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Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

A Conscious Control of the Birth Rate

Two Oriental Countries

*An Economist's Case
for Birth Control*

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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The Family of the Future—

What British Writers and People Say of Birth Control



The Writers

From "MARRIAGE IN 2026," in the *Daily News*

"Families will be smaller and healthier. The experiments in wholesale parasitism of A D 1926 will have demonstrated the shamelessness of wholesale procreation amongst the poor. Women will be spared the reactions of too prolific child bearing.

"The children themselves will reap the first harvest of the change—in a home life that permits the attentions of mothers less harassed and burdened than now.

"I am well aware of the older conditions under which women laboured, and I know the lot of many who, after a very brief 'lying in,' returned to the mill or factory. I knew the factories of Belfast and Lancashire. But these conditions cannot recur—they were almost barbaric.

"In 2026 it will be equally barbaric to create children for the parish to keep. In selection the saner aspects of eugenics will be regarded. People will choose, as now, by attraction, but it will be attractions restrained by the dictates of health and heredity. Epileptics and syphilitics will be afraid to undertake the responsibilities of parenthood. It will be a criminal offence."

—J A R CAIRNS, J P

The practice of Birth Control (a thing thought too horrible to be mentioned not 40 years ago and the mere advocacy of which was heavily punished, is already general (outside the Catholic body) in all the fairly leisured classes, and I make little doubt that it will be universal with the weekly wage earners of the next few years.

It is interesting to speculate on the effects of this upon Europe as a whole, and the balance of population between North and South, particularly in the case of Ireland. The economic independence of the individual from the family, the separation of economic interests and responsibilities of the woman and the man, already nearly complete, will follow in its entirety. There is no reason in the new scheme why a man should be compelled to support his wife any more than the wife her husband.

—HILAIRE BELLOC

The young should be taught methods of Birth Control, so as to insure that children shall only come when they are wanted.

It should be recognized that, in the absence of children, sexual relations are a purely private matter, which does not concern either the state or the neighbors. Where there are children it is a mistake to suppose that it is to their interest to make divorce very difficult.

It is obvious that many forms of misconduct are more fatal to married happiness than an occasional infidelity. Masculine insistence on a child a year is the most fatal of all.

—BERTRAND RUSSELL in *"What I Believe"*

The People

From "THE FUTURE OF FAMILY LIFE," in the *Daily Herald*

Those who are marrying today are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, of those who fought in the war. Can one blame them—seeing how every promise made to those dear ones was nothing more than a scrap of paper—if they say they are not going to bring little ones into the world, who, when the time comes, may be taken as food for cannon?

The working class women of to day are getting more enlightened. They are waking up to the fact that there is more important work for them to do for the present, work which every right thinking woman should take part in—that is, to find out why the thousands of children who are already here have to suffer and starve through the folly of a few.

Tilbury

—INDIGNANT

In my opinion the heart of the matter lies in the fact that an increased desire for comfort always causes a decline in the birth rate.

Take my case. I am 24, and employed on a railway. My father married at 22, and had a family of seven. He never knew what it was to be comfortable in his home or to have any life outside his daily toil (he was an engine fitter), and his little house was so full of children that there was no getting away from them.

That sort of existence (you can't call it anything more) is not for me, thank you. At present I am far better off unmarried, and shall be for a long time. When I do marry, I shall want a wife to be a companion to me, not a drudge to a lot of children.

Almost all my friends think as I do in this matter. Early marriages and large families, where there is no provision for them, we consider foolish beyond words and often criminal.

Swindon

—C M B

Marriage does not imply large families and "washed-out" women—they are the result of ignorance. Marriage does not even imply a family at all. It is a state whereby two people are able to live together on terms of the closest intimacy, and children should be the product of love and marriage. The number of children advisable is governed by many factors, chief among them being the health of the parents and their financial income.

Most of the arguments I have read against Birth Control are mere humbug and hypocrisy.

—F COLEMAN

White Street, Southall, Middlesex

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

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No 11

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EDITORIAL

THE theme of editorial comment in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW several times during the last year has been "Watch Italy," for the acts and utterances of Italian officials have so evidently been preparing the way for war on the ground of overpopulation. Now in Japan also, shut out like Italy from free immigration there is growing up a propaganda anti-Birth Control and pro-war "for a place in the sun." The anti-Birth Control propaganda appears to be official, the pro-war does not, but it emanates from very influential sources. The *Literary Digest* quotes the denunciations of America by Akiyama and Kawashima, two publicists of high rank who are leaders of this cause. Their purport is that "the Door of the World" must be open to Japan's teeming population. The key to the door to what spare room there may be in the world is held by America and it must be wrested from her. "For this purpose," says Seijiro Kawashima, "a war with America is a vital necessity for Japan."

In another Oriental country we find a different reaction to overpopulation, no impulse to fight for life with the rest of the world, but a quiescent acceptance of oppression and living death. On another page we publish a story from Helen Ward Bromfield, a woman long resident in China, which illustrates the tragic cheapness of life there. Another specialist on Chinese conditions, Professor C. G. Ditmer, speaking last summer at the Williamstown Conference pointed out two interesting and appalling facts about China. First, he discovered from repeated conversations that Chinese parents have often, through the animal misery and apathy of their lives, lost a sense of the close tie of blood and spirit which we associate with the family, that they often actually do not know the number of their children. "The father," says Professor Ditmer, "as often as not does not know how many children have been born to him and the

mother must be given time to figure it out." This evidence partly explains the situation described by Mrs. Bromfield.

Quite as appalling is the actual reality in its most brutal form, of the biological struggle for existence in China. Weak human beings do in fact die off like polywogs in a pool. As with the lower animals only a very small residue of the strongest survive. This may sound, to those who do not think deeply, as if it was all for the best. But who are these strong survivors, the backbone of China, who are left? They are the fathers and mothers who do not know the numbers and personalities of their own children, whose whole being is so concentrated on the individual struggle to live that they have lost those spiritual ties with their own blood on the basis of which civilization and social life developed. The Chinese have one of the oldest civilizations in the world and they have moral qualities which those who know them best say the rest of the world might well emulate. Is this great race, through overpopulation, to lose all this and gain nothing but a miserable life for the "biological superiors?" For even of these Professor Ditmer says, and his testimony to their misery is borne out by Professor Ellsworth Huntington and other specialists, that "though not physically and mentally degenerated, as a nation they are suffering from malnutrition."



THOUGH we have no intention of departing from our policy of reserving the pages of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for constructive work, in fairness to the readers of Dr. Percy Clark's radio talk who would like to know what was said on the other side we give editorially the substance of what Father Bandini said. In his main argument he de-

nied the existence—he added “in the United States at least”—of a problem of overpopulation now or in the future. He denied also that Birth Control would have any bearing on the problems of war, labor or the food supply or that it would help raise the standard of living. Incidentally he questioned the importance of the standard of living, since he held that “poverty, privation, hardships and physical sufferings” are no injury to the individual or the race. As the real basis of the Birth Control movement he thus found none of those social conditions which need mending, but hedonism pure and simple. He stated that the effect of Birth Control in practice would be to cause sterility and to destroy mother love. This is a fair presentation of Father Bandini’s case. His authorities were few and he used practically no argument or proof, simply a succession of extremely wordy dogmatic statements, the answers to which are to be found in every issue of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. For those who know anything of the basis of the Birth Control movement there is no need to discuss further his general line of argument. There were, however, one or two special points that are worth taking up more fully.



AFTER denying that a decline in death rates follows a decline in birth rates, Father Bandini added that, if it did, “I question the expediency, the fairness, the consistency of a movement to overload society with old men whose life is prolonged artificially and to keep the young away from life.” This is a mistake that has been made occasionally by other critics. It is due to ignorance or perhaps to unwillingness to recognize the fact that the health movement of today is not keeping the senile alive. It is, on the one hand, preventing infant mortality, and on the other, staving off senility—making a reality, for the first time in history, of a normal span of healthy and productive human life. It is pushing back the frontiers of old age as a useless burden on society, and at the same time it is keeping the young from premature death. It is these two things, the prolongation of youth and the carrying more children over the dangerous first years of life and by the same act establishing in them sound constitutions that make for long life, which has raised our average span of life in a little over two generations from 38 to 58. In this matter our opponents rush to conclusions. It is not to their interest to look into the real implications, and it is to their interest to create a picture of a world of

tottering senility from which hosts of healthy infant lives are excluded. What the modern war on disease and the prolongation of life, combined with Birth Control, really mean is a race of “men like gods,” started healthy and remaining healthy and useful to the community until far on in years. “With Birth Control,” we say, for without Birth Control as part of the health program the raising of the average is nothing but a passing phenomenon. It cannot last unless the stream of life that comes into the world is controlled. Otherwise weakness of the mother through exhaustion, a sickly start in life and malnutrition of the race as a whole will break down resistance to disease, and we shall fall back into our old condition of short lives and miserable ones. By a return to the birth rate and the infant death rate of a generation ago the young will be very effectually kept away from that life to which the Father feels they have a right.



OUR conjecture last month in the news from England as to the importance of the government ruling on the right of medical officers at health centers to give contraceptive advice appears to have been correct. High hopes were engendered by this ruling, which was made in reply to an enquiry by the Surrey County Council toward the end of July. The decision was a concession by the Ministry of Health authorizing medical officers to give this advice on health grounds only and the *Woman's Leader* points out in an October number that opposition even to this restricted use of Birth Control still prevents many centers from giving this advice. But two months is a short time and with such organizations of women as are on the alert in England to drive in this wedge prejudice is bound to break down before long, reinforced as the women are by the action of the House of Lords and the continuous campaign that is being carried on to break down the opposition in the House of Commons. A recent visitor to England reports that progress was marked also by the thrashing out of the subject at the sessions of the All-English Conference of Maternity and Child Welfare. The main question at issue was the danger that those opposed to Birth Control would withdraw their support from Health Centers giving contraceptive advice and thus hamper the general work of the centers. Though this consideration prevented definite action for Birth Control by the conference the discussion was most fruitful both educationally and in the support for Birth Control it brought out.

A Chinese Industry

By HELEN WARD BROMFIELD

THE Chinese Republic came into being in 1912, since which time it has functioned more as a name than a reality. With the proverbial sweeping of the new broom, certain drastic reforms and innovations were introduced. It attacked one of the oldest institutions in the realm by which a large number of persons within its borders derived their livelihood at the expense and suffering of their less fortunate countrymen and women, and from the perils of which no family and no district were immune—*kidnapping*.

It is estimated that fifty thousand persons are kidnapped annually in China, and of this number perhaps four thousand are eventually returned to their homes and restored to their family or village.

Dealers in Progeny

Ancestral worship and the egotistical rites pertaining thereto are incentives for the perpetuation of this nefarious traffic, irrespective of sex or social condition. Dealers in male children make the acquaintance of childless or sonless Chinese, and offer the suggestion that an heir would be a desirable thing, that the son be an adopted one is immaterial. When foreigners first delved into the customs of Chinese households they were astonished to learn that numerous progeny were claimed by the Imperial eunuchs. These eunuchs were a power during the reign of the old Empress, as such persons have been favored with royal confidence and authority from time immemorial. It is the son who performs the rites at the ancestral tablets, who propitiates the King of Hell when the patriarch is passed along to receive his final reward. In acquiring sons for this purpose the purchase price may range from a few dollars to many thousands. Children and even adults kidnapped in one part of the country are transferred to remote hsien and communities where their language differs from that of the locality to which they are transported, thus lessening the chance of recapture. It is expedient to dispose of a Cantonese north of the Yangtze, and to procure for the northern crop purchasers who assure that they will be confined to the southern provinces.

Not always are boys sold for adoption. They, as well as the female population who fall into the hands of these unscrupulous villains, may become slaves, and likewise inmates of brothels—unspeakable, but nevertheless true. As the boys who were seized from time to time to serve in the palace of

the Cingalese kings before the overthrow of the Kandyan government bade good-bye to their homes and their parents, so Chinese kidnapped and taken from their friends are equally despairing of ever again looking upon the scenes of their childhood.

In Collusion with Famine

When famine stretches its gaunt hand over the land they may be purchased for a handful of rice with the parental blessing or its equivalent among starving peasantry, with the security of danger from arrest or apprehension regarding the transaction. Agents are sent into the stricken, overpopulated districts to acquire the most likely specimens, but with all the opportunity for obtaining at minimum expense children in excess of requirements, it has not eliminated the operations of the criminally inclined who prefer to book orders and make selections accordingly.

In the majority of cases, the brothel is the destiny of the kidnapped girl or woman, though a comely damsel of ten years or less may be purchased as a concubine. The customary slave-market customs prevail. The female offered for sale is minutely scrutinized and her good points noted, whether she be surreptitiously brought to the notice of a prospective purchaser or hawked by a go-between or husband or parent from one house to another.

The Door of Hope

The efforts made to alleviate this appalling condition have come principally from foreign sources. A visit to the "Door of Hope" in Chapel revealed an institution of whose ramifications very little is known outside the immediate circle engaged in maintaining it. It is ably superintended at the present time by a capable lady—Miss Abercrombie—whose devotion to these waifs surpasses all understanding. In 1901 the Door of Hope began as a Rescue Work for Chinese girls, and since that time some 3,500 of them have passed through its portals, older women as well seeking and receiving assistance. Quite recently it was decided to embrace in its usefulness a department for small boys, the urgent need for this becoming apparent in the case of a little actor of six years, who was brought to them for attention, suffering from bruises and malnutrition. The native magistrate turned him over to the care of the institution. This small child was a professional actor, and to convince the court

of his ability and bona fide profession recited a play before the audience in the court room

The Shanghai Municipal Council, though in no way obligated to contribute to charities maintained in the native district, donates approximately one-fifth of the \$2,500 required to support this worthy cause, while another fifth is derived from the industrial work performed by the inmates

There is a receiving home in Foochow Road which investigates children's cases. Each has its pathetic tale of suffering and cruelty, of neglect and starvation, of too many mouths to be fed. Girls from famine districts are hawked in Shanghai for one Mexican dollar each. Accompanying each transfer is a legal deed of sale to the new owner, whether the subject is a kidnapped child procured to order or acquired by being hawked from brothel to brothel by a former owner. It is not by any means a rare performance for a native woman to wander along the native city Bund (water-front) leading by the hand a child of eight or ten years—her daughter, she says—offering to any who cares to purchase, or to take such children aboard river steamers in an endeavor to interest members of the foreign crew.

Presumably not one in ten thousand cases of cruelty find their way into either the foreign or vernacular press. I have in mind a case occurring two years ago—the sort that transpires with tragic frequency but little publicity. The wife of an employee of the Shanghai postal department had punished by burning a solid imprint with a hot laundry iron into a slave-child's thigh. Dirty newspaper was the only dressing the little one was able to procure. The woman received a sentence and appealed to the higher court of Soochow, where the judge most sensibly sustained the ruling. This child's offence was the theft of food to appease her hunger, another for the same "crime" was compelled by her owner to cut off her own finger with a chopper. Beating to death is common among slave children. I quote from the Door of Hope official reports only two instances typical of the

evil which China today tolerates with the greatest indifference unless it affects the immediate family of a person of influence.

"Receiving Home Number 2248. Only 27 years of age. She had seen her husband, who is a gambler, sell their baby boy for \$20, the girl of seven for \$30, and the eldest girl of ten to her mother-in-law for \$50. Then came her turn, and she was leased to a brothel for a term of three years. A visitor took her to the Door of Hope. The Mixed Court magistrate freed her from further serfdom."

"Kwe-Iung lived in Szechuan province. One day, when she was twelve years old, having gone out to buy some rice, a young woman met her and offered to accompany and assist her. Soon the child found she was being led in the wrong direction and protested, but the woman succeeded in getting her aboard a boat where there was another kidnapped girl. Together they travelled a month until Shanghai was reached, and here Kwe-Iung's life of slavery began. At first they treated her very well. There was another girl about her own age on whom the mistress vented her outbursts until she was beaten to death. Other of our girls have witnessed similar outrages. After that Kwe-Iung became the object of her fury. She would put her fingers in the girl's mouth and stretch it until the corners tore. A scar remains to verify this."

"On three different occasions they tied her feet and hands behind her and she was suspended face downward. The last time she was left so while the family went to a feast. A kind-hearted servant told a neighbor and the child was placed under police protection. The case was tried in Mixed Court, the woman sentenced to a few months in prison and the girl committed to the shelter of the foreign Door of Hope."

Fifty thousand children kidnapped annually in China! This is not a recitation of the past, of Darkest Africa or Mediaeval Europe, but a condition existing the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-six.



Love has ever been blighted by the coming of children before the real foundations of marriage have been established. Quite aside from the injustice done to the child who has been brought accidentally into the world, this lamentable fact sinks into insignificance when compared to the injustice inflicted by chance upon the young couple, and the irreparable blow to their love occasioned by premature or involuntary parenthood.

In order that harmonious and happy marriage may be established as the foundation for happy homes and the advent of happy and desired children, premature parent-hood must be avoided. Birth Control is the instrument by which this universal problem may be solved.

—MARGARET SANGER in "Happiness in Marriage"

The Church and the Scientific Standpoint

By REV KARL REILAND

THERE are a few things I might say which I think are of fundamental importance in this as well as any other related and unrelated questions. To begin with, there is a pitiful lack of sympathy for the assured results of scientific knowledge in every department in which we are coming into the possession of that scientific knowledge. I would like to lay down three principles that I think we can all voice, and ought to voice on every occasion where we have the opportunity. Everything has a natural history. That is the first. The second is that the human race is a very young thing intellectually and spiritually. Spiritually it is only just being born. If you consider the time that life may be supposed to have been active in this universe, as anywhere, according to the biologists (who will permit us to speak in large figures) from sixty million to six hundred million years, and you let the life span of a man represent that tremendous length of time, then intellectually we were born about the day before yesterday, and spiritually at eleven o'clock yesterday forenoon. Thirdly, I believe that it is absolutely impossible to discuss any great question before the minds of men today, without the fundamental consideration of man as biological species. There has come a wonderful change that few people appreciate without something more than casual observation and superficial study, and that is what perhaps may be called a change of changes. The change has taken place from the time when man himself was under the control of what we call evolution, by which forces you may, if you will, mean selection and variation, to the time when he was graduated from the complete control of these and other related forces, and became a self-conscious being, somewhat in charge, and increasingly in charge of the very continuing force of evolution under which he was once in bondage.

Man's Control of Evolution

There is a great deal more in that statement than I am able to make you see. It opens up this whole question in a very extraordinary way, and I, for one, am unwilling to approach the question, or to discuss it, except from the side of biology and such assured results of scientific learning as it is possible for one so poor in brains as I am to be possessed of. But the change from the time when man was under

the force of evolution, to the time which now is, when he is beginning to feel his power to control certain features of it, is one of the miracles of biological science.

There will be, and there is, tremendous resistance to the subject and to many other subjects. God save the mark! When a legislature of a Southern State can pass a statute against the teaching of evolution in the public schools, we feel like getting off the earth. But that only serves as an illustration of man's foolishness persisting too long in a time of possible intelligence. There is an intellectual resistance and curiously enough it takes this form, that man is only too willing to resist any new light, or any new knowledge, any new aspect, and excuses himself for his intellectual and spiritual and moral laziness on the ground that it is better to leave these things to the eternal purpose, to human nature, to law, and to other things, and to God, and God only knows what he means by God.

The Prophet's Discipline

Whenever people have arisen to bring down certain practical elements from their vision, to work their ways as best they can among men, whenever people have looked over the heads of their fellow-men out to the distance and the future and tried to make life a bigger and a better thing by bringing into the common affairs of the daily round and common task improved methods and benefits and blessings, they have always had people say, "The prophet is a fool and the man of the spirit is mad." But the prophet is the world's wise man, and the seer and the dreamer and the poet and the visionary are the world's college of wisdom.

Every time the apostle of the new idea and the better is on the defensive, but he must not lose heart. It has been the method all through the ages of every great benefaction upon the brotherhood of men, and we must go on until, with careful and intelligent and fine discipline, we find this matter, as well as many other matters, to have grown from a time when we were on the defensive, as we are in many things today (including disease and idiocy and all the chain of ills from which humankind suffer) through discipline, to the control of our own destiny.*

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



Birth Control on the Air

By PERCY CLARK, PH D

PART II

OUR own Major-General John F. O'Ryan has said "Of all the circumstances which involve man in dissatisfaction with his normal peacetime existence there is perhaps none which exercises so great an influence as overpopulation."

From the purely political standpoint our war lords want a large population. Napoleon, it is said, defined the best woman in France as the one who had the largest number of sons. It is also said that he defined those sons as cannon fodder. Today France is held up by some as the horrible example of a country which practices Birth Control, because it is said to have a practically stationary population. I cut a clipping from a newspaper a few days ago which give the real truth of the matter—even though it happened to be in a newspaper (with apologies to my newspaper friends)

THE headlines were "French Birth Hoax Exploded." Official French birth and death rates, published recently, confirm what has been previously pointed out that the French birth rate is not exceptionally low. It is virtually the same as that in Great Britain and only about three points under that in the United States. The reason for the practically stationary population in France is a death rate which in the United States would be regarded as both abnormally and scandalously high. The rate for the whole population is more than 50 per cent above our own and the difference is even greater in regard to the infant death rate. This is not due to any disadvantage of France as to climate

Station KTAB,
Oakland, Calif

Gentlemen

We have listened to the discussion on Birth Control by Prof. Clark and Father Bandini. Prof. Clark has in our case by far the best of the argument. Why should, for instance, a woman who has gone through a Cæsarian operation live in constant fear of conception and certain death? The only remedy the doctors will give is as always, operation. If conception can be avoided, more power to the American Birth Control League.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. R. STUEWE,
Rt 1, Box 46

California Station KTAB,
Oakland, Calif

My dear KTAB

Your station will always receive the highest commendation from me for your open-mindedness in permitting the discussion on Birth Control. It is a great step forward in the progress of civilization to give so large an audience (many of whom would otherwise never learn anything about it) the opportunity to hear this vital question discussed.

Like all other great movements, Birth Control has much prejudice and opposition to overcome and I deeply admire the courage of those who assist this cause in spite of the opposition of those who do not wish to acquire knowledge.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity to have heard Prof. Clark, though it was most difficult at the late moment to be able to listen in. It was also most commendable that members of Oakland Lodge of Elks had the opportunity to hear Prof. Clark. People are indeed becoming more fair minded.

I wish to immediately subscribe to the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and lend my small efforts toward this movement which will improve the quality of the human race.

KTAB, I thank you sincerely

MINERVA L. WATTS, D S C
Central Bank Bldg., Oakland, Cal

or other irremediable factors, it is due to lack of proper sanitation, to ignorance and superstition.

Scientific investigators have known that this was true of France for many years, but this is the first time I have ever seen this truth publicly exhibited.

SOcially Birth Control is necessary for a number of reasons. First, it is necessary to offset the serious consequences of our modern, scientific escape from the law of natural selection. Thousands of physically and mentally defective persons are kept alive today, because of modern medical skill. These live to reproduce their kind, feeble-minded, insane, at best generally incompetent, all too frequently criminal. Many of them would not do so if the means of preventing conception were available. A letter published in the August number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, official organ of the American Birth Control League, says

"I am a young man, 23 years old, married three years. We have one baby girl two years old. There

is another on the way which I did not wish to have as I am an habitual drunkard. Please tell me what to do to stop drinking and live happy. We do not want to have children who would be like me, and I am not rich and don't earn much to have a big family."

BIRTH CONTROL is also necessary to promote the highest well-being of the individual. Birth Control means real control, having children when they are wanted. T. H. C. Stevenson, one of the world's most capable vital statisticians, has shown that an interval of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years between births is necessary to give the latest child the best chance for life.

It is only in families limited in number so that each child may have something of a real mother's care and love and attention, and so limited that the father can give them good food, and decent clothing that the children have a chance of growing up to be healthy, morally-minded members of society.

A chief of police of one of the bay cities said to me night before last that once we succeeded in getting Birth Control established we would reduce his police problems by at least half. This will save taxpayers millions of dollars each year in the state of California alone. Birth Control information which would accomplish such an achievement would be *real* economy.

SOCIOLOGISTS and theologists alike agree upon the proposition that our family life is the very basis for our present civilization. Birth Control is absolutely essential for the preservation of our family life. It is only by the use of modern contraceptive methods that a man and woman deeply in love with one another may live together in comfort and happiness, enjoying a completely adjusted life. Any other method will, in the vast majority of cases, lead to ill health and infidelity, and the final break-up of the family.

For a period of over two years I preached in the Universalist denomination in which I am ordained and during that period I learned the stories of many people's lives, and had it impressed upon my mind more than ever that Birth Control is essential.

Without it both husband and wife live in continual fear of the possibility of another child which they will not be able to care for as they want to. This fear subjects them to nervous strains that have serious results, sometimes leading to actual insanity. In the mildest form we have what doctors call psycho-neuroses of one kind or another, a feeling of dread, a premonition that something terrible is going to happen. In another form it takes the

outlet of severe irritability. A husband and wife get into such a state that there is continual bickering, and fault finding and misunderstanding. If you will stop to think for an instant you will be able to call to mind at least two or three such cases in your own experience, among your friends or acquaintances. Isn't that so? This frequently leads to the divorce court, and the break-up of the family.

FROM the purely business point of view this worry costs millions in wasted payrolls. Men worrying about family affairs do not give their whole attention to their work. Inefficiency results, —costly mistakes and accidents. An engineer who, because of nervous strain caused by family worries, reacts a fraction of an instant too slowly, may wreck a train and sacrifice scores of lives.

Some people believe that it is possible to control the natural desire for expression of the feeling of love between a husband and wife. Psychiatrists are coming to understand more and more clearly that this too is impossible, and the effect is substantially the same as where both are oppressed by the fear of the consequences of such expression. Men of such high standing as Havelock Ellis and Lord Dawson in England and James F. Cooper, Walter F. Robie, and William Allen Pusey, a past president of the American Medical Association, in this country, endorse the proposition that such an effort to defeat the natural expression of one's love for another is injurious to physical and nervous health.

FURTHERMORE, it is entirely impractical to do such a thing. Ultimately it commonly leads to infidelity, with a train of serious consequences, only one of which is divorce.

Birth Control, then, is not wrong, it is compatible with the highest and best in religion. Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary from the *economic* standpoint, to make it possible for our children and our children's children to live as we live today. If

Radio Station KTAB,
Oakland, Calif

Listening in often to above station specially to Mr Phillips' addresses, I have also followed the subject of Birth Control. I wish to state that I am strongly in favor of the same.

I would like all those who do not recognize the importance would visit the asylums and prisons, not to speak of many pitiful circumstances in poor large families accredited to industrial slavery!

Progress is the treasure of human beings

JOHN LIEB

the population of the world is stabilized at something approximating its present number, we and our descendants may go on living in comfort for countless generations. If population continues to expand as rapidly as it has in the past, it will mean ultimate exhaustion of the world's resources in a few generations, and then the population of the world would decrease because of a great increase in the death rate. *Politically* Birth Control is absolutely necessary if we are to eliminate the dread of future devastating wars, the result of population pressure. *Socially* it will promote a higher and finer type of morality, and will strengthen the bonds of family ties.

LAST but not least, it is the right of every baby brought into this world to be wanted, to come to arms outstretched, eagerly awaiting it, not looking forward with worry, wondering how this additional burden is to be borne, and dreading the realization that another baby means less for the three or four already demanding all that the mother and father can supply.

Pinard, a great French writer, has said, "We procreate today as they did in the stone age. All of man's other activities have been brought under scientific study and control except the reproduction

of his own kind, the most important, most sublime act in his whole life. Future ages will look back aghast, with a kind of horror, at the reckless, blind procreation of the present day."

MY friends, it is far better to have children when we want them, in such number as we can best take care of them, at such interval between births as will assure the child its best heritage of physical and nervous strength. The choice is for you to make. If you wish more information, write to the headquarters of the American Birth Control League, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

And now before I bid you good night, it is altogether fitting that I express my deep appreciation of the courtesies California and its people have so generously extended to me and my family, my wife and two children. Tomorrow we leave for the east, but California, its beautiful scenery, its cordial and hospitable people, and its unsurpassed climate will dwell in our memory as long as life lasts. I hope it will not be long before we return again.

The American Birth Control League wishes me to thank California Station KTAB and the people of California, whose liberal attitude, founded on free speech as the cornerstone, has made this discussion possible.



An Economist's Case for Birth Control

By FRANK D. GRAHAM, PH.D.

ABOUT a century ago the Rev. T. R. Malthus laid down certain principles of population which have withstood, comparatively unscathed, the fire of criticism to which they have ever since been subjected. It is true that Malthus put his propositions forward in rather too dogmatic form and that some of his disciples have far surpassed their master in this respect, but the pillars of his argument, nevertheless, remain unshaken and they are the basis of any economic case for Birth Control. The essence of that argument is as follows:

(1) All species, the human included, have a power of reproducing their kind so great as to lead in a few generations to an indefinite, almost to an infinite, multiplication of their numbers, provided sustenance can be found for so great an increase

(2) Sustenance cannot be increased in equal degree. This is due to the operation of what economists call the law of diminishing returns, which may be illustrated by pointing out that, while one man can easily feed himself from the produce of an acre of ground, it would be quite impossible for ten thousand to do so. Since the cultivable area of the earth is a relatively fixed quantity, increasing population means more people per acre, and, other things being equal, a harder struggle for the means of life.

(3) Unless, therefore, increase of population is restricted by control of the birth rate, it will inevitably be checked after not many generations by an increase in the death rate, arising from the inability of the population to continue such a surely

losing struggle. The choice then is between a reduced birth rate and an increased death rate, the former offering the possibility of preserving or attaining a fairly high general standard of living, and the latter the certainty of misery, squalor and degradation as the standard is forced down by increasing numbers to the level of bare subsistence.

New Lands Exhausted

Such, in broad outline, is the general argument—a word now for modifications. Where new countries are being opened up, and in times of immense improvements in the productive arts, the world's population may, for a considerable period, increase at the maximum rate physically possible without necessarily lowering prevailing standards of living, even though it prevents them from rising. There was an approach to such a situation in some countries in the era out of which we now seem to be passing. But it cannot continue, since the discovery of new lands is about over, their development is well under way, and it is certainly not to be expected that new inventions will increase economic productivity at the same rate as did those revolutionary inventions which ushered in the age of machinery. The situation is, in fact, not continuing. The birth rate in the western European nations and in our own is falling fast, and, as a connected phenomenon, the death rate is moving down with considerable rapidity also. If this fall in the birth rate were not occurring, we could look forward with some confidence and no little dread to the time when our standard of living would be reduced to the former or, at least, the present level of India, or China, or in fact of all old civilizations, where an uncontrolled birth rate had its inevitable result in a population which was prevented from growing further only by famine, pestilence, infanticide, war and a host of other evils. Over and over again, Europe itself has been brought to a similar state, until temporary relief came in devastating wars, or in such pestilence as the Black Death, which carried off a large part of the population and left the survivors very much better off than they had been before this ambiguous plague fell upon them and their fellows.

There is no measure which would do more to decrease maternal and infantile death and disease than the substitution of sound knowledge for the present ignorance with its attendant evils. And there is no better way for this knowledge to be given than at Health Centres—
NORMAN HAIRE, CH M, M B

Insufficiency of Self-Control

These things happened not because there was no control of births in these societies, but that there was not enough, nor of the right kind. In practically all societies, births are controlled in some degree by the social customs and institutions, the modes of the group. The institution of celibacy, the growth of respect for virginity and continence, the tendency of men to postpone marriage until wife and potential family can be adequately cared for, the idealization of love both before and after marriage, and many other social habits all operate to keep the birth rate down. But they all have one serious defect, and that is that they are most effective in the strongest, most self-controlled and finest members of society. The upshot is a relatively low birth rate in this group and a consequent tendency (partly modified by a relatively low death rate among the same people) towards gradual deterioration in the stuff of which society is composed. It is a selective process that works the wrong way. If the physical, mental and moral makeup of a society is thus being gradually impaired, the eventual economic degradation of that society will follow about as surely, if not as quickly, as if the birth rate were not curtailed at all. This economic degradation will reinforce any tendency there may be toward physical, mental and moral decline and establish a vicious circle with cumulatively disastrous effects.

A Program

What is needed is a low general birth rate with a relatively high rate among the biologically superior groups. How this should be attempted is perhaps an open question, but social workers who have been brought into close contact with the present misery, moral turpitude and criminality, issuing as a direct result of conceptions uncontrolled in any way, and those who have a lively appreciation of future consequences can scarcely doubt that the state should at the least authorize, conditional upon the assent of both parties to the marriage, the protection of one party against the results of the incontinence of the other, an incontinence which now has actual legal encouragement.*

* Address before the New Jersey Birth Control League



A spread of Birth Control among the less intelligent would improve the world more than all other types of education and reform. Nothing can improve the condition of the poor like reducing their numbers through the spread of sane, moral and scientific Birth Control"—ALBERT EDWARD WIGGAM

ARE THESE FIT FATHERS?

Should men like these have children? Some of them provide food and clothing, but love and kindness for their wives and children they have none. Many turn against their wives during pregnancy and seem to detest their children. Others do not even provide a bare living, but drink up their wages—when they work—bring disease upon the family, overwork their wives and even their little children, and make of life a nightmare which leaves on the children's growing minds an impress that marks them for life. Yet in homes which men like these create the religion of the day decrees that the mother shall have no power to control the birth rate.

A "Close" Man

Vermont

I was always poor and when I married it was the same. My husband was hardworking and tried his best and did make a nice living. 11 months after I married a baby girl was born. By then my husband made a pretty fair salary. He is naturally very, very close with his money even for necessities. I could not begin to tell you how I suffered when I was handicapped with my child. Knowing that I was tied down thus, my husband started to go out alone not wishing to be bothered with a baby. I suffered agony. For fully 3 years I suffered and I am beginning to open my eyes. My baby is 4 years old and a little lady and so my husband does not neglect me as he used to, but we have nothing. Oh, my poor child! I cannot give her so many things that she ought to have and I also am deprived of a lot of things. 5 months ago my husband invested his savings (\$2,000) in a business. The rest he owes and some he borrowed. I am his main help. He is still very very close and I was not complaining but to my utmost misery I became pregnant. I am now in the fourth month. If I had not been poor and ignorant I could have helped myself but it is too late. Oh, what shall I do and what can I do? Realizing my condition he is disgusted and says what will we do, who will help out in the store and the baby will drive customers away with its wailing. We live in the rear of the store. He says if he gets someone in the store he will leave on a trip. Can you imagine how I feel? Did you ever have a million lb weight on your heart? I hope not. Please advise me. I must die or the child. I can never stand 3 years or even months of the former agony.

"A Crab"

Delaware

I have 2 children one 7 and the other, a boy, will be a year next month. The first one is a girl. I have had 2 miscarriages and I have been ailing for 4 months but the physicians say I'm not pregnant. It was either from cold and exposure just before my time for menstruation and I was nursing the baby and gave that up right away and started to fill myself with "poison drugs" not to please myself but to please my husband as he says he'll not have

any more children in the family. He has all he can support. Well I've done something, I menstruate all right but not natural and I do not feel good and just feel like doing something desperate at times. When my first child was born I asked the physician what to do and he did not want to talk about it. Everyone else I asked just said what helps one won't help another, try something and if it is O K use that. My mother is insane, has been for 23 years and I know that ignorance of sex problems was the cause. I was 7 years old when she was taken away. My father was a "crab," plainly speaking, just like my man and there was no living with him, not even we two sisters could live with him. We had to leave him alone and go and board. I expect you have heard so many tales of woe you are tired of hearing them but I wanted to make it plain to you. My life as young as I am is not all peaches and cream.

Abusive

Illinois

I am 28 years old and the mother to be very soon of my sixth child. I am a farmer's wife. My husband is a drunkard and so very abusive. He tries to kill me and beats at my door. I have to hide the butcher and paring knives and the guns. He calls me the vilest things a woman can be called before my children and threatens my aged parents and I don't dare tell the neighbors. They respect him. He don't say anything before them. I have so much work to do. I raise garden enough for 7 or 8 people to eat all summer. I canned 600 quarts of fruits last summer. Always do. I have to raise enough chickens to eat, some to sell and enough to supply our family in eggs and help keep up the table. I do all our washing for our family and I have been injured when my first baby was born until I can hardly stand on my feet and no one knows what I suffer. We own 114 acres of well-improved corn belt land. My father is well-to-do. He gave the land to me in my name but unknown to me my brothers mortgaged it for \$8,000. I have it thrown in my face how dishonest I am and what a liar I am. He never trusts me an inch and will ask the neighbors and children questions to see if I am lying. I and my father are security for several thousand dollars and he has no

personal property but he calls me a liar and thief and other names 50 times a day. He says I am no wife if I don't like the way he does, how can I help myself, and a thousand other things. I can't please him no way, shape or manner. My baby will be born the last of April. I don't want it. I can't do justice to the little ones I have

Cruel and Intemperate

New York

My husband drinks heavily and does not provide for myself and 2 little boys which are 2 and 4 years old and are very puny children. I lost my baby which was very delicate, but if she could have had proper attention and nourishment she might have lived. I hoped at first the good Lord had taken her to make her father see what a life he was living and causing his family to live, but he didn't change. So I try not to grieve after her for I know how she would have suffered for necessities had she lived. I live in constant dread of getting pregnant again for my husband is unspeakable cruel when I am pregnant. I have so many heartbreaking trials to go through during the 9 nine months that my babies are nervous weaklings when they arrive. So I am begging you for advice to keep me from bringing any more babies into poverty.

A Drunkard

Pennsylvania

I was only a girl of 18 years when I married. I have three children and married only four years. I am awfully worried about my periods because my husband cannot support them. He works but spends it all in drink and cards and when I tell him I must have some money he beats me and tells me to get out of the house. I would go only I wouldn't leave my children behind or if the baby was only old enough and could walk I would go but before I can raise them to come to that point I find myself in that condition again. Really I would rather die than have any more children because I have a hard time to have them and then my husband is a drunkard and a brute.

Diseased

Ohio

I have 6 children, am 41 years old, have very poor health, have reason to believe my husband has a venereal disease. He forces me to have intercourse whenever he wishes and will use no contraceptive measures and I must have help. When I menstruate I remain in that condition for 2 weeks at a time, then I have relief for one week and then start all over again. You can readily see what danger I am constantly in of becoming pregnant again. I am in no shape physically to take care of the children I already have, not to mention any more. To all of my pleadings my husband turns a deaf ear. He beats me, curses me and deserts us for weeks at a time when I refuse intercourse. I have begged him to provide himself with such protective measures as are available for men but he will

not listen. He does not support us in a half decent fashion and I do not feel that bringing more children into the world to suffer such poverty is right at all. The place we call home is only a hovel—not nearly as comfortable as most barns—bare floors, no furniture, cold and cheerless. Won't you advise me what to do and do so quickly? My husband has left me again, all for the stand I have taken, and we are destitute. I must live with him to get his support until my youngest children are older (youngest is 18 months, oldest 15 years), but to live with him I must indulge him sexually and whatever protection I get I must provide myself.

Unsympathetic

Oklahoma

Dear Friend and Helper—I hope you will give me some good advice that will help me. I am the mother of 4 babies, 2 dead and 2 living twins. Lost my 2 first ones. My babies is only 7 months old. My period came at 5 months and I haven't seen anything yet. Please tell me something that will help me to free myself. I'll say any mother that has had such a time as I did with my last babies, they would cry and beg for help. For 3 months I almost walked the floor continually crying. I would catch the top of the door and pull to try to give more room to get a little relief. I was carrying my baby standing up. I would wake myself up crying and my husband and of choice he would quarrel and tell me to shut my mouth and go to sleep. He would say nobody on the place could sleep for me. Nobody knows except me just what I went through with nobody not even to give me a kind word and say face it. I'd rather be dead than face it again. Some girls will say I would quit him but how could I when I have 2 little babies and no home. Who would want me? Nobody. Please help me.

A Mean Man

Missouri

I have born 5 children and raised 4 of them but I have an awful mean husband. Now as they have grown up he does not care to clothe them. If they go and work out and get their clothes and then come and work for him then it is all right, but as soon as we ask him for a cent then we have a living hell. We have a farm and he does not want them to work out either when he has work for them. Now I would like to know what for the men want those children to be born on this earth if they do not care for them when they are here. Now I have one daughter that said she would not have so many if she had to kill herself by taking all kinds of dope to get rid of them. She is 23 years old and has had all kinds of good chances to get married but she hangs back for she is afraid of having too many children so it is for her sake I am asking you to give me information. I do not think it a sin to not have so many children as to have a dozen and then not to take care of them.

Passing the Buck to Posterity

By VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

PART III

WE have talked about beasts already domestic. I can only state here briefly what I have argued to the extent of a whole book elsewhere, that the ovibos, which can so easily be domesticated, will eventually become even more important than the reindeer because they eat by choice certain kinds of Arctic vegetation which the reindeer does not eat except by compulsion.

The name ovibos comes from the Latin words *ovis* and *bos*, and therefore means "sheep-cow." We call it so because it produces wool for clothing as well as beef for food.

You would have to be as expert in meats as wine-tasters are in judging between vintages, or you would be unable to tell the difference between various grades of ovibos meat and corresponding grades of our present domestic beefs.

I have been wearing for two years a soft brown suit made of ovibos wool by the greatest experimental textile research institution in the world, that of Leeds University, England. Professor Aldred F. Barker, the head of the Textiles Department of that University, recognized all over the world as nearly if not quite the greatest authority on wool, has decided after two years of study, in which he was assisted by several others, that ovibos wool is about as warm as merino, is softer than cashmere, will take any kind of dye after being bleached, and will not shrink.

THINK what fastidious people of means would pay for a garment of any color they like, as warm as any wool in the world and softer than any other, and yet incapable of shrinking or in any way changing its shape through becoming wet or being laundered. That will give you an idea of the potential importance of ovibos wool.

But clothing is, of course, only a side issue in our rapid survey of the pressure of world population upon food supply.

We estimate that the northern grazing lands now wholly unused for any food production for civilized man, but capable of producing as much meat to the acre as the wild lands of Texas and Australia, have a total area more than one and a half times that of the entire United States—roughly 200,000 square miles in Alaska, 1,500,000 square miles in

Canada, 3,000,000 square miles in northern Europe and northern Asia.

If this estimate were excessive for the continents, it would certainly be made conservative by adding the area of the various islands of the polar sea.

The southern limits of reindeer and ovibos do not, of course, coincide with the Arctic circle, but extend in some parts a little way and in other parts a long way into the so-called Temperate Zone. We are speaking of prairies and sparse woodlands too far north for the cultivation of wheat in summer, or for the outdoor foraging of unprotected cattle in winter.

BUT even with this vast area, the full utilization of all the northern grasslands for meat production is only one more stopgap. It puts off by a few decades the climax foreseen by Malthus. So far as our consideration has gone, his ultimate victory is as sure as that of old age. Believe as you like in the lengthening of life through careful eating, the avoidance of all excess, the full utilization of medicine and surgery, including whatever optimistic view you like of the modern rejuvenating schemes, and you nevertheless realize that death will eventually come.

Similarly is world famine from over-population bound to come, unless you find something more effective than the palliatives we have just been considering. This last one, as we said, is good for perhaps three decades, which moves the year of the world hunger ahead to about 2080 A. D.

With all my pride in my own stopgap of turning the billions of tons of arctic grass into meat, I must concede that the farming of the ocean is a more important one.

THE various oceans and seas occupy something like three-fourths of the surface of our globe. And it is said by the enthusiasts that we shall eventually be able to produce as much food per acre of ocean as we now do per acre of land.

No one knows just what variety there will be in this ocean food supply. Of course, there will be the fishes and the clams and the eels. There will be the beef of the seal and the walrus and the whale. There may be floating plants we can cultivate in salt water for direct human consumption. There

certainly will be others, like the algae, which we can encourage to grow more abundantly for the sake of the animals which we will eat after they have grown large and fat by eating the plants. That is all a big subject and so new that we shall not go into it here in detail.

However, certain aspects of farming the ocean are not very new, for the American Government and many other governments and private agencies have long been maintaining fish hatcheries to our great advantage.

SO far as we have gone, ocean farming is the best of our stopgaps. It almost amounts to a second line of defense, a sort of reserve dam or dike against the rising tide of world hunger. Cut down by three the optimistic estimate that an acre of sea will produce as much as an acre of land, and you still have a doubling of the world's present food output. That gives us a whole century of grace, or down to 2180 A D.

We considered in the early part of this article the possible increase in agricultural and dairy products through the manufacture of fertilizers from the air and from other practically limitless natural sources. We come now to a vastly more important development, on the threshold of which it is well known that we stand today, after having foreseen it for several generations.

We can already make out of the air certain foods that are suitable for direct human consumption. Not only can we make the nutriments, we can make the flavors as well. The same or a similar nourishing paste can be made to taste like beef gravy or cocoanut or almost whatever you like.

WE do not know how soon it will be that we can begin to make carbohydrates as cheaply in a factory as we now make them in a garden, but few chemists of standing doubt that the time will come.

Then we shall have a practically unlimited food supply.

We can harness the winds and the tides and the waterfalls. We can burn oil from our flowing wells and we can distill more oil from the shales. We can burn our almost unlimited lignites, when the harder coals are gone, and turn the power perhaps first into electricity and later into food.

Some say there will be new sources of power that can be used for food production. Of these the most talked of is released atomic energy.

If these triumphs materialize, we shall be no longer faced with the Malthusian question of when are we going to starve to death. But we shall be faced with an equally important, if more remote

problem. How soon will there be standing room only on the earth?

AS we said above, one of the things that Malthus did not foresee was the improvement in our transportation facilities. He and his contemporaries were unable to conceive that a city could be a unit if it were so large that a horse could not bring his master from his home in the suburbs to his business down town.

But now we have the motor car, airplane and dirigible.

Because of the motor car and the suburban train, cities have grown vastly in area. From other causes they have grown far into the air and deep into the ground.

We have our skyscrapers and our subways, next, they tell us, we are to have double-decked streets. Before that time comes the horse vehicles, upon which Malthus reckoned, will doubtless have been excluded from at least our main thoroughfares.

Because the streets are over-crowded, the maximum size of limousines will soon be determined by law, and some means will be found to compel more people to utilize each car than do so now. Not only is there an agitation for this already on the part of those who own no cars, we actually have rich people who, because of conscience rather than mere convenience, refrain from using motor cars in the city, or who deliberately keep them off the streets during the hours of heaviest traffic.

IT is instructive to ride from Chicago to Milwaukee and consider at the end of your ride what a great city Milwaukee is by itself. Then think of all the little cities you passed through from Evanston going north. They say in Chicago that it will not be more than twenty-five years, and certainly it will not be more than fifty (if we have peace and prosperity), till there will be one continuous city from the northern limits of Milwaukee to and through Chicago some fifty or seventy-five miles south and east, well into Indiana.

By that time Broadway and Fifth Avenue and many another street will be double-decked. Or, if Fifth and Park Avenues are saved through reasons of sentiment, there will certainly be nearby parallel avenues double if not triple-decked.

Again assuming peace and prosperity, remember how infant mortality is being decreased, how pestilences are being avoided and stopped, how curative and preventive medicine are increasing their power from day to day, how altruism is growing and the benefits of our science spreading to the ends of the earth. Remember these things and you cannot ignore the result. There will be double-

decked streets not only in New York and Chicago, but in London and Paris and Moscow, in Tokyo and Canton and Melbourne

NOT only will cities grow larger, separate agricultural holdings outside the cities will decrease in size and farmers will become nearer and nearer neighbors

With power available for food production that seems unlimited, and with unlimited air out of which to produce food (for the chemical cycles will continue and what has been food this year will be air again the next)—with all these things in prospect we are approaching not only double-decked cities, but a double-decked world. There won't be standing room for everyone on the ground floor and so others will have to stand and walk on the roofs or down in cellars

If you are very sanguine and as imaginative as you are optimistic, you may think of a four and a five-decked world. Possibly you may think of fifteen stories. But surely there will be a limit somewhere

WITH unlimited food, we have now made the world theoretically safe for the advocates of large families for a very long time. But "The Future" is a still longer time than any you can definitely calculate. The optimists, who think of food from the air feeding a twenty-story world, realize that there must be a limit somewhere. So the optimist becomes, in the end, a pessimist. He is forced to admit that food and more food is not a permanent solution of the population problem

This is where the pessimist has his innings and becomes the real optimist. He draws his lessons from history, archaeology and paleontology. Man had been on the earth hundreds of thousands of years and there was plenty of elbow room for all—until science developed and foolish man became tragically master of his fate

Hunger had kept down population, but then came agriculture and world commerce. Famines became few and mild, pestilences and infant mortality were no longer allowed to curb the growth of cities and nations. Then, only, did Malthusianism begin to worry us

THE very fact that man has become master of his fate is the secret of his approaching doom. So say the pessimists. To keep our major hope of not becoming extinct, we must renounce our lesser hopes of conquering disease and abolishing war. They argue forcibly that unless we die more willingly as individuals, we cannot survive as a race

But, say the optimistic pessimists, pestilence and wars are fortunately incurable and inevitable

Consider first the epidemics. It is believed by many that the great pestilences of the world have been caused by a micro-organism that was new at the time, or rather by a new development, hostile to humanity, of some old and previously less harmful microscopic animal or plant. Such new powers for evil will continue to crop up occasionally—frequently enough to save the race by killing multitudes of individuals

ONCE upon a time, thousands of years ago, there was a real struggle for the domination of the earth between man and the great carnivores, the lion and the wolf and the rest. But since the invention of the bow and the spear, the struggle has really been over. And certainly it was over when gunpowder was invented. They cannot any longer be expected to eat us up, as they did our "cave man" ancestors, fast enough to keep the population down. So we must put our whole reliance on the microbes

Then, furthermore, there is salvation in wars, which, we hopefully assert, are inevitable

If you feel that way and don't like the idea of a double-decked world, you can of course always figure that one pleasant little war after another will sweep our globe and keep the population always somewhere near what it is now

* * * *

WE have seen, then, the weakness of the plans proposed by the optimists—the cultivation of waste lands, increased use of fertilizers, the conquest of the deserts by irrigation and dry farming, the utilization of the arctic prairies for reindeer and ovibos grazing, the farming of the ocean and the manufacture of food out of the air

So the optimists have no real solutions at all—only stopgaps

The pessimists do offer definite solutions, the continuation of pestilences and of wars

But the optimists are a numerous and noisy clan who demand that a way shall be found that suits them better. They just close their eyes firmly against solutions they do not like, and cry aloud for a royal road to the goal of their desires

One plan has already been found and is being hopefully submitted to the optimists—Birth Control

With infant mortality and the general conditions of life such as they were during the period of the growth of our great life insurance companies, it was estimated that the world's population would remain stationary if the same percentage of people continued to get married, and if they had on the average four children per family. Under present con-

(Continued on page 354)

Spreading Birth Control: A Woman's Activity

FOR the third time the American Birth Control League has had its booth at the Woman's Activities Exhibit in New York, which was held this year in the ballroom of the Hotel Astor September 27th-October 1st. Exhibitors from many other booths came to congratulate the League on its advantageous position near one of the main entrances, and to get information about its work. As for visitors to the exhibit, though the faces of those who stopped or passed the booth by were new, the interest was the same as last year. Many of those who passed by turned as though arrested by something of great interest and looked back as if they fain would stop. Some did come back later, to find that interest in Birth Control was nothing to be ashamed of or afraid of.

Of those who stopped, some were critics, others friends and still others people who wanted to know what Birth Control was or who wanted to have their doubts laid to rest by learning what it was not. With the latter Mrs. Cartere and Mrs. Vandever, who, with a changing group of helpers, had charge of the booth throughout the exhibit, were especially successful. After a talk with them it

was a common thing to hear a visitor say "I did not know that was what Birth Control meant. That is very different. I certainly am for it." Visitors who came to enquire were of all classes.

Among those who were most eager to learn all there was to know about Birth Control were the people at the exhibit who represented the very poor, the doormen, the colored porters, the cleaning women—already parents of larger families than either health or pocketbook could properly support. A special effort was made to reach these and the effort was amply repaid by the close attention with which they listened and the look of relief and hope with which they accepted a card to the Clinical Research Department.

The Continuation School girls who came through in groups—girls forced through poverty to work so young that they must carry a certain amount of school work while employed—were also fertile soil

AMONG our critics were some Roman Catholics, but Roman Catholics were among our friends and supporters also. This was even more noticeable than at last year's exhibit, women who stated they belonged to this church came up, some in groups and some singly, to express appreciation of the work of the League. One of these was an Irishwoman, a house to house saleswoman of stockings, whose work took her to the doors of many crowded homes in city and country. "I believe our priests don't approve, but that does not influence me," she said. "I never had no children so I don't need it myself, but I know many that does and I will do my bit to help the work along as I go from house to house."

A group of three Catholic women—one of them a teacher of feeble-minded children who held it a sin and a shame that these poor little souls should be thrust into a world they were not equipped to cope with—told many stories of the intolerance of their pastors and masters. One of these ladies had been a regular customer of Kitty Marion ever since a priest told her of "a bold and brazen woman" who sold the BIRTH



A BIRTH CONTROL BABY
Presiding Genius of the League's Booth

CONTROL REVIEW on New York streets. Another owed her keen interest in the movement in large part to the intolerant and cruel reaction of her physician—a woman and a Catholic like herself—to the subject.

What, she had asked her, of babies born only to die? "Let them be born to die," answered the physician. But if the woman has heart disease? "Let her go through with it." Behind this modern doctor whose thought is still mediaeval one can almost see the shadow of Martin Luther and hear his reverberating voice dictate the words that will, in the minds of women at least, eternally stain his fame. "Let her only die in bearing. She is there to do it." The Protestant church he founded has outgrown this point of view and the testimony of some of these Catholics show that the laity in that church also is fast outgrowing it.

(Continued on page 353)

Motherhood As It Is

How a Newark woman, who, at the age of 35, had had 11 children, died as a result of attempting to evade further motherhood, was told at an inquest on Edith Burton, of 27 Sleaford Road, Newark, conducted by the Newark Coroner, Mr A J Franks, last evening

The husband, Arthur Burton, a plaster works foreman, said they had been married 17 years and had had eleven children, six of whom were living. His wife complained of being unwell last Wednesday, and up to Saturday continually refused to have a doctor. She said "No, the doctor will know everything I've done." Witness did not know to what she was referring.

Dr Hine was fetched on Saturday night, and found her in a dying condition.

Kate Lackenbury, a relative, saw Mrs Burton after the doctor had been, and she said "Oh, Kit, I've told him everything." In reply to a question by witness, she added "I didn't want any more children."

—Nottingham (England) *Guardian*

Steeling their hearts against their newborn daughter because of poverty and the desire to give two other children "half a chance," C M Weitzel and his wife of 7 Hoffman Avenue have asked that the child, born yesterday at St Francis Hospital, be placed in the home of others.

The father and the mother turned away when the baby was brought near them, refusing to look at her.

"I do not want to see her," the father, a pipe company employee, said. "I might change my mind, and I don't want to do that. My wife feels the same way about it. We are poor, my salary is low, and we already have two kiddies to care for. Please give baby away. It is better that she never see us or know us and that she be placed in another home where she may receive some of the advantages of life."

—San Francisco *Chronicle*

Yesterday some one telephoned Newark Police Headquarters that Salvatore Rossetti was kept day after day chained to a bootblack stand in the rear yard of the Rossetti home at No 129 McWhorter Street, Newark. The informant said this had been going on six weeks "through the hot spell" and that it was about time it was stopped.

Detectives Berardi and Benson found the informant's story true. Salvatore was chained to the stand by one ankle. Although the chain was long enough to permit him to shift about a little, it made it impossible for him to escape the blistering sun.

Salvatore's mother defended this procedure, saying she had eight other children, ranging in age from two months to seventeen years, and that she could "not keep an eye on Salvatore."

—New York *World*

400 A D.

Ethiop, Mongol and LaBlanc, the three chiefs of the world, squatted in front of LaBlanc's tent, warming themselves at his fire. Ethiop and Mongol had travelled many leagues,—Ethiop from the east, Mongol from the west,—to smoke the pipe of peace with LaBlanc, the White One, and to speak of the past, the present and the future, but ever, as with one mind, they turned to the past and the glory that was theirs.

Ethiop and Mongol had each in turn sung the legend of the greatness of his fathers, and now LaBlanc broke the whispering silence.

"Here among the red-woods lived my people,
Greater were they in numbers than the grasses,
More great were they in deeds than all Olympus,
From sea to sea they filled the land with plenty

"They built high houses, taller than the redwoods,
They rode swifter than the wind o'er land and sea,
They flew higher than the eagle or the swallow,
They suffered neither sultan, tax nor fee

"They listened to the music of the masters
Who played for them two thousand miles away,
They saw the stars as suns in all their greatness,
And feasted well, three glutting times each day

"And they caught flashes of the zigzag lightning
Emprisoning it to light their homes at night
They conversed with half a world between them,
And slaughtered millions in a single fight

"They flourished great in might and wisdom
Their money flowed,—a golden ore
Their science was salvation to the weaklings
Who multiplied their numbers evermore

"Thus we lost the glory that was ours,
We, the great, we are no more
The poor in mind begot their countless numbers,
The poor in spirit children like them bore

"The great, the good, the wise, the noble,
War weeded them from land and wave
And those who fostered weakling children,—
Themselves sleep sound and childless in their grave"

MAZIE E WAGNER

—In *Muse and Masque* published by students of the University of Buffalo

When Birth Control fails to produce the kind of son desired, the next step is to give him a high-powered car and let nature correct the fault.

—Lexington (Ky) *Herald*

"I've just paid the doctor another 100 lira off his bill."

"Oh, good! Only two more payments now, and the baby is ours."—Evening *Taranto* (Italy)

Book Reviews

THE ELEMENTS OF VITAL STATISTICS By Sir Arthur Newsholme, K C B, M D, F R C B D
Appleton and Co, New York

THE new edition of Sir Arthur Newsholme's well-known book on vital statistics is in fact more than a new edition. It is practically a new book. The first edition was published in 1889. It was enlarged and re-written in 1899. After that date no new edition was issued until last year, the book had gone practically out of print. Every one who has to deal with any branch of vital statistics must rejoice that there is now available an up-to-date volume of this most helpful and illuminating work. Accurate figures do not lie, but there is nothing more easily misinterpreted than statistics, unless their meaning and bearing are fully understood. Sir Arthur Newsholme's book is not for the mathematical expert, to whom the figures are simple and elementary, but for the social worker and the student of social problems who needs a guide through the mazes of statistics in order to understand their meaning and realize their usefulness. It is not a text book of statistical technique, but rather a hand-book explaining the uses to which statistics can be put and their practical bearing on the problems of society.

A G P

HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, House of Representatives Sixty-Eighth Congress Washington, Government Printing Office, 1924

THE hearings in this Congressional report concern the "Statement of Dr Harry H Laughlin." It is not necessary to add that Dr Laughlin's work for the government is thorough and authentic. "Our immigration curve," says Dr Laughlin, "rose and crossed the million and a quarter mark (1,285,344) for the year 1907. Energy, initiative, love of liberty, and fine spiritual quality were no longer the principal springs to emigration. We were getting too many individuals of the unassimilable races, and especially too many individuals, regardless of race, who lacked the inborn intellectual and spiritual qualities of the founders of the nation."

Fundamental reasons for this situation, according to Dr Laughlin's report, were the ease and cheapness of modern transportation facilities, economic stress in Europe, and the fact that the old world exporter did the selecting and the new world importer (except for recent limitations of national quota and individual disqualifications) remained silent.

As Italy has been the greatest emigrant-exporting nation to the United States during the last twenty-five years,

the report naturally gives a great deal of space to Italian emigration. Dr Laughlin says that "if there were no immigrant quota limitations, Italy would probably cover her present quota by many times," although only "28.18 per cent of those (Italians) in the United States in 1920 were citizens." "The Italian government," says this report, "has no institute for race-biology, but it has as a part of its foreign office what must be considered probably the finest emigration service that the world has ever seen."

It is now the duty of the Italian emigration service to consider the applications of the would-be Italian emigrants and to give or to deny them passports as the service may determine, in accordance with Italian policy.

The selection of Italian emigrants for the United States is not based primarily upon the initiative of the emigrant, but practically he is selected by his government."

Not only have recent arrivals cost states and great cities many millions of dollars each year for maintenance, but the offspring and kin of many of these immigrants will cost much more in the future. Over 70 per cent of the recent immigrants are from southern and southeastern Europe, and these particular immigrants by means of a very high (it may even be called luxurious) birth rate are increasing their stocks in the United States many times faster than the native born or native parents.

Were these recent immigrants of superior quality there would be no rational objection, but according to Dr Laughlin's report in regard to all forms of social inadequacy, the foreign-born and their children, who make up about 34 per cent of our population, are even inferior to our native negro population not long released from slavery.

"We find that no matter by what standard the analysis is made," says Dr Laughlin, "the rank or order is always the same—the lowest quota for all types of inadequacy, as a unit, being found in the native white both parents native born, and the highest in the foreign-born white."

The sad part of this whole situation is, that it need never have been. Had the United States begun to rigidly restrict immigration about the middle of the last century, this country would now have a stock of pioneer quality rigidly restricted by art and nature. Notwithstanding the millions of steerage immigrants who have entered the United States during the last seventy-five years, the population of this country was increasing at a greater rate during the first half of the 19th century than it was during the last half of the 19th century or the first quarter of the 20th century.

Pressure of population allows the inhabitants of a territory to increase only so rapidly. Immigration from

Europe has merely reduced the once high birth rate of the American native stock. The population of the United States would have increased as fast with her early birth rate, as it has increased by European immigration. Thus America has traded the high birth rate of her pioneer stock, who founded this nation and conquered the wilderness of this continent, for steerage immigration.

There is only one road, perhaps, for native and foreign-born alike, that can possibly lead a nation so affected with biological poverty, away from certain decay. Scientific Birth Control must be practiced by ignorant, diseased and poverty stricken families. That this ideal may never be realized is shown by the fact that the most uncompromising organized opponent of scientific Birth Control, the Roman Catholic Church, has increased its numbers in the United States from one-hundredth part of the total population in 1790, to one-fortieth part in 1820, and to one-sixth part in 1920.

GUY IRVING BURCH

THE UNSTABLE CHILD, an Interpretation of Psychopathy as a Source of Unbalanced Behavior in Abnormal and Troublesome Children, by Florence Mateer. D. Appleton and Co., New York.

MENTAL TRAINING FOR THE PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILD, by Lillian J. Martin and Clare de Gruchy. Harr Wagner Publishing Co., San Francisco, Cal.

THESE two additions to the rapidly increasing literature dealing with the application of psychology to the care and training of children supplement each other. Dr. Mateer presents a scholarly discussion of methods and results of careful studies of "unstable" children brought to the clinic of the Ohio Bureau of Juvenile Research, and Dr. Martin adds to her other remarkable achievements since becoming Professor of Psychology, *emerita*, of Stanford University, by supplying this exposition of how parents may prevent such future psychopathic conditions by careful attention to the development of their children during the pre-school age.

During the past fifteen years psychologists have standardized the technique by which intelligence levels are determined, and have trained many educators to an understanding of its application and to an appreciation of the values of results. Dr. Mateer believes that the next fifteen years may well be devoted to the scientific study of variations in the functioning of such intelligence as people possess. This means extensive development of clinical psychology whose ideals focus in the word "individual." Rare skill and unlimited patience are required by psychologists who undertake to analyze and appraise the relation of peculiar handicaps and past experiences of children to the psychopathic functioning of their mental and emotional lives. High ideals are set when the writer insists that such clinical psychology must be scientific, thorough,

preventive, corrective, educative and economical. Less experienced psychologists will find assistance in their efforts to achieve this high standard in Dr. Mateer's well-written, scholarly exposition of methods and results of her activities in diagnosing the difficulties of Ohio children.

The summary of past developments and present tendencies of the psychological study and treatment of children is followed by a second part to the book giving numerous concrete examples of "The Practice of Psychopathy." Descriptions of activities on behalf of children with mental ages of under six, of six to nine and of ten to twelve, are followed by analyses of the pathological functioning of the mental and emotional lives of normal or even hyper-intelligent children, and by a striking chapter showing the importance of the influence of congenital syphilis in promoting the erratic behavior of children who are social misfits.

The seventeen rules for parents of children of the pre-school age, which are discussed and illustrated by numerous case histories in the book by Martin and de Gruchy, summarize in simple, non-technical language the results of Dr. Martin's experiences as a consulting psychologist or "advice doctor" for parents who wish help in promoting the wholesome development and functioning of the minds and emotions of their young children. Shrewd common sense and long experience as a teacher, as well as much psychological erudition, are combined in this somewhat overwhelming program of psychological virtues to be cultivated by conscientious, modern parents.

LUCILE EAVES

THE HOUSE, by Grace Kellogg Griffith. Penn Pub. Company.

A REALISTIC story dealing with the everpresent problem of the educated, artistic woman who finds herself married to an educated, artistic man and pushed into the background of her house—chiefly its kitchen.

The story of Doris Leonard begins from the time she plays finger exercises—her mother washing the dishes and foregoing individual rights that this may be so. At each step of her husband's career, Doris stands aside or assumes additional burdens in order to help Stanhope Sprague, her husband, accept these efforts as a matter of precedent and right. Eventually he goes abroad as a tutor guide with a party of young people leaving his wife feeling oldish and out of step with the present generation, bitter and bewildered as to the injustice of the situation. Her independent flapper-daughter tells her that since her (Doris') life is such a drab failure she has no right to offer advice as to her child's future.

In sudden revolt Doris decides to neglect her house, refuse to slave for its upkeep and beautification. "I'll be an elevator girl. I'll be able to eat breakfast with my family. I'll study up on wireless and be able to

take an interest in what Ron and Rick are doing go to Hope's junior civic meetings with her "

"Who are you (her mind cried out to that silent house) to take me and use me, body and soul and leave nothing for the beings I love?"

But the habit of twenty years overpowered the longing to be free, her emotional reasonings, her vague plans she went back to the house

NALBRO BARTLEY

Periodical Notes

The Forum (N Y) in recent months has had many articles in our field. Chief among them is "The Search for the Perfect Child," in which Herbert Hoover lays down a program for the betterment of children which begins in the pre-natal clinic. He distinguishes between the old method of correction and the new—or what he feels the new should be—of laying the foundations of "endurance and maximum vitality for the years that lie ahead." Nowhere in his article does this specialist on child welfare say, or even hint, that the keystone to the foundation should be laid long before the prenatal clinic by the control of conception. Three other articles of interest in *The Forum* are on divorce, a discussion of the ethical foundation of marriage by Rebecca West, a debate on the proposed federal law by Doris Stevens and Ruth Hale, and an article on the liberal Scandinavian divorce laws by Edwin Bjorkman. In the same magazine youth finds two defenders, one the English essayist, Hugh A. Studdert Kennedy, who writes in "Short Skirts," as champion of the flapper girl, the other, Elizabeth Stanley Trotter who defends the boy, ("The Hush-up Policy")

The Cosmopolitan (N Y) does not think so well of the youth of today, if we may judge by the article by Honore Willie Morrow in the October number. Mrs. Morrow believes that the flapper is all too familiar with Birth Control. This is not the first time that an instrument of human welfare has been criticized for its possible misuse by a minority. We expect to publish more on this type of criticism later, but we wish to say now that, measured by what the right to protect themselves by Birth Control will mean to millions of married women suffering from excessive maternity, its possible misuse by a few is of no importance whatever.

From the *Saturday Evening Post* (Philadelphia) of October 7th comes the following passage in endorsement of family limitation. It is from an editorial on "Chinese Chaos." "Overpopulation naturally tends to cure itself as a country develops high standards of living in consequence of education and prosperity. Under modern civilized conditions small families, well cared for and brought to adult years, are preferred to large numbers of children who die from famine and countless epidemics."

Books Received

LAY THOUGHTS OF A DEAN, by William Ralph Inge
G P Putnam, N Y \$2 50

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE STATE, A PLEA AND A FORECAST, by C P Blacker Today and Tomorrow Series
E P Dutton, N Y \$1 00

INTELLIGENT PARENTHOOD Proceedings of the Midwest Conference on Parent Education, March 4-6, 1926
University of Chicago Press, Chicago

* * * *

A newspaper report states that a Spanish woman, Senora Lorenzo, of Valladolid has given birth to her twenty-ninth son in the sixty-eighth year of her age.

Such cases may be rare, but they are by no means exceptional. Kisch ("The Sexual Life of Woman") learns from the official statistics of Denmark that among 10,000 women 465 were delivered at ages between 50 and 55 years. The Surgical Academy of Paris, in an authoritative statement regarding the late age at which conception could take place, alluded to the fact that Cornelia, of the family of the Scipios, gave birth to Volusius Saturninus when sixty years of age, that the physician Marsa in Venice recorded the existence of pregnancy in a woman of sixty.

Haller reports the case of two women who gave birth to children, one at the age of 63, the other at the age of 70 years. Meissner delivered a woman of 60 years of her seventh child. Nieden reports a case in which the first pregnancy occurred 26 years after marriage. When married, the wife was 18 years of age, the husband 30, during their 25 years of married life there was no sign of pregnancy, but when the wife was 44 years of age, menstruation hitherto regular, suddenly ceased, the cause of the cessation proved to be pregnancy, and at term a healthy girl weighing nine pounds was born, the mother was able to nurse the child herself.

John Kennedy records the case of a woman of 62 who was normally delivered at this age, she had begun to menstruate at the age of 13, and since the age of 20 had previously given birth to 21 children, the last five when she was 47, 49, 51, 53 and 56 years of age respectively.

Prior reports the case of a woman 72 years of age!

—*Critic and Guide* (N Y)

The generality of more solid sort of men look upon abundance of children as a great blessing. I and some others think it a great benefit to be without them.

Women are not in the wrong when they refuse the rules of life obtaining in the world, it is the man who made these laws without them.

—MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE (1533-1592)

The Problem of Too Many Children

By JOSE A. LANAUZE-ROLON, M D

OUR antagonist, the Dominican Father of Ensenada, who publishes the weekly paper, *El Piloto*, fills four columns in an effort to prove that Christian morality condemns Neo-Malthusianism. Vain and useless effort! Our worthy adversaries failed completely to prove that this is so, and the reason is because it is impossible to prove with good arguments and logically what is not so—what is not an historical fact, or a rational conquest of free thought.

The historical fact is this, neither in the divine law, the revelation, nor the revolutionary campaigns of the rebellious son of Gallilee is there any statement saying that Birth Control and prudential procreation such as we understand it and practice it today are immoral. You will waste your time, Father, in opposing this point.

On two occasions our adversary has tried to present Neo-Malthusianism, illustrating it and condemning it, and on both occasions he has been unjust and failed in his effort. On the first occasion he made use of the Biblical story of Jehovah, the God of the Jews, who punished Onan rather for his egotism than for the fact of his having cast his seed upon the soil of Judea.

ON the other occasion our cultured Dominican Father wrote in an unfortunate moment for his erudite pen that, "It is not befitting a popular publication to discuss in detail the Neo-Malthusian practices. But if the custom of the ancient Romans is revolting, who on celebrating a banquet, would leave the table three or four times to vomit so that they might continue eating and drinking without feeling uncomfortable—so is Neo-Malthusianism revolting since it resembles the Roman custom as one drop of water resembles another."

If we did not know the sincerity and good faith of the Reverend Fathers, we would be tempted to believe that the reference to Onan and the Romans as two drops of water were only poor thrusts of dexterous adversaries in complete defeat. No, my Reverend Father, neither the example of Onan, nor that of the degenerate Romans of the decadent Empire resemble in the least the healthful principles and practices, necessary and scientific to those of us who defend, propagate and practice prudential procreation.

THE act of Onan was not scientific Birth Control. That of eating and vomiting in order to fill the stomach all over again, resembles if any-

thing the criminal abortion that all intelligent defenders of Neo-Malthusianism condemn and attack. Either you do not do us justice, Father, in attacking us with arms that are neither just, nor equal, nor fair, or you have not a clear idea yet as to what prudential procreation means. It is a pity that Article 268 of the Penal Code should not allow us to enter into details, so that we might be able to illustrate to you these confusing points. That is the reason why we labor to convince public opinion of the necessity to abolish a barbaric law that gags us.

I want you to know, Father, and never to forget that we are enemies of the anti-hygienic practices that you have mentioned and that we are the only ones who will be able to prevent that hundreds and thousands of married couples, driven by desperation should fall into such practices, not having access to scientific Birth Control. We shall attain our purpose by attacking the problem openly and valiantly and by giving it a scientific solution, conquering thus the prejudices that strive to stop our progress.

IN his last article, our Dominican Father quotes in his behalf many ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical authorities. We are familiar with them, and now what do you suppose they prove? They only prove that this Bishop or that dignitary or that other erudite person, condemns practices of this or that nature.

Neither the Bible says anything clear, nor has the Holy Pope or the whole body of Cardinals legislated anything concrete and definite on the subject. Those opinions that you quote have no more value than what we wish to give to them. They are just like your own opinions, Father, worthy of being respected, studied and attacked, for neither your opinions nor theirs are the word of Christian morality. Had I the time for each authority you quote in your favor, I would quote on our side many ecclesiastic, scientific and literary authorities who recommend and defend our principles and practices.

ONLY recently, the House of Lords of England, last stronghold of European conservatism, recommended by a large majority the abolition of the law prohibiting the giving of Neo-Malthusian information. The world does move! Now listen to the frank opinion of the Bishop of Birmingham in the *Times* of August 8, 1919. "Mor-

ally as well as eugenically, there is a right to use in certain circumstances harmless methods to limit the proportion of births. It is immoral to prevent offspring for selfish motives, but certainly, it is immoral also to have child after child when conditions, humanly speaking, are such that make it impossible to raise and educate them."

Such as this clear exposition of our thesis, I could quote thousands of opinions of those called the great of the world. You know very well, Father, that this would be easy to me, it would only be a matter of time and patience. But such opinions whether they are from your field or mine, solve fundamentally nothing. It is before the supreme tribunal and human reason and human conscience that we have to take our disagreement.

NO, Father, you fail to tell us a single word of Christian morality. Christian morality cannot be found in the Popes, Apostles, Bishops and Cardinals, nor even in the old testament, it originates from the life and words of that revolutionary son of Gallilee.

I am not a Christian. I am a quasi-materialist. But I have dedicated many years to the study of the life of Christ and I assure you that I find nothing in him that condemns our principles. Further-

more, it would be very logical to count him one of us, although I am aware of the fact that churches and prayers have completely monopolized him during twenty centuries of labor that becomes gradually more pseudo-Christian and sterile.

Unfortunately, you carried the subject to a field that I should not like to discuss, for I doubt if your culture and tolerance would be able to stand the cold, dispassionate analysis of a rationalist, who loves his fellow men, but who would dare prove to you that Jesus is on the side of us, the excommunicated. I am sorry if the presentation of my thought and the manner in which it is presented are distasteful to you, but believe me that there is neither malice nor double intention in my argument.

THE morals of Jesus, if analyzed, and Christian morality based on him would show that he is on our side. The gay Jesus of weddings, banquets, and festivals, Jesus who violently condemned the priests of all times because of their hypocrisies, their religious prejudices and their artificial and narrow conception of morality, Jesus the just and genial before human weakness, protecting the prostitute and forgiving her sins, Jesus the kind, noble and human, who enjoyed having the raggedy children of the outcasts on his knees, that Jesus, so modest who had neither churches nor palaces nor even where to rest his feverish head, that Jesus revolutionary and energetic who lived a beautiful life of ideals and service,—how would he make today, parables and more parables to change this whole social system from top to bottom, so that we might have children healthy in mind and body, who would have the best opportunities to lead a noble and beautiful life. The life of Jesus, and his morals applied to life, make us believe that were he living today he would be a Neo-Malthusian.

We have shown that neither Onanism, nor criminal abortion are practices defended by the believers in prudential procreation, that the Dominican Fathers have not proven that Christian morality really condemns Neo-Malthusianism, and we affirm that judging from his life of revolutionary and profound humanism, and a spirit of justice, Jesus, himself, it would be logical to suppose, would be an urgent defender of Neo-Malthusianism.

* * * *

Five thousand children who attend the schools of Chicago are habitually hungry. They often go to school breakfastless and at times go to bed hungry. As a result of being underfed and living in unsanitary homes, they have become the victims of malnutrition, which creates sub-normal children.—REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

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

Before me a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid personally appeared Mrs Anne Kennedy who having been duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she is the Secretary of the American Birth Control League Inc publishers of the Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership management etc of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24 1912 embodied in section 411 Postal Laws and Regulations printed on the reverse of this form to wit:

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

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

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

American Birth Control League Inc 104 Fifth Ave New York City
Non stock corporation Frances B Ackermann Treasurer Bronxville N Y
Margaret Sanger President 104 Fifth Ave New York City
Mrs Anne Kennedy Secretary 104 Fifth Ave New York City
Frances B Ackermann Treasurer Bronxville N Y

3 That the known bondholders mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds mortgages or other securities are: (If there are none so state.) None

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

ANNE KENNEDY
Secretary

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of September 1926

HERMAN STEIN

(My commission expires March 30 1928)

[SEAL]

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

THE chief public meetings of the American Birth Control League this month were the Woman's Activities Exhibit in New York City, the story of which is to be found on another page of the REVIEW, and the Sesqui-Centennial. The latter is described under our news of Pennsylvania, since that state had charge in September.

At the beginning of November Dr Cooper returns from his second western tour. Mrs Anne Kennedy, Executive Secretary of the League, reports on recent educational activities of the Clinical Research Department that

"Dr Cooper has addressed 156 medical societies. Over 20,000 physicians have secured clinical reports and 2,200 physicians are actively co-operating. Dr Cooper has addressed medical societies in every state in the union, except Vermont, where one is scheduled for November at St Albans. Dr Stone addressed the Delaware State Medical Society."

Among recent visitors at headquarters were Professor T W Riker of the University of Texas, Miss Escher from Switzerland, Dr B McCarthy from Shanghai, Dr Caswell Mayo of the *Medical Journal and Record*, and from Sweden an official connected with the Public Health Service, who reported on the progress of the clinic in Stockholm. Several ministers who are attending the Union Theological Seminary, came to headquarters and visited the Clinical Research Department.

On October 20th Mrs Kennedy started for the middle west, where she is to organize several clinics.

Since his return from California to take up his college work at Cornell, Dr Percy Clark has spoken before the Exchange Club of Ithaca, a body of business men of the same type as those 25 clubs which heard him speak on Birth Control during his California tour.

New Jersey

A MEETING was held on September 23rd at the summer home of Mrs George Blagden, member of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, at Monmouth Beach. About fifty women were present—a most representative group, most of whom had heard little about the movement, but all of whom were deeply interested. Mrs F Robertson Jones, also a member of the board of directors presided, and another member, Mrs Ernest R Adey, was among the speakers.

Another speaker was Dr Jones, Director of

Parole in the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies. In the discussion which followed, in which most of the guests took part, Mrs Lewis S Thompson, of the Board of Control of Institutions and Agencies and President of the Monmouth County Organization for Social Service, suggested that an effort be made to have contraceptive advice given in certain cases at the clinics and welfare stations of the state.

During the summer Miss Louise Morrow of New Jersey, distributed literature in Asbury Park and in surrounding towns and secured news dealers to handle the REVIEW on the boardwalk. Miss Morrow also brought women to our clinic and personally paid their expense. She arranged two important meetings in her vicinity, one of them with the Asbury Women's Club, and spent two weeks as the representative of her state at the Sesqui booth.

Delaware

ON October 13th Dr Hannah M Stone, Clinical Director of the American Birth Control League, addressed the Delaware State Medical Society in annual meeting at Dover. This is the first time that Birth Control has been on the program of that old and conservative society.

Kansas

ON September 30th Dr Cooper spoke before the Republic County Medical Society, and on the first days in October to mixed groups of physicians and laity at Burlington and Fort Scott. At the latter place the county prosecuting attorney and the judge of the local probate court were among those who expressed the keenest interest in Birth Control.

Other medical meetings addressed by Dr Cooper were at Pittsburg, Galena, Wichita and St John, on October 4th, 5th and 7th. The attendance of about 40 at each of these meetings was excellent, considering the character of this region of coal mines. Many of the physicians came from long distances, some from over the Missouri line. At Wichita he also spoke before a large meeting of students of biology, sociology and nursing at the Friends University. At St John he addressed a meeting of the local Women's Clubs.

Montana

ON September 3rd Dr Cooper was guest of the Cascade County Medical Society, assembled at Great Falls. The press of Great Falls gave a good account of his address and the group of physi-

cians who heard him he characterizes as "a fine set of broadminded men from all of whom good co-operation can be expected"

Pennsylvania

DURING the month of September Mrs. Arthur Goldsmith, treasurer of the Philadelphia Branch took charge of the booth in the Educational Building at the Sesqui-Centennial, in Philadelphia. Her able assistants were Mrs. Jeanette Hughes, Mrs. Samuel Yellin, Mrs. J. Boyd, Mrs. L. Rock-sold, Mrs. W. Moorehouse, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. A. Sutton, Mrs. A. Cubberly and Mrs. A. Penny-packer. Mrs. Goldsmith writes:

"We found that it was the one booth in that building that was really busy. With few exceptions, it was not passed by, but was quite attentively inspected and our posters read. Intelligent, interested, sympathetic persons, young, middle aged, old men and women, came to us to express their views, buy literature, ask us all kinds of *thinking* questions, and relate their personal experiences. Nurses, doctors, social workers of all kinds, college students, farmers, cattle breeders, from north, south, east and west, have held forth on the subject gathering audiences by their earnestness, sincerity and good common sense.

It has been a liberal study in psychology to see and watch the reactions of the crowds to our very pertinent charts. As far as I can judge, the question is universally accepted as the now most important step in the progress of the race, and will soon be the recognized thing."

Early in October Mrs. Sanger visited the exposition and afterwards spoke at three meetings under the auspices of the Philadelphia Branch. Two of these were luncheon and dinner meetings, luncheon at the home of Mrs. G. A. Dunning, vice-president of the branch, and dinner as the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Mudd. Dr. Mudd is president of the Eastern Pennsylvania League and Mrs. Mudd is one of the board of directors. In between these two engagements Mrs. Sanger spoke at a reception at Locksley Hall, given in honor of the president of the Philadelphia Woman's Club.

North Dakota

DR. COOPER'S tour brought him to North Dakota in the second week in September, his stopping places there being Minot, Devil's Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown and New Rockford. At all these places he spoke before county medical societies and at Jamestown also before the local Registered Nurses' Association. Of his meetings he writes: "Many doctors came thirty to seventy miles to the meetings. This country is

sparsely settled and the number of doctors who attended is unusually large except for state meetings. Economic conditions on farms are sending women to doctors for contraceptive advice, in normal families they are met with the same need for Birth Control as in crowded cities. Physicians here are much impressed also with the need of controlling the biologically unfit."

South Dakota

BETWEEN September 17th and 22nd medical societies at Aberdeen, Huron, Sioux Falls and Yankton heard Dr. Cooper. At Sioux Falls he found some opposition, which was based on "wrong ideas of what Birth Control means." "Usually," he adds, "opposition is due to misunderstanding. The matter will be talked over now on the right basis and the future will show great interest in this part of the country." The local press everywhere gave good publicity, some papers printing his lecture in full.

Nebraska

THE last days of September Dr. Cooper spent in Omaha, Columbus and Geneva, where he addressed the local medical associations.

ENGLAND

THE country is still resounding with criticism of the Labour Party for its action in the early fall in excluding Birth Control from the agenda of its annual conference held at Margate October 11th. This is the third year that the subject has been kept off the program, though by overwhelming majorities Labour women have twice demanded a place for it. Among the most outspoken critics are Miss Dorothy Jewson, late Labour M.P., and the *New Leader*, which says editorially: "We propose to say plainly what everyone knows who is in touch with politicians. The Labour Party has no objection whatever, moral or hygienic, to Birth Control. It evades a decision solely on electioneering grounds. It is afraid of alienating the Catholic vote. The officials of the Labour Party, exaggerating, as we believe, a small electoral risk, are deliberately offending the strong, even passionate, opinion of the women of the party."

The most recent critics are Mrs. Bertrand Russell and a group of Labour Party members including H. G. Wells, who signed a protest. At the time of going to press it was proposed to bring strong pressure to bear through local women's groups.

While waiting for their party to aid them in putting government funds behind Birth Control

Labour women have opened a new clinic, the eighth under their auspices. This is the Women's Welfare and Advisory Clinic at 51 Old Govan Road, Glasgow. The clinic is the practical outcome of the campaign in Motherwell, Glasgow and district by Dora Russell and Alice Hicks of the Workers' Birth Control Group.

Two health officials have noted the local effect of the fall in the English death rate, but their reaction was as wide as the poles. In Whitland the council felt that the mothers were not doing their duty and that they should be advised and exhorted by medical officer and nurse. In Wood Green, on the other hand, the medical officer, Dr Porter, welcomed the low rate, which was 14.24 as against an average of 18.8 for over a hundred large towns. Said he:

"What we are losing in quantity is being made up in quality, for it is much more desirable that a few healthy children are born than a number of weaklings who are not only a misery to themselves but a burden on society."

It is estimated, Dr Porter added, that on the average every child born this year has an expectancy of life 12 years longer than its grandfather.

There is comfort, it seems, for both sides in the Bishop of Canterbury's non-committal stand. Members of his church who are believers in Birth Control are quoting a letter from him, made public a short time ago, in which while he denounces "the mischievous mode of propaganda by certain clinics," he concedes that "Birth Control is not in all cases necessarily sinful."

HUNGARY

ONE of the leading newspapers of Budapest, *Pesti Hirlap*, reports that parents are putting their children up to auction in the market place of the city of Debreczin.

"Some of them," it is said, "are purchased by the more well-to-do farmers of the surrounding country. Prices vary according to age. Children of from 3 to 5 years sell for about 500,000 crowns, more or less (70,000 to the dollar), while as much as 1,000,000 crowns may be paid for older children."

"The particular story drawing attention to this alleged social condition was reprinted in the Vienna *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, and reads in part as follows:

"There was considerable excitement in the odds and ends market in Debreczin Saturday when a poor woman offered her children for sale, and actually sold them. The unfortunate woman was the wife of Anton Branyil, a forest worker. She had brought three children, a 14-year-old girl, a 3-year-old girl and a nine-months-old baby to market, and soon found buyers for two of them. The 3-

year-old girl was sold for 300,000 crowns and the bigger girl for 900,000. Nobody wanted to buy the baby."

"The people in the market place were shocked by this unusual scene and soon the seller of her children found herself the centre of an excited crowd. She explained that desperate misery had forced her to this extremity. She said that her husband had been injured in felling a tree and since that time had been unable to work. He had not earned anything at all and they had nothing on which to support their six children."

ITALY

FROM the *Catholic Times* (London), we learn that the Italian census shows 20,000 families with more than ten children each. The Fascist government, the report adds, will publish the figures for families of five children and over, which the *Times* believes will show an "imposing figure." We cannot wonder that a government which encourages such families as this is demanding space in other countries for its surplus.

GERMANY

BERLIN is this month the place of meeting of the International Congress for Sexual Research. The subjects to be discussed at this Congress, which is the first of its kind ever held, include in addition to sex psychology, eugenics, heredity, nationality, race characteristics, advice on marriage and the choice of matrimonial partners and Birth Control.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS items report that early in the summer Mr George Hills, a member of the Provincial Assembly introduced a bill authorizing municipalities to give instruction in contraceptive methods. The measure was rejected but the discussion it started in the press has been most helpful to the cause of Birth Control in a part of the world where it has been hitherto almost unknown.

PORTO RICO

A PHYSICIAN of Porto Rico, Dr Jose A. Lanauze Rolon, to whose efforts on behalf of Birth Control we referred last month sends us an article which has been used in the local press. Dr Rolon writes in explanation: "I am having a real debate with two Dominican Fathers down here. They hold that Christian morality condemns Birth Control. I hold the negative." The article, which he says "gives a general idea of the whole affair," has been translated by Mr Pedro Fernandez and is published in part on another page of the *REVIEW*.

WHY AGITATE?

QUESTION What's the use of you and me writing or talking about Birth Control and not being able to give it to the poor and ignorant who need it most?—L K A

ANSWER What was the use for the abolitionists to write and talk about slavery unless they could bestow it on the slaves? Archaic laws, dictated by superstition and fear, are on our statute books. We must get them off, and so we discuss and agitate for the need of repealing them. The law forbidding any information about Birth Control is one of the worst of such laws. That answers your question, I think.—Los Angeles (California) *Express*

There are a million too many farmers in the United States today, Benjamin C Marsh, Secretary of the People's Reconstruction League, Washington, D C, stated recently

"The wide use of tractors and other machinery on the farms has displaced over a million men. A five-year holiday, shutting off all immigration, is necessary if we are to have a peaceful adjustment of man power from farms to other industries," said Mr Marsh

It possibly will not be more than twenty-five or fifty years now, until the human parrots stop saying "There's a big demand for farm hands and there wouldn't be so much unemployment in the cities if working people were not too lazy to work on the farms—but the lazy bums, they object to working more than 8 or ten hours a day, and farm hands must work long hours"

—Contributed

A drastic "Birth Control law" for legal opinions was recommended recently by Judge William Pamml, a Texas magistrate who pointed out that these United States have passed 50,000 statutes in the last 30 years, many of them so ambiguous and hard to construe, as to call for lengthy opinions for their interpretation. In one year alone it is said that 175,000 pages of opinions were handed down by the courts

The importation of foreigners into a country that has as many inhabitants as the present employment and provisions for subsistence will bear, will be in the end no increase of people, unless the newcomers have more industry than the natives, and then they will provide more subsistence and increase in the country, but they will gradually eat the natives out. Nor is it necessary to bring in foreigners to fill up an occasional vacancy in a country, for such a vacancy will soon be filled by natural generation

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Observations concerning the Increase of Mankind, etc., 1751

It is no credit to prevailing opinion that one who dares to view some questions on their merits is still hotly de-

nounced as a traitor, while there is no visible disapproval of some forms of insincerity which in potency for evil are perhaps unequalled.—GEORGE L BOLEN, *Booklovers Magazine*, January, 1903

SPREADING BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 343)

These were the new types at the Birth Control booth this year. Besides this there were all the old Social workers, nurses, doctors, college students and other broadminded men and women expressed hearty approval. On the other side were those who had "outgrown the need of Birth Control" and who didn't see that others had not, those who were too squeamish to touch such a subject, those who, off-hand on the basis of their own individual experience of spinsterhood or motherhood, condemned it.

One of these brought a quick answer from Mrs Vandever. Said she, as she looked back disdainfully in passing "I am a mother." "And some of us are grandmothers and great-grandmothers," answered Mrs Vandever, picking up the photograph of the presiding genius of the booth. This was the Birth Control great-grandchild—Birth Control because born when its mother wanted it and not by accident—of one of the strongest members of the board of directors of the American Birth Control League.

These are stories of individual visitors. As to numbers, some idea of how many were reached at the Woman's Activities Exhibit can be gained by the fact that 5,000 pieces of literature were given, though an effort was made to give only to those who manifested a real interest.

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- 3 To open clinics where the best contraceptive information shall be obtainable by all who need it

"There is no other subject of such importance as Birth Control. Knowledge of it marks a new and happier phase in the history of civilization"

—H E WELLS

* * *

"The only practical instrument by which eugenics can work is Birth Control"

—HAVELOCK ELLIS

* * *

"There could be no greater contribution to the morality of the world and to marital happiness than Birth Control"

—WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY, M.D., *President of the American Medical Association 1924-25*

* * *

"It is not a question of introducing among the poor an effort to prevent excessive child-bearing. Such efforts are made all the time now. It is a question of introducing safe and sane methods and of spreading among them the knowledge that such a limitation of the number of children is possible without the risk of death or invalidism. It is a question of offering to the poor who need it most, the knowledge and the power which has long been the possession of those who need it least"

—ALICE HAMILTON, M.D., *Harvard Medical School*

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The following story is quoted from a lecture on Birth Control by the *Detroit Free Press*

"I was travelling in the west last year, and stopped at a farm house for a drink. A troop of children were playing in the garden

"'Those children all yours?' I said to the farmer

"'Surest thing ye know,' said he

"'Goodness! How many children have you got?' I asked

"'Let's see,' he said. 'Them eight playin' there, and Willie and Joe in town makes ten, and the three girls out to service is thirteen, and—er—now let's see—'

"Just then a splendid flock of sheep came over the hill

"'Yours?' I said

"'Surest thing ye know,' said the farmer

"'How many?'

"'Jest 892,' said he"

PASSING THE BUCK TO POSTERITY

(Continued from page 342)

ditions these figures do not hold. But it is at least theoretically possible to limit population increase to less than an average of four children per family

MANY plans of Birth Control methods have already been proposed, but they are partly so new that their merits are little understood, and partly also so new that their very novelty makes them almost as disagreeable to contemplate as war and pestilence

Some, indeed, being inured to disease and slaughter, are even more horrified by the suggested plan of birth limitation than they are by the specters of famine and war. But at least we all agree that, whether necessary or not, and whether worse than Birth Control or not, wars and pestilences are evils

But evil as they may be, they have to be faced—unless you can think of a fourth evil you prefer to any of these three. We assume any new solution discovered would be "an evil," for it seems most people agree that all plans for limiting human increase are, for some inherent if elusive reason, bad. And we have seen that no plans for food increase, sanitation, or the like, are in any true sense a solution, for they must lead to a twenty-story world and eventual race tragedy

We could, of course, pass the buck to Posterity. That is an easy way for us. Conceivably they might not like our solution, anyway, preferring one of their own

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