

November, 1928

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

In the Creation of New Life There Should be Scientific Knowledge and Deliberate Planning



Maurice Becker

Birth Control — for Quality

(Winner of First Prize in BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Cartoon Contest)

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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TEN GOOD REASONS *for* BIRTH CONTROL



SEVEN REASONS—Woman's Rights, Married Love, The Health of Mother and Child, the Welfare of Children, the Abolition of Poverty and the Relief of Over-population in its Domestic and in its International Aspects—have been given for

Birth Control

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

Another reason, of vital importance to all humanity, is

Reason VIII—The Improvement of the Race

(Certain degenerate or sickly types tend to perpetuate their mental or physical disease, or the predisposition to it. To people suffering from some forms of insanity, from alcoholism, feeble mindedness, venereal disease, there ought to be no children born. Birth Control is a practical agency for the creation of a eugenic race.)

Here is what a few experts say —

What the world needs today is not the martyr, the hermit, the sacrificial warrior, the monk, the nun or the woman who dedicates herself to the service of the sick suffering and degraded. What it needs most is bright, healthy, competent, strong willed, clear thinking children born of happy, hearty, high-minded parents.

Some day the world will doubtless frown on any family that has more than two children, unless the older children rank high in all sorts of tests, but it will pay great honor to the parents of six children all of whom are superior in mind and temperament.

ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON

A portion of infant mortality represents the lingering and wasteful removal from the world of beings of inherent defects, beings who for the most part, ought never to have been born and need not have been born under conditions of greater foresight.

H G WELLS

Every year the bill for public and private charity is increased—mother's aid, supplementary relief in the home, institutional care for children, health service. And every year there are greater demands for institutional care for the mental defectives and the delinquents who are the products of the wretched homes.

JESSIE P. CONDIT

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

HUNTINGTON and WHITNEY

Year by year the privileged classes in the state, who have limited the size of their own families, must pay heavier taxes for the care of the dependent, delinquent and defective children of the ignorant, the unfortunate and the vicious. If through Birth Control and the sterilization of the unfit we could prevent the multiplication of the dependent and the unfit, it might be possible, through public and private funds to provide advantages for the normal and the under privileged child which would greatly improve the quality of our citizenship.

JESSIE P. CONDIT

The United States Government has a quota restriction by which only so many people from each country are allowed to enter our shores each month. Most people are convinced that this policy is right, and agree that we should slow down on the number as well as the kind of immigrants coming here.

But while we close our gates to the so-called "undesirables" from other countries, we make no attempt to discourage or cut down the rapid multiplication of the unfit and undesirable at home.

In fact, through our archaic and inhuman laws against Birth Control information, the breeding of defectives and insane becomes a necessity.

MARGARET SANGER

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

Declaration of Principles of American Birth Control League

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

VOL XII

NOVEMBER, 1928

No 11

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EDITORIAL

POLITICS makes strange bedfellows. Surely there have been none stranger than the liberals, the "progressives", the champions of freedom who are supporting Governor Smith because of his stand on prohibition. Verily they are straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. In all tolerance and in all respect, to brush aside the religious aspect of this campaign is to remain stupidly satisfied with a superficial tolerance, and to ignore its profounder and most interesting aspects. "As a man thinketh, so is he." No one, surely, would say that Governor Smith, if elected, would act in a manner disloyal to the great church in which he was born and brought up. He cannot go against its edict. Father P. J. Ward, of the National Catholic Welfare Council of Washington, D. C. has defined the attitude of the Catholic Church concerning the morale and habits of non-Catholics. The Catholic Church, he has declared is the depository of eternal truth, the kingdom of God on earth. She is responsible for the morals of the entire human race. The same authority has assured us that the Catholic Church is opposed to Birth Control because it interferes with the plan of God, "who intends that people who marry may do so for the purpose of procreation or may live in each other's love in strict continence, like brother and sister. Marriage without the desire and responsibility of parenthood, or not lived in strict continence, is immoral and sinful." Would Smith dare or care to oppose this mandate in wielding a powerful opposition to any legislation involving the conscious control of procreative faculties? No. His mind, admirable as it may be, is oriented in the direction of his church. It is attuned to the closed world of pre-ordained Catholic morality, which refuses to recognize that one man's virtue may be another's sin.

The question is not merely one of Governor Smith's liberality or open-mindedness. It is of powerful institutional forces, which will inevitably and with quiet power unconsciously direct his activity. Let us not forget the career of John Purroy Mitchell. Shall we cast away the precious freedom of our hard-earned "ethics of the dust" for the closed world of an alien and imprisoning morality?

THE Cartoon Contest of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW closed October 1st and the cartoon by Maurice Becker which won the first prize, of fifty dollars, is on this month's cover. Winners of the other three prizes will be reproduced next month. They are "Their Salvation", by Herb Kruckman, (\$25.00), "Bound and Gagged", by Nate Collier (\$15.00) and "The Foundling Basket", by Elliott Dold (\$10.00). A symbolic drawing by Marad Serriov received Honorable Mention. A very good number of artists took part in the contest and the competition has had results even among those who took no part. More than one artist has expressed interest and volunteered later on to make a contribution to the REVIEW, and—possibly by coincidence, but we believe not—no less than five cartoonists who knew of the REVIEW Contest have in the last six weeks had cartoons with a bearing on Birth Control in the New York papers to which they were regular contributors. Perhaps this indirect result is best of all, for what we want is to get the message to the greatest number of people possible.



THE HICKMAN CASE is no longer in the news. His execution on October 19 brought it to an end. But in "The Murder Farm" the story of another demented and criminal mother and son has taken its place. Cases of this type are recurrent, perennial. All of us can remember far back into our childhood a succession of these monstrous human beings. They have horrified the public and demoralized no small portion of it by arousing an unhealthy curiosity and by giving criminal suggestion to a few of weak intelligence—one case often creating the next. So Miriam van Waters' review of the Hickman case in the October *Survey-Graphic* is well worth comment. Every one recalls the story, the Los Angeles boy of 20 who, taking Leopold and Loeb as his models, strangled a little girl, and then dissected the body,—a thing which he had always longed to do. But few know the ante-

cedents of the crime. The boy's mother, it appears, had similar desires. "I hear his mother speaking" was his father's comment when Edward boasted of what he did at the trial. Mrs. Hickman had often terrorized her five children. She was at times a dangerous maniac and had been for a time confined in an insane asylum. Her mother was known as "Crazy Becky" and her father, her grandfather and others of her relatives were notoriously unbalanced, their dementia in some cases taking the form of fits of rage and cruelty. Yet this woman was turned loose by the Arkansas State Insane Asylum, and allowed to become a mother again and again. And her greatest dread was childbearing, each pregnancy was an obsession, which worked her into terror and frenzy. She would have welcomed the right to be childless. She would have preferred not to bring Edward Hickman into the world. But our laws decree ignorance of means to prevent such a birth, though the babe be doomed by his inheritance to be an enemy to society. In perpetuating such types, society makes itself an accessory to their crimes. Until society removes such possibilities as the Hickman crime by preventing the handing on of manifestly unfit strains, Miss Van Waters is quite correct in saying that "the public is helpless in the face of crime and has not the most elementary truth to guide it in forming a future defense."



THE amalgamation of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a Eugenic periodical is no longer an issue, for the American Eugenics Society in October brought out the first number of its own periodical. The group of letters on this subject in this month's REVIEW will be the last to be published. The discussion has been well worth while, for the letters, both those published and those unpublished, have brought the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW into contact again with some friends not heard from for a long time. They have demonstrated the vital and constantly increasing interest in this movement among the best minds in America. It has been like a draught of fresh life to those who have long been working for Birth Control to find with what conviction the writers speak of Birth Control as the most vital, practical and fundamental of social efforts. Because Birth Control seemed of such unique and crucial importance, the largest single group of correspondents said emphatically "No" to the propo-

sition of amalgamation. They believe that the identification with eugenics would obscure the eugenic, the feminist and other objects of Birth Control. The next largest group could see some practical advantages — such as financial benefits, a larger reading public — but expressed grave fears that more would be lost than gained, that the clear cut Birth Control issue—to them a practical eugenic program—would be lost in the more diffuse and vague eugenic platform. Others again saw benefits in amalgamation "on general principles" but did not feel that they knew enough to advise. A small and emphatic group unqualifiedly urged the combination but the "yes" group was much smaller than the "noes", and the "noes" taken in conjunction with those who doubted, hesitated or felt themselves incompetent to decide gave a large majority in favor of continuing the REVIEW as a separate periodical.



A GAIN we wish to express our gratitude to our friends who have sent us letters telling of what Birth Control has meant to them in their own family life. We are delighted with the response we have received to our appeal for such letters, and we earnestly ask that other women and men also will make this valuable contribution to an understanding of the constructive and positive side of Birth Control. We know by long experience of sad and tragic stories sent with pleas of help, what the lack of Birth Control has meant in misery and sickness. Let us hear now of what its practice means in health and happy families.



DURING the coming winter Mrs. Sanger is planning to make a tour of the Western States and to give lectures on behalf of the establishment of Birth Control Clinics. So far only a few dates have been arranged, but these dates give an indication of where she will be at any given time. Early in November, she will be in Pennsylvania. From November 26th through the month of December she is planning to be in California, returning to New York for the holidays. In January she will be in Illinois and Minnesota. Organizations desirous of securing Mrs. Sanger can make inquiries through the American Birth Control League Headquarters in New York.

Food and Population

By E M EAST

THE members of the World Population Conference gathered at Geneva because they realized the extent and the meaning of the changes occurring during the last generation in this little terraqueous globe, which Voltaire so aptly called the lunatic asylum of the universe. The world has been explored from pole to pole, its resources have been charted, from aard-varks to zymogens. The seas are dotted with ships, the lands are meshed with railroads. Our hands, our voices, stretch from continent to continent. We have become neighbors, whether we care to be neighborly or not. In a century of industrialization, the population has risen from 900 million to 1,850 millions, — an increase probably greater than that of any previous age, since the continuous increment at the current rate would make a theoretical Adam and Eve contemporary with the great Augustus. The population problem, therefore, is not a problem to be considered in the fullness of time. With the world spotted with archipelagoes of untracked wilderness, it may not have been a pressing question, to-day its claim for public recognition cannot be lightly cast aside. Even the publicists, who treat the matter with levity and contempt, seem to realize the truth of this assertion. Their feverishly optimistic exhortations, in and of themselves, show a fear of consequences in the present trend of affairs that is poorly screened by bluster and bravado. While those who study the rapidly rising figures in the census returns and who keep tally on the diminishing reserves of arable land, they certainly do not laugh.

The Question Will Not Solve Itself

The question proposed for solution, that of a just peace between the two basic instincts of mankind, nutrition and reproduction, is one which will not solve itself, as many people have supposed. Such a pleasing eventuality requires a diminishing human fecundity, for which there is no evidence. In fact, the biologists of to-day can find no flaw in Darwin's conclusion that civilization enhances fecundity. A satisfactory adjustment of these two embattled urges can be made only if man assumes a social direction of his own evolution. The ideal is an artificially standardized optimum of population, where distress and misery are at the ebb, where sunshine, good cheer, and happiness at the flood. It is a population large enough for the efficient production and distribution of the comforts of life, and small enough to permit social, ethical, and esthetical ad-

vance. We can at least visualize this point — even if we can never attain it — as a sort of generalized maximum reached just before the combined efforts of society pass into the era of diminishing returns.

The facts being what they are, presumably nothing is to be gained by presenting vague platitudes on the food resources of the world. Obviously, any effort at enhancing agricultural efficiency, un-supplemented by population restriction measures, will bring about no more real improvement in the situation than will the furious exertions of the squirrel in his revolving cage. We merely raise more wheat to feed more men to raise more wheat.

There are however certain concrete problems which demand solution, and which an International Union would be more competent to solve than other agencies.

Adequate Statistics Needed

Of first importance, in my estimation, is the collection of adequate statistics by standardized methods. The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome is admirably fitted to act as a clearing house for such data. Though hampered by lack of funds, it is doing an admirable work. I criticize neither its ideals, its personnel, nor its methods. Yet the data which it issues are not satisfactory to the critical-minded statistician. Only a few countries have reasonably sound systems of agricultural bookkeeping, and these systems, having been developed independently are not comparable in type or accuracy. The data for the rest of the world consist of indifferent guesses.

Each of us can formulate problems which might be solved if comparable agricultural statistics for the entire world were made available as speedily as domestic and international scandals are spread by our various news agencies. I will mention three.

There is not likely to be a general under-production of food for years to come, yet each year there is a glut in some localities and a scarcity in others. Am I too optimistic in believing that if the areas planted to various crops were known, if the prospective harvest were accurately forecasted, if the final yields were quickly and precisely determined, much human misery could be avoided?

I feel sure that considerable progress could be made in avoiding over-production and under-production of specific commodities, with the resulting extremes of price-fluctuation, and in providing better distribution facilities and workable credit sys-

tems in districts which happen to be temporarily unfortunate

It might also be possible to study effectively the variations in diet, forced by different densities of population. We have some knowledge of the proteid-energy ratios required by man and of the effects caused by the deficiencies in the vitamins, but we have no precise and comprehensive knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the primary and secondary foods in various combinations. And these are practical matters. For example, marked changes are now taking place in the dietary habits of the people of the United States. Economists view the trend with interest, and are able to resolve some of the more important factors causing it. Yet the mere observation of past events is not satisfactory. It would be more gratifying if the experience of the older countries, critically evaluated, could be correlated with physiological and agricultural knowledge, to serve as the means of guiding future changes into desirable channels.

World Production

More important still for the world at large is to have satisfactory data from which to draw conclusions as to economic policies in agriculture. May I call attention to a few comparative statistics regarding the productivity per acre and per person engaged in agriculture in certain countries?

The figures were calculated by investigators in the United States Department of Agriculture

Countries	Year	Acres per agricul- tural	Production index per unit area	Production index per agricul- tural
United Kingdom	1901	7.1	177	126
France	1901	7.3	123	90
Germany	1907	7.1	167	119
Hungary	1900	7.1	113	80
Belgium	1900	5.3	221	117
Italy	1901	4.7	96	45
United States	1900	27.0	108	292

These figures are in striking contrast to each other. Belgium is the most efficient country in food production per unit area, — twice as efficient as the United States. The States, on the other hand, lead in production per man engaged in agriculture with a figure two and one-half times as high as Belgium and six and one-half times as high as Italy, and these figures are reflected in the wage-scales of the various countries.

I feel some embarrassment in presenting these calculations. The citizens of the United States are too often held up to the people of Europe as horrid examples of pitiable money-chasers who have been fortunate enough to have great stores of natural

wealth to be exploited. In its sinister sense the charge is untrue. The country is blessed with a redundancy of natural resources and has not had to meet all of the population difficulties faced by the older nations. But there are other new, under-populated, rich countries with which invidious comparisons might be made. The people of the United States work short hours and receive high wages for one reason only, — because they have made machines work for them.

As my colleague Professor T. N. Carver has so often pointed out, every civilization of which we know anything has been based upon parasitism. The finer things of life—art, science, and literature,—have been the products of a vicious system, a system of slavery, of peonage, of the exploitation of human labor. A few favorites of fortune were able to cultivate learning and beauty because they could shift the burdens of existence to other shoulders. If democracy is to guide us successfully to a higher civilization, the machine must be the slave which it exploits. Only by such an expedient are high wages and light work possible. Either we must make inanimate machines serve us, or we ourselves must be machines.

Now I have not the slightest idea as to what opportunities exist for machine-power to take the place of man-power in the more densely populated countries where every unit of land must be made to give the highest possible yield, but I am convinced that in no other way can there be any relief for the agricultural laborer. Either his productiveness must go up, or he must work long hours for the mere necessities of life. And I am further convinced that we can solve this problem only when we are able to study the complete returns from the agricultural laborers of the world at large.

(To be Continued)

The bituminous coal industry, never able to practice Birth Control, had produced, as it has heedlessly continued to do ever since, too many mines, too many operators, too many miners, too much coal.

—The Survey (N. Y.)

Man has set himself a task in this process of spiritual evolution which is wellnigh impossible to perform. How can he rise to thoughts above his material welfare, when the persistent increase of the population makes it necessary for him to live less comfortably and work more strenuously than the beasts in the field? Yet out of this man is expected to evolve such moral principles as will lift him above the beasts whose conditions of life are infinitely more to be desired than his own.

—From "Mr. Battleby Does Something,"

By ERNEST TEMPLE THURSTON

The First Three Months of the New Jersey Clinic

By HENRIETTE HART

ON MAY 15th we held the first session of the New Jersey Maternal Health Center, established by the New Jersey Birth Control League on a business street in Newark. Our first session was a very full one for many social agencies had made appointments for clients many weeks ahead. Within six weeks we were holding two sessions a week and now after five months operation we are arranging for a third. Our experience may thus be summed up in the words "Steady Progress." A resume of the first three months work (May 15-Aug 15) shows that 162 treatments were given, of which 62 were follow-ups and 100 new patients. These 100 came from the following sources: hospitals, 23, social agencies, 13, physicians, 19, friends, 29, American Birth Control League, 16.

We feel that we have reason to rejoice that more than half our patients came through those agencies for whose co-operation we have long been striving. Officially and unofficially fourteen agencies are referring patients. Day by day we are building up new contacts and hardly a week passes without some new agency or some new physician sending us a patient. It has been a long process. Fear and conservatism are slow in breaking down but many hundred physicians and social workers not yet actively co-operating with us have assured us of their sympathy and we know that we shall get their help also in time. We are particularly grateful to the hospital social workers who afford us opportunities to visit the gynecological clinics and meet the physicians informally and to those board members who afford us an opportunity to speak before their boards. On these individual contacts which bring us before groups the progress of our work largely depends.

Poor Patients

More than half our clients have incomes under \$25.00 a week. Fifty-two percent are charity cases, the rest pay something, the amount depending on their income, and pay it gladly. The donations, which range from twenty-five cents to twenty-five dollars, are given in a spirit of gratitude and with a desire to help other women. Six of our families are entirely supported by charitable organizations and have been so for years, and sadly enough these are the very families which have the largest number of children—ranging from seven to eleven and numerous dead. And they are still young women.

There comes to my mind a patient referred by one of the leading hospitals in the State. She had given birth to her ninth baby and had almost bled to death. For weeks they did not know whether they could save her. In the end they did save her life, if it can be called life, for she has been in the hospital for nine successive years giving birth to babies, each weaker than the one before and each taking more from her. The social worker who brought her carried her infant, the mother's arms were still too feeble. We seated her in our rocker chair and from sheer exhaustion after the hour's trip to the clinic, she fell asleep. She awoke when the baby, a sickly creature with a cleft palate, started to whine. She is still after many weeks, of a deathlike sallow pallor and she looks forty-five, though the record reads thirty-five. The family income is \$22.00 per week—for a family, mind you, of nine.

A Victim of Disease

There is another patient, a fine strong intelligent looking woman. But her eyes have a hard haunted look, her mouth droops. She brought her little boy with her, a handsome little chap were it not that he lacked an eye, and a tiny six weeks old baby. The mother and child were both so unhappily silent, they did not invite conversation, but they did invite sympathy. The social worker who brought her told her story. What caused that little boy to lose his eye? Syphilis, not that woman nor the father but the grandfather on her side. The woman did not know it until a few months ago. The father and mother had been divorced for many years but the mother had never told her the reason and the girl grew up strong and healthy and married at twenty a nice young chap with a decent job. They were very happy when the first baby came and with the second one although it was a bit soon. Then the boy began to develop a very sore eye and the woman brought him faithfully to a clinic for many months, carrying the second one and pregnant with the third. Finally she was told that an operation was the only thing which would save the other eye, and so it was taken out. About that time she began to notice that the second baby did not walk well and the third was ailing, and she began to wonder. Then she took a journey all alone to see her mother and came back an unsmiling and a silent woman. She is now twenty-five years old.

Picked up at random the records show miscarriages and abortions. Both are common but there are

twice as many abortions as miscarriages. One learns not to be shocked too severely but one returns these records to the files with a heavy heart. They are the silent drama—sad tales never told except in the intimacy of the clinic.

Funny things happen occasionally to lighten the gloom. One of our first patients came while we were moving in. Before the clinic had officially opened its doors the workers heard a voice, an unmistakable foreign voice. "Ees dees dee Birjsh Kontrol beesiness?" In the doorway stood a young woman, referring to a dirty piece of paper for the address. We assured her it was and an appointment was promised for our first session. We were a bit curious to know how this woman came to know we were here for no notices have been sent out yet. "Meester B" she replied and she added "Hee ees your furnitjure men." And the picture of Mr. B dawned on us, a genial little Jew, with a quick shrewd smile and a keen sense for business. He had congratulated us so heartily for opening such a fine office, that taking advantage of his enthusiasm, we begged another reduction on the chairs and he actually knocked twenty-five cents off. Of course Mr. B was our furniture man and our friend too, and the woman added "Meester B ees my furnitjure men too, but he make me buy too beeg table. I tell heem I cannot pay. My husband save and he not makes so much and we got five keeds already. Mr. B he say, 'There weel bee no more keeds for you. I know a fine beesiness downtown.' And he wrote me dee adress." Quite a bit amused we asked if he sold her the "beeg" table, and the reply came as we expected. "Sjure Ma'm, vat can I do. Hee ees such a nice man."

This story has a sequel. The other day Mr. B sent one of his men to fix our files. He was a nice young chap about twenty-five, but he acted a bit strangely and insisted that we 'phone Mr. B personally and tell him about the files, etc. So we did and after a few remarks there came over the wire

"Miss Hart, that man there he is a patient for you." I almost dropped the 'phone. Here stood the young man, blushing furiously and looking very sheepish. The telephone went on. "I mean the wife of course. She is having her fourth kid already. She is in the hospital now. Catch her when she comes out or by God, he will be asking me for another RAISE!" So Mrs. — had her appointment six weeks from date of interview and Mr. B is a good friend of the clinic for life!

Days of gladness, days of sadness. Orderly clinic days when the procession passes steadily into the tiny room where the record is taken by Miss Hart or the nurse, Mrs. D. Shaw and thence to Dr. Helen Miller's consulting room. Hectic ones when the patients come too fast and our pretty little waiting room and the still smaller room for play are almost too full for comfort. One of these was a day in summer when the skies began to weep torrents and none of the mothers anxious to get home had an umbrella. Two Italian youngsters were screaming at the top of their voices while their shoes were being removed, which were too little for their feet and only worn for this big occasion. In the white crib lay three babies, two chocolate colored ones in the brightest of bright pinks and a tiny little white one, asleep and blissfully unaware of either the rumbling of the thunder or of race and color. What is an overcrowded waiting room after all but a proof that we are needed?

The Tragedy of the British Miners

A Problem of Local Over-Population*

THE month of July, 1928, will stand out prominently in every future social history of Great Britain. In this month the admission was for the first time frankly made, in official documents and ministerial speeches, that our island is overpopulated. It is not a conclusion which a nation reaches lightly. It implies a pessimistic estimate of the future of our basic industries. It means that in competition with our neighbors we have ceased to be sanguine about our ability to recover our nineteenth-century preeminence as "the workshop of the world." Successive governments have clung to every

possible explanation of our trade depression which might postpone this dreaded conclusion. But at last the facts are being faced, and even Mr. Baldwin, whose function in our public life is to preach faith, hope and charity, has abandoned the theory of a cyclical or temporary depression. That admirable form of stupidity which refuses to know when it is beaten may explain our curious delay in coming to this conclusion. It has its merits on the battlefield, but in this social crisis it has wrought disaster, for it has postponed the radical effort of reconstruction which alone can arrest a slow process of decline.

Two events have dated our conversion. The

*Passages from an article by H. N. Brailsford in *The New Republic*

monthly figures of unemployment are slowly rising, they have falsified official forecasts, and one must now reckon with 1,200,000 as the total burden of unemployment. Even this figure understates the facts. The other event was the publication of a bulky report from the three Commissioners who, since January, have been studying the problem of transferring the surplus labor of the depressed trades to other employment. Mr MacDonald has described it as the report of "three men in despair," and the phrase reflects fairly enough what most of us felt after reading it. This merit, at least, the report possesses—it has forced the Cabinet and Parliament to bow to its ruthless presentation of the facts.

THE central tragedy is, of course, the situation of the coal mines. There can no longer be a doubt that we have 200,000 miners who will never again go down into a pit. It is with their prospects that the report is chiefly concerned, but it warns us, without attempting any estimate in figures, that ship-building, the iron-and-steel trade and "heavy" engineering have also their permanent surplus of superfluous hands. No one doubts this diagnosis in its application to the coal mines. The world's demand for coal is slowly diminishing, year by year, while new fields in the Dominions and in Asia are steadily nibbling at our export totals. There are valleys in South Wales which will never again see the winding-wheel turn at the pit-head, the blanket of smoke will lift from the slate roofs of their crowded cottages, and on the slopes of the mountain-walls that hem them in, the larch and the pine will strike their roots again. Already, in Scotland and elsewhere, the poorer pits have been permanently sealed, and their owners (but not their workers), compensated from a mutual pool. In proportion as the cotton and engineering trades overcome the stubborn individualism of their masters, and resort to combination and "rationalization," the same process of concentration which will bring security to the majority of their "hands," will forbid an appreciable minority to hope again. For "rationalization" means, of course, both the closing of inefficient concerns, and the adoption, in the rest, of labor-saving machinery.

The third of the big symptomatic events of our eloquent July has just happened on the railways. The men are admirably organized, and the "key" grades, especially the locomotive engineers, have occasionally shown a somewhat reckless militancy. Yet they have just accepted an all-round "cut" in wages of 2.5 percent. The men's surrender was doubtless inevitable, and they acted wisely in sparing themselves and the country the misery and loss

of a conflict which could have had but one result. Yet one shudders as one reads the congratulations of the press on their "patriotic sacrifice." For the railways, penetrating everywhere, set a national standard in wages, for village and town alike, and one fears that industry after industry will now approach its employees, with arguments of varying plausibility, and invite them to follow the good example of the railwaymen. "Rationalization," which at the best proceeds very slowly in its battle with individualism, may in the long run bring with it some lowering of commodity prices, but it may not mean a rise in real wages.

CASTING about for trades which might absorb the 200,000 unemployed miners, the Commission could not reckon on any general expansion in other trades. There is no expanding home market, and the whole struggle is to retain our imperilled foreign trade. They see no hope in agriculture for to train and equip a miner to run a small farm would be an impossibly costly venture. They do advise a modest resort to "forest holdings," which require a much smaller capital, since the occupant gains his living partly as a wage-earner in planting, felling and sawing, and only partly as a husbandman. They concentrate their attention on the possibilities of migration and emigration, and assuredly, in those coal fields which are nearing exhaustion, this plainly is the only hope.

The peculiarity of our industrial situation is that the really grave unemployment is local, though it is concentrated in some of our most populous regions. But while no less than 60 percent of the insured workers of Merthyr in South Wales are unemployed, only 5 percent of the working population of London is in that case. There are districts in the Midlands which show an even lower percentage, while Northumberland, Durham and the Welsh mining counties have from 19 to 23 percent of their workers unemployed. Much of the unemployment in London is easily endured—it lasts but a few weeks—that of the miners is permanent and hopeless. The report insists, again and again, that these men are in character and capacity at least up to the average level of English working men. They are not the inefficient, or the "work-shy." An old pit closes down, and fate descends on an entire village. Nor is it even the case that the old or the elderly prevail among them. There are youths, demoralized by compulsory idleness before they have acquired the habit of work—young men with growing families who see no hope either for themselves or their children, as well as the elderly and the middle-aged, who will not easily learn another trade.

THE Commission appeals to the good will of employers to remember the dire need of the miners. The government has created training centers to teach new trades both to boys and adults. It tries to argue (and theoretically its case may be sound) that even where there is already in a county outside the coal fields an unemployment percentage of 5 or 7, it may be possible to bring in labor from outside without injustice to the local population. But the new industry which seeks a village site is often keenly alive to the fact that villagers have no tradition of organization, and are not exacting in their standards of pay. Miners have a hereditary instinct for combination. Funds will be available to assist these men with loans to meet the expenses of removal. But, rightly or wrongly, these plans have not quickened the nation's pulse.

There remains the possibility of emigration to the Dominions. Here, too, the government has its plans, and is prepared to spend appreciable sums of money to aid the miners. It will train them through the winter on English farms, and then, not only will it advance their passage to Canada, but if they can save \$500 during two years at hired labor, it will assist them to acquire farms. But this scheme, even if all goes well, will not remove more than 10,000 adult miners, though with women and children it may include 21,000 persons in its benefits. There is also the plan to assist 10,000 men, of

whom many or most will be miners, to go this year to Canada for the harvest, and some of these may remain, though they will find when their harvesting is over the labor market at its lowest seasonal ebb. But both in the Report and in Mr. Baldwin's speech, one hears a painfully audible note of disillusionment over the possibilities of emigration. The rest of the government's scheme is designed to stave off the imminent bankruptcy of the coal trade—it can do nothing for this surplus labor.

At this point history breaks off, and intelligent anticipation begins. The chief data in our problem have been stated for us with an illuminating clearness in the month of July—the permanent surplus in our working population, the difficulty of devising any scheme of emigration which will work quickly or on an adequate scale, the gradual adoption of "rationalization" and combination—the refusal to enter into Continental combinations to restrict international competition, and the consequent adherence to a policy of low wages. The rapid decline of the birth-rate, through the general adoption of Birth Control, will ease the problem of population as the years go on. Even Mr. Baldwin, Conservative and Churchman though he is, dwelt on this element of hope. But even on this reckoning, a generation of difficulty, which for a large part of the working class means tragedy, lies before us.

A Child is Born

A Lilliputian angel, she
Sleeps often, very quietly
Our love has flowered in her faith —
Quietly she draws her breath,
She trusts life, and lets life make
The rosy strength to which she'll wake

A bud of the Burning Bush of God,
She finds the earth both good—and odd
Dainty smiles go out and in,
Making dimples of her chin
Those conscious violets, her eyes,
Are subtle, innocent, and wise,
Yet they are scarcely probatory —
Still blinded with the clouds of glory
Her voice Ah, I remember, I,
The first time that I heard her cry
For hours I had stood alone
Wishing I were not flesh but stone,
Waiting — near pain I could not share —
The confirmation of despair
Suddenly, mid the stir and moan

I heard a sound I'd never known —
A little, sudden, angry squeak
(As when a squeezed doll tries to speak)
Perhaps she'll sing in years to be
That squeak was music's height to me
And now with coo, and grunt, and cry,
She tries to tell me what and why
And her small petalled hands can hold
All my heart in their soft fold

Oh, all the pride I ever had,
All the great things that made me glad,
Shrivel before this tiny bud
Whose mystic roots are in my blood!
One Wise Man (like those ancient three)
I kneel to God revealed to me
I lay before her innocence
Love's myrrh, and gold, and frankincense,
I leave the inn where was no room
And in the humble manger's gloom
I worship, holy and apart,
This star that stands above my heart

E. MERRILL ROOT

Is Marriage a Failure?

Factors that Influence Success in Marriage

THIS month Albert and Charles Boni are bringing out "A Research in Marriage" by G. V. Hamilton, M.D. Dr. Hamilton's study is the first of the kind in America. It was made directly from primary sources by interview with the two hundred subjects (100 women and 100 men) and it is, as nearly as is humanly possible, an objective presentation of subjective facts. The findings are given in tabular form in the words of the subjects themselves and the conclusions are drawn from their testimony.

We are permitted by the publishers to quote from page proof part of Dr. Hamilton's summary, in respect to the success or failure of the marriage, the relation of success or failure to experiences in infancy and childhood and the need for a much larger scale study of the subject, conducted without moral or intellectual prejudice.

"Whether," reads this interesting summary, "we are considering the general congeniality of spouses or their ability to effect wholesome marital sex adjustments, the institution of marriage has fared rather better (in this research) than might have been expected. We find, for example, that 96 of the 200 spouses were rated by the examiner as having disclosed a reasonable degree of satisfaction with their marital ventures. The subjects themselves gave us more optimistic figures. 109 of them stated that their marriages were successful. A still more impressive total was secured when 200 were asked, 'If by some miracle you could press a button and find that you had never been married to your spouse, would you press that button?' One hundred and twenty-eight of them said 'No' without qualification, and only 28 said, without hedging, that they would press the button. One hundred and fifty-one of the spouses said that they would wish to remarry if they were free. Only 13 of the 200 said 'No' without qualification."

An Indictment of Parents

When we come to the more specifically sexual problems of marriage we find that, whereas, only 36 of the 100 women had been able to have the normal, typical orgasm during the first year of marriage, this number had increased to 54 at the time of their examination. This somewhat unexpected finding suggests that, in spite of the staleness which is likely to enter into any kind of relationship between two human beings after they have been constantly together for more than a year, prolongation of the spousal tie beyond this period is more likely

to be favorable than unfavorable to a woman's chances of overcoming the adverse sex conditionings of her pre-marital life.

When we turn to the records of the present research we find that the evidence impressively sums up to an indictment of what parents and society commonly do to the individual in their efforts to socialize his sex impulses. There is also considerable evidence in support of the possibility that in many families the sons and daughters are so affected by their parents that when adult life is reached no conceivable mode of prolonged and intimate relationship with a person of the opposite sex is likely to end otherwise than disastrously. Taking the evidence as it falls into complex individual psychodynamic patterns, one cannot escape some quite definite convictions on this subject. Let us consider, for example, the case of a girl whose mother has kept her convinced from infancy onward that the father is an unworthy or an inferior person, or that of the boy whose mother has unwittingly tried to find in him the satisfaction of a love-hunger which her inhibitions will not permit her to seek in her husband. This girl's name is legion, and so is the boy's. The odds are heavily against either the boy or the girl ever living contentedly with a mate. Modify the existing institution of marriage in any way you choose, or do away with it altogether, and still such victims of the "terrible mother" will find their problems unsolved. One might as hopefully undertake to prevent typhoid fever by inventing more comfortable beds for those who are already stricken to lie in

"Something Wrong"

I hold no brief either for or against the institution of marriage—how can anybody know its defects as a mode of relationship for intelligently reared persons until it is tried out with an intelligently reared generation? It does not work tolerably well for a seriously large percentage of American men and women, but, as our studies suggest, they are probably for the most part cripples whose deformities of psychodynamic organization are easily overlooked by the untrained observer. "There must be something wrong with that nice chap's wife or he wouldn't be contemplating divorce," was once said to me. The obvious retort (which had to be withheld for professional reasons) would have been, "If you knew his mother, you would advocate a law forbidding his marriage to any woman as stern-

ly as the leper is forbidden a domicile with those who are untainted"

It is easy to fall into the error of assuming that, because our efforts to direct the psychosexual development of children and to regulate by law and social convention the sex lives of adults are chargeable with a vast amount of human misery, a diametrically opposite policy—or at least a radically different one—ought to be adopted. This is the familiar fallacy of assuming that we need only reverse a bad procedure in order to have a good one. If I were not discussing human sex problems, it would be a very trite thing, indeed, to say that no kind of human impulsion can be permitted to express itself without reference to various biological

and sociological expediencies, and that the sex impulsion is no exception to this rule. Such expediencies, whether they relate to hungers for non-sexual individual advantage or to the sex hunger, must be given effective recognition in tutitional impositions which affect the immature periods of life and in the laws and conventions that aim at the regulation of adult conduct. It is unlikely that a safe definition of these expediencies can be arrived at otherwise than by the realistic methods of scientific research. At any rate, the task must not be approached in the spirit of the advocate with loyalties directed for or against particular religious beliefs or semi-speculative, quasi-scientific psychiatric doctrines.



The Motherhood of Isadora Duncan

The Great Dancer Describes Her Experiences

ISADORA DUNCAN, the great dancer whose life was published after her sudden death last spring* cannot be taken as an example of the old fashioned woman, motherly because she was educated to a career of motherhood. She was the antithesis of this, a woman modern even beyond her generation. In her search for happiness and self-realization she lived a life much like that of a male artist, yet unlike him, maternity was to her an essential part of self-realization. Underlying the search for happiness was a desire for children so strong that she faced maternity three times, though her first child was carried and brought into the world with great suffering. In a remarkable passage she describes both her suffering and the love that filled her during pregnancy. She writes

I WAS mostly alone with the sea and the dunes and the child, who seemed already to have a great, strong impatience to enter the world.

"As I walked beside the sea, I sometimes felt an excess of strength and prowess, and I thought this creature would be mine, mine alone, but on other days, when the sky was grey and the cold North Sea waves were angry, I had sudden, sinking moods, when I felt myself some poor animal in a

mighty trap, and I struggled with an overwhelming desire to escape, escape. Where? Perhaps even into the midst of the sullen waves. I struggled against such moods and bravely overcame them, nor did I ever let any one suspect what I felt, but nevertheless, such moods were waiting for me at odd hours, and were difficult to avoid. Also I thought that most people were receding from me. I could think less and less of my art, and was only absorbed in this fearful monstrous task which had fallen to me, this maddening, joy-giving, pain-giving mystery.

"In August there came to stay with me a nurse. She was a great comfort. From now on, I confess, I began to be assailed with all sorts of fears. In vain I told myself that every woman had children. My grandmother had eight. My mother had four. It was all in the course of life, etc. I was, nevertheless, conscious of fear. Of what? Certainly not of death, nor even of pain—some unknown fear, of what I did not know.

"August waned. September came. My burden had become very heavy. Villa Maria was perched on the dunes. One mounted by a flight of almost one hundred steps. Often I thought of my dancing, and sometimes a fierce regret for my Art assailed me. But then I would feel three energetic kicks, and a form turning within me. I would smile

*My Life, by Isadora Duncan, Boni & Liveright, New York

and think, after all, what is Art but a faint mirror of the Joy and Miracle of Life?

MORE AND MORE my lovely body bulged under my astonished gaze. My hard little breasts grew large and soft and fell. My nimble feet grew slower, my ankles swelled, my hips were painful. Where was my lovely, youthful Naiad form? Where my ambition? My fame? Often, in spite of myself, I felt very miserable and defeated. This game with the giant life was too much. But then I thought of the child to come, and all such painful thoughts ceased.

"Helpless, cruel hours of waiting in the night, lying on the left side, the heart is smothered, turning on the right side, still no comfort, finally lying on the back, always a prey to the energy of the child, trying with one's hands pressed on the swelling body to give a message to the child. Cruel hours of tender waiting in the night. What seems countless nights passing like this. With what a price we pay for the glory of motherhood.

"We were all sitting at tea one afternoon, when I felt a thud as if some one had pounded me in the middle of the back, and then a fearful pain, as if some one had put a gimlet into my spine and was trying to break it open. From that moment the torture began, as if I, poor victim, were in the hands of some mighty and pitiless executioner. No sooner had I recovered from one assault than another began. Talk about the Spanish Inquisition! No woman who has borne a child would have to fear it. It must have been a mild sport in comparison. Relentless, cruel, knowing no release, no pity, this terrible, unseen genie had me in his grip, and was, in continued spasms, tearing my bones and my sinews apart. They say such suffering is soon forgotten. All I have to reply is that I have only to shut my eyes and I hear again my shrieks and groans as they were then, like something encircling me apart from myself.

IT IS unheard-of, uncivilized barbarism, that any woman should still be forced to bear such monstrous torture. It should be remedied. It should be stopped. It is simply absurd that with our modern science, painless childbirth does not exist as a matter of course. It is as unpardonable as if doctors should operate for appendicitis without an anaesthetic! What unholy patience, or lack of intelligence, have women in general that they should for one moment endure this outrageous massacre of themselves?

"For two days and two nights this unspeakable horror continued. And, on the third morning, this absurd doctor brought out an immense pair of forceps and, without an anaesthetic of any sort, achieved the butchery. I suppose that, perhaps, with the exception of being pinned underneath a railway train, nothing could possibly resemble what I suffered. Don't let me hear of any Woman's Movement or Suffragette Movement until women have put an end to this, I believe, wholly useless agony, and insist that the operation of childbirth, like other operations, shall be made painless and endurable.

"What insane superstition stands in the way of such a measure? What lackadaisical, criminal inattention? Of course one can reply that all women don't suffer to this degree. No, neither do the Red Indians, the peasants or the African Negroes. But the more civilized the woman, the more fearful the agony, the useless agony. For the sake of the civilized woman, a civilized remedy to this horror should be found.

WELL, I did not die because of it. No, I didn't die—nor does the poor victim taken timely from the rack. And then, you may say, when I saw the baby I was repaid. Yes, certainly I had a consummate joy, but nevertheless I tremble with indignation even today when I think of what I endured, and of what many women victims endure through the unspeakable egotism and blindness of men of science who permit such atrocities when they can be remedied.

"Ah, but the baby! The baby was astonishing, formed like a Cupid, with blue eyes and long, brown hair, that afterwards fell out and gave place to golden curls. And, miracle of miracles, that mouth sought my breast and bit with toothless gums, and pulled and drank the milk that gushed forth. What mother has ever told the feeling when the babe's mouth bites at her nipple, and the milk gushes from her breast?

"During the first weeks, I used to lie long hours with the baby in my arms, watching her asleep, sometimes catching a gaze from her eyes, feeling very near the edge, the mystery, perhaps the knowledge of Life. This soul in the newly created body which answered my gaze with such apparently old eyes—the eyes of Eternity—gazing into mine with love. Love, perhaps, was the answer of all. What words could describe this joy? What wonder that I, who am not a writer, cannot find any words at all!"



Why People Have Small Families—

Birth Control, Constructive not Destructive

These letters show that Birth Control is not the destructive force which will depopulate the country that it is represented to be by our opponents. On the contrary, in very many families the exercise of Birth Control is not only necessary from the point of view of the mother's health and the father's power of earning. It is also necessary in order that children may be conceived when it is possible to bring them to birth and to ensure them a heritage of mental and physical health. Without Birth Control—one child or none—or perhaps too many. With Birth Control, a planned family.

A Tragic Need

Ohio

My first and only child was born fifteen years ago. He was an accident, conceived because I knew no efficient methods of contraception and born when I was not prepared to care for him properly. By one of those unaccountable mischances, perhaps of pregnancy, perhaps going farther back, he was born with a glandular deficiency and was always a "special child." Loved to idolatry by all his family both on account of his handicap and on account of the peculiar charm that is characteristic of such children, not only those directly responsible for him but his other relatives put all they had—which was not much—at his disposal. He was given the very special and expensive education he needed, but this left nothing for other children. In the years after his birth, Birth Control made it possible to give him what he needed, but I have always felt that, given Birth Control at the right time fifteen years ago, he himself might have had a better chance—for who knows how much the mental shock of an inopportune pregnancy may have affected him?—and that he might, as the years went on, have had the companionship of a little sister or a brother or both.

B

Life or Death

New York

When I told my family physician that I was about to marry he warned me to keep free from pregnancy for several years.

I had been battling with tuberculosis and had just recovered from an operation. When I asked him what I should do, his reply was so vague that it meant nothing to me. Consequently a few months after marriage, I was in the condition he warned me against. That was over twenty years ago. I said I wanted ten children, so I decided to devote myself to the task of going through the pregnancy.

This I did and a fine healthy boy was born, but I was a wreck, and for four years it was a toss up whether I should be able to live through the next day or not. My boy kept well and I was anxious to get well to give him a companion and as soon as I was out of danger I went voluntarily into pregnancy again. Six years later another boy was born and realizing the lack of companionship when ages are too far apart I resolved to have another baby as soon as my condition would allow it.

Consequently twenty months after the birth of the second boy a girl was born. Then for a year it looked as if the three children would be left motherless any day, and my doctor said he would not confine me again. He was very kind and gave me sensible Birth Control advice which I followed. My dream of having ten children had to be abandoned. I decided to make every effort to get my health back again and to develop myself and to grow with the three children I now had. We were constant companions and they have grown closer in confidence and in love as they have grown up. I have been able to have interests outside the home and to contribute time and effort to those interests. My children are in college and I am glad to express my thanks to the Birth Control Movement for the knowledge made available to mothers.

S

Life and Dreams

New Jersey

It was always the dream of my girlhood days to have a nice family of five children—three boys and two girls—and when we "played house" this was its size. The boys were much the more desired and when I think now of the ones that did not mature and come to birth, I feel that this family longed and planned for are still mine.

Harold and I married as the culmination of a school-days love, with no suggestions from our dear, old-fashioned families about restricting births to the size of our

income The pay of a young Electrical Engineer was mighty small twenty-five years ago, but we were too happy to worry—and when we found that our first baby was to be born within the first year of married life, we were just aghast but accepted it in the same carefree way After the baby girl was born, we well realized that another following soon would mean the blighting of all our plans for establishing our home So we asked our dear old doctor to help us with methods I fear he knew less than we did However, determination and common sense enabled us to perfect contraceptive methods and we waited three years before planning another baby This resulted in a miscarriage Three years afterwards our second girl was born—then in three years another miscarriage and finally a darling boy three years later who could only stay with us for a day Then we decided that our family of two healthy girls was quite sufficient What would have happened had the family planned for by carefree young parents materialized, when the burden of their education was thrown on me during the first child's sophomore year at college, I pale to think of Given a normal chance, with increasing prosperity of the father, all would have been well But fate decreed that their father could not live to help

My second girl is in her sophomore year at college now and by putting my shoulder to the wheel these two will be educated and a credit to the world—I hope—instead of five children half prepared for life

S

A Happy Family

New York

Our modern lives are so very complicated and exacting that it always seems to me surprising that we do not rush to adopt the discoveries of modern science that will add to the sum of human happiness, and help both ourselves and our fellow beings Of all these discoveries, scientific Birth Control seems to me the most obvious and the most helpful May I tell you how intelligent control worked out in one case?

When I married I was fundamentally healthy but very much run down, nervous, and terribly underweight My family physician advised my husband and me not to have a child until I was in better condition, and so we decided to wait for the little baby that we both wanted

When I look back upon that year and a half in which my husband and I lived only for each other, I wish that every young couple could have a similar experience We have mutual interests We worked together and we played together, and reveled in our glorious companionship

On account of the happy and peaceful conditions under which I lived during that first year and a half of married life I was soon in excellent shape We now have a perfectly darling baby boy six months old, whom my husband and I adore Only the other day the doctor examined him

and I had the satisfaction of hearing that he had a strong heart, strong lungs, hard bones, splendid back and legs, and that he was, in fact, a "perfect baby" As for baby's mother, she is stronger now than she ever was before

Of course practising Birth Control has been so successful for us up-to-date that there is no doubt about the future After the long period occupied with having a baby, my husband and I are once more enjoying being able to do things together We expect to wait a little while and then have other children and we hope to bring them into the world with fine physique, so that they will have every opportunity of growing into fine useful citizens Are we not a happy family?

P

A Doctor Speaks Out

Massachusetts

Much of my happiness and advancement in my career as a physician is due to the knowledge which I obtained early concerning the regulation of childbearing As far back as I can remember I have always believed that children should only come when they are wanted and can be adequately provided for, and a physician's children should be no exception to the rule

During many years of missionary life in China, as an officer in the army, and as an instructor in a medical school I have had the privilege of imparting this knowledge to young professional people whose small incomes are insufficient to provide for an unrestricted family This class I have felt were often as much in need of contraceptive information as those who dwelt in the slums

I hope the time will soon come when contraception will be taught in all our medical schools so that all physicians will be equipped to teach women how to have their children, voluntarily and intelligently, so that they and their children may get the most out of their lives

M D

Birth Control a Vital Necessity

Iowa

Our problem has not been an economic one nor strictly one of health Nevertheless my wife would not be living now if she had been allowed to become pregnant every year of the four years of our marriage Her case is one demanding a Caesarian and this means that the number of our children must, and shall be, limited to two or at the most three, for I doubt whether there is any surgeon equipped to operate more than three times in the small area required by this kind of birth We now have our baby, who is almost a year old My wife is slowly getting her strength back after the pregnancy and operation and we shall give her an ample number of years rest before the second is planned for If we think it best for her health we shall never plan for the second

J

An Epoch-Making Conference

By ALMON B WOLFF

PROBABLY at no previous time in history could a world conference have been convened on the subject of population. Probably, also, it would not have been convened even yet had it not been for the foresight and stimulation of Margaret Sanger. It was a brave, though risky, thing to say, in the announcement of the forthcoming Conference, that no propaganda of any kind would find a place in its proceedings. This promise was in the main well fulfilled. Certainly there is little evidence of overt propaganda either for or against Birth Control, in the papers and discussions,* although it is equally easy to read between the lines and sense the presence of that issue a little offstage in the minds of not a few of the speakers. As to other issues, the success in excluding propagandistic pronouncements was not quite so good. Especially on the problem of migration, which more perhaps even than Birth Control touches upon deep-rooted prejudices and conflicting sentiments of "natural rights," was the ideal of scientific objectivity departed from. If migration problems were to be discussed at all, this was inevitable, for migration, to the Europeans at least, appears as a burning, immediate and practical problem which the United States has thrown onto the stage of international politics by its (to Europeans, and especially to the Italians) brutally frank and impolite quota laws.

The deliberations of the Conference centered on three outstanding topics: migration, differential fertility, and the optimum population. Scarcely less in evidence were the food supply, on which Professor East said some very sensible things, and the biological aspect of population growth, on which subject Raymond Pearl opened the proceedings with a paper presenting his now amply known pet theory of the logistic "law." There were also several papers on population phenomena in specific countries, which may be of interest to specialists, but which did not to any appreciable extent have a significant bearing on the world population problem.

THE CONFERENCE was very distinctly one in which the biologists held the floor. It was to be expected, therefore, that the differential birth-rate would receive a disproportionate amount of attention. Nearly one-third of the report of the Conference is devoted to the discussions on this and allied topics. On the whole, the most definite result of this section of the discussions was the revelation that the specialists in the field—geneticists, eugenicists, and statisticians solicitous over the problem

of fertility—are essentially ignorant of the real biological and physiological facts, whatever they are, and that a few of them frankly recognize their ignorance. While dogmatism was not absent from the discussions, it was far less prevalent than it would have been ten years ago, and it was an encouraging sign that the specialists were in frequent disagreement with one another on fundamentals. Had this been a Birth Control conference, one could enter a vigorous criticism of the amount of attention given to differential fertility. As it is, one can only state the personal opinion that the subject is one which has unduly obsessed a large number of people. One gets the general impression, from a careful reading of the papers and discussion, that "scientists" are not much better than ordinary folk in freeing themselves from the institutional prejudices of their time. A few speakers were aware of the uncertainty of the validity of the assumption that poor people are innately undesirable, but most of the speakers apparently had never questioned that social and biological stratification coincide, or that the declining birth-rate can be other than an evil. One will look in vain in these 125 pages for a Birth Control argument based on the dysgenic implications of differential fertility.

ANOTHER place in which was revealed how hard old attitudes and habits of thought die was the discussion of Professor Fairchild's paper on "Optimum Population." Luckily Professor Fairchild did not go very deeply into the economic theory of the optimum. If he had, he would have shot completely over the heads of his audience, for there was hardly an economic theorist of standing present. As it was, he presented plainly and clearly the idea of the optimum. It was most salutary for men long steeped in officialdom and nationalistic sentiment to be told that the criterion of a rational population policy is the standard of living, not numbers. But many of them could not grasp such a subversive idea. They could not get away from the tradition that the maximum possible population is inherently desirable. They could not free themselves from the prejudices of unthinking and uncritical nationalism. Those who did, instead of granting at once the tremendous significance of the optimum concept, caviled over definitions. The reviewer is glad that he was not present at this discussion. He probably would not have been able to maintain the suave self-control proper to international relations. Nevertheless the discussion of the optimum evidently made a deep impression. It is referred to repeatedly in later parts of the proceedings. If the Conference had done nothing more than launch this idea—and to launch it was the one big thing the Conference did—it would have justified its being.

*Proceedings of the World Population Conference, held at Geneva, August 29th to September 3rd, 1927. Edited by Margaret Sanger. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1927. Pp. 383. \$5.

Book Reviews

Family Disorganization

THIS book,* bearing in its lingo and in its underlying approach the earmarks of a University of Chicago doctoral dissertation, is a competent and thoroughgoing critique of studies of family breakdown so far made, including those which the book itself contributes. The author thus demonstrates his command of each of the methods of studying family life. The limitations of statistics unverified by the case-method are shown, as well as the value of verifying "common sense" judgments about the family. Much of the critique seems to belabor and re-labor familiar ground, but it is useful to have these fallacies explicitly and systematically expounded. The lack of control-groups for the study of so-called "causes" of any kind of maladjustment is a case in point for those who attribute all family woes to lack of Birth Control. Indispensable causes are not necessarily exclusive causes, nor are factors necessarily determinative just because present in a large number of cases. Social agencies' records often show strong personal biases in the assignment of causes.

There is one danger in the critique of method that should, however, be guarded against: the tendency to discredit any method as worthless, as soon as it is shown not to have eliminated the effect of some presumably significant variable, and to assume that the essential cause must lie back of that, somewhere. If one eliminates too many variables, there is little left to compare. Such a process of elimination might eventually leave us the grin without the cat, or send us seeking in abstraction for the ultimate cause. The world is supported by an elephant, the elephant by a turtle, the turtle by an egg, but what does the

egg rest upon? The author predicts that the case method will eventually become quantitative and statistical, but he does not sound very enthusiastic over the prospect. Intimate personal interaction is not yet measurable, and prediction and control do not require that it should be.

The attempt to analogize organization and disorganization in groups, with anabolism and katabolism in organisms, seems a bit far-fetched and withal unnecessary. Again, Mowrer claims that both differ from each other only in degree, not in kind like degrees of sanity or psychopathy. Differentiation of interest is identified with disorganization of the group. All these points seem unconvincing.

It is between husband and wife that both "family organization" and "family disorganization" take place. Mowrer seems to include childless couples in his definition of "family" (p. 139). One might also question his assumptions that a nurse-maid is the usual thing in "equalitarian" families, and that women have been freed from housework. Often the "emancipated" wife merely hires some other woman to do it, or keeps a spare relative.

Certain passages in which the oft-repeated assumption that children prevent family disintegration is put under logical scrutiny, should be of great interest to those interested in Birth Control. Children may postpone divorces in families where *disorganization* has already gone very far. They may speed desertion. Childlessness and disorganization may proceed from the same deeper causes. No positive conclusion is drawn.

The many meanings now crammed by sociologists into the term "primary" (intimate, face to face, personal, di-

*Family Disorganization, by Ernest R. Mowrer. The University of Chicago Press, 1927, pp. 289 + Appx. 305.

THAT THE Conference could be got together at all is highly significant. Further than that and the fact that the idea of the optimum was presented, not too much can confidently be claimed for it. This volume of proceedings is remarkable chiefly as a revelation of attitudes. As such, it is exceedingly valuable. Every social psychologist, as well as every thoughtful practical social worker, knows that the primary task in social reform is the changing of attitudes, the slow breaking down of old and institutionally inculcated prejudices, and a preparing of the mental ground for the fructification of new ideas and ideals. And how hopelessly sterile the ground seems, for a time! Further than some shock and impact of new thought on old prejudices, the Conference cannot be said to have done much to advance solution of the world population problem. But that is enough, to start with, and that was all it was intended to do. If more had been in mind it would have been an egregious error to have given the biologists the free rein they had, for they will never

solve a problem which is basically and inescapably economic and psychologic.

A few of the papers were on a truly scientific level. Professor Gini, Italy's most outstanding student of population, rises to the scientific plane in his paper on differential reproductivity. But in his discussion of the optimum, he is a nationalist of nationalists and his hand is guided by the hand of his master, the "prime minister." Another paper marked by scientific objectivity and caution is that of Dr. Crew, on fertility and sterility. On a high plane, also, is Dr. Julius Tandler's "Psychology of the fall of the birth-rate."

On the whole those who read papers or took part in the discussions were technical specialists. And on the whole the Conference was conspicuously lacking in men who could see the population problem in anything like its larger perspective or were cognizant of the many highly important aspects of it which found no opportunity for consideration.

rect, familiar, affectionate) have left the word "secondary" most confusing. "Secondary" contacts characterize the city, but only parts of a city are urban, because only parts are characterized by secondary behavior. Contacts that are "primary" may yet be "on a secondary basis." "Secondary" behavior is ascribed to secondary contacts, and the latter are then defined in terms of the former. Marriage is a primary relationship, but an analogy is drawn between it and the secondary relations of industry and of epidemics, and so on. Primary group controls are contrasted with scientific controls, but moralistic methods are called merely descriptive by contrast with "explanatory" methods, which characterize science. One wonders if even a merely explaining science is enough, if sympathy be not a useful, even necessary tool of social science, if a real explanation is to supplement mere enumeration.

The book faces frankly the failure of both case work (of the "social service" type) and of the community organization movement (in its "neighborhood" phases) to stem the process of urbanization, which for Mowrer means the breakdown of primary-groups. He considers this process inevitable and irrevocable. The scientific controls which he would substitute have only their beginnings to show, in various behavior clinics. To assume that social work now represents only a material-relief approach, or at best an effort merely to provide substitutes for the ordering-and-forbidding technique of small town mores and gossip is an intriguing thesis, but would be hardly fair.

Mowrer seems finally to select a case-method which, however, is more than mere case history: it involves tracing of "sequences", a new term for stages in a process. For this purpose, Mowrer analyzes a single case for which a diary was available. One is inclined to think that the case-method, in so far as it involves abstraction of units (tensions, sequences, etc.), calls even more than the statistical, for logical scrutiny on the ground of possibly biased selection or definition of categories of classification. It is to be hoped that the American Sociological Society will soon try out the proposed experiment of offering an identical case for public interpretation by representatives of several schools of method.

While Mowrer finds the classification of family tensions useful, it is the sequences of tensions that are most illuminating. A full definition of the situation offers at the same time materials for a complete etiology and for a complete prediction, but it must include the time dimension. This all means the obvious: that only a historical narrative is fully satisfactory for analysis.

If the case method is to enable us to reach and classify real causes by selecting typical situations in which family discords arise, does not sound logic require a control group of cases just as much as in the statistical method? In the final group of only one hundred cases upon which Mowrer relies, he does not say how they were secured,

selected, or recorded, except to say that all were intensively studied. If the case method is to be our mainstay, more than the one case of Miriam Donaven might well have been offered as evidence of the method.

It is assumed that all of the disintegrative factors, competitors of "family-consciousness", are necessarily egoistic and "secondary" (i.e. utilitarian or cold-blooded?). Might it not also be new groups, with their new group-complexes or group-selves, unwittingly serving as disintegrative competitors of the family unity?

The "romantic complex", and the insatiable demand for unflagging romantic response, is occasionally found as an underlying assumption or phantasy in Birth Control literature. Mowrer rightly points out the disastrous effects of this attitude in its disillusionment and disappointment. But one need not, like the humorless and humored Keyserling repudiate all romance in order to be rid of some misleading illusions regarding it.

The only formula of prediction actually offered seems a bit questionable, viz., that if "a high individualization of economic interests necessitates constant separation, differentiation of other interests invariably follows."

Whether or not Dr. Mowrer has arrived at final explanations must be judged from the following: "Whether or not any type tension culminates in family disintegration depends upon the dominant interests of the persons and their ability to dissociate one type of interest from another", in other words, whether a marriage survives depends on what kind of people marry.

The book is primarily a study of method, and as such should be very useful also to sociological investigators other than those working merely in the field of the family.

THOMAS D. ELIOT

THE LAND OF SINGING WATERS, by A. M. Stephen. J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., Toronto, Canada. \$1.50.

TRUE ART is servant to the Lord of Life", declares A. M. Stephen in his latest book of poems, "The Land of Singing Waters." His art is a faithful servant. True, it is dressed in a distinctly old-fashioned uniform closely patterned for the most part after Swinburne's. Not smart but agile and versatile—loyal in conflict against the Golden Beast, "the priestly pride of whited tombs", "the tale of coin smelted from blood and sweat of men" and "man's inherent sloth"—an eloquent interpreter of the dreams and determinations for a freer, happier age when love will be in the ascendant.

"Wind of forthcoming,
Breath of the sea,
Lone on the headlands
Wander with me!"

So begins one of the poems in this book, probably the best, and this wind blows exhilaratingly, affirmatively throughout the book. Sometimes it is weighted too heav-

ily by the odor of dead flowers and stale breaths, but ever it breaks forth again. The poems that deal with Canadian Indians and frontiersmen are the most vigorous, especially, "The Sagahie Tyee". On the whole, this volume strides ahead of Stephen's earlier work. His fluency and social vision should carry him far if he will let his technique follow the "wind of forthgoing".

RALPH CHEYNEY

SEX IN MAN AND ANIMALS, by John R. Baker, Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, University Museum, Oxford. Preface by Julian Huxley, Professor of Zoology in University of London. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1926.

IN this volume of one hundred and seventy-five brief pages, including twenty-two figures, we have an excellent presentation of the many principles and problems concerned with sex. The illustrations are from photographs, drawings of the actual objects, or diagrams. They are carefully selected to illustrate the facts and theories under consideration. The point of view throughout the book is fundamentally biological and objective. The author points out that sexual reproduction gives greater plasticity for the evolutionary action of natural selection but possesses "no mysterious rejuvenating life-giving influence." Relative importance of sexual and natural selection in development of various traits is discussed. One chapter is devoted to the determination of sex and another to sex hormones including experiments on gonad extirpation and transplantation.

Under abnormalities of sex we find included the freemartin, sex-intergrades, hermaphrodite birds, and gynandromorphic and intersexual insects. Normal hermaphroditism and parthenogenesis each occupy one chapter and another contains a very brief but remarkably clear presentation of problems of sex ratio. A longer chapter is devoted to the artificial control of sex in which the scientific evidence is presented, followed by an account of the curious superstitions connected with this fascinating and important subject.

The book concludes with a twenty-seven page chapter on sex behavior which is excellent in presenting the whole matter from a biological point of view. The occurrence of restricted breeding seasons in animals, and to some extent in man, the economy of copulation in conservation of gametes, simple and complicated types of courtship, and, finally, marriage, are taken up in evolutionary sequence. Marriage is defined as "the association together of one or more individuals of one sex with one or more individuals of the other sex, with freedom of repeated sexual intercourse." The term applies both in man and in other animals. The biological significance is two-fold,—to lessen the chance that a female in heat should fail to be impregnated and to secure protection by the father for the mother and young. The final matters considered are the sexual instinct in mankind, sublimation,

fixation, perversions, complexes, sex-equality, and contraception. The writer is evidently a definite advocate of Birth Control for the reasons so well-known to all readers of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*. Here, as throughout, his discussion is based on facts. The book is scientific rather than moralistic.

P. W. WHITING

PERSONAL HYGIENE FOR WOMEN, by Dr. Clelia Duel Mosher, Stanford University, Calif.

DR MOSHER rightly holds to the theory that a girl will be as fit physically for life and all its responsibilities, as her brothers are, if she is given the right conditions during childhood and youth. Being a woman, she says in effect, should not be synonymous with being an invalid.

How fortunate we are to be alive when being well is *comme il faut*! This is a book for every mother who holds a high standard for her daughters.

ELLA K. DEARBORN

Periodical Notes

The Commonwealth (New York) a Roman Catholic lay paper, published in an August number an article by J. B. M. Clark, on the declining birth-rate of Canada.

"The birth-rate in the eight Anglo-Saxon provinces", said Mr. Clark, "is estimated to have gone back something like 18 percent in the past six years, and although the French province of Quebec still progresses in this respect, largely through the determined stand taken against Birth Control by the Roman Catholic clergy, *infant mortality among the habitants is so heavy as seriously to offset the gains in births*. The French-Canadian press moreover expresses a fear that the spread of education among the common people will result in the inevitable checking of natural increase, which indeed is only too likely under existing economic conditions"—(The italics are ours.)

Labor (Washington, D. C.) for September 22nd, has news items which should give pause to those who still encourage the production of large families. One is the report of the installation of "Robots" to run an electric distributing station at 188th Street and Spuyten Duyvil Road. A visitor to the plant, we are told, sees machines starting and stopping, switches closing and opening without a human being near to guide them. The station is controlled from another station, three miles away. The engineer at the controlling station conjectures that in 25 years with the help of these "mechanical men" all human laborers should not need to work more than six hours a day, three or four days a week. The same paper quotes the Federal Department of Labor as to the speed with which farm labor is being replaced by machines. Examples are given where 60 men did the work now done

by three machine operators, and 100 did the work now done by five

The China Critic, Shanghai (Aug 2nd) — This new Chinese-English paper continues its discussion of matters related to Birth Control. On unemployment in China S K Sheldon Tso writes

"A method of calculation would show that among the four hundred million Chinese people there would be two hundred and eighty million laborers. At present there are only 121,260,000 who are gainfully employed in different lines of work, so the total number of the unemployed laborers probably approximates 158,740,000." "Why is there this enormous number of unemployed?" Mr Tso asks, and gives as one very important reason the rapid increase of population. This, he says, "is a fundamental factor contributing to the present oversupply of labor, for the tottering young Chinese industries cannot keep pace with the rapid increase of population fostered by the traditional encouragement of large families."

A NEW MAGAZINE

Eugenics (New Haven) The first number of this monthly periodical of the American Eugenics Society (out October 15) is a well-printed, profusely illustrated magazine of forty pages. The contents of the Birthday Number include an account of the work of the Eugenics Record Office, a Symposium on "eugenic babies", and several signed articles. Among the contributors are C C Little, Ellsworth Huntington, Douglas Murphy, Leon F Whitney, executive secretary of the American Eugenics Society, and, as departmental editors, S J Holmes, Florence B Sherbon, Robert DeC Ward and (for Birth Regulation) R L Dickinson, M D. The address of *Eugenics* is 185 Church Street, New Haven. The price is \$2 00 a year.

Books Received

THERESA, THE CHRONICAL OF A WOMAN'S LIFE, by Arthur Schnitzler. Simon & Schuster, New York \$2 50

AMERICAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, by Groves and Ogburn, Henry Holt & Co, New York \$4 50

LIVING MACHINERY, by A V Hill, ScD, FRS. Harcourt, Brace & Co. New York

WORLD ADRIFT, by Edw A Ross. The Century Co, New York \$2 00

ASIA REBORN, by Marguerite Harrison. Harper & Brothers, New York \$4 00

FROM MAN TO MAN, by Olive Schreiner. Harper Bros, New York

HUMAN MIGRATION AND THE FUTURE, by J W Gregory, FRS, DSc. J B Lippincott Co, Philadelphia, Pa \$5 00

AMERICAN SEX AND MARRIAGE PROBLEMS, by Wm J Robinson, M D. Eugenics Pub Co, New York \$3 00

THE CONQUEST OF LIFE, by Dr Serge Voronoff. Brentano, New York

THE BANKRUPTCY OF MARRIAGE, by V F Calverton-Macaulay, New York \$3 00

FAMILY LIFE OF TODAY, edited by Margaret E Rich—Houghton-Mifflin Co, New York \$2 50

THE MARRIAGE CRISIS, by Ernest R Groves—Longmans, Green & Co, New York \$2 00

THE TRUTH ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL, by George Rvley Scott. T Werner Laurie Limited. London, Eng. 6s net

PAMPHLETS

THE PLACE OF JOHN STUART MILL AND ROBERT OWEN IN THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH NEO-MALTHUSIANISM, by Norman E Himes. Reprinted from the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* for May, 1928

The second of a series of special studies of the origins of the British Birth Control movement. The first on Francis Place was reprinted in the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* for April 1928

CHARLES KNOWLTON'S REVOLUTIONARY INFLUENCE ON THE ENGLISH BIRTH-RATE, by Norman E Himes. Reprint from the *New England Journal of Medicine*, September 6, 1928

Another contribution to Mr Himes' documentary study of the English Birth Movement

THE RELATION OF BIRTH CONTROL TO INFANT MORTALITY AND PREGNANCY WASTE, by Norman E Himes. Reprinted from the *Jewish Social Service Quarterly* (Phila.) for June, 1928

A very useful digest of the principle American and English studies of the relation between size of family and infant deaths

THE COMPARATIVE VALUE OF CURRENT CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS, by Norman Haire, Ch M M B, London

A paper delivered before the International Congress for Sexual Research (October 1926). In America this pamphlet can circulate among doctors only

CHILD LABOR AND THE FUTURE, by Gertrude Folks Zimand. National Child Labor Committee, New York

Presents one of the most challenging subjects of our time—namely juvenile employment, now relieved of the bitter exploitation of the past but presenting serious problems of health, safety and education. Today's child labor problem is "How can children of 14 to 16 gainfully employed develop normally in mind and body?"

THE FAMILY PROBLEM—Special number of the Educational Information Service of the National Child Welfare Association, New York

The whole number is given over to a resumé of recent writings on marriage, the sex relation and Birth Control

HOW TO LIVE A HUNDRED YEARS, by M Shadid. Elk City, Oklahoma

The health plan presented includes Birth Control

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE, May 1928

FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTIVE IMMIGRATION, and A CHARITY TO LESSEN CHARITY

Two publications of the American Eugenics Society, New Haven, Conn

Eugenics and Birth Control

More Opinions from Correspondents re the two Movements

THE letters here presented constitute the final installment of the very interesting correspondence called out by Margaret Sanger's letter

From John B. Watson, psychologist and author of books on Behaviorism

Standing as it does for the inheritance of talent capacities and capabilities I am "agin" any alliance with the Eugenics Society

From Mrs. Walter Timme, Director of A B C League

In regard to combining the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a new Eugenics Society magazine, it is of course necessary to know whether a combination of the two is intended, or an absorption of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. However, in either case, I think it would be most undesirable and unwise to give up the official organ and propaganda magazine of the American Birth Control League.

The REVIEW gives, what no other magazine will give, that is, the question of Birth Control not only from the standpoint of Eugenics, or the population situation, or the immigration menace, but also from the viewpoint of that half of the world's people — woman. To woman Birth Control means true emancipation. It raises woman from the position of breeder to that of life-giver. That side of the picture will I feel sure be quite lost in a Eugenic magazine.

I know that the good of the Race is of greater importance than the freeing of woman, but the freeing of woman is so vital to the Race that the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with its educational opportunities must not be given up. We need one propaganda magazine.

From Stuart Mudd, M.D., one of the founders and first president of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

Work for Birth Control, that is to say for a more eugenic distribution of contraceptive information, would seem to me one of the most practicable elements in the Eugenics Society program. Similarly eugenic considerations would seem one of the strongest, to me the very strongest motivation for the further spread of Birth Control. The interests and activities of the two organizations are thus mutually complementary, they should be vitalized and rendered sounder by common action and co-operation.

I therefore feel no hesitancy in most cordially endorsing the idea of co-operation between the two journals.

Whether or not an actual combination of the two journals at this time would be a desirable step I don't know. I should think it might well be. Unfortunately I do not know the Eugenics Society journal. The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Mrs. Mudd and I think has a splendid vitality which we should hate to see in any way sacrificed (although the Fewer Babies slogan seems unfortunate). Also its name of itself undoubtedly gives it a big following. We would hate to see the name Birth Control lost in a new journal. A journal under the name of Eugenics only would certainly lose much in popularity with many people. Still the name Birth Control could surely be retained in a new journal.

A possible alternative to complete combination would be co-operation along some such lines as the following:

(1) Make the editor of each journal a member of the staff of the other journal and encourage mutual exchange of ideas, material and criticism.

(2) Bring each journal to the attention and interest of the list of subscribers of the other.

(3) Encourage suggestions and criticism of policies and material of each journal by the active officers and council of the other society.

In summary, I strongly favor co-operation between the two societies and their journals and in general I feel very sympathetic to the idea of combination of the two journals. Provided the names, staff, vitality and *esprit-de-corps* of neither of the journals suffers thereby. Having the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW as a separate and independent organ of the American Birth Control League does not seem to me to be important.

From Elizabeth W. Pontefract of Philadelphia

I would not like to see the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW lost in the Eugenic Magazine. There is in the Eugenic Magazine too much about improving the breed of corn, beans, chickens, etc., and not enough about keeping the simple-minded, diseased people from reproducing their kind. I have had both magazines for several years and feel the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is far the stronger, and is a greater appeal to the minds of the people we want to help.

From Mrs. Richard Billings, Director, A B C League

It would seem to me an excellent idea to widen the scope of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW by combining with the Eugenic Magazine if a harmonious and well balanced Board of Editors could be assured. This should create a wider circulation and more interest in both subjects.

(Turn to page 329 for more letters on this subject)

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

REPRESENTATIVES of ten countries, at the Conference of Socialist Women which met at Brussels in August, have united in a protest against the neglect of Birth Control by labor bodies. Their statement is quoted by F W Stella Brown in the *New Generation* (London) and further elaborated by her in *The Woman's Leader* (London). They demand Birth Control for working women who desire it and declare also in favor of the use of abortion under certain critical conditions. The section on abortion reads "We consider abortion justified and even necessary, in cases where the life or health of the mother is gravely endangered by child birth, furthermore, when the child to be borne is not expected to be likely to live, and where the economic existence of the mother her professional activity, or the education of her already living children would be imperilled by an increase in the family."

From the *Woman's Leader*, we quote Miss Brown's account of the course of the debate. The Women's Conference at Brussels was held in association with the Labour and Socialist International. One hundred and fifteen delegates were present, representing seventeen countries. The outstanding feature of the Conference was the struggle over a resolution on free motherhood, put forward by the very eloquent Austrian delegate, Frau Proft, and supported by Frau Bohmseuch, member of the German Reichstag. These ladies pointed out that it was quite useless to protest against the waste of women's lives in unfit and neglected maternity unless they were given knowledge of Birth Control, and the right to terminate unfit and inopportune pregnancies by medical means. Only one Englishwoman alas! spoke for the right of poor women to Birth Control knowledge and fundamentally to freedom of choice in motherhood. This was Miss Dorothy Jewson, ex-M P for Norwich, whose courageous stand in the

cause of Birth Control is well known. She was supported by Miss Myerson, a representative of the Palestinian Federation of Women Workers, who pointed out the frightful infantile death-rate in Palestine under British administration 188 per 1,000. But the official British Labor women delegates, Dr Marion Phillips and Miss Susan Lawrence, M P, succeeded in suppressing all mention of Birth Control and kindred matters in the official resolution, which was just the usual lamentation about the ill-treatment and neglect of maternity. Miss Susan Lawrence distinguished herself by the following statement "If our men had known Birth Control was to be discussed, they would not have let us come." Has the leading British feminist organization no comment to make on this?

Finally, a separate declaration was signed by the official delegates representing Austria, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, Latvia, Jugo-Slavia, Hungary, the Russian Socialist exiles in Paris, and the German Socialists in Czecho-Slovakia, and by three individual delegates from Holland and Scandinavia, to the effect that they considered contraception an indispensable part of maternal care, and abortion—performed by doctors, not quacks—justifiable in certain cases.

Up to now the official British feminist movement has ignored the passionate feeling among women in favor of real control over their maternity, as apart from the right to use and know about contraception. The movement started by Alexandra Kollontay's great initiative in Soviet Russia is incorporated in the Austrian Socialist program, and will not be suppressed by British Labor opposition. More will be heard of it in the near future.

The *Woman's Leader*, like ourselves, draws a sharp distinction between prevention of conception and abortion, holding abortion only permissible for medical reasons, and under medical direction.

UNITED STATES

THOUGH the Protestant youth movement has already, in conference assembled, declared for Birth Control as an instrument of social regeneration, the older generation in the Methodist church, from which many of the Protestant youth movement are drawn, has as yet taken no official stand on this subject. On the general subject of marriage however this church has this year taken a liberal position. The manual of discipline for 1928, which will soon be published, amends the section on divorce to allow Methodist ministers to remarry the innocent party in a divorce, when the grounds of divorce were infidelity. But a short time ago divorce on any grounds was taboo among religious people and there is hope that the next taboo officially lifted will be that on Birth Control.

New York

THE American Birth Control League, as in former years, occupied a booth at the Women's Activities Exhibit in New York, which was held October 1st to 6th. Mrs J Bishop Vandever was in charge, and gave untiring volunteer service for twelve hours each day. Mrs F Robertson Jones, President of the American Birth Control League, was present on certain days of the Exhibit and among Mrs Vandever's other helpers were Dr James F Cooper, Mary Pokrass, Anna Lifshitz, Antoinette Field, Kitty Marion, Mrs Constance Heck, Mrs Finley, and Mrs Bronson.

As usual, many in the crowds who passed by stopped to talk and most of them to express approval. Among

those whose support was most gratifying was an Episcopal deaconess, a worker among the poor, who expressed her strong approval and felt that her church would sooner or later have to give official recognition to a movement which underlay all work for social and moral rehabilitation of the submerged. She took cards of the Clinical Research Bureau and said that one of these should go to the mother of 21 children whose husband was a drunkard.

A very valuable helper in the booth was a combined silent lecture and moving picture which showed the need of Birth Control and the purposes and aims of the League.

This film was never without a crowd in front of it, some of whom were too shy to speak to the helpers in the booth, while others had their courage bolstered up by what they saw to the point of asking for more information.

CANADA

A CANADIAN correspondent, Mr W Diamond, sends word of the gradual growth of interest in the province of Saskatchewan. "For some years past", he writes "I have taken the few opportunities that have arisen to give Birth Control publicity in our local papers, but on the whole the situation is one of apathy, though not discouraging as there is certainly an under-current of interest, fed to some extent by the fact that English periodicals circulate fairly freely, many of which of course contain information as to the sources of supply of contraceptive material. This despite the fact that certain books are banned. I am endeavoring with the aid of one of our Dominion members of Parliament to ascertain the reason for such banning, although it can be guessed at.

"The most encouraging feature as far as I am concerned is the fact that with the aid of the woman's page of a weekly paper with a circulation of 40,000 mainly in this province, and the official organ of the United Farmers of Canada, and the courageous and enlightened attitude of the lady who edits that page, we are now and then able to attract attention to the subject of Birth Control and many letters from readers attain publicity. With her aid, I have also been successful in drawing attention to your REVIEW, resulting in a continual circulation of a number of copies each month from reader to reader, in a number of instances the local news agency benefiting by increased sales.

"The organization referred to is the strongest farm movement, outside of the Wheat Pool, in Western Canada and in our total membership of about 30,000 we have over 4,000 women who, incidentally, to show the temper and strain of our prairie women, pay the same annual fee as the men, namely \$5 00, despite the hardship it is to many, and we are striving hard to equalize their position in the eyes of the law and convention.

"At our annual convention last February, we had an attendance of between fifteen hundred and two thousand members, a good proportion of whom were women, and we were able to put on display, among our books for sale,

Mrs Sanger's writings and some of the pamphlets you have issued on the aims and objects of your League.

"In June, over two hundred of our women members met in convention at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Among the resolutions discussed was one advocating the withdrawal by the Federal Government of the ban on contraceptives, and the adding to all hospitals of Birth Control clinics. The resolution was tabled for further consideration, it being intimated that literature presenting the pros and cons could be obtained from the Central Office.

"Following is the resolution in full

"WHEREAS we believe that intelligent use of contraceptives is one of the most important steps towards solving the economic problems of the farmers and incidentally all other working classes

"AND WHEREAS we believe that Birth Control is the only humanitarian way of preventing a mother from being over-burdened and broken in health with too numerous progeny

"AND WHEREAS, we know that in countries where Birth Control is legalized are found the happiest, most prosperous and most moral people on earth

"BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Women's Section of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, in Convention assembled do forthwith advise our Government to raise the ban on safe, sane and hygienic contraceptives

"AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that we advise that there be immediately made provision for training of all practicing physicians in the application of such contraceptives

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we advise that clinics be added to all hospitals, far and wide, for the purpose of dissemination of such contraceptive methods as are found most suitable for each case

"It was a great step forward, as we are a powerful organization as far as the province of Saskatchewan is concerned and once we get the proposal accepted in the general convention, many difficulties will be removed and in many respects the law will become a dead-letter. In the meantime copies of both the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and the *New Generation* are circulating from member to member, and in many instances copies of the practical leaflet issued by the *New Generation* have been secured, and so, information is getting around. Publicity is given from time to time by letters in our weekly paper, and I hope one of these days in the near future to have the opportunity of addressing gatherings at different points in the province. It is slow work but sure work. Incidentally I recently had a controversy in the local daily newspaper with Catholics and was successful in attracting a letter from one of the local priests in which he stated that Roman Catholics did not preach against family limitation, but simply against artificial methods of prevention. To my surprise the upshot was a letter replying to the priest from Dr Marie Stopes which was duly printed, and has so far received no reply. My controversy caused some amusement in the city, but on the whole was well received and a meeting addressed by a very prominent speaker on the subject would no doubt create great interest.

"As a result of the convention, I received a letter from one of the delegates asking for literature, and this no

doubt will be the forerunner of many others. I sent her some of the leaflets you sent me back in February, and have decided to put in a small stock as a starter, of the pamphlet by Mrs. Sanger, 'Woman, Morality and Birth Control,' which we will advertise and sell at cost.

"Thanks for the five copies of the REVIEW every month. They are doing quite a bit of travelling. As I am on this side of the border I think I will not join the League, but will spend my money pushing the REVIEW. If you are aware of other individuals in this Dominion who are seeking to link up with others in this work I would be glad if you would pass my name and address along, as, although the time is not probably ripe enough yet, there is no knowing what the future will bring."

FRANCE

VITAL statistics for 1927, recently published, show 741,701 births and 676,666 deaths throughout the country. This is a decrease of 24,500 in the number of births this year, but this decrease is more than offset by a lowering in the number of deaths. The excess of births over deaths rose from 53,000 in 1926 to 65,000 in 1927, which means for population purposes a real increase in the birth-rate. Infant mortality also has shown a marked decline. With figures as encouraging as these it is hard to understand why French officialdom is prophesying the "disappearance" of the French in a few generations and why the Fathers of Large Families, as reported in the press, should demand continued persecution of Neo-Malthusians and the abating of taxes in favor of heads of large families.

GERMANY

THE PRESS both here and abroad is noting the progress of the Birth Control clinic set on foot by Mrs. Sanger in Berlin. The *New York World* and the *New York Times* have published excellent news items on it and the following is translated from an article, signed D. S., in the "Berliner Volks-Zeitung" a Nationalist daily paper widely read.

"Just now the Committee for Birth Control, to which a list of eminent physicians belong as well as Dr. Helena Stoecker, have opened their first Berlin Sexual Advice Bureau in the rooms of the Ambulatoriums (Clinics) of Neukoelln, Schoenstedtstrasse 13. Each day in Berlin two women die from abortions at the hands of quacks—it is high time that these conditions, which people do not face frankly, but which are discussed in such a lively manner in secret, should come to an end.

"The Birth Control Committee, as well as the Clinic (Sexual Advice Bureau) owe their origin to the impulse given them by the noted American pioneer of Birth Control, Margaret Sanger, who was in Berlin a few months ago and proposed such a Clinic. Mrs. Sanger's theory is that a correct adjustment of population and the nour-

ishment problem of a country is one of the first steps to social and economic progress, as well as to international peace, and she emphasizes the close connection between a country's health and its population. To prevent abortions and through them propagation of social misery she demands scientific Birth Control, which makes abortions unnecessary. In the year 1923, Mrs. Sanger opened the first Birth Control clinic, built upon her theory, in New York, whose work she discusses in the latest issue of the *New Generation*."

The article tells something of the experience of the New York Clinical Research Bureau. It goes on:

"The Berlin Birth Control Clinic (Sexual Advice Bureau) is built upon the American model. In Germany, contraceptive methods are an unexplored land in medicine, nothing is taught about them in our universities. The German Medical Congresses which are attended by a high percentage of country physicians, makes it a policy to instruct their members that nothing should be done to lower the birth-rate. But in England, America, and Russia, a special science has developed from necessity along this line. That a very great interest exists in Berlin in this subject is proved by the many letters from physicians and women needing help, which stream into the new Birth Control Committee.

"In order not to come into conflict with the law, the Berlin Clinic has nothing to do with abortions, and restricts itself to giving contraceptive methods and means to the women who come there. The patients who visit the Clinic are kept under supervision, as a trained nurse visits them in their home, and registers every important point in their social and sexual histories. In this way, a scientific foundation is being created, valuable material is being collected for future research work in this special line of work.

"The bright, friendly rooms of the Ambulatorium offer an excellent place for the newest medical-technical demands of the Clinic. The director of the Clinic is the Neukoelln Social Welfare physician, and she is assisted by a trained nurse and a social welfare worker. Even in the first consultation hours, the waiting room of the Clinic was filled with women. The patient first entered a bureau where the social welfare worker asked various questions about her personal life, living and economic conditions, number of children, sicknesses, and so on, a detailed questionnaire is filled out which furnishes the basis of statistical information for a complete card catalogue. Objectivity (reality) to the very end!"

"After the register is filled out, the patient goes into the examination room where there is a gynecological examination and then advice from the physician is given. If an illness is discovered, the patient is sent to a specialist.

"More than one human tragedy was unrolled even on the opening day of the Clinic, and these tragedies told of the urgent necessity of the Clinic. Women, beaten down with worry and work, came, their husbands were working

men, employees, hand-workers, unemployed, sick, or with small incomes that could not meet the needs of the family. Always they already have children, two or three, at least one, and apart from that they have had miscarriages—two, three, or more—and often their nerves are broken, their nourishment insufficient, worry and labor and never a day of vacation after days of hard work, often they live in only one room with their husband and children, or they rent a room with a friend or with the parents-in-law—eternal misery—many live in one of the little frame colony houses outside the city. What can they do with another child? Their joy is always turned to gall by the thought of hunger and distress, and they view the future through tears and bitterness. Many fear to lose their position through their pregnancy, the husband earns nothing or not nearly enough, then the wife must work after her marriage, earning a bit as a cashier or as a seamstress. Others do housework. At 17 pfennigs a piece—so said a seamstress of coat linings—17 pfennigs for a piece of work that takes 20 minutes. How shall they maintain a third child? Formerly, each new child was a welcome gift of heaven. "So many children, so much bread." But that was once upon a time. Since then life has become expensive and complicated."

ITALY

ALREADY Fascist papers and Fascist statesmen are repudiating the Kellogg Peace Pact. Signor Alfredo Signoretti, writing in the *Lavoro d'Italia* informs us that for Italy, "with no room to breathe, there can be no real renunciation of war as an instrument of policy. Among the signatories to the Pact there was 'one great absentee', Italy's soul was not behind her signature."

Arnaldo Mussolini, brother to the dictator, states in effect, according to *The Daily Telegraph* (London), that "the policy behind the Pact was a shabby trick, those nations which had already found a place in the sun crying out against war merely because they did not want to be disturbed or that others should interfere with their slow absorption of gold and territory."

Meanwhile in spite of Anti-Birth Control laws and such liberal pensions to the twenty thousand families of 10 children or over that the public purse is suffering, the figures of Italian birth-rate (2 per cent less than for the first half of 1928) are said to be causing Mussolini alarm for his hope of a population of 75,000,000 by 1950. He has issued a statement in *Il Popolo d'Italia* to the effect that "without quantity there is no quality, without numbers there is no power" and he is looking around for new ways of stimulating human production. Though money is no longer to be forthcoming, families of seven and over are to be given special privileges, honors and protection, as members of the National Association of Numerous Families. Better maternity and infancy care is to lower the death-rate that has overhauled births, city life is to be

discouraged in favor of the farm, and great efforts are to be made to increase the agricultural output of Italy.

In an article in *Gerarchia* (quoted by Frederick Hollowell in the *N Y Herald Tribune* of September 26), which was broadcasted throughout the Italian press, Mussolini expresses alarm over the "yellow peril," attacks urban life as an enemy of prolificacy, declares that "no one takes Malthusianism seriously any more" and prophesies that unless the birth-rate rises "everything that has been done or will be done for the Fascist revolution will be perfectly useless, because at a certain moment the fields, schools, garrisons, shops and factories will not have any more men."

"Italy's crucial problem is how to find work for her surplus population," Professor Salvemini is quoted (*Manchester Guardian*) as saying in a recent lecture. He added that a Government which boasted of promoting an increase in its population was not entitled to make that increase a reason for demanding territorial conquest. The Fascist Government should cease to repress emigration and to encourage large families. Only then would it be entitled to ask other countries to consider in a friendly spirit the problem of Italian over-population.



FEWER BUT FITTER

First Infant "I'm told we're scarcer than we used to be"

Second Infant "Yes, but just look at our condition"

[The Registrar-General's statistical review for last year shows that the infant death-rate has declined from 130 to 70 per 1,000 since 1881.]

(From *Punch* (London), Sept 28, 1928)

Correspondence

THE HOUSING SITUATION IN FRANCE

Editor

Paris

In one of your editorials in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for September (page 248) I notice the following statement

"Another difficult question which arises in a fully settled country whose population continues to increase, is the lack of housing *France, with its almost stationary population does not experience this difficulty* Houses in the old days were built to last They do not wear out quickly, and each generation can easily replace those that become outworn or unfit for habitation"

The statement is erroneous, as anybody intimately familiar with conditions in France would tell you The housing situation in and around Paris is simply frightful There is a fight for every room and apartment that for some reason or other becomes vacant, and it is only by paying graft to the concierge or to agents, graft amounting from several hundreds to several thousand francs, that one can obtain an apartment (The graft, of course, is illegal, but so is bootlegging in the United States illegal) The authorities speak of building houses for the poor, but they only speak, while they spend millions for new cruisers and submarines, the people fight desperately for a room and bed where to lay their heads

WILLIAM J ROBINSON, M D

[It is true that Paris has an acute housing problem Nevertheless the remark to which Dr Robinson takes exception is true of France outside of Paris and a few other cities to which population is flocking from the rural regions —ED]

MARY AUSTIN AND "THE MOTHERS"

Editor

Austin, Texas

I have to thank you for sending me a copy of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with Mr Ellis's comment on Briffault's book "The Mothers," which I reviewed for you, with the opportunity for further comment

I am pleased to see that Mr Ellis agrees with me both as to the interesting quality of Mr Briffault's mind, and as to the lack of authentication of much of the material upon which his conclusions are based. But it seems to me that he still gives too much weight to the conclusions so arrived at

What I wish to protest seriously is the acceptance of *any* conclusions about the social value of matriarchal organization in the present state of our knowledge of it It must be borne in mind that, until within the last thirty years, there has been no direct scientific study of the matriarchy which brings to bear upon it both ethnological and sociological competence And even such study as has been made, has too often been made by men who are

in the nature of things excluded from what in primitive society are regarded as women's mysteries

In support of my protest, I have to offer my own experience of forty years in neighborly contact with primitive society of both matriarchal and patriarchal groups, and that I still live in daily touch with the most advanced matriarchal culture known in the western hemisphere, of which there are 26 village groups here in the Southwest These are town-building tribes, whose culture is otherwise about on a level with that of ancient Crete, and of considerable vitality in-as-much as it still resists the pressure of white life

There is not space here to say what a matriarchal culture is in its totality, but there is enough to say that it seems to me not in the least what Mr Briffault thinks it is I will say, however, that in so far as it affects the sexual morality of the group, it differentiates it from the sexual morality of the patriarchal group too little for the ordinary observer to appreciate it Matriarchism, among Amerinds at least, is not a sexual system at all, but an economic system which is on the whole more favorable to women than is patriarchal organization Sexual life is a little more stable under Matriarchy simply because under that system economic life is more stable. All possible variations of personal sexual behavior exist there as elsewhere I only wish that Havelock Ellis could spare a few years to make a competent study of the subject

MARY AUSTIN

A POET IN SOCIAL WORK

Editor

I am a social worker and I am interested in Birth Control, as every intelligent man and woman should be One cannot be long in social work without becoming almost fanatical about it I enclose a little line I wrote the other day, showing you how wrought up I still get Years fail to harden me This woman had child after child, this was to be her ninth She was *almost* broken, but not quite, for once in a while she came up for air, so to speak—that is, her old self revived for a second However, with her next baby, she will probably lose everything except her desire for rest and food—in other words, become the sow that some folks think she was intended for—*she* representing all womankind I have called the verses

LULLABY

Lay your hands on my stomach,
Lay your hands on my stomach, man,
And feel the kickings there
How'd you like that?
How'd you like that against your supper
Against your breakfast, dinner and supper
Day in and day out?

How'd you like it,
 How'd you like it eight times over?
 How'd you like to get
 Where none of you belongs to you,
 Where your body's turned inside out
 First for one thing then another?
 None of me can hide,
 How'd you like that—
 You, who goes into the shed
 To sponge off?
 I'd like me a shed, too,
 I'd like me a shed where I could go
 And be all alone—nothing inside or outside
 But just me
 I'm fierce with craving
 For some of myself for myself
 Put your hands on my stomach
 And feel the kickings there
 How'd you like that,
 How'd you like that, yourself?

Eugenics and Birth Control—More Letters

From Edith Bass, philanthropist and leader in the woman's movement

I do not feel competent to give an opinion of the proposal of combining the two magazines

I do feel however that Eugenics and Birth Control are and should be nearly one and the same thing I am a great admirer of Mr Wiggam's books and am perfectly confident that anything you and he may decide upon would be for the best

I wish I could be of more help I can only assure you of my continued and deep interest in your work and that of the League.

From Mrs Belle de Rivera, founder of women's clubs, New Jersey

On the fact of proposed merger of the two magazines, the decision would seem to rest upon the terms offered—and the control which the Birth Control League would have in the Eugenic Society magazine—I would be opposed to the loss of the name and would only be in favor of the combination if the Birth Control League would have equal rights in the new publication I am conscious that my opinion might be different if I knew all the details, this is rather a leap in the dark

From Dr Sidney E Goldstem, Rabbi, Free Synagogue, New York

Allow me to acknowledge your note concerning the plan to combine the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a Eugenics Society magazine If this plan would lead to a larger audience I should greatly favor it Another reason that commends itself to me is this Such a combination would

give the Birth Control movement a scientific recognition which would be serviceable in many ways I see no reason for not combining and many reasons for it

From Kitty Marion

Judging from my own point of view, that of selling the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW on the street and talking to all sorts of people, I would consider the combining of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a Eugenics magazine a hindrance rather than a help to both There is still enough ignorance and misunderstanding on Birth Control to warrant the REVIEW keeping the issue clear, and fighting its own battles, at least until the anti-Birth Control laws are amended.

From a Massachusetts Subscriber

I most earnestly hope you will *not* combine with the *Eugenics Review* It would seem to many like a confession of failure I would willingly double my annual dues not to have you do it, and am therefore enclosing cheque for \$5 00

From Mrs John Allen Dougherty, Washington, D C

Would the name BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW be used in the combining of the two magazines? I would not like to see the name lost But on the other hand if the field covered by the combination was larger and the results to us greater, it would be worth great consideration It would have to be a great deal greater to make me feel it was best to make the change Because the name *Birth Control* gives you pause when you see it, whereas *Eugenics* does not I would be opposed to it unless assured that the advantage accruing from such action was greatly to our benefit



SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER HAPPY

"'Twas the voice of the grouser—I heard him complain—
 Just look at the birth-rate—it's fallen again!
 In the next generation, unless we take heed,
 There'll be hardly more mouths than the country can
 feed,
 Unemployment will dwindle, and with it distress,
 Overcrowding, moreover, is sure to be less,
 And we shan't be years getting a house or a flat—
 Oh, how can we stand such disaster as that?"

—*Passing Show* (London)

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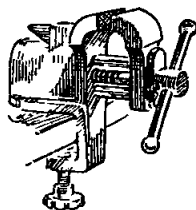
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