

April, 1926

Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

"Published in the Interests of Voluntary and Intelligent Motherhood"

## The Church *on* Birth Control

# THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

Headquarters  
104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

Telephones  
Chelsea 8901-2-3-4

## OFFICERS

MARGARET SANGER.  
MRS LEWIS L DELAFIELD  
MRS JULIET BARRETT RUBLEE

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Vice-President*

MRS FRANCES B ACKERMANN  
MR J NOAH H SLEE  
BEATRICE W JOHNSON

*Treasurer*  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
*Executive Secretary*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MRS RICHARD BILLINGS  
MRS DEXTER BLAGDEN  
MRS GEORGE H DAY, Sr.

REV WILLIAM H GARTH  
MRS THOMAS N HEPBURN  
ANNIE G PORRITT

MRS F ROBERTSON-JONES  
BENJAMIN TILTON, M.D  
JOHN C. VAUGHAN, M.D

## CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

MRS WALTER TIMME

*Chairman*

ANNE KENNEDY

*Legislative Secretary*

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

### CLERGYMEN

Rev Ernest Caldicot, N Y  
Rabbi Rudolph I Coffee, Ph.D., Calif  
Rev Philip Frick, N Y

Rabbi Sidney E Goldstein, N Y  
Rev Oscar B Hawes, N J  
Rabbi Louis Mann, Ill

Rev Karl Reiland, N Y  
Rev Edgar S Wiers, N J  
Rev L Griswold Williams, Pa.

### SCIENTISTS

Dean Thyrsa W Amos, Pa.  
Leon J Cole, Ph.D., Wisc.  
Edward M East, B.S., Ph.D., Mass.  
Franklin H Giddings, Ph.D., N Y  
Samuel J Holmes, Ph.D., Calif  
Roswell H Johnson, M.S., Pa.

E C Lindeman, Ph.D, N Y  
C C Little, D Sc., Mich.  
William McDougall, Ph.D, Mass  
James G Needham, Ph.D, N Y  
Wm. F Ogburn, Ph.D, N Y  
Raymond Pearl, Ph.D, Md.

Walter B Pitkin, Ph.D., N Y  
Horatio M Pollock, Ph.D., N Y  
Lothrop Stoddard, Ph.D., Mass.  
J E W Wallin, Ph.D., Ohio  
John B Watson, Ph.D., N Y  
Walter F Willcox, Ph.D., N Y  
A B Wolfe, Ph.D., Ohio

### PHYSICIANS

Joseph L. Baer, Ill.  
H B Brainerd, Calif  
James F Cooper, N Y  
John Favill, Ill.  
Alice Hamilton, Mass.  
Frederick C Heckel, N Y  
Donald R Hooker, Md.

Amelia R. Kellar, Ind.  
S Adolphus Knopf, N Y  
Lawrence Litchfield, Pa.  
Earl Lothrop, N Y  
Elizabeth Lord Love, N J  
Adolph Meyer, Md.  
Ida Monosson-Friedland, N J

Abraham Myerson, Md.  
Wm. Allen Pusey, Ill.  
Ralph Reed, Ohio  
Aaron J Rosanoff, Calif  
John B Solley, Jr., N Y  
Hannah M Stone, N Y  
Kenneth Taylor, N Y

### OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Alice Stone Blackwell, Mass  
George Blumenthal, N Y  
James E Brooks, N J  
Jessie P Condit, N J  
Herbert Croly, N Y  
Mrs Belle De Revera, N J  
Theodore Dreiser, Calif  
Ernest Gruening, N Y

Florence Bayard Hilles, Del  
Roswell H Johnson, M S., Pa.  
Sinclair Lewis, N Y  
Judge Ben Lindsey, Colo  
Owen Lovejoy, N Y  
Robert M Lovett, Ill.  
James M Maurer, Pa.  
Everett R. Meves, N J

Elsabeth Severn, N Y  
Mary Shaw, N Y  
Mrs Georgianna Tucker, N J  
Florence Guertin Tuttle, N Y  
Ruth Vincent, Colo  
Mrs. Albert Walker, Texas  
Mary Winsor, Pa.

### LAY MEMBERS

Mrs Ernest R Adee, N Y  
Mrs Oakes Ames, Mass  
Raymond H Arnold, Calif  
Mrs Robert Perkins Bass, N H  
Mrs Walter L Benson, Ill  
Mrs John E Berwind, N Y  
Lowell Brentano, N Y  
Mrs John Scott Browning, N Y  
Mrs W E Cannon, Mass  
Mr and Mrs. Thomas L. Chadbourne, N Y  
William Hamlin Childs, N Y  
Mrs Stephen Clark, N Y  
Mrs Frank I Cobb, N Y  
Mrs John Dey, N J

Mrs Simeon Ford, N Y  
Mrs Kate Crane Garts, Calif  
Mrs Robert B Gregory, Ill  
Miss Florence Halsey, N J  
Mrs H G Hill, Calif  
Mrs Fenley Hunter, N Y  
Mrs. William Swain James, Calif  
Mrs. Pierre Jay, N Y  
Mrs. Otto Kahn, N Y  
Mrs. W W Knapp, N Y  
Mrs. James Lee Laidlaw, N Y  
Mrs Arthur L Lawrence, N Y  
Mrs. Frank M Leavitt, N Y  
Mrs. Sinclair Lewis, N Y

Mrs Edward A Lingenfelter, Iowa  
Mrs. Stanley McCormick, N Y  
Mrs. William A. McGraw, Mich.  
Mrs. L. Newman, Utah  
Mrs Enoch Rauh, Pa.  
Mrs. C. C. Rumsey, N Y  
Mrs. Homer St. Gaudens, N H  
Mrs. W F Spangler, Ind.  
Mrs T J Swanton, N Y  
Mrs Charles Tiffany, N Y  
Mrs. Shelley Tolhurst, Calif  
Mrs J Bishop Vandever, N Y  
Mrs Henry Villard, N Y  
Mrs. Pope Yeatman, Pa.

# BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



## *FACTS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL*

**W**E HAVE shown that Birth Control is the conscious regulation of the birth rate. The most practical method of Birth Control is the use of harmless mechanical and chemical devices for the prevention of conception. These devices, called contraceptives, are simple and effective and are the means of preventing the great and growing evil of abortion. On account of the forces of ignorance, indifference, prejudice and superstition, the spread of knowledge concerning the use of contraceptive methods of Birth Control is forbidden by law.

## *WHY IS BIRTH CONTROL NECESSARY?*

There are many reasons. We have already given the following

- I THE HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD
- II THE HAPPINESS OF MARRIED LIFE
- III THE RELIEF OF OVERPOPULATION

*A* PORTION of infant mortality represents the lingering and wasteful removal from the world of beings of inherent defects, beings who, for the most part, ought never to have been born and need not have been born under conditions of greater foresight.

—H G WELLS

This month we give

## REASON IV—THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RACE

In some cases individuals suffering from venereal disease can only give birth to defective children. The use of Birth Control in all cases of venereal disease would eliminate many of the defectives who are a burden to themselves and society.

Certain classes of criminals and degenerates are likely to produce criminal and degenerate children. Not only is the tendency to crime and degeneracy in some cases inherited, but in all cases the environment into which the children of criminal and degenerate parents are born is one in which there is practically no chance for them.

Feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, the insanities and alcoholic predispositions, as well as predispositions to some diseases not of the mind, are often transmitted from parent to child. Without the use of Birth Control there is nothing to prevent persons with these diseases and predispositions to degeneracy or ill health from procreating indefinitely.

**BIRTH CONTROL** is the practical and effective agent for improving the race.

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

APRIL, 1926

No 4

(Copyright, 1926 American Birth Control League, Inc)

## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	113	PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL LAW	126
The Churches and the Birth Control Bills—Prognostications—The Model Mother		THE TREND OF BRITISH POPULATION, by A L Bowley	128
UNDERPRIVILEGED, by Jessie P Condit	115	THE OUTLINE OF MARRIAGE, PART IV, by Floyd Dell	129
A social worker shows the progressive degeneration in the families of the poor as the family increases year by year		BOOK REVIEWS	132
THE MESSAGE OF THE TERRIBLE MEEK, by Charles Francis Potter	117	MALTHUS AND HIS WORK, by James Bonar—Raymond Pearl, WHAT IS MAN? by J Arthur Thomson—Leon J Cole, SOCIAL PATHOLOGY, by Stuart A Queen and Delbert M Mann, DYNAMIC PSYCHOLOGY, by Don Thomas Vernon Moore—Annie G Porritt	
The Church exalts the mother and child and forgets their practical human needs If it persists in calling "obscene and immoral" a practical measure to protect them it has departed from the teachings of Christ and has earned the contempt of men		WHAT OUR CONTEMPORARIES ARE SAYING	134
SECOND COMING, (a Poem), by Robert Wolf	119	OUR READERS' VIEWS	134
OPTIMUM POPULATION, by Henry Pratt Fairchild	120	"Increase and Multiply"—Street or Shop Selling	
That population is best which enables a people to realize in its standard of living the greatest and most generally enjoyed degree of health and happiness		THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON BIRTH CONTROL	136
BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S GENERAL ADVANCE, by Doris Stevens	122	NEWS NOTES	
The author maintains that the swifter the general advance of women the swifter will come the acceptance of Birth Control		Federal Work, New Jersey	137
"NATURE'S WAY"	124	New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts	139
The crude and brutal methods by which Dame Nature keeps some families within bounds		Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, England	140
		COMING EVENTS—THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL	141
		PERTINENT FACTS FROM WASHINGTON	141
		"PASSPORTS FOR BABIES"	142

## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY

THE AMERICAN BIRTH  
CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

104 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

MARY SUMNER BOYD, *Managing Editor*

The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is published  
on the first of the month.

Single Copies—Twenty Cents Two Dollars per Year  
Canada and Foreign \$2.25

Entered as Second Class Matter March 11, 1918, at the Post-office at New York, N Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

JESSIE P CONDIT is executive secretary of the Newark Children's Aid Society

CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER is a former pastor of the West End Unitarian Church

HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD is professor of sociology at New York University

A L BOWLEY is one of the most eminent of British statisticians

DORIS STEVENS is an organizer of the National Woman's Party and author of "Jailed for Freedom."

RAYMOND PEARL, author of "The Biology of Population Growth" and "Studies in Human Biology," is professor of biometry at Johns Hopkins University

LEON J COLE is professor of genetics at Wisconsin University

Subscribers are urged to send notice of change of address at least three weeks before it takes effect.

# Birth Control Review

VOL X

APRIL, 1926

No 4

## EDITORIAL

WORK in Washington and New Jersey has brought out the fact that there is to be no organized and vigorous opposition to Birth Control legislation except that of the Roman Catholic Church. In Washington representatives of the National Catholic Welfare Conference follow up our visits to Congressmen, and try to prevent organizations from hearing our speakers.

At the legislative hearing in New Jersey only Catholics took part in the opposition. Their presentation was not strong—to non-Catholics it seemed ridiculous—but behind it were the dictated circular letters given out to the faithful in the churches, which we knew lay on the legislators' desks. When the chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws dismissed the bill on the ground that there was "no public demand for it" we knew that it was these masses of letters from the other side which he had in mind.



ON its own congregations the Catholic church can bring the pressure of spiritual fears to bear, but not all will yield so meekly. Thoughtful Catholics will not accept the God pictured in the excerpt quoted by Dr. Fairchild\*. They will know that it is a picture painted by the fallible hand of man and the real God needs no such glory as is represented by millions of maimed souls. We know of many individual Catholics who feel this way and who state openly that their parishioners will educate the priests. Already press reports tell us that there were no less than 200 dissenting votes when a resolution condemning the federal Birth Control bill was put before one Diocesan Council of Catho-

lic Women. Poverty and the inhuman conditions created by overbreeding combined with the strong native belief which all Christians have—must have, to make life bearable at all—that "God loved the world when he gave his only-begotten Son" will convince more and more Catholic laymen, like a recent correspondent, that "there is only one side to the Birth Control question."



ON legislators the Holy Name Society and the National Catholic Welfare Conference can bring to bear not spiritual pressure but pressure of political fears. It was at Catholic dictation that the New Jersey bill was killed in committee and it was at the dictation of a Catholic priest, the Reverend James Barr, that Mr. Thurtle's Birth Control bill was thrown out in the British House of Commons.

The church aims to be a world-wide power essaying through the legislatures of many countries to embody the ideas of the hierarchy at Rome in laws governing the lives of Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The constitutional rights of non-Catholic Americans are nothing to it and the carrying out of the commands of Roman Catholic ecclesiastics takes precedence of considerations of patriotism.



YET this church, whose primary obedience is paid to the See of Peter, can talk patriotism when occasion demands. To many hundreds of National bodies both secular and religious and to the Protestant Churches the National Catholic Welfare Conference has sent letters asking co-op-

\* See page 120

eration in opposing the Federal Bill and stating that the "situation demands a direct patriotic expression of disapproval from every American organization" From few do they appear to have obtained a promise of co-operation Many of these organizations sent the letters to the American Birth Control League or to a national organization friendly to the League which from the nature of its work is regarded as a guide in moral questions One—and that one of the greatest in the country—took issue with the use of the word patriotism in this connection not only on the grounds we have spoken of but on eugenic grounds It asked, as the League has always asked, which was true patriotism—to load the country with the unfit, the ill-nourished and the ill-equipped, or to promote racial health by encouraging a small population of those made fit by proper environment and proper nourishment?



THE attitude of these national bodies is encouraging and so too is the lack of response from Protestant Churches Only the Protestant Episcopal Church has as yet been claimed as ally in press reports sent out by the National Catholic Welfare Conference and later press reports from the National Council of the Episcopal Church show that this claim was not justified by the facts The excellent and broad-minded editorial from the *Churchman* which we reprint this month tells the exact situation in that church Only a general convention of the church can officially adopt or repudiate Birth Control, and we feel confident that at such a convention the case for the morality of Birth Control would be strongly presented

In all Protestant Churches there are signs of deep thought and increasing respect for Birth Control Among the older groups debate on the subject rouses ardent and effective defenders Among the younger groups Birth Control is accepted as an agency of civilization In December a congress of bible students demanded that the churches endorse it† as a means of social betterment And now the other day (February 26th) another body of students, the interseminary conference of the Chicago Theological Seminary and the divinity school of the University of Chicago, has passed a resolution calling on the Protestant Churches to study all

† See January Review

modern questions relating to marriage, and among them has specified Birth Control It is such groups as these who are truly seeking in the churches through the agency of Birth Control to do away with those conditions which have lessened the divinity in man, and to make him conform more nearly to the church's own description, as fashioned "in the image of God"



WE publish this month a study by Professor Bowley of the actual trend of population in Great Britain in the twentieth century, and we hope to follow it next month by a study of the American birth rate Both studies are interesting and both are encouraging, but Prof Bowley's is especially so, since he has looked forward into the future and given us some idea of the changes in our social constitution which will be brought about by changes in the rate of increase Among these will be a diminished infant mortality and a general prolongation of life—including what Prof Bowley does not specifically allow for, a prolongation of the healthy earning period of life far beyond the limits of today—the cutting down and ultimate doing away with child labor, including the providing of adequate educational facilities and the prolongation of the educational period, and the gradual automatic solution of the housing problem



WHO is the Model Mother, the healthiest in a thousand picked by Health Commissioner Harris in the contest set on foot by the League of Mothers Clubs at the United Neighborhood House of New York? Is she a Rooseveltian mother of thirteen, eight underground and five living or all living but most of them sickly or feeble-minded? She is not She is Mrs Roger H Myers of 31 West 124th Street, forty-one years old and the mother of two children, both living and healthy, one of them a young man of 20, the other a girl of 18 Mrs Martha Messner, the second to pass the health test, is the same age as Mrs Myers and is the mother of three children aged 19, 16 and 12 years Both these women, whose portraits show them to have combined not only health but some joy in living with motherhood, will receive prizes—not indiscriminating bounties for quantity, but awards for quality production

# Underprivileged

*A Study of Large Families with Small Incomes*

By JESSIE P. CONDIT

**A**BOUT six months ago Mrs. Hall came to our office in a perfect panic. She was afraid that she was pregnant and she was simply overwhelmed at the possibility. When she married Mr. Hall he had one child in the Hospital for the Insane, and another was so feeble-minded that she was a serious problem in the home. About four years ago a feeble-minded cripple child was born to Mrs. Hall. It has of course been impossible for her to secure custodial care for either child, because there is at present no room in our state institutions for the feeble-minded.

An examination by a physician dispelled her immediate fear, but she pleaded with our worker to tell her where she could get information which would prevent the birth of another handicapped child. Our worker however, was forced to tell her that in New Jersey the law would not permit anyone to give her the help she so sorely needed.

Mr. and Mrs. Lericos are foreigners who have been in this country for nine years. When we first knew them they had had four children, all of whom had been born without eyes. The two oldest had died when quite small, but two little girls, two and four, had managed to survive. The mother was suffering from dementia praecox and had spent eighteen months in the hospital at Morris Plains. She was utterly incapable of training the children, who, sightless and speechless, sat all day long in their little beds and manifested not a single normal reaction to tests given them.

**T**HE father was devoted to his wife and refused to send her to the institution, but, realizing that she ought not to have any more children, begged for information by means of which he could prevent such a catastrophe. Legally, no one could give it to him however, and about six months ago another child was born. This one apparently has sight, but the mother can give it neither physical care nor training, and the probability is that it will not develop normally. Since the birth of the baby, the little four-year-old has died of ptomaine poisoning. The two-year-old was placed in an institution for the blind where she would get care and training, but had to be returned home almost immediately when the mother threatened to kill the baby if the child was not brought back.

When we first knew Mrs. Brown she had a nice little home and two well-cared for children. At that time her husband had fallen in with bad company and she came to get our help to make him stop drinking and work steadily. He was weak, but he loved his wife and family, and we succeeded in steadying him and maintaining, for a time, a decent standard of living. Then the children began to arrive very rapidly. With the advent of the fourth child, Mr. Brown began to lose his grip again. He was an unskilled laborer and his income was so small that he grew discouraged because of the many demands of his growing family.

**B**Y the time the eighth child arrived, Mr. Brown was completely demoralized, and his wife, broken in health and spirit, had deteriorated into a scolding, nagging, shiftless creature, totally incapable of meeting the physical, mental and moral needs of her numerous children, who spent long hours on the streets and among evil associates. Capable of doing a really good job with a small family, both Mr. and Mrs. Brown failed utterly when the family grew to such proportions.

These are just a very few of the families known to the Children's Aid Society, which I represent, whose children, terribly handicapped physically and mentally, bring with them into the world untold suffering for themselves and their parents, and to every social agency in the country come scores of mothers, sick, over-worked, harassed by poverty, overwhelmed by fears, begging to know where they may get information to enable them to limit the size of their family. "The rich folks know how, tell us" is their plea.

Yes truly, the rich and the intelligent do know how and we find in their families one, two, or three children—seldom more. Self-control we admit, is practiced by some few idealistic, spiritually-minded individuals. We know however, that among the privileged classes, information about contraceptive methods is general. From friends and from private physicians knowledge is easily obtainable and the various methods are used quite generally. If they, with their means and their intelligence, feel that they must control the size of their families, how much greater is the need of the under-privileged man or woman, whose income will never rise above

\$30 a week and whose intelligence is over-taxed with the attempt to understand and properly train one or two children

**I** WISH I could make you see the physical suffering, the mental distress, the tragic despair in the faces of some of the women I know, who, though still young in years are pitifully broken by responsibilities too great for them to bear

There is Mrs Carr, whose husband, though he has worked ten years in the same factory, still makes a maximum wage of \$30 a week Like most other factory workers, he loses his pay on holidays and on other days that it suits the owner to close the shop When the rent, \$28 a month for their three wretched basement rooms, is paid, there is not a great deal left to feed and clothe the six children, and to keep Mr Carr fit for his heavy labor, and of course, there is never anything left for emergencies, for recreation, or for advantages for the children

When they were first married, Mr and Mrs Carr attended church together, but now none of the family goes Their clothes are too shabby, and they can't spare money for the collection Spiritual values have been completely forgotten

The first time they had to appeal for charity they were terribly humiliated, but the children were sick so much, because of insufficient atmosphere in the basement rooms, that they fell into the habit of looking for help wherever they could get it

**W**HEN her first two children were little, Mrs Carr took much pride in keeping them clean and neat, and her dreams for their future were rosy Now however, Joe, thirteen, has been before the Juvenile Court twice for stealing Fred, ten, is truant from school continuously Mamie, twelve, has become involved sexually with a man who has been giving her money for coming to his rooms, and the rest of the children are constantly in trouble with the other children in the neighborhood Mrs Carr has lost her grip entirely, and the children never think of obeying her The home is wretchedly dirty and pitifully bare of necessities Although Joe has only just completed the fifth grade in school, he is going to get his working papers as soon as he is fourteen and take a job in a factory The family needs his money

What a familiar story this is to the average social worker Dependency, disease, mental defect, delinquency, child-labor—all are present in the large family with the small income Overcrowding in wretched quarters, food insufficient for good health,

clothing inadequate for comfort and for self-respect, sickness, discouragement, constant quarreling, lack of parental control, child-labor, no wholesome recreation—can we wonder if the boys and girls from such homes grow up to be the crooks and gangsters, the sex delinquents, or the socially inadequate of the next generation Unwanted, unloved, neglected, what else can we expect

Is it fair to them, is it just to their parents? Why should society insist upon loading upon the latter responsibilities greater than they are able to bear Many of them are little more than children mentally Members of large families themselves, they have grown up in overcrowded homes, deprived of all the advantages, and many of the necessities of life They have had to go to work before they were properly trained, and have never been able to overcome the handicap of poor heredity and unfavorable environment

**B**UT you say, "Let them practice self-control" Think for a minute of Mr Carr He works twelve hours a day at hard physical labor He comes home at night tired out He can read very little—he was a child-laborer and his education was limited He can't afford commercial entertainment He never gets a chance to hear any music His only diversion is a game of cards in a saloon, now and then His physical nature is dominant over mind and spirit Can one wonder that, with his lack of appreciation of the spiritual quality of the marital relation, he over-indulges himself in the only thing which can make him forget for a moment the dullness and dreariness of his lot?

And can't we understand why these women forced for the sake of peace in the home, to accede to the wishes of their husband, but dreading beyond expression another pregnancy, beg for information about Birth Control? Why should we, when they want so much to live simple, happy, useful lives, devoted wholly to the few children they are capable of rearing properly, deny them this right and permit them, because of an unintelligent law on our statute books, to ruin their own lives, and those of their children?

Some of the women ignorant of contraceptive methods, become desperate when they realize that they are entering on another pregnancy, and resort to abortion Many of them, too poor even to secure the services of the quacks and the midwives who make their living through this nefarious business, themselves induce an abortion, and almost kill themselves in the process I am thinking now of Mrs Murray She is only thirty, but she has six living children, and has had three miscarriages



Her husband makes but \$21 a week and she, poor, frail little soul, works desperately in an effort to keep a decent home for the children \$21 for eight people—\$2 63 a week—or 38 cents a day to provide food, shelter, heat and clothing for each member of the family Isn't it horrible? Think of the physical suffering, the mental distress and the utter break-down of morale in such a home

During the last few years the cases of desertion brought to our attention have increased tremendously in number Fathers, wearying of the struggle to provide adequately for their large families, quietly disappear and leave the responsibility to the community, either through public relief or private charity Sometimes the mother in despair, because she cannot give her children what she knows they ought to have, goes away in the hope that some agency will take care of them There was Mrs Carey for instance, who only last week, after her husband had deserted for the third time, went away from her home at five o'clock in the morning, leaving her four little children She had mailed a special delivery letter to the visitor of the family society, pleading with her to put the children into a home where they would be well taken care of, and she promised that when she found a job, she would pay something toward their support

EVERY year the bill for public and private charity is increased—mother's aid, supplementary relief in the home, institutional care for children, health service And every year there are greater demands for funds for custodial and correctional institutions for the mental defectives and the delinquents, who are the product of these wretched homes The State of New Jersey is now spending one half of its revenue for the care of the handicapped and is not beginning to meet the need Year by year the privileged classes in the state, who have limited the size of their own families, must

pay heavier taxes to care for the dependent, diseased, delinquent and defective children of the ignorant, the unfortunate and the vicious If, through Birth Control and sterilization we could prevent the multiplication of the dependent and the unfit, it might be possible, through public and private funds, to provide advantages for the normal and the under-privileged child, which would greatly improve the quality of our citizenship

IT is alleged that a change in the law would be followed by a flood of immorality As a social worker many of whose problems have involved immorality, I have made two observations, first, that many of those who choose to live immorally, have somehow equipped themselves with Birth Control information, or, by their mode of life, have rendered themselves sterile, and second, that the fear of having children is very little of a deterrent to those who wish to be promiscuous in their sex relations

But, the proposed law specifically states that it is to married persons that the information may be given, and by physicians We know that many of the people who would be benefitted by the lifting of the ban would be those to whom life is now made continuously wretched, through the bearing and rearing of children who bring only wretchedness into the home

If all the persons in New Jersey who practice Birth Control themselves would be honest enough and fair enough to endorse the Birth Control bill, they, in conjunction with those who believe in it on principle, would present such an overwhelming majority of favorable opinion that the legislature would pass the bill without debate Let us throw away hypocrisy and stand honestly for equal opportunity for all classes to live as happy, useful and constructive lives as they possibly can \*

\* Address before the First New Jersey Birth Control Conference



## The Message of the Terrible Meek

By CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER

AT St Mark's in the Bouerie, Charles Rann Kennedy and Edith Wynn Mathison presented that tremendous drama of the crucifixion entitled, "The Terrible Meek" Those of you who have seen it will recall that the curtain rises in darkness There are heard the voices of a woman and

of a cockney captain of the guard discussing the fact that the woman's son has recently been hanged It is only as hints are occasionally dropped in the conversation, and as the light gradually increases that you find that the woman is Mary and that her son who has been hanged or crucified is Jesus, and

the remarks that she makes and the rather unusual point of view which the author makes or has, give you a fresh view of that great drama of all history

The whole denouement of the play centers around a certain awakening in the soul of Mary, who finally comes to make this supreme statement, recognizing that all her anguish, all the suffering of herself and of her son were for a definite purpose, and she says, "All this suffering and the death of my peasant boy were in order to make the world better for women and children"

### *Christ's Aim*

Now I maintain that if the Christian Church can center its attention upon that great drama of Calvary and recognize with Mary that the suffering there and the suffering in her mother heart were in order to make the world better for women and little children, no informed person will dare to say that the Church should not champion Birth Control

For the Christian Church has taken upon itself this peculiar task, to make the world better for women and little children. In whatever other tasks it has attempted, it may or may not have succeeded. It at least has tried at times to make the world better for women and little children. Paul gave things a wrong turn at first, and we have hardly yet recovered from his attitude toward women, but we are gradually coming, in Christianity and in other religions as well, to recognize the proper place of woman, which is a place equal to the place of man, and we are gradually coming to see that we must pay more attention to the comfort and the happiness and especially to the education of the little children. It is, as Dr. Reiland has so well said, coming to be recognized that the biological is extremely important in all human activity, and, thanks to such pioneers as the one whom we have with us today, we are coming to see that the Church should champion Birth Control because Birth Control does make the world better for little children.

Poetically and aesthetically the Church exalts motherhood. The time has come for the Church to co-operate actively in practical measures to make that poetical dreamy Mother's Day superstition a reality, a definite, active thing in the lives of men.

Every day I pass the Convent of the Holy Child, and there I see, enshrined in marble, high above the city traffic, the Mother and the Child, beautiful, poetic, mystic, Christian in a sense. But so often I think what a terrible tragedy, that the Church should put motherhood and the child so far above everything else that they fail sometimes even to lift their eyes and see. There they are—exalted, put upon a pedestal and forgotten, whereas the mother-

hood and the childhood are the great opportunity of the race to retrieve some of its past wrongs.

The Church, the very one which enshrines the Mother and Child upon the outside of its convents—insists that to take practical measure to insure the happiness of the mother and child is what? Obscene and immoral. Is there a more contradictory thing in history than that? The time has come for every church, every synagogue, every temple, every group of people pretending to be religious and moral, to maintain that the practical measure of Birth Control affords our best opportunity of assuring to the child the proper welcome in the home and to the mother that leisure which is absolutely imperative if she is to develop the spiritual side of her nature.

Whatever may be our particular theological relation to Jesus of Nazareth, I doubt if there is one person here this afternoon who would deny that his most important statement, or at least one of his important statements which have come down to us, is this "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

I am devoting my own particular leisure to the advocacy of Birth Control measures because I believe that in a practical sense there is no other reform which so fundamentally assures to the genus homo life, and life more abundantly.

The trouble is that that passage has been misinterpreted to mean physical life, and we have had churches, we still have churches, who insist that the thing to do is not to interfere with nature but to allow nature to produce life more abundantly. Now that reproduction of physical life until it becomes such an incubus and burden that it weights down and blots out all spiritual nature, is not the meaning of course of this phrase—not physical life, for when that comes too fast the spiritual is swamped, and the spiritual is what Jesus emphasized. I am confident that spiritual life will come not in an increase in the birth rate, and not in the having of families of fifteen and eighteen children, but rather in the producing of children properly spaced who will have adequate time for their own development given to them by the mother.

### *Heaven on Earth*

In this way, by the modern church dealing with conditions as they are, to help this world become better, we shall find ourselves nearer the happy land of heart's desire than we have hitherto been.

I believe that the Church should champion Birth Control for several very definite practical reasons. In the first place, Birth Control protects the mother against the exhaustion of body and spirit which results from too frequent child-bearing. I believe the

church should champion Birth Control because Birth Control will assure to the child a welcome and a fair start in life, and certainly everybody deserves that, it will assure to the child a mother's care and a home environment conducive to health and morals

I believe that the Church should champion Birth Control because Birth Control will mean less child labor and better educational opportunities for the young by making it possible for parents to have only such children as they can care for properly

I believe that the Church should champion Birth Control because it will cut down our tragically high infant mortality, because it will make early marriage economically possible for thousands of our young men and women and thereby diminish immorality, illegitimacy, prostitution and its accompaniment, venereal diseases. And to speak frankly and plainly to an intelligent audience, may I say this, I believe that the Church should champion Birth Control because only by the spread of contraceptive information through Birth Control Leagues, can we check the growing practice of abortion among married women whose husbands do not earn enough to support a large family

I believe the Church should champion Birth Control because Birth Control will increase the number of marriages, lessen divorce and desertion, enrich and strengthen the marriage bond by making possible normal and complete companionship between husband and wife without the haunting fear of too many children

I believe that the Church should support these measures because Birth Control will mean in short happier homes, healthier children, better men and women, a stronger nation and a nobler race

And if I may add a postscript to this rather hasty summary of a few of the reasons why the Church should champion Birth Control for its own sake—if the Church should champion Birth Control, the general public would say, "Why, the Church does care for men and women and real things, and we thought it didn't"

It is my custom to travel incognito in various parts of New York City, to dress not exactly as a clergyman ordinarily dresses, to mix in Third Avenue restaurants with people who earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow. I steer the conversation toward the Church, and if I told you the things which those men and women, ninety per cent of them, say about the Church, you would leave this room in disgust, but those things are true for them. Why not make a practical demonstration of the fact that the Church does care for the living conditions of men and women, and why not have the Church champion Birth Control? Birth Control is coming. If it comes with the help of the Church, the Church will be strengthened, but if it comes without the help of the Church, then the Church will topple from its present rather precarious position \*

\* Address before the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference

## Second Coming

By ROBERT WOLF

*Of the verses below which appeared originally in "The Wanderer," a magazine of poetry, a critic has said "It is the only poem written actually about Birth Control, a most difficult subject for any but a very able poet. It is a wonderful thing because it makes an unforgettable beauty from modern living." It is this poem which gives its name to Mr Wolf's forthcoming book of poems*

At awkward angles, and with tense regard  
For sundry small mechanical allies  
In circumventing life—with whispered word  
And fevered physiological device—  
So—through the loopholes of his body's mesh  
Man snatches all the beauty that he knows,  
And from this soil of realistic flesh

Plucks suddenly the quintessential rose  
The spirit is the body, and the body  
Identically the spirit, saith our Lord,  
And whoso disregards this word of God—he  
Makes flesh and soul alike a thing abhorred

Man's eucharistic incarnation lies  
Rooted between his own disowning thighs

# Optimum Population

By HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD, PH D

ANY one who has ever talked about population at all has used the words "under-population" and "over-population." Few have stopped to think what they really mean. If you were to ask, they would reply, "under-population means too few people and over-population means too many people." But if you were to come back with the obvious question, "Too few for what? Too many for what?" most of them would be stumped.

These very terms imply some standard, some criterion by which the size of population is judged. What is it? Answers will differ. Some will say national defense or military security. If we must have wars, there is some validity in this answer. But as a final criterion it indicates a very pessimistic outlook. Others will reply, religious obligation. A very clear and emphatic statement of this point of view, representing authoritatively a very important body of believers, is the following

## *"The Glory of God"*

"The Christian family was not made for the State as for its final destiny. It was made for the glory of God. Fruitfulness in child-bearing tells eventually for the greater glory of God. The mutual happiness of the persons of the blessed Trinity is all sufficient for the intrinsic glory of God. God, however, has chosen to surround Himself with an extrinsic glory. He has created creatures to give him honor and praise. And the greatest honor and praise of this kind that can be given Him is that of man. It adds nothing to God's internal happiness, but is rather the expression and diffusion of God's love and goodness outside Himself. God, therefore, having provided this great happiness for His creatures, He wishes as many as possible to avail themselves of it. In this way He obtains His greatest external glory. The greater the number of souls that are added to the number of the elect, so much the richer is the music of nature's hymn of praise."\*

On such a contention as this there is, of course, no possibility of argument. It lies quite outside the scope of argument. If any individual or body of individuals believe that they can speak authoritatively concerning God's wishes in the matter, and if they believe that the foregoing statement represents his wishes, there is no possibility of dislodging them from their position by force of argument. If any person sees fit to believe that God gets more

glory from three billion people bitterly struggling with each other for the means to eke out a wretched and pestilential existence from the over-crowded earth upon which they swarm than he does from two billions living in measurable comfort and content, respectful of the well-being of others, he is secure in his belief. For my part, I would rather believe in no God at all than in that kind of a God.

It seems to me that there can be but one criterion which is of universal application, tangible, and capable of some degree of concrete measurement and representation. This is human happiness. Population may be appraised according to whether it is too large or too small to promote the maximum human happiness. Happiness, to be sure, is a very large and inclusive term, and many different things are involved in it. For the practical purposes of social science, particularly in matters of population, it is expedient to limit the discussion to those forms of happiness which rest upon material supplies, in short, to the standard of living. In the standard of living is found the final goal of all conscious social effort and engineering that deals with the material aspects of life, and almost every aspect of well-being is more or less closely dependent upon the material underpinning of existence.

Under-population, then, exists when the population is too small under existing conditions to permit a society to raise its standard of living to the maximum level that might be possible, over-population exists when the population is too great to permit of the maximum standard. The existence of these two extremes indicates at once that there must be some middle ground. There must be at a given time in a given society a certain size of population which represents the most favorable situation for the maintenance of the standard of living. It is obvious that this number is not a fixed one, just as the numbers that constitute under-population or over-population are not fixed. The optimum population will vary with conditions.

## *Factors of Welfare*

In the life of every society there are four great factors of welfare always at work. These are the land, the stage of the arts, the population, and the standard of living. These all have a reciprocal relation to each other, and any one may in a sense be considered as the product of the other three. They logically fall, however, into two sets of two factors each. Land and the stage of the arts may be con-

\*Gerrard, T. J. Marriage and Parenthood. The Catholic Ideal, p. 117.

sidered as the sources from which man derives his material well-being, population and the standard of living may be regarded as the objects to which he devotes the material supplies that he has been able to produce. He may enlarge his population or he may improve his standard of living. Of the two, the standard of living has value for its own sake. Size of population has, as we have seen, no intrinsic value. The value of the size of population is to be measured by its effect on the standard of living. There is nothing to be desired in the mere increase of ordinary people. The more of them there are the more ordinary they are. The object of social endeavour should be not the volume of life, but the value of lives.

Both under-population and over-population are possible states, and both have existed. But under-population must be considered as a very rare and very temporary situation. It has arisen only under exceptional circumstances, and has never endured for long, for the very simple reason that its remedy is found in the gratification of one of the most powerful of all human motives, the desire for unrestrained multiplication. On the basis of individual and social psychology as they have existed up to date it may be said that just as nature abhors a vacuum, human nature abhors under-population. A state of actual under-population need never worry a society greatly. It will take care of itself.

### *Chronic Overcrowding*

Overpopulation, however, has been a very common and very influential factor in human experience. It would probably be safe to say that practically all societies from the beginning of human existence down to the period of the Great Discoveries, and the large majority of them since then, have suffered chronically from over-population. The acquisition of more land and the improvement in the stage of the arts have repeatedly given opportunity to establish an optimum population, simply by holding numbers in check without going to the painful extreme of actually reducing numbers. But every time such an opportunity has come the impulse to increase has forced population ahead in advance of the new opportunities, and the chance has been lost. Just once in the entire career of mankind did there come a combination of new land and improved arts so sudden and so sweeping that it outdistanced population, and created conditions of underpopulation in certain parts of the earth's surface, while raising the standard of living practically all over the globe. This was the era of the Great Discoveries and the Industrial and Commercial Revolutions—the extraordinary population history of the Nineteenth Century was the result. During that one hundred years mankind added consider-

ably more to its numbers than it had in all the hundreds of thousands of years that preceded. As a consequence a spirit of optimism established itself throughout the world, especially in western lands, a spirit unjustified today, for, as far as we can foresee, "it never can happen again."

There is no greater service that social science can render to an intelligent society than to keep it posted as to just what its optimum population is at successive periods. This is a service, alas! which social science as yet is quite incompetent to render. About the best it can hope to do at present is to watch closely for signs that the dividing line has been passed, and issue a warning. This is, obviously, distinctly a negative service in most of the countries of the world, where they know all too well from merely pragmatic evidence that they are already over-populated. But for countries like the United States, Canada, Australia, and some of the South American countries there is still a chance. For this we may be devoutly thankful. For it is much easier to avoid over-population than it is to correct it. It is much easier to hold on to optimum population than it is to create it after the dividing line has been crossed.

It is a very interesting, and also practical, speculation as to whether here in the United States we have reached the level of optimum population, or whether we are on it at the present moment, or whether, perchance, we have already passed over to the shady side of it. There is some evidence that the last supposition is nearest the truth. There is very good reason to believe that the standard of living of the common labor class, at least, has been slowly declining for a generation. This would not necessarily mean that the standard of the whole country was going down. For it is quite possible for the standard of a country as a whole to go up, while that of a single group within the country, even a majority group, is going down.

But however this may be, it is quite certain that we are near enough to the margin of over-population to justify us in giving the most careful and assiduous thought to the matter, and in utilizing every available sociological resource to devise and put into operation methods to keep the increase of population adjusted to the conditions requisite for the maintenance of the highest standard of living. When it is considered that at the rate at which we are going now here in the United States, by the end of this century—a date that our children will live to see—we shall be living under conditions of worse overcrowding than prevail in China today, the wayfaring man though a fool must be able to see that there is no time to lose.\*

\* Address before the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference.

# Birth Control and Woman's General Advance

By DORIS STEVENS

**T**HE greatest obstacle in my opinion to the rapid and easy advance of Birth Control is the false social barriers to woman's psychic release

Through every medium of culture, through church, state, science, arts, industry, man has over-emphasized woman's femaleness, and so, her reproductive ability. Having carefully built up the fiction, to which woman has, with few exceptions, consented, that woman was important first as a female, second as a human being, man thereupon excluded woman on the ground of her femaleness from the full, free expression of life

This over-emphasis of woman's reproductive ability, this social exclusion from diverse expression of her creative abilities, is too universal to have been accidental. It is as if man, not being the race bearer, had elected to compensate himself by usurping all other power. Instead of accepting woman as the continuum of the race he has resented it, and this resentment has led us *all* into the gravest difficulties. Acceptance by man of the fact of woman's reproductive ability would have left him, as well as her, free to discover woman's other psychic potentialities. Resenting in the beginning this ability to bear offspring from which he conceived himself to be excluded, man became preoccupied with confining woman to the reproductive function only

## *A Double Standard*

What do we find in custom? Based on this over-emphasis of woman as mother, man has made one standard of conduct for himself and another for her. He has allowed himself sex experience without social taboo. He has denied her sex experience, under the penalty of social taboo, if she disregards his dictum! He has written in law as well as in custom that prostitution is a crime for woman only, not also for the man who consorts with the prostitute

In the United States, for example, 37 out of 48 states define prostitution as an act of the female alone. Women are punished and the men go free. The laws and regulations for the control of venereal diseases are also enforced much less rigorously against them, and thousands of women are locked up for treatment, while men are only required to report to a clinic

Custom speaks when a man rises, sits, bares his head, to woman. He does so because he conjures

up before him the image of potential motherhood. Every time a traffic policeman helps through the traffic an able-bodied young woman rather than the casual elderly gentleman, he does so because she is a potential mother. The double standard of conduct follows her wherever she goes

Where women have rebelled and painfully invaded education, the professions, science, government and industry, man's over-emphasis on femaleness has followed her as if it were a curse. Discriminations beset her. Separate laws restrict her. Prohibitive laws, when not actual, are prescribed through the crust of custom. Barriers have been piled high against her until only through the utmost heroism she has kicked them in

## *Sanctification of Motherhood*

But suppose you are not convinced that these facts in the realm of man's law and custom do hinder the rapid spread of Birth Control

Let us consider where in the realm of human relations this separating out of woman, this exclusion of woman, has brought us. Keeping woman apart, excluding her from the whole of life, stressing her reproductive function, discriminating against her desire to create outside reproduction, minimizing her sexual and amatory needs (only in late years have a few scientists admitted that she had any), has nourished the false and persisting belief that there is something so mysterious about woman as a human being that her psyche cannot be and need not be explored in the light of scientific truth. This indolent and convenient doctrine has served as a temporary escape, but it has left human relations in a deplorable state

Setting woman apart made her a stranger, a mystery, and so something to be feared. As man has always sanctified what he most feared, so he sanctified woman. Out of this fear-inspired sanctification has come the hideous attachment of guilt to sex, when he seeks to take her in love. For first to sanctify and then to attempt to treat one humanly is an impossible task psychically. For fear and guilt are inseparable companions

We have seen how man in fear and consequent resentment against motherhood—woman's single ability with which he could not compete—has abstracted from woman this one image—femaleness, reproduction—motherhood. We have seen how in

exalting this one image he has debased the rest

After man made this partial abstraction of woman, he tried to love it. But so saturated has he become with this conception of woman as the mother, so saturated with it has all thought become, that it is nothing short of miraculous when a man succeeds in mating perfectly with a woman. As a result of this false pattern, man has had the utmost difficulty in making satisfactory unions, seeking so frequently in woman a mother, not a mate. And woman on the other hand has attempted to give the whole of herself to man who conceived her in parts. Psychologists through their research will doubtless some day present us with exact information determining how many men have been psychically emasculated as mates through the iniquitous overemphasis of woman's femaleness, and the restriction of woman's creative life in large measure to motherhood. This is the sequence. Man sanctifies mother-woman. Then he tries to take her in love. Guilt enters, and the sanctification which he thought would banish guilt redoubles it, exaggerates the mother fixation, and thus throws him deeper into the morass of tangled sex-love.

### *A Figure of Fear*

In infancy it is natural and desirable to make the closest possible contact with the mother. But as the child grows older he should add to this image of woman-mother other images of woman as a self-directing, variously-functioning person. As he approaches the time of mating, he must free himself of this continuing mother-image, or almost the first thing he encounters when the love impulse toward a given woman overtakes him, is this ever-recurring figure of woman as a reproductive animal. This figure is a figure of fear.

Now, no one can give or take adequately through the medium of fear. And so we find men and women at the time of mating, when they should be most friendly, strangers to each other, distrustful of each other, trying painfully to make adequate love relations, resulting in too much third-rate love-life. It does not seem to me that we need worry about too much normal sex life—what is cause for greater alarm is the fear of sex in one form or another which overtakes the young. As we know, fear leads to attack, to brutality, to clumsiness, to retreat, even to excess. It stimulates competition, in place of co-operation. It negates aesthetic delight.

This disintegration, this splitting up of woman into parts, was bound to bring guilt and impotency to men and demoralization of the worst kind to women. Superior women have made articulate their discontent and rebellion against disintegra-

tion. Meek, accepting women have consented to the separation of their psyche into parts, and so become wretched, neurasthenic, backward, or, what is still sadder, emotionally dead.

### *A Despised Profession*

Consider now that large groups of men and women in society have taken their sex fears with them into married life. Here we find women, broadly speaking, in two professions—home-making and the rearing of children—professions never disputed, never contended for by men. We find women in these two occupations performing the unpaid labor of the world. With few exceptions, women are the only human beings who perform labor without pay. Now, slaves have always reproduced willingly and to excess. As fast as this master and slave society is broken down, so speedily will Birth Control extend itself. Abolish non-paid labor in the home, raise the occupations of home-making and child-rearing to a dignified status and the checked birth rate will be one of the first results. This assertion is borne out by facts on all sides among women who have gone to work for pay outside the home. Among these women Birth Control is already in practice. Those women who prefer to work in the home must compel standardization of this work and payment for it, before they will attain self-respect enough to demand publicly and secure easily, contraceptive knowledge.

### *All Life Her Sphere*

Among woman's activities outside the home, it is important that she be encouraged, yes, helped up into every avenue of life she chooses to enter. Distinguish her achievements, honor her enterprises, reward her service in all her undertakings, and the over-emphasis upon her as reproductive animal exclusively, will take its proper place in the normal creative life of woman.

Freedom to decide when they shall become mothers, how many children they shall bear, already exists among women of the more economically secure class of society. A wider choice of modes of psychic release open to them, if they wish to embrace it, has automatically reduced the birth-rate. But, I take it, our concern lies more particularly with the less secure classes which reproduce excessively, and I see no thorough relief to women or to society until the subjection of women, the inferior position in which they still are, is lifted.\*

\* Excerpts from an address before the Sixth International Birth Control Conference.

## "NATURE'S WAY"

*Letters Which Tell the Tragedy of Wasted Effort, of Pregnancy and Childbearing With No Results*

*Civilization, or man living in society, has kept population down by the three great scourges—war, pestilence, famine. But Nature has still other and more individual methods. By spontaneous abortion, by stillbirths, by infant deaths immediately after birth, she holds down the survival rate in a family. And with each wasted birth pang she drains the mother's vitality and brings her nearer to the grave. Shall we, who boast a humane religion allow this purposeless waste of life and health and happiness to continue?*

### Eight Miscarriages

New York

I was rather disappointed when reading "Woman and the New Race" for I thought that probably there would be something that would tell me just what to do to keep from having a large family. Being there was not, I thought I would drop you a few lines to ask you if you would not be so kind and advise me something that would sure be certain and not disappoint a person. I am 33 years old, a mother of 3 living children, 2 died for me and had about 8 miscarriages. Have made up my mind that I would not have any more children if it would kill me. When I have children they are strong and the midwife or doctors say that I am build awful narrow that's why I have a terrible time and after the birth I get the hemorrhage. To tell the truth I don't wish no dog to go through what I have to stand let alone a human being. My husband is a miner and does not as much as make a miserable living. Please excuse my writing as I'm a Bohemian. I can't write plain English. So please send me some advice for which I will be more than thankful to you.

more miscarriages within 11 months after my second. I now have 2 more children and an adopted one. Each time I get weaker and before my last one I suffered from hysteria. I now have another one only 1 month old and feel myself going into a nervous decline. My husband has chronic asthma and I feel as though we are not able to provide for any more and also my health isn't what it should be. Now any help that you can give me will surely be greatly appreciated.

### "It is Death to Birth a Child"

Alabama

I am a young woman age 20 years old. Have been married 4 years and my husband is only a laboring man. I was married only 6 months and I had a 4 months miscarriage and in 5 months after I had another miscarriage and then in a year and a half I had a fine 10 pound boy which is awful sweet, and I am expecting in a week or two for another baby and when I am pregnant I am in the awful shape, can hardly go. Most things are wrong with me in my body. I look like not able to do my work and I have broken veins on my legs, can hardly go and I fell the other day and hurt one of my legs and can't hardly walk and now expecting to birth a child any time. What on earth am I going to do. It is death to birth a child let alone the other things after the child comes.

### Stillborn

Kentucky

I am 27 years of age, have been married almost 10 years. In the last 8 of these I have given birth to 2 stillborn children, 1 living one and have miscarried four times, making 7 times in the 8 years I have been pregnant. We have only a limited means and I don't know how we would have taken care of them had they all been to full term and lived. Will close trusting that you can in some way help us.

### Can't Carry a Baby Nine Months

Tennessee

I am 22 years old. I am in bad health, am not able to do any house work much and I had a six month's miscarriage with my first baby and in 15 months I had an eight pound girl and in 3 years a 9 lb boy, in 16 months I had a three month's miscarriage and in 3 months I had a 2 month's miscarriage, in 7 months I had another 2 month's miscarriage, in 5 months I had a four month's miscarriage and I almost died the last time which the doctor says I can't stand it many more times and he says I can't carry a 9 month's baby any more because I am too

### Brief and Miserable Lives

Pennsylvania

I was married at 17 and quite ignorant. I had a child and he was born with deformed eyelids. He died at the age of 5 years. I had another one which was a premature and also deformed but only lived a few hours. I had two



weak I feel so bad all the time I can't hardly take care of myself My husband is reasonable about me getting in the family way but I get caught Have tried every way to find out what I could do to keep from getting that way so often I have been advised to ask you I sure would be happiest woman in the world if you could tell me what to do for life is no pleasure to me now I will thank you so much I am just a miner's wife but I would manage to pay the price to get relief

### ***Fifteen Pregnancies, Four Living***

Pennsylvania

I am married 14 years and I have been pregnant 15 times I only have 4 living children I am getting weaker these last few years I have buried two full time babies, one only lived 5 weeks and little girl at 3 months with waste of flesh, and my little boy now that is living he had that too but he overcame that, but he aint well 3 babies I carried to 7 months and lost them and the rest at 2 and 3 months and lost them and I expect to be confined in August and when I get over this if I only would know what to do I certainly would prevent myself from getting that way My last full time baby living is 18 months old this month My husband is an awful moonshine drinker and I should not have children but what am I going to do, drive him away from home? My heart is broken the way I get just one after another I am only 33 years old and I am not like I used to be, so if you please would only help me out I bought your book thinking it would help me but you say in your book there are several means of preventing conception and you cannot say on account of the law, so if you please can tell me in this addressed envelope I hope some day to do a great favor for you

### ***Unable to Carry Them Through***

Canada

I feel I must write to you I think your ideas are the best I have read yet I would like you to tell me what I could do to have no more children I have three I have been married 9 years and had several miscarriages and I don't think I will be able to have any more and carry them through I got my womb strained when I lifted my sister-in-law when she was sick and she died with me, but the doctor won't give me anything I am afraid to have any more, they are awful bad times and it costs so much every time I would like to get help for my sister-in-law She is 36 years and she has 11 of a family and likely to have more and she does not know what to do at times to feed them Her husband has been off work 6 months sick and she has two boys ready for work and can't get any The sooner the working class begin to see we are human the same as the rich it will be a better place to live, the sooner we get a Russia over here the better for us and we could if the working class get together in a body and get a decent world to live in as it is now it is Hell on earth, so if you can benefit us poor sisters in need I will thank you the rest of my life

### ***"Seeing Them Come and Go"***

New Jersey

I was married in June 1913 and the next year in July I had a girl, that lived two months and 17 days And the next year in January I had a boy who lived 8 months and 4 days And the next year in January I had a girl, she is now 7 years old, a lovely girl going to school every day 18 months from that time I had another girl which lived 2 months and 17 days and in 1920 I had a boy who lived 5 months and one day and the next year in June I had a girl which died an hour after it was born and in 1923 I had a boy in June and he died on the 17th of November, and in January I had a miscarriage of 3 months So you see we have had pretty hard luck and a lot of expense It leaves me nothing but a wreck A friend of mine gave me your address and my husband told me to write to you for he was tired of seeing them come and go all the time So if you would write me and please tell me of anything to do I would be very pleased Hoping this will find you well

### ***"I Have got to where I Lose Them"***

South Carolina

I will write you a few lines to let you know I received your book I enjoyed reading your book, but I can't understand it for I have not got much education as I married young I married when I wasn't but 15 years old My health is bad, I am sick all the time and have children fast I have got to where I lose them I am not strong enough to carry them The doctor has told me I have tuberculosis, and I can't hardly live half of the time and having children and miscarrying is more than I can bear I would be more than glad if you will write me a letter in plain language so I can understand I don't believe it will be any sin when anyone can't keep them when they get that way The doctor says I will never carry another till time any more You know my health is a wreck and I am just 22 years old now I have not seen any pleasure in my young days I don't mind what I paid for your book so much good reading in it, if I could just understand the main part

### ***From a Consumptive***

Oregon

I was married when I was seventeen, and am now twenty-one I am the mother of two girls, aged three years and seven months and have had one miscarriage I have been operated on four times for tubercular glands Every time I get to feeling better I get pregnant and then I get worse

My mother died when I was five, of tuberculosis caused by having too many children I am afraid if I have any more children, I will go just like my mother did and leave my girls to get along the best they can, and I know what it is to be brought up without a mother

I love children but I have sense enough to know that I have no business bringing them into the world as I am

A STATEMENT  
BY THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL

*Amendment to the United States Penal Code*  
RELATING TO



IN FURTHERANCE of demands of the medical profession, the American Birth Control League has launched a campaign to amend the federal laws dealing with contraception. The object of the amendment is to make scientific contraceptive information and supplies available to physicians throughout the country, enabling them in the discharge of their professional duties to give contraceptive treatment to patients in need of it. This action by the League inaugurates a new and significant phase of the Birth Control movement.

Section 211 of the United States Penal Code effectually ties the physician's hands by prohibiting the use of the mails and other common carriers for the dissemination of contraceptive information and the distribution of supplies even to members of the medical profession, thereby putting in jeopardy the lives of countless women. Its effect is to shut off these women from the clean, scientific, trustworthy advice and care of reputable doctors and force them to go for relief to quacks and abortionists.

The proposed amendment permits the mailing of such information, supplies and scientific reports by duly licensed physicians to other physicians, and allows bona fide druggists, manufacturers and physicians to mail and receive articles of contraception to and from the medical practitioner.

This form of amendment has been endorsed by the Obstetrical and Gynecological Division of the American Medical Association and by the American Gynecological Association, and it has the support of the best minds of the country in the fields of medicine, sociology and psychiatry. In the opinion of the League it will satisfy every requirement of the Birth Control movement insofar as the federal laws are concerned.

The aim of the League is to secure for the mothers of America the best and safest instruction in conception control, with due regard to the physical, mental, moral and economic circumstances of the individual case. The experience of its Clinical Research Department has confirmed the League's conviction that medical examination and instruction are necessary for successful results in Birth Control. No one method of contraception will suit every case. The particular method adapted to the special requirements of the individual patient must be selected, and the choice can be made only by a well-informed physician. Birth Control teaching therefore is exclusively the province of the doctor, and the League is unalterably opposed to any change in the federal statutes that would lead to its commercial exploitation. The result of opening the mails to vendors of so-called preventives of conception, most of them inadequate or worthless to the majority of women, would be wide-spread deception, bitter disappointment and a distinct set-back to the cause of Birth Control.

There is, however, no danger of such an eventuality. Congress has no intention of letting down the bars, and any attempt to secure legislation of this character will inevitably fail. The League's proposal is in an entirely different category. It is scientific, reasonable and humane, and the fact that physicians themselves are sponsoring the form of amendment proposed by the League assures for the measure a sympathetic hearing at Washington.

# MENT

## OL LEAGUE ON ITS PROPOSED

### *d States Postal Law*

## ONTRACEPTION

Congress will be told that the present federal law is a standing affront to the American medical profession and that it is manifestly contrary to every principle of modern preventive medicine that there should exist any legal barrier which shuts off physicians from necessary scientific information and supplies. Under the law it is illegal for a doctor in one city or state to send the results of his professional experience and clinical observations to a doctor in another city or state. There has been much important practical work in Birth Control carried on in Holland and in England at clinics to which thousands of women have gone for aid and instruction. The experience of doctors in those clinics is of vast importance to the doctors who are beginning to conduct similar clinics in this country, but it is illegal to send through the mails any records or any discussion of methods that have proved successful or otherwise. Appliances have been perfected in Europe which are not well known here, but it is impossible to import them into the United States because the law prohibits such importation.

The amendment proposed by the American Birth Control League reads

Sec 211 Provided that

Standard medical and scientific journals and reprints therefrom and standard medical works and reprints therefrom which contain information with reference to the preventing of conception are not non-mailable under this section

Provided Further that

1 Any article, instrument, substance, drug or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception, or any written or printed information or advice concerning the prevention of conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed by a duly licensed physician to

- a another person known to him to be a duly licensed physician,
- b one of his bona fide patients in the course of his professional practice,
- c a bona fide printer or publisher or by such printer or publisher to a duly licensed physician

2 Any article, instrument, substance, drug or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception is not non-mailable under this section when mailed in the regular course of legitimate business by

- a an importer to a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs, or by a manufacturer or wholesale dealer in drugs to an importer,
- b a manufacturer to a wholesale dealer in drugs or by such wholesale dealer to a manufacturer,
- c a wholesale dealer in drugs to another such wholesale dealer or a retail dealer in drugs, or by such retail dealer to such wholesale dealer,
- d a retail dealer in drugs to a duly licensed physician or to another person upon the written prescription of a duly licensed physician, or by such physician or person to such retail dealer

### STATEMENT

The object of this amendment is to permit the mailing of contraceptive information and scientific reports and articles by duly licensed physicians

Announcement of this amendment signifies that the Birth Control movement in this country has now passed beyond the stage of agitation and preliminary public education and, with the vigorous support of a large section of the American medical profession, has entered upon a new stage of practical scientific work

# The Trend of British Population

By A L BOWLEY

**W**HILE the principal changes in the numbers of births, deaths, and migrants are common knowledge to all who interest themselves in population, little attention has been paid to the effects already manifest, and still less to their ultimate reaction on the size and age-constitution of the nation.

The following analysis relates throughout to Great Britain as a whole. The movements in Scotland and England are similar. Since there has been no census in Ireland since 1911, it is not possible to deal with the United Kingdom as a whole.

GREAT BRITAIN			
	Population	Annual Increase	
		Actual	Per 1,000
1901			
March—Enumerated	37,118,000		
1911			
March—Enumerated	40,831,000	371,000	10.0
1921			
June—Enumerated	42,766,000	189,000	4.5
1925			
June—Estimated	43,600,000	210,000	4.9

The current rate of growth barely exceeds that in the decade that included the war, and, if present tendencies continue, will fall farther in the future. The increase in population equals the excess of births over deaths (the "natural increase"), less the excess of emigrants over immigrants. In the decade 1901-11 the average annual natural increase was 461,000, and the loss by migration 90,000. In the decade 1911-21 the war losses were to some extent compensated by a check to emigration. In the four years 1921-25 the average annual natural increase was 305,000—only two-thirds of that at the beginning of the century—and the annual loss by migration about 95,000. The migration figures include not only persons permanently changing their place of residence, but also temporary travellers. Technically they are described as the "net passenger movement." The population as enumerated at the census is the accidental population of the moment, including aliens and visitors. In 1901 an estimate of the soldiers in South Africa is included.

It is well known that the birth-rate and the death-rate have been diminishing for 50 years, it is not so generally realized that the actual number of births has fallen nearly continuously for more than 20 years, so that in 1924 it was only 77 per cent of the number in 1903 in Great Britain, and that the number of deaths has also fallen, but not so rapidly.

The fall in the death-rate in England and Wales

is apparent for both sexes in all age-groups under 75 years. For all ages the deaths in 1921-23 were over one-sixth fewer than if the 1910-12 death-rates had been maintained, in the group under five years old 30 per cent of the losses were avoided. In spite of this saving of infant life the population is older on the average.

## POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Ages	Percentage of Total		Numbers 000's	
	1901	1921	1901	1921
0-5	11.6	8.9	4,249	3,794
5-10	10.7	9.4	3,979	3,996
10-15	10.3	9.7	3,811	4,150
15-20	10.0	9.3	3,721	3,981
20-65	52.9	56.7	19,625	24,263
65	4.5	6.0	1,733	2,583
	100.0	100.0	37,118	42,767
1911 Ages 5-10, 4,211,000				

The number of infants under five years was in 1921 11 per cent less than in 1901, the number of children of five to ten years was less by 205,000 in 1921 than in 1911, and this fall will be perceptible in higher ages as decade succeeds decade. The number of school children has been on the downgrade for some years, the number of boys and girls now entering industry, the survivors of those born in 1911, is no greater than in the previous ten years, and a serious fall will be felt by 1930, when the births subsequent to 1915 become dominant. If the school age is raised industry will soon be short of recruits.

Meanwhile the number of adults seeking work has increased considerably—there were 740,000 more men aged 25 to 65 in 1921 than in 1911—while the number of pensionable age has grown more rapidly than any other group.

## The Future

So far we have dealt with facts, ascertained with sufficient accuracy for practical purposes, the following estimates are based on hypotheses which may not be realized. The determinants of the growth of population are births, deaths and migration. As regards the population over six years in 1931, over 16 years in 1941, we know the births and are only doubtful about deaths and migration. For the deaths we can make an estimate by the death-rates of recent years, and the diagram given below\*

\* Not printed for lack of space

does not suggest any further fall in the near future. In the table below the results of applying the death-rates of 1921-3 to the population of 1921 (using 20 separate age and sex groups) is shown. The results for 1931 and 1941 show the population above 5 and 15 years respectively that would be found in Great Britain if there were no migration.

For the young we are on more difficult ground. The present very low birth-rate may not continue. It is no doubt at present kept down by the lack of houses for the newly married, and probably also by the depression in trade. On the other hand the number of potential young mothers will fall from now onwards as the diminishing number of births after 1903 has its influence. In face of these doubtful factors a pure hypothesis must be made, and we will work on the assumption that there will be 840,000 births per annum (the actual number in 1924) and that there is no further change in death-rates. On these hypothesis we arrive at the figures in the following table.

THE POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN, estimated on certain hypotheses (assuming no emigration)

Ages	1921	000 s 1931	1941
All—			
Under 5	3,794	3,743	3,743
5 to 15	8,146	7,279	7,320
15 to 20	3,981	3,921	3,739
Males—			
20 to 65	11,340	12,932	13,695
65 and over	1,103	1,256	2,031
Females—			
20 to 45	8,643	9,210	9,234
45 to 65	4,279	5,255	5,807
65 and over	1,480	1,933	2,522
Total	42,766	45,799	48,091
Annual increase	303,000	229,000	

These figures include no allowance for emigration. In fact, however, the population has already been diminished by about 380,000 migrants in the

four years since the census of 1921. At present there is a check to emigration, and its future cannot be foreseen, but something must be taken off the estimate for 1931 and 1941 on this account, and if we suppose net emigration to be 50,000 per annum for the next six years, we should write the population in 1931 as 45,100,000, and a greater reduction must be made in the estimate for 1941.

It is, of course, possible to make estimates reaching farther into the future, but the hypotheses become less and less tenable. It may, however, be worth recording that the present number of births (and the present death-rates) would ultimately result in a stationary population in Great Britain not far off 50,000,000.

Some important conclusions follow.

**HOUSING**—When the present shortage is overcome, and existing bad premises replaced by new ones, the normal increase needed can readily be obtained. Since the population will be on the average older, more room per person will be needed, but since families are smaller four-roomed houses will in many cases be sufficient.

**EDUCATION**—The number of children of school age has already passed its maximum.

**EMPLOYMENT**—When a reasonable estimate is made for emigration it is found that the number of adult men seeking work will grow at, roughly speaking, about 100,000 per annum in the immediate future, and that this number will soon fall, unless emigration becomes insignificant. The number of boys and girls of employable age is already diminishing.

**OLD AGE**—The number of men and women over 65 years is increasing at a rapid rate, and will continue to increase till 1970, when it will begin to be affected by the check in births after 1903. Unless the age of retirement is postponed their support will tend to be a serious burden. These facts are no doubt taken account of in the new Pensions Act.\*

\* Reprinted by courtesy of the *Manchester Guardian*.



## The Outline of Marriage

### PART IV

By FLOYD DELL

**H**AS mankind always exercised a conscious restraint over the instinctive passion for reproduction?

**THE ANTHROPOLOGIST**—So far as we know, yes. Through all recorded history—and apparently for long millenniums before.

**Q** How has this restraint been exercised?

**A** By social control over individuals, deciding which ones, and under what conditions, shall be permitted to have offspring.

**Q** What is this social control called?

**A** It is called the institution of marriage.

—Just a moment, before we proceed! There is somebody in the back of the hall who wants to ask a question—Speak up, so everybody can hear!

THE MAN IN THE BACK OF THE HALL Did I understand the Professor to say that the institution of marriage has been, so to speak, a method of Birth Control?

—Yes, how about it, Professor? Please explain that point to us

### Preventing Children by Marriage

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST Certainly Child-bearing has generally been a privilege of the married. That privilege has been denied to the unmarried. Marriage is, among other things, a social permission to have children. The granting of that privilege to some persons implies a withholding of it from other persons. It involves a social selection of parents, a social giving and withholding of the privilege of parenthood, upon some other basis than the mutual sexual attraction of the potential parents. In almost all societies, there are certain groups of people, men and women, set apart and denied this privilege for a long time or altogether. In many warlike tribes, the warriors may not marry until they have permission from their chief, and since it is the general opinion that unmarried men make the best soldiers, this permission is generally withheld until their best fighting days are over. In other tribes, the warriors are as a caste prohibited from marrying at all, though this prohibition is not of course expected to prevent them from having temporary amatory attachments. In a similar way, both men and women are, in many tribes, set apart for religious services and prohibited from marrying. Thus two great institutions, war and religion, have the priority of selection among the individuals of the tribe, as against the perpetuation of the species. Those who do marry must not only, at the behest of the community, give up a certain quota of their children to the uses of war and religion, but they may even be required to sacrifice their first born to appease the wrath of some deity.

Q Still, people did get married, Professor!

### Some Marriage Rules

A Yes, under queer sets of restrictive rules—say that we take a simple four-class marriage system in an Australian tribe. Let us call the four-marriage classes the Ants, the Beavers, the Crows and the Deer. Well, then, an Ant man must marry a Beaver girl, and their children will belong to the Crow class. A Crow man must marry a Deer girl, and their children will be Ants. A Beaver man must marry an Ant girl, and their children will be Deer. A Deer man must marry a Crow girl, and their children will be Beavers—That is, as I say,

a comparatively simple arrangement, and it results in everybody marrying his or her cross-cousin. But sometimes there is an eight-class marriage system, the complexities of which are too frightful to describe.

For the more preposterous and insane workings of this spirit, I refer you to the pages of Westermarck's *History of Human Marriage*. But, to illustrate the particular point at issue, I would like to call two witnesses of my own, a young man and a young woman from the head-hunting regions of Borneo. May I?

—Why, certainly, Professor. Bring them on!

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST Here they are. Ladies and gentlemen, this handsome young man in the embroidered loin-cloth is Bobo. And this dusky young woman is Waska. If you will ask them some questions about marriage in Borneo, I will translate their answers for you.

### Love in Borneo!

Q Very well. Bobo, are you in love with Waska?

A He says, you bet he is!

Q And Waska, do you love Bobo? Never mind answering, I can see it. Well, then, are you two married?

A They say no.

Q Why not?

A Bobo says he had bad luck in head-hunting.

Q What of that? He'll have better luck some time. Why doesn't he marry the girl?

A Perhaps I had better explain. In Borneo, the test of a young man's fitness for marriage is his success in head-hunting. Head-hunting is, as you might deduce, hunting for heads—human heads. In Borneo, when a young man wants to convince a prospective father-in-law of his eligibility as a suitor, he goes hunting, with a band of his companions. They sneak up on a neighboring village, shout their war-cry, and are immediately engaged by a band of young men who are lying around with their spears handy, waiting for something like that to happen. There's a fight, and a quick get-away, with or without a few heads. Sometimes the other side gets the heads. Sometimes there aren't enough heads to go round. The lucky fellow that has a head takes it home and pickles it, and then one day swaggers up to his prospective father-in-law's door, with a bundle under his arm. He unwraps his bundle and throws it down on the front porch. "How's that?" he says. The old man looks at it and says, "My boy, I'm proud of you! You are made of the right stuff! The country needs more like you! There's nothing sissy about you, I'll say!" or words to that effect. And then the boy says, "How about that youngest daughter of yours?"

And the old man replies, "I would be happy to entrust her to your hands! Have a chew of betelnut!" That, roughly speaking, is the way it goes. Only poor Bobo here has had, as he says, bad luck. He's never managed to get away with a head, yet. So that's why they aren't married. And what's worse, Waska is getting to be seventeen, and ought to be married to someone, so her father is planning to marry her off to the old chief, who has a dozen wives already. Are there any more questions?

Q Yes. I'd like to ask if the relations of these young people have—er—remained perfectly—you know what I mean!

A Borneo is much like the rest of the world. In other words, they haven't.

Q But—but—

A Yes?

Q Has Waska had any babies?

A Oh, no—that isn't permitted to an unmarried girl in Borneo! There is a certain weed which when made into a decoction serves the purpose of maintaining the social proprieties—a woman's secret, passed down from time immemorial.

Q I do not wish to seem to pry unduly into the pitiful secrets of Waska's life, but I would like to know how many children have been prevented from being born, by the marriage system of Borneo?

A I think it is safe to say that she would have had two children by this time.

Q One more question. I would like to ask Bobo if he believes in marriage.

A He says, of course!

Q And Waska?

A She says every girl wants to be married.

Q Thank you. That is all. Convey to Bobo and Waska our thanks for their trouble in coming here. Tell Bobo that we hope he will have better luck in hunting next time, so that their romance can end in the approved *Saturday Evening Post* manner.

Professor, I think we may consider your point established. Marriage, we concede, is a monopoly in restraint of reproduction. But *within* that institution, reproduction is surely encouraged, is it not?

### Woman's Special Job

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST Within that institution, yes. In fact, exactly as we have noted that certain individuals have been withdrawn from the uses of reproduction and denied the privilege of being parents, we have here to note that other individuals are withdrawn from most other human uses and denied the privilege of being anything but parents! But in this case it is only one parent who is thus restricted exclusively to the role of parenthood—the female parent. And that restriction is not, of course, absolute—there are always a variety of domestic services required of her, in addition to her

parental services. It is only the more important human uses, or those that are conceived to be such, that she is forbidden to participate in.

Q Professor, to what do you ascribe this traditional limitation of woman's "sphere?"

A To the impulse of specialization—the belief that an individual can do a thing well only if he devotes all his energies to that one thing. It is a trait that begins far back in biology. The different species represent the working-out of the impulse toward specialization. Our own species was lucky enough to have taken up its chief tasks after its physical form had become already fixed, so that we could not grow a soldier-caste with horns, a messenger-caste with wings, a mother-caste with ovaries so huge as not to permit her any other activities, or a sexless worker-caste—all of which may be found among other species. Thus among certain ants, there is a caste which fills itself to the bursting point with a nourishing liquor, and then hangs like so many rows of bottles from the roof until somebody wants to drink! We cannot do that, but all our caste and class systems are attempts in that direction. Soldiers must be soldiers, nothing more, priests must be merely priests, workers should do nothing but work, and women should be restricted to merely sexual purposes—so mankind has thought.

### Sex vs. Love

As though with the wilful intention of circumventing the wild variety of our human nature, to keep it cribbed and confined within definite and cozy limits that can be understood without the undue labor of thinking, we have given each individual his functional niche, and the purpose of all our institutions has been to keep him there. It will not seem strange, then, that all human institutions should have been throughout the ages hostile to such a wild, ungovernable force as love.

Q But, Professor, it is generally supposed that the attempt to repress sex is a modern, a Puritanical scheme—

A I said *love*. There is nothing socially unmanageable about sex. That instinct is easily fed and put to sleep—and society has never failed to provide plenty of nourishment for it. It is love that makes the trouble!

Q You distress me, Professor. You speak of love and sex as though they were separate things.

A It is not I who have made the distinction, sir. It is the human mind, afflicted with this same rage for specialization, that has made the two as separate in thought and practice as, let us say for example, the world of man's work and the world of woman's work, which I think we agree should be the same world!

(To be continued next month)

## Book Reviews

MALTHUS AND HIS WORK, by James Bonar New York (The Macmillan Co.) 1924 \$4 50

THIS book was first published in 1885. The recrudescence of interest in the population problem during the last decade has apparently led, amongst other effects, to a systematic delving in all the old sermon barrels. The life duration of anything printed is extremely brief in these hustling days. Bonar's exegesis of Malthus had been almost completely forgotten in the period from 1885 to 1924, so that on that score there was no reason for not fetching it out into daylight once more, as a new book. In the reissuing it has practically been left exactly as it was originally written. The result is curious. In spite of its bright new dress, in spite of the fact that Malthus's own writings have in no respect altered during these past 40 years, and in spite of the fact that Bonar's book attempts to be nothing but an honest digest of Malthus' writings, and an account, from the standpoint of an economist, of their historical setting, the book somehow produces something of an effect of quaint old-fashionedness. Upon analysis, the reason for this effect is seen to be that the discussion makes virtually no linkage with present day viewpoints about economics, sociology or biology. Much has happened in all these fields since 1885 which has in many subtle, as well as overt, ways altered the viewpoints which prevailed then.

So the book has a pleasant archaic flavor, which mitigates a trace of intrinsic dullness. With painstaking thoroughness, and excellent critical knowledge of the classical literature of economics, it discourses *about* Malthus and his writings. But why read *about* Malthus? Why not read Malthus himself, first-hand? His most important book, the *Essay on Population*, is everywhere available, both in its original editions and in modern cheap reprints, and it is vastly more entertaining than Bonar. Malthus' other books can be had without great difficulty, and will repay reading. For he was a great man. As time goes on his intellectual stature increases.

Bonar says (p. 24) that "it is probable that the Neo-Malthusians are the children not of Robert Malthus, but of Robert Owen." This is a conservative phrasing of an undoubted fact. One frequently hears careful students of Malthus express the view that if he were alive today he would be in opposition to the Birth Control movement. The only ground for this is that he expressed himself as opposed to contraception by any other method than continence. But two of the most important elements in the greatness of Malthus are his open-mindedness and his clear thinking. What few mistakes he made were the result of faulty premises and not of bad reasoning. Since his day the premises for the discussion of the population problem have greatly altered and expanded. No one would

more eagerly seize upon our increased knowledge of facts of nature pertinent to the discussion of population than would Malthus if he were now in our midst. And that from these premises he would reason that contraception is immoral is inconceivable. His mind was not prone to perform in any such manner. So probably, if he were now here, Robert Malthus would be enrolled as a member of the Birth Control League.

In sum, Bonar's book is excellent economic criticism, in certain respects badly out-of-date, but essentially sound. It should be read *after* reading Malthus himself, not before.

RAYMOND PEARL

"WHAT IS MAN?" By J. Arthur Thomson. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1924.

TO anyone interested solely or narrowly in Birth Control this book contains little of direct interest. But the person who looks on Birth Control as one of the many factors of social and biological adjustment will find in the present volume a broad and, on the whole, well balanced discussion of the position of man in his relation to the animal kingdom, and of those inherent and environmental conditions which are influencing his physical, mental and social development. Those who are familiar with the author's versatility and style will scarcely need to be told that the presentation is comprehensive, clear and entertaining. Limitation of space of course prevents its being exhaustive, and our author's natural caution and conservatism tend away from anything which is outstanding or striking.

The judicial attitude is certainly a commendable one—it is eminently "safe and sane", but one sometimes wishes Thomson might occasionally be more lenient with his imagination and allow it a little more play. We do not ask for intoxication, but only mild stimulation. It is tantalizing to be led to a view of the cup that holds the ambrosial beverage and then not be invited to partake. If we would quaff of it, we must in most cases of our own initiative grasp the cup that is prepared but not offered and convey it to our own lips.

Beginning with man's affiliation with his nearest relatives in the animal world the book points out those resemblances which make him one with the animal kingdom but also emphasizes those characteristics which mark him as in large measure a creature apart. Next his probable origin is considered, including a review of the evidences of primitive man. In considering the nature of primitive man Thomson takes the position that man, when he became man, "expressed a mutation, a sudden uplift, separating him by a leap from the animal." Certainly if



Thomson uses the word mutation here in its modern genetic sense, few will agree with him. His position seems to be a "vestige"—like the appendix or the muscles of the ear, mentioned later in the book—of that timidity which made many of the early adherents of evolution afraid to include man as a direct product of organic evolution, but why man's position on his present shelf is any more secure if he attained it at a bound than if he crawled laboriously up on his hands and knees it is difficult to conceive.

Once man is on his shelf, however, future progress is easy and matters progress smoothly. We are led (in a masterly way in so short a space) through the evolution of man's mind, the development of his social customs, and the origin of his behavior, conduct and morals.

Heredity and the "The 'Nature and Nurture' Problem" are treated in a single brief chapter, following which is a discussion of those factors which have and which still make for selection in man—what our author aptly calls the "Sifting and Winnowing." Perhaps the most inspired part of the whole book is that dealing with the influence of modern industrial development on man's social and biological status and progress. As he says:

"A variety of causes has contributed to a state of affairs extremely serious. Thus a great deal of evil has ensued from that dominance of the power-machine which we associate with the industrial revolution. But our present point is that man has refused to allow old sieves to be used, and yet he is not using new ones that work well. From natural selection he has passed to *no selection*, or to artificial uncriticized selection, only rarely to rational or social selection."

IN this connection, "It is idle to deny that we shelter inferior types and allow them to multiply", and, "It is not the rarity of Christian charity that we have reason to lament, but its frequent short-sightedness." This leads naturally, in the next chapter, to a discussion of the population question and here (p. 257) we find a brief and, on the whole, sympathetic reference to a controlled birth-rate, but with a caution that in applying science to so delicate a matter, thought must be taken not to lose or destroy those finer things which go with human love.

The final chapter sums up our present position and looks very circumspectly into the future. After discussing what evolution is and whether it is still in operation for man, our author offers us the following definition of what progress implies:

"Progress is a balanced movement of a social whole towards the fuller embodiment of the supreme values, and at the same time a more all-around realization of the physical and biological pre-conditions, namely, the wealth and health which secure stability." In the last few pages the author indulges himself to the extent of depicting in modest colors, neither glaring nor somber, his own glimpse

of Utopia, a Utopia, it may be said, much more rational and more hopeful of attainment than some of those which have been painted with a freer hand.

LEON J. COLE

SOCIAL PATHOLOGY, by Stuart A. Queen and Delbert M. Mann. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co.

DYNAMIC PSYCHOLOGY, by Don Thomas Vernon Moore. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co.

THE astounding thing about "Social Pathology," which is otherwise a carefully prepared and usefully arranged book on social ills, is that it absolutely ignores the question of over-population and too large families. There is no evidence that the authors have ever taken into account the pathological effects on the mothers and on the families of too frequent pregnancies and too many children. Not a word is said of these prolific causes in discussing poverty, the breaking up of families, the early death of mothers, and the desertion of discouraged husbands and fathers. It seems almost impossible that the social ills of modern communities should be described and analyzed and the proper means for remedying these ills discussed without a word about Birth Control. Is it possible that the University of Kansas, to whose faculty both of the authors belong, frowns upon any mention of this much-discussed topic, and muzzles its professors in regard to any mention of it? Probably such interference with freedom of speech is unthought of, but why the complete silence in regard to so important a cause of widely varied social diseases?

Apart from this remarkable omission, there is much that is of great value to social workers in Messrs. Queen and Mann's large and comprehensive volume of nearly 700 pages. The authors appear to be familiar with all the modern literature on their subject, and ample bibliographies are given at the end of each chapter. The criticisms of methods of work with destitute, neglected and problem children are wise and helpful, and the volume is well worth study, even by those who will continually resent the lack of courage or insight which has caused the omission of one of the most important causes of our present evils and of the enormous drains on society, made by the necessity of caring for children who ought never to have been born.

IN "Dynamic Psychology" Professor Moore, of the Catholic University of America, makes a fair and painstaking effort to give the reader an insight into the modern trends of psychology. The field of Psychoanalysis is also briefly surveyed and a brief summary given of the views of the leading men in this field, including Freud, Jung, and Adolf Meyer. It is a useful addition to the ever growing library of the human mind and emotions.

ANNIE G. PORRITT

## What Our Contemporaries Are Saying

In the *American Journal of Sociology* for January Charles W Margold has the first part of an article entitled "The Need of a Sociological Approach to the Problems of Sex Conduct" The author devotes himself mainly to a criticism of Havelock Ellis Mr Margold favors a more psychological and sociological point of view, as opposed to what he considers the biological and physiological approach of Havelock Ellis

In the *Saturday Evening Post* of February 6th is an article entitled "Deucalion and Co, Ltd," by E A Ross and Sidney Ingraham The authors show that the capitalists, managers, and white officials, who have taken over the control of more primitive peoples have outdone Deucalion and Pyrrha, the Greek equivalents of Noah and his wife Economic imperialism has done nothing to improve standards of living among those exploited, because with the coming of the white man and his methods of improvement, the populations of colonies and dependencies have risen to appalling figures

In the *Quarterly Review* for January, J Arthur Thomson writes on "Biology and Social Hygiene" Professor Thomson is concerned with the health of the race and suggests Birth Control as one of the effective methods of achieving healthier communities

In *The Nineteenth Century and After* for February, Julian Huxley pleads for a biological education that would make for a saner attitude toward sex, and do away with the prejudice against such projects as Birth Control.

In *America*, a Catholic weekly, for February 13th, there is a sketch called "Fantasy" by Mary A Kennedy The author uses a new method of attack on Birth Control. She pictures a land of unwanted, unborn babies and attempts to describe this land as being far worse than even the earth under the most distressing conditions It is hard to see the relevance of this fantastic picture to Birth Control In a March number of the same magazine John Wilby has an article called "Four-Fifths of a Child" The article is based on statistics concerning the number of children borne by Smith graduates The author bemoans the fact that on the average Smith graduates bear only one and one-half children apiece He believes that there are but two possible careers for women, marriage and the bearing of many children or the nunnery

In the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for February, Doctors John G Clark and Frank B Block under the general topic of "Gynecology" devote space to the description of a new method of temporary sterilization proposed by Handley



## Our Readers' Views

### "Increase and Multiply"

Cambrills, Md

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Kindly permit a retired minister to express his unconditional approval of the good work you are doing for Birth Control

Allow me also to assure you that the religion of Jesus Christ is not opposed to Birth Control

Genesis I, 28, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth" does not insist upon an unlimited number of children Three children satisfy that commandment

Genesis I, 28 belongs to the Old Testament and is, therefore, not binding for followers of Jesus

Genesis I, 28 is not a divine revelation but belongs to a book called *Priests' Code* which forms an important part of the books named after Moses and Joshua It is the work of the age subsequent to Ezekiel, who died B C 572 The first chapter of Genesis contains the creation story which the Jews had become acquainted with in Babylon. It is entirely of heathen origin.

These statements are not my wisdom but give the conviction of the leading Old Testament scholars of Germany, Holland, England and our country

Yours truly,

WM WEBER, PH D, (Yale)

## Street or Shop—Two Views

New York City

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

We heartily congratulate the REVIEW on the adoption of the "Birth Control Primer," the new form of publishing the "National Council, etc.," and the publication of current news articles from the newspapers

In our experience of trying to spread propaganda for Birth Control, we have found that friends and magazine dealers object to the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW because it is sold on the streets. Some persons seem to think that the REVIEW is sold on the streets because no respectable store will sell it. In trying to remove this idea from the minds of the public, we asked the Columbia University Book Store if they would sell the REVIEW. The first question we were asked was, "I believe in Birth Control but I object to the manner in which the Birth Control literature is peddled on the streets." However, the Columbia University Book Store is now selling the REVIEW, and we should like to notify friends of the movement that the REVIEW is also being sold at Brentano's. It is now up to the friends of the Birth Control movement to see that the REVIEW occupies a commanding position at this and other book stores. It would seem that if we are real friends of the Birth Control movement, the least we could do is to try to introduce the REVIEW in some of the book stores in which we trade. Not only introduce the REVIEW but see that it is sold!

Does She Look Like This to You—



Is She the Statya of Liberty?

Or Like This?



? —From Life

We realize that the present form of the REVIEW is most convenient to sell in the street to the poorer classes, but we think great consideration should be shown to the more influential classes who seem to abhor the selling of the REVIEW in the streets which they frequent

GUY I BURCH

\* \* \*

San Antonio, Texas

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In response to your call for an expression of opinion as to selling Birth Control on the streets I believe it should be sold on the streets of every community where such action is legal, and in those localities where such sale is illegal this fact, together with the meaning and aspirations of Birth Control should be presented to the public by addresses before societies, clubs, congregations and all available gatherings until the restraining statutes together with other useless and harmful dust and cobwebs of antiquity and ignorance are wiped from our code

If there still exist religious or other organizations determined by reason of superstition, ignorance or greed to impede the progress of humanity let us diffuse the bright light of day among them, among their undergrowth, the rank and file, until the weeds of superstition and dogma cease to choke them and they are ready to try all things and hold fast to that which is good

I shall be glad to have my name used in this connection

CHAS E B FLAGG, M D

# The Episcopal Church on Birth Control

*"The Churchman," Leading Periodical of this Church, Outlines the Status of the Question*

NEWSPAPERS throughout the country published a news story last week carrying headlines that were misleading. The New York Times headline, for example, was "Episcopalians Joining Birth Control Foes." That of the New York World was "Episcopal Church Joins Catholic to Gag Birth Control." That of the New York Herald-Tribune was "Two Churches Will Fight Spread of Birth Control." Similar headlines were carried in other parts of the country.

Furthermore, the news stories were themselves misleading. The World said:

"The Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches in the United States will wage joint warfare against dissemination of Birth Control information in America. News that these two great Churches have agreed to join forces against what both consider a national menace, was contained in an announcement yesterday following a meeting of the Episcopal National Council. Together they will combat legislation at Washington designed to encourage Birth Control."

From prominent clergymen of the Episcopal Church telegrams came to *The Churchman*, following the publication of this story, of which the following is typical: "Is the news story, stating that the National Council, in the name of the Church, opposes Birth Control authentic? If so, what right have they to issue such a statement?"

THE mistake on the part of the newspapers was natural. It was based on a resolution passed by the National Council of the Episcopal Church, and the newspapers erroneously take it for granted that the National Council has authority to speak officially for the Church on such matters. This, of course, is not the fact, and the council would be the first to disclaim such a right. Only the General Convention would have authority to align the Episcopal Church either with the proponents of Birth Control or against them.

The resolution contained no statement about the attitude of the Episcopal Church on this question. What happened at the meeting of the National Council was as follows:

Bishop Murray, the new president of the council, submitted a letter which he had received from Father Burke, of the Roman Church. The letter said in part:

"An attempt will be made in the present Congress to secure an amendment to the federal penal code and tariff act to make it unlawful to transmit through the United States mails and to import into our country information explaining and encouraging the practice of contraception. This is a challenge to the patriotism of every true American. It faces our country with a moral crisis of great magnitude. No one can be blind to the ultimate unhappy results of such information and practices, especially on the minds, morals and health of the younger citizens of our country, to whom we look for future growth and upbuilding of the United States."

AFTER hearing the letter the council referred the matter to a committee composed of Bishop Brown, of Virginia, the Rev. Dr. George Craig Stewart, of Evanston, Ill., and former State Senator William J. Tully, of Locust Valley, L. I.

When the committee brought in its report it included the text of Father Burke's letter. It recommended the following action:

"That the President of the Council is hereby authorized to make such protest in the name of the council as he may deem best."

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On no subject under discussion at the present day are there more divergent views than on the subject of Birth Control. Social workers, psychologists, sociologists, economists, medical men, clergymen and men and women in all walks of life, inside the Episcopal Church, as well as outside that body, hold conflicting opinions.

On one extreme are those who sincerely believe that the whole future of civilization depends on the adoption of Birth Control. On the other extreme are those who believe, just as sincerely, that its adoption would lead straight to moral and social disintegration. And in each group are varying theories as to means and ends.

IT need not be said that the matter is one of vital importance, looked at from any point of view. Sane leaders in the field of science, where emotions are controlled, recognize its importance. Many of the best trained scientists are, therefore, working

(Continued on page 142)

# News Notes

## UNITED STATES

### Federal Work

**W**ORK at Washington is progressing Upwards of 60 Congressmen have been interviewed and many supporters have been gained outside of Congress In every state groups are organizing for local petition work The National Catholic Welfare Conference has sent out circular letters and printed matter against the Birth Control bill not only to Catholics but to hundreds of national organizations of all religions and has assiduously followed up visits of the American Birth Control League to members of Congress One Catholic Senator refused to grant Mrs Sanger an interview and other Senators and Representatives have shown a certain fear of their Catholic constituents Nevertheless an encouraging amount of interest and support has already developed in Congress

On March 11th Mrs Sanger spoke before the Penguin Club of Washington (The National Liberal Club) and the next day before the American Association of University Women A determined effort was made by the Roman Catholic opposition to prevent these meetings

Father Ryan of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, who has heretofore been regarded as a reformer and a broadminded Catholic, threatened to resign from the Board of Directors of the Penguin Club if Mrs Sanger was allowed to speak and did resign when the club insisted on giving her a hearing

The Women's University Club invited Father Burke of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to hear "the other side" on Birth Control, to which he replied that "there *was* no other side" The meetings at both clubs were large and enthusiastic

Mrs Day has compiled from the Congressional Directory a statement as to the families of members of the 69th Congress She shows that 52 members have 1 child, 84 members have 2, 46 have 3, 24 have 4, 21 have 5, 9 have 6, 2 have 7, 2 have 8 1 has 9 and 2 have 10 This gives a total for 243 members of 672 children The remaining 288 members have no mention of having children, so the above table represents the members of Congress, both of the House and Senate as having approximately 1½ each The Universal News Service has sent out a good story by Corine Rich on this little study of our national legislators Her interview with Mrs Day is worth quoting

"Members of Congress," says she, "believe in small families, whether they admit it or not

"Apparently they're practicing the principle advocated by the American Birth Control League in their own lives A poll of both branches shows they have approximately only 1½ children each

"That's about what the ministers of the country average and less than the rate among the much-maligned college women, according to the League's statistics

"Mrs George H Day, Sr, of Hartford, Conn, a member of the League's board and herself a charming, white-haired great-grandmother, has just completed the poll, which will be used in an active campaign for Federal legislation looking toward fewer and better children

"Headquarters have been set up here by the League Already many members of Congress have been approached

"Mrs Day said today 'We have interviewed many members of Congress For the most part they are distinctly non-committal on Birth Control—so far as expressing their opinion is concerned Several have come out vigorously for it Some are positively against it At least six members have assured us that sooner or later legislation permitting the dissemination of information through medical channels must come And it is that day that we are working for'

### New Jersey

**T**HE hearing on the State Birth Control Bill was held on March 15th With the exception of Dr Stone who spoke of the experience of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League in working out harmless and effective methods of Birth Control, the speakers in favor of the bill were all citizens of New Jersey Mr Meves in his words as chairman maintained that Catholics were violating our constitutional rights in trying to withhold Birth Control from non-Catholics who did not share their religious scruples This point was developed also by Mr Brookes of the Health Legislative Conference Miss Jessie P Condit, executive secretary of the Children's Aid Society of Newark, told what over-large families meant in sickness and poverty and moral degradation to the under-privileged\* The Reverend Oscar P Hawes, of Summit spoke on the spiritual phases of Birth Control, Mrs John Dey, president of the New Jersey League spoke for personal liberty and Mrs Laura Winkelspecht

\* See page 115

from her experience as a mother Mrs Louise Morrow, as a former public health nurse, told of the futility of antenatal work that did not include Birth Control

While last year the opposition was poorly represented, this year it came out in force in a hearing frankly staged by the Holy Name Society, with a priest sitting among the speakers and directing proceedings Dr J H Haggerty of Newark, opened for the opposition with a general characterization of Birth Control facts as "lies" He maintained that pregnancy and child-birth held no dangers and that there was no connection between large and unregulated families and the great problems of poverty, crime and feeble-mindedness Other Catholic speakers were a nurse and two mothers Assemblyman Altman, chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws, announced that the bill would not be reported because of pressure of "other important measures," as there "appeared to be no public demand"

THE organizer for New Jersey reports "On Friday afternoon, February 26th, at a meeting held at the Y W C A, Newark, the New Jersey Birth Control League was formed, with the following officers President, Mrs John Dey, Summit, Vice-President, Mr James E Brooks, Glen Ridge, Secretary and Treasurer, Mr Everett R Meves, Camden The Board of Directors is composed of the officers, and the following Mrs Thomas R Tetley, Cranford, Mrs A S Ross, Millburn, Mrs Georgianna W Tucker, Ocean Grove, Mrs Louise Morrow, Spring Lake

The State Council of the League is as follows Miss Cora L Hartshorn, Short Hills, The Rev Oscar B Hawes, Summit, Mrs Thomas R Tetley, Cranford, Mrs Wells P Eagleton, Newark, Miss Florence Halsey, Newark, Miss Jessie P Condit, Newark, Dr Ida Monosson-Friedland, Newark, Mrs Mabel C North, Verona, Mrs A J Steelman, Montclair, Mr James E Brooks, Glen Ridge, Miss Katharine G C Wiley, Newark, The Rev Edgar S Wiers, Montclair, Dr Elizabeth Ford Love, Moorestown, Mrs Laura A Winkelspecht, Riverside, Mr Herbert A Drake, Camden, Mr Everett R Meves, Camden, Mrs Viola Dey Halliday, Newark, Mrs F L Richdale, Merchantville, Miss Ruth G Stratton, Princeton, Mrs Louise Morrow, Spring Lake, Mr William J Fielding, Newark, Mrs Georgianna W Tucker, Ocean Grove, Mrs John Dey, Summit and Mrs A S Ross, Millburn

The League is to have its annual meeting and State Conference at Trenton each year in January, at the same time as the assembling of the State

Legislature, and the Board of Directors are to meet at additional meetings in May and September

The Birth Control bill was finally introduced on Monday evening, February 15th, by Assemblyman Orison M Hurd, of Bergen County This was the last day for the introduction of bills, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr Hurd The bill (Assembly Bill 480) was referred to the Committee on Revision of Laws, the Chairman of which said that he would not report the bill, because if he did his "Catholic friends" would kill him This shows clearly the only opposition to the bill This Chairman is Jewish, of an orthodox family He first promised a public hearing on March 8th, then recalled his promise and refused a hearing, and then, upon insistent urging, agreed to a hearing on March 15th

On Wednesday evening, March 3rd, I had a public debate in Moose Hall, Atlantic City, with Mr Joseph P Egan, representing the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Newark Diocesan Federation of the Holy Name Society There were between five and six hundred people present For eleven days the papers of Atlantic City had publicity regarding this debate On five days there were front page articles, and in the column for letters from readers there were fifteen letters, ten for Birth Control and five against it One day the entire column was given over to a discussion of Birth Control

ON account of Roman Catholic opposition to Birth Control talks before various organizations, I am issuing public challenges to debate any representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in Montclair and Elizabeth I had an engagement to speak for the Montclair Rotary Club on March 2nd, but the engagement was canceled on account of Catholic opposition The same opposition has made it difficult for us to secure proper representation before the Elizabeth League of Women Voters, at which Mrs F Robertson-Jones spoke under very favorable circumstances I am also challenging Miss Mary G Hawks, President of the Newark Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, or any other representative of her organization, to debate with me before any women's organization in the State

Addresses on Birth Control have been made by Mrs Sanger at Englewood, and Miss Grew at Westfield and Passaic, by Mrs Walter Timme, Mrs Robertson-Jones and me The Women's Club of Englewood endorsed the Birth Control bill when Mrs Sanger spoke before them and the Woman's Club of Towaco after my address I have spoken for the Delaware Township Parent-Teacher As-

sociation, the Burlington Kiwanis Club, and the Jersey City Lions' Club. This last engagement is interesting. Some weeks ago Dr. Benedict Willis, a Catholic physician of Rutherford, addressed this Club against Birth Control, and they wrote to us asking for a talk in favor, which shows a very broad-minded attitude."

## New York

A SECOND centre for the League's clinical research work has been opened in Brooklyn under the chairmanship of Mrs. I. Rhee Kappayne. Though the Brooklyn centre has been in operation at its headquarters at 396 Atlantic Avenue since January, during which month a doctors' meeting was held by Dr. James F. Cooper and patients were received, the formal introduction to social workers and other interested laymen was not given till February 28th, when a reception was held at which Mrs. Sanger was the principal speaker.

On March 1st Mrs. Sanger spoke to an audience of 700 students and instructors under the auspices of the Liberal Club of New York University.

On February 15th Dr. Wm. H. Garth, member of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, addressed an audience of 100 Masons at Park Slope.

Another speaker during the month was Mrs. Walter Timme who addressed the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Parkway Jewish Centre.

A brief sea trip gave Mrs. Sanger the opportunity to arouse the interest of business men from all over the Union. On February 17th she was guest and speaker before the Rotary Club on board the West Indies Cruiser California, where representatives of 25 states heard her speak on the need for Birth Control.

Within the last six weeks Dr. Cooper has spoken at several meetings in New York. In Poughkeepsie he spoke at the Academy of Medicine and in Schenectady at a public meeting arranged for him by members of the American Birth Control League. The Committee arranging the Schenectady meeting was made up of the Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Caldicott, Mrs. Van Ness Phillips, Mrs. Edward Everett Hale, Mrs. John Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Lipkind, Mrs. E. E. Kimball, Mrs. Victor Slarenski and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wellman.

In Syracuse on February 14th he spoke before the local Birth Control group of which Mrs. Boyd Dudley, Jr., has been elected president, and the next day before students of Professor Van Dusen of the Sociology Department of Syracuse University. After his visit steps were taken toward form-

ing a committee to work for a clinic. On February 17th and 18th he addressed student members of three fraternities at Cornell College, Ithaca.

## Pennsylvania

ON March 13th Mrs. Sanger debated Birth Control with Miss Laughlin before the Women's Ethical Society of Philadelphia. She spoke from the point of view of eugenics and racial health. Miss Laughlin who was to state the Catholic case descended to personalities. She characterized the facts and arguments presented by supporters of Birth Control as "lies" and implied that married women who practiced Birth Control were no better than prostitutes. This and her complete lack of understanding of a mother's problems alienated the audience which was largely made up of married women.

Since the latter part of January Elisabeth Grew has been acting as organizer in Pennsylvania. In Reading where the Rev. L. Griswold Williams is chairman of the local league, Mrs. Nelson, who for two years has been doing quiet and effective work for Birth Control, has consented to act as secretary-treasurer. In Reading, Swarthmore, Philadelphia and the surrounding districts much work has been done both by personal interviews and through large and small meetings, towards increasing the strength and membership of the state Birth Control organization, raising funds and arousing interest in work for a clinic. We have to report with regret that Professor Malcolm H. Bissell has been forced by pressure of other duties to resign the presidency of the State League. We are glad however, to be able to announce as his successor Dr. Stewart Mudd.

During the month Mr. Meves spoke before the Friendship Liberal League and Dr. Cooper addressed a general audience of about 250 at the First Unitarian Church of Erie.

## Massachusetts

THROUGH the efforts of Mr. O. Kenneth Baker, three meetings were arranged for Dr. Cooper on March 4th before groups of students of Springfield College. Before Professor Frank M. Mohler's class on international problems he discussed the population problem, and other aspects of Birth Control at meetings presided over by the general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. and by Professor W. B. Kirkham, of the chair of biology.

At Northampton on March 9th and 10th Dr. Cooper held a Contraceptive Meeting before the Hampshire District Medical Society, a meeting of

students of sociology presided over by Dr Frank H Hankins of Smith College, and a public meeting at the Peoples Institute

Dr Samuel C Prescott of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is quoted in the press as saying that unless new and more efficient methods of production and preservation are found or some method to synthesize foods from abundant cheap materials, the world will face a food shortage in the next century. He adds that the first retrenchment will be in the meat supply which in the next generation may have to be drawn from "polar pastures"

### Maine

ON February 24th Dr Cooper addressed a group of 40 physicians at Bath

### Maryland

FROM Mrs George H Day, Sr, comes the following report of work at the Baltimore Food Show "The American Birth Control League were invited by Miss Ethyl Clark, manager, to take a booth at the Food Show in Baltimore during the week of February 8th This was accepted and Mrs J B Vandever of Kew Gardens, N Y, and Mrs George H Day, Sr, of Hartford, were in attendance during the week The booth was wonderfully placed having a Child Welfare booth on one side and the Franklin Square Hospital on the other, also it faced a large open space which gave people an opportunity to study the posters at a distance This was done not only by the thousands who visited the booth but by many who would not come near us A great many refused to take our literature or to speak with us, others preached about our interfering with God's will One woman talked for over an hour on this subject Many, usually young married women, showed much interest and we heard many talk of too large families, ill health, poverty, etc It was a very interesting and educating experience Many men and women discussed problems of sex, especially those that concerned the growing boy and girl It was noticeable that the men were mostly young married men and frequently college graduates who were interested in the movement We gave out 2,500 "What We Stand For," and 1,000 Labor Leaflets We sold out our entire stock of "What Every Girl Should Know," this apparently being the most popular of our books We also sold a number of "What Every Mother Should Know"

### Rhode Island

THE only woman legislator in Rhode Island, Mrs Isabelle Ahern O'Neill, has gained for herself an unenviable distinction by introducing an anti-Birth Control bill This is House Bill No 807, a resolution protesting to Congress against the passage of the American Birth Control League's bill to amend the postal law Mrs O'Neill's bill was introduced on January 26th with a recommendation for immediate passage, but on objection from Assemblyman Roy Rawlings it was referred to the judiciary committee, where it now rests

### ENGLAND

THE most important event of recent weeks is the effort of Mr Thurtle to bring a Birth Control bill before the House of Commons The bill which he sought leave to introduce would authorize local welfare centres to give contraceptive instruction

"The bill," he stated, according to the *Manchester Guardian*, "was designed to remove one of the disabilities of poverty It was non-partisan and had a large measure of support in all quarters, though it was not entirely non-contentious It proposed to give to poor women a knowledge which was at present enjoyed and utilized by wealthier women Poverty ought not to be a bar to knowledge, and it was a bar to a large number of working women today Statistics showed there was a marked falling off in the birth rate among the upper and middle classes, while among the poorer people there was a tendency for the birth rate to remain almost stationary In the wealthy borough of Westminster, for instance, the birth rate was 112 per 1,000, while in Shoreditch, the poorest and probably the most crowded area in London, it was 25 per 1,000 The bill would impose no charge on the National Exchequer and was entirely permissive As a Socialist he did not claim it as a cure for poverty, but its immediate effect would be to ameliorate the condition of the workers" The opposition was represented by the Rev James Barr, a Catholic, and leave to bring in the bill was refused by a vote of 167 to 81

\* \* \*

The golfers' course is on the hill  
And every sunny day,  
The little children in the mill  
Can see the men at play



## Coming Events

### THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL

**A**T the Geneva congress it is planned to set up within the international organization, which hitherto has come together either annually or biennially, an all year round bureau to serve as a liaison center between the separate Birth Control movements in the various countries now actively interested. Mrs. How-Martyn, who has been active for many years in the English Birth Control movement will have charge of the Geneva office.

The need of putting the Birth Control movement on a really international footing was stressed by Dr. Little in his official announcement of the conference.

"The efforts of the conference will be directed toward the establishment of an international point of view in matters bearing on the population problem," he said, "and toward presenting some of the major points involved to the thinking and interested public of an international city—Geneva."

"The nations of the world have learned the power of co-operation in the achievement of political, economic and social aims. Since the war, the truth of this has been demonstrated not only in governmental relationships but in great humanitarian and educational enterprises. Many countries have gone far in furthering properly regulated Birth Control, and there have been six important international meetings at which forward strides have been taken, but the cause cannot yet be said to be on a truly international basis."

"I believe the time has come to put it on this footing and to do this we must have an all year round medium for the interchange of thoughts and ideas, other than through correspondence of the individual national societies."

"Austria, Holland, Norway, Sweden, England, Japan and India have active organizations and have made progress. Here in the United States, the advocates of Birth Control are fostering the establishment of a Federal Commission on Population. This is an important step and I hope for its achievement, but it is in the establishment of a broad, international outlook that the movement will attain its real strength."

The officers of the Conference are Dr. Little, president, Mrs. Margaret Sanger and Dr. C. V. Drysdale, honorary secretaries and Mrs. Juliet Barrett Rublee, treasurer.

The members of the International Conference Committee are H. G. Wells, Giles Lytton Strachey of London, Prof. Julian Huxley of Oxford, Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell of New York, Rev. Karl Reiland, Rector of St. George's Church, New York, Mrs. Stanley McCormick of New York,

## PERTINENT FACTS

### *Gleaned in Washington*

#### ON EXAMINATION OF THE INFANT

mortality statistics the following facts were noted. In a survey of thirty-three States, 22 show an increase in infant mortality for 1923 over 1922. The State of Delaware has the highest percentage, while Washington has the lowest. These figures are quoted from the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, and are the latest available.

\* \* \*

#### A SURVEY OF 22 COUNTRIES SHOULD

prove discouraging to the welfare enthusiasts in the United States, who are concerned with the establishment of prenatal clinics, milk stations and maternity centers. Infant mortality in the registration area for 1923 places this country eleventh on the list, with 77 per thousand. These figures also show that the Roman Catholic countries, Austria, Spain and Chili, have the highest percentage of infant death under one year. Chili has the highest rate—240 per year. France only registers her live births and registration is only required within three days of birth, so many births are omitted in calculating their mortality rate, which is 116 per thousand.

\* \* \*

#### IT WAS ESTIMATED BY HERBERT

Hoover some years ago that one in every eleven children died of malnutrition. The figure has probably risen since then.

\* \* \*

#### MARY ANDERSON, CHIEF OF THE

Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, states that there has been an increase of 41 per cent in the last ten years of married women in industry. Miss Anderson does not believe that married women go into industry for any purpose but that they are forced to do so by the inadequacy of the husband's wage to meet the expense of a growing family.

\* \* \*

#### DR. HUGH S. CUMMING, SURGEON-

General of the Public Health Service of the United States, has given much thought and study to the question of Birth Control. There are thousands of men and women in the Public Health Service who cannot afford a family, or even the luxury of one child.

**HANNAH M STONE, M D***Clinical Director Research Department*

OF THE

**AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE,***Lecturer, Health Speakers' Bureau, etc.***ANNOUNCES A COURSE OF LECTURES ON  
THE SEX LIFE OF WOMAN****Friday Evenings at 8.30**

**Apr 16th—The Biology of Sex.** The structure and function of the reproductive system. The influence of the ductless glands upon sexual characteristics.

**Apr 23rd—The Sex Impulse** The nature of the sexual instinct The sexual cycle in women Hygiene of sex.

**Apr 30th—Love and Marriage.** Love-life in nature Psychology of love Evolution of marriage Modern marriage.

**May 7th—Eugenics.** Heredity and environment. Acquired and inherited traits. Pre-marital examination The well born child.

**May 14th—Parenthood.** The expectant mother Care during pregnancy Sterility and fertility Birth Control.

*Registration for any course may be made at**LABOR TEMPLE, 244 East Fourteenth Street,  
New York City, in person or by mail***Course \$1 00****Single Admission 25c****BOOKS OF VITAL INTEREST  
ON ALL TOPICS****Sex, Psycho-Analysis, Psychology,  
Diet and Health**

THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE AUTHORS

Havelock Ellis, Robie, Long, Kraft-Ebing, Forel, Kisch, Bloch, Malchow, Brill, Freud, Jung, Adler, Tridon, Lindlahr, Father Kneipp, Gaze, Drew

**Your Needs Always Fulfilled***If obtainable, we have it, if unobtainable, we can get it.***DESCRIPTIVE LISTS SENT FREE****Modern Book Association****LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
4150 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

Mrs Simeon Ford, Mrs Lewis Delafield, Dr Havelock Ellis of London, Mrs Juliet Barrett Rublee, Mrs C C Rumsey, Mrs Cornelius N Bliss, Jr, Mrs James Lees Laidlaw, Dr and Frederick Peterson, A E Wiggam, Prof Walter B Pitkin, Sir Edwin Ray Lankester of London, Sir W Arbuthnot Lane, Sir James Barr, Hugh de Selincourt, Harold Cox, John Maynard Keynes and Paul Kennaday

**PASSPORTS FOR BABIES**

"Sometimes, in moments of idle reverie, I have wondered what would happen if there were some sort of a baby bureau, to which all prospective parents would have to apply and answer the questions of the unborn. You would have to apply at these bureaus for a baby, just as you apply at an employment bureau for a cook, and there the wise baby-to-be would ask for references, and make certain, before it undertook the hazards of Life's voyage, that these parents were desirable, the possessors of a happy home, and really desirous of a new baby Think of the questions an intelligent baby might ask For instance

"Have you paid for your last baby yet?"

"How many children have you already? Are you sure your hands are not already too full, and your pocketbook empty? What are your plans for bringing me up?"

"Can you furnish a happy home for me? Proper food? A sunny nursery? Love and affection and understanding?"

"Can you furnish a certificate of health?"

"Do you look upon children as a reward or a penalty?"

"What's that you say? Five children already? Two dark rooms in the slums? No! Thank you! I don't care to be born at all if I cannot choose to be well-born Good-bye!"

So the interview might be abruptly terminated if all parents had to apply for babies at a sort of bureau of the unborn—Margaret Sanger in *Holland's Magazine*

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON  
BIRTH CONTROL***(Continued from 136)*

toward some satisfactory solution It ought to be remembered, however, that scientists themselves have reached few common conclusions What is needed is an open-minded approach to the subject, both within and outside the Church, with a recognition of its pressing social implications It is a situation that calls for a good deal less heat and a good deal more light.

It is obvious that a great advance has been made in the past few years toward some solution Meetings of scientists and social workers who gather to discuss seriously such a basic problem of human welfare are no longer raided by the police

The Handy Oil in The Handy Can



Handy Oil Can

**THREE IN ONE OIL**

REG TRADE MARK U.S. PAT OFF  
**3 IN**

**PREVENTS RUST  
LUBRICATES  
CLEANS AND  
POLISHES:**

**TALKING MACHINES  
SEWING MACHINES  
TYPEWRITERS &  
ELECTRIC FANS  
RAZORS & STROPS  
FIRE-ARMS**

**MAGNETOS: COMMUTATORS  
CASH REGISTERS & LAWN  
MOWERS: LIGHT MACHINERY, ETC.  
PIANOS, FURNITURE & WOODWORK.**

Manufactured by

**THREE IN ONE OIL COMPANY**

G-61

130 LE William St. N.Y.

PRICE 300 CENTS



**JUST OUT!**

# **Problems of Overpopulation**

**VOLUME II**

*of*

**Proceedings of the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference**

<b>SINGLE VOLUMES</b>	<b>\$2 00</b>
<b>SET OF FOUR VOLUMES</b>	<b>\$5 00</b>

**AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, Inc**  
104 Fifth Avenue, New York City

I wish to enter my order for the Proceedings of the Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference and enclose

**\$2.00 for Single Volume or \$5 00 for Four Volumes**

*Name*

*Street*

*City*

(12 cents extra for postage)

**ORDER NOW from the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**