into English and Esperanto and has actually been delivered at the World's Esperanto Conference held at Vienna last August. He writes "These pamphlets make a great stir and they are drawn up so as to be international. Here in Austria the fight against the compulsory laws is nearing its final stages and the entire public, as well as the newspapers are on our side (except clericals and nationalists). As a result of our agitation *mothers are not punished any more*, and public demonstrations support our demands. Nineteen consulting places have been opened already and work very well. We will be successful."

GERMANY

A CORRESPONDENT writes "The government of Saxony is holding conferences preparatory to drafting a law making Birth Control obligatory in cases of absence of full intellectual powers by either parent. Experts have presented general and specific lists of cases where permission to propagate is dangerous to the future of the state. Prevention of marriage among the unfit, and prevention of having children among those already married is proposed. The law makers are finding the second part of the law difficult to write so it may be enforced."

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FRANCE

THE Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, commenting on the decrease in the French population from 41,476,272 in 1913, to 39,209,518 in 1921, estimates that it will take 20 years at the present rate of increase to add one million to the nation. "Meanwhile," he adds, "Germany will have gained ten millions. This is a terrible reflection for those who think in terms of bayonets." That the French people, as distinguished from their Government think in other terms than those of bayonets is shown by the opposition which is developing towards immigration. "Already," writes the correspondent, "the phantom of unemployment is beginning to frighten the French workmen in the liberated regions. The foreigner is not wanted in the factories which he has helped to rebuild. Still less is he wanted in the great industrial centers, where, even before the war, he was accused of undercutting wages and lowering the standard of living."

Meanwhile the government continues to offer inducements to parents. The French Academy gives prizes for large families, the latest reported beneficiary being Devousté Debreuil, "whose family," says the *New York Times*, "has been struggling against the high cost of living with ten small mouths to feed." The Council of the Vosges is reported as giving a civic bounty of 300 francs for every child born in the department and an additional fifty francs for every child after the third. There is general, though academic, talk of polygamy on account of the excess of women in the population since the war. The hysteria, in the case of one writer,—M. Anquetil, author of "La Maitresse Legitime"—has gone so far as to include praise of Mormonism. If the various expedients proposed by the Government for increasing the birth-rate should be successful, France like Italy, will be faced with the problem of poverty and the need for emigration. For a fully populated country, an increasing population, however desirable from the point of view of bayonets, means a harder struggle for existence and a lowered standard of living.

ITALY

THE report comes from Milan that Premier Mussolini has declared the prolific birth rate of the Italian people to be one of the questions now crying for solution. He represents himself, however, as glad the Italians are prolific, not in sympathy with Malthusianism and only anxious to find an outlet for surplus population. "I will not," he is quoted in the *New York Herald* of October 19, as saying, "conduct any Malthusian propaganda. The fact that decadence worries other countries shows that

Press Opinions on "As A Doctor Sees It"

By Dr B LIBER

From the *Birth Control Review* "There are very few doctors that have the vision, the understanding and the sympathy that have made possible these thumbnail sketches. Even the briefest is an unforgettable etching—a bit of human life transcribed on paper. The two sections that are most interesting from the point of view of birth control are those entitled 'Poisoned Pleasure' 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. It is a missionary for birth control and as such every person interested in the movement must wish it well. It is greatly to the credit of Dr W 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."

"These throbbing bits of life speak greater volumes for needed revision of the legal point of view on conception, than entire libraries," *St Louis Post Dispatch*
"I wish every one of the 534 members of Congress had to read your book," *Mary Ware Dennett*, Director, Voluntary Parenthood League

A frank volume, frankly illustrated. It should be particularly called to the attention of comfortable people.—*N Y Sun*. Extremely colorful and fascinating.—*Fourth Estate*. Human documents. Reveal the need of more and better social service work.—*Boston Evening Transcript*. Some are sordid others tragic some gay all real and impressive.—*Industrial Pioneer*. Admirable book. Brevity and ease gracefully combined in this portrayal of the humorous and the pathetic. Thought provoking.—*Truth-Seeker*. Intensely interesting.—*Kansas City Star*. Mass of important facts told with first-class literary skill.—*Upton Sinclair*. Clever and entertaining.—*Atlanta Constitution*. It is the blatant reality and tragic death in life that a doctor of the city poor has to encounter.—*San Francisco Chronicle*. Intensely interesting and full of keen clinical and human observation. I compliment you upon your glimpse into people's character and their mode of living.—*Hansen Emerson M D*. Absorbingly interesting.—*London Spectator*. Impressionistic dabs of many phases of life among the lowly of a huge city. Close powers of observation adroit selection of words and artistic use of pencil serve to fasten these mental snapshots vividly in mind.—*N Y Evening Post*. Remarkable book by a remarkable personality. The author is an artist in drawing human forms.—*French*. Wonderfully fertile.—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. The book vibrates with intense interest from first to last.—*The Vegetarian Magazine*. This book is wonderful.—*San Francisco Bulletin*. It will do much to remove the scales from the eyes of the totally blind conservatives. It should be read by all Chambers of Commerce, Rotarians, Keynotes and Legislators.—*The World Tomorrow*. An extraordinary and unforgettable book.—*Cape Times Capetown South Africa*. Unusual and dramatic x-raying deep into life.—*Pittsburgh Gazette Times*. People of a doctor's practice, citizens of America, are the characters in this collection. Vivid pictures of human suffering and death that our high powered modern public health campaign has failed to dim.—*American Journal of Public Health*. An array of startling pictures from life. The appeal of the misery found in the attics of dreamers in the salons of the materially fortunate, and—most of all—in the sordidness surrounding folk broken by poverty disillusionment and unremunerative toil. Only those stories whispered to a physician behind closed doors.—*N Y Graphic*.

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The last sentence, coupled with a statement that the Fascist militia is not to be disbanded, look as if the present government of Italy is itself considering war for "a place in the sun" as a possible outlet for its surplus numbers.

COMING EVENTS

January 8 at three o'clock, is the date and hour set for the Annual Meeting at headquarters, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City, of the American Birth Control League.

The February number of the REVIEW will as in other years be the Havelock Ellis Number.

Preparations are proceeding for the SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL AND NEO-MALTHUSIAN CONFERENCE to be held at the Hotel McAlpin in New York March 25-31. Full announcements of the program will be made in the February number of the REVIEW.

Enclosed is my check for \$ (or dollar bill) which I send to the International Conference Fund.

Name

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Margaret Sanger, Frances B Ackerman,
President *Treasurer*

The Pictorial Review award (see our June issue) has gone to Mrs. Edward McDowell, who founded a colony in New Hampshire "to provide ideal working conditions for artists."

BIRTH CONTROL FOR HEALTH

(Continued from page 10)

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Mr I N Thurman, a lawyer of New York, made the appeal for funds, which will be put toward the expenses of the Sixth International Birth Control Conference, and outlined the legal impediments to Birth Control in this country The grounds for legal discouragement of Birth Control he believed to be, in effect, the effort of the State to have a large population for such purposes as war Of the spirit of American law on this subject he said "Nowhere in our legislative records is there to be found the least glint or scintilla of any of the vast moral, spiritual, economic or sociological aspects of the problem Our legislators have without exception failed to see that to deal with our staggering problems by way of Birth Control is to start with the source, the tap-root, and that that is far better than to deal with idiots or imbeciles or criminals or dependents once they are here"

MALTHUSIAN INDIA

(Continued from page 13)

true If I have proved that we have departed from the practice of our predecessors, that we have established a system far exceeding theirs in rigor even in the worst of their regular governments, then indeed there is some reason to call for a reform, and to hope at least for investigation I conscientiously believe that under no government, Hindu or Mohammedan profession to be actuated by law, was any system so subversive of the prosperity of the people at large as that which has marked our administration A land tax like that which now exists in India, professing to absorb the whole of the landlord's rent was never known under any government in Europe or Asia"

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BIRTH CONTROL IN RUSSIA

(Continued from page 19)



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is greater than among other women, although the number of complaints is tremendous) One told me in a naive manner after naming her list of ailments, "I have wife's illness too" Yet Birth Control and sex hygiene to the wiseacres mean "race suicide"! In this connection I quote from a personal letter of an American wife who practiced Birth Control during the first years of her marriage "I do so want a son. If I had enough money I should like to have no fewer than six children, as I feel I know so well what a child longs for" The wiseacres are too busy with commerce and machine guns to understand the hearts of their women

Abortions have been a severe test for Russian women. The future holds two alternatives for Soviet Russia as regards this question: back to an unlimited population, to war, to revolution, famine, or forward to scientific Birth Control and possibilities for a scientific life. Russian women must work for their own interests to secure this progress.

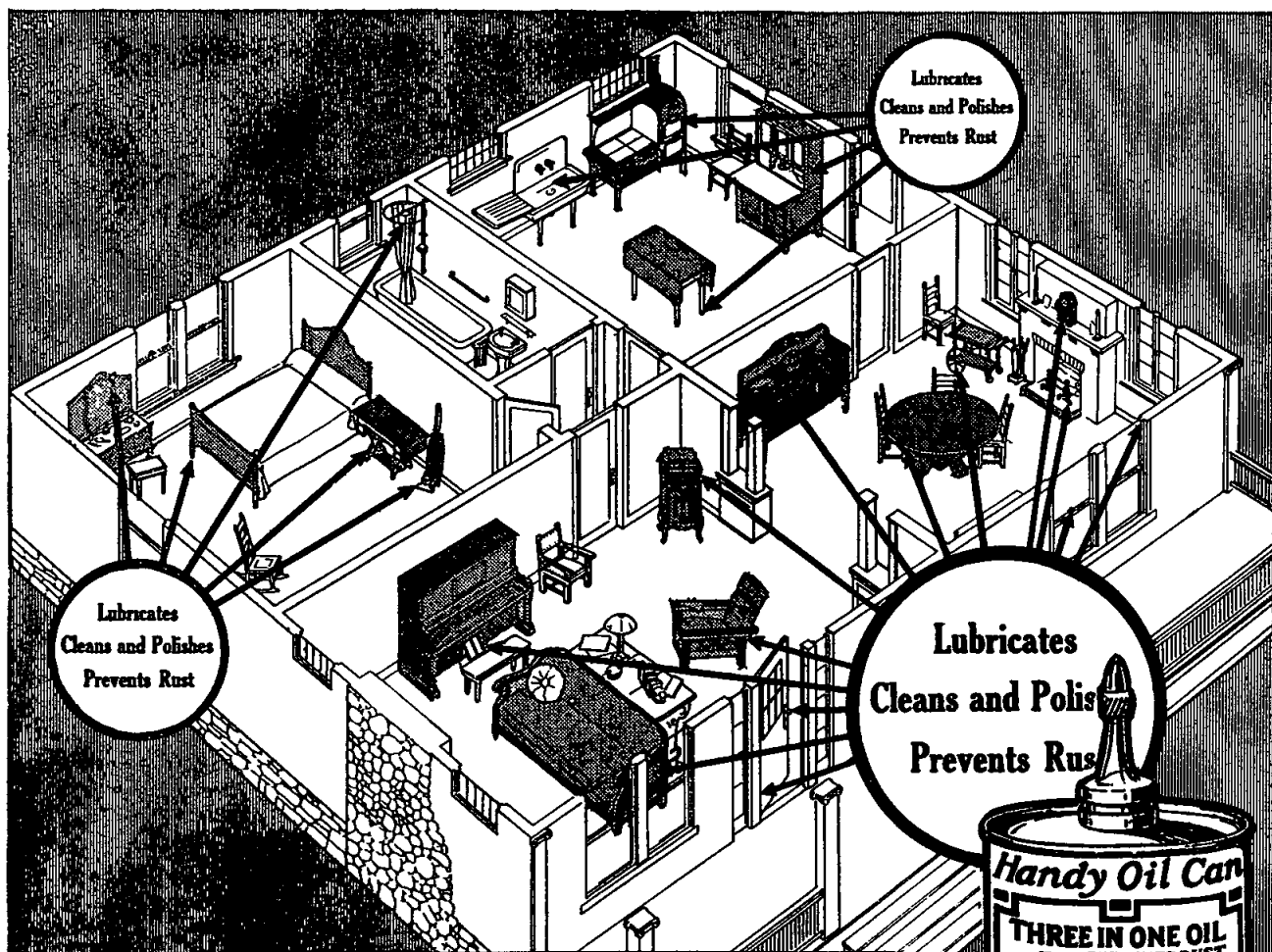
*The first steps toward organizing a Russian Birth Control movement are described by J S Coleman in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for November, page 330

BIRTH CONTROL UPHELD

Mill, it will be recollected, as Dean Inge points out, accepted the theory set out in Malthus' work. Darwin started from that theory in the researches which have revolutionized natural science. Carlyle denounced Malthus and all his teachings. Corbett and the revolutionary party reviled the Malthusian theory. The churches rejected Malthus, yet the intellect of Great Britain accepted and approved his theories. The silent public, however, was unconvinced on the subject.

Nevertheless, investigation proves that the common sense of the British nation has moved silently and steadily in the opposite direction. The birth-rate of 36 per 1,000 in 1877 fell steadily till in the last year it was only 20 per 1,000. This decline in birth-rate "saved" Britain from starvation in the Great War. Since 1877 the decline of the death-rate has been equal to that of the birth-rate. The two lines indicating birth-rate and death-rate are almost exactly parallel throughout these forty-five years.—*Journal-Courier*, Louisville, Ky

To give life well it must be given gladly. There can be no deeper tragedy than an unwilling motherhood.—C GASQUOINE HARTLEY, Women, Children, Love and Marriage, Heath Cranton, Lunt, London, 1924



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