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December, 1927

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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BIRTH CONTROL PRIMER



What Have We Learned About Birth Control?

We have learned that Birth Control is the substitution of reason and choice for blind chance in the bringing of children into the world

We have learned that there are harmless and sanitary methods of preventing conception, which leave untouched the love of married people

We have learned that through ignorance and superstition the use of these methods is opposed. Owing to this opposition it is very difficult to secure the repeal or amendment of old laws which hinder the introduction of Birth Control and the spread of teaching concerning it

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

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

We now give

Reason VIII. The Preservation of a High Standard of Living.

Population is at its optimum, (or best) number when all the inhabitants of the country can enjoy both the necessities and amenities of life, when smaller numbers would mean less comfort and happiness, and a larger population would equally reduce welfare

A nation that multiplies beyond the optimum must lower its standard of living

Life becomes sordid, cramped and robbed of beauty and freedom

People must work harder for smaller wages

They must eat cheaper food, having regard to what will grow most abundantly on small areas of land—potatoes instead of wheat-bread and meat

Forest and open land must give way to corn and potato patches, and the beauty of scenery must yield to utility for every available bit of land

Wild animals and birds must disappear. The over-crowded nation cannot afford to use land as game preserves or refuges for wild birds and animals

The nation that is multiplying beyond its means of subsistence must follow the example set by Italy under Mussolini. It must cut out holidays, it must work harder and longer, it must be content with merely making a living. It will have no time really to live and to enjoy life and nature

Is it worth while, merely for the sake of big numbers to take the joy out of life? Do you care to live, or are you content just to exist?

"In the absence of an improbable revolutionary improvement in agriculture we shall be pointedly confronted with the choice of reducing either our birth rate or our standard of living"

"Even if it could be demonstrated that this country could support 500,000,000 by eliminating waste and giving up meat, the standard of living would continue to fall and the problem of numbers continually get worse —A B WOLFE—Ohio State University"

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XI

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No 12

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OUR CONTRIBUTORS

DR A M Carr-Saunders, Professor at Liverpool University is author of "Problems of Overpopulation" and "Eugenics"

HENRIETTE HART, organizer of New Jersey for the American Birth Control League has specialized in study of the social and political status of women

HANNAH M STONE, M D is a Clinical Director of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League

WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D pioneer for Birth Control among medical men is editor of the Critic and Guide and author of many books His latest book is "What I Believe" (1927)

DR P W WHITING, formerly professor of genetics at Maine University is pursuing genetic studies at Bussey Institution, Harvard University

AARON J ROSANOFF, M D is a psychiatrist of Los Angeles

The cover ("Feed the Hungry") is from a drawing by John Flaxman, (Early 19th Century)

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MARGARET SANGER, Editor
ANNIE G PORRITT, Assistant Editor
MARY SUMNER BOYD, Managing Editor

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Birth Control Review

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EDITORIAL

THIS number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW conveys a definite appeal to those who realize the futility of so much of the present lavish expenditure on the alleviation of poverty, and who would be glad to have a part in constructive work for its abolition. We present in our pages this month facts illustrating the three steps down hill—The lowering of the standard of living through too heavy a drain on an income which does not expand as numbers increase, the consequent decline of the family from respectability and comfort into the “needy” class, the cumulative increase in the numbers of the family, for, once among the needy, Birth Control is more difficult of access than it is for the well-to-do. With free access to Birth Control the process could be reversed. The poor family, even after descending the three steps to despair, could turn and climb back to decent living. But to make this possible needs the combined and untiring attack of all who believe in Birth Control on our vicious anti-Birth Control laws, it needs clinics everywhere, where information can be given, within the laws at present, later to all who ask. All this demands funds, large funds, but those who give can give with the certain knowledge that their efforts and their gifts will not, like money spent on less fundamental social work, be merely water poured through a sieve. It will supply the truest and best help that one human being can give to others—the chance to help themselves. We appeal to all our friends, and to all who care about human suffering to come to our aid, and at this Christmas season to set aside first of all something for Birth Control out of their Christmas fund.



OUR appeal is addressed not only to individuals but also to those enormous foundations for health or social service which give millions, year after year, to the older efforts at improving the condition of the race. One of these is the Laura Spellman Rockefeller Foundation. This Founda-

tion ended the year 1926 according to its last report, with nearly two and a half million dollars of its annual income unexpended. The rest was allotted to various palliative movements. Whether good in proportion to the outlay of the sums disbursed was accomplished we do not know. Certain it is, however, that the misery of the world increases year by year, in spite of all the thousands of social agencies and the millions spent on them. The striking thing about the civilized world, the thing that drives men to despair, is that there has been no diminution, but rather an enormous increase in the burden and complexity of human misery decade by decade and even year by year. And yet the era of this increasing misery, the 19th and 20th centuries, is the very era, the only era in the history of the world, of Social Reform. Are the officers of the Spellman Foundation discouraged with the results accomplished? Do they leave funds unused because they doubt the adequacy of the very superficial reform movements which have received their aid? Meanwhile at their very door there knocks an effort, not to ameliorate, but to do away with a main cause of human misery. In the Birth Control Movement the Foundation would find a use for the unexpended balance, the effect of which could be measured in stabilized welfare of families and of whole communities—a use which would return to humanity a profit in happiness and well-being of many hundred per cent.



TO those whose interest in Birth Control is due to more personal and poignant considerations, the World Population Conference may not seem a very important event. But even these will find the session on differential fertility of immediate and pressing interest. This session brought the conference down from considerations of the limitations of the earth's surface in the distant future, to discussion of conditions here and now. Setting out with the thesis that those stocks best fitted by phy-

sical, mental or material equipment to look out for themselves and not burden the taxpayer have tended to increase at a slower rate than the poor, Professor Carr-Saunders' paper and the discussion following it brought out some striking and unexpected facts, which tended to show that, in spite of impediments to Birth Control put in the way of the poor, the birth rate is already showing signs of becoming less differential. In general we should have said that this must be so, for it is inconceivable that a restricted birth rate in the relatively small prosperous classes alone could have caused the marked decline in the birth-rate observed in most occidental countries in recent years. Only a decline in the vast numbers of the poor born into the world could have such an appreciable effect. This supposition is borne out concretely by the figures of decline in England between 1911 and 1921, which are 13 per cent for the whole population and 13.1 per cent—almost exactly the same—for the working class.



A FEW examples show how eagerly the poorer classes of many countries seize upon and use Birth Control. In England, if the population is taken class by class in eight groups, the unskilled worker stands third or next to the two upper classes, in his rate of decline. Country birth-rates are higher everywhere than city, for in the cities access to Birth Control, even if by gossip only, is easier to obtain. The city of Bremen, which has a record typical of many German cities, had in 1901 an average of 1.27 children for the wealthy, of 4.49 for artisans and the poor. In 1925 it had 1.47, a slight increase, for the wealthy and only 1.92 for artisans and the poor. That is, these poorer classes had cut their families more than 50 per cent. In Stockholm, Dr. Edin found that poor families declined between 1919 and 1922 not merely at a greater rate than the rich but that they had a birth-rate actually 25 per cent smaller than the rich. Figures from the Minister of Health of England for London show a large, steady decrease in the birth-rate since 1921. The average for four poor boroughs is about 16 per cent, for four corresponding rich boroughs the decrease is no greater, and in recent years, the rate in these shows an actual upward climb. In crowded industries, where information can be passed around, the same tendency is noted. Textile workers have had a striking decrease in their birth

rate and this is almost entirely due to the initiative of the women weavers, for the men spinners, taken as a separate class, show no such rate of decline in their families.



SUCH facts as these show that the poor—the women of the poor—want Birth Control and take it wherever they can, in spite of impediments in their way. They bear out our own experience with tens of thousands of poor mothers. They leave to the Birth Control movement the large task of responding to the proved demand and removing the obstacles in the way of free access for poor mothers to contraceptive advice. As to the converse, the figures already given for German, Swedish and English cities show a slight tendency for the prosperous to increase, or to arrest the decrease in the birth-rate among the more comfortable classes. Professor Andre Siegfried told us a year ago, in an address before the American Birth Control League that the efforts of Church and State in France to stimulate the birth-rate where having a marked effect on the well-to-do family but were not affecting the poor family in the least, the poor were still using their traditional methods of Birth Control. Of the intellectual classes in the United States, Professor Ellsworth Huntington of Yale has recently made a study, using the graduates of Yale, and Dr. Phillips has done the same thing with Harvard graduates. The results of both show the men of greatest achievement to have the largest families.

Drs. Huntington and Whitney, in "The Builders of America" recently published urged without qualification free access to contraceptive advice for the poor. Dr. Huntington has long been in sympathy with the aims of the American Birth Control League. Dr. Leon Whitney, is an official of the American Eugenics Society which has always dwelt on the necessity of stimulating the birth-rate of the "fit" rather than helping the unfit to limit theirs. It is therefore, encouraging to us to find the authors at one in urging family limitation among the poor. They recommend increased multiplication of the upper classes, but they recommend with equal vigor the control of the fecundity of the lower. Birth Control should be, they believe, a recognized part of social work.

"It seems almost certain," they say, "that social workers will soon deem it one of their most urgent and sacred duties to prevent large families among the people who ought not to have large families."

See page 342 for information on our Cartoon Contest

In the Homes of the Poor

By HENRIETTE HART

AS American Birth Control League organizer for New Jersey, I had many interviews with representatives of social agencies. Interest in Birth Control I found to be almost universal, but many expressed the fear that the poor families with whom they worked would not themselves, for religious or other reasons, countenance the idea. I asked to be allowed to make a test and from one or other of these agencies I obtained permission to study the records and to follow my study by visits to more than twenty families. I want before telling the results of my visits to express my admiration for the intensive work and patient help that had been given to these families, sometimes for many years.

The first cases were from a well known Children's Aid Society. The older the cases the more interesting the study proved, and the stronger my conviction that this society can only alleviate, it cannot strike at the root of the trouble without Birth Control. Whether the case was one of neglect, cruelty or desertion, a period of rehabilitation was always followed by a greater physical, moral and economic slump when another unwanted child came into the world. And as they came, year after year, the family went from bad to worse, and fell into deeper and deeper discouragement and despair.

The Welcome

My visits proved the social workers' fear groundless. In almost no cases did I feel my offer of help unwanted. In every household I was a welcome guest. Sometimes my greatest pity was for the mother, sometimes for the father, bowed almost to breaking by the economic burden, sometimes for the children, undesired, underfed and in some cases deserted. But agonizing as conditions often were, there were none in which I felt Birth Control helpless to lay the foundations of a cure.

Out of 12 Children's Aid Society cases, in only one did suspicion and ignorance prevail, and in this I decided to make no approach. Agents of the Society went with me on my visits. I had made up my mind not to speak to the women unless conditions were favorable, certainly never to jeopardize the agent's hold and my own by thrusting the subject tactlessly upon the woman. It was an interesting and delicate venture. I wanted to prove that Birth Control work can be linked smoothly and effectively with the activities of other social agencies, and to relieve agents of the necessity of them-

selves taking the responsibility of advising Birth Control. I wanted also to bring the message of the New Jersey Birth Control League and the Clinical Research Department in New York to poor families and to get an insight into conditions among the poor which Birth Control would relieve. In all these objects I feel that I succeeded.

Agents usually opened discussion by a friendly introduction of one who was interested in mothers and babies, and the rest followed ever so easily. I waited my time patiently, joining in the general conversation, in the meantime studying the children, the home, the woman, the husband when he was there, many times indeed making my approach through him.

No Unloving Mothers

I have seen sick, weary and discouraged mothers, but no unloving mothers even though some were accused of neglecting or even illtreating their children. Some of these had tried to escape from their home surroundings, taking the youngest children with them and leaving the others to neighbors to care for. But it was noticeable that, once the acuteness of their despair had passed, all these returned. When the test came they could not desert. Some women told me with brutal honesty that they had not wanted the last one, or two, or three, or four, and had tried "to get rid of them," but without success.

This was only one of many things the mothers told me, for the social workers who had felt that they would be shocked or offended and refuse to discuss Birth Control guessed wrong. They had suffered too intensely, they had lost all false modesty. They had passed through the worst, and hope of salvation was almost more than they could grasp. I shall not forget some of the things they told. From my note book I copy a few notes and conversations.

Who Knows?

Mrs. A, 34 years old, 12 children, 8 living. Husband's wages \$30 per week, rent \$25 monthly. We came early in the morning. On the large kitchen table were piled 11 loaves of bread, daily free ration for a family of ten, plus ten pounds of potatoes. These were the main diet.

"Vegetables, Miss, Oh, no, Miss, not often. Stew meat with onions twice a week. You see my kids

are healthy youngsters except the baby I was so sick when it came In the hospital three months, Miss Oh, the house was a wreck when I came back, but I could hardly walk then and my oldest daughter had to do all the work She is gone now She got tired, poor kid, only fifteen and having to do all the heavy work and the diapers for the two kids, and never a cent for a movie And her Pa got scolding with her, because she was singing sometimes in the day time, when he wanted to sleep She had to keep the children quiet and that was hard, you know She ran away I don't know, maybe she got married There was a feller who liked her pretty well and he has disappeared from the neighborhood If she ain't married, God knows, her Pa won't let her come back God, what if she did want a good time She's seen nothing but misery here What do we bring children in the world for anyway? We don't want so many Perhaps she will come back and be all right, but who knows?"

That Way Every Year

Mrs B Colored, 36 years, 18 children, 9 living Husband out of work Family supported by charities for years "Yes, Ma'am, I'm 36, sixth of last month, and this hea' boy is my 18th baby Yes, Ma'am all born alive But nine did not live long, Thank God, they were such pooh little things Yes, Ma'am, every year of married life I's been in the hospital, and my husband he gets an accident this summer and he ain't worked since He gets some compersation, but I ain't seen much of it He's down-town a lot I got some nice lady friends, they give me the babies' clothes, and the societies, they are good to me But I'm getting so tired, and my leg hurts I gets up too soon but the children they run wild and my husband he does not like work much Shuah I wants no more babies, I's too tired"

The woman raised her baby to her breast, sullen, slow, despairing

A Case of Abortion

Mrs C, 32 years old, 7 children Husband's wages \$28 week Rent \$22 month "No, Miss, no Birth Control for me Didn't I just about die when I tried I thought it was so simple I thought it was all going to be over in one treatment and they told me that doctor knew his business Charged me \$50 00, but I did not want another child I almost bled to death, for six weeks I had hemorrhages And my husband went nearly wild We quarrel so much now I try to keep him away It is hard on him, I know it, but I could not go through another pregnancy

"Not Birth Control, you say? You mean, there would be no operation? No medicine? And she is a nice good doctor and she would help me for nothing, so I would not get that way, you say? And I can get well, and my children will get well? It used to be a nice home here, Miss Honest"

Tears of gratitude and new born hope came to her eyes

A Midwife Speaks

Woman—29 years, border case, mental defective Has illicit relations, leaves home, returns and has another baby Husband takes her back, things go fairly well for a while till another baby comes Woman refuses to permit mental examination Family has been before the Court, but husband is always eager for adjustment in the home His earnings are \$19 per week Oldest child is 13 There are seven children They are underfed and neglected

"Yes, come in ladies If you will just step over the mattress, please Haven't had time to clean up I am the midwife and the missus just got up It is really too soon, but it is my last day Here's the baby in the box over there A puny baby, but she gets them too fast" We walked through a reeking hall bedroom and entered the kitchen living room Filthy blankets and unwashed clothes everywhere The children, four of them, sitting listlessly on chairs, clad in torn shirts or nighties The table littered with dirty dishes and scraps of food left from breakfast The woman was standing over the gas stove, warming some milk for the baby White faced, a dull tired look in her hollow eyes, she moved slowly to the table and greeted us A woman only 29 years old, looking like 40

We looked at the tiny infant in the box, at the other children, pale pinched little faces, and hardly knew what to say Certainly one could not congratulate her on the new arrival So the agent opened the conversation, asking if the children (two of them) had liked camp For a moment the tired face lighted up and she said, "Yes, Miss, thank you so much for sending them They had their hair clipped off They didn't look so nice, but they won't have the itch no more, I hope I will look after their heads, if I get stronger Was not feeling well all summer, and now this new baby" The woman registered little faith or hope when she was told that she will be taken care of and will get her strength back She, too, confuses Birth Control with abortion

"Ain't I tried it? Those pills don't help nohow I get pregnant right away, but I'll go see your lady

(Continued on page 341)

Clinical Birth Control Abroad

By HANNAH M. STONE, M.D.

PART II

HOLLAND is regarded as the motherland of the scientific Birth Control movement. For many years the dissemination of Birth Control information has been free from any legal hindrances and restrictions, and the methods developed there some decades ago are still being employed in the Birth Control clinics in Europe and America. I was, therefore, particularly anxious to visit Holland and to observe the work there.

The organized Birth Control work in Holland is carried on under the direction of the Nieuw-Malthusiansche Bond, with headquarters at Amsterdam and the Hague. The general secretary of the league, Mr. J. H. Goud, whom I visited at his home, outlined to me in some detail the organization and activities of the League. He also supplied me with a good deal of literature describing the objects and accomplishments of the League, the character and extent of their clinical work and the types of contraceptives they advocate.

Teaching the Midwives

Most of the actual instruction of mothers in methods of Birth Control is carried on by midwives and nurses, under the direction of the League. These women are trained in contraceptive technique by one of the physicians of the association. Formerly this instruction was given by Dr. Rutgers, a pioneer of the movement, but since his death it is continued by other physicians connected with the organization. The course lasts for about three months, at the end of which the woman receives a diploma from the League, which publishes a list of the names, addresses and office hours of the women who have received diplomas and are engaged in this work. This list is changed from time to time according to requirements and is apparently kept up to date. The last one, published in July, 1927, contains the names of two physicians and 35 midwives or nurses distributed in 27 cities of Holland, and one is even located in Java, East India.

I had the opportunity to visit several midwives at The Hague, and at Rotterdam, and to observe their methods and technique. They carry on their practice in their homes, using either their sitting room or a little side-room for this purpose. The women I visited were all intelligent and apparently capable. They showed me their League certificates,

and were quite willing to discuss their work. They stated that they saw on an average from three to six patients a day. Women sent by the League receive instructions and supplies at a special low rate, which makes contraceptive information accessible to the poorer classes of the population. The methods employed by these nurses are those most usually employed at the present time in organized Birth Control centres.

Birth Control Clinics in Holland

The question of the presence or absence of "Birth Control Clinics" in Holland has recently been a matter of discussion and controversy. As far as I could learn, the names published by the Neo-Malthusian League constitute the only official centres where Birth Control instruction is given. There are of course many physicians in Holland who give Birth Control information, but they are not connected with the League. I found no organized clinics for Birth Control purposes under the direction of physicians and medical institutions.

The centers of the League, it is true, can hardly be called clinics in the meaning we apply to the word. Nevertheless it must be realized that these are centers where Birth Control information is actually being given, that they appear on a published and well circulated list, and that mothers do apply and receive instruction there. No scientific work, is, of course, carried on, there are apparently hardly any records, and no follow-up system, yet it is well to bear in mind that these stations actually serve as centers for the dissemination of fairly reliable contraceptive information to a large group of the population. Undoubtedly were this contraceptive work carried on under the direction and supervision of trained physicians, it would be more effective and much more valuable for scientific Birth Control. In the absence of such medical clinics, however, it is my opinion that these league centers carry on a useful work from a social viewpoint.

Brief Summaries

The following summaries of the clinical Birth Control situation in other countries were gathered mainly from the delegates to the Conference. I trust that they depict accurately the status. The

brevity of my stay in Europe prevented me from making a more complete personal survey

Sweden and Denmark

In Sweden there is no legislation in reference to Birth Control, and both educational and clinical work can be carried on without any interference. Contraceptive information, I was told by Dr Alma Sundquist, is given freely in many gynecological clinics, and there is, therefore, no need for special Birth Control clinics. No systematic study of contraceptive methods has, to my knowledge, been undertaken in Sweden, perhaps because of the absence of such specialized clinics.

Active Birth Control in Denmark is being carried on by the Birth Control Committee of Scandinavia and by the Association for Sexual Education founded by the valiant and intrepid Mrs Thit Jensen who was present at the Conference. Dr Leunbach, the president of the latter Association, was also present, and he told me that while there is no organized clinical Birth Control work carried on in Denmark, a number of physicians are doing a good deal of contraceptive work privately.

Germany and Switzerland

In Germany there is apparently no organized clinical Birth Control work. A woman physician, Dr Rease, from Frankfort a/M, present at the Conference, told of contraceptive work which she is doing in connection with her gynecological clinic in one of the hospitals of the city. This, however, as far as I could learn, is being done on the initiative of a small group interested in the health of working mothers, and is not a part of an organized movement. I had intended to observe this clinic during my stay at Frankfort, but Dr Rease was still away from the city at that time, and I was unable to remain there until her return.

No clinical Birth Control is being conducted in Switzerland. This is in part due, I was told, to

effective religious opposition. Recently the Council of Zurich passed, by a vote of 52 to 36, an ordinance to establish several Birth Control clinics under the control of public health authorities. Much opposition has been aroused to this bill, and the outcome of this project is still in doubt.

Italy and France

In Italy, Mussolini has already put a tax upon bachelorhood, and is now contemplating a heavy tax upon all childless families. The object is, of course, to increase the Italian population. Birth Control work of any kind is entirely prohibited in Italy, and no clinics can be contemplated under present conditions.

"In France," said Professor Lucien March at the Conference, "for a considerable time and without any propaganda having been necessary, limitation of families has been general and it is a result of rational forethought." But he was strongly opposed to any further limitation at present, fearing depopulation rather than overpopulation. This opposition represented the general attitude of the French delegates to the Conference, and is apparently the prevailing viewpoint of the political and religious groups of France. They feel, as M. March said, that "the limitation of births should never be taken out of the hands of the political and spiritual authorities." At the hands of these "political and spiritual authorities" this viewpoint has been concretely embodied into laws prohibiting the advocacy of Birth Control and the sale and distribution of contraceptives in France. Under such conditions there can of course be no organized clinical work.

A representative from India stated that the great leader Gandhi is not in favor of Birth Control. So long as his opposition persists, little, if any, effective activity can be hoped for. He urged Margaret Sanger to come to India in order to present her point of view to Gandhi and his followers.



"We are all blind until we see
That in the human plan
Nothing is worth the making,
It it does not make the man
Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilt goes?
We build the world in vain unless
The builder also grows!"

—EDWIN MARKHAM

Twenty-Five Years of Progress

By WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D

AS to the change in our attitude towards Birth Control, we may safely affirm that there is not another serious humanitarian movement that has made such remarkable, such striking progress. People who have not lived through these years can not imagine what the *public* attitude towards Birth Control was twenty five years ago. To speak about, to advocate Birth Control was not only immoral, it was considered vile, vulgar, obscene, disgusting, filthy. And the medical profession, which I selected as my special field of cultivation because I appreciated its importance as a leaven for the movement, was reactionary in the extreme. When I approached a physician on the subject, he raised his hands or shrugged his shoulders, yes, he wanted to have the information for himself, but as to advocating it, as to bringing it up in a medical society—God forbid. It was too filthy a subject to handle. And you could not induce a medical journal to discuss the subject editorially or to publish contributed articles in which Birth Control was advocated. This was *one* of the reasons why I started the *Critic and Guide*. I wanted a journal in which I could have a free field, to discuss any subject I wanted and in the way I wanted, without being dependent upon an editor's prejudices, whims or ignorance.

In those days a physician who insisted on speaking and writing about the subject jeopardized his professional standing very decidedly. At a meeting of the American Medical Editors' Association (it was held at Atlantic City that year) some of my friends put me up as candidate for President of the Association. And there seemed to be no doubt of my election. But two or three sanctimonious editors began an underhand propaganda, they said it would be lowering the dignity of the American Medical Editors' Association to elect a man as President who openly advocated *abortion* (then, even as now, but to a much greater extent, people—even physicians—either through ignorance or unfairness, confounded prevention with abortion). And when I saw the opposition that was developing I withdrew my candidacy.

WHEN I approached Dr. Jacobi on the subject, though we were friendly and though he was considered a liberal, he received me very coldly. "A physician's function is to preserve and not to

destroy life." And this from a man like Jacobi! It was to despair. And if I had not been so convinced of the vital importance, justice and high morality of the cause, I should have given it up. "But if I succeed in convincing you that limitation of offspring actually preserves life, instead of destroying it?" I told him. He looked incredulous. It took several years before I succeeded in making a convert of Dr. Jacobi, and it took ten years, before, in 1912 as President of the American Medical Association, he got the courage to come out openly for Birth Control, in his Presidential address. (The meeting of the American Medical Association that year took place in Atlantic City and Woodrow Wilson, then Governor of New Jersey, delivered a fine address of welcome.) After Dr. Jacobi, the Nestor of American Medicine, the founder of Pediatrics in the United States, and President of the American Medical Association (the highest honor a physician can receive) came out openly for Birth Control, some other physicians who at first did not want to hear anything about it, joined the movement, and it then progressed with accelerated momentum.

TODAY the movement is quite respectable. No physician now jeopardizes his professional standing because of his advocacy of prevention, and even our great official periodical, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (the best medical journal in the world) is now cautiously in favor of Birth Control. Thus far has the medical profession traveled in twenty-five years.

But there is no question whatever that the movement would not enjoy the popularity and the vogue that it does, that the name Birth Control would not now be a household word, if it were not for one woman. It is not necessary to mention her name—you have guessed it already. Yes, Margaret Sanger has made herself immortal, and in any history of the Birth Control movement her name will always occupy an honored place. She has done valiant, never-to-be-forgotten work.

Yes, the change in the American public attitude towards Birth Control in the last twenty five years is truly marvelous. Though we must not yet cease our work and our vigilance, the Cause of Birth Control is practically won. I wish we could say the same thing about our anti-war movement.

A Significant Conference

The Fifth International Genetics Conference

By P W WHITING, PH D

THE Fifth International Genetics Congress recently held in Berlin (September 11-17) indicates the great development of genetic science within recent years. At the Fourth International Congress held in 1911 it was planned to hold the Fifth in 1916 but the war and further international complications caused delay.

The program included 151 papers, over three times as many as were given at the previous congress, and it was found necessary to meet in six sections in addition to the four forenoon sessions for papers of general interest. Section I, General Genetics, included 49 papers, Section II, Cytology and Genetics, included 24, Section III, Genetics of Cultivated Plants, included 28, Section IV, Genetics of Domestic Animals, included 9, Section V, Human Genetics, included 21, and Section VI, Eugenics, included 8.

About 650 regular members were in attendance besides 230 accompanying ladies and 54 officials and government representatives. Moreover, 102 students and interested local persons registered to attend the scientific sessions. The most distant countries were represented. Japan contributed fifteen members indicating the great development in genetics in that country. Over fifty Americans were present, about forty from England and about twenty from the Scandinavian countries. A significant feature was the number from eastern Europe including representatives from Finland, Esthonia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Jugoslavia, and Czecho-Slovakia, while the Soviet Union sent over fifty. The great interest in the congress manifested on the part of the east European countries is perhaps to be explained by the more scientific methods of agriculture and stock-breeding being developed in those regions.

Studies of Chromosomes

Although Human Genetics and Eugenics were emphasized less than studies on plants and animals, there were heard some interesting papers and lively discussions about heredity of twinning and of human blood groups.

There was surprisingly little attention given to sex hormones in relation to heredity. This is perhaps to be accounted for by the fact that studies made upon this subject have been reported at numerous national meetings since 1911. On the

other hand chromosome irregularities and duplications were discussed in more than fifteen papers. A few cases of genetic linkage in various plants and animals were given, the most recent among the vast numbers reported and published since 1911. There were likewise a few papers on genetics of the fruit fly, *Drosophila*, and some of a theoretical and critical nature dealing with relationships of genetic factors to each other in the germ plasm.

Perhaps the most significant development of genetics, however, is to be seen in the investigation of changes in the genetics factor itself. It is only in the most favorable material and only by the most critical methods that we can be certain that we are dealing with changes in one factor rather than with recombinations of different factors. In this connection M. Demerec, Cold Spring Harbor, discussed the behavior of mutable genes showing that in *Drosophila* certain genetic factors tend to mutate more or less frequently and that the frequency is modified by various conditions. Likewise W. H. Eyster of Bucknell University discussed genomeres and somatic segregation with special reference to variegations. Dr. Eyster's work on corn and flowers has shown that, in certain cases, variation is due to genetic change within a single gene rather than to recombinations of different genes. The elements recombining within the gene he calls genomeres. It is significant that these recombinations occur in somatic cell divisions, unlike recombination of different genes which ordinarily occur only in the formation of the germ cells.

X-Rays and Germ Plasm

Attempts to modify the germ plasm directly by some external agent have always excited the interest of biologists as well as of those who follow only in a general way the progress of biology. Dr. H. J. Muller, University of Texas, speaking on the Problem of Genic Modification, presented abundant evidence showing greatly increased mutation rate in *Drosophila* caused by subjecting the adult flies to X-rays. Many of the well-known "natural" mutations have been produced in this way besides numerous alterations affecting the chromosomes so that the mechanism of heredity is profoundly changed. From a theoretical point of view the great advantage of the fruit fly for carrying out

(Continued on page 331)

Differential Fertility

An Outline of the Discussion of this Subject at the World Population Conference

AT the opening of the session on Differential Fertility Dr Julian Huxley of the University of London, who acted as chairman, pointed out the fact that "different races, nations, classes, religions and so forth, are multiplying at different rates" and that this difference, if it remains unchecked, promises to be cumulative. The effect of differential fertility can, he stated, only be known definitely when we have a more uniform and adequate body of international vital statistics. He then introduced the principal paper of the session, presented by A. M. Carr-Saunders of the University of Liverpool.*

DIFFERENTIAL FERTILITY

In order to study differential fertility, i. e. the varying rates of contribution to the adult ranks of the next generation made by different groups of the population, it is necessary to be able clearly to mark off certain sections of the population and to obtain vital statistics for the group or groups selected. It is proposed here, in the first place, briefly to study some evidence bearing upon differential fertility in England and Wales in respect of groups distinguished by social status, location and achievement.

The Registrar-General has classified occupied males in "different social grades," as Classes 1 upper and middle, 2, intermediate, 3, skilled, 4, intermediate, 5, unskilled, 6, textile workers, 7, miners, 8, agricultural laborers.

The Census of 1911, but not that of 1921, included questions in respect of each married woman as to the number of years the marriage had lasted, the children living and the children who had died. It was thus possible to obtain information regarding the effective fertility of marriage in the different social classes in 1911. By effective fertility is meant the number of children surviving per 100 families in each class. When the first five classes are considered, effective fertility increases regularly with descent in the social scale. Textile workers have an effective fertility between that of classes 1 and 2. Miners and agricultural workers have approximately the same effective fertility.

The differences between the classes in respect of effective fertility are due in part to the differences in the number of children born to married women and in part to differences in child mortality. There is still another factor affecting these contributions,

the amount of marriage within each class. When the indices of the amount of marriage in each class are applied to marriages of completed fertility in 1911, there will be, per 1,000 occupied males, roughly the following average numbers of legitimate children: Class 1, 2,437, 2, 2,895, 3, 3,251, 4, 3,222, 5, 2,941, 6, 2,787, 7, 3,645, 8, 3,359.

Two conclusions follow. First, differences in the amount of marriage considerably affect the total contributions of the classes to the next generation. Secondly, there is a connection between high social status and low effective fertility. These data do not show, however, that low social status and high effective fertility are equally closely connected.

Regional, Religious and Class Differences

The census figures enable us to compare different regions of England. Using the figures for surviving children as the criterion, three points call for notice. The rural districts make a larger contribution than the urban districts, the Midlands of England than the North or the South, and Wales than England.

Secondly, attention is directed to the problem of the difference between religious groups in respect of fertility. There is no religious census in England, but information from Catholic sources suggests that the Catholic birth-rate is to the general birth-rate as roughly 3.3 to 2.4.

Thirdly, we have groups distinguished by what may conveniently be called achievement. A few facts may be quoted regarding mental defectives as an example of lack of achievement, regarding criminals as an example of non-meritorious achievement and regarding those who perform well in intelligence tests as an example of positive achievement.

There is no information which enables us to compare the contribution of mental defectives as a whole with that of the rest of the population. A small investigation by Dr. Sayer has indeed shown reason to suspect that families from which defectives come are more fertile than other families in the same social grade. But it scarcely seems probable that the rate of contribution of mental defectives is larger than that of the rest of the population. The same probably holds good of the criminal class. Dr. Goring made an elaborate study of the records of 3,000 convicts and came to the conclusion that the ratio of the absolute fertility of criminals to the absolute fertility of the general

*This paper and the discussion that followed are given in digest

community was roughly as five to eight. There are various pieces of evidence bearing upon the contributions of those of more than average intellectual powers. The evidence goes to show that the more intelligent parents make a somewhat smaller contribution to the next generation than the less intelligent parents.

Some reference must be made to evidence of changes in the rates of contribution made by the various sections of the population. A table of the birth-rate per 1,000 married men in the eight social classes for 1911 and 1921 and the percentage decline in each class during the decade shows a general percentage of decline for all classes of 13.1 per cent, working class 13 per cent. The greatest percentage decline, 20.5 per cent, has been in class 2, with class 1, 17.6, second, class 5 follows with 16.4, classes 3, 6 and 7 are all around 12. The smallest rate is in classes 4 and 8, with 3.2 and 3.7.

Deliberate Control of Birth Rate

It can be shown that many facts support the conclusion that differences in number of children born are due to greater deliberate limitation of families in some groups (mainly the higher) than in others and that no facts are inexplicable on this hypothesis. The following facts must serve as examples.

1 The decrease in the general birth-rate began in 1877 and corresponds in time with the Bradlaugh-Besant propaganda.

2 The decline has been most marked in those classes—namely the higher social grades—most likely to be influenced by the propaganda.

3 Where the birth-rate does not increase with decline in social status, as, for instance, among the textile workers, it is noticeable that special circumstances prevail, in the case of textile workers, the employment of women and their crowding into factories, which would permit and facilitate the spreading of the idea of family limitation. In this connection it is interesting to observe the superiority of spinners over weavers of cotton in respect of the birth-rate which amounts to between 18 and 19 per cent. Mule-spinning is mainly a male and weaving a female occupation.

4 The figures for the Roman Catholic birth-rate, for what they are worth, support the same conclusion.

5 When the fertility of wife's age at marriage is examined it is found to fall for increasing age at marriage in all groups except that of the higher section of class 1 (chiefly higher professionals) for marriages dating from 1906 to 1911. This remarkable exception to the general rule is explicable on

the assumption that very early marriages in this section are especially improvident and demand severe restriction from the first.

6 "The fertility of non-domestic coachmen, grooms, motor car drivers and gardeners is in all cases definitely higher than that of those following domestic employ." It is well known that the possession of a large family is a drawback to those desirous of obtaining and keeping domestic employment and it is reasonable to suppose that the lower fertility of domestic employees is due to deliberate limitation of the size of the family.

Results of Differential Fertility

It remains to say something about the results of differential fertility. If groups exhibiting differential fertility are distinguished only by sociological characteristics, the results will not be negligible though they will not be of the same importance as when the distinctions are biological. Confining what we have to say to biological results we have to enquire what biological distinctions, if any, exist between the social classes.

Many investigations, among which the most extensive are those made on some 13,000 school children in Northumberland, show that those following different occupations differ significantly though not greatly in respect of that aspect of intelligence that is measured by tests. In general, intelligence declines with descent in the social scale. Thus the Northumberland investigation showed that children of professional parents had an average intelligence quotient of 112.2, of shopkeeping parents an I.Q. of 105.0, of metal-workers and shipbuilders an I.Q. of 100.9, and of those following low grade occupations an I.Q. of 96.0. Putting the results in another way the children of brain workers had an average I.Q. of 106.6 and of manual workers an average I.Q. of 98.6. Accepting these differences as at least indications of inborn differences though admitting that difference in up-bringing may not be without influence, it is plain when we study Table I and the figures as subsequently elaborated, that the best endowed with that aspect of intelligence which is measured by intelligence tests make the smallest proportional contributions to the next generation.

The converse does not altogether hold true. The contributions of class 4 and 5 are larger but not very much larger than that of class 3. The suggestion, therefore, is that while differential fertility is acting unfavorably upon that feature of mental endowment that is measured by tests, this result comes about chiefly on account of the small contributions made by the more intelligent.

Intelligence is but a part of mental endowment. But we know nothing regarding the distribution of other mental qualities between the classes.

We are almost equally ignorant regarding the endowment of the classes in respect of physique, including all that goes towards providing the foundations of health and vigor. One of the few indications of any importance is derived from measurements of men during the war whose occupations were known. Miners and agricultural laborers came out at the top of the list, when those following different occupations were graded in respect of physique. When we remember that miners and agricultural labourers make the largest proportional contributions to future generations it seems difficult to accept the suggestion that physical endowment is at present unfavorably affected by differential fertility.

A Summary

Summarizing the position, attention may first be called to the possibility of swift and important biological changes under existing conditions. We require up-to-date information as to rates of contribution of different classes and the endowment of different groups, for this we must rely upon government departments. It is to be hoped that one re-

sult of this Conference will be an attempt to persuade governments to use their powers to gather this indispensable information.

We may then note that existing data, incomplete as they are, afford strong evidence of the unfavorable effect of differential fertility in respect of at least one important quality, namely intelligence. And in connection with this attention may be called to another feature of modern times. Society is engaged in elaborating and applying mechanisms of various kinds, vocational guidance, for instance, which are intended to sort out more efficiently than at present persons of different inborn endowments into different classes. This cannot but result in making the effect of differential fertility still more unfavorable.

Lastly the most important immediate factor in producing differential fertility is found in the differential use of family limitation. If we wish to lessen the gaps between the classes, we must attempt to bring into play or to inhibit, as the case may be, those more remote factors which either induce or prevent the employment of family limitation. Among these more remote factors, one of the most important is access to knowledge of effective contraceptive methods.

The discussion on this paper will appear in our next issue.



What Shall We Remember?

What shall we remember when we are old?
What shall we remember even when we are wise?

Softly, softly we shall remember
Love and love's mouth and love's eyes

What shall we remember more beautifully than wisdom?
What shall we remember in our old years?

We shall remember, we shall remember
Love and love's laughter and love's tears

What shall we remember when we are lost in quietness?
What shall we remember? What shall we be keeping?

We shall remember, forever, forever
Love and love's sigh and love's sleeping

In *The Nation*

MARIE DE L. WELCH

The Waking Nightmare of Many a Mother

It is not always present privations that distress so many fathers and mothers with small incomes. Many a letter that comes to us reads "We could get along all right, if only——" They know that every penny is needed for the proper care of the children they already have, and they foresee that a new-comer must take the bread out of the mouths of its sisters and brothers, reduce the level of their welfare, and leave the parents unable to provide the education and opportunities of which they had so fondly dreamed. It is the vision of the family whose standard of living sinks until they fall below the poverty line, until existence becomes dependent on the acceptance of charity, bringing an intolerable loss of self-respect.

We Will All Be Sunk

Connecticut

I would like you to help me in the way you have helped thousands of others. I have been married five years and am a mother of three children. My husband makes twenty-five dollars a week and you know that is very inadequate in meeting our expenses. At present there is no prospect of a higher living wage. As it is, we manage to get along by living in a cheap neighborhood and having simple but wholesome food. As to clothes, we get along the best we can, and as the children are under school age they don't need much in the way of clothes. But if another one should come, we will all be sunk. I don't think I can stretch our means any further than I am doing just now. So if you will write to me and give me some advice as to how to prevent any further worry on our part. I understand the object of the League is to help out such as we.

Debt and Fear

Pennsylvania

I, too, am one of the pitiful victims that you read about daily, so am trusting myself to your aid and confidence in asking you to help me, like you have been helping many more women. After being married ten months I gave birth to a son who was one year old May 22, 1927. I had not wished this child to be born so soon due to the circumstance that we were unable to provide for the child at that time. My husband was going to college then and hardly had enough money left to care for a baby. Of course I told my husband that we couldn't afford to have any more children for the present time. He is already over \$1,000 in debt which he had borrowed to finish school, and is yet unable to provide a home for baby and myself. Now as a wife and mother, I feel it is my duty to help to save money and to take proper care of the child who has come to bless our family.

I am very anxious to start housekeeping as soon as we can save enough to do so, for I feel deep in my heart that all married folks should have a place to themselves and also feel you can't bring up children properly when living with other families. I have been living with my mother and father-in-law ever since we are married. So you see I couldn't even take care of myself as I would wish to, for the fact that every one else knows my affairs and that is why I'm asking for your kind and safe advice, which you have given to enlighten many a poor woman, worried mind and heart, fearing that every period she might be pregnant.

I have read about the mother who stated she would rather die than to have any more unwanted children. I, too, feel the same way, then to bring children into this world every 10 months and be unable to provide and care for them properly. I'm giving you a brief schedule of my personal affairs and will now come to a conclusion, trusting you will find my letter interesting enough to give me a little consideration.

Fourteen Pregnancies, Ten Children

Pennsylvania

I have given birth to ten living children, have had three miscarriages and am now pregnant four months. I do all my own work so we will save that much more to try and educate these children as best we can, so they can be independent and make a good living for themselves. My strength is giving out and if I could stop having any more children after this one comes I think we could manage very nicely as I feel I have one of God's best men. He does not drink, smoke or chew and spends all his time with me and children when not at work. He helps me in every way he can, but, at that, it is too much for us both. My oldest son is 15 years and my baby 10 months, so if you can teach me how to prevent any more children I will be evermore indebted to you.

Six Children at Twenty-Two

New Hampshire

My baby is four months old and the oldest one is five I will be a mother again when my youngest is just one year, my sixth child. Won't you please tell me what I can do to prevent after this? As the doctor said at the last birth I was having my children too fast and if we were not careful and got that way again I would not live. My husband is not well and only makes eighteen dollars a week, and we have so many bills to pay I don't know what will become of us if I have any more children. I don't dare to use anything I am not sure because I am afraid they will not work. Oh! please help me just this once. I am only twenty-two and going to have my sixth child. I am just beginning. If I go one day over I know I am pregnant. I must go through with it this time, but after this will you advise me. I would rather die than bring any more children into the world. Because I cannot take care of them and we cannot give them the care on the salary my husband makes.

No Home — In Debt

Texas

Please write me advice on Birth Control as I have two little ones and am not able to support them and care for them properly. We are renters and haven't any home of our own. My husband has been in ill health for two years, although he is able to work now. He is in debt so deeply that if children keep coming to us we will never be able to care for the ones we now have.

Married at Fourteen

Wyoming

I am a mother of three children and will have another some time this month or next. It is not that I want you to tell me something to kill an unborn babe, but what I want is for you to explain to me some kind of a preventive. With my last baby I had to get up on the seventh day and start ironing and was doing heavy work before the babe was two weeks old, and my financial conditions are very poor, because sometime I have to try and make a living alone for my children. Will you please tell me what to do, as I really don't want to have another child. What I am really afraid of is that when this next one is born I will be pregnant again. There is not two years difference in my children's ages. I married when I was 14 years old and I am not 20 years old yet and soon will be a mother of four children. I have an uncertain husband and oh! it is so hard to try and take care of so many children alone. I know you will help me as you have done others.

"A Great Favor"

California

I am a married woman with three children, and very financially poor. Some times my husband can work and at times he don't work for weeks on account of his poor health. My children are all small, the oldest is 5 years old today and the youngest is 10 months old. I would like to have you send me some advice as to what to do to prevent pregnancy, something harmless to my health for my own use only. If you send me some advice, or something I can do it will be greatly appreciated with all my heart, for it will be of great help to a poor family. Some day I might have a way of repaying your kindness. We are now staying with my folks. Some of my friends in town send me some discarded goods or clothes for me and my children and also his brother sends a few things now and then, so please be so kind as to do me this great favor and it will be a favor I will never forget and will pray to the Lord for you.

A 16-year-old Mother

Minnesota

I am writing to you to know if you will tell me a sure and harmless remedy to prevent child-bearing. I am a girl of sixteen and have a baby girl three months old. I was married when I was fifteen and we are poor people. My man is a common working man, works on the section, so I feel as though we shouldn't bring any more children into the world, until we are more able to care for them. I have no mother, she died when I was fourteen. She died of cancer. Then I began to keep house for my father. I have only one sister and she is deaf. She is nineteen. We are all staying with my father and he is poor too.

A Mother of Twelve

North Dakota

I am the mother of twelve children. We are not well to do, crop failures have put us far from that, we have children high-school age, but can't send them as we haven't the means. Our last baby is a year old and I am still a comparatively young woman. Our local physician will not advise as to what to do, so I am coming to you. What are the methods used in practicing Birth Control and what precautions are sure, so many quacks are on the market.

We are poor folks and not able to raise the children we have got, and in a poor country. We would surely be glad if you would tell us in plain words just how to prevent any more with the surest methods and as cheap as possible. I would not mind having babies, if we had the means to care for them. But we haven't and I do not like to bring them into the world when I cannot do my duty by them.

A Page of Gleanings

HOW MANY ARE ENOUGH

With the birth of twins, Mrs Gus Wambler, of Chicago, finds herself the mother of five baby boys, all less than a year old Just eleven months ago triplets came to the Wambler family The proud father says Ted and Fred resemble Mike, Ike and Tike But, comments *Capper's Weekly*, think of having to raise five boys to manhood in a place like Chicago!

Herald-Tribune (N Y), Dec 2

After giving birth to another son, her twenty-third child, Mrs I Tasaka, wife of a Japanese fisherman of Salt Spring Island, near here, has just established what is believed a record for British Columbia if not for the whole Dominion Mrs Tasaka has had twenty-three children in twenty-five years of married life Seventeen are living She is her husband's fifth wife

Mrs John Johnson, of Knoxville, Tenn, has given birth to five children in one year

Triplets were born less than a year after the arrival of twins

Mrs Johnson is 33, and her husband, who drives a truck, is 28 They have two other children

Varied comments are made But despite all the sentimentalists who howl that "any true woman welcomes her baby always," this is a little too much for even them to swallow And just one glance at the picture of the mother's face silences the gusher Maternity is beautiful under some conditions, but five babies to care for at once silences the most poetic

United Press item

CHICAGO provides another baby story—not wholly happy It is about Mrs Carmella Carbone, who has just given birth to a pair of twins, her fourth pair That makes sixteen babies Mrs Carbone has borne in nineteen years of marriage and forty of life But seven of the children, including all the previous twins, died early And prospects are none too bright for the nine living children Mr Carbone is out of work So is the oldest boy, aged 16, who has helped in the past So is Mr Carbone's brother, also a former contributor

Chicago philanthropy seems to have done something for Mrs Carbone, for the first time, and may help the family to pull through *The death rate may seem high, but that is not unusual in families reported as having births in exceptional number* Whatever the case may

suggest to advocates or opponents of Birth Control, it should inspire something of satisfaction in the minds and hearts of parents who have had few children, but have managed to bring them safely through the hazards of childhood

—Editorial in *The Cleveland News*

Ernest Samuel Austin, who lives with his wife and eleven children in two rooms and an attic at Leicester, and has failed in repeated endeavors to get a house, has now been refused a Corporation house because none are large enough The chairman of the Housing Committee expresses regret, but says that Austin's family requires a house with four bedrooms, and the Corporation houses have three bedrooms only

—*Manchester Guardian*.

One could, of course, give endless statistics upon the abject poverty of certain elements in our larger cities, such as that of the Italian pants finishers of Chicago, who were drawing a weekly wage of \$1 31 and were employed during the year an average of 27 85 weeks

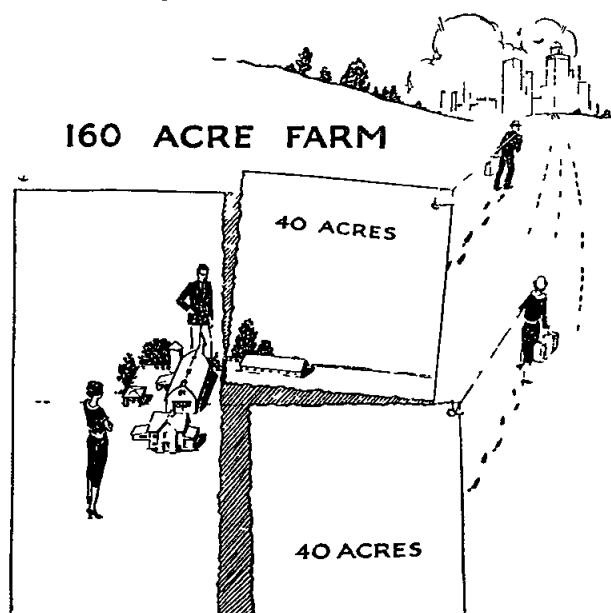
—PRINCE HOPKINS

WHY MEN ARE POOR

"When the wages of labour are hardly sufficient to maintain two children, a man marries and has five or six, he of course finds himself miserably distressed He accuses the insufficiency of the price of labour to maintain a family He accuses his parish for their tardy and sparing fulfilment of their obligation to assist him He accuses the avarice of the rich, who suffer him to want what they can so well spare He accuses the partial and unjust institutions of Society, which have awarded him an inadequate share of the produce of the earth He accuses perhaps the dispensations of Providence, which have assigned to him a place in society so beset with unavoidable distress and dependence In searching for objects of accusation, he never adverts to the quarter from which his misfortunes originate The last person that he would think of accusing is himself, on whom in fact the principal blame lies, except so far as he has been deceived by the higher classes of society He has always been told that to raise up subjects for his king and country is a very meritorious act He has done this, and yet is suffering for it, and it cannot but strike him as most extremely unjust and cruel in his king and country to allow him thus to suffer, in return for giving them what they are continually declaring that they particularly want"—T R MALTHUS

The Ideal Farm Family

THE large farm family no longer has a special utility in the conquest of the soil, but is one of the things that is holding back rural development. This is not a random statement by an outsider. It is, if we may trust press reports of his address at the Williamstown Institute last August, the sober judgment of Henry A. Wallace, editor



of one of the oldest and most influential of farm papers, "*Wallace's Farmer*," who was chosen by Theodore Roosevelt to head his Country Life Commission. Mr. Wallace favors Birth Control on the farm, and believes that "if the average farm family were limited to two children there would be a strong tendency for farms to pass from one generation to

the next by inheritance rather than by purchase." This would appear to mean nothing else than that, as in the city so in the country, the task of raising too many children means the financial ruin of the family. Mr. Wallace's statement scarcely needs backing, the weight of his authority is enough. But if backing is desired, a backer is to be found in Dr. George H. von Tungeln of Iowa State College who, in an article for *The Farm Journal* (June), states his solution of the economic problem of the rural districts to be "an average family of two children." The average farm cannot itself sustain more than this number. Other children beyond the necessary two, must go to town to make a living and when they go, the farmer must cut down his resources by giving them enough to make a start in life.

Of the general principle of family limitation, Mr. Von Tungeln says "May not the time be ripe now for stabilizing population, as well as stabilizing agriculture and industry, for emphasizing the quality and opportunity factors with regard to population, rather than mass production? Who is ready to say that an increasing farm population is a better guarantee of increasing rural wellbeing than a stabilized and stationary population of increasing quality and opportunity?"

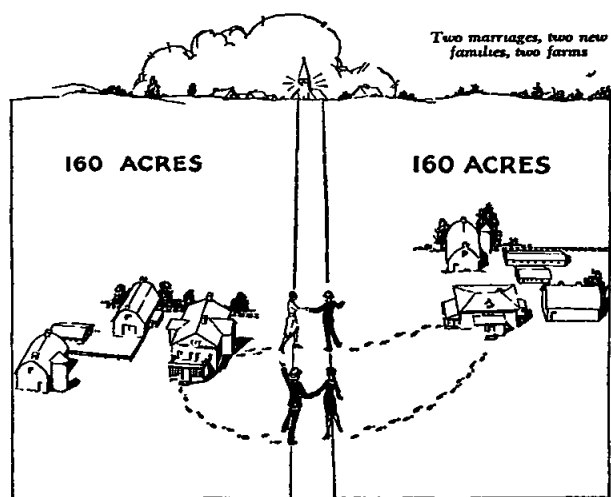
We give here a vivid pictorial presentation of Professor von Tungeln's idea concerning the fate of the farm with two children or more.

A SIGNIFICANT CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 324)

such experiments as those of Dr. Muller consists in the fact that when changes are produced they can be accurately determined and localized. This is done by means of linkage relationships with other well-known factors.

The applications of this type of work are of interest from the point of view of Birth Control and they will probably be of the widest importance in the future. Indeed work such as Dr. Muller is doing is the most significant development of modern genetics. Besides the possibility of producing useful mutations in various plants and animals, the work has considerable significance in its medical aspects. The sterilizing effects of X-rays are well-known. The significance of the correlation of mutation rate with partial sterility as induced by X-rays has not been hitherto appreciated. It is sincerely to be hoped that this type of work may in the future be continued and much expanded.



Book Reviews

MODERN IMMIGRATION by Annie Marion MacLean
Lippincott, Philadelphia pp 386 Price \$3 00

"MODERN IMMIGRATION" by Dr Annie Marion MacLean is full of evidence for Birth Control. Three most important facts which should be known by every statesman are brought out clearly in this book, namely, (1) that emigration cannot cure over-population, (2) that recent immigration to the United States and South American countries has weakened the pioneer stocks which settled these countries, and (3) that Birth Control is the only permanent cure for the evils of over-population.

That Dr MacLean's book should be the first to present immigration as a world problem and furnish data hitherto unavailable, is a fair example of the universal ignorance concerning the most important problems of population. The author deserves credit for her pioneer work in gathering information and documents which are very hard to assemble. She has made a noble beginning. When countries take stock and put themselves in order, much more data will be forthcoming.

It is refreshing to read an author on immigration who seems to be acquainted with the biological as well as the economical side of the problem. She is aware of the fact that immigration depresses the native birth rate and that the rate of population increase is not changed by immigration. She is also aware of the fact that emigration merely stimulates the birth rate and the population goes on increasing as before. She knows that pressure of population and standard of living are the forces that regulate population increase regardless of emigration or immigration.

"Modern Immigration" is not a book of unsupported conclusions, it is a mass of facts about immigration from all the immigrant receiving countries of the New World. Like Birth Control, immigration is a very delicate subject to handle, especially when many aliens are pulling in different directions to bring friends and relations into the country regardless of the fitness of these friends and relations. But the present author has handled the difficulties of the subject with diplomacy. She can even show the immigrant himself that it is for his own good that immigration be effectively controlled.

In contrast to the sentimental immigration policies of the old days in the United States and South American countries, Dr MacLean tells us of the more rational policies of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Thus while the former have immigration problems which are embarrassing, to say the least, the latter have built up hardy homogeneous populations more of the pioneer than the steerage type.

GUY IRVING BURCH

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE STATE A Plea and a Forecast By C P Blacker, M C M A, M R C S, L R C P E P Dutton & Company, 681 Fifth Avenue, New York City Price \$1 00

THE book is small, measuring four by six inches and containing 87 pages. It can, therefore, be easily carried in the pocket and read at brief intervals or even at a single sitting. It presents the arguments against the Birth Control programme and those in its favor in a fair, concise and masterly fashion, so that one may inform himself on the pros and cons of this subject without wading through ponderous volumes.

As an obstetrician connected with one of the large London hospitals, Dr Blacker is familiar with the slum life of England. He sees the desirability of exercising intelligent control of population, and deplores the fact that most of the agitation in this matter has come from lay groups. He feels that it is inevitable that Birth Control will increase in popularity, and that any adequate solution of the problem must be worked out by medical men.

Dr Blacker's book is written in the conservative style of a professional man and will appeal very largely to intelligent people who are interested only in a consideration of facts. There is nothing sensational or sentimental in the book and it will prove especially interesting and helpful to the busy doctor, to whom it is commended.

While the book was written with a British background, it has a universal appeal. The plea mentioned in the subtitle is "that the ministry of Health should give the subject of contraception its sanction," which in our language would mean that Birth Control should be part of the Public Health Programme.

JAMES F COOPER, M D

MEDICAL VIEWS ON BIRTH CONTROL Edited by Sir James Marchant, K B E, L L D London, 1926

THIS book consists in a collection of essays on Birth Control by Dr H Crichton-Miller, Professor Leonard Hill, and several others, and begins with an introduction written by Sir Thomas Horder, Bart, K C V O, M D. Besides the general introduction, there are eight essays dealing with Birth Control from the standpoints of public health, psychological, physiological, and sociological aspects, and as a prophylactic and therapeutic measure.

The medical profession, by reason of its special training and experience, should be able to make a contribution

of value toward the discussion of Birth Control. In that respect, this book is disappointing. The essays deal for the most part with ethical issues. Where medical issues are touched upon, an astonishing lack of information is betrayed concerning the physiology and psychology of sexuality and concerning Birth Control technique. The ethical discussion is throughout on a so-called conservative basis. At the same time, a studied effort is made to have the book appear as scientifically authoritative by a profuse display of titles attached to the names of the contributors.

It is reluctantly admitted that in cases in which pregnancy, childbirth or lactation would be likely to prove detrimental to health or dangerous to life, Birth Control is to be preferred to incurring those hazards or to resorting to abortion. On the whole, however, the book opposes Birth Control as a thing fraught with danger to the individual and to society. If it were what it professes to be, an unbiased and scientific discussion of Birth Control, it would be more than welcome, regardless of its conclusions, but unfortunately it is far from that.

It seems high time for endeavoring to gain a clearer definition of conservatism, progressivism, and scientific attitude. The reviewer begs to submit that conservatism and progressivism are essentially emotional attitudes, and all discussions inspired by them are, accordingly, tainted with corresponding bias. A discussion inspired by a scientific attitude should be free from such bias.

The conservative person says, "An opinion or a policy rooted in tradition, custom, or convention should be retained if possible." He has been known to offer determined and even violent resistance against the acceptance of new facts and conclusions added in the course of scientific progress solely for the reason that such new facts and conclusions are at variance with old, though incorrect notions.

The progressive person says, "A new idea deserves acceptance because it is new." He has been known to show impatience at any suggestion that new ideas, no matter how plausible or attractive, be subjected to scientific investigation, eventually to be accepted or rejected according to the indications furnished by the findings resulting from such investigation.

As regards the scientific attitude, it is obvious that there can be no compromise between it and the emotional attitudes.

The scientific man cannot be in sympathy either with the person who tells us dogmatically that Birth Control would prove detrimental to human society or to individuals when he is confronted with the facts that it has been increasingly practiced from time immemorial and that there is as yet no evidence that human welfare or progress has been interfered with through its practice. Nor can he sympathize with the progressive who enthusi-

astically offers it as a solution for all problems of individual and social adjustment.

If he has any fundamental article of faith at all, it is that the increase and dissemination of knowledge concerning any matter, whether it be Birth Control and its technique, or the physiology or psychology of sexuality, or what not, can only be beneficial.

As between conservatism and progressivism, it should be pointed out that the former often resorts to a trick which is subtle and sly, but at the same time unfair and unsportsmanlike. The trick consists in a tacit assumption that the burden of proof for the necessity of making any change rests on those who propose the change. The corollary of this assumption is that conservatives refuse the burden of proof of the proposition why the old should be adhered to and why a change should not be tried. Their avowed, but insincere, intent is, "The old *must* be good because it has respectable sanction. The new should not be accepted because it *may* be bad." Their true intent is, "The old is good because it is more comfortable and more acceptable to certain controlling groups. The new is bad because it is disturbing to the comfort of such groups."

AARON J. ROSANOFF

"HELEN OF TROY" and "GALAHAD", by John Erskine. Bobbs Merrill. New York. \$2.00 each.

IT is probable that adverse criticism of Mr. Erskine's books will be anathema. The general consensus of opinion uses the superlatives of goodness, wit and captivating irony. A few have felt otherwise, their opinion should perhaps be carefully guarded.

"Helen of Troy"—a beautiful woman of warm flesh. Helen of Erskine—an automaton of intelligence, frankness, wit, but not of emotions. According to him a most conventional woman, even if possessed with frankness. Though it may seem a paradox, upon dissecting Helen one finds her basic ideas very conventional but developed upon sharp and modern forms. She is built like an inflexible "Iron Woman," but frequently she contradicts herself and acts much like any other woman with a strong will and a weak husband, who, after all, had cause for complaint.

Launcelot, whose adventures, if one may call them so after Mr. Erskine's treatment, really take the greater part of "Galahad," reminds one of a good dog, passionate dumbly, utterly at a loss in his friendships. Guinevere is not the woman tales have made of her, but is like an elderly lady intent upon reforming others and lifting her chin in the air, not out of grandeur, but so as to efface her double chin.

In essence the stories are the same that we have always heard, but the tool used on the material is what changes the light. Mr. Erskine's material is fertile, fertility sometimes is largely exaggeration. Hence the author's first step is to divest his characters of their age-old coating.

and show them as beings motivated by outward predicaments and reacting to their individual temperaments. And their behavior is found to be identically the same as that of our own neighbors.

Mr Erskine is a fine writer but, excusing the homely analogy, he writes in an ice-box. Probably that was his purpose in order to work out his ideas. But he is like the well-fed man, coming from dinner and describing to a hungry beggar the fine foods which he has partaken of, then turning away. No doubt the feast was described in a palatable manner, but nevertheless quite ungratifyingly. His writing is frigidly intellectual, the warmth, the throb of life is gone. The various peregrinations of Laucelot read like a well-ordered book of statistics. Helen stands carved of virgin-cold stone. The grade of human emotions is level and negligible, passionless writing at its best. No doubt, purely intellectual writing can be extremely attractive and even entertaining, but what feelings of satiety, of balance are obtained? None.

Both books, though containing some very fine and especially novel paragraphs, could be used as guides for perfect argumentation, entitled "How to discuss one's problems rationally." The most fervent passion becomes a cold blooded talk between characters. And yet, even though Mr Erskine is molded to his form, he cannot prevent some of his pre-digested enthusiasm from trickling through the lines. As he wrote, he lived the various emotions of Helen, Launcelot, and the others. But thus he kept within himself, hid all from the reader, who wishes he had not been so restrained.

To enjoy Mr Erskine's works, one must have a synthetic disposition to reconstruct upon a frame work the flesh which made the characters interesting enough to be put into fables or myths. No doubt the books are enjoyable, but one feels vaguely unsatisfied, one's mind leans to one side lacking the balancing effects of completeness. As an aesthetic attempt, the works are solid in unity and indicate the first effort at a new form of expression—the mathematical method.

IVAN BLOCH



"My gifts have come to me from down the years,
I am the son of huntsmen of old time,
The heir of timid virtue and of crime.
Offspring of sluggards and of pioneers,
Inheritor of juggled hopes and fears
Some gave me purity, some gave the grime
Of damaged souls. Some helped me climb
Toward God. From some came smiles, from others tears."

BARKER

Birth Control is the one form of philanthropy that tends to do away with its own need.

Periodical Notes

The American Mercury (New York) for November. Dr Raymond Pearl contributes an extremely suggestive article on "The Biology of Superiority." He denies, on the basis of laboratory experiment and study of the biographies of genius, the truth of the Eugenists' claim, that the "children of superior men have an enormously greater chance of themselves turning out to be gifted to a high degree."

The Eugenical News (Cold Spring Harbor) publishes Dr Roswell H Johnson's presidential address at the last annual meeting of the American Eugenics Society. The subject is "Motivation of Childbearing" and it is the report on a research as to why the birth-rate of the better equipped stocks is decreasing and an effort to find how fertility can be leveled up between classes. Among Dr Johnson's suggestions is "a strong effort nationally and internationally to spread contraception in order that it may be more widely available to ignorant people."

Clinical Medicine and Surgery (N Y)—The October number contains a brief informative article on the Status of Anti-Birth Control legislation in the United States, the progress of research and clinical work in contraception throughout the Union, and the steps that the medical profession might take to forward the movement. The article, which is by that untiring friend of Birth Control, Dr S Adolphus Knopf, is well called "Birth Control As It Confronts the Medical Profession in the United States." Dr Knopf calls attention to a recent article by Dr Norman Haire on "Marriage and Ill Health" (*Clinical Medicine and Surgery* for June) and refers also to a recent statement in a circular of the New York Department of Health to the effect that "frequent, closely repeated pregnancies predispose to tuberculosis." Of a familiar attitude on the part of some physicians Dr Knopf says, "I am fully aware that there exists a prejudice against the word Birth Control which I find difficult to explain." He also tells us that a special Committee on Criminal Abortions, quoted in Vol. II, of Peterson and Haines Textbook of Legal Medicine and Toxicology, states that no less than one-third of all pregnancies terminate in abortions.

Empire Review, London (September). In an article on recent advances in science, J Arthur Thomson reviews the contributions of Raymond Pearl and E M East to the law of population growth and the law of diminishing returns in agriculture respectively. He concludes that the reduction of the birth rate at present going on is not sufficient to keep food and people equal and that to "avoid debacle and disease, war and famine, it would seem wise to take steps towards a further reduction of the absolute increase of the world's population, and towards a stationary number, which the nutritive resources of the world could readily support."

Birth Control Study Column

A Reading List on Poverty

NOT many books have yet been devoted to the direct connection between Birth Control and Poverty. As yet this aspect of Birth Control has not attracted so much attention as the more concrete problem of Population.

Much material can be gathered from the pages of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*, in such articles as Jessie Condit's "Under-Privileged (April, 1926) or "An Experiment in Constructive Family Help" (March and April, 1927).

Mrs Sanger's work for Birth Control began in her experience of the sufferings of poor families and especially of poor mothers, and we head our list with two of her books.

Woman and the New Race—\$2 00, Chapter XII

The Pivot of Civilization—\$2 00 This book is addressed to the Labor Movement

The Causal Factors in Infant Mortality, by Robert E. Woodbury. Children's Bureau Publication No 142, 1925. This study, made with no reference to Birth Control and containing no recommendation of its use, is nevertheless a rich mine of material on the relation of child mortality to father's income, to the size of the family and to hard labor for mothers and children. Similar material, further developed is to be found in the volume *Infant Mortality and Its Causes* by Dr Woodbury, \$3 50.

Standing Room Only, \$3 00, by Edward Alsworth Ross, especially Chapter VII-XII. Starting with the population problem, Dr Ross, book covers with equal breadth and thoroughness almost every problem that cries for Birth Control.

The Builders of America, by Ellsworth Huntington and Leon C. Whitney, \$3 50. Differential fertility and its cure in the wide extension of Birth Control.

Birth Control, Facts and Responsibilities, ed by Adolph Meyer, \$2 00. The article by Eleanor Wembridge, "The Seventh Child in the Four Roomed House" is especially good.

Sixth Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference. \$2 00 a volume. Articles by B. T. Tilton, M.D., Vol III, Owen Lovejoy, Vol II, and Alice Hamilton, M.D., Vol III, are recommended.

Social Adjustment, by Robert Cloutman Dexter \$3 50. The Chapter on thwarted childhood shows the effect of poverty and the overcrowded home on the child's development.

We recommend also Lord Buckmaster's Speech on Birth Control (10c) and "The Greatest Need in America" (free) which can be obtained from the American Birth Control League. We also publish a reprint of Dr Alice Hamilton's paper, "Poverty and Birth Control." (5c)

Books Received

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF CHILDREN AT WORK AND AT SCHOOL, by Helen Thompson Woolley, Ph D. MacMillan Company. New York.

DARWIN, by Gamahel Bradford. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston.

PUBLIC CHILD CARING WORK IN CERTAIN COUNTIES OF MINNESOTA, NORTH CAROLINA AND NEW YORK. U S Department of Labor. Washington.

THE WAR ON MODERN SCIENCE, by Maynard Shipley. Alfred A. Knopf. New York.

ON BEING A GIRL, by Jessie E. Gibson. The MacMillan Company. New York.

THE FUTURE, by Professor A. M. Low. International Publishers. New York.

YOUTH FACES LIFE, Being the Report of the XIX World Conference of Y M C A's at Helsingfors, August 1-6, 1926. World's Committee of Y M C A. Geneva (Switzerland).

RE-FORGING AMERICA, by Lothrop Stoddard. Charles Scribner's Sons. New York. \$3 00.

IS BRITAIN OVER-POPULATED? by R. B. Kerr. England. 1s.

THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN, by G. W. Johnson, C M G. Robert Holden & Co., Ltd. London. 8s 6d.

ESSAYS IN POPULAR SCIENCE, by Julian Huxley. Alfred A. Knopf. New York. \$4 00.

KIND UND ELTERNHAUS, by Dr B. Liber. Hensel & Co. Verlag. Germany.

THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY, by Mrs. Bernard Russell. Harper & Brothers Publishers. New York.

If you prefer facts, knowledge, to haziness and science or superstition, send for *The Crucible* (Agnostic), \$1 per year, sample 4 different 10c, no postal cards. 1616 Fourth Ave., Seattle, Wash.

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News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE Roman Catholic Church is marshalling its women against Birth Control. At the Seventh Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, held in Washington, D C in September resolutions were passed condemning Birth Control as a menace to the "sanctity of the home." In spite of this pronouncement Catholic pastors continue to preach against the limitation of families common among their congregations, and Catholic women in due proportion continue to take advantage of Birth Control facilities afforded at the Birth Control clinics.

Among recent visitors to headquarters from abroad have been several Japanese. They are H Aizawa, Editor on Education, *The Kokumin Shimbun*, Tokyo, Noborn Katayama, President Fukuyama Normal School and a Delegate World Federation of Education, and the late consul general at Honolulu, Chonosuke Jada. Other visitors were Mrs J C G de Ranitz, of the School for Social Service at Amsterdam, Holland, Jacques Edouard Chable, correspondent of several Swiss and French newspapers and Dr Marion MacKensie of Leeds. Dr MacKensie has been active in the English Birth Control Movement since she was forced out of public health work in Leeds because she made a practice of giving contraceptive information where she felt it was needed.

New York

AN unusual example of open mindedness and a rare opportunity for educational work was offered the League by a Brooklyn Theatre during the last week in October. The DeKalb Theatre was giving "Her Unborn Child," a play on the subject of abortion, in which abortion was referred to as "Birth Control" throughout the lines, and the Manager, Mr D Billings, offered the platform to our speakers between the acts to explain what Birth Control really is. Speakers at evening or afternoon performances through the week were Mrs F Robertson Jones, Mrs Billings, Mrs Huse, Miss Mary Pokrass and Dr Cooper. Their message was received with close attention by audiences totaling not far from 10,000, for all the performances. The applause was most appreciative. Free literature was accepted eagerly and several hundred *Reviews* were sold by Kitty Marion.

Following the example of the Pennsylvania Federation, whose Better Baby Contest is described in

another column, the American Birth Control League has established a mothers' advice centre at 144 Monroe Street, New York City, in the Jewish section of the East Side. Tea is served at 4 o'clock to any mother dropping in, and every other Thursday afternoon, Dr Hannah M Stone examines babies and awards the Best Baby Prize, a silver cup.

The first contest was held November 10th. It was announced by handbills at local moving picture houses. Fifty babies competed. The winner was Stanley Rosenfarb, one year old, the son of Mr and Mrs Tobias Rosenfarb, 201 Madison Street. The child, who is one of a family of three (the older children aged 6 and 4) was breast fed by a healthy mother, shows a wonderful physical development and already walks. Dr Jacob Essner of 706 East 6th St gave volunteer assistance to Dr Stone in examining the babies.

Mrs Minnie Benjamin, identified with the Birth Control Movement, is in permanent attendance at the centre. Others who are assisting are Mrs Walter Timme, Mrs Ackerman, Mrs Blagden and Mrs F Robertson Jones. Literature and clinic cards in both English and Yiddish are given out.

Small audiences have been addressed during October and November by Mrs Walter Timme who spoke on October 4th before the Ladies Auxiliary of Bronx Hospital on "Rational Parenthood," and Miss Mary Pokrass, one of the nurses at the Clinical Research Department, who addressed a Mothers' Club at the Social Service Department of the Federation of Settlements and a general meeting at the Bronx Social Service Exchange. Dr Hannah M Stone spoke before the Physicians Wives League of Greater New York, at the Hotel Astor on November 1st. There were 150 women present, all very enthusiastic.

At Friendly Home, 459 West 140th Street, N Y C, of which Miss De Pinna is head worker, Mrs Huse addressed a rather unusual group on November 4th. These were young girls of 15 years and over whose childhood had been passed in Jewish orphan asylums. Orphan asylum life gives no opportunity for learning to be a home maker and Friendly Home is making a special effort to supply this lack by a program of domestic science and other instruction. Mrs Huse was asked to supplement this education for practical life by a talk on Sex Problems.

New Jersey

AT the request of the Englewood Committee of the New Jersey Birth Control League of which Mrs Thomas Haight is Chairman, Birth Control was discussed by the Bergen County Civic Forum at a meeting on October 25, at the Hackensack Court House. The case for Birth Control was presented by Miss Henriette Hart of the American Birth Control League, and the case against by Dr Margaret Mackey of Jersey City, a Roman Catholic.

The conference room was crowded to overflowing long before the meeting opened. The use of the Court room was granted and the large hall filled within a few minutes. Roman Catholics attended in large numbers. Mrs F M Hamilton, President of the Forum, introduced the speakers.

Miss Hart, who spoke first, set forth the aims, principles and activities of the Birth Control movement and undertook to refute the two outstanding arguments against Birth Control, namely race suicide and immorality. She took the case of Holland as her example. Her speech was exceedingly well received.

Dr Mackey combatted Miss Hart's arguments mainly on sexual and moral grounds. She cited France as an example of the moral and physical degradation of a nation which practiced Birth Control. She ascribed sterility, infectious diseases, insanity and other harmful consequences to the practice of Birth Control. She stated that the medical profession did not recognize Birth Control and that there were no "puncture proof" methods. She doubted Miss Hart's Children's Bureau Statistics of Maternal and Infant Mortality. She condemned the Birth Control Movement as illegal, unethical, immoral and irreligious, and was proud that the Roman Catholic church was its uncompromising opponent.

For 40 minutes Miss Hart and Dr Mackey were bombarded with questions. Among those on the Catholic side was the proverbial mother of ten children, who "would have liked to have ten more." A plea for faith in the wisdom of the Medical Profession which had studied and condemned Birth Control was most convincingly answered by the wife of a professor of biology, who said that medical students returning from their courses reported to her husband that the only information on the subject they had ever received came from him and not from the medical schools. The discussion occasionally became heated and the audience tense, but appreciation of the courtesy and fairness of both speakers was expressed. There was applause for both sides, but it was longer and more spontaneous for the affirmative.

After the meeting, which lasted nearly two hours, women remained in small groups, warmly discussing both sides. As she left the Court House, Miss Hart was stopped by three highly intelligent Catholic women, who had strolled in front of the building apparently in deep discussion of what they had heard. They came up to her and one said kindly but with a troubled air, "Miss Hart, do you know what you have done to us? You have ripped us open. We feel like a pillow, the feathers flying out. We have never questioned the Church before, but what must we do now? It is terrible."

This Forum has offered an excellent opportunity for groups who were directly opposed to each other in their point of view to meet to discuss the question, and to try to come to an understanding.

At Englewood during October, Miss Hart addressed an interested group of nurses and social workers and later spoke at a luncheon at the home of Mrs Charles du Bois. At Newark she addressed members of the staff of the United Hebrew Charities and the Service Club, an auxiliary organization of volunteers.

Pennsylvania

THE Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, Mrs A C Martin, sends an account of a Better Babies Contest held by one of the country branches.

"In connection with the Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, work, a Better Babies Contest was held. This contest was held at the Lycoming County Fair which is attended on its best day by 6,000 people. The interest in the contest was very keen, although there had been very little advertising. The prizes were a silver cup for the best baby under one year, and a silver knife, fork and spoon for the best baby under two years. The twenty-two babies entered were very fine types, and the judging went off with large crowds blocking aisles and surrounding exhibit spaces.

"Besides the Baby Show at the Fair, we distributed a good deal of literature and the demand for 'Can You Afford a Large Family' was considerable. Young married men, sometimes carrying children, while the wives trailed along with one or two more, would surreptitiously slip out one or two of these pamphlets. One man stopped and said, 'Why a baby show, when you people are down on babies?' I said 'But we are not down on babies, we believe in fewer but better babies.' He said, 'Oh, is that it?'

"We feel that nothing which our society could do would be more to the point in bringing before rural

people, as well as urban people, the whole question of eugenics as applied to the family, and give a right understanding of the ideals of Birth Control "

"Luzerne County has now a full committee organized as the Luzerne County Birth Control League. The following are the officers: Chairman, Mrs. Charles N. Loveland, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. J. Pryor Williamson, Secretary, Mrs. T. H. Keiser, Treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Stern, all of Wilkes-Barre.

"Officers of Lycoming County: Chairman, Mrs. Thomas Lynn, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. S. Mervyn Sinclair, Secretary, Mrs. Waldo A. Rich, Treasurer, Mrs. L. L. Walton, all of Williamsport, Pa.

"The important physicians interested in Birth Control in Luzerne County are: Dr. Stanley R. Freeman, Dr. E. W. Bixby, Dr. Lewis H. Taylor, and Dr. H. B. Gibby, all of Wilkes-Barre.

"Those in Lycoming County who are interested are: Dr. A. F. Hardt, Dr. Robert K. Rewalt, and Dr. John B. Nutt, all of Williamsport, Pa.

"The Southeastern Pennsylvania League, which includes Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, has recently held its yearly meeting, with an election of officers and adoption of by-laws. Dr. G. Victor Janvier succeeded Dr. Stuart Mudd as president of this chapter of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation.

"The Allegheny County Birth Control League had a meeting for re-election of officers and adoption of by-laws in Pittsburgh on October 25th. Dr. H. C. Westervelt was elected president. The officers are: Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Horace Forbes Baker, Dr. Lawrence Litchfield, Treasurer, Mr. Mark Acheson, Secretary, Miss Katherine M. Edwards, Legislative Secretary, Mrs. Helen Glenn Tyson, Board of Directors: Miss Grace Stoakes, Mrs. Edwin Zugsmith, Mrs. J. G. Pontefract, Mrs. S. E. Eliot, Mrs. Julian Kennedy, Jr., and Mrs. Clarence Renshaw.

"Dr. Roswell H. Johnson, President of the State Federation, presided and gave a report on the World Population Conference.

"Mrs. Edith Ellicott Powers, field secretary of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, has done splendid work since she came into the organization last spring. The complete committee for Lycoming County and Luzerne County was brought about by her efforts. She has spoken at innumerable meetings, raised money for the state work, and is responsible for the activities at the Birth Control booths at the county fairs in the central part of the state. Mrs. Powers is now planning work in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. On the morning of November 16th at the State Con-

vention of the League of Women Voters, to be held at Williamsport, Mrs. Powers has been asked to speak on the Birth Control movement in Pennsylvania."

The program of the dinner held by the Federation at the Bellevue-Stratford Ballroom, Philadelphia, November 16, included Dr. Haven Emerson, of the Committee on Maternal Health of New York, on "Public Health and Birth Control," Mr. James H. Maurer, President of Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, on "The Economic Necessity of Birth Control for Workers," Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, New York, "Birth Control from the Woman's Point of View," Mrs. George A. Dunning, Philadelphia, "Pennsylvania's Need for Birth Control."

On the Dinner Committee of Sixty there served, besides many members of the State board and council, the following persons interested in the movement: Mrs. George Fritz Chandler, Philadelphia, Hon. and Mrs. Samuel Emlen, Jr., Germantown, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goldsmith, Wynnewood, Mrs. Edward Y. Hartshorne, Haverford, Mrs. John Hollinger, West Chester, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Jacobs, Ardmore, Mrs. Philip Kind, Jenkintown, Mrs. Alexander Laughlin, Sewickley, Mr. and Mrs. Grenville D. Montgomery, Wynnewood, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilson Moorhouse, Ardmore, Mrs. Imogen B. Oakley, Philadelphia, Mrs. Henry Pemberton, Jr., Chestnut Hill, Mrs. S. Franklin Sharpless, Philadelphia, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Stokes, Jr., Germantown, Mrs. Roland L. Taylor, Gwynedd Valley, Dr. Norris W. Vaux, Chestnut Hill, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Wasserman, Whitmarsh, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Yarnall, Devon.

In a recent letter to the *Review*, Mrs. Martin writes:

"The Birth Control Movement in Pennsylvania is increasing so fast that the present machinery in our office is not adequate and it will be a case of having more space and more help, and needless to say, more money, but this is a very good sign."

Maryland

THE Baltimore Committee, which has long been working to that end, has opened a Bureau for Contraceptive advice at 1028 N. Broadway, Baltimore, and has notified the physicians of Maryland that patients sent with a physician's card will be advised. The Bureau is under the direction of Dr. Bessie L. Moses. The officers are: Judge Jacob M. Moses, chairman, Dr. William H. Howell, vice-chairman, Dr. Raymond Pearl, vice-chairman, Mrs. Richard L. Cary, secretary, Dr.

Donald R. Hooker, treasurer. The committee consists of Mrs. Caleb N. Athey, Mrs. William Bauernschmidt, Dr. Mildred C. Clough, Dr. Paul W. Clough, Miss Elizabeth Gilman, Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, Prof. Jacob H. Hollander, Mrs. Henry C. Kirk, Rabbi Morris S. Lazaron, Dr. Adolf Meyer, Captain L. Wardlaw Miles, Dr. Mary Sherwood, Dr. Lihlan Welsh, Dr. J. Whitridge Williams.

Michigan

A REPORT made by Solon H. Rose, of the Detroit Bureau of Government Research, contains a good word for the married men. A study of 200,000 arrests in Detroit, covering a seven-year period, shows, according to Mr. Rose, that single men have an arrest rate three times that of married men. He declared that 10 per cent of the arrestable males are subject to arrest once a year. The younger men, those of the age group from seventeen to twenty-nine, he continued, have almost double that rate. The rate of arrest for single men in vagrancy is eleven times that of married men, robbery by violence, six times greater, drunkenness rate, three and one-half times greater, gambling, three times greater, disorderly conduct, three times greater, simple larceny, three times greater, and immorality, two and one-half times greater.

ENGLAND

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, Minister of Health in the Baldwin Cabinet, is not afraid of race suicide in Great Britain. In an address to the Regional Town Planning Committee for Greater London, he pointed out the benefits of a population which is approaching the point of being stationary. "There is one consoling thought about the future," he said, "and that is that the rate of increase of the population is diminishing, and that in all probability there will come a time when the population of this country as a whole will be stationary." He looked for a diminution in the housing and transportation difficulties, as a result of the decline in the birth-rate.

The Committee on Birth Control, appointed two years ago by the National Council of Public Morals, has finished its work and Part I of its report will very shortly be published. Sir James Marchant, the Secretary, stated on October 25th that "the report will give the results of two years' scientific investigation into the medical aspects of Birth Control, with regard to their influence on the health of the individual, on fertility and on social and national welfare." The Chairmen of the Committee

were Dr. Charles Gibbs and Sir Arthur News-holme, and Lord Dawson was one of the important witnesses.

Widespread comment in the English papers was aroused by the acquittal by a jury in the Assize Court at Chester, of a man who drowned his little 3-year old daughter to save her suffering. Her death was hourly expected, but her sufferings were so extreme that the father could not bear to witness them. The child was one of five unhealthy children, and the mother, who was tuberculous, had died in childbirth last May. Many of the comments were to the effect that had Birth Control been practiced these tragedies might have been avoided.

SCOTLAND

IN the November municipal elections in Glasgow, the Labor Party suffered a severe set-back, losing five seats. The newspapers attributed this loss largely to resentment at the action of certain labor members in opposing the placing of a Birth Control periodical in the city Library. The Roman Catholic Church also had aroused antagonism by its open interference in the elections against Birth Control. Four out of the five members who lost their seats were R. C. labor men. It is the first time that Birth Control has definitely been an issue in a British election and it is noteworthy that success was on the side of Birth Control.

FRANCE

FIGURES for the second quarter of 1927 show that the excess of births over deaths was almost twice as large as during the similar period of 1926. The figures of the excess are 32,400 in 1927, 17,861 in 1926.

From an unexpected quarter comes a respectful comment on Family Limitation. The Abbe Violet, an influential parish priest and social reformer has, we learn from the press, just issued a very frank and rational handbook on love and marriage. "On the vexed question of Birth Control," says the *London Daily News*, "the abbe's wisdom does not desert him. He accepts the normal Catholic view on this question, but is ready to admit the enormous difficulties which invest the problem. He agrees, moreover, that many people limit families from high motives."

GERMANY

GOVERNMENT statistics as reported in the press show a decrease in births during 1926. Marriages numbered 482,937, which is about the normal figure, but the birth rate has reached another low record by a further decline of 1.2 per thousand compared with the previous year.

Correspondence

FOR BETTER BIRTH CONTROL

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I HAVE been a reader of your magazine for several months and interested in your work a great deal longer, as any general practitioner must be, and it seems to me that you should take a more aggressive stand for a definite end

In the first place, I believe that today very nearly one hundred percent of the American people in their own private life practice Birth Control. This may seem like a very sweeping statement, but let us consider facts. The man or woman who does not marry is certainly practicing Birth Control, as well as those who practice continence, and the woman who is fortunate enough to enjoy a safe period must be so classed.

Those who are either impotent or sterile can not be included at all in any estimate of percentages, either for or against, and those whose fertility is so low as not to bring this question into personal consideration are likewise out of the question.

In other words, any persons who avoid or deny themselves normal sex relations are practicing essential Birth Control. Any person who from accident or design, indulges in sex relations without conception following is practicing Birth Control.

The only person who can be said not to practice Birth Control must be a man and woman with normal sex functions who indulge in these relations without any desire or effort to avoid the natural and consequent conception.

I do not believe there is a woman in America of anything like normal intelligence who does not make some effort to avoid such pregnancies. Therefore the only ones who can be said not to practice Birth Control are those few male brutes who care nothing for the wishes of their consorts and seek only their selfish gratification and are to be classed with bulls, boars and tomcats, merely male brutes devoid of human characteristics, and when I see some such male lauded in the press as the proud father of a large number of children, I feel that there are doubtless a great many bulls and tomcats who can excel his record.

Insisting then upon this point that the American people are today universally practicing Birth Control by the prevention of conception, make it your endeavor to show that while some means are harmless and effective many are harmful and injurious.

First, continence, whether the result of celibacy, or of individual restraint, is undeniably undesirable. Refusing marriage in order to avoid pregnancy is not commendable.

Second, in some practices designed to achieve this end, there are innumerable serious consequences that would be

speedily avoided if the subject were one that could be openly and freely discussed.

There is altogether too much implied recognition of abortion or the tendency to condone this offense. I do not believe it is ever possible to interfere with a pregnancy without some injury. I believe the line should be drawn sharp and clear, and that there should be no equivocation.

The prevention of conception is physiologically, morally, and should be legally, right. The destruction of a fertilized ovum is physiologically, morally and legally wrong and can only be justified by some pathological condition, just as we must admit that to cut off an arm or a leg, or remove an eye is wrong unless there is a pathological reason for it.

Draw these lines sharp and clear. Demand that the prevention of conception shall be legally recognized, that there shall be no crime in doing this or in any frank discussion of methods.

The question of morals, of the improper use of this knowledge is one entirely apart. The right or wrong of sexual relations has absolutely nothing to do with whether conception results or not.

There are so many cases where every reason exists for advising against further pregnancies, one of the really serious from an economic standpoint being the unrestricted reproduction of the unfit and subnormal, and these demand the greatest freedom in the use of contraceptive information. This is really a most serious economic problem as we contemplate how fast we are increasing the relative numbers of the subnormal and unfit. Mere numerical increase in population is not to be desired if it means increase in these classes.

Given free knowledge and use of contraceptive information and then we would be justified in enforcing the strictest penalties on any man who by criminal act or assault forced a female, resulting in conception, and we could by the same token place serious penalty upon the man who brought into the world children he could not support, or children who were practically certain to be subject to some hereditary disease.

I have among my clientele, a family where the mother is totally blind, the result of a glaucomatous condition, and her mother and grandmother were similarly afflicted. She has eight or nine children, and fully forty percent of their eyes are subnormal ranging from total blindness to less than 5 per cent normal vision, with prognosis bad for all of them.

However, all of these questions are entirely aside from the main point to be attained, namely the recognition of the sharp dividing line between preventing conception which should be made legal, and abortion which should be recognized as illegal except as a pathological condi-

tion With this line drawn, all other questions become open to frank discussion and sane solution

To say that prevention of conception is right does not imply that any method may be right or that sex freedom is approved It is certainly right that we should eat, but that right does not imply the right to steal food nor to eat injurious foods, nor improper amounts and at improper times The right to prevent conception does not imply sex freedom in any way

Yours sincerely,

A E M—, M D

IN THE HOMES OF THE POOR

(Continued from page 320)

doctor Here, the missus will mind my babies for me maybe " And the midwife promises to mind the children some afternoon within a few weeks, when the woman is strong enough to go to the Clinical Research Department "She should have no more babies Look at those kids It is just criminal the way the women try to get rid of them when they are on the way "

Mrs D , 29 years, 5 children Husband young, good-natured but irresponsible Wages would be sufficient, but he gambles sometimes, and neglects his family Leaves the wife when she is pregnant and ailing Has been arrested for non-support and spent several days in jail Promises to do better, but has job out of town Wife collects part of his paycheck The morning we called on her, at 9 o'clock, she had left the house already, taking the children over to her sister's place, who has a little backyard She and baby went down town to get his pay We saw the other children, who showed no physical neglect Sister feeds them, but they were wide-eyed, too serious, not spontaneous, joyous children

We saw the little mother come up the street, a neat figure, a little lady, somehow, in some one's cast off silk dress, on high heeled torn slippers, carrying too heavy a bundle in her arms And when she came nearer, I wonder if I have ever seen such a tragic, sweet face, with such adoration in her eyes for the baby She spoke reservedly, slightly holding the baby close to her, never relaxing the one and only hold she had on life, her children —"My husband would come back to me, if he did not fear there would be more children I know I have changed so much I used to be gay and like fun My husband met me when I was a toe dancer We had good times And he is a good husband, but we have had so much sickness and he leaves the house, and gets in with his old friends I hope he is going to be all right now The children like him, too They want their father "

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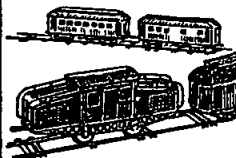
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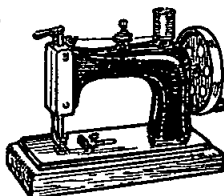
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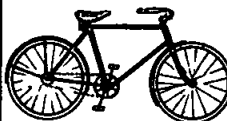
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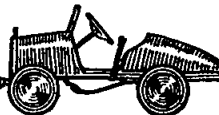
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