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Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*"In the Creation of New Life There Should Be Full Scientific Knowledge and Deliberate Planning"*

At the  
Sesqui-Centennial

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Early Marriage and Birth Control

# THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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# A Few Facts about Population and Food Supply



## I The Population of the World is 1,819,000,000

- ☞ *This is double the population of one hundred years ago*

## II All Food Goes Back to the Land

- ☞ The surface of the earth is made up of water, ice and snow, desert and semi-desert, forest, and *pasture and cultivable land*
- ☞ The area of pasture and cultivable land *is relatively very small* Out of the other parts of the earth food can be got with difficulty or not at all
- ☞ *All the good lands are now discovered*

## III Natural Increase of Population is Rapid and Practically Unlimited

- ☞ Food increase is much slower and is limited
- ☞ *The natural regulation of population is by starvation, disease and war*

## IV A Warning from the Orient

- ☞ Asia has more people than can be nourished by home grown food, *e g* , China, twice the size of the states east of the Mississippi, has three times the population of the United States About 10,000,000 are born each year and about half of these die under one year old
- ☞ *This is because these people, intensive farmers living on the land are half starved all the time*

## V The Case of Europe when the Factory Replaced Home Industry in the 18th Century

- ☞ Europe manufactured for the world, the world fed Europe
- ☞ *In 50 years the population of Europe increased more than 150 per cent*
- ☞ *Parts of Central Europe became as densely populated as China*

## VI Bread is King

- ☞ England imports one third of her food Belgium imports two fifths of her food France, Italy, Germany import one third their food To keep from starving, these countries have become trade rivals for food and raw materials
- ☞ *Remember the World War*

## VII The Case of the New World

- ☞ In 1890 America exported largely and helped feed Europe
- ☞ In 1920 *America consumed seven eighths of her own food and imported raw materials*
- ☞ Between 1900 and 1925 the United States added 37,000,000 to her population Parts of United States are as crowded as Europe

*With no new lands to feed them shall Europe and the New World become like the Orient?*

**The Hope of the World Depends on the Happy Solution of the POPULATION PROBLEM**

(From charts by Elizabeth Watson displayed at the Birth Control Booth at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition )

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL X

DECEMBER, 1926

No 12

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## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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From "John Bull" (London), faithful champion  
of the British Birth Control movement, we  
quote the motto used on this month's cover

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# Birth Control Review

VOL. X

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## EDITORIAL

THE news event of special interest to us last month was the re-election of Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York. Not that his re-election is surprising in a state dominated by Roman Catholic Democracy. What is surprising is the enthusiasm of the support by thoughtful voters. In a manifesto signed by more than forty people engaged in social work his election was strongly urged because of his measures for "the welfare of those persons who on account of their poverty and incapacity should receive the protection from the state which they as individuals are unable to provide for themselves." Among special acts calling forth praise are a \$50,000,000 bond issue for insane asylums and the appointment of a State Housing Commission. It is a commentary on the superficial character of social work that thinkers "whose vocation gives them opportunity to see at close range the condition of working people" can see no deeper into the problems of poverty than to pin their faith on unavailing efforts to prevent housing congestion and on enormous public expenditures to care for insanity, feeble-mindedness and other forms of unfitness.

We believe that they can see deeper than this. We believe that there are few community workers in New York who do not recognize that, as long as the poor have no power to regulate their numbers, housing congestion, the problem of the unfit and all the other problems of poverty will grow yearly more acute and no bond issues or tenement house commissions will solve them. Yet few of them have the courage to openly support the Birth Control movement and a large and powerful group of them has used its influence to keep in office a governor who represents the most powerful body—indeed the only body—now actively opposing Birth Control.



BIRTH CONTROL has come up officially before the United Lutheran Church. Last winter the Lutherans, then in conference, refused to

be stampeded by the Catholic National Welfare Council into a general condemnation, on the ground that Birth Control was outside the province of the church. At that time, a committee on moral and social welfare was at work on a report which was presented late in October to the biennial convention of the United Lutherans. The report states that the aim of marriage is the birth of children, and that the "limitation of birth by artificial means is anti-Christian."

We are glad to learn that no action was taken by the convention on this and other resolutions of the committee. They were referred back, and will not presumably come up again till 1928. By that time we trust that the committee will have given further study to Birth Control and revised its recommendations. If not, we believe that the members of the Lutheran Church will oppose such inconsistency as is offered by the committee when the assertion is made that the chief aim of married life is the birth of children. This is dogma, pure and simple. With ninety-nine people out of a hundred the birth of children is the result, and not the aim of marriage. That the limitation of birth by artificial means is "anti-Christian" is a matter of opinion. There are many good Lutherans who disagree with this point. Contraceptive information is already obtainable by the well-to-do and the intelligent parishioners of the church, and the church would do a great service if it would bring this scientific instruction to the poor, diseased, defective members of the community.

We trust also that there will be reconsideration of the recommendations on divorce. That pastors should consent to marry only the innocent party of a divorce is ludicrous. Like many other well-intentioned designs, it will drive people from the church and in many cases to seek relations outside of marriage. It will be far better for the committee to recognize that marriage has most important problems, to study these problems, and to face the fact squarely that the greatest immediate problem of the home and of marriage is not to have unwanted children.

THE Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has issued comparative figures on maternal mortality and outlined a national program for cutting down the death rate in childbirth throughout the United States. This report is prepared by Robert Morse Woodbury. It brings together and analyzes all available material both American and foreign on deaths of mothers during childbirth and is one of the most important pieces of recent research in the field of the bureau's work. The outstanding fact is that the maternal mortality rate per thousand is rising and that the United States ranks among those having the highest rates. The analysis shows the influence of the order of birth upon maternal mortality—"after the third confinement the risk increases rapidly. The smallest risk was found in the second confinement." Poverty is found to be an important factor in maternal death rates, these increasing as the husband's earnings fall. Minimum standards, which were adopted by a Conference on Child Welfare, lay down six important factors in the protection of women during pregnancy.

Nothing is stated in all this regarding one important cause of death in childbirth. America has built up an elaborate and expensive service for prenatal and postnatal care with no provision whatever for regulating the size of the family in accordance with the health of the mother. Is it not time to call to the attention of the national and local agencies in this service the necessity for a positive program of prevention? No service can be complete which does not include scientific methods of Birth Control. Mr Woodbury's report should be studied by every social agency dealing with the problems of women and children and an appeal should be made by them to local, state and federal governments to include Birth Control information in their program of work for cutting down both maternal and infantile mortality.



ANNIE BESANT, one of the pioneers of Birth Control, who first put practical knowledge in the hands of the London poor, is in this country. She is preaching another doctrine now. She comes as a theosophist and many people are asking whether her esoteric religion has made her an enemy of the movement for which she did so much. In the official biography given out at her lectures nothing is said of her epoch-making work for English Neo-Malthusianism during the seventies. But we are glad to learn from another source that she has not repudiated her old allegiance, that she recognizes that it is only the elect few who can

live celibate lives, and that for the others Birth Control is a "vital matter."

In an interview with James Waldo Fawcett, published in *Unity* for October 25th and November 1st, she said this, and she added, "I still hold Birth Control to be legitimate for young married couples and for married people unable or unwilling to lead a celibate life. I realize the danger to civilization of the multiplication of the unfit." Specifically about the American movement she "stated her emphatic approval of the campaign led by Margaret Sanger and added that the poor are entitled to information long ago secured by the rich."

It is good to know that Annie Besant, with her great influence in India will be on the side of Tagore. For if England needed Birth Control in the days of her activity, and still needs it, how much more she must have found that India is in need of this relief.



AFTER a year of false security the Humbert case has been reopened in France, or rather Mme Humbert's case, which was regarded as settled, is now being pressed by the French Government. The case of M Eugene Humbert for whom an appeal was made in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW at the time of the 6th Neo-Malthusian Conference will be remembered. This champion of French Neo-Malthusianism with his wife and two other relatives had served a long imprisonment for violation of the anti-Birth Control law of 1920 in giving out contraceptive information. Though his imprisonment was served, a fine imposed at the same time was unpaid and rearrest threatened. Sufficient funds to release him were raised and it was supposed the incident was closed and the Humbert family free from persecution. But this was not the case. The French *surpeupleurs* are threatening Mme Humbert this time and those friends who came to the rescue before are again asked to help.



THOSE who read Floyd Dell's serial *Outline of Marriage* in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW last winter will be glad to know that it can now be obtained in pamphlet form. The pamphlet, which is an expanded version of the original articles, is advertised on another page of the REVIEW, together with other recent literature of the American Birth Control League. Arrangements are being made for an English edition of Mr Dell's *Outline*.

# Birth Control and Early Marriage

By WILLIAM F. OGBURN, Ph D

THE relationship of Birth Control to the percentage married seems to me to be a new aspect of the subject, the idea is not new, but the evidence which I have got together is, I think, the first comprehensive evidence on the point. It was gathered some years ago in the course of a study of marriage and the birth rate.\*

I had statistics for one hundred and seventy cities in the United States, and I noticed that those cities which had the largest percentage of early marriage also had a slightly lower birth rate, the birth rate being measured on the ratio of the number of children born to the number of married women fifteen to forty-five years of age. I could see no reason why the birth rate should be related whatsoever to the marriage rate. Of course, the total number of births would be related to the total number of marriages, but there seemed to be no reason why the birth rate should be related to the marriage rate.

## *City Marriage Rates*

On the other hand, I wondered if the birth rate might not affect the marriage rate, and it seemed to me not improbable that the birth rate might affect the marriage rate, particularly if the birth rate were correlated with the practice of Birth Control, for in such an eventuality, you would see that the communities which have the lowest birth rate would on such an assumption have the widest practice of Birth Control, so that the problem would then turn out to be that the extent of the practice of Birth Control would encourage early marriage.

If you look at the birth rate for any country over a period of time, you will notice that the birth rate has been falling somewhat precipitously, and I believe all students of this phenomenon attribute this largely to the spread of Birth Control, so that if in England the birth rate were higher in 1870, nearly twice as high as it was in 1920-1921, we say that this fall in the birth rate is due to Birth Control.

Now, can you say the same thing with reference to different cities? That is to say, if in one city, Quebec, you have a very high birth rate, and in another, Toronto, a very low one, is the difference in the birth rate due to the practice of Birth Control?

It seemed to me that there were three sets of

\* Excerpts from an address at the 6th Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference

factors having to do with the birth rate. The first factor was the age of married persons. Now, obviously the birth rate is related particularly to the age of the mother and somewhat to the age of the father—which, roughly, correlates with the mother's—so that the difference in birth rates between cities might be due to differences in the ages of married women. It was necessary, therefore, for me to refine this problem by making the comparisons from city to city when the age of the married woman was held constant.

## *Birth Rate Influenced by Marriage Rate*

I was not able to hold the factor constant exactly, but I was able to work out the percentage of young married women and by the method of partial correlation was able to keep this factor constant. It is the same thing as if I had measured the birth rate in cities every one of which had exactly the same percentage of young married women.

When I did this, the coefficient of correlation turned out to be minus .45. That means a pretty high correlation. The minus sign means that the cities which have the lower birth rate, have the higher marriage rate and in this particular correlation, I correlated early marriage with the birth rate, so that the data seemed to indicate that there is a very marked correlation between the number of early marriages, (that is to say, marriages largely between twenty and twenty-five) and the birth rate, and since the marriage rate cannot have any influence on the birth rate, we think that the birth rate has an influence on the marriage rate.

Other factors that might affect the birth rate are climate and food. I have seen no evidence with reference to the influence of climate on the birth rate except in so far as it operates through the age of marriage, nor have I seen good evidence regarding the effect of food upon the birth rate. There are other influences such as the development of manufacturing or the status of religion or the presence of immigrants and so on, but all these factors seem to me to operate through or without Birth Control.

## *Early Marriage and Morality*

For these reasons it seems to me that the evidence points very strongly to the fact that Birth Control increases marriage, particularly marriage in the

early years We know that the age of marriage has been falling since 1890, and I am inclined to think that the spread of Birth Control would be one reason

The attitude toward Birth Control turns a good deal among the laity on the question of morality. Moralists who are opposed to Birth Control object to it because it makes it possible for individuals to have sexual intercourse without bearing children. The child, they hold, is the essential element in marriage and in the home and they figure that Birth Control would diminish marriage and would increase immorality outside the home.

On the other hand, moralists in favor of Birth Control hold that Birth Control would increase marriage, because one of the great barriers to marriage is the financial barrier, and, if young people know that children need not necessarily come in the first year or so of marriage, they will be more ready and more willing to marry because of not having to face this additional financial difficulty. So you have the two theories represented in these two points of view. The data which I have presented, it seems to me, furnishes very strong evidence for the latter opinion. I do not claim to have proved

it, but certainly the evidence is quite comprehensive and merits scientific appreciation.

I may make just one other comment by way of emphasizing the morality aspect of this piece of research. In connection with some other work which I have been doing, I have shown quite conclusively that the criminal population is drawn largely from the unmarried elements of our population. This is true when you smooth out the age distributions and all those factors. I have also shown that the inmates of our hospitals for the insane come in larger proportions from the unmarried than from the married.

Professor Wilcox and others have shown also that the death rate of unmarried men is about twice the death rate of married men. There may be some selection element in this, so that the point is not exactly proved, but these tendencies all show for the widowed as well as for the single, so there is certainly some evidence to point to the general social desirability of marriage. In view of these additional considerations, I think the evidence which I have shown that Birth Control tends to increase marriage is of considerable social significance.



## Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords (April 1926)

**M**Y LORDS, the question that forms the subject of the Motion standing in my name possesses an importance that few will deny. It is one of the large group of new grave questions that are pressing upon us with increasing insistence and demand that rational, restrained and intelligent discussion which can be obtained nowhere better than within the walls of your Lordships' House. One of the strangest ironies of life is this, that man everywhere seeks for rest and everywhere he encounters change. One position is no sooner occupied than it becomes necessary to seek another, and in the continual adaptation to the ever-changing conditions of environment and life you find the only means for development and growth. This question illustrates what I mean. Some fifty years ago it was new. Its advocacy was attempted to be punished by the Criminal Law, it startled and it shocked people, but today all that is left of the controversy is this: Will you take steps to withhold from the poor the knowledge that is possessed and practised by the rich?

**I** BELIEVE that no one who has the least familiarity with the facts will deny the truth of what I say. You cannot read any book that deals with this question—and I have read many—without finding that they treat as an accepted axiom that Birth Control is being extensively practised by the people who are well-to-do and that it is only among the poorest and the most ignorant, the most destitute, the most shiftless, helpless, hopeless stratum of society that that knowledge has not permeated and is not used. Statistics themselves are eloquent upon the point. If you take a thousand married people under the age of 50 the birth rate for schoolmasters is 93, for clergymen of the Church of England it is 100, for clergy of all denominations it is about 102, for doctors and professional men, from 103 to 105, for skilled labor, 153, and for unskilled labor, 247. If you take the standard of intelligence, measured by examination of the children in the schools, you will find that there is a descending scale of intelligence which is in the exact inverse ratio to this standard of birth

rate The truth is that in spite of what people may say about the nation being divided into classes, there is continually going on the winnowing process of nature and in the great solution of life every organism tends to take its proper place according to its specific gravity These people for whom I speak represent the lowest sedimentary stratum of them all I want to ask in these circumstances Why is it that from them this knowledge should be withheld?

**T**HE position at the present moment is this The Ministry of Health will provide money for the purpose of assisting welfare centres that are set up by local authorities, to enable those welfare centres to give help and advice to women who are expecting children and to women who have young children under their care But there is an expressed prohibition that prevents these people, though they are qualified medical men and women, from being able to give information to any person who asks as to the means by which further births might be prevented The question, the only question before your Lordships this afternoon, is whether or not that state of things ought, not only in the interests of justice, but in the interests of our race, to be allowed to continue There are, I know, many people who deplore the fact to which I have referred, that Birth Control is exercised by people who are well-to-do and by the intelligent among all classes It is no use weeping over lost battlefields That struggle has been fought and it has been lost and won, and you can never recapture the position

**T**HE reason is not, as some people say, that women are selfish and men are worthless and the world is addicted to nothing but pleasure It is nothing of the kind It is due to a much higher and much more permanent cause than that It is due to an increased respect for the sanctity of life It is due to the desire of people to secure that their children are not pressed out by the illimitable competition of unrestricted numbers of their brothers and sisters, and it is inspired by the hope that people will be able to make for their children an easier and a better place in the world than they themselves once filled Some people, of course, talk about the ennobling effect of a struggle with poverty The people who talk like that have never known the struggle It is the most degrading, the most demoralizing struggle to which a human being can be put To suggest that poverty is a good thing is an astonishing suggestion when you remember that every man, from the time he first begins to

work until the time when he can work no more, spends the whole of his energies trying to escape from it I say that these people are prevented from knowing the facts that will enable them to prevent the illimitable repetition of their children

**W**HAT are the class of cases for which I desire relief? I beg your Lordships carefully to note that my Motion lays no burden, imposes no duty upon any medical officer of health at all It does not even contain directions that it should, or say that in the opinion of the Ministry of Health it ought to be done It is to let qualified medical people, if they in their judgment think fit, exercise their medical knowledge for the relief of the women that come before them What are the classes of the women who come for help? I do not propose to read to you a very large number of instances and, of course, the instances that I take will probably be liable to the criticism that they are selected. They are selected from a most tiny handful of the population and you could reproduce and multiply them in any single parish within the City of London and in any one of the wards of our great cities throughout Great Britain Please do not think that these cases, terrible as they are, are exceptional They are typical cases of a condition of misery that is to be found throughout the poorer areas of our great cities

**L**ET me read to you one or two instances Here is a woman who was married at the age of seventeen At the age of thirty-four she had had eighteen pregnancies with eleven live children Her husband, a hawker, was often away from home and does not attempt to support the family The mother does this by hawking The three youngest children are backward and unable to walk and have to be taken out with the mother on her rounds in a perambulator The housing accommodation is one living room and two bedrooms The mother shares a flock mattress, without sheet or blankets, with these youngest children, and her last confinement was conducted under these conditions The mother and all the children are clean and well cared for, so please do not think that you are dealing with a woman who does not care what happens She refuses to have relation with her husband until he overpowers her, and of course, by the merciful law of this country, a man cannot rape his wife She has asked him to take other women During the last pregnancies she has done everything she knew to procure abortion She cannot go away from home

**THAT** is one case and, believe me, it is by no means unusual. You can reproduce it again and such cases will continue if you do not enable these women to obtain knowledge by which they can prevent themselves having children. There is one thing which they will all admit—namely, that they have made repeated and frequently successful efforts to procure abortion. I cannot help thinking that we live in a world of sham. Every now and then cases come before the Courts and some person is sent to goal for a long period of years for performing an illegal operation, and yet this is the commonest thing you can think of in these places. The women will all confess it to you and will tell you that at the imminent risk of their life and health they are driven to resort to this as the only means of escape from a state that they find intolerable.

**L**ET me give some further cases. Mrs M has had thirteen pregnancies, and has three living children. Mrs N has had three children, two of whom are not walking. Housing accommodation may be sufficient, but the children are under-fed and the mother cannot cope with the position. Mrs P, aged thirty, has eighteen children, is tuberculous and has a uterine disease, each child is worse than the last and it is difficult to help except from the point of view of Birth Control. Then listen to this—

"She does her best to secure abortions, and she does not observe the deficiencies in the children when they once arrive."

I wonder if your Lordships realize what this means. This woman comes and tries to relieve her situation with the help of the medical officer of health. She tells him that she is sorry that she is in this condition, that she has done her best to produce miscarriages and failed. "Cannot you possibly tell me," she asks, "how to prevent my getting into this condition again?" The medical officer of health says "No, if I venture to tell you anything of the kind the Ministry of Health would stop the grant for this centre and we shall not be allowed to continue."

**I** WILL give your Lordships other cases. Mrs S has six children, three of whom are mentally deficient and quite hopeless. The next case is of a mother who is tubercular, with seven children, two of whom already have advanced tuberculosis. The mother has done everything possible to secure abortion during the present pregnancy. Then there is a mother aged thirty-one, with eight children, and

who has been married seventeen years, has eight children, and has been in an asylum for four and a half months since the birth of the last child. Then there is a woman, married twenty-two years, with twelve children and five intentional miscarriages. I could read your Lordships innumerable cases of this kind. They go on and on. In North Kensington, a place not supposed to be one of our slum areas—I suppose the inhabitants would be distinctly hurt if it were so described—I have a case described in a letter written by a very eminent woman. Mrs A has had thirteen pregnancies and has eleven children living. The husband is earning £1 a week. Mrs B has had twelve pregnancies and has seven children living and they are desperately poor. Then we come to C, D, E and F, all similar cases with three, four or five pregnancies, with children either insufficiently fed or insufficiently clothed or both and every one of them, I beg your Lordships to note, going to be a burden upon the better-to-do artisans and other people in that place.

**P**ROBABLY the saddest story of all is one that is not drawn directly from here\*. But listen to this—

"When we first knew this family they had four children—all of whom had been born without eyes. The two eldest had died when quite small and two little girls, aged two and four, had managed to survive. The mother was suffering from *dementia præcox*, and spent eighteen months in hospital. She was incapable of training the children, who sightless and speechless, sat all day long in their little beds manifesting not a single normal reaction to the tests that were given. The father was devoted to the mother and refused to send her to institutions but, realizing that she ought not to have any more children, begged the information by which he could prevent such a result."

The answer is, of course, that if this information is given, the grants are stopped. These women are told "We are not permitted to give this information. If you want it you will find a shop not far away, with unclean pictures in the window, and every suggestion of prurient and filthy literature inside. Go there and they will probably be able to tell you, it is perfectly certain that they will give you information which may be most deleterious to your health, and you certainly will not be under trained medical supervision. But it is not for us to help you, and we are not going to try."

\* Taken from the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW of April, 1926

I WANT to know why these people are not to be helped. It seems to me that it is preposterous for us to sit still and accept the facts of the story as they stand now in the knowledge that all the better and more thoughtful people are carefully limiting their children—the people who, beyond all others, we need—while people, sickly, mad, diseased, underfed, are reproducing at a rate that is nearly double that of anybody else, and there is no one to tell them that they ought not to do it, there is nobody to say that they ought not to bring into this world a child that is cursed from its birth with disease, that they have no reasonable opportunity of supporting, and intend to throw upon the rest of the community for its maintenance.

I really am anxious to know what is the answer to the case that I have put. I ask that duly qualified medical men and women should not have their discretion fettered as to the way in which they give advice to people who seek their help, when those people are living within the district which it is their

duty to serve. Of course, you may raise the old economic answer that economically, in any circumstances, your population ought to be reproduced. That I cannot help thinking is an echo of arguments that are long since dead and had better not be resurrected. They come from the time when it was thought that every added unit to a laborer's family meant more material out of which the factory owner could extract work. Anybody who has read the history of the early part of the last century, and seen the way in which big fortunes in our manufacturing districts were built up at the expense of the lives of the children and women who worked in the factories, will have a sense of shame which it will be difficult to eradicate. Those conditions have, thank God, gone by, and can never come back. Children can no longer be made instruments for the production of profits in a balance sheet, and it is no use asking that they shall be reproduced in order that you may have a bigger profit-earning unit in a workman's family.

(To be concluded)



## The Medical Director Covers the Map

*In his seven months' trip from coast to coast Dr James F. Cooper, of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League, spoke in 18 states and brought the Message of Birth Control to more than 3,000 physicians*

MY summer trip of 1926 commenced March 21st at Johnson City, Tenn., it ended October 22nd at Tulsa, Okla. My line of travel covered the Mid and South Atlantic States to Florida, then the Gulf States to Texas. After a trip to Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, I arrived in Southern California June 1st. The summer months of June, July and August were spent in the Coast States of California, Oregon and Washington. I then proceeded east by Montana and North Dakota to its eastern boundary, then south through South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and ending in Tulsa on October 22nd.

The total time elapsed was 7 months, the number of states visited was 18, the number of cities was 90 and the number of meetings held 100, of which 85 were medical.

The total attendance at my meetings was 5,895, and the number of doctors reached 3,151. The average attendance at medical meetings was over 30.

The medical meetings included every possibility

There were small local groups, County Societies, District Societies in which several counties united, state meetings, and participation in discussion at the meeting of the American Medical Association. As my arrival at any given point had to fit in with my general itinerary practically all the meetings except the American Medical Association and the Arizona state meetings were especially arranged for me and called on dates when I could be present.

The months of June, July and August are very difficult months. No regular medical meetings are held anywhere and consequently while there was interest and I had meetings appointed, it was not possible to reach as many as would have been the case at any other season. Apart from this influence of the hot days, it was the usual experience that those meetings which were announced as on Birth Control were better attended than the average, showing the increasing amount of interest on the part of the medical profession.

The newspaper publicity was very good. Fair reports free from sensation were the rule. Occa-

sionally a paper would merely carry a notice without comment, but the majority were willing to print an interview. About fifty columns appeared altogether, reaching a reading public of approximately 2,500,000.

### *New England Must Be Roused*

The part of the country most hospitable to the discussion of Birth Control is the territory west of the Mississippi, including the northwest and southwest as well as the coast. The most indifferent section is New England. The south is good territory for this movement.

Doctors everywhere reported an increasing number of women applying to them for information. To refuse to discuss this problem with their patients is to display an incompetence to deal with it, or to confess themselves out of harmony with intelligent women throughout the country. The majority of doctors recognize this. They are interested in a sane, scientific, ethical plan of family regulation and they show their interest both by the size of their own families and by their general attitude toward the problem.

Their greatest interest is in the biological aspect of the subject, their recognition of the need to regulate the birth rate of the mentally defective class. Next in their interest come the economic and therapeutic cases. I was somewhat surprised to find that the majority of doctors are as much interested in regulating the families of the poor as of those suffering from disease. This is as it should be, because these unfortunate creatures are often driven by large families into conditions which sooner or later lead to disease.

What are the laws in this matter? What is the best method? Where can I get supplies? These questions as will be seen are not concerned with philosophical speculation but with practical application. They assume the principle to be right but want to know how to get results.

I am frequently asked, do you meet with much opposition and from what source? It is quite prob-

able that there are many in my meetings who are opposed to Birth Control, but who, because of courtesy, lack of desire to enter controversy, and other reasons remain silent. Some opposition has been expressed at meetings when the proposition to hold a meeting on the subject has been proposed. But out of the 100 meetings on this trip, I can only recall three where opposition was expressed. The opposition invariably was from the viewpoint of religious sentiment rather than a discussion of any of the facts presented. It can therefore be said that the opposition is negligible as far as I have encountered it.

I very early became convinced that many doctors did not take the right attitude toward the movement because they did not have any adequate conception of what it was all about. I felt that some education should be given in the general aspects of the movement before instruction in contraception was given. I therefore adopted the policy of first giving a survey of the general aspects of Birth Control and then following with a discussion of the technique. This method of presentation has been much appreciated by many who were uninformed about Birth Control. Such a method gives the right background. It first puts Birth Control on an ethical, scientific and professional basis and then gives the technique.

### *Prejudices Breaking Down*

Everywhere I have spoken it has practically been the first time the subject has been discussed in medical meetings. Old prejudices are breaking down. My address has invariably been well received and many invitations to come again have been received.

So long as we carry on our propaganda for a voluntary and intelligent motherhood and our scientific research in a manner calculated to win and maintain the approval of all rightly disposed persons, the medical profession will be with us and the subject will find a larger and larger place in medical research, on medical programs and in medical practice.



*We are continually assuming that nations become strong according to their numbers. Suppose they are a mere helpless mob, tottering into precipitant catastrophe, like a wagon load of stones when the wheel comes off. Dangerous enough for their neighbors, certainly, but not "powerful." The strength is in the men, and in their unity and virtue. A little group of wise hearts*

*is better than a wilderness full of fools.*

*Remember, no government is ultimately strong, but in proportion to its kindness and justice, and a nation does not strengthen, by merely multiplying and diffusing itself.*

*A nation need not boast itself of multiplying if it multiplies only as flies or locusts do, with the god of flies for its god — JOHN RUSKIN, 1819-1900*



## Birth Control Meets the World at the Sesqui-Centennial

*A composite story based upon the experiences of a dozen workers at the American Birth Control League Booth\**

FOR four months, from August 1st to December 1st, the American Birth Control League presented the Case for Birth Control to the world at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. Its public was the largest and most cosmopolitan the League has ever had brought together in one place. Before the little eight by ten alcove beneath its blue and white frieze representing the allegory of the child eternally sustaining the world passed the procession of the nations. There were Hindus of the other-worldly school of Gandhi and Hindus of the school of Tagore, more human in their attitude toward Birth Control. There were learned and absent-minded Chinese scholars who pored with slow concentration over the charts and literature displayed before them. There were Japanese who knew their national population problem. There were other Orientals and there were representatives of Scandinavia, France, Italy and many other countries.

### *For the Fit and the Unfit*

Among these were two citizens of Hamburg, a professor of criminology and a physician, each from his entirely different point of view keenly in-

terested in Birth Control. But the main body, all but one in twenty of the passers-by perhaps, were English or American, mainly American. Some of these knew the world beyond their own home. One was a New Zealand colonist on his way to England with his young wife. He as yet saw no population problem in New Zealand, but believed in Birth Control firmly in its bearings on individual happiness and freedom. And on his long trip through the Orient he had seen many indications of the present pressure of the population problem in the East.

### *Baby Workers*

Especially vividly in his mind stood out one picture of the cheapness of child life. On a Ceylon tea plantation he had seen a nursing mother working in the subcellar of a warehouse. She stood in such darkness that the visitor had to feel his way around until his eye became accustomed to the half light. On the cement floor at her feet lay her infant, and she stopped her work to feed it when it cried. One short flight above worked the elders in this and other families of children, sorting tea, like their mothers, from the age of five or six upward in "steps and stairs."

Another who recognized Birth Control as a world need was an American sailor. He, too, had seen the Orient, but on his last trip he had also

\* We regret that the position of the booth made it impossible to take a thoroughly satisfactory photograph of the beautiful frieze which heads this article. It was the gift to the League of Mr. Copeland of the Philadelphia School of Design.

seen the need nearer home. In a German port he had talked with many dock workers who complained of their inability to take proper care of their families. One was concerned also for his wife's health, on account of the frequent abortions she had gone through. She had been to the hospital for this cause, he said, three times and each time she came back weaker and less able to bear the next.

This young man was an idealist. He had been an early enthusiast for the work of Margaret Sanger and he confessed himself puzzled that people did not support this work on grounds of common sense. "It's a wonder that reason and common sense won't reach them," said he, "but it seems as if everything has to be reached thro' suffering and tears. Their own pitiable experience is all that brings them 'round'."

### *"The City of Charity"*

The Birth Control booth stood in the Educational Building half way down the north aisle, with a eugenics exhibit at one end and what one wit called a dysgenics exhibit at the other, in the "City of Charity" display of the Roman Catholic church. This was made up of many hundred miniature models of the institutions in which the unfit, the undernourished, the unfortunate and the under-equipped are cared for in Philadelphia. On a side aisle were two other exhibits which should have helped to complete the education of those who wanted to know why Birth Control was needed. These were the tuberculosis and the social hygiene booths—not to speak of "Camp Happy" where three thousand of the many hundred thousand undernourished children of Philadelphia are given during the summer three weeks good food, and sent home "with an average gain of three pounds" to sustain them through life.

Maybe it was the sight of these problems of inheritable diseases and tendencies, of patches sought to be put on dire poverty and semi-starvation, of moneys spent on wrecks that no institutional care could restore to normal life—whatever it was, something certainly made the crowds of passers-by especially hospitable to the message of Birth Control.

### *Quickening Interest*

"Fewer Children Better Born"—the motto of the booth—meant something personal to everyone who passed. It was an experience in itself to see the glazed lack-lustre expression of the tourist who has become so bored with exhibits that they all look alike to him, suddenly "come alive" as he saw the motto, read out the words American Birth Control League—aloud if he was not alone—then

stop to look. This awakening interest was noticed by all the workers at the booth. It was as if here was no vague uplift movement. Here was something vital, that leaped into their consciousness, that answered the brooding question in their own hearts, that gave form and substance to their own inarticulate desires.

One of the workers says of this wakening to life: "From the inside of the Birth Control Booth, looking out upon the throngs who passed along the North aisle of the Palace of Education wearily enjoying the Sesqui, it seemed that the first thing that really attracted their eyes was the placards we displayed proclaiming our aims and the ravages of multiple births in their toll of human lives, in mothers and babies sacrificed. As they looked and read and the facts sunk in, they turned to our literature displayed and to the workers for help with their personal problems. Many recognized what we stood for and that it was their own cause upon first sight of our booth—and greeted us with a wholeheartedness that seemed to say 'We have been looking for this help all our lives'."

Two sets of charts told the objects of the movement. To study the more elaborate set which gave the details of the world problem of population and food supply,\* clergymen, teachers and students often came in and sat down, and even in some cases took notes. None made a deeper impression than the chart of the Orient, where infants are born to die as infants, and a huge death rate keeps the population stationary.

### *The Story On the Charts*

The simpler set of charts was read by thousands. They showed the bearing of the birth rate on poverty and on war, on abortion and infanticide, they told its relation to maternal and infant mortality, to ill health and the problem of the unfit. On the constructive side they demanded free and voluntary motherhood, told the clinical experience of the League and gave names of men and women of influence who support the demand for Birth Control.

Sometimes it was a particular chart which held the attention of the passers. "I don't like *that*" said one very young girl who wore a tiny diamond on her engagement finger. "Like what?" asked her friend, following her glance to the statement that 25,000 American women die in childbirth each year. From that the two came up to ask questions, to listen intently and gather literature to take away, sure that whatever the dangers of childbirth they would be able to learn a means to lessen the hazards of married life.

These were two girls on the way down to the

\* A digest of these charts is given on page 334.

Roman Catholic exhibit at the end of the aisle. So also were two married friends who stopped. One had noticed the chart on Birth Control as a preventive of abortion and she wanted to know more. "I certainly do believe in it," she said at the end of a talk. "Many women, good women too, are forced to have abortions because they do not know about Birth Control. Can you tell me where our Catholic exhibit is?"

Her friend told of having four children close together. Two lived, the last two died. The tears were in her eyes as she added, "I have always been sure the others would have lived if I had had a chance to get my strength back before they were born. They had no vitality."

### *Catholic Visitors*

These were a few of the many Catholics who stopped. At first disagreeable episodes were feared but as it turned out our position in the same aisle with the Roman Catholic Booths merely offered us an opportunity to get a hearing before the Catholic laity. The Catholic clergy were open in their opposition. Cardinal Dougherty passed by with one of the executives of the building, "I do not like to see this booth in an educational building," said he. "There are two opinions about that" was his guide's quiet reply. And two opinions were very evident among the Catholic laity. Occasionally one called Birth Control "Anti-Christ", he always drew a crowd and in the debate which followed it was perfectly evident that the sentiment was for Birth Control. On one occasion a young couple in the crowd took up the discussion for the affirmative and others joined in and helped. Far the larger number of Roman Catholics were interested and open minded and many were favorable or became so after hearing what the movement stood for.

Once a sharp conflict between the older and the younger generation was apparent. A very young mother came hurrying up. "My husband wants me to find out about Birth Control. I have a baby a month old, my first. Oh, the folks are coming—" She broke off and hurried away. In a few minutes she was back and explained that her mother, who was in the party, had told her to have nothing to do with Birth Control as it was a mortal sin. "But I don't feel that way," she added. "I think the other thing is a sin and so does my husband. It isn't fair to the mother or the father or the children."

### *Protestants and Others*

There were many thousands besides Catholics in the crowds who stopped. They were of all classes and of all beliefs. Among them were many clergy-

men, high church and low church Episcopalians and many other denominations. Physicians in greater numbers than ever before openly gave their support by signing in the visitors' book and asking to have literature and clinical reports sent them. Plant specialists and breeders of domestic animals who had observed how differently the human animal is produced expressed warm approval. One hoped that man might one day be as carefully bred as the sows and boars on his farm, an experimental station of the United States government. This same recognition of the neglect of the human animal was thrust upon the workers in the booths by the very sight of the crowds that passed. As one expresses it:

"All day the crowds stream past, old mothers, broken with child bearing and with tired eyes, young mothers, carrying their babies, or wheeling them, newly married couples, fearful of assuming an overwhelming responsibility. Sad and intimate stories are confided to us.

"We go over to the cattle show at noon and see those beautiful animals—so perfectly bred, so carefully tended, so sleek and well fed. Then we go back to the Booth. Again the crowds stream by us—the misshapen, undernourished, sickly human beings all too numerous among the throngs who pass. We wonder why anyone opposes human Birth Control."

### *A Grateful Tribute*

Among the simpler people were gentle-faced Dunkers men and women, who always accepted literature and always read it. One of these drew her husband back to look and was heard reminding him eagerly how when they were first married Margaret Sanger advised them how they could regulate their family. She told the worker in the booth that she now had three healthy children and that she would never be able adequately to express her gratitude.

An employer of factory labor gave light on why men leave home. He said that again and again he had seen men "throw up the sponge" as they saw their families with each year growing more and more beyond their means to support. Some became listless and without ambition, others, and these were the more spirited, "lighted out" so that at any rate the woman would have a year or two free from childbearing.

Many visitors asked to have their last doubts as to the morality and practicability of Birth Control laid at rest. It was interesting in the case of two of these to see their minds work round and resolve

(Continued on page 386)

# GIRL WIVES AND MOTHERS

*It is not from Census figures alone that we have knowledge of child marriages \* The greater number of our correspondents are married before they are twenty Some were married at 13 and at 17 had as many as three, four, or even in one case, six, children One New England girl married before she was 13 and was the mother of eleven children at 30 The mothers who give their stories below are average cases They represent the usual history of the working class girl who passes straight from extreme youth into the heavy middle-age burdens of a large family No wonder girls of 20 write that they feel as if they were 40, and women of thirty look as if they were 60*

## At the End of her Strength

Massachusetts

If only the knowledge you advocate were mine it would no doubt, save my life And you know how precious life is for the sake of the little ones I have been married but three years and have two baby boys My first child came the first year, and as I had always worked hard in factories previous to my marriage I hadn't the strength or vitality to stand it The result was that I got the flu and for six of the nine months I carried him I was a complete invalid, causing untold worries and dreadful expense No sooner had I barely struggled back to anything resembling health, than I again faced motherhood The next nine months were filled with terror as my first little boy was so sickly and difficult to care for The second baby I nursed 11 months and he has a most pronounced case of rickets and is a constant care It is not morbidness that makes me feel sure I could not live through another child-birth It's simply that I am at the end of my strength and nerves Please I beg of you if it is any way in your power please help me My husband is only a boy and all the life and hope is being crushed out of us both Oh' if there is anything I can do please let me know, and to help others too All around me there are so many dying and living in hell thru ignorance

## A Day Laborer's Wife

Oregon

I sent and got your book, "*Woman and the New Race*," thinking it might tell me what I have so wanted to know and so far have not been able to learn I am just a young girl, very poorly in health, just 22 years old, and the mother of four children The oldest not quite six years older than the baby My husband is a day laborer Will you please send me what information you can on Birth Control I live in fear of having more children and I feel as though four children is all we can care for

## Married at Fifteen

Virginia

I have read with much interest your published ideas about Birth Control and I am writing to ask you to help

me in any way you can I am thirty years old and the mother of nine children, the oldest of them being fourteen years old My husband was hurt in an accident a month ago and will never walk again A month before this accident a union between my husband and me took place which resulted in pregnancy, I fear Can you advise me what steps to take to prevent this happening again, as I have no means of support but my own work in the home

## "I Feel as though I am Forty"

Ohio

I have read so much about you in the papers and I am writing to you in hopes that you can help me I would like you to advise me what to do to prevent from having any more children I am only 19 years old and the mother of two babies The oldest is two and the youngest is nine months old My first child is the picture of health but my last has been sick since she was born, she had two operations since birth, and I am a wreck I feel as though I am forty Dear Mrs Sanger, if you can't help me can you tell me of some Birth Control clinic I worry from month to month afraid that I may be in the family way Please answer my letter and tell me if you can help me

## Mother of Five at 20

Illinois

I have read your book through a friend of mine, "*Woman and the New Race*" I am a woman twenty years old and have four children, and am in the family way with the fifth one, and am awful afraid My husband is an awful drinker and please write and advise me what to do and how to avoid conception I am always sick and the children are all sick too so please help me

## Three and Pregnant

Kentucky

Please excuse me for writing but I just can't help it because I know you are the only one that can help me

\* See page 378

I am 21 years old and have three children, the oldest is six years and the baby 19 months and am that way two months. I think if I had had your help before, I would not be that way now, but I hope you will answer this letter to help me in the future

## Broken Down

Arizona

I ordered one of your books, "*Woman and the New Race*" about 4 years ago, and I thought when I ordered the book that I was getting a "preventive" or a "prevention of conception" but I didn't, and up to now I couldn't find what I mostly long for. I am only 24 years old and have 5 children and the oldest is only 5 and the youngest one 9 months old, and I am getting broke down in health and it is all I can do to take care of what I have and I have to do all of the work myself as we aren't able to hire any help. So please if you want to help me I will be a thousand times thankful

## Four Births, One Living Child

Texas

I have read your interesting articles in "*Hollands*" on subject of Birth Control and would like very much to have your BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, provided it gives preventions of conceiving which is safe, at once. I am a young girl, age 22, and have been married four years and within these years I have been pregnant four times and out of four I have a dear baby girl which was our first—loosing others at ages of 6 weeks, 3 months and 2 months (miscarriages)—and am not strong at all. My husband is young also and it is hard for us having doctor bills to pay and also my poor health bars our way to enjoy good times

## Weaker with Each Birth

North Dakota

I have heard about your book, "*Woman and the New Race*" in some magazine, so I thought I would write and see if you can help me out in any way. My oldest baby is one year and five months old, one dead, and now I will soon have my third baby. I get weaker each time I have a baby and the doctor says I won't stand it very long. I married when I was 18 and now I'm 20 years old. So please help me

## Poor and Sickly

Massachusetts

After reading some letters in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, I fear I need the same advice as those poor women. It is not even two years I am married and to think that I have to suffer so much makes me regret being married. I had my baby right away and had two miscarriages of three months. My mother had eleven children, and if she

were to get married again I believe that she would be just as ignorant and I am trying to do everything I can now that I am young, as I am delicate, weighing only 95 pounds, and am still in a run down condition. Soon after my first baby, I was forced to send my furniture back, as it was bought on the installment plan and I had to go back to my mother as my husband couldn't find work. Now we have to start all over again working together, while my poor mother takes care of the baby, until we put up a new home, as we are still in debt, and I am asking you this question that is worrying many poor weak women. I just want a chance to work and get some money to start with and then give my baby a mother's care and take her out like other mothers do, but I can't do this on only \$18.00 a week as my husband works in a restaurant and they don't give much pay because of their meals. It is already three days I am working and please, Mrs. Sanger, tell me how to prevent having any more children, because it is hard enough for the three of us to get along on my husband's pay. This month, or rather the end of last month, I was rather scared and told a neighbor. She gave me some herbs that made me sick and I am afraid to take any more, although they did help me in the way I wanted. Hoping to hear from you, and I will be very grateful to you if you will help

## Can Afford No More

Maine

I hope you will pardon me for asking your help, but I feel sure that you can help me. I am only eighteen years of age and the mother of two babies, both boys, the oldest is fourteen months and the baby is seven weeks old. I am very sick and run down while pregnant, I also have a hard time at birth, having to have the highest instruments. Each month when I come around I expect it to be the last time. My youngest baby is very fussy and I tire easily so my work is neglected most of the time. I have one of your books which I am going to let my two sisters read. I wish if you can help me, you would, for I do not wish to bring any more children into the world to suffer. My husband is just a day laborer. His wages are not very large and we have to pay rent and we cannot afford to have any more children. If you will help me I will gladly tell others of your good work that they might get help when they need it

## A Father Asks Help

California

I am poor, not able to support a large family. I have a wife twenty years of age. She is the mother of two children, a boy and a girl, only a year between them. Will you please give me the information you have obtained on Birth Control

# The Best Beloved

*How Shall They Come to Us?*

BY CHOICE?

BY CHANCE?

DEAR CO-WORKERS

We are all familiar with that gruesome, harrowing page in *THE REVIEW*, which from time to time depicts so forcibly the crying need for Birth Control information. It is indeed an essential feature of the paper. However, there is another side. The little scrap of poor poetry, announcing the birth of our second baby, *four years after our first one*, tells its own story.

Our first child, planned before we were married, has been such a constant source of unalloyed happiness that we thought we would like to have the other one come at the same time of the year. Then birthdays are eleven days apart,—about as near as we could expect it.

I have been a Birth Controller since I was ten years old, giving my first lecture at that time to my father who then had seven children, and they were still coming. We are most emphatically not race suicidists but family limitationists.

Happily yours,

*A little stranger has appeared within  
Our gates. This princess hailed, invited came  
The distilled essence of two lovers' hopes  
Is she? Not stork nor fairy, god, nor chance  
The honor of her introduction claims  
A downy couch, and robes, awaited her  
Her heritage is health, and love, in which  
She was conceived. And Helen Ruth's her name*

October 7, 1926

Mr and Mrs Howard V. Hornung

DEAR FRIEND

I did not want this last child. Now I have it. I love it like the rest, but there must not be another to take the food from the mouths of those I have now.  
—From a Mother's Letter

## UNWISHED

*To us you were a thing of chance,  
Love did not call you,  
A sudden gust of passion stirred  
Upon a restless night—  
It caught your spirit from on high  
And thus you came*

*And Oh! We love you so  
Now you are here  
We would enfold you in our lives  
With all that heart can give—  
And yet that dear sweet smile upon your face  
Almost rebukes us*

*That you came*

*Unwished*

ALICE T. MERRILL



# The Sesqui-Centennial: Two Impressions

## A Woman's

IF one is at all disheartened by the progress of the Birth Control movement, a day at the booth at the Sesqui will prove illuminating. Some days, of course, are more encouraging than others. Doctors, nurses, social workers, college professors and widely varying professions show interest and express approval. Some doubt the efficacy of the movement but are willing to

learn more about it. Sometimes these people buy literature and say they will let us know their opinion. One minister, who said he was writing a book, bought a copy of "Woman and the New Race" to get a new viewpoint.

A little nurse from a distant city says the booth recalls the needs of a patient she has just cared for. This patient, mother of several children, has just pulled through a very serious illness. Another pregnancy would be exceedingly dangerous to her life. The nurse would like literature, "But please put it in a plain wrapper."

A Catholic woman disapproves of the placards in the booth. They weren't fit for the eyes of young girls, especially that word "abortion."

Another woman has little sympathy for the poor with large families. "Why do they have them? Because they are beasts, plain beasts!" But she thinks it wicked to interfere with "God's Will."

Many pass by with averted eyes, and when asked "Do you believe in better children?" shake their heads for fear of committing themselves to some indiscretion. But many more stop, take literature, ask questions or express approval. The people who sign the register come from all parts of the United States and some foreign countries, and thus our message is carried far and wide.

ELLA T. BISSELL

### *A Man's*

THE attitude of the people who pass the booth is a very good indication of their intelligence. Almost everybody takes a look at the placards. The great majority accept literature that is offered them. Some make jesting remarks, a few schoolgirls giggle. But many people stop and study the placards, nodding their heads approvingly. One man turns and says emphatically "Of course. It's got to come." Another, from Ohio, signs the register. "I've got six children. My wife's in good health and so are the children, but six is all we can take care of. What'll I do?"

The antis all bring up the same old meaningless phrases. A self-satisfied individual with a belligerent air starts an argument. "It's contrary to the law of God." A passing East Indian, of swarthy complexion, stops, listens a while and joins in. "India isn't over-populated."

The misery is all due to bad government. The world will never be over-populated. When there are enough people, population growth will stop. That's God's plan. Much more of the same, including the argument that Texas alone could support twice the population of the United States. No, he had never been in Texas. Desert? Oh, well, God would put the water there when it was needed. You can't argue with these people who know just what God's plans and purposes are, and it's a relief to turn to a biologist. "Bah," he says, "no intelligence."

"Here's something for you, Doc," says one man to his friend, who looks over at us with interest. "Are you a physician?" "I'm a vet, but I can tell you we can give the medical doctors cards and spades when it comes to eugenic breeding."

A good many Catholic sisters pass. Most of them keep their eyes straight ahead. Some look askance at the booth, others stop and examine neighboring exhibits, with occasional sidelong glances at the Birth Control booth, as though they would like to look if they dared. It's amusing to see how many other people act the same way. Plainly they are interested and would like to stop and talk, but are afraid it isn't quite respectable. Some pass by and then come back again and take another look, but hurry on in an embarrassed way if you try to talk to them.

It is all very interesting, and gives a good cross-section of human nature. It is clear that Birth Control is a subject that interests all classes of people. Most of them are sympathetic. One's general impression is that a popular vote would show a majority of at least 3 to 1 in favor of Birth Control. The world does move after all.

MALCOLM H. BISSELL



## An Opponent of Birth Control

By ANNIE G. PORRITT

FORTIFYING himself with an assumption of scientific knowledge, Paul Popenoe has written a book\* in which he makes a savage attack on Birth Control. The book purports to consider family life from the biological point of view, and Mr. Popenoe seems to think that he is the first man who has ever taken biology into account in writing of family relations. It is not a scientific book. It consists of a series of dogmatic announcements of the author's emotional convictions, put into the

form of didactic instruction to the world, as to how to reform and conduct the family in its internal structure and its relations to society. Mr. Popenoe realizes this dogmatic attitude, and, in his introduction, he excuses it on the ground that "if an author should discuss fully every debatable point, and set forth adequately the evidence on which he has reached each of his conclusions, he would produce a chaotic encyclopedia that would attract readers as little as it would publishers."

The value of the book therefore depends entirely on the fulness and accuracy of the author's knowledge and

\* *Conservation of the Family* by Paul Popenoe. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore.

on his fairness in arriving at his dogmatic conclusions. A reasonable test is to take one section and to see whether it measures up to the required standard of fairness and accuracy. If the author shows himself prejudiced and ignorant in regard to one aspect of his subject, he is under suspicion as to the remainder of his book. Let us test Mr Popenoe by what he has to say concerning Birth Control.

The attack on the Birth Control movement and on Mrs Sanger personally is furious and emotional. Mr Popenoe has not troubled himself to read the literature of the American Birth Control League, or to ascertain the personnel of its National Council and its most eminent supporters. If he had taken a careful glance at the Program of the Sixth International Conference, or had followed a few numbers of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*, it would have been impossible for him to make the assertions contained in his book. Is it a scientific attitude to attack under the influence of strong emotion, in entire ignorance of the policies and conduct of the movement attacked?

### *Attack On the Movement*

The objections brought by Mr Popenoe against the Birth Control movement are summed up under five heads. These are

(1) "It is a purely emotional production, an appeal to sentiment, based on individual cases written up in the style which *Suffering Womanhood* popularized in describing its symptoms to the late lamented Lydia E. Pinkham."

Surely Mr Popenoe ought not to attack a movement because it is "an emotional production." In so doing he condemns his own book and especially the attack itself. The *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* admits the emotional character of many of the letters printed in its pages. They are the natural and authentic utterances of women to whom Birth Control is a matter of life or death, of happiness or misery. Emotion cannot be eliminated from such pleas for aid and salvation. But the whole Birth Control movement is not comprised in these letters.

(2) "It has no constructive program—not even a program of application. It simply proposes to let down the bars. Even the proponents admit that this will do some harm, but they claim that the harm will be more than counterbalanced by the resulting good. But why should there not be an intelligent plan of action that would at least minimize if not wholly prevent this harm?"

Why, we may ask in response, did Mr Popenoe not familiarize himself, before writing, with the program of the American Birth Control League, with its demand for legislation which shall permit Birth Control instruction in clinics by responsible medical men and women, with its work in promoting the establishment of such clinics where the law permits them to exist. Surely he might have discovered that there is a definite and constructive

program for an intelligent plan of action which will tend to minimize any evils that might result from a promiscuous spread of more or less accurate and reliable Birth Control information.

(3) "The Birth Control propaganda has been pushed with a reckless disregard for biology and for science in general, and largely by persons who have no acquaintance with science, and seemingly no desire to become acquainted with it."

### *Our Scientific Backing*

Of course, Mr Popenoe may claim to have a monopoly of scientific knowledge, and therefore a movement which does not include him may be considered devoid of any understanding. But the world in general may be impressed by the fact that President Little of the University of Michigan stands high in the ranks of biologists, and that he is not only a member of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, but also President of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues which is promoting a World Population Conference, to be held next year. Mr Popenoe is concerned about the effect of Birth Control on the family, the nation, the race and the world. Surely he has read something of what has been written on these various aspects by those doughty advocates of the Birth Control movement, Professor East, Harold Cox, Raymond Pearl, Havelock Ellis, Franklin H. Hankins, Julian Huxley, E. W. Macbride, Wesley C. Mitchell, E. A. Ross, and the many others whose articles are to be found in the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*, and in the other literature issued by the American Birth Control League. Moreover, Mr Popenoe seems to think that he is the first to have been struck by the fact that Birth Control needs to be international. It will be news to him to learn that there are movements for Birth Control, instigated by Margaret Sanger, actively going on in both China and Japan, and that there is hardly a civilized country that has not been touched by educational work for Birth Control.

(4) "The Birth Control propaganda has been pushed with utter disregard for popular psychology. It has been provocative and vulgar where it should have been subtle and persuasive. If it had been handled differently, success might have been expected before this."

### *Public Sentiment*

This is an amazing statement, entirely without foundation and lacking anything that could possibly be called scientific. If the enormous change that has come over society in regard to the discussion of Birth Control is any measure of success, one only needs to contrast the attitude of public, press, platform and pulpit, and even of politicians and legislatures, ten years ago and now to prompt one to ask Mr Popenoe why he should belittle the progress already made.

(5) "The Birth Control propaganda has been backed by no body of experimental or statistical evidence to substantiate its claims"

We may well ask Mr Popenoe whether he has any body of statistical evidence which would prove Birth Control to be undesirable or harmful. He does not seem to be aware that the compiling of statistical evidence is one of the aims of the American Birth Control League, and that as rapidly as possible this evidence will be made available to the medical profession

The summary made from these accusations against the Birth Control movement is instructive and interesting Mr Popenoe writes

(1) "The present Birth Control cult should be repudiated by all responsible people"

But why? If all the accusations brought against it are false?

(2) "Effective measures should be adopted to make knowledge concerning family limitation available to those who want it, through the clinics for marriage and parenthood. Here such scanty scientific information as is available concerning contraception could be given and warning against the harmful practices recommended by the professional Birth Controllers"

If the last sentence is not libel, it is pretty close to it. The rest of the recommendation is for something that is already being carried out under scientific and medical auspices, by those same Birth Controllers, whom Mr Popenoe would suppress, in order that he may take up their plans and policies and claim the successes that he denies to them

### *Unwitting Agreement*

In some respects Mr Popenoe is unwittingly and amusingly in agreement with the American Birth Control League. He laments the lack of contraceptive knowledge among physicians but does not seem to be aware of the campaign of education that the League has been conducting among the doctors. He advocates instruction in contraception in the medical colleges, and he also agrees with the League in believing that physicians are not necessarily capable of dealing "with the broader phases of family limitation"

But the heaviest condemnation of the Birth Controllers is reserved by Mr Popenoe for Mrs Sanger's attitude in regard to eugenics. He evidently believes that the encouragement of larger families among the superior elements of the population ought to be made a part of the program of Birth Control. He condemns Mrs Sanger's editorial in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for June, 1925,

in which she defined the Birth Control program as distinguished from the vague and impractical program of the Eugemists. He evidently does not believe, with her, that it is "not within the province of our program to offer gratuitous advice to intelligent adults who have achieved control and direction of their parental function, as to the number of children they shall bring into the world." On the contrary, he is ready to dictate to such intelligent people, and to insist that they have at least four children and in many cases more. He does not understand that the American Birth Control League desires to put the power of control into the hands of the mothers of the world, leaving to them the responsibility of using this control rightly and wisely \*

### *An Astonishing Statement*

Another assertion of Mr Popenoe's is that "any and all methods of family limitation, however advantageous to the individual, work a certain and probably a serious detriment to the race." This is a sweeping statement. Is it scientific? What is his basis for it? It is supported, amazingly enough, by the statement that "where there was little control of conception, weak, infertile and feeble families produced, say one child, while strong, fertile, long-lived parents produced, say, ten children." The introduction of the words fertile and infertile, may save this statement from utter ridicule. But why introduce these words? It is a well-known and unfortunate fact that weakness and feebleness both of mind and body are frequently associated with great fertility, and that it is not the best parents that have the largest families. Such an argument to support his statement that family limitation is detrimental to the nation shows how hard pushed Mr Popenoe has been to produce his case against the Birth Control movement. It also shows that his book is to be accepted only as the expression of his personal opinions, strongly tinged by his emotions, and not in any way as an authoritative treatise based on adequate scientific research.

It would be a work of supererogation to take any notice of Mr Popenoe's attack on the work of the American Birth Control League, were it not that it is typical of the attitude of various writers and, in their own domain, thinkers towards the movement. The work of the League is before the world. We ask only investigation and some basis of knowledge before attacks are made. Fair arguments we are always ready to meet. But there is no excuse for putting into print statements concerning our work and program that have no basis of truth and that are the product of ignorant, emotional misunderstanding.

\* In the *Eugenics Review* (England) for July, 1926, page 145, Dean Inge quotes Mrs Sanger's editorial as the final word on this subject.



## Book Reviews

**CHILD MARRIAGES**, by Mary E. Richmond and Fred Hall. Russel Sage Foundation, N. Y. \$1.50

It is a common delusion of the modern mind that if anything is wrong with the social fabric it may immediately be set straight by passing a law. This is, alas, not true, since no one (especially no one under thirty) was ever made good by a legal enactment. Yet there are some reforms that cannot wait, and two well-known authorities on these and related subjects, have recently collaborated in putting forth a small volume on a large subject—*"Child Marriage,"* in which is shown the immediate necessity of drastic legislation for the protection of a large group of young Americans.

According to the Census of 1920, there were 12,834 married girls fifteen years old at the time the Census was taken, with 5,554 under fifteen, a total of 18,388 girls under sixteen bound legally to husbands either much older than themselves or equally immature and unfit for the responsibilities of married life. The same Census takes note of 825 female children "of fifteen or under" who are widowed or divorced. There is possibly some connection here with the divorce evil. At any rate, is marriage contracted hastily by immature persons calculated to ensure the future happiness and stability of our American homes?

What can you do about it? Read *"Child Marriage"* and see.

V R Y

**POPULATION PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**. Edited by Louis I. Dublin. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1926, \$4.00

THESE papers were many of them presented at the 1924 meeting of the American Statistical Association. They have been many months in reaching the general public, but they are not on that account any the less timely. They cover most phases of the population question in relation to natural resources, urbanization, immigration, labor supply, and the effects of the improvement of health and sanitation. The papers are of high and uniform excellence. One notes with regret the nearly complete absence of any treatment of the biological aspects of population problems, for these are, after all, the more fundamental.

This is especially notable in the first essay in which there is an evident lack of appreciation of present dysgenic tendencies in the American population. The author makes an excellent point in showing that the present age distribution of our population, largely on account of

immigration, is favorable to a high birth rate and that in the future the change in age distribution alone will effect considerable decrease in this rate. But here he ceases to be statistician and becomes the sentimentalizing, rationalizing, middle-class citizen trying to look hopeful and preach the usual American optimism. He sees nothing to worry about in the differential character of American birth rates. "There has always been a differential birth rate and a replacement of one group of people by another, equally good, from below." "Throughout all ages the leaders of mankind have come predominantly from homes which at first sight seemed most unpromising and commonplace." These statements have a certain superficial plausibility about them but they are implicitly false. They are, moreover, advanced as support for an erroneous conception of democracy.

The notion that democracy means that one man is as good as another dies hard. There was recently published the well-authenticated story that when Jefferson was asked what he meant when he said in the famous Declaration that "All men are created equal," he replied that he really didn't know, but that the phrase sounded good. Men are not equal in any sense, least of all in civic worth. If democracy has any fundamental principle it is that men should be given opportunity for the full development of their powers. This could not mean the same opportunity for all, because men differ grossly in their capacity to utilize opportunity. Dr. Dublin virtually admits all this when he says "If we control, or better yet entirely check, the reproduction of the obviously unfit, we are in no danger of racial deterioration."

But one may ask "If there are 'the obviously unfit,' why are there not next to them the 'nearly unfit' and on up through many grades to the distinctly superior?" Now unless one is to deny that the law of heredity that like produces like does not apply to man he must admit that only superior stocks can produce superior individuals. He must also admit that, if these stocks die out, there will be a dearth of superior individuals. It is true that most distinguished men rise from the ranks of "just plain folks." For this we are thankful, and this is the justification of the democratic philosophy. But it is equally true that distinguished parents produce distinguished offspring many times more frequently in proportion to the numbers of their offspring than undistinguished parents produce them. Karl Pearson thinks they do so twenty times as frequently. But undistinguished parents are myriads, while distinguished parents are few. Not only so, but those strains in the population which, though now undistinguished, have the potentiality of producing distinguished offspring, are strictly limited. Dublin virtually admits this when he indicates that some strains are "obviously worthless." In other words, the resources

of the population in potential genius are not unlimited. But there never was a time during many centuries when these resources were being so rapidly drawn upon. The urbanization of life is drawing talent from far and near and largely sterilizing it.

This is really the crucial problem of modern population, and this book either wholly neglects it or puts it in wrong perspective. Moreover, this constitutes one of the basic arguments for a statesmanlike handling of Birth Control. The successful classes have about as effective control methods as are good for them. But they will not give up the use of such methods for any reasons that are now in sight. The proportion of able leaders will, therefore, soon become too small unless we can effectively check the rates of multiplication of the lower half of the population. Dublin would "entirely check the reproduction of the obviously unfit", why not also reduce the reproduction of the "nearly obviously unfit," and of the "barely fit"?

There is one further question relating to quality of population raised by Dr. Holmes' optimistic paper on the "Effect of the Health Movement on the Future Population." He makes a good point but one which needs further evidence in showing that medicine and sanitation have reduced selective deaths more fully than non-selective. But he follows this with the only partially true statement that, "It is the differential birth-rate that counts in evolution." One may add that the differential death-rate is equally important and thus bring out the full truth that it is the net fertility, or excess of births over deaths among different strains, that really counts. The author's assumptions at this point lead him to entirely neglect the fact that great numbers of individuals who otherwise would not be able to reproduce at all are kept alive by modern medicine and add an unwonted (and unwanted) quota to the next generation.

There are many other problems raised by these essays on which one would like to comment. With reference to the quantitative aspects suffice it to say that while these studies reveal anew our immense natural resources they do not point to the possibility of an indefinite increase in population, but rather to its necessary limitation if standards of life are to be maintained.

F. H. HANLINS

**IDIOT MAN**, Or the Folles of Mankind, by Charles Richet. New York, Brentano's.

**WHILE** practically all the premises upon which Prof. Richet bases his fulminations against mankind are obviously true, yet there is superficiality about the work that makes it unsatisfactory as authentic criticism. In dealing with human conduct, either individually or socially, it is not only inevitable, but entirely proper, to point out mistakes and some of the folles—even Prof. Richet could not attempt to summarize them all—that retard the progress of mankind. But in pursuing this

course, there should be some suggestion of an alternative, a means by which some of the more pressing obstacles may be overcome, and some of the more apparent errors corrected. This can be done without superior preachments or offensive didactics. The book under discussion has no hint of such merit. In fact, it is difficult to take the author seriously, or perhaps Dr. Richet takes himself too seriously.

The human being is an infinitely complex bundle of emotions in an environment of countless forces that are constantly acting and reacting upon him. Richet appears to look upon the *genus homo*—whom he calls, incidentally, *homo stultus* stupid man—as if he were a simple mechanism, unhampered by an incalculable heritage of biological factors, with two plainly labeled highways before him, and taking the wrong one out of sheer perversity.

It should be unnecessary to tell Prof. Richet this, as he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physiology in 1913. So the logical inference is, after all, that in writing this book he permitted himself a little emotional spree as a relief from his exacting scientific activities. In confirmation of this, we find that he does not hesitate to classify himself as a *homo stultus*—indicating that Prof. Richet has a commendable consistency, or a sense of humor, perhaps both.

WILLIAM J. FIELDING

## Books Received

**FAR END**, by May Sinclair. MacMillan, N. Y. \$2.00.

**HEREDITY**, by A. Franklin Shull. McGraw Hill Book Company, New York.

**NORMAL PHYSICAL SIGNS**, by Wyndham B. Blanton. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. \$2.50.

**POPULATION PROBLEMS OF THE AGE OF MALTHUS**, by C. Talbot Griffiths. MacMillan Company, New York.

**LA LIBRE PENSEE ET LE PROBLEME DE LA NATALITE**, by Andre Lorulot. Edition de la Revue, "L'Idée Libre," Paris, 25 centimes.

**YERNEY'S JUSTICE**, by Ivan Cankar. Vanguard Press, New York.

**A CHILD IS BORN**, by Raymonde Machard. Translated by Madeleine Boyd. Cosmopolitan Book Corporation, New York. \$2.00.

**THE BOOK OF MARRIAGE**, edited by Count Keyserling. Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York.

**THE ORIGIN OF THE NEXT WAR**, by John Bakeless. The Viking Press, New York. \$2.50.

**MODERN SCIENCE AND THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH**, edited by Benjamin C. Gruenberg. W. W. Norton Company, New York.

**EUGENICS**, by A. M. Carr-Saunders. Henry Holt, New York. \$1.00.

**CONCERNING WOMEN**, by Suzanne La Follette. A & C Boni, New York. \$2.00.

## Periodical Notes

*Goodhousekeeping* (New York) Vera L Connolly in *Let's Look at the Home* discusses the perennial subject of the modern adolescent. She finds from interviews with those who know youth best, that the general moral breakup of the war, combined with a lack of parental understanding, is the reason for the "stampede of youth." She does not find, like a writer in last month's *Cosmopolitan*, that Birth Control is making unchastity the order of the day among the younger generation\*. She finds just the reverse, that increased illegitimacy is following the stampede in such proportions as to alarm many people. As an example, Colonel Margaret H Bovill, in charge of the fifteen Salvation Army Maternity Homes, told her that in these hospitals during the last year no less than 42 per cent of the cases were unmarried mothers whose ages averaged 16 years.

*Atlantic Monthly* (Boston) James Truslow Adams also considers the morals of the younger generation. In *Our Dissolving Ethics* he takes a broader view of ethics than most who discuss this subject. Besides the sphere of sex he takes in religion and standards of social and personal responsibility. He finds that the dissolution of our ethics was accomplished by our own generation. He holds the war in large part responsible, and he adds "What the younger generation may be called upon to do may be to make the most rapid, far-reaching and consciously intelligent readjustment of ethical ideas to social structure that the race has ever been called upon to make. We of this generation have sowed the wind and it will be those of the younger generation who will be called upon to reap the whirlwind unless they can control it." He believes they can.

*Journal of Social Hygiene* (New York) The young girls of whom Kate Burr Johnson writes in her article on *Problems of Delinquency Among Girls* are not examples of the modern youth which is alarming its elders by taking the bit in its teeth. The adolescents who come to her as commissioner of the North Carolina board of charities are the most helpless of all young creatures. The girls she writes of, brought up in an atmosphere of ignorance and false shame, without equipment for self-defense against men who trade upon their very ignorance, are in many cases turned out and driven upon the streets by their families when misfortune befalls them. What is modern in this story of how the prostitute is created is Mrs Johnson's fine attitude toward the victimization of young girls for faults that were not their own.

\* See November BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, page 347

*Scientific Monthly* (New York) In the October number of this monthly Professor Mazyck P Ravenel of the University of Missouri asks whether public health work is eugenic or dysgenic. He estimates the number of defectives in the United States as between one and a half and two million and questions whether it is desirable to save these to propagate their kind. He questions also whether it is worth while to save the poor by huge expenditures from communicable disease, only to send them to be cut down by the thousand in war. To both his questions he finds an answer in Birth Control, though he professes to fear that the better strains may make too liberal use of this new conquest of natural forces.

*Time* (Cleveland) In its issue of November 1, this weekly puts the following words into the mouth of Theodore Dreiser on his return from a visit to England. "America is curiously indifferent to its fate. None of our newspapers dare to discuss the Catholic question, the Negro question, the money power question or even the liquor question. But wait till population increases to the bare subsistence level. Then America will meet her final test." A like statement actually made, is quoted by A E Wiggam from Professor William MacDougal of Harvard on his return from England. He says "When I see America, with invincible optimism, dancing gaily down the road to destruction, I seem to be witnessing the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind."

*Wasp* (San Francisco) To its mid-monthly number for September Dr Percy Clark contributes an article on "The Church and Birth Control." Of the Roman Catholic Church he says that it is carrying on a rear-guard action in defeat, and that its policy toward Birth Control is the same as that which against other causes it has carried on "for hundreds of years, seeking to keep the bulk of the people in ignorance and superstition, because only under such conditions could they be controlled."

*World* (New York) In a Sunday edition Henry F Pringle tells something of the origins and family life of "boy bandits," the young gunmen of New York. Examination of police blotters for arrests of young men of this type made it possible to trace them almost without exception to gloomy insanitary tenements, to homes where lived, says Mr Pringle, "too many people." Out of this mob the boys only escape was into the "adventure" of crime.



## Letters from the Far East

Calcutta, July 27, 1926

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In your June number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW you have referred to the Bombay Birth Control League. As you may not be aware about the existence of a Birth Control Clinic under our auspices we have much pleasure in sending you a copy of our pamphlet with instructions which we have been issuing to those who are desirous of knowing these contraceptive methods. We also send herewith a cutting from our advertisements in the local dailies for your kind perusal.

We may say that the Clinic of this kind is the only one so far established in Northern India and it has become very popular in a very short time in spite of great opposition.

As international communication is desirable to make a world-wide propaganda against invidious, unjustifiable and unhygienic fecundity we are putting ourselves in correspondence with you.

Our difficulties in India are very great. The country is very poor and a vast population is steeped in ignorance and prejudice. We lack funds to make headway in our propaganda work. Help from you, if possible, in the shape of educational literature, etc., will always be welcome and gratefully acknowledged.

Thanking you in advance and feeling ourselves very thankful in communicating with you, we beg to remain

Yours faithfully,

S C SHAW, M D

For Lytton & Co., Chemists

Osaka, Japan

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

The government returns for 1925 show that Japan has increased its population 875,385 in one year. This means a birthrate of 34.92 to the 1,000 inhabitants and the addition of 130,000 people more than were added in 1924. How do you think about this fact? Some would call it wonderful, but as for me, I don't know how our government or leading thinkers are going to meet our population problem. I have never heard them properly discuss this problem. Probably because they have no plan to propose. I think Japan has four ways out.

First—there is emigration. But there is no place to settle. Second—industrialization. But our country has not enough materials and capital. Third—war. This is out of the question to discuss because people know too well the results of the World War. Fourth—and this is the one thing to do in this critical age—Birth Control. Without this the Japanese will have no place to live, all that lies before them is starvation and death.

PAUL KAKUZO TARUSUI

## AS TO ONE OF OUR OPPONENTS

The *Evening World's* appeal to the Bar Associations to help reform criminal law by reforming criminal lawyers continues to gain approval and support.

Through its Executive Committee, the Association of Grand Jurors, New York County, one of the most influential organizations in the community, has formally indorsed the recent presentment of the August Grand Jury calling for a curb on lawyers who deliberately obstruct justice in defending criminals. The Grand Jurors have appointed a special committee to watch cases in the courts.

Also the expected has happened.

Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier, member of the Assembly Committee on the Judiciary, denounces the whole move and professes to be "astounded that the District Attorney permitted the Grand Jury presentment to leave the Grand Jury room."

This is the same Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier who, in the last legislative session at Albany, threatened to knock holes in the Baumes Crime Bills now law and recognized as the most important advance the State has yet made in the fight against crime.

This is the same Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier who, whenever it is proposed to change criminal procedure for the greater protection of the community, always yelps a protest that the criminal lawyer is being hindered in the discharge of his "sacred duty to his client."

This is the same Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier whose presence, with others like him, on a legislative judiciary committee, constitutes a standing menace to effective reform of the administration of criminal law.

One of the best tributes a movement of this sort can have is the hostility of Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier.

—*Evening World* (N. Y.), Sept. 11th

## SHALL WE EMULATE THE FELINE?

The article about the lonely French widow and her forty-three cats in *The World* recently amused me so much that I sent it to a friend in California. He wrote:

"You recall your Frenchwoman whose two cats increased to forty-three in two years? I have deduced that in just a few months over ten years at that rate she will have 218,505,216 cats in her two-room apartment and they will weigh over 500,000 tons. It will require a herd of 1,000,000 cows to supply them with milk and the total resources of Armour & Co. to keep meat on their platters. Their purring will be considerably louder than the roar of Niagara, and to keep them happy the entire population of New York City will be needed to stroke their noses. You had better warn her."

My friend insists his deductions are authentic.

—L. H. THORNE in the *New York World*

## News Notes

### UNITED STATES

#### New York

**A**MONG recent visitors to headquarters of the American Birth Control League was Dr S Tayui, a member of the Red Cross and attending physician of the Charity Hospital at Osaka, Japan. Dr Tayui's special interest is preventive medicine and his comment on conditions in Europe and the Orient was that most countries are mentally and physically ill and that the authorities are timid and indifferent to the fundamental reasons for overpopulation. He believes that the state should prohibit the reproduction of the unfit, that such a list should be published and that, parallel with this pronouncement of the state, should be offered inducements to the fit and healthy to beget families of four and five children.

Dr Tayui is deeply interested in the International Conference in 1927 and hopes to give a report on his work in Japan. He visited our New York Clinic to learn the technique from Dr Stone.

Mrs Anne Kennedy, executive secretary of the American Birth Control League, has been doing organization work in the middle west. She has met with members of the League in Syracuse, Cleveland and Detroit to discuss plans for local clinics. From Chicago she reports that the four clinics of the Illinois League are doing splendid work and a fifth has just been opened, and in Milwaukee and Minneapolis she finds excellent prospects for clinical work.

Dr James F Cooper returned to New York toward the end of October and on the last day of the month he spoke before a group of thirty invited guests at the home of Mrs Sanger at Willow Lake. Many of his hearers were members of the faculty or students of Vassar College. Early in November he addressed representatives of the New York League of Women Voters at the home of Mrs Richard Billings, member of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League. Hartford and Philadelphia were other engagements early in November and the middle of the month he spent in Vermont, going from there to the middle west. On November 26 he was back in New York, where he spoke at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum in Brooklyn, and, on December 11, before the Labor Temple Forum, Manhattan. Other meetings early in December were before medical meetings at Springfield, Massachusetts, and at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting of social workers and nurses at the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League, which now after three years may be said to have become a regular annual feature, was held on November 10th, from 4 to 6 P M. Over forty came to the conference. Mrs Sanger was not able to speak, because of illness, but Doctor Stone gave an outline of the results of the year's work, presenting the number of patients treated, relations with social and other agencies and follow-up work.

Many questions were asked and a general discussion followed Dr Stone's address. Mrs Huse, from headquarters of the League, told of the fine results of Dr Cooper's last trip. Dr Hediger, Clinical Director of the Brooklyn Clinical Research Department, spoke of plans for future work there. Tea was served and an informal discussion followed.

#### Pennsylvania

**B**ESIDES meeting the exacting demands of the Sesquicentennial, which necessitated the daily attendance at the Birth Control Booth in the Educational Building morning, noon and evening of two or three of their members, the Eastern Pennsylvania League held, on November 10, a large and successful meeting at the home of Mrs Pope Yeatman. Dr Cooper was the principal speaker.

The late summer and fall Elizabeth Grew spent organizing in eastern Pennsylvania and in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the Allegheny Birth Control League, of which Mrs Horace Forbes Baker is president, Miss Grew spoke, on November 5, before the College Club of Pittsburgh.

#### Connecticut

**O**N November 3 Dr Cooper was speaker at an afternoon meeting of friends of Birth Control, held at the home of Mrs Robert Butler, 157 N Tremont Street, Hartford. In the evening he addressed a group of Hartford physicians.

#### Indiana

**O**N the evening of November 22 Dr Cooper spoke before a doctors' meeting at Hammond.

#### Illinois

**I**N the course of his flying trip to the midwestern Great Lake states Dr Cooper stopped at Oak Park on the afternoon of November 22 to address the Nineteenth Century Women's Club.

**Michigan**

THE Woman's Club of Richmond held a debate on Birth Control October 26, Mrs J A Edwards conducting the affirmative side

**New Jersey**

THE Union City Woman's Club has, according to press reports, endorsed sterilization and Birth Control. Three Catholic members are said to have resigned because of this action

**Oklahoma**

ON his return trip to the east, Dr Cooper stopped at Lawton, Ardmore, McAlester and Oklahoma City (October 15 to 22), to address large audiences of physicians at meetings of the county medical societies

**Vermont**

THE third week in November Dr Cooper was in Vermont, where he spoke before medical societies at St Albans, Burlington, Middlebury, Rutland and Brattleboro

**Wisconsin**

ON November 23 Dr Cooper was guest and speaker at a Students Forum luncheon at Madison

**ENGLAND**

WHEN we went to press last month, we had not heard from the annual conference of the Labour Party, at Margate. The Labour women asked, it will be remembered, not that the conference endorse Birth Control, but that it demand that contraceptive information be available at Health Centres for those who do endorse and desire it. It was this motion that the Labour Party Executives refused to allow on the agenda.

This did not, however, prevent discussion at the conference which was introduced by Dora Russell, in the form of a motion to refer the matter back to the executive body. Mrs Russell said, in speaking for her motion, that the women in the trade union movement had a right to demand that the members of the parliamentary Labour Party should not vote in opposition to their decision. If the conference did not treat this question as an organized trade union, then the women would become an organized trade union too. This question was as important to the women as the seven-hour day was to the miners. Miss Dorothy Jewson seconded and said that there was no question on which the women of the Labour Party felt so keenly.

The leader of the opposition was Ramsay MacDonald, who appealed to the women not to "dig a

ditch between themselves and the men of the party"—as if the ditch were not dug as deep as the grave already by the men's three years' refusal to take action on Birth Control. On a vote Mrs Russell's motion to refer the matter back passed by a small majority. This means that the men of the Labour Party have another year in which to decide whether their first loyalty is to the Roman Catholic labor vote, or to the women of the working class. It is a striking fact that the miners, whose large families are suffering from strike conditions voted with the women.

Another year has rolled around and the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics has issued its third report, which covers the twelve months ending August 31, 1926. The report shows that in addition to the pioneer centre at Walworth, the society has now eight centres, two in London, four in the provinces and two in Scotland. Those in England are at Cambridge, Kensington, East London, Manchester and Salford, North Kensington and Wolverhampton, besides a small one recently started and very much in demand at Can-nock in the mining district.

The number of cases advised previous to this report were 5835, cases between September 1, 1925 and August 31, 1926, 3,299—a total of 9134 women helped by the society.

It appears that those who believed the Archbishop of Canterbury not to be inalterably opposed to Birth Control were mistaken. To use the popular expression, "He is, and he isn't." He does not he said in the House of Lords—in opposing Lord Buckmaster's motion—believe Birth Control to be "in itself wrong or evil", but he does regard those who conduct clinics and endeavor to spread the knowledge of contraception "as a dangerous and harmful element in our social life."

The *Woman's Leader* characterizes the Primate's views as "nebulous in the extreme." "There is inconsistency here," remarks the *Daily Despatch* (Manchester) in an editorial. "It is because of indeterminate attitudes to great public questions, a fondness for futile theorising and a strange inability to grapple realistically with the problems that are daily tormenting the average man and the average woman that the Church is being cold-shouldered. There is only one way to secure the sympathy and allegiance of the young, or of any age—by frankness, courage, sincerity, and practical leadership. That is the test for the Church today."

**CHILE**

ACCORDING to a news item from Santiago, more than 10,000 homeless children roved the streets of that city during the last year. These tattered waifs eked out a meager existence by beg-

ging and made their domiciles wherever opportunity presented, sleeping for the most part in doorways

The item adds that a bill has been presented in the chamber of deputies providing for orphanages to be erected at public expense

### JAPAN

FROM a correspondent we learn that in spite of the unfriendly attitude of the government there are now two Birth Control clinics in Tokyo and one has recently been opened at Osaka. The *China Press* reports that two powerful Japanese papers, the *Osaka Asahi* and the *Hochi*, are devoting much space to the population problem.

Reuter's news service sends the following story from Osaka

"There have been many suicides recently owing to hard times and over-population

Feeling the pinch, a young man yesterday committed suicide by taking morphine, and he made his three little daughters aged nine, three and two, respectively, do likewise

All died except the three-year-old girl

It appears that the mother was out of the house at the time

The young man, a former Customs' official, left a letter which showed that he had been out of a job for some time and was unable to support his family"

### CHINA

FROM the *China Press*, published at Shanghai, comes the following comment on recent action of the national medical body

"The China Medical Association's eighteenth biennial conference, which has just opened at the Peking Union Medical College and which is being largely attended by Chinese and foreign delegates from all parts of the country, is a noteworthy event in that the principal emphasis is being laid on public health problems in China, in which regard it is expected that important recommendations will be made. In this connection, the inclusion of Birth Control among the subjects being discussed is to be readily welcomed, for there is no gainsaying that much of the economic misery prevalent in this country is directly due to the over-population of China, so that, in vulgar parlance, there is not enough to go round. Birth Control, of course, is anathema to some countries with peculiar traditions of their own, but the establishment of a Malthusian Society in China for the propagation of the creed which Margaret Sanger and other courageous souls have taken up with such zeal is likely to confer on this country much more benefits than some of the innumerable societies with high-sounding titles whose achievements are in inverse ratio to their rantings

It is to be hoped that the discussion on Birth Control will be followed by action on the part of

the newly created Department of Public Health in Chinese territory

### A SOUTHERN VIEW

"The task of the American Birth Control League in converting popular sentiment to the school of thought it extols is beset with considerable difficulty. This is particularly true of the southern community, where the sparser population has robbed the problem of its collective economic significance and confined its sociological phase to a purely individualistic path

"Marking as it does something of the line of divergence between modern and fundamental convictions on the relations of science and nature, it is but natural that Birth Control proponents should, in virgin fields, encounter certain deeply rooted and ingrained prejudices. Such enmity, however, has no more direct bearing on the merits or demerits of Birth Control than to make necessary a careful and diplomatic campaign of education in order to gain a foothold where the matter may be decided without bias"—Wilmington (N. C.) *Star*

### FROM NEW ENGLAND

Problems that deal purely in terms of human beings are by far the most immediate and important to our civilization. These are the problems of the birth rate, the death rate and the standard of living. In the solving of these problems the factor of prime importance is the universal power of the press. In encouraging discussion concerning the problem of population and evolution, the press is doing humanity a distinct service

Population, which so readily expands to overpopulation, is the serious problem toward which man, however reluctant he may be to acknowledge it, must direct his attention. And the bitterly criticized remedy of Birth Control may yet be found to be the humane answer to this problem. In any case, discussion is sure to bring to light whatever means of meeting this problem man may be able to devise.—Stamford (Conn.) *Advocate*

### COMMENT FROM LONDON

Man is a gregarious animal. He likes to live and work and play in company, and his tendency is always to say "The more the merrier." But do we not know that his instinct is exaggerated, and that for real well-being, for solid comfort, and for efficiency, there is nothing like elbow room? It is an uncomfortable city where every room in every house is occupied and there is competition for the attics and boxrooms. It is an uncomfortable trade, as the miners are discovering to their cost, where the number of producers exceeds the demand for the product. Yet we are encouraged to increase and multiply, to intensify the fierce competition for standing room only, and to believe that, like theatrical managers, we can only be happy when the "House Full" board is up.—*The Star* (London)

### "WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?"

After all, what good were these settlement workers doing? Again and again this question demanded an answer

Sometimes I went out with Miss Cole, the nurse, to visit her cases. It was hard for me to imagine anything more futile than her single-handed struggle

I remember especially one visit I made with her. It was the crisis for me. The case was a child-birth. There were six other children, all in one unventilated room, its single window looked out on a dark, choked airshaft, and the father was a drunkard. I remember sitting there, after the doctor had gone, holding the next youngest baby on my knee, while Miss Cole was bathing the puny newcomer.

"Can't you make him stop crying for a minute?" Miss Cole asked nervously.

"No," I said with sudden rage. "I can't. I wouldn't if I could. Why shouldn't he cry? Why don't the other little fools cry? Do you want them to laugh?"

She stopped working with the baby and offered me a flask of brandy from her bag. But brandy was not what I wanted. Of course I knew men sank to the very dregs. But I had never realized that some are born there.

When she had done all she could for the mother and child, Miss Cole put her things back in the bag and we started home. It was long after midnight, but the streets were still alive.

"What good does it do?" I demanded vehemently. "Oh, I know—you and the doctor saved the mother's life—brought a new one into the world and all that. But what good does it do? The child will die—it was a girl—let's get down on our knees right here and pray the gods that it may die soon—not grow up to want and fear—and shame." Then I laughed. "No, there's no use praying. She'll die all right! They'll begin feeding her beer out of a can before she's weaned. No. Not that. I don't believe the mother will be able to nurse her. She'll die of skimmed milk. And if that don't do the trick there's T.B. and several other things for her to catch. Oh, she'll die all right! And next year there'll be another. For God's sake, what's the use? What good does it do?"

—ARTHUR BULLARD  
("Albert Edwards") in *A Man's World*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

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## WORLD Y M C A FOR SEX STUDY

The best minds of the Young Men's Christian Association are to consider sex as well as religion. Fifteen hundred young men and boys of 40 nations, gathered at Helsingfors, Finland, at the world Y M C A conference, took a vote as to the greatest human problems in need of discussion, and sex received a plurality. The vote was made by groups, the entire meeting having been divided into 50 sections. Twenty-five of the groups voted sex the most urgent of all human problems, thus putting it first on their agenda for future discussions—*San Francisco Daily News*

## BIRTH CONTROL MEETS THE WORLD

(Continued from page 371)

their own doubts—to see them think through to the answer as they talked

A woman deprecated the possible immoral use of Birth Control measures. "But after all" she added, "It's much better that such people should not have children anyway. That's the main harm they do to society, isn't it—their having children?"

Said a young man who was a factory worker "I suppose *self* control is the real answer. But is it an answer? It's been tried a long time without any results to speak of and from what I know of the men I work with, it hasn't much chance of succeeding now any better than in the past."

Such stories as these could be multiplied. We have given a case here and there among many thousands told us. In five days the open one of a succession of note books used as registers showed 200 names, and this was far less than a tenth of those who stopped in that period. During the four months the booth was open hundreds of books and pamphlets were sold and almost 50,000 pieces of free literature were given away—and free literature was not handed out at random but only given when it was desired.

The American Birth Control League's booth was well taken care of every day of the exposition from late morning, when visitors began to come, till the Educational Building closed at night. Some who attended it were from other states, but the brunt of this labor was done voluntarily by the Eastern Pennsylvania League, whose members were untiring in their devotion. To Mrs. Arthur Goldsmith, who took charge of this activity of the Pennsylvania group, special thanks is due from the American Birth Control League, as well as to her able and devoted helpers. Among these were Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Bissell, Mrs. Yellin, Mrs. Herman, Mrs. Moorhouse, Mrs. Jeanette Hughes, Mrs. Ogden, Miss Pennypacker, Miss Mary Winsor, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. J. Boyd and Mrs. Cubberly.



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