

AUGUST, 1925

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



"Help me so I won't have more, for this
is all I am able to care for"

—From a Mothers Letter

BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, Inc

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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

AUGUST, 1925

No 8

One Week's Activity in England

INSPIRING reports come to us from England indicating that Birth Control is now accepted, not merely by a small group, but by men and organizations exerting powerful influences, as a national problem to be faced and solved by the English people as a whole. The record of one week's activity, for instance, is most encouraging, illustrating as it does that the tireless and often unrewarded activities of our British comrades have been productive of the most fertile results. Birth Control has entered the national consciousness of England. The little seeds of thought sown by the Neo-Malthusians and Birth Control advocates have not fallen on sterile ground. The one week we speak of was the first in June. Let us summarize that crowded week of Birth Control activity.

I. At the Congress on Public Health

The Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health met in Brighton. One session was devoted to the question of Birth Control. The chair was taken by Mrs. Cooper Rawson, who in her opening speech urged the limitation of offspring, not alone on the ground of the danger to the nation but in the name of humanity. Our friend, Dr. Norman Haire developed this point of view in his quietly effective manner. But the supreme event of this Congress on Public Health was the sermon delivered to the delegates in the Brighton Parish Church by the Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. E. W. Barnes). I say supreme because this sermon, so outspokenly courageous, provoked a response from the Vicar of Brighton (Canon F. C. D. Hicks), expressing disagreement with the Bishop, and this incident stimulated a widespread and healthy discussion in the press. It evoked, especially from Harold Cox and Alexander M. Thompson ("Dangle" of the *Sunday Chronicle*), eloquent and readable defences of the doctrine of Birth Control.

If space permitted, we would reprint for the benefit of our readers all of these splendid utter-

ances. We shall content ourselves with quoting on another page of the REVIEW* a bit of Bishop Barnes' sermon, expressing with a fine sense of the ethics of Christ, the profound morality of contraception. Let us hope that the courageous example of Bishop Barnes may inspire influential American churchmen to similar unequivocal utterance on the subject of Birth Control.

II National Council of Public Morals

Another event which stimulated discussion and nation-wide publicity was the report, (published on June second, the Tuesday following Bishop Barnes' sermon) of the special committee appointed by the National Council of Public Morals. Lord Dawson of Penn had submitted a report advocating its endorsement of contraception. After declaring that "conception control" demands a much fuller investigation from the medical, economic and religious standpoints, the committee came to the amazingly sterile conclusion that "the ideal method of Birth Control is self-control." "Such self-control must be agreed upon by the husband and wife and carried out in a spirit of service and sacrifice. The line of real advance lies in a deeper reverence, a return to a greater simplicity of life, and, not least, a drastic reformation of our social and economic conditions."

The value of our movement is not in the report of this committee, but the replies it has stimulated by its impossibly stilted and absurdly fantastical conception of ordinary human nature. "While they wait a hundred years or so for that reformation," exclaimed Alexander Thompson, hitting "the nail on the head" in the *Sunday Chronicle*, "husband and wife are to model themselves on St. Francis of Assisi, and practise self-control in the spirit of service and sacrifice! Imagine it. If you think for one little moment of the conditions under which conjugal relations are conducted in the

* See page 228

sties of our big cities, you will realize that one might as well hope to grow roses from the thistle down or teach the earthworm to sing like the nightingale. My word! Think of it. Continence, chastity, service, sacrifice, as the text of a heart-to-heart chat with Bill Sikes!"

III National Conference of Labor Women

Birth Control caused stormy scenes at the National Conference of Labor Women in Birmingham, held at the same time as the Brighton Congress on public health. A resolution had been introduced to the effect that physicians in public service should be permitted to give contraceptive information to married people who requested it. Miss Quinn, a Catholic delegate from Leeds, protested against Birth Control being taken up by the Socialist movement. "I represent thousands of working women to whom this doctrine and this insidious propaganda spells impurity. I protest with all the vehemence I possess against the suggestion that working women want instructions in impure and unchaste methods. It is a crime against God and humanity!"

It is reported that this speech provoked great dissension, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., the chairman, interposed that she had allowed Miss Quinn a good deal of latitude, but she would not allow her to insult the rest of the delegates. "I represent the sentiments of thousands of Catholic women," retorted Miss Quinn. Other women might hold different views, quite honestly, replied the chairman, and Miss Quinn should not impute impure motives to them.

Bravo, Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.!

IV. Quakers Approve of Birth Control

This active week closed with another significant event—the publication by a committee of the Society of Friends of a pamphlet entitled "Marriage and Parenthood—the Problem of Birth Control." While this pamphlet does not bind the Society of Friends as a unity to our doctrine, it may be said to represent the enlightened attitude of the English society.

"There can be no doubt that Friends, like others, have accepted the idea of the small family," assert the signatories of this pamphlet. "There must be many young couples who long to have children and yet have no margin to meet the incidental cost of child-birth." Further "The method of complete abstinence does not seem to us to be necessarily right for most married people. To lay down as a

standard for all married people a rule of life that can only be attained by a few is in itself an error in moral direction."

This expression is significant, indicating as it does without confusing the issue that the Society of Friends is brave enough, as all other Protestant bodies should be, to announce publicly its independence from the domination of the Roman Catholic Church in this all-important problem, in that it refuses to rule out the discussion and the spread of knowledge concerning Birth Control.

These four important incidents, coming almost within the compass of seven days, give some indication of the widespread and intense interest our British cousins are taking in Birth Control. May it inspire all of us to renew our activities to keep our own country abreast in the march toward the new civilization!

MARGARET SANGER

THIS month we have no separate pages for our letters from poor mothers. These women, whose suffering was the emotional appeal—referred to slightly by some critics—which brought the Birth Control movement into existence in America, speak from every page. We present them this way instead of in the usual group because we want to print them as they come from the envelope, misspelled, unpunctuated, badly capitalized. In a group they would be hard to read in this form and for this reason, though we never change a word, we generally edit them roughly. Because of the singular genius with which the terror and pity of their lives is brought out, doubt has been expressed as to whether the women who write them are really the submerged—whether the submerged are not careless in the matter of child-bearing and these are articulate women of a better class. A few are, but the bulk of the letters as they come from the envelope, answer once for all the question whether it is the very poor who want Birth Control. Written, often in pencil, on ruled paper, cheap, discolored, rough and easily destroyed, they present every sort of mistake in the vehicle of expression, though in content they are superior to the writings of the sophisticated, educated person. They can only be compared in dignity, poignancy, depth of feeling and adequacy of expression to the peasant ballads of old days. Whatever the other reasons for Birth Control, eugenic, hygienic or social, these letters, the appeals of the suffering poor—still after more than ten years coming in their thousands to Mrs. Sanger—remain the vital argument for Birth Control.

The Case for Birth Control

By RUDOLPH I. COFFEE, PH D

Rabbi of Temple Sinai, Chaplain of Assembly, California Legislature

Address given in the Assembly Chamber of the California Legislature during the State Conference of Social Workers, in Debate with Father R. E. Lucey

LET us open this argument by declining to accept the Bible as a Birth Control textbook. While the Bible is the most sacred book in the world and no finer document has ever been penned by mortal man, the Bible is not a volume whose words shall always be literally construed in discussions of technical and scientific matters. Theologians in the Middle Ages, considering it the last word on geography, were blind to the poetry of the Bible. They honestly believed that "God stretched out the Heavens like a curtain" (Psalms CIV, 2) and so Columbus for years was prevented from going west to discover the New World. Because theologians insisted that the Bible was a textbook on anatomy, Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was long considered an infidel. Because theologians considered the Bible as their highest authority on medicine, they objected violently to expectant mothers receiving an anaesthetic, for does not the Bible say "In pain shalt thou bring forth children" (Genesis III, 16)? Because the Bible has been held as a textbook in education, we have been taught that nonsensical doctrine, "spare the rod and spoil the child." Because of these and countless other instances, I plead with you not to consider detached Bible verses as proof against Birth Control. We need a scientific atmosphere for the discussion of one of the world's greatest problems.

I

BUT if our opponents insist on quoting the Bible verse, Genesis I, 28, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth," let me reply that these words were spoken to the two souls who alone were supposed to inhabit the earth at that time. Surely in the past six thousand years that command has been amply filled and now the world faces the grave menace of overpopulation. Countering that verse from sacred scripture, if you must have a Bible sentence, let me offer Ecclesiasticus XVI, 1-3, "Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children. If they multiply, delight not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them. For one is better than a thousand, and to die childless than to have ungodly children." What a wonderful argument for Birth Control, "for one is better than a thousand."

And yet, there is one Bible phrase that should always be held in mind, "Thou shalt not commit murder," (Exodus XX, 13). Believers in Birth Control are absolutely and unqualifiedly opposed to abortion. We hold that abortion is murder, and we are wholeheartedly in favor of Birth Control because it is the surest and most practical way to end that terrible sin of abortion, the figures for which total hundreds of thousands of operations every year. Here are two remarkable statements for your thoughtful consideration. More abortions are annually committed in America than in any other civilized land, and no country has such strict laws as the United States, against contraceptive information. I claim that these two facts naturally correlate. With properly qualified doctors giving information about Birth Control, the number of abortions will tremendously diminish.

II

WHAT is Birth Control? It is the principle that men and women who now bring children into the world no different from cats and dogs and pigs, should become the parents of wanted children,

"I TOLD HIM NOT TO COME HOME"

Oklahoma

deare unknowin friend am writting you in regard to Birth Control am the mother of 7 children 6 living my Husband Has plagra he went a way to taik treatment for plagra Has Bin a way two years Viseted Home twice I miss carried Both times he came home the last time I most Crossed the deth Vailhe so he wrote me he was coming home to stay so i didnt think i could staend another miss carrage so i told him not to come home untill i were to old to give Berth to children He didnt come home my Children are hart Broken Because there dadday dont come Home they cant under stand why i dont want Him to come Home the oldest is 14 the youngest is 3 years old so if you will give me informaetion how to keep from conceiving i will aprechiate it as i love my Husband and would very much like to have him at home

that the act of childbirth shall be spiritually and lovingly desired, that before baby number two arrives, its mother shall have sufficient time physically to recover her normal strength from bearing the first, and the father save up sufficient funds for the next hospital bill, while the first baby has obtained that physical growth and strength which at least two years require. Babies should be desired, they should be wanted and properly spaced. That family which lacks the money, the mentality and the physical strength to care for two babies, should be content with one. In other words, birth control would end that haphazard method of bringing babies into the world, which has existed from time immemorial until now. It urges the parents who can properly provide for three or four babies, not to unduly exceed that number.

But why shall we change? Why so suddenly bring a new procedure into the world? My answer is that we must "make the world safe for democracy." As long as kings and emperors ruled the people, education for the masses was of lesser importance. But to-day, when we have given the ballot to man and to woman, the very existence of democracy is threatened, unless we have an intelligent electorate. At a recent election in California, one proposal was to vote on a measure involving five hundred million dollars. How many citizens can comprehend such a stupendous sum? Yet, at the election, the vote of an ordinary bum or a poverty stricken mother, with almost no education, was equal to that of each president of our great universities. Democracy, if it is to succeed, demands intelligence. Yet, our whole effort seems toward continuing and multiplying the unfit. Our government has greatly strengthened its rigid immigration laws so that no idiot, insane person or

pauper may enter America, yet nothing is done to prevent the unfit, already here, from reproducing their undesirable kind and populating the states with an ever increasing army of syphilitic and diseased and insane people.

The example of the federal government is closely followed in the several states. California, for example, spends over eight million dollars annually in maintaining sixteen state institutions to care for the criminal, the sick, the pauper and those generally unfit. Practically every county has its mediaeval almshouse, an institution dating back to Alfred the Great. We have free hospitals and public clinics and schools for the feeble-minded and backward children. We set aside millions for the weak, most of whom are permitted to reproduce their kind. "Why do the ambitious and the industrious have to fight so hard for education and for help? Why are the rotten timbers of society repaired and painted, while the more solid framework is abandoned to wind and weather?" (East, "Mankind at the Crossroads," page 232.) Surely this increase is not needed for the sake of popu-

lation, because the reverse is nearer the truth. At the present rate of increase in America, we shall have, at the end of this century, more people than now live in China, with a smaller territory. War, please God, will soon be abolished as a relic of the barbaric past, and science is overcoming famine and plagues. The question, then, is unless we concentrate on quality, rather than quantity, how can we provide for the population of the earth?

III

Birth Control is already practised by the educated classes, and the wealthy citizens of America

(Continued on page 237)

"HOW IT IS WITH A FAMILY OF 11"

Indiana

I thought I would write you a letter. I am sorrow I can't help you in subscribing for the Birth Control because my husband is a miner he is out of work and has been for some time. The miners where he works shut down for good. I kept putting off writing. I thought I could get some money for to help you but could not. We have not got our home paid for yet and likely to lose it. You know about how it is with a family of 11. Eleven to do for. I am sure but maybe I can help some way. I am for you one thing. I got 3 girls and I don't want them to go through what I have if I can help it. We are poor people and have a hard time. I can stand it better than I can stand to see my children suffer what I have. Well, I will else I could tell you a lot if I could see you with hopes of success.

RABBI COFFEE'S MESSAGE TO THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL

Here are my heartiest congratulations to the Birth Control Conference. Be assured that I, if not in person, am wholly with you in spirit, and I pray that God will grant to you and your colleagues the power to impress the American people with the fervor and the earnestness of our work.

Ellen Key

By JANE BURR

ELLEN KEY seems to prove the theory that the life work of every great person grows out of his deepest hurt

The happy people of each generation follow along the cow-path, those who suffer are whipped by their pain into carving new and dangerous highways

The happy people, having no need and therefore no understanding of the new road, cry down the valiant

A few decades and the highway becomes the cow-path. The happy people jog along it as though it had been trampled since the animals came out of the Ark. Again, they cry down the unadjusted as they dash ahead, red banners flying, on a still more hazardous pilgrimage

Ellen Key, more than any other woman in the world is responsible for the banners that fly at the head of the feminist movement today

The dream of her life was to marry the man she loved, bear him two boys and two girls, and live with her happy family in some secluded woodland spot

The man she loved she could not have, and she would have no other. For seventy-five years she has struggled alone in her unhappiness to wrest from the world happiness for other women

Her Country in Her Debt

Though she has never received the honor due her in her own country, though they have even forgotten the part she played in forcing hushed subjects into the open, it was she who was instrumental in bringing about the present difficult marriage and free divorce laws of Scandinavia that have become the models for the marriage and divorce laws of the whole world

Sprung from a long line of titled Germans, fierce Norsemen, Scotch Highlanders and Celtic Bards, Ellen Key has carved her highway without a compromise

Though she has never had a husband or a lover, she has held fast to her ideal of what real marriage ought to be

She believes in free love—that is, a love where every man and every woman may choose with freedom. She has been accused of indulging in, and advocating promiscuity. So far is she removed from any such performance that she preaches purity until marriage for both men and women

"If you have a piece of gold," she said to me, "and you chip off a little here and a little there, you will have none left to offer when your great opportunity comes"

If the first marriage fails, of course she believes you must have another chance. Her ideal, however, is the one man and the one woman and their children in a life union

Maligned as the foremost advocate of sex freedom in the past generation, Ellen Key is already considered old fashioned. The so-called looseness of the youth of today is a shock to her finest sensibilities. He has covered her highway with a hop, skip and jump and she has not been able to keep up with him, even visually

She has been called blasphemous because she does not believe in the God of the bible. She is the godliest of women.

Free Motherhood

She has been called vile because she has advocated free motherhood. She believes that women were meant to bear babies and that if not bearing them frustrates their entire lives, they should bear them in or out of marriage, with or without love. If rightly understood, very few women could live up to her standard set for the free mother

These are her own words

"In order that the experiment shall succeed, the woman must be not merely as pure as snow, she must be as pure as fire in her certainty of giving her own life a bright enhancement and a new treasure to the race in the child of her love"

She believes in birth control so that only wanted children shall be born and so that two people may live together, unfruitful, until they know that they are fit to make their harmonious contribution to the race

Though she has never had a child, so beloved are all children to her, that in her own country at least,

"ALL BORN DEAD"

Maine

I have had three children all born dead and have been told that I never could have a living child and probably never would live to have another one. I am so sick at the time. If there is any way I can avoid getting in that condition again I wish you would please tell me as soon as you can.

she has put an end to child labor, she has forced the law to make all children legitimate whether born in wedlock or out of it, to give each child its father's name no matter how many other children may have a legal right to it, to secure a pension and an education for each child in exact ratio to the father's income, to close all orphan asylums except for the defective and physically unfit, to appoint a home and a guardian outside that home for each child that otherwise would have been left to the whim of ignorance and even cruelty, to accept the sworn testimony of a woman instead of that of a man

There is a hushed ideality about Ellen Key's life that the practical person of this generation fears to invade. I felt it at her table where the cherries and the amusing cookies and even the roasted chicken had a holiday meaning. I felt it when I sat at her feet before the open fire, eating bits of

apple that she prepared and stuck into my mouth. I felt it most of all when, discussing my own world sorrow, she held me close to her heart and whispered, "Poor humanity"

She is the universal mother, starved, lonely, misunderstood, even in her own land where she has worked so fearlessly

"What is all this glory to me?" she said, as she held out her two beautiful old hands, "I would rather have had my man and my two boys and my two girls than all the glory in the world"

When you are with Ellen Key, you feel a bitterness towards life for her frustration, but when you are sailing away across the sea that lies in front of her beautiful home, you say to yourself "No. It is better as it is. The one has been sacrificed for the many. Because of her martyrdom, millions of her sisters will rise to a greater fulfillment, will march over her highway towards freedom"

What Birth Control has Done for Health

By MARY HALTON, M D

THE one most important service that Birth Control is doing for the world is its service for race betterment, which, at present, we can measure only in a physical sense

The present death rate of the human child is appalling. Only fifty per cent of children born today reach the age of twenty-three. The other fifty per cent have not sufficient vitality to withstand the physical risks and diseases of infancy, childhood and adolescence

Looking for causes of this enormous death rate in the human family, Departments of Health have accumulated evidence to show that the one greatest

factor in this waste of life is due to pre-natal causes, in other words allowing the unfit to produce children and allowing women to produce too rapidly, thus giving us a child unfit to survive. Dr. Alice Hamilton has studied the survival of children in small and large families, and finds that on the average the death rate of the children in a family increases very rapidly when the number born increases, so that a woman bearing a few children may expect to bring up most of them, whereas a woman bearing a dozen or more may expect to lose most of them *

The contraceptive methods used by the better classes of society cause a proportionately low death rate of children born to them

"ALL BUT ONE IS SIMPLE"

Virginia

I am the mother of 2 children and they are not strong both are weak have a weak heart and I am nothing but a poor woman and I don't think I should bring them here to suffer and I have a sister in law her and I bought the book she has 3 children 9-7-3 and I don't think she should have any more and because her mother is in the insane asylum now and has been for 7 years and she is not herself all the time and all of the children but one is simple now I think it is a shame for her to bring children in the world will you please tell me something I have a sister that uses 2 tea spoon of Bread Soda to a quart of water is that any good if so will you please tell me

WE see the working of Birth Control for race betterment very plainly in those countries where Birth Control methods are publicly taught. These countries have a low birth rate, but the vitality of the children born is so great that their death rate is very low, and the consequent increase in population is as great as in countries not so enlightened

The second most important thing for health which Birth Control has done is the actual saving of the lives of those mothers without falling into ill health or losing their lives. How important this is we learn from the vital statistics of the United States which tell us that the second highest cause

* See page 227

"THE DOCTOR WON'T TELL HER"

Oklahoma

a few lines to yo to see if I can get eney infermation in regard to burth controle as I think you ar right I have a daughter that is the mother of 9 children & now she has the T B she has bin in bed 9 monts & is going to get well I beleve if she dont have no more children her baby is 3 years she has not bin married 20 years if yo plese tell me I will pay yo for infermationt my daugh is pore & I am a wido & 62 years old & I hope I can get sumthing that will do her sum good the Dr wont tell her nothing to do so by by hoping to hear from yo soon

of death in the United States is maternity and its complications, tuberculosis being the cause of the greatest number of deaths, with heart disease rapidly overtaking tuberculosis

It is of course here again among the upper classes that this protective work of Birth Control is operative and as would be expected the death rate of women from causes connected with maternity is much lower in this class than in the unprotected lower classes

Doctors have not printed their results found by protecting women with Birth Control methods This is largely due to the hysterical taboo which has debased this subject and has led to legislation declaring it obscene and unlawful, and has caused suppression of its discussion even from Medical Journals

IT was Margaret Sanger and her devoted helpers who lifted this taboo in New York State They opened a Birth Control Clinic, were arrested and imprisoned, they organized publicity and appealed their cases, and finally brought the case of the poor woman to the highest court of the state and forced a decision from the Judges, giving the doctors of the State power to help her And now, even though we have that right few doctors in this state know it and the hysterical taboo on Birth Control seems to be as great as ever, and our poor women are much as before in need of contraceptive information

It has been my privilege in New York to have the opportunity to protect by contraceptive methods a large number of women to whom further child-bearing meant death or permanent injury to health

In one of the large hospitals of the city, even years before the courts of the state had made such work legal, I did this work

I have in my records from this clinic 297 cases

These women came from the maternity hospitals, from private doctors of the poorer class and from midwives

THEY suffered from almost every imaginable complaint Tuberculosis, eclampsia, nephritis, heart disease, insanity, osteomyelitis, goitre, gall stones, cancer, syphilis, pernicious anaemia, dysentery, cripples from accidents, blind women, and many others suffering with diseases unfamiliar to the reading public

It has not been possible to follow up all of these cases through the years, but one hundred and thirty-two of these are known to be still alive, the others having moved or disappeared in one way or another, and nine are known to be dead from causes not connected with maternity

It may be said in passing that my work at this hospital did not last long The hysterical fears of the medical staff caused my retirement from that clinic, although the medical director of that hospital congratulated me on my "brave work" and declared I was fifty years ahead of my time

It will readily be seen that a few workers like myself not even having a fair chance to work, are only trying to put back the ocean with a pitchfork, while we still are under the foolish taboo of Birth Control being synonymous with obscenity, instead of being worthy of the deepest respect as a protection to maternal creation

There is one aspect of this subject which must be touched upon in closing It is the great work that Birth Control, when given its proper place, will do to prevent one of the greatest evils of our time—abortion The exact death rate from this evil on account of its secret nature is unknown, but it is well known that it is very great

The dawn of women's day is at hand Freedom is known to be the one greatest necessity and stimulant in every branch of creative work Birth Control will give the freedom needed not only for the physical protection of woman and her creation, but above all for the evolution of a higher and more splendid race

ONE IN NINE BORN ALIVE

Illinois

I was asked some time ago to write you for some information as you could give it, I have been married Ten years 6 months and had misfortune to loose eight & some times Two in one year I can go allright up until beetween the third & fourth month & thats when the trouble begins I have got one little Girl Five years old Your ans will be appreciated

Poverty and Birth Control

By ALICE HAMILTON, M D

IT must have been some ten or twelve years after I came to live in Hull-House that I was suddenly asked one day in public whether I believed in Birth Control.* Without stopping to think I answered at once that I most certainly did and then realized that this was the first time the question had ever been put to me or I had ever formulated my belief even to myself. The answer had been almost automatic, prompted by my daily experiences in a poor community, where I came in close contact with the lives of Italians, Irish, Slavs, Germans and Russian Polish Jews, and saw what unlimited child-bearing meant to them. I had pictures flash into my mind of the gradual slipping down of home standards and the loss of comforts, decencies, under the pressure of too many babies, coming too fast. I could think of promising boys and girls for whom a high school education had been proudly planned and a rise in the world, but who had been forced to leave school at fourteen and take any possible job because there were so many mouths to feed that the father's wages would not suffice. I could think of dull, weary women, incapable of taking the part of mother as we think of that part, to the

always increasing brood of children, who had to bring up themselves and their younger brothers and sisters because the one who should have done it had degenerated into a lifeless drudge. And so I found myself of a sudden an ardent advocate of a cause which till then I had hardly heard of and all my experience since then has only confirmed and strengthened my adherence.

The reasons which are convincing to those of us who live among and know the poor are perhaps not the same as those which seem most urgent to others. We are not, for instance, moved much by the plea

that the upper classes are being submerged by the lower and that the welfare of society demands a re-dressing of the balance. We know that ability and character are not a matter of class and that the difference comes from the unfair handicaps to which the children of the poor are subject and we would remedy matters by working for equality of opportunity for all children, instead of trying to encourage the propagation of one class and not of the other. The arguments for Birth Control which appeal most to us are based on the welfare of the women of the poorer classes and the welfare of their children.

A woman who starts her married life with a tiny flat and her wedding furniture and practically nothing more, has an enormous problem in budget making before her at the best, one which she usually handles with a skill that amazes me when I think of her almost total lack of training except what she has had from her equally untrained mother. She can often, perhaps more often than not, make a very fair success out of it for the first years of her married life, while she is strong and the pressure is not too unendurable. She can even plan for better times and look forward to

"YOU LOST YOUR LOVE"

WISCONSIN

I have four living children and one miscarriage the oldest will be 5 years in Sept and the baby just 5 months old the baby is a puny little thing it seemed I had no more strength in me before I was pregnant but still had to have another one. I am willing to do most any thing to keep from having any more babies if you will only help me as I had such a hard time of it and the Doctor said it would be worse if I had any more and that it would kill me and all he does for me is just to tell me to be more careful I am as careful as I can be but that didn't help me any for it is no fun to have children every year for the strength gives out and you lost your love. I was almost paralyzed on one side with the last two children I do not come around regular and therefore it is hard for me to take care of myself I am now 32 years old it is for us to make ends meet my husband is just a common laboring man, and so if you only help me please do and if there is something that I can do for you I will only be to willing and glad to do it for you so if there is any help for me I pray that you will let me know what it is.

the time when her children will be educated and take good positions and more money will come in and life be somewhat easier.

But if the babies come year after year, she cannot, unless she is a very wonderful person—there are such in the poorest tenements—bear up under the continually increasing burden. The wedding furniture is traded for cheap and less bulky pieces, the children are put to bed in the living room, in the kitchen, anywhere, all attempt at prettiness and order is abandoned, later on even cleanliness may go. It is not that she does not still

"OFFAL HARD ON A PERSON"

Pennsylvania

I thought that I would drop you a letter asking you too help me I have purchaset your Book the Birth Control last week and lernd that you can help me I am 31 years old and have 9 children 2 of them died and I am having a hard time in rasing the rest my husband is not well and just makes 80 doller a month and that haint anapht too rase a Big family and he is offal crule too the children too and I would rather die then too have ame more when I cant dress them lke other children and cant give them as good a care my oldest is 15 years and the youngest is 13 months old and I have had my montley allredy and am afraid that I will gett in the family way agayn I am not well no more I have bursted wains on my leags and thy Bother me very much I had to gett aup the 3 day after each Birth and doo my own wasing and all my work and that is offal hard on a persan I thing I had my share so Please Be so kind and help soo I would not have no more Please do

long for these comforts, she may be bitterly aware of their loss, but the task is too great for any woman and under the strain of childbearing she is no longer as strong as she was, she cannot make even the efforts she did when there were but two or three little ones. With each new burden she finds herself less able to shoulder any burden

"What Could a Priest Know?"

She does not always submit to this increasing misery without a struggle Birth Control is carried on in the tenements all the time, but it is not prevention of conception, *that* the women do not understand. It is in the form of abortion, which every woman can learn about if she wishes. Not long ago I invited a group of women to spend a Sunday afternoon with me at Hull-House, all of them married women with large families. The conversation turned very soon on abortions and the best method of producing them and I was in consternation to listen to the experiences of these women, who had themselves undergone frightful risks and much suffering rather than add another child to the house too full already. These women were all Catholics, but when I spoke of that, they simply shrugged their shoulders. What could a priest know about a woman's life?

All the mistakes and crimes of society bear hardest on the children, and the greatest of all the injustices of civilized society is that which allows the children of one class to face life with less chance than the children of another class, less chance not

only of health and happiness but even of life itself. And the larger the family of the poor man the less chance there is for the babies to survive the first year of life. I hesitate to use some figures I collected way back in 1909, but although I have diligently sought since then for more complete and better worked out statistics in this field I have not found them and I am obliged to fall back on a study of the birth rate and death rate under one year of age in 1,600 poor families in Chicago.

In order to avoid conflicting factors I compared the large families—eight children and over—with the small families—four children and under—of the same nationality, for all but three per cent of the families were foreign-born. In all, the result was the same, the rate of deaths per thousand births was far higher in the large family group than in the small. For instance, among the Jews the rate was 260 deaths per thousand births in large families—only 81 in small families. Among the Irish the two figures were 291 and 113, among the Slavs, 328 and 122, and among the Italians, 391 and 125. For all the 1,600 families, when divided into those with six children and more and those with four children and less, the rates were 267 deaths per thousand births for the former, 118 deaths for the latter.

Nerves

If the child does live, what is his home like if there are too many children in it? A city child cannot escape into the open as a country child can. His home is inevitably noisy if it is in the poorer parts of the city and it is really no home at all, unless the mother is one of those rare souls who can perform miracles. Recently I was connected with a study made by visiting nurses and a trained psychiatric student of the nervous diseases among the children of the tenements. We found a truly appalling number of neurotic, abnormal children, and we found an almost hopeless outlook for them. How

"FOUR LIVING AND FOUR DEAD"

Louisiana

I am a farmers wife have borne 8 children 4 living 4 dead I married when I was 17 yrs old had a child when 18 yrs old. 8 children in less than 10 yrs—I am for birth control. I misscarried 6 mo ago came near dying. Please help me I am at present using Is it safe do you think? I saw it advertised and of course it did not say for prevention of child birth but it looked like it was good and so far it works but would like to know for sure. Would you please write at once as I live in constant dread and oblige

can one demand careful, quiet-minded, tactful, patient treatment for a difficult child, from a woman whose days are spent in a crowded kitchen full of drying clothes, of cooking food, of crying babies underfoot, of continual demands on her strength and attention and leisure, where solitude and quiet are the most impossible of luxuries. These children have really no chance for health and a normal life.

Karl Pearson once made a study of the children of large and of small families and, as I remember, decided in favor of the former because he found the younger children on the whole much more worth while than the older ones. I have always wondered whether there were not a very obvious explanation for such findings. His investigation was probably made largely among the poor, who cannot defend themselves against the investigator any more than they can against the other ills of life, and among them it is usually true that the youngest children of large families are distinctly superior to the older ones in education and therefore more successful in life. But this does not mean more native ability, it means that the older sisters and brothers have been sacrificed for the sake of the later comers, they have been put to work at the earliest moment the law allows, if not earlier, they have had to toil and save that the ever increasing brood be fed and clothed, they have been robbed of their youth and given burdens to bear which should never have been theirs.

It is not a question of introducing among the poor an effort to prevent excessive child-bearing. Such efforts are made all the time now. It is a question of introducing safe and sane methods, and of spreading among them the knowledge that such a limitation of the number of children is possible without the risk of death or invalidism. It is a question of offering to the poor who need it most, the knowledge and the power which has long been the possession of those who need it least.

* Paper read at the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference

"I DON'T WANT NO MORE"

North Carolina

I am writing you for advice a bout birthcontrol is it a medicon to use and where do you get it at and what is the price I have one of your Books and have red it and I am the mother of 7 children and the oldest one is 11 year old and the boy is most 4 months old and I do not want no more if I can keep from it I have such a hard time will you please gave me advice a bout what to do to keep from brainging any more children now Please let me no at once and oblige

THE BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM ON THE BIRTH RATE

THE *Portsmouth Evening News* of June 1st gives this account of the Bishop of Birmingham's sermon during the meeting of the Congress of the Institute of Public Health at Brighton

"The Bishop," says the *News*, "said that our civilization had been transformed in the last hundred years by public hygiene. But the new world thus called into existence had problems as difficult as any which mankind had yet had to meet

"The growth of population had been such that vast masses were deprived of the uncramped existence necessary to health

"The question is raised," he continued, "whether the social conscience is not now conniving at racial degeneration. The better stocks increase slowly, if at all, whereas 70 years ago they were probably increasing almost as rapidly as the general population

"Now I do not think the change from large to small families in the middle classes is to be condemned. It is, in fact, a desire for the welfare of the general public that has led to the limitation of the middle-class family

Over-Population Danger

"Many thinkers of late years have been led to regard the crowded state of Europe as the main underlying cause of the Great War. They feel that a like catastrophe will recur unless that altruism which limits population-increase can be made to prevail

"By medicine and hygiene Nature's destructive forces have been conquered, but the victory will be disastrous to human welfare unless a desire for many children, which is natural, and until recently was laudable, is held in check. In such constraint there is an element of self-renunciation which is surely Christian. It is suggested that it springs from a conviction that children are a burden rather than a boon. I do not think that we can get stable social progress until we spread through all classes a spirit of grave and serious consideration of the ethics of child-bearing

"There is a limit to the population which these islands can bear. We have probably reached that limit, and further increase must be used in emigration, but our emigrants must be worthy of the race, free from the taints which make for racial inferiority. To-day I would urge that through education we might do much more than is being done at present to prevent reckless child-bearing. We all agree that it is wrong that children should swarm in overcrowded slums. I have in my work of late come across terrible cases of large families born of tuberculous parents. Such parents have done wrong in producing children in such conditions

Speaking in the Name of Christ

"When a child is born it is a duty of the community to give it every possible opportunity for social health. The community has a right to take measures to prevent the increase of tainted stocks. It will be wise to teach its more improvident members that large families are a hindrance to social progress. Speaking in the name of Christ, the lover of children, we ought to condemn such action."

"It is said that these people obey the law, 'Increase and multiply and replenish the earth,' but those who say so only evade serious thought by quoting a text which cannot be thus applied to modern conditions. The spirit of the Gospel must replace the ancient injunction. More than one law put forth by men of old was repudiated by Christ."

"At present none dare say that the future is secure. Our civilization is dangerously weighted by a recklessness on the part of the less provident that may yet submerge it. A violent reaction may set in repudiating the Christian idealism which has animated recent social developments."

THE MAGAZINES ON THE INTERNATIONAL

IN the May REVIEW we commented on the space given to the Sixth International in the press. The magazines have shown no less interest, especially the weeklies, which are the vehicles of the more important news events of the day.

The story published in the *Survey* was reprinted in the June REVIEW. *The Woman Citizen* had a story almost as long and quite as sympathetic. Its general comment on the program was:

The program of the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference made an impressive showing of scientists and social workers. Their common concern was to discuss, from one angle and another, the essential Birth Control theory that intelligent guidance should be applied to the problem of population, instead of its being left to instinct and chance, with the cruel correctives of abortion and other ruthless methods of Birth Control. They varied, naturally, in the degree to which they consider Birth Control a general panacea.

The program alone is a testimony to the standing the movement has achieved, and to the many problems of great social concern with which it interlocks.

The Nation and the *New Republic* published good stories of the sessions. Of the Conference in general *The Nation* said:

"This conference is evidence that persons, many of them hitherto cautious or averse, are now ready to empty this knowledge into the mind of the world. All this is encouraging for the world at large and it stands, intentionally or not, as a magnificent tribute to Margaret

Sanger and to the few men and women—chiefly women—who have faced notoriety and attack to make Birth Control a breathing issue."

Said the New Republic

"A noteworthy group of experts and specialists, social, medical and scientific, contributed sixty odd papers to the program. As was to be expected, there was uniformity in the conclusions and a multiplicity in approach which was most significant, indeed, the problem was shown against so many different backgrounds and from so many angles that an uncritical enthusiast might be excused a belief that in Birth Control was a panacea for all human ills. Though this is unfortunately not true, it is no exaggeration to say that the problem of population inevitably dominates the solution of all other problems, social and international. The importance of such a conference as the present needs no sort of emphasis. It is, however, worth while noting that pioneers like Mrs. Margaret Sanger, who began by an emotional reaction to the problems of a few sick and derelict women, by their human sympathy were led to put their finger upon the most universal of all human problems. In so doing they have been opposed by all the small minds but they have the excellent example of Prometheus with which to fortify themselves. Science and its advances have always appeared obscene to some men, but the possibility of holding such a conference in New York only four and a half years after the famous piece of hypocrisy triumphant staged at the Town Hall is an indication that the vestments even of hypocrisy wear out in course of time."

The *Literary Digest*, following its usual custom in relation to important news events, collected and commented on editorial statements from the daily press throughout the country, and *Time*, the news weekly gave more than a page of news of the Conference and of the Birth Control movement in general. Among the other magazines which gave space are *Commerce and Finance*, *The Journal of Social Hygiene*, *The Arbitrator*, *Colliers*.

"I DON'T FEEL VERY STOUT"

Illinois

I have had awful time since I been married I got a good man he works every day he is a little fellow but had no hard work to do other wise would not have stood the work and we have had six children the first one died when born, I have five girls one 12 other 9, 7, 5 and have a baby 5 month old and am only 31 years old my self so I dont want no more children because we got all we can handle now, so I dont feel very stout no more, so please tell me what I can do to avoid getting in the farmlyway that what I am looking for My baby are awful sweet the oldest one are not strong but the three little one are

A Pioneer Clinic — A Review

By HANNAH M. STONE, M.D.

LIFE OF MARIE C. STOPES, by Aylmer Maude
Williams & Norgate, London

THE FIRST FIVE THOUSAND, by Dr. Marie Stopes
John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, London

THE biographer of Tolstoy in old age, has in the "Life of Marie Stopes" taken a young person at the height of her career as his subject. He has made a study of a woman who has in recent years been one of the driving forces in the Birth Control movement in England. The life is not, however, a contribution to the literature of Birth Control, it is too vague as to the movement and too centered about one personality for that. It is an intimate personal biography of Dr. Stopes from childhood up, so intimate and personal indeed that the writer frankly puts the pen in his subject's own hand in the later chapters.

To the general public in England and America the most interesting years of Marie Stopes' life are those since 1918, when she married Humphrey Verdon Roe, who had already dedicated his life and fortune to Birth Control. The work which they have shared since then, she adding the force of a vigorous and effective personality to his almost anonymous service and material support, is best told, not in Mr. Maude's "Life," but in Dr. Stopes' report on the first five thousand cases from their clinic.

Not content with the more theoretical consideration of Birth Control and the mere propagation of its method and principles, Dr. Stopes was the first in England to carry out her ideas in actual practice. In March, 1921, she organized, together with her husband, the first contraceptive clinic in England under the name "The Mothers' Clinic." This clinic is still functioning today and a report of its first 5,000 cases has recently been published by Dr. Stopes.

That the report is a valuable contribution to the literature on contraception there can be little doubt. Reports from other clinics, both European and American, have been published before, but the number of cases reported on by Dr. Stopes exceeds those heretofore collected. A statement from her clinic has long been awaited and looked forward to by those interested in this work.

The survey covers a period of about three and one-half years, during which time 5,000 women had applied to the clinic, 4,834 for contraceptive advice

and 166 because they were childless and desired information to enable them to have children. The cases are classified and analyzed in several ways and a number of histories are presented in more or less detail, emphasizing the very urgent need for contraceptive information among the poorer classes of the population.

A particularly interesting table is presented by Dr. Stopes to indicate that there is a marked rise in the infant death rate with an increase in the pregnancy rate. Thus, women with 2 and 3 pregnancies have a total infant and fetal death rate of 9.83 per cent, those with 5 pregnancies, 21.67 per cent, and so on, reaching a percentage of 37.16 in women with 12 pregnancies. These figures strongly support Dr. Stopes' view that repeated pregnancies are in themselves a cause of infant mortality.

It is to be regretted, however, that one problem of contraception on which the report should have been most clear and definite is only vaguely dwelt upon by Dr. Stopes. For many years she has been advocating and using a particular kind of contra-

TOO LATE

Illinois

I have one of your books got it by accident though I am a mother. Try to be a christian mother. I am a mother of 13 children seven of them I am sorry to say is dead & I have a little babe not 5 mo old yet he has a valve of his heart is not closed & I am Pregnant again about six weeks & I have been sick since my baby was born I cant half take care of him now & there has been something wrong with five of our children that is dead I never dreamed of getting that away again I am 41 yr old. Would you tell me something to do. My husband went to the Dr but his medicine I dont think is going to do any good. I dont do this for to be mean for no mother loves her babies any more than I do & if you could talk to my neighbors they would tell you the same.

I dont believe in doing things like that but in all conditions I honestly think it is the best for my 4 mo baby & all. It has taken lots of nerve to write this letter. I dont think men have any sympathy for women. I wouldnt beging to do this after there is life. I wanted them to take me to a Hospital & take it the first six weeks but they wouldnt do it sometimes think I will end it all & I try not to on account of my baby & lttle girl the rest of my 4 children or 22-19-17-14— so I want to ask you as I would a sister to help me.

ceptive device Of the 5,000 cases at her clinic this device was prescribed to 4,162 Here, then, was an excellent opportunity definitely to evaluate this particular method of contraception By following up the cases and noting the successes and failures many doubtful points would have been cleared up A study of this kind would have been a distinct contribution to the scientific aspect of Birth Control and would have greatly enhanced the value of the report itself Unfortunately, such a study was not undertaken

Success and Failure

On the question of failure and success with the methods employed at her clinic, Dr Stopes says the following "Of the first five thousand cases seventeen returned and were found definitely to be pregnant, fourteen others who reported in doubt were later visited and found to be pregnant, these together yielding a percentage of actual failures under one per cent" All the other cases are evidently then considered as successes, whether they were ever heard from again after their first visit or not Dr Stopes assumes optimistically enough that "the greater number of failures will write or return complaining," and, as only 31 patients had thus returned, her percentage of failures appears very small indeed She is however, somewhat more liberal in her estimate of the number of failures, for she adds "In order to allow a wide margin, let us double the number who have recorded failure in order to arrive at some kind of idea of the percentage of failure on the part of those who have come to the clinic"

Of course, it is evident that such a haphazard method of arriving at figures cannot be accurate enough to be considered in a scientific study There is no evidence of any kind that the patients after leaving the clinic were actually using the methods prescribed, or, if they were using it, what the results were Those who have had experience with contraceptive work know that many cases fail to make use of the advice given, and that no case can be considered a success unless actually reported as such after a certain period, preferably after at least one year had elapsed

There is another point in Dr Stopes report with which one is obliged to take issue On a number of occasions she has expressed the opinion that it was not necessary for a physician to give contraceptive advice but that it could be given just as well by any midwife or nurse, or even through a so-to-speak "correspondence course" In this report she recedes somewhat from her former position and she admits, though apparently somewhat reluctantly, that a great many of the cases coming for

contraceptive advice were found to be particularly difficult and required the advice and assistance of the physician at the clinic Nevertheless, she still maintains that "the simple normal cases can, indeed, generally manage to understand clearly written instructions without coming to the clinic at all" In other words, that the use of contraception by normal women does not require any medical instruction It is only the abnormal and difficult cases which should come under medical care Assuming even this to be so (and we certainly cannot admit that) Dr Stopes still fails to make clear one very important point How does a woman know whether she is "simple and normal" or whether she is abnormal and difficult? What woman, after having borne one or more children, knows to what extent she has been injured and thus made "abnormal?"

Dr Hawthorne, the visiting specialist at the clinic, states that the majority of women in whom she found disease of the pelvic organs, or malformations of the pelvic viscera were unaware that anything was wrong with them Under normal circumstances they would consider themselves normal and healthy, and according to Dr Stopes, would need no medical advice for the use of contraception Yet, Dr Stopes would undoubtedly admit that without medical instruction contraceptive measures in such cases would fail in a short time

Is a Doctor Needed?

In no place in the report can the statement be found whether all the cases applying for advice were examined by medical practitioners or not, and unless such was the case, the value of the report from a medical and scientific point of view becomes less There is much internal evidence in the paper that most of the examinations at one time were carried out by nurses and midwives, which may, perhaps, account for the marked difference in the number of difficult cases in the first and third years

"LIKED TO DIED"

Alabama

I am writing you to ask your advice I was advised by a friend to write you concerning my self I am a mother of 8 children & a poor farmer woman have to work hard I want you to tell which would be the Best & Safest way to keep from giting Pregnant again as I am in a Bad ocndishion I have womb trouble Bad I miscarried 4 weeks ago & liked to died if you will answer this & tell which is Best my womb come down Bad if you will please help a poor working woman to keep from haveing any more children

In 1922 the number of "abnormal and difficult cases" was 176 per cent, in 1923, 1377 per cent, in 1924, 3380 per cent. One is forced to assume that this marked increase could only have been due to a more thorough and careful examination by the physicians of the clinic, instead of by the nurses and sisters in charge.

One can but heartily agree with Dr Stopes' conclusion that the "proper places for the poorer classes to obtain contraceptive information are the Ante-Natal Clinics and the Infant Welfare Centres, and the Hospitals which they may be attending." The only additions to these centres to make them suitable for such a purpose are, in the words of Dr Stopes "Official encouragement, a breath of beauty and inspiration, and the determination to have on the regular staff only such medical men (or preferably medical women) as are versed in contraceptive details, and who possess so sympathetic a manner and attitude as to encourage the confidences of the timid inquirers who come and need help in the very intimate details which so often surround the problems of contraception and the marital relation."

BOOKS RECEIVED

From R Chiberre, Paris *L'ORATORIO*, by Anne-Armandy

From R Chiberre, Paris *LE LIVRE DES SYMPHONIES*, by Anne-Armandy

From the Children's Foundation, Valparaiso, Indiana *THE CHILD, HIS NATURE AND HIS NEEDS*, edited by M V O'Shea

From The Bodley Head, London *THE MORALITY OF BIRTH CONTROL*, by Ettie A Rout 6d

From the Oxford University Press, New York Branch *POPULATION*, by A M Carr-Saunders \$1 00

From the Russell Sage Foundation, New York *CHILD MARRIAGES*, by Mary E Richmond and Fred S Hall

From the American Rationalist Association, Chicago *FROM ROME THROUGH MODERNISM*, by W F McGee

From Thomas Seltzer, New York *LIFTING MIST*, by Austin Harrison, \$2 00

From Thomas Seltzer, New York *THE CHALLENGE OF CHILDHOOD*, by Ira S Wile, M S, M D \$3 50

From U S Children's Bureau, Washington, D C *CAUSAL FACTORS IN INFANT MORTALITY*, by Robert Morse Woodbury Pub Number 142

From J P Putnam's Sons, New York *THE CONTROL OF PARENTHOOD*, edited by James Marchant

* * * * *

The only real obstacle to everlasting peace is the fact that there are more dogs than bones — Sherbrooke (Que) *Record*

That Stork

By CUNNINGHAM MORRIS

Really, I think it is so queer
We get a baby every year,
Why does he come and leave them here?
That Stork

My mother says she wants no more,
She's said the same thing o'er and o'er,
But still he leaves them at our door—
That Stork

He makes poor mother feel so blue
Each time he brings a baby new
She stays in bed a week or two—
That Stork

Pa says things are so in the air
He cannot buy us shoes to wear
Still we get babies, I declare—
That Stork

Now there's Miss Black, Miss Jones, Miss Moore,
Folks say have land and wealth galore
Why don't he leave one at their door?
That Stork

Maybe he thinks its lots of fun
Leave poor folks lots and rich folks none
I'll chase him next time with a gun—
That Stork

I would not want to kill him quite,
I'd love to give him such a fright
That at our door no more he'd light—
That Stork

Next time he comes so brave and bold
We'll leave the baby in the cold,
T'will be his fault, cause he's been told—
That Stork

"IN THE RONG"

West Virginia

Dearest friend i have had my book now for near 10 monts an received it to late to rite you before this as i was in the rong when i received it my baby was bornd an died of open hart this leaving the 10 chld if they is birth controle for me please let me no obowt it at once ans at once

Periodical Notes

The future if world population continues uncontrolled is the subject of a feature article in the *Sunday American*. The article which is unsigned is based on the researches of Professors A B Wolfe, E M East and other scholars. It shows the relation of population to the food problem and to war and calls attention to the fact that the League of Nations, the Bok peace plan and indeed all peace plans so far evolved have "ignored the control of the birth rate, the only thing which will really abolish war"

In the works of Alfred Marshall, greatest of the later generation of English political economists who has recently died, *The New Generation* finds material with a direct bearing on Birth Control. Of the tendency of the race to unlimited increase, he says (in his *Principles of Economics*, 8th Ed)

"Unskilled laborers when not so poor as to suffer actual want and not restrained by any external cause, have seldom, if ever, shown a lower power of increase than that of doubling in thirty years, that is, of multiplying a millionfold in six hundred years, a billionfold in twelve hundred" (p 182)

Of one of Nature's methods of preventing the race from running itself off the earth he writes

"Other things being equal, an increase in the number of children who are born causes an increase of infantile mortality, and that is an unmixed evil. The birth of children who die early from want of care and adequate means is a useless strain to the mother and an injury to the rest of the family" (p 202)

On the food problem the *New Generation* quotes two passages. One points out that the soil of England as long ago as the beginning of the 19th century was inadequate to sustain the population of that day. The other describes the form in which too many applicants for one loaf of bread may feel the results of progressive starvation

"In England now, want of food is scarcely ever the direct cause of death, but it is a frequent cause of that general weakening of the system which renders it unable to resist disease" (p 196)

The Thibetan method of regulating population without depending on nature's three brutal aids is described by a correspondent in the *Sporting Times* of London. Among the mountain tribes where food is raised meagrely by the sweat of the brow a combination of polyandry and monastic celibacy makes for small families. In some places the eldest son marries and shares his wife with his brothers, in others on the oldest son's marriage the younger sons enter monasteries. A stern discipline this must be both for the younger brothers and for the wife of many husbands

REYNOLD ALBRECHT SPAETH

IN the sudden and tragic death of Doctor Reynold Albrecht Spaeth in Bangkok, Siam, we have lost an honored and courageous member of our National Council. Dr Spaeth was one of the most brilliant and promising men of the scientific world. The tragedy of his death emphasizes anew the heroism of the modern scientist. Last year Dr Spaeth, who was one of the brilliant group devoted to physiological research at Johns Hopkins, accepted the call of the Rockefeller Foundation to aid in the reorganization of the University of Bangkok Medical School. His death of septicaemia cut short what may have been his greatest contribution to the treasury of modern science—an exhaustive study of reproduction among apes and its bearing upon the function of reproduction in the human species, a task undertaken as a commission from the National Research Council.

The modest though courageous adherence of brave and open-minded scientists of the rising generation to the American Birth Control movement is one of our greatest assets, and for this reason we look upon the loss of Reynold Albrecht Spaeth as irreparable. Men like Dr Spaeth are the heroes and the martyrs of the human race today. We are proud that he honored us with his adherence to our movement. To Mrs Spaeth, to his family and friends, we offer this brief, inarticulate tribute, in the hope that these words may convey in some small degree the sense that we are sharing their sorrow.

"I FEEL LIKE 40 YEARS"

Pennsylvania

I am 22 now married at 16 had my first baby at 17 years and after she was borned I was not so strong and then came a 4 months miscarage then came a baby boy and a nother miscarage and now I am about to have another fore 8 monts I have suffered offel from Pains and Baring down fealing tired sick every place seemed to be and now it seems as if I will die some times I get discourge of living my husband is a labor in the mines and 3 children is all we can realy give any care to he has been 6 monts with out work and we have had alot a bad luck I have onely been married Past 5 years now the oldest children is Past 4 years now if you can onely help me I will be so glad for I am young yet and I feal like a woman 40 years old now so Pleas ansuer teling me something will help me from bring any more here that can not have good care the doctor told me I would hafta go to the hospital after this child and be operated on to not have any more children he said I was in no shape to have anymore children and to save an operation Pleas tell me something to help me I was in the Hospital operated on last august for miscarage of 3 monts Pleas let me here from you soon

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

AT the time of going to press reports of all Dr Cooper's June meetings have been received and are reported under the proper states. Meetings he addressed in July, which will be fully reported later, were held at Milwaukee, Wisc (July 1st and 2nd), West Bend, Wisc (July 3rd), Chicago, Ill, (July 4th and 5th), DeKalb, Ill, (July 6th), Detroit, Mich, (July 7th and 10th). From July 10th to 14th Dr Cooper was in New York.

During the last half of the month Dr Cooper's speaking dates were at Newark and Cincinnati, Ohio, at Frankfort, Morehead and Louisville, Ky, and at Indianapolis, Kendallville and Warsaw, Ind.

Of the medical addresses given so far Dr Cooper says "Everything moved along in smooth order. I received every consideration from the medical societies. I find the great majority of the doctors favorable and much appreciation is expressed at my coming, which I feel is sincere."

"It is my firm conviction that doctors are as much interested in Birth Control as any other group. They are certainly open to the message and are giving fine co-operation."

In the latter part of June, Dr C J Hastings, medical officer of Toronto, spent a morning in the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League. Dr Hastings, who has for many years been a warm and outspoken advocate of Birth Control, reports that Dr Norman Haire's recent visit to Toronto University has greatly stimulated interest among Canadian physicians.

California

ON another page we publish Rabbi Rudolph I Coffee's speech in the debate with Father R E Lucey, given on May 27th at the State Capitol during the State Conference of Social Workers. Of the result of the meeting, which was attended, according to Ernestine Black writing in the *San Francisco Call*, by over a thousand social workers, Dr Coffee writes:

"On Tuesday night the debate came off and there is no question about the feeling of the public in the matter. The largest hall in the State Capitol was absolutely crowded both down stairs and the gallery. We have won the friendship of the opposition by being respectful and I am sure we can now open our clinics. We have secured wonderful educational gains through good publicity."

Of the temper of the meeting Miss Black writes "The wholesome and gratifying and amazing thing about the whole discussion is that never once did it move from the field of scientific, social discussion into the secular field of religious bitterness or personal attack."

A spirited debate followed in which Dr Miriam Van Waters of the Los Angeles Women's Court, who was later elected president of the Conference, strongly supported the giving of contraceptive knowledge. Hisses are said to have greeted the statement of one of the opponents, John P Plover, a probation officer, that

"Every twenty-year-old boy and girl in California knows all there is to know about Birth Control."

Colorado

DR COOPER was in Denver during the sessions of the National Conference of Social Workers. On the afternoon of June 11th he spoke at the Woman's Club at a Birth Control meeting organized by the following nationally known social workers: Ludwig B Bernstein, Ph D, Jacob Billkopf, Dr Louis I Dublin, Dr Haven Emerson, Samuel M Goldsmith, Rabbi Sidney Goldstein, Dorothy C Kahn, M J Karpf, Paul Kellogg, Robert W Kelso, Judge Ben B Lindsey, Solomon Lowenstein, Walter Pettit, Dr Thomas J Riley, Frances Taussig, Dr Miriam Van Waters, Miss Ruth Vincent, Morris D Waldman.

Judge Ben B Lindsey presided and other speakers on the program besides Dr Cooper were Owen Lovejoy of the National Child Labor Committee and Morris B Waldman of the United Hebrew Charities of Detroit. This meeting, Dr Cooper writes, formed contacts for the League with social workers in all parts of the country. Of its far-reaching effects Ruth Vincent of the Juvenile Court of Denver writes:

"Dr Cooper has come and gone and we are going to be much more successful because of his visit."

"Our meeting with the Social Service Workers was highly successful. We had an attendance of about 600 in spite of the fact that we were able to get only a part of the publicity we expected because the League is not a part of the National Conference and our meeting could not be scheduled on the program. Dr Cooper got some splendid interviews."

"Dr Cooper and I saw a number of the local physicians and I was delighted to see the changed attitude he was able to bring about. I am quite sure that his short visit with eight or ten of these men has formed a definite nucleus for real work."

in the near future. Some private physicians have already promised to work with us.

"There were a number of excellent papers read at our meeting. Dr. Joel Hunter, Executive Secretary of the Charities of Chicago, read Dr. Yarros' comprehensive paper and Mr. Waldman and Dr. Lovejoy gave splendid papers. After the meeting some of the social workers expressed the hope that the papers would be published."

Later in his stay at Denver Dr. Cooper also spoke at Grace Community Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Lackland is pastor.

port. He gave a general address before 211 people at a dinner meeting of physicians and their wives and in the evening he spoke at a well attended medical session on contraceptive methods.

Minnesota

ON June 26th and 27th Dr. Cooper was in Minneapolis, where he made two medical addresses, one before a body of physicians and students at the Medical School of the State University, the other before a body of physicians at the Minnesota Gen-



Mrs. Philip Hughes of the Eastern Pennsylvania League and three Republican women displaying the REVIEW at the Atlantic City Convention.

Idaho

ON June 19th and 20th Dr. Cooper spoke to groups of medical men at Twin Falls and Pocatello. He writes of these Idaho doctors as "a very progressive group."

Iowa

ON June 7th Dr. Cooper spoke before an audience of medical men at Des Moines.

On June 9th Dr. Cooper spoke twice at Daven-

eral Hospital. General addresses on Birth Control were given by him before the Women's Co-operative Alliance at the invitation of their president, Mrs. Gilman, and at the home of another social worker, Mrs. Victoria M. McAlmon, where the prospects of a local clinic were discussed.

New Jersey

AMONG the groups addressed by Mr. Meves during June are the Camden Exchange Club, the Kiwanis Club of Camden, the Paulsboro Presby-

terian Church With the help of Mrs Amanda Shaeffer of Camden, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Polly Randall of New York, delegates to the State Conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties and the Women's Republican Club of Camden were provided with literature and copies of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Ohio

ON June 4th Dr Cooper was in Columbus, where he spoke at a luncheon given by Prof A B Wolfe of the State University to a group of the faculty In Cleveland the next day he spoke before an audience of 200 at the Women's City Club, later before a group of people interested in working for a clinic and in the evening before a group of medical men

At the latter meeting, though it was the hottest evening ever known in Cleveland, 258 doctors were present and a most cordial and practical interest was shown

Pennsylvania

ON May 28th Dr Cooper spoke at Reading, Pa, before the County Medical Society On June 2nd he was called to speak before a medical group at Lebanon

Tennessee

DR COOPER spoke on June 8th before a local medical group at Knoxville

Utah

ON June 18th Dr Cooper was in Salt Lake, where he spoke in the afternoon to a group of interested lay persons and in the evening to the County Medical Society Of the latter meeting a correspondent writes

"Dr Cooper last evening gave a splendid talk to the members of the Salt Lake Medical Association I should guess there were 60 to 80 of the leading physicians of Salt Lake and the near-by towns The meeting was called after the adjournment of this year's regular winter session The average attendance at a regular meeting is about forty, so it was very gratifying to see such a good attendance at this meeting

"I am dropping you this line purposely to let you know how well Dr Cooper put over the message There were many interesting questions asked and at the close of the meeting there was rather a clamor to get the literature which you sent"

Wyoming

FROM Buffalo (Wyo) Dr Cooper writes on June 22nd "My address before the Wyoming State Medical Society was well received" The audience included doctors and some State Social Workers

CANADA

THE Ontario Birth Control League was formed March 9th, at Toronto A number of the members of the American Birth Control League in Ontario were called together and enthusiastically decided to organize

The following form the Executive Chairman and Secretary, Dr Oswald C J Withrow, Recording Secretary, Miss Freda Held, Committee, Mrs A E Loeb, Mrs W B Somerset Miss Rea G Clyman, Dr Arthur M Goulding, Mr C A Morris and Mr W B Sanders

Dr Withrow was appointed representative of the Ontario Birth Control League to the International Conference After his return from New York, steps were taken to put the Ontario Birth Control League definitely before the public for their support

A public meeting was held at Foresters Hall at which Prof McIver of Toronto University presided and Dr Withrow and Miss Held were speakers The three speakers discussed the question in its sociological, clinical and social aspects

ENGLAND

IN our editorial columns Mrs Sanger tells of the four important recent developments in England The long awaited report of the Birth Rate Commission, ("The Ethics of Birth Control," edited by Sir James Marchant), will be discussed more fully later in our book review columns

Besides these large events which have been much commented on in the press, the general subject of Birth Control is kept before the public also by *John Bull*, *The Nation and Athenaeum*, *The Saturday Review* and *The Outlook* New medical events are the opening of two new Birth Control Clinics One of these is the Peoples' Clinic, established by Rose Witcop at Fulham Cross, London, and the other is connected with the Abertillery and District Hospital in Wales

The Malthusian League, which has resumed its original name, is continuing its energetic campaign unabated A million leaflets are to be distributed during the next few months by a motor-party campaign aiming to interest voters and taxpayers in Birth Control as a matter of national policy The leaflet includes a petition to the Right Hon Neville

Chamberlain, M P, Minister of Health, which all voters are urged to sign and mail to the Minister. The petition declares "As a voter I desire that the Welfare and other Medical Centres assisted out of public funds shall be free to give advice on and instruction in Birth Control methods to married people whenever desired, so that they can space out the births and thus be able to produce healthy children and bring them up to be strong and efficient citizens"

COMING EVENTS

DR COOPER'S itinerary for August and September covers

St Louis, Mo	July 30th, 31st
	Aug 1st, 2nd (Sunday)
Kansas City, Mo	Aug 3rd, 4th, 5th
Ava, Mo	Aug 6th
Carro, Ill	Aug 7th
Paducah, Ky	Aug 8th, 9th (Sunday)
Jonesboro, Ark	Aug 10th
Little Rock, Ark	Aug 11th, 12th
Marshall, Tex	Aug 13th
Martins Mill, Tex	Aug 14th
Paris, Tex	Aug 15th
Dallas, Tex	Aug 16th (Sun), 17th, 18th
Austin, Tex	Aug 19th
San Antonio, Tex	Aug 20th, 21st, 22nd
Houston, Tex	Aug 23rd (Sun), 24th, 25th
New Orleans, La	Aug 26th, 27th
Gulfport, Miss	Aug 28th
Mobile, Ala	Aug 29th, 30th
Montgomery, Ala	Aug 31st
Birmingham, Ala	Sept 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Nashville, Tenn	Sept 4th
Gallatin, Tenn	Sept 5th
Atlanta, Ga	Sept 6th (Sun), 7th
Snow Hill, N C	Sept 8th
Plumtree, N C	Sept 9th
Forest City, N C	Sept 10th
Wilmington, N C	Sept 11th
Conway, S C	Sept 12th
Wilmington, N C	Sept 13th (Sunday)
Bedford, Va	Sept 14th
Richmond, Va	Sept 15th
Lacey Springs, Va	Sept 16th
Fairmont, W Va	Sept 17th
Morgantown, W Va	Sept 18th
Martinsburg, W Va	Sept 19th, 20th (Sun)
Baltimore, Md	Sept 21st, 22nd, 23rd
Washington, D C	Sept 24th, 25th, 26th

Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, Washington, D C

BY WEIGHT

The reported decision of one of the Italian municipalities to impose a poll-tax by weight is disturbing (remarks a correspondent) If the plan becomes general the world will soon be peopled by fasting men and living skeletons, for those who in their youth develop a tendency to fatness will be sternly suppressed. And Dr Marie Stopes should be satisfied, for large families, possibly weighing half a ton in the aggregate, will become undesirable—Yorkshire (England) *Evening News*

Science finds out ingenious ways to kill
Strong men, and keep alive the weak and ill—
That these a sickly progeny may breed,
Too poor to tax, too numerous to feed

—Spectator (London)

THE CASE FOR BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 222)

They can readily and do secure the information they need. But in the homes of the poor, among the morons, defectives and weaker members of Society, just there do we find large families. Birth Control pleads for sound and healthy individuals over against mere numbers, believing that Society is doomed unless we take radical measures to prevent the multiplication of the unfit in our land. Americans are proud when a new schoolhouse is erected, but when an edifice is built for the blind, for the deaf, dumb and feebleminded, it is largely because Birth Control is not being practised. I maintain that the sick, the diseased and the mentally unfit should be denied parenthood. Those who oppose Birth Control will surely object to a simple operation along these lines that I suggest. But why shall we continue bringing blind babies, idiots and imbeciles into the universe when all this can very largely be stopped by simple and inexpensive information?

Ours is called the "Jazz Age," in which so much immorality is traced to our boys and girls. They are the fathers and mothers of to-morrow, and it seems the simplest rule of common sense that they should be given information on Birth Control so that those who are unclean and diseased shall not continue to reproduce their kind as a drag upon society. Make no mistake on this point. Our children are not ignorant of sexual relations, on the contrary they know all too much. The question is from whom shall they receive information concerning sex hygiene and contraceptive devices. Shall they learn what they know over the drug store counter, in the rest rooms and from gutter companions or shall our girls and boys be properly informed by duly qualified medical experts? There is no escaping this alternative, common sense de-

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mands that necessary information be given by those who scientifically know

IV

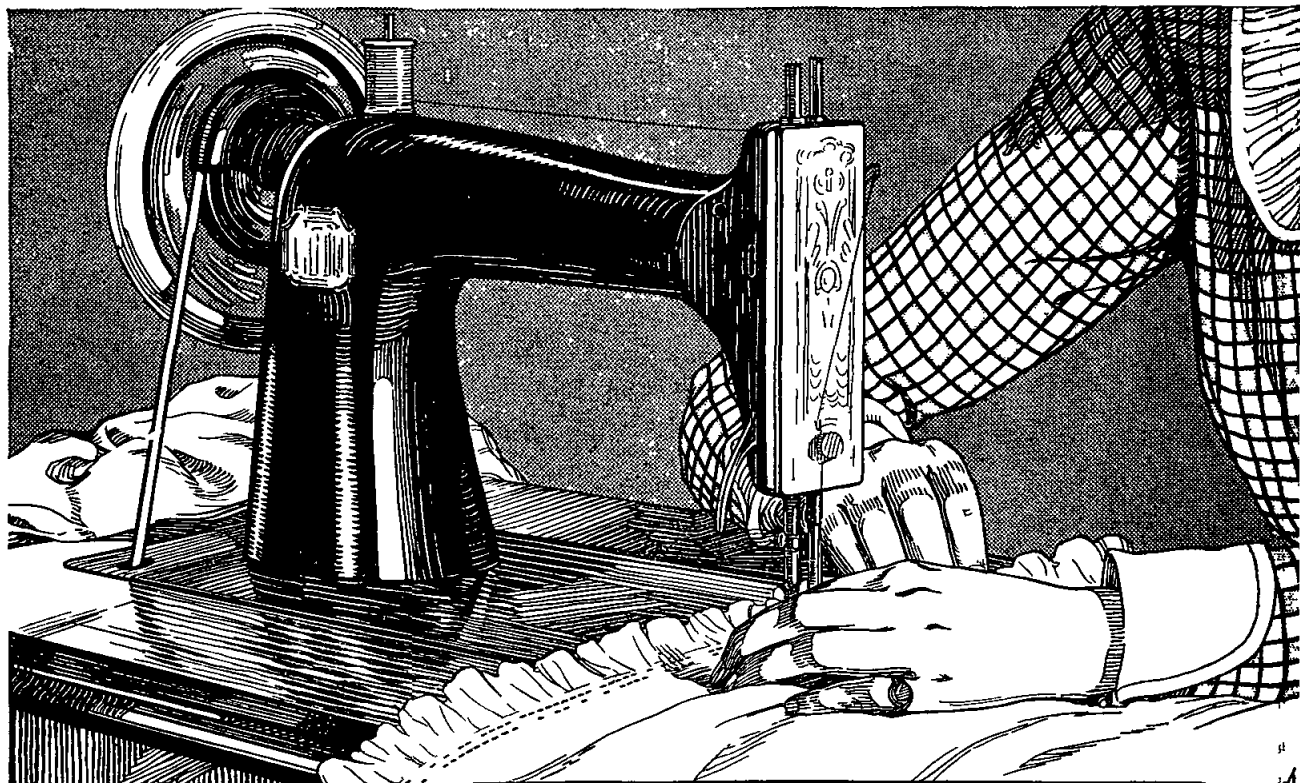
In short, Birth Control is a help to the orderly processes of Nature. Because of the strain on our eyes, many of us now wear glasses, because of the manifold gains, thousands of children have their tonsils and adenoids removed early in life. We are similarly aiding Nature when we irrigate the arid places of California and Nevada, nor does anyone object to Luther Burbank improving our fruits and flowers and berries. The government spends thousands of dollars to better the breed of animals. Yet, strange to say, when we seek to improve the coming generation, whom God would have "but little lower than the angels," we find the unusual cry that this is contrary to Nature. Away with such puerile arguments.

V

The problem, then, is acute, and we ask our opponents, if not Birth Control, what? They make the reply, not Birth Control, but self control. It may be a simple matter for those who dwell in large houses, each member of the family having his and her own room, to practise self control and continence. Let us, however, turn to the millions of American citizens, so many of whom dwell in crowded tenements and apartments. How can we honestly ask that a poorman with a large family and small income, huddled in a few rooms and deprived of so many pleasures in life, practise self control?

The poor worker out of a job, seeing the hungry faces of his little ones, will hardly subscribe to the words of Cardinal Hayes, in his Easter, 1925—pastoral, "Children are welcome among the poor and the humble, as angels, and are treasured as jewels. Children are often the only source of sunshine and happiness, not of this world, at many a fireside, which knows but little other comfort or joy." No consumptive mother and no father in search of a job will agree with these words.

Is it not high time that America take its place among the other civilized nations of the world and give contraceptive information to women who need it? This will end the era of gutter information and quacks, living off abortions. This will quickly stop the growth of that army of idiots, imbeciles and blind babies, a disgrace to any man and woman offering prayers to a loving and merciful God. I plead with you on behalf of the unborn child. Give him clean, healthy parents. Otherwise, to those who have not qualified morally and physically, deny absolutely the right to bring innocent children into the world.



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