

June, 1926

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Fewer Babies Better Born

*The British House of Lords goes
on Record for Birth Control:*

*On April 28th, by vote
of 57 to 44, the "Lords
Spiritual and Temporal"
passed Lord Buckmaster's
resolution, asking that the
ban be lifted off the giving
of Birth Control advice in
the Welfare Clinics of the
nation.*

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL?

WE HAVE learned that Birth Control is the conscious regulation of the birth rate. The most practical method of Birth Control is the use of harmless mechanical and chemical devices for the prevention of conception. Abortion can be prevented by the use of these devices of contraceptives. Because of the forces of ignorance, indifference, prejudice and superstition the spread of knowledge concerning Birth Control is forbidden by law.

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
- V THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY

***T**HE most civilized countries everywhere and the most civilized people in them are those with the lowest birth rate*

—HAVELOCK ELLIS

This month we give

Reason VI—THE PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION

It is necessary to abolish such obstacles as war, starvation and disease if the nations are to preserve their present civilization. But civilization begins in the home and is destroyed whenever the family becomes larger than the parents can support in comfort.

Overcrowded tenements, which give no chance for decency and morality for the growing children are uncivilized. Child labor and scanty education, necessary when the father's wages cannot support the family without help from the children, destroy civilization.

A life of ill-health and hardship for the mother, with no opportunity for recreation or for larger interests is not a civilized existence.

Crowded schools, double sessions, classes of 50 or 60 children for the harrassed teachers do not tend to progress in civilization. Civilization is only possible when mother and child are given the opportunity of happy and adequate living.

If we desire that civilization shall progress, we must eliminate these bad conditions. The best remedy is through **BIRTH CONTROL**. The mother can then limit her family to the number for whom she can adequately care, and for whom the community offers good education and fair opportunity in life.



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

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No 6

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Birth Control Review

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EDITORIAL

OUR co-workers in England in the cause of Birth Control are indeed to be congratulated that on April 28th, the House of Lords passed Lord Buckmaster's motion, and voted for liberty for public health officers and clinic doctors to give contraceptive advice at welfare centers. What this would mean to the spread of Birth Control knowledge may be realized when it is remembered that, after long years of work, and with great difficulty as regards funds, there have been established in England only ten or twelve Birth Control clinics, while there already exist 2,122 health centers, and of these 641 are especially devoted to pre-natal and post-natal infant care. These centers are supported out of public funds, part of the expense being defrayed by the local authorities and part by the National Treasury. There is no law against Birth Control information being given at them. The obstacle is a regulation drawn up by the Ministry of Health, the breach of which would entail the loss of the money received from the central government. No law is necessary for the alteration of this regulation. It would be entirely sufficient if the House of Commons would pass a similar resolution to that passed by the Lords.



THE opposition to Lord Buckmaster's motion was voiced by the Marquess of Salisbury, who apparently represented the Conservative Government, and Lord Fitz-Alan, a Roman Catholic peer. The Archbishop of Canterbury made an indecisive speech. He objected to the duty of giving Birth Control advice being laid upon the Welfare Centers, but did not condemn Birth Control entirely. Speaking of his church, he said "The question now divides us." "I have never been able," he added, "to take the stern and uncompromising view of some people who think that the thing *per se* is

wrong and evil, although I discourage it by every means in my power." His opinion was that women who wanted such advice should obtain it from private physicians. The difficulties in the way for the poorer women did not seem visible to His Grace. Among those who spoke in favor of Birth Control were Earl Russell, elder brother of Bertrand Russell, who made a strong plea for the right of the woman to settle with her own conscience whether she would bear a child or not, Earl Balfour of Burleigh, Earl de la Warr and Lord Rathcreedan.



THE world is the poorer for the loss of Ellen Key, who died on April 25th, at her home in Sweden. She was born in 1849, and the three quarters of a century, over which her life extended, saw greater changes in the position, and especially in the outlook of women than any similar period since the world began. And in this changed outlook Ellen Key had her part. Perhaps it would be a misnomer to call her a leader, for she headed no popular movement, she identified herself with no organized agitation for change or progress. She raised her voice against the suffrage fight. She warned the eager feminists of the early twentieth century that they were on the wrong path when they sought equal rights with men in education and in industrial and professional opportunity. It was her fate to shock the sensibilities and the moral ideals of her contemporaries, and yet to be considered a conservative and even a reactionary by the women who were pushing out so earnestly into the life of the great world. Yet it may be that in some respects her vision was clearer and more far-seeing than that of the women who had thrown themselves into the struggle for education, for the vote, for the right to a career and to freedom to control their own lives. It may be that when all these lesser rights

have been secured, women will find that the greatest right of all is the right to their own special function—the right to responsible, freely-chosen maternity



THE great service rendered by Ellen Key was that she sounded a clarion cry—a cry that was harsh and discordant in the ears of many who heard it first, but a cry that woke up the womanhood of the world and forced women everywhere to think and to revalue their accepted ideas and traditions. When “The Century of the Child” appeared in 1909, it marked the beginning of a new era, an era which is slow in being fully realized, for it required an upheaval of the thoughts of men which cannot be accomplished in less than a generation. Towards its accomplishment there is no movement which is doing more effectual work than ours for Birth Control. Ellen Key herself never seemed fully conscious of the importance of Birth Control for the accomplishment of her aim of true motherhood, but Birth Control is the necessary corollary to her insistence on the right of every woman to choose motherhood. The essence of her teaching was that women must develop themselves as women—as mothers. They could not reach their full stature by forcing themselves into the molds of life created by men. It was not desirable for the world that they should follow the example of men in education, in industry, in business, in the professions, in government, if the world were to be made fit for little children. The men had not succeeded in doing this. The world, from the point of view of the child, was a failure. It remained for the women to recreate it, and they must do this through the development of their own unique qualities as mothers—through freely chosen, responsible motherhood.



A REMARKABLE object lesson in the relation of over-population to lower standards of civilization was presented to the world early in May when the great general strike broke out in England. It will be recalled that the cause of the strike was the effort of the mine-owners to reduce the wages and increase the hours of the miners. The miners strenuously objected, and trade unions in other lines of industry joined in the fight. It was gener-

ally acknowledged that the condition of the miners was considerably worse than it had been in 1914 before the war. It was also conceded that mining was worse paid in England than other lines of work requiring equal skill and fewer privations. But the fact remained that there were 130,000 more miners than could be employed profitably in the industry, and that markets were lacking for English coal—markets that had been available before the war. The birth-rate of miners is higher than that in any other group in England, and it has been the habit of the miners to put their sons into their own industry. Whether England as a whole is over-populated or not, it is plain that the mining industry suffers from over-population and it is a problem beyond the wits of the wisest statesman to find a way out of the difficulty which will not cause wide suffering, and probably a very general lowering of the level of living for hundreds of thousands of English men, women and children.



WHAT is clearly discernible on a large scale for nations and industries is also equally true for families. Dr C O Sauer, head of the Geography Department of the University of California, recently declared that a lower standard of living would help to solve the problem of finding food and shelter for the ever growing population of the world. It does not take a university professor to find out that too many children in the family of a working man means a lowering of standards for the whole family. The mother soon finds that it is impossible to give the large family as good food as she could easily supply to a smaller number. The house becomes congested. We read of “two rooms for a family of six”, “man and wife and five children crowded into three rooms,” and even of worse housing conditions—conditions which would not be tolerated in a public institution for our dependent poor. Educational standards have to be lowered. The children must leave school just as soon as they can get their working papers and the dream of a high school course fades away. Books, lectures, music, cultural possibilities become an almost absurd impossibility for the over-burdened mother and the hard-driven father of too large a family, while any continued sickness—so probably a contingency when people are underfed—breaks down their independence and lays a burden on the whole community. Does unrestrained reproduction destroy civilization? Ask mother, she knows!

A League of Low Birth Rate Nations

By HAROLD COX

FROM the international point of view the most serious aspect of the problem of population is its necessary connection with the problem of war

FROM the international point of view the most serious aspect of the problem of population is its necessary connection with the problem of war. Whenever any nation increases its numbers beyond the capacity of its own territory, a risk arises of conflict with some other nation. There may today still be room on the earth for many more millions of people, but there are very few fragments of the earth's surface that can be regarded as common property. Practically the whole world is now divided up among separate nations, each insisting that it has an exclusive right of control over its own territory. Consequently if any one nation, owing to the growth of its population, requires more space it must either acquire additional territory from some other nation or it must send its surplus population to live under a foreign flag. The former method means immediate warfare, no nation will quietly submit to the seizure of its territory.

The latter method may be carried on peacefully for many years, possibly in some cases for generations. But it cannot be continued indefinitely. For example, the territory belonging to the American nation was for several generations freely open to settlers coming from other nations. That freedom has now ceased. The American people have become conscious that their territory, though large, has limits, and therefore is not capable of providing accommodation for an unlimited number of immigrants. Rigid restrictions have consequently been imposed with a view to checking the flow of immigration.

One Cause of the World War

It is well that we should not forget that one of the impelling motives of the Great War which began in 1914 was the desire of the German people for additional territory. This was made abundantly clear by numerous German writers in the years immediately preceding the war. It is sufficient here to quote the statement made by Von Bernhardi in his book entitled *Germany and the Next War*, published in 1911, just three years before the Great War broke out. He wrote

"Strong, healthy and flourishing nations increase in numbers. From a given moment they require a continual expansion of their frontiers, they require new territory for the accommodation of their surplus population. Since almost every part of the globe is inhabited, new territory

must, as a rule, be obtained at the cost of its possessors—that is to say by conquest, which thus becomes a law of necessity."

From the conclusion thus frankly, almost brutally, stated, it seems to me that there is no escape. If strong and flourishing nations do continue to increase in numbers they must have additional territory for their additional numbers, and sooner or later that must mean a war for the sake of territorial conquest.

It is of course arguable that in some cases, as for example that of Australia, the present occupants of large territories may be playing the part of the dog in the manger. But that is only a temporary phase. If the Australians were to follow the policy so long maintained by the United States, and freely admit people of every race, the country would soon become fairly full. But if in the meantime the population of Japan had continued to increase, the Japanese would be even more in need of fresh territory than they are to-day.

An Impending Catastrophe

By no device and by no postponement of ugly questions can we escape the two facts that the surface of the earth is limited and that man's powers of reproduction are practically unlimited. Consequently if the different races of the world continue to expand without regard to the growing shortage of space a time must come when they will be compelled to fight with one another for room to live.

The obvious way of avoiding this otherwise inevitable catastrophe is for the nations to agree with one another to impose some restraint upon their growing numbers.

At present the whole tendency of rival nations is the other way. In spite of the establishment of a League of Nations for the express purpose of insuring peace, each nation throughout the world still seems to be acting on the assumption that it must prepare for war. Each nation also continues to assume that to-day as in the time of Napoleon, Providence is on the side of the big battalions. In view of the development of chemical warfare the continued validity of Napoleon's dictum is very doubtful. A dozen skilled and courageous airmen can now terrorise a whole city by dropping poison bombs. The more crowded the city, the more extensive the damage that each bomb does. That alone is a very serious factor, but from the point of view of ultimate victory a still more serious conse-

quence of chemical warfare directed against crowded cities is the mental reaction upon the mob. The more crowded the city the greater is the danger of the revolt of the mob against its own rulers in order to force them to make peace.

In future wars we shall probably find that Providence is on the side of sparse populations, well-equipped with brain power. But whether this forecast of the future be justified or not, the argument that countries must increase their populations because of the perils of war remains unjustifiable.

Babies Needed for Soldiers

This argument has been constantly used in France since the Peace of Versailles, it was used in Germany while the war was still in progress. In September 1917 Field-Marshal Ludendorff presented to the Imperial Chancellor a memorandum on the German population and army drawn up by the Director General of Medical Services at the request of the General Staff. The following extracts from this memorandum are very significant.

"Worse than the losses through the war is the decline in the figure of our population owing to the falling birth rate. Our greatest danger threatens us from that side.

The war has certainly proved once again that superiority in numbers is not always decisive. But the great numerical superiority of our enemies, who will continue to be a menace to us both in a military and in an economic sense, compels us to regard the increase of our population as the most important goal of war and peace."

In exactly the same spirit the French Government since the war has been constantly urging the necessity for an increased birth rate among the French people and has taken measures to prevent the spread of Birth Control propaganda. Even in England we find opponents of Birth Control trying to reinforce their theological arguments by the militaristic contention that a large population is needed to save the country from defeat in war.

An Endless Succession of Wars

If this is the utmost that the wisdom of the world can produce, an endless succession of desolating wars is inevitable. Each nation, as it increases its numbers to guard against the dangers of the next war, will find itself in need of more territory for its expanded population. It will therefore, as the Germans did before 1914, deliberately plan war for the purpose of conquest. Presently another war with all the latest scientific horrors added will burst upon the world. While the war lasts there will be a set-back to civilisation and an incalculable addition to human suffering. When the war ends a good

many hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of men will be missing on both sides, and a good many women too. But enough will be left to carry on the same policy—the policy of breeding people to kill other people. To that policy there can be no end.

Needed, International Birth Control

I submit therefore that the problem of war must be approached from exactly the opposite point of view. Instead of each nation arguing that it wants more men to win the next war, all nations ought to argue that with an adequate check to over-population the next war could be indefinitely postponed. To persuade the nations of the world to adopt this point of view is not likely to be an easy matter. But it will at any rate be easier to win acceptance for this view than to secure the adoption of schemes put forward by the League of Nations at Geneva.

The League of Nations makes the fatal error of concentrating its attention on machinery for settling national disputes when they have arisen. What the world wants is a League which will set to work to remove the main cause which brings national disputes into being. That main cause is the overgrowth of population. If all the nations of the world had plenty of elbow room, there would be little cause left for quarrelling.

I therefore urge the members of this Conference to consider whether it may not be possible to establish an international movement for the restriction of population as a necessary step to the avoidance of warfare. Those nations whose inhabitants are intelligent enough to grasp this necessity might begin by forming among themselves a League of Low Birth Nations. The purpose of that League would be not to preach the abstract beauties of peace, but to press upon every nation the practical importance of limiting the number of its people so as to avoid the risk of conflict with other peoples. When the ultimate necessity for this policy of limitation had begun to be generally realised, the nations composing the Low Birth Rate League might take the definite step of guaranteeing one another against attack by any nation that was continuing to expand its population so rapidly as to threaten the security of its neighbours. As soon as that step had been reached the favourite militaristic argument for a high birth rate would at once lose even the plausible value it now possesses. For the collective strength of the low birth rate countries would be sufficient to outweigh any possible advantages that the high birth rate nation could derive from the policy of big battalions.*

* Excerpts from an address given at the Sixth International Birth Control Conference. For full address see "Proceedings," Vol. II, page 145.

Population and Civilization

By MAI COLM H BISSELL, PH D

IN a well-known textbook of commercial geography occurs the statement that "that which arrests the growth of population retards the advance of civilisation." The author qualifies civilisation in a preceding sentence by the adjective "material," but the statement as just read is an accurate summary of the philosophy of the Western world, particularly of America. Our ideas of progress are expressed by the national sport of "boosting" and by our excitement over census figures. The advertising pages of the magazines are full of invitations and exhortations to benighted easterners to move to California, or Arizona, or Oregon, or Seattle, or some other place where there is a lot of real estate to sell at a very handsome profit. Just now Florida is the leading boosters' paradise. Soon it will be Alaska, perhaps. We are assured that there is room for 26,000,000 more people in California, where "life is better", evidently we Americans regard room as something to be got rid of as soon as possible. The conclusion seems obvious that everybody will be happier and more prosperous when there is no room left.

Boosting the Next World

But our "boosting" propensities extend even beyond this world. Birth Control has been condemned because it decreases the potential population of heaven, and we have been solemnly adjured that it is man's main duty to provide as many bodies as possible, diseased or otherwise, in order to insure the maximum density of souls in the celestial realms.

It is apparently the firm conviction of the great mass of people today that rapid increase of population is the *sine qua non* of material prosperity and progress, and that the lack of sufficiently rapid growth is a sure sign, not only of material, but also of moral and spiritual decadence. And while statisticians and other students are more or less gloomily talking of overpopulation and ultimate food supply, the plain citizen refuses to admit that there is such a thing as too many people. At least it does not seem possible to take any other view of the efforts of such monstrous agglomerations as New York to still further increase their congestion.

The growth of population in the last one hundred and fifty years has been without parallel in human history. It has been accompanied by, and conditioned by, two other phenomena—the ex-

ploitation of natural resources on a stupendous scale, and an almost equally vast industrial and commercial expansion. These three phenomena are all interdependent, so much so that it is difficult to say which is cause and which effect. As long as population continues to increase, it seems certain that the other two must also continue to increase.

The Fallacy of Boosting

Taken together, these three phenomena are the most striking characteristics of the modern era. They are the fundamental elements of what might be called the "motif" of our civilisation—the *zeitgeist* of the age. They have carried in their train fabulous wealth, undreamed of material prosperity and an almost inconceivable improvement in man's physical well-being. Hence it is not strange that the world is dominated by the "booster" doctrine, which assumes that this same combination of phenomena can be continued indefinitely.

It has been the task of the statisticians to point out the fallacy and the superficiality of this assumption. My purpose here is to emphasize another aspect of the question—to call attention to certain less pleasing features of the process of expansion, and to ask frankly what it is all for. Let us consider for a moment what this stupendous increase in population and material wealth really involves. We have most of us heard the fervid Chamber of Commerce oratory describing how we have mined more coal, made more steel, sold more automobile tires than ever before, and how happy we all ought to be on that account. It is true that the world's iron consumption has practically doubled every twenty years since 1800, and its coal consumption every ten years. The United States alone mined more coal in 1913 than the entire world produced in 1890, only twenty-three years previously. Perhaps we can keep this kind of thing up a while longer—and perhaps not. We can't do it with our timber because the timber isn't there any more. In a few decades we Americans have devastated, burned and recklessly destroyed three-fourths of the greatest forest resources any nation ever inherited—a resource that could have supplied our needs for all time. But now we and our children and our children's children must pay the piper, and the timber famine which we cannot escape is only part of the bill.

The conservationists have long been preaching the day of reckoning, but what does conservation

mean to a world whose main interest is boosting? What if our coal-mining methods have been wasting half the coal in the ground, if our mad scrambles for oil waste much more than half the petroleum, if our booster "lumbering" leaves desolation and ruin in its wake instead of a permanent and valuable industry? Weren't we getting rich, and what else does the booster care about? What the conservationists have not emphasized, but what we all ought to know, is that all this is inevitable with a booster type of civilisation based on rapid growth of population. How can a world or a nation whose population is growing by leaps and bounds take time to choose the *best* way? Quick results are what is needed, and speed and quantity production must be the determining factors, not quality or ultimate well-being. Ever more food, ever more materials, for ever more people, as fast as possible, regardless of tomorrow—such is the inevitable combination, with its booms and its panics, its waste and its ruthlessness, until the very process itself clogs its own machinery and the day of reckoning comes.

Are We Getting Anywhere?

What, after all, is the purpose of all this feverish human activity? Have we been getting anywhere in particular? On the contrary, it seems that we have simply been going around in a circle—more population, more exploitation, more population. It is strangely like the famous Indiana farmer whose sole object in life was to plant more corn to feed more hogs to buy more land to plant more corn to feed more hogs. In spite of Professor Carver's defence of this circular procedure, it can hardly be said to be a satisfactory basis for civilisation. Certainly the civilisation which this kind of activity has produced—or if you prefer, the civilisation characterised by this kind of activity, is arousing more and more dissatisfaction, and its doom is being foretold by a steadily increasing chorus of critics. While most of the energy, thought and creative ability of the last few generations have necessarily been devoted to the exploitation of the material resources required to feed, house, clothe, transport and otherwise provide for ever increasing millions of human beings, acute problems of all sorts—social, political, economic—have been accumulating and growing in complexity. Life has been getting more and more hectic, we have no time for reflection and little for ordinary thinking, courtesy is almost a lost art, and while the demands of our expanding industrialism have everywhere been turning natural beauties into drab ugliness or barren waste, it is not at all clear that there has been a compensating gain in human happiness or that we have

been making real progress in the development of a just and stable society.

Rapid growth of population is necessarily associated with reckless waste of resources and neglect of esthetic and spiritual values. It fosters a crude materialism and increases the causes of friction between men. These things are inevitable when immediate returns must be the dominant consideration. Clearly we have here a case of uncontrolled, irrational activity, characteristic of an immature and unintelligent stage of social development. It is destructive, not constructive, and under such conditions we cannot expect to find a proper sense of proportion at all well developed. And a sense of proportion is what the human race needs more than anything else.

Wanted a New Idea of Progress

The idea that progress depends on growth of numbers, especially rapid growth, is false. We need a new attitude and a new idea of progress. Perhaps—indeed I believe probably—we shall never develop a really civilised society until population becomes approximately stationary. Then only shall we be able to build carefully and thoughtfully, with an eye to permanence rather than expediency, and then only shall we be able to evaluate justly the less tangible but more satisfying things of life which alone can lead to enduring peace.

Waste has been the dominant characteristic of human history. Even though the growth of population was very slow up to the dawn of the modern era, this was the result of a very high death rate rather than a low birth rate. High death rates go with high birth rates, and surely this combination is one of the most wasteful of which we can conceive. If we are ever to eliminate waste, we must begin by conserving human life itself.

Today we face an opportunity never before open to man—the possibility of building a world civilisation based on conservation rather than waste. For the first time since man became a thinking being we can maintain an approximately stationary population by the balance of a low death rate and a consciously regulated birth rate, and thereby supplant uncontrolled, irrational and wasteful activity by rational, intelligently directed and conservative activity. Our response to this opportunity will largely determine whether our civilisation is to prosper or go the way of Nineveh and Tyre.



* Address given at the Sixth International Birth Control Conference. See "Proceedings," Vol. II, page 89.

The Outline of Marriage

PART VI

By FLOYD DELL

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST "Now let me explain what I mean by the Slave Girl's Chance—

"Man is a conventional animal. But new conditions create new situations which there is no convention ready-made to fit. And then it is woman who creates the conventions. So it was here. A wife had her fixed duties and her fixed privileges, the duties being more numerous than the privileges. A slave had no fixed privileges—and no fixed duties, either. It was up to her to create her own status. A self-respecting wife took what of her husband's society custom allowed. But there was no convention to prevent a pretty slave from making herself far more fascinating to a man than a good wife dared to be. If she were clever and unscrupulous, she might bring the silly fool into complete subjection to her charms. And why should she not be clever and unscrupulous? A wife had her own family to go to for refuge, however poor a refuge it might be, against the miseries of marriage, she had some part of public opinion on her side, and the consolation of being known and pitied as a martyr if she were ill-treated. The slave had nothing—nothing but her beauty and her wits. There was nobody to help her—and nobody to stop her, either. If she were a king's slave, she might rule a kingdom. For when men have kept away from women too much, and have all sorts of conventional safeguards in such relationships as they do venture into, they lose the faculty of dealing with women, and become their easy prey, once they are thrown into an intimacy from which the conventional safeguards are absent. They are fooled to the top of their bent. The pretty slave becomes the tyrannical mistress—all the more ruthless because she has nothing to lose and a world to gain.

"And so there is developed the Slave-Despot type of woman. This has its effects upon conventional marriage. For men are fond of having slaves. And clever wives are willing to play at being slaves if thereby they can gain their own way. As for those wives who are not pretty or clever or unscrupulous enough to play the slave game well, they become—just slaves.

Mrs King Solomon and Mrs King David

"None but the brave deserve the fair. And the brave deserve, obviously, as many of the fair as they can corral. Polygamy comes with war and slavery, but remains generally a privilege of the brave or

their equivalent in power, the rich. Many, many concubines and many, many wives are the advertisement to the world of King David's and King Solomon's greatness. And this condition brings into play some new traits in woman's historic character. There is an intensification of rivalry between women for a man's favor. As between one conventional wife and one determined slave-mistress, the odds are all on the slave-mistress. But a dozen wives are in effect a dozen slave-mistresses, a dozen hungry dogs quarreling over one bone, a dozen cats watching one mouse. The finest developments of woman's technique of sexual allurements were never required for the mere conquest of men—they were required for survival in the life and death struggle for sexual supremacy with other women. Polygamy tends to disappear, to give way to monogamy for obvious economic reasons, it is generally too expensive to afford—even in polygamous countries it is usually the exception rather than the rule. But it makes its mark on monogamic marriage, and leaves behind it a new type of woman, prepared to compete with all comers for her man and to keep him against all rivals.

The Harem of One

"In conventional courtship, the exercise of these pretty talents is considerably restricted by the conventional demand for chastity in women, and so they have their full sway only after the capture of a husband. If a wife of this sort were *really* engaged in defending her husband against desperate rivals, there would be more point to her activities, but since what she is doing is, usually, keeping him from thinking of anything in the world but her charms,—she tends to become somewhat of a nuisance in a world in which there are, after all, other things to think about. But these traits, exercised within the conventional and virtuous bounds of monogamy, become in the eyes of their users a merit, and any failure on the part of their husbands to respond to this devotion becomes a sentimental grievance. Male mankind has paid a severe penalty for its little historic fling in polygamy. Teach a woman to guard her husband from a dozen other women all having an equal chance at him, then take away the dozen other women, and leave her with the same fierce and frantic possessiveness—and you have a fine case of Morbid Jealousy. There is a normal sexual jealousy which bears some

realistic relation to the necessities of a given situation, but the Morbid Jealousy which haunts so many marriages is a relic of the polygamic state of woman. She is behaving as though she were merely the temporary favorite among a flock of concubines. Which, considering her current economic status, is not so utterly absurd a notion as might seem! Until some change in her economic status has entirely divested her of concubine fears, she will remain subject to the obsession of concubine jealousy.

A Man's World

"All these kinds of feminine character have been produced in response to a condition which, from the end of the primitive Free-Mating period down to the present day, may be in all its thousand of tribal manifestations described as a militaristic and sentimentally homosexual society. We still live in such a society, in which the main attention of the human race is given to 'manly' affairs from which

women are excluded and which tend toward destruction and death, rather than to man-and-woman affairs which make for life and creativity. In this sentimental - militaristic - homosexual, he - man's world, women are still struggling for a place—and getting a little more room all the time. But the beginning of that struggle dates far back. In that struggle, the Slave-Girl and Harem-Favorite have, as we have seen, an honorable record, a record more honorable perhaps than Patient Griselda and Penelope, and in that struggle, the struggle for the recognition of woman as a person with a right freely to dispose of herself, the Courtesan and the Adulteress have also an honorable record—as a study of the Greek hetaira and the beginnings of Romantic Love in the medieval period would more particularly show. Next time, then, if you will remind me—"

(This concludes our curtailed presentation of Floyd Dell's remarkable analysis of Marriage. Reprints of the complete work will be obtainable from the office of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.)



Spreading the News

By ELIZABETH WATSON

THE old East Indian adage asking "What need of a scribe while we have the gossip of the bazar?" proved the eternal quality of its truth, by something that happened in Southern California last year.

On April 1, 1925 the Mothers' Clinic of Los Angeles, Cal., opened its doors and began its humane work. This is how it came about. In 1923 when the California Social Workers were convening in the Yosemite Valley, a little nurse, a social service worker from the Southern part of the State went about asking different influential members of the conference to have some part of the program given over to the discussion of "Birth Control." "Nothing doing"—as usual, "The program was full, no spare moment, no place for any such discussion—the subject too controversial for a Social Workers' Convention," etc., etc.

Undaunted, undefeated, this courageous little nurse returned to her Los Angeles home and kept right on talking, gossiping with every one about the necessity for Birth Control. With experience as supervising nurse in the Maternity Centre Association Clinics of New York, and five years' work in the pre-natal clinic at Washington University, St. Louis, she had seen the terrific miseries, the horrors, lack of contraceptive measures, brought into the lives of the pregnant women attending her daily

clinics—women, unfit unable to bear healthy, wholesome children.

So she kept on talking Birth Control. People would say (very often even social workers, who knew and acknowledged this crying need of women) "C—— is fine, but she is such a bore. She is always talking Birth Control. Everywhere she goes, she talks, talks, talks about it. We know that Birth Control is needed, but what's the use of talking about it all the time. We can't do anything about it now."

Events proved, however, that the continual gossip aroused public opinion and brought resultant action.

In the meanwhile the valiant nurse was working away in the Maternity Clinic of the Los Angeles Health Department, and becoming more and more determined that something must be done. Every day she came in contact with large numbers of pregnant women, among whom there were always tubercular, feeble-minded, diabetic, or heart cases, victims of venereal diseases, mental disturbances—epilepsy, etc., etc. So many, many women, all unable to escape the responsibility of bringing unfit children into the world, unless they resorted to abortion.*

* Under the laws of California such cases are permitted to have what is known as legal abortion.

Why abortion? asked the nurse. The very idea of it is repellant to most women. It is a frightful human waste. It endangers a woman's life, and even when successful leaves her to face an aftermath of psychological shock and depression that defeated nature demands as payment for her thwarted plans. Why do we not work to prevent the necessity of abortions? Why not teach the prevention of conception? It is the humane way, moreover it is not against the law to give such information in this State.

Every little while the courageous nurse found sympathetic listeners, people agreeing with her point of view, and when some of them also began spreading the news regarding this great necessity of women, our nurse began to have a ray of hope that something to help the mothers might come to pass.

The date for the California Social Workers' Convention was approaching. It was to be at Long Beach, and our nurse requested the program committee to give a place on its program for the discussion of Birth Control. She did not get it but she succeeded in obtaining one of the luncheon conference days for a Birth Control luncheon conference. Single-handed and alone she set to work on her luncheon plans.

Fortunately for the cause, Dr. A. Rosanoff, a psychiatrist, of New York City, a member of the National Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, had recently become a resident of Los Angeles, and a member of various committees working in social welfare. In him our nurse found a valiant ally. He not only consented to speak at the luncheon, but assisted in working out an excellent program in which speakers would cover the subject from every angle, the negative as well as affirmative side of the subject to be presented.

The luncheon day came and 125 persons had reserved places at tables, but when the hour arrived such crowds stormed the doors that a S. O. S. call was sent out which made it possible to admit 300 to the luncheon and to allow an additional hundred to listen to the speakers. The entire 400 were men and women active in some form of educational and social welfare work.

The presiding officer was Dr. Clark of Long Beach, a well-known, beloved physician of high standing in the state. The head of the State Department of Health was one of the principal speakers, others were the Referee of the Juvenile Court in Los Angeles, a well-known rabbi of San Francisco, several ministers of renown and physicians and surgeons of note throughout the state. The speaker representing the Catholic charities was the only one speaking on the negative side of the

question. Before adjournment the meeting went on record in form of a resolution, requesting delegates to the conference to take action and have the 1924 California Conference on Social Work go on record as being in favor of Birth Control. The enthusiasm and interest at this meeting were amazing. That is the way they do things in California. Once they see and believe a thing should be done, they get into action to do something about it.

This is what is known as the Western Sweep. Such quick action is a bit breath-taking to an Easterner accustomed to the old "Follow the Leader"—"Watch your step" methods of standing with or against a new or controversial issue. It was good to see and gave one hope and belief in new things to come through a younger State such as California, which has lost neither her pioneer spirit nor her frontier courage.

This all happened in the end of April, 1924. Exactly one year later April, 1925, the "Mothers Clinic" of Los Angeles opened its doors.

The latter part of 1924 and the early part of 1925 were busy times for all believers. Early in September, 1924, Mrs. Anne Kennedy, the organizer for the American Birth Control League came to discuss the possibility of organizing a Los Angeles Chapter of the League. A small, but powerful group of people representing the regular medical profession, the osteopaths, the nurses, social service workers, women's trade unions, juvenile court, women's clubs and the general public met in Dr. Rosanoff's office. This group decided to organize then and there, appointed an executive board and a temporary chairman and outlined a program of work, i. e., to establish as soon as possible a Birth Control Clinic for therapeutic cases, to plan and hold educational mass meetings, and to hold a public dinner, as soon as possible, each present member to go out, spread the news and bring in to the dinner meeting ten new members.

Someone volunteered to put over the dinner, to raise a small fund to get it started. Someone else volunteered to get speakers, another someone to make lists of people who might attend the dinner.

Some-One—Mrs. Elizabeth McManus—did put over that dinner. She raised a fund in contributions of ten, twenty-five and fifty cents. She gave her office, her telephone, her own work and all her enthusiasm, and the dinner was a great success. Miss Shelley Tolhurst, one of the foremost women leaders in California and well known throughout the country, presided. Dr. Henry G. Bunker, former president of the California Medical Society, was the chief speaker. Seventy-five of the one hundred and twenty-five diners, signed up as members of the

(Continued on page 210)

Fecundity and Civilization

By EDWARD M. EAST, B.S., PH.D.

IT is not uncommon for those who have made no study of the problem of population to assume rather axiomatically that potential fertility, or fecundity in more precise terminology, declines as civilisation advances. They grant that the population of the earth cannot mount indefinitely, that there will come a time in the future, a far distant future of course, when the population increase must drop to that negligible minimum permitted by advances in science and the arts, but they have a sublime faith closely akin to the ridiculous in an adjusted balance that will come about as the result of natural physiological changes.

One might retort that even if the natural trend of human fecundity were ever downward, the rate of the decrease has not been sufficient to relieve the weight of population pressure which began to crush China and India during the nineteenth century, or to prevent the over-population of western Europe that has been so great a factor in the political troubles marking the beginning of the twentieth century, hence it might be reasonable to question whether such an anticipatory solution is to be held valid for the population conditions which the United States is steadily approaching and will meet before the twentieth century is completed.

Such a reply would make no impression on the brains of these facile optimists. But that is of small importance. As Havelock Ellis says, "When the gods, to ruin a man, first make him mad, they do it, almost invariably by making him an optimist." Whether the optimist will or no, the statement serves perfectly as a general Malthusian argument, for it is logically sound and based on fact, nevertheless there are other more meticulous-minded people, biologists, sociologists and the like, to whom reasoning of this kind is unsatisfactory because it does not go far enough. Even though it is a matter of common knowledge that world saturation in population is too imminent a probability to be precluded by the slowly moving force of natural selection, serious students realise that the natural trend of human fecundity is an interesting subject upon which there ought to be more knowledge.

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin touched upon these questions of fertility and fecundity as he did upon nearly every other general biological question. And what he wrote in the *Descent of Man*, published in 1871,

has hardly been added to, much less supplanted, during the half-century elapsing since.

Arguing from the data of Galton and of Duncan, Darwin remarks that a most important obstacle in civilised countries to an increase in the number of men of a superior class is the fact that the very poor and reckless, who are often degraded by vice, almost invariably marry early, while the careful and frugal, who are generally otherwise virtuous, marry late in life, so that they may be able to support themselves and their children in comfort. Thus the reckless, degraded and often vicious members of society tend to increase at a quicker rate than the provident and generally virtuous members, because in a given period they not only produce a greater number of generations but a larger total number of children. Owing largely to the parasitism of the one on the other, the less favored portion of civilised man prevails in the eternal struggle for existence, not by virtue of its good qualities but of its faults.

The modern eugenicist could hardly ask a change in this paragraph so justly are the evils of differential fertility set forth. It is fertility and not fecundity of which he writes here of course, but one may read between the lines and see that Darwin realised how probable it is that the fecundity of the under-man, naturally less than that of the superior man because of the better environment which the latter enjoys, is raised by the opportunities for parasitism furnished by organised society to a point where the inequalities are wiped out.

How Fecundity is Affected

Now what can we say on the matter today? Let us divide the question into two parts, considering first the effect of changing social customs and of economic conditions, and second the effect of selection on genetic constitution. Both phases must be treated in a general way. The evidence is circumstantial rather than direct, and the weight which ought to be given to the various factors concerned is not easily determined.

One finds in progress today no wide-spreading change in a purely social custom which seems likely to affect fecundity in a marked degree. Perhaps the most noteworthy shift in a long-established folkway of this character is the general reduction in alcohol consumption which appears to be going on in various parts of the world. It is not

possible to evaluate this declining alcohol consumption numerically, but I think that no one will have the hardihood to say it is negligible

Age at marriage is slowly increasing. At present the tendency makes for a very slightly decreasing fertility because of a changing amount of exposure to risk of pregnancy. If the trend became marked, however, one could imagine a time when the average age at marriage was sufficiently late for natural fecundity to have decreased, although the work of Powys indicates that, contrary to general belief, fecundity decreases very slightly up to age 36 in healthy women. Expressed fertility decreases but not fecundity.

Divorce, if it be increasing as fast as statistics seem to indicate, would affect fertility adversely, though presumably it would have no influence on fecundity.

Modern Civilization and Fecundity

On the other hand, the slightly increasing marriage rate in civilised countries has an obvious effect on what one may call realisable fecundity. Generally speaking there are three types of celibates, the typical bachelor maids and men who are left over in marriage selection and are likely to be low in fecundity because of physical and psychical abnormalities, the individual-career seekers, and the religious celibates. The last two classes are usually very worthy people physically and mentally with rather high fecundity. And, so far as my information goes, the decrease in the proportion of religious celibates very greatly over-balances the increase in secular celibates. The latter come largely from among women anyway, and women show a numerical excess over men throughout the whole of middle life. The religious celibates are decreasing rapidly. Last summer I found that the monasteries of Italy, where at one time every fourth male took up his residence, now have only from one-fifth to one-tenth the number of recruits they can accommodate. Thus the changes in the two more important of these factors tend to promote an increase in realisable fecundity.

Nineteenth Century Influences

The great social shifts in the nineteenth century came about from industrialisation and from medical progress, including in the latter term all changes which led to a better sanitation and more desirable living conditions. It might be said that the effect of these changes as reflected in the dropping of death rates and the resulting almost incredible population increase, had to do only with net fertility. I do not believe this to be the truth.

Fecundity itself was affected, affected immediately and to a high degree. One can draw no other conclusion from a study of the vital statistics of the civilised countries during this period, but the point is difficult to demonstrate conclusively because of the numerous factors concerned. Is it not a mere matter of common sense, however? Food increased in *per capita* quantity, more varied foods were available, housing conditions became better, sanitation increased, conditions of work steadily became more desirable, medical attention was more frequent and of finer quality. If such changes in environmental conditions can affect fecundity at all, then fecundity must have risen.

What of the Future?

On the other hand, there is circumstantial evidence indicating that there may be a slow, gradual decrease in fecundity which after many generations may reach a measurable value. If fecundity differences between individuals are heritable, then those advances in general and preventive medicine which allow the production of one or more children by women who under natural conditions would be childless must result in a gradual decrease in average fecundity. But we must first find out whether such individual differences are in fact heritable. Presumably some are and some are not. When we can separate the heritable, if such there be, from the non-heritable, then we can begin to evaluate the effect of the heritable. On general grounds one must conclude that any such possible effect on the average fecundity of the human race will be found to be too small to be significant and probably too small to be measured even over the course of several centuries.

What, then, are our general conclusions regarding the trend of fecundity with civilisation? Let us put the last first. If there is by any alteration in inherent fecundity, it is likely to be downward, but since no change can be demonstrated at the present time, the fall per century is probably negligible. Civilisation, on the other hand, in so far as it better conditions and makes life more worth living, raises realisable fecundity. Only by the killing competition which rises concurrently with the approach of population saturation is realisable fecundity likely to drop. And it will drop then not because of a greater civilisation but because of the lack of true civilisation.



* Excerpts from an address given at the Sixth International Birth Control Conference. For full paper see "Proceedings," Vol II, page 11.

LARGE FAMILIES — LOW STANDARDS

Does Civilization Require Birth Control?

The welfare and happiness of the nation rests upon welfare and happiness in the home. These letters show how hopeless it is to expect civilized life when father, mother and children are under the constant and terrible pressure of inadequate means and too large family: the father harrassed and over-worked, or discouraged and careless of his obligations, the mother overworked, sick, irritable, miserable, the children deprived of space, over-crowded, underfed, under-educated, over-worked. Are these the materials for a great American nation of the future?

We Cannot Do Them Justice

Mississippi

I am housekeeping, trying to send 6 children to school and have 3 little ones at home. At present am doing most of my work by keeping one of the children at a time out of school to help me. What I want you to do is to advise me what to do to prevent conception. If I don't use some sure preventive, there will be another baby next year. We now have more children than we can do justice by both mentally, financially and morally and I cannot give my children the proper care, education and moral training they by right should have, and do my housekeeping too. We are really not financially able to hire my work done, though have tried, and failed so far, to get someone to help me. I have no chance to go to church or Sunday School, neither can I teach my children the Bible at home as I am always too busy.

Is It Common Sense to Continue This?

West Virginia

I live in a small mining town and even in this small town there are many families it is a tragedy to see. I know many who would be glad to not have any children for a few years, as they have 3 and 4 so small they cannot take proper care of them and are all poor people. I married at the age of 17 and a year later I had an 8 lb boy born to me. It was not developed right inside, the doctor did not think it would have had any mind or even walked. It died 24 hours after birth. A year after that I had an 8 lb girl who has never been well and had to be weaned because my milk isn't good. A year and a half later I had a 3½ months miscarriage and now am 4½ months pregnant again and I am so uneasy I don't know what to do as I am afraid it will be like my first one. I feel sometimes as if I would rather die than suffer again as I did then. So please help me as I do not want any more children for a while after this one and always I will be your grateful friend.

Letting a Mother Die

Ohio

My mother was 36 years old when she died and left 6 children, a pair of twins not two months old and I was the oldest of six. But my mother never knew a sick day in her life until she had me and she had it very hard then and with every child thereafter had internal hemorrhages which left her very weak. We could not afford anything to build her up and she was too far gone, she died with consumption two months after giving birth to a pair of twins. I was the oldest so I had to keep house and help look after the children. A year after mother died, one of the twins died with the same disease, and four years after another brother. My father was a heavy drinker so we did not get the right care. He would come home and beat me up for nothing at all.

At 12 years old I went to work to help look after my sisters and brother. I stood that for a year but I could see no headway so I broke up the home and took my two sisters and brother and put them in a home. And I went to work at bookbinding and at night I did a lady's housework so I would not have to pay board and the money I got paid for my sister's and brother's board. I never was out to play and I never saw a moving picture till I got married, and that was when I was 17 years old. I knew nothing about married life.

My husband was a young fellow 19 years old and made \$12.00 a week, but I lived with his parents and was happy till I had my first baby. I carried it 7 months and lost it. Had another 7-months boy and suffered awful. He is now 9 years old and is a very sickly child and one of his lungs is very bad. Two years after I had another, that was 5 months when I lost that. I cannot tell you how bad I was. I got operated but it was no different. I had to go away and my husband enlisted in the Navy and stayed until after the war ended, thinking I would pick up.

When he came back I had 3 more miscarriages, and two years ago I gave birth to a little girl and four months ago to another little girl and I can't stand it any longer.

for I am all dragged out and between washing and sewing and the housework and looking after the children, I have no pleasures

We Keep Them From Starving

Texas

I have thought time and time again that I would write you a letter to see if you would help a poor woman that is in need of help. Now I want to tell you about my 13½ years of married life. When I was married 1½ years there came a girl baby and she is afflicted with St. Vitus Dance which the doctor call it and she did not walk until she was 7 years old and at this writing she is 12 years old and she still don't talk and is a perfect baby yet. And in the meanwhile I have given birth to 5 other children, 4 of them were living and the other one was dead when it was born. And have miscarried 6 times and am in family way again and we are poor folks and have not a home even and it seems that we will hardly make a living for them some times. But husband and I both work as hard as we can and keep them from starving but that is about all I can say.

I feel some times like putting an end to my life and again I think what would become of my little ones that is unable to take care of themselves, but if I have to go on having children it won't be long until I will be unable to care for them for I have been in awful poor health for 5 years and every term gets worse.

A Father of Eleven

Texas

I am a girl of a large family. My mother raised 11 children, 6 girls and 5 boys. Neighbor of mine has babies from 1 year old up. All have large families and every one of us have to raise them on a bottle. What use are poor run-down mothers. I am raising mine on one. Yes, I just cry and think, and cry and think, what will become of the poor working race of people, with no one to help them. When I was a girl I worked in the field and wasted my life and made myself sick trying to take care of my mother and tend the children for her, when I could not be in the field. I know father will go to town and tell people what he has done, raised 11 children when he ought to be at home under the bed with his head hung down. He never done no such of a thing, mother did, and cared for him besides. Sometimes I can hardly keep from hitting him to save my neck. Now that I am married myself we have 5 and my husband is like myself, did not want more than we could take care of. Well it may seem strange to you, but not to me. I told a bunch Sunday I would be glad and willing to give my children away to someone who could care for them. They said I was a fool. I am 30 years old and a wreck. Think of it, when I ought to be in the prime of life. What are we to do? Can you do something to help us.

Couldn't Go to School

Oklahoma

I am a young woman 20 years old, have one baby she will be 3 years old in May. I was the oldest of a family of seven. My mother died of child-birth when I was thirteen years old and my smallest brother is a cripple. I kept house for my father and six children. I know what it is to care for a big family. I was just a child myself, but I sent them all to school and done the washing and housework and also the sewing for all of them. My father was a poor man and couldn't afford anyone to help, so I could go to school. My crippled brother was as helpless as a baby, when mother died. He was born crippled, his back was paralyzed. He is ten years old now and one side of him has never developed. I know my poor mother suffered having so many children and I would like to know of a way to prevent having one right after another like my mother. I'm afraid all the time and will be awful glad if you can help me.

Is This Civilized Life?

New York

I am now the mother of three living boys and am only twenty-three years old and have been married five years last January 1st. At the time I was married I was eighteen and very, very ignorant of sex relation between married couples. With my first baby I became pregnant as soon as married. I had several doctors for pregnant sickness as I could eat or drink nothing without vomiting until at last I vomited nothing but blood. Then I was ordered to the hospital where they kept me alive by nourishment through the rectum.

When I was married I was very healthy, never had a sick day and at the time I was ordered to the hospital besides pregnant sickness I was on the point of a nervous breakdown. My baby came in September, he was not full time only weighed 6½ lbs and was always sickly until he was about 2 years old. In November after he was born I was very weak and miserable and fainted at the least excitement and went to a doctor. He said I was pregnant again and in February I miscarried and had hemorrhages after miscarriage. In April after the miscarriage I found to my horror I was pregnant again as I could eat or drink nothing same as with my first baby only I was in a more rundown condition to start with. We were in Colorado when these first two boys were born. Times were so hard there we came back to New York when the second baby was 4 months old and rented a farm of over 200 acres. When the second baby was 11 months old I was pregnant again besides I was milking from 7 to 10 cows night and morning, nursing one baby and cooking for 3 men most of the time and sometime 4. Had my hands so full and heart also I was so irritable and nervous and my husband and I could not agree on anything.

Book Reviews

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, by Knight Dunlap The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1925 \$4.00

IT is a joy to come into contact with a mind so clear, so bent on ascertaining the truth, and so intolerant of easy inexactitudes, such as is shown in every line of Professor Dunlap's volume. Social psychology has hitherto been chiefly exploited by men who have adopted some theory based on a single explanatory principle, and the phenomena presented have been selected with a view to proving the theory. Professor Dunlap approaches the subject in a totally different manner. He uses all the attainable results of general psychology and he never allows his readers to forget that social psychology is the psychology of the individuals who make up society. There is no basis whatever for a supposed "group mind" or "mob spirit," but each individual is profoundly influenced and modified psychologically by his relations to the family, the group, the social organization in which he finds himself.

The most fundamental of social relations is that between the sexes, and a chapter is devoted to the discussion of sex differences—a discussion so fair and unbiased, so firmly based on ascertained facts and so free from unproved generalizations, as to be peculiarly refreshing to the feminine reader who is unspeakably wearied by the vast amount of nonsense written about her sex.

It is not possible here to take up in detail the various sections of Professor Dunlap's book. The chapters cover Marriage and the Family, Religious Organization, Civic and Martial Organization, the Conditions of Social Progress, the Principles of Social Organization and Propaganda. In each of these chapters there is illumination and much food for thought. There are also healthy correctives which should be applied to many theories which have too easily gained popular acceptance.

But apart from all this there is a good reason why the book should be given space in the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*. In Chapter V, on "Conditions of Social Progress," Professor Dunlap discusses at some length the control of reproduction, and gives his scientific blessing to Birth Control. The eugenic program he finds futile and impractical, except to some degree on the negative side. Even here he sees little hope for any success, except through voluntary restriction, exercised by those who are convinced of their unfitness to reproduce themselves. The aim of the eugenists he sees attainable only through the wide popularization of scientific contraception, including voluntary sterilization in cases of hopeless unfitness which does not prevent marriage—such as congenital deaf-mutism which is known to be hereditary.

All the common objections to Birth Control are considered by Professor Dunlap, and explained by the laws

of social psychology. The obstacles that exist to the spread of the practice are not permanent, and he looks forward to a time when contraception will be universally accepted. "With the development of harmless and effectual, as well as simple methods (which are well under way at the present time)," he writes, "the apparently vital objections, (including the religious) will melt away. For it is a fact that, in so far as means are available, people will use them, in spite of their theoretical views, and as they use the means their theoretical views change. Neither laws nor religious interdictions can seriously affect such a vital matter. From present indications, what is now a partly dysgenic force, with other attendant evils, will be in ten years time a mighty eugenic force, assisting in the solution of many problems that now threaten society."

We cannot do better than conclude this brief review of a most interesting book by quoting Professor Dunlap's vision of the future. "Among the immediate effects of a more widespread knowledge of and confidence in contraception," he writes, "we will find still further reduction in abortion, infanticide, 'ruined women' and therefore in prostitution. Increased marriage and lowering of the average age of marriage, through removal of the probability of children before the parents are economically able to care for them, will increase the expectation of marriage among the young, and tend therefore to decrease illicit mating. Undoubtedly an industrial revolution will be produced, through the change in the 'labor market,' when the rate of reproduction of the 'laboring classes' rapidly drops. But there are no predictable effects of a deleterious sort."

A G P

OTHER PEOPLE'S DAUGHTERS, by Eleanor Rowland Wembridge Houghton Mifflin Co. (New York) \$2.50

UPON finishing the seventeen pertinent studies by Dr. Wembridge one wishes that not only welfare worker, but flapper, matron and tired business man might read her book for two reasons: first, that it gives one the feeling that good sportsmanship is a never failing ally under the most adverse circumstances, and secondly that it is one's duty, as well as right, to know and help "Other People's Daughters." Pathos, tragedy and despair are so interwoven with humor, philosophy and common sense that as one reads the book it is like passing down a cosmopolitan thoroughfare and looking at the passers-by with an esoteric ability to read their thoughts and become informed of their plights and problems.

All sorts of daughters are sympathetically but not sentimentally represented. Perhaps "Goldie Grasshopper" and "Silk Stockings" appeal to the reviewer as the most intense and unforgettable of the studies—but instantly there comes to mind "Gertrude and Gus" and "The Two Margarets"—the other fifteen sketches, no less! We wish Dr Wembridge would write about Other People's Sons—or tell of more Other People's Daughters. While her book is a well written and artistic piece of fiction it is also a human behaviour laboratory into which the layman can enter and become both informed and stimulated.

NALERO BARTLEY

THE CHALLENGE OF CHILDHOOD, by Ira S. Wile, M.S., M.D. Thomas Seltzer, New York, 1925

DR WILE has produced a text which will repay repeated reading by parents, teachers, social workers, or others who wish stimulation and guidance in the great enterprise which, in the language of the book, aims "to seize upon the unitary personality of the child, guiding, influencing, and assisting him to secure physical, mental, emotional, and social health—that is, to attain a mastery of the art of living." A skillful combination of case histories with discussions of general principles has insured ready understanding and well-sustained interest. Every page shows not only sound scholarship but also remarkable insight into the interplay of personalities in family groups, and sympathetic understanding of the delicacies and caprices, as well as of the fundamental life forces which find expression in the behavior problems of children.

"The viewpoint I have aimed to project involves the integration of the physical, mental, emotional, and social factors into a unitary being, rather than their separate consideration as wholly independent elements, as ordinarily understood." This statement outlines the chapters of the book, and the method by which this may be done is given numerous concrete presentations in the finely characterized sketches of little patients whose bodies and souls have benefited by the careful diagnoses and skillful treatments of this distinguished physician.

The book brings a hopeful message to persons whose anticipations of the pleasures of parenthood have been disappointed by what appear to be incurable defects in their children. The complexity and variability of human capacities make possible many compensating developments, and character defects yield readily to insight and better adjustments to the environment. Dr Wile shows that it is not impossible for an unpromising or even defective child to realize the ideal of child nurture which he defines as "free development in tune with his own vibrant instrument, and as one who must learn to play in harmony with the social orchestra."

LUCILLE EAVES

PERIODICAL NOTES

In *The World's Health* (Paris) for April, Marie Stopes makes a reply to Dr Dublin's article "The Excesses of Birth Control." Unfortunately Mrs Stopes shows deep ignorance concerning the policy and principles of the American Birth Control League. Had she informed herself in this respect, her article would have been of much greater value.

In *Zeitschrift für Sexualwissenschaft* (Berlin) for February, Dr H. F. O. Haberland pays a tribute to Dr Hermann Rohleder, one of the pioneers in work for sex education. The occasion was Dr Rohleder's sixtieth birthday.

In the *American Appeal*, Chicago, George R. Kirkpatrick gives one of many good reasons why the poorer classes should not emulate the rabbit. He describes a machine which can do the work of 5,000,000 men. Says he "It is planned to show you very soon the picture of a power-machine (in actual operation here in Chicago) six of which machines could furnish power, energy-for-work, far more than equal to the total muscle energy of all the men in the United States twenty-one years old and over. If the very distinguished business man who has control of this marvelous power-machine here in Chicago will permit me to show you a picture of it, this picture will appear very soon on this page."

The Commonwealth, another Catholic weekly, has also gone into the field of Birth Control. Under the head "The Fear of the Unborn" the editor approves Dr Dublin's population statistics and refers to the most careful scholars of the population question as "neurotics." The article is another plea for more children regardless of what kind of children they may be or how they are to be fed.

In the notes of *Science Progress* for April reference is made to public discussions on the ethics of Birth Control. *Science Progress* is opposed to the discussion of Birth Control in popular magazines. The paper favors Birth Control but advocates that it only be taught where it is necessary and by medical men. No light is thrown upon what is meant by "where necessary," nor is anything said about the willingness of medical men to give such important information.

In *American Medicine*, March number, there is an editorial comment on the federal bill 211 for the amendment of the Penal Code Law, sponsored by the American Birth Control League. It favors an amendment but not the amendment suggested, the object of which is "to permit the mailing of contraceptive information and scientific reports and articles by duly licensed physicians." The main objection of *American Medicine* is based on the fear that the spreading of the information would not be left in the hands of physicians.

From Our Readers

STREET SELLING

WITH this issue we close the correspondence concerning street selling of the REVIEW. We are grateful to our many friends who have given their opinion. The overwhelming majority of the letters received have been favorable to this part of our policy and many of them tell of interest aroused in Birth Control through seeing the REVIEW in the hands of Miss Marion. Some of our correspondents have suggested the advisability of selling the REVIEW through the news stands. To persuade the dealers to handle it, a demand must first be created, and every friend of the movement can help in creating this demand by asking for the REVIEW every time they buy a paper from a news stand, or in a store.

—EDITOR

A TRIBUTE TO KITTY MARION

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Hoping that it is not too late to express my views regarding the selling of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on the streets, I wish to say that in my opinion the League would lose considerable publicity and a great many potential converts, were street selling abandoned.

Several years ago I purchased a copy of the REVIEW from Miss Marion in front of the Brooklyn Bridge and after reading same, realized what a wonderful ally of health and happiness Birth Control would be. Shortly after I joined the League.

The cheerful ladylike manner in which Miss Marion conducts herself, as she holds aloft her message to the world, adds dignity to the movement and in addition, provides the means to thousands of men and women to hear of your work.

I have always felt grateful to Miss Marion for putting me in touch with your work and I venture the opinion that there are hundreds of men and women who feel the same as I do about it, but who fail to express their gratitude, or fail to advise you of the manner in which they became acquainted with the movement, thus detracting from Miss Marion credit which is rightfully hers.

BAILEY A. DICKERSON

DANGERS OF ABORTION

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In your REVIEW I have never seen stressed as the cause of insanity and crime an unsuccessful attempt at abortion during the early weeks of foetal life. As you assume, abortion is a very common practice, not only among the very poor, but often among intelligent mothers, who from modesty have never found rightful means of Birth Control. As a mother, I know this. All my children are unusually

well and strong, both mentally and physically, except one whose early foetal life I attempted to abort. In this case, abnormality (insanity) did not develop until adult life. I feel strongly that there can be no other cause than I have given.

I do so want this reason investigated, and if, through any of your channels of information, it can be proven, it would be such a startling revelation that the medical profession, legislators, etc., would do everything to further Birth Control. Definite knowledge of contraceptive measures, given to each person before marriage, would do away with so much evil in this world. For the sake of my family and for my dear child, who is part of the time normal, I cannot proclaim this terrible deed. *Help others from doing as I did.*

A SUFFERING MOTHER

In Memoriam Rose Weiner

Rose Weiner (Mrs. Snider) was a product of our present economic system. She was brought up in a working man's family which knew many hardships. As a result she was practically a physical wreck, but fortunately for society she had a good mind and could never reconcile herself to mere physical labors. She not only worked and lived by her earnings, but also gave her free time to help improve the industrial conditions of the working class.

While in New York she was a member of the Office Workers Union and served in an executive capacity with this organization. She constantly sought to improve her mind, the better to serve her fellow-workers. She was a graduate of the Rand School in New York, and also served in an executive capacity there after her graduation.

She came to Los Angeles, as many people do, for her health, but she was not here long before she found avenues to improve her mind and serve the community. She was a strong feminist and when the Birth Control Movement began to shape itself in Los Angeles, she was one of the first to interest herself in it and to give to it all that she had. She was not satisfied with mere Birth Control propaganda. This had not warped in her the strong feeling of motherhood, which proves that no amount of knowledge of Birth Control can curb the maternal feelings.

Her desire for Motherhood was so great that even though she was told that the bearing of a child might be too much for her physique, she took the risk at the expense of her life. This characterized Rose Weiner in most of her daring movements. The greatness of a cause determined her efforts in behalf of it. As a result Rose Weiner is dead, leaving a baby boy. In our sorrow, we recall the inspiration that she was to those about her.

CLARA TAYLOR WARNE

The Last Garden

By CORALIE HOWARD HAMAN

THE old lady used to be always busy working in her garden. It was a lovely place. People came from far and near to see it, for actually here were to be seen flowers growing not on roofs, or on the ledges of buildings, or in window-boxes or flower-pots, but in the surface of the earth itself. Tom Smith didn't believe it when I first told him. "But," he said, "how in the world does the city let that immense plot of ground—nearly three yards square, you say—go without being built on? Why a tower could be built on that which would hold a hundred families,—properly bunked in, of course, and with the latest suction devices for air. But what's the use of arguing? Naturally I know you're spoofing."

"Indeed I'm not," I told him. "As to *why* the Over-Lords permit it, I don't know, I'm sure. But I know this. I've caught you again using one of your archaic expressions! When will you get out of the way of saying 'city'? If I understand the 'Dictionary of Obsolete Terms,' and I flatter myself I do, the opposite of 'city' was 'country,' a place with 'fields' and 'meadows,' 'not built up.' I never saw any myself. And it's hard for even a student of those matters, to understand rightly just what was meant."

"Of course there was that immense tract, fully half a city block, left for exhibition purposes, and to instruct the children in historical matters. But that was built up before I was old enough to appreciate it. I've heard my father say, though, that there were any number of nooks and corners like that when he was a boy."

"Well, of course I'm older than you," Tom answered thoughtfully, "and I have a turn for archaeology also, and I remember my grandfather saying that *his* grandfather used to talk, in his extreme old age, of having lived in a house—'farm-house,' I think the term was—with 'meadows' and 'fields' about it. But probably the old gentleman was in his dotage."

There was a pause, while we smoked companionably and ate some of the pellets that were provided for us. Tom has a pleasant room. When the sleeping hammock is folded up in its corner, and the table pinned back against the wall, there is space, not only for his own chair, but for that of a guest as well. I tell Tom that he certainly is a luxurious old bach. At that he becomes grave, and says he almost wishes there weren't quite so many people in the world, that he *does* get tired

of being unable to go on the streets or on the roofs except with his own group, that he would like to be able to go out once in a while whenever he felt like it. This seems to me to smack of anarchy. As I remind him, there is not room for all the people outdoors at the same time. These things have to be regulated. Tom only grunts and smokes his apportionment of tobacco and closes his eyes and daydreams. I sometimes think that he is a throwback to those times that our mythologies tell us of, when men and women could go out whenever they got ready, and walk far out in that 'country' that our antiquarians describe. I tell him that he reads too many musty old books about those far-off times. He only answers, pointing at the pellets, "Well, for my part, I wish that chemical food-stuff had never been invented. Another thing I would like, would be to have direct, actual sunlight in my room instead of having to depend on this reflector." He gave the handle a vicious bang as he said this. His motion released the cover of the aperture through which the reflection came. It shut, and instantly, although it was high noon, the room became as dark as midnight. He opened it again with an apologetic laugh, and at once we could see each other's faces. Seeing that there are a hundred rooms above his, that is doing pretty well. I hear that a stronger type of reflector has been invented, but it is very expensive, and many people won't like it on account of the glare, as it makes the room nearly as light as direct daylight would, or so I've heard.

But speaking of reflectors reminds me of Mrs. Jones, the old lady I mentioned. Of course the only way her garden got enough light for the plants to bloom, was precisely by means of one of these powerful reflectors. The old lady was as rich as cream, and besides that, she must have had a powerful pull with the Over-Lords for them to have let her keep her ground garden. Of course I think it was pure pride and vanity on her part, for as I say, she was rich enough to have had an outside room, with a flower ledge under the window, or even to have had a room next to the roof with the privilege of going up there once a week with her crowd to see the flowers and even to plant a little. Of course these rooms are really reserved for the Over-Lords, but, as I say, she had a pull.

Mrs. Jones used to become almost garrulous at times. She often said to me, when I brought some people to see her ground garden, "Oh, Frank, my dear, what would I not give to see a stretch of

forest-clad hill or a smiling valley full of farms! Are there any left, do you think?"

Of course I quieted her as best I could. However, she used to keep some old faded pictures of "landscapes," which she would gaze at for minutes at a time. She was very fond of them, but I don't think they were really good for her. They probably kept her mind on "the open spaces" as she called them, and undid the little good I was able to accomplish. Of course I was always very careful not to tell her that there are no more "open spaces," there are no more "suburbs." The cities touch each other. In fact the whole of this continent is one big city, threaded with rivers. These might be called "open spaces" except that the bridges over them are so close together that the people living in the boats below never see the sun. I am told they are nearly blind in consequence—like fish in a cave-pool—and that they depend mostly on touch to find their way about. All the other continents are the same. Of course, when the population gets *too* thick, this river riff-raff is gathered up wholesale, and carried by airship to the North or South Pole, and dumped out to shift for themselves. It seems rough, but what can we do? Their places are soon filled up. Of course, some better way might be found to keep our numbers down. I'm not saying there couldn't, but still the river folk are better out of the way in any case. But what really alarms me is this: suppose they should find a way to live and breed up there in the polar wastes—then what? Airplanes take chemical food to those outlying colonies—such as survive—and I am told a genius has arisen among them who is teaching them how to keep warm and build better igloos against the cold. I hear, that so far from dying off, their number is increasing. When the whole world is filled up—then what?

But to go back to Mrs. Jones. I told Tom I was going to take him to see her ground garden. He replied, good humoredly, "Oh, all right! Have your fun! I'm the goat!" So I blindfolded him and took him there over the roofs. We went down in the elevator, and I stood him at her door and then whisked the handkerchief off his eyes. He was thunderstruck. He couldn't get enough of looking. "Well," he exclaimed, "I never would have believed it!" He stepped outside on to a little piece of earth, bare of flowers. It was left so, purposely, in order that people could step on it and boast afterwards to their friends that they had actually stood on the soil, the ground itself. I myself have seen the look of amazement and incredulity with which such an announcement was received. Well, Tom was so fascinated that after we left Mrs. Jones, we had to hurry, as it was nearly time for our group to be indoors. We got

in just before the bell clanged, telling the next group of people that they could go out. Each one can get out some time every day now. But the Over-Lords are considering an order that a given group can go out only every other day. As for vehicles, while the two upper subways and most of the elevateds are fairly safe, the third subway and the fifth elevated are always dangerously crowded.

Well, some time after I had taken Tom to see Mrs. Jones's ground garden, the blow fell for her, poor old lady. Her garden space was commandeered. To be sure, they gave her a roof garden space to make up for it, and she moved her bulbs and other plants up there.

People wrote from all over the world that this last bit of actual ground ought not to be built on. It ought to be kept intact as a historical monument to our ancestors and their times, when gardens might be seen here and there in out of the way corners. But the Over-Lords replied that it was absolutely essential to have this space. So they went through with it.

Mrs. Jones was game if anyone ever was. She tried to be cheerful, but one could see her heart was breaking. I don't think it was so much the actual giving up of her land, as it was the feeling that now there were no more open spaces of any kind. One day she was not seen to come out of her room with her group. Officials went to inquire. They found her stretched in her bunk. They tried to rouse her. They could not. Morphia does not take long with the aged.



PERIODICAL NOTES

The Survey for May contains an article by Charles and Mary Beard entitled "The Issues of Pacific Policy." They feel that the real issue between Japan and the United States is not immigration but exploitation of China. To Japan with its growing population and need for expansion, this is a matter of life and death. Nordic liberals advise Japan to practice Birth Control. The authors suggest that these Nordic liberals practice what they preach.

In *The American Journal of Sociology* for March, Charles W. Margold concludes his article "The Need of a Sociological Approach to Problems of Sex Conduct." Mr. Margold writes that man's usual conduct, like all his actions, is social in nature. Social control is not fertile in sex conduct, nor do its dictates become enforceable by the use of contraceptive methods.

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

THE report for April from Dr Hannah Stone who conducts the clinic in New York shows plainly the need of this work. In April there were 223 patients of whom 111 came for the first time. This large number necessitated opening the clinic for an extra session per week. The patients are referred to the clinic by friends who have already been benefitted, by physicians and midwives, and by social agencies. Some of them learn of it through buying the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* on the street. Every week some patients have to be turned away because, much as their circumstances may demand Birth Control, they cannot be legally treated under the New York law, which prohibits the giving of contraceptive information except for the cure or prevention of disease.

On May 4th, Mrs Sanger spoke at the luncheon of the Kips Bay Neighborhood Association which was held at the Central Building of the Y W C A in New York City. The audience represented the various social agencies of the district.

On May 10th, Mrs Porritt addressed the Nurses Alumnae Association at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

On April 23rd at Utica, Birth Control was advocated by Rev Lynn Harold Hough of Detroit, at the Northern New York Methodist Conference. He urged it as the only remedy for "over-crowding within the nation with its attendant dangers of famine and insurrection," and also as a prevention of war caused by nations stepping on the toes of other nations."

New Jersey

ON April 27th at Bridgeton, Dr Eileen I. Giles gave a talk on Birth Control to the Bridgeton Civic Club. She urged the maintenance of high standards with few children, rather than a lowering of standards with large families.

Mr Everett J. Meves reports much active work during the month April 15th-May 15th. On April 29-30th he was in attendance at the Annual Convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs at Asbury Park, where he distributed literature, sold *Reviews* and interviewed presidents and legislative chairmen with a view to speaking dates in the various clubs during the coming session.

On May 6-8th, Mr Meves was similarly in attendance at the spring conference of the New Jersey Women's Republican Club at Atlantic City. During the month, he also reports speaking for the

Riverside League, the Rutherford Lion's Club, the Friday Night Club of the Passaic Y M C A and in a moving picture theatre at Tuckerton, N. J.

"The outstanding event of the month," writes Mr Meves, "will be the spring meeting of the Board of Directors and State Committee of the New Jersey Birth Control League at Newark. The constitution will be formally adopted at this meeting. The most important matter to be considered will be that of raising funds for the support of the work. So far, the expenses of the New Jersey work have been carried by the American Birth Control League. The work has progressed far enough, however, and enough people have become interested, to appeal for a state fund. All of our friends in New Jersey are urged to contribute liberally to this fund. Checks should be made out to the New Jersey Birth Control League and sent to Everett R. Meves, 424 North 5th Street, Camden, New Jersey."

California

ON May 10th, in connection with the California Conference of Social Work, which was held at Pasadena from May 9th to 13th, there was a Birth Control Luncheon. Mrs Frances Noel, former member of the State Social Insurance Commission of Los Angeles presided. The speakers included Dr H. G. Brainerd, former president of the California Medical Association, Dr J. Harold Williams, psychologist at the Los Angeles Diagnostic Clinic, Cora N. Tasker, D. O. member of the staff of Los Angeles Mothers Clinic, Clara Taylor Warne, R. N., Director of the Mothers Clinic, Los Angeles, Mrs Kemper Campbell, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Loma Linda Medical School, Los Angeles, and Dr Rudolph I. Coffee, of Oakland.

We regret to have to record the death of Dr Edith S. Brownsill, a prominent physician of Berkeley, and a good friend to Birth Control. Dr Brownsill died suddenly, while standing at the bedside of a patient at the Alta Bates Sanitarium. She will be greatly missed in the Birth Control movement of Oakland and San Francisco.

At Burbank, Los Angeles on April 8th, the organization of a Mothers' Clinic branch of the Birth Control League of Los Angeles, was perfected at a well attended meeting held at the Seventh Day Adventist church.

Mrs Eva Hamilton was elected president, Mrs Jensen, vice-president, Mrs Jennie Bateman, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs Eva White, social

secretary. A number joined the new branch which met again at the same place, at the same hour on the first Tuesday in May.

On April 18th, at the Plymouth Church, Berkeley, Dr. Herman Schwartz, President of the Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley, spoke on "Birth Control, or the Meaning of Parenthood." After surveying the difficulties of bringing up large families and the threat to the peace of the world from over-expanding populations, he said: "Many deep students of the question are coming to believe that the way out is to put at the disposal of couples information which will make parenthood voluntary."

The Commonwealth Club of California has organized a Eugenics Section with Dr. Samuel J. Holmes, head of the Zoology Department of the University of California as its chairman.

The Conference on Awakening Responsibility in Parents, which was held at Oakland in the third week of April, did not neglect Birth Control. Dr. Alfred C. Reed, of the Stanford Medical School and Dr. Romilda Paroni Meads, former physician for women, University of California, both stressed voluntary parenthood, and deplored the existence of the unwanted child.

On April 27th the California Medical Association, holding its annual meeting in Oakland, had to listen to an attack on the practice of contraception by its retiring President, Dr. Edward N. Ewer. It will be recalled that three years ago, Dr. H. G. Brainerd, when President of the same Association, came out openly for Birth Control.

Dr. Ewer's attack was specially directed against the Birth Control League and the workers in California. He attacked the clinic recently established in Oakland, and asserted that "if there are any Birth Control necessities, they may safely be left quietly in the hands of the regular medical profession in its private offices, where they will never be unduly featured."

The attack aroused the widest publicity and the newspapers of California freely opened their columns to both sides of the controversy. A number of doctors came to the support of Dr. Ewer, but the honors of the fight went overwhelmingly to the advocates of Birth Control. Mrs. H. G. Hill, President of the Alameda County Birth Control League, made a dignified reply to Dr. Ewer, defending the Clinic and showing that he was entirely ignorant both of its purpose and methods. The League challenged him to a debate. How much chance he would have in meeting the arguments for Birth Control may be judged from the ignorance of the whole subject which he displayed in the following statement: "The birth rate takes care of itself in periodic cycles without the introduction of

artificial methods. The Malthusian theory is hundreds of years old, and we have not crowded ourselves yet."

The controversy by arousing much public interest in Birth Control has prepared the way for a summer campaign on the Pacific Coast, which will be carried out by Dr. Percy Clark of Cornell, and Dr. James F. Cooper.

Colorado

AT Colorado Springs, on April 4th, Dr. George A. Boyd, President of the Colorado Medical Association, gave an address on Birth Control. While he acknowledged the need for means to check the over-rapid multiplication of the unfit, he saw danger and difficulty in any system of Birth Control.

On May 6th Dr. Cooper reached Denver, and during the next two weeks he secured opportunities to speak to the doctors in Boulder, Sterling, Greeley and Fort Collins. Much interest in Birth Control has long been manifested in Colorado and Dr. Cooper received a hearty welcome.

New Mexico

FROM April 30th to May 4th, Dr. Cooper was in New Mexico. He spoke during that time at Albuquerque, Gallup, Santa Fe and Raton to groups of doctors. At Albuquerque he was interviewed by a reporter for the *Morning Journal* and secured excellent publicity for Birth Control. At each place where he stopped he secured promises from local physicians to co-operate in the work of practical Birth Control.

Arizona

DR. COOPER was in attendance during all the three days of the State Medical Association when it held its annual meeting at Globe, April 26-29th. He spoke at the banquet, at which over 150 doctors and their wives were present, and gave an address at the scientific session which was held on the last day of the convention. A large number of doctors expressed interest and willingness to co-operate. The effect of this address was plainly seen when Dr. Cooper returned to Arizona later, in May, and visited Flagstaff, Phoenix and Yuma, May 19th, 20th and 21st.

Florida

AT St. Petersburg, on April 7th, Dr. James F. Cooper addressed a postponed meeting of the County Medical Society. The President, Dr. Griffin, took the chair. There were 34 physicians

present, and the address aroused great interest and was followed by active discussion

At Tampa, on April 10th, a specially called meeting of the Hillsboro County Medical Society was held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall. Dr J G Dickenson and Dr Blackburn Lowery were the moving spirits through whose influence this opportunity was given to Dr Cooper. It was a hot Saturday evening, but 19 physicians were present and showed much interest. Tampa was also remarkable for interest shown in Birth Control by social workers and by prominent women associated with various welfare organizations. Sixteen social workers from Tampa had attended Dr Cooper's meeting held in connection with the State Conference of Social Work in Orlando on April 5th.

At Jacksonville, on April 13th, a special meeting was addressed by Dr Cooper. The monthly meeting of the County Medical Society had been held a few days before Dr Cooper reached Jacksonville, but Dr H H Harris, the President of the Society, did all in his power to secure an audience on this important topic. He called together the staff of St Luke's Hospital, and also used the phone to gather as many doctors as possible. The meeting was not large. Dr Harris presided, and deep interest and readiness to co-operate were shown.

On April 18th, at St Petersburg, there was an echo from the pulpit of the work done in that town by Dr Cooper. Dr Stannard D Butler, preaching in the Masonic Temple, defended Birth Control as one of the indications of "Life's Broadening Horizon."

Michigan

ON April 13th, at Grand Rapids, Dr Helen Vincent McLean, assistant in the Social Hygiene Council of Chicago, speaking at the Emerson Nutrition Institute, declared that Birth Control will become a part of our education. Information concerning contraception, she believed, should be given only by physicians.

The Medical Library of Grand Rapids has placed the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in its reading room.

Pennsylvania

EXCELLENT progress is reported by Miss Elizabeth Grew, who is doing organization work in the State. On April 26th she addressed the College Club of Philadelphia. On April 27th a public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Ardmore. Dr A Lovett Dewees presided and the speakers were Dr Stuart Mudd and Miss Grew. There was a fine audience and great interest was

aroused. On April 28th, Miss Grew addressed the Woman's Club of Wyomissing, and the following day she spoke to a gathering of social workers at Reading. On Monday, May 3rd, she addressed the staff of Sleighton Farm Industrial Home for Girls—a most receptive audience.

Washington, D. C.

THE latest results of the poll of the Senate on the Birth Control amending bill are as follows: 11 Senators support the bill and 22 are favorable to Birth Control without entirely endorsing the present measure. Fourteen are opposed, 39 are non-committal and 6 refused to be interviewed. The bill has been endorsed by physicians in 38 states, and by many important men and women throughout the country. The direction of Federal legislative work in Washington has been undertaken by Mrs William Ray Manning, whose husband is Professor of History at the University of Texas. Prof Manning is at present engaged in research work in Washington.

ENGLAND

A LONG step forward towards national recognition of Birth Control was taken on April 28th, when the House of Lords passed the resolution moved by Lord Buckmaster, former Lord Chancellor. The motion reads: "That His Majesty's Government be requested to withdraw all instructions given to, or conditions imposed on Welfare Committees for the purpose of causing such committees to withhold from married women in their district information, when sought by such women, as to the best means of limiting their families."

Lord Buckmaster had given notice of his motion a full month before the vote was taken, and the women's organizations had made good use of the time to bring support for their champion in the House of Lords. Meetings had been held all over England, culminating in a great Conference which was held in Caxton Hall, London, on April 23rd. The Conference was called by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. It included representatives from the National Union of Teachers, the Women's Council of the Evangelical Free Churches, the Mothers' Union, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Midwives' Institution, the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations, the Women's National Liberal Federation and a large number of smaller societies.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided over the Conference, and the speakers included Rev H Herbert Gray, D D, Mrs Sydney Frankenberg, Honorary Secretary of the Salford Birth Control Clinic, Dr

Prescott Hedley, Obstetric Physician to St Thomas's Hospital, London, and Mr Basil Peto, M P. A resolution supporting Lord Buckmaster's motion was passed by a large majority.

Following up this Conference the Women's National Liberal Federation sent whips to every Liberal peer, asking them to be present and to vote on April 28th.

There is nothing coercive about Lord Buckmaster's motion. All that is asked is liberty for the Welfare Committees to give information when it is needed. The moderation of the request had probably much to do with the passage of the resolution by so large a majority as 57 to 44. The bishops, of whom there are 26 in the House of Lords, were divided on the issue, and a number of them refrained from voting.

The following appeal, signed by a distinguished group of English men and women, appeared in the more important newspapers of London and other large cities a week before Lord Buckmaster's motion.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir—Lord Buckmaster is to move a resolution in the House of Lords on April 28th in these terms

To ask his Majesty's Government if they will withdraw all instructions given to or conditions imposed on welfare committees for 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

We wish to urge that the fullest support should be given to this for the following reasons

First, it is inhumane and unjust to deny to the poor scientific instruction on Birth Control, to which they have at least as much right as those who can and do pay for it.

Secondly, in the absence of such medical information, injurious methods of limiting children, such as abortion, may be and are constantly practised, for there is a wide demand for Birth Control knowledge, which, unless the inquirer can pay for private medical advice, is often satisfied by undesirable means

Thirdly, State or municipal grants to maternity or other public welfare centres should not be conditional on the withholding of medical knowledge on a matter of intense personal and social interest to the clients

Fourthly, the maternity and child welfare centres provide the safest and most economical method of distributing this information wholesomely and to general public satisfaction.

Members of the House of Commons refused a second reading to Mr Thurtle's bill, which was

drafted in the same sense as Lord Buckmaster's resolution. We appeal earnestly to members of the House of Lords to treat the subject in a more impartial spirit, and to give it that unprejudiced attention which its importance demands—Yours, &c.,

BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH
ARNOLD BENNETT
BLEDISLOE
VIOLET BONHAM-CARTER
H N BRAILSFORD
EVA ERLEIGH
LETTICE FISHER
T D FENBY
H HERBERT GRAY, D D
PAMELA GREY OF FALLODON
H D HENDERSON
JULIET GROVE-HILLS
LAURA HAMWORTH
W R INGE, D D
HARCOURT JOHNSTONE
W ARBUTHNOT LANE, M S
J M KEYNES
L L'ESTRANGE MALONE
J J MALLON (Warden of Toynbee Hall)
GILBERT MURRAY
HORACE PLUNKETT
RATHCREEDAN
BERTRAND RUSSELL
DORA RUSSELL
MARGARET SPRING-RICE
H URSULA WILLIAMS

London, April 22nd

The Salford Clinic is still a storm center in the North of England. A protest meeting, organized by Dr Henshaw, B C Bishop of Salford, was held on April 13th. The meeting was a stormy one, but resolutions were passed condemning the Clinic. As an interesting corollary came the news a few days later that the Board of Guardians of Salford was in difficulties with the Minister of Health for overdrawing their account to make increases in the scale of relief. The demands through unemployment and increased poverty had been so great that there was no adequate provision to meet them.

The Medical Committee of the National Birth Rate Commission which began its inquiry into Birth Control on March 16th, is continuing its hearings. The terms of its reference are as follows

1 It is recognized that there are many aspects of the question of conception control, this inquiry is limited to its medical aspects

2 In using the term "medical" it is intended to make an investigation into the restriction of families by whatever methods it is accomplished, and its effect

on the bodily and mental health of the individuals concerned

3 Under the term "health" are included the relevant biological (physiological and psychological) factors which affect the normal life

4 Among the particular problems which it is proposed to investigate are the effect on health of sexual abstinence, partial or complete, in married life, the effect of the use of various contraceptives on (1) the subsequent fertility, (2) the health of the persons concerned

The members of the committee include Sir Arthur Newsholme, Dr Letitia Fairfield (Assistant Medical Officer, L C C), Dr Chalmers, Mr Charles Gibbs, Dr Charles Porter (Medical Officer of Health for Marylebone), Dr C J Bond, Dr Dunnett, Dr Ivens, Dr Mary Scharlieb, Professor Leonard Hill (Director of the Department of Applied Physiology of the Medical Research Council), Dr Arthur Giles (consulting surgeon to the Chelsea Hospital for Women), Professor F H A Marshall (Cambridge University) The secretary is Sir James Marchant

Serious objection is taken by the advocates of Birth Control to the fact that the three women doctors on this committee have all declared themselves definitely opposed to artificial methods of Birth Control With so many eminent women doctors to choose from—the majority of whom are in favor of Birth Control—it seems unfortunate that only opponents should be selected

Birth Control was one of the subjects discussed at the National Conference of the Independent Labor Party, held at Whitley Bay the first week in April The discussion arose on the motion that "No-one should be denied, because of poverty, access to the fullest and best available information of methods of Birth Control, and that provision should be made for supplying the information without cost at all medical clinics and maternity centers" A delegate moved an amendment that "Birth Control be not considered a political question" The amendment was defeated by a vote of 501 to 58 The original motion was then carried by a very large majority Some newspapers, either from hostility or carelessness, reported the vote on the amendment as though it were the vote on the original motion, thus giving the impression that Birth Control had been overwhelmingly defeated instead of emphatically endorsed, by the I L P

Lord Dawson, the valiant champion of Birth Control attended the Prince of Wales in his recent illness and also the Princess Victoria through her serious attack of pneumonia Lord Dawson has now been made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath—K C B—by King George

FRANCE

THE *Mercur de France*, one of the most important of French periodicals, recently published (March 1, 1926) an excellent article by Manuel Devaldes on "Eugenics and Malthusianism in Great Britain" The efforts of the *New Generation* and of Mrs Marie Stopes are explained with clearness and sympathy

The fact that such an article has been accepted by so authoritative a review is a most favorable sign It gives reason for supposing that the question might, in spite of the law, be again discussed in France without interference or penalization Previously Mr Manuel Devaldes had published an excellent little pamphlet entitled "The Biologic Cause and the Prevention of War" The cause of war, according to the author, is the overpopulation of Europe and of the world It is the insufficiency of the resources necessary to assure the life of all those who are born The prevention consists in diminishing the birthrate, in spreading Birth Control The choice which is offered to humanity is clearly marked either war or the limitation of births

Dr Georges Beltrami, Professor in the School of Medicine of Marseilles has just published a work entitled "The Martyrology of the Flesh" (Librairie Peyronnet, Paris) Under the form of a novel this is nothing else than a presentation, condensed, brief, but very clear, of the Malthusian and Neo-Malthusian theory The author relies on Malthus, George Drysdale, Paul Robin He recognizes the truth of the law of population, and at bottom is not hostile to the limitation of births However, his conclusion is pessimistic The heroine of his novel dies from an attempted abortion The flesh will always be martyred Humanity is condemned to sorrow And humanity must suffer lest all progress be arrested

I think I discern however, that this painful conclusion is only a subterfuge of the author, a subterfuge which allows him to set forth without danger of prosecution, the Malthusian and Neo-Malthusian theories

G HARDY

ITALY

A SPECIAL Committee has been appointed by Signor Federzoni, Minister of the Interior, charged with proposing "social and police administrative means for protecting the family against insidious, practical, pseudo-scientific, Neo-Malthusian propaganda" "Italy is now seriously affected by Birth Control propaganda, Signor Federzoni stated But the Government believes that the nation's greatest riches is in the multiplication of its children, which is the strongest investment for invincible world expansion It has there-

fore decided to protect the family by decreasing infant mortality and conquering individualistic, materialistic, egotistic, Birth Control propaganda."

The comments of the Italian newspapers (Fascist) on this announcement from the Ministry of the Interior are worthy of note. The *Tribuna* condemned Birth Control as due to "a merely hedonistic outlook on life, as contrasted with the true Fascist conception of struggle and sacrifice and the submission of the individual to national ends "coinciding here as elsewhere with the principles of Catholic morality." "The copious blossoming of Italian hearths is the most potent instrument for Italy's inevitable world-wide expansion," adds the paper.

The *Impero* laid further stress on the ideal for which the mothers are to be compelled to bear children. Children are not to be brought up, it urged, as in the insipid Liberal era, on the milk and honey of pacifism, but from the age of five are to learn to march in military formation and salute the flag. "The citizen of the new Italy grows up with the idea that the exercise of arms is manly—that to be a soldier and fight is an honor conceded by the Fatherland only to the worthiest." "Just think," gloats the writer in the *Impero*, "what prodigious and invincible armies these children will form in ten years."

INDIA

MISS MARY WINSOR, who is a member of the National Council of the American Birth Control League, has recently made a tour of the world. In India she was greatly interested in the movement there for Birth Control and we quote below some extracts from her account of an interview she had in Bombay with Professor Phadke, the President of the Bombay Birth Control League.

"Mr Phadke," she writes, "has endured hardship and persecution for his steadfast adherence to our principles, and he has that persistence which makes one go on, day after day, month after month, with the plodding wearisome work of propaganda and organization. He is the founder of the Birth Control League in Bombay. Among the new adherents he secured is Rabindranath Tagore, the great prestige of whose name and influence will go far towards counteracting Mahatma Gandhi's hostility."

"The League is planning to set up a clinic in Bombay. Four rooms have been taken and help promised by ten native physicians of good standing, who will give their services free of charge. Nothing is lacking to start the clinic but money to buy the necessary equipment and to pay the nurses. The League has also at its disposal three other

rooms—a library, a reading room and a lecture hall, the latter seating 200 persons. The library contains 41 books on Birth Control, all in English except Mr Phadke's book in the vernacular (Marathi), and it subscribes to *The New Generation* and the *Birth Control Review*. India in some respects is more fortunate than the United States, for although custom, with the accumulated weight of four thousand years of social and religious prejudice, is heavy, still there is no law forbidding the dissemination of contraceptive information. The League is spreading such knowledge through pamphlets, meetings and the press. Professor Phadke is in charge of the Sunday edition of *Hindustan* and the *Advocate of India* and publishes every week a page on Birth Control and eugenics. A meeting is held in the lecture hall about every two weeks, attended by an average of seventy-five persons. It is not merely the converted who are being preached to, many new persons come. Mr Phadke is receiving letters from all parts of India, most of them from the south, as the poverty is greatest there. India is a vast country and the classes most in need of information cannot afford to travel. Provincial centres of work should be set up and co-ordinated by an All-India Council.

"The movement is making greatest headway in the middle class and lower middle class. The main opposition comes from the orthodox of all religions, and that opposition can only be overcome by overhauling the entire social system of the country. That brings up the problem of early marriage. Most of the religious sects of India permit neither voluntary marriage nor voluntary parenthood. One of the best ways to bring about voluntary parenthood is to bring about voluntary marriage. The Birth Control movement will always be lacking in proper perspective until the educated women of India join it wholeheartedly, throwing off false ideas of modesty in which they have been educated. Indian women have been kept in seclusion and subjection from time immemorial, so it is not surprising to hear that they have shown no initiative in this movement in spite of its vital importance to woman. The doctors who are giving contraceptive advice are all men, and women will not consult a male physician, the husbands come to ask for information which they pass on to their wives, the women of India learn only in this indirect fashion."

Another Account

We have also from *The Sunday Advocate* of March 14th, Professor Phadke's account of this interview with Miss Winsor. He writes:

"A few days back I had the good fortune to meet Miss Mary Winsor on board the big ship the Bel-

genland, which had brought a group of tourists to Bombay. I knew Miss Winsor as a member of the National Council of the American Birth Control League, and when I learned she was due in Bombay, I grew very eager to meet her. I am very glad to say my eagerness was more than amply rewarded when I actually met her. We had a long talk regarding the Birth Control movement in general and the progress it is making in India and America, and we exchanged news and views very heartily. Miss Winsor seemed extremely interested in the peculiar circumstances of the Indian people and about the Bombay Birth Control League.

"It was hard for me to give sufficient food for her curiosity and I was half ashamed within myself that I should be talking of the work of our League to a lady who was connected with the American League that claimed about 40,000 persons for its membership, and conducted a beautiful *Review*. But, I was encouraged by her willingness to appraise our work in the light of the handicaps under which we have to work. I confessed to her that our League was a very small beginning. But she was satisfied because she said it was "evidently a very earnest beginning." She felt hopeful about Birth Control in India because she said people were bound to take to it sooner or later since there was no denying that if there was anywhere a real need of Birth Control it was in India. Besides, what struck her very much was the tolerant attitude of government towards Birth Control. It was natural that she should regard this as striking. For she came from the United States where the chief question which is today engaging the attention of Birth Control propagandists is the amending of the Federal Law by which transmission of practical information and contraceptive materials is prohibited. Miss Winsor therefore thought it a great advantage for us to have the freedom to publish suitable literature about contraceptives. But she was extremely grieved to mark one thing about our League, so much that she asked me to give all our League members a special message on the point.

"It was painful for her to find that not a single woman was on our Executive Committee and it was her emphatic opinion that since the Birth Control movement was fundamentally a woman's movement no League could be said to be thoroughly representative unless a sufficient proportion of feminine influence guided its affairs. Miss Winsor will be very glad to find that the Bombay Birth Control League has several women-members and at least one or two women-councillors on the executive committee."

OUR CONTEMPORARIES

H L MENCKEN ON BIRTH CONTROL

Personally, I am inclined to be against them. I believe that the ignorant should be permitted to spawn *ad libitum*, that there may be a steady supply of slaves and those of us who are more prudent may be relieved of unpleasant work. If the debate were open and fair, I'd oppose the birth controllers with all the subtlest devices of rhetoric, including bogus statistics and billingsgate. But so long as they are denied their plain rights—and, in particular, so long as those rights are denied them by an evil combination of theologians and politicians—I am for them and shall remain so until the last galoot's ashore.

AMERICANS—MORE OR BETTER

On July 1st the United States will have a population of 117,135,817 souls, according to the bureau of the census. This is an increase of a million and three-quarters in a year. Since the 1920 census the population has grown more than 11,000,000.

Many Americans will be thrilled with the idea that this nation is a fast growing people. They yearn for the day when there will be 200,000,000 Americans, and the ambitious have already announced that the nation will pass the 300,000,000 mark in the year 2030.

Well, what if we do? Is mere size, the increase in numbers, the only ideal worth having? How much better off would our nation be today if we had ten million fewer but those missing were only the halt, the maimed, the diseased, the mentally defectives, and the criminals. Quantity cannot take the place of quality. A nation will be great when the average of its people is high in what, for want of a better phrase, we may call good works.

This craze for growth of the numerical order is a malady that also afflicts our towns and cities, becoming unusually acute just before the taking of a census. We see communities boasting of size, we hear them shouting of industrial growth, but, so far, we have heard few of them brag about good citizenship, enlightened culture and a real feeling of neighborliness—(Editorial) *Times*, Gadsden, Ala., April 6.

DEFENDING THE ITALIAN FAMILY

In the *Evening World* for April 26th, there is a short news item recording some of the actions of the Fascist Government in reference to Birth Control. At the instigation of Minister of the Interior Federzoni, a special commission met to study the means "of defending the Italian family from the snares of propaganda which exploits for profit the material preoccupation of the individual." This coincides beautifully with the campaign for colonial expansion. Minister Federzoni said that the birth rate was falling in certain districts and that this must be stopped.

BOOKS RECEIVED

FREE THOUGHT IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, by J B Hobson From Macmillan (N Y)

MARY MACARTHUR, by Mary Agnes Hamilton (Iconoclast) From Thomas Seltzer (N Y) \$2 00

OUBOROS, by Garett Garrett From E P Dutton & Co (N Y) \$1 00

HAVELOCK ELLIS, by Isaac Goldberg, from Simon & Schuster (N Y) \$4 00

SCIENTIFIC HUMANISM, by Lothrop Stoddard From Charles Scribner's Sons (N Y) \$2 00

THE GOSPEL OF EVOLUTION, by Arthur Thomson From G P Butnam's Sons (N Y)

PROTEUS, by Vernon Lee From E P Dutton & Co (N Y) \$1 00

But *this* is sin To choose to blind
The sight to light that men have won
Deny the truth that has been taught,
Fetter the Godward searching thought

PRESTON SLOSSON,

From "Fundamentalism," *Scientific Monthly*, May, 1926

SPREADING THE NEWS

(Continued from page 193)

Los Angeles Chapter and three women started the Birth Control Clinic on its way by each one subscribing \$25 00 toward a definite clinic fund

Of course there was considerable gossiping about this dinner and so effectively done, that on November 7th when the Los Angeles Chapter held its third meeting in the auditorium of the Friday

Morning Club, there were over 300 present On December 7, 1924, Dr Henry G Brainerd accepted the presidency of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Birth Control League and active work began to get a clinic started

In January, Dr Cooper came to the coast and everything was laid aside in order to make his meetings a success

Dr Brainerd felt convinced that the clinic could be started, if a location could be found The location was found by Mrs Clara Taylor Warne, the intrepid nurse who had worked so hard for Birth Control, chairman of the committee on clinic location, in the Southwest Building, and Mrs Warne was duly authorized to make arrangement for leasing the same and appointed social service worker and director in charge of the clinic

The lease was signed March 15th Between that date and April 1st when the clinic opened, Mrs Warne kept every one who was in the least interested in the cause, busy getting donations of furniture, equipment, etc Everybody gave something,—some service Those who could give money gave money, others could sew curtains and paint over old furniture Well known physicians offered to serve on the Clinic Staff, others offered themselves as consultants, with the result that the Mothers Clinic has the best West coast authorities for consultations on tuberculosis, insanity, heart diseases, etc And so with everybody working together, at an unbelievably small cost in money, the rooms were made ready and on April 1, 1925 opened its doors to help the mothers of Los Angeles What has happened there since the opening will be told by some one in intimate touch with its work

The following quotation from a letter from one of the patients to the woman who had referred her to the clinic tells something of what the Clinic means to women "I did go to the Clinic and they are splendidly helpful beyond the mere dispensing of advice and materials They are very, very careful and keep records of every little thing in connection with the case This I have to say about the Clinic The spirit is most admirable Prince or pauper need not complain There is a feeling of at-homeness when one enters, growing more and more as woman's knowing heart reaches out to help those who want to know They are very careful not to let anyone feel beneath them Their helpfulness cannot be compared with the pauperizing attitude of some charity clinics"

In closing the writer feels impelled to say that she is convinced "Birth Control Clinics" in other states can be opened if those believing in it go about the matter with the determination and simplicity of the Los Angeles group.

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