

March, 1926

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Fewer Children Better Born

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

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



What Have We Learned About Birth Control?

- ¶ We defined Birth Control as the Conscious Regulation of The Birth Rate
- ¶ We showed that there were three means of regulation and that the best of these for the greatest number of people was the use of harmless chemical and mechanical devices called contraceptives
- ¶ We showed that the forces of ignorance, indifference, prejudice and superstition prevented by law the spread of this method of Birth Control
- ¶ We showed that Birth Control was a preventive of Abortion, and we gave Reason No 1—*The Health of Mother and Child*, and Reason No 2—*The Happiness of Family Life*
- ¶ In answer to the question

WHY IS BIRTH CONTROL NECESSARY?

IT IS certain 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 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 that elapsed since the settlements of 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.

—O E BAKER, Economist, U S Department of Agriculture

¶ We give this month Reason No 3—THE RELIEF OF OVERPOPULATION

¶ Birth Control will enable the nations to free themselves from the terrible danger of war. It will make it possible for each nation to limit its population to its own boundaries and resources. It will ensure the maintenance of a high standard of living, a standard which would include not only sufficient food, but also decent housing, and open spaces for health and recreation.

¶ The population of the world has doubled in the last ninety-two years. At the present rate of increase it will have doubled again in 1983. It is impossible for the food and housing resources of mankind to keep pace with such an increase in the number of mouths to be fed and families to be sheltered. The alternatives before mankind are —war, famine, pestilence and BIRTH CONTROL.

¶ Energetic, high-spirited people will not submit to starvation. They demand room for expansion, if their population is increasing too rapidly for their own limits. Germany's over-population was one of the fundamental causes of the Great War. Japan at the present time is increasing in population far beyond the capacity of her soil to sustain. Italy is rapidly becoming over-populated and there is difficulty in finding expansion room for her 440,000 of yearly increase. These nations are already seeking outlets for their over-population. If peaceful expansion is denied them, is it not inevitable that they should resort to war?

¶ Overpopulation in the past has been constantly checked by high mortality rates caused by disease, famine and war, and by abortion and infanticide. We are lowering these rates, but to lessen the number of deaths without controlling the number of births is simply to prepare for a world explosion through the ever-increasing pressure of population. For World Peace the first requisite is the prevention of over-population through BIRTH CONTROL.



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

MARCH, 1926

No 3

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EDITORIAL

STATISTICIANS here and abroad are commenting widely on the decreasing birth rates of all civilized countries. Sweden has slowed up more than any other, but Germany has lowered its rate of increase from 35.6 in 1900 to 21.1 in 1924 and the lower English and American rates are further outstanding examples. Already statisticians are speculating as to the figures at which the populations of various countries will be stabilized—6,000,000 is given for Sweden, 45,000,000 for England. About the causes statisticians speculate freely, but in their speculations Birth Control plays a part. The New York and the London *Times* both rejoice and the former hails "the end of reckless birth rates." Even though nowhere but in Holland is the practice officially recognized, contraception is already making an impression on the population problem and making so great and noticeable an impression as to be a pretty good indication that the knowledge is already beginning to get even to the poor and they are taking advantage of it. This is encouraging but it is the kind of encouragement that should stir us to greater efforts. The present rate of decrease will not solve our population problem, only the removal of legal and other barriers and the spreading of knowledge of Birth Control to a vastly larger public than have it now will have an appreciable effect in solving the international, national and personal problems that are the result of unregulated reproduction.



IN this international number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW we make announcement of the Seventh International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference which is to be held at Geneva on the days immediately preceding the regular annual assembly of the League of Nations. The Conference according to the announcement sent out by Dr. C. C. Little, president of the International

Federation of Birth Control Leagues has two main objects. First it will aim to hold round table discussions led by men of established reputations in the fields of medicine, biology, economics, sociology and ethics. Membership in the discussion groups will be by invitation. There will be, it is planned, sixteen such groups. By this procedure it is hoped that some hundred and fifty or two hundred eminent men and women in these various divisions of the problem may be given opportunity for mutual interchange of ideas and for the recognition of common elements in the field of population in its widest sense.

Second by holding evening meetings open to the interested public it is hoped that a selected number of those attending the round table discussions may have a chance to present in a scientific and unprejudiced way the particular phases of the problem in which they are especially interested. The efforts of the conference will therefore be directed towards the establishment of an international point of view in matters bearing on the population problem and in presenting some of the major points involved to the thinking and interested public of an "international" city.

The sessions of the conference will be held in the "Conservatoire" at Geneva on August 25, 26, 27, 1926. From time to time announcements concerning the personnel of the discussion group leaders and others invited will appear in the REVIEW. On another page we publish Dr. Cooper's interesting story of his visit to Geneva to prepare the ground for the Conference. As a result of Dr. Cooper's visit one of the great international press bureaus has already sent throughout Europe and the United States an advance story of the conference and a brief analysis of the international population problem. The latter statement is based on a pamphlet prepared for Dr. Cooper's visit, which we hope later to publish in whole or in part in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.

IN a recent communication M G Hardy, whose report on France we publish in this month's news section, dwells upon the relation between the fears of France and the lack of international study of the population problem. He writes

"Unhappily the countries bordering on France continue to make considerable increase in population. Germany for example, increases on the average by half a million a year. The French Chauvinists and advocates of population increase take this as a text for predictions that France will be absorbed by the prolific nations of Europe.

Would it not be possible for the diplomats, the economic bodies of each nation, the League of Nations itself to study in detail the population problem? The war has accentuated the tendency to internationalism in commerce, industry, finance and war. Ought not the governments also to make an international matter of this terrible question of population? For Europe is overpopulated. She has since 1920 added more than 12 millions. This rate of growth cannot continue without danger to the peace of the world.

The procreative prudence of the French ought to serve as a model to all European countries. And the day that all the nations follow her example chauvinist arguments will fall of themselves and the general security so much desired by all will be menaced by none."



AS Birth Control as a eugenic measure is better than plague, famine, war or infanticide, so is it better, one would think, than bringing the feeble-minded into the world and then shirking the responsibility for them. Yet if a California official is correct in his statements this is what some of the states are trying to do. The official is Dr Fred Butler, director of the Sonoma State Home for Feeble-minded, who says "There are approximately 16,000 feeble-minded in the State at present, 2,000 of whom are under public care at one institution and I can safely say that the large majority of them are imported into our territory from other States." Dr Butler adds that in the last two years \$75,000 was spent in deporting patients shipped in from other states. As the cost of deportation averages \$125.00 a patient that means a known total of 600 patients or almost a third of the institution population, whose care was shirked by their home state. Dr Butler's statement is interesting also as showing the proportions of the problem of feeble-mindedness in a representative state.

LATER advices show that the National Council of the Episcopal Church exceeded its powers in declaring it would join forces with the Roman Catholic Church in fighting Birth Control legislation. Largely in consequence of criticism by broad-minded clergymen within the church the Right Reverend John J Murray, presiding bishop of the House of Bishops, has put out the statement that this is not the official stand of the church, that the Council has no right to speak for the Church but simply for its own members. This means that the Episcopal Church in the United States will as a body remain non-partisan in legislative matters. That there are many broad-minded members of this Church and many who believe Birth Control a spiritual agency we know and we believe that as the subject is more fully discussed among its membership, the non-partisan attitude will be changed to one of active support. As a matter of historical record we publish on another page the official text of the pronouncement made by the House of Bishops last fall, which has just reached us.



LETTERS on the subject of street selling are still coming in and here is an opinion which is representative of the attitude of the majority. The letter is especially interesting because it is from Mrs Walter Timme, Chairman of the Congressional Committee of the American Birth Control League.

"Don't give it up. In my opinion it is extremely valuable advertising and certainly it enlightens many women who have no other means of knowing that a great discussion of the necessity of Birth Control is on. Then too, the man on the street will become so familiar with the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW that he will forget to shudder and feel annoyed, and will begin to think 'Don't give it up'."

So far the "yeas" are in the large majority and we should appreciate contributions from the other side. The subject is important, please do not think that it is not worth while to express your opinion.

S O S Work in Washington in behalf of the Birth Control bill is actively going on. We urgently need the help of every friend of the cause. Write to both of your Senators. Tell them you are interested in the bill of the American Birth Control League, and urge their favorable consideration of it.

The Need of Birth Control in our Crowded East Side

By BENJAMIN T. TILTON, M.D.

MY interest in Birth Control has developed through daily experience in Hospital work during the past 15 years in the lower East Side of this city, the most densely populated district in the world. I believe every physician with a similar experience must be at heart an advocate of Birth Control. Certainly this is true of the social workers and district nurses who come in contact even more intimately than the physician with the living conditions and problems of the mothers in these poor families. In the hospital service alone the bad effects upon the mothers and their offspring of too many pregnancies are so evident that none but the most callous can fail to be affected by them and be convinced of the necessity of Birth Control as a preventive measure.

I should like to discuss briefly some of the most striking evils that are associated with irresponsible procreation as they are seen in hospital practice in this crowded section of the city.

First, one sees many mothers, and most of them are prolific, who are exhausted by too frequent pregnancies and the care of children. They do not have sufficient time to recuperate between pregnancies which follow in rapid succession. Besides this is the constant care of the children already born, and the heavy housework which these women have to do. Is it a wonder that they appear prematurely old? Furthermore the pelvic organs do not have sufficient time to undergo proper involution. The result is great frequency of gynecological operations for the repair of displacements and other abnormalities. The average married woman on the east side is a very good mother, devoted to her children, anxious for their welfare and self sacrificing to a marked degree.

Birth Control is Preventive Medicine

Many of these mothers become convinced that they should not bear children so frequently and on finding themselves again pregnant resort in desperation to abortion as their only remedy. Many of these are fortunate enough to go through with this not once only but many times without serious consequences to their health. On the other hand there are more tragedies than most of us realize. During fifteen years on the east side I have come to know from personal experience that a very large number die from these criminal measures. But death is not the only tragedy we

see. Many others are seriously infected and suffer from the local effects perhaps the rest of their lives. Operation follows operation. Sterility is a frequent sequela of this criminal interference with nature.

Second, the offspring of exhausted mothers are naturally born with weak constitutions and low resistance. Babies and children suffering from inanition crowd our clinics and pediatric wards. It is little wonder that so many die in early infancy and childhood. Furthermore the lowered resistance of others makes them easy prey for infectious diseases. It is pathetic to think of the high death rate in the average poor family from these causes. The larger the family, the less the resistance of the younger members and the higher the mortality. The living quarters are so limited in size that the children are forced upon the crowded streets for recreation and play. The result is an appalling number of run-over accidents which bring so many of the children into our wards. It is simply impossible for the over-worked mothers to watch these young children or provide supervision for them. I shall not dwell upon the development in these unsupervised children, of bad habits, illiteracy and criminal practices.

Criminal Abortion Common

The facts I have enumerated are matters of every day experience in our hospital work. What can we as physicians do about them? I think that we all feel that prevention of these evils is far more rational than attempts to alleviate them. It seems to me that preventive medicine can perform no more important function than to study and determine scientific methods for the prevention of too frequent pregnancies and their resulting evils. Preventive medicine should approach this subject with the same scientific spirit and energy that it has shown in its fight against Tuberculosis. We are educating the patients in our clinics along lines of personal and home hygiene as preventives of tuberculosis and other diseases. Why should we leave out instruction to the mother in scientific and reliable methods of preventing pregnancies, which she knows and we know mean ill health to her and the next child?

It does not seem to me rational that contraceptive information should be legally available only

to those mothers in our clinics who are suffering from disease. Too frequent pregnancies are, as I have tried to show, productive of impaired vitality, which is often the first stage of disease. Why should we be compelled to wait until the exhausted mother actually *is* diseased before we give her the information which she needs to *prevent* disease? Cardiac disease, renal disease, tuberculosis can in many instances be traced back to impaired vitality from frequently recurring pregnancies. The time to give contraceptive information is *before* the disease has definitely fastened itself upon its victims. Preventive medicine along these lines could not fail to give beneficent results.

I confess that I am not at all sympathetic with the reason given by some individuals for being opposed to the Birth Control movement and the dissemination of Birth Control knowledge, viz, that it will tend to increase the amount of immorality by offering greater protection against pregnancy to unmarried women who are leading immoral lives. I feel that were this true the amount of harm done is infinitely small as compared with the immense benefits resulting to the woman who most deserves our consideration, viz the respectable married woman over-burdened with a growing family and constantly in dread of a further pregnancy. Such women are the mothers

of our future citizens, and they as well as the succeeding generation should have priority in our thoughts and purposes over all others. No better types of true mothers can be found than those of our east side population and it is these women particularly who need the help that scientific Birth Control knowledge alone can give.

Is it lack of courage or lack of initiative or lack of interest in the human side or lack of knowledge of the actual facts that have kept us physicians from taking a strong stand in the Birth Control Movement? It is true that it is primarily a problem for woman as she suffers the most from the evils of too frequent pregnancies, and generally speaking the welfare of the offspring is of more concern to her than to the man. But we who are scientifically trained and who know by every day experience the bad results on health of irresponsible procreation should help her. We can help her, by providing for her a safe and reliable contraceptive method and assisting the Birth Control League in getting through the necessary legislation, to permit us to give her this contraceptive information. We should thus be furnishing immense relief to the desperate and over-burdened mothers, striking a death blow to the practice of abortion which is so prevalent among them, and rendering an inestimable service to Humanity.



The Truth About Russia—

Two Sides of the Question

About a year ago we published articles on Russia by E. Gertrude Beasley and Jessica Smith, Miss Beasley on criticism on the do-nothing policy of certain groups, Miss Smith on the ideas and efforts of other groups. Miss Beasley took issue with Miss Smith's optimism and we publish her criticism now, feeling that in the article that follows, written by Peter Tutyshkin, a representative of the Russian government, an official reply is given in behalf of Miss Smith.

I. The Errors of Optimists

By E. GERTRUDE BEASLEY

MY attention has been called to the comments made by Miss Jessica Smith in the April Number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on my article about Birth Control in Russia. While criticising my account as unfair and my attitude as "entirely pessimistic," your contributor quoted a part of one of my statements to prove that "Russia has a better chance than any other country in the world for progress along this line because the

control of the Communist Party is so widespread that whatever it advocates is sooner or later executed." The passage referred to follows a criticism of some of the Communists as clerical and militarist in their psychology and says in full, "On the other hand, the most intelligent members of the Party understand the necessity for scientific means of control of the population, to them it is a problem which an international economy, a world

government will have to solve. In these people there is much hope.

Your contributor also omits my further pessimistic statements that Russia has produced a few women who are clever economists, whose work is more important to progress, than the ideas of Karl Marx, and says nothing about the discussion given to the work of two of the most influential women in the Communist Party, Kollontay and Krupskaya, who, for many years, have devoted both thought and time to Birth Control.

WHILE there is hope from a section of the Communist Party, there are also drawbacks from the Party machine as a whole, as well as from the general social condition of the country. The former of these difficulties your contributor fails to see. In March, 1923, the official *Izvestia* announced that abortions in Moscow and Moscow province were no longer legal. This decision remained in force up to the beginning of 1924 as far as I could determine. The reason assigned was that the authorities viewed with grave alarm the decrease in the number of babies and suggested that race suicide was sure to follow! I asked doctors and journalists about this, some thought it a temporary measure, others believed some sections of the Communist Party and the Government wanted to make the decree permanent. There was then no suggestion of replacing abortions by Birth Control which would have been the logical step, on the contrary, the decision appeared to be merely an illustration of "the control of the Communist Party (which) is so widespread, that whatever it advocates is sooner or later executed."

While Birth Control, according to the most recent reports, is undoubtedly increasing in many sections of Russia, and there is hope for a gradual awakening of the need of it, there are and will continue to be, in my opinion, many drawbacks for some time to come. It is only by a critical study of the question that real help may be offered, besides I see nothing to be gained by closing one's eyes to conditions existing in any country.

YOUR contributor takes issue most of all with my statement that the chief trouble with the Russian Communist Party is that they care no more for their own women than other political parties care for theirs. I merely pointed out that the Bolsheviks appeared to me to be no higher products than other politicians of the world in general, therefore I am unable to subscribe to the statements that the "Bolsheviks care more for their women than any other political party in the

world," or that "The revolution emancipated women legally and economically," especially the latter. It is difficult to understand how any one who has investigated the wage scales and conditions among women workers in the factories of Russia can support the statement that "The revolution emancipated women economically." A beginning has been made, but the economic emancipation of women even among the Communists themselves, who form a small per cent of the mass of Russian women, is far from realization.

The same regulations are said to apply to women as to men in social and industrial life. Let us see how this operates in practice. The shop committee of a tobacco factory in Moscow informed me that women workers were never placed above the eleventh category, while the scale of wages reached fifteen or more categories for men. They described in great detail the inferior strength and inefficiency of women workers who received from a half to two-thirds the wages of men. Women were placed in a lower category to begin with and "their inferior strength and inefficiency" were pointed out by the managers to bolster a system which they had decided in advance to establish. Later when I visited a sweets factory, I found the same situation. Men and women were working on the same floor, apparently doing the same type of work, with a difference in wages of a third more for the men. The reasons given were that the men had families to support, women were ill more often than men, they required considerable time from work before and after child birth.

THERE was much effort to show the justice of the system, just as there is in every country on earth, without facing the hard fact that many women in the factory mentioned actually accomplished the same amount of work per day as men and were burdened with the same responsibilities. Soviet women are more often unemployed than men, but under special regulations, which women leaders succeeded in having passed by the Government, they pay a small percent of their room rent or nothing when without work, and special attention and wages are received during childbirth. Yet when the help offered to Soviet women (many of the same considerations are also extended to men workers) is carried out to the letter, which is often not the case due to lack of funds or facilities, it is easy to see that women under Bolshevism are at a considerable disadvantage economically. I do not contend that the Communists' attitude towards the position of women is more unfair than that obtaining in other countries, everything being considered, I merely point out that it is no better.

II. Does Russia Want Birth Control?

By PROF PETER TUTYSHKIN, M D

BEFORE answering the question "Does Russia Want Birth Control?" one must acquaint oneself with the maternal and child welfare situation in Soviet Russia and especially with the question of prophylaxis there in vogue

Let us begin with the latter At the conference of city obstetricians in Moscow, November 27, 1923, they drew up the following resolution, unanimously adopted

"It is the duty of every obstetrician who realizes himself as an important social welfare worker, to instruct every patient in the use of the proper methods of Birth Control wherever pregnancy would be harmful or otherwise undesirable"

A special committee of prominent Moscow obstetricians, hygienists and neurologists worked out a detailed report of the best methods of prevention and drew up six resolutions, which were adopted by the general assembly of obstetricians of the maternal and child welfare department of the Moscow Board of Health These resolutions in the form of a circular letter were sent to every maternity hospital and prenatal clinic to be used by their consulting physicians for instruction and treatment of patients These resolutions were as follows

"Resolved that, 1 This committee approves the instruction of patients in proper methods of Birth Control, provided that the initiative is taken by the patient and not by the doctor

2 A physician should instruct his women patients in Birth Control methods wherever pregnancy is at the time incompatible with health or otherwise undesirable (for instance for economic or social reasons)

3 One of the scientific methods of prevention is biological sterilization, but this method requires much further research

4 Among the less harmful methods now in use are certain of the mechanical methods

5 Chemical methods should be allowed only in certain forms

6 As absolutely harmful, certain methods should be distinctly prohibited"

NOT only is the spread of Birth Control knowledge legal, but the government itself actually spreads that knowledge and publishes popular pamphlets which are on sale for a very small sum, (about ten cents per pamphlet) A booklet of information on proper Birth Control methods is published by the Board of Health and can be had at every magazine stand or bookshop in Moscow, just

as the United States Public Health Service publishes and distributes free advice to expectant mothers on prenatal infant care

The difference is that in Russia, knowledge of Birth Control methods is included as an indispensable factor in the care of the health of mothers In other words in Russia, Birth Control forms an integral part of preventive medicine

The protection of mother and child, in the full sense of the word, includes the strengthening of the mother's position in her own home, the simplification of her domestic life, the freeing her of irksome household duties by community life and public education of children from birth on, the assuring of her economic independence from her husband and the loosening of marriage ties, making undesirable unions easy of dissolution For instance, if one of the parties wishes to sever his marriage tie, he only has to express that wish in person at the Board of Registration, accompanied by the payment of a fee of fifty cents and the deed is done

THE question of support of the children and by whom the children should be brought up is decided by the people's court, by whom preference is usually given to the mother The financial support is equally divided between mother and father, unless the mother is unable to assume her share of the burden, in which case the father is obliged to assume the entire responsibility There is no such thing as alimony in Russia for the reason that men and women are actually equals before the law

It is only in exceptional cases of ill health, due to the strenuousness of her married life that temporary support is necessary and granted by the husband, according to the decision of the court

To come back to our original problems, we find that Russia is the first country that has an Institution of Learning—the Institute for Maternal and Infant Care in Moscow—where special courses are given to health officers, physicians, midwives and nurses This is the Maternal Health Center for all Soviet Russia, and here a permanent exhibit is held for all who are interested—Russians and foreigners alike Besides that there are numerous maternity clinics all over Russia, whose chief object is the conservation of mother and child health

The soil for Birth Control is there Our problem is to till that soil by spreading the seed of knowledge of actual practical methods of prevention and regulation that can be disseminated among the Russian population itself, in the interests of a better generation based on eugenic principles

The Outline of Marriage

PART III

By FLOYD DELL

WITH the aid of my old-fashioned stereopticon, ladies and gentlemen, I show you a picture. You see a crowd of people of all ages and both sexes. What do you think they are? A picnic group? No, you are wrong. They are a family. That man and woman, in the middle of the picture, are the parents of all these children. Count them! Ten. Not including five more who couldn't be in the picture because they died in infancy. Fifteen children from one mother, two thirds of them alive—well, yes, alive, how much alive is another matter, of no present concern to us. We are interested now in the statistics of reproduction. So, in his day, was President Roosevelt, and when he was informed of this particular statistic by the proud parents, he sent them a letter of congratulation. The proud father had the letter framed up and hung in the parlor, later it went to the pawnshop. But never mind those details. The point is that this man and woman produced fifteen children, and were proud of it. Note that—they were proud of it.

Now I do not wish to hurt anybody's feelings, so I am going to ask anyone here present who has had fifteen children and is proud of that feat, to leave the room—because if he or she stays, the mere matter of fifteen children is going to be as it were, paled into insignificance by the rest of my statistics. No one going? Very well. I continue. Here is another picture. And now I will ask my friend, who runs a cannery in Alaska, to take the stand and tell us what that is a picture of.

THE MAN FROM ALASKA Anybody can tell that. It's a fish.

Q Thank you. And what kind of fish is it?

A A salmon.

Q The kind that comes in cans?

A Exactly.

Q Can you tell its sex?

A Female—and just about to lay eggs, too.

Q And will you tell us how many eggs this female salmon would lay?

No Race-Suicide Here!

A Well, that there salmon looks as if she'd weigh about twenty pounds. And for each pound of her weight, a salmon lays during the breeding season about a thousand eggs. Figure it out. It comes to about twenty thousand eggs, for her.

Q Do they all hatch out?

A No—not by a jugful. If all the salmon eggs laid every year hatched out, the sea would soon be so full of salmon that the ocean liners couldn't navigate.

Q Thank you.

But, my friends, let us go to the bottom of this question. The reproductive impulse—the passion of all life to create more life of its own sort—is one of the many impulses which have gone to create the complex institution of the family. It should not satisfy us to accept the mere fact, and cease to question it. Let us discover, if we can, *why* life reproduces itself. I will call the Bio-chemist to the stand. First of all, sir, we would like to ask you—what is life?

THE BIO-CHEMIST—We haven't found that out yet.

Q You haven't?

A All we know is that life is the totality of the functions of protoplasm.

Q And what are these functions?

A Sensation, assimilation, movement, and reproduction.

Q That's what we are getting at—*why* is reproduction a function of protoplasm? What *is* protoplasm, anyway?

A We don't even know that, exactly. It is a peculiar and chemically restless mixture of colloids.

Life An Explosive Contradiction

Q What is a colloid?

A It is a very contradictory affair, neither a solid nor a liquid, but something of both—a puzzle which we have just begun to investigate.

Q What does it do?

A This particular colloid manufactures amino-acids—which are a kind of unstable union of hostile chemical forces, held together in the molecule in such a way that they don't fight.

Q What are the chemical elements involved?

A Well, there are probably different kinds of protoplasm. But protein, the food which ordinary plant and animal protoplasm needs, to feed itself on, contains chiefly four elements, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen. And there's a curious contradiction there, too! Carbon—you have read about coal-tar products and the million things the chemists are making out of them, haven't you?—well, carbon is a remarkable element. It will unite very

readily with almost any other element. Nitrogen, on the other hand, is a very unsociable element, it is hard to get it to unite with any other element, and hard to keep it there. Nitrogen, you know, is the essential part of every explosive from gunpowder to T N T. When nitrogen is jarred a little, it breaks loose, tears the molecule apart, explodes it. Something faintly like that happens in the wear and tear of the body cells, giving us energy at the expense of the destruction of tissue. But these tissues are originally built up in a very complex manner—and it is the carbon that gives them their stability. As you know, we feed chiefly on carbo-hydrates (sugar and starch), fats and protein. That is to say, starch and fats all yield us carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, while proteins give us nitrogen in addition to these other three elements. Nitrogen is absolutely necessary to life, and so is carbon. So are all four elements, but we get oxygen from air and hydrogen from water, in order to get carbon and nitrogen, we have to eat plant-tissue, or the tissue of animals which have fed on plant-tissue—because plants have a way, which animals haven't, of getting carbon out of the air and nitrogen out of water. When you eat a beefsteak, you are laying up a store of carbon and nitrogen, and when you work all day, or dance all night, you are exploding the cells of your tissue. You might say that the carbon provides you with a body, while the nitrogen enables you to use it up in movement. And life as a whole may be said to be the result of a chemical combination in which one very cohesive element is harnessed up in a peculiar working arrangement with another very explosive one.

"Where Do We Go From Here?"

Q You have told us about assimilation and movement, but what about reproduction? What have carbon and nitrogen to do with that?

A If you follow me attentively, I think I can explain. This peculiar and unstable carbon-nitrogen combination must always be adding to its substance by assimilation, and using up its substance in action. Only there isn't a perfect balance between these two functions. If there is more action than assimilation, the substance is used up and dies. If there is more assimilation than action, the substance grows. Reproduction is simply a special and explosive means of growth.

Q Would you please explain that a little more?

A Think of primeval life starting as a single cell. The outside is all mouth. The inside is all belly. The cell grows—but the belly grows faster than the mouth, you see. So if the cell is to keep on growing, it must split in two. Its inside would starve if it didn't. Its inside is suffering a kind

of protoplasmic pain. The delicate working balance between assimilation and action has been upset. So part of the inside rebels, gathers its energies, and makes a dash for freedom. There is a sort of explosion—and a new and independent bit of life exists. That is reproduction. The rest of the history of reproduction is a mere matter of detail. The chief difference between the reproduction of the simpler forms of life and that of the higher organisms is that in the simpler forms, *all* the protoplasm of a given individual is potentially reproductive—while in the higher forms the chemical formula, so to speak, of the protoplasm is changed in various organs so as to adapt these organs to special tasks, and thus the reproductive function is lost by these specialized organs, that function being retained only by a particular part of the organism which keeps intact the original chemical formula of the protoplasm of that species, and is hence solely concerned directly with reproduction. There is, of course, another recent development—the use of sexual means for reproduction.

Q You call that recent?

The Latest Style in Reproduction

A Biologically speaking, yes. It has been in use, for reproductive purposes, for only a few million years. And it has not yet been universally adopted. In most of the living species it is still a secondary or occasional means—and in a very large number of species it has been avoided altogether. These species may be said to be averse from new-fangled modern innovations. They prefer to reproduce themselves in the old-fashioned way, without sex.

Q If our biological ancestors all the way back to the primeval slime had taken that stand, then the Pennsylvania board of moving-picture censors would not, I suppose, have any objection to representing a human individual as making baby-clothes!

A Doubtless not—for there would be no sexual implication in such an event. All births would be virgin births. And everyone would be an "it," instead of a "he" or "she." I've no doubt some people would like it better that way. It must seem to them very sad to realize that when reproduction is possible *without* sex, so many species, and in particular the primeval progenitors of our human race, should have been so shameless as to entangle the two processes—so irrevocably that henceforth in our species, as among all the metazoa, reproduction has become actually impossible without the use of sexual means! However, sad or not, that is the fact.

Protoplasmic Pain

Q You spoke of a protoplasmic pain in connection with reproduction. Was that a figure of speech, or a fact?

A All life is capable of sensation, and therefore capable of sensations which may be roughly discriminated as pleasure and pain, though in fact these two sensations are mixed up, one with the other, in all of life's experiences. But hunger may be called a pain in a bit of protoplasmic jelly as truly as in a jobless workingman. And it is precisely under the stimulus of the pain of hunger that individuals of the most biologically primitive species are compelled to reproduce themselves. It is, moreover, under a specially acute degree of this same stimulus that species which have *both* modes of reproduction turn from the asexual to the sexual method of reproduction as the more efficient means. And finally, it is when the food supply gives out, at the approach of winter or the dry season, that the reproductive urge is fiercest among these primitive species, and forces them to employ the most elaborate means of reproducing themselves in forms which can survive the bad season. In the spring a young man's fancy may lightly turn to thoughts of love—but it is in the fall that the more primitive species turn with desperate seriousness to means of reproduction. Pain—the pain of protoplasmic hunger—may therefore be said to be an essential part of the mechanism of reproduction.

Q Then it is because the salmon has a protoplasmic pain that she lays twenty thousand eggs?

A Exactly. And it is because the male salmon shares the same pain that he fertilizes these eggs after they are laid. Not for mere pleasure, as you might mistakenly suppose.

Q And the queen-bee, with her hundred thousand eggs?

A Just the same.

Q But how about the drone? We are told by J. H. Fabre that he is torn to pieces, and dies at the climax of the nuptial flight!

A Men have been known to go to almost certain death on the operating-table rather than continue to suffer unbearable pain. Men have also,

when suffering too much pain, been known to kill themselves.

Q But this is rather terrible—this idea that reproduction is caused by an unendurable protoplasmic pain!

A Think it over.

Q Thank you. We shall. But there is another matter we want to ask you about. The salmon can lay twenty thousand eggs—and does, and dies. The queen-bee can lay several hundred thousand in a few years, and she does, and dies. Things are arranged somewhat differently in our human species, of course. A woman can't possibly have more than thirty-five or forty babies in a working lifetime, but a man can have—how many children? I mean, if all the germs of life produced in his body within a lifetime were to engender offspring, how many offspring would that one man have? You see, I want to compare him with the queen-bee.

A His offspring would be more than the total human population of the earth, more than its total population from earliest times to the present day. His children would have to colonize the other planets, and even so, they would overcrowd the solar system!

Q So we, in our species, do not measure up to our reproductive potentialities?

A Far from it!

Q Does any species really use fully its reproductive capacities?

A Some of the lowest. They fill the seas and the air with hungry hordes that are eaten by other hungry hordes.

Q Is there any sense in it?

A Any intelligence? No.

Q Isn't it a kind of insanity?

A Where there is no sanity, there can be no insanity, properly speaking. The lower species are ruled by this blind passion for reproduction. They are helpless in the grip of it. If any reasoning being behaved that way, we should call it insanity, of course. That is, *I should*—President Roosevelt might have admired such behavior.

Q Thank you. And now we will let the Anthropologist take the stand.

(To be continued next month)

The Outlook in India

By DR. PRABHU DUTT SHASTRI, PH.D.

INDIA at the present day is passing through a period of rapid transition, and a number of forces are at work with a view to bring about her social, economic and national regeneration. The chief in-

terest of the country at the present moment, torn asunder by communal factions and sectarian frictions, centres round the question of political reform and advancement, consequently, several movements

which would otherwise have won the co-operation and interest of the people are now being shelved as of secondary importance. All the same the work of social reform is proceeding with as much vigor and success as is possible under the circumstances.

Hindu marriage is not a contract, but a religious institution with its religious duties. A good deal of superstition has accumulated round the ancient texts, so that it has been almost universally believed that the primary object of marriage is procreation, preferably of a male issue. In this light the use of any contraceptive would obviously be looked upon as "immoral" and "unnatural," and even "sinful." But this blind tradition is now rapidly losing its hold over the more educated classes, who, infused with a sense of freedom and the scientific spirit of enquiry, have begun to reflect for themselves on problems of such fundamental importance, apart from the tyrannical sway of any authoritative texts. Even the ancient Hindus had expounded sex knowledge in detail as "kokashastra," which not only contained their views on sex psychology, sex union, sex hygiene, but also methods to procreate male or female issues at will, as well as some psychological and mechanical devices of contraception. Again, many ancient Hindus and modern sages as well strongly recommend continence as the surest contraceptive. This is sufficient to indicate that the subject of Birth Control is not entirely alien to the mentality of Indian wisdom.

Some scattered individuals and societies are here and there working in India at present to enlighten and educate public opinion on the problems of eugenics, hygiene, sex love, etc. A Birth Control league was formed some time ago in Bombay, and a periodical was also issued on the subject, but outside the Bombay Presidency very little is so far known of the organisation. Its utility is bound to be extended when its secretary Prof. Phadke, will co-ordinate its work with other workers in other parts of India. At Delhi and in the Punjab also, something is being done on the same lines, but there has no central organisation come into being yet.

Status of Indian Women

Indian women have been treated as slaves for centuries past. The greater bulk of the people are still ignorant and superstitious, and they have been taught by their orthodox tradition to look upon woman as an instrument of man's pleasure, as a machine for the propagation of the human species and the gratification of man's sex impulse. But this extremely narrow and purely selfish outlook is being speedily changed with the growth of Western institutions and the spread of Western education and culture, and a true revival of indigenous culture

as well. Child-marriage is distinctly on the wane, widows are allowed and even encouraged and persuaded to re-marry, the age of consent is being raised from twelve to fourteen years in the case of married girls, and sixteen years in the case of unmarried girls, instruction in hygiene and sanitation is becoming more general, in short, with a more universal and liberal education coupled with the awakening of a higher consciousness of nationalism, social reform is being pushed in various directions. The higher classes are, in considerable numbers, already practising Birth Control, as is the case in Western countries, while the poor are embarrassed with large families, when the keen struggle for existence hardly makes it possible for them to make their two ends meet. It is the poor Indians as well as the middle classes in this country who badly need enlightenment on the subject of Birth Control and definite instruction in the use of scientific contraceptives. Such instruction seems to be the surest antidote to the very large number of cases of infanticide and secret abortions.

An Inspiration

The writer, though interested in Birth Control for over two decades, had not been quite convinced of its vital importance in the interest of efficient nation-building, until some five years ago he was privileged to meet Mrs. Sanger at New York, and then Mrs. Drysdale and Mr. Harold Cox in London. It was Mrs. Sanger's example of unbounded enthusiasm with a wholehearted and selfless devotion to this noble cause that particularly impressed the writer, and inspired him with a fresh interest in the movement, so that since his return to India from his third visit to Europe he has been trying to educate public opinion in various ways on this great question. While newspapers like the *Statesman* and the *Englishman* offered no scope for the publication of articles on Birth Control, he was able to secure the columns of the *Tribune* and his exposition brought forth sympathetic enquiries from all over India. This will undoubtedly serve as a nucleus, along with the Bombay League, for the formation of an All-India Birth Control League, which we wish to inaugurate next year if possible, synchronising with Mrs. Sanger's visit to India. We might then be able to enlist the active co-operation of various Indian scholars and physicians, and prepare a series of handbooks in the various Indian dialects on the scientific and economic as well as religious aspect of Birth Control. Indian women are already struggling to secure their freedom and rights, and the Indian people can build up a strong, efficient and happy nation only with the emancipation of woman and the recognition of her full and equal rights.

“Released”

By OLIVE TILFORD DARGAN

AT a little dab of a junction
The train gasped motionless,
And the heat piled quivering about us
The tiny, square station rose on four wooden pins
As sturdy as ambitious matches
And strained vainly away from the dirt
Up and down the yellow pine walls
The heat ran with a smoking dazzle,
Making narrow slits of our eyes

The woman came out of that toasting box
And climbed on the train
She had the face that marries at seventeen
Out of wonder and wistfulness,
And at twenty-seven is mothering five,
The five trailed with her, their hands clinging,
Making a little human chain
Fastened by the youngest, leech-wise, to her breast

She was so trim and tiny
That she seemed made to hold life only,
So small that she looked lonely in half my seat,
Though the baby spread round the compass
Six times her body, and the heat'
But triumph hung over her,
And adventure became speech

“Yes'm, I've been waitin' here five hours
I got a train at Bennettsville early daybreak
And had to change here at the junction

“Yes'm, it was hot in the station,
Not cool like it is with the train goin',
But I got a good rest,
I had to be up at three o'clock
An' that's early for childuhn

“You're right, ma'am, they're good childuhn,
Annie's a bit whiny, just over the fever,
But the baby don't cry hardly at all,

Though his father died two months before he was bahn,
An' that makes a cryin' baby, they say

“Oh, yes'm, I'm strong,
I was up five nights with Annie, an' the heat made it bad
You don't feel one night, but five make the feet heavy
An' there was the baby needin' me by day
But seem' your child whiter'n her pillow
Makes you hold out
You know how that is, Ma'am

“Yes'm, I'm moving down to Sumter
My brother wrote I could get sewin' down there,
An' I've got to feed the childuhn, somehow
Their father was a good man,
He was a carpenter and folks liked his work,
But there was so many to buy for it kept him pushed

“I didn't go in debt for the funeral though
The furniture brought enough for that
He was a good man, and all he made went to his family

“Yes'm, it's hard when the biggest can't even wash himself
It was growin' twelve when I quit last night
All the little shirts and dresses to do up,
An' gettin' out at three did cut into my sleep
But I've got thus far, an' I like to travel, don't you?

“No'm, I'm not pinn'

“No'm, I'm not afraid I can't raise 'em
Seems to me I've got a chance now
The baby'll soon be out o' my lap,
An'—you see—*there won't be any more*”

She whispered it,
But I felt the words as a shout
The wilted face gleamed,
She was Deborah singing

From “Lute and Furrow”—(Copyright, 1922,
by Charles Scribners Sons By permission)



FAMILY PROBLEMS

Letters From Mothers Showing How Various are the Family Reasons for Birth Control

Not from the fear of poverty alone, or of ill health alone, but for many good and sufficient reasons, mothers desire to have the power to regulate the quantity of new life that comes into the world. Among these reasons, besides considerations of health and poverty, is the desire to give the children a start in life, to establish the home on a sound economic basis, including some provision for the future, and to make family life not a burden but a source of happiness to both the parents and children

To Prevent a Divorce

Rhode Island

While my condition is not as pitiful as that of the several women described in *Woman and the New Race*, still it is bad enough for me to need help. In the first place, my husband and I started all wrong. We got married before we had enough money to keep house. We went to live with his folks where we still are and thought we could soon save enough to go by ourselves. Thirteen months after we were married our first baby was born and in fifteen and a half months after our second baby came. We love our baby girls dearly, but are so afraid of having more that we have had no intercourse since before the birth of the second child, three and one-half years ago tomorrow. More especially so as it was more from mere contact than real connection that the second baby came. I imagine the uterus must have been very low indeed, for I used to carry my first baby around by the hour to keep her from crying. We could find nothing to agree with her for three months and in consequence she cried almost all the time, sleeping very little and giving me little sleep. In fact, she was a very fussy baby for a year. Although my husband says he is still faithful to me (and I have seen no indication that he isn't) naturally we are not very happy, we have a good many quarrels and he has told me a good many times that he could divorce me because of my refusing him and I see by your book that he is right. It is not that the sexual union is revolting to me, for it is not and has not been in a single instance, but I dread the expense of rearing more children and I am not very strong and everything worries me so. I cannot sleep nights through worrying about losing my husband and it makes me so cross and irritable and naturally I feel tired all the time. Can't you possibly help me?

To Stop Defective Children

Minnesota

My baby is only 10 months old and the oldest one is 7 and more care than a baby, has always been helpless. We do not own a roof over our heads and I am so discouraged. I want to die if nothing can be done. Can't you help me just this time and then I know I can take care of myself. Ignorance on this all important subject has put me where I am. I don't know how to be sure of bringing myself around. I beg of you to help me and anything I can do to help further your wonderful work I will do, only help me this once. No one will know, only I will be pleased. I not only have a terrible time when I am confined but caring for the oldest child it preys so on my mind that I fear more defective children. Help me please. Let me hear from you at once, please.

To Save a T. B. Mother

Louisiana

I married in 1918 and in 1920 I became the mother of one child, my health being bad since. While in service in the World War 1919, my husband contracted Tuberculosis. In 1922 The Government sent him to a T B Hospital at Alexandria, La. where he remains yet, but comes home to visit. Last fall my health became worse and I consulted a physician, also had an X-ray picture made of my chest. It showed I had slightly but active T B. Now we still have our boy who is nearly four years old and are doing all we can to prevent him taking it. And as I hope you understand our condition I want you to please give me some advice on preventives so we will not bring any more little ones in this world to become diseased. If you will send me one of your pamphlets or some kind of preventive, I will thank you ever so much for your trouble.

To Avoid Abortion

Wisconsin

I am a young woman of twenty-three years Was married at the age of fifteen years I was married just eighteen months when my baby girl was born In seventeen months I had a baby boy, in sixteen months another boy, in twelve months a miscarriage of five and a half months, again My health is gone I weigh 100 pounds and should weigh 129 pounds We are very poor people My husband is a good man and a hard worker but it is all he can do to feed and clothe these we have got I have been practicing abortion though I know it will kill me in time I would rather die than have any more children when we cannot take care of them I bought your book, "Woman and the New Race" I am asking you to tell me what means I can use to prevent conception which are certain and harmless I have tried everything I have heard of, spent lots of money but still have to suffer, so thanking you and hoping you see fit to give me the information I ask, will close, hoping to receive an answer soon

To Give the Children a Chance

Kansas

I have been married three years and have three children, a girl two years and twin boys eight months I am only twenty-one and not strong, besides we are poor financially being farmers and trying to get a start, with so many babies I can't possibly do my part for I am not strong enough My mother raised nine children but I can never stand to do that She never talked to me when I was a girl about sex matters She did not tell me a single thing so what little I learned I just picked up or my husband told me I don't want to have any more children at least for several years, until we are able to care for them and give them a chance in life If you would kindly please tell me how or what to do to keep from having any more babies I can never thank you enough Your work is a blessing to womankind for no one but a mother knows the suffering before and worry after the birth of a helpless baby I haven't weaned my babies yet and mother told me to not wean them until I had to or I would have another one right away Oh! Please help me and tell me how to keep from having more

To Save the Family

Virginia

I am now appealing to you for help I have been married 5 years Pregnant 4 times two living children two dead My husbands health is bad he was discharged in the army for heart and lung trouble But he has to work real hard regardless to this as he is a laborer For we are not of the rich class My health was always bad, but now its awful Dr says I have nerverious postration

But is it any wonder For my past five years of child bearing I am not able to do any work hardly at all Just miscarried about a month ago (2 month) Now wont you please help me As I have two very dear little children boy & girl which will be without a mothers love if theres not some way for me to stop getting that way For I am almost helpless during the whole nine months and feel like another confinement would be the last My husband is a good man and does not want me to have any more children But I have tried so many so-called safe precautions, with only dissapointment I am now asking you to please help me For surely, God will bless you for so doing If you will but stop to consider my life of torture as it is & may God help you onward in your good work

To Keep her Husband

Ohio

I am a mother of four children living and one dead These five children were born in less than seven years and my health has been impaired I am not strong enough to take care of these right and I dread the thought of having any more I have tried to keep from having any more, but I am afraid our home will be broken up if I cannot get something to keep me from getting pregnant My husband is not the same He finds fault with so many things and he does not want to stay at home in the evenings any more He wants to go away nights by himself I have worried so much about it that I am just sick I have asked doctors about it but they tell me to use a douche, but I know that is no good for I have tried it I sent for your book on Woman and the New Race and have read it and oh, if only all would think as you think what a blessing it would be to this world I can't understand why when a doctor sees how a woman's health is broken down why they can't tell them of something to do to keep from becoming pregnant Now please if you can tell me of anything I can do I will be so thankful and will bless you as long as I live, because I love my husband very dearly and it would kill me to have him leave his home for someone else The doctors say that my lungs are not good and if possible I do not want to bring any more children into the world

To Make A Happy Home

Oregon

My mother is of the old German type and she said everybody could and should have all the children they could even if it kills them She is a good mother, but I don't think it is right to raise children like cattle and then throw them to the street or poorhouse to be brought up or die If I could get one good contraceptive that would not fail but would be sure so I would not become pregnant till I can get strong again I would surely be glad Then I could give my husband my true love

Possibilities of Birth Control in China

By DURHAM S F CHEN

China with a population of 400,000,000, or not far from 900 persons to the square mile in one province, is in crying need of Birth Control. In the first part of his paper Dr Chen presents the problem, in the paragraphs below he analyses the social forces in China for and against Birth Control

INTERESTING and important as are statistical studies whenever feasible, in the absence of such facilities critical analysis and cogent reasoning may yield equally satisfactory and profitable results. Hence I propose in the remaining portion of the paper, through my understanding and general knowledge of Chinese psychology and social conditions, to draw a picture of the forces that operate, on the one hand, to make possible the spread of the doctrine of Birth Control and, on the other, to retard such a movement. The one I call the favorable, the other the unfavorable forces.

Among the favorable forces, the first to command our attention is one negative in character. All of you, ladies and gentlemen, who have at all worked in the field of Birth Control, know that one of the greatest opposing groups you have to encounter is institutionalised religion, or in other words, the church. But this factor is conspicuous for its total absence in China. We have in our country nothing to compare with your preachers, ministers, and congregations who stand so solidly united in denouncing Birth Control as contrary to God's will to bring children into the world. Our religious conception is radically different from the Christian, in that we let the individual take care of his own soul, and that we organise no churches to institutionalise a matter so spiritual. So that, in consequence, there are in China no organised efforts, such as you find in the churches of the Western countries, to oppose Birth Control in the name of religion.

THE second force making it easy to disseminate the idea of Birth Control is one phase of a larger movement, commonly called the New Thought Movement or the Chinese Intellectual Renaissance. It would be extremely interesting if we were to investigate this subject at length. But, for our immediate purpose, it suffices to say that the so-called Renaissance was the result of the constant stream of Chinese students coming to Europe and America to pursue higher studies ever since the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, and that the movement was accelerated by the visit to China of such prominent leaders of thought as Mr Bertrand Russell of England, Professors John Dewey and

Paul Monroe of Columbia University, Professor Hans Driesch of Germany, Mrs Sanger, President of the American Birth Control League, Miss Jane Addams of Chicago, and Mr Tagore, the renowned philosopher of India. The main features of the movement are (1) a spirit of free discussion and (2) an intense thirst for knowledge. Mrs Sanger can certainly bear me out whether that is not the case. She will have only to recall her outspoken lecture and the welcome given to it in order to prove my statement that in China free discussion of all questions obtains to a far greater degree than is the case with many Western countries. Given such scope for the freedom of speech, and such intellectual thirst for new thoughts and ideas, it is no small comfort and satisfaction for the advocates of Birth Control to be told that the mind of the Chinese students is receptive to whatever is sound theory, as well as to whatever finally proves to be sound social policy.

A THIRD item listed on the credit side of our balance sheet is the rising position of women. I do not have to tell you the part played by women leaders in your own countries in the spread of the idea of Birth Control. You know the facts better than I do. In China, the New Thought Movement, referred to above, is rapidly emancipating our women from their old bondage. They are no longer content to attend to domestic affairs only. In addition they demand a hand in social and political problems as well. As a preliminary step toward this end, their activities are gradually extending beyond the narrow confines of the family, they invade colleges and universities where, formerly, only men were allowed, and they insist on mixing with members of the other sex in society—a thing which had always been proscribed by tradition. This rising tide of the fair sex, if we may borrow an expression from Mr Stoddard, bids fair for the success of those who have always the dissemination of Birth Control at heart, because Chinese women would soon be prepared to undertake that heavy task which has been shouldered by their Western sisters.

Fourthly and lastly, the prospect which Birth Control holds out for the economically less fortunate people of a higher plane of living than they

have been accustomed to enjoy, or to suffer if you please, is a strong inducement for those directly and intimately concerned. Though I have not cited any economical statistics in the foregoing discussion of China's population problem, it does not require any stretch of imagination to infer that there must be much—though we are not prepared to say how much—suffering and distress in getting a living in China if in the United States, which is perhaps the finest example of economic prosperity, there are still the East Sides, slum districts, and the need of the work of such persons like Miss Jane Addams—not to say the sad conditions of unemployment and other forms of social and economic maladjustment. I say that if there are poor people in New York City, there must be poor people in a non-industrial country like China. Therefore, if Birth Control advocates will but show those poor people in China that by limiting their children, they can aspire to a higher plane of living and an increasing degree of comfort and enjoyment, if these results can be driven home, an immense step towards the acceptance of Birth Control as a means of social amelioration will have been taken.

OVER against the forces enumerated, operating in favor of the spread of Birth Control, there are many unfavorable forces operating against it. Take, for instance, the universally present phenomenon of regarding all sex questions as inherently unclean and degrading. Whereas China is free from prejudices against sex on religious grounds, tradition forbids any reference to it, and all persons are immediately frowned upon who try to raise the traditionally tabooed subject. Needless to say, this tendency is a grave hindrance to the cause for which the present Conference is called.

As to the ultra-conservatism of the officialdom, you are so familiar with it in your own countries as to require just a passing notice. Were it not for the official opposition that you have to cope with, half of your efforts might perhaps have been spared. The situation is further complicated in China because of the lack of a stable government to which appeals for reform can be made. Before any far-sighted social policy can be launched, the existence of a comparatively permanent body of officials constituting the governing machinery seems to be an absolute prerequisite.

FURTHER than this, the mass of the people must be brought up to the level where they can appreciate the importance of limiting the size of their families, if such members as there are, are

to enjoy an adequate life at all. Though it seems axiomatic to intelligent persons that no benefit is conferred on either party by dividing the food and other resources of a few among many, the farming and laboring classes, little versed in taking long-time, social views, have to be taught what is best for their own interests. This, then, is another barrier which champions of Birth Control have to surmount.

Another possible set of opposing influences proceeds not from the Chinese themselves, but from foreign residents in China, particularly the missionaries. As yet, this is not a reality. But it seems reasonable and entirely logical that they should raise a storm of opposition because they are generally not much given to taking a social point of view—still less to imbibing new thoughts and ideas such as the doctrine of Birth Control represents. Generally, the influence of new thoughts and ideas is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the point of origin. As most missionaries lose practically all cultural contact with their home countries, their opinion on social and economic policies naturally takes on a conservative hue.

SUMMARIZING what I have said, we notice there are in China two great divisions of forces, operating one in favor of, and another against, the spread of the idea of Birth Control. Of the favorable forces, we took account of (1) the absence of religious opposition, (2) the receptive attitude of mind born of the recent so-called intellectual renaissance, (3) the gradual assumption of positions of leadership by Chinese women, and (4) the prospect of a higher plane of living offered by Birth Control to the average man and woman. Of the unfavorable forces, we spoke, though quite briefly, of (1) the taboo of all discussions on sex, (2) governmental inaction and conservatism, (3) blindness of the majority of the people to their own interests, and (4) the possible opposition of the missionaries.

Eager as are all persons assembled here to see the conquest of new territories by the army of workers who carry on an aggressive warfare against ignorance, petty prejudice, and suicide of the human race if population be left to increase without check—I say that however eager we may be for all these things, we must not allow our enthusiasm to outrun our balanced judgment. We must inquire into not only the favorable forces, which help spread the doctrine of Birth Control. We must understand the unfavorable forces as well. I have chosen in this paper, therefore, to tell you not only what is pleasant to hear, but also a description, however brief and inadequate, of the other side of the shield.

The Great War and the Children of Germany

By DR HELENE STOCKER

SCIENCE, even in its most conservative representatives, can no longer deny that Birth Control is one of the most important means for the hygienic propagation of the species. There is only a very small section, among the Eugenists, that still hold to the pseudo-Darwinian standpoint that very many die "in the interests of natural selection," on the ground that those who survive represent the fittest. This school, which looked upon every attempt to combat infant mortality, infectious diseases, tuberculosis, every scheme of social insurance—in short, the entire endeavour to maintain and protect life, as a hindrance in the operation of the forces of elimination, this school is today, nevertheless, in its blindness and one-sidedness, hardly in a position to win the sympathy and support of the majority of the population of all countries. Nevertheless, the representatives of this view—of whom there are still a few in Germany—are in agreement with us in one point, namely, that as a rule a high birth rate is accompanied by a high death rate, only, they attach different values to this correlation and this inference. They believe that "this high mortality, in a general unfavourable environment, tends naturally to ensure in a high degree, the survival of the fittest" *

Elimination of the Fit

But they overlook the fact, as shown by recent experiments—such as those carried out by Prof Neuberg of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute—that, while it is true on the one hand that epidemics do in reality carry away "the weakest" in contrast to the manner by which the best life has hitherto been destroyed by war, it is also true on the other hand that by better nourishment, human beings, especially children, are made immune to epidemics. In other words, that, as an underfed child is by no means a worthless factor in cultural development, we need not, when faced with this process of elimination which is chiefly determined by social conditions, throw up our hands in resignation, in the belief that thereby the best and the strongest would naturally be "selected." Even these few observations regarding the premises of this problem show how Birth Control has become a burning question for Germany, in the interests of her higher develop-

ment. For although before the war Germany through her social legislation was in many ways ahead of other States and we had also particularly succeeded in creating—through sick insurance—the modest beginnings of Maternity Insurance, nevertheless, the last ten years have brought about such violent convulsions that all that had been reduced to uncertainty.

At the beginning of the war it did seem that, in spite of everything, it would turn out to be for the good of the women and children. The State Maternity benefit was created.

In a like manner, as a result of a petition from our Association for the Protection of Motherhood, we succeeded in having extended to the illegitimate children, who were socially exposed to the greatest peril—the war pension granted to the families of the soldiers. If therefore, at the moment when adult life was being sacrificed by hundreds of thousands and millions, it at first seemed that the lives of the women and the children were being insured and protected, it soon became manifest that the interests of all the living were intimately bound up with one another, because at the end of the war the condition of all those who were left behind became continually worse. Germany especially, in its peculiar position as an industrial country with an insufficient food supply of its own, was soon thrown into the most dangerous condition of underfeeding. The worst period of privation lay in the years 1917 to 1919, at the end of the war, and also during the period 1922 to 1924, when inflation was at its worst. But during the war, four times as many children died of tuberculosis as before the war. This development will perhaps become clearest when we recollect what the general outlook was at the end of this period, which, let us hope, represented the very lowest depths touched as regards the health of the people.

Bouton, an American, wrote in his paper "Chiefly Concerning Garet Garrett" "Before the war 1,200 Germans committed suicide yearly, while today the figure is about 80 000, brought about by the financial difficulties," a statement which has been confirmed by the publications of the International Red Cross. The employers' insurance has broken down. The State Insurance department has had to limit to the very minimum the arrangements for lung treatment, which were responsible for the greater part of the expenses, so that, at the end of

* Heinrich Poll, *Eugenics and the Science of Population*, Berlin, Md. W Nr 19, 1921

this inflation period, 30 per cent in Mannheim, 50 per cent in Nuremberg and in Hamburg nearly 100 per cent of the open tuberculosis patients lay in beds without sheets. Simultaneously with this, there was an increase in general starvation

Undernourished Mothers

From the memorandum which was submitted to the Prussian parliament on the health conditions, I should like to mention a few of its characteristic points

To start with, the death rate of infants did not rise as high as the death rate in the other age categories, because a section of the mothers were obliged to nurse their children owing to the scarcity of milk. But now this has once more changed, because the mother either has to get back to work again and therefore cannot nurse, or being herself undernourished is not in a position to feed her child

The consequence is a considerable increase in children suffering from rickets and a softening of the eyeball with resultant blindness. For many families, the nourishment consisted once again of potatoes, salt and turnips, as it used to be in the dreadful war winters of 1916-17 and so on. Very many hospitals have had to close down as also many Warm Baths and Homes. In a few places, the midwives have had to assist in numerous deliveries without a supply of linen. In the Advisory Centres for Mothers, it was found that out of 136 infants, 6 per cent suffered from acute and 12.5 per cent from chronic alimentary troubles and 32 per cent from rickets. A decrease in weight was general and in many circles, there was not a single child of normal weight

Strikingly great was the weakness of the child in the first eight days after its birth, a fact intimately connected with the underfed condition of the mother during pregnancy, the increase in hereditary syphilis was also observed everywhere. In the occupied territory the average death-rate of the infants rose from 13 per cent to as much as 20 per cent

The natural consequence is that all state, municipal and private aid institutes for the health of the people, specially for the protection of mothers and children, have, under the dreadful stress of economic and financial want, decreased to a shockingly low number. Numerous Day Nurseries, Homes and other institutions have had to close down. In 1922, there were 2,400 Infant Aid homes in Prussia, but under the pressure of the rising inflation, sometimes a third or even a half of them were

obliged to stop functioning. It is not at all astonishing to those who understand the facts, that in spite of a decline in the birth rate by 15 per cent, the infant mortality has risen by 20 per cent

Increase in Infant Deaths

The increase in the death rate of the infants has been specially high in a few towns, as for example, in Munich—the capital of a practically agricultural country—the death rate rose to 40 per cent, and in Magdeburg to 21 per cent. All the towns complained of the scarcity of milk. The entire consumption of milk has decreased to one-tenth of the pre-war quantity. Formerly it amounted to one-half litre per head of the population, but now it is about one-twentieth litre of particularly inferior milk, because of the high prices of fodder for the cow, even the quality of the milk has declined. In a few parts of the occupied territory only one-forty-fifth litre is to be had for the children and the old men, which by no means satisfies the demands of the so-called “urgent cases”, or when there is milk to be had, there is not money enough with which to buy it. In Essen for example, in March, 1923, there was only one-fifth of the quantity of milk hitherto available and in January-February, 20 per cent more children died than in the preceding year

Failure of the Milk Supply

In the occupied town of Duisburg, the children over two years got no milk whatsoever, because the army of occupation alone consumed one-tenth of the entire milk supply for the inhabitants. In a home for the children in Cologne, only 20 litres could be had for a hundred children. But even from that small quantity, only a half of it could be bought on account of the want of money. In Coblenz, only 80 per cent of the infants and 30 per cent of the children between the years 1-2 were given a little milk whereas those over two years got no milk at all

Intimately connected with this highly essential question of the milk supply are the demands of the mother. Although the need for an increase in the number of homes for would-be mothers and mothers confined to child-bed, has for years been recognised, one home after another has been closed down for financial reasons. The remaining few are consequently always over-filled. The home for the Protection of Motherhood (which the movement founded twenty years ago) has also to a very large extent been a victim of the war. It is only by indescribable anxiety and strenuous efforts that it

has been possible for us to maintain the Home in Berlin and also those in a few other towns such as Breslau, Mannheim, etc. In numerous cases, the night asylum has to offer refuge to the homeless women expecting to be mothers and confined to child-bed. Often, the mother has to leave the hospital on the sixth day or the child is taken away from her on the tenth day and given over to the orphanage. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that for some time the work in our Advisory Centres for Mothers was depressing to the highest degree. The poor mothers did not come to ask where they could find shelter for their confinement but only to find out how they could be freed from this undesired blessing, which was of course rendered impossible by reason of the existing law. Their despair is easily understood when one thinks of the sad fate of the child who is brought into a world which is still chaotic and has not yet learned to find accommodation for its highest treasure—namely, living human beings.

Specially hard is the lot of the orphan or the half orphan so to say, i.e., the illegitimate children.

Whereas formerly out of 10,000 orphans about nine-tenths of them were entrusted to the care of individual families, this system has nearly disappeared on account of the fact that the nurses were given not even sufficient money to cover the expenses of milk. By reason too, of the over-crowding of the orphanages and homes for the children, several children had often to sleep in the same bed. Although the birth rate has gone down by a third, nevertheless this over-crowding still continues with all its hygienic, moral and economic disadvantages.

We often feared that we stood on the verge of a complete collapse of the work for the protection of infants, children and mothers.

Losing Population

The Eugenists start with the calculation that the average age is 50 years and therefore, a birth rate of 20 per thousand is necessary, if the people are to be maintained at the same level.

Now for example, the birth rate in Berlin has fallen to 9.4 per thousand, while the great city of London, in the same year 1923, has still a birth rate of 20.2. As far as the surplus of births is concerned the figures for the towns in Germany has gone down by 57 per cent and in the country by 30 per cent. The relative decrease in the town, is therefore nearly twice as high as it is in the country. The difference would perhaps be made much clearer if we compare the numbers.

In January, 1914, the number of children born alive amounted to 27 per thousand of the inhabit-

ants of Berlin. Berlin with a population of 2,000,000 occupies the last place among the world cities. Vienna and Paris, both of which showed the same conditions before the war and were far behind Berlin, have now gone ahead of it. Moscow and Petersburg have three times as many births as Berlin.

The decrease in the youngest children is already coming to be felt in the Berlin schools. Over 120 classes had to be closed down in the summer term of 1923 because the school attendance could not be kept open with only five or ten children. One of the most famous gynecologists, the late Prof. Bumm, had also to admit that all other considerations would have to be abandoned, in the face of the misery and suffering caused by hunger and the housing problem and that the only remedy would be to take greater care of mothers and children. The period of protection ought to be extended from six to ten weeks. Half of the spontaneous miscarriages and premature births could be avoided if the women were guaranteed the necessary quiet and medical help.

The social condition is always, everywhere, a decisive factor. Unless and until a change in the social condition is brought about, it would be an idle dream to expect an increase in births or a decrease of the shockingly high numbers of artificial miscarriages, which the same gynecologist, Bumm, estimates at 500,000 yearly in Germany, of which 80 per cent to 90 per cent were voluntary, that is to say purposely brought about.

The fact that infant mortality is still high everywhere, in spite of the great decline in the number of births and the decline in the birth rate, is shown by a comparison with some other countries. In England it is 6.9 per cent, in Germany 13 per cent, in Sweden 7 per cent, in Denmark 7 per cent. How strongly social position exercises an influence on the death rate of children, is proved by the fact that among university circles, 5.4 per cent of the children die, among mechanics 15.6 per cent and among workmen 20.7 per cent, i.e., every fifth child dies.

It is only by a fundamental improvement of social conditions, that the conditions for the rearing of the new generation can also be improved. The work must, therefore, begin from different sides, not only by publicity, by the legislation of individual countries and, let us hope, by increasingly international legislation, which aims at the distribution of raw materials and foodstuffs over the whole world—but also by disseminating in all classes of the population, a knowledge as to the possibilities of Birth.

(Continued on page 106)

Geneva

By JAMES F COOPER, M D

The Home of the League of Nations to be the Meeting Place of the Seventh International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference

L'Humanité doit donner à l'Enfant ce qu'elle a de meilleur —Declaration from Geneva

IF you will look at the map of Europe you will see that Geneva, the principal city of Switzerland, is the strategic and almost the geographic centre for the larger nations of Europe. London, Paris, Rome and Berlin are almost equally distant. It is therefore a popular place for conferences, conventions and expositions. This together with the neutral attitude of the government of Switzerland makes it an ideal home for the League of Nations.

I arrived there September first just as the summer tourists were leaving and when the city was preparing to receive the general annual assembly of the League.

The object of my visit was to see the League. This is divided into three sections, The Assembly, The Council and The Secretariat. The Council is made up permanently of the "big five" — England, France, Belgium, Italy and the United States, who associate with themselves six other nations which change from time to time, making eleven nations in the Council. The United States which is the father of the League, has not yet taken its seat.

The Council consists of about 70 members who meet at Geneva four times a year. They dispose of routine business and make up the agenda for the assembly which meets once a year. This council is therefore like a great committee which considers matters and recommends questions to the assembly.

THE assembly is made up of three delegates from each of the fifty-five nations who are members of the League. When this body assembles with its delegates and their advisors there are hundreds of prominent statesmen from all over the world. This is the deliberative body of the League, and meets annually the first week in September.

The Secretariat is the permanent body of secretaries which is divided into sections, such as limitation of armaments, arbitration, health, social welfare, etc. The body is busy the year around with the affairs of the League and is composed of about 800 people.

French and English are the official languages of the League. All documents are printed in these

languages and these are the languages mostly spoken in Geneva.

I was present in Geneva one week before the opening of the Assembly and about three weeks afterward. During this time I consulted with a large number of people connected with all three bodies of the League, upon the subject of overpopulation as a cause of war, and circulated among them 1,500 copies of a pamphlet specially prepared as well as other similar literature.

IT is being recognized by an increasing number of statesmen that most European and many other countries are overpopulated. Many of these countries have sought to solve the problem by becoming industrialized and buying their food elsewhere. Too many countries are attempting this and the result is over-industrialization, manifesting itself everywhere in unemployment. Statesmen have been urging in England, Italy, Japan and other overcrowded countries, emigration as a remedy for this condition. Most far-seeing people however, realize that emigration is only a temporary relief for overpopulation. Emigration is becoming more difficult as most European countries are following the lead of the United States in restricting the laboring classes from entering their countries to compete with home labor, which is everywhere overabundant.

As industrialism and emigration break down as relief measures for overpopulation, there are only two alternatives — War or Birth Control. Many far-seeing statesmen realize this and deplore the prudish attitude which makes it impossible to discuss this matter sanely on the basis of human experience and present world conditions. They realize that inevitably the subject must be discussed by an international body such as the League.

BECAUSE of political rivalries and international suspicions it is difficult at present for any one nation or a few statesmen to advocate

(Continued on page 106)

Book Reviews

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR BOOK OF CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION Being a Record of State and Voluntary Effort for the Welfare of the Child. Compiled from Official Sources, by Edward Fuller, Editor of "The World's Children," with a Preface by the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, LL.D., President of the International Council of Women. Longman's Green and Co., New York, 1925. Price \$2.50.

THE CHILD HIS NATURE AND HIS NEEDS A Survey. Prepared under the Editorial Supervision of M. V. O'Shea, Professor of Education, the University of Wisconsin. A Contribution of the Children's Foundation, New York, Valparaiso, Chicago.

FOR the second year the International Year Book of Child Care and Protection has appeared, and despite some elimination of material from the earlier volume, it is more valuable through the amplification of its index. As a compilation of world data concerning the present status of efforts on behalf of childhood, its serviceability depends upon the ease with which the searcher for facts can locate the information he desires. This world directory has been made more valuable, indeed almost indispensable through its index.

Published on behalf of the "Save the Children Fund of London," it has a tremendous significance and worth to those interested in saving children throughout the known world. A general plan of alphabetic arrangement of countries has been maintained, and for each nation or people, there is a systematic arrangement of the latest facts concerning marriage, divorce, sex control and Birth Control, child welfare, education, delinquency, employment, and voluntary societies and institutions engaged in bettering the conditions under which children are born and nurtured. An especially important feature lies in the fact that it is not a book of opinions, but a comprehensive and succinct statement of vital facts.

In its pages one finds many reasons for optimistic hope in the demonstration of man's growing comprehension of the meaning and worth of childhood and child nurture. Introduced by a copy of the Declaration of the Rights of Children, as enacted in the Declaration of Geneva, it is a continuous revelation of the narrowness and the shortness of the road that has been travelled to bring about its accomplishment. Man's inhumanities to man, as reflected in his attitude and treatment of childhood, clearly indicate the youth of the race, and the failure of intelligence and reasoning to properly sublimate primitive instincts and undeveloped emotional forces in terms of social organization.

THOSE interested in any field of public welfare will find in this invaluable storehouse of facts, ample data with which to build up or refute arguments. Those interested particularly in Birth Control will find twenty-seven references to the subject, pointing out its position in more than that number of national communities of the world. They will learn that Austria and Latvia possess no statute against the teaching or practice of contraception, that Belgium in 1923 made it a penal offense to give contraceptive aid or distribute information concerning it, that the Minister of Health in England does not regard Birth Control as a topic to be considered in antenatal centers, that Germany has given official judgment against contraceptive devices, that the Russian Commissariat of Health in 1924 set up a commission to inquire into the problems bound up in Birth Control.

Mention is made of the efforts of the American Birth Control League and the Voluntary Parenthood League, as organizations seeking to enlighten the public concerning the need for the methods of Birth Control.

It is highly significant indeed, that detailed information with regard to the 48 states is given in a manner that satisfies the reader, despite the fact that brief paragraphs only are used to summarize existent laws.

No worker in the field of child welfare, no student of social institutions, no special pleader or propagandist for specific reform, no antagonist of current trends in social development, no statesman charged with the responsibility for improving human relations and institutions, can afford to be unfamiliar with this remarkably complete, satisfying and helpful book of reference.

THERE is a vast gap between our present day knowledge of child nature, child well-being, and child education, and our application of this knowledge along rational lines. The Children's Foundation of Valparaiso, Indiana, in *The Child, His Nature and His Needs*, has published an excellent survey of the status of scientific knowledge about children's development, which will be of particular service to students of childhood. The contributors are persons of authority and distinction and admirably selected on the basis of their accomplishments in various fields of child study. The education section is a contribution of M. V. O'Shea, Professor of Education of the University of Wisconsin, under whose editorial supervision the volume was produced.

The social point of view is not outstanding, but this is pardonable in view of the fact that social outlook was not contemplated in the development of the book. It is not strange, therefore, to find the complete omission of all reference to the numerous factors involved in the theory and practice of contraception. The concern of the contributors lies in the child that is born, without refer-

ence to whether the world has been enriched by the birth, or whether racial stock and human happiness might have been enhanced by some intelligent application of contraceptive procedures

IRA S WILE, M D

A Review by Nalbro Bartley

A YEAR OF PROPHESYING, by H G Wells Macmillan and Company, New York

A YFAR of Criticising could be an optional title for this pertinent collection of essays, containing Mr Wells' whimsical and forcible opinions concerning a wide range of subjects. He is opposed to the league of nations and an advocate of a confederation of mankind. In describing the beauty of flying, he deplores the present attempts to limit the development of air service and comments at length upon the emptiness of the Ruhr victory.

He believes that Germany will come back by virtue of her common language and common miseries and questions whether India has been helped or hampered by Great Britain. But he does not question the folly of Winston Churchill's "puerile obstinacy" regarding the Russian situation and dubs Mr Asquith as the "last of Victorian giants." He explains his reasons for delighting in the word "cosmopolitan" and advocates scrapping the gold standard of currency.

A plea for the revival of the old learning, an open letter to Anatole France and the reasons for considering China of singular importance are over-shadowed by his clever indictment of the Wembley exhibition as an exhibition of lost opportunities and his criticism of America's lawlessness which he believes is due to our faulty educational methods.

Perhaps not the least interesting is the chapter on sex antagonism, an unavoidable and increasing factor in modern life. He believes that sex mentally is more important to men than women, sex being an enormous physiological burden to the latter. Woman needs man's strength and his power over resources, whereas man is dependent upon her gifts of peace and encouragement. But women are wanting to deny their sex and set up as imitations of all successful male types—even into producing a "lady god." Commenting upon Elizabeth Robin's book, "Ancilla's Share," Mr Wells states that he believes the author is not at war with men but with sex itself.

THE DREAM, by H G Wells Macmillan and Company, New York

TOLD from the standpoint of two thousand years ahead, The Dream contains Mr Wells' arraignment of present-day institutions. Education—particularly the American brand—love and sex life, politics and commerce, are all analyzed and found wanting. Here as in all his

recent books Mr Wells speaks eloquently for Birth Control. Says he:

Later in my life I was to hear furtive whispers of a forbidden topic called Birth Control, but in the days of my childhood the whole population of the world, with very few exceptions, was in a state of complete and carefully protected ignorance about the elementary facts of human life and happiness. The surroundings of my childhood were dominated by an unforeseen and uncontrollable proliferation. Cheap proliferation was my scenery, my drama, my atmosphere.

In most houses there was a man who went out to work and earn a living—they didn't so much live in those days as earn a living—and came home to eat and sleep, and there was a woman, his wife, who did all the services, food and cleaning and everything, and also she bore children—a lot of unpremeditated children—because she didn't know any better. She was too busy to look after them well, and many of them died.

Interwoven with these views are the love stories of Fanny Smith and Hetty Marcus and characters such as Matilda Good, the Reverend Julp and the hero's father are worthy of being included in the gallery of Mr Wells' other fiction notables.

BOOKS RECEIVED

VAINGLORY, by Ronald Firbank Brentano's (N Y) \$2 00

THE MECHANISM AND MEANING OF LIFE, by Granville Gates Frederick H Hitchcock (N Y)

EUGENICAL STERILIZATION 1926, HISTORICAL, LEGAL AND STATISTICAL REVIEW OF EUGENICAL STERILIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES, by Harry H Laughlin American Eugenics Society (Conn) 50 cents

THIRTY-FIRST REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ONTARIO FOR THE YEAR 1924 The Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Can)

THE REVOLT OF MODERN YOUTH, by Judge Ben B Lindsey and Wainright Evans Boni & Liveright (N Y) \$3 00

THE NATURAL INCREASE OF MANKIND, by J Shirley Sweeney Williams & Wilkins Co (Md) \$4 00

FRAULEIN ELSE, by Arthur Schnitzler Simon & Schuster \$1 50

MODERN IMMIGRATION, by Annie Marion MacLean Lippincott (Phila) \$3 00

THE BIOLOGY OF POPULATION GROWTH, by Raymond Pearl A A Knopf (N Y) \$3 50

ADOPTION LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES, United States Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, (Washington, D C)

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What Our Contemporaries Are Saying

In the *Medical Times* for December, Walter N Thayer, Jr, M D, discusses the relation of low mental development to poverty and delinquency, and reaches the conclusion that less than twenty per cent of the delinquents are normal. This means that the usual criminal type should never have been born. The normal person becomes criminal, Dr Thayer believes, "through bad environmental conditions and through lack of proper training during his formative years." In other words, on account of the existence of family conditions into which no children should have been born. A suggestion of the proportions of our crime problem is given by recent (1923) figures for the prison census of the United States which show that one in 1,000 of our population has a prison record.

The *Critic and Guide* (N Y) tells a story of the days when Dr Abraham Jacobi, as President of the American Medical Association, came out openly for Birth Control. Among the many letters he received, "One was a postcard from an old lady who congratulated him on his good sense and courage, but she asked him to permit her one question. Why so late in the day? Did it take you 80 years (Jacobi was at that time 82) to find out that women needed the knowledge of how to limit the number of their children? I am not a great professor, she continued, but it didn't take me nearly a century to find out the need and the right of limitation of offspring for women. Your courage has come too late for me. Even too late for my daughters. Perhaps my granddaughters will profit thereby. Once more. Why so late in the day?"

"The old lady is right, said Dr Jacobi, and he smiled his whimsical smile."

Holland's Magazine (Dallas, Texas) has an article by Margaret Sanger on "Passports for Babies." It gives the history and objects of the movement for Birth Control and concentrates on its eugenic and hygienic objects. It maintains that "passports for babies" is from the racial point of view essential patriotism, for "the future of our country depends upon the men and women we produce." From the personal, hygienic point of view the passport should be regarded by parents as a point of honor toward the unborn and in the granting of passports the family physician should have an important part. He should go farther than he does now in that part of preventive medicine connected with childbirth, he should be called upon to give not only prenatal but pre-conceptual advice.

The *American* (N Y) and other Bell Syndicate papers publish an "Inventory of Woman" for 1925 in which

Rupert Hughes estimates what she gained or what she worked to gain last year. Among the latter is Birth Control. "The Birth Control idea," says he, "which, a year ago, it was hardly decent to mention and hardly legal to inquire about, has spread around the globe and won numberless adherents among the most eminently respectable women, among statesmen and clergymen. Yet opposition to it is waged ferociously by other women, statesmen and clergymen." He tells the story of the "Mother of 14" who tried to kill herself in the last week of the year and adds that it is to relieve such as she that the movement was organized.

The Atlantic (Boston) for February, has an article by Louis L. Dublin opposing Birth Control. Dr Dublin's position was officially stated in his address at the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference which is published with the reply by Professor Frank H. Hankins in one of the forthcoming volumes of the International Proceedings. There is nothing new in Dr Dublin's objections and nothing that has not been answered fully and often. *The Atlantic* plans to publish a statement of the other side.

From *The Examiner* (San Francisco) comes the following: "Unless we are willing to adopt Birth Control, we may as well scrap all of our carefully laid plans for world peace," the Rev Berkeley B. Blake, Sacramento's lawyer-clergyman declared today in an address which advocated "dissipating the supply of cannon-fodder."

"It is far more humane," contended the Rev Blake, "to regulate the number of children that shall be born into a family than it is to have them decimated after birth by sickness and war. The great objection of the nations to such control is that excess population is required to furnish the soldiers to be killed in time of war."

The Bee (Omaha, Nebr.) in a recent interview with Judge Ben Lindsey of the Denver Juvenile Court speaks of the proportions which the problem of abortion has reached in the United States.

"Illegal operations," says he, "are destroying the foundations of the race. We are facing a problem with girls which is unequalled by any other."

"I believe in Birth Control, but by Birth Control I do not mean abortion. I mean a scientific educational program for the enlightenment of young married people who are facing the future of parenthood. Abortion is a common thing among married folk and is second only in importance to the unmarried mother problem."

In the *Century* (N Y) for February, Grace Nies Fletcher points to one reason why the middle class striving to live decently within the bounds of middle class salaries persist in disregarding the exhortations of some eugenists to have large families. Mrs. Fletcher, writing on "Balancing the Baby Budget" shows how much it costs today only to bring the baby into the world. Some time ago a writer in *The Atlantic* pointed out the same thing and this is one point made in the series in *Harpers*, which began in January with the article "Living on the Ragged Edge." The fact is that the salaries of the working class are little, if any, higher than those of the skilled workmen and that their only means of attaining quality in living is by limiting quantity in the production of lives.

The *New Yorker* records in significant juxtaposition as important events of the week ending January 30th, "Episcopal Church joins Roman Catholics in fight against Birth Control and seventeen-year-old youngster, when arrested, admits he started twelve fires."

In *The Forum* (New York) for February, Herbert Joseph Spinden makes his contribution to the War and Peace series with an estimate of what the tropics can add to the food supply. He takes an optimistic view of the possibilities of the conquest of tropical disease so that man may develop tropical resources to the full, but he does not believe that this will do away with the problem of overpopulation. He believes that "in an improved standard of living lies the hope of mitigation of the blind biological instinct to overbreed."

In the *Scientific American* E. E. Free, Ph D., writes on "Have We Food to Feed Our Immigrants?" Food he believes the real population problem. He concludes that "there is only one real cure. That is some way of limiting births." We should like to know however, on what he bases his further statement that "the present propaganda for Birth Control has not yet received sanction of the scientific professions, let alone of the sociologists."

From *The American Journal of Surgery* a reprint has been sent us of one of the earliest statements in behalf of Birth Control by a physician since the inauguration of the American Birth Control movement. This is the article "Concerning Birth Control—the Physician's Obligation," by Garnett W. Quillian, a gynecologist of Atlanta, Ga. The article, which was written in 1918, maintains that the physician's "effort should be, not to keep Birth Control outside the moral pale but to find a place for it among our civilizing discoveries." Dr. Quillian bases his case for Birth Control on the prevalence of criminal abortion and gives statistics from a local hospital. His summary of the progress of Birth Control sentiment among physicians in that year makes the article an interesting historical document.

The *News* of Detroit (Mich.), quotes the Rev. Worth M. Tippy, an official of the Federal Council of Churches, as saying in an address at the local Y. M. C. A. "I think the whole question of the development of population is going to come to an intelligent and moral control of the birth rate."

The *World* (N Y) quotes Dr. A. A. Goldenweisser of the New York School of Social Research as saying in effect that Birth Control information should be available and that in order to make methods reliable, barriers to open study of the subject should be removed.

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is a reprint of Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf's article on Birth Control from the point of view of the constant increase in medical support which was published in the journal in September. Copies may be obtained from the American Birth Control League.

Harper's Magazine (N Y) in an article on "A New Fight for Old Liberties," refers to "Mayor Curley of Boston, a Catholic, who refused to permit any meeting discussing Birth Control to be held in the cradle of American Liberty."

In the *Yale Review*, Robert J. McFall writes of food as the limiting factor of population growth. He believes that there will be new sources of food as old sources and methods fail and that before population has outrun food the nations will have found a "biological limiting force" to keep down their numbers.

Books Received

A FOUNTAIN SEALED, by Anne Douglas Sedgwick. Houghton, Mifflin Co., (N Y) \$2.50

COLLECTED PAPERS, VOL. IV, by Sigmund Freud. Hogarth Press (London) 21s

THE ISLAND OF THE GREAT MOTHER, by Gerhart Hauptmann. Viking Press (N Y) \$2.50

THE CONFESSION OF A FOOL, by August Strindberg. Viking Press (N Y) \$2.50

THE WELFARE OF INFANTS OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH IN BALTIMORE. United States Department of Labor, Children's Bureau (Washington, D C)

BIRTH CONTROL, by Julia E. Johnsen. H. W. Wilson Co., (N Y) \$2.40

POST-WAR BRITAIN, by Andre Siegfried. E. P. Dutton & Co., (N Y) \$3.50

HARTMANN'S WHO'S WHO. The Occult Press (N Y) \$3.00

THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE AND HYGIENE OF MATERNITY AND INFANCY. United States Department of Labor, Children's Bureau (Washington, D C)

Criticism

From a Friendly Correspondent

Madras, South India

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I suddenly came to know of the existence of the League and its Review only a few days back. After learning the main principles and method of work of the League, I wish its activities should spread everywhere in all the countries—especially among the poorest people. I do not yet know how you advise and what are exactly the methods that should be adopted for preventing procreation without losing the “sexual expression” of life as you would call it. Still hoping that this will not in any way be injurious to the health of the mates concerned, I wish that it should spread and be accepted. If the objects of the League succeed—I doubt it very much as there are innumerable difficulties for it in all countries—I am sure the world would become a heaven on earth soon.

You may be surprised if I say that I believe that immorality too may be diminished as a result of the propaganda. When I glanced at the Review, which happened to be in my hands for a few minutes only, I came across a few sentences which showed perhaps the foundation on which your League itself is built. “Sexual expression is one of the most profoundly spiritual of all the avenues of human experience, and Birth Control the supreme moral instrument by which each individual is enabled to progress on the road of self-development and self-realization.”

“Life more abundant” may mean more incidents of earthly enjoyment. You, westerners, may seek such lives

But we in India—especially in South India—want *fuller life*, which is said to be attained when higher “self-realization” comes, not of course through sexual expression. The gist of the whole of my argument is that we, the religious philosophers of South India, have faith in a spiritual expression of life which is above all physical enjoyments, where we really enjoy eternal bliss, not “endless torment” and where there is not “eternal conflict” as the “surge of one’s deepest desires” is almost absent.

We acknowledge Mahatma Gandhi to be a great (not a reactionary) moralist, but some of us do not accept that he has risen to sufficient height in the spiritual plane. If so, he would have said “union is a weakness of the flesh (not a crime) where the desire for progeny is absent.” There is a great confusion in the minds of even great intellectual men between high morality and spirituality. Morality is only control of the senses which may even “torment” one, but spirituality is freedom from all bondages of the senses. To spirituality few can attain.

With this fundamental difference, I am one with you in wishing to propagate your ideas, because the masses everywhere cannot reach the spiritual plane and should not suffer “endless torment in eternal conflict with the surge of their deepest desires.”

If you can accept me, please acquaint me with your literature and also advise me what I can do to help in your propaganda. I belong to the poorest middle class of South India.

R URAYANA SWAMIE

From a Church Convention

The *Living Church* (Milwaukee, Wisc.) organ of the Protestant Episcopal Church, reprints in full the Report of a Joint Commission on Home and Family Life adopted by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in October. From this we quote, for purposes of record the text of the passage on Birth Control.

“One menace to the family life is a teaching which so closely harmonizes with the inclinations of a large proportion of our population, as does that of the advocates of birth restriction. It is comforting to the self-indulgent to feel that their personal, selfish desires are in harmony with what passes for altruistic propaganda. In this connection, the Convention cannot do better than quote with hearty approval, the declaration of the latest Lambeth Conference. ‘The conference, while declining to lay down rules which will meet the needs of every abnormal case, regards with grave concern the spread in modern

society of theories and practices hostile to the family. We utter an emphatic warning against the use of unnatural means for the avoidance of conception, together with the grave dangers—physical, moral, and religious—thereby incurred, and against the evils with which the extension of such use threatens the race. In opposition to the teaching which, under the name of science and religion, encourages married people in the deliberate cultivation of sexual union as an end in itself, we steadfastly oppose what must always be regarded as the governing considerations of Christian marriage. One is the primary purpose for which marriage exists, namely, the continuation of the race through the gift and heritage of children, the other is the paramount importance in married life of deliberate and thoughtful self-control. We desire solemnly to commend what we have said to Christian people and to all who will hear.’ A member of this Joint Commission is a member of the Committee of the Lambeth Conference which set forth this pronouncement.”

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

AMONG visitors at headquarters in recent weeks was Mrs Langebartels-Weber of the Berlin Society for Sexual Reform

On February 5th the Stuyvesant Heights Public Forum went on record, after listening to a two hours talk by Dr James F Cooper, as in favor of Birth Control and urging changes in our present state and federal laws

On January 20th, Elizabeth Grew addressed the Motherhood Club of Public School 57 and on January 22nd the Liberal Society, both of Brooklyn

Maryland

AT Baltimore on January 22nd, Dr Cooper spoke before a group of 25 physicians, many of them on the staff of Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital Dr J Whitridge Williams, head of the Department of Gynaecology, presided Later in the month first steps looking toward organization for clinical work were taken by a lay and medical group of Baltimore people, headed by Mrs Edith Houghton Hooker

A Birth Control booth in charge of Mrs J Bishop Vandever and Mrs George H Day, Sr, was included in the Food Show sponsored by the National Organization of Wholesale Grocers in Baltimore February 8th to 14th Literature was sold and distributed and the exhibit was seen by 18,000 people

Michigan

THE press of the country is still commenting on Dr C C Little's strong espousal of Birth Control The source of the opposition he has aroused is shown by statements given out by various Catholic priests and associations of Catholics One editorial writer on a Michigan paper characterized his support of Birth Control as a "fad" and a Washington paper criticized him for "thinking," but beyond this no non-Catholic opposition has put itself on record, as far as we have seen In striking contrast with the Washington paper quoted, the Buffalo (N Y) *Express* congratulates him cordially on his courageous thinking It says "Whether or not it is true that a certain element is after him, it is refreshing always to have a man in so high a position declare his independence and assert his right to think as seems to him to be right

and to say what he thinks" So thinks the Iron Mountain (Mich) *News* which adds "There is no question that Dr Little understands the people of Michigan and that the people, speaking generally, understand him"

An editorial in the Grand Rapids (Mich) *Press* suggests that he might, presumably for self-interested reasons, have waited till his position in the University was intrenched before he so honestly stated his views But the editorial expresses no objection to these views Indeed it recognizes that he, as a scientist, must inevitably hold such views "As a biologist once associated in an administrative capacity with the famous Carnegie foundation laboratory of heredity," says the editorial writer, "Dr Little could be expected to hold strong views akin to those advanced by him As president of the University and in the course of years, as his influence might widen, and his authority become confirmed, it might be expected that Dr Little would make his opinions known on this and the seething brainful of topics which every one assumes a man of his independence and intellect to be thinking about"

The Kalamazoo (Mich) *Gazette* says "In its educational system especially Michigan should welcome the type of men who have opinions of their own plus the courage of their convictions" The Des Moines (Iowa) *Capital* holds much the same view since its editorial writer says "On matters in which the give and take of opinion is calculated to reach the real truth, isn't it a good thing to have men who hold views and are not afraid to express them?"

The Soo (Mich) *Evening News* is even more enthusiastic in its support "Our educators," says its editorial writer, "our university presidents surely, should be leaders, not followers, nor servile opportunists Admitting a certain measure of regret that this question has arisen to handicap Dr Little at the outset of his incumbency, when he needs all the aid and co-operation and public backing he can get to enable him to make a successful start on a huge task, we are glad, in another sense, that it has come up It indicates that President Little is not in the category of tactful "educators" whose conception of their job is a material one, but that he is, rather, an educator who conceives his job to be that of a leader of thought The very fact that he heads the educational system of the state increases his responsibility to lead 'If the men at the head of our great educational institutions do not point the way, in the name of high Heaven, who will?"

Says the New York *World*, using this as a text for an editorial on the encouraging spread of free speech in our universities "The last place on earth for a law against thinking is a university devoted to the advancement of truth"

Other editorials comment with approval on the stand taken by the regents of the University of Michigan, who in the midst of the hue and cry met on business of the University and "completely ignored the question" One member of the board indeed, has gone so far as to announce his intention of resigning if Dr Little's freedom of thought and speech is curtailed

In striking contrast to the Catholic point of view, a Protestant divine of Lansing (Mich), the Rev A N McCune, pastor of East Lansing Peoples Church, according to the United Press report, has characterized Dr Little as "a prophet come into our midst" In feature articles, news, interviews with public persons and in other ways the merits of Birth Control are being discussed as never before in Michigan

Another voice from the pulpit in Michigan is that of the Rev Earl R Rice, pastor of the Campbell Methodist Church of Detroit, who declared in a sermon that both nature and religion sanction Birth Control

Massachusetts

A FRIEND of Birth Control, Professor Warren B Thompson, spoke before the Radcliffe School of Politics at Cambridge in the second week of January His problem was overpopulation and his specific reference to Birth Control was in the case of Japan, for which country he believed, it held out the only solution of the population problem The School of Politics was held under the auspices of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters

New Jersey

THE chief events of recent weeks were the conference toward forming a state organization which was held at Trenton on January 18th and the large local public meeting held on January 15th at Camden where an audience of 400 listened to addresses by Dr Benjamin T Tilton, Anne Kennedy, legislative secretary of the American Birth Control League and other representatives of the national and local movements

In exceedingly inclement weather an audience of about one hundred, representing twenty cities of New Jersey, gathered at the First New Jersey Birth Control Conference for organizing state

work, which was called at Trenton January 18th The speakers were Dr Hannah M Stone and Dr James F Cooper of the American Birth Control League, Malcolm H Bissell of Bryn Mawr College and from New Jersey, Mrs Jessie P Condit, executive secretary of the Children's Aid Society of Newark, Frank D Graham, assistant professor of economics and social institutions of Princeton and the Rev Oscar B Hawes of All Souls Church, Summit The local speakers were all new to the Birth Control movement Miss Condit's appeal for Birth Control in behalf of the very poor and handicapped families will be published in full in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Dr Graham spoke as the social scientist and expressed satisfaction that in Birth Control science and humanitarianism had at last found a mutually satisfactory program for the improvement of the race, and women in marriage had been offered the means of controlling their own lives

The Rev Oscar D Hawes declared that great spiritual principles were involved in Birth Control, since the ultimate object of religion is the uplift of the race through fuller life, and life that is not lived at its best can never be full or truly spiritual If the race is brought into the world like animals it will have no chance to rise above the life of animals, whose development is conditioned by blind physical forces To hold man down thus is immoral and any method of Birth Control which enables him to prevent the creative impulse from doing harm and to develop into something higher than an animal is in the truest sense moral The choice offered is increasing misery in life, and a life made fuller and better through the removal of an animal handicap

At a business session following the public meeting a temporary committee was appointed to organize a state league The committee was made up of Mrs Georgiana Tucker of Ocean Grove, chairman, Mrs A B Jones, Mrs John Dey, Mrs Laura A Winkelspecht and Mrs E L Ballard

The Upper Montclair Woman's Club was addressed on January 22nd by Mrs Margaret Sanger on "National and International Aspects of Birth Control" It was a good meeting and received excellent publicity in the local press

The New Jersey legislature is in session and work for the state Birth Control bill is progressing under the direction of Mr Meves The strength of the sentiment for Birth Control as brought out at last year's legislative hearing is shown by the Roman Catholic reaction As the time for introducing this year's bill approaches, the Holy Name Society is organizing throughout the state in opposition, and priests and officials of the society are speaking against it in parish churches A good idea of the

attitude of this church is given by the statement quoted in the Paterson *Evening News* from the Newark Diocesan Convention of the Holy Name Society to the effect that the "so-called social welfare bills (i.e. the eugenic, sterilization and the Birth Control bill) are without value as a means of advancing social welfare"

Of a local Catholic effort Mr Meves writes "I had the opportunity of debating with one of these men, Mr John A Matthews of Newark, President of the Democratic Lawyers' Club, former United States Commissioner, and former Assemblyman, before the Chancellor Avenue Home and School Association at Irvington. During the refreshment period after the debate efforts were made to find out the opinion of the audience. The report was that Mr Matthews was far superior to me in one particular, he could shout louder than I could, but otherwise they felt that I had the better of it"

Among local groups addressed by representatives of the American Birth Control League recently are a general meeting at Morristown under the auspices of the Morris County Medical Society and a meeting at Summit under the auspices of the Community Improvement Association—both by Dr Cooper, meetings of women's groups at Belleville and at Camden, by Mrs F Robertson Jones and the Women's Club of Maplewood by Elizabeth Grew. Other lectures have been given at Elizabeth, Passaic and Union City. Mr Meves has spoken before the Hoboken Rotary Club, the Armstrong Cork Company and the Concrete Specialties Company (noon meetings) of Camden, the Magnolia Women's Club, the Pinebrook Parent Teachers' Association, the Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of Trenton, the Atlantic Co Women's Republican Club of Northfield, the Had-don Heights, Towaco and Clinton Women's Clubs and the Southern Dental Society of New Jersey.

Newspapers in many cities of New Jersey are giving excellent publicity

FEDERAL

WORK in Washington is progressing. Mrs Sanger, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Day and Mrs Timme, chairman of Congressional work, have had many interviews with Congressmen, both Senators and Representatives and with other public men and women in Washington. That the ground is not entirely unprepared for the seeds of Birth Control sentiment is shown by the statement of Senator George P McLean (Connecticut), made in Congress on January 13th to the effect that "The population of the earth has about doubled since 1825. If this rate of increase continues there will be comfortable standing room in

2619, but no refreshments. If trouble comes we can hardly expect to exterminate the hungry and unruly 94 per cent. Yet something must happen. Will it be war or pestilence or fire and brimstone or common sense that will cut the population garment according to its cloth?"

On January 29th and 30th, Dr Cooper lectured before classes in obstetrics at George Washington University Medical School and at the Medical School of Howard University. In both cases the classes showed great enthusiasm and in the discussion which followed enthusiastic approval of the movement for Birth Control was expressed.

CANADA

AN audience of 800 women listened to an address on Birth Control by Dr Cooper at Montreal. Mrs J Helen McIntire presided as president of the Women's Club of Montreal, under whose auspices the lecture was given. The audience was deeply interested and plans were made for a medical lecture later.

IRELAND

FAMILIES to the number of 26,000 averaging five persons to a family, according to figures compiled for Housing Week in Dublin, are now living in one room habitations in that city, and the death rate of poor children is five to one child of the more prosperous classes.

FRANCE

OUR correspondent, G Hardy writes "The financial question, colonial expeditions, foreign politics absorb the attention of the French press. Though *L'Echo de Paris* has recently published an article urging population increase, by M Charles Delvert, the question of population and the birth rate are in the background despite the fact that this is a question the whole of Europe ought to be considering.

"The government guards with jealous care the law of July 31, 1920, which suppresses the liberty of the press for partisans of Birth Control.

"An ardent little journal, *Le Semeur* brought out in Normandy, having published the translation of an English article on "Common Sense and the Question of Population" has been prosecuted for Neo-Malthusian propaganda. The editors were fined 500 francs.

"M Maurice Olivaint, magistrate, counsellor of the Court of Appeals of Algiers, well-known poet,

chevalier of the Legion of Honor, has committed a crime, he has commented ironically on the decoration of the Legion of Honor awarded to a poor woman because she had brought into the world fourteen children! For this the governor-general of Algeria immediately brought a complaint against him and M. Olvaint has been forced to send in his resignation. This event has gained for us in *L'Oeuvre* some brilliant articles from one of the greatest of Parisian journalists, M. George de la Touchardiere—articles entirely favorable to Birth Control and which deserve to be reprinted in a conspicuous place in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.

"In striking contrast to the persecution in Algeria is the calm reception of a very daring recommendation in an official place in Paris. On December 2nd, Dr. Klotz-Forest, in a conference organized by a woman's club (*La Tribune Libre des Femmes*, founded by Mme. Marie Laparcerie) defended the physiological moral and social necessity of sexual relations between young people from the very beginning of puberty. But, he adds, this is not possible unless they are furnished the means of avoiding both venereal disease and conception. The audience which took part in this conference appeared to receive without dismay this suggestion, which is reminiscent of theories which Paul Robin defended forty years ago. Dr. Klotz-Forest has not been indicted nor molested in any way."

HAROLD COX, Editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, reminds us how little birth and death rates mean unless taken in relation to each other. Of the population problem of France, he writes in a recent press statement: "Critics imply that the comparatively small population of France is solely due to the practice of Birth Control. That undoubtedly is one factor, but equally, if not more important is the very high death rate in the French population. The latest official figures I have are for the year 1923. In that year, according to the official report, the birth rate in France was 19.4 per thousand. In England it was almost exactly the same—19.7. But the death rate in France was 17 per thousand as compared with 11.6 in England."

A meeting of the Statistical Society of Paris was largely devoted to a discussion of a paper by Dr. Ichok on the relation of French population growth to economic conditions.

JAPAN

REPORTS in the press of western states quote Dr. Roy Hideemicki Akagi, a Japanese historian who has just completed a course at the University of Washington, in comment on the rapid spread of Birth Control sentiment in Japan:

No better picture in small compass has been given of the actual situation in Japan than the following passage from Senator Sheppard's speech in the debate on the immigration bill in 1924:

"For 3,000 years," said he, "the Japanese have been forced to cultivate small areas until today, with the most exacting, tedious, and monotonous toil, they make a square mile support 2,000 persons. Their farms average less than three acres to a family, and the income of the average farm family ranges from \$75 to \$150 per annum. Farm hands get about \$27 a year with rice and shelter. The Japanese soldier gets about \$5.50 per month. In 1917 the average wage in 33 Japanese industrial occupations was 30 cents a day. Skilled artisans received 47 cents, male textile workers 28½ cents, female textile workers 19 cents. Hours of labor for more than a million of these workers ranged from 11 to 14 per day. Japanese school teachers get \$17.25 a month or about \$207 a year. Multiplying at the rate of 600,000 or 700,000 every year the Japanese have about reached the point where the soil can no longer be made to furnish adequate subsistence, even with the discipline, the labor, the training and study of 25 centuries. Consider, further, that Japan produces no cotton, coal or iron, the basic materials of her already gigantic industrialism. Consider also that the poverty and discontent of the working masses may at any time become a menace to the prestige and control of the present autocratic Government and it will be seen that Japan must have an outlet for her restless and growing millions or face internal chaos."

"This is why the Japanese have almost accomplished the economic conquest of Hawaii. This is why the hundred thousand Japanese in California are receiving fresh and unlawful accessions from the homeland every day. This is why the Japanese Government could not, if it would, resist the pressure of large portions of its population for transfer to the prosperous Japanese communities beyond the seas."

NEW ZEALAND

THE following account of the practice of Birth Control by natives is taken from a letter by Ettie A. Rout, published in *Nature* (London):

Europeans have found it almost impossible to elicit definite information from the New Zealand Maori regarding methods of control, although we have known quite well that control of fertility was exercised, and abortion is prohibited by the Maori Sacred Legends. Very few Maori women have more than four children, many fewer than four. In ancient times there was a betrothal for about eight or ten years, during which time no children were born. This betrothal was really a trial marriage. At the age of from twenty-five to twenty-eight, formal

marriage took place between the betrothed lovers or otherwise, and the married woman had as many children as she desired, and by whatever father she desired

Race improvement was taught in the Sacred Legends, and it was regarded as the duty of every mother to have as fine a father as possible for her child. If she wanted to live with her husband but preferred some other man to become the father of her child, she might allege that this lover's spirit visited her. This was a recognized polite fiction. The husband might feel sorry his wife considered some other man a better potential father, but still he regarded himself as fortunate if his wife continued to love him and want him as her husband.

No man and no woman were allowed to reproduce unless passed as fit for reproduction by the Maori authorities, and before betrothal occurred there was medical examination of both parties by the parents of the young couple and by the doctors. Children were named by the community in accordance with their birth and form, and the girl-baby of a mother having difficult or abnormal childbirth was named in such a way as to indicate her unfitness for reproduction. Only the physically perfect men were permitted to become fathers, and no Maori woman would allow herself to bear children by other men than these. The Maori considered the father of more importance than the mother in the matter of race improvement. Even crippled women might be allowed to become mothers, but crippled fathers—never. Scarcely any really "unfit" babies were born, but should such an accident occur, the new-born unfit baby was given "The Peaceful Death." Marriages were generally for life, and polygamy was rare. There were usually more men than women in Maori communities. Sexual hygiene and control were exercised.

happy than if it be a boy baby, for according to the Confucian tradition, the supreme duty of man is filial piety and the chief end of marriage the raising up of sons to carry on the ancestral cult, so that girl children are relatively of little account and they are still in some areas, condemned to death by exposure, while the binding of feet—a brutal concession to age-long custom—is widespread.

Heaven-blessed infancy is a rare boon. "Shades of the prison-house begin to close" around the little Chinese citizen while he still lisps baby words and longs to play with childish things. The shadow of his lost year grows long across his path, as shadows will, and he is denied most of those things which are needful for normal development, either material or spiritual. Despite the fact that the loss of life from abnormal causes in China is probably larger than in any other part of the world, the pressure of population is very great and children are cheap. The Chinese child is therefore forced into the labor market at the earliest possible age. Chinese law recognizes the right of parents to sell their children, and of this license widespread advantage is taken. If the child is a girl, she may find herself sold for domestic service while still in her first decade, perhaps employed about a brothel and eventually trained to prostitution. Or she may be sent to a match factory, at as early an age as 5, to earn a pittance of 9 copper cents per day ($2\frac{1}{2}d$) and contract phosphorous poisoning. If fate takes her to the silk mills, she may have to work 12 hours a day, standing for five or six hours at a stretch, preparing cocoons in boiling water which will permanently disfigure her hands, while she will often be subject to the buffets and petty cruelty of the women workers (two to every child) who are fined for short work and take their revenge by persecuting their child assistants.

The Child in China

In *The World's Children* Edward Fuller writes of the child in China, especially hard the fate of the girl child appears to be. Says he:

One of the queer but authentic facts about China—that most fascinating land of topsyturvydom of our nursery days, is that a child's age at birth is counted, not as "0," as our Western statisticians have it, but as "1," the ante-natal period of existence being debited—all too extravagantly, it would seem—against the child's tale of years. This fact, we may perhaps invest with an allegorical significance, for the Chinese child begins life with a handicap—not merely because of that one year which he has never known, lost in the "dark backward and abysm of time," but in other ways which happily do not trouble the majority of those of his brethren who are born under the Western stars. If the child has the misfortune to be born a girl, its lot is even more un-



On Broadway between 43rd and 44th Streets stand three persons who always interest us. The woman who sells the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW from an oilcloth sack about her shoulder, the stolid gentleman who silently offers the *Matrimonial News*, the man who peddles "the atheist weekly."

In passing, we spoke to the Birth Control lady.

"Do you sell many?"

"Oh, yes, quite some."

"Ever get into arguments—or have any ugly things said to you?"

"Not many. Once in a while a woman tells me I ought to be ashamed of myself. But men never say anything."

—ZOE BECKLEY in Springfield (Mass.) *Evening Union*

THE GREAT WAR AND THE CHILDREN OF GERMANY

(Continued from page 94)

Control and the consequent lowering of infant mortality and the prevention of futile fertility

We too recognise the difficulties of the problem—we realise the danger of eliminating from the process of the propagation of the species persons who represent the highest stage of cultural development. But, on the other side, we see also how limited are the possibilities of food supply for human beings, as has recently been shown by another of our most eminent and esteemed food physiologists †. In his opinion, if the population con-

tinues to grow, as it has been growing in the last 50 years, the habitable area of the earth would be completely occupied in 300 years and that of the temperate zone in 150 years.

It should be the future task of humanity, instead of destroying itself in meaningless wars, to create by mutual co-operation ways and means by which this last horrid struggle for existence in the worst sense of the word, need never recur, but instead, by a well-planned control of births—a new cultural world should be created, in which life is worth while for every one who is born.

† Geh. Rat Rubner in Dtsch. Mediz. Wochenschrift of 13, 2 djs

GENEVA

(Continued from page 95)

Birth Control openly. The International Federation of Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Leagues have therefore a great opportunity and a splendid mission in bringing this matter to the attention of the world at the home of the League of Nations and enlightening public opinion on this vital subject. It is hoped that the coming Seventh Inter-

national Conference to be held next September in Geneva will hasten materially the day when the subject will be intelligently discussed by the statesmen of the world and nations will agree to keep their population at such numbers as they can adequately care for without their becoming a menace to other countries.

Population Control Which Form?

Birth Control pictured as the only answer to the problem of overpopulation at Radcliffe School of Politics, Cambridge, Mass.

Seven workmen injured when part of historic Parker House in Boston collapsed while being demolished.

—*News* (Jamestown, N. Y.)

The World's Population

The population question is very much to the fore in these days. There is a good deal of interest, therefore, in certain figures recently published by the International Institute of Statistics. How many of us could tell exactly how many human beings there are at present on our planet? It appears from this publication that the number in 1924 was 1,894,874,000, an increase of about 275,000,000 since 1910. The average density today is about 12.9 to the square kilometre.

It is noteworthy that during the same period the increase in America has been 26 per cent, in Asia 23.4 per

cent, and in Europe only 3 per cent. No doubt the war, from which Europe suffered by far the worst, accounts in a large degree for the last figure, and the big outward migration from Europe is another cause.—*Daily Dispatch* (Manchester, England)

Not satisfied with a population of over 115,000,000, Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, statistician of the Prudential Life, is, according to press reports, alarmed about the decreasing birth rate in the United States. He admits, however, that encouragement is to be found in the fact that our present death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 is the lowest ever experienced.

*O great corrector of enormous times,
Shaker of o'er-rank states, thou grand decider
Of dusty and old tales, that healest with blood
The earth when it is sick, and curest the world
O' the pluriy of people*

—BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER (1600)



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