

April, 1928

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

"Children of Choice, Not of Chance"

Birth Control In the New York Legislature

THE GROWING DEMAND

Margaret Sanger's Return

News from Abroad

Austria, Germany, Japan

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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TEN GOOD REASONS *for* BIRTH CONTROL



THE FOUNDATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, HAPPINESS AND HEALTH—

Woman's Right, Married Love, The Health of Mother and Child, are reasons for

Birth Control

*The Use of Harmless and Effective Mechanical or Chemical Methods
of Prevention Called Contraceptives*

Another cogent personal argument is

Reason IV — THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

(In the large families of the poor the children suffer from overcrowding and malnutrition and from over-work, either as Little Mothers in the home or as Child Laborers in industry From these causes they are often broken in health and easily fall prey to disease They are deprived of the healthful recreations of youth and their education is cut short at the earliest moment the law permits)

Here is what a few experts say —

TO create a race of well-born children it is essential that the function of motherhood should be elevated to a position of dignity and this is impossible as long as conception remains a matter of chance

Declaration of
Principles of
American Birth
Control League

"The larger the family, the more congested will be the quarters they live in and the more unsanitary will be the environment Last, but not least, with the increase of the family there is by no means a corresponding increase of the earning capacity of the father or mother, and, as a result, malnutrition and insufficient clothing enter as factors to predispose to tuberculosis, or cause an already existing latent tuberculosis to become active"

S ADOLPHUS KNOPF, M D

"Conscious and limited procreation is dictated by love and intelligence Unconscious, irresponsible procreation produces domestic misery and half starved children"

WILLIAM L HOLT, M D

"Man has learned that corn and potatoes must be given proper spacing lest Mother Earth be crowded and they do not grow well, but he has often forgotten to place sufficient spacing between his human children that they might develop to the highest"

ROBERT J SPRAGUE

"I can think of promising boys and girls for whom a high school education had been proudly planned and a rise in the world, but who were forced to leave school at fourteen and take any possible job because there were so many mouths to feed and the father's wages would not suffice"

ALICE HAMILTON, M D

"We catapult children into the world by the accidental explosion of passion and ignorance—and erect legal stockades to keep truth from entering And then we doom whole armies of them to child labor, disease, overcrowding and hunger, because the stock of goods to meet their needs is not enough to go round"

OWEN R LOVEJOY

"A Case in Point Out of one family of eleven children only two are now of any use to society, a little girl of seven, who stays at home and cares for the crippled sister during the day while the mother scrubs office floors, and a boy of nine who sells chewing gum after school hours at a subway exit From a sober, serious and hardworking man the father has become a hopeless drunkard, of whom the mother and children live in terror"

MARGARET SANGER

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XII

APRIL, 1928

No 4

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OUR CONTRIBUTORS

NORMAN E HIMES, whose study we publish of the great work done by Francis Place is making a historical study of the movement for family limitation.

FRANCIS PLACE (1823) was not only one of the pioneers of Birth Control but was one of the greatest figures in the English labor and co-operative movements

MARY WINSOR, feminist, is a member of the National Woman's Party She is on the Council of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation and the National Council of the American Birth Control League

P W WHITING, biologist, formerly of Maine University and Bussey Institute (Harvard) is now doing research work at the University of Pittsburgh

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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EDITORIAL

THE outstanding event in the Birth Control movement during the month of March was the return of Margaret Sanger from her long stay in Europe. It is true of Birth Control, as of every great movement in history, that, as it progresses it cannot be confined within the limits of one nation. It has already become world-wide, and it has spread its ramifications into many fields. The two great developments of which Mrs. Sanger brings news are first, the linking up of Birth Control with the great problems of population and second, an intense quickening of interest and activity in regard to scientific research into contraception. The World Population Conference which was organized by Mrs. Sanger, while it did not include Birth Control in its wide programme, could not keep it out of the thoughts of the men who assembled to discuss population at Geneva. The research that will result from the conference and from the formation of the World Population Union, which was formed there, will bring into ever greater prominence the importance of national population control. As regards the advance of scientific contraception, there are important steps to record. Much work on this line has already been done in Germany, and the University of Edinburgh has now invited Dr. Weisner, a well-known associate of the great Steinach, to a professorship in the department presided over by Dr. A. F. Crew. His work will be in the field of reproduction, and we hope for progress which will give the answer to the demand for the perfect contraceptive.



AFTER having been known to social workers in the great cities for a year or more, the existence of a steadily increasing unemployment prob-

lem is now being recognized in the magazines and newspapers. The New York Charity Organization reports more applications than for eleven years past, a breadline of 1,200 a day has been formed on the Bowery, 20,000 were laid off in New York State in January, and the story from all parts of the United States is similar. Welfare organizations and state labor officials are uniting in the hope of working out constructive plans of relief. The *Survey*, in articles by labor experts, endeavors to get at the causes and amount of present unemployment. Banks and great insurance companies are also studying the question. One reason put forward is that never has manual labor been so rapidly displaced in favor of automatic machinery. This works chiefly against the unskilled and less intelligent worker. Machinery which costs hundreds of thousands of dollars cannot be entrusted to morons, and the work that the moron is best fitted to perform can be better done by a machine. Group insurance also works against unintelligence, for with lower type workers the rate of accidents, and consequently the cost of insurance are higher. It used to be urged against any proposal to spread Birth Control information among the poor, that armies of workers were needed for our industries, and that to develop too high a standard of intelligence was unnecessary. With the coming of this new era of perfected machinery, the problem of unemployment can only be met by a comprehensive programme of Birth Control.



SEVERAL important questions concerning American marriage are asked and answered by William F. Ogburn of Columbia University in "*Social Forces*" for September. Dr. Ogburn's answers are brief and statistical, a mere skeleton of

the investigation that could be made. But they constitute at least a suggestive and interesting beginning of the scientific study of one of the three great events in the life of the individual. Is marriage a desirable state? he asks, and points out that the death rate of single men is nearly twice that of the married men, that there is more crime among unmarried men and that more single than married men—and women too—go mad. As to the extent of marriage, Dr Ogburn shows that civilization seems to discourage marriage. At the maximum marriage age 35 to 45, two persons in ten are not living in marriage and one in ten persons over 45 years of age in United States have never married. As to the third question—"broken marriages"—in 1924, there was one divorce granted to about seven marriages performed. The main cause of divorce is cruelty, a rather broad term. In regard to sex differences in marriage, Dr Ogburn finds that as marriage still means to many women a "livelihood" and to men an economic drain, women tend to marry earlier than men. The existence of prostitution also tends to encourage men to postpone marriage.



UNDER 35 years there are more married women than men, but more married men than women in the later years. This is not due to a larger deathrate of women, but to the greater tendency of men to remarry and to choose young women as second wives. The maximum percentage married is not, as one would suppose, where the sexes are about equal in numbers, but where there is an excess of men. As to age, besides the fact already mentioned that the marriage of women is earlier than that of men, Dr Ogburn's study shows that of both sexes taken together the later twenties have become the commonest years of marriage, and this delay, while economically desirable he holds to be wrong for biological reasons. That the marriage rate has increased in the last thirty years is another fact Dr Ogburn has gleaned from the Census. Another is that—probably because other occupations than domestic service, paid or unpaid, are open to the city woman—the city shows ten per cent fewer marriages than the country. Other questions bring out geographical and racial marriage ratios throughout the United States.

Of Birth Control in this connection Dr Ogburn says "One is also curious to know whether Birth Control influences marriage. Some persons argue that it does, because then there is not at once the economic burden of children. Others argue that it

encourages sexual intercourse outside of marriage. Cities with lower birth-rates have larger percentages of young people married, while the age of the wives is approximately the same from city to city. There is thus an indication that Birth Control may encourage marriage."



THE subject of the David Brooks Anglo-American Essay Contest for 1928, as announced by the "World Tomorrow", is "*As the white population of the United States of America and the British Commonwealth of Nations has increased in the past century from 20 000,000 to 170,000,000, in how far will the continued growth of population and the diminishing food supply affect the future relations between these two peoples and to what extent will it affect their relation to other nations?*"

The Brooks-Bright Foundation of New York, which gives the prizes, is an effort not only to stimulate goodwill between nations by understanding, but to do this through the younger generation. Mrs Brooks-Aten, who founded the contests, believed that in efforts for international fellowship precious time was being lost in that we were "appealing in matters of this sort to the adult population whose prejudices had to be uprooted, and neglecting to interest youth, the plastic, the adult of tomorrow." The contests are therefore limited to pupils of secondary schools. The subject chosen this year places before the younger generation the problem of population as one the solution of which is fundamental to the establishment of lasting friendliness in international relations.



THE Woman's Journal, which is used as its organ by the National League of Women Voters, in its March issue, carries an editorial on "Fewer and Better Babies." It sees but one reason—the desire for more soldiers—why the over-crowded nations of Europe should wish to increase their populations. It rejoices that in spite of the politicians women are "more and more coming to have the courage to think for themselves and to be masters of their own bodies." Women, it remarks "want the children they bear to have a better chance for happy healthy living."

Support for Birth Control

A Welcome to Margaret Sanger

SEVEN organizations combined in the mass meeting held at the Engineering Auditorium, New York, on the evening of March 15. Their practical purpose was to protest against the refusal of the Codes Committee to give a favorable report on the New York Birth Control Bill. Another and pleasanter purpose was to welcome Mrs Sanger on her return from Europe.

Mrs F. Robertson Jones, who presided, spoke of the widely different interests represented by the Junior League, The New York League of Women Voters, The Woman's City Club, The Society for Political Study, The Hopewell Society of Brooklyn and the Grand Street Settlement, the six organizations which had combined with The American Birth Control League to hold the meeting. In spite of these differences these and forty other organizations which have endorsed the bill represent, she stated, "a most unusual unanimity of opinion among women of every class."

Messages to the Meeting

Telegrams were read from organizations in all parts of the state. Two from Buffalo presented a striking contrast. One, the only expressed opposition, was from the Buffalo Council of the National Council of Catholic Women and read "This council vigorously opposes this public mass meeting in behalf of vicious Birth Control Bill." The other from Mrs. Chauncey Hamlin, chairman of the Buffalo Birth Control Committee might have been planned as an answer. It read:

"In this day and generation when we are trying so hard for unity and tolerance in all our relationships, it seems so hard to have to name the opposition 'Catholic' or to define the proponents as anything but earnest men and women interested in a great social problem. There can be no objection to the Catholic Church or any other group being opposed to the idea of alleviating human suffering by the means which we believe to be right, but there is a great fundamental principle being violated when one group can obtain political influence enough to keep progress from those who desire it. I believe that if the men who oppose us could be made aware of the wholesale devastation of life which is taking place after conception with the resulting physical damage to womanhood, they might be willing to reverse the process and spare the mental and physical misery which they now are thoughtlessly inflicting."

The subject of the meeting was, Mrs. Jones explained in introducing the speakers. What the bill means to health, happiness and morality. The speakers were Dr. Ira S. Wile, the Rev. Karl Reiland and Mrs. Sanger.

Dr. Ira S. Wile

Dr. Wile, the first speaker, characterized the meeting as a "protest against hiding of the head and shrinking to face the facts of life as it is, by the Codes Committee, against a hypocrisy which fails to recognize that Birth Control exists and is practiced." He conjectured that most, if not all the legislators were themselves practicing Birth Control. He asked how they could refuse to bring out a bill which concerns the most vital facts of life, which would substitute science and reason for nature's monstrous methods of limitations, and by extending the benefits of Birth Control to the poorer classes would enable them to attain the standard of living set by the more fortunate classes who now practice it. The old law he characterized as perpetuating the subjection of women, to whom the proposed law would give freedom of choice.

The proposed law would in his opinion simply extend from the individual to society the permission to use contraceptive methods for the cure and prevention of disease. For, said he, disease is social as well as individual. Malnutrition, the social disease of poverty, is far more deadly than scarlet fever, and the burden of large families which fall into poverty is a disease borne by all classes. A family which, like one he knew, is visited and aided by 19 societies is no longer a private family, it becomes a *public* family. Not only is its own private life violated, but its worries, anxieties and harassing cares have to be shared by the whole community. The proposed law would make it possible for many families to give instead of receiving from society. It would not only prevent the present waste but it would prevent the loss to society occasioned by family ill-health and the loss of life through the deaths of mothers and infants. It would be preventive medicine, it would preserve health and not merely, like the present law, snatch sick women from the brink of the grave for a little longer misery in life.

Physicians, as Dr. Wile showed by example, are more and more giving expression to their desire for this law, which would not only be in accordance

with intelligence, with the facts of life and with the *mores* of the day but would make possible "a finer race with higher aspirations and a more spiritual outlook upon God and Man"

Dr Karl Reiland

To Dr Karl Reiland, Rector of St George's Church, who discussed the moral aspects of the bill, the question was an ethical issue. For millions of years nature was in control of man. The supreme object of biological evolution is man, and man having reached his adolescence, has turned the tables on nature and, in accordance with both moral and biological law, is now controlling nature. Birth Control is one great example of this. Under nature's rule, vast and horrible calamities regulated population. Then man assumed the moral obligation of regulating by infanticide, and this in turn has yielded to the method of Birth Control. This is the biological ethics of Birth Control.

On social grounds Birth Control—or rather its extension to the poor—would, said Dr Reiland, solve the problem of differential fertility, allow hereditary potentialities to have free play, unhampered by unfavorable environment, and complete the emancipation of women. With this process of controlling nature and raising society to a higher plane, the ethical purpose of the church should be not to interfere. The church has too often in the past stood in the way of human progress. Hitherto it has chained every Prometheus to the rocks. But it has not, even so, been able to hold progress back, and in the end it has accepted the gifts of those whom it has persecuted. Its attitude toward Birth Control must change also, it must support this method of raising the level of human existence. Objections on religious grounds are all irrelevant—they are for the most part "just another chance to ask a question and throw in an inhibition." They are unintelligent, unscientific, unethical and inhuman.

A Warm Welcome

Mrs Sanger, the last speaker, whose appearance after her long absence was greeted with great enthusiasm by the audience which filled every seat in the large hall, took occasion to thank the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, and especially the acting president, Mrs F Robertson Jones, for their faithful work and practical accomplishments both in finances and increase of membership during her absence. In her address, she summarized the progress of Birth Control in England and Germany and sketched the international situation in its bearings on America and the other countries now throwing up barriers against immigration. She asked "if certain classes are un-

desirable as immigrants from the outside why is not the same logic used by the United States to prevent them from being added to the population on the inside?"

"This morning's press" she continued, "gave an estimate that the population of this country is now 120 millions. In the glory of increasing population, we must recognize that numbers are not the only thing to consider. Individuals are not mere statistical units who are born, marry and die, and, while these functions cannot be entirely ignored, there is a value depending upon the quality of the material with which they are endowed through inheritance. This is of infinitely greater importance to society and to the progress of the race than mere numbers."

Mrs Sanger on Population

"Science is now bordering on the infinite and the most powerful brain seems feeble in face of the tasks which are glimped. If one is to judge by the present predicament of the world, we may assume that there is no individual nor group whose intelligence is equal to the tasks that the international situation demands. It seems almost as if the knowledge required exceeds our capacity for understanding."

"It is to the science of population that we must now look for future guidance. It must point the way for population regulation which in this country, in particular, could soon deliver society from more than half of its terrific burdens. It could soon help us to eliminate the possibility of increasing dysgenic stocks, such as those with inherited or transmissible diseases. It could soon lessen the burden of philanthropic demands which are fast growing beyond the cultural needs of this generation. Sane legislation would indirectly direct reproduction towards adaptation to future conditions by raising the mean level of brain power. The importance of numbers belongs to the past rather than to the future."

"The needs of manual labor in the future will be greatly reduced by the progress of chemistry, physics and the possession of unlimited sources of heat and force at a minimum of expenditure. On the other hand, we shall need brains highly resistant to work and capable of a degree of education surpassing that of the most intelligent skilled artisan today. Vaster memories must be forged, sharper insight must be gained and with the discovery of the laws of inheritance men can choose whether we shall evolve to the expression of the highest within us, or revert to the stage of the barbarian. It is for man to decide."

"With all the knowledge that we today possess, it is obvious that it is a crime for generations to come, it is a crime against our civilization to encourage the reproduction of mediocre, diseased or inferior types of groups. Such offspring can only be a burden to the future and retard the progress of the present generation.

"It has become clear that the population of the earth is fast arriving at its possible maximum, that its density is badly distributed, that redistribution of space can only be rectified by displacements, and that Birth Control in overpopulated countries is the first and surest method whereby the balance may be peacefully restored."

A Tribute

Following Mrs. Sanger's address came an unexpected and touching tribute. This was the presentation of a large bouquet of roses by Mrs. Rose Halpern of Brooklyn in behalf of the mothers who had attended the first American clinic, at Brownsville. Though short, Mrs. Halpern's speech lacked nothing in eloquence.

"Friends," said she, "We represent the mothers of Brownsville. We welcome Mrs. Sanger, the tireless worker for our freedom. It was twelve years ago when Mrs. Sanger first came to Brownsville to open her clinic. When I went to the clinic, I found a crowd of women around the doors with their hands out-stretched for help, while Mrs. Sanger was being taken away in a patrol wagon. After seeing those poor mothers begging for help, after seeing my friends and neighbors suffer—some of them dying because they did not know how to prevent birth—I felt that I ought to enlist my energies for this cause.

We greet Mrs. Sanger our inexhaustible worker our Lincoln!"

The Resolution

The meeting ended with the passing by an overwhelming vote, of the following resolution, offered by Mrs. Grace H. Childs, of the Women's City Club:

Whereas the laws of this State now prohibit physicians from giving contraceptive information excepting "for the prevention and cure of disease", and

Whereas there are other urgent reasons, such as family-poverty, the inability of a mother to care for additional children, etc., which often makes it highly desirable for physicians to give such information to married persons, and

Whereas women generally who can afford to pay for such information now secure it and feel that it is conducive to wholesome family life, and

Whereas there is now before the State Legislature at Albany a bill (Assembly Introductory, 1028, Olsen) providing that physicians may give such information to any married persons, be it

Resolved that we, voters of New York, in mass-meeting assembled, on March 15, 1928, do call upon the legislators of New York State to enact this constructive measure immediately, for the prevention of destitution and dependency and in the interests of better family-life for rich and poor alike.

The Next Step Forward

IT IS possible that the legend of male oppression flattered the male susceptibility, since there was little opposition to it. Whatever the argument, it all contributed to give to the forward turn of twentieth-century feminism the aspect of a duel between the sexes, woman against man, and the woman's star in the ascendant.

Now that the turn is accomplished, and nothing startlingly political or professional seems to be determined by it, what does stand out in the nature of an achievement is the escape not of one sex from the other but of both from a social complex unwholesomely driven and informed by sex distinctions. Now that political and professional preferment are redistributing themselves along lines that, though not obviously determined by sex tradition, still leave men enormously in the lead, women are beginning to see that the adversary was not the man, not the mate, not even institutionalized marriage, but hopelessly uncontrolled multiplication. What she really fought, that advanced woman of forty years ago, was not so much a manifestation of male dominance as of sexual overemphasis from which there is no true escape except as the man and woman escape together. For Bernard Shaw was right inasmuch as he saw and never failed to point out that woman, even when she seemed to flee at her most furious, was, as much as ever man was, entangled in the moral futilities, the spiritual ecstasies, the utilitarianism, the humiliations of our common sexual life. In this, her latest flight, symbolized but not perfected by political suffrage, she has drawn after her all society, with her wings only slightly silvered by achievement, but still definitely away from the company of the pots and the service of the sacred kitchen stove, under which obscured symbol man once saw in her the perpetual breast, the all-sustaining mother. This, I take it, is the meaning of the forward turn of my generation, not any particular quality of achievement but a new front set squarely to a new progress in which the play of the reproductive function will be reduced to more practicable proportions. Practicable, I mean, in the sense of being better adapted to a higher type of social realization. For what *could* we have done with a society bound blindly upon the wheel of its own increase?

MARY AUSTIN in *The Nation* (N. Y.)

Birth Control in 1823

By NORMAN E HIMES

LAST November, we printed the first part of Mr Humes' very interesting account of the first attempt to spread Birth Control information in England. This was done through Handbills. One of these was addressed "To the Married of Both Sexes". The second "To the Married of Both Sexes in Genteel Life". Here follows the third Handbill addressed

III

TO THE MARRIED OF BOTH SEXES OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

This paper is addressed to the reasonable and considerate among you, the most numerous and most useful class of society

It is not intended to produce vice and debauchery, but to destroy vice, and put an end to debauchery

It is a great truth, often told and never denied, that when there are too many working people in any trade or manufacture, they are worse paid than they ought to be paid, and are compelled to work more hours than they ought to work

When the number of working people in any trade or manufacture, has for some years been too great, wages are reduced very low, and the working people become little better than slaves

When wages have thus been reduced to a very small sum, working people cannot longer maintain their children as all good and respectable people wish to maintain their children, but are compelled to neglect them,—to send them to different employment,—to Mills and Manufactories, at a very early age

The misery of these poor children cannot be described, and need not be described to you who witness them and deplore them every day of your lives

Many indeed among you are compelled for a bare subsistence to labour incessantly from the moment you rise in the morning to the moment you lie down again at night, without even the hope of ever being better off

The sickness of yourselves and your children, the privation and pain and premature death of those you love but cannot cherish as you wish, need only be alluded to. You know all these evils too well

And, what, you will ask is the remedy?

How are we to avoid these miseries?

The answer is short and plain the means are easy. Do as other people, do, to avoid having more children than they wish to have, and can easily maintain.

By limiting the number of children, the wages both of children and of grown up persons will rise, the hours of working will be no more than they ought to be, you will have some time for recreation, some means of enjoying yourselves rationally, some means as well as

some time for your own and your children's moral and religious instruction

At present every respectable mother trembles for the fate of her daughters as they grow up. Debauchery is always feared. This fear makes many good mothers unhappy. The evil when it comes makes them miserable

And why is there so much debauchery? Why such sad consequences?

Why? But, because many young men, who fear the consequences which a large family produces, turn to debauchery, and destroy their own happiness as well as the happiness of the unfortunate girls with whom they connect themselves

Other young men, whose moral and religious feelings deter them from this vicious course, marry early and produce large families, which they are utterly unable to maintain. These are the causes of the wretchedness which afflicts you

But when it has become the custom here as elsewhere, to limit the number of children, so that none need have more than they wish to have, no man will fear to take a wife, all will be married while young—debauchery will diminish—while good morals, and religious duties will be promoted

You cannot fail to see that this address is intended solely for your good. It is quite impossible that those who address you can receive any benefit from it, beyond the satisfaction which every benevolent person, every true Christian, must feel, at seeing you comfortable, healthy, and happy

IV

TO THE MATURE READER OF BOTH SEXES

The object of this handbill is not to encourage vice and debauchery, but to prevent misery—not to destroy children once conceived, as many, and even married women do, to the destruction of their healths, but to prevent improper and undesired conceptions, where sexual intercourse is desirable, and wholesome, and lawful

To accomplish this important object, an object more important than any other that affects either the society or an individual, some respectable persons in the metropolis of this country, of both sexes, among whom are included many medical men of the first rank, have enquired after a means which is here unfolded

All animal procreation is the result of seminal contact between the sexes. With mankind and healthy married people, sexual intercourse is as unavoidable as it is wholesome and virtuous. But it is by no means desirable, it is indeed, a continued torture, that a married woman should be incessantly breeding or bringing forth children, often unhealthy, and born with a certainty of death in infancy and nothing but the patients of pain—as often born where there are not the means of wholesome support—and, what is still worse, where the

^aThe methods follow

mother is of a delicate frame, and never can produce healthy children, conception is to her nothing but torture, without even the most distant prospect of pleasure or utility. Every reader will be able to look round and see an abundance of such of each of the cases here stated.

Medical Men and Birth Control

The fourth handbill is the only straightforward statement in the literature of the period which *directly* associates any medical men with the *intention or conduct* of the propaganda, but it is also interesting to note that Place sought medical advice and opinion on the subject of Birth Control. Unlike some modern Birth Control propagandists Francis Place had a research attitude, he had an Aristotelian penchant for fact collecting. Hence we find him writing to his friend MacLaren, "I have taken pains in my enquiries on this subject amongst surgical and medical as [well as] amongst intelligent elderly women, and especially with two respectably clever women who are or were matrons at public lying-in hospitals." Thus although there is no record of physicians having taken any active part in the *propaganda*, they seem to have had an indirect hand in fostering this reform. Indeed, speaking of the method proposed, the second handbill avers that "Accoucheurs of the first respectability and surgeons of great eminence have in some peculiar cases recommended it," while a similar statement appears in the first handbill.

Objections to the Pamphlets

The exact extent of the distribution of these bills is unknown. While it is easy to exaggerate their influence and the extent of their dissemination, it is clear that they were broadcasted in the provinces as well as in London. Judging by manuscript drafts of letters preserved by Place, he was instrumental in sending to Manchester, care of Mr. Edward Taylor, editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, a parcel of handbills with a letter requesting that he forward them to a Mrs. Fildes whose efforts in behalf of the working classes were well known. A note accompanied the package asking Mrs. Fildes to distribute them, highly offended, she urged Sir Henry Gifford, the Attorney-General, to prosecute but he failed to do so. Another letter of objection from Mrs. Fildes led to their publication, however, in the *Black Dwarf*, which was hostile to the distribution. Copies, nevertheless, seem to have been distributed in Manchester, if not by Mrs. Fildes, then through the instrumentality of William Longson, a journeyman weaver for whom Place at that time had done essential service. Place sent Longson handbills with a letter urging him to use them to lessen

the burden of pauperism in the community. One gathers from certain mid-century Manchester newspapers recalling the early propaganda that the handbills received considerable circulation in that community. They were distributed among the Spitalfield weavers. The industrial districts were not immune to them. They were sent to gentlemen who gave evidence before a Parliamentary committee on labourers' wages.

This is not the place to record the "scandals" and exposures which followed, but it needs to be observed that it was not long before Place was publicly dubbed "the master spring that moves the whole infernal machine." Indeed, such he was. But since we have confined ourselves here to one aspect only of the "diabolical handbills," which was, in turn, only a part of this attempt to get contraceptive knowledge to the working classes, space does not permit us to show the extent to which Place inspired and conducted discussions of the subject in working men's newspapers, how he brought several religious and political reformers to his point of view, and how, by his conversion of Richard Carlile, he set in motion that whole chain of forces which has been mainly responsible for the spread among the general populace, both in England and in America, of a knowledge of contraception. But we should like to point out, in concluding, that it is no small degree a consequence of the social forces released through Place, and reinforced by his disciples in England and America—a chain of events clearly traceable—that we owe our present and past decline in the birth-rate in both countries, a decline which constitutes one of the most revolutionary social changes of modern times.



If man continues to act in the reckless way which has characterized his behaviour hitherto, he will multiply to such an enormous extent that only a few kinds of animals and plants which serve him as food and fuel will be left on the face of the globe. He will have converted the gracious earth, once teeming with innumerable, incomparably beautiful varieties of life, into a desert, or, at best, a vast agricultural domain abandoned to the production of food-stuffs for the hungry millions, which, like maggots consuming a carcass, or the irrepressible swarms of the locust, incessantly devour and multiply.

—SIR EDWIN RAY LANKESTER

"If population continues at the present rate, the habitable area of the earth will be covered in 300 years and the temperate zone in 150"—GEHEIMRATH RUBNER, (Berlin)

*The methods follow

Marriage and Birth Control

By C GASQUOINE HARTLEY*

IT IS generally admitted that there is much to be gloomy about in these days of bad trade and post-war morals. And yet perhaps, the poor old world does improve in some respects.

One of the most hopeful signs of this improvement to me is the very wide-spread interest that has been taken of late in Birth Control. Conferences are held, law-suits are fought and won, pamphlets are written and in almost every town lectures are given, and everywhere groups of earnest-minded people come together to discuss and to learn. Our sense of responsibility has quickened in connection with birth and the bringing a new life into the world. In a deeper and more practical way, we have come to know that no child should be born *unwanted*.

Everywhere since the war the increased interest in the question has been astonishing. Is it, I have asked myself, that the terrible loss of life has forced us at last to have a deeper understanding of the value of life? Certainly all over the world women and men are beginning to understand the right of every child to be well-born.

The relations between the poverty of the family and its size must be considered in connection with this question. Much stress is also rightly laid on the injurious effect on the mother of continuous and unwilling child-bearing, and on the resulting terrible wastage of life in miscarriages and still-births. For the child is unfortunate who is born into a home unwanted by its mother.

To give life well, it must be given gladly. There can be no deeper tragedy than an unwilling motherhood.

The moral and religious aspects of family limitation have to be considered. It needs to be emphasized how, more and more, religion today refuses to divorce the spiritual from the material necessities of man, and how it begins to appreciate that the bread-and-butter difficulties of life have the greatest effect on the moral character of the people.

If a criticism on the work of those who advocate Birth Control may be offered, it is that too much time is spent in saying what everyone agrees with. Propositions which all who think at all practically accept, are gravely supported with elaborate arguments. More might be accomplished, if these elementary questions were left and freer discussions given to the many grave problems which still await investigation. There are so many questions on which far more knowledge needs collecting before

any definite conclusions of permanent value can be accepted.

Roughly classed, Birth Control needs to be studied from three different aspects —

First, there is the effect upon the married couple.

Second, there is the effect upon the child.

And lastly, there is the effect of voluntary limitation of the birth-rate upon society.

In estimating the consequences to the man and the woman, it is impossible to neglect the psychological results.

The effect upon the mind is far stronger and more lasting than any more direct result. I mean, it is what the individual woman and man feel about limitation that is important for them. It is their own attitude to what they do that will mainly decide the result it will have.

Much easier to estimate is the effect upon the child. Here we seem to be on firmer ground. To save the unwanted child from being born or conceived by drunken or syphilitic parents is a work of such plain morality that there would appear to be no room for difference of opinion.

Yet the question is deeper and far more difficult than this. There are, indeed, a whole group of problems connected with it. There is, for instance, the case of the only child, who always suffers grave disadvantages brought up in a home with adults.

Again the childless or one-child marriage is often not happy for those who love children. This is felt in particular when one partner desires children and the other refuses to have them born. And it must not be forgotten that all that affects the parents must also have its results on the child that is born. Apart from economic necessities, the small, limited family is, in many ways, harder to bring up than the large family.

With regard to the effect of Birth Control on society, it is now becoming a familiar reflection that often those least fitted to carry out parental duties, because of faults of character or misfortune of circumstances, have the largest families.

Here the main problem is not so much to teach the mere knowledge of how families are to be limited, as to induce that control, and to stir up such desire as will lead to limitation being practiced.

Yet I would not end with any word of discouragement. As I started by saying, the mere consideration of these difficult questions in the broad light of day must be felt by all of us, who are old enough to remember the attitude in the past, as a wholesome sign of the times.

*From "Women, Children, Love and Marriage." By permission by the Publishers, Heath Cranton, Ltd, London.

The N. Y. Birth Control Bill

The Hearing at Albany

FREEDOM of conscience was the clearcut issue at the Hearing on the New York Birth Control Bill before the Codes Committee of the New York Assembly on February 29th. Mrs F Robertson Jones, acting president of the American Birth Control League, in introducing the speakers for the bill made this the one, and all-sufficient, ground for her appeal. Protestants and Jews, said she, believe it a sin to have more children than they can support. Catholics believe it a sin to use Birth Control. The present law coerces the Protestants and Jews. The proposed law would leave them free to follow the dictates of their consciences. Its supporters do not ask to coerce the Catholics, whom it would still leave free to have a baby a year. Is it fair, she asked, that one religious body should impose its morality on a much larger group who have a very different ethic, an ethic which classes legislation favoring Birth Control not as immoral but as moral.

The Reverend Ernest Caldecott, Chairman of the Schenectady Birth Control Chapter, developed Mrs Jones' point still further, maintaining that there was no moral argument against Birth Control, that there was every reason for free access to Birth Control on social grounds and that the present bill was pre-eminently a protest against compulsion and a demand for moral freedom.

Rabbi Sidney Goldstein, director of Social Service of The Free Synagogue of New York City, speaking for the Jews, also supported Mrs Jones. He stated that the Council of Rabbis had in 1927 accepted Birth Control as grounded on the moral teachings of Judaism. Both the Jewish religion and Protestantism are, he held, increasingly, in the person of one prominent religious leader after another, recognizing and adopting the morality of Birth Control, and these two religious groups, to whom Birth Control is a moral measure, include a generous two-thirds of the population of the state. To both Rabbi Goldstein and Dr Caldecott, Birth Control meant, in terms of social service, the only ethical means of rehabilitating families now a burden to themselves and to the community. Progressive degeneration, a death rate increasing in proportion to the birth-rate, and invalidism of the mother is what the present system means and for this family misery the community pays the bill. The proposed Birth Control law would relieve the community, it would save the mothers, save the children and save the families of the poor.

Social workers were conspicuous at the Hearing and among those who added their testimony to Rabbi Goldstein's as to the moral and personal benefits of Birth Control were Miss Rose Gruenberg of the Grand Street Settlement, Mrs G Getman of the Virginia Day Nursey, Mrs A E Levine of the Child Welfare Department of the New York Federation of Woman's Clubs and Mrs Stutzer Taylor of the Hopewell Society of Brooklyn. Civic bodies whose representatives spoke in favor were The Woman's City Club of New York, represented by Miss Mary Arnold, the New York League of Women Voters, represented by its legislative agent, Miss Martha Moorhouse and the Citizens Union.

The State Medical Society expressed itself by letter as in opposition, on the ground, it was understood, that as New York doctors now have the power to give contraceptive advice in health cases, the present bill is a social workers' measure. Among medical names added to the list in support, however, were Dr Haven Emerson, of New York, Dr Louis Harris, Health Officer of New York City Department of Health, Dr L T Genung, Health Officer and Drs H H Crum, Helen Dudley Bull and Esther Parker of Ithaca, Dr Lathrop and Dr Rose Dunk of Buffalo, Dr Eleanor Conover of New York and Dr Walter Timme of New York. Dr James F Cooper spoke for the physicians in the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League, the physicians who send patients to the Clinical Research Department, those working in the eight hospital clinics in New York which now give contraceptive advice and the many thousands who correspond and cooperate with the American Birth Control League.

Testimony of Dr Walter Timme

VARIOUS types of hereditary nervous disease, such as *progressive muscular dystrophy*, as an example, depend for their propagation upon the mother, who is never herself affected, but who transmits this disease to her offspring and through her daughters to succeeding generations. In one such family under my care, there have been fourteen members in two generations affected. The disease is one that affects mainly the muscular system, and beginning in early life, becomes progressive, so that it soon incapacitates the victim from performing practically all muscular exertion and leaves him bedridden and helpless for the remain-

der of his life. Investigators in many countries likewise describe this pitiable disease, one author in particular citing forty-six cases descending from one common ancestor. As the mother of such cases herself shows no signs of the disease, our law allows no interference in her pregnancies, albeit child after child is born to her that is fated to go through life a burden to the family, to itself and frequently to the community.

The usual reason given for non-interference of pregnancy or for the presentation of contraceptive advice and measures in cases such as these, is that it is in "contravention of nature." And yet by far the greater number of patients seek the advice of physicians for the purpose of being made capable of bearing children, who otherwise could not bear them. This advice and treatment are also in "contravention of nature" and yet are never frowned on by the law.

The cases cited above, of one disease only, could be multiplied many times by a statistical account of the many nervous and mental diseases that are hereditary in their origin. A few only need be mentioned—Feeble-mindedness, certain kinds of epilepsy, hereditary cerebellar diseases, family idiocy with blindness,—all of which produce a goodly number of unfortunates that are a burden to themselves and a hindrance to the family and to society.

A proper birth-controlling factor such as contraception would limit the number of these inadequate and diseased members of society that now are housed in our State institutions, fill our dispensaries and hospitals, and add but to the misery of the world.

It is the hope of those of us that deal with these conditions as a life-work, that some remedial legal measure will be granted us to prevent the conception of individuals useless to themselves and to the world.

The Opposition

No Catholic opponents of the bill appeared at the Hearing but a protest was read by Burton D. Esmond, chairman of the Codes Committee, from the Catholic Welfare Federation of the State. The influence of the Catholic minority on the committee was evidently strong, for not only was Senator Love, a physician who stated that he was in sympathy with the bill, emphatic in the assertion that he could not recommend legislation offensive to this religious body, but Chairman Esmond stated frankly that his committee also would have to consider the feelings of this powerful one-third of the population of New York State. This clearly leaves it to the supporters of Birth Control legislation to organize the remaining two-thirds of the population to make their will prevail.



Cosmic Love

By HENRY H. ELFVIN

BIRTH

The cooling fertile womb of Eons past
Wrought life within a deep pulsating stream.
The primal thing nursed from the Ocean's breast
Unnoticed, half alive, still half a dream
No blood, no pain, no joy marks the birth-place
(Such things are resolute in Nature's face)

Now Man, sea-weaned, borne from prolific years
Becomes the Eon for a nobler thing,
Feels joy and pain, spills blood, makes love and hate
From which another groping life must spring—
A life thrust from a dried-up sea, disclaimed,
Pressed from a home whose pulse is less untamed

Life born in love from scarlet inland sea
And bone-locked, sinewed tomb, breathes night, and grows
Still, Man, love-hungry, finds the passions good,
Yields to his joys, forgetting pending woes
Timed gates unlock. Life storms in blood churned blue
Until its bruising shape has broken through

REMINISCENCES

Don't you remember loving in the cell?
I stood and gazed, half held you by my side,
Love was long, but time would e'er provide
I ached to see the shadows in your eyes
Reflected from the Earth's cloud-tinted skies
I yearned to kiss your round reflected face
And feel your loving form in my embrace
Yes, even then our love was in the cell!
Its primal wonder I recall too well

Don't you remember loving in the flower?
Beneath gaunt trees that shaded near a brook,
It was the trysting place first lovers took
We stole gently past the realm of fern,
And far beyond the tallest trees to learn
To dress in colors the dancing sunbeams made,
And join the rose and daffodil parade
We spread to fields that round the whole world ran,
And grew, and left a greater love to Man

Barring the Door

By MARY WINSOR

"THEY shall not pass"

"We are opposed to Birth Control as a political doctrine and will not tolerate propaganda. Malthus is abhorrent to us and we cannot admit that overpopulation is ever a cause of poverty. The Capitalist system is the sole cause of poverty. But as a medical question—ah! that is a different matter. We will gladly exchange information with your clinics. We have had two scientific Commissions to study this subject: one in Leningrad and, at present, one here in Moscow, all composed of physicians and professors of medicine. We are trying various methods. It is all tentative; we are not sure that any of these is not hurtful."

I was sitting in the office of Lebedeva, the head of the Mother and Child Department in the Commissary for Public Health, talking to her assistant, Dr. Lury, and to Dr. Scheftel, who expects to visit America soon on behalf of the Russian Public Health Service. The conversation continued: "We are opposed to abortion. Soviet Russia has been misrepresented as countenancing abortion, right and left. This is a calumny. But if we cannot dissuade a woman, and she still insists, then we allow her to have it done by government physicians. If we did not permit this, the woman would undertake it herself, secretly, with terrible consequences to health. Better what is open and aboveboard than these disastrous secret operations."

"As for Birth Control, as I have said, we are opposed to propaganda. But if the woman comes to us of her own initiative and demands it, then we will give information, whether she be rich or poor, sick or well, married or unmarried. In every city in Russia there is a clinic—four hundred in all

Moscow state has two where information is given out every day and one on Sunday morning—the Mother and Child clinic in the Palace of Labor. Ten thousand women are treated in Moscow City every year. At our Central Drug-Store, where all the patients from these clinics are sent and also many peasant women from the provinces, in a period of between six and seven months 8,000 rubles' worth of appliances were sold at very moderate prices. You had better visit the Mother and Child Clinic in the Palace of Labor on Sunday morning."

So I did, and saw the great poster exhibition, covering every phase of welfare and health work for Mothers and Children, and watched the women, peasants, many of them with shawls over their heads and babies in their arms, come pouring in for advice and treatment. I visited the Birth Control Clinic, the operating room and the lecture room where a doctor was lecturing to a class of about twenty-five, many of whom were to be instructors and teachers in their turn. I marvelled at this paradox, that this Government, which detests abortion and disapproves of Birth Control propaganda, is, nevertheless, the only Government which gives such information. Yet thinking of the millions of ignorant Russian peasant women, of all Europeans the most oppressed with excessive child-bearing, and noting that the Soviet Government does not keep its general health information hermetically sealed until the woman herself seeks and demands it but presses it upon the Public with all the propaganda methods at its disposal, I could not but feel unhappy over the situation in my own country and wish for a more generous policy.



A Contrast

DID the birth rate of fifty years ago prevail in Europe today there would be two and one-half million more babies born in the year. In the thirty years before the War eighteen of the most enlightened peoples cut their fertility on the average one-fifth. They are still growing like mushrooms, but it is certain that they will cut their fertility even more, if necessary, in order to preserve their standard of living. Altogether a third of a billion, mostly of the white race, have turned their backs on the quagmire of over-population, and in a couple of decades the number headed for comfort and long life may top half a billion.

But what of the billions committed to a family system suited to a rabbit warren?

Half of our race live in Asia between the meridians of Yokohama and Bombay. Adding the peoples of Western Asia and Northern Africa, you have three-fifths of humanity taking what may be termed the Oriental attitude toward sex and offspring. So while *Homo* Europeans are moving toward the sunshine, the life of *Homo* Asiaticus is clouded by misery, worry and fewness of days.

—From the Man-stifed Orient,—EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS in the *Century*

The Wide Demand for Birth Control

RESULTS OF PUBLICITY

It is difficult to estimate the extent of the demand for Birth Control. Much of it is silent, because people have not heard of any source to which they could go for help. Just recently a flood of letters from hitherto-unknown correspondents have come to us through the writings and lectures of Judge Lindsey, Dr Sherwood Eddy, Zoe Beckley and Dr Charles F Taylor, the English Evangelist now in this country, and others. Many of them show that the writers take the responsibility of parenthood seriously, and while their families are not yet too large, they wish to prevent poverty, physical breakdown and the lowering of family standards, by keeping their numbers within bounds.

Psychologically Wrong

Maryland

I have just finished reading Judge Lindsey's wonderful book "The Companionate Marriage" in which he advises women who wish to know methods of scientific contraception to communicate with your League.

I have been married for thirteen years. At the end of our tenth year of marriage, we adopted a baby, having been unable to have one of our own. A year and a half later, our little girl was born, and as we feel that for the present our two fine children constitute as large a family as we wish, we have become confronted with the problem of Birth Control. Until now, my husband has taken care of the matter, but both he and I feel that the method employed, is scientifically and psychologically wrong.

I feel that a proper adjustment of this matter is necessary to the health and happiness of both my husband and myself. May I expect a reply from you advising me just what to do?

"What Shall I Advise?"

California

Will you kindly give me information as to the methods used in contraception of which I have been reading in Judge Lindsey's book on "Companionate Marriage"? I did not need such information in my own married life of the past, but I have a married couple in my service and their 16-year-old-daughter—all extremely intelligent people. The father had tuberculosis some six years ago, and this climate and good care have restored him to health and he is called a "closed case", but I still look after his general welfare.

Should such a one ever become a parent? They have lived mostly apart but two years ago a mistake happened and the wife brought on an abortion after two months,

without my knowledge, and was very ill. Since then I believe they live entirely separate and seem happy in their work, but both are rather highly strung nervously especially the husband, and it seems to me they care less for each other. He is peculiarly fastidious (they are well-educated people) and does not go about promiscuously. What shall I advise her if she asks for advice as she does from time to time?

Poor Methods

California

I would be glad to learn about the scientific knowledge of Birth Control at your disposal of which Judge Lindsey speaks so often. All methods which I have known are probably those termed by him as "inadequate," and to me are disgusting. I am expecting my second baby, and after its arrival it would be very wise not to have another on the way too soon, although my desire is to have as large a family as possible to good health and financial means. I might also ask for recommended books on the Psychology of Love-Making or rather, the Sex Life—if such can be obtained, as Lindsey makes a great point of adequate knowledge on the part of married couples.

Clumsy Birth Control

California

I am very much interested in Judge Lindsey's book on "Companionate Marriage", as my husband and I practised it for several years, very happily, before we had our two children. We have been married fifteen years, and in all but the last two have been very happy. The one drawback is that, even though we have practised Birth Control successfully, it has been in a clumsy manner, and I have always been beset with a nervous fear of pregnancy, that has caused a semblance of coldness that has caused

trouble I have a cause, my children are well up and in school, another pregnancy would ruin things, and I always feel when with my husband there is a chance and my worry reacts on him. If there is a Birth Control League near me, or a doctor that knows, I would be glad of the knowledge

A Divorce Lawyer Enquires

Ohio

I have practiced law for a period of about 20 years, handled a number of divorce cases, taught the law of Domestic Relations in a law school and read current literature on the subject of Marriage and Divorce and on the theoretical side of Birth Control. I am also interested in the work of Charity and Welfare Organizations here.

The misery and suffering of many married people, the cruel circumstances into which unwelcome children are all too frequently born and the unfairness of the divorce and alimony situation in our courts have deeply impressed me.

A few days ago I read an article of Judge Ben B. Lindsey in which he said that you have developed a scientific technique in the field of Birth Control. This interests me. I would like to know more about it. If possible I would appreciate being given the exact facts concerning it.

Methods Inadequate

California

Have just read Judge Lindsey's very excellent book "Companionate Marriage", in which he stated that a great deal had been accomplished towards developing methods of scientific contraception. Where can I find a Birth Control clinic in San Francisco? My husband and I are planning a business trip to the Far East and for a year or so prefer to remain childless. The methods we are now using are inadequate, and we believe things of this sort should be thoroughly understood scientifically.

A Minister Seeks Information

Illinois

Mr. Sherwood Eddy, who spoke here some days ago, has recommended that I write you for information concerning Birth Control. I am an ordained minister and am, at present, attending a seminary. I have a parish where I labor as a student pastor while attending school. I am married, and have one child. With other students in our school, my interest in Birth Control and sex instruction has been awakened by Mr. Eddy. I shall appreciate very much, any information which you may give.

From a Theologian

Illinois

Being interested in the matter of Birth Control from the standpoint of a theologian I am asking you to send me free literature on the subject and a list of books which you have that bear upon the subject. I have been advised by Sherwood Eddy to write you for this information and I am trusting that you will cooperate with me in this matter. Hoping that I may hear from you in the near future, I remain

A Cause for Quarreling

Oregon

I am a mother of 5, of which 4 are girls. My husband does not believe in Birth Control, and still he is nagging all the time on the big bills. You will know a man with \$3.60 a day and family can't do very much but just go from hand to mouth. We got far enough ahead to have some stump-land and small home all paid for, but still the children are getting up in public school. I like very much to have them at least go to high school, if possible, as I ask my husband to let this baby be last one and find out about Birth Control, but he is afraid it hurts his health so I am using my own remedy and refuse to be his wife. I know it is very sure. If no seed is planted there will be no crop. It brings lots of quarrelings. Men strike for their rights, so I think the women have their right to do so also.

Companionship

Iowa

I have four children and I think I have done my share and will have more time for rest and companionship with my children if I have no more.

One of Very Many

Connecticut

From Judge Lindsey's book, I understand that through the Birth Control League, you give instructions in contraception where health consideration warrant. As I am a married woman with eight children, I would like very much to avail myself of this offer.

A Little Later

Connecticut

I wish to thank you for your interest in my behalf. The doctor to whom you referred me was able to give me the information which I needed for contraception. I hope I may be able to aid this important work when my babies are bigger.

Book Reviews

BIRTH CONTROL, by Johann Ferch Based on the Scientific Researches of J Kurrein, Doctor of Medicine Translated with a Biographical Foreword by Christian Roland, and edited, with an Introduction by A Maude Royden

JOHANN FERCH'S fine book should commend itself to every loyal American It sets forth principles familiar indeed but with a new, a modern application The opening chapter entitled "Love the Ancient Right of Human Beings" affirms as eloquently as the Declaration of Independence the right of mankind to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness "The desire for happiness is the motive force of all human thought and action Work, the toil of every day, is only the means whereby we attain to a fuller measure of life and through it to happiness But happiness does not consist in material values alone, but much more in appreciation of the joys of human relationships, which constitute what we call the world of human feeling This, to a great extent, is only the radiation from the sex-life, and includes the love of the sexes, the love of the family, marriage, the love of children, and the love of parents"

Johann Ferch places the sex life in a much loftier position than the every-day life He says, "This shows itself most plainly in the creation of life as the fruit of sex-life People have not become conscious of the far-reaching importance of sex-life for human happiness because, in consequence of false thinking, the everyday life has been put in the foreground" In the end the suppressed and despised sex life will be elevated to its proper place and then we shall be able to make them recognize that its real object is to enrich humanity with new joys and happiness

He protests against the rigid moral laws, those relics of ancient times which attribute the desire for union between the sexes to the emanation of the instinct to maintain the species

Ferch says, "The right to love, like the right to satisfy hunger, to work, and to the protection and preservation of life—as a natural claim—is not allowed in an *unnatural order of things*, even the opposite is defended Sex-love, the highest conception of human feeling, the well of happiness, of desire, of joy and earthly felicity, is fettered by peculiar laws till it becomes a torture and a burden"

His warm heart and tender consideration for suffering humanity reveals itself in the chapters on "The Fear of Pregnancy"—"The Child, a Punishment for Sin" In the first he analyzes the poisonous effect of this fear and its consequent destruction of married love and happiness, in the second he rebukes the degrading idea of feminine morality which maintains that only the "Warning Spec-

tre of the Unwanted Child" keeps unmarried women virtuous He stands out as the champion of women and their right to direct their own life and to a free choice of motherhood

Johann Ferch is not merely a theorizer but an effective propagandist and practical worker who unaided, save by his charming and devoted wife, made Birth Control a safe guard for the war-ruined, impoverished and despairing Austrian people The second chapter of this book deals with methods of contraception in Vienna It should be of great interest to the Public and to the Medical Profession because the methods described are being practiced with complete success by the doctors, working under the League for the Protection of Motherhood, of which Ferch is Founder and President, in each of the fifty districts of Vienna—the great medical center of the world But our antiquated State and Federal laws make it impossible to circulate this information, although enlightened England can benefit by it

The chapter on the Penal Clause sets forth views, shared by neither English or American colleagues, on the necessity of permitting abortion during the first three months of pregnancy if performed by a properly qualified physician Ferch explains and justifies this position by the uncertainty of even the best contraceptive methods, the undesirability of permitting diseased children to be born or the risking of the mother's life This is well understood by those familiar with post-war conditions in Austria which country is still too exhausted, too undernourished and overpopulated to consider children a blessing

The writer of this review visited Vienna in 1921 when she made the acquaintance of Herr and Frau Ferch and studied their activities Indeed I was perhaps the first representative in the Birth Control movement from the outside to meet the Austrian workers The fine, strong, courageous personality of Herr Ferch and his wife made a deep impression and it was a pleasure to be in some degree instrumental in bringing them into touch with the world movement through the Fifth International Congress on Birth Control held in London, in July, 1922 The broadening influence of such an International gathering became apparent when Herr Ferch, ably seconded by F W Stella Browne, was able to obtain discussion of abortion, which the more conservative English had been trying to keep off the program He, in turn, after hearing all sides, admitted that he had perhaps placed too little emphasis on contraceptives and that henceforth he intended to give such information wider dissemination in Austria And Frau Ferch whispered that since she had seen the vigorous role played by English women and especially the co-operation between Mrs Bessie Drysdale

and her husband, Dr Charles Drysdale, she herself would no longer remain in the background but would step boldly forth to speak and work in public "I think I could do it," she said smiling shyly, "for once when my husband was taken ill unexpectedly, I had to address a great public meeting and felt no fear or self-consciousness, but found that words and thoughts came to me with exhilarating swiftness"

MARY WINSOR

LOVE-LIFE IN NATURE The Story of the Evolution of Love, by Wilhelm Bolsche Translated from the German by Cyril Brown 2 Volumes New York Albert and Charles Boni 1926

THE individual who enjoys reading for its own sake, who prefers to dig out his facts from a heavy encrustation of allegory and flowery description, who revels in sentiment and reads into the activities of all organisms his own sentimentalisms and emotions, will enjoy these two lengthy volumes. Quotations will be used to a considerable extent since no words of the reviewer can give an adequate idea of the style and content

The preface presents the author's point of view "Our fleeting human existence, our mad chase through the few years of our life, with all its deceptions, is utterly vapid unless we give it a higher significance through knowledge, through that little candle, thought, which has been granted us to light our way in the gloom" "My book is not a popularization of scientific facts, but a subjective creation of my own"

The first section, "From Day-Fly to Madonna" discusses the universality of the reproductive instinct. The two hours' adult life and flight of the may-flies are described as follows, "Silently, ghostlike, tiny, delicate forms rise out of the stream, so delicate and transparent that each seems but an atom of colorless light" "The years of preying, throttling, devouring, with their devastating struggle, are of a sudden blown away to nothing. But in place of them, there are new organs that stir longingly in the transparent elfin body the organs of love. And life, no matter how long or how short it may now still last, has a new purpose. It reaches out beyond the individual" "One moment of supreme delight, and spring is gone. Now they swirl down like withered leaves. The female throws the fertilized eggs into the stream, and dies a sacrificial victim as if the poor, soft sylphlike body had been struck to death by too much happiness, joys of love and of motherhood all crowded in the space of a single short moment" "The day-fly does not think. It awakens, whirls about, is filled with bliss and dies. But you, the solitary, late, infinitely high-vaulting descendant of all these lower orders, you stand on the bank and stare after the little pale corpses of love, and in this dance of love and dance of death you meditate upon the mystery. What is love?"

Space forbids quotation from the equally thrilling description of the breeding period and death of herring in the fiords of Norway. Thence we are led through the mammalian series from duckbill to man. In Raphael's Madonna is depicted love in its highest type, "Love became love of mankind. It became a motive power of religious exaltation. It became Art. All this the Madonna tells you also." Being overwhelmed for a time by the grandeur of the religious conception man repudiated the sexual love but this was an error, for man's greatest creation, human love, rests upon a substructure of sexual love. This attitude will change, indeed has already begun to change. Science is replacing religion. "The cross that stretches from the cupola into the boundless wondrous blue, runs at the top into a long suspicious-looking point. A lightning rod. The double insurance of the new age over the cross of mysticism, the metal shaft that tames the bolt of heaven with the knowledge of physics, of science the lightning rod is stronger, it is the cross of our times."

Complicated symbolism and allegory characterize the author's description of germ-cell formation and sexual reproduction. A fundamental error is made in calling the germ cells "love-cells" and all other cells "non-love-cells." From what we now know of physiology it appears that the basis of emotion lies in the nervous system together with glands producing hormones. Germ cells have little or nothing to do with love.

Space forbids a detailed criticism of the experiments cited as proof of germinal modification. A hypothetical mechanism leading from the "non-love-cells" to the "love-cells" is assumed. This "path" is then supposed to be more or less obstructed, "In this way you will very considerably lessen the danger of the transmission of gashes and the loss of tails" and yet "Memory processes in the brain would find an echo in memory processes in the love-cells."

We are then led, in a thousand rambling pages, through a discussion of the love-life of many animals including the tapeworm and the oyster, the "cell soul", "the great nascent ethical union of all human beings" into a "love-individual", and the chronicle of marriage. "Marriage is not an invention of man's. It is older than man. The animal invented man. But long before it came to do so it had invented marriage."

The spectre of evil lingering about life is pictured "Every form of evolution has had its spectre." Punishment for love, decreed by human mores, or bloody sacrifices to love-divinities, have been spectres to man, also the fact that in our civilization, in the overwhelming majority of cases, a young man entering upon the years of love must come to know the prostitute before he does genuine woman.

The author's chief theme is that we have but nibbled at the tree of knowledge. Because we have nibbled we are ashamed of love. "Seek the mussel down there in the bog,

ask the wild flower's speck of pollen longingly floating on the Walpurgis Breeze, if they blush in their dream of love?" When we have fully eaten of the tree of knowledge we will be like gods "Mankind you prodigious animal! What are all stars, ichthyosauri, spiders and tapeworms compared to you?"

P W WHITING

HERTHA AYRTON 1854-1923 A Memoir, by Evelyn Sharp, London, Edward Arnold and Co New York, Longmans, Green and Co \$5 50

IN THIS volume Evelyn Sharp gives an entrancingly interesting story of the brilliant English Jewess, the descendant of Polish refugees, who married a learned college professor and more than held her own in the competition for scientific honors As a feminist, in the days of the suffrage struggle, and as the inventor of a life-saving anti-gas fan which was just about to be used throughout the ranks of the British army when the armistice was declared, Hertha Ayrton claims a double place in English biography But the advocates of Birth Control will find a further interest Hertha Ayrton was one of eight children Her father was poor and even the small income he brought in ceased before the birth of her youngest sister Her mother was an able and wise woman and did her best to earn sufficient to keep the family, and to permit the daughters to secure all the education available But all through her early life, Hertha was hampered both physically and intellectually by the need of helping her mother with the younger children The privations she suffered seriously injured her health It is difficult to see in what way her development was helped by the number of her sisters, and there is little doubt that her work, both while she was trying to secure a college education at Girton, Cambridge, and later, when she was pursuing the studies so fruitful in discovery and direct usefulness to mankind, was greatly hampered by her lack of health It would be an interesting study and one well worth making, to find how far the children of genius who came of large families, were helped or hindered by the surroundings of their youth, due to being one of many children. In Hertha Ayrton's case, there seems no doubt that, had the family been smaller, the world would have been richer through the work of this remarkable woman

A G P

THE TRAGEDY OF WASTE, By Stuart Chase The Macmillan Co New York

WASTE—the colossal waste of human effort and natural resources due to the imperfect and very defective organization of mankind in communities, and the pity of it all in view of the possible comfort and well-being for the whole of the present population of the world—is the theme of Stuart Chase's book Were the world really economical of human work and of the lavish supplies

of natural wealth there would be plenty of food, clothing, and good housing There would be an abundance of rational and civilizing recreation There would be health and well-being for everybody But, and it is a big but, Mr Chase does not take account of the fact that the greatest waste is the waste of human life in too rapid reproduction and that the law of population would soon bring the numbers of the nations close up against the limits of possible subsistence If all the waste, enumerated and analysed by Mr Chase, were eliminated, prosperity and comfort would last but a little while, unless the nations adopted a system of Birth Control that would keep the population at its optimum point and would not again result in a bitter struggle for existence Then there would be no margin of waste to salvage and thus no relief to the situation.

ON BEING A GIRL, by Jessie E Gibson New York, the Macmillan Company

This is a comprehensive, sensible but somewhat commonplace volume which is mainly intended for girls of high school age, and the teachers and parents of such girls It covers a large range of interests, activities and conduct, and takes full cognizance of the altered attitude of modern girls and women towards life It also takes into account the fact that very many girls, while outwardly appearing to share the more modern views, are in reality deplorably ignorant of the reasons for such views Their modernity is superficially erected on ancient and crumbling foundations of misconceptions and ignorance, and they need instruction and information in order to enable them to understand and to criticize ideas which they have accepted without any real comprehension The emphasis of the author on responsibility as the inevitable accompaniment of liberty is excellent, as is also her insistence on full education in regard to sex The book is well worth reading, not only by the girls to whom it is primarily addressed but also by the fathers and mothers of these girls

SEX EDUCATION

THE increasing importance that is being attached to proper education of the young in sex matters is reflected in two widely different pamphlets that have been brought to our attention The first¹ is the report of the great Y M C A gathering of young men at Helsingfors in August of last year The second² is a symposium for Educators issued by the United States Public Health Service In the first of these publications, it is the young people themselves—the delegates from the forty-six countries represented at the Conference—who voiced the de-

¹ Youth Faces Life Geneva Switzerland, World's Committee of Y M C A's

² Sex education Washington D C U S P H Service, Treasury Dept

mand for sex instruction for all. In the second, it is the experts in sex education—such men as Dr T W Galloway, Dr Ira S Wile, Dr Daisy M Robinson and Mr E F Van Buskirk—who ask for properly coordinated courses of sex instruction in the high schools of America. The one thing in common in these two publications is the deep conviction that the good life is impossible in modern days, if youth is not given the necessary information and guidance concerning the sex instinct and the immensely important function of reproduction. At Helsingfors, where the delegates came from countries as diverse as Germany and the Gold Coast of Africa, China, Uruguay and Serbia, Madagascar and New Zealand, Turkey and the United States, the delegates were groping around for solutions of their problems. Some upheld Birth Control, others thought it immoral. This was what might be expected in such a group. The important thing is that Birth Control along with other sex problems was discussed, and the attention of the delegates directed to it. No authoritative decision concerning it could possibly be expected until the idea was more fully assimilated.

In the second pamphlet—that on Sex Education in High Schools, Dr Wile includes Birth Control among the subjects he recommends for informed discussion. The pamphlet aims at supplying a basis of knowledge of sex physiology which is necessary before there can be a full understanding of special problems, such as are presented in connection with Birth Control.

CHILDREN IN INDUSTRY

Florence Kelley and Dorothy W Myers score severely, in a study made under the auspices of the National Consumers' League, (*Children's Compensation for Industrial Injuries*) the utterly inadequate care that the majority of the States give to the cases of children incapacitated by injuries suffered when at work, especially for those illegally employed. Five States award double compensation in such cases, but 17 States entirely exclude them from compensation. In five States, there are no workmen's compensation laws, so that in exactly half of the States, the child injured when employed below the working age has no remedy except the uncertain and expensive recourse to the courts, and is probably cast on the waste heap before his working life should begin.

In "Wit, Wisdom and Eloquence," published at Staunton, Virginia, R L Gray has collected his favorite passages from English and American prose and poetry. The collection covers a wide range of subjects, it includes bits of real information, some of them not commonly found in such compendiums, as well as jokes, anecdotes and some verse. What is of special interest to us is the passage, among many others quoted from Robert Ingersoll, in which he demands that "science must put it in the power of woman to decide for herself whether she will or will not become a mother."

KILLING THE MOTHERS

During the early history of this Republic, it was quite fashionable, in fact, patriotic, to have large families. The larger the family, in those days, the greater the opportunity for the head of the family to pay off the mortgage and get rich. Indeed, families with only five or six children were not considered big. Nine and ten children were looked upon as the average. To boast of being a father of a big family, it was necessary to have from twelve to eighteen children and, to accomplish this, it was often necessary to send two or three wives to their graves. Indeed, it is seldom that living mothers of such large families can be found. When one is discovered, it is such a rare exception that it attracts the attention of the scientific world and public officials, as in the case of Mrs Domenico Zaccaria, of New York, a living mother of sixteen children, who received a letter of congratulation from President Harding.

JAMES H MAURER

Books Received

PAMPHLETS, by Sir George H Knibbs

The Human Sex Ratio and Reduction of Masculinity through Large Families,

Multiple Births,

Note on the Occurrence of Triplets,

Protogenesis and Extra-Nuptial Natality in Australia,

Regown's Analysis of the Phenomena of Multiple Births,

Aspetta del Problema della Popolazione,

The New Malthusianism in the Light of Actual World Problems of Population,

The Laws of the Growth of Population, Parts I and II,

The Growth of Human Populations,

11 Camberwell, Victoria, Australia

THE LONDON CHILD, by Evelyn Sharp, John Lane The Bodley Head Limited, London

THE NATURAL PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE, by Remy de Gourmont, Boni and Liveright New York \$5 00

PARENTS ON PROBATION, by Miriam Van Waters New Republic Inc New York \$1 00

THE RATE OF LIVING, by Raymond Pearl Alfred A Knopf, Inc, New York \$3 50

MY LIFE, by Isadora Duncan, Boni & Liveright, New York \$5 00

SOCIAL FACTORS IN MEDICAL PROGRESS, by Bernard J Stern, Columbia University Press, New York \$2 25

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is officially declared safe for the time being, but doomed eventually to fall. It might appositely be renamed the Mussolini Tower — The New Yorker

News Notes

UNITED STATES

ON March 13, Margaret Sanger landed in New York, returning from her long stay in Europe

Three speakers at the Child Welfare Conference of America, which was held in New York during the last week in February, touched on subjects akin to Birth Control. One of these was Gov Theodore Christiansen of Minnesota, who, according to press reports, spoke of marriage and parenthood as "the only professions entered into in the United States without any preparation." The other was Homer Folks of the New York State Charities Aid Association who stated that the chief causes of death among mothers in America today, are tuberculosis and childbirth. In each 100,000 deaths each year said he, 122 women die of tuberculosis and 70 die in childbirth. These figures, he told the conference, were unnecessarily high, as no other countries showed such a deathrate.

C C Moore, former Governor of Idaho, told the conference the best way to reduce the number of feeble-minded and unfit was to "stop raising them."

On March 8th, Dr Cooper started on a two months tour of Eastern Mississippi Valley and Southern States. His trip will end with a meeting in Philadelphia, May 23rd.

Visitors from the Orient continue to visit Headquarters to discuss the means of meeting the Far Eastern population problem. One of these was Dr Tomomitsu Walabiki, Professor of Preventive Medicine at Keijo Imperial University, Keijo Chosen, Japan. Dr Walabiki, who has been a member of the Japanese cabinet, is a member of the government commission to study the Japanese population problem which is headed by Professor Nitobe.

New York

THE most important events of the last month were the Legislative Hearing at Albany and the public meeting following it on March 15, which was sponsored by a group of New York organizations who had supported the New York bill. At Syracuse, preliminary to the hearing a Mass Meeting, organized by Miss Von Eltz, was held under the auspices of the Syracuse Chapter of the American Birth Control League.

Another important meeting was the symposium on the New York bill held under the auspices of The Junior League on February 27th. Speakers for the bill were Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick, Mrs

F Robertson Jones and Dr Benjamin T Tilton. Dr Haven Emerson and Mrs Vladimir Simkhovich took a middle position and Father Clifford, a Catholic priest and lecturer of New Jersey, strongly opposed. The meeting was crowded to overflowing and the vote among some three hundred people showed only three opposed. As the meeting was called by the legislative committee of the Junior League, of which Mrs Lewis L Delafield, Jr, is chairman, the League is thus added to the list of almost forty organizations who are now giving their endorsement to Birth Control legislation.

"Her Unborn Child" which has now moved to the Eltinge Theatre on 42nd Street, N Y C, still continues its policy of allowing representatives of the American Birth Control League to speak at all matinees. So far Mrs F Robertson Jones, Mrs P B P Huse and Dr James F Cooper have been the speakers.

Massachusetts

THE following letter, recording an important court decision in Boston, has been received from Mrs E M East:

"A Boston physician, Dr Antoinette Konikow, was arrested on February 9th after giving a lecture in the short course on sex hygiene which it has been her custom to offer during the past six years to her women patients and their women friends. The technical charge against her was that of "exhibiting" contraceptive devices, for which the maximum penalty in Massachusetts is \$1,000 fine or five years imprisonment.

Dr Konikow was tried in the Municipal Court on March first. She justly maintains that medical lectures are incomplete and confusing without illustrative exhibits and diagrams, especially in the case of harmful methods. Her defense was that she was not advertising devices or offering them for sale and so was not exhibiting within the meaning of the law. The judge upheld the defendant's contention. She was acquitted.

An Emergency Defense Committee (Mrs Oakes Ames, chairman) was formed and is now raising money for the defense."

Indiana

FROM Hammond Dr Hedwig Kuhn writes "Last night Dr Cooper debated at our Open Forum with Father Bolgar of Notre Drame to a packed house. Father Bolgar is debating coach at Notre Dame and no insignificant opponent. The

evening was one of the most brilliant affairs I've ever attended, the arguments clean cut, forceful, backed by solid facts, and marvelously expounded. Dr Cooper was great, and carried the audience made up of thinking, critical, well versed people of all denominations completely off their feet—not by emotional appeal but by the sheer rightness and logicalness of his argument.

"I feel that this debate is a great tribute to your cause and that it has done a tremendously effective thing here where the 300 or 350 people that heard will carry it far and wide and arouse discussion in every conceivable group. I am proud and happy that my slender link with your splendid work enabled me to have knowledge to ask Dr Cooper and to contribute a glorious program of enlightenment to our community.

GERMANY

AMONG the many measures and efforts for social and racial improvement, the foundation of public advisory boards for married and betrothed people (Eheberatungsstellen) is, at present, given special attention by state-governments and city-authorities, as well as by legislative and other official bodies. The first European institution of this kind was in connection with the renowned Hygiene Museum, established in Dresden, 1911. Since then the idea has spread, and has already been put into practice in many places by the general welfare boards. Though this must, of course, be considered, also in the women's ranks, as a significant progress, and a most valuable acquisition in the interests of German wives and mothers—some pressing wishes and claims for future enlargement of these centres are still left open. As the development, hitherto, shows, attention is given mainly to the biological and hygienic side of the marriage question and the whole matter is regarded exclusively as the domain of medical doctors. This was clearly shown at the constituent meeting of the National Association of Advisory Boards which recently took place in Berlin. Now, it is obvious that the selection of the biologically fittest for propagation is a fundamental condition for racial improvement, as well as for personal and family welfare—but it is by no means the only condition. The sexual, psychological, financial, domestic, social, legal circumstances, and, first of all, the burning question of Birth Control, are not less important, and ought to be just as carefully considered. With regard to the latter question, the report given by the director of the official advisory board in Vienna, was very interesting, stating that the majority of the 2500 cases they had handled during the last five years concerned Birth Control—

while from his "population-political" point of view Professor Grotjahn, of the Berlin University, declared that it would be dangerous to lay special stress, or even to mention the matter in the working programme of the association.

The movement as such must be welcomed, to be sure, as a most significant beginning, but to become of real value, and a benefit for the community it will be absolutely necessary to take into account the enormous multifariousness of the marriage problem, above all, to take care that expert women get their full share in the work. (In the reports on the Berlin meeting, for instance, no woman's name is mentioned, either in the proceedings, nor amongst the members of the new associations' executive board). It is to be hoped that in both directions the advisory bureau in Hamburg (Vertrauensstelle fuer Verlobte und Eheleute) established in autumn 1926, will, as a model organization, take the lead. Managed by a woman, Dr Isa Kech, it is put in continual connection with experts, and with public and private welfare institutions of all kinds and is thus enabled to give every case the individual and special treatment it needs. The fact that, as yet, the best practical results have been reported from Hamburg, is the best proof of the value of this system.

AUSTRIA

THE State has won out, according to associated press reports in a struggle with the Roman Catholic Church as to the interpretation as to what is a legal marriage. By a dictum of the Austrian Constitutional Court to-day, 50,000 marriages, bigamous, according to canon law, were declared legal. Nearly 133,000 children were thus legitimized.

The Socialist Governor, Albert Seveh, eight years ago challenged the Roman Catholic Church's canon law by granting dispensation from "lets or hindrances," which heretofore have prevented the reunion of divorced Catholics. More than 50,000 couples straightway contracted "Seveh marriages," which had the semblance of legality until one of the contracting parties appealed to the courts which declared the marriage bigamous and any issue thereof illegitimate.

The Constitutional Court, however, has now, in its capacity as an Appellate Court, reversed the judgment of the lower court.

The following interesting accounts of Birth Control work have been received from Mrs Betty Ferch, and her husband

"We have reorganized in accordance with the resolutions of the conference in New York, have

amended the title of our League and placed the question of miscarriage secondary to the question of preventing conception. Besides our eight women's aid places in Vienna, nine other places work in the provinces and further we have already founded some in Germany (very hard work). Further we have combined several German clubs on our common basis of control of birth.

"In consequence of our work the Socialist Party has declared the control of birth in Austria a fundamental part of propaganda among the masses. In our opinion this is a most important event. In Europe, and probably shortly also throughout the world, an idea can be successful only if propagated in newspapers, and the press, with the sole exception of the orthodox clericals and nationalists has been most hospitable. Mr Ferch held 28 crowded lantern slide meetings and wrote articles in 48 newspapers within six weeks.

"We can conscientiously state that in no country of the world has the idea of the control of birth penetrated into the mind of the public to such an extent as in Austria, where recent figures show a deficiency of births in Vienna of practically 32 per cent. We speak and write without hindrance about methods, our advisory places are located in houses belonging to the Municipal Council and in hospitals, and without restriction women can call there, whether they are in good health or in ill health. Our meetings arouse keen interest in the public mind.

"The advisory places are supported by our own means, and with heavy sacrifice of our whole free time. The contribution which our members pay for the whole year amounts to one seventh part of a dollar and it cannot be increased, in view of the poverty of our people. The greater part of the women calling at our advisory places are supplied without payment."

From Johann Ferch

From Johann Ferch comes an analysis of a new industrial development which in his opinion is having a vital bearing on the Birth Control Movement.

"If we are honest with ourselves," writes Mr Ferch, "we are forced to admit that the ethical basis for a spiritual change of mind is effective only at the beginning of a movement. Later on it loses somewhat of its force. When this time comes we must decide whether the movement is to become of an ethical-literary character or a movement of the public as a whole. In this case it has to be made a popular, practical subject, its ideas have to be based on the old necessities of living—Fear, Hunger, the Threat of Death. The more people we can convince that they are personally threatened by overpopulation, the nearer is the possibility of

reform, which is the object aimed at. The increasing might of Socialism is a consequence of this materialistic view.

"We have, it is true, in our movement attained great successes by appealing to humanitarianism in terms of the sorrow of many women, of unhappy marriages and of suffering children, and also by foretelling a dark future in case of overpopulation. But as long as the ethical principle was in the foreground our progress was slow. Now, however, we have in Europe a helper in the shape of the Machine, the importance of which cannot be overestimated for the propagation of Birth Control.

"The world war has rapidly advanced the development of industry in countries which heretofore had very little, and has made these countries independent of those with old and extensive industries. This has increased unemployment in these older countries. The Taylor System, with its various offsprings coming to us from the United States, has intensified this condition. The result has been a general recognition of overpopulation as a *real, personal and pressing problem*. The problem of the European excess of workers never stood out so clearly as now that it is intensified by deficiency of employment, overproduction of goods, and labor-saving methods which make workers superfluous.

"There are only two solutions, either a revolutionary one, by changing the present laws by force, or an evolutionary one, by again subordinating the machine by preventing overpopulation.

"With all our power we have to agitate among the people of all countries, that the 'rationalization' of the process of manufacture, as it is called, which is making mankind superfluous has to be met by the 'rationalization' of the production of mankind, that is, by economy in the bearing of children. The small family is already showing itself the best way to fight against the dictation of the machine.

"We live in a fateful time, more serious than any that has gone before. To point this out is the duty of all thinking people, who recognize the 'Scylla and Charybdis' of the dictation by the machine and overpopulation of superfluous human working power. The reduction of the human working value by the machine, has thus become the greatest help for popularizing the control of births."

SPAIN

FROM Madrid comes news of a morals congress of 300 delegates held in November, which plans a crusade against Birth Control. No details are given, but the sale of contraceptive supplies is, as it was in America 50 years ago, classed with immorality and obscenity.

JAPAN

THE problem of increasing population is giving the Japanese Government serious concern. It has recently created a commission to enquire into the question of adjusting increasing population and diminishing food supply, and, as reported in our November issue, many high officials are advocating Birth Control as a solution. The question is discussed in an editorial in a recent issue of the *Osaka Mainichi*, a paper with a daily circulation of 1,250,000.

"No one can deny," read this editorial, "that the question of population is the chief problem of the Japanese nation today. The net gain for the years 1925 and 1926 was almost one million each. If this rate continues, within the next few decades the population of Japan proper alone would surpass one hundred million mark. There are theorists who try to prove that the increase of the population does not adversely affect the living of the Japanese people. While not hesitating to give due respect to theories, we cannot close our eyes to the grim reality of life,—the fact of increasing difficulty not only to live comfortably but to many even to carry on mere subsistence.

After surveying the possibilities of relief through penetration into Manchuria or Mongolia and competition with cheap Chinese labor there, or through further industrialization of Japan, the editorial continues:

"If both emigration and industry fail to cope with multiplying population, there is no alternative but to choose either the course of unrestrained increase and final self-asphyxiation through smothering, or that of exercising prudential control upon birth.

"The question of Birth Control should be emancipated from moralistic implication. Many think erroneously that the process would be analogous to abortion, or abortion itself, whereas in fact it is nothing but a simple process of avoiding the direct contact of spermatozoa with ovum, which may be realized by harmless medical or instrumental means. As such, then Birth Control is morally an absolutely justifiable thing, belonging to individual freedom just as the act of sexual contact is a matter of individual freedom. As such, moreover, it can never become a legal question.

"The question then presents itself as follows: Shall we be numerous and sustain lives of bare subsistence, or shall we exercise some control and carry on comfortable living? Individually there can be no question as to the choice—if there are persons who pretend to support the former, those persons must be hypocrites. Can there be any question as to the choice from the national point of view?

"As a matter of principle a nation is composed of individuals and hence what is good to the latter cannot

be very bad to the former, or vice versa. When people live comfortably, they do not need to refuse their eager children to enter schools, they need not practise swindling and murdering, and all other sorts of crimes for obtaining livelihood. Not only will the people become better educated and hence more intelligent, but according to Confucius, they will learn to be good and get refined with the assurance of comfortable living. Needless to say health is also directly dependent upon the condition of living. Can there be any question as to the choice between having an adequate number of happy, intelligent, refined and healthy people and possessing a swarming herd of oppressed, ignorant, vulgar and sickly people?

"Considering individual happiness as well as national welfare we arrive at the conclusion, that the most effective means of solving the difficult problem of fast multiplying population is to check its natural increase by exercise of wisdom, just as we exercise intellectual control in every other domain of natural tendency."

The problem which confronts Japan in regard to its increasing population was presented to the Institute on Pacific Relations which was held at Honolulu last summer. One of the American delegates to the Institute was Professor Eliot G. Mears, Economist, of Stanford University. In an interview published in the *N. Y. World*, Professor Mears discusses the problem without suggesting any remedy. As it appeared to him the problem was:

"Japan has more than 900,000 surplus babies a year! Nearly 1,000,000 births over and above deaths in an island empire already packed to the limit! An increase of 300,000 births over deaths since the war!"

"The race between population and food supply" said Professor Mears, "is the world's great economic problem, and America will face it before many decades. The problem faces Japan today as what might be called a national crisis. Due to sanitation and advanced medical knowledge the death rate of Japan has fallen much below the death rate before the Great War, while the birth rate has continued to increase. The result is that Japan, already overcrowded, has a total of 900,000 births over and above deaths each year. This means that the small and populous islands of Japan are adding what is equal to the entire population of California every five years. The problem is, like every economic problem, an international one, and Japan is at a loss to meet it. The Japanese delegation laid it before the recent institute at Honolulu, frankly asking the guidance of American delegates. Japanese statesmen are not looking to immigration. They realize that colonization of nationals has never solved a population problem. They are talking Birth Control, but not as a serious national policy. The best answer seems to be the in-

dustrialization of Japan, but this, too, presents serious problems "

"In the past similar crises have led to war. What will this one lead to? Can civilization find a way out?"

The menace in the situation and the obligation on the Japanese to find a solution are stressed by Herbert Croly in the *New Republic*. He criticizes the idea which seemed to prevail at the Institute that it was an international obligation to care for the expanding population of a rapidly increasing country.

"The Institute implied", he writes, "that in any future recognized scheme of international obligations the Japanese could fairly demand a market for either their population or their products in other countries, up to the limit of their own self-determined necessities. In implicitly affirming this principle, it was, I think, perverting its own proper function and misleading the Japanese. For the Japanese surely are not entitled to export either their population or their manufactures to other countries in larger quantities than those countries are disposed to take, unless they have tried persistently and intelligently to reduce the volume of their surplus population, and this is precisely what the Japanese have not as yet done. If the Japanese are unwilling or unable to regulate their increase in population, they cannot reasonably ask another country to modify its tariffs or its immigration laws in order to take care of the fruits of Japanese irresponsibility. It

is beginning to look as if there can be no effective future socialization of human life and no stable international pacification unless the progressive societies set up an intelligent censorship over the increase of population. If this is true, and the Japanese are unable or unwilling to play their part in controlling the menace of over-population, it is they, rather than their associates in the Pacific, who are ignoring international obligations."

CHINA

THE New York TRIBUNE quotes Henry Kittington Norton as saying

"China is like a huge raft crowded far beyond its capacity with shipwrecked human beings. Many are swimming about in the water, but for each one pulled aboard on one side someone else is pushed off on the other side. The raft will hold no more."

EGYPT

AN item in the San Francisco *Daily News* reports a recent resident of Cairo, Dr. R. V. Dolbey, as stating that

"Egypt has a problem that is more difficult than the political problem. It is the steady increase of the birth rate over the death rate. It is estimated that within the space of 20 years it will be almost impossible for Egyptians to live on the limited amount of fertile soil in the Nile valley."



Birth Control and Child Welfare

IT IS a matter of importance to the health and success of your children and your children's children, if not yourself, that they and you should have enough to eat, drink and wear without the necessity of going to war for it.

This problem has not as yet come home to Americans, because, for the time being, we are a land of plenty, flowing with the proverbial milk and honey.

But a distinguished naval authority, Admiral Rogers, stated before the Institute of Politics at Williamstown that as soon as we reach the 200,000,000 mark we shall have to fight for our place in the sun.

We are approaching that place by leaps and bounds. We are doing it largely by putting a premium on breeding the unfit. The United States Government makes it a crime to teach them how to avoid spawning their kind.

But like all other attempts to repeal natural laws by Congressional action this is a failure.

The natural law of all races is to keep within the limits of sustenance derived from the land on which they live.

The less well conditioned, having heart and soul and being alive to the rights of the innocent unborn, are seeking and finding out how to do this very thing in spite of silly and futile statutes that tend only to bring all law into contempt. The results, just beginning, are most encouraging.

You can see from this that already, in spite of adverse legislation, the intelligence of the American people is beginning to prevail. The resulting voluntary limitation of population bids fair to save us from the fate of Germany, where a spawning policy at once forced a deterioration in the quality of her population and compelled her to force the World War.

—CHARLES A. L. REED, M.D., Former President of the American Medical Association, in the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune*

A GARDEN FOR CHILDREN

ONE would have imagined that every child in Europe would have been safe from cruelty as soon as it became known that Christ had said "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." But unhappily Christian Europe plunged into a theology which taught it not only that the child was a beautiful little angel, but that it was also a miserable little sinner.

However much the Victorian might desire children—and blessed was he who had his quiver full of them—he none the less regarded the bearing of children as inferior work to going to an office. It was essentially drudge's work. Woman was looked down on rather than respected for devoting so much time to it. It was even considered a disqualification for the vote.

So great was the destruction of life during the Sicilian expedition that the Athenians legalized bigamy as a means of increasing the population. In the Roman Empire, again, Augustus attempted by the "Lex Julia et Pappia" to compel men and women not only to marry but to have families. Similar causes are, no doubt, at work in the modern world.

It is hypocrisy in us to praise children and to hold national festivals in their honor if we do not intend to make the world a garden for them. There is no ideal possible for an honest man but to desire a world in which every child shall have the same chances of food and air and play and happiness as he would wish for a child of his own.

—*The New Statesman*, July 7, 1917

TESTIMONY FROM MARY POKRASS, NURSE

There is no unhappier person in the world than the mother who is harrassed by the knowledge that to her children she will transmit a disease that will handicap them for many years, or worse still, make their lives short and painful. We see such mothers often, and one of them writes us that her married life is peaceful, *because the possibility of giving birth to a tubercular child—or children—is rendered less likely*. One can understand what a burden has been lifted from her by knowledge of Birth Control.

Patients frequently comment on the fact that solving the question of family limitation has solved their entire marital problem, and made life far more beautiful and worth while. One husband who is a laborer in poor circumstances and has several children, said that he felt quite different in his home—happier, more contented, less nervous and disagreeable. A great dissatisfaction had been removed from his life, and he was fundamentally happier. He found himself playing with the children and helping them in their studies where he could—something he had never done before. Previously they had irritated and an-

nayed him, as had nearly everything else in the home and its surrounding relationships.

A woman who was pale and undernourished when she was first seen by us—her weight 94 lbs and her blood pressure 90—wrote a year later, saying that the advice given her *gives great satisfaction to my husband and myself, and it makes our relations in every-day life pleasanter, more friendly*.

Another woman says that, since coming here, her married life *is so much happier because it hasn't caused me a day's worryment. Before I was almost a nervous wreck from a few abortions and I made things miserable for my husband and my two boys*.

BIRTH CONTROL vs THE STORK

FAMILY endowment means that wage-earners are to receive, in respect to their children while dependent, allowances from one of two sources either out of general taxation—at a cost estimated by supporters of the proposal at not less than 100 million sterling per annum—or out of pools created in whole or part by deductions from standard earnings and redistributed among the families in proportion to their dependent children. It is assumed that steps will be taken to ensure that the allowances go neither to the father nor to the mother, but to the children.

Allowances out of taxation imply that even one child is a burden which no wage-earner can be expected to bear unaided. Allowances out of pools mean that each adult wage-earner who has less than the average number of dependent children for the group in question must contribute to the support of the children of others in families of more than that average. Opponents of these proposals, which are in much favor in many countries, do not agree that they are a form of social justice or expediency.

The desire to improve social conditions is common ground. A subsidy is always the easiest form of thinking in this respect. But its proper sphere is the mischances that are inevitable. In proposing to apply it to the birth of children a new departure is made. The suggestion that one man, by having too many children, should therefore claim, as a matter of usual distribution, a share of the earnings of others who have been more careful of the standard of life is in my view a gross and palpable inequity. It seems to rest on the stork theory of birth. In a country where increase of population is a problem rather than a desideratum it has no social justification.

—PROFESSOR D H MACGREGOR, in the "*Manchester Guardian Commercial*"

Many trouble themselves as to the use which could be made of our old people. If we had a healthy breed men and women would be in full vigor long after 65

SIR JAMES BARR

Correspondence

A BOUQUET

Pulborough, Sussex, England

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I should like to congratulate you most warmly on the February number, which was the best Havelock Ellis birthday number that has appeared

Hugh de Selincourt

San Antonio, Texas,

September 10, 1927

Editor BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

My daughter writes from Washington State "You remember A—who used to nurse William She died recently leaving a boy seven years old She had another boy before him but he died when a few days old She almost worshiped the boy she had but did not want any more children

"She infected herself trying to get rid of a baby and did not call the doctor until three weeks later She lived about six weeks, for the last three she was partially paralyzed, could not talk or move one hand or foot "

The girl was a good Catholic, brought up under the strict discipline and kindly influence of the Sisters of Charity

For the prevention of such calamities, which so often come to our knowledge, legitimate contraception is the best remedy

With high appreciation of you and your work, I am

Yours sincerely,

CHAS E B FLAGG, M D

Paris

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

It was with pleasure I noted in England that the discussion of Birth Control is open, both in print and the theatres A play I went to see, "The Fanatics" by name, impressed me greatly, as it was quite insistent and very much in favor of Birth Control I had cause to notice also the favorable impression on the audience and heard many intelligent comments on the subject, the right of women to choose the time to bear children and the importance of conceiving only under opportune circumstances and not in an unthinking haphazard way Here in France also I note a great number in favor of Birth Control The books of Paul and Victor Margueritte are full of this vital question, they advise and predispose towards it With life and conditions as strained and hard as they are in France, Birth Control is badly needed here In fact, every intelligent person I have discussed the

matter with not only approves, but holds it to be the solution of the many evils and hardships of the present

PIQUI NORTON AGUILAR

New York

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Birth Control and the ideals of the American Birth Control League and the work it hopes to accomplish are so often misunderstood that I was quite delighted with the following little bit, and pass it on to our readers

Dr X one of the leading neurologists of this city, told Mrs Y not under any condition to invite his wife to another Birth Control meeting "Why not?" asked the surprised Mrs Y "Your wife is a member of the League and in full sympathy with the work I didn't ask her to our annual meeting to enlighten her, but because I knew she would enjoy Professor Fairchild's address and the reports of work accomplished in 1927 "

"Well you see," (and the doctor's eyes twinkled), "I drove with her to Pelham directly after that meeting and the entire way up she explained to me the advisability and the desirability of adding a third child to our little family of two "

How about those dire predictions of race suicide if knowledge of contraceptives become the right of every married woman?

How infinitely finer is motherhood when regulated and controlled and responsible

Knowing well the home of Dr and Mrs X I hope Mrs X's desire will be realized

J N T

FROM A CONTEMPORARY

Editor, *San Francisco Daily News* Individual opinion on Birth Control does not mean anything The only way to have Birth Control in California, is for women to start a Birth Control league I think the greatest woman in the United States is Margaret Sanger, but whenever she gives a lecture, she is criticized by some narrow-minded, well-fed, childless women and men I am sure that half of the children born to the poor are not wanted. It is better to have one or two children and raise them properly, than to have a house full and end up in the slums The rich that can afford them have seldom more than two They only get as many as they want, if any In a recent study of population, it is stated that the natural increase in the population of the world will probably be slowed down by starvation, pestilence, war and general impoverishment It is thought that crime will increase and moral standards, as well as the standards of living will be lowered

ROBERT KRISCHER

LIVE WITHIN YOUR INCOME

By LAURA A WINKELSPECHT

THE slogan is "Live Within Your Income" It is a good slogan and ought to be carried out, for it says "live" not just "exist" Living is both giving life and getting that which is precious out of life Let us consider the problem of living within our income Every human being should be properly nourished We should have plenty of water, some meat, vegetables, grain and fruit We should have proper shelter and clothing, for if we neglect to care for our bodies, we become ill, and being ill is merely existing, and, as we all know, illness costs more than real living Being a glutton is not normal living, and overdress is very undesirable

Have I told you all about living? No, I have told you very little One of the grandest things in life is being able to see what is beautiful Another is hearing the beautiful songs of nature Can a person who works all day in a factory or mine, or some other closed-in place, coming home to a crowded tenement at night, because the wages are not enough to pay for anything better, have these pleasures of sight and hearing? There is the pleasant smell of the forests and fields, the bracing feeling as the brine from the ocean blows against us, and the gentle soothing of our nerves as we rest on its shores, breathing the balmy air All of these are what nature has given us in that we call life

Let us strive to make it possible that every human being can live within his or her income Let us not have so many children in a family that they cannot in the real sense I have described, live

FROM MAUD ROYDEN

There is this claim to be made in the name of the sanctity of human life, which is a fundamental claim, a claim which ought to rule our final decision on this subject, it is the right of the child to be desired

It is on questions like these that we feel bound to listen to what Herr Ferch has to say It is at this point that his passion for humanity claims us No one can read the pages that follow, whether with agreement or disagreement, without being moved by the passionate sympathy for the sufferings of women and children which informs every line of them

Do not dream that ignorance is a solution to any problem Light and more light, knowledge and more knowledge, are what we require Do not think that, by withholding the knowledge of means by which parents can protect themselves from a too crowded offspring you are achieving morality Give them the power to decide for themselves There is no one in the world who is wise enough to decide for them Give them knowledge

—Introduction to *Birth Control* by J FERCH

FEMINISM AND BIRTH CONTROL

In our century the matter of population control has been taken up again from a standpoint quite different from Malthus, by a woman, on strictly feminist grounds Margaret Sanger's demand is for the protection of women, especially of the working class, from undesired and undesirable motherhood Quite unconvinced of the efficacy of Malthus' moral appeal, she recommends practical methods of prevention, and these simple devices are by no means limited to the use of oppressed wives Since birth is woman's business it is right that she should have some voice in its control Mrs Sanger's appeal for the overburdened mother is a just one, it is enough to warrant prompt action to justify Birth Control But there is far more to be considered That it is woman's duty to bear children has been universally admitted, but that she should have the decision as to when, where and how many is not so plain to most of us For so long her high mission was summed up in the simple formula of "bearing him a son", and her condition as a prospective mother defined "as ladies wish to be who love their lords," that we are slow to grasp the distinct proposition that it is her place to regulate the population of the earth This means Social Motherhood in the highest sense

Biologically, politically, economically and ethically women should face their special work of regulating and improving the race An active sense of Social Motherhood is desperately needed among the women today if we are to put a stop to War, to cease producing defective children and to begin the conscious improvement of our stock "

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN, in *Current History* (November)

CAGED WOMAN

Man satisfied his cravings by competitive attack both physical and mental, upon the environment As compared with man, woman has always been in a cage The cage has been her reproductive system Let him who doubts investigate old wives vocabularies "Caught", "confined", "in trouble", "tied down"—ask your grandmother what these words mean, but ask her tactfully, for they stand to her for realities of a sort to require reticence

LETA S HOLLINGSWORTH, in *Current History* (November)

A HARD HEARTED VIEW

An English critic of the Child Health campaigns complained "We spend far too much on maternity and child welfare Since the work commenced only one-third of the babies die who died at the beginning of the century No wonder we have unemployment and people on the dole "

WORKERS AND BIRTH CONTROL

To me, at least, it would be enough to condemn modern society as hardly an advance on slavery or serfdom, if the permanent condition of industry were to be that which we behold, that ninety per cent of the actual producers of wealth have no home that they can call their own beyond the end of the week, have no bit of soil, or so much as a room that belongs to them, have nothing of value of any kind, except as much old furniture as will go in a cart, have the precarious chance of weekly wages, which barely suffice to keep them in health, are housed for the most part in places that no man thinks fit for his horse, are separated by so narrow a margin from destitution that a month of bad trade, sickness or unexpected loss brings them face to face with hunger and pauperism. In cities, the increasing organization of factory work makes life more and more crowded, and work more and more a monotonous routine, in the country, the increasing pressure makes rural life continually less free, healthful and cheerful, whilst the prizes and hopes of betterment are now reduced to a minimum. This is the normal state of the average workman in town or country, to which we must add the record of preventable disease, accident, suffering and social oppression with its immense yearly roll of death and misery. But below this normal state of the average workman there is found the great band of the destitute outcasts—the camp-followers of the army of industry, at least one-tenth of the whole proletarian population, whose normal condition is one of sickening wretchedness. If this is to be the permanent arrangement of modern society, civilization must be held to bring a curse on the great majority of mankind.

—FREDERIC HARRISON

The Only Hope

"But certainly the progress of the laborer is not that which can excite enthusiastic hopes for the future, as long as he remains a mere receiver of wages. Under these conditions, it seems that the only hope of improvement for the laboring classes lies in the limitation of population."

DR J LAURENCE LAUGHLIN,

—Long time head of the Department of Economics, University of Chicago

The Limit of Increase

The total population of the globe is now about 1,957,000,000. It cannot long continue to increase at its present rate, owing to lack of sufficient food.

—CHARLES CLOSE, before the British Geographical Society

Books We Recommend

World Population is the outstanding subject of interest at the present moment

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TO OUR READERS !

An Announcement
on
THE CARTOON CONTEST
of the
BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

BY decision of the Judges, the period of the Contest has been extended
Full details will be given next month Meanwhile we ask you to tell
your artist friends about this competitive effort to represent our Cause in
pictures

Every movement needs A Slogan and a A Symbol

We have our Slogan in the words

BIRTH CONTROL.

Our Symbol should appeal to the eye and through the eye to the imagination
¶ It should sum up in terms of human need and human welfare the full
meaning of those words "Birth Control" ¶ Help us to find this Symbol
¶ Tell everyone you know about our need ¶ We have made a good
beginning but we want more artists to come forward to help us



REMEMBER THE FACTS

Four prizes will be awarded for the best drawing symbolizing the meaning
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