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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Dedicated to the Cause of Voluntary Motherhood

Some Impressions of the

World Population Conference

Grim Realities of Involuntary Motherhood

By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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

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World Population Conference

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, August 31st—

MORNING

Chairman, SIR BERNARD MALLET K C B
Biology of Population Growth
PROF RAYMOND PEARL

AFTERNOON

Chairman, PROF W RAPPARD
Optimum Population
PROF H P FAIRCHILD
Population and Food Supply
PROF E M EAST

Evening reception—

MRS STANLEY MCCORMICK, Chateau de Prangins, Nyon

Thursday, September 1st—

MORNING

Chairman, PROF JULIAN HUXLEY
Effects on Race of Differential
Birth Rate

PROF A M CARR-SAUNDERS

AFTERNOON

Chairman DR. C C LITTLE
Fertility and sterility in relation
to population
DR F A E CREW

Friday, September 2nd—

MORNING

Chairman,
Migration and its Control
M ALBERT THOMAS

AFTERNOON

Chairman, DR. GOLDSCHMIDT
Race Biological Institutes
Contributions from Germany,
Swed and United States
Heredity and Social Inadequacy
MR. E J LIDBETTER

Evening, Dinner—

Hotel des Bergues Closing addresses

Saturday, September 3rd —

MORNING (private session)

Chairman DR. RAYMOND PEARL

- a) Research Symposium on Population Problems
- b) Organization of Permanent International Union on Population

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

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OUR CONTRIBUTORS

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS, Professor at Wisconsin University, is one of the leading sociologists in America and author of many authoritative books in the field of sociology and economics. Among his more recent books are "Civic Sociology" and "Roads to Social Peace"

DR. C V DRYSDALE, descendant of a family which has been militant for Birth Control for two generations in England, was, until its dissolution this summer, President of the Malthusian League

CHARLOTTE HALDANE, wife of the biochemist, J B S Haldane of Cambridge, is herself a journalist and novelist

E C LANDMAN is a critic and writer on social movements

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MARGABET SANGER, Editor

ANNIE G POBBITT, Assistant Editor

MARY SUMNER BOYD, Managing Editor

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EDITORIAL

THE stories of the World Population Conference at Geneva contributed by Dr Drysdale and Mrs Haldane reveal the reason for the deep interest of the American Birth Control League in this great enterprise. Although she took no open part in its proceedings, and although she heartily acquiesced in the decision that Birth Control should not be discussed, Mrs Sanger was the originator and mainspring of the Conference. With the passion for scientific truth, for reaching the facts of life and the causes of distress and poverty, which has characterized her work from its beginnings, Mrs Sanger felt that the time had come when the scientists of the world should be called upon to lay a solid foundation for future work in regard to Birth Control. Birth Control, to be really effective, must be international, and the governments of the world must be instructed in the laws of population before they can be expected to adopt a national policy in regard to the control of their populations. In the long run, science controls all human thought and progress, in spite of our fundamentalists and obscurists who endeavor to keep the world in darkness and to punish Truth as Heresy. If the World Population Conference proves to be the first step towards an international movement of research which will lead to an understanding of the laws of population, with the consequent control which such knowledge will provide, Mrs Sanger and her devoted husband, Mr Slee, will be richly rewarded for their unselfish zeal and lavish contributions of work, time and money which brought the Conference into existence.

A G P



THE British Medical Association pointedly excluded Birth Control from its program at its 1927 meeting. But the subject is so much in the thoughts of everybody that it crops up in unex-

pected places, however anxious its opponents may be to suppress it. One would hardly expect any discussion of it in a conclave of dentists, yet it was given a prominent place in the address of the President of the British Dental Association at its Annual Meeting in Liverpool at the end of July. Professor W H Gilmour, one of the foremost authorities on all matters connected with teeth, extended his examination of the causes of dental caries to heredity, and thus arrived at the subject of Birth Control. Speaking of the opposition to contraception, he said: "Birth Control might be defined as birth limitation by the wrong people for the wrong purposes, or, in other words, racial suicide." That this was not his own opinion he made clear by adding:—"My desire would be that Birth Control be defined as a means taken to ensure healthy children, mentally and physically." He went on to argue that much of the cause of early decay in teeth is hereditary. Many arguments have been urged for Birth Control, but this is probably the first time that an appeal has been publicly made for its practice as a means for securing better teeth for the nation.



ONE section, in the new Italian code against Birth Control, seems designed to make considerable trouble for the Roman Catholic Church. This is the section which provides punishment for anyone who "by any other means (other than contraception) impedes the fecundity of the Italian people." What about celibacy of the clergy and of the nuns? Surely this impedes fecundity and would come under the penal clause! But even Mussolini will be unable to force marriage and parenthood in the face of religious vows. Just as impossible will

he find it to force large **families** on Italian men and women who **begin** to think and to realize the wrong that they do to **themselves** and to the **children** whom they **bring** into the world **without** means to care for them, and without the **heritage** of health that is their due. The code imposes heavy fines on **pharmacies** that aid the cause of **Birth Control**. But **means** of contraception can be sold under the guise of **disinfectants**, and of piecautions **against disease**, and in a matter so personal to the **individual**, while the law may cause much annoyance and persecution, it cannot be fully effective in the object it aims at. It cannot prevent the reasonable control of parenthood although it may force people to use **injurious** methods **instead** of **scientific** contraceptives.



EPISCOPAL **clergymen** are pushing housing reform as the permanent cure of the problems of **marriage**. Two who have so spoken of late are the Rev. **William M. Tippy** of New York and the Rev. **Charles M. Lathrop**, **executive** secretary of the department of **Christian** social service of the Episcopal Church. **Aside** from any other **considerations**, one of the greatest problems of **married** life is an **income inadequate** to support a **growing family**. **Housing** is a matter **which** affects that very class of poor mothers who, to the number of many thousands a year, write the American Birth Control League for relief. Their letters tell us of families, **with** the mother cut off from the **possibility** of earning by perpetual pregnancy and **living** babies to care for, none of the **children** old enough to work and the father earning **\$80 to \$125** a month. Very rarely do any of these fathers **receive** **\$150 00** and often the average through the year is under **\$80 00**. What relief does cheap housing offer such a **family**? Take New York as an example. This city has for many years been working on a housing plan and Mayor Walker states as the ideal he expects to attain a rate of **\$8 00** a room. Let us apply **this** rate in a concrete case. We are told that privacy is **essential** for both happiness and morality, how does **privacy** work out **with** a **family** of **eight**? **Six** rooms, two public and four bedrooms, should be enough. But this means **\$48 00**, which is half and often more than half of the father's wages. Next year the family has increased to **nine**, next year to **ten**. With more to feed and clothe and care for in the many other ways a family needs care, the income has not increased, so they must stay in their six rooms. That is, they stay if they can

afford them, **otherwise** they must move to smaller, not to larger, quarters. And so it grows worse each year, and better **housing** is found to be no solution at all. Housing reform, in terms of the very poor and **rapidly growing family**, has no more relation to the **solution** of the problems of **marriage** than has migration to the problems of population. They may both **relieve** at the **time being** but the relief does not last as numbers grow.



THERE is nothing that gives us such encouragement as the **growing** support of Birth Control by labor. We congratulate the Trades and Labor Council of Toronto on its enlightened stand, reported in the press, in favoring **official**, (government), **recognition** of **Birth Control**. We have not yet received the text of the Toronto resolution but we have in hand a resolution from another labor body. The **Milwaukee** Branch of the Stenographers, Bookkeepers and Assistants **Union**, an **organization** largely made up of women, on June 16th adopted and distributed the comprehensive resolution which is to be found in our news columns. We **especially** congratulate the stenographers because they did not stop at a mere **routine** endorsement of **Birth Control** but placed their endorsement and recommendation on record before **important** health and governmental **bodies**. Nothing could help the cause better than that labor, **which** of all classes needs **Birth Control** most and has at the present **time** least access to it, should make this demand of **legislators** and of the **medical** profession.



HISTORY in the **Birth Control** movement is **certainly** in making. Last month there **was** the World Population Conference at Geneva. **This** month will see the publication of Dr. A. E. Ross's book, "**Standing Room Only**", the best-rounded and most comprehensive study of **all** aspects of the subject--of all the outstanding social problems **which** it touches--that has been **written**. Dr. Ross has had the advantage of the pioneer **studies** by other authorities of many aspects of the subject, both **within** the covers of books and **in periodicals**—notably in the pages of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**. He also had the advantage of knowledge, both broad and deep, of the whole field of **sociology**, a **science** of which he is one of the most **distinguished** representatives in **America**.

The First World Population Conference

Some Impressions

By C V DRYSDALE

NOTHING could demonstrate more fully the immense progress in the appreciation of the importance of the population question which has recently been shown all over the world, than the brilliant conference which has just been held at Geneva

It differs so greatly from the previous neo-Malthusian Congresses which have been held since the beginning of this century at Paris, Liege, the Hague, Dresden, London and New York in being devoid of propagandism, that it is difficult to institute a comparison with them, but in weight of authority it has far surpassed all the previous gatherings, and has been second to none in brilliance. The simple fact that nearly two hundred persons of the highest eminence in biological, economic, and statistical science, sociologists, statesmen, and physicians, have come from all parts of the world to Geneva to confer on this question is sufficient to show that it cannot be disregarded and that it will have to be considered by the Governments of all countries

The Conference opened in a most auspicious manner on Tuesday evening August 30th with a reception at the Palais Eynard by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva, and the Rector of the University, Dr W Rappard, whose address of welcome was the most felicitous I have ever heard. He recalled the fact that Geneva had taken a prominent part in the question of population, firstly in having issued the French translations of three editions of Malthus' Essay, secondly by the action of Pictet, a Genevese citizen in pointing out that Napoleon's proposal in 1805 to rear every seventh child in a family at the expense of the state was undesirable and impracticable, and thirdly by the writings of the great Genevese economist, Sismondi

Work of the Conference

The real work of the Conference began on the following morning when after a short opening address by the President, Sir Bernard Mallet, Prof Pearl read a paper on "The Biology of Population Growth"

The afternoon session was devoted to two papers on Optimum Population by Prof H P Fairchild, and Food and Population by Prof E M East. Prof Fairchild's contribution was a charmingly lucid statement which clearly showed the antagon-

ism between maximum population density and human well-being. The difficulty which arose in the subsequent discussion was in defining a standard of well-being, as excessive wealth or luxury may obviously be detrimental. In the present writer's opinion the longevity or average duration of life of the people is the best criterion, and the birth-rate should be regulated to secure its highest value. Prof East's paper was suggestive rather than definite and called attention to the need for more information

Quantity & Quality

The Thursday morning session at which Prof Juhan Huxley presided was devoted to the Differential Birth Rate or qualitative aspect of the question, and was opened by Prof Carr-Saunders with a paper showing that the effective fertility of the poorest classes in England and Wales was about fifty per cent greater than that of the upper and middle classes and that that of the Roman Catholics was about the same amount greater than the average. According to Prof Lucien March the differences are much smaller in France, but Prof Grotjahn showed that they were very large in Germany, the birth-rate in East Prussia being 29.6 per thousand as against only 14 for Berlin. The number of legitimate births per marriage in 1913 was 4.7 for Catholics, 2.9 for Protestants, and only 2.2 for Jews, but there has been an enormous drop in all three classes since the War. The difference in the effective fertility of the different social grades was smaller than in England. Dr Methorst followed with a paper from Holland which appeared to indicate that the differences in fertility in the different social grade are not very high, but that the differences between that of Catholics, Protestants and Jews are about the same as in Germany

The most valuable contribution, however, came out in the discussion, when Dr Karl Edmü stated that an examination of the fertility of the various social grades in Stockholm from 1919 to 1922 revealed that it was 25 per cent lower in the working classes than in the upper classes, while the infant mortality of the former class was 25 per cent higher. As the Swedish birth rate is now about the lowest in Europe, this shows that Birth Control has been very generally adopted and even more by the poorer than the richer classes. A Swedish lady

with whom I discussed the matter afterwards informed me that there had been a very intensive Birth Control propaganda among the poor, and in any case this result shows that Birth Control is operating eugenically in Sweden and can no longer be regarded as necessarily dysgenic in effect

At the afternoon session, Dr F A Crew of Edinburgh, read a highly scientific paper on Fertility and Sterility in relation to Population, the most interesting feature of which was the statement that while the number of living male births was about 4 per cent higher than that of females, it was about 20 per cent to 45 per cent greater for still births, and much higher still in the case of abortions. The conclusion would seem to be that if the conditions of life permitted better general care of expectant mothers and children the proportion of boys would be higher and the great disparity between the sexes which at present prevails in most European countries would be more quickly reduced

Migration Problems

From the practical humanitarian point of view by far the most interesting session of the Conference was that of Friday morning when M Albert Thomas gave a discourse on Migration and its Control. He called attention to the great difficulties which had arisen of late years owing to the great increase of population pressure in many countries and the increasingly severe restrictions on immigration imposed by the United States and other countries. It was very difficult to see a way out of these problems, and M Thomas without indicating his own conclusions, put the crucial question which some of us have long wished to see put before the League of Nations, whether a nation whose birth-rate is too great for its resources has a right to seek to expand at the expense of less densely populated countries or not? We all know that Germany asserted this right and used it as an excuse for the last War, that the overpopulation of Japan is a danger in the East, and that Mussolini has on several occasions made the same claim for Italy, which is now threatening the peace of Europe, and it is obvious that the League of Nations must come to a decision on this point before it can be a useful force in great international disputes. M Thomas pleaded for a more sympathetic attitude of the less populated countries towards the needs of the overpopulated ones, but mentioned that a policy of compulsory Birth Control might be considered. The discussion on his thought-compelling paper, which went on into the afternoon, revealed the difficulty of the question without contributing to its solution.

The scientific work of the Conference finished by a paper on Friday afternoon by Mr E J Lid-

better of the English Eugenics Society on Heredity, Disease and Pauperism, in which he showed by carefully compiled records the serious effects of the reproduction of defective and criminal stocks. The discussion on this paper revealed the great division of opinion which exists in various countries. England and the United States, which have suffered severely by the reproduction of defectives are on the one side, while the French, who have suffered less, and are anxious for reproduction at any price, practically deny the importance of heredity and contend that improvement of environment is all that is necessary.

A Permanent Organization

On the Saturday morning a meeting was called under the Chairmanship of Prof Pearl to consider the formation of a permanent organization, and it was decided to do so. A provisional Committee was appointed consisting of Dr Bauer (Germany), Dr Bernard (France), Dr Crew (Great Britain), Dr East (United States), Prof Gnu (Italy), Sir Bernard Mallet (Great Britain), Prof Pearl (United States), Prof Rappard (Switzerland), Dr Welch (United States) and Dr Mahaim (Belgium) to draw up a working scheme.

The organization and social arrangements of the Conference were perfect, thanks to the untiring efforts of our devoted Mrs Kennedy and her co-workers. A series of progressive luncheons was held during the Conference with the object of helping members to get acquainted with one another and interchange their views. On Wednesday evening, we were taken to Nyon where Mrs Stanley McCormick regaled us with supper and dancing at her beautiful Chateau de Prangins, and on Thursday evening a special steamer conveyed us to Coppet and the Chateau of Mme de Staël, dinner being served on board on the return journey. The farewell dinner at the Hotel des Bergues gave us the eagerly awaited opportunity of expressing our homage to the authoress and leading spirit of the Conference, who had so far remained unrevealed in the background—our dear Margaret Sanger. When Sir Bernard Mallet at last pronounced the name for which we had been waiting, the whole company arose and thundered in her honor, and a similar tribute was paid to Mr Slee who had conceived the valuable and apparently almost impossible project of issuing a daily journal which gave an excellent report of the previous days' proceedings, and appeared regularly each morning on our breakfast tables, thanks to the energy of its Editor, Dr Comstock (surely a fine instance of time's revenges!).

(Continued on page 278)

More Impressions of the Conference

By CHARLOTTE HALDANE

IT IS an error to suppose that ideas are in themselves dangerous. When, however, we find ourselves confronted with their apostles, we realize the grave perils with which personal contacts beset our honest efforts at unbiased judgments.

The problem of population and its exponents can perhaps be taken as an example. Those who honestly wish to reach a final and satisfactory solution of its many difficulties realize fairly clearly that they must first overcome in themselves the individualist's fear and contempt of the herd, the clansman's suspicion of the opposite camp, the nationalist's hatred of those whom he regards as the enemies of his country and his religion.

At the recent International Conference at Geneva all these obscure, unacknowledged, antagonistic emotions came into play. But having accepted them as unavoidable concomitants of any such gathering one was fortunately able to discount their disruptive influence and to realize quite clearly what one has always hoped to be true—that science can not only furnish the methods of saving civilization, (research and experiment) but what is possibly far more valuable, the point of view which alone can restrain the violence of emotion when such problems as those of population are toward

"The mind of man is more sensitive to over-population or under-population than is his body." Dr. C. C. Little seemed to me to sum up in these words one of those tenets of practical psychology which have not yet been given their true valuation by sociologists and economists, to whom quantitative factors seem still so infinitely more important than qualitative standards.

Population Megalomania

Professor Fairchild analysed most brilliantly the various factors which in the course of time have built up the fallacious tradition of the desirability of a large and growing population. Not the least important of these, perhaps, is that "sheer megalomania, an unreflective desire for bigness for its own sake." An entirely fresh sociological hypothesis, involving the study of politics and warfare, of industry and capitalism, of religions and the arts, might be erected on the basis of this extremely suggestive clue. I will confine myself, however, to pointing out in passing what an immense influence this megalomania, based on alleged militaristic, dynastic, religious and cultural necessities, has had

on the lives of women, those who during centuries have been coerced, directly or indirectly, by priests or politicians, to "dehver the goods," the raw material, necessary to satisfy the greed of these worshippers of the Big Idea.

Now one of the most important manifestations of our time is the dawning perception on the part of large minority groups all over the world, that these quantitative standards might perhaps be replaced by something less crude and slightly more qualitative. The Geneva Conference brought together people of many shades of opinion, (the genius of Mrs. Sanger did not shrink from welcoming extremists at both ends of the scale,) but whatever the opinions of the desirability or otherwise of a world-wide stabilization in population may have been, most speakers seemed to assume that it was on the whole taking place. One may perhaps infer from this that the dangers of a differential birth rate are not so great as had been feared, that an equalization of the standard of living may lessen them even more, but that in any case the world attitude towards the rights of individuals is taking a less industrialized turn, and that women are at last beginning, not only to take matters into their own hands with regard to the contribution they themselves shall make to the populations of the future, but as regards the fashioning of the environment into which their children shall be born.

No Salvation by Cliche

But it was particularly with regard to ways and means, to the methods to be adopted in order to bring about the results desired by all the more civilized and scientifically minded members of the Conference, that its deliberations seemed to me most valuable. For when these problems were examined, when the eminent biologists from all countries honored the laymen present with a glimpse, for it could obviously be no more, of their own dealings with the population problem, experimentally tackled, then those who would according to the old, pre-scientific formula, have the world saved by a word, a cliché, a magic recipe, were told in the clearest possible terms that it could not be done.

Now here the Conference seems to me to have been of quite peculiar value. Perhaps my experience as a journalist has given me an exaggerated dread of the word, the cliché, the formula. However that may be, it has kept me hitherto out of all

movements, however much I found myself in agreement with their aims. But when you can at last hope to find your **practical** workers, your sociologists, your medical men and women, backed by the braking **intelligence** of the scientific mind, (the only type of **mind**, it seems to me, that refuses to take the word for the deed,) then you can at last **with** confidence expect results of some permanent value for humanity

"We Don't Know"

It was not the least stimulating feature of this Conference to hear again and again from such **eminent** scientists as were taking part in it, a thumping confession of ignorance. "We don't know," "We don't know," "We don't know." Because the corollary to such a **confession** from such people is obviously "Let us find out." There were plenty of **quite** certain people to be found in this as in any other gathering, people who could with difficulty be kept from rushing on to the platform in order to **begin** an utterly irrelevant speech **with** "We Women," or "We Doctors," or **similar** journalistic **headlines**. But the presence of those who desired to take neither the name of humanity nor of science in vain, only threw into **relief** the absurdity of the anti-scientific attitude.

On the medical **side** the Birth Control movement seemed to me to be well represented. There appeared to be some valuable and **interesting** **gatherings** of the medical members of the Conference at which no doubt data were enthusiastically **inter-**

changed and lines of **investigation** sketched out. Here **again**, I venture to think a laboratory collaboration will be essential to satisfactory conclusions. The organization of a permanent International **Union** on Population as a result of this Conference appears to me to justify **entirely** the great work of those who gave their energy, their **time**, and their money, to bring it **into** being. For **this** organization shows the first World Population Conference to have been no more than a trial run, a preliminary meeting **which**, to develop fully the promise **inherent** in it, must be succeeded by others.

A Tribute

It would be dishonest of me if I closed this short account of my impressions **without referring** to the personal influence on mere onlookers like myself as on the **eminent** **participants** and speakers, of Mrs. Sanger. The reception she received **at** the closing banquet seemed to make it quite clear that **if** the Conference will one day be regarded as of the greatest historical importance, this result **will** be almost entirely due to the intelligence, courage, and goodness of Margaret Sanger. It would be almost impossible to exaggerate the influence for harmony, for **enthusiastic** collaboration and the honest search for facts which she, by sheer force of personality, inculcated into every meeting. And of all her triumphs I do not think the least was to **win** my own critical and perhaps over-suspicious self to a complete and unreserved **admiration** of all her qualities.



Unknown

By BLANCHE SHOEMAKER WAGSTAFF

Women, no man has loved,
Who have never known the wild hands of love,
Who never felt their veins on fire
With great desire—
Who never had a lover bend above

Women, no man has loved,
What is your crown for loneliness?
What compensation do you own
For no caress?
For motherhood you have not known?

(When the moon is risen white,
I wonder, do you weep alone at night?)

Rebirth

By LUCIA TRENT

She never bore him of her flesh and bone,
Yet she conceived him tenderly her own,
And in a spiritual interim
Like his own mother she delivered him,
Releasing him from phantoms of his brain,
From lonely conjuring of ghosts of pain,
Releasing him in rapturous rebirth
To all the ancient kindness of the earth

(These poems are taken from the Craftsmen's Issue of *Contemporary Verse* edited by Lucia Trent and Ralph Cheyney, 43 Prospect Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y., \$1.00 a year.)

Marriage Today and in the Future

By JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

PART VI *

The Two Great Principles of Happiness

IF THEY would be happy husband and wife must protect each the **individuality** of the other, that neither will presume for a **single** moment to **intrude** unbidden or unwelcome upon the other's life. Count **Keyserling** speaks of this precept of separateness, "of **keeping** an **appropriate** distance," as "the fundamental principle of the art of marriage." "Man and woman," he says, "should never endeavor to be completely merged in one another, on the contrary, the more **intimate** they are, the more **strictly** should they **cherish** their own **individuality**, and it should be the unwritten law that neither must encroach on the **rights** of the other."

This means, in its first and simplest application, a **physical** separateness. Have separate beds. If it be possible, have separate rooms, places at least where you may have your own belongings, safe from the **intrusion** of anybody else, even the beloved one. Separate yourselves completely once in a while.

But this principle goes deeper into the **intellectual** and **spiritual** areas of our being. It concerns that whole problem of adjustment which shall bring accord between two partners without the subjection of either to the other. All too often marriage degenerates into a struggle for the right to rule. One member of the relationship presumes to dominate, and, if the stronger of the two, may in time succeed. His opinion then becomes the right opinion, his way of doing things the only right way. The whole life which these two people are living together must be lived on the pattern of the one life which is the stronger, or the more selfish and cruel. Which means that one personality is invaded, ravaged and blotted out by the other! All this, of course, is impossible, if there is to be a true and happy marriage. Not subjection on the plane of authority but adjustment on the plane of equality, is the rule which must be followed, the ideal which must be sought. Each member of the partnership will trust the other to live his own life in his own way, and seek the method of adaptation which will avoid interference

and **conflict**. Each will respect the other's personality, and protect the other's freedom. There will be no attempt to dictate thoughts, **habits**, or **activities**. There will be one life lived, like the tension between two **magnetic** poles, by "keeping one's distance," as **Keyserling** puts it, or, to quote the majestic lines of **Kahlil Gibran**, in "The Prophet"

" Let there be spaces in your togetherness

Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music

Stand together, yet not too near together, for the pillars of the temple stand apart "

ON THE other hand, in this relation, is the principle of mutualty. The pillars "stand apart," but they support together the one temple. **Husbands** and **wives**, therefore, if they are to be happy, must not only be **individuals** but also partners. They must develop a life, that is, outside themselves as separate personalities, outside even that union together as mere lovers so easily corrupted by **self-absorption**, which shall join them whole-heartedly together as comrades in the interest and service of some cause greater than themselves. A happy marriage, in other words, must be fellowship of thought and feeling and high endeavor.

In seeking this outside interest or cause, nothing is so immediately and triumphantly successful as children. It is no accident that the marriages which are fruitful are the ones which are most likely to endure. It is no piece of idle sentimentalism to declare that husbands should become fathers and wives mothers, if they would make their union a complete success. To see a little child come into the world, to watch it grow in strength and beauty, to give it training for the trials of experience, this is to find a common interest so absorbing that, in their union in their child, most parents must miss all chance of fatal division between themselves.

When children are denied, as they sometimes are, then must the husband and wife deliberately find, or as deliberately create, some common outside in-

*This ends the series based on Mr. Holmes' sermons on the origins and sanctions of marriage in the past and its success or failure in the present. We hope later to have an opportunity to publish the substance of his prognostications for the marriage of the future.

terest **which** shall give them **fellowship** This interest may be found **in literature**, or **music**, or **friends**, or **in the church**, or **in some great cause** of human betterment It makes **little difference** what **it is** The main thing is to work out a definite program of co-operation, and keep **it** to the end Then, **in course of years**, will a **relation** of mutual dependence be created, which will **outlive** and conquer the **differences** which are perhaps **inevitable**

SUCH is marriage' How shall I sum up my message upon **this mighty** theme except **by saying** again that **marriage** is a "task," to be carried through to success only by labor, **patience** and much love? At the worst it is a **trial**, **which** cannot in the end be borne, at the best **it** is a triumph, which rewards all wounds A happy marriage is worth **suffering** for

Do you remember the old Greek legend of **Marpessa**, who was loved by Apollo, the sun god, and by **Idas**, the mortal **youth**? Challenged to choose between the **rivals**, Marpessa **rejected** the god, **with** all his assurances of perpetual bliss, and chose **instead** the man **with** whom she must labor, **suffer** and **die** Stephen **Phillips**, **in lines** of perfect beauty, **interpreted** her heart

" we two
On the low earth shall prosper hand **in hand**
In odors of the open field
And I shall sleep **beside** him **in** the night,
And fearful from some dream shall touch his hand
Secure, or at some **festival** we two
Will wander through the lighted **city** streets,
And in the crowd I'll take **his** arm and feel
Him closer for the press So shall we live,
And though the first sweet **sting** of love
Pass off, there shall succeed a **faithful** peace,
Beautiful friendship tined by sun and **wind**,
Durable from the **daily** dust of life
And though **with** sadder, **still with kinder** eyes
We shall behold all **frailties**, and shall haste
To pardon, and **with mellowing** minds to bless
Then, though we must grow old, we shall **grow** old
Together, and he shall not greatly **miss**
My bloom faded, and waning light of eyes
Too deeply gazed **in** ever to grow **dim**
Nor shall we murmur at, nor much regret
The years that **gently** bend us to the ground
But we shall **sit with luminous** holy **smiles**,
Endeared by many **griefs**, by many a jest,
And custom of sweet **living side by side**
Last, we shall descend **into** the natural ground,
Still like old friends, glad to have met, and **leave**
Behind a wholesome memory upon the earth "



The Biology of Population Growth

By **RAYMOND PEARL**

PART II

Proof by Experiment

(This is the second part of a summary of a paper given by Professor Raymond Pearl at the World Population Conference at Geneva. The paper will be published in full in the Proceedings of the Conference.)

THE second mode of attack upon the problem of the **biology of population** growth is the **experimental**. Its purpose is to observe at each stage the growth of the population of some actual **organism**, small enough to be capable of laboratory management under **rigorously** controlled and **known** conditions. Not only can the growth of such an **experimental** population as a whole be observed, but also it is possible to set up experiments in **which** each separate **variable** such as **natahty**, **mortality**, **density** of population, etc., can be **particularly** studied, and its **behaviour** under controlled condi-

tions described and measured. It is to this mode of attack upon the problem that much of the research energy of my laboratory has been devoted **during** the past five years. The **organism** chiefly used has been the **fruitfly** *Drosophila melanogaster*, the form so **widely** employed as **material** for **genetic** studies.

No conclusion reached by the study of **experimental** **populations** of lower **organisms** can safely be transferred by simple inference to human **populations**, since human **conditions** are less **uniform** and human **organisms** more complex. On the other hand it must also be kept **in mind** that the forces of **natahty** and **mortality** are basic **biological** attributes of aggregates of **living things**, men as well as **flies**. Because of the much greater ease and **precision** with which the **behaviour** of these **variables**,

under **diverse** controlled **conditions**, may be analysed in **experimental** populations of lower organisms, the results obtained from such **studies** may be of great value in the **direction** of **suggesting** points for **statistical investigation** in human populations. **Over** and beyond **this consideration** is the further one that populations of whatever **organisms** are, in **their** very nature, aggregate wholes, and behave in **growth** and other ways as such.

PERHAPS the most **impressive** thing which has come out of the **statistical** study of human **population** growth is the **evidence** that the steady onward march of **this** growth is not **sensibly influenced** by the host of **economic** and **social** events which are supposed of **logical necessity** to **affect** it. During the past few years the argument has been made that the very populations which have in fact grown with great **precision** according to a **logistic** curve, cannot **possibly** have done so, because **this** curve does not "take account of" a lot of these **second-order variables**. **This** argument is **rubbish**, born out of the **conservative** resistance to any new **idea** which the **established** order of **learning** has always shown, by that **windbroken** and **spavined** old **stallion**, **faith** in a **priori** logic as **against** plain facts of **experience**. As a matter of **fact** the **logistic** curve does "take account of" all these **second** and **third-order variables**, in the sense that it **describes** the **integrated** end effect upon population **size** of the aggregated forces tending towards increase in numbers on the one hand, and decrease in numbers on the other hand.

The population growth of the **United States** is an excellent case in **point**. If one plots the census counts of **this** population from 1790 to 1920 it is **impossible** to detect in the curve of growth any separate or **disturbing** effect of **immigration**, although, as we have seen, **immigration** is **theoretically** a first-order **variable** in population growth. The actual observed growth of the population of the **United States** follows the **logistic** curve with remarkable **precision**. To suit **various** theorists it presumably ought not to, but in fact it does. **Benjamin Franklin** long ago pointed out that for the growth of **population** aggregates of any **considerable** **size** **migration** was an **unimportant** factor, as compared with natural increase by **reproduction**. He was **right**. Whatever the future may develop, the past **history** of the matter shows **plainly** that human populations have behaved in **their** growth in the same way that experimental populations of lower **organisms** do, with truly remarkable faithfulness.

THE details of the **technique** of making experiments on **population** with the fly *Drosophila melanogaster* have already been **described**,¹ and need not be repeated here. It will suffice to say that in bottles of measured **size** **definite** amounts of food **material** are placed, and then an **initial** group of a few **flies**—say one male and one female—added. At regular **intervals** thereafter the then **existing** population in each bottle is carefully counted and recorded, and the **individuals** composing it returned to the bottle to carry on **their** normal **lives** until the next census count.

There are several ways in which an **experiment** on the growth of a *Drosophila* population can be carried out. Some of these ways **differ** in **principle** in a manner that is of **importance** in **determining** the **kind** of result **obtained**. The **simplest** case is to set up an **experiment** in the way **described** briefly above, and thereafter literally do **nothing** further except to let nature take its course and count the **flies** at **intervals**. What then happens is that the population grows along a **logistic** curve for a little more than half of a complete cycle of such a curve. Then quite suddenly the population **begins** to decrease in numbers. **This** decrease goes on at an **accelerating** rate, until there are no survivors left.

This result is **precisely** that which is to be expected **mathematically** on the postulates that birth rates decrease and death rates **increase** **uniformly** at a constant **linear** rate. In the actual experiments the changes in the **birth** and death rates which lead to **this** type of curve, with first growth and then decline of population, are **directly associated** with the **diminishing** food supply under the **conditions** of a **limited** and **closed** **universe**.

THE SECOND TYPE of experiment is one in which an attempt is made to add food as the supply is used up. The **resulting** growth of the population then follows a simple **logistic** curve. There are two **points** in **connection** with experiments of **this** type which seem to need **emphasis** in the **light** of further work. The first is that, owing to the **technical** difficulties of **adding** new food to a bottle, the food **conditions** are always **sub-optimal** in experiments of **this** type. The second point is that the smoothness with which the **populations** follow the **logistic** curve in **this** type of experiment is a **direct** consequence of the fact just mentioned that the **conditions** as to food are **definitely** **sub-optimal**. The **nutritional** level of the bottles is not **high**. It only a little more than barely permits *continued*

¹PEARL, R. The *Biology of Population Growth*, Chap. II.

growth of the population. Under these circumstances violent oscillations of either **birth** rates or death rates do not occur. The observations of population **size** lie smoothly on the **logistic** curve until the asymptote is nearly reached.

The third type of experiment, which I here report on in a preliminary way for the first time is so planned as to have the food conditions **always** optimal both as to quality and quantity'. Many experiments of this type have been performed. The general result is that the population first grows up to a **maximum** or asymptotic level, just as in the second type of **experiment** described above. But in this case the population can be kept at this asymptotic level as long as the experimenter desires. A striking result, however, is that during both the growth period and thereafter there are violent oscillations of the population in size, about its mean position as given by the fitted curve. In fact these waves in the **size** of the population, produced by oscillations in the birth and death rates, are perhaps the most characteristic feature of population experiments of this particular type. It has not so far been possible to devise any method of holding these populations in a steady state at the level of the asymptote, when there is at all times an abundance of fresh food. The population **simply** waves up and down about an average **size**. I believe that this condition of unstable equilibrium is, in part at least, causally connected **with** the optimal food conditions. A detailed account of these **experiments** will be published, it is hoped some time in the course of the next year.

IT HAS been stated that the growth of a population along the logistic curve can be completely accounted for on theoretical mathematical grounds by **making** certain simple postulates regarding the relations between three variables, **birth** rate, death rate, and **density** of population. The basic postulate was that **increasing density** of population has **associated** with it adverse changes in **birth** rates and death rates. Is there **experimental evidence** in support of such a postulate?

For several years an intensive **experimental** investigation has been going on in my laboratory regarding the effect of **density** of population upon natality and mortality in *Drosophila*. The chief result of these studies I shall now briefly review.

¹PEARL, R., ALLEN, A. L. and W. B. D. PENNIMAN. Culture media for *Drosophila*. II. A new synthetic medium and its influence on fertility at different densities of population. *Amer Nat*, Vol 60, pp 357-360, 1926.

Some years ago Pearl and Parker¹ made a count of the progeny produced in bottles of uniform **size**, uniform amount of food, and uniform **air** space, but with **varying** densities of population. There was a profound and regular change in the rate of reproduction of *Drosophila*, with increasing density of population. The number of progeny produced per female per day **declined** as density increased, at first extremely rapidly and then more and more slowly at **higher** densities. The total number of progeny **flies** was large enough to give confidence in the results. Rarely, even in a physical or chemical experiment, does one get closer agreement between **observation** and theory than was shown in this experiment. These **experimental** results on the effect of density of population on the **birth** rate have been **confirmed** many times in my laboratory.

IN ALL these experiments so far mentioned the effect of density upon birth rates was measured by counts of adult progeny flies (imagoes) produced. This procedure left in doubt the point as to whether density produced its effect through an alteration of fecundity (egg production) or at some later stage in the process of reproduction. This doubt has now been cleared up by an elaborate series of experiments carried out in my laboratory during the past year by Dr. Arato Terao. In these experiments careful counts were made of the number of eggs produced under different densities of population. The results will shortly be published in detail. Here it is only necessary to say that they show conclusively that the primary effect of **density**, in populations of *Drosophila*, is upon fecundity (number of eggs laid). The number of eggs produced per female per day **decreases** with advancing density of population.

So then it may be concluded that **increasing** density of population does in fact have associated with it in experimental populations of *Drosophila* just the sort of adverse changes in the birth rate which were postulated in the theoretical discussion **earlier** in this paper.

The result of a large amount of **experimental** work regarding the effect of density of population upon **mortality** are now in process of publication in detail. Only the broad outcome can be presented.

²PEARL, R. and S. L. PARKER. On the influence of density of population upon rate of reproduction in *Drosophila*. *Proc Nat Acad Sci*, Vol 8, pp 212-219, 1922.

³See PEARL, ALLEN and PENNIMAN, *loc cit*.

⁴PEARL, R., MINER, J. R. and S. L. PARKER. Experimental studies on the duration of life. XI. Density of population and life duration in *Drosophila*. *Amer Nat*, 1927.

here **Experiments** showed that the mean **duration** of life **in** days of *Drosophda* subjected to **increasing densities** of population decreased as population increased. Another way of **putting** the same thing is to say that the death rates in these experiments increased **with** increasing **density** of population after a certain density had been passed. The figures for mean duration of **life** are necessarily **determined** by the values of the death rates at ages. Other experiments have demonstrated that **with** extremely **high densities** of **population** the mean duration of **life** (or equally the death rates) approach an asymptote.

TO SUMMARIZE the broad facts on population growth

1 **Populations** of **organisms** of the most **diverse kinds, ranging** from **bacteria** and yeasts to man, are found **statistically** to follow **in their** growth a particular type of curve, the **logistic**.

2 **Mathematical investigation** shows that a curve of **this type is necessarily** generated under **certain** simple postulates as to the **inter-relations** between

the two first-order **variables, birth** rates and death rates, and the second-order **variable, density** of **population**. One particular set of such **postulates is** that it shall be assumed, first, that **birth** rates are markedly affected adversely by small **increases in density** at relatively low densities, while after a certain **density** is passed further increases produce only **slight decreases in** birth rates down to an **asymptotic limit**, and, second, that death rates are **insignificantly** affected by **increasing** density at relatively low **densities**, while after a certain **density is** passed death rates markedly **increase with increasing** density up to an **asymptotic limit**.

3 **Experimental investigation** of **populations** of *Drosophila melanogaster* under controlled **conditions** shows that in fact the relations between density of population and birth rates, on the one hand, and **density** and death rates, on the other hand, which actually **exist in** such populations are in accord **with** those theoretically assumed **in the preceding** paragraph. In short **it is** possible to account for all the main features of the growth of **experimental populations** of *Drosophila* by a simple **hypothesis** as to the correlated behaviour of three **variables**.



INTERFERING WITH NATURE

Because we have stopped **famines** and plagues **in India** the population has gone up from about one hundred **millions** to three hundred **millions**, and now the **Indians** want to get over **into** Africa where there **is** more room.

If they go on **breeding** at their present rate there **is** bound to be trouble **in India** and **in** Japan, and labor **will** be so cheap **in** the East that we shall not be able to stand up to **their competition in** the markets of the **world**. *The competition of the East is making its mark on Lancashire already. That means that their babies are pinching our babies from across the seas.*

—REV G. A. STUDDERT KENNEDY in the *Churchman*

THE OLD ORDER

ACCORDING to **statistics** of the League of **Nations**, the earth's population has doubled **since** the **beginning** of the nineteenth century. In **1800** it was less than **850,000,000**, while today it is **in** the neighborhood of **1,800,000,000**. The present increase amounts to from

1 to 1.2 per cent a year. Therefore, on the **basis** of 1 per cent a year the earth's population **will in 1970** amount to **2,270,000,000**, **in** the year **2020** it **will be** **4,593,000,000**, a hundred years after that it **will be** no less than **12,457,000,000**.

The **epidemics** and **pestilences** that **in** the **Middle Ages** decimated the **population** have now for many years been so abated as to have **comparatively little** effect upon the **increase** of the race.

There are some who hold that now and **again** a **wave** of **disease**, a plague, sweeps over **portions** of the earth's surface **until** arrested by some insuperable barrage of fire or hygiene. Nature appears to summon these destructive **agencies in** order to **maintain** the balance of **life** and death according to a law at present **undetermined**. The Black Death, the Plague, the spread of **hereditary disease**, the Crusades, the Moslem attack on Southern **Europe**, the **religious wars in** the **Europe**, the **religious wars in** the Low Countries are examples of Nature's struggles to sustain an **equipoise between** the rate of **mortality** and the **reproductiveness** of man.

LORD ESHER

Grim Realities of Involuntary Motherhood

By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS

On October 21, the Century Company will publish Professor Ross's new book, "*Standing Room Only*" which promises to mark an epoch in the discussion of the Population Problem. We give here a section of his chapter on Women and Fertility with the letters he quotes. Along with no inconsiderable part of other source material used by Professor Ross, these letters are taken from the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. Our readers will be interested in the work that he has made of them.

AN increasing proportion of poor wives simply cannot meet the requirements of decent living when babies come as "nature" sends them. Some die early leaving a motherless brood. Many become physical wrecks and drag out their years in misery. Some in sheer desperation produce on themselves barbarous abortions which ruin their health. Women, who might have rosy children to rejoice in, bear dead-born or puny short-lived babies, because after one birth they are given no time to recover their strength before again they are pregnant. Those who bear only defective offspring are obliged in anguish of soul to go on committing crimes against the race simply from ignorance of how to check the flood of unwanted babies.

We do not have to guess the despair of these women. In the bushels of letters received by Mrs. Margaret Sanger, the courageous battler for voluntary motherhood, are revelations which could melt a heart of stone. To read them is to occupy a hellish post on the brink of Tartarus.

From a Montana mother of five ranging from seven years to ten months

Our family is so large and my husband gets such small pay we can hardly live. We could not send our little boy to school because we could not buy shoes for him. I am a cripple, was almost burned to death when a child, which makes caring for the little tots and housework hard for me. I had to get up when baby was eight days old because we could not pay for help and I haven't been well since. Could you tell me some way to prevent having more?

From a Florida wife of nineteen who has been married four years and has three children

I don't want any more, God knows I don't. I think I could raise these to be good Christian women if I didn't

have any more. I get weaker every time. Before I was married I was always called so healthy but now I am just a nervous wreck. My husband is only getting \$3.50 a day and that is all we have.

From a Pennsylvania wife of twenty-three, the mother of two children, who has a "terribly hard time" in giving birth to a baby

I live in a small mining town, surrounded by large foreign families. They usually have from five to nine children and as I sit in my home looking out on the dirty street in front of me, and see all those dirty, unkempt and neglected children playing in the gutter I shut my eyes and cry bitterly when I think of the future.

From the wife of an unskilled laborer in New Hampshire

I'm from an awful poor family where my mother had sixteen children and I'm the oldest and I'm 24 years old. If you only knew what I suffered and all my sisters and brothers and mother also, because she had a new baby almost every year of her married life. She had such hard times with every baby. She didn't want all them babies but she didn't know how to prevent it. If you only knew how we had to sleep in bed—six of us in one bed because father couldn't afford to buy another bed. I don't want to bring babies by the dozen into this world and make them suffer like I suffered when there was 16 of us in one family.

MARITAL CONTINENCE AS A REMEDY From these letters see how naive are the vowed celibates who expect these situations to be avoided by marital continence.

The wife of a poor man writes

We have had no intercourse since before the birth of the second child, three and one-half years ago. Naturally we are not very happy. We have a great many

quarrels and he has told me a good many **times** that he could **divorce** me because of my refusing him **I** can't sleep **nights** through worrying about losing my husband

From South Dakota

I am **trying** to keep away from my husband as much as **I can** but **it** causes him to be quarrelsome **with** me all the **time** and **it** makes him think **I** don't care for him He doesn't seem to think that **I** can't stand it

From a Kansas woman who has borne five

We have also practised **continence**, but of course it always ends in **and** causes all kinds of quarrels and hard **feelings**, and even bugs up the subject of prostitution, and what woman, if she loves her husband, would send him to such places to get what she could **give** and would gladly **give**, if only she could feel sure there would be no more unwanted children from such intercourse **I** have brooded and **worried** over this state of affairs till **I** have become bitter and utterly **discouraged**, and how can a woman be a happy mother and a fit companion for her children in **such** a state of mind?

From Oklahoma comes a pathetic appeal

deare **unknown** friend am wntting you in regard to Birth Control am the mother of **7** children **6** living my Husband has plague he went a way to **talk** treatment for **plagra** Has bin a way two years **Viseted** Home **twice** **I** miss **carried** Both times he came home the last time **I** most Crossed the deth **Vaillie** so he wrote me he was **com-**ing home to stay so **i** didnt think **i** could staend another miss **carrage** so **i** told him not to come home **untill** **i** were to old to **give** Berth to **children** He **didnt** come home my **Children** are hart Brohen Because there daddy dont come Home they cant under stand why **i** dont want Him to come Home the oldest is **14** the youngest is **3** years old so if **you** will give me **informaetion** how to keep from **conceiving** **i** will **aprechiate** it as **i** love my Husband and would very much like to have him at home

SLAVES TO MATERNITY Some of these victims of **incessant** **maternity** feel themselves to be in a **very** **literal** sense **slaves**

A Maryland wife pleads

Pleaae help me a poor young woman **I** am **17** and **I** have three small children **Marned** at **only** **14** years old and don't know what to do **I** work so hard that **I** am almost dead

From a Texas mother of five who is "a wreck" and would gladly gze her children away to some one who would care for them

When **I** was a **girl** **I** worked in the field and wasted my **life** and made myself sick trying to take care of my mother

and tend the children for her, when **I** could not be in the field **I** know father will go to town and tell people **what** he has done, **raised** **11** children when he ought to be at home under the bed with his head hung down He never done so much as a thing, mother did, and cared for him besides Can you help us

A wzfe at twenty-one who nearly dzed in having her first child confesses

Walking through hundreds of miles of fire could not have been as bad as what **I** suffered **I** am afraid now to **give** birth to another and that fear is causing me to break my health with drugs **I** am pale and weak and sickly **If** only **I** knew what to do' Lincoln freed the negro slaves but who is going to free women from the bonds of slavery that holds them?

ENFORCED BEARING OF **WEAKLINGS** AND DEFECTIVES Let those who are unmoved by these **cries** of **despair** **consider** whether **society** can afford to **require** women to go on **bringing** into the world sickly or **defective** children *Here is an Ohzo farmer's wife, at thzrty-seven the mother of ezght*

I haven't got a healthv child in the bunch **I** can't hardly cook what is absolutely necessary for husband **and** children to eat, in fact **I** can't hardly get my work done at all **I** am consumptive **it** is awful how **I** cough and spit **Do** you wonder at me **writ-**ing to you?

From a Minnesota mother

My baby is only **10** months old and the oldest **one** is **7** and more care than a **baby**, has always been helpless **We** do not own a roof over our heads and **I** am so discouraged **I** want to die if nothing can be done **I** not only have a **terrible** time when **I** am confined but **caring** for the oldest child it preys so on **my** mind that **I** fear more **defective** children **Help** me please

From an Oklahoma woman who an nine years of married life besides bearing two living children has given birth to three dead ones and suffered two miscarriages

We are poor **We** haven't a roof of our own **My** husband has to work by day work for a **living**, hasn't got a steady job **Don't** believe **I** can stand it any more

From Illinois a distracted woman writes

I am a mother of **13** children, **7** of them **I** am sorry to say is dead and **I** have a little babe not five months old, yet he has a **valve** of **his** heart not closed and **I** am Pregnant again about six weeks & **I** have been sick since my baby was born **I** can't half take care of him now and there has been something wrong **with** five of our children that is dead **I** sometimes **think** **I** will end it all

Would you tell me something to do

How I Became Interested in Birth Control

By WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D

I GLADLY comply with the request of the Managing Editor of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW to tell its readers something about how I became interested in Birth Control and about the change in the public attitude towards the movement during the twenty-five years I have been editing *The Critic and Guide*

I will say at the outset that it was not the Rev Mr Malthus but Mrs Matthews who made me think seriously on the question of family limitation

We get some of our opinions from books and lectures, others are unpressed upon us by the lessons of Life, and it was Life that hammered into me the all-important, the profoundly vital need of Birth Control. Not that I had never heard of Mr Malthus, but in the socialistic milieu in which I grew up the Rev Mr Malthus did not enjoy a very good reputation. He was just a bourgeois clergyman who preached late marriages and—for the poor—sexual abstinence after marriage. And chiefly in order that the rich might not be burdened with such heavy taxes for the support of the improvident and lazy. That was the prevalent idea. It is a sad but a well-known fact that the socialist parties as a whole were formerly strongly opposed to the limitation of offspring. As the militarists wanted an abundance of cannon flesh, as the capitalists wanted a glutted labor market, so the socialists wanted a large proletariat to make revolutions with, or at least to gain parliamentary seats with. Even now you will find many orthodox socialists who look askance at Birth Control, and brand it as a middle-class bourgeois movement. So what I knew of Malthus was calculated to make me antagonistic rather than favorable to the idea of family limitation.

My Conversion

But Mrs Matthews converted me, at least she was the first to make me think seriously on the subject, and the work of conversion was completed by a hundred of her sisters in similar situations. But who was Mrs Matthews? You won't find her name in any encyclopedia, or social register or who's who. She was the wife of a street car conductor, and she was my first female patient, the first patient to engage me for a confinement. She was a neat little body, small but robust, and in blooming health. The husband's wages were small, but she was an excellent needle woman, and with their combined

earnings they got along nicely. They had an exceptionally neat home, and the joy at the prospective arrival of the child was genuine. The confinement went off smoothly and both father and mother were happy and jubilant over the big baby boy.

I wish I had the space and the time to describe in detail the gradual devolution and degradation of the Matthews family. But I must limit myself to a bare outline. When the second child arrived a year later, almost to the day, they were still glad, yes, they were glad, particularly as this child was a girl, and they wanted a boy and a girl. But when the third child came some eleven months later, there was no joy at all, none whatever. At the former two confinements the husband took a day off to be present at the wife's ordeal. This time he said he could not afford to lose a day's wages. When some eighteen months later the fourth baby arrived—I would have preferred they had engaged another physician for the confinement—so glum was the wife and so grim was the husband, and I was not received with the same joy as during the first confinement, far from it. They seemed to resent my presence, as if I were directly responsible for so many babies.

Slipping Down

When the fifth child arrived I was in Europe, and when they wanted to engage me for the sixth confinement, I was glad to be able to refuse with a good conscience, as I had by then given up confinement cases. But I was called in occasionally to treat some of the children or Mrs Matthews herself, and the change in the house and in herself was lamentable. Busy all day and a great part of the night with the children, she was unable to keep up with her needle work, the wages were insufficient to keep up the house properly, the children were poorly dressed and neglected, they were soon sent out into the street, where neither their manners nor their language underwent any improvement, and Mrs Matthews herself became unrecognizable, not only physically, but spiritually, from a very gentle person, she became positively shrewish. And the husband came home frequently under the influence of liquor. Then one of the youngest of the children fell out of a window, developed meningitis and died after some two weeks of agony, and this seemed to finish the demoralization of Mrs Matthews.

I saw as clear as daylight that the misfortune and the degradation of the **Matthews** family were due exclusively to the excessive number of children, to their arriving at too brief intervals. Had they been able to stop **with** the first two children—r had they had at least a respite of several years before the **arrival** of the third, both the parents and the children would have lived decently and contentedly, as it was, both the father, the mother and the children sank to the status of slum proletarians.

And what I saw with **pain** and despair in the **Matthews** family, I saw, in greater or lesser degree, in dozens of other households. And what I saw set me thinking, and not because I feared that in 200

years from now there would not be enough food for everybody or that in a **1,000** years there would be no standing room for us on this earth, but because I saw that uncontrolled breeding meant hell for the world's laboring and professional classes, I reached the conclusion, which has become stronger and stronger as the years passed by, that in Birth Control lies one of the means of the salvation of mankind, that there is no single measure which would so positively and so immediately contribute to the welfare of the human race, and to the **economic** and moral **elevation** of the **family** as teaching the people the proper means of **prevention** of conception, or as I prefer to call it, **Prevenception**.



Primitive Methods of Population Control

THERE is no denying that the world in the past has been regulated with a **view** to **protecting** the greed of the old men rather than to **protecting** the happiness of babies. The human race **did** not **easily** **admit** the **idea** that the happiness of babies **was** quite as **important** a **social** end as the **self-aggrandisement** of its elders. The baby was, among many peoples, merely one of its father's **possessions**. He could expose it **with** as much **impunity** as a modern householder drowns kittens. Nor was **infanticide** a custom practised only among savages. It was accepted **without** protest in the great **days** of Greece. Anstotle denounced the practice, regarding abortion as the better way of **keeping** down the population, but **Plato** in *The Republic* advocates the exposure of weakly children.

Infanticide is, of course, merely the **primitive** method of **limiting** families. It is possible that, in **countries** where **infanticide** is common, the parent thinks no more of preventing a baby from **continuing** to live than people in **civilized communities** think of preventing a baby from being born. In both cases **economic necessity**—or at least **economic convenience**—presses, and for **economic necessity** men and women **will** do almost anything. At least, savages and comfortably-off people will.

Many savage **tribes** **strictly** **forbid** any woman to bring up a large family. On Radack Island the **family** was at one time not allowed to exceed three, any further children that **were** born had to be **buned** **alive**. The **Lane** Islanders **permit** four children in a family. On one of the **Ellice** Islands, on the other hand, only two are allowed. It would be absurd to **imagine**, however, that the custom of **slaughtering** infants as nuisances is anything **like** universal in **primitive communities**. It is, we fancy, the ex-

ception rather than the **rule**, and is usually due to the fear of **fanune**, when it is not the result of **religious superstition**. An **increase** in female **infanticide** is said to have occurred in Japan as a result of the **impoverishing taxation** which was levied during the Russo-Japanese War. **China**, being a land of **fanune**, has always been a land of **infanticide**, one realizes how common the **practice** must have been when one hears of an **ancient Chinese** book entitled "On Abstaining from Drowning Little Girls."

That a parent's **relations** to his child were in the nature of **rights** rather than **duties** was recognized both by Roman emperors and Roman pontiffs. A father was allowed either to expose his child or to sell it. He was **forbidden** by **Diocletian** to sell his children, but, as he only slew them **instead**, the **prohibition** was removed. Even the **Christian Church** in the seventh century **recognized** the right of a father to sell his sons **into** slavery, provided they were not seven years old.

From the *New Statesman* (London), July, 1917

Let Rousseau be a little free from **excessive** reproach from all clergymen, sentimentahsts, and others, who do their worst to uphold the common and rather bestial **opinion** in favor of reckless **propagation**, and who, if they do not advocate the **dispatch** of children to public institutions, still encourage a selfish **incontinence**, which ultimately falls in burdens on others than the offenders, and which turns the family **into** a scene of squalor and brutishness, producing a **kind** of parental **influence** that is far more **disastrous** and **demoralizing** than the absence of it in public institutions can possibly be.

—VISCOUNT MORLEY

Book Reviews

OBJECTIVE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, by G V Hamilton, The C V Mosby Company, St Louis

THAT two such opposed doctrines as *behaviorism* and *psychoanalysis* can hold sway at the same time is indicative of both our *virility* and our *intellectual* confusion. Although the followers of Freud are patently less popular today than they were five years ago, this should not disturb them greatly, since they have already projected their beliefs into the professional sphere they have, that is, established themselves on a functional level and they could possibly go on for at least another decade without materially modifying their fundamental concepts. It already becomes evident, however, that, when they do begin to resolve psychoanalytical theory with the whole of science, they will need to give attention to the work of such persons as Hamilton, Watson and Kempf on the one hand, and social psychologists on the other.

Dr Hamilton's book was published last year and is probably well-known in professional areas. But it is one of the books which needs to be renewed annually—or perennially—in order to reveal the full implications of its data. It impresses the present reviewer because of three dominant qualities: it is plain-spoken, it allows the reader to new the objective materials upon which the author bases his hypotheses, and the theoretical assumptions are modest and appear to be wholly relevant to the observations from which they emerge. This set of qualities might well be taken as a model by research specialists in the sphere of all the social sciences.

In order to avoid misinterpretation it will perhaps be best to give Dr Hamilton's assumptions in his words:

“objective psychopathology (is) a branch of medicine which employs the method of natural science in seeking to explain and deal practically with nervousness.”

“A nervous person is one whose modes of response to various stimulations are of a kind to interfere more or less seriously with his comfort and efficiency.”

Following the statement of these simple postulates, Dr Hamilton proceeds to classify and briefly analyze two hundred nervous cases, almost one-half of the book is devoted to these case-studies. If his initial assumption is correct, he should be able to find in each case some objective causal factor. That he does not uniformly succeed in locating such factors is a tribute to his fidelity to scientific method, at any rate, he does not forsake his rationale of objectivity and wander off into the enticing fields of speculation. The ensuing summary of findings probably constitutes the most penetrating critique of psychoanalytical method thus far made public. But it goes beyond mere criticism: it formulates experimental procedures for dealing with nervous illness which should

be of great value to those practicing physicians who can neither escape the implications of Freudianism nor utilize its applications. The therapeutic clues which Dr Hamilton has discovered open new fields for medicine—clues which may be explored with both feet (theory and function) on scientific ground. Professionals will find no difficulty in comprehending the whole of this text and lay readers will be aided by the accompanying glossary of unfamiliar terms. An extremely personal and unaffected method whereby Dr Hamilton allows the reader to share in the changes of his thought, the evolution of his hypotheses and even his misgivings greatly enhances the book's usefulness.

There is, of course, another point of view from which a work of this kind might be approached, namely, philosophical. Objectivity is one thing to the scientist and another to the searchers for ultimate meanings. An excursion into this sphere would lead too far afield for present purposes but it should be noted in the interest of fairness that many of the assumptions of objectivity which Dr Hamilton takes for granted are subject to legitimate skepticism.

EDUARD C LINDEMAN

PROBLEMS OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION, by Paul Popenoe. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins Company, 1926.

THE author is at his best when dealing with scientific fact. When approaching the subject of human morals he has a tendency to become dictatorial and to generalize from insufficient data. In this book he clearly separates proven facts from theories and it is, therefore, in the opinion of the reviewer, his best work. He has collected, for the benefit of the general reader, new or unfamiliar information on human reproduction that has previously been scattered through scientific periodicals.

Advantages of sexual over asexual reproduction are pointed out. Sex differences are grouped as cellular, metabolic, glandular, structural, functional, emotional, and intellectual. Debated questions such as the “eternal feminine” and “sex equality” are analyzed. The author maintains that there are great differences between the sexes, each has “specialized during hundreds of millions of years of evolution, to play its own part in the world.” The mechanism of reproduction in the male and in the female, the implantation and development of the embryo, pregnancy, childbirth, and sex-determination are treated in order. A very suggestive chapter on spermatoxins gives evidence that women develop immunity against impregnation. This principle may explain many cases of relative sterility.

Erroneous beliefs **justifying** celibacy are condemned "There is not the slightest basis for the idea that a man loses, in **castrus**, elements that would be of value to **him** if they were retained in **his** own body. It is a correlative of many other **superstitions** which associate pleasure with **sin**."

Chapters on **sterility** and **impotence** are very valuable. Legal, social, and **ethical** phases of artificial **insemination** are considered. **Antagonism** between the sexes is regarded as of evolutionary and eugenic significance. Brief consideration of the male as the weaker sex **points out** facts at **variance with** the popular conception. Other subjects treated are the hymen, menstruation, and **circumcision**. Defects in embryos due to **genetic** and **nutritive** factors are regarded as the **main** cause of miscarriage although the mother's care is not unimportant. A **brief consideration** of happiness in **marriage** based on studies by the Bureau of Social **Hygiene** concludes the volume.

The author has dealt with a difficult subject in a way that is **scientific** yet easily comprehended by the general reader. Advice when **given** is based on **hygienic principles** rather than **moralistic prejudices**. The human being is treated as a complicated **mechanism** which must be kept in adjustment in order to **function** properly. Only once does the author fall into serious error. He considers life processes as **expenditure** of a store of energy possessed at birth (p. 178). "Every woman like every man, starts out with a **certain** amount of **inherent** natality, a **certain** potential which must last her until death. If it is drawn upon **excessively** at one period, as by a prolonged and severe constitutional **disease**, the result can never be overcome. Some have a great stock of energy. While others have a narrow **margin**. The amount of **vital** force necessary to carry a **girl** successfully through adolescence is large." The words "inherent **vitality**", "stock of energy", "natal force", are mystical terms equivalent to the medieval concept "**vis** essentialis." They are of no value in modern physiology. From the point of view of mental **hygiene** they are **pernicious**. The **individual** whose "**energy is spent**" may as well commit **suicide** but he whose **mechanism** is out of adjustment may yet have **hope** of readjusting.

P. W. WHITING

THE NEW AGE OF FAITH, by John Langdon-Davies
New York, The Viking Press, 1926

MR. LANGDON-DAVIES'S stimulating book discusses two related questions. First, what has science to tell about human society? and second, how far will human beings listen to what science has to tell them? The author concedes that the second is the more important of the two questions. At the same time, his discussion of the first "What has science to tell?" and his

able analysis of many of the trends of the "popularizers" of science—which only too often blossoms into **pseudo-science**—constitute an achievement in critical commentary.

There are three social **prejudices** which exercise constant pressure on the average person's thought, **coloring it** and **making it irrational**. They are, first, "my country, race or **nationality** are better than other people's", second, "my class, **social** caste, or **social** habits are better than the others", and, **third**, "my moral code, **religious** outlook, **guidebook** to heaven, are better than others."

This is not a new state of mind. Our forefathers made their case by **going** to the Bible to prove they were the chosen people, or to find **confirmation** of any personal complex on a **disputed** moral question. Nowadays, Mr. Langdon-Davies states in effect, chromosomes, genes, germplasm and **dominant** Mendelian characters are called upon to prove identically the same case. "Once more pseudo-science prepares a synthetic **figleaf** to hide the nakedness of class **prejudice** and the petty **irrationality** of the uneducated human **mind**." And the author does not use the term "uneducated" as a synonym for "unschooled." Nor is he **unfamiliar with**, nor **antagonistic** to, those branches of **biological science** that deal with cytology and Mendelian characters. On the contrary, he gives an excellent summary of **Mendel's** law.

The author's **views** on the subject of Birth Control are set forth in the **following** passage. "No new invention has ever escaped the *odium theologicum*, the partisans of nature's **gods**, those who call Prometheus to the eternal rocks, have always **cried** out that we must not tamper with nature. There is no great **invention**, from fire to flying, which has not been **hailed** as an insult to some god. But if every **physical** and chemical **invention** is a blasphemy, every **biological invention** is a perversion. There is hardly one which, on first **being** brought to the **notice** of an **observer** from any **nation** which had not **previously** heard of its **existence**, would not appear to **him** as **indecent** and unnatural. Now if this particular example merely serves to make us laugh at the oddness of human nature, a far graver emotion is aroused when we **consider** a **similar** attitude towards **Birth Control**. Here once more, **instead** of a logical and scientific weighing of argument and fact, we are met with the eternal emotional strife. "**You must not tamper with nature**," **cries** the **conservative** part of the human **spirit**, just as it **did** when fire was first used, when the plough first cut into nature's breast, when **animals** were tamed and domesticated, clothes worn, houses **built**. It does not matter at all what **science** has to say, plague, pestilence and famine, it may be, are to be our aides, and our path to the moralist's heaven paved with the gnarled and stunted **bodies** of women and stillborn children, because we must not summon up courage to do what **primitive** man was brave enough to do scores of times."

WILLIAM J. FIELDING

AN ENGLISH edition of Floyd Dell's "Outline of Marnage" with an introduction by E S P Haynes, has been brought out by the Richards Press, (London) The book is in board covers, and sells for 2 sh 6 d

"It is very difficult" says Mr Haynes in his introduction, "to find much that is new to say about marnage, but Mr Floyd Dell has certainly suggested new ideas to me" He summarizes Mr Dell's special contributions, well known to readers of the REVIEW, in the following words

"Mr Dell maintains that the reproductive and sexual instincts are not necessarily identical and have even been in the past very distinct He illustrates this from biology, and gives examples showing that an organism often reproduce itself by a sort of splitting process and uses sexual union as a means of prolonging its own life by a sort of alternative principle

"He also appeals to anthropology and shows that most primitive marnage ceremonies imply the subordination of individual mating inclinations to capricious rules framed in order to combine avoiding incest with the preservation of the clan This system leads to the segregation of the sexes, with the result that the men hunt in packs, and the women are more or less shut up secluded at home He appeals to history in order to show that even in recent periods marnage could not be a matter of free choice, because marnages were made for social reasons, and, if they were not, there could be no property, politics, or established institutions

"In the modern marnage, however, the individual is to be more favoured Parental love must be made ancillary to mate-love, household duties are to be done by machinery, and the wife is to work independently of her husband before having children and after they have grown up"

Books Received

EDUCATION FOR LIFE, by Juhe Eve Vajkai The Wear-dale Press London, 1s

AN OLD MAN'S FOLLY, by Floyd Dell George H Doran Company New York \$2 00

LOVE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, by Floyd Dell George H Doran Company New York \$2 00

SEX EDUCATION—A SYMPOSIUM FOR EDUCATORS, Treasury Dept, U S Public Health Service Wash, D C

COMMENT EVITER LES MALADIES VENERIENNES, by Dr Axel Robertson-Proschowsky Paris 2fr 50

LOVE AND MORALITY, by Jacques Fischer Alfred A Knopf New York \$3 50

THE LIFE OF DARWIN, by Leonard Huxley Greenberg, Publisher New York \$175

THE HUMAN BODY IN PICTURES, by Jacob Sarnoff, M D Physicians & Surgeons Book Co New York \$2 00

TON CORPS EST A TOI, by Victor Marguerite Ernest Flammanon Editeur Paris 12 francs

THE MOTHERS, by Robert Briffault (Three volumes) The Macmillan Company New York \$9 00 (each)

Periodical Notes

The New Yorker—This lively periodical of current events in New York believes that Kitty Marion "is enough of an institution to warrant a few paragraphs" It sketches her career and tells how she began her unique work for Birth Control She was diverted from her profession (the stage, says *The New Yorker* "by a Cause After hearing a lecture by Margaret Sanger she zealously took up the Birth Control movement She thereupon began selling the REVIEW Now she takes her stand every morning at ten, both hands held high and a REVIEW in each One day it is Grand Central, the next Coney Island, the next Broadway in the Forties She has sold 86,478 copies, as of the first of August, we are informed, and all told has had much success and little trouble Once an Irish lady engaged her in a one-sided fencing match with an umbrella, once some of Billy Sunday's followers denounced her publicly as immoral, and upon one occasion the Vice Society had her arrested She has come through each experience unscathed, however, and last month she even sold a copy of her magazine to a policeman

Times (N Y)—It is worthy of note that H G Wells, in a summer issue of the supplement (July 24) puts Birth Control first among test questions which show the calibre of an adult's mind "On your belief" he writes "whether that is possible and desirable, or whether it is not, hang, logically and necessarily, all your ideas of the competition of types, peoples and races, and of the possibility of socialism and world peace If you can believe it is possible, then world peace is possible, and if you think it is impossible, all talk of world peace is just sentimental foolishness or a humbugging preparation for propaganda in the next war"

Edward Alsworth Ross, of Wisconsin University, writes, in the July Century of the "man-stifled Orient" where "everybody marnes, fit or unfit, and becomes a parent" Here in the old days, "A slaughter house mortality" went far to offset a reckless fertility But this equilibrium has been upset by those humane administrators whose improvements are producing "population surpluses which no feasible improvement of agriculture can support" In the same magazine Walter B Pitkin gives facts showing how this same process of controlling death rates without looking to the birth rate is going on in the Occident also, where there has been a steady decline since 1900 both of such communicable diseases as diphtheria, dysentery, typhoid and of the noncommunicable diseases such as paralysis, bronchitis, septicemia and softening of the brain

In another number of *The Century* Dr Ross writes of the "Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" and in the *Scientific Monthly* he discusses the speed of population growth All these articles are products of the research on which his book "Standing Room Only" is based.

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

AN EVENT of greatest importance to the Birth Control movement was the **International Population** Conference which was held in Geneva, August 31st to September 3rd. We print elsewhere in these pages stories of the Conference, and also the Programme of its proceedings, which will be of interest to our readers as it shows not only the scope of the Conference but also the men and women, gathered from many countries of the Old and New Worlds, who took part in it.

UNITED STATES

New Jersey

SOON AFTER her return last spring Mrs Sanger held a conference with the **Executive Committee** of the New Jersey Birth Control League, at the home of Mrs G Marshall Allen, Convent, New Jersey. Representatives of eleven communities were present.

Miss Henriette Hart, Field Secretary, has done a fine piece of organizing in New Jersey and has built up a strong local committee. During the last few months she has spoken at thirty-nine meetings in eleven communities, in almost every instance in private homes. Hostesses for these meetings were Mrs Zachariah Belcher, Mrs John White Howell, Mrs Wells P Eagleton, Mrs Victor Parsonet, Mrs Charles Ashmun, Mrs Royal S Schaaf, Mrs W Toland, Mrs Henry G Holler, Mrs Joseph Spurr, Mrs N A Carle, Mrs Gilbert Brown, and Mrs C L Carrick, all of Newark, Mrs H Otto Wittpenn of Jersey City, Mrs William Barstow, Mrs H Schimmel, Mrs G H Sherman, Mrs Percy Ingalls, and Mrs W E Frenaye, all of Orange, Mrs Lorenz Day of Chatham, Mrs Thomas Haight, Mrs Dan Fellowes Platt, Mrs S E Flitners, Mrs Harrison Adriance, Mrs W Douty, and The Woman's Club of Englewood, Mrs Harriman N Simmons of Elizabeth, Mrs E D Merikle and Mrs F H Lovell of Madison, Mrs John T Gillespie and Mrs H T Maxwell of Morristown, Mrs G Marshall Allen of Convent, Mrs L C Marburg of Montclair, Mrs E G Quarles and the Muhlenburg Hospital of Plainfield, Mrs Charles W Stockton and Mrs Frank E Knothe of Ridgewood, Mrs Harold W Hack of Short Hills, Mrs M Pattison of Rahway, and Mrs H Talmadge of Bernardsville.

The fact that such women as these, and others not on this list who have consented to serve on the state committee, are leading the movement in New Jersey insures its success. Miss Hart's meetings have always been prolonged by full and interested discussion of the aims of the League. Lay meetings have been followed by addresses to physicians in Plainfield, Englewood and Newark, by the League's Medical Director, Dr James F Cooper.

Miss Henriette Hart is a personal friend of Dr Aletta Jacobs of Holland, founder of one of the first Birth Control clinics in the world. Miss Hart was born in Holland and her background has given her an experience which has made her work in New Jersey so successful. She has had eight years' in social welfare research and legislation in this country and has specialized in work to improve the condition of women. She has been connected with the Bureau of Labor, Washington, D C, The Bureau of Women in Industry, Department of Labor, New York, and the National Woman's Party.

Her research studies have been wages and hours of women in industry, compensation legislation, the social and economic after-effect of permanent and partial disabilities of women in industry, wage adjustment, and the equal rights amendment.

Wisconsin

THE following resolution was passed on June 18, by the office workers of Milwaukee, and ten days later presented by Alderman William Coleman in a petition to the Wisconsin Legislature.

Whereas, the health of the mother and her children is, in a large degree, dependent upon the size of the family, and

Whereas, poverty and large families have a fundamental bearing on the problem of the child, and

Whereas, the unbalanced over-production of the poorer classes, adds enormously to the complex problems of the public and private charities, and

Whereas, there is a general consensus of opinion among economists, and sociologists, that over-population—in any country—is a serious menace to world peace, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Stenographers, Bookkeepers, and Assistants Union No 16456, go on record, as approving the principle of Birth Control, and the amendment of state laws, to permit the giving of Birth Control information by physicians—either in private practice, or in clinics and dispensaries.

THE MIDDLE WEST

ANNE KENNEDY, who has been doing field work in midwestern states, sends the following summary of progress

First, Prominent physicians in many more cities are using the later methods of contraception *

Second, Contraceptive service has been established in some clinics and dispensaries

Third, Individual physicians, clinics and dispensaries are keeping records that conform to the records kept by the American Birth Control League

Field work for the American Birth Control League covered 11 cities, most of them in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri and Texas. Of these cities, Dallas, Houston, Milwaukee and Minneapolis have, in five private clinics, made contraceptive information a part of their medical service. Minneapolis, St. Louis, Austin, and San Antonio are including Birth Control advice in the work of some public dispensaries

There is a prospect of Cleveland, Milwaukee, Dallas and Galveston passing a resolution through their hospital boards favorable to contraceptive service. Many gynecologists and obstetricians in these cities are interested in gathering data from their patients on the results of the use of methods advocated by the Research Department of the League. Women physicians are especially interested in learning the latest technique. A few medical societies are willing to devote an entire evening to the consideration of contraceptive methods

In many charity organizations both staff and field workers are willing to give active cooperation with the dispensaries and individual physicians in reaching the women. This means that those needing and wanting Birth Control will be able to get the instruction

The preceding facts relate to what might be termed the work of medical organization for contraception—the ultimate goal of this movement. But first it is necessary to build up a social and educational atmosphere favorable to the subject. Many important people must be seen personally—"seeing the right people" is essential. Then there must be meetings and group approval must be secured. A rather amusing incident occurred in a city of churches, where the usual response from the influential was, "What does Rev. — think of Birth Control?" It became evident that he was the "key" man. After repeated calls on the telephone he was reached, and the following conversation took place, "What is it please, I am a very busy man

*The records of the American Birth Control League show between seven and eight thousand physicians now cooperating in the United States

A movement for what? Oh, of benefit to women and children. Come and see me Monday and God bless your movement." When the highly respected and eloquent divine knew that it was Birth Control he became acutely conscious of the rashness of his blessing. But in the end he proved to be the "key"—the man who opened the door for Birth Control in the particular community

A president of one of the southern Methodist colleges expressed great interest in the work of the League. Instructors in universities and colleges were found to be instructing the students in the social value of the principle of Birth Control

The staff physician of a large industrial plant was enthusiastic in her advocacy of contraception, pointing out the great inroads abortions had made on the health of the women forced into industry, for many revolt against maternity under the pressure of factory labor. The employer, the wife and the family, she believed, will all benefit by this "ounce of prevention"

In covering the states from Minnesota to Texas it was quite noticeable that where the seed of Birth Control had been sown previously, it was much easier to obtain results. Minnesota was cooperative and liberal, Texas was reticent and conservative. Now however contraceptive service is well established in both states and under the finest medical supervision

The interest in Birth Control is steadily growing, and it is a much more intelligent interest than it used to be. From the field of propaganda it is merging into the field of education and actual accomplishment. This year's field work means that many more women will receive contraceptive information, and that a wider range of data will be secured for research, and last but not least, there will be active participation in the work by medical men of prominence and influence



ENGLAND

THE Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Birmingham, at its Summer Conference last June was addressed by the head of the Diocese, Bishop Barnes. A considerable part of his address was devoted to the duty of Birth Control and the responsibility of Christian mothers for the betterment of English conditions. We give a part of his address

In the old days—he said—it seemed impossible to have too many children. The reason was that so many children died as babies. Until comparatively recent times the death-rate among infants was appallingly high

About 170 years ago there came a change **Medicine improved**, and doctors and nurses became more **skillful**. We began to see the value of pure water **and good sanitation**. An **improvement** set in which has **steadily continued**. The average mother has no longer to **mourn** the death of **child after child**, the cause of much sorrow, of which we hardly **like to think**, has been brought to an end.

But the result was that population increased enormously. In 1600 there were under **five million** people in **England**. By 1750, the **population** had only increased to **6,500,000**, but in the next 100 years our numbers rose to **32,500,000**, a **population** which meant poverty, **semi-starvation**, **discontent**, and, as between nations, the threat of war.

All married people should have **children if God will** so bless **their** union. But when the **question** of how many **children** is asked the answer must depend upon whether **those children** can be brought up in **needful care and in healthy surroundings**. The children are the raw **material** of the **Kingdom of Heaven**, and we ought not to allow such material to be damaged.

What troubles social experts to-day is that there are too few children in our **healthier** areas and too many in our **slums**. This is true of **Birmingham** as of other places, and we need the influence of **Christian mothers of families** to make things better. We also need your influence to prevent the increase of bad stocks in our midst.

The feeble-minded and the insane ought not to have children, for their bad qualities are handed on to their descendants, and yet in the **families** of the feeble in mind there are on the average seven children. If in every family there were as many children the **population** of the country would double in less than **twenty** years.

In the future a far **higher** standard of public opinion will be needed unless **tainted stocks** are to increase as they have increased of late and gradually infect the whole population.

I would urge you to try and get your boys and girls to marry into wholesome families. Do not encourage them to marry into a **tainted** family because it happens to be **well-to-do**. Support the making of laws which prevent the increase of the **feeble-minded**. Insist that children should not be brought into the world unless they can be properly housed and fed and cared for by their parents. Only by the spread of such principles can we build the City of God in this land.

This country does not need more people than we have at present, but we do need to improve the quality of our citizens. That can only be done if **sound** healthy stocks increase faster than those that are **vicious**, **reckless**, or unhealthy."

The steady support of the **Bishop of Birmingham** has been of **inestimable** value to the **Birth Control** movement in **England**.

With the **Jubilee Dinner** of July 26th, the **Malthusian League** brought to an end its **unique service** as the **pioneer organization** in the movement for Birth Control. It terminated its official existence with an announcement by Dr. Drysdale, its long-time President, that its work was accomplished. The work for Birth Control has now become the spreading of **Birth Control Clinics**, and bringing influence to bear upon the government to have **contraceptive instruction** made part of the health work of the **public welfare centers**.

FRANCE

WHILE press items announce that "the legend of France's declining birth rate is belied by the preliminary vital statistics for 1926, now available," they also tell the lengths to which the population boosters are going to increase numbers.

Their efforts include what amounts to a campaign to encourage illegitimacy. The recognition of illegitimacy does not appear to be, as in Scandinavian countries, urged in order to improve the lot of a class discriminated against, but rather to increase the available fighting force. This campaign appears the more remarkable when it is recalled that the Catholic Church, champion of conservative morality, is the driving power behind repopulation propaganda.

Respectability for unmarried mothers and easier marriage laws, says the press report, are advocated by many as necessary remedies for France's population problem.

Children born out of wedlock should not suffer for their parents' disregard of social conventions. The men make as good soldiers and the women as good wives and mothers, supporters of these ideas contend. In any case, they believe the French must be encouraged to have children, and lay sermons and 10 per cent tax reductions have failed of their object. One suggestion is that marriage formalities should be as simple as in the United States.

Illegitimacy is high, in Paris especially. The necessity for a marriage ceremony is increasingly disregarded for many reasons that are stronger here than in the United States. Often, when there are children, the parents marry but it takes courage for them to let it be known they were not married before.

The "free union" or sort of common-law marriage does not figure in statistics but many thousands live in that state in France, authorities say.

The actual facts about France are that the birth rate is normal but the infant mortality rate, due to a lack of proper sanitation and hygiene to which the French are just beginning to awaken, is far higher than it should be.

The number of births in 1926, says the Associated Press report, was 766,266, or 18.8 per 1,000, against 790,355, or 19.1 per 1,000 in 1913.

What, however, causes serious disquiet to the health authorities is the abnormally high infant death rate as compared with other European countries. The number of children dying below the age of one year in 1926 was 74,698, against 68,367 in 1925. In some departments, notably in the mountainous regions of the Centre, the increase in the infant death rate from one year to the other exceeded 40 per cent.

ITALY

A REVISED code of laws, carried out under the direction of Mussolini is to be presented to the Italian Parliament this fall, and its adoption is only a matter of form. It enacts exceptionally severe penalties against Birth Control—both in practice and the theory. It provides imprisonment for one year for any one who incites to the practice of Birth Control or carries on propaganda in favor of it. The punishment also is provided for any one who by any other means impedes the fecundity of the Italian population. It also contains provisions directed against neo-malthusian propaganda, and declares that writings, pamphlets, illustrations, and other means that serve to make known methods for the prevention of conception, or for the interruption of pregnancy, even though such methods are applied under the pretext of therapeutics or in the name of science, are offensive to morals and good breeding. Likewise, the insertion in newspapers of notices or correspondence pertaining to neo-malthusian practices is prohibited.

Strenuous efforts were made by the promoters of the World Population Conference to secure a representative from Italy who should come with the sanction of the Government, and if possible be sent by Mussolini himself. These efforts were unsuccessful, and when Professor Guglielmo Ferrero, the noted historian, volunteered to attend, he was prevented from doing so by the refusal of the Government to grant him a passport.

GERMANY

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS item tells of a plan to present graduates of public schools in Germany with a book on marriage which is being urged upon the ministry of education by a number of educators.

The book proposed is Heinrich Pestalozzi's long famous story "Lienhard and Gertrude, a Story for the People."

False ideas on love, marriage and relationship between the sexes, it is argued, occasion much un-

happiness unless the youth is properly instructed. At present each graduate is given a copy of the Weimar constitution, while Lutheran and Catholic clergymen give the newly married a leather-bound Bible.

HOLLAND

AN INDICATION of the wave of reaction against Birth Control comes from Holland—the home of medical contraception. The Neo-Malthusian League there adopted a new constitution and set of rules, and, as is necessary in that country, it sent a copy to the Minister of Justice for his approval. This approval was refused, and for the present the League stands outside the law, and is liable to interference by the officers of justice, if these happen to disapprove its activities. The action of Minister Donner, who belongs to what is called the Anti-Revolutionary party, was protested in the Lower Chamber, but defended by some of the Roman Catholic members. The fight is not over, and it seems probable that the Minister of Justice will have to recede from his position.

SWITZERLAND

ZURICH officials have not only discussed Birth Control but they are to put the matter before the people, according to the "Courier de Geneve." At a meeting of the Communal Council toward the end of May Dr. Brupbacher introduced a resolution calling for the creation of a bureau of contraceptive instruction. Professor von Gonzenbach supported the measure, arguing that it was the community's loss if families brought into the world more children than they could adequately support. He modified the resolution to provide for a municipal bureau of maternal and infant hygiene, with a division of Birth Control instruction, and the council, by a vote of 52 to 30, decided to bring the measure before the people. The recent World Population Conference at Geneva will doubtless do much to stimulate interest in Birth Control in Switzerland.

TO MARGARET SANGER

When *The Forum* comes out for this Birth Control stuff,
Is "control" what you mean when you vaunt it?
To prevent sons and daughters is hardly enough,
Can you get either one when you want it?
If so, then gosh dang'er,
God bless Mrs. Sanger!

—ACE in *The Forum* (N.Y.)

God and the Birth Rate

By ROBERT F. HESTER

HAVING considered God in connection with a goodly number of things under the sun, I wish now to consider Him for a few moments in connection with the birth rate. This is beyond question one of the most momentous considerations which at the present time may be brought to the attention of the people.

The chief objections which have hitherto been raised against Birth Control, and which are now being raised against it, are essentially religious at base. Humanity is strangely inclined to accept this as the best of all possible worlds, and to conclude that, inasmuch as a God of infinite goodness, power and mercy created it, human beings are sacrilegiously presumptuous to attempt to meddle with it, or with any of its divine designs. Jehovah said "Go ye forth and multiply." Isn't that enough? Shall mere human beings presume to go counter to the express command of Jehovah, and meddle with the birth rate? This, indeed, is the attitude of an astounding number of people.

LET us briefly consider the matter in the light of reason.

If a God is responsible for man's existence, He is inevitably responsible for man's acts—and not only for man's acts, but for man's destiny. There is no way of getting around this—no way of sidestepping it. The doctrine of free-will is no argument against it—God would also logically be author of the will, and, furthermore, of possibility itself.

But if a God has ever had anything to do with our lives, it seems that He has now forsaken us, and left us to grope our way through a world of woe—a world in which the strong prey upon and maltreat the weak, and in which the resplendent beacon of Truth is in a sad number of cases concealed from the eyes of the multitude. The best way out is evidently left for us to choose—we must adjust the compass, and take hold of the helm.

This is so obviously true in the case of Birth Control that it is astonishing to find so many persons, even some who claim places among the intelligentsia, who either disfavor or openly oppose it. The pressing need for rationally applied Birth Control is as clear as the light of the sun, as conspicuous as the Statue of Liberty. It is needed here in America, it is needed in Europe, it is needed in Asia, and it may be needed in every other inhabited locality on our planet.

WHY IS Birth Control needed? There are many and weighty reasons—and judging from the deplorable ignorance of the multitude in this connection, I presume they may not be too often repeated. Let us glance at one or two of the most important.

Poverty! This is one of the most pronounced ills of human society, one largely resulting from over-population, and one which might ultimately be entirely abolished by the proper application of Birth Control principles. There are too many children being born into the world whose parents are unable to properly feed and clothe them, unable to properly take care of their health, unable to properly educate and otherwise prepare them for existence in the world. Many parents, of course, know these things themselves, and would gladly refrain from over-populating the world with such undesirable, and over-burdening themselves, if they only knew the proper methods for avoiding it.

One of the greatest indictments which may be directed against our so-called civilization is that people are not only discouraged in the attempt to learn of such methods, but are forbidden to do so by law.

ANOTHER thing which renders the need for Birth Control imperative is the infinitely greater desirability of quality rather than mere quantity in the composition of the human race. Eugenics is, indeed, almost one with Birth Control. Given a healthy and contented mother, a more welcome and happy birth, a better environment from several standpoints, a better education, better food, better clothing—and a child could hardly fail to be a better child, or fail to become a better man or woman. And these are conditions that may best be brought about by the proper application of Birth Control.

Finally, I will say with all emphasis that we should free our minds of the obsession that a God would take offense at our efforts to improve ourselves or our living conditions in the world. And as I have said, it is clearly left to us to do what is done about control of the birth rate. If a God ever has anything to do with it, He evidently makes many mistakes. This should be clear to any person in the street in possession of his normal senses. It should be clear that we must either employ Birth Control, and reap its rich rewards, or continue to be faced by poverty, crime, disease, ignorance, imbecility, and other highly undesirable but remediable ills which afflict the human race.

Correspondence

COMMENDATION FROM A BRITISH STATESMAN

Readers of the REVIEW *need no introduction to Lord Buckmaster* His masterly presentation of the case for Birth Control in the House of Lords on April 28, 1926 gave him a unique place in the Birth Control movement. We are proud to present to our readers his letter of commendation for the work we are striving to do on this side of the Atlantic

1 Porchester Terrace, London, W.

Dear Madam,

Owing to the courtesy of your Editor, I have for some time past been in regular receipt of your paper, and thus I have read with close and attentive interest.

I hesitate, being a stranger, to speak as to the difficulties which my knowledge of your law tells me you have been called upon to face, but I should like to express my appreciation not only of the courage which you have shown, but also of the wisdom and perception which has inspired your work.

The problem of Birth Control is certainly one of the gravest questions which can command our thoughts, and you have always realized that its solution does not consist merely in an unintelligent restriction of the family. It is essentially associated with the importance of men and women fulfilling their true function in life by the reproduction of the race, accompanied by a realization of the truth that this should be accomplished by wise and discerning forethought, and not by the hap-hazard of blind chance. Children should be born because they are desired, and not as the accident of an accident, and their mothers should not be stunted and starved by the pressure of others for whom the parents have no means of adequate provision. The happiness of the present and the hope of the future lies in a correct understanding of the views which your paper has always so steadfastly upheld.

Yours sincerely,

BUCKMASTER.

To Mrs. Margaret Sanger

MORE COMMENDATION

New York

From personal observation and trial, I find that a copy of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on the Doctor's waiting room table is a powerful educator to the public and to the Doctor.

I have patients nearly every day who speak of the REVIEW. Others ask the loan of it to finish some special article. Today an elderly dignified lady said, "to me, Doctor, the reading matter in your waiting room shows a wide awake interest in the future of the race and I like to see it."

J C V

KIND WORDS FROM KANSAS

Kansas

I recently received my first issue of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, and wish to state that I think it is a wonderful work and I never intend to let my subscription expire. Also I believe there are many who only need to be told of the good qualities of this work that would subscribe and support. I will help as much as possible. Mrs. C

A FRIENDLY SCIENTIFIC CAUTION

Dr. Raymond Pearl's prediction that the United States will contain in 2100 the largest population which it can support, or 197,274,000 people, a prediction recently quoted with approval by Mr. Herbert Hoover, is a scientific pronouncement peculiarly liable to over-emphasis. Forecasts of population increase for any country or century cannot be either exact or certain. Too many possible upsets exist. One, for example, is variation of climate. A mere annual temperature five degrees higher than at present would turn a part of our country into a virtually uninhabitable tropic. A similar alteration five degrees downward would ruin enormous wheat-raising areas and would crown a hundred of our mountain peaks with perpetual snow. Science does not expect these catastrophes, at least within a century, but either of them is possible. Still other specters threaten the exact fulfillment of Dr. Pearl's forecast. One is war, especially civil war. Another is a continued trend of immigration or of emigration. Perhaps the most effective of all would be a psychological factor--a persistent determination of our populace either to favor or to repress increase of population by births.

What Dr. Pearl actually says is not, of course, that the United States definitely will possess such and such a population in 2100. He announces merely that it probably will do so if living conditions remain unchanged and if the trends calculated from past statistics remain constant and applicable. Both of these "ifs" are rather big ones. Only a rash prophet would dare to ignore them or to use the definite figure of 197,274,000 people in 2100 as a basis for legislation or business commitments. The world continues to hold, fortunately for its interest, the divine factor of the unexpected.

There can be no just criticism, of course, of Dr. Pearl's announcement of his estimate. He has qualified it properly and cautiously. It is a biometric datum of interest. Mr. Hoover is among those interested and says so, which is also quite as it should be. The only note of warning which we wish to sound is one of mild and not discordant caution. Predictions of future population are not yet possible with the precision attained, for example, in predicting eclipses of the sun. Legislators or economists,

busy and **uncritical**, are **all** too likely to accept **scientific** forecasts literally and **without** the **qualification** of "perhaps" Dr Pearl would probably be **distressed** to have his taken so

—*Herald-Tribune* (N Y), Oct th

A Premium on Crime

A **NOTHER** individual has been **charged** in Vancouver **with** murder allegedly **arising** out of an **illegal operation** performed on a woman

The real **criminal** in most of these cases is not the **practitioner**, but the **social** and **ethical** prohibition of **Birth Control** knowledge

Cases of **this kind** may be **classified** into two groups

1 Those **concerning** married women who feel **they** cannot afford, **financially** or **physically**, the **strain** of more **children**.

2 Those **concerning** **unmarried girls** who **shrink** from the **disgrace** of **bearing** an **illegitimate child**

In the case of married women, the **situation** is clear **Society** must take **its choice** between **contraceptives** and **abortion** If knowledge of **scientific** contraception is withheld, there seems to be no **alternative** but **abortion** No woman should be asked to bear a **child** **unwillingly** or at a **sacrifice** of health or **happiness**

So far as **unmarried girls** are concerned, opponents of **Birth Control** argue that to **disseminate** knowledge of **contraception** would **simply** be to put a **premium** on **illicit amours** They argue that **girls** are **restrained** from **indiscretion** through fear of the consequences

That is nonsense Love cannot be abolished by **legislation** Nor can **legislation** or **social** rules **eliminate** those **acts** which are the consequence of love They are fundamental So long as men and women **live** on **this** earth, the sexual act **will** be performed, **legitimately** or **illegitimately** Moral or **immoral**, right or wrong, natural **instincts** will find an outlet And laws, creeds, and customs **might** just as well **reconcile** themselves to it

Which is the better, to arm every **girl** with a knowledge of **contraceptive** methods and **trust** to her innate decency to keep herself pure, or to **withhold** that knowledge and hang over her head the threat of **ostracism** and **disgrace** that **will** drive her to dangerous, **illegal** operations if she slips?

We live in a world of **imperfections** When we fail to **recognize** that fact and adjust our customs to it, we simply put a premium on **crime**

—*Vancouver* (B C) *Daily Sun*

"A forthcoming bride is to have a retinue of thirteen children at her wedding This is the sort of that that makes a superstitious bridegroom thoroughly nervous"

—*Punch* (London)

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Illegitimate Children in Connecticut

The Connecticut Child Welfare Association views with concern the problem of the woman who has more than one illegitimate child. Such women appear usually to be of low mental status. For 60 of such women of a group of 112, (Study of Children Born out of Wedlock in Connecticut) no information on this point was available. But of the remaining 52, only two were considered normal, 7 had a mental age of from 7 to 10 years, 4, from 10 to 12 years, 5 from 12 to 14, 6, were insane and the remaining 27 were described as apparently feeble-minded. The Association recommends early diagnosis of mental defect and close supervision of the mentally retarded.

**THE FIRST WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE***(Continued from page 256)*

It had been decided from the outset that this Conference was to be a purely scientific one, dissociated from all propaganda, and this compact was loyally kept by the Birth Controllers, and above all by Mrs. Sanger who was quite willing to remain unmentioned—surely one of the finest examples of self-abnegation on record. But when the proceedings were over the feelings of the Conference could no longer be restrained, and the world now knows that Margaret Sanger has added one more magnificent contribution to her efforts for the Cause.

I have already alluded to the difficulty of estimating the results of this Conference. When it was first projected after our last great Conference in New York, I was strongly of opinion that we ought to go to Geneva as propagandists seeking to impress upon the League of Nations the vital importance of the Population question in relation to International rivalries and War, and I am bound to say that I have not altered this opinion.

The rapid progress of Birth Control is certain now whether it receives high support or not, but the most vital need for humanity and civilization is to attempt to obviate another great War, which is unfortunately by no means improbable. Nothing which has transpired at this Conference has in any way affected the principles which the advocates of Birth Control have put forward as a justification for their propaganda, and to my mind the claim of Robert Ingersoll that the great problems of humanity would be solved by enabling every woman to decide for herself when she would become a mother remains unshaken, and should be the slogan of the Birth Control movement. Let us all push forward in this spirit.

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