

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Fewer Children Better Born



A Plea

for the

Coming
Generation

By C C Little

January, 1926

Twenty Cents

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



WHAT IS BIRTH CONTROL?

Birth Control is the conscious regulation of the birth rate

WHAT ARE THE MEANS OF CONTROL?

There are three, continence or self-control, sterilization, and the use of harmless chemical and mechanical devices called contraceptives

WHICH OF THESE IS BEST?

For the greatest number of people the use of contraceptives is best. Continence is suitable only for persons of very strong will and there is reason to believe that even for these it is injurious to health. Sterilization, which permanently deprives the individual of the power to have children, should be used only where it is the only way to prevent the transmission of physical or mental disease.

WHAT ARE CONTRACEPTIVES?

We cannot tell in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, for the United States postal law forbids the sending of such information through the mails. Under the laws of some of our states it is forbidden also to teach these methods by word of mouth to any mother sick or well, in others (like New York) sick women may be given the information by a doctor, but to give it to a healthy woman is against the law.

IS BIRTH CONTROL ABORTION?

Birth Control is not abortion. Abortion is the taking of life after conception, Birth Control is the prevention of conception. Birth Control is the great preventive of abortion.

It is women that bear the penalties in injury, disease and death and mental torture that are involved in unlimited child-bearing. They have a right to know how they can intelligently—not crudely and dangerously—control their sexual lives. And they are justified by the highest considerations in fighting vigorously and persistently until they have this right granted to them.

DR. WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY

WHY DOES THE LAW FORBID THE TEACHING OF METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL?

For no reason except the opposition of the four great enemies of all human progress, ignorance, indifference, prejudice and superstition.

WHY IS BIRTH CONTROL NECESSARY?

For too many reasons to give on one page, so we shall take them up in groups each month. The reason most vitally important to the individual is the HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD.

Birth Control will prevent death or injury to mothers when their physical strength cannot stand the strain of pregnancy. In heart or kidney disease, tuberculosis, diabetes, venereal disease, pelvic irregularities or injuries to the reproductive organs, or when she is worn out physically or nervously, a woman should have, in some cases, no children, in others none till she has recovered her health and strength.

Largely through disregard of these precautions 25,000 women die in child-birth in the United States each year, many are made invalids, or resort—to the number of at least 500,000—to abortion to free themselves from pregnancy.

Birth Control will prevent the death or illness of millions of children. 187,000 American babies die before they are one year old, most of them in the first month of life. The majority of these deaths are in families where there are many children born close together. Many are born to parents with transmissible disease.

Not all children born under bad conditions die. Many live and suffer from physical or mental defects, a burden to themselves and their families. In families with bad inheritance no children should be born.

In families where the mother is perfectly healthy and the inheritance good she should have the power to space her children so that she may herself enjoy full health and strength, may transmit to them a vigorous inheritance and may give them, out of her abundant vitality, the care and attention they need.



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

JANUARY, 1926

No 1

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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Federal Bill—Street Seller Arrested—Dr Little on Our Duty to Youth—Social Workers for Birth Control—Marriage of Morons

EUGENISTS ON THE PLACE OF BIRTH CONTROL

THE TWO ASPECTS OF CONTROL, *by H H Laughlin*,
ANOTHER VIEW, *by C C Little*

One writer contends that a class which is too selfish to reproduce itself is not a desirable stock to perpetuate. The other believes that a eugenic conscience in this matter could and should be awakened in those who have the most to hand on to their children. The problem is to know what potential parents answer to the Platonic description—the beautiful and the good."

THE OUTLINE OF MARRIAGE, *by Floyd Dell*

This colloquial explanation by two who have just entered into the married state is preliminary to more scientific expositions by other witnesses. The whole series, which will run for several months will present a well-rounded discussion of the subject. It was published originally in *The Masses*

NATURE, (A Story), *by Angela Oakes*

THE LABOR PROBLEM IN MEXICO, *by Roberto Haberman*

The story of the efforts of the labor government to spread contraceptive knowledge from end to end of Mexico

THE TOWN HALL REVISITED November 1921—November 1925

BRANDED

Mothers ask help in preventing the birth of defective and suffering children

5	MALTHUS RIGHT OR WRONG? <i>by Malcolm H Bissell</i>	18
	Part II of a study of the food resources of the world	
	THE EDUCATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY	20
	Extracts from recent addresses by Dr C C Little	
	A CHAIN OF AUSTRIAN CLINICS, <i>by Betty Ferch</i>	20
	THE OLD WOMAN SPEAKS TO HER SPIRIT-CHILD, (A Poem), <i>by Corahe Howard Haman</i>	21
	BOOK REVIEWS	
	HYPATIA, <i>by Dora Russell</i> , LYSISTRATA, <i>by Anthony M Ludovici—Ruby A Black</i>	22
	WOMEN, CHILDREN, LOVE AND MARRIAGE, <i>by C Gasquoine Hartley—Anne G Porritt</i>	22
	WOMEN AND LEISURE, <i>by Lorine Pruett—Anne G Porritt</i>	23
	NEW SOURCE BOOKS ON BIRTH CONTROL	23
	BOOKS RECEIVED	24
	WITH OUR OPPONENTS	24
	"MOTHER OF 14"	25
	CORRESPONDENCE	25
	IS BIRTH CONTROL A FEMINIST REFORM?	27
	The <i>Woman Leader</i> tells why the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship of England has adopted Birth Control as a fundamental part of its program	
	PERIODICAL NOTES	28
	NEWS	
	New York—Alabama—California—Georgia	29
	Indiana—Massachusetts—Mississippi—New Jersey—North Carolina	30
	Pennsylvania—Texas—Cuba—Philippines	31
	South America—France—Germany	32
	Italy—China	33

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Birth Control Review

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JANUARY, 1926

No 1

EDITORIAL

THIS month work for the Federal Bill was begun at Washington when Mrs Kennedy and Mrs George H Day, Sr, member of the Board of Directors of the League, opened headquarters at Room 631, Bond Building, 14th Street and New York Avenue, N W. Members of the League and readers of the REVIEW can help by writing their congressmen, by obtaining signatures to petitions and resolutions in favor from organizations to which they belong. This state work will be of the greatest value to the group in Washington. Indeed, without such evidences of the will of their constituents, congressmen will pay little attention to local representatives of the American Birth Control League. The Congressional Committee now numbers 135 members representing 24 states in the Union. State workers should be in touch with their district member, whose name can be obtained at headquarters of the League.



POLICE interference in New York is not, it seems, a thing of the past. On December 10th Nathaniel Freier, who shares with Kitty Marion the difficult task of selling the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on the streets was haled to court on a technical charge of obstructing traffic and held in \$500 bail for trial. At the trial the case was summarily dismissed for lack of evidence, but this did not prevent Mr Freier from much personal inconvenience, which included spending several hours in a cell. This is not the first time he has been annoyed by the police. He is a member of the American Birth Control League, a business man who five years ago undertook street selling after business hours because he believed that Birth Control would save other women from death in childbirth, which had been his wife's fate. For more than a year he has shown a quiet courage and persistency in the face of persecution. He has been taken to court before but this has not deterred him from bringing

the REVIEW and the cause of Birth Control to the attention of the "man in the street."

This arrest brings up the question of the justification of street selling of the REVIEW. Friends of Birth Control are divided about this. Those who are in New York and close to the work have long felt that the contact with the man and the woman in the street was a very real thing and have hesitated to consider discontinuing street selling since newsstands are closed to us. The police also seem to think that this is an effective method of propaganda—else why the nagging and the arrests? On the other hand the League has other and very influential contacts now which it did not have when street selling was begun, and to many of these, especially to those in the medical and other sciences, street selling is obnoxious.

Has our position changed? Shall we now be able with the strong support of thinking people and scientists, to accomplish our purpose of giving Birth Control to the man and woman in the street without enlisting their aid by street selling? We should like to start discussion of this question and we urge you as readers to give your opinion. The REVIEW is your forum for the discussion of the problems of Birth Control. Please write the editor how you feel on this matter of policy.



NOTHING since the Sixth International Conference has done so much to educate the public of every state in the Union in respect to Birth Control as recent statements of Dr C C Little, president of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues. In four addresses given in Michigan, Illinois and New York which have been quoted in the press throughout the country, he has based his argument for Birth Control boldly on the advantage, not to those who may become parents, but to the children they may bear. He definitely, in his inaugural, for example, calls on the present

generation of mature adults to shift the centre of interest from itself to its young, and the great agency of happiness for the next generation he holds to be Birth Control. He takes issue as to souls definitely with the Roman Catholic Church and also with the Episcopal House of Bishops who at New Orleans inconsistently endorsed eugenics and rejected its great agent Birth Control. He would leave a few more among the billions of unborn human souls whom nature herself throws away wholesale and would bring to birth only those who can be *well born*, cared for and developed into a race higher and happier than that which the haphazard methods of reproduction of the last half million years have produced. As president of the great University of Michigan he has made the teaching of Birth Control a responsibility of the educator, he has taken the movement out of the apologetic state and made it a criticism of our present educational system as well as of many other social institutions.



DR. LITTLE has brought the problem of Birth Control home to educators. We should like to see the problem put up as boldly by one of their number of national and international reputation to social workers, who have almost as great power as educators to create a new race. But though no leader has yet made Birth Control one of the foundation principles of social work there is no doubt that support is gaining ground steadily among the rank and file. The attendance of social workers at the International Conference, the enthusiasm shown at the Birth Control meeting held during the National Conference of Social Workers at Denver, the many organizations for social work in New York and other cities who have asked for Birth Control speakers and Birth Control exhibits, the many who send patients to the Clinical Research Department—all these things show the growth of widespread interest.

Only recently two incidents occurred which showed wholehearted acceptance of Birth Control as part of social work. An instructor in a great university opened his graduate seminar for social workers by asking them what use they were making of the Clinical Research Department, and if they were making no use, why they had neglected this agency for improving social conditions. At the same time the welfare worker in one of the great hospitals inaugurated the routine practice of sending all emergency cases brought to the hospital in

consequence of criminal abortions directly on their recovery to the Clinical Research Department, in the hope that they could be protected from the necessity of again resorting to abortion.



FOR 2,000 years and more we have "forbidden" human instincts and we still continue to do so, instead of taking social measures which will make them harmless. Thus the state of Iowa has recently by law disqualified from marriage some hundred thousand persons who are now or have been inmates of her institutions for the feeble-minded. The House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church aims to work upon a broader scale. It urges that all over the country measures should be taken to prevent moron marriages. It urges also the requirement of health certificates for marriage of the normal. At the same time the House of Bishops declares against Birth Control, and the state of Iowa does not allow free access to information about Birth Control. It is not easy to follow such mental processes as these. For this legislation which essays to control, not the intelligent who understand its objects, but the least intelligent in the state, is bound to increase irregular unions in this class, and without Birth Control enormously to increase and complicate the illegitimacy problem. Nor is the requirement of a health certificate for marriage a panacea. It undoubtedly encourages many to require a healthy partner in marriage. But education in social hygiene would do as much in the case of responsible young people, and those who are most apt not to pass the health examination are the very ones who are only too willing to dispense with the marriage ceremony. These without Birth Control will bring dysgenic offspring into the world without benefit of clergy, to be in many cases a charge upon the state.



THE beautiful little devices used between paragraphs and as tail pieces are the gift of Mr. Elliott Dold whose pen and ink designs are known to all lovers of artistic books. These little children represent the happy and exuberant youth which we may hope for in a World made Safe for Childhood.

Eugenists on the Place of Birth Control

The Two Aspects of Control

By H H LAUGHLIN, PH D

I WANT to take this opportunity to say that I believe that the efforts of eugenics and of Birth Control are tending, more and more, to work for the common end. There is, however, from the eugenical point of view, this difference—at least it seems this way to me. Eugenics is based primarily upon the biological concept of racial fortunes—that is, if the race is to advance, there must be fit and fertile matings demanded on the part of those strains most richly endowed by nature, while, regardless of present economic or social conditions, the race would prosper better in the long run by preventing reproduction on the part of those levels which are so low that they are not contributing to the racial good fortune.*

Birth Control, while it is an unselfish and patriotic movement desiring to improve the nation, seems to work too strongly from the economic rather than from the biological point of view. It seems to desire to cut down a number of children from certain families economically unable to support them and to prevent births in families in which the mother is physiologically or economically unable to bear the great burden. Of course, even if hereditary traits of a potential mother, and of course of the father also, were highly desirable, but present economic conditions or physiological state made it impossible for the mother to bear a sound child, then the job of society would be to take care of the social and economic misfortunes of the family and, among other things, to restore them to the economic and physiological state in which they could bear children. Thus, in the long run, while both eugenics and Birth Control are striving for national betterment, I feel that eugenics has the

sounder foundation because it is primarily biological instead of economic. I feel too that so far as national education is concerned, the Birth Control movement has been much more successful and is much more energetically managed than is eugenic education. They both bear heavily, of course, upon future national policy in reference to legislation and the development of customs which control mate selection, marriage laws and reproduction.

IF it is to be argued that in the United States the economically over-burdened mother of many children is, on the average, a member of a family strain biologically of low and unworthy grade, then instead of reducing the number of children means ought to be taken to prevent any reproduction of children at all. But it appears to the biologist that the primary basis for reproduction should be natural hereditary worth rather than present economic status. Also in the matter of control, if reproduction is denied the inadequates, it should be demanded on the part of the adequates.

The term *Birth Control* is a good one if it connotes prevention of reproduction by those whose descendants would tear down the nation and demand of it by those who would build it up. It is as good an expression as eugenics. The two expressions, however, have come, through their use and development, to refer to ideals which seem quite different. We should determine the relation between the biological and the economic ideals, and the possibility of bringing them together in proper co-ordination for future efforts toward the betterment of the natural stocks of the American people.

Another View

By C C LITTLE, D Sc

SOMETIMES the dogmas, the creeds of a Christian religion may be put out of date by further information which has turned up, by a change in civilization itself, a change in economic conditions. It seems to me that we also face this in connection with the positive side of the Birth Control movement.*

We had during the International Conference a luncheon of eugenists and Birth Control advocates, and during that meeting some of the eugenists said that not only must you prevent the defective from having children, but you must encourage the higher classes, you must encourage the fit, the best thing

(Continued on page 34)

The Outline of Marriage

By FLOYD DELL

WHAT is marriage?

It is customary, I realize, to begin a treatise with a definition. But if it were possible to define marriage in one single sentence, it would be unnecessary to add any further sentences. An outline of marriage could stop right there.

Marriage is, and always has been to thinking people, a puzzle, a mystery, a problem.

Have I discovered the answer?

If I have, be warned that it is no simple answer. An answer, if it exists, is necessarily almost as elaborate as marriage itself. Quite obviously, I, all by myself, could never have thought out such an answer. It must have been reached by the aid of scientists and philosophers and poets. Biologists and chemists, anthropologists and ethnologists, sociologists and historians must have collaborated with me. And if so, why should I ask you to take my word for their facts and opinions? Why not bring them all here, and ask them to testify? They are all good friends of mine, and quite willing. That is one nice thing about these people—they are always glad to tell what they know, and what they think. And you shall be the judge.

But these people, after all, are only expert witnesses, so to speak. The puzzle, the mystery, the problem itself, can be brought directly before you in visible shape. We have with us today a young man and a young woman who have recently been married—only a few weeks ago, in fact. They have very kindly consented to come here to help us in our inquiry. They will answer any questions we ask. In fact, in order to know something about marriage, one has only to *look* at them. This, my friends, is what marriage is!

Of course, I might have brought a couple of South Sea Islanders to put on the witness stand. Or a loving couple from the head-hunting region of Borneo. But I thought it best to start with the familiar. The others are waiting, and will come if we need them.

A Cloud of Witnesses

You'd be surprised at the witnesses I have waiting there in the back room, eager to testify—Ancient Greeks and Babylonians, a Thibetan woman with her three husbands, King Solomon with all his wives and concubines, and many others, including some that you will think queer, and a few that you may feel are scarcely respectable. But truth is

truth, and we must let no prudish qualms interfere with our search for it.

However, we have nothing to fear in that way from George and Myrtle. A more respectable young couple, according to our notions, never drew breath. There is nothing, surely, about them to shock us—George, please come up here. That's right, sit down. We wish to ask you a few questions. First of all, we will ask what we all want to know. What is marriage?

GEORGE Ask me something easier!

Q George, surely you ought to know what marriage is. You're married, aren't you?

A Oh, yes. I'm married, all right. You can look up the records if you like. I wouldn't want you to think—

Q We think nothing of the sort. And we're perfectly willing to take your word for it. But just tell us—how did it happen?

A It happened in church, with all the trimmings. We would rather have done it more quietly, but to please our folks—

Q Just exactly *what* was it happened in church, George?

A The ceremony, of course!

Myrtle on the Stand

Q Oh, the ceremony—yes, to be sure. But we were asking you about your marriage. I think, perhaps, out of consideration for your masculine modesty, we had better excuse you for the time being, and put Myrtle on the stand. Marriage is said to be women's business, and they are certainly less tender-minded about it. Step down, George, when we want to know more about the ceremony, we will call on you again. Myrtle! Please be seated. Thank you. We are trying, as you know, to find out something about marriage, and so we want you to tell us about yours. Will you?

A I haven't been married very long. I'm not sure that I know very much about it!

Q So you think that length of time has something to do with marriage. You seem to differ from George—he thought he was married when the wedding ceremony was concluded.

A Of course length of time has something to do with marriage. It has everything to do with it, I think. Marriage is living with someone all the time—or most of the time. And that's what you wonder about, if you're a girl—"Can I stand hav-

ing breakfast and dinner with this man every day for the rest of my life?"

Q But why—if that question bothers you—why don't you have your breakfasts and dinners with other people? You could change around so as not to get tired of them

A But that's just what I have been doing—and I have got tired of it I've been going to college and working in an office for the last six years And at the places where I breakfasted and dined there were plenty of different people to sit and talk to But it wasn't change I wanted It was some *one* person

Q Why one?

A Because!

Q I see You mean that it's obvious But because why?

1 + 1 = 2. Q E D

A Because *one* is half of *two* And that's how people go—by twos Don't ask me why that is, all I know is that it's so I wanted somebody at breakfast who would make life more interesting for me all day, just seeing and talking with him, and somebody who would make me forget that I was tired when I met him again at night, somebody I would want to talk with about everything that had happened to us both during the day Life is like a couple of theatre seats, you want to share with somebody you particularly like, and the play is more interesting, if you do I was half of a pair—a rather lonely half I kept trying out other possible halves—candidates for a permanent seat opposite me at the breakfast table, but they wouldn't do—they didn't make me feel happy all day So I kept looking for my half, until I found him

Q Him?

A Of course That's the point I'm a girl

Q And you assert that life is more interesting for a girl when she shares it with a man?

A I certainly do!

Q You've been married long enough to find that out?

A I always knew that—or, at any rate, ever since I stopped wearing my hair in pigtails

Q And you would define marriage, from a girl's point of view, as sharing her life with a man?

A Yes, and sharing his, too That's true, even in friendship In marriage you share more You share everything

Q Everything?

A Oh, well—one always keeps something to oneself And there are things you can't share, sometimes George happens to like chess I can't share that And I'm fond of opera, which George hates So George plays chess with other people,

and I go with somebody else to the opera Of course, if music or chess were terribly important to us, George might elope with some female chess-prodigy, or I might run off with one of my musical friends But they aren't that important They're only a small part of our lives, after all And we're able to compromise on those things, because we agree on the large and important things

Q Yes What are these large and important things that you agree on?

A Oh, we have in general the same view of life, and we like the same people, and in the main we want to get the same things And even where we don't, we sympathize with each other I suppose, after all, that may be because—

Q Yes Go on

A Because we are in love with each other! Because we *do share each other*, in love! That's the important thing that we agree on Of course, the other things count, too For you've got to keep on being in love

Q So marriage is being in love?

A I should hope so

Q How long have you and George been married?

A I see what you mean I suppose we can't keep on being as silly about each other, always But unless people want to *be together*, I don't see why they should keep on being married

Mate-Love

Q Would the phrase "mate love" strike you as descriptive of marriage?

A It's not at all a bad phrase

Q Myrtle, excuse the pointedness of the question—but are you going to have any children?

A George and I have discussed that, and we rather think we will But not right away There are some other things we want to do first, for several years And we shan't have more than one or two

Q You do not, then, regard children, and their number, as matters that can be trusted to a beneficent Providence?

A Most certainly not I believe that Heaven helps those who help themselves

Q The marital state, Myrtle, has sometimes been referred to as a sharing of "bed and board" May I ask you a question about your attitude toward the marital board?

The Marital Board

A The marital board? Yes

Q Do you regard the meals you eat together as a matter of physical nourishment? Or do you regard them as a pleasure?

A Why, as both!

Q You do not feel that the fact of eating being an animal habit should make you ashamed of eating?

A Why should it?

Q We just wanted to know And, on the other hand, do you feel that the only moral justification for eating is to add, let us say, more pounds to your weight?

A Are you kidding me?

Q Not at all, my dear I am kidding Mr Sumner, the Censor, who is, I perceive, in this audience, and not its least interested member To resume if your figure should satisfy you for the time being just as it is, and if you feared that by eating as usual without forethought you might add another pound, would you stop eating?

"Eat and Stay Thin"

A I know a better way Eat and Stay Thin!

Q Then you would not hesitate to make use of the scientific knowledge at your command, in order to go on enjoying the pleasures of the marital board, while preventing the ordinary results of that act? You do not feel, in other words, that adding another pound is the divinely ordained consequence of eating? You do not feel that it would be either criminal or sacrilegious thus to control your own destiny?

A In other words, do I believe in Birth Control? I do!

Q Thank you You do not feel that there are not enough children in the world?

A I am quite sure that there are too many! But in spite of that, I expect to add to their number, eventually Don't ask me why! We are made like that—to want children So I, too, shall have a child, some day

Q By your husband, I suppose?

A Good heavens! Why, of course I will want George to be the father of my child

Q Why George particularly?

A Because I love him That will be something else for us to share together—the experience of being parents

Thank you, Myrtle You may step down now If I may generalize upon it, it seems to me a distinctly modern though withal a perfectly respectable kind of marriage—modern particularly in certain of its aspects We shall investigate the further aspects of this and other modern marriages, some of which are not, as yet, quite so respectable, together with others which are unquestionably more so The modernity of marriage consists in the degree to which the familiarly associated ideas of sex and reproduction are separated, in theory as well as in practice In this marriage, the reproductive function is brought under conscious control, and parental love is made ancillary to mate-love In mate love, the sexuality is characteristically of the monogamous kind, and in its ideals at least of the long-term variety, and so we find it here

(To be continued in February issue)

Nature

By ANGELA OAKES

IT was utterly impossible to sleep How could one sleep in a world where everything was going on the rocks, and no one even seemed to care She had gone over it and over it in her mind so often that she could feel little burnt out paths in her brain These paths went hither and thither, irrationally and irregularly, back to the happy days of her early married life, back to the miserable abortive episodes that had ruined her health and torn her nerves to pieces, back to the time when she had decided she could endure it no longer, and had persuaded John after her last illness to stay on in the room he had occupied at the time

The strange thing about the burnt out paths was that they all seemed to end blindly as a circle does They brought her back to where she had started from, they never permitted any hope of escape They did not lead anywhere She was in them now, treading them out with the scarred feet of her soul

She had married John for love, pure genuine love, she even loved him still And she had wanted children She recalled with a half smile in the dark, a broken smile, half a sob, how she had yearned for little Tom, how she had made his little clothes, fixed up the bassinett, the same bassinett the others had used afterwards How she had wanted him, how she had gloried when at last after the consuming struggle they had laid him in her arms Strange how one forgot the pain and yet how vivid the memory really was She could recall the clutch of fear that had seized her heart when first she knew that Adeline was coming, it had made her sick, physically sick, but it had passed She had been glad to have a little sister for her small son, and John was glad too She could remember how he had clasped her to him in the night trembling How she had reassured him, told him that she would rather it was she, that she was not afraid How

they had both agreed, honestly agreed, that it was all worth while. He seemed to love her better for the children, more tenderly, more understandingly. And she liked to be loved.

With little Aleck it was the same way, the child had brought them closer together, made them understand more deeply what those old words, man and wife, in the marriage service really meant. But then there had been those others, those children that couldn't live, those children who never were children at all, only illness and distress and trouble.

IT was probably her bad heart. The doctor told her she couldn't have more children, but what sense was there in that. Wasn't she married? Didn't her husband and she love one another? The thing was absurd. But of course it couldn't go on. She would have died, and she didn't want to die and leave John and little Tom and Addie and Aleck.

So she had just suggested that he stay on in his own room, in the little third story room where he had gone when she was ill. She had tried to make it clear that it wasn't because she didn't love him. She did love him, but when she told him so with a soft kiss or a clasp of the hand at good night, he had become inflamed, forgetful of consequences, forgetful of her health. She remembered how he had cried one night, big, strong, self-controlled John, when she told him flatly that there must be an end to it all, that he must not come into her room frightening her. She had been asleep and she had waked up to find him there. She had been afraid, afraid of herself as well as of him.

Perhaps she had spoken too sharply, perhaps it was too cruel to reproach him, to say what the Doctor had said, that she had a bad heart and might die if anything happened again. His hot tears on her hand which he had held to his lips had startled her. How she had longed to have him stay, to nestle her head down at the side of his throat the way she used to, to feel his sharp beard rubbing her face. But she had been afraid, afraid of the consequences. She knew how he was when he was aroused, no thought of anything afterwards. With John it was all or nothing. So she had been cold, had taken her hand with the hot tears on it away from the burning lips and had asked him if he wanted to kill her, to rob the children of their mother. So he had gone away in the dark and had not come back.

SHE remembered the night afterwards when they had gone to their rooms and she couldn't sleep. Ah, how horrible it was not to sleep, to think things and watch the silent minutes creep in the dark, to

hear the clock ticking and ticking, to feel one's pulse beating against the pillow. What a comfort it was when the children woke up and called for her, and she could turn on the gas and somehow get her feet on solid ground again. But they were too big now. They didn't wake up except when they were sick. She had stolen up to his room in the dark heedless of consequences and the room was empty. The bed hadn't even been slept in. She had listened to hear his breathing but the room was quite still. She had felt at the bed, there was no one there. Then she had turned on the light by the bureau. She could remember now how her face had looked by the sudden light in the glass.

Startled, wide eyed, with her disheveled hair falling over her shoulders, it had frightened her like a ghost. And she had known then quite suddenly like that why John had stopped troubling her. She had never thought it of John, never. That he would go to other women. He had been clean before she married him, had lived decently like a girl. They had been so young, she eighteen, he twenty-one. And now. She remembered sitting there on his narrow made up bed like a creature stricken. She wondered where he had gone, into what streets, wondered what kind of a looking woman it was. Then she had fainted, she supposed it was her bad heart, and had lain there over an hour, and when she came to she smoothed up the bed, put out the light and crept down again. She had felt no anger, she had just felt horribly alone.

THE next morning when she came down to make breakfast John was already in the kitchen lighting the stove. He had looked at her strangely out of the corners of his eyes, like someone apart. Anger had then taken hold of her, she had wondered how he had dared to come home to her and the children after what he had done. But she said nothing.

The memory of that night and day was strangely vivid to her. It was as if it were yesterday. She remembered how she had gone upstairs after breakfast to John's room. The bed was rumpled but she knew he hadn't slept in it. When he came home from the office he had been very gentle and considerate, had helped put the children to bed and had gone up himself when he had finished the newspaper. How she had longed to hurl reproaches at him, to tell him that she knew, that she wouldn't bear it. But something had held her tongue. What had she to offer him?

After that she never went up to his room except to straighten it. She was afraid she would find him, afraid she would not find him. But by the looks of

his bed she could tell Sometimes she heard him slipping out, his stocking feet stepping softly on the stairs

All that was four years ago It seemed an infinity Four years living with this secret She couldn't bear it, she couldn't stand it, and now he was so strange Stopped suddenly in the middle of the room as if he was thinking, would rub his hand across his eyes and stare, start reading the newspaper at night and then throw it down There was something the matter, something terrible that she didn't know about, some horrible thing that was going to happen to them She could not bear it, she would go mad She sat up in bed gasping Her heart was going again, beating horribly, filling her ears with the sounds She reached for some drops Presently it was calm, but she couldn't stay there in bed

SHE threw back the bed clothes violently, slipped her feet into soft house shoes, threw on her old kimono, caught up a candle and a box of matches and stole up the stairs It was quite dark, so dark that she had to grope her way How long was it since she had gone up in the night that way Four years, it was an eternity She turned the handle softly, it grated The door creaked as it turned on the hinge She didn't care if it did wake up John She had got to talk to him, to know what it was, this thing that seemed to be hanging over them She heard someone turn heavily in the bed "That you Mamie? Can't you make a light?" She scratched a match, lighting the candle, the yellow glow filtered through the room John was there in the narrow bed, leaning on his elbow, staring with wide, fixed eyes in the direction of the doorway

"Is it you, Mamie?" he asked again, and his voice was like a sob Before she could answer he began to laugh, violently, mirthlessly, but not making much noise It was night, the children must not be awakened She shut the door quickly behind her, her flesh going cold What was he laughing for? She closed her eyes, steadying herself by the knob He laughed, his shoulders shaking, his whole body thrown about, teeth bared by his lips He opened his hands and shut them, threw his arms back

WHEN she looked at him again, she could see tears running down his unshaven cheeks He couldn't stop laughing, it was horrible to see him like that, his uneven teeth showing, his lips

drawn back like a snarling beast And the sound wasn't like laughter at all She began to cry silently, her shoulders heaving They were both of them mad, utterly mad Why had she come? Suddenly John was still He lay back on the pillow as if transfixed, staring at her, no, he wasn't staring at her, he was looking beyond her, way beyond her, out beyond the door

"Where are you, Mamie," he said "I was asleep, sort of, dreaming, and I asked you to make a light Oh, God, a light!" He threw himself over, face downwards on the pillow She could see the whole bed shaking from his sobs "A light," she could hear him groan, "a light"

She fell on her knees beside him, arms about him, patting him softly as she would comfort a child "John," she whispered, "John, don't take on so You are driving yourself wild You will wake the children Talk to me, tell me about it, I know anyhow I've known all these four years"

Presently he was quieter "I thought you knew I was sure you didn't mind, you were relieved to be rid of me But I loved you, Mamie I loved you all the time You may not believe it, but I loved you all the same That was the trouble I couldn't stand it, so I made believe those other women were you And now I am blind When you made that light I couldn't see you, couldn't see anything I heard the match but I couldn't see It was the first time I couldn't see at all The Doctor in the dispensary warned me it would come Said there was no stopping it, it's the optic nerves They're dead of the poison, nothing but whiplcord I can't see, Oh, Mamie, I never can see again"

"THE poison," she said, "the poison What do you mean?"

"From the life I've been leading No," quickly, "it isn't your fault nor mine exactly It's Nature, that's what it is I couldn't go against Nature, and now I'll have to live forever in the night"

Nature, strange that she should be so profligate of happiness A blind man tapping his careful way along the street A broken woman working in a factory, three children eking out the slender income All for love The wild wind has been tamed to drive the ships at sea, the torrent harnessed to take burdens from the backs of men and light the world, but Love, the greatest of all powers, unbridled, undirected, still devastates mankind

Is it man's fault or Nature's?



The Labor Problem in Mexico

By ROBERTO HABERMAN

"We are not as highly moral as you in the United States, nor yet as highly civilized," said Roberto Haberman, in an interview "That is why we have absolutely no laws against Birth Control. We utilized the Department of Education in taking it to the farthest ends of Mexico"

I BRING the greetings of the Mexican Federation of Labor, whose delegate I am to this conference. It is one of the youngest labor movements in the world. It has 1,200,000 members, but is strong enough to have elected a president to rule the Republic of Mexico. The present-day president of Mexico is a candidate, a member of the Labor Department of Mexico and has been elected to office as such. He is probably the first labor president elected on this continent.*

In Mexico we have been interested in the problem of Birth Control for many years. As you well know, Mexico has been undergoing various revolutions. The present government has come into being as a result of a revolution which has been political and economic, so it is natural that we look upon Birth Control as one of the means of making the revolution more effective.

We haven't much of a contribution to make in Mexico to the subject of Birth Control. Mexico being a Latin country and having been under the domination of the Spaniards and of the Catholic Church for many, many years, it is natural that such a country should be a man-made and man-ruled country. The status of womanhood is very low indeed and it is only lately that feminist groups both within the labor movement and outside of the labor movement are coming into being. It is only lately that the men who have been responsible for the success of the Mexican revolution are beginning to realize that the revolution is only half done as long as the women can find themselves in the state in which they are today.

THE State of Yucatan is a Socialist state. It is the nearest to the Socialist regime that we have had in the history of the country. They officially printed and published Margaret Sanger's pamphlet on Birth Control—the one that is not permitted to circulate in the United States.

The trouble with Mexico is not overpopulation. Mexico is about one-third the size of the United States and it only has fourteen million people. We are not concerned in Birth Control from that point

of view. Mexico can easily take care of 100,000,000 people. Most of the country is very fertile and in most of Mexico you can raise two and three crops a year. But what we are troubled with in Mexico is an enormous amount of wastage, due to the ignorance, the state of slavery and the peonage of the workers, previous to the revolution due to lack of education and due to the many counter-revolutions. We had a first class counter-revolution last year against the labor movement and the government. The economic condition is not as good as it should be.

I am going to give you some figures which were published two weeks ago by the Governor of Yucatan. This is the most prosperous state in Mexico, not only in Mexico, but I think in the world over. With all that prosperity every Indian owns his own land down there. Besides that fact he has opportunities to earn quite a good salary (or wages) for working in the hemp fields. With all this splendid economic condition, due to the lack of education, due to this irresponsible breeding of children, we have the following result:

IN the period from the 11th of May to the 30th of November of last year, in the city of Merida, there have been 1,835 births and 1,845 deaths. That is in the city of Merida, which is quite a modern city. It has sewerage and modern sanitation. The medical school is there, also the Board of Health. They have dispensaries and all that. The population of Merida by the way, is 80,000 and the rest of the state which makes up another 300,000 for that same period, there have been 6,642 births and 5,541 deaths, almost another 100 per cent.

Three years ago this month I happened to be in Merida, Yucatan. The Director of the School of Medicine told me that out of three births, two never reached the age of five. The only real attempt that we have made at establishing Birth Control clinics was at Yucatan, where Mrs. Kennedy, I think, inaugurated the first Birth Control clinic.

Last year we invited Margaret Sanger as the official guest of the Mexican Federation of Labor

* Excerpts from a report to the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference.

to come to Mexico and assist in the inauguration of the first labor president on this continent, and to inaugurate the first Birth Control clinic. We have the clinic but we don't have it in the Labor Federation building because we had no room, but we have two women physicians who are giving all the information and the appliances necessary and they are doing it freely and at no charge to members.

Two years ago I organized the forty medical students, the forty women medical students into a sort of cultural group, affiliated with the Mexican Federation of Labor for the purpose of establishing hygiene centers which would have included Birth Control departments. We had the revolution about that time and the thing was suspended.

The Republic of Mexico, outside of the work which has been done at Yucatan, has printed about two or three hundred thousand of Margaret Sanger's Birth Control pamphlet, the same one that has not been permitted to circulate in the

United States. We utilized the Department of Education in taking those things to the furthest ends of Mexico and so that the people would not be exploited by the local druggist, the Drug Clerks Union of Mexico City took charge of supplying all the appliances at almost cost and the address which was given in the booklet for further information was the Drug Clerks' Union in Mexico City.

As I said before, the revolution in Mexico has been a purely labor revolution. The counter-revolution last year has been against the labor government and the labor groups. The best proof of it is that wherever the counter-revolutionists happened to enter into a city, if they happened to conquer it, the first thing to do was to execute the labor leaders. This is not only peculiar to Mexico but to the history of the world. This condition came about throughout the Republic of Mexico. The main work in Mexico now is the problem of reconstruction and we call upon Birth Control to aid



The Town Hall Revisited

November 1921 — November 1925

Just four years after the famous raid the American Birth Control League holds a public meeting at Town Hall, reviews the years between and looks forward into the future

MRS F ROBERTSON JONES, presiding over the luncheon meeting held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League at Town Hall Club on November 28th, called attention to the changed attitude of the police and public toward Birth Control since the last meeting held under that roof. No longer, she said, did the police take an "active interest", the active interest at present is taken in another sense by social workers, economists, scientists, the clergy and the other groups of thinkers represented to the number of about 200 in the audience. "Today," said she, "every road traversed by thinkers on social problems leads to Birth Control."

The speakers at the luncheon were Dr C C Little, president of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues and president of the University of Michigan, Professor Andre Siegfried of L'Ecole des Sciences Politiques, Paris, Mrs Margaret Sanger and Dr Hannah M Stone.

Dr Little spoke as an educator and a eugenist

in behalf of the youth of the race. Our vast American experiment of racial intermixture has been, he said, conducted thoughtlessly, but it has given us a splendid mixture, if only hereafter the product is scientifically regulated. We should consider not our own but the next generation and make it our object to create a youth that is more "successful" than our present youth, healthier, happier and more adaptable. This we can do by preventing the birth of weaklings and of those who are undesired. This is the true eugenics. He could never understand the type of eugenist who did not recognize Birth Control as essential to the eugenic program, nor the type of churchman who, like the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church recently in session at New Orleans, went on record for eugenics but against Birth Control. In opposing Birth Control for fear of immorality among the young, the church both expressed its lack of confidence in youth and itself took an immoral stand. For what is more immoral than murder? Without Birth Control abortion will

continue to be practiced, and abortion is but another form of infanticide. Indeed, abortion itself is sometimes a lesser crime than the miserable childhood inflicted on the child who is unwanted and unprovided for.

The Teacher's Task

As president of a great university he stated that he had been criticized for his pronouncements in favor of Birth Control, but he felt that there was no need to apologize for Birth Control, indeed, the success of Birth Control seemed to him more important than his position as president of the University of Michigan. He hoped and believed that progressive educators would be able in time to attack the organized forces of ignorance and prejudice in this country by raising up a generation of clear thinking youth who would consider this question on its merits. Until then it was, he felt, better for supporters of Birth Control to address their arguments toward those with open minds, and leave those brought up with strong religious and other prejudices till time and the new generation wrought a change "from within."

Dr. Hannah M. Stone, director of the League's Clinical Research Department, touched upon the history of practical clinical work since a group of physicians met with Mrs. Sanger four years ago in a basement on East 10th Street and laid the first plans for such work. At this meeting and before it, Margaret Sanger "made the trail which has since widened into the broad avenue" of American scientific contraceptive work, both research and practical clinical work for the relief of mothers. Dr. Stone gave typical cases that had come to the clinic and urged the great need of changes in the law so that those who though healthy are poor or overworked, or who for other reasons want instruction in Birth Control, may be entitled to receive it.

A New Phase

Mrs. Sanger, in reviewing progress for the year, said that with the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference the movement passed from the stage where the public looked on, as at a football game, to the stage where the public made the movement its own. At the International 18 countries were represented, 10 universities, 79 social and religious bodies and nearly 1,000 physicians attended the contraceptive session. The press for the first time took the movement seriously instead of spectacularly, and commented on its scope and importance in no less than 200 editorials, the vast majority favorable and based upon the pressing problem of overpopulation.

Since the Conference the League has, through the

work of Dr. James F. Cooper, who has spoken in 31 states before 96 medical bodies and many social organizations, got in much closer touch with the doctors than ever before and 10,000 physicians have written the League for information. We have now physicians in every part of the country to whom we can send patients for contraceptive advice.

The biggest piece of work before the League this winter she stated to be to push the amendment to the U. S. Postal Law—the success of which meant, she felt, the first step toward "health passports for babies"—and preparatory work toward the Seventh International Conference to be held at Geneva September 1-3, immediately before the assembly of the League of Nations. The Seventh International would be the first appeal to the world and she prophesied that it would not be more than ten years before the President of the United States would himself address Birth Control to the nations of the world assembled at Geneva.

The French Problem

Professor André Siegfried gave a very informing historical summary of the French population question. The tendency to limit the family he traced back to before the middle of the nineteenth century. Then the country, having a mainly agricultural population, did not need vast numbers to perform necessary labor. For a time wealth increased and the small population profited by widespread prosperity. Gradually French psychology changed on account of military propaganda, based upon rapid population increase in England and Germany. Meanwhile manufactures were springing up and the capitalists needed workers. To the pressure of these two the Roman Catholic Church added its influence and it is these three classes who today carry on the repopulation campaign. The rich and the middle classes, fearing that they will be overwhelmed by the poor, are definitely adding to their numbers by having many children, but the other classes have been little influenced. The low birth rate that exists in France today Dr. Siegfried felt to be excellent from the point of view of quality in the population, indeed, from every point of view except perhaps the military. The military pressure could be met by the plan now being put forward of a "League of Low Birth Rate Nations," to meet the threats of individual nations which have outgrown their territory and resources.

This year's annual public meeting, coming as it did in the year with the International Conference, was addressed to a smaller group than last year's. Through the press, however, its speakers reached a much wider audience than ever before.

BRANDED

"There are too many children who are not born into the world but damned into the world"—A JEWISH RABBI

Letters from mothers who ask protection for the next generation They plead that children shall not be born of syphilitic fathers, of parents with tuberculosis, of families in which insanity runs, of mothers who are incapacitated through epilepsy to care properly for their children or to give them a clean inheritance The protection they ask is Birth Control, and not only for the individual and the family, but for the race itself should it be a duty, instead of a crime, to give them this information freely

Defective

Kentucky

I read your book through and it brought tears to my eyes to even notice that other mothers are just like me I married at 15 years, now I am 31, was married 9 months 18 days when my first baby came That one was 19 months old and I had another one, 2nd one was blind until about 2 years old and has bad sight now He was 2 years old and the 3rd came in September My husband was untrue and he got down the same month with syphilis and I went to work when that baby was 2 months and had to support my whole family of 4 and renting until up in the Spring He got up in February but had to go on crutches That baby was 2 years and 3 months old when I miscarried 10 months from then I had another baby but he is 9 years old now and diseased awfully Then twice a year for two years I had miscarriages None of my kids would nurse my left breast, they were raised on my right breast I went to a doctor but he said there was nothing wrong with it So I went on all those years nursing on one breast In Jan 1923 I got pregnant again, Feb 16, 1923 the Metropolitan Insurance Co sent me to a certain hospital of to be operated on for cancer of breasts Had my left breast taken off completely and taken a knot out of my right breast, but I didn't miscarry during operation October 11, 1923 a girl baby was born, it is 5 months old now and I am pregnant now 3 months

My right breast gives me fits, all I can get out of any doctor is operation A local Clinic nurse told me to have that breast taken off but they only worried me when I was pregnant I am raising this baby on bottle I have concluded 2 or 3 times to just kill myself It's so hard I'd rather be dead and take hell as my portion than this terrible life I am so weak at times it seems if someone would just push me I would die Then I work all the time to help support my family My husband don't know the value of a dollar All the responsibilities are on me He even looks for me to buy his clothes He's had syphilis twice bad and he plays music He can't do hard work

so in winter he has scarcely no work at all I take in washing all time It's the only work I can do and be at home with my children I have 5 living, 4 boys and 1 girl I buy all the second hand clothes I can amongst rich people for all of us in order to keep my children in school Our coal bill for this winter was 11 tons (on account of keeping fire all night for baby), at \$6 00 a ton (\$66 00) My husband paid for 1 ton and I have washed out the rest of the bill all but \$17 00 I have the hardest way to go of any woman on earth, but I am trying to buy a little home in the suburbs At night I lay down and can't get up on account of my hips and back By me being pregnant now I suffer awful with my back I have visited all the doctors here most and told them about my case and beg for ways of abortion but they say the law don't allow it If I carry this baby 2 months longer I have to have my other breast taken off I have to keep my right leg in elastic bands to keep my broken viens from bursting If you can help me please do so I am willing to wash and iron 5 years to pay for anything that will stop me from having children I just want to kill myself and I cry all the time Please answer me and console me if no more

Blind Babies

Kansas

We are writing you for more information regarding Birth Control We have received some of your literature and we want to know if there is anything that is absolutely safe We have had two children and they both were blind and the doctor said if any more were to come to us they would be like them, so we want so much to avoid such sorrow again Is it possible for a woman to get pregnant without reaching the climax? I don't know if there is any other way the male germ can enter the womb and don't know who to go to for information It is such a delicate subject but I feel as if we must know more to avoid any more trouble

An Epileptic

Michigan

My wife has got epilepsy and she gave birth to three children, the last two she came near killing them by falling on them. I think it best that she should have no more children. I am afraid something is going to go wrong some of these days. I do not want to put her under operations. Can you please tell me what to use for her to stop having any more children.

A Feeble-minded Family

Iowa

I am married and am the mother of six children, the youngest just one year old. Four of them with a former marriage and two with the second. My first husband was insane and 2 of my children are feeble-minded. I am always so weak after confinement and do not feel well until a year after. I have heard of a number of preventives but do not know whether they would injure a person or not, so thought I would write you. My husband is just a laborer and doesn't make very much and we have so much sickness. I know of several cases exactly like your book describes of different women who have had a terrible time. Men never appreciate all the suffering a woman must go through. If they had to suffer like the women they would soon find a way out of it. I surely believe like you do, that it's time women got their eyes open. I have used some very dangerous drugs, etc., until I heard they were so bad. I will recommend you to all suffering women.

Dead or Sickly Children

Illinois

I was married when I was twenty and the picture of health. We were married just 11 months when I had had a horrible time. They called a miscarriage but I don't think it was for I began to flood on Monday and on Saturday morning twin babies of only five months came. The doctors had forced the pains on and then take them off by instruments. And the doctor told me to be careful for I could never give birth to a living child. But about 6 months after I was caught again and had a little boy who was healthy looking but was so weak that when sitting on the floor at the age of two years could not get up unless someone would help him and he only lived to be two and a half years old and then I had another child, a girl who now is ten years old but was sick all of her life with epilepsy and I have another boy that is seven, only these two are living and I am in constant fear of bringing more unhealthy children into this world. My babies were all instrument babies and I had the milk leg with the last one which was a miscarriage. The doctors say I am too close to have babies and had better be careful, but tell me nothing so as to keep from having them.

I have to plead with my husband every time to please be careful but he said if he had known that that was all married life would mean he would have never married. To think he had to support a wife and kids and not even have it as he liked. I have bad health and my leg is a torture to me. Now after I've been married 13 years had only three living children and three miscarriages. So please help a poor soul to be safe of having any more babies for we are only poor people and are not able to care for more children. Can't take care of the two as they should be because we spend all the money for doctor bills on confinement cases and for the afflicted girl.

Venereal Disease

Pennsylvania

I am writing you in hopes to get some advise I will be so thankful if you will answer even I will be glad to pay you. I have four children the oldest just pass six years. The second four years in April, she was born disfigured and while I was in bed I very near lost my mind. She has had five operations from a surgeon here in but she is not yet finished. Then I have two babies both boys, the first boy 2 years last Oct., the baby six months. The first two are girls. I went to Pitts when the baby four months old and took the little girl most four years to see if I could have her finished by a specialist that did this kind of work. By caring for the baby and carrying him different places in search for the right doctor, my nurse left me and baby cried so much I took him to a doctor and he said baby was going under weight, as I start him on a bottle with S M A food now he is fine. As I could not nurse him only once a day I put him on the bottle entirely, then I took my little girl to Pittsburgh to Dr. as he had had several cases like her, hare lip and double cleft palate. He performed the operation.

I stayed a few days then we came home. Now it is time to take her again and think I can go yet this month. Mrs. Sanger, I had the baby entirely on the bottle by Jan 1st now I haven't seen anything. I told our doctor but he prescribed a few pills, but they didn't help me and I am sick from worry. I had a terrible time the last time. Baby was so big and the doctor found sugar in my urine. I would faint and be numb. I didn't think I would go through it and live but thanks to God in heaven. He has never failed me yet. We have all we can do as to care for the four and have the little girl operated on as the doctor said about three more operations before she would be finished and they cost so much and living so high. I am trying to bring them up clean and send them to school as I believe every child should be given the best schooling, but my husband is a mill man, not earning very much as the way everything costs. I think it a sin and crime to bring little ones into the world and not be able to take care of them. I would rather see my girls dead than know they would be like some others in large families.

Malthus: Right or Wrong?

By MALCOLM H BISSELL

A Summary of Recent Scientific Findings in Regard to the Basis of the World's Food Supply

PART II

A CAREFUL study of the possibilities of future wheat production has recently been made by Baker ("The Potential Supply of Wheat," *Economic Geography*, Vol I, No 1, March, 1925) He shows that under the most favorable conditions, it is reasonable to expect that the world's present production may be trebled But this will necessarily involve the application of a larger proportion of capital, and probably also of labor, per acre than at present, as well as a widespread increase in agricultural knowledge and skill It further assumes that peace and order and technical progress will become increasingly pervasive If all these conditions prevail, agricultural production can apparently be increased in pace with the growth of population during the next century But the effect of the law of diminishing returns will become more and more marked, and a rise in the relative price of farm products and a change in dietary habits will be a necessary consequence

If, on the other hand, wars and upheavals continue to occur—and who is rash enough to predict the contrary?—there will certainly be a deficit of agricultural products It has long been a popular misconception that war is a remedy for overpopulation But this is a complete fallacy, for the check to population caused by war is more than offset by the destruction of property and the decline in production Great as was the loss of population resulting from the World War, it was offset in a couple of years of post-war increase, while production and transportation are still far from having recovered from the effects of the great holocaust Future wars will certainly be far more destructive than any in the past have been Consequently agricultural and industrial production will be retarded to a much greater degree than the growth of population and the deficit of food will become increasingly great

A Stationary State Near

Baker's conclusions are well worth careful study "It is certain," he says, "that if the population of the United States continues to increase for more than another century as it has during the past century there is no means by which the present standard of living can be maintained, except by the importation of foodstuffs from other lands, which will

need their foodstuffs even more than we And looking forward 200 or 300 years, which is a shorter span of time than has elapsed since the settlements at Jamestown and Plymouth, it seems necessary to recognize not only a stationary population in this country, but also throughout the world Whether this stationary state will be one of misery for the majority of the people, as in China and India today, or one of well-being and happiness will depend largely upon voluntary restriction of population There is left to the white man a century of grace in which to develop that rational direction and control over himself that he has successfully applied to nature during the past century The trend of birth rates in the United States, Canada, and Australasia, considered in conjunction with the natural resources, is encouraging, but for nearly all other countries the prospect is not so hopeful"

Is Hunger Rare?

It seems, therefore, that the falling off in rate of growth of population so much emphasized by Jefferson, can hardly be regarded as proof that Malthus was wrong Nor is the tendency of the most progressive countries to maintain a high standard of living rather than a rapid increase of population to be deprecated It is true that we spend less and less proportionately for food, and more for automobiles, armies, movies and other "luxuries," but is a country that spends 60 per cent of its income for food to be preferred to one that spends only 38 per cent?

Nor can we agree with Jefferson that "hunger has become rare in the world" Certainly the reports of travellers in India, China and numerous other countries do not give that impression Even in our own favored country it is well known that an appalling percentage of school children are undernourished It has often been stated that half the world's population never gets enough to eat, and the fact that the raisin growers of California have to urge us to "eat more raisins" doesn't help the starving Asiatics who haven't any money to buy raisins or anything else Indeed, Hardy has shown that if the world's total food production were divided equally among all the inhabitants of the globe, it would not suffice to afford the minimum

satisfactory ration.* Even if we admit that his figures are only estimates, we may well ask why those countries which do happen to have enough to eat should be expected to act as permanent charitable institutions for the benefit of those which cannot feed themselves because they have too many people?

It is, of course, easy to criticize those who draw pessimistic conclusions from a comparison of the world's agricultural resources with the trend of population growth. But it does not necessarily follow that because Tertullian, in the third century, was wrong when he wrote about the lack of new lands, East is wrong when he makes the same claim in the twentieth century. We happen to know a little more about the world than Tertullian did, and there are no more undiscovered continents.

But we do not need to deal entirely in estimates and speculations. We have only to look at present facts. Large areas of the most densely populated regions of the world are not self-supporting from the standpoint of food production. How could England or Belgium or New England feed their people if it were not for the great food-exporting countries? Will there be "abundant food" for Englishmen and Rhode Islanders and Belgians when the "open spaces" of the New World and Australasia have filled up and the East has become industrialized? Even now the United States consumes almost as much food as she produces. "We should be glad to produce more if there were more buyers *and we could easily do it*," says Jefferson. Yes, we undoubtedly could, but Jefferson has forgotten that "buyers" and "inhabitants" are not synonymous. If they were, no Chinese or Hindus would ever starve while Iowa farmers were burning corn for fuel. There is no lack of consumers for all the food we could raise, but there is a lack of buyers. The fact that we could easily produce more food simply means that we have not yet reached the saturation point in regard to population. But could Italy or England "easily produce" more? Could Japan do it? And could we do it if we had 250,000,000 people instead of a little over one hundred million?

A Million a Year

We are adding between ten and fifteen millions of people to our population every decade. That is more than a million a year. Japan is adding more than 600,000 every year. Italy is crowding ever more thousands into her poverty-stricken masses. England cannot possibly find employment for her surplus workers. No wonder such countries are looking for territory where their overflow can find room—at the expense of some other people. Ad-

miral Rodgers says we will do the same when we need to. We are already showing imperialistic tendencies. Professor J. Russell Smith notes in his recent book "North America" that the decrease in new grain fields and the building of the modern American navy occurred together, and that "the decade of the virtual ending of free farms marked the beginning of the policy of acquiring foreign territory."

What, then, is the significance of the declining rate of population growth? It did not keep England from becoming overpopulated, nor Italy, nor Japan, and it is not likely to keep us from the same fate. It is a mathematical curiosity, that's all. Actual increments, not ratios, are the things we have to consider. Every additional mile that is added to the speed of an express train represents a smaller fraction of the total speed, but it costs more and more to get it. A straw finally broke the camel's back, though it was a very small ratio of the total load. The law of diminishing returns applies to population too!

Nature's Bonus

This aspect of the question is also emphasized by another geographer, N. M. Fenneman, chairman of the section of geology and geography of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in a thoughtful paper on Natural Resources.† "Human wants are supplied partly by labor and partly by mere bonus of nature. Labor merely supplements the bonus. With fertile soil and small population, the labor element increases constantly. There will always be soil, but the supply will never again equal the demand."

Whether conserved or wasted, improved or impoverished, it will limit the world's population and the pressure of the bands will cause suffering."

Malthus could not foresee the future. Neither can we. Perhaps the tropics will feed untold millions some day, Marbut says nothing about that. Perhaps, too, we shall get power from the sun or from atomic disintegration, and manufacture our food in chemical laboratories, so that "agriculture will become a luxury," as Haldane thinks. But these things are not for today or even tomorrow, and the population problem *is* one of today. We cannot dismiss it by saying that there is plenty of food and probably always will be. For the fact remains that there isn't enough even today, when the world as a whole is considered. We live in a fortunate country. If we could see life from the point of view of an Italian peasant or a Chinese coolie, we might think differently. Malthus was a pretty wise old chap, after all!

*Quoted in "Population Problems," E. B. Reuter, p. 105.

† "The Classification of Natural Resources," *Science*, February 20, 1925, pp. 191-197.

The Educator's Responsibility

Extracts from recent addresses of Dr C C Little, President of the University of Michigan, President of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues

AT his inaugural address as president of the University of Michigan (November 2nd), President Little said in part, of Birth Control

"The uncontrolled and unintelligent addition of more people to a world by the production of undesired and neglected children is in my opinion quite as great a sin as murder of these children by slow means. It is also quite as unchristian, crude and cruel as is the killing outright of weak or undesired offspring by races which we, in our pseudo-sanctity, brand as barbarous. They send their children to the hereafter with whatever equipment nature has given them. We further handicap ours by a poor environment, slums, filth, over-crowding, failure to give them the best possible chance during development. We find all about us in our great cities these battered, pathetic figures of children, the unwanted results of our animal nature, only partly controlled by chance and fear. This is no treatment for childhood, the foundation of the next generation, which should come to us only when desired and when love is waiting for it at the portal. Our recognition of the right of the child to be wanted, to be cared for, to be loved—is the first step in the conversion of our aims and ideals. Such a change is, I believe, approaching swiftly and silently."

Before a conference of public health officers and nurses at Lansing, Michigan, Dr Little urged sterilization in certain cases, and Birth Control. Of Birth Control he said

"There is a move to slow down the production of all children to a place where all will have a fair and reasonable chance in life. This is not a theory, it is fact and something that we all know about. But those of us who most need information on the limitation of births—the people who live in poverty—have not the money or the contacts by which they may acquire it.

"Are we playing fair to extremely poor and extremely pathetic creatures to allow them to be born? You who decide to fight for the good of the children must expect to face abuse and criticism.

"If our civilization is to last its aim must be the production of clean, wholesome, idealist youth. Our civilization must look to the future and we must plan for the future and not be tied to the present generation."

Of sterilization he said

"It is unsound and unchristian to encourage the production of unhappy, unfortunate children. You need never be afraid of the abuse of the privilege of sterilization, because a public opinion intelligent enough to understand its need will be intelligent enough to prevent its abuse."

At a joint conference of the Illinois Birth Control League and the Woman's City Club of Chicago, Dr Little again drove home this duty to youth. He said

"Other civilizations disappeared from the face of the earth because they ignored the child. Those old civilizations were made-to-order affairs that sought only to make the existence of middle-aged individuals a comfortable and easy affair. The child was forgotten."

Speaking of the youth of the day he divided college students into three classes, those who acquire facts, those who use facts to some extent in creative endeavor and "those who think—the exclusive few. They are in the minority. They give birth to the ideas that move the world. It is to this select minority that the advocates of Birth Control belong."

The substance of his address in New York is given in the account of the Town Hall meeting under the auspices of the American Birth Control League on another page of the REVIEW.

A Chain of Austrian Clinics

By BETTY FERCH

IN the building of one of the public insurance companies we started an enquiry office, and managed to enlist for our course the services of about forty socially-minded doctors of both sexes distributed over Vienna. I took over the management of the place. Working-class people were informed of the existence of our women advice offices

by means of the daily papers, meetings, lectures and many hundreds of thousands of pamphlets. In the office, which comprises a number of rooms, the women individually state the request for the application of the contraceptive and frequently speak about their misery. The woman is sent to a doctor in her neighborhood who gives her suitable advice.

By this means many women have been enlightened about neglected diseases, particularly about the beginning of cancer. No charge whatever is made to the patient except for actual supplies. In many cases the office bears this expense.

At present we have opened four advice offices in Vienna, and in our office first opened three lady doctors and myself are working. Further in the Austrian provinces 12 advice offices are already working, which have very much to do, and new offices are being opened in Vienna and in the provinces. The raising of the money is not so very easy, most of it being collected at lectures.

After an experience extending over a period of two and one-half years I can safely say that the trouble of two hours a week spent in every advice office has enabled us to enlighten and help a large number of people. The organisation is simple and

does not cost a great deal of money. The voluntary workers of the advice offices have to possess an intelligent understanding of the requests and lamentations of the women, discreet advice, soothing words and encouragement. If we consider how much sorrow is mitigated by it, to how many mothers and married women life is made easier and how many dangerous miscarriages are prevented, there remains surely no other way but to work for our aims.

The women's advice office only requires a manager, two rooms, some printed matter and the services of a small number of doctors. As soon as the authorities are convinced that this is not a matter of making money and that miscarriage and the dangerous consequences connected with it can be best opposed in this way, the authorities do not make any difficulties whatever about them.



The Old Woman Speaks to Her Spirit-Child

By CORALIE HOWARD HAMAN

Alone in an empty room
Waiting for death am I,
Sitting here in the gloom
Outside, the children cry,
And leap and dance in the sun
But when their youth has run,
Grow old, even as I

I married when I was young
He died not long ago,
And left me lonely so
I never would have a child
My reckless race and wild,
Of cruel heart and tongue,
My furious race, insane,
And filled with bitter pain,
Is not a good to leave
To people still to come
So ere that wrong was done,
The seed I sought to stay,
Nor bear, to curse the day
I gave it birth, a child

Laugh, children, in the sun
Long may your glad lives run,
Sparkling and joyous, sure,
Happy, complete and pure
Long may you dance and play,
Merry, alert and gay
Long may your line endure
Tranquil, serene, secure

Long may you dance in the sun
I, the old withered one,
Have saved you, as I could,
From the evil in my blood
From taint of blood of mine
How strong you are and fine!

No child I've had at all
But I do not repine
'Twas sacrifice immense
Alone, my old tears fall,
Bitter is life as gall
God will give recompense •

• Excerpts from a larger poem

Book Reviews

HYPATIA, OR WOMAN AND KNOWLEDGE, by Dora Russell E P Dutton & Co, New York \$1 00

LYSISTRATA, OR WOMAN'S FUTURE AND FUTURE WOMAN, by Anthony M Ludovici E P Dutton & Co, New York \$1 00

NO books on feminism have so unmistakably demonstrated the fact that without Birth Control there can be no freedom for women as do Mrs Russell's "Hypatia" and Mr Ludovici's "Lysistrata." For Mrs Russell, who speaks stirringly for the feminist in the "Today and Tomorrow Series," definitely and concisely emphasizes the necessity for Birth Control. Mr Ludovici, who speaks venomously but ludicrously against feminism in the same series, advocates unlimited child-bearing, with concubinage whenever there are not enough men to supply every woman with a mate.

Not, of course, that Mr Ludovici lacks a solution for the population problem. The checks he recommends are cruelly positive—outright infanticide of the defective, and indirect and indiscriminate infanticide by returning medical care and nutrition entirely to the home laboratory and the home kitchen.

Mr Ludovici's whole argument is based on two false premises: his definition of the feminist as a woman unappreciative of the value and the beauty of the body and contemptuous of sex-love and maternity, and his belief that a "state of nature" would eliminate disease, the pangs of childbirth, and other bodily ills. For a refutation of the latter we have only to go to those races still in a "state of nature" to see that not all their babies grow to sturdy maturity. For a refutation of the former, Mrs Russell's own words are sufficient. "There is nothing in life to compare with this uniting of minds and bodies in men and women who have laid aside hostility and fear and seek in love the fullest understanding of themselves and of the universe."

Mr Ludovici's most laughable statement is that feminists would like to produce their children without the preliminary of sexual union, by artificial fertilization, killing all the men except, say, about five to every thousand women. This is a refreshingly funny and unique allegation, quite contrary to the charges made by most anti-feminists.

The only humane thought in Mr Ludovici's bitter volume is his proposal for research into means of easing childbirth by producing babies which will be thin at birth and will increase in weight the first few days instead of decreasing. His plea for beauty and for a proper valuation of sex-love is made impossible of fulfillment by the very method he proposes of obtaining it—the complete subjection of women. There cannot be free and beautiful

love except between free and equal, as well as beautiful people.

WHILE Mrs Russell asks for complete equality between the sexes, in mind, in body, in love, in economic opportunity, in legal status, in the family—in every aspect of human life—nowhere are her words more ringing than in her chapter on "Feminist Mothers." Here she pleads for intelligent sex education, for freedom to determine the number and the frequency of children.

"I am not going to deny," she says, "that the most perfect delight known to human beings is the completely reckless, mutually adoring union of two people of vitality and intelligence who hope to create another human being as a constant reminder of the beauty of that moment. But many considerations forbid a yearly child."

"We want better reasons for having children than not knowing how to prevent them. Nothing whatever is to be gained by driving the timorous and the weak by lies or compulsion into pain which they will resent and responsibility which they will evade. Everything is to be gained by training a woman in knowledge, courage, and physical strength, and leaving it then to her own instinct and her mind to tell her that to create new human beings is worth the discomfort and the suffering she must necessarily undergo."

There is no mercy in her denunciation of the taboos responsible for the inadequacy of our knowledge of contraception, of gestation, of parturition, even of lactation and early child-care. Her opponent in the controversy demonstrates these taboos by urging the rejection of all extra-corporeal aids to human functioning, such as canned or stored foods, surgery, the use of anaesthetics and instruments at child-birth, and even dentistry and eyeglasses.

Mrs Russell's satire against the militarists and the theologians who call contraception contrary to health and nature is clean, incisive and destructive. Her entire volume of only 81 small pages, is most beautifully written.

Read "Lysistrata" first for the diversion the strange chimera evoked by Mr Ludovici will give you. Then read "Hypatia" and see the chimera disappear before Mrs Russell's fire, her intelligence and her love of joy and beauty.

RUBY A BLACK

WOMEN, CHILDREN, LOVE AND MARRIAGE, by C Gasquoine Hartley Heath Cranton, Limited, London,

OF this collection of twenty-one essays of Mrs Hartley's, the one on "The Problems of Birth Control" is of greatest interest to the readers of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. It is the last of five essays in the section on

"Women," and apart from its interest for us, it is undoubtedly the most thoughtful and serious of the section. None of the ground traversed by Mrs Hartley is new to our readers, but it is worth while to give a few quotations to show the spirit in which she approaches the subject. Here are few of her dicta:

"The child is unfortunate who is born into a home, unwanted by its mother. To give life well, it must be given gladly. There can be no deeper tragedy than an unwilling motherhood."

"To save the unwanted child from being conceived by drunken or syphilitic parents is a work of such plain morality that there would appear to be no room for difference of opinion."

"Those least fitted to carry out parental duties, because of faults of character or misfortune of circumstances, have the largest families. The mere consideration of these difficult questions in the broad light of day must be felt by all of us, who are old enough to remember the attitude in the past, as a wholesome sign of the times. We care more, and very slowly we are growing more honest."

While the essay on Birth Control is of greatest interest, we can heartily recommend a reading also of what Mrs Hartley has to say about children, the mistakes that parents make in their treatment, and the counsels of wisdom she gives to the mothers who strive so hard, and sometimes so ignorantly, to do their best for their boys and girls. She also has much to say that is worth reading concerning love and marriage, and all that she writes is permeated with the idea of free parenthood, and a noble conception of the relations of husbands and wives, parents and children.

ANNIE G PORRITT

WOMEN AND LEISURE A Study of Social Waste,
by Lorine Pruette, Ph D. E. P. Dutton and Co.,
New York \$3.00

THE study which gives the title to this book has yet to be made and written. In the introduction we are led to expect that Dr Pruette is about to present a study of the problems of the woman in the home—especially the woman in the small home or apartment who is not occupied in the care of very young children. Such a study is badly needed, as Dr Pruette clearly perceives, for she writes:

"These women on the part-time jobs are lonely while they work at their casual, unsupervised, unstandardized and, as a natural corollary, inefficiently performed home tasks. When their tasks are over, they swarm out on the streets of every town, seeking something, they are not sure what, going somewhere, just to be going. From the individual standpoint they form a pathetic picture, often most poignant

when they have best reconciled themselves to their comparative uselessness, but from the social standpoint they form an actual menace. By the thousands they wander up and down the city streets, looking for something to fill the idle hours. They are a mark, not only of their husbands' ability to keep them in comfort, not only of "vicarious consumption," but of social inefficiency, of society's failure adequately to make use of its human material."

This is journalism, not science, and there is nothing in the book to give any firm basis for these assertions. It may be true that there are these thousands of women only half employed, unhappy themselves and a waste from the social standpoint. But Dr Pruette has made no contribution to a study of the phenomenon. She offers no statistics, no established facts on which an understanding and a solution of the problem here offered might be based. Instead of such a study—a study which offered her a wholly untouched field, the rest of the volume is given up to a study, on the lines of those so well done by the Women's Bureau, of the women who work—the eight million women who have left the home for the shop, the factory, the office, the professions. This is interesting and well presented. But it is not the study that Dr Pruette led us to expect, and one closes the volume with a sense of exasperation, and the desire that Dr Pruette may soon make a fresh start and give us that much wanted study that she promised in her opening lines.

ANNIE G PORRITT

New Source Books on Birth Control

The literature of Birth Control has received in recent months an important addition in the three books advertised in this month's BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. Dr Meyer's compilation from many sources, was noticed in the October REVIEW ("Birth Control," Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore). In November the two further additions were made to our growing library of source books. "The International Aspects of Birth Control," published by the American Birth Control League is Volume I of the Proceedings of the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference and contains reports of foreign and American Birth Control organizations.

Johnsen's "Birth Control Handbook" is one of the Debaters Series published by the H. W. Wilson Co. (N. Y.). Miss Johnsen's book, in its negative section, is the only source book of the opposition and is, for this reason, a useful addition to the library of propagandists for Birth Control, as it gives them "the other side" ready at hand and is very useful also for its fifty pages of bibliography. The three books, together with the other three volumes of the Proceedings of the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference, which are now in preparation, will furnish in compact form a comprehensive statement of the practical and philosophic founda-

tions of the Birth Control movement. A comprehensive review of these books will be published in a later number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Books Received

From Longmans, Green & Co (New York) *SEXUAL PHYSIOLOGY*, by F H A Marshall, FRS \$2 75

From L'Istituto Italiano di Igiene (Rome) *UN CENTRO DE STUDI E DI ATTIVITA SOCIALI*, by Ettore Levi

From L'Istituto Italiano di Igiene, etc (Rome) *CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PREVENTIVE RELIEF*, by Ettore Levi

From L'Istituto Italiano di Igiene (Rome) *TOMMASO CAMPANELLA*, by Ettore Levi

From S Ganesan (Madras) *REVIEW OF THE GUIDE TO HEALTH BY MAHATMA GANDHI*, by Ettore Levi

From L'Istituto Italiano di Igiene (Rome) *L'OPERA DELLA DONNA PER LA PREVENZIONE DELLA MALATTIE MENTALI E NERVOSE*, by Prof D M Antonio D'Ormea

From Constable & Co (London) *TOWARDS MORAL BANKRUPTCY*, by Paul Bureau 16/n

From Macmillan (New York) *THE VIRTUOUS HUSBAND*, by Freeman Tilden \$2 50

Old Clothes

Sally Joy Brown conducts the Friend in Need Column in the *Chicago Tribune*. Here are a few of the troubles which this Friend tried to relieve on September 20th

"My children—a boy, 3, twin boys of 6, and girls, 4, 7 and 9," writes a mother, "are all in need of clothing, and I expect another little one shortly. I will be glad to receive any children's or baby clothes. It is more than I can do to keep them dressed, and meet the bills."

A woman writes for clothes for a neighbor. "Her husband," she states, "was killed last Christmas, leaving her with five little girls, 13, 9, 7, 5 and 3. She is a neat woman, interested in keeping her family together and looking respectable, but she has had a hard time to make ends meet."

Here is another family for which old clothes are offered as the solution. This mother "has four small children, the oldest under seven years, and is expecting another this month. Her husband has been sick and out of work."

As long as these families are in a chronic condition of "expecting another" they will also be in a chronic condition of needing old clothes, stale food and, indeed, a place to live in that is worthy to be called home.

With Our Opponents

The convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, which was held in November, heard speakers on Birth Control. Bishop Schrembs of Cleveland, according to a press item, protested against "narrowness of thought" and followed this by "denouncing Birth Control." At the same convention the Rev Thos V Moore gave one important argument against Birth Control. If we may believe the press reports, he encouraged the begetting of morons because if there were no upper-grade moron there would be nobody to dig ditches, carry hods and wash dishes.

"It is not desirable to eliminate this feeble-minded class," he is quoted as saying. "Without them, who would do the menial work?"

Another speaker, the Rev George W Johnson, saw no inconsistency in the demand for unrestricted procreation in the tenements, though his address to the conference was an attack on the conditions under which children are brought up in the tenement home. Nor was this because he was optimistic that home conditions would change as the size of the family increased. On the contrary, he held out little hope of improvement and declared that the school is being forced more and more to take over parental duties.

In the long and tedious mixture of innuendo and direct attack which made up the major part of the address given by Dr John C Coyle before the Knights of Columbus on November 23rd, stands out like a star of the first magnitude his analysis of the population problem. We wish to call it to the attention of Prof Edward M East and any other students of population who may have overlooked this aspect of the question.

According to three reliable witnesses who took down this part of his lecture almost verbatim, Dr Coyle proved that population is not increasing but rapidly dwindling, and this by natural law. He proved it by the most fantastic and original of systems of logic. He took any five people on the earth at present. They came from ten parents, and these ten parents in turn came from twenty parents, these twenty from forty, and so on back through the centuries. "Now it can be plainly seen that at one time there were many more people on the earth than there are now," said Dr Coyle. "The farther back we go the more people we have. If there were no overpopulation then, why should we look for any now?"

We leave our readers to ponder this triumph of reasoning.



“Mother of Fourteen”

AN attempt at suicide has given the newspapers of New York what they present as a unique and poignant story of an overburdened mother. The story is tragic to the last degree, so we give it somewhat abbreviated, as told in the *New York Times* of December 14th

Mrs. Ida Baldwin got up at 6 o'clock yesterday morning as she has for the last fifteen years, ever since Ida, the first baby was born

With the help of Ida and Anna and May, all of the fourteen Baldwin children were dressed and by 8 o'clock sixteen places were set for breakfast. After breakfast Mrs. Baldwin dug her arms into the dishpan

The youngest child cried. The one which has just begun to walk tumbled on its head and wailed. An older child found the glasses on the shelf and brought them crashing to the floor, as one of the Baldwin children has done almost every day these last fifteen years. At 10 o'clock the children were dressed and out at play—all but the youngest, who had to be fed again

At 10:30 o'clock Mrs. Baldwin began sweeping up and making the beds

At 11 o'clock she sat down for a minute, then started for the kitchen to begin cooking dinner for sixteen. Fifteen years or more she's been cooking Sunday dinner, each year for one month more. In the kitchen Mrs. Baldwin stood contemplating the stove. She turned on the gas. She did not light a match. Quietly she sat down to die

They found the woman's frail body outstretched, her face smoothed as if in sleep. They revived her

“What did you do it for?” they asked. Mrs. Baldwin looked her scorn

“I'll do it again,” she replied faintly

Mrs. Baldwin's is a story of despair translated into action, as the actual material burden of life grew too heavy to bear. But we cannot agree that

it is unique. As we turn the pages of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* for the last year or so we find many cases as bad and some still worse, for poverty and illness are added to the burden of numbers. If we looked through the thousands in our files we should find many more. We could fill a volume, but we will choose a bare half dozen at random

From New Hampshire we heard from a mother of 16. From Illinois, Nebraska and Iowa, three mothers who have each borne 13 children wrote for help. From Pennsylvania a girl who had borne 6 children in five years asked whether she was to go on this way forever

MRS. BALDWIN turned on the gas because a desperate mood was on her and the gas was all too handy. A desire to die as intense as hers is expressed in more than half the letters we receive. A Minnesota mother of 14 writes: “Every time I lay down for the two or three hours sleep I get I wish I would never wake up.” A girl of 17 writes that she already has three sets of twins—six children at 17. She will not be long catching up with Mrs. Baldwin. Already, she says, her family “is wearing her down.”

These are half a dozen cases right at hand of families like Mrs. Baldwin's. They are not unique, they are common. Just as long as all mothers are not given the right to control their families, we shall have suicide of mothers, or attempted suicide, or at best a loathing for life. As one mother expresses it for the rest in this month's *REVIEW*: “I'd rather be dead and take Hell as my portion.”

* See page 16

Correspondence

In New Mexico

Editor, *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*

I hope you received my letters about conditions in Wyoming and Colorado. I would appreciate getting from you a bundle of literature to give out as I go on my jaunts among the poor homesteaders. I believe conditions here in New Mexico are worse than any place I have been on account of crooked politics and mixed races. They have a bill up before the coming legislature for a home for feeble-minded—the usual method of meeting the problem. It provides so many jobs for politicians and opportunity for graft from builders that by comparison sterilization and birth control would be too quick and cheap a remedy!

The legislators are many of them Mexican Catholics who speak no English

The greatest sin in the world is the fact that the church (Catholic and Protestant) fails to lift the burden of poverty, disease and injustice from the backs of the masses. Seeking God and not finding help in the churches they are being driven and drawn into every “ism” the human mind can conceive. The church is doing nothing for the Godless rural communities of the United States where every sin, disease, cruel injustice, illiteracy, poverty, we are heir to can be found

Why do the pastors think it a sin for poor people to have the knowledge that all of their wealthy church mem-

bers possess because they have the money to pay for it—and the poor haven't? One clergyman said it was a sin not to have the "beautiful children" God sent. I wish these good men would take a trip through the home for feeble minded, "Ridge," in Colorado and see some of the "beautiful children" this country is blessed with. Every large city has the same pitiful sight. Let the church people look into the matter of bootlegging, selling narcotics, tuberculosis, venereal disease, of taxes and what the money is spent for and what our institutions cost the United States—jails, penitentiaries, asylums, homes for feeble minded, etc. They would be less sentimental and more humane if they would study facts. I know of no church which is touching this problem but the Lutherans in the South who are going after it in a practical way.

In closing I quote the splendid words spoken by Maud Ballington Booth—"Come down from your pedestals and get into the life of the city streets. Serve God where, how and when you can, without melodrama and without publicity. The great keynote of Christianity is service. That does not mean we must be martyrs or great preachers or leaders in the foreign missionary field, but it does mean that just belonging to a church and worshipping on Sunday is not enough. We must really do something for our fellow men."

Yours for the Cause,
VERA JANE PEASE

The Doctor Criticizes

Boston

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In the story of "Goldie Grasshopper," in the November BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, it seems to be essential to the story that Goldie Grasshopper and her colleague, Gracie, can go through nine months of pregnancy, dancing on the stage, apparently without detection. One might forgive a man if he wrote a story so utterly untrue to life and to anything like common sense as that, but just exactly how a woman can indulge in such fantasies, I do not understand. It seems rather remarkable that Goldie could be dancing on a burlesque stage up to the very night of delivery. I have observed a great many pregnant women, and except on the movie screen, have never seen this phenomenon.

Yours very sincerely,
ABRAHAM MYERSON, M D

The Woman Replies

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Of course it is usual for anyone approaching maternity to show it. We all agree to that. But it is no less true that when outsiders are not looking for it, especially in illegitimacy cases, such as come before our Clinic, it often

escapes detection. I happen to know personally, girls who had sudden deliveries with no one having had a suspicion of their condition. I saw one working in a library two days before her confinement, which took place at home, as a total surprise to her entire family—and to me. Another girl came here from a small town after twelve hours daily work in a restaurant. While waiting to be assigned to her room in a rooming house, labor pains began, and she had a child within twenty-four hours of quitting work, with no one suspecting its arrival. One girl, a houseworker, had her child in the night, killed it, hid its body and arose as usual to get breakfast for the family—they knowing nothing of it till the child's body was found.

Lest our correspondent think that these situations occurred because no trained observers were present, I would add that another girl was assistant in a clinic, and not appearing one morning, telephoned in that her child's advent had prevented. Although she was a married woman, no physician in the clinic had an inkling of it. In another case a hospital maid was taken with labor pains on duty, and hurried to the delivery room with no suspicion on anyone's part, although she had been under the eyes of nurses and doctors continually, and it was her third illegitimate child. Since I know these girls, and the circumstances, I feel sure of my ground, and would suggest that whereas our correspondent doubtless is right that the majority of expectant mothers show their condition, even he does not know how many girls have passed before him in that condition when he knew nothing about it.

The reasons for it are various. Many of the babies are not full term. In some cases the girls almost starve themselves, or wear clothes unmercifully tight to conceal their condition. They are often with people who do not know their previous size, and they can therefore pass it off as general stoutness of figure. The type of costume can be varied etc., etc. It also happens with perfectly legitimate babies, whose mothers do not resort to such measures, but whose babies are small, and whose friends see nothing because they expect to see nothing.

I might add that in the particular story quoted, I took precaution to have one chorus girl already out of the chorus for some time, and had Goldie develop a "lump" so that she would not have to dance, and we will presume also that she wore a wired hoop, or very full gauze skirts concealing her waist line. We will also add that Jackie weighed but four and one-half pounds!

Our doctor friend is amazed that a woman could write anything so fantastic as that a pregnant girl could escape detection in a show. I, in turn, am amazed that any physician with much obstetrical experience should be amazed!

ELEANOR ROWLAND WEMBRIDGE

Is Birth Control a Feminist Reform?

*An Editorial from the Woman's Leader, Organ of the
National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (England)*

IN our issue of 17th July we ventured to criticize a definition of feminism given by Miss Rose Macauley. She defined feminism as "attempts of women to possess privileges (political, professional, economic, or other) which have previously been denied to them on account of their sex." We criticized it on the ground of inadequacy. Of course we want these things—but we want something more. We want in addition to equality of treatment in a world designed by men to reflect their own experiences, needs, and aspirations, a certain fundamental re-ordering of the world itself. Thus we ventured to hammer out as an alternative definition of feminism "The demand of women that the whole structure and movement of society shall reflect in a proportionate degree their experiences, their needs, and their aspirations." In fine, we expanded the old claim for identity of treatment which served us well enough in the days when the bare right of citizenship was an inevitable "next step," and established a claim for nothing less than a new standard of human values.

Now this wider conception of feminism necessarily brings into the purview of the feminist a whole range of matters which it is not logically possible to consider under the narrow terms of the old identity formula. We have especially in mind the conditions of that occupation in which the large majority of women are at present engaged, in which the overwhelming majority of women are at some time of their life engaged, and whose chances or mischances influence in a thousand ways the position of all those women who are engaged in other occupations. We refer, of course, to the occupation of motherhood. It is not easy to demand such and such terms for the performance of that occupation under the ægis of the older formula, because it is an occupation in which women alone engage and we have, as it were, no male standard of superior privilege on which to focus our ideal. But it is easy enough—it is inevitable—under the new formula. Thus we can—indeed, we do—demand that this particular occupation shall focus the same measure of social attention and respect as any large and nationally important occupation in which men are engaged. We demand that the safety regulations of maternity shall command the same pre-occupation and record the same improvement as the safety regulations of—let us say, coal-mining. We demand that the economic basis of motherhood shall

be the kind of economic basis that men would regard as acceptable for any occupation in which they themselves were engaged. It is for this reason that we regard Widows' Pensions and Family Endowment as, in one aspect, *feminist reforms*.

AND finally we demand that the mother, like her economically occupied husband, be placed in a position of maximum freedom to determine under what conditions she will or will not perform her function, and how far by reasonable "limitation of output" she may improve the standard of her "product." Incidentally, we believe that the manner of securing an adequate survival rate tolerated by our forefathers—a high birth-rate combined with a high infant death-rate, or in more general terms indiscriminate production combined with wastage of the product—was degrading both to the professional standard of the mothers who acquiesced in it and to the professional status accorded them by society. It involved the assumption that the work of the mother is so cheap, so easily and profusely forthcoming, that unlike the work of the miner or engineer (who is conscious of his right to strike if intolerable conditions are imposed upon him) it can be wastefully used by society and even regarded as something of an incubus by individuals. That, then, is why we regard the provision of expert and disinterested birth control advice to married women as, in one aspect, a *feminist reform*.

We are aware that this explanation will not set at rest the objections of those of our critics who regard all forms of birth control other than the suspension of marital relations as in themselves ethically unjustifiable. Indeed, it is intended not as a statement of the case for birth control, but merely as a statement of the case for regarding birth control, when once its justifiability is established, as a *feminist reform*. Nevertheless we will take the opportunity of saying two things on our general position to those who take the view that birth control in the sense in which the word is commonly understood is ethically wrong.

IN the first place we would remind them that we are not advocating birth control as good in itself. There are individual circumstances in which we too would regard it as ethically wrong. We are advocating it as admissible in certain forms, and under

certain circumstances, and we think that the person best fitted to decide under what circumstances it is admissible is the individual mother, that the person best fitted to decide what form it shall take is the responsible medical officer of an infant welfare centre. In the second place we would ask them to believe that our attitude in this matter is inspired

by a reverence for human personality as great as their own. It is a reverence which revolts at the thought that the seeds of life may be sown thoughtlessly and on unprepared ground, at the thought that its fruit may be unwanted and inadequately tended, at the thought that its increase may destroy instead of fulfilling the life from which it comes.



Periodical Notes

The *Chicago Tribune* comments editorially on the encouraging decrease in the British birth rate shown in the last quarter's vital statistics. The editorial refers to the fact that immigration to the colonies is practically at an end and adds

"That situation, with unemployment, taxation for the dole, shipping industries, and insufficient home production of food will not permit increase in population. It must be controlled or it means ruin.

"A nation which has outgrown its boundaries must do one of two things, take and colonize other land and build an empire or control its births. Both are held to be wrong by many people, but they are alternatives which experience has presented. Life descends by successive stages lower and lower unless a people take new lands for their own use, by force if necessary, or unless they reduce the number of people who are dependent on the nation's resources.

Chester H. Rowell, who conducts a column in the *San Francisco Daily News*, believes that if science is to delay death it must also slow up the stream of life coming into the world. "So long as man did not interfere with death," says he, "he did not need to interfere with birth, the matter took care of itself.

"But now, by medicine, by sanitation, by personal hygiene, by quarantine, by every possible means, man is interfering with death. If that keeps on it becomes a matter, not of morals or religion, but of mathematics, when he must interfere with birth also."

Frank O. Lowden, former governor of Illinois is, according to an Associated Press dispatch, the latest public man to give warning of the danger of starvation from overpopulation in the United States. The time is approaching, he is quoted as saying in an address in Chicago, when no nation can maintain a population beyond its ability to feed it from its own soil. He points out that in recent years American exports of food products "have been negligible" that foreign countries having a smaller excess over their own needs, afford us less than formerly

and that our best soils are already in cultivation. He asks what preparation we are making to feed the population of 200,000,000 which we may expect to have, at our present birth rate, fifty years hence.

In the *Psychoanalytical Review*, Arnold H. Kiamat instances as one form of "The Believer's Delusion of Infallibility" the opposition to Birth Control. The believer says Mr. Kiamat feels that "his God has singled him out to reveal the secrets of the universe unto." That being the case he is a God-ordained "all-wise master of men" unwilling not only to permit Birth Control advocacy but to permit those who already believe in it to practice it. In other words the religious persecutor of new ideas is to be classed as a person with an abnormal mental development.

"Love and the Law" by Albert Levitt of Washington & Lee Law School, in the November *Journal of Social Hygiene* (New York) is a rather indiscriminating account of the law governing sex relations as it stands today. That the law is slow in adapting itself to changes in public opinion the author half acknowledges, though his attitude toward our present statutes on all the subjects in this field is one of undue reverence. In most cases he suggests no change, but in the case of Birth Control he anticipates that while insisting on a strict control over contraception it is very likely that in the near future "the law will permit more generally the dissemination of Birth Control information and contraceptive appliances."

In another article in the same number, Edgar F. Van Buskirk tells of the beginnings and spread of sex education in the public school system of Cincinnati.

In *Eugenics Review* (England) for October, May Freeman reports the negative results of a study of "The Relation of Temperament to Size of Family." A study of 1805 school children between the ages of 5 and 10 did not prove the rule that "the larger the family the happier the children." It did not conclusively prove anything, but the indication of the study is that "smaller families (four children or less) are more cheerful than large families."

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

IN the latter part of December, Mrs Anne Kennedy, executive secretary of the American Birth Control League, opened Washington headquarters for Congressional work in Room 631, Bond Building, corner of 14th St and New York Ave, N W

Mrs George H Day, Sr, member of the board of directors of the League, will work with Mrs Kennedy in Washington. A Congressional Committee has been formed made up of 135 members, representing twenty-four states in the Union

Last winter students of Yale and Harvard heard Mrs Sanger speak on Birth Control. This year Columbia University was the first to hear her. On December 3rd she spoke at Earl Hall before the largest campus meeting held there this year. Prof Wm R Montague of the philosophy department acted as chairman of a meeting of the Social Problems Club, where 300 men and women students heard Mrs Sanger's address, while 200 had to be turned away. By special request she spoke on the human, or individual, aspect of the subject. Students of Columbia have for many years tried in vain to get the Trustees' consent to hold a meeting for Mrs Sanger. Recently, following a free speech protest meeting, special pressure was brought to bear and the doors of Earl Hall were opened to her.

Other New York speakers during December and the latter part of November were Mrs Walter Timme who spoke at Christodora House and at the College Settlement and Mrs Fanny Howe Sanford who addressed Emanuel Sisterhood and the Mothers Club of Public School Number 77

Among visitors at Headquarters was Frau Louise Schroeder, member of the German Reichstag from Hamburg, who came to inform herself and to put the League in touch with the local Hamburg group of the Bund fur Mutterschutz. Another visitor at Headquarters was Dr Joseph Shapiro of the Malaria Research Unit at Haifa, Palestine, who called at the Clinical Research Department to get advice which he could use for the protection of the stricken community in which he works

Dr James F Cooper, medical director of the Clinical Research Department, is still in the field. Notes of his lectures through November are given under the various states. Of the southern part of his trip he expresses the greatest enthusiasm. "Birth Control," he writes, "is certainly being put on the map and the south is ready for it. The feel-

ing is that the rural districts are in dire need of this help. So far I have not been to a city or town where I have not found a doctor who is willing to give contraceptive information in proper cases."

Dr Wm H Garth spoke before a student group connected with the Y M C A of Columbia University on December 10th on the ethical aspect of Birth Control. Other aspects of Birth Control will be presented by different speakers at subsequent meetings. In this way, there will be time for discussion and every angle of the subject will be covered

Alabama

ON November 15th, Dr James F Cooper, Medical Director of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League, was in Tuscaloosa, where he addressed a general meeting and later a meeting on contraceptive methods for doctors only. The next day he spoke before a group of doctors at Birmingham

California

IN November the Alameda County Birth Control League gave the first of a course of five monthly lectures on Birth Control, the speakers being Professor F M Russell of the department of political science, University of California, and Dr Edith S Brownsill of Berkeley public health centre. On the December program were Dr F M Loomis and Dr Clifford Sweet, child specialists. As at present planned the speaker for January will be Dr Miriam Van Waters, referee of the Juvenile Court of Los Angeles. In February, Professor S J Holmes of the University of California and Judge E C Robinson will speak, and the March meeting will be a symposium in which local clergymen will take part, with Rabbi Rudolph I Coffee as chairman. Mrs H G Hill is president of the League

Georgia

DR COOPER was in Atlanta on November 19th where 182 medical men in the county medical society heard him speak for an hour. "They listened," he writes, "with great eagerness and approval and a flood of inquiries followed the talk. I cannot tell you how pleased I am over the wonderful reception

in Atlanta. I feel that we can depend on good cooperation from the doctors there."

On November 20th, Dr. Cooper gave a lecture on Birth Control and instruction in contraceptive methods to almost 200 local physicians, members of the Fulton County Medical Society. All local papers reported his lecture fully.

Indiana

FORT WAYNE papers report an address before the Hundred Per Cent Club on the need of Birth Control. The speaker was Dr. Miles F. Porter.

Massachusetts

EFFORTS of the Civil Liberties Union to arrange a public meeting for Mrs. Sanger in Boston have proved unsuccessful as no public hall will consent to risk its license during the remaining months of Mayor Curley's term of office.

Mississippi

AT Natchez, Dr. Cooper addressed a group of physicians and made valuable contacts with the obstetrical division of the State Board of Health.

New Jersey

E. R. MEVES writes: Since the last New Jersey news item in the REVIEW I have spoken for six Kiwanis clubs, the Executive Board and the Legislative Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, local Women's Clubs, units of the New Jersey Women's Republican Club, and local Leagues of Women Voters.

Mrs. Elizabeth Grew spoke for the State Conference of the Women's Republican Club, and Mrs. F. Robertson Jones addressed the Union County Council of this organization. Mrs. Sanger was entertained by the Roselle Women's Civic Club and also spoke for the Newark Women's Republican Club. At the Roselle Club in spite of one member's very vigorous opposition, it was voted to support state legislative work. Mrs. Jones was one of the speakers at the First District Legislative Conference of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Early in November I spoke for a meeting of women from Springfield, Millburn, and Short Hills, from which two local Birth Control leagues will probably result.

The State organization of the Parent-Teacher Associations has been so strongly averse to Birth

Control that they refuse even to study the question, but, in spite of that, I have spoken for one local Parent-Teacher Association and have accepted invitations for two more.

All of these activities have been well reported in the public press. Accounts of meetings have appeared in the newspapers in Camden, Elizabeth, Newark, Clifton, Passaic, Hoboken, Jersey City, and other places.

This has not been done without arousing opposition. One local Parent-Teacher Association arranged for me to speak for them in a public school, only to have the meeting canceled on the protest to the School Board of a member of the orthodox Society of Friends. In another place a Women's Club wanted to hear me, but the Romanist members protested and threatened to resign if this was done, so the arrangements were not made. It transpires that all Romanists have been ordered by their church leaders to protest against anything being said about Sterilization or Birth Control in any organization of which they are members, and to resign from these organizations if they persist in studying these subjects. This is arousing considerable resentment among the non-Romanist members, and will probably aid us in the establishment of strong local Birth Control leagues wherever this comes up.

The Birth Control bill will be reintroduced at the New Jersey Legislature when it convenes in January. On Monday, January 18th, we are to hold the first State Birth Control Conference in New Jersey at the Stacy-Trent Hotel, Trenton.

A further item of New Jersey news is Mrs. Fanny Howe Sanford's talk before a group of college women at the home of Mrs. E. E. Muesser at Mountain Lakes.

The presidents of units representing the Republican party in Bergen County met at the Court House at Hackensack, N. J., at 2:30 P. M. on Tuesday, December 8th, to discuss the Birth Control amendment to be introduced in the New Jersey legislature this year. Mrs. Kennedy answered many questions pertinent to the subject and explained the principle of Birth Control and its practical application. There was a great deal of interest and support expressed for the bill.

In October Dr. James F. Cooper addressed a large attendance of the North Jersey Medical Society. The greatest interest was shown by the 65 physicians who attended and discussion was prolonged till 2 A. M.

North Carolina

DR. COOPER reports a splendid public meeting at Greensboro, November 29. A very represent-

ative audience of 150 people were present, who showed great enthusiasm and promised to cooperate in filling the largest hall in town in case Dr Cooper could arrange to return. The following Sunday he spoke to a good audience at the Universalist Church. All local papers carried publicity about the meetings. "In no place," he writes, "have I met with greater enthusiasm."

During the last week in November Dr Cooper spoke also to a medical group at Wilmington and before both public and medical meetings at Raleigh, where Mrs Charles Doak was largely responsible for the success of his meetings. At Rutherford Miss Eleanor Crawford gave her help in making his two meetings successful. The local press carried full accounts of these meetings.

Of the medical meeting held in Wilmington, a physician writes: "We may take this occasion to add that we believe that you are fortunately represented by Dr Cooper, whose unquestioned enthusiasm and mastery of his subject make the information he would impart even more acceptable. We thank you very much for the privilege of this lecture."

Pennsylvania

ON December 10th Mrs Sanger and Mrs Kennedy held a meeting with state members of the American Birth Control League in Philadelphia to take the first steps toward organizing a State League. Members of the board of directors of the new league so far chosen are Rev L Griswold Williams of Reading, Mrs Louis N Robinson of Swarthmore and Dr Malcolm H Bissell of Bryn Mawr. In the evening the Eastern Pennsylvania group held a public meeting at the Y M and Y W C A auditorium. The speakers were Mrs Sanger, the Rev A Ray Petty of New York and Dr Malcolm H Bissell of Bryn Mawr.

Texas

AT its congress on November 19th, the state Mothers' and Parent Teachers' associations were told by Mrs F E Williams of Tyler that Birth Control was a problem which the organization would have to take up eventually. Mrs Williams, one of the speakers in a discussion of child birth, advised the mothers very sensibly not to say they didn't want to know anything about Birth Control until they understood what it was.

Early in November, Dr Cooper lectured four times in two days at Austin, before two sociology classes at the State University, before a medical group and a general meeting of citizens and social workers. From there he went to San Antonio where

he spoke before the local parent teachers' association informally, at a medical meeting and before a group of fifty social workers of the city. On November 6th he returned to Dallas, which he had visited late in October, and spoke at the City Hall Auditorium at a general meeting arranged by Mrs Albert Walker, city welfare director. In the evening of the same day he spoke before the County Medical Society and the following morning to a group of students in the medical school. The local papers carried stories of the meetings and an account of the work of the American Birth Control League.

CUBA

HAVANA has heard of Birth Control. We have received a clipping from a local newspaper telling of developments in England. A Cuban clubwoman in Havana, frank and progressive, writes that she tried to get this topic into the National Women's Congress in April of this year, but found the "adamantine stupidity" of the Roman Catholic element too much to overcome. She writes also: "We are also organizing a milk supply for poor children and in addition to furnishing free the milk needed, we give advice to the mothers, and a free consultation for pregnant women and practical information to those who should not bear children. But we have to give this advice without telling them that it is to prevent births for you have no idea how we have to gild the pill in order to make them swallow it at the beginning. Ignorance and Roman Catholicism make great harm, work against us severely, so we cannot openly advocate Neo-Malthusianism. The newspapers are donkeys and the people don't understand or won't, or worse yet, are hypocrites."

PHILIPPINES

DR BALTHASAR B BUNAG writes us: "Birth Control is now being discussed in the Philippine Islands, and though there are papers against it, they only solve the matter by looking on the business side of the question and not the usefulness of it, especially to the laboring women."

As might be expected in a community where the Catholic church is strong, the anti-statement has the preference in some papers and Dr Bunag sends us a copy of an rejected reply to a certain Father Haberstroh.

The reverend father's arguments cover the well-known ground of race suicide and infant souls lost to God and Dr Bunag meets them excellently. In answer to the latter criticism he points out that unless the father has a new scientific system of his own he must acknowledge that until the spermatozoon meets the ovum no soul is created. Hence

no soul is lost by keeping them apart. If on the other hand the father denies this and maintains that the soul already resides in the spermatozoon he is denying his own faith in believing it can be destroyed. "Father Haberstroh will agree with me," says he, "that souls cannot be killed (Math 10 28, Luke 12 4) and if the spermatozoa are souls or have souls then, admitting that they ought to go to Heaven, the prevention of conception will only hasten the journey of the souls to heaven."

SOUTH AMERICA

EMANUEL D CUEVAS, a South American at present living in New York City, writes as follows to a South American periodical which referred slightly to Birth Control. "Birth Control is an economic, scientific and humane question and has nothing in common with religion or morality. It means among other things allowing the mothers to space their children so as to prevent the former from becoming sexual slaves, it means protection to the woman who would not be impregnated against her will, it means the uplifting of womanhood from the level of a breeding animal to that of a human being, it means the doing away with the dirty business of war."

FRANCE

ACCORDING to press reports Dr Pinard and Dr Jayle, the latter Secretary of the French Medical Association, have inaugurated a movement for unmarried motherhood in France. There are, they state, 1,500,000 more women than men in France, since the war, of marriageable age. These should, these doctors believe, be encouraged to bear children for France, by being given an equal status with married mothers.

We have no quarrel with laws removing the burden of illegitimacy, but we ask how France, where industry is backward—not through lack of workers but through lack of modern methods—proposes to take care in the next few years of four or five million fatherless children added to those she already has. The mothers certainly cannot do it alone. "Does society help the woman after she has children?" writes A. Knowing Mother, commenting on the French proposal, in the *Daily News* (N. Y.). "Does society see to it that the mother and child have proper care and nourishment? Does society take any interest in motherhood? None at all. More power to the women who refuse to have children under present conditions."

While the French politicians are proposing a housing campaign to raise the birth rate and forcibly

nationalizing foreigners who stay in France beyond a specified time, Harold G. Villard in the *Scientific Monthly* ("Will the French Race Become Extinct?") presents the crux of the French population problem, which is the inordinately high death rate. This is true not only of the general death rate which in 1923 was in France 17 per 1,000, the next to the highest of 15 European countries, as against 11.6 for England and 9.9 for Holland—this country where Birth Control is practiced having the lowest in Europe. So of excess of births over deaths and of infantile mortality, France in all these occupies the worst position, Holland among the best. As an instance of the responsibility of the infant death rate for the diminishing French population, the number of children born in 1923 in England was a few thousand less than France in that year, but of those born England lost only about 52,000 as against France's 73,000. Mr. Villard lays the responsibility for the French death rate to old houses in city and country, bad plumbing and general bad sanitary conditions, and roughly outlines measures which would cut the French death rate and make repopulation propaganda unnecessary.

GERMANY

THE following editorial on the German Birth Rate is from the *Brooklyn Eagle* (New York).

Students of population statistics will be interested in the direct relation between German prosperity and the German birth rate shown in recent statistics. Until the close of last year there was a steady decline in the German birth rate, which began about 1916, after the war was well under way. Advocates of Birth Control will consider that the steady decline in infant mortality, which has been coincident with the declining birth rate, shows the advantage of fewer births.

There is no doubt that the practice of Birth Control is becoming more common in Germany. During the dark days which followed the war, when a large part of the population lived on starvation incomes, Birth Control became popular in the cities. There is today an enormous variation between country and city districts in the birth rate. Upper Silesia, peopled by a comparatively ignorant rural population, shows a birth rate of thirty per thousand and as compared with an average rate for the whole of Germany of twenty-one.

Since German currency has been stabilized, bringing back more normal economic conditions, the birth rate has once more increased. Whether it will ever get back to the pre-war rate may be doubted. On the other hand, the reduction in the death rate as compared with pre-war standards is marked and partially offsets the smaller num-

ber of births But it is evident that Germany's population will increase at a much slower rate than before the war

ITALY

RECENT census figures show the population of Italy to have increased by half a million in 1924 In 1925 the birth rate was 30 per 1,000, the death rate 16.5 per 1,000, or little over half and the lowest ever recorded in Italy

CHINA

RECENT press stories from China show a growing interest in the population problem and a realization of the fact that, as the *New York Telegram* expresses it, at the present time, "not birth control, but rather a lack of death control, is the accepted check on China's constantly increasing population"

"Many Hands"

Mr Salnave was hurt in a subway accident, while at work, eight years ago Since then, in spite of a long period in the hospital, he has been unable to walk without a cane Mrs Salnave has had fifteen pregnancies but has only five children alive to show for it, which is rather uneconomical, all things considered Five died after the accident, partly from tuberculosis caused by malnutrition, bad housing and lack of proper care from their overworked mother

Josephina is almost seventeen, a languid, lifeless girl who would have been very pretty if she had had rest She and her sister have spent much of their school time in the tuberculosis class I found Josie one day when I was looking for another family in the same house

The hall door was open on account of the ghastly heat Two tiny rooms and a closet bedroom, a pale, watery gaslight in the sweaty room, piles and piles of cheap pants, half finished, Mrs Salnave doggedly sewing, half asleep, Mr Salnave pulling bastings and dripping perspiration, Josie sticking a needle in and out and trying to keep her lids open in a gray-green face, Paula snuffing rebelliously and fastening on buttons, Johnny sitting on a stool at his mother's feet and pulling bastings Anita was asleep on the pants with a half-sour bottle of milk clutched in her fist, the baby wailing and nuzzling for food—KATHERINE H AMEND in *The American Child*

"Civilization never can reach its highest stage until every human being becomes an end in himself or herself"

—EMANUEL KANT

Two of Kitty Marion's Stories

Recently a man bought two copies of the *REVIEW* saying, "I send these over home They go like hot-cakes there" "I know," I replied, "there is a great agitation for the Government to give information in their clinics in England" "England!" he exclaimed, "I send them to Ireland That's where they're having too many babies—kept in ignorance by the church"

A lady told me a sad story of her charwoman who is sickly and has four children Her oldest, aged eleven, when the last baby arrived said to her mother firmly "Mother, if you have any more babies, I'll run away"

Every day, in every city, in every country, innocent children are being poisoned and perverted by millions Which of you has spoken a word or lifted a hand to prevent this wholesale wrong? What man of you all, who are so fierce against crime, so loud in praise of morality, has ever tried in act or speech to combat the crime and the immorality which society perpetuates, with your knowledge and consent? You, who are so anxious to punish crime, what are you doing to prevent it?

—ROBERT BLATCHFORD

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ANOTHER VIEW

(Continued from page 7)

among us. Now who is going to say who is the best among us? I should hate, as one of the eugenists said there—I should hate the job of serving on a commission to decide. After you have got it all nicely fixed up that so and so at the present time constituted the best layer of society, by the time you arrange it so that they might produce five and a fifth children apiece, or whatever the average should be, perhaps the social conditions would have changed and they would be entirely unfit and way out of the order of progress.

So I say at the present time let's clean up the mess first of all, let's clean up the garret, let's get rid of the weakness and sadness and unhappiness that comes to life because of those poor children and their parents, who are obviously misfits in any form of existence such as we see it today. That is a big enough task. I don't think anybody need worry then about advising the best class, so-called, to marry and to produce their kind. I am not at all strong for this theory of the best class. I think it breeds class consciousness and it breeds class jealousies, and it is bound to breed disaster.

I also think that to pump up the interest of the so-called higher class to reproduction, if they have not that interest, is a mistake. I think a leader is a person who rises superior to and can utilize his environment, and if the higher classes today would rather buy their Rolls-Royces or have their three places—one at the seashore and one in the mountains and one down South for the winter—and have their pet Pomeranians and other things of that kind rather than children, they have become slaves of their environment and they are no longer fitted to be leaders. And if, as we know, like begets like, (anybody who has done any biological work knows that) why encourage that type of person to have enormous families? It simply would degenerate into a benevolent society for pug dogs or something of that kind.

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