

July, 1927

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Let Reason Rule rather than Chance

"Humanity Owes the Child the Best it has to Give"

DECLARATION OF GENEVA



—From a painting by LUDWIG KNAUSS

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

Headquarters
104 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY
Telephones—Chelsea 8901 8902

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



What Have We Learned About Birth Control?

WE HAVE learned that **Birth Control** is the **deliberate regulation** of the **Birth Rate**—the **substitution** of reason and **choice** in place of **blind chance** in this most momentous function of human beings

We have learned that **science** and **medicine** have **discovered** easy, **sanitary** methods of **preventing conception**, methods **which** leave untouched the love **life** of **married** couples

We have learned that the forces of **Ignorance** and **superstition** stand in the way of the use of these methods, and would **condemn mankind** to **remain** the **victims** of nature **instead** of **mastering** her These forces have brought about the passage of laws **which** hamper the **introduction** of **Birth Control**, and in some states make the **teaching** of it a **crime**

We have learned that **Birth Control** is necessary for the following reasons —

- I THE HEALTH OF MOTHER AND CHILD
- II THE HAPPINESS OF MARRIED LIFE
- III THE RELIEF OF OVER-POPULATION
- IV THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RACE.
- V THE PREVENTION OF POVERTY
- VI THE PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION

We now give

Reason VII —THE PREVENTION OF WAR

The most frequent cause of war in the past has been the pressure of population and the need of space for its expansion The expansion may be expressed in terms of the need of markets for the products of **industry**, the need of raw **materials** for the use of a **nation**, the need of more **food**, or the need of **territory** for **colonial** expansion

The Emperor of Germany before the World War stated openly that **the teeming population** of his country demanded a place in the sun Napoleon is alleged to have said that with her high birthrate, France must make war

Mussolini is now **demanding** for Italy an **expanding** population in order that Italy may be able to **raise** an army of five **million soldiers** No country would demand such an army unless it intended to use it for war

Japan has an ever **increasing** population, with **insufficient** means for its support The world feels that **this** creates a problem and a danger for all **Asia**

China, with its countless swarms of people, is never long free from **internal** wars and conflicts

In answer to a question as to how the next war will be caused, Gen John F O'Ryan said —

"Overpopulation will cause the next war, as it caused the last Most people will tell you that war is caused by **religious** or race **hatred**, but I say that war is caused by the **competition** of **countries** for new **lands** to feed their people, and for new raw **materials** to feed their **factories** and to employ their people"

WE MIGHT as well face the bitter fact that the earth can only hold a certain number of people and when we exceed that number we have war Therefore population must be controlled

—GEN JOHN F O'RYAN



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XI

JULY, 1927

No 7

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MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*
ANNIE G POPBITT, *Assistant Editor*
MARY SUMNER BOYD, *Managing Editor*

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EDITORIAL

IN SPITE of the fact that Birth Control has not been **given** a place among the subjects to be discussed at the International **Population** Conference, to be held **this** summer **in** Geneva, we consider this conference the most **important** event that has yet happened **in** the movement for **scientific** study of questions immediately **affecting** Birth Control. Such a conference will **bring** to a head the **uneasiness** that many statesmen and scientists are feeling over the too rapid **multiplication** of population throughout the world, and will call attention of the governments of all **countries** to the necessity either of **providing** for the surplus or of **checking** increase. Birth Control as a means to health and happiness in families—for saving of mothers from death and invalidism, for **ensuring** to each child the **birthright** claimed for it **in** the **children's** charter, for **raising** the whole standard of **living**—is not an **international** question, affecting foreign governments, but a domestic concern for each nation. But Birth Control to prevent **overcrowding** and the necessity for **expansion** at the expense of other **nations** is an **international** question, and from this point of **view** the delegates to the International **Population** Conference must take **it** into account. Mrs. **Sanger** attended the **sessions** of the **Economic** Conference while she was **in** Europe. She will also be **in** attendance at the sessions of the Population Conference, and we hope to be able to **give** some report by her of the **proceedings**, and of the **attitude** of the delegates towards **Birth** Control.



A NEW presentation of the plans and purposes of Italy was made by **Mussolini** **in** the great speech of May 25th. He then pronounced against **emigration** as a **relief** to overpopulation **in** Italy, and urged the increase of her **inhabitants** by fifty per cent. He went into detail **concerning** the birth-

rate **in** Italy, and deplored the fact that it had dropped from around 38 to 27—lower **in** some parts of Italy, notably the most advanced, and higher **in** other parts where **conditions** were more **primitive**. It was true, he **admitted**, that the fall **in** the birth-rate had been accompanied by an equal fall **in** the death-rate, but he urged as an **ideal** the **high** birth-rate of earlier times, combined **with** a low death-rate. **In** this **Mussolini** showed **his** Ignorance of the population question and of economics, for **it** has been proved that a **high** birth-rate is necessarily accompanied by a **high** death-rate, especially under **circumstances**, such as **exist in Italy**, when large families have to struggle **with** extreme poverty and overcrowding. Even **in** countries of great wealth, as the United States, or countries which take **especial** care of the poor, as England, with all the advances in **medicine**, it has been **impossible** to keep a low death-rate **alongside** of a high birth-rate, and **it will be still more impossible in Italy**. A moment's thought **will** show the reasons. Italy has now forty **million inhabitants**, and only by a continual outflow **into** other countries has she been able to **sustain** this number. If, as **Mussolini** has decreed, in the next twenty years or so, Italy increases her population to **60,000,000**, how are all these people to be fed and housed? **With** such a birth-rate how are mothers and **children** to be kept healthy or even **alive**? However complete **Mussolini** may make **his** **domination** of Italy, he cannot by fiat repeal the law of **Malthus**. He may **forbid** all spread of Information of Birth Control, but he **will** thereby only make way for the positive checks to population—**misery**, starvation, disease, and perhaps the dread desolation of war. If **population** outruns the means of **subsistence**, if the preventive of **Birth** Control **is prohibited**, if **emigration** is **forbidden** and prevented, what other outcome can there **be**?



THE Jubilee of the Neo-Malthusian—now the New Generation—League in England brings to mind one of the greatest fights for liberty that England's long history of such fights can show. It is fifty years since the Drysdales and Dr. Vickrey, formed the League, under the impulse given to the subject by the trial of Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant for the sale of the Knowlton Pamphlet. For forty years the League, bitterly unpopular, was engaged in pioneer work, in sowing the seed which seemed so slow to sprout and take root. But for the last ten years the harvest has been in sight, and in England the movement has progressed so far and has developed into such practical form, that the league members are asking themselves whether there is any necessity to keep up the organization. It is suggested that it would be better to push the opening of Birth Control Clinics and to support those already opened, while awaiting the outcome of the efforts to secure the taking over by the Government of the duty of supplying Birth Control information, at the health clinics maintained all over the country at public expense. This question will probably be decided at the Jubilee dinner. If it is found that there is no more educational work for Birth Control needed in England, we shall have to conclude that Birth Control is much better understood and much more fully accepted there than in the United States. We shall be glad indeed when we can feel our cause has so far succeeded that there is no more work here for a Birth Control League, but that day seems yet somewhat distant, and in the meantime we need all the help and support available, if we are to reach that goal.



THE MEDICAL PROFESSION is waking up to the importance of raising the United States from its disgracefully low position in regard to maternal and infant mortality. Lecturing at Yale, in May, Sir George Newman, formerly chief medical officer of the British Board of Education, told his audience that "it is a grave thing for a nation to lose 18,000 young women in childbirth, and approximately 100,000 dead infants as the immediate results of childbirth." "The rate of maternal mortality in the United States," he added, "is the highest in the civilized world." We may doubt the statistics that are used to prove this. In some of the countries reckoned superior to the United States in this respect, statistics are notor-

iously incorrect. But the only result of greater accuracy would be to show a far larger maternal mortality for the world at large, and by no means to lessen the responsibility of the United States, whose statistics would also probably show an increase if accurate records were kept in every State. Regardless of the comparative merits or demerits of the various countries in this respect, a great obligation rests upon the physicians of this country to make the world safe for maternity, and it is well to see that study and attention are now being given to this hitherto much-neglected field of medical research.



IT WOULD be interesting to know what percentage of maternal mortality is due to pregnancy begun while the woman was unfit, and also to know in how many cases the woman herself knew that she was unfit, and earnestly desired to avoid pregnancy—for the time being, at any rate. It would also be interesting to find out in how many cases the doctor also knew that pregnancy would endanger the woman's life, and yet failed to instruct her as to how she could control it. Similarly with infant mortality, which is not being reduced in the same proportion as mortality at other ages. How much of our infant mortality is due to the birth of children who are foreordained to death or unfitness for normal life? And again how many of these infant deaths could be prevented by wise pre-conception care, whereby women would be warned and instructed to avoid pregnancy under conditions which pointed to disaster for the infant, if not also for herself. The demand of the English women for the inclusion of Birth Control instruction at the maternal and infant health clinics is based on the undeniable truth that infant mortality, as well as maternal mortality and invalidism, can never even be greatly lessened unless Birth Control is accepted as a most essential ally in the fight. The more thorough the study and research given to the question of maternal and infant mortality, the more plainly will it appear that knowledge of therapeutic Birth Control will have to be included in the curriculum of every medical student preparing for general or obstetrical practice.



THIS year is the 25th anniversary of the work for Birth Control of that intrepid champion in the medical profession, Dr. William J. Robin-

son of New York, editor of the "Critic and Guide" On the strength of this silver jubilee of his we have given him no present but we have asked a gift of him And he has sent us three articles, one for our **Children's** Number this month and two other brief ones telling of the origin of his interest in Birth Control and of the progress of the movement as he has watched it for 25 years Our thanks and good wishes go to Dr Robinson, with the hope that in a very few years he will see the cause in which he was a pioneer **triumphant** throughout the World

WE ADD our congratulations to those of the whole world to Lindbergh on his splendid feat in flying alone across the Atlantic In courage, resourcefulness, initiative and self-reliance, as well as in intelligence, he is hailed as the type of what a young American should be How much of **this is** due to the fact that he was of a small family, and enjoyed the undivided love and guidance of highly intelligent parents? His mother, if challenged by one of the much-lauded fathers of immense families of inferior children might well reply, with the fabled lioness, "Unum sed leonem"



Marriage Today and in the Future

By JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

111*

Sex the Foundation of Social Groups

HOW happens it that individuals, in spite of every difficulty and trial, have insisted upon forming and maintaining social groups? The answer, of course, is Sex

Society had its beginning in the sex relation in its higher developments as between two separate and different individuals, the male and the female There was no such thing as society, or social **groupings** of any kind, in the early stages of **life**, when reproduction consisted of the phenomenon of a single cell dividing itself by an **indefinite** process of multiplication into myriads of separate cells, **which** themselves **divided** and subdivided in the same way Neither were there any social groupings when the single individual was bi-sexual, the male and female elements being **united** in the same organism Society began, in its **earliest** stages, when the sexual elements became separated into two distinct individualities, and love, or sexual attraction, was thus added to reproduction in the process of mating These **two** individuals, male and female, had to come together in the experience of love, that the sexual process of reproduction might function and the race continue And in this conjunction of two individuals for such purpose, we find the origins of **society**! In the **beginning**, of

course, these social groupings were fortuitous and transient The **animals** simply gathered together at the mating season, and then dispersed As time went on, however, the sexual process began to elevate and refine itself The number of offspring, as we have seen, grew steadily less, the need for care and **rearing** of offspring grew correspondingly great The period of helpless infancy, as John **Fiske** so accurately observed, became indefinitely prolonged, and demanded the attention of the **father** as well as of the mother The result was that **animals** began to stay together permanently in flocks and herds

LITTLE BY LITTLE there began to appear those **first**, faint intimations of the **family**, which man, out of the necessities of his **infinitely** more complex and delicate experience, developed into the central institution of his life It is from these initial workings of love and reproduction, that all of our society has developed From the first swift mating of two **primitive** organisms to all these elaborate institutions of church and state and home which constitute our present **civilization**, runs one unbroken **line** of progressive and creative evolution We have society, and live in society, because nature refuses to tolerate **isolation** To quote the old theological legend, "God said, It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him"

*This is the third of a series of articles based on sermons by John Haynes Holmes Reprints of the sermons in full can be obtained for 10c at the Community Church, Park Avenue and 34th Street, New York City

But how is man to be fitted for society? He is at bottom an **individual**, **sufficient** unto **himself**, except for **this** one great **instinct** of reproduction, how can he be adjusted to the **necessities** of social life? Here is the central problem of human existence—the problem of the **training** of the **individual** to social uses—the problem **which** all of **ethics** and all of **religion**, and all of **science**, for that matter, is **trying** to solve. And the one answer to **this** question, **which** has been created by the social consequences of sex relation, is **marriage**! The very **experience** of love and reproduction, as we have seen, is the most central, as it is the most **primitive** and natural, of social **experiences**, the **family**, or the **home**, **which** is the outgrowth of **this** experience, is the **unit** out of **which** is constructed the whole structure of the social **organism**. Therefore is marriage in itself the central training-ground for social order and cooperation.

MARRIAGE prepares for the social experience **which** it has created. Here the **individual** is taken out of **himself** in spite of **himself**. In the very act of love, he is **living** not alone but in **association** and **cooperation** with another. In the **reproduction**, **which** follows upon love, he sees a society created by **his** action, of **which** he must **function** as a part. The whole **experience**, whether of love, or reproduction, or both together, is a process of **socialization**, a **transformation** of **selfishness**, of **aggression** into **sacrifice**, of **individuality** into **fellowship**, and thus a **discipline** for social **living**. In the husband's **relation** to the **wife** and the **wife's** to the husband, in the parents' relation to the **children** they have **conceived** and borne, in the **children's** **relation** to the parents and to one another, in the relation of all of them together as a **family** to the general **environment** of **society**—in these we have the one way **which** is open and sure for the transformation of a **single** soul into a **fellowship** of souls. **This** is true, at least, for the **majority** of men and women. There are people, I have no doubt, who have themselves outgrown the **confining** bonds of **their** narrow and **selfish** lives—**spiritual** geniuses who are able **singlehanded** to adjust themselves to the **spiritual** cosmos of society. But **this** is not true of most of us. "In the great **majority** of cases," says Count Keyserling, "the will to live in the natural sense **predominates**. For all such persons marriage offers the best means to **perfection**. **Marriage** is the only way, or at least the most **easy**, by **which** they can merge **their** natural **instincts** with **their** **spiritual** nature, to form a **higher** union. (For) in **marriage** all **particulars** are drawn into a **higher** correlation, in **which** state it first receives its full personal and **cosmic** significance."

IT IS IN the fulfillment of **this** lofty purpose of **individual** **socialization** that marriage finds its ultimate end. It is as a **training-ground** of **fellowship** that **marriage** presents its perfect and final **meaning**. There is something more here than "any **gratification** of **particular** inclination," such as love, or "any performance of **special** duties," such as parenthood. There is the **reconciliation** of the inevitable conflict between these two in the **transformation** of the **individual** into a social being. There is that **higher** synthesis, in other words, **which** is none other than society itself. **This** is why **marriage** has been regarded and protected by every **higher** form of **civilization** as the central relationship of life. **This** is why marriage has been defined by all **religions** to be a sacrament. **This** is why people still marry and **give** in **marriage**, after centuries of **disappointment** and **disillusionment** and **failure**. "Marriage must prevail," to quote Count Keyserling again, else society in all its best estate will fall.

Such is my answer to the **question** of marriage. I have not attempted to **justify** or condemn, but only to **explain**. Here is what **marriage** is—the safest form of reproduction, the noblest type of love, the one sure **basis** of social **fellowship**. In the **light** of **this** understanding of the problem, there remains to consider the successes and **failure** of its working out, and the momentous challenge of its future. To these **questions** I shall devote myself next. Meanwhile, whatever the **trials** of the present and the **uncertainties** of the future, the past is secure. There abides, does there not, the **vision** of woman set to man,

"Like perfect music unto noble words"

With **this** attained, under whatever **conditions**, by whatever **experiments** and **trials** and **dedications**, we can say with the poet—

"Then comes the stately Eden back to men
Then reign the world's great bndals, chaste and calm,
Then springs the crowning race of humankind"

In the rest of **this** series I am going to look into the future and **consider** what marriage is coming to, whether marriage is **destined** or not to endure, and **if** it is, in what character and under what **conditions**. **This** will involve the **discussion** of such **questions** as the **changing** **political** and **economic** status of women, the new **education** of **children** and the whole great problem of **divorce**. **Marriage** may not be going to **disappear**. I don't believe that **it** is! But **it** is **certainly** going to change in ways that may not be very acceptable to the older members of the present **generation**.

(To be continued)

East or West — Pity the Poor Children

By WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D

I

SOME years ago when attending a meeting at Albany, I was persuaded to visit the State penitentiary. I described the visit at the time. It made me sick for days. One of the things that left an indelible impression on my mind was the way the men condemned to hard labor worked. We still had prison contract labor then. The men were rushing as if their very lives depended upon the rapidity with which they did their work, as if they were running away from a tower of fire that was pursuing them, as if they were trying to escape from a tornado or an earthquake. While they were standing round long tables and working, they gave the impression of running, running. At the end of each table was sitting a brutish looking man watching them with steely eyes, and with a cocked revolver in his hand. I do not recollect now whether he had only one revolver, or one in each hand.

Damascus

On my recent visit to Damascus, I went through an enormous factory which may well be termed universal from the variety of things manufactured there. When I entered the department of silver inlaid brassware and I saw a lot of tots, mostly little girls, beating the silver fihgree with their little hammers into the brass trays and vases, the scene in the New York State Penitentiary, of which I hadn't thought in years, suddenly came to my mind. For all these little workers, boys and girls, were not just working they were rushing, like the prisoners, they were rushing to do their task, as if their lives depended upon their accomplishing a certain amount of work. And perhaps their lives did so depend. For while there was no warden with a cocked revolver, they had as inexorable and merciless a supervisor before their eyes. The name of that supervisor was Hunger. They well knew that if they got slack in their work, if they did not accomplish the given task, they might be chased, others would take their place, and there was no other such factory in the city where they could find work. And that meant starvation, or begging which meant kicks, arrests and again starvation. And though their wages are absurdly small, just barely sufficient to hold body and soul together, it is better than nothing —

I was told that their wages were incredibly small — a few cents for a long day's work — and I tried to

find out from one of the proprietors how much the children got, but he wouldn't tell me. "You are an American and our wages, I know, will appear to you terribly small, but, you see, they get along, and, besides, why should we pay more when we can get thousands of other children for the same wages, or perhaps even less? You know, you in America also don't pay more than you have to."

Dnven Children

And in every department we visited, side by side with gray-haired, middle-aged and prematurely-aged men and women there were blackeyed little tots, 8, 10, 12 years of age, hammering, cutting, turning, sewing, embroidering, polishing, kneading, blowing, and what not. And all the time rushing their work. It is not the work per se that depressed me so, work even for children is not an unmixed evil, it is better than complete idleness, but it was the rush, the hurry, as if somebody stood over them with a whip, that brought to my mind the scene of the prison labor in the Albany penitentiary. And whenever the supervisor was at the other end of the room talking to a prospective customer, the little tots would stealthily put out their hands and in a low voice ask for a plaster. And when you would give them a five plaster piece — the smallest readily obtainable coin there, equivalent to about our nickel — such a joy would irradiate their faces that you felt like giving another coin. Perhaps that represented their full day's wage —

Poor little slaves. Instead of being outdoors and enjoying the warm sun and the dazzlingly blue sky, they were spending their young lives in stuffy, dusty, littered up factories. What were they born for? What is their life now, what is their life going to be? How many happy days or hours will they have between the day they were born and the day they will be, unwept and unsung, shoveled under the ground?

Palestine

Let us now dash across Syria into Palestine. Let us visit some of the sanctified places — Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Jerusalem. Everywhere an excess of useless, unwanted, hungry, ragged human beings, everywhere children trying to sell some worthless trash, or simply, openly begging. "Life is a tragedy to him who feels" — and it is heartbreaking to contemplate this terrible human

wastage, these chddren **without** a **childhood**, these men **without** manhood, these women **without** womanhood Oh, yes, motherhood they have, too much of it, and that **is** one of the causes of the great tragedy — "Poor children," I could not help repeating **again** and again, as I saw the swarms of them, boys and **girls** in shameful rags, **besieging** our auto, **begging** for a piaster, "how much better it would have been for you **if** you had never been born!" Not a ray of joy for them from the cradle to the grave

Let us transfer ourselves to the other end of the **Mediterranean** Let us visit some **cities** and **villages** of Southern Italy **Children, children** everywhere Heaps of them, swarms of them Most of them are **fairly** decently dressed, and they don't look hungry And there **is** very **little** mendicancy **Things** are not so **shocking** as they are in the Orient, or as they used to be here some years ago For even the bitterest enemy of **Mussolini**, such as I am, **will** grant that under **this** mountebank **economic conditions** have **improved**, the wages are smaller, the hours are longer, but there **is** **practically** no unemployment Every **expression** of free thought is strangled, every **articulate longing** for **liberty** is crushed, but the people are fed, it may be just bread and a **little** wine, but there is no actual starvation as there used to be

Training Children to Kill

Yes, but what I saw there depressed me even more than the sight of the children **in** the Damascus factory For the **Italian children**, from **their** tenderest ages, are being **militarily drilled** and trained for death That monstrous clown, that **pinchbeck Napoleon**, has openly declared that he wants the **children** to **imbibe** the glory of war **with** **their** mother's milk, he wants them to become **imbued** with the thought that the most **glori-**

ous profession is that of a **soldier** And the **children** are bang brought up accordmgly, both mentally and physically And he wants, he demands as many **children** as possible The most **heinous crime** in Italy, next to **attacking** Il Duce and fascism, is the advocacy of Birth Control Not only **giving practical information**, but the mere **suggestion** that Birth Control **might** be **advisable** for an overpopulated country is a **criminal offense** He stated in one of his recent speeches that **if** he could, he would exterminate, destroy, uproot all the bachelors who do not make any additions to the population of the State But as he **cannot** do that, he **is going** to **impose** such heavy taxes on them, that they would find it cheaper and more comfortable to marry and to have **children** than to remain **celibrate** The world knows that his idea **is** to populate Italy so densely that the great powers **will** **recognize** that the country has a "moral" **right** to **additional colonies**, and **if** she does not get them peaceably, why she **will** fight for them And the **children**, I repeat, are **being** brought up accordmg to this **guding idea** from their **earliest** years **Terrible** To think of it to **bring children** into the world **with** the deliberate purpose of **preparing** them for cannon fodder! Poor **children**

Never **did** I feel the vital need of Birth Control more acutely, more poignantly than I **did** on my recent **cruise** around the **Mediterranean** And never was I more convinced of the truth that the world's greatest menace at the present **time was—** Italy That country **is** a menace to the world's peace and to **its liberties** For everywhere the **reactionaries** are encouraged by the success of the Italian despot and are **trying** to **mussolinize** **their** own **countries**

Italy, **Spain** and the Oriental **countries** have many needs, but no need **is** more urgent there than that of courageous, self-sacrificing **practical Birth Control** propaganda



To a Lost Child

Oh bird that used to press
Thy head against my cheek,
With touch that seemed to speak,
And ask a tender 'yes'
Ay de mi, my bird!

Oh tender downy breast,
And softly beating heart
That beating seemed a part
Of me who gave it rest —
Ay de mi, my bird!

GEORGE ELIOT

The Economic Conference and Population

WITH rigid restraint, the Economic Conference kept out of its proceedings any consideration of the Population Question. The problems and dangers of overcrowding in such countries as Italy and Japan were not forgotten, but there were political reasons why the Conference feared their discussion. We give below an editorial, translated from *Le Journal de Geneve* of May 11th, in which the writer discusses the international complications of the problem. In reviewing the situation, he does not look far into the future, or take into consideration anything beyond immediate relief of the situation in Europe and Japan. He regrets the open door in the United States, which would have offered a temporary refuge for the

over-crowded nations of Europe. But the solution would have been only for our generation, and to our descendents would have been bequeathed problems still more acute and difficult, with a whole world over-crowded and impoverished. In defending herself and her own standards of living, America has merely called a halt to the world, and forced all the countries to seek a real and permanent solution to the question as to how a nation shall learn to contain itself within its borders.

We hope and expect that the Population Conference which is to meet in Geneva in August, will bring more scientific knowledge and more trenchant criticism to bear on the whole question.

That Which is Not Mentioned

THE economic causes of political phenomena are extremely complex and one cannot ask the Conference to study all of them. But there is one which, on account of its importance, is quite exceptional in nature and we cannot but regret that international susceptibilities have prevented its inclusion in the programme of the Conference. It is the question of population.

Before the war all frontiers were open for the circulation of individuals. Currents had established themselves from the more populated or more poverty-stricken countries towards the less populated or richer countries—practically from Europe to America. These currents which complemented the system of commercial exchange, served as regulators of the relations among the nations.

The war has troubled this system profoundly. For five years the countries of Europe, which needed all their men, prohibited emigration. Besides, one will pardon the abominable thought which expresses a statistical truth, there were not enough killed to make up for the stoppage of emigration. The belligerent nations found themselves more numerous after the war than before.

Then began in Europe a great unemployment crisis, and the United States was faced with a dilemma, to lower the level of living of the working classes, or to close the frontier. It would have been impossible for American workers to retain their high pay, if the country had generously welcomed the overflow of European workers which was then numbered in millions.

National considerations, were added to economic and social reasons. The American nation had during the war the feeling that it had not yet succeeded in assimilating all the immigrants of the previous generation. A new influx of aliens appeared to it a moral peril, a menace to Americanism. This feeling rallied the mass of the people, animated by national ideals, to the aid of the workers, anxious to defend their wages.

We do not judge the policy. America had its reasons for acting so, doubtless any other nation would have done the same in its place. What interests us are the consequences.

First of all for the United States. First consequence, a rise in wages, to which Americans attribute largely the present prosperity of their industry. This has rallied the employers to the policy of restriction of immigration. Second, internal migration problems, as yet not fully studied,

The consequences for Europe are more important.

Without the prohibition of emigration during the war, there would probably not be today and Independent Ireland.

Similarly, without the obstacles to emigration, there would without doubt have been no Fascism. The troops which made the march on Rome consisted essentially of young men who immediately after the war could neither re-enter civil life nor leave the country. America bears much of the responsibility for the outbreak of Fascism.

This explains the attention that Mussolini pays to population. If Italian emigration were free, as before the war, there would have been no tension between France and Italy, no expansion of Italy in the Balkans. Italy would have no designs on Tunis, on Albania, on Sicily. It would not have been in danger of exploding.

Without the American law and those of the British Dominions inspired by it, there would have been no Japanese problem. Japan whose population density is equal to that of Belgium and whose resources are much inferior, has no territory nearby to which its people can go. It can only feed them at home by an intense development of its industries and by desperate competition, especially in China, with European goods. Hence the anti-

(Continued on page 214)

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

Occasionally one meets a *man*—much more rarely a *woman*—who *rejoices* that he was one of a large *family*. But for one such case there are dozens of men *and women* who recall *with* pain *their childhood* in an overcrowded *home*—without possibility of *privacy*, without sufficient food, without the education they longed for, *with* far too hard work for *their* years, the work falling especially heavily on the shoulders of the elder *children* hearing always the shrill, overwrought nervous voice of the *exhausted* mother, and knowing *nothing* of *friendship* and *companionship* with *their* parents. Mothers know that they cannot do *justice* to *their children* when there are too many and *when* *their* own health suffers from *childbearing* and overwork. They *should* be allowed to be the judge of *their* own *capacity* to *bear* and rear children, and *should not have thrust* upon *them* *burdens* greater than they can carry.

Unhealthy Babies

Pennsylvania

I am a **married** woman and mother of three children, although I am only 22 years old. I have **been trying** for some time to obtain one of your books on Birth Control for if ever a woman needed it I certainly do.

My oldest child is five years old, and not overly healthy and the next to the eldest, three years, is in very poor health and he always has **been**. The Doctor says he has asthma, but we have **tried** diets and **medicines** of all **kinds** and **different** doctors but to no **avail**. It takes about one-third of my husband's pay for this child and I really haven't had a whole **night's rest**, except in the **hospitals** at the **birth** of a new baby, since my first pregnancy. I am on the verge of a nervous breakdown. For the last three months I have had hemorrhages instead of menses and had to go to a doctor, who orders me to bed. But that is next to **impossible**, for I do not have a mother or relative to care for my children while I go to bed. I don't want to have any more children, for we are poor people and have more than we can care for in the proper way now.

"Not Able to Care for so Many"

Pennsylvania

I am **writing** to you as I would an old **friend**, for I am sure you are a **friend** of women like myself. I have bought one of your books recently, "Woman and the New Race" and think it very good and now I know you **will** help me as you have others. I have been **married** a short time and have a **little** baby **girl** eleven months old and I am **expecting** another baby in two months more. I am never well and have never been since my other child was born. I can scarcely get my work done and care for our little **girl** and at **times** I can't be on my feet at all. I am not able to

care for so many children in any way, for we can't afford to **hire** help only while am down **sick**. As soon as I am up I have to look after the children myself. I **think** it is **entirely** wrong to **bring** children into the world to be uncared for and as soon as they are old enough they have to go to **factories** and such places. I am twenty-seven years old and have always had to work hard myself, as I came from a family of **eight** children, and I **realize** what it means to have a large **family** and **nothing** to go on. I am very weak and nervous while I carry my **babies** and for that one reason with a dozen others, I **think** it wrong to have any more children as they may be the same. I trust that I won't put you to much trouble in giving me some advice as you have other poor ignorant women like myself. If only more women knew about you they would be **happier** I **believe**. I am sure I **will** thank you for anything you can tell me and if there is **anything** I can do to help you in this good work I **will** be glad. I **trust** I **will** hear from you soon for I am so glad I have found someone to help me in my **ignorance**.

"My Family Needs Me"

New York

Several months ago, I purchased your book, "Woman and the New Race" and have read and reread it. I am thirty-three years old I am expecting my **sixth** baby any day. My oldest, a **girl** of ten, the second a boy **16** months younger (**died** at the age of **11** months) the **third** a **girl** of **4½** years old, the fourth a **girl** three, and the fifth a boy, **21** months. We started here on our farm after **marrying**, with nothing and have to work hard and manage every way to **provide** for our family.

I am greatly Interested in "Birth Control" and would like to learn more about it. My doctor, tells me not to do **anything** to injure my health for my **family** needs me, still he does not tell me any way of **preventing** my **being** an incubator, and unless I learn more, no doubt **will** be

the same way **again in a** few months, if I survive this time For I know for me there **is** no "safe period" **Must** our lives be marred, **ruined**, through ignorance? Can there be no marriage **without maternity** for us? Must we separate, or live abnormal lives? I have also tried the theory of not **responding passionately**, or rejecting self-expression, but that **failed** as **your** book states

I know of no one to ask but you, and as you say in your book there are **contraceptives**, preventive measures, why cannot they be made known to a mother already overburdened, overworked None of my **children** have **weighed** over five pounds at **birth** and are such cares during the first few months, it seems they **just** hang **by** a thread **My** youngest one, now **21** months, **is** very backward, has only six teeth, does not walk, **is** just **beginning** to creep, **is** so nervous, and to **think** another **is** at hand to take his place for care, and help **is** so scarce and not competent, and wages so **high** we can't afford to **hire**

I know you must tire of **hearing** people's troubles, but **if** you could help me it would be the greatest blessing My mother is so angry whenever she finds I am pregnant, but never tells me how to avoid it She had only four **babies**, just my brother and I **living** to grow up My husband's mother had seven, **six** now **living**, three daughters and three sons, she never says anything, but her daughters have no **families** One of them has had two **serious** operations, finally **removing** all **generative** organs

"A Nice Boy and Girl"

Canada

I am married **six** years now, have a **nice** boy and **girl** 4 and 2 years, but now we don't want any more The **last** baby I nursed, that has told on my health as I was never strong I am comfortable and happy so far as a working woman can expect to be, but **since** I stopped **nursing** my last boy, my husband and I have nearly **lived** separate, and **times** I **wish** I could get a **divorce** on account of the way he keeps me so unhappy and always threatens to go to Montreal bad houses and get what he wants I would not stay only for the sake of the other two **children** **which** he **thinks** the world of, but he don't want any more and I think you could advise me for the good and **happiness** of **this** little home

"Can't Stand Any More"

Iowa

You seem like a **friend** to me after **reading** your book "Woman and the New Race" **which** I purchased a short time ago, and **which** I enjoyed **reading** very much It **is** so much like **life** has been to me and to so many others that I know, I **think** we do need help

We have four dear **children**, the oldest about **six** and one-half years, and the youngest one year, and goodness

we wouldn't take the world for one of them after we get them, but **its** **this** the mother can't stand any **more** for awhile at least (that's me) I **am** not **so** strong since the last baby came, and then we can't care for them so well and that **worries** me

Well, there **is** not much use in **writing** my family history here as you know about it **without** my **writing** it I am **sending** this letter in hopes that you can help me

Drunken Father

New Jersey

I am a woman 30 years old and have five **children**, have had 6 but one dead, oldest one **12** years old My husband **is** a **drinking** man, gets drunk every week, and when he **is** that way he **drives** me outdoors When he finds me in a **delicate** state he stays away from home 2 or 3 days at a time leaving us **with** no fire, no money and even **without** food each **time** When he stops I **think** he **is** going to do better but only gets worse I am **thinking** of **leaving** him but what will become of my three **little** girls? When he comes home after **being** away he threatens my life **with** a revolver, shoots through the house 3 of my **children** are ruptured He don't seem to care He only gets better when he knows my troubles are over I have just had a **miscarriage** **which** I caused myself and I've been very **sick** but getting along nice now I had to do this as I owe doctor bills from all my children, only pay some and leave some So **while** I am all **right** now **is** there **anything** in this world I can do to keep from having any more?

To Safeguard the Children

Maryland

I am twenty-two years old, have been married five years, and **have** three **children** I love the **children**, and now that they are here, I try to do the best that I can Yet I feel that it would not be **fair** to **bring** any more into the world and not have them **provided** for properly I detest **dirty**, unkempt **children** My husband has not been working **steadily** and things here are becoming **pinched** I don't want to see **children** **with** haggard faces Therefore, to safeguard the welfare of my little ones, I should like to have you send me a letter of **advice** I would appreciate **this** a great deal

Family Already Too Large

Illinois

I am **writing** you for **contraceptive** information Will you please answer my letter? I am a mother of 8 **children** I am 30 years of age and my husband works **by** the month on a farm My family **is** already larger than I can **give** good care **like** I ought to, so I am in terror of adding to it

Italy

A Recipe for an Explosive Population

MUSSOLINI and the political party through which he acts are compoundmg gunpowder for the next War. Into the formula they are using go all those elements which are repugnant to modern democracy and which make impossible a rational settlement of international disputes, with a people who have become enslaved at home by fear and by congestion of numbers

Overpopulation

In Italy are living 42,115,606 people. This means a population of 357 to the square mile, as against thirty-six to the square mile in the United States

—*Literary Digest*

The birth rate of Italy is now almost double the death rate and the annual increase of late years is placed at the lowest, at half a million, at the highest, at 760,000

—*Corriere della Sera*

Italy points to the inexorable facts of her vital statistics: 28,000,000 in 1881, 42,000,000 at home and perhaps 10,000,000 abroad in 1926, contrasted with the insufficiency of territory, and natural resources, at the lack of the raw materials in the few colonies that she has acquired and now holds. She stresses the resulting lack of balance between population pressure (a pressure, given the fecundity of the Italian race, which will rapidly increase) and means of existence, and foresees, unless new outlets are obtained, a grave economic crisis, involving unemployment on a vast scale, which may have serious social and political consequences abroad

—FRANCIS SNOW, in *New York Times*

No Solution Birth Control Denied

The Italian people are too prolific. I am glad of it. I will never countenance Birth Control propaganda.

As the country grows only three roads are open to it, to addict itself to voluntary sterility—Italians are too intelligent to do that—to make war, or to seek outlets for the overpopulation

—MUSOLINI (as quoted by *International News Service*)

A commission to investigate (under Dr Pestalozzi) was appointed. Then, in June, 1926, a

special commission, appointed by the Minister of the Interior, was charged with "social and police administrative means for protecting the family against insidious practical pseudo-scientific Neo-Malthusian propaganda." In the fall of 1926 the substance of laws on Birth Control was given out

The statement makes public the precautions to be taken for control of the Press as regards good morals, the protection of maternity and the campaign against the Neo-Malthusian propaganda. The new law establishes among other measures that it is an offense to distribute or publish publicly newspapers or manuscript copies in favor of these arguments and teachings, and newspapers and periodicals are further forbidden to publish advertisements of amorous correspondence, or of means of prevention of conception or any regulation of female fertility. Article 113 concerning the Government National campaign against Malthusianism establishes also that in the eyes of this law the following are considered offensive to good morals: writings, newspapers, engravings, lithographs, figures, drawings, inscriptions, objects in plaster or in any material which divulge the methods of preventing conception or interrupting pregnancy or which demonstrate or furnish any indication of the means of procuring same, or of using them, whether directly or under the cover of therapeutic or scientific aims

—*La Nazione*

Crescite e moltiplicate!

(Come il precepto viene applicato in Tunisia per l'avanzamento dei colonizzatori francesi)



INCREASE AND MULTIPLY

Application of the precept in Tunisia to the advancement of French colonization

(Cartoon from the *Rome Travaso*, showing Italian immigrants being labelled French citizens on arrival in Tunisia.)

The Solution Planned

Emigration has been urged, but in his pronouncement of May 25th **Mussolini** renounces any such peaceful expedient. He declares that Italy must enter the second half of the century with a population of 60,000,000 and that the country must have an army of 5,000,000, a strong navy and a huge air force. Is this looking towards peace? **Mussolini** has no desire to see Italians become part of other nations. He looks forward to world empire for Italy.

Emigration has become a hard necessity, said Count Cippico.

The relative **population** of France is seventy-five inhabitants to the square kilometer. Italy has 125 inhabitants to the square kilometer. The **population** in the Southern provinces of the French republic is much more sparse, and many fertile lands have been abandoned. But a great **political** problem is connected with this **immigration** scheme. As Italy does not want to lose millions of her sons abroad, so France does not want to give her land to millions of strangers who could represent and prepare a future **invasion**.

—*Baltimore Sun*



IT IS MY WILL!

Gale in the Los Angeles Times

There must be expansion for such a population

"We must have the courage to say that Italy cannot remain forever penned up in one sea, even if it is the **Adriatic**. Beyond the Adriatic there is the **Mediterranean** and other seas which can interest us."

—**MUSSOLINI** (quoted in *Literary Digest*)

But **Mussolini** is willing to wait

"It is five years that we continue to repeat that the **Italian population** is overflowing its banks. It is not true. There never no longer overflows, indeed, it is returning rapidly to its bed."

—Speech of May 25 *N Y Times*

He decrees a higher birth rate and vainly imagines that this is consistent with a low death rate

"The five-year period of the greatest birth rate was between 1881 and 1885, when it stood at 38 per 1,000. The maximum was in 1886, with 39. Since then we have been decreasing steadily. From 37 we have now reached 27. It is true that the death rate has fallen just as much. But the ideal would be a maximum birth rate and a minimum mortality."

THE OUTCOME WAR

"Under the **Mussolini** spell, the **Italians** talk frankly of expansion by force which is sober realism to more than forty millions of a great race galvanized by **Mussolini** indoctrination."

—**FREDERICH PALMER**, (in the *World's Work*)

Fascist militant gestures alarm and estrange every foreign power with which it is in contact. Now through Tyrol, it insults the Germans to the limits of endurance, now it threatens France monstrously, now it is the turn of the Turk or the Yugoslav.

—H G WELLS, (in *N Y Times*)

"We wish to teach our children the use of arms before they can speak." "We need more land," he says, "for we are too numerous for our present territories."

It is the hand of destiny that guides us back to our ancient possessions. No one can stop our inexorable will. "Your impatience," he promises the cheering crowds, "will be appeased some day. The great hour does not strike every day." And again, "I have a rendez-vous. When the time comes I shall tell you the place and you will come."

—**WILLIAM T FOSTER** and **WADDILL CATCHINGS**, (in *World's Work*, January, 1927)

"Just think what prodigious and invincible armies our children will form in ten years" — **IMPERO**.

Book Reviews

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU, by James A. Tobey
Service Monograph of the United States Government
No. 21. Published by the Institute for Government
Research, Baltimore—1925

FOUR YEARS OF THE FEDERAL MATERNITY
AND INFANCY ACT. Reprinted from the
Nation's Health for November, 1926. Children's
Bureau, Washington, D. C.

CONGRESS has extended for a two-year period the operation of the Sheppard-Towner Act for the Protection of Maternity and Infancy which was sponsored by the Children's Bureau five years ago. No federal activity has cost less than the Children's Bureau, or done more valuable work for the people of the United States in matters which vitally affect their lives and happiness. Although the Bureau has studied and helped to standardize care of the more than four million child laborers and dependent children in the Union, from the beginning its central interest has been the infant and its mother. Nine pages of a 16-page bibliography made in 1925 are on the mother, the young child and the baby. Its very first study was infant mortality and this was followed by others on maternal mortality in childbirth (which showed the United States to be maintaining year after year one of the highest rates among civilized countries) and on the relation between infant deaths and family income, and between infant deaths and the size of the family. These studies are perhaps the greatest contribution of the Children's Bureau to the welfare of the child, since this was a field in which other organizations had done little.

Dr. Blanche Haines and Miss Norah March, have summarized the accomplishments of four years under the Sheppard-Towner Act, published in pamphlet form by the Bureau. Their story shows that all but five of the States are cooperating with appropriations and educational work, that of these all but fourteen now have birth registration and all but one have organized a State Child Health Bureau. Work is going forward to educate midwives and provide mothers not only with care more or less expert at birth, but with prenatal and postnatal supervision and instruction in the care of infants and young children.

The Children's Bureau representatives have been untiring, they have been in the field 12 months in the year, year after year. The record for one representative year alone is 15,524 Child Health Conferences held, 2,686 prenatal conferences, 951,000 babies and very young children and 180,075 expectant mothers reached. In this same year no less than 300 permanent health centers were established throughout the country. Of nation-wide re-

sults, the report shows a lowering of infant mortality by four points since 1925. It shows also that maternal mortality has not been lowered a single point.

The Bureau claims no power to perform miracles. It has done its part, has found the facts and learned that drastic measures must be taken for the relief of mothers, and it calls on medical and social science to give this relief. The causes of the untouched maternal mortality and the very small lowering of infant mortality are to be found in the Bureau's own studies. Large families mean poverty and poverty means lack of care, physical exhaustion for the mother and undernourishment for both mother and child. Much local evidence of the condition of the poor mother is presented by the report. In Indiana, for example, a study of 3924 mothers showed that 45% have no prenatal rest, 29% no prenatal care, 10% no doctor and 44% not even one postnatal visit from the doctor. It is no wonder that our maternal mortality is high, when a woman must undergo the hazard of childbirth thus uncared for not once or a few times in her life, but every year, year after year.

The educational work of the Children's Bureau, under the Sheppard-Towner Act will lack the prime essential until pre-conceptual work—Birth Control—is added to its educational program. Already it is building up a machinery which could take up this work. Three hundred health centers for mothers and infants are the American beginnings of the great English system of government health stations about which the English Birth Control fight now centers. But in America we have an additional handicap, it is a question not only of government funds but government laws. The Children's Bureau cannot fight the Federal Government of which it is a part, nor can the State health workers fight the local governments of which they are a part. Until State and National Leagues of Women Voters, State and National Congresses of Mothers and other health and child caring agencies unite to change our anti-Birth Control laws, the Children's Bureau and the system of maternity and infant care it has built up in co-operation with the States will fall far short of its full usefulness.

M. S. B.

HOW I CAME TO BE. By Armenouhie T. Lamson,
New York, the Macmillan Company. \$1.75

MOTHER AND UNBORN CHILD. By Samuel Ray-
nor Meaker. The Williams and Wilkins Co. Balti-
more. \$2.50

HERE are two excellent little books which to a certain extent cover the same field. Both are concerned with the development of the unborn child and with the changes that take place in mother and foetus during that

process Both are crammed full of **information** well presented Here the resemblance ceases Mrs **Lamson's** book is the romance of prenatal life She aims to give in correct and yet easy language the story of the nine months which are usually omitted from biography She is not concerned with details concerning the proper care of the mother, nor instructions as to diet, clothing or exercise Her book ought to have a much wider reading public than that of Professor Meaker, for it is adapted to satisfy the natural and nightful desire for knowledge on the part of young people, and especially of girls contemplating motherhood, and it might properly be added to any course on sex education

Professor Meaker's book on the other hand, is addressed to the prospective mother and to those who have any care of her during pregnancy It gives, like Mrs Lamson's book, a full account of the development of the foetus before birth, but the point of view is that of the physician, guarding and guiding the pregnant mother through her nine months of gestation It is not intended to take the place of the physician, but by its detailed information of causes and reasons for treatment, it ought to prove an excellent auxiliary to him in his ante-natal work for the mother

Books Received

MOTHER AND SON, by Romain Rolland Henry Holt and Company New York \$2 50

WHAT PRICE MARRIAGE J H Sears & Company New York \$1 25

ADVICE ON THE CARE OF BABIES—BY A BACHELOR WHO CAN'T BEAR THEM, by Jerome S Meyer Albert and Charles Boni New York \$1 25

SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE FAMILY, by Ernest R Groves J P Lippincott Company Philadelphia \$2 50

LOVE-LIFE IN NATURE, by Wilhelm Bolsche Albert and Charles Boni New York \$10 00

SIBYLLA, OR THE REVIVAL OF PROPHECY, by C A Mace, M A E P Dutton & Company New York \$1 00

THE NEXT AGE OF MAN, by Albert Edward Wiggam The Bobbs-Merrill Company Indianapolis \$3 00

GENIUS, by Arthur C Jacobson Greenberg Publisher, Inc New York \$2 50

PROTECTION DE LA MERE ET DE LA FUTURE MERE Published by L'Association Internationale Pour la Protection de L'Enfance Brussels, Belgium

THE NEW MEDICAL FOLLIES, by Morris Fishbein, M D Boni & Liveright New York \$2 00

THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE, by Coburn Allen Greenberg Publisher, Inc New York

THE REPRODUCTION OF LIFE, by A J Cokkinis William Wood and Company New York \$3 50

THE OUTLINE OF MARRIAGE (English Edition), by Floyd Dell The Richards Press, Ltd 2/6

Periodical Notes

The *Journal of Social Hygiene* (New York) for May contains an article by Paul Popenoe giving an account of the working of the Sterilization Law in California He states that over 5,000 operations have been performed on insane and feeble-minded persons Only eight of the patients have been inmates of penal institutions In most cases patients after sterilization have been discharged, but there are many instances of operation for the benefit of the health of a patient who was not considered fit for discharge Among the women patients the majority were deliberately selected from among the married—women who suffered from insanity during pregnancy and, who under the old system, would have come to the mental hospital until after the birth of the child, then when the psychosis cleared up, be returned to their homes until a new pregnancy brought on a new attack and another visit to the hospital

The same number of the *Journal of Social Hygiene* contains also a review, by Ray Everett, of the Report on Traffic in Women and Children, presented to the Council of the League of Nations in March For those interested in this aspect of the work of the League this compendium of the Report is most illuminating

Eugenical News (Lancaster, Pa) for May contains an announcement of the coming World Population Conference at Geneva, and remarks on the possibility that such a conference may find a solution of some of the economic and health problems that are today a matter of grave concern In a discussion of "Overpopulation" which it defines as "more people than can secure the optimum standard of living and opportunities for the advancement of human culture" the case of Britain is quoted After suggesting a redistribution of occupations it adds—if this were done and Britain still found herself overpopulated with no prospect for maintaining her 40,000,000 people in optimum fashion, then either emigration or national Birth Control would seem to offer possibilities of amelioration"

The World Tomorrow devotes its June number to Marriage Hornell and Ella Hart discuss the causes of unsuccessful marriages Frederick Harris contributes an excellent article on the Possibilities of Marriage Ernest and Gladys H Groves urge a preparation for marriage beginning in early childhood Emilie J Hutchinson writes on the "Economics of Marriage" and married women's work, and Earle E Eubank discusses divorce under the heading, "When Marriage Fails" The number is excellent It includes also reviews of a number of recent books on marriage

The *Critic and Guide* for May contains an interesting article by Paul Blanshard giving a personal impression of how Young Russia regards sex problems

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

IN ADDITION to the Geneva Economic Conference of last month, and to the Population Conference which will assemble at Geneva on August 31st, there is to be an International Conference on Genetics in Berlin, September 11th to 18th. It is the fifth of the series of these genetic conferences, and there will be six morning sessions. It is probable that a number of the delegates to the Population Conference will attend.

UNITED STATES

MMARGARET SANGER, who has been in Europe, surveying conditions and studying the various aspects of the population question, arrived at New York on the Olympic on May 24th. She reports that there is a vivid and growing interest in Birth Control, both in England and in the northern countries of Europe. One curious aspect of the question that she discovered was that Birth Control is much more popular than any theory of Eugenics. In England, especially, Eugenics is suspect, as carrying an element of personal compulsion, while Birth Control, as a means of relief to over-population, is being increasingly favored.

While in Switzerland, Mrs. Sanger attended the sessions of the Economic Conference, and from conversations with delegates, she realized the difficulties encountered by those who had wished to include the subject of Population. She also realized the great importance of an unofficial conference, devoted solely to this subject.

An invitation to lecture on Birth Control before some of the Universities of India—one of the countries most in need of population control—has been extended to Mrs. Sanger. The plan, which is under advisement, is to hold the lectures during the coming winter.

California

BIRTH CONTROL was given no place on the programme of the California Conference on Social Work held in Oakland in May, but the Alameda County Birth Control League managed, nevertheless, to bring the subject to the attention of the delegates. A luncheon was held on the fourth day of the Conference, at which various aspects of Birth Control were presented. The luncheon was attended by a large number of the

delegates, and received excellent publicity in the California newspapers. Dr. Ann Martin, President of the League, presided and the speakers included Professor S. J. Holmes, Rev. Robert F. Leavens, Dr. E. L. Reichert, Dr. Fred O. Butler, head of the Home for Defectives, Eldridge, and Rev. Rudolph I. Coffee.

The Alameda County Birth Control League has established two clinics at which Birth Control advice is given, one at the Berkeley Health Center, and the other at the Alameda County Health Center, Oakland. The latter began work last February. The clinics accept only women who are socially eligible for clinic care, and all Catholic patients are first referred to their priests before being admitted to the clinic. This policy cuts down greatly the number of cases treated, as the majority of the women who apply are Catholics. It has been thought best, however, to avert criticism by keeping to this rule.

A very interesting debate on Birth Control was held at Fresno on June 11. It was arranged by Mr. M. Ozawa, secretary of the Fresno Japanese Association. A preliminary meeting to select the debaters was held on May 27, and representatives of eight organizations of young Japanese men were chosen. The object of the debate was to interest the organizations in the study of important problems of the day.

ENGLAND

A DINNER in honor of the Jubilee of the Neo-Malthusian League will be held in London on July 26th. The principal speaker will be Mr. H. G. Wells, who has so long been a courageous and outspoken advocate of Birth Control. The great feature of the evening will be the appearance of Annie Besant, who fifty years ago, with her friend and colleague Charles Bradlaugh, made Birth Control the most talked of subject in Great Britain, through her action in defying the authorities and openly selling the Knowlton pamphlet. Since those days of agitation and stress, Mrs. Besant has gone through many experiences and become interested in new causes. But her appearance at the dinner on July 26th links her up with the cause for which she made her first public appearance and carried on her first social fight.

The Manchester, Salford and District Mothers' Birth Control Clinic issued the report of its first year of work on May 27th. During the year ad-

vice had been **given** to **423 patients**, and there had been **319 repeat visits**. A number of **applicants** had been refused advice as unsuitable. These **included** cases where women came expecting abortion and not **prevention of conception**. The **423 women** who received advice reported **1,652 previous pregnancies** with **1,422 children** born alive. Of these **106 died** in the first year and **51 died** later. The **1,652 pregnancies** therefore had resulted in **1,265 living children** or a wastage at the rate of **203 4** per thousand. "An **increasing** number," says the report, "during the past few months have been referred to the **clinic** by the medical officers of Welfare centers." These centers, under the present policy of the Government, are debarred from **giving** contraceptive advice. Several cases were of women who had **received** at hospitals emphatic **warnings** of danger to life of further pregnancy but no **advice** as to how to **avoid** it.

The report attributes a large part of its success to the public meeting of protest staged by the Roman **Catholic Church**, headed by the **Bishop** of

Salford, which was held at the **time** of the **opening** of the **Clinic**. The wide publicity of **this** meeting **did** more than could have been **accomplished** in any other way to make the **clinic** known to its public.

The motives of the women seeking advice included both health and economic reasons. "A profound sense of parental **responsibility** and the well-being of **existing** children," adds the report, "actuates **their desire** to incur no further pregnancies, because of inadequate **housing** and wages. The proved value to health of mother and child of proper **spacing** is also coming to be generally recognized."

JAPAN

BULLETINS issued by the Government at Tokyo in May stated that owing to the problems created by the **immense** increase of the Japanese **population** and the shortage in the food supply, Birth Control was to be **officially** advocated and proper **instruction** given.



Englishwomen and Birth Control

THIS year for the third **time** the English Labor Women have pronounced emphatically in favor of **giving** Birth Control advice through the **Maternity Centres** and other **clinics** controlled by the Ministry of Health. Their verdict was given with vehement excitement, and in the full knowledge they they were acting contrary to the **wishes** of the **Executive** of the Party as a whole. The resolution passed **this** year, besides calling on the Party to **lift** the ban, requests the Party Executive to **receive** a deputation appointed by the Conference, to place its **views** before them. This **deputation** was duly appointed and consists of the mover and seconder of the resolution, Mrs. **Cowell** and Mrs. **Bosworth**, together with three added—Mrs. **Laski**, Miss **Jewson** (formerly M.P.) and Mrs. **Dora Russell**.

The resolution further urges that local women's **sections** should get in touch with local Trade Union branches, to explain the women's view, and approach local **authorities** and the local members of Parliament. The Trade Unions, by their block votes, hold the key to the **situation** in the **National Conference** of the Party, and a resolution must pass there **before** the Party is pledged.

The **opposition** have been exceedingly active **this** year. They have done propaganda locally in the sections—almost entirely under Catholic **direction**,

and a Catholic **organization** picketed the Conference with a leaflet. And official **opposition** from the leaders has caused some of the less bold **spirits** to hesitate. These facts account for an increase in the **minority** vote this year to **70**, but the majority **remains overwhelming**. Nor must the **minority** vote be taken as against Birth Control **itself**. It represents also those who do not **wish** to pledge the Labor Party hard and fast to the **giving** of advice in that way. None the less, the opposition want **watching**, the more so as the **Executive** is only too ready to play into their hands by shelving this awkward **question**.

I personally, am more than ever convinced that this **political** demand for the **recognition** of Birth Control as part of State **Maternity Care** is the **right** strategy to adopt. It brings into the open arena the women's demand for **their** right of **choice** in the number of their children and the time that they are born. Round this right of choice revolve numerous other economic and **social difficulties** of women—**married** women's work, for example. The **feminist** charter that does not **include** Birth Control has no contact with **reality**. It is therefore **splendid** to see that the **Liberal** Women have followed the example set by the Labor Women and demand in **similar** terms public **recognition** by the State of a woman's **right** to **limit** her **family**.

DORA RUSSELL

The World Population Conference

Geneva (Switzerland), August 31 — September 3, 1927



FOLLOWING close on the Economic Conference of May, the scientists of all branches connected with the question of Population will assemble at Geneva at the end of August. Unlike the Economic Conference the Population Conference is not under the auspices of the League of Nations. But it will sit on the doorstep of the League, and it will be impossible for the League to ignore its debates and conclusions. In fact, many of the delegates to the League will rejoice to see this greatest of all great world problems studied, for it is an open secret that there was a strong desire to have Population included in the scope of the Economic Conference.

The Conference will meet in the Salle Centrale, Geneva, on August 31, and will be continued over four days. The chairman is the veteran statistician Sir Bernard Mallet, long the Registrar General of Great Britain, who will preside at the first session. At other sessions the presiding officers will be Professor W. Rappard of Switzerland, Professor Julian S. Huxley of England, Professor Andre Siegfried of France, Professor Dr. Goldschmidt of Germany, and Dr. C. C. Little, President of the University of Michigan.

The subjects of the papers, which will not be read in full but circulated among the delegates and then discussed at the sessions, include the Biology of Population Growth (Professor Raymond Pearl), Optimum Population (Professor H. P. Fairchild), Population and Food Supply (Professor Carr-Saunders), Differential Birth Rates in France, Germany and Holland (M. Lucien March, Professor Dr. Grotjahn and Dr. H. W. Methorst), Control of Migration (M. Albert Thomas), and Fertility and Sterility in relation to Population (Dr. F. A. E. Crew). About thirty scientists and students of these questions have been accepted for the general discussions which will form the most valuable part of the proceedings.

Several of the European Governments are designating representatives to attend the conference and report upon it officially. Among these it is hoped and expected that Italy will be included and that Mussolini will name statesmen to be present at the discussions. Such a representation of the country with the most rapidly increasing population would augur well for the peace of the world.

While almost every subject in the whole realm of human affairs has been reviewed and discussed, the Conference of August 31-September 3 offers the very first opportunity for the calm scientific consideration by scientists and statesmen of this, the most explosive and difficult of all national and international problems. While the Conference is unofficial, it may well be hoped that the League Delegates and Councillors will attend the sessions, realize the importance of the discussions and carry back the message to their respective governments.

Although Birth Control is not included in the subjects for discussion, the American Birth Control League considers this Population Conference the greatest and most important step yet taken towards the international adoption of a policy of population restriction—restriction which is only possible through Birth Control.

In the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for June we gave some of the members of the Council of the Conference. The membership has been divided into an Advisory Council and a General Council. We add below a list of names not included in our last issue.



General Council

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PROF. W. SILVERSTOLPE, Sweden
DR. M. A. VAN HERWERDEN, Holland
PROF. LOUIS VARLEZ, Belgium

Membership of the Conference is by invitation. Application should be made to the Secretary, The World Population Conference, 199 Piccadilly, London, W. 1 or 10 Rue de la Bourse, Geneva, Switzerland.

Late News

Pennsylvania

SINCE the opening of our headquarters in Philadelphia, our activities throughout the state have doubled. Mrs. Edith Ellicott Powers, the Federation organizer, is sending in most encouraging reports of her progress in the following counties: Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, Lycoming and Center.

In addition to speaking at meetings Mrs. Powers has organized a committee for Birth Control in Chester County, which is part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania League. Mrs. John R. Hollinger is President of the Committee. Points of contact have been made in Kennet Square, West Chester and Coatsville. While going through the state Mrs. Powers has interviewed the editors of the local papers in the interest of Birth Control. It is the plan of the publicity committee of the Federation to urge the individual members interested in Birth Control to write letters to the Editors. This has been successfully done in many parts of the state.

Mrs. Norton Downs of Chestnut Hill, has accepted the Chairmanship of the State Finance Committee. She includes among her workers Mrs. Arthur A. Newbold and Mrs. Geo. A. Dunning of Chestnut Hill, Mrs. Reginald Jacobs of Ardmore, Pa., Miss Mary Winsor of Haverford, and Mrs. W. W. Montgomery of Merion, and many other outstanding women, in and about Philadelphia. Mrs. Stanley Bright of Reading has added several members to this committee and Pittsburgh has Mrs. Wm. Thaw, Jr., Mrs. Alexander Laughlin, Mrs. Mark Craig, Mrs. Horace Forbes Baker.

Mrs. A. C. Martin, Executive Director of the Federation, has been successful in securing the names of many outstanding physicians in Pittsburgh for the Doctors' Committee which is being organized for the Birth Control movement. She has also secured the names of prominent lawyers and business men for the State Council.

The Birth Control League of Allegheny County—an important unit of the State Federation—held a meeting on June 14th at Civic Club of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Roswell H. Johnson, President of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, called a meeting of the State Board at headquarters, 1700 Walnut St., Philadelphia, on June 24th, and turned over the Presidency of the organization to Dr. A. Lovett Dewees. Dr. Johnson is leaving for Russia where he expects to spend several months making a study of the eugenic aspects of Soviet Russia.

The Chester County Medical Society at their May meeting, passed a resolution favoring Birth Control.

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An Echo from England

Birth Control has now been accepted in principle by the National Women's Liberal Federation. The Conference held last week passed, by very large majorities, two resolutions on this subject: the first calling for a national policy on emigration and Birth Control in relation to over-population, and indicating scientific Birth Control as offering, in its opinion, a more hopeful solution than emigration—the second asking that Birth Control information should be obtainable at Government Welfare Centres. The importance which the Labor Women (as distinct from the Labor Party) attach to Birth Control may be judged from the fact that it came third on the Agenda (the order being Women and the Miners' Lock-out, Equal Franchise, Birth Control), and that twenty resolutions on it were included—the largest number on any one subject. The composite resolution put to the Conference reaffirmed previous decisions in favor of information being available, and called upon the Labor Party Executive "in preparing their report for the next National Conference to give full weight to the decision, now declared for the third time." These last words were a pointed reference to the previous obstruction of the Labor Executive. The Labor Party fears that Birth Control may lose its Roman Catholic vote. The Liberal Party is influenced by no such consideration, and it will be interesting to see what effect the Liberal Women's vote may have on the Party.

—Time and Tide, May 13

THAT WHICH IS NOT MENTIONED

(Continued from page 203)

Japanese laws of Australia and California are one of the causes of our economic difficulties.

What conclusions can we draw from these facts? The first which concerns America, is that a policy of isolation is a formidable illusion. There are no water-tight partitions either between question or between countries. The United States, when it believes itself acting in full sovereignty, is determining, without intending it, our destinies.

The second which concerns Australia is that the idea of a white continent is another illusion, still more formidable.

The third conclusion concerns Italy. A country which has so great a need of emigration cannot keep its emigrants under its protection and national unity, and prevent them from becoming assimilated and merged in other nations. When the Italian government has understood that, the problem will be easy to solve. For there are not lacking countries which would welcome Italian immigrants, if they came individually to merge in the population.

We have here only touched these formidable problems. But it is enough to show how regrettable it is that the International Economic Conference did not face them.

—Le Journal de Geneve, May 11

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