

May, 1926

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Fewer **Babies** Better Born



THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

Headquarters
104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY
Telephones
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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



FACTS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL

WE DEFINED Birth Control as the **conscious regulation** of the **birth-rate**. The use of harmless, **mechanical** and **chemical devices** for the **prevention of conception** is the most **practical** method of Birth Control. The **dangerous** and **growing evil** of **abortion** can be prevented by the use of these **simple devices** of **contraception**. The **spread** of knowledge **concerning** the use of **contraceptive** methods of Birth Control is **forbidden** by law, because of the forces of Ignorance, Indifference, prejudice and **superstition**.

WHY IS BIRTH CONTROL NECESSARY?

The **following** reasons have been **given**

- I THE HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD
- II THE HAPPINESS OF MARRIED LIFE
- III THE RELIEF OF OVER-POPULATION
- IV THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RACE

***S**URELY it is better to have thirty-five millions of human beings, leading useful and intelligent lives, rather than forty millions struggling for a bare existence*

—LORD DERRY

This month we give

Reason V.—THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY.

One of the great causes of presentday poverty is **over-population**. When poor **families** have an **unlimited** number of children there is little chance for these **children** to **rise** above the level of unskilled and **unorganized** workers. **AS** the supply of **unskilled** labor increases, lower wages and lower standards of **living** follow.

Careful **investigation** has shown that a **family** of five **requires** an **income** of \$2,100 a year to live comfortably in modern **cities**. But **statistics** show that **nine-tenths** of the workers in this country earn **less** than \$2,000 a year. The answer to the problem is the **limitation** of the number of children in proportion to the **income** available.

In **families** where the income is low, it becomes necessary for the mother to go out to work. The children are left **without** her care. Often also the children must go to work at a early age, and the elder ones have to bear the burden of **caring** for the younger brothers and **sisters**. Hence the **problems** of Child Labor and Little Mothers.

BIRTH CONTROL is a **practical** and efficient means of **avoiding** poverty, **destitution** and **pauperization**, and of **raising** the standard of **living** of the wage earners.



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

MAY, 1926

No 5

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OUR CONTRIBUTORS

DR STEPHEN S WISE, author and orator,
is Rabbt of the Free Synagogue in New York

DORA RUSSELL, wife of Hon Bertrand Russell, is a leader of the Women in the English Labor Movement

DR GEORG MANES is a physician in Hamburg, Germany

DR G de LAPOUGE is prominent in the French Eugenrst Movement and a strong advocate of Birth Control

FRANKLIN H HANKINS is Professor of Socrology at Smith College

DR ALETTA JACOBS is the veteran pioneer of Birth Control clinics in Holland and indeed in all the world She was closely associated with the originator of these clinics, Dr Rutgers

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EDITORIAL

THE Seventh International Birth Control Conference which has been announced for next August, has been postponed for a year. The International Board, of which Dr C C Little, President of the University of Michigan, is the head, has come to this decision after carefully considering the situation at Geneva. It is felt that the present absorption in the question of the admission of Germany to the League and the constitution of the League Council would make it difficult to secure full attention to a Birth Control Conference, held on the eve of the settlement of these questions. We regret the delay, but feel that it gives an opportunity for such an advance in our work, as to make the Conference next year of far greater value. We shall then have reached a point where the nations must pay attention both to the need for Birth Control and to the possibility of sane and statesmanlike regulation of population, not by force or prohibitions but by education which will raise the standard of morality in regard to the responsibility of parenthood, and by the provision of scientific methods of Birth Control.



DR DUBLIN's article in the February *Atlantzc Monthly* on "The Fallacious Propaganda for Birth Control" is causing much displeasure and uneasiness to our friends, and we have been repeatedly asked why no answer has appeared in the March and April issues of the *Atlantzc*. The reason is explained by the following quotation from a letter, written by the editor of the *Atlantzc* in reply to a request for a presentation of the other side of the question. "We hardly think," wrote the editor, "that it would be news to our readers to go over an argument now become fairly familiar. Dr Dublin would be the last to deny that knowledge of the sort under discussion may wisely

be communicated in many instances, but its general and indiscriminate publication he deplors." As the American Birth Control League is equally opposed to any such general and indiscriminate publication of Birth Control information, it is hard to see why Dr Dublin should make so bitter an attack on our work.



THE paper in the *Atlantzc Monthly* is practically identical with that given before the Sixth International Birth Control Conference in March of last year. He then made the same charges against our movement—that we disregard the interest of the State in trying to aid individual mothers, and that we have no safe and efficacious methods of Birth Control. After having had the opportunity of attending the Birth Control Conference, it might seem as though Dr Dublin would have ascertained the facts about the policy and methods of the American Birth Control League before giving wide circulation to these accusations. He would have found that the interests of the individual woman demanding Birth Control are usually identical with those of the State—it cannot benefit the state to have unwilling mothers bear defective children. He would also have found that the scientific men in the movement are concentrating on researches which will undoubtedly lead to the perfecting of Birth Control methods. At the Conference he was answered by Professor Hankins* of Smith College. For the benefit of our readers who are asking for a reply to Dr Dublin, we print this month a few excerpts from Professor Hankins' paper.

THE editor could not keep out all trace of opposition to Dr Dublin's article from the pages of the *Atlantzc*. In the April Issue, in the Contribu-

tors' Column, there is a letter of protest from H Perlee Bouton, a visiting nurse and social service worker of the New York East Side. "My pen is feeble but my convictions are strong," she writes. Miss Perlee knows—not from a bird's-eye mew from the Metropolitan Life Tower, but from close touch with the mothers and children of the crowded slums, "what a boon intelligently given knowledge of Birth Control could be to so many exhausted mothers, old women of thirty to thirty-five." The editor might reply that Dr Dublin is not opposed to Birth Control information being given in the cases where it is really needed. But what has Dr Dublin ever done to facilitate what he would call the wise distribution of such information? Has the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company shown as much care for the health and life of these poor mothers of the East Side as it has for the class of people whose names will be found in its files? It will be time enough to attack our work, when Dr Dublin and the great company he serves can show that they are doing more for the suffering mothers and children than is being done by the advocates of Birth Control.



THE mother is not the only victim of over-large families. The "little mother" is another victim. The cover this month bears a wistful picture of one of these over-burdened little girls, and we find in an English chipping a story that is very much in point. It is written in the spirit of the population "booster" and is called "An Exhilarating Story of Seven from a Miner's Home." Exhilarating it may have been for the six boys, who all seem to have achieved a high school education and are now making decent livings. The all too simple story of the girl is told in the sentence with which the family annals open: "We have a family of seven, six boys and one girl—the oldest of seven, on whom much of the burden of the family rested."

It was John Spargo who pointed out that the existence of little mothers—children deprived of their childhood to perform the work of grown women—was a social menace and a crime. It is a crime against the little mother, and a crime against the younger children entrusted to her ignorant care. Little Mothers' Leagues have come into existence to instruct these children in the tasks laid prema-

turedly on them. But Birth Control is the only method whereby the real mothers can be preserved to families not too large for their personal care.



WE are in the habit of saying in this country that the foreign-born are to be held responsible for our rapidly approaching overpopulation problem, that we must increase our American stock, hold down the foreign-born. The truth is that our American-born are the first comers. They have profited by the opportunities offered by a new country, so that today they make up the large body of our middle class with a standard of living that makes Birth Control necessary and access to information that makes it practical. The foreign-born are second comers who had no such opportunities. It is not as the foreign-born but as the poor that the immigrant creates an overpopulation problem. This is well brought out in Professors Baber and Ross' recent study of two groups of American-born families. One of these, made up of prosperous middle-class people, averaged less than three children apiece, the other, a group of families dependent on charity, averaged between six and seven children a family. It is not their country or origin but their inability to gain access to information on Birth Control that makes the poor prolific. Helplessness and ignorance on this subject are not a matter of race.



IN a communication published in our news notes Dr G de Lapouge, a eugenicist of international standing, tells of a study made by him of the public registers of his own city of Portiers, France, for the century 1800-1900. The research shows in the cold and unsentimental records of town officials what an unregulated birth rate meant in terms of 100 years of suffering and death for mothers and children. Dr de Lapouge's conclusion that out of the ten or twelve born to the families of that century there were saved from premature death few if any more than the two or three who are born under Birth Control to a family in France today is in conformity with the conclusions of other students that a high birth rate is in the nature of the case speedily overhauled by the death rate. Dr de Lapouge promises in a later number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW to analyze his data in full.

* See Volume 11 of the "Proceedings," recently published by us, and advertised among our books.

May, 1926

The Rationality of Birth Control

A Reply to Dr Dublin

By FRANKLIN H. HANKINS

THERE seem to be two primary **contentions** in Dr Dublin's paper. The first is that Birth Control is only one phase of the great population problem and **its** bearing thereon has not been clearly established. The second is that Birth Control methods are not certainly effective and may be harmful. As there are others more competent to treat this second objection more authoritatively, I shall comment on **it** first and very briefly.

One must be struck with the curiously **illogical** position of an opponent of Birth Control who objects that the methods are ineffective. Since he also argues that such methods are coming **into** universal use, he ought to say, "the less effective the better." The charge that they may be harmful **is** pertinent **and** more serious. It would be incorrect to imply that all methods are believed harmful by those capable of giving expert opinion. Some are, no doubt, **widely** condemned, others are **widely** approved. One hardly knows how much weight to attach to **medical** opinion, certainly few general **practitioners** are entitled to an **opinion** that need be taken seriously. If serious infections have been traced to some methods, the charge must be laid against these particular methods, or **their** unintelligent or improper use, not against Birth Control as such. In that case, we have a substantial argument in favor of the freer **dissemination** of the best information available.

The same may be said of the charge that "mental disorders" (a strong term) result from contraceptive devices. If there be truth in this charge, the remedy is to be found in wider **dissemination** of the best extant methods. Moreover, and of this **point** the **Dublins** seem to be entirely **oblivious**, there are a dozen cases of psychological disturbance, mental **anguish** and loss of mental **efficiency** caused by the fear of conception where there is one case of "mental disorder" **resulting** from the use of improper methods. Fears of one sort or another are man's greatest enemies, and they can be **banished** most effectively by the confidence which comes **with** the knowledge that gives control.

Pessimism of Anti-Birth Control

All the way through Dr Dublin's paper runs a note of obscurantism, of **pessimism** and doubt. He wishes to hold mankind in subjection to **animal** impulses. He fears that some metaphysical **Leviathan**

called the State may not be served unless man be caught, as in a trap, by his own vital impulses and be made to reproduce against his will. Here is another aspect of the struggle between instinct and reason, **religion** against science. One cannot say that Dublin is wrong, for the outcome is not yet clear, it may be, and certainly there are grounds for believing that mankind cannot stand **civilisation**, that it cannot stand prosperity, that it cannot permanently **utilise** the freedom that knowledge gives. It may indeed appear in the long run that the permanency of a state or a church depends more on the Ignorance, poverty and mental subjection of its members than upon their **enlightenment** and individual well-being. It is ignorance and poverty that keep man entrapped in subjection to his instinctive urges and hence provide that physical immortality of membership which makes a state or church enduring.

But in **this** age we have been trying to release the human **spirit** from the bondage of Ignorance and superstition, taboos and fears. We have proclaimed that institutions must serve the average man and not man his institutions. It is not true as Dr Dublin asserts that the state proscribes Birth Control on the ground that it **wishes** to **inveigle** the **citizen** into involuntary parenthood. The military state **might** thus seek an abundant soldiery, the **capitalist** state might thus seek an adequate supply of cheap labor. But the democratic state sets individual welfare as its goal, and, now that the world is sufficiently full of people, the **intelligent** state **will** be less interested **in** large families than in sound ones.

Fruits of Contraception

Ours is an age of science, and science means control by man of the **conditions** essential to his own **existence** and welfare. We cannot hope that all men will use new knowledge for high and noble purposes. They never have. But one may observe that **conception** control has increased the health, physical and mental vigor, and longevity of many, it has reduced infant mortality, it has enhanced the life values of millions of women. If these values for a **portion** of the population can be purchased only at the expense of **social** decay, then, **in** an enlightened democratic age, one must and may answer for **himself** whether he **thinks** the price too high.

The Population Question

But the main contention of Dr Dublin's paper is that the Birth Control propaganda has not thought through the population problem as a whole and related itself thereto in a cogent and integral manner. He would postpone Birth Control until all other phases of the great population question are solved. He finds that neither the question of quantity nor the question of quality has been finally thought through. As to quantity he finds that the birth rate has been diminishing for a long time, that this is due to the widespread use of contraceptive methods, and that we are approaching a stationary population. He finds that immigration has "enormously" padded the reproductive ages in our population and given an artificial appearance of rapid growth which must quickly disappear, now that immigration has nearly ceased.

There is here as in most of Dr Dublin's assertions a grain of truth, but why magnify it into a mountain of error? He reveals an astonishing amount of naivete in demanding that the population problem as a whole be solved before the Birth Control movement be launched. Such "problems" are never "solved." They can't be until that "far-off divine event" when the static millennium of man's perfect adjustment to the globe shall have been achieved, and such a state means death.

Stationary Population

It seems always to be forgotten that stationary rather than increasing populations are characteristic of human history. Not only so, but the enormous increase in world population of the last one hundred and fifty years is absolutely without precedent. This expansion of the white European into the relatively waste areas of the globe is a unique episode in world history. Two conditions made it possible. One was the existence of great areas like the Americas, Australia, South Africa, sparsely peopled by aborigines in a low state of civilization. There are no similar areas now, although the world's population is twice as great as when this process began and is increasing faster. The second factor was the development of science. This had the effect of increasing man's control over material resources so that larger numbers of people could be sustained.

But it also gave man increasing control over his own vital processes. It has reduced the evils of sickness and the ravages of disease. By promoting health it has reduced death rates and increased longevity. Through most of human history births and deaths have balanced. But medicine and sanitation by closing or narrowing the exits of life are

threatening to inundate with humanity not only the land but civilization. If we are progressively to check death rates and lengthen life a reduction of births is a necessity. Much reduction has occurred during the past two generations, but it has scarcely kept pace with the reduction in deaths. It is safe to say that the world's population is now increasing at almost maximum rates and that the American population has a greater absolute excess of births over deaths than at any time in its history. There must be an end to this increase sooner or later. This is a point of which the opponents of Birth Control seem curiously oblivious. Consequently, all those arguments directed against contraception as inherently irreligious or immoral or uneconomic or what not are inherently unsound, even if they seem to be true now they will soon be obviously untrue.

Quality and Quantity

The question of quality is the really important one. The upper classes have smaller families, later marriages, and more celibacy than the lower. Nor does there seem any doubt that the upper classes excel the lower in inherent physical strength, mental ability and organic energy. This lessened rate of reproduction appears to be an inevitable consequence of the development of cultured individuality which wealth and education have brought. Especially does the increasing freedom of women and all that goes with it involve a control of fecundity. College women notoriously shirk their duty to the race, however much they serve society otherwise. It is not so much those classes who succeed in the money-getting competition of capitalist society who avoid the responsibilities of a numerous progeny, but those who strive for success in an ever-widening range of professional and creative activities from law and medicine to science, literature and the arts. Here then is a dilemma of the most profound social significance. It may well involve the maintenance of civilization itself. Superior ability comes from inheritance. It is none too abundant now, and if those strains that possess it are continuously sterilized for several generations it must become scarcer, perhaps too scarce for the requirements of a complex dynamic society. Is the solution to be found in an effort to check or stamp out Birth Control?

An affirmative answer is evidence of lack of realistic grasp of the underlying facts and of constructive imagination toward them. The most obvious first step toward restoration of a better balance between the fecundity upper and lower classes is to equip the latter with as effective knowledge as the former now possess.

(Continued on page 176)

A Generation of Birth Control in Holland

By ALETTA JACOBS, M D

WHEN we speak in meetings like this one about the desirability or the necessity of Birth Control, we, as a rule, take our arguments to defend our cause, from an economic, a sociological or a eugenic point of view. We prove, or try to prove, that in behalf of social welfare, or to improve the race, or for the danger of overpopulation, or in behalf of other reasons of general interest, the control of births is necessary, so that no more children are born than the world needs and can be taken care of in a proper way.

On such altruistic and economic reasons the first defender of birth control, the English clergyman, Malthus, based his theory and his first followers in England, Dr Drysdale, Annie Besant, Bradlaugh and others, I believe the first people in the world who openly propagated the theory of Malthus, defended their recommendation of Birth Control.

If there were only reasons of general interest to defend this cause, it would take a long time before we should succeed in convincing people to follow our doctrine. In that case we should need laws to forbid parents to have more than a certain number of children.

Because here, and all over the world, speaking in general, the people are not yet so well educated, so far spiritually developed, that they will do things or not do them, only for social or altruistic reasons. Most of the people everywhere get the impulse for their actions from their own interests, and, we may say happily, in the matter of Birth Control, the interest and the happiness of the family go arm in arm with the interest and the welfare of society.

No Coercion Needed

We do not need laws to forbid people to get more than a certain number of children, if only the Governments and the Churches do not forbid the people to get the necessary information from medical doctors how to prevent undesired conceptions. If people only know where to get such information they soon will follow the right road which leads to their own health, their own happiness and welfare, as well as to that of their country.

When women come to us doctors for anti-conceptive information their reasons for coming are quite different from those which the scientific advocates use to defend this cause. Such a woman tells, and we know it is true, that she only can bear sickly or dead children, another tells that every fresh confinement meant for her a renewed fight with death,

or another one, who cannot afford to have more children for a lot of other very correct reasons.

If you know the lives of the very poor in our great and overpopulated cities, and even of the people in the miserable cottages of the country-side, then you know the many reasons for which the women of those circles come to us for anti-conceptive information.

Such women are not all ill, so that even in your country the doctor would not be free to help them. Oh no, some of them are young and strong and healthy, and still have their very important reasons to prevent conception.

So, for example, there comes a young healthy girl, who tells that she and her sweetheart want to marry, but he does not yet earn enough to support a family. If she could remain at work and have in the beginning of their marriage no children, they together could save for later days, when they begin to build up their family. Therefore, she asks information how to prevent conception till the time is there to have their first baby.

Pillars of Society

There are so many examples of healthy women who want preventive means for a certain time, and in my long years of experience in this cause, I am convinced that in all such cases the married couples belong to the best specimen of citizens, because they feel their responsibility towards society, and they will not give birth to children for whom they are unable to provide well. Such people are in each country the pillars of future society, such couples, if you give them the desired information, will bring up healthy and well-educated offspring, which will become the strong and healthy men and women, which every country needs to make real progress.

And another kind of case comes to us for help and if we do not help them, they will become a danger to society. In these cases the woman is healthy too, but she has married a man who is a drunkard, or he is a criminal and goes from jail to jail, but who in the intervals always has an opportunity to bring her again in a family-way, or a woman whose husband is syphilitic, or tubercular, or more or less insane. In all such cases the wife has to earn the living for the family. Ought we, medical doctors, not be free to help such women to prevent new conceptions? The births of such children are crimes, crimes against the children, crimes against the mothers, and the biggest crimes against society at large.

When all **this** is true—and no one can deny these facts, why should the doctors in every country not be free to help such people, to give them the information they ask in behalf of their own and the common welfare?

Everywhere, where it is forbidden, one hears the same reasons, why it ought to be forbidden, notwithstanding these reasons are refuted in an undeniable way in the countries where people are free to limit their families

Holland the Pioneer

I know that my country is the one where Birth Control has been practiced freely during the longest period. It was in 1882, nearly half a century ago, that I began to give women anti-contraceptive help, if a new pregnancy was not desirable for social, moral or medical reasons

Since that date, that work has been continued and year by year, with an increasing rapidity the birth-rate in Holland has fallen down. Large families are now rare in Holland and with few exceptions they are only seen in Roman Catholic and pious Calvinist circles

Now let me see what became of the arguments against Birth Control. These arguments are everywhere the same. I have heard them fifty years ago and they are nowadays heard here in the United States

The first argument is that Birth Control means race-suicide. They say when women know how to prevent pregnancy no more children will be born. Now, only men can use such an argument. We women know that in every normally organized woman the desire for motherhood is so strong that nothing but serious considerations will lead her to resign motherhood, either completely or in part

But what did experience in Holland teach the world in this respect?

Since 1850-1880 (before 1850 the statistics could not be trusted), the birth rate increased steadily and reached its highest point when it was 37.6 to the 1,000 inhabitants

From 1880 until now the birth rate decreased year by year, always at a greater rate, and it was in 1920 not more than 19.3 to the 1,000 inhabitants. But notwithstanding the fall of the birth rate of nearly 50 per cent, the growth of the population is increasing every year faster

This is a result of the fact that as soon as the birth rate began to fall, the death rate began to fall too, and what was not expected, the fall of the death rate was in proportion greater than the decrease of the birth rate, so that, with a smaller number of children born, the surplus of the population every year is greater

No Race Suicide

The statements of the opponents of Birth Control, that spreading knowledge about the means to prevent undesired conception among the people, leads to race-suicide, is not true. The yearly increase of population in Holland was in 1880, 11.4 out of 1,000 inhabitants, and now 17.8 out of 1,000 inhabitants

Will the balance of the birth rate and the death rate become so adjusted that the growth of the population will no longer endanger the country? The birth rate should fall more and more and ought not to be more than 10 or 12 births to 1,000 inhabitants

And not before the birth rate has fallen another 50 percent of what it is now, and when it will be no more than about 10 births to the 1,000 inhabitants, will the balance of birth rate and death rate become adjusted, that is to say no more people will be born than die every year in Holland

It will take perhaps another half a century before we are so far, and in the meantime the population of Holland will have grown to 25 million, much too much for so small a country as ours, where now already 353.6 persons are living upon one square mile. And we have now a population of 7,000,000

Birth Control and Marriages

A thing of great importance for the morality of our country and for the health and happiness of the people is that since 1880 the number of marriages has increased and the age of the marrying couples has lowered. The result of this should have been that the number of new-born babies had increased too, if the young married couples did not take the precaution to limit their offspring. In 1880 there were 100 marriages 5.90 of which the wife was under the 25 years of age and in 1923 there were 9.06 to the 100 marriages of which the wife has not reached her twenty-fifth birthday. And the number of marriages in 1880 was 7.5 to the 1,000 inhabitants and was 8 to the 1,000 in 1923

And let me say, in comparison with other countries, divorces are rare in Holland

I learned when I was here a year ago that the greatest opposition against Birth Control here in the United States, is that it would increase immorality. The opponents here said to me that when it was known publicly how to prevent pregnancy, extra-matrimonial sexual intercourse would become the order of the day

I was greatly astonished when I heard that. Do people know, who use that argument, how they mark the morality of the American women? Would they really make me believe that the American women are living a moral life only because they do not know how to prevent pregnancy? I refuse

to be **beve** it! I have gamed a better **impression** of the character of **American** women

And I ask such opponents, is the **morality** of a people worth very much, if the knowledge of how to prevent an **undesired** pregnancy will make them **immoral**?

Let me see if **this** knowledge **did** **increase** **immorality** in Holland. One can surely say that in **Holland**, every grown **girl** or woman knows how to prevent pregnancy, and if she does not know, she knows where to get the **information**.

And what is the result? That now young couples, **being** in love **with** each other, **can** marry, **as** soon as the wages of both together are **sufficient** for them **living**. They wait to have **their** first baby **till** their income is large enough to support a **family**. As I have said just before, the number of **marriages** have increased and the **ages** of the **marrying** couples have lowered.

There are of course in every country a **certain** number of people who prefer **extra-matrimonial** sexual **intercourse** **instead** of **marriage**. How great that number is in one or another country no one can tell. **Therefore**, it is often **estimated** in proportion to the number of **illegitimate children** born.

This is of course a false **basis** for **estimation**, but if it was **true**, Holland should stay on the **highest** rank of **morality**. In the last years there are only **19 1** **illegitimate children** born out of every **1,000** new **babies**. In comparison **with** other European **countries**, **this** is an extremely low percentage.

To mention only a few other **countries** in **Europe**! England had in the same years **43 4**, Scotland **70 9**,

France **87 9**, Belgium **84 1** and so on, to every **1,000** babies born. And the less than two **illegitimate children** born out of **100** new born **babies** in Holland have nearly always Roman **Catholic** parents.

It is said by people who come to study the health and moral **conditions** in Holland that the very low number of **illegitimate children** **with** us, **needs** not to **find** its cause in a **higher** moral **standing** but that it is the result of the general use of **anti-conceptive** means. **This** may be true, but who can say?

But if the use of these means has had that result, ought every country then not follow our example? Ought we not be thankful that there are means **which** prevent the **conception** of those **miserable** human **beings**? Is it not of the greatest value to **society** at large, and much better for the **unmarried** mother that her **behavior** does not bring a **child** into life, for whom there is no decent place on **earth**?

A lot of people are of the **opinion** that the **birth** of a **child** must be the **punishment** for the unsocial deed of the mother, but such **hypocrites** forget that the **punishment** in the first place comes upon the head of the **innocent child** and that in **large** part **society** has to **suffer** for it.

To **finish** and be short, I can say that every **unprejudiced** observer **who** comes to **Holland** to study the moral, and the health **conditions** there, must come to the conclusion that Holland is one of the **healthiest** countries in the world and that it has a **high** moral standard.*

* Excerpts from an address given before the Sixth International Birth Control Conference. For the whole of Dr. Jacobs' paper see "Sixth International Birth Control Conference," Vol. I, p. 85.



Mill Children

By JOHN CURTIS UNDERWOOD

We have forgotten how to **sing** our laughter is a godless **thing** hstless and loud and **shrill** and **sly**

We have forgotten how to **smile**. Our hps, our **voices** too are **vile**. We are all dead before we **die**.

Our mothers' mothers made us so the father that we never know in **blindness** and in wantonness

Caused us to come to **question** you. What is it that you others do, that profit so by our **distress**?

You and your **children** softly sleep. We and our mothers **vigil** keep. You cheated us of all dehgth,

Ere our **sick spirits** came to **birth** you made our **fair** and **frutful** earth a nest of **pestilence** and bhght.

Your black **machines** are never **still**, and hard, relentless **as your will**, they card us **like** the cotton waste

And flesh and blood more cheap than they, they **seize** and eat and shred away, to feed the fever of your haste

For we are waste and shoddy here, who know no God, no **faith** but fear, no happiness, no hope but sleep

Half **imbecile** and half obscene we **sit** and tend each tense **machine**, too mck to sigh, too **tired** to weep,

Until the tortured end of day, when fevered faces turn away, to see the stars from blackness leap

—(Quoted from *Processionals*)

The Outline of Marriage

PART V

By FLOYD DELL

HOW do you account for the separation of sex and love?

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST Love is, I should say, the natural emotional accompaniment of the sexual impulse in a species like ours, in which the affair is a rather personal one, to say the least, and normally educative of an intensity of personal feelings. In pre-human society, though this is a matter to be envisaged only through mists of conjecture, the family was, at one stage, presumably the social unit, and was the field of fierce personal passions,* into which the psycho-analysts are more at liberty than I to conduct their investigations. At a later stage—though again this is mere conjecture—these separate families coalesced for some reason of necessity into a larger hunting-pack, and the individuals went apart from the pack only to mate. But, as the pack gained its ascendancy over the families within itself, it began to discourage the mating-impulse, as dangerous to pack-unity. A kind of social control over matings was established. Social rewards were offered to those individuals who submitted to such control, namely to letting the old folks pick their mates, and social penalties were visited upon those who refused to submit.

The Rule of the Pack

The family had become a part of the internal political organization of the pack, and one of the prime motives of the marriage system was the strengthening of existing families as political units.

Marriage became a mode of alliance between families, and people who married did not so much found new families as strengthen old ones. The economic motive was a part of this quasi-political arrangement. The more obscure details of these marriage systems may be referred to psychological motives of such a sort as only our Freudian friends would venture to attempt to unravel—but in their more obvious aspects these marriage systems are intended to keep tribal power in the hands of those who have it. The last possible motive which would be expected to enter seriously into these political and economic alliances would be those fierce and incalculable personal preferences which we call love. The sexual impulses themselves would be left largely out of account, on the presumption that they would easily be satisfied outside marriage if not within it.

* The Professor means jealousy between fathers and sons, and the securing of a wife (his father's wife) only by father-murder. See Freud's "Totem and Taboo."

But What Becomes of Love?

Q But what becomes of love, thus ejected from marriage for the sake of peace, quiet, convenience, comfort and social order?

A Ah, that makes a long, though an interesting story.

Q Let's hear it!

A Very well—but first you should hear of the effects upon the psychology of marriage produced by war, slavery and polygamy.

Q Go right ahead, Professor.

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST I shall explain what war, slavery and polygamy have done to the human spirit in this department of life.

"Perhaps," the Anthropologist went on, "it would be best to recapitulate the points so far reached in our discussion. We began with a discussion of the 'mating-impulse' as the probable origin of marriage. By mating impulse we meant simply the desire for a companion—a desire so strongly conditioned, however, by the sexual instinct that this companion would naturally be of the opposite sex. We assumed that such sexual matings represented the normal human disposition. It does not seem a rash assumption. And yet, if we look at the marriage customs of the various tribes and races of mankind, we find this mating impulse so overlaid with other considerations as to be almost entirely obscured from view. And the question we raised was—what are these other considerations which have entered in to distort the mating-impulse into the strange and preposterous customs, differing from time to time and place to place, which we call marriage?"

"We found that in the dawn of human life man became a hunting animal, we found that men gathered into packs to hunt better, and that the families which had sprung from the mating-impulse and the necessity to care for children were merged in these larger packs—not quite losing their identity, but becoming political units, as it were, within the pack, which itself came to be organized somewhat on the model of the family. We found also that mankind was obsessed with an impulse toward adaptive specialization, the impulse which has created hereditary castes and occupations. One expression of this impulse led these tribes to distinguish themselves from each other by special kinds of dress, customs, tattoo-marks, etc., as though they were different species of animals. There is nothing strange in this—it can be seen at the present day

in the **different** colors and 'yells' by which colleges set themselves apart from each other, as well as by the **different** flags and **shibboleths** by which nations preserve a **superstitiously** venerated **identity**. This bears gravely upon the **origin** of **marriage**.

Segregating the Sexes

"The **non-childbearing** half of mankind happened to be the better adapted to the game of hunting, so that hunting became **its** trade, and **its** **special** prerogative. The **separation** of the sexes appears to have begun at **this point** in human history. Hunting became taboo to women. And as **hunting** became a more and more Important **tribal activity**, men and women became more and more separate in **their daily lives**. They became separate castes with separate **duties**.

"Separate two boys who have grown up from childhood, separate them by any **device** you please—call one of them a **Republican** and the other a Democrat, or one a Yale man and the other a **Harvard** man, or one of them a German and the other a **Frenchman**—give them separate flags and **habits** and modes of dress—and when they come together they **will** do so with a mutual suspicion **which** may easily be turned **into** hostility. Never mind the **hostility**, but remember that **it** is based on **suspicion**—that is to say, Fear of the Strange. That **is** what happened to men and women. They were separated and they began to fear each other.

"Woman had been kept at home, not **permitted** to go hunting **with** the men. Soon **it** was **believed** that the reason they were not **permitted** to go hunting **with** the men was that they would bring bad luck. That **is** the second step: woman had become a Jonah!

The Taboo on Woman

"But **mankind** is nothing if not **thorough-going** in **its** **superstitions**. If woman could **bring** bad luck to the hunting, she could **bring** bad luck to the weapons **with** **which** the hunting **is** done. Therefore no woman **might** touch a spear, if she **did**, **it** was thrown away. And as for those **ritual** games and **ceremonials** by which men **promise** themselves good luck in the **hunting**—if a woman should **Intrude** **into** **this** sacred performance, she must be **killed**.

"Woman was dangerous, **it** was **as** a woman that she was dangerous, and therefore, by **savage** **logic**, **it** was those aspects of her **which** mark her as a woman that were most dangerous. Menstrual blood became the most dangerous **thing** in the world—to men, and to guard **against** **their** **being** contaminated, women were taboo **during** that **period**. They became taboo **during** other periods **which** mark them as **women**—**during** pregnancy and the **nurs-**

ing period. And they were generally taboo to men **during** the **hunting** season.

Red-Blooded He-Men

"But what happens in **this** **masculine** society, cut off from all except casual, temporary and **irresponsible** **relations** **with** women, on the one hand, and carefully arranged and carefully guarded and **dutiful** domestic relations on the **other**? Well, what do you suppose? What always happens when men are cut off from **intimacy** **with** women? But let us here **consider**, not the grosser aspects of the **situation**, but the **sublimation** of **this** unnatural **situation** in legend, poetry and popular **idealism**. It there appears in the form of **Comradeship**.

"Take the **Iliad**. Our **hunting** males have learned the art of **internecine** war by this time. They have stopped **eating** their **slain** **enemies** (as they **did** at first, when war was a mere **variety** of the hunting game)—they take home the dead **enemies'** weapons as **trophies** instead—and the **live** **enemies** whom they have captured as **trophies**, too. Formerly, after **showing** off these **live** **trophies**, they tortured and **killed** them, later they made slaves of **them**—workers of the men, the **children**, and the old women, **concubines** of the pretty young **girls**. And now see **Achilles**, **indulging** his celebrated **Wrath**—fit subject for **epic** **celebration** and the **admiration** of us all, presumably. **Achilles** broods in **his** **tent**—and what about? **Why**—**Briseis**, a pretty **girl**, one of the latest **captives**, who should by **rights** have been **given** to **him**, has been hogged by Agamemnon. Not, **mind** you, that **Achilles** **is** in love **with** her. Far from **it**. His affections are **otherwise** engaged. **It** would have been the same if Agamemnon had cheated **him** out of the armor of a Trojan he had **slain**. **Briseis** **is** booty—loot **is** the modern term. Nevertheless, do not conclude that **Achilles** **is** **incapable** of love. For, look what happens. **While** he skulks and glooms in his tent (**like** a ball-player on the bench after the umpire has unjustly called a third **strike** on **him**), suddenly a **youth** named Patroclus **is** **killed**. Then **Achilles** really gets angry. **His** **Wrath** **is** unloosed. For Patroclus **is** his **Friend**. Call **it** that if you **like**. Or call it Comrade. Anyway, Patroclus **is** a youth to whom **Achilles** **is** devotedly attached. And so **Achilles** goes out and fights Hector, and **kills** him, and drags **his** dead body at the tail of his chariot **three**—or **is** **it** **nine**?—**times** around the wall of Troy. And Troy, **with** its best **warrior** **killed**, falls, and Helen **is** restored to the arms of her husband. Who **is** Helen, do you ask? No, you don't ask, **because** you **think** you know. You **think** Helen was the woman for whom the topless towers of **Ilium** were burnt. You were never more **mistaken** in your **life**.

Helen vs. Patroclus

"Helen was a mere *casus belli*—like a boundary line, or an insult to the flag, or the killing of a missionary in a modern war. Nobody cares about the missionary—and nobody cared about Helen, except as an excuse for fighting. When you get men off by themselves, separated from their families, they are an army, and they have to fight Helen! Was this the face that launched a thousand ships? No. But dead Patroclus, now—this was the face that burnt the topless towers of Ilium, all right. And this is what the *Iliad* is all about. There is only one touch of domestic love in the whole epic, and that is the passage in which Hector bids farewell to his wife and little son, and goes to his death. And Hector is an odd and lonely figure in this galaxy of epic heroes. Epic heroes do not generally have wives or sweethearts. If they do, they forget about them—or like the Russian epic hero, Stenka Razin, they throw her in the river lest she take their minds off the real business of life—which is, of

course, fighting shoulder to shoulder with their male comrades.

"In this militaristic, manly, red-blooded, and unmistakably homosexual barbaric period, what chance has a woman. As a wife she can be good, dutiful, obedient, patient, kind, and a devoted mother to her children, and—because the mating-impulse lives, even though thwarted, in the human mind—she can sometimes achieve something resembling a real mating with her lawful lord and master. Or else, if he should fail to appreciate these qualities, she can be good, kind, obedient, etc., a Patient Griselda, and console herself with the reflection that virtue is its own reward. Or she can be objectionable in the usual ways, and suffer the customary penalties if caught at it. These are her chances as a wife, and they have created types of womanly character with which we are familiar in fiction and in real life. But the range of character created by these conditions is limited. It was as a slave that woman found a new opportunity, which she made the most of.

(To be continued next month)



The Attitude of the Synagogue Towards Birth Control

Personal *Testimony*

By STEPHEN S. WISE

I AM here just to bear my personal testimony with respect to the problem that you are considering. I say "that you are considering" because I really think that I would be very much more interested in the problem of Birth Control if there were fewer of you to fight for it. I was a Birth Controller before most of you, I think, speaking as much as ten or fifteen years ago from my pulpit, and inviting a really great man, in his day, Dr. Abraham Jacoby, to give what proved to be a memorable address. I couldn't inveigle or seduce Dr. Jacoby into speaking on religion from my pulpit, until one day I said to him, "Now Dr. Jacoby, won't you speak on Birth Control?" "Oh," he said, "if I may speak on Birth Control from the pulpit of a place of worship, then I am ready to come." And he did come and he made that memorable address.

I said that I would be more interested in your problem—in our problem—if Birth Control were

a little more unpopular than it is. I am afraid that your cause is growing too popular, and that there is no more fighting to be done, or in any event very little of it. But that will be very good after all, for it is after the first fighting has been done, that men and women settle down to a wiser understanding and presentation of the problem or problems which they face.

I am asked to say a word about the attitude of the Synagogue—the Synagogue as a religious and ethical force—toward the problem of Birth Control. The other day a rather orthodox Jew, said to me with horror, real or assumed, "Dr. Wise, you are not going to speak at a Birth Control meeting?" I said, "I am, unless the invitation is rescinded in the meantime." "Well, don't you know, Dr. Wise, that Birth Control runs counter to the teachings of Israel?" Well, there was only one answer to be made. I reminded this orthodox Jew that there was a time when, for example, polygamy was not only

lawful, but, **judging** from the number of those **who practiced it**, it seemed to be a quite admirable affair, and I am sorry to make the **admission** that **polygamy** has not yet been wholly bashed from **Jewish life**. There was a decree **against** polygamy in the **Jewish church** at a great council known as the council of **Rabbi Garshen**, which **banned polygamy forever** from the western world. In other words, **Western Jews were denied the penalties of polygamy**, but the Jews in the East were suffered to rest under them.

The Life of the Child is Sacred

"Well," I said, "Abraham and some others among my fathers were **polygamists**, and still that great decree of a rabbinical council banned **polygamy**, because it came to be seen that **polygamy** was **incompatible** with the acceptance of the religion of Israel which alone was possible in the later time." There is **nothing** in the Jewish church to sanction Birth Control. I will go as far as to admit that there are no express or **affirmative teachings** with regard to the **practices** of Birth Control and I don't pretend that there are. I rest my case on **other grounds altogether**. I rest my case, as a Jew and as a Jewish teacher, in giving my support to Birth Control, the doctrine and the practice alike, upon my faith as a Jew and a Jewish teacher that **the life of the child is a sacred thing**, and that we ought to hold life so sacred as to be **unwilling** to have life come into the world, unless we can surround it with those circumstances and conditions that make a full, complete, holy life possible. Now, on that simple statement of my faith as a Jew, I rest my own case, as a Jewish teacher, for Birth Control.

You know that there is a great deal of misunderstanding, even by teachers of religion, with regard to the things that are commended or condemned by the Bible. For example, there will never be a time when the Chambers of Minneapolis and Salt Lake City will not insist that poverty can never be abolished from the world, because Jesus said, "The poor ye have with you always." Well, there are two things to be said about that, either that Jesus was vastly and tragically **mistaken**, or (and this is my own hypothesis) that Jesus was stating a lamentable fact, rather than indulging in a glorious prophecy. Jesus was too great and perfect a humanitarian to assent to the notion that poverty was **inextinguishable**, that it was **indestructible**. He looked around him and he saw that poverty was—that poverty is—"The poor ye have with you always." Had Jesus been asked, "Must this always be so? Will the poor always be suffered to perish from the earth?" If I understand the mind of

Jesus, he would have said, he must have said, **something** such as this: "No, the day will come when in obedience to the will of God, you will find a way of **ending** the sin of poverty in the world."

The Eugenic Program

The one thing that I mean to say this afternoon, I can say in just one word. I believe in the **teachings** and I believe in the **practice** of Birth Control. I am not a fanatical believer—that the Messianic reign will dawn when Birth Control is **universally** accepted. I ought to make that reservation, (I am saying, of course, the **things** that I believe, not that you believe) because, frankly, I think of Birth Control as an item, an important item, but just an item in the eugenic program. I think it is supremely important as an item in the eugenic program, and the eugenic program is not Messianic. It again is an item, a very important item in a still larger program—and that larger program for me means this. The translation of the ideals of human justice and human decency and human brotherliness in the life of the world. That is all. But without a eugenic program we shall not have the beginning, let alone the end of the realization of the social programs of which we are dreaming, and Birth Control, I repeat, is the fundamental, primary element or item in the eugenic program.

Does that violate Jewish teaching? I think not. If it does, if church or synagogue stand in the way of the forward movement of human society to a deeper, juster, nobler order, so much the worse for church or synagogue. Our business it is, and I think that Dr. Garth in his great communion, and I among the people of my own religious and racial fellowship, can do something, as far as it may be needed, to bring our great religious fellowships to the understanding of the truth, that the Church was made for man, not man for the Church, that the business of Church and Synagogue is to deepen, to enrich, to ennoble the life of man. Birth Control is one of the truths making for that supreme end of life.*



Of all the idealist abominations that make society pestiferous, I doubt if there be any so mean as that of forcing self-sacrifice on a woman under the pretence that she likes it, and, if she ventures to contradict the pretence, declaring her no true woman.—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

* Excerpts from address given at the Sixth International Birth Control Conference

"LITTLE MOTHERS"

Burdens Laid on the Shoulders of Young Children

In these days of *kindness* and care for children, there as one forlorn *little figure* for whom there has *been* no rescue This *is* the "*Little Mother*" whose bent *shoulders* and twisted *spine* show the *toll* of *womanhood* laid upon the *child* When large *families* are extolled, at as the younger children whose *happiness* and success are noted What of the elders, *especially* the oldest *girl*? Deprived of *play, education, health and physical* development, she stands out as a *melancholy sacrifice* to the *Moloch* of *unrestricted births*

"A Little Mother" at 13

Ohio

I'm a mother of 2 living children and 2 dead, only married 6 years this coming July I'm a nervous wreck at times I have a good husband but he is attacked with rheumatism often, that keeps him from his work most of the time I wouldn't want another child for it brings my health down more with the more children I have and wouldn't want any more for there isn't hardly anything to raise them on My mother had 11 children, 5 of the oldest died, 6 of us are living She went insane with the last baby boy she had Was taken to the hospital where she died 4 years later Father was killed 6 months after mother died leaving 6 of us children without money I raised my youngest brother and he is with me ever since He is a boy of 17 years I was forced to go to the silk mill after both of my people died I worked 11 years to raise my brothers and sisters I married when I was 24 years old and have the same thing over again, a baby year after year I wouldn't like to follow the same steps my mother did to bring a big family out to this world for suffering

Afraid to Marry

Alabama

I guess you would think I was married, but I'm not, and here are some of the reasons why I'm not My mother is the mother of 10 children I am the oldest and have always had a very hard time as mother has put the responsibilities of home life on me I've been almost a mother to the children as there were so many of us, until there had to be someone to help do the hard work I've had to sit up nearly all night at times, get up in the morning, cook breakfast and dinner, get the children off to school and then wait on mamma, her not being able to work and go to school myself I have done this many, many times and even harder things, but now I've been teaching for several years I have now become tired of teaching

Here is my case The boy to whom I'm engaged

has as good a name as anybody I suppose He served in France for 13 months and I've known him all my life, and we have been going together since he came back from France My parents like him and we have been engaged for about 5 months He now has a position with the railroad company and is boarding, as it is too far away for him to stay at home I teach school about 1/2 of a mile from the section where he boards I also have to board I have to leave home about 4 o'clock, when I go home, and go about a mile before light in the morning You see this is very bad He can't see why I won't consent to marry, as we could easily live on the board we have to pay, but it seems like I just can't agree to it before my school is out, as I'm afraid I might become pregnant and have to resign my school If you could only help me to solve my case, the praise would be all yours What is your advice? Can you tell me any sure preventatives?

It seems hard for him to beg me so much, and me to refuse just on this account, but my grandmothers — ne had 10 children the other 12, so you see I can never bear the idea of marrying, if I think I've got to do that, because I know that's too many for any woman to care for properly, and that is the greatest of all sins I think — having children you can't care for properly I only teach 8 hours and he works only 8 hours, and I feel that if I knew "Birth Control" was sure for us, there would be no happier couple anywhere than we would be I know you could tell me a remedy and give me advice Why not? I must stop as I know I've written too long but the ruin of our country today is too many unwanted children

All Work; No Freedom

Indiana

What you say, I believe, is the truth about women going through life raising large families and ruining their own health And not only that but it falls also on to the oldest children the responsibility of work and upkeep of the family so they can't get the freedom in this world, like those of smaller families As I am one of the oldest of a family of 11 children, I know how I had to give up educa-

tion and **good times** to help work to keep famrly together and now only to find myself **in** the same place my mother was, just **going on raising** a famrly wrthout a reasonable **income** to take **care** of them I have **2 little** chldrcn, a boy 5, and a **girl**, and **expecting** another one any day, and am not well **at** all myself, but can't afford to **hire** my work done so must do **it** any way to **make both ends meet** So I **think I will** have all the chldren I can care for at present, **with what is coming**

"I Work Just Awful Hard"

Montana

It fills my heart wrth **grief** to **read** of the thousands of poor **suffering** women And how sad **it** makes **me** feel **when I** thrnk of my **dear** angel mother How **she** **suffered**! How I **wish** she had known of you, that she **might** have **gotten** some **help** She gave **birth** to **eight** of us, seven **of which** are **living** The last two that came she **didn't** want **them**, but how could she prevent **it**? She **tried** many means to, but **it** only helped to **ruin** her health She worked hard all the **time**, for we **live** on a farm **There is** always so much to do and we just have two small rooms and **it** has been so hard And we chldren all work hard too, but don't seem to get very far She **said** she would rather **die** than **give birth** to any more She was **expecting** another **then**, and she **did** dre, the dear **suffering** mother How hard **it** was for us to see her go, leave us seven to look after ourselves It makes me **grieve** to wnte all this

Well, as I was the oldest, just **sixteen**, I had to take her place I had just started **high school** I was more than **willing** to **quit** and do my best for my dear brothers and sisters The baby was left, **which** was a year and a half old, to look after and all the rest of the famrly, the house work, **baking**, cookrng, washrng and sewing was for me to do It was hard **indeed** I work just awful hard all the tme **until** I am almost worn out now I am **going** to get marred soon, yet I dread it when I **think** of my dear mother's **life** She **said** many times she just hated to thrnk of any of us **girls**, **which** was **five** of us, getting **married** for she hated to see any of us have the **life** she had, to bnnng to the world so many unwanted **babies** I am twenty years old now How I **wish** you could tell me how I should take care of myself, when I get **married** to prevent all these **hardships** before it **is** too late And then I remember **again** how my mother and father used to quarrel and almost separate, just on account of that, but how could they then, there was so many of us to look after I dearly love chldren, but I wouldn't want mare than two I feel **like** my dear angel mother did I would rather **die** than have any more than that, for I know what **it is** to **raise** a large famrly Am not so strong as I was anymore now I know of so many poor women that **died** just because there were more chldren than there should have been If they **didn't** need help I don't know who **did** How I **wish** over and over **again** that my dear mother could have reached **your** help

Mother's Standby

Iowa

I am a young woman twenty-three years of age I have **been** marred **since** March **5th, 1923**, and expect to be a mother some **time in** February I am not strong and **feel** already the toll of strength that motherhood exacts, but have no **desire** to avord it **in** harmful **methods** Even before I was **married** I had a dreadful fear of **bearing** children and **perhaps** you wrll say, "Why **did** you marry?", but surely you know the woman heart too **well** for that Your book shows that you do I am the oldest of a poor famrly of **seven** chldrcn and mother had three **miscarriages** **besides** They were **accidental**, however, for **she is** of the old **race** of women **who** **believe** that **bearing** chldren **is** their **unavoidable** lot But I have **been** her standby through those **years** of **suffering** (**being** a **girl** and the oldest) and through **it** all she managed to **keep** me **surprisingly** **ignorant** of **sex** problems I saw only the **suffering** she endured and the **neglect** the rest of my famrly managed to **somehow** pull through **with** my **childish** asrstance and at last **after** years of **suffering**, **sleepless** nrghts and doctors' **medicines**, mother's **mind** suffered as **well** as **her** body and she spent months **in an institution** for the Insane, **while** we chldrcn got along the **best** we could Do you wonder then, that I fear the results of too many **children**? I do not **wish** to avord motherhood **entirely**, but I want to make my home one **where** love and **happiness** are and not one where **misunderstanding** and **misery** abound

Following in Mother's Footsteps

Pennsylvania

I am a young woman **24** years of age and the mother of five children I was **married** when I was not **quite** yet 17 Mother passed away when I was but **13** years of age and left 6 other children **besides** myself I **being** the oldest had to take care of the house and children, the baby **being** **1½** years old I am **still** **keeping** house for dad and the **children** **This is** my trouble Every year there **is** a new baby I hardly get one off my lap when I have another one It **is** **driving** me almost Insane, as **it did** mother I am sure that is what caused mother to **die** as soon as she did

Denied Pleasures and Education

South Carohna

I am a young **married** woman **writing** you for a **bit** of rnfomatron I know **the evil** of too many **children** **in** a home My mother has **given birth** to ten children and isn't too old to have more Mother and father have always worked hard to keep **their family** **in** comfortable **circumstances** I do not want to be a slave for a **big family**, when there **is** a sure and harmless preventrve I am the oldest of mother's chldren and **have** **been** **denied** pleasures and educatron to some extent, **in** order to help mother with her work

WE DESIRE TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION

United States Senators
and their attitude toward

THE TERMS OF THESE SENATORS EXPIRE THIS



IF YOU reside in one of these States, the Senator will need your vote. Now is the time to get a large representation in Congress favorable to Birth Control legislation. Find out how your candidates stand, before you go to the polls.

From now until September 15th carry on in your State the work we have begun in Washington. Interview personally or write all candidates who are running for Congress.

<i>State</i>	<i>Senator</i>	<i>Attitude Toward Birth Control Amendment</i>
Illinois	WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY	Not interviewed
Indiana	JAMES E. WATSON	Open-minded
Pennsylvania	GEORGE W. PEPPER	Non-committal
Oregon	ROBERT N. STANFIELD	Non-committal
North Carolina	LEE S. OVERMAN	Favorable
Iowa	ALBERT B. CUMMINS	Will support
Florida	DUNCAN U. FLETCHER	Will support
North Dakota	GERALD P. NYE	Will support
Kansas	CHARLES CURTIS	Non-committal
Missouri	GEORGE H. WILLIAMS	Refused discussion
Oklahoma	JOHN W. HARRELD	Favorable
Ohio	FRANK B. WILLIS	Non-committal
Arkansas	T. H. CARAWAY	Violently opposed
Alabama	OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD	Not up for re-election
Kentucky	RICHARD P. ERNST	Favorable
California	SAMUEL M. SHORTRIDGE	Favorable

84 out of 96 United State Senators have been interviewed regarding the American Birth Control League Amendment. The result will be given in a later issue. Please get to work on this legislation from the Senators and Congressmen from your State.

OUR SUPPORTERS THE FOLLOWING LIST OF

Senators

Birth Control Legislation

AND ALL BUT ONE ARE UP FOR RE-ELECTION

¶ Every member of the House of **Representatives** goes out of **office**—435 Congressmen are to be elected before Congress convenes in December Make your **political interest** this year a vote for the man who will support **Birth Control legislation**

¶ This list **indicates** where the Senators stand on our amendment Urge those who are **non-committal** to be favorable, those favorable to stand openly for the **bill**, and those who are opposed —~~haps~~ you **can** help them to see the **light**.

<i>State</i>	<i>Senator</i>	<i>Attitude Toward Birth Control Amendment</i>
South Carolina	ELLISON D. SMITH	Favorable
Nevada	TASKER L. ODIE	Non-committal
New Hampshire	GEORGE H. MOSES	Refused to consider subject
Wisconsin	IRVINE L. LENROOT	Open-minded
Arizona	RALPH H. CAMERON	Non-committal
Massachusetts	WILLIAM M. BUTLER	Open-minded
Maryland	O. E. WELLER	Not interviewed
Colorado	RICE W. MEANS	Open-minded
Washington	WESLEY L. JONES	Favorable
Vermont	PORTER H. DALE	Not interviewed
Georgia	WALTER F. GEORGE	Not interviewed
Idaho	FRANK R. GOODING	Will support
Connecticut	HIRAM BINGHAM	Non-committal
Utah	REED SMOOT	Non-committal
Louisiana	EDWINS BROUSSARD	Refused to consider subject
New York	JAMES W. WADSWORTH	Non-committal — favors a Birth Control Commission

Interviewed personally on their attitude toward the
Postal Law A full report of these **interviews**
Will send you secure support for **Birth Control legis-**
lation in your district.

Book Reviews

BIRTH CONTROL, FACTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES A symposium dealing with this important subject from a number of angles Edited by Adolf Meyer, M D Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company

THIS remarkable and very valuable volume consists of twelve papers, or essays, which were presented at the Baltimore Birth Control Conference of 1923 These twelve papers cover every aspect of Birth Control except the purely medical and practical, which, according to the lam as it exists at present, cannot be published in a book designed for wide reading and therefore for transportation by the mails Three papers treat the subject from the point of view of public health "The Obligation of Procreative Hygiene," by Adolf Meyer, M D, "Birth Control and Mental Hygiene," by Ross McC Chapman, M D, "Birth Control in Relation to Public Health and Industry," by Reynold A Spaeth, Ph D In addition there is a long paper by Margaret Sanger, in which the health aspects of Birth Control find their place, along with other aspects of the subject—the relief it offers for child labor, for poverty, for over-population, for infant and maternal mortality and for the ever increasing problem of the multiplication of the unfit Professors Pearl, Ross and East all contribute papers on the menace of over-population Professor Miller treats the subject from the point of view of sociology President Little of Michigan University gives the biological aspect Professor I. J Cole speaks for the Eugenists, who believe that Birth Control is an essential step towards the improvement of the race The church is represented by Rabbi C A Rubenstein, and Dr Eleanor R Wembridge makes a powerful plea for the unfortunate young people to whom too large families and too crowded conditions of life have given no chance of development— young people who ought never to have been born

Even a bare recapitulation, such as is given above may convey some idea of the breadth and scope of this little volume—only 157 pages in all It also indicates the standing and the character of the men and women who have collaborated to produce it It would hardly be possible to find a book in which the whole subject of Birth Control is better presented, or in which the various authors speak with so much authority and from such a wide and scholarly background as is to be found here Dr Adolf Meyer, who edits the book, states in his preface the stand of the Roman Catholic Church This he does very fairly and without comment, or any attempt to controvert its position Quoting from "Family Limitation and the Church and Birth Control," by Father Ryan, he writes "Actions that are in harmony with nature are good, those which are not in harmony with nature are bad Now to

exercise a faculty in such a way as to prevent it from attaining its natural end or object is to act contrary to nature' This rule is considered as 'universally and absolutely valid There is not a single exception to it The Church never established any impediment to matrimony on the mere ground of the kind of offspring that might be expected to result She sanctioned the marriage of lepers While she forbids the marriage of insane persons, the reason is not to be found in the quality of the children, but in the fundamental circumstance that the parents are incapable of making a binding contract'" Dr Meyer's only remark is "It may be well to abstain from comment, and to recommend instead the complete perusal of the little pamphlet"

Not only the objections brought against Birth Control by the Roman Catholic Church, but objections from every quarter, and also the doubts and hesitations of the nearly-persuaded will find full, conclusive and satisfactory answers in this little volume It should be added to every Birth Control library, and should be used as a source book for debates and for speakers on the subject It makes a suitable gift for a traveler, for it is small, compact and full of most interesting reading The movement is to be congratulated on this new weapon in its arsenal

A G P

UNMASKING OUR MINDS, by David Seabury New York, Boni and Liveright

MUCH science and more wisdom are packed into the four hundred pages of this new volume of modern psychology The author makes the fullest use of all that has recently been studied and written concerning the unconscious mind and the havoc that can be wrought in adult life by repressions from infancy To this, he adds much of his own, and the chapters on Will and Imagination, Impelling Motives, and Intelligence and Understanding are of special value to the man or woman who wishes to know himself or herself The style is not technical but suited to the general reader who has a fair knowledge of the basal principles of psychology The book is a useful addition to the growing library of practical psychology

WRECKED LIVES by Joseph H Greer, M D, is a booklet prepared for popular distribution from the voluminous and authoritative British report on venereal disease made in 1916 Though the material is not new to scientists it is new to most of us and on every page it strengthens the case for Birth Control The following facts on syphilitic families are striking

"In the case of 34 syphilitic mothers, Dr Mott found that 175 pregnancies resulted in only 30 'apparently healthy children, leaving 104 premature births, stillbirths, or deaths in infancy, and 41 'seriously diseased'

Our Contemporaries

In the Journal of *Social Hygiene*, March number, Dr H E Kleinschmidt writes of "Little Mothers Leagues" and the efforts that are being made through them to educate girls in the practical care of babies. He urges that the work be enlarged to include instruction in the facts of sex and reproduction. He does not, however, go far enough. The existence of Little Mothers—children on whom the burden of the mother is laid so prematurely—is a disgrace to society, and the promoters of these Leagues should also undertake the instruction of women in Birth Control, so that mothers would bear only the number of children that they could care for themselves without trenching on the time and strength of childhood.

In the Sunday World H L Mencken, in his column for April 4th, under the heading "Hiring a Hall," takes up the subject of Birth Control. He writes "This specific great cause, it seems to me, is full of holes. They draw extremely questionable conclusions from a highly dubious body of so-called facts. But they are profoundly right at bottom. They are right when they argue that everyone who tries to silence them by force is the common enemy after all."

The *Woman's Leader* (England) for March 19th, contained the announcement that Lord Buckmaster would introduce in Parliament, on March 24th, a resolution to read as follows: To ask His Majesty's Government if they will withdraw all instructions given to, or conditions imposed on welfare committees, which have the purpose of causing such committees to withhold from married women in their districts information, when sought by such women, as to the best means of limiting their families.

In the Forum for April, the last resource of hungry humanity, before "too many mouths" empty the earth's larder completely, is described by John Treadwell Nichols, in his article "Farming the Ocean," the seventh in the War and Peace series. He tells how the era of human hunger can be staved off a little longer by a much greater attention to the food supply that could be obtained from the ocean.

offspring Of the apparently healthy children, it is possible that some may show the effects of congenital disease later. Of 22 married women suffering from tabes or taboparalytic dementia, 7 were sterile, and out of 69 pregnancies only 10 children were alive.

"Several witnesses gave other evidence of family histories illustrating in the most startling manner the effects of syphilis in producing miscarriages, still-births, infant mortality and diseased offspring."

Dr Greer's pamphlet is 25 cents and may be obtained of The Crucible, 1330 First Ave, Seattle, Wash.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE CLIO, by L H Myers From Charles Scribner's Sons (N Y) \$2 00

NO MORE PARADES, by Ford Madox Ford From A & C Boni (N Y) \$2 50

THRASYMACHUS OR THE FUTURE OF MORALS, by C E M Joad From E P Dutton & Co (N Y) \$1 00

PROMETHEUS OR BIOLOGY AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF MAN, by H S Jennings From E P Dutton & Co (N Y) \$1 00

UNDERSTANDING OUR CHILDREN, by Frederick Pierce From E P Dutton & Co (N Y) \$2 00

THE NEW AGE OF FAITH, by John Langdon-Davies From The Viking Press (N Y) \$2 50

THE OPEN DOOR TO SAFE BUSINESS, by Frank Bonville. From Bonville Bureau of Information (Seattle) 50c

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY, by Theodore Dreiser From Boni & Liveright (N Y) Two volumes \$5 00

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDS, by Anita Loos From Boni & Liveright (N Y) \$1 75

HYGIENE OF SEX, by Max von Gruber, MD From Williams & Wilkins Co (Baltimore) \$1 50

INFLUENCING HUMAN BEHAVIOR, by Prof H A Overstreet From People's Institute Publishing Co (N Y) \$3 00

FRIGIDITY IN WOMAN, by Dr Wilhelm Stekel From Boni & Liveright (N Y) Two volumes \$9 00

POPULATION PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, by Louis I Dublin From Houghton, Mifflin Co (N Y) \$4 00

CHILD LABOR IN REPRESENTATIVE TOBACCO-GROWING AREA, by Harriet A Byrne From U S Department of Labor, Children's Bureau (Washington, D C)

OTHER PEOPLE'S DAUGHTERS, by Eleanor Rowland Wembridge From Houghton, Mifflin Co (N Y) \$2 50

CLARA BARRON, by Harvey O'Higgins From Harper and Bros (N Y)

THE INHERITANCE OF MENTAL DISEASES, by Abraham Myerson, MD From Williams & Wilkins Co (Baltimore, Md) \$5 00

THE MELTING POT MISTAKE, by Henry Pratt Fairchild. From Little, Brown & Co (Boston) \$2 50

WOMAN'S DILEMMA, by Ahce Beal Parsons From Crowell (N Y) \$2 50

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF ENDOCRINE MEDICINE, by Wm N Berkeley From Lea & Febiger (Phila) \$4 50

THE TRAGEDY OF WASTE, by Stuart Chase From Macmillan Co (N Y) \$2 50

CONCERNING PARENTS, a symposium on present-day parenthood From The New Republic (N Y) \$1 00

THE BEEN DESIRE, by Frank B Elser From Boni & Liveright (N Y) \$2 00

From Our Readers

STREET SELLING

A Favorable Opinion

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings about street selling of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. I am most emphatically in favor of it. I think that this must bring the magazine to the attention of many who would not otherwise know of it, and I cannot regard street selling as in any way offensive, unless it be to the opponents of the movement. "Friends" of the movement who are so easily shocked are probably not very aggressive in the cause. A cause as revolutionary as Birth Control cannot pay too much attention to sensitive nerves.

I regard the magazine as hitting just about the right trail. I trust especially that it will continue to publish scientific work on population, eugenics, sex psychology, social problems and biology.

P W WHITING,
University of Maine

ST PATRICK'S DAY

A Note From Kitty Marion on the Roman Catholic Lusty

A very charming lady, a Catholic physician, after expressing her sympathy and interest in Birth Control and promising to help, left me with "A Happy St. Patrick's, and God bless you!" And a happy St. Patrick's it was! The crowds, mostly Irish Catholic, passing Grand Central on their way to the parade on Fifth Avenue were, with few exceptions, a revelation of good humor and tolerance towards Birth Control. A few women snorted something indistinguishable as they passed, a man said "the paper ye're selling is a disgrace to the green ye're weann'," and another called out "Take that green off ye!"

Many passed with a smile and a nod, some asked me the way to Fifth Avenue, some bought the REVIEW and humed on. One young man dashed out of a group, evidently paraders judging from the regalia they all wore, bought the REVIEW, refused his change and gave me an extra dime for "the cause," which was fifty cents to the good that day.

Another said "clergymen, priests and rabbis denounce this from their pulpits because they make money on weddings, christenings and funerals, and they are afraid that with Birth Control they won't have so many." A serious and determined looking young woman asked "what would I learn by reading that?" "Depends on what you want to learn," I answered, and went straight on to explain that we were out to have the law amended so that all married women could be instructed on prevention of conception instead of having abortion after abortion, or

babies that they don't want, and nobody else wants--except the police sooner or later.

Then she asked about methods and I told her that it was against the law for me to recommend any but the much advocated one of self-control. "Show me the man who'll practice that!" she blurted out, and told me that she was not inquiring for herself, as she was single and likely to remain so, but her brother had eight children whom she was helping to support since he did not earn enough, and she wanted to find some way of not having to pay for any more results of his excesses in marital pleasures. She is only one of many who at times have expressed their indignation and disgust at having to pay for the indiscriminate breeding of irresponsible relatives.

The following letter, dated April 4, 1926, was sent by a friend in Oklahoma to the Joint Finance Committee of the Associated Charities of Washington, D. C. We strongly recommend it to the attention of all our readers.

Gentlemen

In answer to your appeal for Easter funds, it is my wish to call your attention to another work which is going on in Washington and which, because of its more fundamental and curative effect, is getting such support as I am able to give this Spring.

The American Birth Control League has now an office in Washington at 631, Bond Building.

You can not be unfamiliar with the good work for common sense in parenthood which this League has done and is doing. Perhaps some of those heart-breaking appeals on the back of your letter would become fewer. To quote:

"Father, unskilled worker. His wages do not go far with eight children, two of whom are tubercular."

What night have these people to bring these miserable children into the world?

"Six rather delicate children--sickness, unemployment."

With the close living margin of a worker, how can anything but disaster come with six rather delicate children?

It is only logical that these people should be helped to help themselves. There is no doubt but that the majority of people wish to be merciful to the coming generation, by using common sense in the size of the family.

This is not solving every social ill, I realize, but it is a very crying and immediate need of the poor. Such knowledge is not a momentary relief like the giving of money. It is a permanent relief in overburdened homes.

I would indeed be glad to see the Associated Charities broaden its sphere to embrace Birth Control.

Very truly,

A B C S

May, 1926

Progress of Birth Control in England

A Letter From Mrs Bertrand Russell

THE political agitation for giving Birth Control advice has increased in England during the last few months. Following on the vote at the Labour Women's Conference in 1924, when a majority of 1,000-8 urged that the public maternity centres and other clinics were the right places to give this information to working mothers, resolutions were put down for the National Conference of the Labour Party. Owing to the general election in 1924, this Conference was cut short and the resolutions not discussed. At the 1925 Conference, held at Liverpool, therefore, there were not only a number of fresh resolutions on Birth Control, but a recommendation from the executive dealing with the old ones.

This recommendation was as follows:

"That the subject of Birth Control is in its nature not one which should be made a political party-issue, but should remain a matter upon which members of the party should be free to hold and promote their individual convictions."

The advocates of Birth Control oppose this as misleading. They point out that there is a great difference between asking for propaganda and simply asking that information be made available. They do not wish to pledge members of the party to propaganda, but to lifting the ban on information, in fact, to making the state neutral instead of hostile. Nobody would argue that a remedy for cancer should not be applied by public health doctors on the ground that a minority did not believe in medical science. Further, no action by the public health clinics is possible without parliamentary sanction, since the Ministry of Health will not give permission without that sanction.

A First-Class Woman's Question

The Labour Executive's recommendation was carried by 1,824,000—1,053,000, that is to say, the Labour Party Conference and the Labour Women's Conference will probably see a vigorous protest against this decision, and against the action of Mrs Harrison Bell, who, as one of the four women on the Labour Party Executive spoke on behalf of the Executive and against the decision of the Women's Conference. This action has raised the very complicated question of the power and influence of women, particularly as housewives and mothers, in the Party Conferences. The Women's Conference is at present merely an advisory body,

and women's power in the National Conference is almost negligible. Birth Control is rapidly becoming, so far as England is concerned, a first-class woman's question. The Co-operative women and the Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship have put forward the same demand as the Labour Women's Conference and other women's organizations are taking it up. I think it is fair to say that in England we are nearer to state action than in any other important country. In Russia there is said to be no ban on the knowledge, but the machinery for giving it on a large scale does not yet exist. In England, if the ban were lifted, it would not be long before the advice was available in even the remotest maternity clinics. Many local authorities will not at present commit themselves to a view on account of the Ministry of Health's attitude, but at least a dozen are entirely in favor.

The Birth Control Bill in Parliament

On February 9th this year, Mr Ernest Thurtle introduced a private bill into the House of Commons to enable local authorities to give information. As the bill was under the ten minutes' rule there was only one speech for and one against. The Rev James Barr opposed on religious grounds. Apart from this he treated the matter as a purely economic question, without reference to women's health or personal liberty.

The bill was defeated by 169—84, 27 Labour members, 54 Conservatives, 3 Liberals voting for, and 45 Labour, 114 Conservatives and 10 Liberals voting against. Five Labour men, two Conservatives and one Liberal who voted against had actually given pledges in favor. The bulk of those who were pledged abstained from voting, as indeed did more than half the whole House. Lady Astor, Mrs Hilton Philipson and the Duchess of Atholl did not vote, although Lady Astor is pledged in favor. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, as all who know her would expect, stood by the women of her party. Timidity and opportunism seem to be the chief reactions of members of Parliament at present, very few of them realize the urgency or importance of the question. None the less we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Thurtle, to Captain Gunston, Colonel Wedgwood and others who have helped us readily. We expect soon to see the first onslaught upon the House of Lords.

DORA RUSSELL

Working for Birth Control in Germany

Practical Work in Hamburg

DR GEORG MANES of Hamburg is a life-long advocate of Birth Control. Through his exertions and under his supervision a clinic has been established at which German women can receive scientific medical attendance and instruction. The story of this clinic is told in the letter which follows.

The Opening of the Clinic

The opening of the Consultation Rooms of the Hamburg branch of the "German Union for Protection of Motherhood and Sexual Reform" was an event which aroused interest and response far beyond the borders of Hamburg. These Consultation Rooms answer the purpose of giving enlightenment and advice by competent persons on sexual life of both sexes on the broadest basis. Already in the adolescent age, disorder in the sexual life is being noticed and makes it necessary to give advice to parents. In the maturing age very often the first signs of sexual perversions are shown on which parents and partly the youths themselves should receive instructions. In the adult stage of life the requirements of sexual life are manifold, they might firstly relate to plain instructions in the vast sphere of hygiene of matrimonial life. This question involves first of all thorough advice on state of health, further the control of birth from an eugenic point of view. Sexual life leads very often on account of the present state of civil and criminal laws to complications. Of special importance are in these cases questions of divorce. Sexual perverseness, particularly homo-sexuality in men and women, are very often causes of conflicts, which can be solved only through advice from authorized people.

Even at a later stage of life disturbances of the sexual life are not seldom, particularly in connection with the physiological extinction of the sexual desire. The sphere of the advisory committee, above only vaguely described is extensive. This extensiveness makes the combined work of doctors, jurists, pedagogues and other peoples occupied in social work a necessity.

Demanding Abortion

Luckily a sufficient number of voluntary workers were found, well known in public welfare institutions, experienced doctors, above all specialists on the subjects involved, lawyers as legal advisers, pedagogues and social workers to give advice in their particular sphere. There are two consulting

places in Hamburg at present, where advice is given twice weekly from 7-8 o'clock in the evening at the rooms of the local Sick Society. At each place is a leading doctor and two representatives, as well as two lady advisers. The management is as simple as possible. Every one asking for advice is received by the attending lady, who makes personal enquiries and takes the patient, if medical advice is necessary, to the attending doctor. Very often the lady is able to give the necessary advice.

It took a long time and much propaganda work until the existence of this institution was known to the general public. At our request all newspapers read by the working classes contain at every week-end a note or short articles referring to our institution. It is remarkable that whenever an article is published, the attendance of advice-seeking people increases. Thousands of handbills and leaflets have been printed and distributed at factories, meetings, lectures and at various occasions. We posted bills at every place where large numbers of people are likely to assemble, at canteens of dockyards and other industrial places. This kind of propaganda work requires money, which is difficult to get at the present time.

Methods of Work

The reaction of the Hamburg population after the opening of a consulting room was that a considerable number of pregnant women (about 30 every night) arrived hoping to be released from their pregnancy. Their number decreased as soon as they found out that their hopes were vain. At present we have at the average only one-tenth of the original number of people which came for advice.

Our consulting rooms were frequented for advice in normal and in sexual-pathological cases 10 per cent of all visitors, in juridical cases 24 per cent, in sexual diseases and their consequential effects 99 per cent of all visitors. The more these consulting hours are getting known, the more people come to this neutral place to ask questions, which they would not put to anybody else. This makes the work for the advising doctor exceedingly interesting. Today we should like to answer in short the question "What can and what might the advising doctor do for the advice-seeking pregnant woman?"

After a woman has become pregnant, the advising doctor, considering the existent laws, examines

the case and gives his **opinion** without **consideration** of social and eugenic indication, desirable as it may be. If the doctor thinks that a **medical** indication, such as heart, lung, or **kidney** disease is **given**, he **will** recommend the case to a **specialist** for final judgment. If this is **in** the **affirmative**, the **interruption** of pregnancy will be performed by the consulted doctor, or by the doctor of the **Sick Society**, or at a hospital.

Birth Control the Renedy

Very often **it** is possible to succeed by entering into closest **investigation**, in removing the real or **imagined** obstacles to **bearing** the child. The assurance that after child-birth preventive appliances **will be supplied**, plays in these cases a **decisive** part. Often however, all persuasions are fruitless, because the economic and housing conditions are too despairing. The woman leaves and the doctor knows often by **their own confessions**, that the next step will lead to an illegal person to perform the abortion. There is no more depressing **feeling** for a doctor than to strike **sail** before a quack, and to have to admit that the life of a woman, often the mother of several **children** of tender age, is endangered.

It is therefore one of the most important tasks of the consulting places to give advice how unwanted pregnancy can be prevented and to show the woman how she can follow this **advice**. To **attain** this, it **is** necessary to provide knowledge of preventive appliances at disposal, to co-operate **with** doctors, **willing** to apply them, and to arouse a benevolent **spirit** of sick societies **in supplying** the much needed financial means. The **greatest sick** society at Hamburg has fully perceived that preventive measures applied **in time** are most useful and **it** is ready to supply appliances on **medical** prescriptions **in** such cases, when the **birth** of a **child** is unwanted for **economical** or health reasons. If a woman is not able to buy such appliances our **Union** supplies the means, so that we are able to help the woman as far as preventive measures are concerned.

Medical treatment of any kind cannot be obtained at our consulting rooms. As far as it appears necessary, people will be sent to doctors or to **various** public or health welfare **institutions**.

Clinics an Urgent Necessity

In **view** of the endless perplexity and helplessness of men and women of the poorer classes these consulting places have been proved to be an urgent necessity. Up to now we have overcome all diffi-

culties and hope we have convinced those doctors who distrusted our work, that it will help to decrease quackery and elevate the **prestige** of the medical profession.

The **question** whether it is worth the trouble can after our own and the experience **in** England and **America** only be answered in the **affirmative**. The **beginnings** over there have also been small, but the successes have soon led to recognition. The whole movement has not only spread out far, but is even already semi-centralized by the government at Washington*. Every new **institution** takes **time** to become popular. Proper education however, can obviate a good deal. Schools can prepare for these **ideas** by teaching **race-hygenics**, by **instruction** concerning the **physical** and moral damages caused by alcohol, **importance** of tuberculosis as a popular **disease**, dangers of sexual diseases, etc. The children ought to be impressed with a **hygienic** sense **which** enables them to take **advice** in **matrimonial** life as a matter of fact and as a necessity.

Thus we hope that the Hamburg example **will** be copied everywhere. One thing, however, should be well considered, either **something** genuine or nothing at all. Only a reliable, on a sound **foundation** resting **institution** can work satisfactorily. One must **gain** the **confidence** of the **visitors** at once. The first impression must **give** the certainty, that the pure wish to protect them **against** danger **is** the **leading** motive of your advice. Only then can a consulting place be raised above the level of an **ordinary** health-enquiring office and will become an **important medium** for the regeneration of our people and a pioneer for the ascent of mankind.

There is an short, no bound to the prolific nature of plants and animals, but what is made by their crowding and interfering with each other's means of subsistence. War the face of the earth vacant of other plants, it might be gradually sowed and overspread with one kind only, as for instance, with fennel, and were it empty of other inhabitants, it might in a few ages be replenished with one nation only, as for instance with Englishmen. Thus there are suppos'd to be now upwards of one million English in North America, (tho' 'tis thought scarce 80,000 have been brought over sea), and yet perhaps there is not one fewer in Britain, but rather many more. This million doubling, suppose but once in 25 years, will in another century be more than the people of England, and the greatest number of Englishmen will be on this side of the water.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

* Our correspondent has **evidently** formed too favorable an **idea** of **government** in **Washington**.

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

AMONG the recent visitors to headquarters was a member of the faculty of Teachers' College for Women of Tokyo, Japan. He was anxious to secure all educational literature and information concerning Birth Control available, as he felt that Birth Control was the only solution of the over-population question in Japan. This conviction is evidently spreading among his countrymen and women.

Another visitor was the Superintendent of a State Hospital for mental diseases. She was greatly disturbed over the fact that her institution was powerless in regard to many cases, because in that State physicians are forbidden by law to give contraceptive information, no matter how urgent the indications for it. A woman may temporarily recover from a psychosis due to pregnancy or childbirth, but she probably will return in a short time, suffering from the same trouble. Yet this recurrence could easily be prevented by proper instruction in Birth Control.

A debate on Birth Control was held in Albany on March 21st. The case for Birth Control was upheld by a member of the Schenectady Birth Control League. Rev. B. Malcolm Harris was the opponent.

New Jersey

THE Camden Birth Control League held its annual meeting on March 19th, in the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium. Officers were elected for the coming year, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. E. R. Meves, who spoke on the Roman Catholic Opposition to Birth Control.

Everett R. Meves, organizer for New Jersey, writes: "There have been some interesting developments in the Roman Catholic opposition since the last report. Mr. Justen McAghon, chairman of the Speakers' and Research Bureau of the Newark Diocesan Federation of the Holy Name Society, declined my challenge to debate in Montclair and Elizabeth."

Many women's clubs have desired to hear both sides of the question presented, but it has been exceedingly difficult to secure speakers against Birth Control. On April 3rd, I spoke for the Asbury Park Women's Club. They desired to have a debate, so I wrote to Miss Mary G. Hawks, President of the Newark Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women, asking her to be present or to send a representative. She simply re-

turned my letter with the penciled notation "Not Interested, M. G. H."

On March 21st I spoke for the Rutherford Lions' Club. Dr. Benjamin Willis, a Catholic physician and a member of this organization, made an anti-Birth Control speech at one of their meetings some time ago, and I immediately started working to get a hearing for our side.

Efforts are being made to have our cause represented at the annual meetings of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs at Asbury Park and the New Jersey Women's Republican Club at Atlantic City, and also at the latter organization's South Jersey Spring Conference in Camden.

During the month Dr. Hannah M. Stone, Clinical Director of the American Birth Control League, spoke on "The Technique of Contraception" for the Asbury Park Medical Society, and I also spoke for the Friday Night Club of the Passaic Y. M. C. A., a public speaking and discussion group composed of some of the prominent business and professional men of the city.

Connecticut

DURING March, Dr. James F. Cooper, in his tour of New England, visited Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. In each of these cities he found friends of Birth Control among the physicians. In New Haven, on March 17th he addressed a large meeting of the New Haven Medical Society, which had been arranged by Dr. C. L. Deming of the faculty of the Yale Medical School. Professor A. G. Kellar and Miss A. W. Goodrich, Dean of the Yale School of Nursing, also spoke in favor of Birth Control. The opposition was voiced by a Roman Catholic.

Massachusetts

TWO meetings of medical men in Boston, March 12th and 15th, were addressed by Dr. Cooper. The first, held at Hotel Victoria, was arranged by Dr. Aaron Thurman, and the attendance was about 100, mostly members of the Medical Fraternity. The second, arranged by Dr. Kleinman and Dr. Konikow, was held at the Hall of the League for Democratic Control. It was not a large meeting—about 35 present—but wonderful interest was shown in Dr. Cooper's address.

On March 22nd, Mrs. Sanger addressed the Liberal Club of Clark University, at Worcester. Richard P. Doherty, president of the Club, was chairman and a resume of the Birth Control move-

ment was given by B J Lowenber There were about 200 present, of whom 25 were women

Mrs Anna Garlin Spencer of the American Social Hygiene Association, and a member of the faculty of the Teachers' College of Columbia University, addressed the Ethical Society of Boston on March 21st, on "The Ethics of Birth Control"

Pennsylvania

MISS ELIZABETH GREW continues to carry on active and fruitful organization work in Pennsylvania On March 16th, she addressed the Merion League of Women Voters The audience numbered about 200, and great interest was shown by the members of the League She has been in touch with the college faculties at Haverford, Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr and has found many sympathizers and ardent workers in the cause On April 22nd, she spoke at a meeting at the home of Mrs Arthur E Bye, Swarthmore On the 26th, she addressed the College Club of Philadelphia, and on the 28th she spoke at Reading

Illinois

THE Illinois League has opened a fourth Birth Control Clinic in a negro district of Chicago, at Community House, 3201 Wabash Avenue Mrs Benjamin Carpenter, vice-president of the league, reported at its opening that 1200 mothers had passed through the other three clinics since their inauguration.

Indiana

A RECENT speaker on Birth Control was Dr Ameha Kellar, member of the National Council of the American Birth Control League, who told the Seventh District Federation of Woman's Clubs of Indianapolis that "control of reproduction is logically the first step in adjusting the propagating of the race for its betterment"

Maryland

AFTER leaving New England, Dr Cooper turned southward and on March 29th was at Cumberland, Md Here he addressed a meeting of the County Medical Society in the Mayor's Office, City Hall The Mayor, Dr Koon, who is also President of the Society, presided The meeting had been specially called to hear Dr Cooper and there were 38 members present

Tennessee

On March 31st, Dr Cooper addressed a special meeting in Johnson City There were 38 doctors present—a large audience for a small town Very

great interest was shown in Dr Cooper's explanation of the meaning of Birth Control

On April 1st, the regular meeting of the Medical Society of Chattanooga was addressed by Dr Cooper The President, Dr S S Marchbank was in the chair and 68 members were present Again the meeting was very fruitful of results

On April 2nd, at the meeting of the Roane County Medical Society, at Harrison, Tennessee, Dr Cooper gave an address on Birth Control which was well received Harrison is not far from Dayton and shares its psychology That such a community should listen to a lecture on Birth Control is worthy of remark

Florida

On April 5th, Dr Cooper addressed the Orange County Medical Society at Orlando This Society has only a small membership but there were 16 doctors present Eleven of these signified their interest and desire to know more of the subject

The same day, Dr Cooper addressed a public meeting, held in connection with the State Conference of Social Work The Conference comprised only 100 delegates, but, with the addition of the public, the attendance at the meeting was 443, although there had been very little advertising or newspaper notice Dr Cooper adds, "practically all the social workers here in Florida are for Birth Control and we have many good friends here"

Virginia

ON March 30th, Dr Cooper addressed a special meeting of medical men at Roanoke The meeting was called by Dr Paul Davis and Dr J F McKinney and, although the notice was short and the date conflicted with a medical luncheon, there were 32 present There was great interest shown, and several doctors offered them co-operation.

West v i i

THAT Birth Control is occupying the minds of women in West Virginia is shown by the following passage taken from a letter of a regional director of the West Virginia League of Women Voters "I feel that Birth Control is more important from the standpoint of child labor than the Child Labor Amendment, from the standpoint of infant and maternal mortality than the Sheppard-Towner Act, from the standpoint of Social Hygiene than injunction and abatement or all the rest of it, from the standpoint of education than raising the age of compulsory schooling, or providing more money or what not, from the standpoint of woman's rights, vastly more important than jury service or suffrage"

California

On March 16th, at Oakland, was held the last of the mid-winter series of Birth Control public meetings of the Alameda County Birth Control League. Rabbi Coffee presided and the speakers were Rev. Clarence Reed, Unitarian and Rev. Lloyd B. Thomas, Episcopalian, who presented the subject of Birth Control from the standpoint of the ministry. Rabbi Coffee, in summing up, spoke of the actual crying need at the present moment for Birth Control, which does not mean preventing the coming of welcome children, but only of the unwanted and unwelcome.

San Francisco was visited in March by a strong advocate for Birth Control—Lady Bertram Standen, who for thirty-five years has resided in India, with her husband, an official in the service of the British government. During the World War, Lady Standen was decorated with the Order of the British Empire, for distinguished service. Her residence in India, with its dense and poverty-stricken population, has convinced her that nothing but Birth Control will ever solve the world's economic problems. Her opinions received wide publicity in the California newspapers.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF LOS ANGELES MOTHERS CLINIC ASSOCIATION

IN the early part of 1924, upon the stimulus and initiative supplied by Mrs. Clara Taylor Wayne of Los Angeles, a group of persons became interested in the establishment of a clinic which would render a service such as has not been heretofore available, especially to people who are dependent or have limited means, namely, the furnishing of information and instruction along the lines of eugenic and therapeutic measures.

The objects of Los Angeles Mothers Clinic Association are expressed in its by-laws as follows:

"The purpose of this organization is to establish in the City of Los Angeles a Mothers Clinic, and to undertake other enterprises for imparting to applicants advice and instruction for protecting the life and health of mothers and insuring, as far as possible, the mental and physical vigor of their offspring, such purpose to be carried out in conformity with the laws of the State of California."

The present report represents not a full year's activities, but only activities from April 1, 1925 to December 31, 1925,—a period of nine months.

Following is a statistical statement of the work of the clinic:

Number of patients who applied	251
Number of patients who have received information and instruction	146
Number of patients who have not yet received information and instruction pending investigation of their cases	19

Number of patients from whom information and instruction has been withheld for various reasons

86

Mothers Clinic has quickly established itself in the estimation of other medical and social agencies in this city as a useful addition to existing organizations.

On the one hand, various medical and social agencies have referred patients to Mothers Clinic, and on the other hand they have co-operated by assisting patients referred by Mothers Clinic to them.

Among the agencies who have given such co-operation during the period of this report, the following may be mentioned: City Health Department, Department of Outdoor Relief, City Maternity Clinic, Jewish Clinic and Dispensary, White Memorial Hospital, County Health Department, Council of Jewish Women, City Tubercular Clinic, City Venereal Clinic, National Birth Control League, North Broadway Dispensary, and many others.

Among the medical and surgical conditions found as indications for furnishing information and instruction, the following have been more frequent: contracted pelvis, other pelvic conditions, chronic nephritis, heart disease, pulmonary tuberculosis, epilepsy, mental deficiency and various psychopathic conditions, and syphilis.

Perhaps a better idea of the work of the Clinic is to be gained from the following brief reports of individual cases:

Case 1—Mrs. M., Aged 27 Years. The family history states that the patient's mother and sister are epileptic.

The personal history states that the patient herself is also epileptic, and at the time of her appearance at the Clinic she was found to have pulmonary tuberculosis. She was also in a rundown physical condition, being 23½ pounds below average normal weight for her height and age. In the course of her two marriages she has had seven children and three miscarriages. She was unable to nurse any of her children, owing to her physical health, and only four of her seven children have survived. The oldest child has heart disease, and was for several months in a tuberculosis preventorium. The second living child is partly crippled and was provided at the Orthopedic Hospital with a brace and a shoe to enable him to walk. The third child is in better health than the others, but is underweight. The fourth child, now sixteen months old, has rickets, cannot walk, and is being cared for by the city nurses. At least one of the children who died suffered from epilepsy.

Case 2—Mrs. G., Aged 29 Years. The patient and her husband have pulmonary tuberculosis, and further investigation showed that both are also afflicted with syphilis, a blood test in both cases having revealed a four-plus Wassermann reaction.

The father was cared for in a tuberculosis sanitarium for eighteen months, which rendered the family dependent.

Of the three children, aged respectively seven, three, and one years, the oldest has active tuberculosis and all three suffer from congenital syphilis.

Case 3—Mrs G This woman is **psychopathic**, sixteen pounds under **weight**, has three children to whom she is **physically** unable to **give** proper care, and at the **time** of her appearance at the Chmc was on the verge of a nervous breakdown

She has **realized** that she could not, **with impunity**, have more children, but knew no other remedy than that of **self-induced abortions**. The husband was opposed to **abortions**, and many quarrels ensued between them over the **situation**. The **patient** developed a severe **depression**, **with an impulse to kill** herself and the three children. She was thereupon placed in the **Psychopathic Hospital**, and upon **examination** by the Lunacy **Commission**, granted a parole in the custody of her mother. Soon thereafter she was referred to Mothers **Clinic** to help find a **solution** for her problem.

The demands upon Mothers **Clinic** are **increasing**, and it seems **likely** that its present **facilities** will have to be **increased**, and that perhaps other **clinics** rendering similar service will have to be **established in various** parts of the **city**.

In our endeavor to work in **compliance with a strict interpretation** of the **California** law, we have **turned away** many **applicants** who, in our **opinion**, would not only themselves be benefited by such **service** as the **Clinic** can offer, but in whose cases the **furnishing** of such **information** would also benefit the **community** by **preventing** the **birth** of **defective offspring**, and by **reducing** somewhat the already **excessive** burden **which** the community **carries** by way of **providing** for hopeless dependents.

Respectfully submitted,

AARON J. ROSANOFF, M.D.,
Chairman, Committee on Annual Report

CANADA

A CANADIAN correspondent—Edith Paul Graham, living in Saskatchewan, writes "Here in Canada every woman interviewed on friendly terms has expressed a **desire** for **Birth Control** methods. A tubercular mother of **nine** children wished for the knowledge to be **given** her that she **might** stay on to raise the **nine** and not have her life **snuffed out** by **giving birth** to ten. A young woman of **twenty-six**, with five **miscarriages** and still-births to her record in **six** years, begged for contraceptive knowledge, that she **might** prevent pregnancy **until she** could **regain** her strength and maybe be able to have the **desire** of her heart, a **live** baby. Is not one live baby worth more than five hopelessly dead ones,

Canadian women are not slackers. No one could see them and think for a **minute** that **it is their** own selfish **desires** they are **thinking** of—but the welfare of the future of the race and Canada. A de-

voutly religious mother of five said "If **I** could only be sure that the knowledge given me would work before the union of the two cells, **I** would gladly use it, because **I** believe that five properly trained children would be better for my church than to have two or three more and leave them to the precarious training of servants, for **I** am not well, and **with** the birth of each **additional** child **I** can feel my strength **going**." She was absolutely right. She had done her duty to her church, to society and to her country.

A letter to the Department of Justice at Ottawa, asking for information as to the **giving** of **Birth Control information** in Canada received the **following** reply, signed by the Deputy **Minister** of Justice.

Ottawa, 25th January, 1926

MADAM

I have the honour to acknowledge the **receipt** of your letter of the 16th **instant**, and in reply may say that **it is** not one of the **functions** of this department to **advise private individuals** as to their legal rights. I may say **unofficially**, however, that **I** do not know of any statute **which** makes **it** a **criminal** offence to **seek** and follow **medical advice** in the **circumstances** stated by you.

The case referred to in this letter was the one already noted, that of the tubercular mother.

FRANCE

F R O M Dr G. de Lapouge, French eugenicist and delegate to the Sixth **International** Conference comes the following **communication**.

"It is only among very **religious** people or people who are intemperate and irresponsible that the **birth** rate is excessive here. Among the fisher people of Brittany for example, drunkenness and **disease** are rife and **families** are large and miserable.

"Such government efforts as a tax on bachelors and bounties to large families have had no effect. **This I** believe is as it should be, forcing bachelors who may have heavy **outside responsibilities** or who may not be physically fit is only to make things worse—as is the **paying** of bounties for large **families** regardless of quality. It is my experience that the families who take advantage of these are undesirable.

"An Important **magazine** held a competition two years ago to which all were **invited** to present **stories** of large families who merited **aid**. All the **stories** were well worth reading as showing **their** need and **their** courage in adversity, but almost all had a history of **syphilis** or alcoholism in the parents. **This is** the reason that **I** think a strong Neo-Malthusian

propaganda ought to be **carried** on among the unfit. I doubt whether we shall be able, in France, to **introduce** a law **forbidding** the **marriage** of these classes, but such educational work as **this** should be done for those to whom a **high birth** rate means **simply** poverty and **suffering**, even though at the present time the French public regards even such a **suggestion** as **this** with **disfavor**.

"I have **written** to **Mjoen**, to Huerta and to other leaders to **bring** them **into** accord with the **Birth Control League**. Some have not answered, others have begged the question—as for me I remain firm in my **intention** to support the effort to **eliminate** the **unfit** by **Birth Control**.

"During a stay of two months at my home in **Poitiers**, I had **occasion** to look through the **register** of baptisms, **marriages** and deaths from **1800** to **1900**. This **geneological** research among a large number of **families** of the middle class, based on **births**, **survivals**, infant deaths, etc., etc., led to **interesting** results. During this period no method of control was used. **Conception** took place by chance and death took care of the excess. The **first birth** came generally **within** less than a year after marriage and the rest at **intervals**—**longer** in some cases if the mother nursed the **child**, less if she **did** not. Sometimes **pregnancies** were so near together that an older child **died** because deprived of **its** mother's **milk** by a later **birth**. This **permanent** state of pregnancy and **suckling** caused the premature death of many women, and these **wives** were replaced by others, since the **children** born needed a woman to take care of them—and the new **wife** **continued** the tale of **child-bearing**. The number of **children** who lived to **become** adults was not much greater than we have today, since of ten or twelve **children** born only two or three grew up to found a **family**. Thus the absence of control succeeded in **multiplying** **suffering** and death in prosperous and normal families which would **otherwise** be **admirably** fitted to **live** happy lives, and all this **suffering** did not **result** in an **appreciable** increase in population."

ITALY

THE following is the account soberly **given** by the Rome correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* (England), of a population in process of being "driven mad by its multitude."

"I have already," says the correspondent, "reported with what **enthusiasm** the **Italian Nationalist** (that is, the sole vocal) press **received** the **extract** from the census returns published on January 27th. The relevant sentence in the statement **issued** by the **Prime Minister's** office was as follows:

"The population of the **kingdom** of Italy amounted on December 31, 1925, to 42,115,506 in-

habitants, with an **increase** of about three millions from the date of the last census of four years ago.

As a sample of the **spirit** in which these figures were taken by the extremer press, one may **briefly** quote the "Impero"

"Never in the **history** of another people has there been so **rapid** a rhythm of **population increase**. Our wretched democrats **will** draw **depressing** **conclusions**. They see in this **increase** a menace to their favorite **anti-patriotic** theories, because it may be a cause of war. Our **Italian** renegades are as **frightened** of this increase as **might** be a **foreign** country whose population was **diminishing**, and for whom in consequence the **increase** of the **Italian** population may be dangerous.

"In the same **spirit** the "Tevere" advocates penal measures **against** the advocates of Birth Control. The "Popolo d'Italia" is rather less buoyantly delighted. It hazards the **reflection** that when the population has reached 50 millions Italy **will** experience the "critical phenomenon of **over-saturation**." Mussolini's paper does not, however, draw the **conclusion** that an attempt should be made to retard the pace of **this** increase, it suggests, on the contrary, that sooner or later a **territorial** resettlement is **inevitable**. Versailles cannot stop the sun, like Joshua, or mark the end of **history**, like the Day of Judgment."

"Meanwhile the figures themselves have caused some **astonishment**. Students of population **questions** have lately **given** the figure 300,000 as the annual rate of increase of the **Italian** population. But on the strength of the **official** statement reported above, the **Fascist** papers of the last few days have boldly declared that the **Italian** population **increases** by a **million** a year.

"This is **stretching** the statement a little far, for it only puts the Increase at "about three millions in four years," that is, about 750,000. And if the **reasonings** of Professor Francesco Coletti, who **writes** on such **topics** in the "Corriere della Sera" be correct, even **this** figure would be **considerably** in excess of the **reality**. The increase, according to him, has been of 2,172,078 in **slightly** more than four years—say a yearly **increase** of 500,000, a figure **considerably** less **alarming**, or **satisfactory**—according to one's **viewpoint**—than the **precise** double spoken of in the **Nationalist** press. If Signor Coletti's **reasoning** be correct—and it seems to be perfectly **lucid**—the **Prime Minister's** office must either have "rounded" the figure 2,172,078 to three millions by a somewhat **poetic licence**, or else have compared two **series** of figures which do not **admit** of **scientific** comparison. In any case, an increase of half a million a year is not one which the most **enthusiastic** advocates of large families and large armies have cause to **despise**."

RUSSIA

PROFESSOR PAUL LUBLINSKY of the University of Leningrad, writes May be it will be interesting for you to know some recent progress made in Russia on Birth Control. In the beginning of December, 1925, in Moscow was held the Federal Conference of Soviet Republics on Maternity and Infant Care. Among the resolutions accepted by the Conference there were two on Birth Control. The first points out that contraceptive propaganda together with social help is the best means against the growth of the abortion cases, and that maternity centers must give to women medical advice on Birth Control in cases of unwanted pregnancy. The second suggests the spreading of information on Birth Control through women's clinics and gynecological ambulatories by competent doctors.

Immediately after the congress, first steps were made to the establishing of such consultations. In Leningrad the first one is working in connection with Wassili Ostrow Maternity Center, where on certain days the necessary advice is given gratuitously by obstetricians. The second one is now in the stage of organization under the Institute of Maternity and Infant Care in Leningrad.

Recently our Scientific Society of Mothers and Infants Care discussed the question of Birth Control on the report of Dr. Antonoff and mme and approved the plan of Birth Control consultations.

JAPAN

HEROIC work for Birth Control is being done in Japan by Dr. W. T. Ogawa. About two years ago, he opened a consulting office for women seeking contraceptive advice. Writing in February, he states that he has now about 1,000 mothers. "They are all housewives," continues his letter, "and most of them are the intelligent class of people. I advertise my work all over the country twice a month. At the present time I receive from 70 to 160 enquiries daily. About 30 per cent desire to be enrolled as members, paying due fee."

"The Birth Control movement in this country," writes Dr. Ogawa, "is destined to be a national affair in the near future. It is getting to be so popular that the law has begun to take a hand in it. People are for it, but the law is against it. Being the only practical Birth Control worker in my own country, I have already been summonsed several times. Twice they searched my place, confiscating all the booklets and papers. Let the law take its

course, I am determined to put everything in me into this noble work. It is my life work, that I may be somebody for the people I love. Nothing can stand in my way, with aims like these in view. With others who are interested in the Birth Control movement, I am planning to make it a national affair politically. What we need now is more freedom to circulate the necessary printings on this most important problem of the present day." Dr. Ogawa's plans extend to the publication of a *Birth Control Review* in Japanese and also to the spread of the work to Korea and China and "all the other Asiatic peoples." The seed that Mrs. Sanger planted in the East is truly taking root and growing.

INDIA

WORK for Birth Control in India is progressing. Rabindranath Tagore has given his open approval. Under Professors Karve, Shastri and Phadke local centres are active, two periodicals are planned, a movement for unification is under way and expressions of approval have come from Indians in other branches of social work. Meanwhile officials in India are beginning to see that there is a population problem. At the Thirteenth Indian Science Congress held at Bombay in January Major A. J. Russell discussed recent research in this problem, particularly the researches of Drs. Pearl and Reed of Johns Hopkins, applied the scientific formulas deduced by these researches to certain sections of India and concluded that "During the last few years considerable quantities of rice have been imported to meet the needs of the population, but within a very easily measurable period of time this will be no longer possible as the populations of the food exporting countries are increasing so rapidly that within a few years no surplus can be available. Faced by these facts one is compelled to ask if the public health activities of this country are being developed on correct lines. What preventive measures are best suited to conditions in India when immediately a population expands above the upper asymptote there must occur some violent upheaval such as a severe epidemic or famine in order that the number may be brought within the limits demanded by the inexorable pressure of our equation. Vast improvements in public health are urgently required, but these will not produce the most desirable results until the people of India recognize that a birth rate of between 40 and 50 per mille must necessarily be accompanied by an enormously high death rate and that very urgent reasons already exist for some restriction of population."

ENGLAND

Manchester

THE Salford and District Mothers' Clinic which was opened on March 1st, has already become so popular that its promoters are endeavoring to arrange for daily, instead of bi-weekly sessions. It is under the auspices of a committee headed by Mrs J L Stocks. The location was chosen in a district where bad housing and infant mortality prevail. The opening of the clinic and its popularity called forth a tirade from Dr Thomas Henshaw, the R C Bishop of Salford, which cannot be surpassed in violence by any of the clerical outpourings which have hitherto found their way into the newspapers. The attack was printed in the March 23rd issue of the *Catholic Federationist*. We give below a few excerpts.

Horrible things, which were formerly scarcely ever spoken of by mature men and women, are common-places now for boys and girls. Eugenics—that wonderful science which aims at the improvement of the race by securing its extinction has taught many to be tolerant of strange, filthy things.

A campaign has been in progress for some time, mainly under the leadership of women, for the instruction of their sisters in the art of thwarting natural laws, defeating God's plans, indulging in sin, and avoiding some of the physical penalties attached.

One of these "centers" for the dissemination of practical directions of this kind has been opened recently not far from our Cathedral, and I am told that people are flocking to it in great numbers. But filthy knowledge is not less filthy because it is imparted in a clinic or a center. If an innocent is brought to sin and degradation, it is little consolation to know that the influence which misled her came from someone in the uniform of a nurse and was exerted under the patronage of a 'lady'.

Birth Control as a legitimate part of antenatal medical work was urged by Mrs Sidney Frankenburg before the conference of the National Council of Women on maternal mortality. She was supported by Dr Bessie Gibson and Dr Louise McLroy, who though formerly a strong opponent acknowledged the need of contraceptive knowledge as a means by which physicians can do away with the need of therapeutic abortion.

Commenting on the figures for last year's birth rate, which are 18.3 per 1,000, the lowest since the war, Sir W Arbuthnot Lane is quoted as saying that "if we looked after quality the quantity would take care of itself. The birth rate need provoke no anxiety if we are prepared to face the question of how to teach the people proper methods of healthy living."

Another good friend of Birth Control has again spoken for regulation of the birth rate. This is Dr Barnes, Bishop of Birmingham, who strongly urged sterilization of the unfit in an address given before the Eugenics Society in the latter part of February.

THE RATIONALITY OF BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 152)

It is stated that the poor will not use contraceptive methods because of a reckless indifference. This is true of some in all classes. The increasing rationalisation and freedom of women, however, may be expected to greatly alter the fecundity of the women of the poorer classes provided contraceptive knowledge is made available. The experience in Holland as reported by the English National Birth Rate Commission (The *Declining Birth Rate Its Causes and Effects*, London, 1916, p. 90) showed "that the poor and the debilitated are most anxious to adopt a daily limitation." It does not appear probable, however, that differential rates of reproduction can be entirely overcome, it seems certain they cannot be so reversed that the capable will have more offspring than the incapable.

A second constructive movement seems already under way, namely, eugenic education. No nation has yet even scratched the surface of its possibilities, but already it is inducing some with heritable defects not to reproduce because of pride of inheritance. Another factor working to a like end is the growing belief that child-bearing is for the normal woman essential to complete self-realisation. It should promote health and longevity, give added significance to life and become a source of satisfaction in later years. These are appeals not without effect in a utilitarian age. Moreover, so susceptible is the human animal to social pressures that a society that once made the motherhood of a moderate sized family a basis of high social esteem would almost certainly greatly affect the domestic mores. It might well also make the propagation of an inordinately large family a basis of sharp social stigma for all except the wealthy.

The principal reason why effective means have not yet been found for securing a more vigorous operation of eugenic ideals among the middle and upper classes is simply that there has been no general realisation that such ideals are valid or necessary. There are grounds for believing that this realisation will come sooner in America than elsewhere, and when it does come means of effective application can be instituted.*

* Excerpts from a paper read at the Sixth International Conference. See *Proceedings*, Vol. II., p. 191.

The League of Women Voters and Birth Control

THE National Convention of the League of Women Voters, in session at St. Louis from April 14th to 22nd, had the subject of Birth Control thrust upon its attention by a group of delegates from the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont. The proposal was that Birth Control be added to the Study Program of the Department of Child Welfare. The chairman of this department is Mrs. Percy Walden of New Haven, and she had sanctioned the request presented by the Connecticut Board of which she is a member. The fate of the proposal is described in the following letter:

The League of Women Voters of four states, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont this spring requested their national organization to recommend that its members inform themselves on the subject of Birth Control legislation, preparatory to endorsing or opposing it at some future date. A safe and sane request, one might think, considering that the stated aim of the League is to educate women on public questions and to promote needed legislation, particularly legislation for the benefit of women and children. But the request apparently struck terror into the hearts of the National Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters.

Arbitrary Orders

A National vice-president, although not a member of the Child Welfare Committee, attended its executive session and with the authority of a superior officer, urged the members not to put Birth Control on the study programme. "It is a very controversial question," she warned them. "And if you ask members to inform themselves on it many of them will resign." The president of one of the State Leagues which had voted for the study of Birth Control summoned the Child Welfare Chairman of this state and peremptorily told her not to make herself conspicuous in working for the Birth Control measure. "The state delegation does not wish to push the matter," declared the president.

On all sides officers and regional directors exerted quite persistent pressure against putting the dangerous subject of Birth Control on the programme, even for study. "Of course I realize that Birth Control is essential to Child Welfare," said one of the officers, "but our first duty is to our organization. This Birth Control business would disrupt it altogether." "Yes, I agree that Birth Con-

trol would remove one of the chief causes of child labor and would greatly reduce infant and maternal mortality," said another, "but it would not be expedient for the League to take up the subject. So many of our members do not think it is a nice thing to discuss." "I am a director of my state Birth Control League," said a third, "but I should be afraid to have the League of Women Voters take up the question. We cannot afford to lose any of our members."

The outcome was that of the twenty-one members of the Child Welfare Committee who attended the closed executive session, twelve voted against the study of Birth Control legislation, and the League will remain in safe and polite ignorance of the dangerous and unpleasant subject. This means, according to the procedure of the organization, that the possibility of League support for the proposed Birth Control amendment, is postponed at least until 1930.

If the women of America had been as timorous as this in the last decade, would they ever have got the vote? Nowadays their policy seems to be determined by considerations of expediency rather than of rights. The question with them is not "Will this course promote the welfare of the country?" but rather, "Will this course strengthen our organization?" One hears as much about expediency in the League of Women Voters as in the political parties.

Impotence

By BRUCE CABE STERRETT

Most radiant is the crown of motherhood'
Woman, within her home, delights as queen,
Yet greater that ecstatic beauty seen
When she turns slave unto her little brood
She bathes and dresses them, prepares their food.
She sings them lullabys with humble mien
She teaches lessons—stands a ready screen
To shield where any harshness could intrude

So brooding tender to her little flock,
So eager, with all power that in her lies,
To further their advance, to chain and lock
Life's sweets about them'—Still, some day their cries
Of grief and pain will tear her heart and mock
Her love impotent, fierce and mother-wise

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Late News

A Victory for Birth Control

Doctor Cooper was in attendance at the Seventy-seventh Annual Convention of the American Medical Association at Dallas, Texas, April 19-23. He reported that the Catholic Welfare League made an attempt to line up the Association against Birth Control. It submitted a plea that the Association should protest against the Birth Control amendment to the Federal postal law. As we go to press, we hear from Dr. Cooper that "The House of Delegates decides to take no action. Matter pigeon-holed." We shall be able to report this more fully next month.

Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Robert Huse of Elizabeth, New Jersey, is spending the month of April in Washington, assisting with the lobby work in the Senate. Mrs. Huse has had long experience in the political field. She is a member of the Republican State Committee of New Jersey.

The bill for the amendment of the Federal Postal Laws has been sent to the physicians on our Congressional Committee for their endorsement. We have received approval and support from physicians in thirty-eight states of the Union.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of The Birth Control Review published monthly at New York, N. Y. for April 1, 1926. State of New York, County of New York.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Mary Sumner Boyd, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Managing Editor of The Birth Control Review and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:

Publisher—American Birth Control League, Inc., 104 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City.
Editor—Margaret Sanger, 104 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City.
Managing Editor—Mary Sumner Boyd, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
Business Managers—None.

2. That the owner is: (If the publication is owned by an individual his name and address, or if owned by more than one individual the name and address of each, should be given below. If the publication is owned by a corporation the name of the corporation and the names and addresses of the stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of the total amount of stock should be given.)

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Margaret Sanger, President, 104 Fifth Ave., New York City.
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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs out above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders if any contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation the name of the person or corporation, for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

MARY SUMNER BOYD

Managing Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of March 1926.

SADIE A. BASHO

[SEAL]

(My commission expires March 30, 1927)



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