

July, 1928

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

"Children of Choice, Not of Chance"



Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792)

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XII

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No 7

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EDITORIAL

THE opposition of the Roman Catholic Church to Birth Control is based on their religious beliefs, and on their code of ethics founded not on reason or on human welfare, but accepted as the authoritative utterance of the Church. Whether the rest of the American people—comprising the great majority of the nation—shall be compelled to obey this code, in spite of their own conscientious beliefs is now a major issue in American politics. The Catholics appeal for toleration and are loudly indignant when there is any appearance of discrimination against them. Are they willing to extend the same toleration to others? This is a vital question when a member of their church is appealing for the votes of his fellow Americans. Point is given to the question by the fact that Margaret Sanger addressed an open letter on the subject to Cardinal Hayes. She received no answer. Nor have there ever been any Roman Catholic protests against such headlines as the following, from the *Binghamton* Press of March 3rd of this year: "Defeat of Gedney Birth Control Bill is Sought by the Roman Catholic Church." Cardinal Hayes publicly stated that the Church should keep out of politics. Does he mean what he says? If he does, why no answer to Margaret Sanger's letter? The letter reads as follows:

"My attention has just been called to your statement to the delegates at the 18th Annual Convention of the Catholic Press Association, reported in the *New York Evening Sun* of May 25th, 1928.

You are quoted as saying, in your welcome to the delegates on behalf of the Diocese of New York, that you are "in full agreement that the church should be kept out of politics—And at the same time let us have the Catholic press keep out of politics."

The American Birth Control League, Inc. is deeply interested in this statement. Every year the League sponsors a bill at Albany which, if passed, would permit physicians to give Birth Control advice to married persons. Every year the only opposition comes from the Roman Catholic Church, through the Dioceses of

Albany and New York, and from the Associated Catholic Charities of the State of New York.

When our representatives were interviewing members of Congress at Washington two years ago, they found Catholics, directed by the National Catholic Welfare Council, lobbying against any change in the Federal law governing the distribution or importation of Birth Control information or materials.

Does your statement mean that in future the Catholic Church will keep out of politics where legislation on Birth Control is concerned, and will your Church cease its policy of intimidation of these members of Congress and of the New York Legislature who do not think as you do, but who have been threatened, in the past, with defeat if they voted for our bills?

We entirely agree with your reported statement that "the church should be kept out of politics." Is the statement attributed to you correct, and what does it imply? Many thousands of married people in New York State are interested in your answer.



THE nation-wide publicity given to the Cromwell case has called forth editorial comment in the newspapers of most of the important cities from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. In many cases the comment ends with a confession of inability to see any solution to such a problem. "The woman knew when she got married that she would have to bring children into the world" is a typical attitude. But there have not been lacking emphatic recommendations of sterilization and of Birth Control instruction for parents. The case was not unique. Unhappily there are too many such. Mrs. Cromwell, who had been married twice, is stated to have had five children by her first husband of whom only one is living, and thirteen by her present husband, Edward Cromwell, of whom four are living, one of them a helplessly defective baby permanently in a children's hospital. Two factors seem to have been almost equally strong in Mrs. Cromwell's mind—fear for her own life, which was threatened by fur-

ther **child-bearing**, and fear of more **defective children**. She had her husband arrested and appealed to the courts for **protection**. But in **Connecticut**, as in any other State where this **might** have happened, there **is** no law to protect the life of a mother, or to protect society from having to assume the burden of the **maintenance** of **children** who may reasonably be expected to be **unfit** for normal life. More than **this**, there **is** not a **clinic** in the State to **which** Mrs. Cromwell could be sent for **Birth Control instruction**, nor **is** there any way in **which** either she or her husband could secure **sterilization**, however much they **might** desire it.



BIRTH CONTROL in **Connecticut** is sternly **forbidden**. The law is not **aimed** at the **giving** of **information**, whether by doctors or by one person to another. It **is** aimed at the **individual** who dares to use any artificial means of contraception. With such a law on the statute book how could any judge **advise** the couple to secure **information**, even if there were any source whence they could **obtain** it. It would be recommending them to **commit** a crime. As for **sterilization**, that **is** reserved for the **inmates** of the State **prison** and of the State hospitals for the **insane**. Only by **commitment** to one of these hospitals could **sterilization** be legally performed **either** on the man or the woman. Hence the judge, however much his **sympathies** **might** have been aroused, was absolutely helpless. The man had to be **discharged**, after a mental test that showed him to be **definitely** subnormal. Mrs. Cromwell had to take her chance of early death, and the State will have to **maintain** one or more **defective children**. No wonder that the *Indianapolis Times* characterized it as "heart-rending tragedy" and urged the **Birth Control** people to get busy on it. No wonder that the *Cleveland Press*, looking around, and **finding** that a Birth Control Clinic had been **established** in **their city**, congratulated the Cleveland mothers that they had no need to "resort to such extremes." No wonder that the **Connecticut** Branch of the American **Birth Control** League **is quickening** the **activities** already well started, to secure the **wiping** out of the law **which** **forbids** even such a woman as Mrs. Cromwell from **practising** the healthy and **health-giving** methods **which** **science** **is** now perfecting for the use and benefit of **humanity**. If **this** **tragic** case **gives** an **impulse** to the work of the **American Birth Control** League, if it **brings** nearer the time when hundreds of thousands of women **will** be saved from such a fate as hers, **Mrs. Cromwell** will not have **lived** and **suffered** in vain.

A VERY remarkable address from one of the most eminent of **British Engineers** was made at the Centenary celebrations of the **Institution of Civil Engineers** in London, on June 5th. Instead of **being** content to laud the great **accomplishments** of **engineering** since the **Institute** was **given** its Royal Charter in 1828, **Sir Alfred Ewing** devoted **himself** to the contrast between man's progress in the conquest of natural forces, and **his** **barkwardness** in regard to the improvement of the race. **Engineering** triumphs had been great and marvellous, and as far as they served the comfort and **convenience** of **mankind** were welcomed. But, for the future, **Sir Alfred Ewing** looked forward rather to the **diversion** "of the mental energy of mankind, now **flowing** so strongly in the channel" of **engineering discoveries** and **inventions**, to new objectives. He saw **mankind** as "a **child** to whom has been **given** a sharp-edged tool before he has the sense to handle it **wisely**." Engineering has equipped the **nations** "with **engines** of **destruction** incomparably more potent and ruthless than any known before", but **engineers** had forgotten that progress in **their** art had "far **outstripped** the **ethical** progress of the race." He made no **mention** of any **specific** means of race betterment, but press comments on **his** address, point to the **insistence** of H. G. Wells on the need for a sense of common **citizenship** of the world, and also to the further need of "a **conscious** development of the human race, with a view to the **elimination** of the **chief** causes of war." Such a development **cannot** be hoped for, unless the Intellect and **energies**, **which** in the past have been devoted to the development of **material civilization**, be turned in larger and larger **proportions** to the greater **question** of the **spiritual** development of man himself.



A CORRECTION

IN the May issue of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** the statement was made that "the convention of the **National League of Women Voters** has again refused to put Birth Control on the program of the League." We are asked to explain that the **question** was not brought before the full **convention**. It came before two of the **Committees**—**Child Welfare** and **Social Hygiene**, and in neither **committee** did it receive the three-fourths **majority** necessary in order to add new matter to the programme. The **question** was therefore **decided** by the **committees** and not by vote of all the delegates. We are glad to make this **explanation** and to be able to hope that had the delegates had the **opportunity**, the result **might** have been favorable to Birth Control.

Family Disruption

Some Fundamental Causes*.

By JESSIE CONDIT

THERE is a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of a frank facing of facts regarding marriage, and an intelligent effort to remove the obstacles to a successful adjustment of marital difficulties. This paper seeks to point out some of the fundamental causes of those difficulties.

There has always been maladjustment in family life but there are perhaps more factors in our present day civilization which make for uneasiness and discontent in the marital relationship than ever before. The crowding of people into cities, the multiplication of interests outside the home, the complexities of industrial life, the ease of transportation, the increasing absorption of women in business, a love of pleasure, false marital standards fostered by much of our cheap literature and drama, the lessening of the influence of organized religion in the lives of young people, the high cost of bearing and rearing children, have all contributed immensely to this end.

Fundamental causes go back of such surface indications as "Poverty", "Desertion", "Drunkenness", "Immorality", etc. Basic factors after all must be rather generally alike for all types of family disruption, and it is the real job of the social worker to determine what these basic factors are. At present we are simply scratching the surface in our treatment of marital difficulties, but we commit an unpardonable breach of faith if we fail to keep step with facts which the social sciences are uncovering, or neglect to study and attempt to interpret in the light of the above, repeated phenomena coming to the surface within our own experiences.

Marriage Tensions

There are certain outstanding conflicts or "tensions" as they are often called, which are responsible for the disorganization of family life. Among those most commonly found are age, religion, race, culture, temperament, appetites and habits, individual capacities and abilities, relationship between members of the family, health, economic conditions, sexual response and the fear of pregnancy. Some of these conflicts alone may be sufficient to bring about disorganization of the family, in other cases several are inter-related. Bad early training which gives rise to low ideals of home life and of personal

obligation plays a large part in the maladjustments of married people.

Mrs. Barber is a very superior little woman, the mother of four children to whom she is devoted and to whose care and training she is giving intelligent attention. She was brought up in an institution and she wants more than anything in the world to maintain a real home for her children. Her husband, a man of good family, was gassed while he was in service. He used to be devoted to her and the children but he is now suffering more and more frequently from spells of intoxication at times approaching delirium tremens and his habits and his attitude toward her and the children when he is not himself are disgusting in the extreme. His mental disorder and his physical demoralization are the fundamental causes which he back of the drunkenness, the infidelity and the filthy habits which are making the marital relationship unbearable. The fear of another pregnancy—her youngest child, a frail, sickly little thing, is only two months old—has produced a tension which is having a very bad emotional effect upon Mrs. Barber and is driving him to excesses outside the home. She has begged to be supplied with contraceptive information and believes that with the establishment of a moral normal sex life within the home, she may be able to help him to withstand the temptations on the outside.

A Difficult Husband

Mrs. Baker came to us almost two years ago with the story that her husband was a dope fiend and that he was a member of a ring which was disposing of drugs contrary to law. She clannied to be in mortal fear of him and begged for protection for herself and her four children. A careful investigation brought to light facts which indicated that Mrs. Baker has spent some months in a psychopathic hospital in a distant city and that her stories about her husband were probably hallucinations. She was persuaded to enter a hospital for treatment and we placed the children

Mr. Baker made a fairly good salary and was amply able to provide for his children. While his wife was away, however, he failed to pay the board regularly and we practically clothed the children. He himself was always well dressed and we heard stories about the gay parties he entertained from tune to tune at the house. He visited the children

*Extracts from a paper read at the National Probation Conference in Memphis, May 15, 1928.

and his wife every week and displayed real affection for them

When Mrs Baker returned from the hospital at her husband's solicitation but against the advice of the psychiatrist, it was possible for us to talk the whole situation over with her frankly and freely. She explained to us that the greatest cause of conflict in the home was her husband's selfishness which manifested itself in his insistence upon providing himself with adequate food, good clothing and personal pleasures regardless of the family needs and in his excessive sexual demands upon her. They had been married ten years and she had been pregnant eleven times. Although he was fond of his four children, he resented each pregnancy on the ground they could not afford another child and had insisted upon the abortions. She had broken physically and mentally under the strain and dreaded the thought of living with him again for fear of a new pregnancy.

An appointment was made for her at the Birth Control Clinic in New York and the whole situation gone over very carefully with Mr Baker. Close supervision of the home has resulted in a better understanding between husband and wife and a much better cooperation in the care and training of the children who had been emotionally disturbed by the tension in the household. The saving factor in this family situation was the attitude of affection which made it possible to secure cooperation in the elimination of some of the causes making for disruption.

Eleven Children

When we first knew Mrs Brown she had a nice little home and two well cared for children. At that time her husband had fallen in with bad company and she came to us to give our help to stop his drinking and to keep him working steadily. He was weak but he loved his wife and family and we succeeded in steadying him and maintaining for a time a decent standard of living. Then the children began to arrive very rapidly. With the advent of the fourth child, Mr Brown began to lose his grip again. He was an unskilled laborer and his income was so small that he grew discouraged because of the many demands of his growing family.

Mrs Brown has now had her eleventh child. Her husband is completely demoralized and she, broken in health and spirit, has deteriorated into a scolding, nagging, shiftless creature, totally incapable of meeting the physical, mental and moral needs of her numerous children, who are spending long hours on the streets and among evil associates. Capable of doing a really decent job with a small family, they have found their present responsibilities too great for their limited abilities. The man

is still in the home but the actual disorganization of the family is complete. Lack of stamina, poverty and ignorance of methods of family limitation have been fundamental causes here.

And so we might go on, citing case after case of maladjustment. Mental defect and mental disorder, industrial inefficiency, lack of self-control, absence of a sense of responsibility, differences in age, race, religion, culture, temperament, jealousy, interference from outsiders and the like all contribute their share to the disruption of the family. Perhaps to a greater extent than any other one factor sex incompatibility, including lack of response or excessive demands plays an important part.

If the marriage of the future is to be successful there must be specific information concerning the nature of family life, more efficient economic administration of the household, more careful selection of a mate, a better understanding of the sex life and of the art of love, greater concern for the development of the individual, more scientific knowledge with reference to family limitation and a more intelligent understanding of children and their problems. Above all our young people must be taught that marriage is not a static institution, a mold into which every one must be pressed regardless of personal differences—a price to be paid for certain social privileges, but, in the words of one of the younger generation who has tried it, a "pulsating, dynamic, everchanging, every-new social process, more vital, more important, more pregnant with physical, mental and psychical meaning than any other known or imagined human relationship." To him it is the "most difficult, the most lied about, the most misunderstood, and the least studied of human institutions, but the most interesting, the most exciting, the most worthwhile and the most satisfactory experience known."

If, in addition to the specific information necessary for the proper functioning of the family, we can give our young people this vision of the beauty, the romance, the spiritual value of the great adventure which lies before them, future generations will need to concern themselves far less with the disorganization of the family.



The problem of population is not a new one. We quote from "The Truth Seeker" (New York), of May 26th, 1928

"Prayers were offered in Ireland in the year 657 for a pestilence to reduce the number of the lower classes, so that the rest might live in comfort"—BARING GOULD.

Practical Race Betterment

By ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES

I HOPE to be able to demonstrate* that **Birth Control** is the most Important social movement of the day, inasmuch as it is the only **practical** measure known for the betterment of the human race

Most of our **philanthropic** activities are not such as to **build up** a healthy, more Intelligent race Asylums and charity **organizations** and hospitals merely mend and patch up society without permanently **reducing disease** and **destitution** Philanthropy has lagged far **behind science** Social reform has stumbled along blindly in the paths of habit and sentiment People have preferred to give for the **alleviation** of social ills, rather than for the prevention of these ills In the past it has been **easier** to interest people in the **rehabilitation** of **industrial cripples** than in the enactment of measures to prevent the accidents that make the **cripples**, in doling out food and **clothing** to the **families** of the workless, rather than in **reducing** the amount of unemployment

Most of our philanthropy has been not only **futile**, as far as effecting any permanent improvement is concerned, it has been **positively harmful**, for it has preserved for maturity and parenthood the **weaklings** who would **otherwise** have died **without** giving **birth** to sickly children Here is a typical case —

The **American Birth Control League** has a branch office in the congested East **Side** of New York The **janitor** of the tenement house in which the office **is**, seems usually to be drunk, and **his** wife, who **is** of low grade **mentality** and is **nursing** a **two-months'** old baby, does **his** work, cleaning **stairs**, etc As **janitor**, her husband is paid \$15 00 a month and is **given** three dark rooms In these rooms **live** father and mother, the baby, two older children and two boarders Three other children are in charitable institutions, and all the **six** children **will** probably soon be taken care of by **charity**, and **will** be brought up to have children of **their** own, all, probably, **with** **their** had **heredity**, **subnormal** physically or mentally In **being kind** to the present, is not **charity** being cruel to the future?

Discriminating Against the Poor

Most couples among the more fortunate classes of **society** now **practice** contraception, that **is**, by **mechanical** means and **without** any interruption of their **married** life, they prevent conception, except when they **desire** a child

The poorer classes do not generally succeed in getting **contraceptive** information In some cases

this is because of lack of **intelligence**, in some, of **initiative**, in others, of **opportunity** In about half the states in this country there are anti-Birth Control laws, **which** result in **preventing** the poorer classes from learning **contraception**, although the upper classes, who consult doctors in **their** private offices, can usually get the **information** This state of **affairs** is **highly** dysgenic, those least fit to **bring up** many children have the largest **families**, and those best qualified, have the fewest children Instead of Improving, the race is **steadily** deteriorating

Social workers and **thinkers** are **beginning** to appreciate **this** At last **philanthropy** is **beginning** to ask **guidance** of **science** It is asking "How can the **foundations** be laid for a stronger and finer race?"

The Answer of Eugenics

Now how **is** this **question** answered by Eugenics —the science of **racial** betterment*

The Eugenists seem to have four planks in **their** platform

1) **Getting** the right people to marry each other, in order to secure the best heredity for the children

2) Making the best, most competent people have more children

3) Making the less competent people have fewer children

4) **Preventing** actual degenerates from having any children at all

Plank No 1 doesn't seem very practicable at present I do not believe anyone of you would agree to let the **American Eugenics Society** pick out a **wife** for you

Plank No 2 is not very **practicable** either It would be **difficult** to persuade our **friends** of the **superior** class to have more children than they want for **the** sake of the future of the race

For any general **improvement** of the race, we shall have to depend upon what I have called planks Nos 3 and 4

No 4 consists of **preventing** degenerates (those who are likely to **transmit** to **their** children **serious** hereditary defects) from **having** any children at all by **sterilizing** them

But **sterilization** can touch only a small corner of the problem for the number of the **degenerates** to whom **it is applicable** is small in comparison to the multitudes who, though not degenerate or grossly

*This article is part of an address delivered at Dartmouth College

defective, are yet below the average physically or mentally

It is to them that the **third plank** in the **Eugenics** platform applies. In order to **improve** the race, we must bring it about that the **less** competent members of society who are, in general, among the poor, have fewer **children** than they have now. This is **highly practicable**, for as every social worker knows, **these** people would like to have fewer children. They do *not want* to have so many children that the mother is worn out **with bearing** them and caring for them, and the father can not earn enough to support them properly.

Nearly ten thousand mothers from all over the country **write** to the **American Birth Control League** every year, **begging** to be told safe methods of **family limitation**. Wherever a Birth Control clinic is opened, the mothers of the poor come **flocking** to learn **contraception**.

In order that the less competent classes of society shall have fewer **children**, all that is necessary is that safe, reliable methods of contraception shall be made generally accessible to them.

The Answer of Birth Control

How can **this** be done?

1) Section **211** of the Federal Postal Law should be amended to permit the **mailing** and expressing of contraceptive **prescriptions** and **supplies** and **scientific** reports on the subject.

2) **All** state laws adverse to Birth Control should be amended.

3) Every medical school should teach the safest, most reliable methods of contraception, so that all doctors **will** be able to **prescribe** them.

4) **Contraceptive** information should be available in every **clinic**, dispensary and health center, where the poor get **medical advice**. It is now available only in **22 clinics** in this country, **9** in New York City (where the law allows **physicians** to **give** contraceptive advice, though unfortunately, only for the "cure and prevention of disease", and not for economic reasons,) **6** in **Illinois**, **3** in California, one each in Denver, Baltimore, **Detroit**, **Minneapolis**. The largest of these clinics is that **maintained** by the American Birth Control League in New York City. In **this clinic** **4,500 patients** were **advised during 1927**. But many **applicants** had to be turned away without help, though they could not possibly care for more **children** than they had already, or support any more, and if they had more **children**, the family would be dependent upon charity. Yet our **physician** could not help them, because they were not diseased or definitely threatened with disease. The patients were many of them referred to the **clinic** by social workers and **social-**

medical workers, who realized **their** need for Birth Control.

When the **American Birth Control League** reaches its goal, and safe, reliable **contraceptive** methods may be learned by all **married** persons,— what **will** the results be?

Logical Results

In the **first** place, **destitution** and dependency **will** be steadily reduced. Every **social** worker knows that the chief cause of poverty is the **increase** of the size of the **family** beyond the **ability** of the wage earner to **provide** for it. Let us **consider** the case of **families** like the hundred for whom a special appeal was made by New York **charities** in the "**Tomes**" last December.

These cases are **typical** of thousands in every **city**. Take an unskilled laborer **earning** say **\$28 00** a week. That **will provide** the bare **necessities** of life for John, his wife Mary and two children. They have enough to eat and Mary can manage to take pretty good care of the children. They just manage to get on. But the next year, when the third baby arrives Mary can't do as much for the older children, she doesn't keep them as neat as she used to, and after a wakeful **night with** the baby, she is often too tired to take the older **children** out the next day. John can't afford to pay the doctor's **bill** and it worries him. After **buying** the milk and **groceries** and **paying** the rent for three rooms, there is not enough money left to buy Mary warm **winter clothing**, and she catches cold. More **bills** for **medicine**. Then one **evening** Mary tells John that there is **another** baby on the way. When **this** one arrives, it is a puny little **thing** and Mary is sick a long time. John gets desperate. Perhaps he takes to **drink**, perhaps he just clears out, perhaps he works **overtime** to try to earn more, until he breaks down. In any **case** the **family** probably has to appeal to charity.

With Birth Control all **this** will be avoided. Mary and John will have only as many **children** as Mary has health and strength to care for and John wages to **provide** for.

Practical Eugenics

When **Birth Control** knowledge is generally **accessible**, there **will** be a steady reduction in pauperism and disease, no need for charity, and a general betterment of the race.

That Birth Control is the great **instrument** of racial betterment is **coming** to be generally recognized. Havelock **Ellis** says of it "All those today who are deeply concerned in the great problem of Eugenic progress assume, as a matter of course, that the only practical **instrument** by which **Eugenics** can work is **Birth Control**".

Sidelights

By EDITH HOW-MARTYN

BIRTH CONTROL has become so widely accepted and practised in western Europe and North America that, while there is still much left to accomplish, yet more and more can some of the propagandist energy be devoted to other parts of the world. What a task this is and how much it needs to be tackled! This struck me afresh when reading a book of travels, written with no special purpose of throwing light on population problems.

"This World of Ours" written by Mr J H Curle contains some illuminating sidelights on reckless breeding of human beings as it presents itself to his observant glance in various parts of the world. Of Japan he writes

"When I reached Japan I found she was full. She was indeed chock full and her food producers hard put to it. All over the land the people were in the fields by day and night. Each cultivable foot lay under rice or vegetables, all day long coohes carried out the liquid content of cesspools, spreading it over the soil, and there was no waste at all, yet the price of food kept rising and there was a sense of pressure and futility. The Japanese, under some blind instinct, were breeding like rabbits. Their ever-increasing millions demanded food, lands and outlet, and because these things were not, Japan was become a menace to all the Pacific."

"A decrease in the birth-rate, or tremendous wars of expansion he surely ahead for these people. If their Emperor in his divine wisdom gives the word, they will breed on. If he proclaims caution, and a decrease, they will obey, the birth-rate checks of western civilization, to this race of imitators, should come easily."

Fortunately there is hope that Japan may choose the wise course, when the government appoints a commission to study its population problem and invites distinguished experts in other countries for their opinions.

Chinese industry and Chinese enterprise meet with Mr Curle's admiration and commenting especially on the activities of the Chinese in the Malay Archipelago he says.

"In a thousand spots up and down the vast Archipelago some Chinese community is settled and thriving. They are tireless workers. The heat is as nought to them, indoors or out, you will see them always at it, yet they live vividly, and take their pleasures. They are a queer compound of cleanliness and filth. And how they breed! No such fecundity has been known in humankind. Chinese cities are just spawning beds, along these tropical rivers where they settle, where Nature herself spawns so notoriously, hordes of children are born as it were overnight."

In China itself, largely inspired by a visit from Margaret Sanger a few years ago, Birth Control propaganda and practice has begun, but in the present unsettled state of the country progress must be slow and cannot reach the Chinese groups scattered all over the islands of the far east.

Mr Curle's most interesting observations in Europe concern Russia, which he is very far from regarding as a ruined country, remarking that the revolution is merely an "incident in her story." Indeed so unpressed is he by what he saw of the fecundity of Russia's women and wheatfields that he thinks they must possess the future.

"The Slav woman stands for a boundless, an appalling vitality. In the mass, they are a tidal wave of life! and in Nature's eyes, where only life counts, are the strongest, greatest thing in Russia. Beside them, the Slav men, vital and enduring themselves, fade into nothingness."

"Millions of acres of wheat!"

"Millions of placid women conceiving, and bringing forth! Nature's reservoirs are bottomless hereabouts—and the future is the Slav's."

Such passages form a striking illustration of the necessity for a world-wide campaign for Birth Control. Such a campaign should be one of the natural sequels of the great World Population Conference gathered together by Margaret Sanger in Geneva last year.

THE DESPERATE

"Mother of Five Shoots Husband—'Couldn't Stand Dog's Life'"—*News Item*

I'm sorry that it had to be this way.
But still, he didn't suffer like a sick
Slow dyn' would 'a' gnapped him with decay
Sorry fer them five kids they'll miss his pay
But I ain't sorry that I did it quick

And I am't thinkin' what you'll do to me,
You and your laws and courts, and I don't care!
I've had about all hell that there can be
In this professional maternity
Tied to a brute—a holy wedded pair!

To cook and scrub ain't all to seem' red,
With cryin' brats and sick ones, and no money,
Hum staggerin' home in hquor, then abed
And so I had to shoot him through the head—
He made his mother-joke too awful funny

—BENJAMIN MUSSEY

A Little Study of Married Life

To be **ill**, and Not to Know It, Is to be Doubly **ill**.

By JANET CHANCE

THAT is the whole trouble with "nerves" Few **people** really believe that "nerves" are an **illness**

Say, "she is suffering from nerves" and no one takes it seriously No one knows what it means.

And yet nervous troubles are, — (I speak as a layman,) clearly defined and **classified** and readily recognized as **illnesses** by any doctor who is fit to an opinion on them

And when I say illness, I mean illness I do not mean tantrums, nor moods, nor lack of self-control, nor unreasonableness

No, illness Plain ordinary **ill** health Just as fever is **ill** health and is not unreasonableness Just as much and no more than rheumatism is **ill** health and is not unreasonableness

I have no hesitation **in** saying that there are thousands of men and women, but chiefly women, to-day who are seriously **ill** nervously and do not know it Chiefly women, for **men** are made aware of their condition quicker than **women** They are either fairly fit or their employer or their bank balance tells them that they are not But women are capable of **being** vaguely well, or vaguely ill, or vaguely very unwell indeed, without knowing it

Such women are not happy, nor healthy, they suffer and cause perpetual irritation, they have **little** active enjoyment and give none, and yet they would laugh in your face if you told them their sufferings and discomforts were caused by **ill-health**

Now nervous ill-health touches some families of course, only as an April shower Tempers are ruffled and storms occur But the victim knows her weakness, takes a day in bed or a week away from home and the squall passes

But on other homes, nervous illness descends like a black pall, embitters life day in, day out, and finally rots out love, esteem and faithfulness

Those homes are lucky — lucky, **mind** you — where it takes the form of a listless wife, a depressed mother, and a woman without interest or **capacity** For sooner or **later** her husband must realize that more than mere wilfulness is present and he must call in a doctor There is then a faint **hope**—for with the average general practitioner the hope is, up to the date of writing, fairly faint—that this **wife** will be landed in the consulting room of a nerve specialist who knows his business

But heaven help those other homes where nerve illness **in** the wife shows **itself** in nagging, in unreasonableness, in suspicion, in senseless opposition to **every** proposal, **in** "not knowing what she wants and not **being** happy **till** she gets it" In these homes, the husband's life is barely worth living, and the **wife's** most **certainly** is not And yet no one ever says, "That woman is **ill**" What they do say need not be repeated here

Nerve Illnesses

These illnesses—for there are many forms—are cruel They attack the seat of life itself If a leg is broken, it is not to the torn **ligaments** and shattered nerves that you look for an understanding of the disorder or for the courage to face the cure In that case there **is** left intact above and beyond the damaged part, the mind to control and endure But in nervous disorders, the disease takes the citadel before the alarm ever can be **given**

The illness **is** unbalance, vagueness, lack of mental grip and energy, of judgment, of patience, of all that would make for sensible conduct

In fever, you ignore the unreasonableness and set to work on the cure In cases of definite nervous ill health the same policy should be adopted, but rarely is until some crisis compels it

What then is to be done with the **chronically** unreasonable and unhappy woman?

Well, **my** dear sir, if you are in earnest, if you dread the moment when you put your latch key **in** the door of your home, if nothing you suggest is ever right and everything you attempt to put right is **certain** to be wrong, then pull yourself together You have a decision to face

Is it to be war to the knife, not with your **wife**, but **with** her ill health? Is it, **if** need be, to be **dynamite** in the home in one tremendous fight for happiness' Or is it to be just as it has been all these years, no happiness, no certainty, only a conventionally settled home, no scandal

Choose! If the latter, you need read no further If the former, then be ready to go through **with** it Say nothing, promise nothing, threaten nothing, unless you are prepared to fulfill your words, come what may

Go to your wife Tell her how unhappy you are Say it in plain **English**, the **plainer** the better Say it all out Say that you still love her, still feel the

old charm of her body and her mind and that you want to be happy And say it well That will probably be sufficient She will want to be worthy of your expressed desires

And if that fails? Then you must tell her plainly that there are only two explanations of her behavior One is that she is well and is dissatisfied If that is so, she must table her grievances and say what she wants from life Say that to end her dissatisfaction and yours, you are quite ready to face separation or divorce There are other men and women in the world as good as you and she, and there are only a certain number of years left to enjoy Tell her that you mean to enjoy your life and mean your children to live with people who are enjoying theirs

Tell her that the other explanation is that she is ill and that, if that is the true explanation, she must get well

Let her see you study divorce You will not need to study long She will collapse, she will give in, she will say she did not understand, she will be horrified into humility

That's your cue Take it Don't discuss Do as you would if she showed physical symptoms outside the range of your knowledge and skill, take her to

see someone to whom her symptoms are an open book You will be amazed to hear him give a name to her condition as surely and as precisely as a surgeon distinguishes the sound bones and the broken in a fractured arm

Mental illness is still mysterious enough, no doubt, but there are medical men and women today who see beyond your confusions and perplexities to the defined and classified illness which causes them The emotional and moral issues which have obscured the issue for you are for such a man merely symptoms and in his presence you will thankfully lay down your burden of suspicions and irritations against your wife and with a sense of great relief take up the manageable burden of her illness

You, with your unhampered mind, will begin to see illness where before you saw wilful unreasonableness, maddening obstructiveness She with her mind hampered by illness may not see herself so clearly But you will have put her on the right road Good luck to you and to her, but to her especially, for she has suffered even more than you

It is worse to be an obstruction than to endure one

A Flurry over Birth Control

By S GREEN

HERE in Paris, where discussion is theoretically free, there exists a Society formed to consider points of view of interest for the moral, intellectual, and political life of France The membership is distinguished Senators, deputies, generals, well-known doctors, lawyers, social workers form the majority For the opening meeting in October, 1927 the subject chosen was the Population Congress of Geneva and members of the congress, then in Paris, were invited So I came to be there The account given of the congress was very one-sided and punctuated by unfriendly allusions to the woman the speakers feared, Margaret Sanger The observant secretary came to me and asked, "As a friend of Mrs Sanger, would you like to say a few words" I did like, and explained simply, what Margaret Sanger had been to the congress and what Birth Control had of use for France, in spite of her need for increased numbers, she should think of quality, not only of quantity As a result, I was invited to continue to attend — a foreigner, speaking French easily and not afraid to say unpopular things, seemed to appeal A little later, the Secretary told me a meeting was being arranged to discuss eugenics and asked me to suggest a eugenicist who would give the modern views I proposed Margaret Sanger, and explained, in outline, what she stood for A unanimous invitation followed, and it was arranged that Mrs Sanger should speak at the

meeting of March 6th But—there are many "buts" in Paris, when Birth Control is concerned—the society meets in one of the courts of the Palais de Justice (in secret I had been enjoying the topsy-turvy notion of Margaret Sanger setting forth Birth Control ideas in the very home of the French law) and the lawyers by whose invitation the society comes there intervened "We do not interfere with the expression of any opinions", they declared, "but we cannot allow you to invite a woman whose books, if translated into French, would be condemned by law"

As a compromise, we arranged that Margaret Sanger should send me her paper and that I should present it in French, to the meeting, without mentioning the forbidden name Meanwhile the elections were drawing near, the fear of seeming unpatriotic increased — a feminist paper started a discussion on the advisability of a certain limitation of births, a well-known social worker, a magistrate was blamed for having approved the modified form of Birth Control, which we include under "la naissance saine" and finally the committee decided to drop the discussion on eugenics Fear of seeming to advocate fewer births, gamed the day But the ripples of the movement set up in Geneva come surging round the strongholds of the party that clamours for many births, and though we may not see immediate results, we know the foundations will be undermined

Breaking up the Home

Lack of Birth Control as a Cause of Family Disruption

It w *very* easy to *advise contnence as* the one method of *Birth Control*. But *is such advice feasible*, and *is it wise, even if & can be carried into practise?* These letters *show how* greatly *family life* and a home *fit* for *children* to *live in depend* on *satisfactory sex relations*. It shows what *women* have to fear *of loss* of *married love* and *companionship*, if they are *driven* by fear of *pregnancy*, to deny *themselves* to *their husbands*. It *is in solution* to say that *husbands should* be *more unselfish* and more regardful of the *hedth* and *strength* of thew *wives*. The *quest* for each *woman is* what *is* the *practicable course* for her to *follow*. And the *answer w* not *contnence* but *contraception*.

It Does Not Do

Michigan.

I need *your* help, oh so much. I do not want to take up too much of your *time with* a *history* of my mamed *life* but *will* just relate a few facts so that you can *decide* for yourself how much I need your *advice*.

I have been mamed four years. Have had two *children* and two *miscarriages* in that *time*. I had always been a healthy *girl while single*, never had *anything* but the "Flu", hut *since* my *marriage*, it seems as though I have not had a well day. I was a stenographer, and when I mamed, *intended* to keep on *with* my work *until* we got a start, for we had *nothing* saved up, as we had both been *helping* out at home. I was twenty-SIX when I got *mar-ned* but *did* not know *anything* about marned hfe. I am *only thirty* now but feel forty.

I had my first baby just *nine* and *one-half* months after my marnage, and was *sick* almost all the *time* I *carried* him for I was *working* and kept on for about four months *until* I could not stand *it* any longer when I had to *quit* my work. The baby was *sickly* for six months and had what some told me was *six* months *colic*. I had had to stop *nursing* *it* as I had caught cold in my breast *which* had caked and as I was not *given* proper care I lost my *milk*. We could not get *anything* to agree *with* the baby for about five *months*, and then when he was *six* months old and *just starting* to get fat and good, I *became* pregnant *again*.

My first baby *was still* cutting teeth when I had my *second* baby, and after *coming* home from the *hospital*, I was up every *single night with* one or the other for months, and I could not *get* any rest *during* the day as we could not afford a *maid* and I had to wash baby clothes for two *babies*, along *with* the rest of the work and *staying up* all *night* besides, I became so weak and run down that, when I became pregnant whde *still* nursing my second baby, I had a *miscarriage*. I was *going* to wean baby then, but both boys caught the *whooping* cough and was *advised* to keep on *nursing* *it* as the baby would eat *nothing*

else. Of course that *helped* to keep me in a *run* down *condition* and when, several month later, we moved into a hittle home and I became pregnant *again*, I *had* another *miscarriage*.

My husband and I *both realize* that we cannot *afford* another baby for a *while*, not only on *account* of my health but what *with* *paying* doctor *bills*, *hospital bills*, *furniture* and other *living* expenses, *if* we were to have another one we could not keep up the payments on our hittle home and as *it* is away from town and out where there's fresh *air* for the *kiddies*, we don't want to lose *it*. We have had a hard time getting all the taxes pard, but have *finally* managed *it* so you *see* that we are *doing* all we can to *raise* these two decently.

But here's the trouble. I have been *so afraid* of *again* *getting* pregnant that I have kept away from my husband and I have found out to my sorrow that *it* does not do, as sooner or later we women *will* lose our husband's love, but what can we do? *Will you* please *tell* me? I shall be grateful to you the rest of my *life* if you do.

Husband Leaving

Indiana

I am so *discouraged* I hardly know what to do. My husband says that unless I find some way to keep from *having* *children*, he *is* *leaving*. He has been *going* out now *with* other women, who don't and won't have *children*. I am *afraid* of *this* way of *living*. He of course *is* *taking* a chance, but he comes home to me, and I just can't hve *with* *him* as *his* *wife*, for I am *afraid* he will contract a *disease* and I *will* get it.

I am the mother of *six* *children*, the oldest *nine*, one *eight*, and then there *is* five years *till* the next one, who is three, the next two and then a baby six months. The oldest *died*, and now I have a *mishap* of *six* weeks. I don't know how I happened to go five years *without* any, the others are so close—too close the doctor saps. I was so weak I couldn't *carry* the last, and too I bad to

go out to work, to help make a **living**. Now the doctor says I won't be able to do my own work for three months. And my husband says that as soon as I am well enough to go back to the factory he **will** leave me, unless I **find something**. Must I be the one who pays for **this** and the **children** too must suffer, or **is** there some way? We **need** his support but how can I have **it**, if I can't be **wife** to **him**? I went to my doctor, and several others. They all said **they didn't** know **anything** for sure. Must I lose my home and **give up** my **desire** completely to keep from **having** children? Our **hves** are such a **strain** on one another **hvmg** as we do. Please **give me** some **advlce**. I am a woman **in** &stress

Drawing Apart

Maine.

I wonder if you can **give** me any help **with** my problem of **Birth Control**. I began to feel that there **is** no **solution**, but I would be very grateful for your **advlce**. I am not **ignorant** of the subject **in** general. I **studied** **biology**, **sociology** and **economics** in college and had completed about half my course **in** a nurses' **training** school, when I **marned**. I have two **children**, healthy boys of five and two-and-a-half. My husband is **in** **educational** work, **with** the usual small salary, and our present **responsibilities** stretch that salary to the very **limit**. Another **child** at present would be a **calamity**, both **financially** and **because** I have barely strength for all I have to do. My husband **is** very considerate and **self-sacrificing**, and for my part I would make any effort for **his** **happiness**, but the present **situation** **imposes** a **restraint** on both of us, that has the effect of **drawing** us apart more and more.

Bud Methods

Virginia.

I was marned when I was seventeen, was compelled to as I had no home—father and mother dead. I have had five **children**, two died at **birth**, and two **miscarriages**. Each time I had **terrible** **times** **during** **child-birth**, and suffered so much. My youngest **child**, a little **girl**, **is** now eleven years old. At her **birth** I went through a terrible ordeal. I went through **so much**—**had** doctors **working** over me for a day and a **night**, that I **did** not want any more **children**. I **cried** to my husband about **going** through **it** again. So we started a **practice** **which** has made us both near a nervous **wreck**. We have been **doing** **this** for the period since my last baby was born. I have got so I don't care for my husband, and hate for **him** to come near me or touch me, **which** isn't natural for my husband and me, after we had been so happy **together**. It **is** **this** **practice** **which** causes **this**.

I am **asking** you, won't you please send me **information**, so we can enjoy the later years of **kfe** as we should, for we would be very happy and **it** would **bring** us closer together and **help** us keep our **children** better. It **is** **mak-**

ing **against** both our health and nervousness, and we are not **caring** for each other as we should. If **it** goes on, **it** will wreck our **hves** and probably our home too. I don't want more children, for I have suffered **enough**. The Lord **will** help me keep what I have, for I love them devotedly. So please help me!

A Nightmare of Fear

Iowa

Is **it** possible that you can send me adequate and **definite** **information** about **Birth Control**? Safe, sure, harmless methods? Please don't tell me to go to some **physician**, for our **family** doctor refused to say **anything**, and the **physician-surgeon** (supposed to be one of the best **obstetricians** **in** Iowa) who attended me last year when I almost **died** **in** pregnancy, wouldn't tell me **anything** adequate. The methods we have been **trying** are **uncertain** and unpleasant. The years haven't been "a dream of **hss**", but a **nightmare** of fear, **sickness**, worry and expense. I am not strong enough to go through that horror again, and never **will** be, if this state of worry **continues**. Nor am I able to earn my own **living**, if I secure a **divorce**, and I could not ask my husband to **divide** his meager salary **with** me.

Gone on the Rocks

New York

If **you** can help me **by** **giving** me **scientific** **advice** on **Birth Control** you **will** save a marriage from **going** on the rocks. I have been marned four years and have lost two **babies** and have one **six** months old. We have not means to care for more, and I was **working**, and wanted to **continue** until we have more money. I have refused to let these **conditions** **continue**, and am **losing** my man through my **coldness**.

Dreading Husband's Return

New York

I have four **children**, the eldest 11 and the youngest 4. I **will** be 29 **this** 2nd of **April**. I had them all so young, and my husband left me to go **with** other women. He **gives** some towards their support, but not **all** they **need**. I dread his **coming** back, as I am so **afraid** it **will** mean another baby to have to **suffer**. He has **hved** away from here for over five years, but comes over once in a few weeks to see **them**. I don't know how any man could be so heartless as not to want to see **his** children every day. I **hve** with my father, and he **is** so good to my **children**. He **is** nearly 73 though, and **it** **is** hard for him. They are so **lively**. My husband was here last week and I don't sleep **nights** since then, I am so **afraid** that **will** mean another baby. I love my children very much and am **willing** to go without **anything**, if I never have any more. I hope that there **will** be some way to **help** us women, who have enough **children**, not to have any more.

Havelock Ellis

By MARGARET SANGER

IN that "open letter to biographers" which he dashed off upon the completion of his *Study of British Genius*, Havelock Ellis pointed out that many biographies were often merely "shades of misplaced history," and warned all future biographers to study the roots of the lives they recorded. "After the age of twenty, your task becomes easier and more obvious, after thirty, if so far you have fulfilled that task, what is there further left to tell? The rest is but the liberation of a mighty spring, the slow running down of energy. The man recedes to give place to his deeds, whether such deeds be the assault of great fortresses, or the escalade of mighty sentences."

Houston Peterson, who has valiantly undertaken to write the life of Havelock Ellis* who at sixty-nine is still keenly sensitive to the dangers of this difficult art, has evidently taken to heart this warning. The result is that, intentionally or not, the first chapters, dealing with the hereditary background, with the childhood, youth and early manhood of his subject are far more important to our fuller understanding of this life-giving spirit than, sadly, the final five chapters, which, in our humble opinion, seem to rely too completely upon quotations from the works of Ellis himself—quotations significant in themselves, but revealing nothing new to any of us who have drunk deep at the spring of wisdom which Havelock Ellis has liberated to irrigate the arid wastes of our Anglo-Saxon world.

But before proffering even these tentative criticisms of Mr Peterson's significant biography, we must first express unqualified admiration for the thoroughness which he has documented himself, and for the keen incisive scholarship which has gone into the creation of this book. Instead of carping on its limitations, let us rejoice in the painstaking preparation, the indefatigable research, and the skilful reconstruction of a life, fascinating and unique in every phase, which this volume reveals to us.

The heredity, the birth, the development of the boy and his early blossoming into a grave maturity, are all recounted with a distinct narrative gift, and practically never with any slurring of the significant steps onward. The excerpts from the early notebooks and diaries, which Havelock Ellis began at the age of ten, are especially interesting. They reveal the remarkable precocity of genius. His admirations and his enthusiasms during his adolescence were indeed immature, but already he was able to articulate and express his thoughts with unclouded clearness.

MR PETERSON makes us realize that this son of a British sea-captain inherited much of the valiant courage of a race of mariners. Resolutely he dared to voy-

age alone through uncharted seas of forbidden research. With the uncanny self-reliance of genius, he decided upon this life-voyage when he was a lad scarcely past sixteen. "He would explore the dangerous ocean of sex and perhaps find for humanity an Earthly Paradise!" So exclaims Mr Peterson, in relating that early decision of young Henry Havelock Ellis, adding Ellis's own testimony to the effect that he never deviated from this adolescent resolution. "In all that I have done, that resolve has never been very far from my thoughts." In 1926 Ellis commented further. "I am sure that I never for a moment anticipated that my efforts in that direction would arouse so wide an echo in the world."

The far-flung schemes of adolescence, the biographer sagely points out, are often little more than laughable, but here was the decision of a sixteen-year-old, destined to be carried out through a long lifetime. The only satisfactory explanation, I believe, can be discovered when we realize that, like all authentic geniuses, the lonely sixteen-year-old youth, strolling under the feathery eucalyptuses of an Australian village, had developed intellectually and spiritually far beyond what is ordinarily considered normal.

Particularly interesting is Mr Peterson's account of Ellis's early perusal of George Drysdale's *Elements of Social Science*, and the support the youth found in that anonymous book for his own grave convictions regarding the importance of sex, and his conversion, before his twentieth year, to the doctrine of contraception.

WITHOUT wasting space to go further into the many fascinating details unearthed by this industrious biographer let us recommend Houston Peterson's book at once as a *sine qua non* to everyone who looks upon Havelock Ellis as one of the outstanding heroes of western civilization. Having done this, and having thanked Mr Peterson for his generous recognition of ourselves and the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* as a source of certain materials, we may turn to a consideration of certain phases of this biography which please us less than the specific chapters we have noted.

Our criticism is not directed specifically toward this book, it is to all biographers which seek to portray a living man. Evidently in the preparation of such an interpretation as the present, the biographer finds himself brought into much closer personal contact with his subject than when, in the first flush of enthusiasm, his decision to undertake a biography comes upon him. As he prepares his literary portrait, he is like a painter who must study the anatomy of his sitter, who must approach so closely that he sees details and defects and finally, as so often happens, temporarily loses his vision of the inner animating spirit—of the movement behind that "libera-

*Havelock Ellis *Philosopher of Love* By Houston Peterson
Boston and New York Houghton Mifflin Company 1928

tion of a mighty spring" The successful biographer must regain the thrill of his initial inspiration—he must not only study every phase of his subject, but must master his own relation to that subject

WITH all his competence, and masterly scholarship, I cannot escape the feeling that somehow or other Houston Peterson has faded to sustain the stability of his relationship to Havelock Elhs. Facts he gives us in abundance—details of his life, his friends, his predilections. But after all, we are not so much interested in the elderly literary man who lives in Bnxtton, and does his own cooking, as we are in that living and eternal spirit who seems to dwell serenely above the limitations of time and space, whose radiance, like that of the life-giving sun, has penetrated beyond oceans and continents, and has performed miracles in creating hope and joy where despair and melancholy had existed before. I am not trying to indulge in poetic fancy. Before the advent of the radio, before the achievements of aviation, the message of Havelock Elhs—"broadcasted" despite the many obstacles put in its way—has been "picked up" in far-away corners of the earth, as innumerable letters from obscure people have testified. It is almost as though—to continue our analogy—provided with a receiving set, these sensitive minds had "picked up" a distant station, and from it had received a deep and beneficent message of human salvation. Those who have had this experience can never look upon Havelock Elhs as a mere mortal. Through him, as through Saint Francis, is irradiated the wisdom of divinity.

Houston Peterson will undoubtedly laugh at this "pseudo-mysticism." But those of us who find in Elhs a god can never be quite satisfied with a realistic portrait, which, from a distance, slightly diminishes his true stature.

Book Reviews

HYMEN or The Future of Marriage. By Norman Haire. 98 pp. E. P. Dutton and Company, New York, 1928.

ONE does not look for conventional ideas in the little booklets of the Today and Tomorrow Series, and one certainly will not find them in this outline of the future of marriage and sex ethics. The book is a sharp challenge to the complacency of those who hold that traditional moral standards are unimpeachable and unchangeable, and they will find their position difficult to maintain in the face of the accumulation of logic which is arrayed against them.

Dr. Haire, as a practicing physician, has given much study to sex problems. He finds that unhappiness and dissatisfaction are the rule rather than the exception. Only one marriage in four can be called even tolerably successful. While many persons may feel that this estimate is unduly pessimistic, it is probable that the major-

ity of physicians would, if they told the truth, give a similar verdict. The records of the divorce courts go far toward substantiating Dr. Haire's estimate. Such a condition certainly indicates a very general sexual unhappiness, the reason for which is to be found in the "general Ignorance and prejudice in respect of matters relating to sex." These in turn are due to the prevailing false and inadequate standards, the inconsistencies and absurdities of which are pointed out with telling force.

A broader and more rational attitude is clearly needed. This will involve both a sane system of sex education and a frank re-examination of the conventional sex-code in the light of modern conditions. We can no longer take things for granted. The whole basis of marriage must be re-evaluated. Earlier marriage will be made a possibility for all, but this will necessarily involve the possibility of easy divorce. In general, monogamous marriage will ever remain the ideal, nevertheless other forms of sex-relationship will be sanctioned, as long as they do not infringe upon the rights of the individual or those of society as a whole. Children and young people in general will be given more consideration and protection than at present.

Birth Control will of course be an important part of the future social organization. It will be fostered by the state and free contraceptive information will be available to all at public centers. Indeed, only those who are physically and mentally fit will be allowed to have children.

No doubt the author's view will be considered ultra radical and immoral by many people, and the book will probably be vigorously denounced by a considerable section of pulpit and press. Bishop Manning and Cardinal Hayes will certainly not approve of it. And yet, when one thinks of the irrational and even inhuman doctrines that are not only tolerated but advocated by the defenders of traditional "morality", he cannot but wonder what the term means. And perhaps he will be forced to conclude that the wickedness of these unconventional ideas lies entirely in their novelty. Certainly they reflect a breadth of social outlook and a humanitarian spirit seldom found among the traditional moralists.

The book is written in a clear and forceful style that is always direct and to the point. But perhaps its most significant feature is the impression of compelling logic which it leaves. Whether or not one accepts its conclusions, he can hardly fail to be stimulated to constructive thought, provided he is not too hopelessly blinded by prejudice to do any thinking.

One slight inaccuracy may be pardoned. The author says that in the United States it is legal to advocate family limitation, but illegal to teach or use contraceptive methods. The fact is, of course, that our 48 different state laws make any such generalization impossible. We have everything from complete freedom to complete prohibition. Surely Dr. Haire knows that Birth Control clinics are now operating under legal sanction in New York, Illinois, Colorado and California.

MALCOLM H. BISSELL

Correspondence

Northwestern University,
Evanston, Illinois

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

The character of Dr Sutherland's article in the June *Forum* was beneath the usual high level of that periodical, and almost beneath criticism. The discussion of Shaw's views cited by him and quoted in your November issue prompts this note.

In his book on the subject, *Birth Control* (p 93) Dr Sutherland quotes Shaw as having characterized contraceptive practices as reciprocal masturbation. A footnote traces the remark to a meeting of the Medico-Legal Society of London, July 7, 1921, without printed reference.

Inquiry of Mr Shaw brought a response from his secretary to the effect that the address was not written.

Inquiry of the Medico-Legal Society referred me to *The Lancet*, which reported the meeting, the report of the meeting (July 23, 1921, p 181) contained no such statement from Mr Shaw, nor any statement from him opposed to Birth Control as such.

The reader may make his own interpretation of the circumstances.

THOMAS D ELIOT

Swedish Delegation,
Geneva,

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

I always read with special interest your REVIEW under whose wide scheme I see propagated a number of useful reforms and which is designed to act as a powerful lever for awakening the world's conscience in the social field.

ERIK VJOSTRAND

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS

Pennsylvania

The following letter was sent to "The Survey" by the Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation.

The article, entitled "A Conference Program Conceived In Malice", by J Pennyroyal, appearing in the current issue must have challenged the attention of many social workers and officers in welfare organizations.

J Pennyroyal explains that he is not criticising what the programs offer, but what they had to offer. I too have sat in the semi-coma of conference rooms and wondered what possible ray of hope there was for the lessening of demands for money and organization in social welfare work.

We are urged to attend local, State and National conferences, if we are a bit rusty, to get our perspectives

sharpened, to compare our experiences with other workers and to go home with a fresh grip on our own situation.

We are told by leaders in this movement that social welfare is "big business—billion dollar business", and must be increased to meet the enormous demands for the rehabilitation of the families of the poor, to give sufficient food, housing, find work for the father, care for the feeble-minded children, help the mother through numerous pregnancies, and so on, ad infinitum.

After sitting through four days of a recent State gathering on social work, and hearing not one word on eugenic measures or the need for Birth Control, as a rational solution of the problems facing social welfare, it occurred to me that it is a pitifully superficial chanty which leaves the cause of much human misery untouched.

Our Welfare Conferences do not have reports from Birth Control clinics, operating in various States of the Union, where the overburdened mothers are receiving advice and are taught to postpone their pregnancies until health and economic conditions justify the coming of another child.

Those who work daily in the crowded slums know only too well that Birth Control clinics should be established in all large centers of population.

"NO OTHER CORRECTIVE"

From Prof East's recent book "Heredity and Human Affairs", he states "The incompetent members of society have received chanty from generation to generation. The cure, in so far as a single remedy will save, is Birth Control. *There is no other corrective.* Until Birth Control is recognized as a necessary social prophylactic by public health officials and family welfare organizations, this well-intentioned philanthropy and social service is nothing but a brutal gesture to posterity. These admirable plans will only work if the people who are helped are taught to show some regard for society as well as for themselves by controlling reproduction so as to promote the health and general welfare of both mother and offspring."

He closes with the words "Genetics gives fair warning to the sensible but timid social worker, to the short-sighted physician, to the perverted Comstockian, and to the sophists of the church, that civilization is in a dangerous situation, for which only one remedy is specific. Devise proper methods for safeguarding its use, if you will, but see that it is used to reduce the survival of the unfit, or the next generation will hold you to account."

Do we dare to continually urge the raising of enormous sums from the tax-paying public for the support of the unfit when we put so little effort into furthering the progress of eugenic sterilization and Birth Control.

Let the Knight Errant of social advancement, this organizer of human affairs, give this his consideration and direct part of his energy to furthering the support of these measures in this era of humanitarianism.

Impressions of an Organizer

By CONSTANCE HECK

PROBABLY the most sahent impression of my entire work in **organizing** committees of **prominent** men and women in the **principal** cities and towns of New York State is the eagerness of the people I have met to hear more about **Birth Control**. Of course, those who are in favor of the movement—the **intelligent** men and women of the country who have **given** as much thought to **this** question as they have to other **vital** problems—know a great deal about the subject and **their** Interest hes in hearing of the League's progress. But even those who are opposed to **Birth Control**—**either** through Ignorance of what it really means or from what they term "**religious scruples**", seldom **fail** to **seize** an opportunity to talk to someone in close touch with the **Birth Control** League.

In many communities I found this eagerness tempered with a **timidity** which was to me a source of great amazement and, I must confess, amusement. It took me some time to realize that there were **still** numerous **timid** souls who shrank at the **mention** of certain words which, a decade ago, were not **voiced** in **polite society**. But after the first shock—I could almost see them curl up around the edges when I used the words—they came back for more and, in the course of our **conversation**, used them themselves with apparent ease. It was really quite **beautiful** to witness the dawn of a **realization** that **certain things** should be called by their proper names.

The Meaning of Birth Control

The real meaning of Birth Control I found is not always entirely clear to many people. They confuse it with **abortion**. Or they **think** that **Birth Control** means race suicide, and they get **terribly** worked up over the fact that we are trying to break up the family, to put an end to the race, and to destroy the **nation**.

A number of people have an **idea** that Birth Control is companionate **marriage**. They seem to be a **trifle** vague about that subject except to believe that it is something "loose". One man asked me if I did not think Birth Control would cheapen women.

In **getting** a group of people together for **committee** work, I have found the **ministers** of almost every denomination most responsive and willing to **give** us as much **aid** as they can. In quite a number of towns the leading clergyman gladly accepted the **chairmanship** of the committee. Of **course** there were a few exceptions but they were decidedly in the **minority**. In fact of all the clergymen whom I met, I found only three who were **unwilling** to take an active part in our work. One of them **said** he thought **Birth Control** was "immoral", another was too busy to bother with such "unimportant matters" and

the **third** was **afraid** the members of his **congregation** might not understand his "**interest**".

To each of these men I suggested that they make their prayers and **hymn-singing** in **pianissimo** so that the **cries** of the poor women and little **children** might not be **entirely** unheard. I took a **fiendish** joy in **seeing** each of these **gentlemen**—special representatives of **Diety**—actually squirm.

The Glory of Motherhood

Over the mantel of one man of God there hung a large **painting** of a madonna and **child**. On **leaving**, I could not **refrain** from **pausing** and **pointing** to it.

"From now on," I told him "every **time** you look at that **picture** which typifies the glory of motherhood, you are **going** to remember that not **all** mothers know such **joy** nor all little **children** possess such healthy curves."

Physicians—meaning of course the Protestant ones—I **discovered** with few exceptions, are Interested in Birth Control because they see the need of it. This was **evident** from stories they told me of certain cases. I found, however, an **appalling** lack of knowledge of **contraceptive** information among doctors in small communities. In fact some of the **advice** they were **giving** to their patients was anything but **scientific**. But it was **encouraging** to know that these men were **willing** to try better methods. Many of these doctors **practised** in mill towns where it is **easier** for a woman to get work than it is for her husband. Consequently, she works all **during** pregnancy and returns to her work shortly after the **birth** of her **child**.

Many **physicians** were surprised to know of the **Birth Control** clinics scattered over the country and to learn that it was possible for them to **establish** similar ones in their own **communities** where they might **give** **contraceptive** information for the cure or **prevention** of **disease**.

The Roman Catholic Vote

Every where I heard the cry that the **Catholic** element was too strong. People with **political** aspirations or men and women who were holding **city**, **county**, or state **positions** all seemed fearful of the Catholic vote. This universal fear of such a powerful **organization** amazed me. **America**, the land of the free, the home of the brave! I had **always** been under the **impression** that the **establishment** of these **United States** was the result of a **desire** for freedom, particularly **religious**. I have a vague remembrance of **having** learned **something** in school that concerned a **certain** Declaration of Independence. **Something** about **inalienable** rights of **life**, **liberty** and the pursuit of happiness, the establishment of **justice**, of **domestic** **tranquility** and the **blessings** of **liberty** for ourselves and our posterity.

The Future of the Birth Control Review

A GAIN this month we print a few out of the many replies received by Margaret Sanger to her letter asking for opinions as to the advisability of combining the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a magazine of the Eugenics Society. The many expressions of appreciation of the REVIEW have been very gratifying to all responsible for it.

From Adolf Meyer, M.D., Psychiatrist-in-Chief, The Johns Hopkins Hospital

The question of combining your review with the Eugenics Society magazine naturally has two aspects. Somehow one is apt to see some problematic features in both enterprises, and when they are joined they look even more disquieting. There is absolutely no doubt that the problem of contraceptive privileges is a thoroughly clean-cut one, whereas the Eugenics program is very apt to become somewhat diffused. On the other hand there is hardly room for many periodicals in this field, and if the two main sets of contributors do not relax their efforts there ought to be a definite gain. I do not suppose that any such relaxation of effort should be feared on your own side. If the fusion would lead to a periodical that would fit into library shelves there could not be any doubt about the gain.

From Leon J. Cole, Professor of Genetics, University of Wisconsin

I have given some thought to the matter, but I fear that my knowledge of the situation is scarcely sufficient to enable me to give an opinion of value. It strikes me offhand, however, that the American Birth Control League, and the American Eugenics Society, while they have in view somewhat the same ultimate ends, are organized to approach the matter from quite different angles. The American Birth Control League has been frankly and quite properly organized for propaganda. Its purposes were primarily eutheic, as I understand, rather than eugenic, and the support it has lent to the broader problems of eugenics in recent years I attribute to your own broad vision. If there is still a place for a journal of Propaganda (in the better sense of the word) I am wondering whether the League would not weaken its position by combining its organ with that of the American Eugenics Society.

Now to take the other side of the picture. There seems to be somewhat of a diversity of opinion as to what the Eugenics Society should do and what it is attempting to do. Most of the professional geneticists, I think, feel that our knowledge of human genetics, especially in relation to sociological questions, is still so inadequate that

we should be very conservative about pushing any sort of eugenic propaganda.

My view of the situation is probably incomplete and should not be given too much weight, but I must say that my reaction, from the standpoint of both publications, is that they can better serve their fields separately than combined.

From Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf

In answer to your letter I would wish to say that, to judge from the correspondence I have had with writers, teachers and laboratory workers in eugenics, they all feel that Birth Control, as a social and economical need and as an indispensable necessity in the prevention and cure of many woman's diseases, should go hand in hand with sterilization of the mentally, morally and physically unfit, and the study of Eugenics in general. I am therefore strongly in favor of having the two movements combined and of having the activities, announcements and news items referring to the causes of both Birth Control and Eugenics published in one journal.

However, I would not wish to see the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW lose its identity by this merger and I would insist in the publication being called "Eugenics and Birth Control Review" and that you should remain the editor of the section on Birth Control in the newly created magazine.

From E. C. Linderman, Ph.D.

In response to your inquiry may I say that on general principles, I should favor the amalgamation of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and the Eugenics Society magazine. I can see but one disadvantage. The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW serves a useful propaganda purpose and I presume that the new journal would tend to be more technical. This would be desirable, providing the propaganda stage for Birth Control is finished, or providing we can devise some other means for carrying this movement to the people in common language.

My real preference would be for a joint magazine dealing with the more scientific aspects of Birth Control and Eugenics and a small news-sheet promoted by the Birth Control League. It seems to me that we shall need something of this sort to keep the fighting edge, the scientific emphasis is sorely needed, but we still have so much to do in the way of changing attitudes and prejudices. If the plan which I suggest could be carried out, all members of both societies would presumably receive the new journal but members of the Birth Control League would in addition receive an occasional news-sheet, keeping them informed with respect to Birth Control activities. (I should like to see this smaller sheet issued twice each month.)

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

FROM June 30 to July 4, a World Congress, promoted by the World League for Sexual Reform will be held in Copenhagen. The League, of which Margaret Sanger is one of the promoters, was organized in Berlin. Its object is "to encourage the development of a sexual sociology and a sexual ethic, based on sexual biology and sexual psychology, rather than, as in the past, on theology." The call for the first Congress was signed by August Forel, of Switzerland, Havelock Ellis of England and Magnus Hirschfeld of Germany—probably the foremost authorities in the field of sex in the world. We give below their manifesto.

What does the World League for Sexual Reform aim at?

It aims at being the headquarters of a campaign against a false sexual morality, a false morality, to which already endless numbers of human beings have been sacrificed, and which continues daily to demand its victims.

In this fight we mean to use exclusively those mental weapons and those facts, which sexual science (in the widest sense) gives us.

What is out of accord with the laws of nature and science can never be ethically right or truly moral. Where opposition exists between the forces of nature and of society (as, for example, in the population question) one must be at pains to do away with this opposition by using the conscious will of mankind to bring these forces into harmonious cooperation.

We are unable to recognize as binding the varying rules prescribed at different times by the moment. We can recognize only what is in agreement with the teachings of life and love.

The following ten points deserve special consideration.

- 1 **Marriage reform.** Wedlock must be raised to the position of a living comradeship between two people. This necessitates a reform in the marriage contract, conjugal rights and divorce.
- 2 **The position of women** as members of society. Women have not by any means everywhere as yet won the equal rights that are their due in political, economic, social and sexual spheres.
- 3 **Birth Control.** A greater sense of responsibility in the begetting of children. We believe in making harmless contraceptives known, combat on the other hand both abortion and the penalizing of abortion.
- 4 **Eugenics** in the sense of Nietzsche's words: "You shall not merely continue the race, but move it upward!"

- 5 A fair judgment of those who are unsuited to marriage, above all the intermediate sexual types.
- 6 Tolerance of free sexual relations, especially protection of the unmarried mother and the child born out of wedlock.
- 7 The prevention of prostitution and venereal disease.
- 8 The conception of aberrations of sexual desire not as criminal, sinful or vicious but as a more or less pathological phenomenon.
- 9 The setting up of a code of sexual law, which does not interfere with the mutual sexual will of grown-up persons.
- 10 The question of sexual education and enlightenment.

All these points have in the last fifty years been the subject of lively discussions, which have not only often fundamentally altered the whole conception, but also the whole organization of sexual life. We can in this sense speak of a sexual crisis. The old morality with its terrible sexual misery still has the upper hand, and the human prejudices and condemnation are still heaped higher.

Ford writes in his "Die sexuelle Frage": "There ought to be no contradiction between sexual hygiene and sexual ethics." We would add: There ought to be no contradiction between natural law and human law, between science and morals, between pure truth and true purity!

Though you no doubt already devoted your energy to various cultural movements, we would still earnestly ask you to join our organization!

Our aim is a fight for the most precious possessions of man—his rights, his freedom, his love—against mighty though not unconquerable obstacles. The stronger our organization becomes, the nearer is the prospect of freeing mankind from the sexual persecution and the sexual distress which ignorance and intolerance have so long inflicted upon us!

August Forel

Havelock Ellis

Magnus Hirschfeld

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS COMMITTEE

August Forel, Yverne, Havelock Ellis, London, Magnus Hirschfeld, Berlin, Margaret Sanger, New York, Victor Margueritte, Paris, Aldo Miel, Rome, Rudolf Goldscheid, Vienna, Dr. Bondy, Prague, Herman Lundborg, Upsala, N. Pasche Oserski, Kieff, F. Asnaurov-Humanaca, Argentina, Dr. Frissmann, Riga, Dr. Norman Haire, London, Dr. H. Rohleder, Leipzig, Dr. W. J. Robinson, Paris, Dr. Helene Stoecker, Berlin, Dr. H. Schneiderberger, Cape Palmas (Liberia), Dr. Batkis, Moscow, Dr. Benjamin, New York, Professor Dubrassen, Berlin, Else Jerusalem, Buenos Aires, Dr. X. Kautsky, Vienna, Dr. Bernstein, Leningrad, Auguste Kirchhoff, Bremen, H. Swoboda, Vienna, Dr. Albers Harken, Amsterdam, Rosa Mayreder, Vienna, Merrit Hawkes, Birmingham, and F. Turville-Petre, London.

WORKING COMMITTEE

Maria and Paul Kriesche, Berlin NW 40, Den in dm Zelten 10, Hertha and Walter Riese, Frankfurt/Main, J. H. Leunbach, Copenhagen.

News Notes

UNITED STATES

SINCE the middle of April Dr Cooper has extended his campaign into eight States. His addresses have been almost exclusively to medical groups. He spoke in five cities in Georgia, eight in Tennessee, to the meeting of the Southwestern Kentucky Medical Association, to one medical meeting in St. Louis, in six cities in Illinois, at a conference in Indiana, to six meetings in Iowa, and to two in Wisconsin. He also attended sessions of the American Medical Association Convention at Minneapolis.

As a result of this wide-spread travel, he reports increased interest in contraception. In practically every case, the meetings he addresses are specially called by the local or county Medical Association to hear him. The fact that busy doctors give their time to hear a lecture and to discuss contraceptive technique at special meetings shows the awakening interest of the medical profession. Ten years ago, even five years ago, such meetings as these would have been impossible.

New Jersey

THE New Jersey Birth Control League, whose president is Mrs. Zachariah Belcher, celebrated its first anniversary in June. Its most important achievement during the year was the establishment of a Birth Control clinic in Newark, under the charge of the Maternal Health Committee. Local committees have been formed in several towns and cities, and large and enthusiastic meetings have been held, notably those at Short Hills on April 9, with Miss Cora L. Hartshorne as leader, at Englewood on April 21, Newark, April 27, and Morristown, May 21. Mrs. Sanger addressed the Englewood and Newark meetings. The Morristown affair was a luncheon, followed by a large meeting at the Morristown Golf Club, where Mrs. F. Robertson Jones was the chief speaker.

Pennsylvania

A WOMEN'S CLUB of 400 members at Swarthmore, has endorsed the principle of making it legal for physicians to give Birth Control information to married patients in the regular course of their practice and will urge the 1929 Legislature to pass legislation to this end. Last year, many persons were privately invited to hear Mrs. Sanger in the Clubhouse, under the League of Women Voters, an affiliated organization. Early this year, the Current Event Section heard Mrs. Kennedy. Previous to the final meeting of the year, 80 mimeographed letters were sent out, each signed personally by the woman most interested, asking her personal friends, whom she knew to be favorable, not to fail to be present and vote upon the resolution. The meeting was very large. There was no objection made when the movement to vote came and the endorsement was unanimous.

California

THE Los Angeles Mothers' Clinic Association has issued its third annual report, with an analysis of 500 of the cases which had been under treatment for an average of two years each. Had the women continued to have pregnancies with the same frequency as before coming to the Clinic there would have been 600 pregnancies. As it was there were 100 pregnancies. This means there were 500 less pregnancies than had been the average of their preceding married lives. This also means there were 65 less miscarriages, 70 less stillbirths and infant deaths and 90 less chronically sick infants to be cared for, as one or both parents are physically or mentally unfit to beget children, and the majority of children born to them are unlikely to prove able to care for themselves. It means, too, that the physical and mental health of the mothers has improved and they are better able to care for the children they have. Each of these families has an income amounting to less than \$100 a month. The majority of them are already dependent upon charity.

The saving to the community through the avoidance of these 500 pregnancies is estimated at \$20,000—a saving based only on 500 cases and one which is likely to be much surpassed in regard to the 1,000 later cases already under treatment.

Following are three cases which are typical of mothers with many years of frequent pregnancies, infant deaths and miscarriages resulting in broken health. Mrs. A. Age 42, 22 years married. 16 pregnancies, 7 children living, 9 died in infancy. Mrs. B. Age 38, 18 years married. 18 pregnancies, 8 living children, 7 died in infancy, 3 miscarriages. Mrs. C. Age 34, 18 years married. 15 pregnancies, 6 living children, 1 died in infancy, 8 miscarriages.

The next three cases are those of younger mothers of the same type who have been given treatments at the Clinic in the hope of saving them from the fate of the first group. Mrs. D. Age 29, 8 years married. 10 pregnancies, 2 living children, 8 miscarriages. Mrs. E. Age 24, 6 years married. 7 pregnancies, 2 living children, 5 miscarriages. Mrs. F. Age 21, 7 years married. 7 pregnancies, 5 living children, 2 miscarriages.

A more detailed account of two cases is submitted herewith to illustrate the type of urgent need that is met by the Clinic.

Mrs. G. Age 30 years, married 8 years. Father and mother of patient were first cousins, and her husband is her second cousin. They have had five children. One died of convulsions at 8 months. Two are imbeciles, unable to feed themselves or to move from their beds. A child of 3 and a baby 1½ years can walk, but as yet are

too young for them **mental conditions** to be **determined**. A social worker brought the mother to this Clinic in July, 1926, since which time there have been no pregnancies, and the parents have been relieved of the fear of bringing helpless imbeciles into the world.

Mrs H Age 31 years, married twice By the first husband she had three children and induced three abortions She has been married to the second husband three years They have one child, now 1½ years old When this baby was 2 months old the patient came to the Clinic, ill and discouraged The family was receiving help from various charitable organizations She was admitted to the Clinic and has since regained her normal health, secured permanent employment and has needed no help from charities

The clinic has treated 1,438 patients more than a thousand of whom have made return visits Seventeen persons have on the advice of the clinic been sterilized The total cost in 1927 was \$4,177.22

The material of the Clinic offers an unusual opportunity for carrying out scientific research on the subject of the human menstrual cycle A member of the medical staff, formerly connected with the Department of Anatomy in the University of California at Berkeley, has undertaken such a research and it is hoped that a valuable contribution will result from her work

The Los Angeles Mothers' Clinic Association, Inc., does not receive help from the Community Chest, but is a member of the Social Service Exchange and co-operates with all the Social Service and charitable organizations of the city and surrounding country

The Mothers' Clinic is supported by donations from persons interested in its work, by the staff of women physicians who give generously of their time, by the officers who sponsor and direct the organization and by the Board of Directors

Dr H G Brainerd is president of the board of directors Dr Etta Gray is chief of the medical staff, all of whom are women

ENGLAND

BIRTH CONTROL was again the subject of discussion at the Annual Conference of Labor Women, which was held at Portsmouth in May In spite of a vigorous fight, made by the section of the party that is urging the giving of Birth Control advice at all welfare centers, the party leaders were able to side-track the subject as being contentious and calculated to cause disaffection in the party

The highest birthrate in England is found among the miners, who at the same time have the largest rate of unemployment An effort is now being made to introduce Birth Control clinics in the mining districts, where there is intense poverty and much suffering among the women and children

FRANCE

AN international Conference, under the auspices of Le Comité International pour la Vie and la Famille, was held in Paris the first week in June. It was announced as "open to all those who are opposed to the practice of Birth Control" and the first session was opened by Father John Ryan of Washington, D C Characteristically much of the time was given to denunciations of abortion, a subject which, in France as in this country is frequently, but wrongly, identified with Birth Control

SPAIN

AT the dictation of the Roman Catholic Church, the Government of Spain has cut short a course on eugenics organized by the Society of Los Amigos del Niño (the Children's Friends) with the support of the doctors of Madrid, the Biological Society, the Spanish Society of Anthropology, and under the direction of the well-known Professor Hoyos Sainz, president of the Spanish Royal Natural Sciences Society

The main purpose of this course was to make the Spanish public acquainted with the problems and the usefulness of eugenic teaching, taking as pattern in the first place, the work done in England by the Eugenics Education Society and by the Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics of University College, as well as the similar institutions of Europe and America

Only first-class authorities in the subject were to lecture, including the doyen of the medical faculty of the Madrid University and the Professor of Penal Law in the Madrid University, Senor Jimenez Asua [Professor Asua has been suspended by a Government decree in consequence of his lecture] The list of lecturers included the names of two priests, the Jesuit Father Laburu and an army chaplain, but at the last moment, clearly under pressure from the Clerical party, both excused themselves

The Liberal press of Madrid was full of articles praising the initiative, the Clerical press, especially "El Debate," a very influential paper closely associated with General Primo de Rivera, started a campaign against it The latter have won Under a royal decree, written in a tone that has offended the whole of the intellectual classes of Spain, the course has been prohibited as "against religion and morals"

The distinguished organizers of the course have decided to publish in various languages the lectures which were to have been given, in order that the whole scientific world may judge between the men of science and their censors

According to a press item in *The New York Sun* a Spanish decree of October, 1927 authorizing the extension of aid to large families has resulted thus far in approximately 18,000 applications The record family presented was that of a naval captain who had eighteen children

TESTS FOR SOCIAL WORK

WHAT good came of it in the end? asks Jean Purcell-Guild, in an article in *The Survey*. Social work is the object of her enquiry and she suggests that agencies which apply for money to the charitable should use "a measuring stick" on their work at intervals, to find what they have actually accomplished. A case which raises the question, the obvious doubt, in Miss Purcell-Guild's mind was furnished recently by the Brooklyn Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. A public appeal under the head "An American Tragedy" was made through *The New York Times* for a family of nine children whose father was dead and whose mother was in a sanatorium. More than sixty people responded to this appeal with large or small donations, and the sum total received was \$291.50. How long will this sum of about \$32.00 each last these children? What will it do for them? How much more will be needed till they are educated and self-supporting? It is safe to say that a very small number from the original group of contributors will give again, so a larger and larger public will have to be drawn upon for a long period. Probably it will prove impracticable to keep the family together, motherless and fatherless as it is, and the children will be scattered in orphan asylums or with relatives or in foster homes. They will be a family no longer, but simply another problem of dependency for society to meet. One wonders how the sick mother feels about her children's fate and what was in the father's mind when he died leaving behind a family whose numbers he had not known how to limit. One wonders too how far overwork and undernourishment in the effort to support such a family was responsible for the father's death, how far unlimited childbearing was the cause of the mother's breakdown. Taking this case as a type we are in a position to answer Mrs. Purcell-Guild's question. Social work which does not include Birth Control cannot do the work of rehabilitation toward which it aspires.

A NEW BOOK

THE AGE OF REASON" is a delightful book. Every chapter leaves you thinking, guessing, pondering, until the end when it finishes with a masterly climax. Many references to Birth Control are made throughout in a friendly spirit.

This book brings your thinking up-to-date, and presents to you with charming characters who fascinate as well as irritate.

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