

*Dysgenics in England and America*

January, 1927

Twenty Cents

# **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**

*Fewer Children Better Born*

“Happiness  
in  
Marriage”

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# THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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# BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



## What Is Birth Control?

Birth Control is the conscious regulation of the birth rate

## What Are the Means of Control?

There are three, continence or self-control, sterilization, and the use of harmless chemical and mechanical devices called contraceptives

## Which Of These Is Best?

For the greatest number of people the use of contraceptives is best. Continence is suitable only for persons of very strong will and there is reason to believe that even for these it is injurious to health. Sterilization, which permanently deprives the individual of the power to have children, should be used only where it is the only way to prevent the transmission of physical or mental disease.

## What Are Contraceptives?

We cannot tell in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, for the United States postal law forbids the sending of such information through the mails. Under the laws of some of our states it is forbidden also to teach these methods by word of mouth to any mother sick or well, in others (like New York) sick women may be given the information by a doctor, but to give it to a healthy woman is against the law.

## Is Birth Control Abortion?

Birth Control is not abortion. Abortion is the taking of life after conception, Birth Control is the prevention of conception. Birth Control is the great preventive of abortion.

*It is women that bear the penalties in injury, disease and death and mental torture that are involved in unlimited child-bearing. They have a right to know how they can intelligently—not crudely and dangerously—control their sexual lives. And they are justified by the highest considerations in fighting vigorously and persistently until they have this right granted to them.*

DR WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY

## Why Does the Law Forbid the Teaching of Methods of Birth Control?

For no reason except the opposition of the four great enemies of all human progress, ignorance, indifference, prejudice and superstition.

## Why Is Birth Control Necessary?

For too many reasons to give on one page, so we shall take them up in groups each month. The reason most vitally important to the individual is the **HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD**.

Birth Control will prevent death or injury to mothers when their physical strength cannot stand the strain of pregnancy. In heart or kidney disease, tuberculosis, diabetes, venereal disease, pelvic irregularities or injuries to the reproductive organs, or when she is worn out physically or nervously, a woman should have, in some cases, no children, in others none till she has recovered her health and strength.

Largely through disregard of these precautions 25,000 women die in child birth in the United States each year, many are made invalids, or resort—to the number of at least 500,000—to abortion to free themselves from pregnancy.

Birth Control will prevent the death or illness of millions of children. 187,000 American babies die before they are one year old, most of them in the first month of life. The majority of these deaths are in families where there are many children born close together. Many are born to parents with transmissible disease.

Not all children born under bad conditions die. Many live and suffer from physical or mental defects, a burden to themselves and their families. In families with bad inheritance no children should be born.

In families where the mother is perfectly healthy and the inheritance good she should have the power to space her children so that she may herself enjoy full health and strength, may transmit to them a vigorous inheritance and may give them, out of her abundant vitality, the care and attention they need.



# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XI

JANUARY, 1927

No 1

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# Birth Control Review

VOL XI

JANUARY, 1927

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## EDITORIAL

WITH this number a New Year begins, the eleventh year in the life of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. In 1926 important progress was made. In England more than 20 privately supported Birth Control Clinics are in operation and the first step toward making contraceptive work part of the public health service has been taken in the passing of Lord Buckmaster's Motion by the House of Lords. In this country no such definite milestones toward victory as this have been passed, but through the Sesqui-Centennial, through lectures in many cities in every State in the Union, and through intensive organization work in several States, a much wider public support for Birth Control has been created. Seven centres for contraceptive advice have been in operation and as many more are definitely planned and in some cases funds promised in Western, Middle Western and Eastern States. The actual carrying out of these plans, legislative work and the preparatory work for the great World Population Congress to be held in September are part of the program for 1927.



NO American has furnished us with so complete a survey of dysgenic conditions in America as the English Study by Sir James Barr, from which we publish liberal extracts this month. We reprint on another page a brief attempt by the *Eugenical News* to estimate the scale of our own problem, and the American Eugenics Society has prepared also another, a more vivid picture than mere words can tell, of the problem of the unfit in the United States.

In a conspicuous position in the north aisle of the Educational Building at the Sesqui-Centennial were placed a series of charts illuminated periodically by electric bulbs. On one of these the bulb winked into life every 15 seconds, on another every

16 seconds, on others at various brief intervals, but on the last of the series at intervals of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. This was the exhibit of the American Eugenics Society. The slow light represented the births of persons of high mental grade who are destined to do creative work and are fitted for leadership. The other bulbs represented births and other events in the history of our great American unfit. To interpret the winking lights one by one, every 16 seconds a person is born in the United States, every 48 seconds a person is born who will all his life remain mentally 8 years old or younger. Closely following on this comes the 15-second light, which at each wink records the fact that \$100.00 has been spent for the care of those with an inheritance of insanity, feeble-mindedness or criminality. With such beginnings it is not surprising to read the lesson of the lamp which every 50 seconds records an arrest, for relatively few among those jailed are normal.

To this record of the lights the Eugenics exhibit added a reminder of the facts brought out by the draft for the World War, that 7% (other figures give 4%) have a mental development of 16 years or over. These do the thinking for the rest. Of this residue, 63% follow the lead of the thinkers, having a mentality of 12 to 16 years, and 30% are a burden carried on the shoulders of the other 70%. Never has the story of the burden of degeneracy been more clearly told or the imperative need of regulating the stream of life at its source been made more vivid.



TWO years ago speakers at the Conference on Causes and Cure of War brought out the relation between overpopulation and war. This year the program of the Conference, which met at Washington the week beginning December 6th, seemed

planned to make discussion of this subject impossible. At no point was there a loophole through which it might be introduced.

Yet in these two years many things have happened which show that though the women of the organizations which met in conference see no connection between war and too many people, the statesmen of certain overcrowded countries are not so blind. Italy, by threats against the United States and France, by laws against Birth Control and by taxes on bachelors, is deliberately overcrowding its own land in order to use its surplus as an army with which to seize the lands of other countries. "We are hungry for land" says Mussolini in a statement quoted in *Foreign Affairs*, "because we are prolific and intend to remain so."

In Japan the birth rate is causing increasing alarm month by month. We quoted in November the threats of War against the United States made by Japanese publicists. The most powerful of Japanese papers are full of editorial speculation as to the solution of the growing problem of space for the people of Japan, which has been created by an unrestrained birth rate whose effects it is no longer possible to conceal since emigration to other countries is cut off. The chief recommendations are intensive cultivation of the soil—already made to bear the maximum—and an industrial development like that of Europe a hundred years ago—itsself the main cause of the extraordinary increase in European population. These failing, what is left but war for a place on the earth?

The League of Nations, influenced by official representations of Japan is undertaking a study of population questions by a sub-committee of the Preparatory Committee for the International Economic Conference. Its chief study at present is the problem of migration.



THE articles on "The Rising Tide of Degeneracy" by Albert E. Wiggam, in recent numbers of *Worlds Work*, show him still to be consistent in his support of Birth Control as the foundation of a eugenic platform. In some respects Mr Wiggam's articles stand out from those of many other eugenicists. He boldly says, for example, that poverty is not the result of inferiority—that by no means all "inferiors" from a eugenic point of view are to be looked for among the poor. He does recognize, however, the dysgenic reaction of poverty. "Nothing," he adds, "can possibly improve the condition of the poor like decreasing their numbers. I know of no way of doing this except by

the spread of knowledge of birth regulation." He is more optimistic than is usual in orthodox eugenic circles, also as to the effect of the widespread knowledge and practice of Birth Control among intelligent people. He believes that the best types will not choose to be childless. He quotes as illustration Adams Woods study of 1,000 Harvard graduates, few of the bachelors among whom and relatively few of those with small families are to be found in the pages of "Who's Who." Mr Wiggam interprets this to mean that "parental instinct, the desire for children and an abundant family life is biologically linked with intelligence, character and those factors which enable a man to fight his way to distinguished achievement."



NOT only of making books but magazines is there no end, and especially of periodicals representing movements which have the health and happiness of society as their object. This winter opens with two new magazines—"Children—A Magazine for Parents," and "The Modern World." This fall also two periodicals were revived. These are "The World Tomorrow" by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and "The New Masses," which as "The Masses" and later as "The Liberator" was the literary expression of the revolutionary labor movement in America. The problems of the child, international peace and an understanding of condition throughout the modern world, the wrongs and handicaps of the workers—at the base of all these lies the problem of too many people in the world, too many people in the labor market, too many people in the individual family. Yet the groups which are behind these publications, like many others who work in social movements, recognize Birth Control either not at all, or as an effort not in their field or, at best, as one among many others which have some bearing on their own. They do not yet realize that the necessity to regulate birth should be axiomatic in almost every branch of work to improve the condition of humanity.



ATTENTION of active members of the American Birth Control League is called to the date and place of the annual meeting announced elsewhere in the REVIEW.

## Dysgenics in England

*We reprint below, with permission, liberal extracts from an article by Sir James Barr published in the "Franco-British Medical Review"*

**I**T WILL be my privilege to show you that a derelict population can be of no advantage to any nation, that it is quality, not quantity, which we want

In 1918 Mr Lloyd George declared that the result of the physical examination of the manhood of Great Britain demonstrated that the physical condition of the British people is lower than that of any civilized country Vice-Chancellor Adam, in his physical census written in 1918, showed us that the health and physical condition of the rising manhood from 18 to 23 years of age were in a deplorable state Dr Adam adds "To-day, more than at any previous time in the history of these isles, or of the British peoples, of the Dominions equally with the home country, after the loss of so many of the best and most virile of our manhood, it is all-essential that those of the coming generation should be brought to a state of full physical efficiency The best is needed of every man, the old *laissez faire* policy which is responsible for the defective state of our teeming industrial districts must go by the board—it must become a memory of the unhappy past"

### *What Figures Show*

The estimated population of England and Wales in 1924 was 38,736,000, consisting of 18,545,000 males and 20,201,000 females The number of births in 1924 was 729,933, which gave a birthrate of 18.8 per 1,000 population

In 1922 primary education in England and Wales and Scotland cost £58,669,569 In 1923 there were in the elementary schools 5,494,903 pupils Sir George Newman, at that time the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education, says that 46 per cent of these children were found suffering from a greater or less degree of physical defect, quite apart from disability due to infectious disease About two per cent suffer from definite malnutrition, heart disease, anaemia, or deformities, in the country as a whole this means 100,000 victims of each of these four conditions

He attaches great importance to the twelve or eighteen months of post-natal life in which children are attended at the Welfare Centres, and by health visitors He adds, that "after the first year of life the young child has to bear a heavy burden of

environmental neglect, associated with bad housing, poverty, and absence of hygienic supervision As a result the school medical service is faced with the hard issue that out of an infant population, born healthy, 35 to 40 per cent of the children who are admitted to the school at five years of age bear with them physical defects which could either have been prevented or cured Here we have the most serious and wasteful defects in our national health service"

He assumes and says, that all these children are born healthy, he is surely not so ignorant as not to know that they are not born healthy, nor brought up under conditions suitable to maintain even the poor vitality with which they are ushered into this world

### *Few But Costly Pounds*

Sir George Newman claims some credit for the school medical work, when he says that an average child of eight years of age in 1922 is 3¾ pounds heavier and half an inch taller than in 1905 These 3¾ pounds and half inch have been very expensive items It reminds me of a young lady who had a course of massage in London, and she told me that when she came out of the home she was one pound heavier in weight and 100 pounds lighter in pocket If it had been an ell in place of half an inch it would have been worth talking about It was certainly a poor result for eighteen years' work A pair of healthy parents would have done much better in eight years without any cost to the State

Sir Robert Jones said recently that there were 100,000 crippled children in this country, and he should know Of course he trots out the old wheeze that heredity plays no part and it is all due to the old tubercle bacilli, then I say why don't you get rid of the tubercle bacillus? Segregation would be an expensive business, and when you had got rid of the tubercle bacilli it would be a difficult matter to prevent their introduction from another country even with the strictest quarantine They would then play havoc with a delicate and susceptible population which had been reared up under an unfit Ministry of Health I would rather rear a healthy, vigorous, intellectual and enterprising race which would not be susceptible to all the ills to which flesh is said to be heir

I have no fault to find with the poor, miserable, decrepit children, the future citizens of the centre of this great Empire, whom Sir George Newman so aptly depicts. They are not responsible for their appearance on this earth: they are merely the product of unworthy sires. The children are here, and our altruism should make us do the best we can for them. I therefore approve of the Child Welfare schemes, which cost the country about £2,000,000 a year. I think the money is well spent. If we had an A.I. breed all this excessive expenditure would be unnecessary. At present the births exceed the deaths by over a quarter of a million a year, hence the great demand for increased housing and the necessity of more food than we can supply.

There must be, sooner or later, a halt to this indiscriminate addition to the population. It is not an increase in the birth-rate, but a decrease in the maternal and infantile death-rate which we want. Professor Arthur Thomson says children die of their parents, and a nation dies from lack of men. The Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health deplores the loss of time from sickness and invalidity among insured persons, which he says totals in one year 447,115 years. This amounts to twelve days for each of the 13,000,000 insured.

#### *Dependency*

Mr F. H. Rose, M.P., says that 10 per cent of the workers is a normal number for unemployment, so in the future we cannot expect fewer than 1,000,000 constantly out of work which would give an annual loss from this source alone of 365,000,000 days. At present the number receiving unemployment pay is rarely below 1,250,000. In January, 1925, there were 1,369,700 wholly unemployed at a weekly expenditure of £1,040,000, and 1,071,000 were receiving Poor Law relief. Mr Rose says that he is fully assured that during the twenty-five years of this century a thousand millions of pounds will barely comprehend the material loss to the community. We want health and work for our adult population, and neither seems assured.

There are various computations as to the number of the population who are receiving eleemosynary aid in one form or another. I put it down at one in twenty at least, but there are others who place it as high as one in five, this seems to me much too high unless you include the children. I would rather put it the other way about, that not more than two in five of the population are adding to the material welfare of the nation, the other three-fifths are the consumers, including those who have found soft jobs for incompetent people.

Our derelicts are here and no nation on God's earth will take them off our hands. Our altruistic

feelings will insure their well-being as long as they live, but they should not be allowed to leave a similar heritage to posterity. Only those who can produce healthy, intelligent children should be permitted to add to the population. We do not expect much intelligence in the Legislature, it is therefore largely a question of educating the public on the immorality of bringing delicate children into the world. The ignoramus in the medical profession are constantly telling the public that all children are born healthy, and their after troubles are merely questions of environment: the tubercle bacilli, bad housing, bad food, unsanitary conditions, etc.

#### *Sins of the Fathers*

There is no uniformity in Nature, there is no dead-level of health, intelligence, and physique among children or adults. If we had only healthy children and parental responsibility, the housing problem would be settled at once. There is no greater truth in Nature than that the sins of the fathers are visited on the children unto the third and fourth generation. Many children have greater reason to curse their parents than honor them, the Fifth Commandment should be reversed: parents should honor their children with good health, and a capacity to enjoy life. Feeble-mindedness is a Mendelian recessive which breeds true, but very many apparently normal individuals have latent taints in their constitution which crop up in future generations. These latent taints are so common in the mixed population of America that Punnett calculated that it would take 3,000 years to eliminate feeble-mindedness, even with all their segregation and sterilization. On this account I hold that the improvement of the race is more a question for education than for legislation. Anyone who has got a black spot on his escutcheon should avoid parenthood. We have in the hospitals of England for the civil population over 200,000 beds, which gives about one bed for every 200 of the population, yet there is a clamour for 10,000 more beds. I have not got the number treated in the London hospitals, but in the provincial and Welsh voluntary hospitals there were 502,709 in-patients and 2,136,760 out-patients, giving a total of 2,639,568. There were 420,000 operations under general anaesthesia.

#### *Black and White Plagues*

In the whole of England and Wales in 1924 there were 81,158 new cases of tuberculosis, nearly 2,000 more than in 1923, and there were 41,103 deaths. For Venereal Diseases the notifications in 1924 were 22,010 cases of syphilis, 1,098 cases of soft chancre, and 31,272 cases of gonorrhoea. The



total attendances were 1,645,415 Ettie Rout, from her Army experience, has shown that there are about four times as many cases of gonorrhoea as of syphilis, from which we may infer that there must be at least 50,000 cases more than are notified

The number of cases of insanity and of mental defectives is on the increase Crime is on the decrease, at least there are fewer persons sent to prison, but crimes of violence are not diminishing

I think I have now given you sufficient facts, damnable facts, yet there are many who cavil with you when you say that we have a C3 population, and that the average intellect is on the down grade Until we improve the breed we are not likely to get a healthy, intelligent race The environment may improve an intellectual giant, but it cannot create one

In this country we usually begin at the wrong end of the stick, and place treatment before prevention When Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus, medical opinion veered round in the opposite direction it was universally proclaimed that tuberculosis was due to the bacillus and to nothing else—heredity had no part in the matter The tubercle bacillus is still with us, as lively and thriving as ever, and will continue to flourish as long as we have a susceptible soil The late Dr D W Hunter said that until we got a selective birth-rate he would look upon the abolition of the tubercle bacillus as a national calamity

Enormous sums of money have been wasted under the guise of public health, adapting the environment to the individual, tempering the wind to the shorn lamb, instead of following nature's method of adapting the individual to the environment, which is the surest line of progress In the century of enlightenment there was a high birth-rate and its corollary, a high death-rate, nature weeded out the unfit and left a vigorous intellectual race

Nowadays the unfit survive, they are nurtured from the cradle to the grave at the public expense, while the fit have to support these uneconomic wastrels

If the nation only paid a little more attention to heredity and started breeding a healthy race we would have less disease of all kinds That it is possible to breed not only for health, but also for intelligence, there can be no doubt If you treat the subject from the broad standpoint of national eugenics, then every nation has largely the control of its own destiny, except for interference from its neighbors, and it is the duty of every nation to maintain its virility so that it may be able to meet its opponents and competitors on equal terms If you want an A1 race you must breed them, there is no other way The environment may improve the individual, but it cannot improve the race

If similar care to that which is taken in the cultivation of plants and in the rearing of animals were taken in the selection of human parents, and in the rearing of their offspring, we might get a splendid race Only for the wonderful working of nature's laws in eliminating the unfit, the haphazard manner in which the race has been carried on would have left us with an even more degenerate population than that which we now possess The medical profession is to a large extent responsible for our C3 population, as we have all been trying to get rid of a selective birth-rate With all our boasted advances, however, nature is not going to be thwarted, and when a nation is overstocked beyond the means of subsistence, the unfit, and unfortunately many of the fit, get wiped out by war, famine, disease and pestilence In the late great war, the fittest of the fit were killed, but in 1918 nature came along with a world-wide epidemic of influenza and carried off a much larger number than all that fell in the war The dysgenic effects of the war were thus to some extent counterbalanced by nature



### *Epitaph on a British Citizen*

Here lieth Herbert Kitchener Jones,  
A little bundle of skin and bones,  
Who went back to heaven at six weeks old  
When the winds of winter blew keen and cold  
For Herbert's mother had no control  
Over the rise in the price of coal,  
Nor over the price of milk and meat,  
In fact she had hardly enough to eat  
And to pay for Herbert, she went out sewing—  
Both when he was coming, and when he was going  
Now she says "Catch me having another!"  
So we ought to be shocked at Herbert's mother

M in *The Englishwoman* of March, 1917

# The Offspring of Distraught Mothers

By MAX G. SCHLAFF, M.D.

CLINICIANS soon discovered the connection between gland disturbance and emotionalism. We observed that men, and much more commonly women, who had suffered from severe emotional strains and shocks, such as terror, grief, long continued and acute worry, resentments and similar qualities of excessive feeling were almost certain to be afflicted with gland disbalance as a result of which severe emotional instability developed.\*

## *Glands and Progeny*

From this finding, it was but a step to connect the whole social environment of today with the glandular upsetness of women and the consequent begetting of vast numbers of the unfit. Without going into further explanation let me present two striking examples.

There came to my clinic one morning several years ago an unhappy Italian couple with three children. These people were north-Italian peasants of a stock that had been settled on its bit of land and habited to its ancient customs and simple life-ways since the days of the Lombards, perhaps of the Caesars. Their lot had been humble, their method of living placid and secure. To interrupt this pastoral came a neighbor who had been in America and prospered in a small way. He told the usual extravagant tales which have lured millions of Europeans to this country—some to fortune but more to disaster. These poor young Italians packed up their few possessions, took their beautiful little daughter and sailed to New York.

There were no roast pigeons flying about in our skyscraper Cockagne. No goldpieces grew on the bushes. The father found it extremely difficult to find work. It was just after the close of the war. Huge numbers of the unemployed walked the streets. What chance was there for a newly arrived foreigner, who knew hardly a word of the language? After some months of misfortune, the wife, already gravid with a second child, was forced out into the struggle. She held various menial jobs, worked hard, exhausted herself in the attempt to buy food and pay rent and, what is of at least equal significance, wept for hours at night, partly from worry but even more out of a terrible nostalgia, which affects all these immigrant mothers in such stressful situations.

After a time the husband found steady employment and his wife was able to stay at home. But the damage had been done. Her baby was a microcephalic idiot, a monster of the lowest and most pitiful order, a freak of the kind sometimes heartlessly exhibited in the sideshows of circuses and the horror rooms of dime museums. These poor creatures are almost headless and have only rudimentary brains.

This tragic experience was repeated, mainly out of ignorance, to be sure. When this mother was again pregnant, another economic upset overtook the family and she was once more compelled to go out and win the family bread. The results were precisely the same. A second microcephal was born, hardly less deficient than the first.

Let us note that the oldest child, the little girl born in Italy, is not only a thoroughly normal and healthy child but also a charming little creature, full of bright good humor and childish sagacity. She is not only normal but a little better than that. Her mother is a big, strong, competent woman. Her father is a healthy, energetic man.

## *A Victim of the Hurly-Burly*

Let us take a similar case. I have in mind a pleasant looking Irish woman who came to this country some years ago with her husband and one child, a boy. These people had lived in an obscure village, where simplicity and placidity were the whole music of life. They arrived in the New York hurly-burly and tried to adapt themselves. The woman became pregnant soon after their landing. The husband found work, but it was not steady. The wife was not forced out to work herself, but she worried a great deal, was subjected to actual privation on occasion and, as in the other case just cited, longed and wept for her old home, her friends, her relatives, the customs and life she understood, for her native air. In addition to all this, she was terribly aroused and unstrung by the speed, bustle, noise and fury of American urban life. Her glands became disordered. She gave birth to a girl who is grossly feeble-minded.

There is, however, a further chapter to this story. Two and one-half years later, when the husband had found himself, got a steady job and was making decent wages, his wife bore a third child, another girl. She is perfectly normal and quite the equal of her older brother, born in Ireland. A

\* Extract from an address at the 6th Neo-Malthusian Conference

fourth child, this time a boy, was born to this couple after two and one-half years more. This child also is normal and up to the standard.

Here we have a state of affairs observed countless times among immigrant mothers of all races. Coming to this country from old world comfort and quietude, these women have become deeply disturbed emotionally, with the result that their glands have gone out of balance. In this condition such mothers have produced one, two and even three defective children before they became acclimated and adapted. Thereafter they have in many cases

born further children who proved to be normal. In this situation will be found the explanation of the gangster and criminal of the first native generation, who infests all the great American cities and has been both one of our worst afflictions and deepest puzzles. These lawbreakers are all defectives of a gross or subtle kind, born of these foreign mothers under conditions of endocrine disturbance. In connection with the work of the Children's Court Clinic many hundreds of them have been examined and classified, the nature of their causation being fully established.



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

### PART II

**I**T is also said that directly you limit the birth rate you begin to descend in the scale of the world. Do I understand that the measure of nations is to be tested by their fecundity, as you test the value of rabbits? It is not a question of numbers, but a question of quality. It is not numbers that is going to win the next war. It is brains, and the future of the world is going to lie with the nation which can best see under the sights of a microscope, and not with that which can best see over the sights of a gun. At the present moment you have got just upon a million people unemployed in this country. Is there any person who really thinks that in the conditions in which we stand you are going to absorb those people within your industries within a measurable period of time, and if so, are you going to absorb that ever-flowing increase from the populations I have quoted?

I think that the chief answer is probably to be found in the deep-rooted religious objection to any such doctrine as this. I speak of a religious objection with the respect that all deep religious feeling commands, but I find myself quite unable even to understand what is the ground upon which this religious objection is based. I notice that all attempts artificially to prevent the necessary natural consequences of relations between man and woman have been condemned by a group of eminent ecclesiastical authorities at Lambeth. They do not, so far as I can see, say that such children as those to which I have referred—blind, syphilitic, tubercular, mad—have got to be reproduced. No! But they say that the right course to follow is for a man or woman to exercise self-restraint, that abstinence is his or her real duty, and that that will really solve the question.

**P**EOPLE do not seem to know, when they talk about the diminution of the birth-rate, what the facts are. In fact, last year the population increased by 247,000 people, and before that the increase was larger still. If you have a larger population, of course the rate must necessarily fall, although the numbers added are greater. I think that within the first ten years of the century we added more to the population than during the whole of the eighteenth century. If it is said that it is for the public good that the population to which I have alluded should be reproduced, then those who take that view must accept responsibility for the consequences which must inevitably occur.

**W**HAT a strange doctrine to teach to people who live in the conditions of those from whom these examples I have given have been taken. Have those eminent ecclesiastics pictured for a single moment what the life of such people is? You take a young man under thirty, and a woman under thirty, and you put them together night after night, unceasingly, in the closest possible physical contact you can imagine, and then you say "Oh! you must remember you must abstain, because if you do not your children will be cursed with sickness." We all remember the story in Gibbon of the young Christian, who quelled a rising temptation caused by a wanton woman, and he succeeded, but he only

had one temptation to meet. If he had been tempted night after night he would have had no members left on his body to destroy. Human nature being what it is, this doctrine of abstention is impossible, and what else is it you propose?

**I** CANNOT help thinking that this idea has its origin in the conception that there is something in itself that is evil in the relations between man and woman. I am bound to say that there are occasions when I feel that if I stood alone in the world I would protest against such a doctrine as that. Why, if it be true, then evil is to be found in the very centre of all the beauty of life, and is demonstrated by every living creature that seeks its kind, by every flower that blossoms and every bird that sings. So far from it being evil within the strict limits of monogamy, and within the restraint that every man is bound to put upon all his appetites, I assert that it is not evil but that it is good, and that this doctrine that people should abstain from it is wrong and mischievous and is certain to lead to the shattering of more homes than any of the causes that we have ever heard denounced in this House.

**I** DO not believe myself that the most Rev Primate, with his great sagacity, will assent to any such proposition as that, because I see that he has written a foreword to a book, written by a lady who objects to Birth Control and at the end of which these conclusions are stated—

"There are certain women who, for medical reasons, should be prevented from bearing children.

"There are couples, with undesirable inheritance, who rightly decline to bear children and who should follow medical advice as to the means of prevention.

"There are many women of the poorer classes in whom child-bearing is sometimes the last straw in the circumstances all of which tend to destroy health and vitality. Such conditions will only be truly remedied by social reforms, but where the health of the mother is impaired by too frequent pregnancies it is the duty of her medical adviser, whether in private or at hospital, to safeguard her health."

**A**ND though I have not the least desire to pin anybody to a phrase that may not have been thought out, I find that the most Rev Primate of all England said this—

"I desire on moral and religious as well as on social and national grounds to support your general conclusions."

That is all I ask. I ask for nothing more than

that the conclusion of that woman should be carried into effect through the only medical channel which is accessible.

There remains only the position put forward by the Roman Catholic Church. I find myself in the unfortunate position of always being in acute conflict with the Roman Catholic Church. I am sorry, because I say sincerely I believe that there is no one outside its own communion who has ever felt the power of its appeal more really than I have myself. But, none the less, though I speak of them with all respect, I say that that Church must remember that it is no longer living in the days when it could compel Galileo to come upon his knees and say that the sun went round the earth, and that the earth did not go round the sun. They have no power to impose their views upon us, and, deeply as I respect them and their faith, I am entitled to ask precisely the same respect for the opinions which I just as earnestly hold.

**I**T IS perfectly fantastic to suggest that because there are Roman Catholics who will have to bear the burden of taxation therefore those taxes ought not to be used for purposes to which they object. Why, there are thousands of people to-day who, though you may think them weak-minded—and I do not share their views—earnestly and sincerely and with the deepest religious faith believe that all warfare is a sin against Almighty God. Do you therefore refuse to collect taxes from them for the purposes of supporting your Army and your Navy? The Roman Catholic Church believe just as strongly that all divorce is sinful. Do you therefore exempt them from paying the salaries of the Judges who sit in the Divorce Courts? There are people who believe that all forms of vaccination and inoculation are a sin against nature. Do you therefore say that they shall be relieved of any expense connected with public institutions where vaccination and inoculation take place. It is not the case, it is not possible. You have to deal with the country as a whole, and you cannot possibly, in administering public affairs, consider the feelings of a few of the people who are concerned with what you do.

**B**UT, of course, the real truth is that we cannot meet the Roman Catholic Church because reason and faith have been in age-long conflict, and, though they may respect each other, they can never be reconciled. The view that the Catholics take of life is different from that which I hold. What, to them, is all the trouble and the pain, the sickness, the disease and sorrow of this world? It is nothing

(Continued on page 30)

# Inkose

By EDITH HOW-MARTYN

**T**AKING the first two letters of the words International Kongress for Sexual Research form "Inkose," the pet name by which the Congress recently held in Berlin was known. The Congress was arranged by Dr Albert Moll, supported by an international committee of 46 members of whom one was a woman, Mrs Marion Piddington of Australia. "Enough to kill the strongest man" was the comment made on the program by a well-known German economist as he glanced over the titles of the 124 papers to be read during the week. We worked hard for 8 hours a day but even so there was almost no time for discussion and mental indigestion was inevitable, especially for those whose knowledge of German was limited.

## *Few Papers by Women*

About half of the papers were contributed by Germans and among the rest were represented 17 nationalities. Only four women read papers. This lack of proportion in the points of view of the two sexes is especially regrettable when sex questions are under discussion, for as one of the German women truly remarked "Men may have congresses and discuss satisfactorily surgical and technical problems, but they alone will never solve sexual problems."

The opening of the Congress took place in the Reichstag Building in the Hall where the German Parliament meets. Dr Moll gave a presidential address and the Congress was officially welcomed by the Reichs Minister for Home Affairs, the Minister of Education, the chief Burgomaster of Berlin and the Rector of Berlin University.

## *Scope of the Congress*

The Congress provided a platform for research workers in physiology, medicine and sociology especially interested in sex questions to read scientific papers describing the results of their own work and in addition it gave them the pleasure of meeting and exchanging views with each other.

One day was devoted to population questions though unfortunately it was the last day, when some members had left and many were beginning to be a little tired. The chief paper in this section was given by Dr Norman Haire of London, who dealt very fully with American and English contraceptive methods and from his own large practical experience supplied information and statistics of

the utmost value to gynecologists of less practical experience. Dr Haire made his lecture still clearer by lantern slide illustrations. In conclusion he made an appeal to his fellow gynecologists to make a special study of Birth Control methods, to continue to search for perfection in methods employed and thus fulfill their duty to their patients. Dr Haire's indefatigable willingness to talk to all who were anxious to know more of English methods and contraceptive technique were very valuable. Dr Drysdale's statement of the case for contraception was read in German and well received.

Mrs Dora Russell contributed a paper on "Possible Results of Birth Control on Sexual and Parental Morality." In a thoughtful exposition Mrs Russell pointed out that Birth Control does in fact put woman more nearly on a practical sexual equality with man as it enables her to control her motherhood. In her opinion hitherto marriage and parenthood have been associated, but in future they can be considered apart and parenthood be only undertaken by those who really desire children and who can provide a good heredity and a good home. Mme André Rieder speaking in the discussion told the Congress of the international work accomplished by Margaret Sanger and drew attention to the great part played by women in modern life. She was much applauded for her clear and heartfelt expression of the mother's desire to have knowledge for the benefit and happiness of her children.

## *A Frankfurt Clinic*

Dr Hertha Riese of Frankfurt-am-Main was listened to with intense interest as she described her work at her Welfare Centre in dealing with the poor mothers who came to her for contraceptive advice. It is pleasing to know that her medical colleagues co-operate by sending patients to her. She finds that the mothers come not because they are unwilling to face motherhood but because social and hygienic reasons make it impossible for them to bear and rear an unlimited number of children. In her experience there was no two child system, the average number in the family is five and as far as Dr Riese traced, there had been about one abortion to five births.

Dr Engelsmann concluded from an inquiry he carried out in Kiel that the present birth-rate added to the miscarriage rate gave a figure about equal to the birth-rate of 1913. In his opinion too little

attention is paid to miscarriages and abortions. The Congress showed that in most European countries the attitude towards abortion is much more tolerant than it is in England and America. The difficulties in very poor districts and in remote rural districts of obtaining reliable information on Birth Control makes it seem in their opinion somewhat pedantic to draw a hard and fast line between anti-conception measures and allowing abortions properly carried out by doctors to be obtainable during the first three months of pregnancy. Even an Italian professor advocated that when women are suffering from nervous disorders due to frequently repeated pregnancies an abortion should be induced and the married couple given suitable Birth Control information.

Undoubtedly when all medical and religious prejudices to the dissemination of Birth Control are overcome, the questions of abortion and sterilization will have to be faced. The Congress had several papers on sterilization, the most comprehensive and informative being that sent by Professor Paul Popenoe of Altadena, Calif., on "Eugenic Sterilisation". In the discussion it was emphasized that sterilization does not promise a eugenic heaven but that it is a valuable means of preventing manifestly undesirable stocks from breeding. The alternative of segregation in colonies of mental defectives and other unfit persons is very expensive and in many cases both cruel and impracticable.

### *Scientific Studies*

Many of the other papers were of great interest dealing as they did with practical researches. Everyone wanted to hear Adler and Steinach. These purely scientific papers, especially those by physiologists, point to the possibility at almost any time of results which would have revolutionary applications in the practice of Birth Control. Thus

the paper read by Dr. Crew of Edinburgh proving that spermatozoa can only be formed at a temperature lower than the body indicates that temporary sterility in the male may in time be produced by means of exposure to heat in suitable circumstances. Mr. Walton of Cambridge read a paper on the length of life of the spermatozoa inside the male and inside the female. This research, extended and amplified, might be made the basis of a really scientific investigation of the "safe period" and its application to individual cases, thus giving a means of contraception approved by the Roman Catholic Church.

### *The Religious Point of View*

The religious point of view was not neglected. A Roman Catholic priest advocated continence when health or economic conditions made parentage undesirable and his delightful personality made the doctrine he preached seem less harsh and difficult than practice would prove it to be. The Protestant outlook was voiced by a member of the Young Men's Christian Association who advocated chastity for all before marriage with restraint in marriage, though he personally recognized that Birth Control is preferable to the production of degenerate children.

Visits to the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physiological Research, to the Institute for Biology, to the Laboratories of the State Board of Health, to the Institute for Sexual Research, to a cinematograph film of the Hygiene of Marriage and many private conferences and talks made me realize the great and scientific interest taken by Germans in the sexual side of life. The German attitude shows a relative absence of those inhibitions which tend to prevent American and British people from giving such questions the attention essential to future social progress.



## The Menace of the Feeble-minded

Our civilization is being threatened by the presence of large numbers of mental defectives. The prison populations are found to contain 30 to 80 per cent of definitely feeble-minded individuals, besides many insane, epileptics, and drug addicts. The Bankers' Association estimates that crime costs us more than twice as much as we spend on public elementary and high school education, and if

we add to that the cost of feeble-mindedness, insanity, epilepsy and pauperism, the total is more than half the value of the products of all our farms. Examination of prostitutes at Newport News during the war showed 88 per cent to be below the mental age of eleven, and 15 per cent of the whole group showed other abnormalities such as dementia praecox, epilepsy, drug addiction and alcoholism. Our schools are being forced to lower their standards by the number of children who are forced by the school attendance laws to remain in school beyond the

\* From a digest in the *Eugenical News* of a pamphlet by this title written by A. C. Hanna, Superintendent of the Minnesota School for Feeble-minded.

age at which their mental development ceases. The army tests indicate that approximately one-third of our people are below the mental age of twelve and another third between the ages of twelve and fourteen mentally, and when such persons are kept in school until sixteen or eighteen, the standards of the schools cannot be kept high.

Feeble-mindedness, which is found in such an undue proportion in the underworld, is highly hereditary. Generally the intelligence level seems hereditary. Eminent men rarely fail to show family trees containing other eminent persons. The plea that hard work and perseverance may make up for lack of special talent is specious, for perseverance is itself an inherited trait. Those philanthropists who have believed that the qualities of the slum dwellers were due to their environment, have sometimes been painfully surprised to find that such people, when provided with decent living quarters, valued the bathtub more as a potato or coal bin than as an adjunct to cleanliness. Modern conditions help the feeble-minded to

get along. Probably the ten per cent of the population which is under ten years mentally receives most of the money spent for charitable purposes, and many families receive help from six to eight organizations.

Modern conditions make the feeble-minded more dangerous to society. Many of the automobile accidents are chargeable to the 17 or 18 per cent of drivers testing below 11 years mentally. Many cases of feeble-mindedness are brought to light by welfare agencies, and many other cases of higher grade go unrecognized, especially in the case of women who are not forced to compete in the commercial world, but who carry on the taint to the next generation. Society must consider means of drying up the spring which is the source of so many social evils. Since about half of the present generation are the offspring of mothers whose mental age is less than twelve, the intelligent people of the country must soon inaugurate a plan, if they wish to insure the survival of the mentally fit instead of the unfitest.



## Laws Which Perpetuate Disease

By ROBERT EMMET JAMESON, M D

ALL physicians, whether they are in general practice or in the practice of some special branch of medicine, have been at some time asked by married women who are infected with syphilis for some means of preventing pregnancy until they are cured.

I have administered many thousand treatments to women infected with syphilis, and I have for several years kept records of cases in the Scott County Venereal Disease Clinic in Davenport, Iowa, of cases suffering with skin lesions of syphilitic origin at the skin disease clinic of the Davenport Visiting Nurses Association and of cases in the obstetrical clinic as well as of those found to be infected with syphilis on examination under the rule in force in Scott County that county charges, delinquents and criminals shall be examined for venereal disease. Patients found to be suffering with one or more of these diseases are under this rule transferred to the Scott County Venereal Disease Clinic for observation and treatment, and many women have been found to be pregnant while infected. Pregnant unmarried women are cared for otherwise, but married women are cared for at public expense at the clinic.

It is not for these women and the tax payers of their communities alone that this article is written, it is for all those married women who have made appeals time and time again for some means of preventing pregnancy until

they have had sufficient anti-syphilitic treatment to make them immune or until the disease is cured and it will be safe for them to bear children. These women wished to have children and anticipated great happiness in motherhood, but knowing of their infection they asked for the means of postponing motherhood and bearing sound children.

The physician is, in such cases, under the law of some States, among which is my own State of Iowa, powerless to give contraceptive advice. Some women may have been infected with syphilis and not learned of it until after they were married, others, the greater number, may have been infected by their husbands, for it is said that twenty per cent of the total number of people infected with syphilis are infected innocently, by their husbands, or through kissing, toilet articles, wearing apparel, etc. If a woman who is of child-bearing age learns of her infection it is but natural that she should desire to postpone pregnancy until she is positive that she will not bring into the world an infant infected with syphilis.

I have had appeals made to me time and again from mothers who have given birth to babies whom they had infected with syphilis in the uterus, though the mother was not at the time aware of her own infection. Such cases are not uncommon, for many women are infected

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## FAMILY TREES WHICH SHOULD BEAR NO FRUIT

*Not all who have a bad heritage to hand on are stupid as well as physically handicapped. Many mothers know that for the sake both of the family and the race they should have no children. Though of the class ticketed unfit, they are often quite intelligent enough to learn to use contraceptive methods, and quite responsible enough to want to use them. Yet when they go to the doctor he will tell them no methods but instead, in many cases, he advises sterilization, which in a woman's case is a very serious operation.*

### Insanity

Delaware

I am 22 years old and have been married just two months. I am in constant fear of becoming pregnant, because insanity runs in our family. My sister told the doctor before she got married, and he told her, he was sure that if she had any children they would be all right, because she was well. She married and has two idiot children. I am writing for her as well as for myself, because she is heart-broken.

### Epilepsy

Texas

I was told to write you for information for which I applied elsewhere. I have been married two years and have two children and am constantly in fear of there being another one as the methods of birth control I have been able to get have proven wholly inadequate. An uncle of mine died of epilepsy as did also my sister. For this reason more than any other we don't want more children. Here is the information I want or rather, the questions I want answered. Will a reputable surgeon perform a vasectomy operation? Or would he think one demented to volunteer for it? Or is it a fairly common operation? I understand it is not a very serious operation. Is it? What is the approximate cost? I know this letter reads as though I were ignorant of everything. Of Puritanic parents, reared in a sparsely settled country, among reticent people, is it any wonder I don't know these things? Thanking you for any information you may give me.

### "Crazy Spells"

Michigan

I read your book and letters and thought I would write and ask you to help me. I was married at the age of eighteen and have six living children, the oldest is seventeen and the youngest one 11 months old. Have always had serious times while pregnant and during confinement, am an invalid from the time I get caught until three months after babies come.

Something is wrong with my back and head and my nerves are all shattered. Every month I have crazy spells. I do not exactly lose my mind but get so nervous, I cannot stand the noise of my children. I have terrible dizzy spells and have doctored with most everybody in town. Doctors say I am lazy but dear lady, it is not so. I love my home and family. My husband drinks and runs around and never gives us any notice. I have to crawl around some way to keep them together. Last summer they told me I had to keep to work or they would put my sweet children in homes. Yet they allow a man to do as he pleases. My husband has no mercy on me, says if I was not brainless I would not have so many children. Yet no one will ever tell me what to do.

I am now one month pregnant for God sake tell me something to cause abortion and how to take care of myself afterwards. I am thirty-six and I feel that I sure deserve help as I know another babe would mean death or insanity. Please tell me by return mail. I hope folks will begin to use Birth Control.

### A Low Type of Man

Nebraska

I was married at 17 to a man 6 years my senior. He is part German and all I have ever known seem to think that women are to rise early and work late and satisfy their brutal passions. The first winter I was married I had a three month's miscarriage. The doctor said I lifted something heavy. In one year I had a baby girl. When she was 7 months I had an attack of appendicitis. When she was 13 months old I was 3 months pregnant again. I had an operation for appendicitis. When this baby boy came I had to get up and do the cooking and housework and take care of those 2 babies when he was only 12 days old. In 2 years I had another boy, besides those 3 babies I had my invalid father-in-law to care for, besides my housework and a cow. In 2½ years a beautiful baby girl came to our home. I decided that for poor people that if it was in my power to stop the baby business I had better get busy. When the baby was 3 years old I had had the same over again, but I had the flu real bad.



and miscarried at 3 months. In 6 months the same old story. I was 6 months and was hardly able to creep around and I was taken quite ill and the water broke and I had to go to the hospital and the baby taken. I was sick and had temperature every day for about 6 months after that, and sometimes would go all day with only a few drinks of water.

Then before I was strong the same old story again, and in desperation I went to an old nurse and she caused an abortion. I had blood poison also and it took 3 doctors to save my life. That was last October and now it is the same old story again. I am a nervous wreck and I feel that now at 31 years of age I have had more than my share of babies. I didn't know what it was to be sick until I started this baby career. It wouldn't be so hard if my husband was kind and sympathetic, but he thinks it all foolishness to be nervous and cross and will say the hardest things to me. If the house isn't spick and span and meals on the table when he gets home he says I am lazy. No matter how bad I feel before confinement or how soon after that his passion is aroused I have to submit to him. I am so sick from the first 6 weeks and sometimes until almost time for the baby to come. I never have any help and when the baby is 3 weeks old I have to do the work. I hope and trust that God will not judge me wrong, but I feel like I would rather die if it were not for my 4 babies. They are big fine children and God knows I want to do what is right for them and give them an education if it is possible. I was left an orphan when a little tot and I want to do more for mine than what I received. But for poor people that don't even own a home I believe I have my heart and hands full to take care of these that God has trusted in my care.

## Anaemia

Rhode Island

I am 23 years old. I have been married 5 years. I am the mother of 3 living children, the oldest 4 years old, and have had 2 miscarriages since the birth of my last child. The two miscarriages have been harder on my health than the first of two children would have been. I haven't, as yet, recovered from the last one. My doctor is one of the best surgeons here and has attended me in all of my illness since childhood, says I must submit to an operation as a means of preventing pregnancy or else lose my life in a few short years. I am affected with anemia, my father having died with pernicious anemia, and I also have weak lungs. In fact there is no organ in my body that isn't weakened. I have asked my physician repeatedly for information concerning a means of preventing pregnancy but he absolutely refuses help except to operate. I would so love to live and raise the three babies I have. In my present state of health I doubt very much if I would survive an operation, besides at my age, only 23, I do so hate to submit to one. Surely there is help for me. Could you, will you send me information concern-

ing a means of Birth Control. Is there anything you could tell me, or send me, or that you could tell me to get? I would be only too glad to pay you for it if you could only help me. If there is any help you can give words will never be able to express my thankfulness.

## Epileptic Seizures

Texas

Although I am a mother of 9 children and a sufferer from epilepsy my doctors would not or could not give me a remedy for preventing pregnancy. I began these spells when I was pregnant with my first child and most always have from one to five of them every time I am pregnant and if it is in your power to give me a remedy I can depend on won't you please give it to me. My doctor had me use —, which I used until I saw it only helped me to get in the same condition again and at once as you will see when I tell you my oldest child is 13 years old and youngest 3 months. I have tried every remedy I could possibly get but nothing has helped me one bit in my trouble. Now I am told there is no remedy that is safe only an operation for my husband which he is willing to undergo for my sake but I am now trying to find a safe remedy outside. Won't you please write me and tell me the safe preventive and where to get it and how to use it for I am desperate. I live in constant dread all the time that some or all of my children will inherit my most dreadful disease and if it had been in my power to prevent I would never had but one. I am a farmer's wife and live in the country. Will be 36 years old and so you see I have a good many more years in which to bear children as my health is good only for the fits I have which I have mostly when I am pregnant or just after child is born.

## "Spells"

California

Being that you understand these things I wish to ask your advice. I'm a woman of 25 years of age. Have been married for 6 months. On account of a broken leg I couldn't go thru my first motherhood so I consulted a doctor. He took down all my ailments which consists of the after effects of scarlet fever. I have a stiff knee which was caused from operations and the disfiguring of the kneecap. Then I have a spell which causes me to sleep more than normal, that is I have to. All this is caused from the scarlet fever, 13 years ago. When I got thru telling the doctor all this he sentenced me to be sterilized. Being a poor girl and as I don't quite understand this sterilizing business, I went to another doctor who helped me out of the pregnancy. I also asked her what she thought of it and she had different ideas altogether. I've tried to make this as short as possible, and if you would be kind enough to answer this I would appreciate it ever so much.

# “Happiness in Marriage”

*What Critics Say of Mrs Sanger's Book \**

*A Review by* FLOYD DELL

EVERY once in a while I run across the idea that feminism is an old-fashioned pre-war notion. Sometimes the implication is that the idea has been exploded, again, that it has been fulfilled too completely to talk about any more. This latter conviction seems to be expressed in the phrase, which I quote from memory from a recent book review “To talk of feminism nowadays is like talking of St Petersburg, Russia.” Times are supposed to have moved on and left the feminist movement behind. I do not think so. The emancipation of women has hardly been accomplished yet, nor can anything be said to have happened to explode the idea that it is desirable and possible.

## *Feminism and Birth Control*

Two things have happened, the world of work has opened up very considerably to women, so that a certain amount of actual economic independence has been achieved, and on the other hand, in the political field, when the vote had been gained for women there was no realistic attempt made to provide a practical use for this new power. These facts seem to account for the notion that the goal of feminism has been achieved, and the other notion that the feminist idea has been proven absurd. The truth is that America has been going through a post-war reaction against idealism of all sorts. So much nonsense was promulgated during the war, and believed in devoutly by the population at large, that those who found themselves fooled are unwilling to believe anything. This reaction will pass. The feminist movement has a great deal of work to do, and when it regains courage and faces its tasks it will find a use even for the despised vote, in smashing the powers of fear and superstition which keep on the statute books the laws against the dissemination of Birth Control information. This seems clearly the next great opportunity of political achievement for feminism.

In the meantime, in a practical field a little aside from the political realm, the teaching of Birth Control has been making headway, through the efforts of the American Birth Control League, under the leadership of Margaret Sanger, in the establishment of Birth Control clinics, and the cultural field, through various books and pamphlets. Since an intelligent control of their reproductive powers

is an absolute essential to the freedom of women, the Birth Control League and Mrs Sanger may be said to be now effectively occupying the fighting front of the feminist movement.

## *A Civilized Ideal of Marriage*

In the cultural field, it has been long desirable that the idea of Birth Control should be expressed in its proper relation to a civilized ideal of marriage, and this task Mrs Sanger has now undertaken in a useful and beautiful little book, *Happiness in Marriage*. The book accomplishes admirably the chief part of this task, in describing civilized marriage, and it gives so much wise and kind advice that it will be found of the greatest value to married lovers, in so far as they are in need of such guidance. The chapters on “The Honeymoon,” “The Organs of Sex and their Functions,” “The Drama of Love—The Prelude,” “Sex Communion—the Fulfilment,” “Premature Parenthood and How to Avoid It,” and “Birth Control in Practice,” may be named as containing especially important information, expressed with a beauty which in no way hinders frankness.

The only limitation of the book's usefulness as a guide to marital happiness lies in the fact that the difficulties of marital love arise frequently not so much from sheer ignorance as from sexual neurosis, and good counsel, however valuable, may not always suffice to bring about a happy adjustment. And this limitation, the absence of a modern psychological equipment for dealing helpfully with neurotic attitudes as such, seems to me to account also for some other defects in the book. It is with the greatest hesitation that I criticize Mrs Sanger, who is by means of a voluminous correspondence in touch with the audience which she desires to reach, and should be more fully aware of their needs than a critic can possibly be.

## *Psychic Needs of Adolescence*

Thus the chapter on “Building Up Life Forces,” a plea for delaying the use of the sexual functions during adolescence, to permit of healthy play and education, seems undoubtedly motivated by knowledge of many premature marriages, yet, by putting its emphasis wholly upon the desirability of sublimating this adolescent sexuality, and ignoring the importance of securing freedom from parental fixations and establishing heterosexuality in the emotional life during this period, it comes somewhat dangerously near giving, in my opinion, an

\* HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE, by Margaret Sanger Brentano's, New York \$2.00

untrue picture of the psychic needs of adolescence. Moreover, such statements as are here found concerning the possibility of "storing up" sexual energy for transmutation into ambition, etc., are, I believe, scarcely accurate, and rather misleading. The counsel in this whole chapter is not sharply enough distinguished from the ordinary and fallacious teachings of worried and unenlightened parents in the matter of "self-control," to be of much use to young people.

### *Before Marriage*

The chapter entitled "Courtship—for the Man" contains, on the other hand, an admirable analysis of the psychology of successful wooing, and should be of real value to any young lover. I should not, however, say the same for the companion chapter on "Courtship—for the Girl," though it contains some valuable material. Again, Mrs. Sanger should know these girls she is writing for, but I am obliged to wonder if the Victorian note of these pages is truly suitable to her audience. "The younger generation today too often confuses haste with frankness. With the decay of etiquette and the advent of the new freedom of expression, haste and hurry, tactless frankness and bad manners in all phases of life, there can be little doubt that courtship is becoming one of the lost arts." Possibly, but if so, then are these counsels of perfection really useful? The girl is recommended to let the man do the wooing "be playfully elusive." Undoubtedly most girls would prefer the privilege of running away and being pursued by a lover, but first there must be such a lover. And possibly if girls are behaving in the "immodest" fashion which Mrs. Sanger deplores, it is not from choice. "Laxity in speech and behavior is not pleasing to men." "The girl who is elusive—is bound to attract men of more sterling worth." So perhaps it should be, but, as a matter of fact, is it? Perhaps the girls know what they are about.

The chapter entitled "Engaged" rather bewilders me. "Among young girls and young men today there has arisen a free and easy laxity of manners. Modesty as it was understood in the past century has disappeared. A greater freedom in speech has arisen, a freedom which sometimes degenerates into license. Although they may refrain from going 'the limit,' sexual liberties are indulged in by certain misguided couples. Quite apart from all considerations of morality, the experience derived from such practices is not great enough to risk the sacrifice of true and enduring love. Their price is paid from the treasury of self-respect and mutual love. Dignity, respect, rever-

ence and romance are often destroyed by one false step along the path of physical indulgence. Such practices often result in broken engagements, and the unhappy humiliation of the girl who has permitted them. Even though the engagement continue and marriage ensue, she is often reminded of favors previously given—making for suspicion and jealousy," etc. One would have supposed that it was only among such people as were still under the influence of the past century's neurotic notions of modesty, that this physical familiarity would breed contempt. Indeed, it is a matter of contemporary observation that such physical familiarities, far from preventing true and enduring love, are quite generally, among modern and robust young people, the basis of it. It does not seem to be characteristic of these immodest and robust young people that any degree of physical intimacy constitutes anything which could be called a "false step," or that it derogates at all from their self-respect.

### *Two Types of Young People*

It might be wondered, moreover, whether the "romance" which would be injured by such familiarities before marriage could survive the greater intimacies of the marital state. And, not at all apart from considerations of morality, it might be urged that the risks of all sorts involved in these pre-marital intimacies were, to a robust generation, well compensated for by the experience derived from these practices. If they resulted in a broken engagement, that would be counted as a fortunate escape from an unhappy marriage with some one neurotic enough to consider such pre-nuptial favors a matter for reproach. The present generation, one would think, is not likely to fear, as "the greatest danger which lies in wait during the engagement" or in marriage itself, "the destruction" of the "spirit of romance," nor likely to worry lest intimacy be "dragged down to the level of vulgar familiarity."

Indeed, such young people are perhaps the least likely to need counsel upon these matters at all, and from the very interesting letters prefaced to these chapters it would appear that it is the neurotically inhibited in matters of sex who chiefly ask advice. It seems unnecessary to urge upon those women, who are already the victims of an old-fashioned prudishness in their upbringing, these counsels of caution and refinement. Nor is it easy to see how timid and squeamish ideals of courtship are to be transformed out of hand into healthy ideals of marriage. Indeed, one wonders if the immodest hussies, whose vulgarity Mrs. Sanger deplores, are not destined to be much happier and more successful wives. One would not, at least,

expect to find them writing "My husband has left me four times and always says it is because I can't love him in that way, but it seems I just can't" "During two years of married life I detest and have a horror of natural sexual intercourse" "Is sexual intercourse wicked, if children are not wanted?" "I love my husband very much, he is thoughtful and affectionate, but living with him as his wife gives me no pleasure"

### *The Unmarried Girl and Birth Control*

There is throughout the book a prepossession in favor of old-fashioned sentiment, "romance," manners and morals. A brazen younger generation has perhaps offended Mrs Sanger most deeply by venturing to make use, for its own wilful purposes, of Birth Control knowledge which she wishes kept for the sacred purposes of marriage. In her chapter on "Birth Control," her wish to confine that propaganda within marital limits leads her to say that "the safest and most hygienic methods known today cannot be used by the unmarried girl." Here it would seem that a moral bias has interfered somewhat with a statement of fact, for *cannot*, in that sentence, is too strong a word. It would be more accurate to say that the methods which are generally found most satisfactory in marriage are not under ordinary circumstances so readily available to an unmarried girl as to a wife. To say more is to suggest, not a difference in the typical circumstances and conveniences of the wife and the unmarried girl, but some blessed magic in the marriage ceremony itself. Mrs Sanger's dogmatic conservatism in these matters will doubtless commend her sufficiently frank exposition of the proper technique of marital sexuality to many who might otherwise be offended, and for such readers the inflexibly Victorian nature of some of her moral judgments, and her sense of the proprieties in general, will serve the happy purpose of reassuring them that Birth Control is not inimical to what they think of as morality.

### *Beautiful As Well As Wise*

It would, moreover, be unjust to this admirable book to emphasize unduly the possible injustice it does to the franker, "coarser" manners and morals now found among young people. Mrs Sanger may be unduly unsympathetic to these bold pre-marital experiments, and yet profoundly right and wise in her understanding of the place of sexuality in marriage. In this field her insight and knowledge are fairly unassailable, and her sympathy and tenderness and eloquence have combined to make these pages beautiful as well as wise.

### *A Review by MARGERY LATIMER*

THERE is a group of young people today so much in the minority that they are over-proud of the fact. Perhaps they are the offspring of the Puritanical marriages that Mrs Sanger writes against in her new book, *Happiness in Marriage*. Certainly they are so nauseated with the thought of homes, of child-bearing, and economic dependence upon men, that they will have none of it while they are in possession of their own minds. For a time they can struggle for their integrity as a solemn duty, later it becomes a whim, and finally they submit to the easier, more secure position of marriage. But they can never be satisfied with it.

It is not for them that Mrs Sanger has written this book. If she were to sanction such idealism and free acting the cause of Birth Control would be not only considerably retarded, but practically obliterated. Her only choice at the present time is to work to eradicate Puritanism in marriage and to rouse women from their traditional attitude of passive lethargy in regard to sexual relations.

If you doubt for a moment that liberation is needed read the collection of pathetic letters from men and women all over the country asking for help, read the insistent pleas of women who feel that something is wrong with them because they don't enjoy sex, and men whose happiness is also being destroyed because they, too, are held by the traditional notion of sex as propagation and not as pleasurable communion. This book is written to appeal to these heavily bonded people who have inherited, if they are women, the death-filling notion of submission and remote, statuesque beauty in the marriage bed. It is for the conventional man who prefers the wife who can stay apart from his passion in Tennysonian frigidity while he goes to other sources for mere physical relief.

Mrs Sanger's ideas are healthy and important but they are filled with an insidious, female shrewdness that makes her warn girls against men who do not want to marry and which makes her give humorous advice about methods for ensnaring the male and making him give up his fierce passion for independence and isolation. She would teach women the old lesson of making the male fold his paws and forget to roar. But the book must not be judged by these standards because it is written for the large, conventional group which needs its freedom.

In spite of the clumsy attempt to be poetic there are any number of interesting ideas and comments in the book. "The great danger in this day is not that it be too recklessly romantic, but that it be too tamely accepted, too anaemic, too lifeless." And, "Love taps an unsuspected and inexhaustible supply of energy which the young lover may convert into ambition and achievement. That is why all the world loves a lover and that is why men and women must learn to remain in love,"—and this with unexpected humor,—"even though married." "Nag-

ging is immoral" Of course the big thing that she is always saying is that motherhood must not be an accident, and the basis of her book is an attempt to *understand* human nature

An important omission is the question of home-sexuality These cases of arrested development can be traced, usually, to the influence of Puritanical parents and the resulting environment that Mrs Sanger is trying to change through scientific ideas and methods If the older, more cautious generation knew what it was about, it would give its children the proper sexual information and instead of the prevalence of abortions in all the large universities in this country and the one or two wild trips to diseased prostitutes, there would be healthier, more intelligent students with less covertness and dishonesty

#### A Review by P W WHITING, PH D

"THE tragedy of modern marriage is often the result of ignorance and needless misunderstanding" Such is the keynote of Margaret Sanger's latest book It emphasizes enlightenment on the biological facts of sex, frankness and sincerity about the intimate things of life, a romantic idealism and a high resolve to play the game of life and love unselfishly Prudishness and Puritanism are condemned as the causes of many wrecked homes Prostitution and sexual promiscuity are penalized because of the danger of venereal disease and the inevitable cheapening of sex experience

There is much that is sound and practical in the chapter headed "Building Up Life Forces" Some statements, however, appear mystical "To store away vitality and sex energy in youth means a greater power and fuller use of it in maturity" To attempt to "store sex energy" until the age of twenty-two or twenty-three means suppression with its harmful consequences now recognized by psychologists There is no vast reservoir in which "sex energy" may be stored

There are evidences in the book of an acceptance of the double standard Good advice is given on the art of courtship but the question of the technique to be used by the girl who loves a man, at first indifferent to her, is neglected It seems to the reviewer that she may take a more active part than advised In the chapter "Engaged" the author writes "Such practices" (sexual liberties) "often result in broken engagements and the unhappy humiliation of the girl who has permitted them" Why not strongly condemn the attitude responsible for this one-sided humiliation?

The evils of premature parenthood and the need of Birth Control as the way out are emphasized The final chapter on "The Husband as Lover" is excellent

While the book will seem a bit old-fashioned to the modern flapper, who nevertheless may learn much from it, it will be invaluable to the uninformed and Puritanical

#### FURTHER COMMENT

Mrs Sanger's name is so identified with her crusade that many will expect to find this but one more plea in favor of recognition for Birth Control In fact, it refers in only one chapter to this widely-practiced method of conserving health and relative freedom The subject-matter is more nearly that treated by Havelock Ellis in his masterly series of studies, and while no comparison in a literary sense is possible, this book is worthy of the admiration Mrs Sanger's courage and honesty in previous statements have compelled from all who would receive them decently and soberly No more difficult or delicate task of enlightenment could be attempted, in face of denunciation from the stupidly virtuous and ribaldry from the stupidly vicious, but the author's own sincerity and integrity are made so simply evident that one realizes even in the opening chapter the value and importance of any conclusions Mrs Sanger may have reached on this subject The book seems to this reader one that may—if any book can—make happiness in marriage much more likely of attainment than it has hitherto been for many people

D B WOOLSEY in *New Republic*

Mrs Sanger boldly dedicates her book "to the new generation who seek happiness in marriage based on truth "

Well, there is such a new generation, probably there always has been, despite the *rumores senum severiorum* Happiness may be unobtainable in marriage, but most people are unwilling to believe that till they have tried, and sometimes more than once Even faithful sons and daughters of the Church often go to the altar in the hope of happiness rather than for the mere avoidance of mortal sin Possibly the romantic optimists are wrong about marriage, and the Church, with two thousand years of experience, which by its dogmas decrees that marriage has nothing to do with happiness, is right Still people will try it, hoping for the best, and Mrs Sanger is trying to help them out The bulk of the book is devoted to advice as to the working out of adequate sex adjustment as the nucleus of happy marriage She regards sex as neither a crime nor an affliction, but as something which properly managed contributes immensely to human happiness Other elements are given due place, even to such unromantic items as dishwashing and the budget But the love-life she treats as the principal factor They may offend those whom Mr Hearst once called "reverent religionists" But their opposition might be somewhat mollified by the reflection that if the love-life is adequately developed—something which requires time, patience, tact and unselfishness—it may further at least the secondary object of marriage as set down by the Church Certainly

the ideal marriage set forth in this book would dim to paleness the glamour of irregular connections

Aside from that, Mrs Sanger is engaged in no more iniquitous enterprise than the effort to help people be happy, to persuade them to use forbearance and understanding in the home, to induce husbands and wives to be faithful to each other because they want to be, rather than because they are afraid of the flames of hell. It does not seem such a very terrible purpose—viewed, of course, by the dim light of reason

—*New York Times*

With the modern discoveries of the effect of happiness on health and of the primary importance to happiness of a satisfactory sex life, happiness in marriage has become one of our chief prepossessions

Mrs Sanger keeps firmly to the practical a b c's of her subject, avoiding psychological subtleties, and this might seem to limit her usefulness to the simple minded or the obdurately naive, who in an age of the frankest revelations about the drama of sex relations are still dwelling in ignorance of it. But in so vast and complex a wilderness as that of sexual love, very simple signposts may help even the sophisticated traveler to keep from losing himself, while the unsophisticated, among whom are still to be classed, perhaps, the majority of intelligent idealistic youngsters, will find in her book much greatly desired information, sane, practical and without the quackery that characterizes too many books dealing with sex

And though the signposts are simple, each one is capable of averting some tragedy. Many unhappy denouements in D H Lawrence's stories, to take only one modern example, turn on experiences that a very slight understanding of the physiological conditions here explained could have prevented. The average young husband does not even know that a man's passion is more quickly aroused and more quickly appeased than a woman's, and that what seems to be a complete physical incompatibility between his bride and himself would quickly disappear if he understood this. In fact, the things he and his wife do not know about the physiology of the function on which their happiness depends would fill a volume, and Mrs Sanger has accordingly filled one with the requisite information

The tragi-comedy of the youths and maidens of our day who genuflect before psycho-analysis springs, of course, from the very real complexity of the group of emotions we call sexual love. It would be rash to suppose that this wilderness could be tamed simply by an understanding of the mechanics of love. But many difficulties are wholly eliminated by such an understanding. Without question many lives have been distorted or wrecked simply from ignorance of very simple facts. So that although happiness in marriage is a more abstruse subject than it is the object of this book to inquire into, the information it contains will at least enable the reader to enter marriage forearmed against some of its chief difficulties, and with greatly increased chances for happiness

—ALICE BEAL PARSONS in *Herald-Tribune* (N Y)



## LULLABY

(To Little S—— B——)

*Sing a song of Lady Moon,  
Sing so silverly!  
Her shining flocks are all asleep  
Softly in the sky*

*Mother is the Lady Moon,  
The truest sheep her little son*

*Sing a song of lilies white  
Tenderly and low  
Dew a-dreaming on their gold  
Crowns sways to and fro*

*Like a lily's loveliness  
Is my Mother's whispering dress*

*Sing a nest of nodding birds  
In a blossoming tree  
Little eyes and little hands  
Closing drowsily*

*The whitest feather of his wings  
Sleep gives me when my Mother sings*

ELLEN CHATER

## Essentials in Clinic Equipment

MRS EVELYN FULLER, for the last four years the Hon Superintendent of the Walworth Women's Welfare Centre, the largest Birth Control Clinic in England, has concentrated her experience in a little pamphlet \* Its fifteen pages are filled with practical and detailed information regarding the organization, equipment and management of a Birth Control Centre The pamphlet should prove of great value to anyone contemplating the establishment of such a Clinic

In enumerating the supplies needed for equipping a Clinic, the author limits herself to the most essential requirements, but of these she apparently omits nothing One might indeed question whether such minor details as soap and notepaper are essential and whether it would not be better to allow the choice of some of the equipment to the taste and ingenuity of the organizer of a Centre

It is particularly interesting to note how nearly the organization of the London Centre coincides with that of our New York Clinical Research Department The description of the Walworth Centre, as given by Mrs Fuller, could, with but a few minor modifications, be taken for a description of the Centre in New York Yet the latter has been modeled after no other, and has had to evolve its own methods of procedure This similarity is due, no doubt, to the fact that the work performed and the problems encountered are very much alike

Dr Marie Stopes, in a report of the "Mothers' Clinic," the first British Birth Control Clinic, says that in order to be suitable for contraceptive work, a Centre requires "a breath of beauty and inspiration, and the determination to have on the regular staff only such medical men (or preferably medical women) who possess so sympathetic a manner and attitude as to encourage the confidences of the timid inquirers who come and need help in the very intimate details which so often surround the problems of contraception and the marital relation"

Mrs Fuller makes a very similar plea "Too great stress," she says, "cannot possibly be laid on the importance of so selecting the staff and arranging the work as to respect the feelings and secure the confidence of the patients Most of them are shy and nervous at their first visit and everything possible should be done to invest the proceedings with an atmosphere of privacy and friendliness" She also emphasizes the importance of employing women doctors and the need of patience and tact in this work "The employment of women doctors only," she continues, "at the centres also tends to develop confidence on the part of would-be patients Great patience

and tact are obviously essential qualities in those who would undertake work at one of these centres, in whatsoever capacity"

Anyone who has had experience with a Birth Control Centre will fully agree with these statements of our English friends Of all the equipment, the most important is a staff with "a breath of inspiration," a truly sympathetic attitude, and a sincere interest in the work

HANNAH M STONE, MD

## BOOKS RECEIVED

SEX FREEDOM AND SOCIAL CONTROL, by Charles W Margold The University of Chicago Press

A SHORT HISTORY OF MARRIAGE, by Edward Westermarck The Macmillan Company, New York \$3 50

DELINQUENTS AND CRIMINALS, THEIR MAKING AND UNMAKING, by William Healy, MD, and Augusta F Bronner The Macmillan Company, New York \$3 50

THE PULSE OF PROGRESS, by Ellsworth Huntington Charles Scribners, New York \$5 00

PROBLEMS OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION, by Paul Popenoe Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore \$2 50

WFDLOCK, by Jacob Wasserman Boni & Liveright, New York \$2 50

PARANHOOD AND THE NEWER PSYCHOLOGY, by Frank Howard Richardson Putnam, New York

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY by Charles Mercier Physicians and Surgeons Book Company, New York

FIFTEEN JOYS OF MARRIAGE, translated by Richard Adlington Dutton, New York \$3 00

FATALISM OR FREEDOM, by C Judson Herrick W W Norton, New York \$1 00

LYCURGUS, by E S P Haynes, (*Today and Tomorrow* series) Dutton, New York \$1 00

THE DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE, by Thomas Vernor Smith University of Chicago Press \$1 75

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"There are too many Americans, both native-born and immigrant, who are quite definitely and demonstrably no good

"Improvement ought to begin at home The worst immigrants that anybody could be induced to admit would compare quite favorably with considerable elements of our present population"

—E E FREE in *The Scientific American*, Feb, 1926

\* ON THE MANAGEMENT OF A BIRTH CONTROL CENTRE, by Evelyn Fuller Published by the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics London

## Periodical Notes

*Survey* (N Y) in its December number discusses "Woman's Place" The main themes are the remaking of marriage and the, probably permanent, exodus of married women from home drudgery without pay, without vacation, and without self realization, into business—drudgery perhaps, but with pay, with contact with the world and with vacation Birth Control occupies no place as such in the series of articles, except in the two contrasting pages "Shall We Have a Child" by Jane Sheppard Holbin, and "They Must Work" by Beulah Amidon, the latter group being burdened mothers of many children, the former, mothers who choose their time for childbearing Yet on every page Birth Control is to be read between the lines, for the main impediment in the way of economic independence is the traditional attitude that if a woman works for wages by day it is up to her also to somehow or other arrange to do the housework by night, and every year or every other year to add another to the size of her family

The *New York Times* quotes Dr Herman N Bundesen, Chicago Health Officer, as estimating the mental age of the adult Chicago public at about twelve years Dr Bundesen is the official who refused to license free Birth Control clinics in Chicago, which would have done more in a generation to raise both mental and physical standards than any other form of health work

*Eugenics Review* (London) The July number of this quarterly organ of the British Eugenics Society contains an outline by Leonard Darwin, president of the Society, of its "Practical Eugenic Policy" The section on Birth Control recommends the use of contraceptives for medical reasons, to secure adequate intervals between births, for economic, social and international reasons, and in case of hereditary defects The section adds, however, "a dual campaign should be undertaken, the advocacy of adequate facilities for Birth Control for married women, especially amongst the poorest classes, *being combined with a strong condemnation of the use of contraceptive methods when likely to result in an undue limitation of the size of families of parents healthy both in mind and body* The use of contraceptives (and of sterilization also) for immoral purposes to receive unqualified condemnation The avoidance of parenthood merely on selfish grounds to be declared to be both immoral and unpatriotic"

The italics are ours and the answer is to be found on another page of the *Eugenics Review*, in which Dean Inge reviews Major Darwin's recent volume on Eugenics The

dean criticizes this very point, he criticizes it not in his own words but by quoting the words of the President of the American Birth Control League published in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW of June, 1925 Though our readers have read them her words will bear repeating "Eugenics seems to me to be valuable in its critical and diagnostic aspects, in emphasizing the danger of irresponsible and uncontrolled fertility of the unfit and the feeble-minded establishing a progressive unbalance in human society, and lowering the birth rate among the fit But in its so-called constructive aspects, in seeking to re-establish the dominance of healthy strains over the unhealthy, by urging an increased birth rate among the fit, the eugenisists really offer nothing more far-sighted than a cradle competition between the fit and the unfit They suggest that all intelligent and respectable parents should take as their example the most irresponsible elements in the community"

The *Chicago Tribune* quotes Professor Thomas Vernor Smith of the University of Chicago as asserting that Birth Control is a normal and hopeful manifestation and a practice which should be universal

"Birth Control is conceived in certain quarters as a violation of natural laws," Prof Smith states "Moved by inherited inertia, seasoned by fear, and made active by some half-confessed mercenary interest, such as the need for soldiers or cheap labor, men oppose what alone can give hope to millions So it comes about that the many are doomed to poverty through over-sized families that the few may fatten on their rights"

*American Medicine* (New York) This most open-minded of medical journals comments editorially in its October number on the relative parts which medicine and the laity have taken in the public health movement

"Physicians," says the editorial, "may claim the credit for the general improvement in life expectancy, but nevertheless a large measure of the advancements have been due to movements organized, directed and pushed by laymen A large proportion of the facts upon which medicine has built its preventive program have arisen from the scientific contributions of chemists, bacteriologists and laboratory workers in fields not directly medical"

Among instances given of the layman's contribution are the work of Louis Pasteur, the campaign against tuberculosis and public nursing To these might be added the Birth Control Movement, which has, until recently at any rate, been largely carried on by laymen



*Equal Rights* (Washington, D C) This weekly is authority for the statement that the men students of Rutgers College are anxious to learn the duties of fatherhood "An undergraduate committee on curriculum," says *Equal Rights*, "has recommended the establishment of a course on 'How to Live,' which would include instruction in sex relations and the duties of fatherhood"

*Critic and Guide* (New York) Harold G Villard gives an account of the legalizing of abortion in Russia

and the performance of these operations in government hospitals Three physicians decide on each case before a permit to enter a hospital is issued, and the permit is based not merely on such health conditions as make abortion legal in all countries, but on economic and eugenic considerations also This method of permissive and medically safeguarded miscarriages the government believes to be the most effective method of combatting the dangers to life and health of the system of illegal abortion that was formerly widespread throughout Russia



## From Our Readers

### RELIEF FOR MME HUMBERT

November 21, 1926

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I am glad to be able to inform you that after a great many petitions, wire pulling and even humiliations we have succeeded in obtaining from the President of the Republic a qualified pardon for Mrs Humbert The fine has been greatly reduced, and will not be so difficult to cover After that, as long as she behaves herself (Damocles' sword—no further Birth Control propaganda), she is out of danger

Murder or arson is now a lesser offense in France than Birth Control Propaganda—even mere discussion

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D

### ECHOES OF THE SESQUI

Swarthmore, Pa

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I am enclosing the names of some people who registered with especial interest or urgency with me at the booth in the Sesqui

I had the most interesting time there and I hope you people appreciate how many the booth has attracted There is no way of checking up the interest because hundreds of people never register who read every chart Others seem too shy to read in the aisle in front of the booth, but pass down the aisle and read all about us through the doorway of the Ursinus College exhibit One woman weighing about 300 stepped down the aisle, mouth open, taking in everything She stopped, hand on hip, to gaze at the babies over our booth, laboriously read our name, turned to her companion and exclaimed loudly, "My God, have ten children, then read a sign about Birth Control"

A Catholic physician took exception to the figures which say that 32 per cent of the women who used the clinic were Catholic I told him that the figures were

publicly displayed and I thought it was up to the Catholic Church to disprove them if they could He said that was easy as just as soon as a woman went into a Birth Control clinic she was no longer a Catholic no matter how she registered her religion

I think I should add right here that two days while I was there, there were apparently conventions of some kind which involved the Catholic educational people Another doctor spoke to me about the figures and told me he was a Catholic and was very interested in the stand the church took on Birth Control I told him that I thought the church rather put itself on record as favoring Birth Control He nearly hit the roof But I told him that the church no longer made Birth Control an issue in France and also they instructed their women in this country that they may use the "safe period" I said, "I think the Church unquestionably believes in Birth Control and we won't quarrel over the method she allows her women to use" There were about a dozen women standing around and some of them actually applauded

I enjoyed myself so much there, that I only wished I had been able to be there all summer The fact that nearly every really intellectual person stopped—maybe only to say, "I am glad to see you have space in the Educational Building," or "give me all the literature you can, I want to know more about this" More men than women stopped, especially to talk More men bought literature I mean men unaccompanied by women They were in general middle aged men of the educational or professional class The charts got their attention

LILLIAN C WILLIAMS

MANY THANKS'

Toronto, Canada

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

It is with keen interest and deep appreciation that I read each copy of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Very truly yours,

C B PRICE

# A Visit to the Medical Centers of Chicago

By ANNE KENNEDY

THE Illinois Birth Control League has accomplished its aim and object in establishing centres where Birth Control information and instruction is given to women, and it was an inspiring and encouraging moment when I found myself being conducted by Mrs Benjamin Carpenter, vice president of the league, to view these centres and examine the history of their work. Twenty-seven months ago the first centre was opened on Michigan Avenue and during this time this centre has given instruction to 1,149 women. It is open five days a week. The second centre was opened about one year later. It is open four days a week and has had over 395 cases. Two more centres have been added, with one and two day a week service. The total number of patients to October, 1926, was 1,835.

## *A Social Workers' Meeting*

After inspecting the attractive offices on Michigan Avenue we met Dr Rachelle Yarros and went on to a meeting at Centre No 4 which is located in the settlement house of the negro section of Chicago. A meeting had been arranged with the representatives of the social agencies of that district, visiting nurses, infant welfare workers, doctors and ministers. A buffet luncheon was served—and I was greatly impressed by the thoughtful consideration shown by workers, the respect for time as represented in the day's work. Everyone was prompt, and all suggestions and remarks were to the point. The question before the meeting was how to get more women to come to the centre, every district worker was enthusiastic about the need and helpfulness of Birth Control and the advantage to the community in having the centre placed in the settlement house. New ideas were offered for closer co-operation among the colored workers and the physician in charge.

The centres are all well equipped—waiting room, consulting room and examining rooms, a social worker or nurse takes the history of the patients before they receive instruction from the physician. With the expansion of the work it has become necessary to secure the service of three physicians, Dr

Olga Ginsberg, Dr Marjorie Heitman and Dr Eleanor Stocks. Dr Yarros is the medical director.

Thirty-three nationalities are represented on the history charts of the clinics. The records show over a two-third return report from all patients. Chicago workmen are a drifting group—it makes it more difficult to follow up all cases to find the value and effectiveness of methods. The greatest source of patients was the newspapers, items mentioning the activities of the League. The law of Illinois does not permit them to advertise this service, so chance publicity is the more important. On examining the history charts, I was deeply impressed by the fact that over a thousand of the 1,800 women had applied for information because of economic reasons. Here in Chicago at last, Birth Control was nearing its goal—mothers were securing information from physicians before they were diseased and broken in health.

I also noted that 464 women out of 500 gave their occupation as "housewife." This rather disproves the statement that modern women have a growing desire to leave home and that contraceptive information will jeopardize The Home. In the few other cases I noted that when women were working it was to help support the family.

## *The Fruits of Energy and Determination*

This work in Chicago is supported by some of the leading physicians of the city—but it has been due to the energy and determination of a small group of men and women that so much has been accomplished. Mrs Benjamin Carpenter has worked with skill and devotion in the organization of the medical centres. Dr Rachelle Yarros has fought in and out of her profession to break down prejudice and to dispell ignorance of Birth Control.

These centres in Chicago are an inspiration to the toiler in the field for Birth Control. The accomplishment here can be duplicated in other states where it is unhampered by law. It only needs courage, devotion and well directed organization by a small group of real workers.



## News Notes

### UNITED STATES

#### New York

**T**HREE years' work under the untiring leadership of Mrs F Robertson Jones, was crowned with success when the New York League of Women Voters at its annual convention on December 2nd voted to endorse the American Birth Control League's bill before the State Legislature. As in former years the opposition came from up-state and at first appeared to be strong enough to defeat the resolution. The first vote gave a majority against, but a recount demanded by both sides showed a comfortable majority, 53 to 42, in favor. We reprint below a section of the *New York Tribune* story of the debate.

"Pleas for more time and more caution from up-state women were countered by equally vehement pleas from other up-state leaders that the league must set the pace for conservative communities, not wait for them. Mrs John W. Cameron, of Buffalo, said

"We must be willing to face the music. We must be prepared to lose members who will come back when their eyes are open."

"Mrs F. Louis Slade, former state president, made a last plea for caution

"This is a sane, reasonable and right law, I believe, but the question is whether we as an organization are ready for it," she said. "Many of our members do not even speak of it. The debate shows we are much divided. Let us give the cautious ones a little more time, and when we come together again our feelings will be more nearly unanimous."

"A rising vote showed that four county chairmen had had meetings, while fifteen had had none to study the subject

"Mrs Jones retorted to this 'Are we going to wait for the rural counties? Are we going to bring up the tag end of this movement? While we wait, mothers and children are dying by the thousands'

"Mrs Clarence E. Hancock, of Syracuse, swung the convention her way by telling about a woman who was unable to attend the county prenatal clinic because her oldest child, who had hitherto taken care of the youngest children, was at school

"She goes to school now because she has a pair of shoes," the mother explained, "so I stay home and take care of the little ones. They have no shoes, so they cannot go to school."

"She then asked the delegates if they thought it right for the state to deny Birth Control information to a woman who already has seven children and shoes for only one

"After the vote was taken Mrs Slade again appealed to the convention

"You have now decided to indorse this measure," she said. "Many of our local leagues do not understand it. See to it that they do. When it is understood I am sure our members will approve this action. If they do not, we can take it up again next year."

"Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, listened to the debate intently, as its advocates are already planning their move upon the next national convention."

On November 27, Mrs Sanger sailed for Europe. After a short rest and recuperation, she will spend several weeks with Mrs Edith How-Martyn, Conference Secretary of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues, making preliminary arrangements for the Population Congress to be held next September.

Mrs Anne Kennedy, Field Secretary of the League returned from her Middle Western trip late in December. Her report to the Board of Trustees will be published in the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* next month.

The Board of Directors of the League have made plans for a series of parlor meetings to raise funds and stimulate interest in Birth Control in and around New York. Two of these meetings were held in December, the first at the home of Mrs Warren Thorpe, where the speakers, both members of the Board, were Dr Benjamin T. Tilton, Chief of Staff of St. Marks Hospital, and Mrs Ernest Adey, President of the Board of Directors of the Babies' Hospital. The second in the series was at the home of Miss Mabel Clarke, the speakers were Mrs F. Robertson Jones, and Dr James F. Cooper, Medical Director of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League. Mrs Jones' subject was "Birth Control and the 100 Neediest Cases."

On January 17, a symposium will be given at the Colony Club under the chairmanship of Mrs Lewis L. Delafield. Other meetings in the series will be at the homes of Mrs Carr Van Anda, Mrs John Berwind, Mrs James Mabon and Mrs Ernest Adey.

In the early part of December, Dr Cooper was in New York where on December 5th and 6th, he spoke on the general aspects of the subject of Birth Control before two labor bodies. His audience at the Labor Temple Forum (14th Street and Second Avenue) numbered 400 though the night was

stormy At a smaller labor lyceum in Brownsville he had an audience of 125

Among visitors at headquarters within recent weeks, were a young Chinese woman, a student at Columbia, who plans to work for Birth Control Clinics at home, and Miss Naemi Granfelt, principal of the General Aid Association Bureau and other organizations for social work in Gothenberg, Sweden

Visitors from nearer home were Dr H L Hurley of Jackson, Michigan, President of the Jackson County Medical Society, who spent part of a day in the Clinical Research Department, and Dr Jose A Lanauze-Rolon Dr Rolon is on his way to Europe where he will visit Birth Control Clinics in England and Holland

### Michigan

AN audience of 540 University of Michigan students of both sexes heard Dr Cooper speak at Ann Arbor on November 24th He reports these undergraduates of the University of which Dr C C Little is President to be "a fine body of open minded young people"

### Illinois

THOSE who have read Mrs Kennedy's story of the four clinics already in operation in Chicago will be interested in the luncheon and symposium on Birth Control under the auspices of the Chicago Women's Aid, which has appropriated funds for a fifth clinic The array of names of speakers at both meetings and the aspects of the subject covered are most impressive Mrs Max Adler, chairman of the Birth Control Committee of the Women's Aid was chairman of the luncheon, and five minute talks were given on "Sex Hygiene of Family Life" by H L Lurie, "The Difficulties We Have Encountered" by Mrs Benj Carpenter, "A Problem in Human Nature" by Dr Morris Fishbein, "Birth Control and Family Welfare" by Florence Nesbitt, and "Birth Control and Religion" by Rabbi Louis L Mann

Dr William Allen Pusey presided at the symposium The speakers were, Professor Charles Manning Child, "Environment and Individual Development", Dr Helen Vincent McLean, "Necessity of Birth Control Clinics", Dr Rachelle S Yarros, "Chicago Medical Centers", Professor Thomas Dawes Elliot, "The Ethical Aspects of Birth Control," and Eleanor Rowland Wembrbridge, Ph D, "Unlimited Families with Limited Minds"

### New Jersey

WITH the opening of the winter, Henriette Hart, who has had several years' experience as organizer in state health work in Oklahoma, and work for the New York Branch of the Woman's Party, takes charge of organization work in New Jersey Her title is field secretary for the American Birth Control League On December 3rd, Mrs Robert Huse gave a brief talk on Birth Control before the Woman's Republican Club of New Jrsey

### Maryland

THE Child Study Association of America is not as yet convinced that there is any connection between Child Welfare and Birth Control During two days the child, especially the emotional side of his nature, from conception to adolescence, was discussed by 200 delegates at a meeting in Baltimore, but conditions in home or inheritance which should have made parents avoid conception were not admitted as a legitimate part of child study

### Connecticut

ON December 7th, Dr James F Cooper addressed a group of 125 physicians, members of the Bridgeport Medical Association Keen interest was shown and the secretary of the association wrote Dr Cooper, "Your talk is still being talked about It was one of our best meetings and I wish to thank you"

### ENGLAND

THE *Sunday Worker*, London, characterizes the Birth Control resolution at Margate as a definite triumph for the Labour Women's Conference The New Labour Party Executive elected at Margate is said to be "worried over the question," and of course Mr James Sexton and a few other Catholics predict a split in the party Meanwhile the women, having won a place on the agenda of next year's conference, propose to make Birth Control practical politics in the party Already a public statement has been sent to party members, especially women, to work against the candidature of one Roman Catholic opponent of Birth Control, now proposing to run as a Labour candidate

\* \* \* \* \*

### A COMING EVENT

The Annual Meeting of the American Birth Control League will be held at 2 00 o'clock on January 13th at the home of Mrs Juliet Barrett Rublee, 242 East 49th Street, New York

## LAWS WHICH PERPETUATE DISEASE

(Continued from page 15)

with syphilis who have not one single symptom, the mother learning of her own condition only through the infant's infection

Medical science today can cure a syphilitic mother and make it possible for her to have normal children, but the public mind has not advanced equally with present day medical facts. Law makers in many of the states have not been asked for laws which will grant physicians the privilege of giving to such women as these information on Birth Control during the period of treatment

Iowa forbids registered physicians from giving contraceptive information regardless of the state of health of the person asking for it, even though the patient and the physician are both fully convinced of the need of preventive methods. Thus the physician is fundamentally handicapped both on the curative and the preventive side of his work

Many appliances for the regulation of pregnancy are for sale at practically every corner drug store, in every hamlet, village or city in the United States. True, they are sold under many names, and for as many different uses, but it is also true, that the purpose for which they are used (regardless of what the name or the use they are said to be for) is for the prevention of pregnancy. These articles are not in every case harmless, some are actually and practically harmful, none are preventives. Many are expensive and almost all are money thrown away. The American Birth Control League, Inc., has adopted methods for the prevention of pregnancy which have been found and proven to be sane, safe, sure, harmless and inexpensive. These methods, and not the quack methods secretly sold in the average drug store should be accessible to physicians

I believe that every woman of child bearing age who is infected with syphilis should have the right to ask for preventive methods and that all registered physicians should be granted the privilege by law of giving complete detailed information and appliances for the prevention of pregnancy to all married women infected with syphilis. It is for this class of patients that I make this appeal, no national or state law should remain on our statute books in Iowa or any other State, which will force physicians to withhold contraceptive aid from a married woman infected with syphilis or with any one of the known contagious or infectious diseases which may be transmitted to their children during pregnancy

There is nothing in the Bible against Birth Control. I cannot believe that the ruler of the universe would frown at the use of preventive measures for saving the health of mothers and preventing the infection of helpless innocent babes

"A man cannot be too careful in the choosing of his parents"—Heine

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

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

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## LORD BUCKMASTER IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

(Continued from page 12)

but a mere troubled and transient ripple upon the surface of the great ocean of eternity. Cardinal Newman, one of their greatest Cardinals, proclaimed their faith in these words. He said that the Catholic Church held that it were better that the sun and the moon should fall from their places, that the earth should fail, and that all the many millions upon it should die of hunger in extremest agony rather than— I will not say one soul should be lost, but should commit one venial offence, should tell one simple falsehood or steal one poor farthing without excuse. I cannot reach to the sublimity of that transcendent faith.

I HAVE another and a different vision of the mystery of life. To me the main purpose of man's existence is to fight these very evils of pain and sickness and unhappiness, to engage in endless and constant struggle with the forces of nature until he makes them the servants of his will and the ministers to his delight. And I believe that every step forward in his triumphal march is accompanied by a fuller development of all the highest moral qualities, by an increasing love, not merely of his fellow men but of all his fellow creatures, by unflinching self-sacrifice and undeviating devotion to the truth. You may not share my creed, but there must be many among you who think that if that is not the chief purpose it is at least one of the purposes of our existence, and to them I would appeal.

I WOULD appeal on behalf of the men who struggle in the grip of forces they can neither stem nor understand, upon whom the pressure of our civilization falls with such a burden that beneath its weight there is blotted out all the beauty, and the simpler happiness of life, that should be the heritage of us all, on behalf of the women—the women upon whose bare backs falls the untempered lash of the primeval curse declaring that "in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children," the women with the pride and glory of their life broken and dis-crowned, and the flower of motherhood turned into nothing but decaying weeds, and on behalf of the children—the children who are thrust into this world unwanted, unwelcomed, uncherished, unsustained, the children who do not bring trailing behind them clouds of glory but the taint of inherited disease, and over whose heads there hovers for ever the haunting horror of inherited madness. On behalf of them all I would appeal and as men who believe in the great future of our race, I beg of you, I earnestly entreat you, to support the Motion that I seek to move.

THE END



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