

Christmas Appeal of American Birth Control League on Page 361

December, 1928

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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



HERB KRUCKMAN

THEIR SALVATION

Winner of the Second Prize in BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Cartoon Contest

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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TEN GOOD REASONS *for* BIRTH CONTROL



WE HAVE GIVEN EIGHT 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 and The Improvement of the Race—for

Birth Control

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

Another reason of importance to us all is

Reason IX—The Preservation of Civilization

(Civilization depends upon the means of controlling natural forces and the comforts, luxuries, conveniences, opportunities for expanding the mind, satisfying aesthetic needs and increasing physical well-being which raise society above the level of barbarism. For the individual and the family, civilization is reflected in a high Standard of Living.)

Here is what a few experts say —

TO create
a race of
well-born chil-
dren it is essen-
tial that the
function be ele-
vated to a posi-
tion of dignity
and this is im-
possible as long
as a conception
remains a mat-
ter of chance

Declaration of
Principles of
American Birth
Control League

In the absence of an improbable revolutionary improvement in agriculture we shall be pointedly confronted with the choice of reducing either our birth rate or our standard of living. Even if it could be demonstrated that this country could support 500,000,000 by eliminating waste and giving up meat the standard of living would continue to fall and the problem of numbers continually get worse.

A. B. WOLFE, *Ohio State University*

An overpopulated nation or an overpopulated family can at best simply struggle for survival. A nation or a family whose numbers are intelligently limited can devote itself to adjustments of its outstanding social wrongs and to the cultural advances which alone set off man from the beasts that perish.

ROBERT C. DEXTER

The most civilized countries everywhere and the most civilized people in them are those with the lowest birth rate.

HAVELOCK ELLIS

The value of the size of population is to be measured by its effect on the standard of living. There is nothing to be desired in the mere increase of ordinary people. The more of them there are the more ordinary they are. The object of social endeavor should be not the volume of life, but the value of lives.

HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

In county after county in China you will not find a rood of land reserved for recreation or pleasure. No village greens, no lawns, no flower beds or ornamental shrubbery, no parks and very few shade trees. Children are employed as early as possible, and few have much opportunity for play if their services can be used. There are no outdoor games in China, or indeed any games except in a gambling sense. Absolute dullness and dreariness seems to prevail everywhere. As these two demons drive the Caucasian to drink so they drove the Chinese to opium.

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS

The "family" and the "home" do not exist among the poorer classes of Porto Ricans in the sense in which these terms are used ordinarily. The degree of poverty which prevents a family from having more than one small room and that virtually without furniture—with perhaps a hammock or a poor bed for the man, no chairs and no other conveniences—makes of the "home" only a room where the family sleeps in a mass on the floor at night. Privacy does not exist. Life is lived on the street and only a people of unusual kindness and clean instincts could make of the situation one in which sordidness was not the rule.

Quoted by E. A. ROSS

When the majority of men and women are driven by the grim lash of sex and hunger in the unending struggle, to feed themselves and to carry the dead weight of dying progeny, when little children are forced into factories, streets, and shops, education is quite impossible and civilization is more completely threatened than it ever could be by pestilence or war.

MARGARET SANGER

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS is the season of giving, and Americans are the most generous and lavish of givers. But for most people "the boundless thrill of giving is only experienced after their sympathies are aroused by stories of suffering and bitter need. There are some with a higher and clearer imagination who realize that to give to prevent need and suffering is far better, far wiser and far more effective than to give to alleviate or even to reconstruct lives that have been marred and crippled by want and sickness and lack of the necessities of decent living. To such givers we make our appeal this month. We ask for funds to keep our work going and to spread the movement for Birth Control through the length and breadth of this country and of the wide world. Only a very few years ago, there was not a clinic in the United States where Birth Control advice was accessible to the poor. Now there are over twenty of such clinics, but what are these in our forty-eight States and their three million miles of territory? What is needed is the spread of knowledge concerning Birth Control, its meaning, its working and its beneficial effects into all these States and over this vast area, and, quite as important, the removal of hampering laws which impede the movement. In some States such laws absolutely prevent the opening of Birth Control clinics. In others they hamper them in their working and greatly lessen their scope and usefulness. Federal laws prohibit the sending of Birth Control information through the mails, and the importation of contraceptive material. We ask help to liberate our country from these laws, and to spread the knowledge of Birth Control through State after State, until Birth Control advice and help shall be available to every mother in the land.



CONTRAST our appeal with those made by the great newspapers with their "Hundred Neediest Cases." Last January we analysed the cases presented by the *New York Times* with its strongly

emotional appeals that drew vast funds from its tens of thousands of readers. We found that in fifty-one out of the hundred cases, Birth Control applied a few years earlier—in some cases perhaps only a year earlier—would have prevented the family from becoming one of the neediest. Instead of suffering all the misery, of which the newspaper drew a heart-rending picture, there might have been a happy self-supporting family, with children growing up to be good and healthy citizens. We then pointed out that there is an outlet for the generosity of Americans who are so ready to hear the appeal of "Neediest Cases", which would make their gifts a thousand times more effective in ending suffering. Surely Americans do not prefer that little children should suffer, in order that they may enjoy the emotional pleasure of giving for their relief. It is not enough to rush to the aid of the shipwrecked after their vessel has sunk. The better way is to prevent the shipwreck, to avoid the over-crowding of the life-boats, and to provide that passengers and ship's crew shall reach their destination in safety and comfort. A little prevention is equivalent to a very large amount of cure. Your gift to the American Birth Control League may not be very large, but it may, in its effects, equal the gifts of millionaires to funds for alleviating poverty, which is in the end simply perpetuated, not prevented.



THE FALL in the birth-rates of all countries in the civilized world has been so marked a phenomenon of the twentieth century, that it has aroused the attention of the League of Nations. In the August report of the Health Section of the Secretariat, a birdseye view is given of the facts of the case, and we are enabled to judge the reasonableness of the large amount of calamity howling that has resounded through newspapers and periodicals both here and in Europe. The tables of statistics are arranged with admirable clearness. We can see at a glance the actual and relative fall in the birth-

rates of the various countries, and also the corresponding fall in the death-rates. "A low birth-rate", comments the writer, "is almost invariably accompanied by a low death-rate, and the areas of low birth-rate and of low death-rate in Europe are the same, except that the Netherlands still has a birth-rate of 23.1 while having the lowest death-rate—10.3 in 1927, and 9.6 in 1925, and France with her low birth-rate — 18.1 in 1927 — shows a moderately high death-rate, 16.5. The latter is partly due to the fact that the French population, owing to the length of time during which the birth-rate has been low, includes a high proportion of aged people." One very interesting fact, that is shown by these tables, is that a large natural increase of population is by no means always to be found in association with high birth-rates. In Spain for instance, the birth-rate in 1900 was 35 per 1,000, and, though it has fallen, it is still over 28. At 35 per 1,000 the natural increase was only 9.1 per 1,000, while at 28 it is 9.7—a higher rate of increase with a lower birth-rate.



FROM the point of view of the economist and statesman, the actual increase of population—the true balance between birth and death-rates—is of chief importance. The question to be decided before lamenting decreases in the birth-rate is how rapidly or how slowly should the population of a country increase to allow of healthful and satisfactory conditions for the inhabitants in general? In 1900, England was increasing her population at a rate of 12.2 per thousand each year. If she had gone on at this rate what would have been the condition of the nation at present, when even with the slower increase of less than 5 per 1,000 there are over 2,000,000 of unemployed, the boys and girls leaving school can find no opportunity for work and tens of thousands of them are drifting into habitual idleness? The statesmen of England have openly acknowledged that the country is over-populated, and that neither her agriculture nor her industries can maintain a rapidly increasing population. In this case as in the case of several other countries, the fall in the birth-rate has accompanied a fall in the power of the country to maintain its population. This fall is also shown in the tables to be most marked in the most advanced portions of a country. In Italy, for example, while on the whole the fall in the birth-rate is less than in more Northern Europe, it is Southern Italy and Sardinia which have kept their high rates, while in Piedmont and Liguria the birth-rate is lower than

the average for France. It is a question which Mussolini might profitably face, whether an encouragement of the increase of the less advanced sections of the population, while the more intelligent, thrifty and resourceful sections are not keeping pace, will conduce to the real greatness of the country. The tables show that what has been considered as an international problem—the rapid increase of nations of a lower civilization and the slow increase of a more developed nation—is also characteristic of sections within a country as well as of grades and classes throughout the population.



THE medical officer of Leeds (England) has called forth a stream of protest by his attack on the advocates of Birth Control who, he charges, have "perverted the minds of the present generation of parents and struck a fatal blow at English family life." Mothers and fathers of the humbler sort have expressed themselves freely and very pointedly on the reasons, other than "perverted minds", why the poor welcome the power to limit their families in accordance with their income and their health. These reasons we know well. It took a literary man, however, to seize the lion by the beard by an attack on over-indulgence in parenthood, for the satisfaction of a mother instinct, which does not count the consequences to the child, is itself animal, unthinking and perverted. Sax Rohmer, the novelist, writes in the London *Daily Express* "Since parenthood is shared by the humblest beasts, in what sense is it 'holy'? Far from being selfless, it is the ultimate expression of egoism—an immutable urge to perpetuate the species. Parental love is essentially animal. A tigress will fight to the death to protect her own young, but not to protect the young of another tigress." And as the tigress ceases to know or care for one litter when the next comes, so the mother of the yearly child will—indeed must—sacrifice the older children to the annual increase.



A memorial service for Fanny Garrison Villard will be held on December 17th at the Community Church, 34th Street and Park Avenue New York at 8 p.m. Friends and co-workers in the Birth Control and Peace Movements are invited.

Just One Baby

The Problem of an Only Child

GOD, if only I could have a baby, just one baby" sighs the childless woman. Perhaps at last the longed for baby arrives. Lovingly it is prepared for, cared for, watched over, given, so the parents think, every possible advantage that the home can afford. The little life is all the more precious if the parents think there can never be another.

But does the mother ever think of the injustice, the almost criminal injustice, of deliberately bringing an only child into the world? The child, throughout its life, is hampered by the condition of its birth, first during childhood, the period of character building, and later when, as an adult, the child must take its place in the world.

The problem of how to avoid "spoiling" an only child is well known to all parents of such—in fact, it is frequently assumed that an only child is "spoilt" to a greater or less extent. Even if, however, the parents are sufficiently wise to avoid by careful training the worst forms of "spoiling", the very conditions of the child's life are bound to produce defects of character and mentality which may persist in after life. There is, first, the circumstance of the child being the especial object of his parents' love and attention. The child is perfectly aware of the fact, and indeed, would-be-kind grown-ups foster the idea "Haven't you any little brothers or sisters to play with? What a pity! You must be a good child if you're your mother's only one." Thus a spirit of self-pity, self-consciousness, self-importance possesses the small mind. I think it is no exaggeration to say that ninety per cent of only children are smug, horribly, outrageously smug, although many of them are pretty successful in hiding the fact. That art they learn from the adults with whom they associate more than is good for them.

Loneliness

"It is not good for man to live alone", still less is it good for the child. Although the only child is allowed to play with other children, to go to school with other children, it *lives* alone, or in the company of adults, which is as bad or worse. In the hours during which it is not in the company of other children, the only child is driven back on itself for its own amusement and companionship. Frequently it lives in a world of imagination in which it plays the chief role of hero, prince or warrior. Many children are egoists, but the only child is a super egoist. Living alone, it becomes the most impor-

tant person in the world to itself. Worst result of all, the only child develops a subjective attitude towards its environment which hinders its mental development throughout life.

Chains of Love

True, these remarks apply to the only child who is brought up alone, and wise parents may, by adopting another child into the family, or sending the child away to school at an early age, avoid these difficulties in the upbringing of an only child. Later, however, when adulthood is reached, the only child finds himself cursed again in another way. As he and they grow older, the parents tend to cling to him more closely. Their love becomes a chain of iron which binds him to their home, their environment, their traditions. To attain the fullest development of his personality, the only child must break the chain, but knowing all that he means to his parents, he dare not. Even where affection does not bind him, filial duty must. An only child has no one with whom to share the responsibility of caring for his parents in their old age. He may be free to follow his own career so long as both parents are alive and in good health, but a change in the home situation may ruin his whole future. The Declaration of Geneva that "Humanity owes the child the best that it can give" has no meaning for the child who is prevented by family circumstances from making the fullest use of all that the world has to offer.

Many only children, it is understood, are only children by chance, not by intention. Circumstances over which the parents have no control may intervene to render impossible the birth of a second child, or again, death may remove the other children. No parents, however, should bring a child into the world without being reasonably sure that it will be possible to have a second child at a later date. Four children, three children, two children may be too large a family in certain circumstances, but one child is always one too many! Better none than one!



If you ever want to be of real use in the world, do something for children

—DAVID STARR JORDAN

Food and Population

By E. M. EAST

PART II

TWO other problems of prime importance, which require pooled knowledge of various kinds, have to do with the economic adjustments which must be made in certain countries as population density increases. The situation is roughly as follows. The production of cheap synthetic food is a dream, and will remain a dream for generations. I should prefer to call it a nightmare. The potential food supply of the seas, lakes, and streams is relatively unimportant. The effort of the human race to expand its numbers is limited to the produce of about thirteen thousand million acres of tillable soil, — two-fifths of which is now under cultivation. And since it takes two and one-half acres to support each individual under the present standards of agricultural efficiency, it is clear that the world can sustain only five thousand million people, unless unforeseen radical discoveries in science bring about revolutionary changes in our economic system. At the current rate of increase, this number would be reached in about 100 years. Of course, saturation points vary with changing conditions, and that of the world in terms of population will mount with the rising temperature of scientific progress. Nevertheless, any reasonable premises for calculating the speed at which we are approaching this sorry goal give us results of the same general magnitude.

Actually, the world will not reach a saturation point in population in a single century or in several centuries, since the growth-curve will be characterized by ever-diminishing increments during the latter part of its course. I mention the present speed of growth, and the short period of time it would take to fill the world with people if that rate were to be maintained, because it helps one to appreciate the seriousness of a matter on which our proposed Union might gather data of practical value.

The Malthusian Law

There is considerable evidence to support the belief that the point of maximum population increase has recently been passed, and that henceforth mankind will meet more repressive factors than stimulative factors. In itself this fact is not especially disheartening, for under normal conditions of homogeneous growth it might be possible to counteract the effects of the Malthusian law through the gradual reduction of the birth-rate that is taking place throughout the world. But growth is not homogeneous. There are overpopulated countries and

underpopulated countries, and this fact had led to a peculiar economic situation for which remedial measures seem less hopeful. I refer to the conditions existing in Western Europe.

There is only one reason why the tide of population would wax so great during the past century. There was a plenteous reserve of new land, and mechanical invention made it possible for a given unit of man-power to bring this land under cultivation more rapidly than population growth in the newer countries demanded. Natural increase in these frontier nations has been high in consequence, nevertheless a surplus of food has been available for export to the older countries, there to act as a tonic on the birth-rate. This rapid development has led many people to believe that Malthusian consequences have been evaded for all time. The truth is just the opposite. Instead of escaping the trap, we have been pulling its jaws together with both hands. With the fingers of the right we have reached out to gather the fruits from every available acre of virgin earth, thereby providing the means for populous towns and cities to spring up in every quarter, with the left, we have handed over the surplus spoils to the older centers of civilization, thus encouraging them to expand beyond the potentialities of their own holdings. The result is that the contingent food reserves of the world have shrunk at double pace.

Unsound Economics

Though I realize that data do not exist from which to draw rigorous conclusions, I feel that there is something fundamentally unsound in the expansion of western Europe and of Japan on such an economic system. There are between 80 and 85 million people in Europe who must be fed with imported food. The only countries from which they can obtain it in quantity are the newer countries where extensive farming still prevails because the population has not caught up with the system. There is food specialization and exchange in all countries, of course, but, generally speaking, the imports balance the exports. Only such countries as Canada, Australia, and Argentina are making the exportation of food their primary business, and these countries are doubling their own populations in from 25 to 30 years and becoming self-supporting in the matter of manufactured goods in the meanwhile.

Canada seems large when viewed on the *Mer-cator projection map*, but reduced to proper scale, the barrens and the icy wastes excluded, it shrivels up like the *Peau de Chagrin*. Australia has a gross area as large as the United States, agriculturally it is less than one-fourth as large. Argentina has the lowest density of population for fertile countries within the temperature zone, but Argentina has decidedly limited potentialities. The time when all of these countries must lock their food-export warehouses and set guards at the doors cannot be very far distant.

One may perhaps visualize the future of these foreign pensions for over-populated countries by assuming that they will follow the general course taken by the United States. There the history of the country as a whole does not begin until about 1850, yet in less than seventy-five years, diminishing returns in agriculture have apparently set in. The food-export balance is practically negligible and the country is very nearly self-supporting in manufactured goods.

Possible Ameliorations

I may be over-pessimistic in regard to the desirability of population expansion on the commercial basis that Great Britain, Holland and Belgium have adopted and which is being imitated by other countries, but there certainly are many facts which support the idea that it is an irrational and deceptive system. More precise figures might be obtained if the various governments could be persuaded to study the situation carefully. If the conception I have outlined is erroneous, the fact could be demonstrated, if it is sound, conditions might be remedied, while there is yet time, by modifying governmental policies.

These matters are sufficiently perplexing, however long or short may be the time until each nation must be more or less completely supported by its own agricultural efforts. There is an interesting and important problem in this connection, however. Large areas of fertile tropical soil exist, the potentialities of which cannot now be calculated. If these lands could be developed as rapidly as the lands of the temperate zone have been developed, the Malthusian law might again be temporarily suspended. If heat, disease, and other natural obstacles to conquest are to make the settlement of such territories a slow process, on the other hand, then population increase within the areas concerned will take care of all products. There will be no surplus. This is another matter needing prolonged investigation. Only when the facts are known can reliable conclusions be drawn.

Problems Needing Solution

In addition to these economic problems, there are numerous experimental problems in the solution of which it would be advantageous to have international co-operation. I shall mention only one, — one which gave me my introduction to scientific methodology nearly thirty years ago. I refer to plant nutrition. Extraordinarily scant progress has been made, considering the rapid development of chemistry and physics, on soil problems. The soil bacteriologists appear to be making the greatest strides. The soil chemist and soil physicists have been relatively unproductive. This is a grave matter. The prosperity of the human race depends, in last analysis, upon the soil. We ought to know just what is occurring in the various soils of the world. What are the reserves of soil fertility? How are they utilized by the different crops? How fast do the various elements become available? What are the losses by weathering and leaching? What are the effects of different systems of culture? What practical agronomical systems will be the most effective in maintaining soil fertility?

I doubt whether any one nation, working alone, can solve these questions satisfactorily within a reasonable period. Working together, it might be possible. If scientists came to some agreement on the basic principles involved, general agricultural policies might be formulated with more clairvoyance than they are at present.



In the 14th and 15th centuries about 50,000,000 people died of "the plague," spread by fleas that infested rats, the rats being transported by vessels then sailing the seven seas. No such check on the human race can be exercised nowadays and the population of the earth is mounting by leaps and bounds. The Almighty stands apparently helpless against this new coterie of disease eradicators. His only chance now is to instill the instinct of Birth Control, which he can do as easily as he makes tom cats eat surplus kittens.

—*Jefferson County Union* (Ft. Atkinson, Wis.)

"Bobby (who has been told at school to bring a copy of his birth certificate) 'Oh, Daddy, Miss Jackson told me to tell you to send her a copy of—er—I forget the name of it—but anyway, it's my excuse for being born'—"

Contributed

Food and Population in Japan

By I NITOBE

I WONDER if any single sober statement of a scientific discovery has stirred up more passion than the so-called Malthusian law of population? The checks which he coolly and reverently enunciated have called forth holy indignation in some quarters and sardonic smiles in others. I am afraid that the question is now being dragged out of the sphere of biology and ethics into the field of international politics, and when any subject assumes this phase, it falls so easily into the hands of scare-mongers and alarmists. A prolific race is upheld by them as a source of menace to the whole world.

Japan is considered to be a sinner in this matter. She is represented to the world as a nation increasing enormously in number, far beyond the capacity of the country to feed its progeny. Let us see how far the population of Japan is really an international question.

Japan proper has an area of 388,000 square kilometres—a little larger than Italy. If we include the overseas possessions—Korea, Formosa and Saghalien—the area totals 680,700 square kilometres, equal to the area of Germany, Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

Japan proper is mountainous, making it picturesque and at the same time unfit for extensive agricultural enterprise. Only about 15 per cent of the entire surface is under cultivation. Agriculture is therefore practised on a very intensive scale. In the southern part three crops are annually taken from the same plot. Science is constantly forcing the land to yield more; it is also turning waste moors into arable land.

In the three decades from 1890 to 1920, there was an increase of 18 per cent in acreage and of 41 per cent in production. The total increase due to the two factors amounts to 66 per cent. The prospect of further agricultural improvement lies in several directions, but we are now concerned not with the problem of soil productivity but with food production, and certainly the country is not self-supporting. It imports yearly in round numbers 300,000,000 yen worth of rice, wheat, beans, sugar, eggs and meat, and the consumption of these articles is steadily rising.

THE INCREASE of population in Japan is a notable fact. Until about 1880, it seems to have been very slow; for checks both of negative and positive character had kept it within bounds. But in the last half-century it has grown from some

36,000,000 to 60,000,000. (Let it be remembered I confine myself to Japan proper.) The rate of increase has been about 13 per thousand of the population. The density is about 154 per square kilometre, which, high as it is, is much lower than in Belgium (245), Netherlands (204), or England (251). If we take into consideration her colonial possessions, the density of Japan's population is reduced to 114—less than that of Germany (127) or of Italy (125).

But it is too hasty a conclusion to draw from this that these densely populated nations are a menace to the world. In the case of Japan there is a safety-valve in her colonies, thanks to their propinquity. Korea and Formosa supply a large quantity of rice and sugar, and can be made by agricultural improvements to supply more. They can also absorb a large number of our surplus population. The present population of Korea is 18,000,000, with a density of 78, and it can support double that number. Compare Formosa—with due respect paid to their climatic differences—with Java. The density of the former is 100 and that of the latter 266.

But the Japanese are not by any means obliged to look only to their overseas possessions for the solution of their population problem. In fact, their psychological inclination is not to budge out of their country. Long centuries of isolation have made them a stay-at-home people and the inertia of the habit exercises still a great influence. Ancestor reverence and family ties confirm the habit. So strong is it that earthquakes and hurricanes do not easily drive them out. If they move at all, they would do so nearer home. Look at the large number of our people yearly returning from America.

THE QUERY suggests itself—Can the country support more people?

A careful agronomical survey of the country shows that 2,000,000 hectares can be profitably brought under cultivation, in addition to 6,000,000 already under the plough. When a Japanese looks at the *polders* in Holland, he is ashamed to think of large tracts of land in his own country that are lying waste. These tracts have been neglected because the peasants were so accustomed to intensive farming that they could not adapt their methods to extensive culture. The mountain slopes still afford an abundant margin for new enterprises—afforestation and pasture.

By regulating better the small and numerous partitions of rice-fields, an appreciable number of

hectares—some calculate 10 per cent—can be made available for production instead of being used for paths, as at present. Agricultural science will evolve more productive varieties of rice and other crops. Mechanical contrivances can, thanks to the electric power generated by our many rivers and cascades, raise water to the higher level of ground which has hitherto been considered unirrigable. A rational system of fertilization is coming more and more into vogue.

To ask whether all these factors in enhancing the food supply can meet the need of the increasing population is to repeat the old question put forth by Malthus himself. The latest studies confirm the belief that for fifty years from hence, assuming the population to grow at the present rate, the country can produce enough to support itself. But bread is

not the only factor in the amelioration of the evils of our population.

It requires no great stretch of imagination to suggest other means of combating them, as for instance, the encouragement of industries and Birth Control.

The last two subjects are undoubtedly of immense importance. As to Japan's industrialization, the fact is too well known to dwell upon it here. Regarding Birth Control, it is thought too delicate a subject to treat in public, but there are evidences to show that it is spreading among us. I have confined my attention in this article exclusively to the problem of food supply, and have indicated that, even from this angle only, the demands of our growing population can be met by rationally husbanding the resources within the bounds of our own country.*

The Urgency of the Study of Sterilization

By CORA B S HODSON

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW did service to a much wider public than that of the United States in its symposium last March on the subject of Sterilization. It was of the greatest value to have brought together not only the statements of those who have specialized on sterilization, but also careful and moderate statements from the social point of view, such as that of Robert C. Dexter, with the very well-argued objections presented by Dr. Abraham Myerson and Warren S. Thompson.

The British Eugenics Society for two years has been studying the question as a practical legislative issue and is just about to publish a draft Bill and to undertake educational work toward its passing. I shall quote the preamble and some phrases as they introduce a point which was not very prominent in the articles published in March.

An Act to prevent the practice of Sterilization when morally or socially objectionable, thus safeguarding its use for the preservation of the race, and to make provisions as to the marriage of mentally defective or insane persons.

1 The local authority for the purposes of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, may undertake the sterilization of a mentally defective person who has in pursuance of that Act been ordered to be sent to an institution or placed under guardianship, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the treatment has been approved by the Minister of Health,
- (b) that the consent of the Board of Control has been obtained, and
- (c) that the parent of the defective has consented to the operation being performed.

2 (1) At the request of any patient who is about to be discharged from an asylum provided under the Lunacy Acts the visiting committee may undertake his sterilization subject to the condition that the treatment has been approved by the Minister of Health.

Two points are here clear. Firstly that the Eugenics Society has no desire to promote compulsory sterilization, indeed anyone acquainted with the temper of the country to-day would realize that this is an impossible idea. The other point is that this bill is both prohibitive and permissive. There is no definite legislation against sterilization in England to-day but the best authorities regard it as not unlikely that the surgeon performing such an operation might be liable in the courts under an act prohibiting "maiming" if complaint were lodged by a spouse or by the individual patient. This bill, however, would probably have the effect of preventing *normal* individuals from obtaining such an operation. This is just an indication of the extent to which eugenists in England to-day feel the seriousness of our differential birth-rate.

One generalization on the REVIEW symposium can be made, viz., that those who are convinced biologists in the sense that they are fully persuaded of the direct and indirect force of heredity stand for sterilization, while the objectors show clearly that for them heredity is a law which may sometimes be operative and sometimes not. Biologists can never be in any doubt about heredity as a fact, with them the only question is to ascertain how heredity works.

Here in England we feel we need enlightenment not only on the results to the individual and the psychological effects on his immediate surroundings, but on the social effects of laws both permissive and compulsory. Recent social legislation in

*Reprinted by permission from *De Telegraaf*, Amsterdam.

England convinces one more and more of the fact that the result of a social change can no more be predicted beforehand theoretically than can the chemical effect of bringing together two substances of which the inter-action is unknown. England must be very thankful to those legislators in the United States—and in California especially—who are making an experiment of the greatest possible moment to the civilized world.

Segregation versus Sterilization

One is much struck by the fact that apart from their doubts about the potency of heredity, objectors to sterilization all lay stress on Segregation as the better expedient. I think it may be stated without any qualification that eugenists in England would heartily agree with them. We should like to see all abnormal individuals protected from themselves and from an unfriendly society under conditions which would not only prevent them from passing on their disabilities to future generations but would give them during their own lives the greatest possible measure of amelioration and freedom. If however we take one single group we see that this ideal is quite impossible to carry out.

In the case of the Mentally Defective the Board of Control has in its last two Reports been gently drawing public attention to the fact that we have in the country at least 170,000 mental defectives—and we draw our line well *below* that which counts as mental deficiency in most of the institutions in the United States. In addition the Medical Officer of Health to the Ministry stated five years ago that we were then sending into industry from the elementary schools 50,000 children annually of such low grade intelligence that they have to be counted ineducable and unfit for industrial absorption. We have under guardianship less than one-third of these mental defectives and our institutions cannot deal with half of this third. In other words, a country whose industry is terribly hampered by taxation, of which a very large proportion is for social legislation, is faced with the problem of providing institutions for at least five times more people in this one group alone, than are segregated at present. In practice, therefore we must choose between the injustice of allowing a human being to be brought into the world with its development marred by bad heredity and bad upbringing or introducing sterilization as an expedient which allows a modicum of liberty to this generation without doing a wrong to posterity.

Insanity Increasing

Of the proportions of Insanity, England provides a particularly interesting study. All over Europe, we hear that insanity is increasing. The Eng-

lish Certification Laws are exceedingly strict, and our statistics are drawn purely from certified cases and the numbers which these give are obviously lower than the actual insane in the country. Yet even these partial figures show that with us, insanity is increasing rapidly. Fifty years ago, we had approximately one insane person in every 500, now we know that we have more than one in every 250. Some might explain this increase as being due to the greater hurry of modern life. But the study of insanity in primitive groups will not allow this explanation to stand unassailed, and the simple explanation of heredity may well stand.

Those who have studied the asylums of 100 years or even 50 years ago will know that to a considerable extent the insane, once so pronounced, were prevented by the terrible conditions of their virtual prisons from further procreation. No one can ignore the fact that certain accidents and diseases are responsible for a proportion of lunacy, but equally, no wide-awake man can fail to know with what disastrous certainty many mental diseases are handed on. I have just been visiting a family of great ability in which both parents came of insane stock, and where amongst six brilliant individuals only one has attained middle life without becoming a lunatic.

A Boon for the Insane

One cannot but feel that it is for the insane more than for any other group that sterilization comes as an equal boon, in preventing suffering, to the boon bestowed on humanity by the discovery of anaesthetics. One writer in the *March Review* spoke of the dangers of the insane when left at large, but this is to ignore one of the bitterest sides of this affliction. There are few patients whose disease is continuous. They may be capable of cure lasting for a considerable period, or they may have recurrent phases of insanity with long periods of quite normal mental life. Should they be permanently segregated during these periods for fear of procreation? Or should they, on return to their homes, either be debarred from normal married life or dogged with the fear lest contraceptive measures should fail? A proof that eugenics has advanced considerably is to be found in the fact that no one today would advocate their procreating freely. It is likely that sterilization, before return from a mental hospital, will come as such a relief from fear, as to have definite therapeutic value, as indeed it has been shown to have in the case of some women whose insanity occurs during pregnancy. Already California has given us some data on this.

Complete Segregation Impossible

In regard to Epilepsy, a caution has been voiced on the point of the uncertainty of transmission. But while this remains merely an uncertainty, a conscientious and thoughtful epileptic will fear to enter on married life lest he should possibly transmit his own trouble to his children. If he is allowed sterilization, he can get what little comfort marriage may give without any compunction.

Warren S. Thompson raises a grave issue in the possible pulling down of cultural standards by the presence of sub-normal individuals. But the standards which are most effective are those of the home, and the presence of a few mental defectives earning their living on the farm or in the workshop will have a much slighter effect than those who are to-day dragging up a number of wretched children. We do not want either, but the sterilized defective at large is a much smaller social danger than the defective parent. *In England today faced as we are with the impossibility of segregating all of those who are pulling down our civilization*, we should choose the lesser evil in the sterilized married defective rather than the unsegregated parent married or unmarried.

It is sometimes urged here that sterilization is in itself degrading. This always seems to me a thoughtless statement, for in England a very large

number of well-to-do women in early middle life have paid a high price for such an operation for the sake of their health. In my own circle, the proportion reaches 25 per cent, and one can see no sign of any social or psychological result that can be said to be in any way derogatory to high ideals, and fine psychical development. But this of course, may be said to be only the individual effect. What about society?

Heredity Fundamental

One writer in the *March Review* states that society degenerates by any lowering of social ideals. This is quite true, but it must be remembered that Society can be lowered by the quality of the Race, for in a people with lower mental capacity the higher social ethic will be first misunderstood and then perverted and debased. We are realizing more and more that heredity is fundamental and the moment one begins to recognize the identity of the life stream, as Huxley calls it, under its diverse manifestations as the generations proceed, the more one realizes the likelihood that the study of heredity must inevitably lead to an extension and raising of social ethic. It does not mean that we feel any less responsible for the individual of to-day, but it does mean that we feel responsible not only to him, but to the Future.



Chastity

By ROBERT WHITAKER

What flowers and flatteries we bring
To mother's memory! we fling
What robes of grace about her name!
And for her, god-like honors claim!
Yet dare not just and honest be
That we may make the mother free

How do we prate of the unborn,
Yet give them less concern than corn,
Talk loftily of mother-love,
Yet better breed a dog or dove,
Or to a garden give more care
Than yet for childhood we prepare

An accident is sacred now,
If it involve not horse or cow,
Lust is a State-protected flame

If pious words but seal the shame,
And worse than brute indulgence goes,
If sense some ancient script oppose

The rich to Rome or Reno go,
Or to some well-bribed medico,
Content are Church, and State, and Bar
While poor folks seed the fields of war,
Fill up the factories with slaves,
And well sustain the price of graves

But gush and glamour yet must rule
The motherhood of Church and School,
And, for a price, the florist yet
Will aid us murder to forget,
While orphaned babes, and widowed men
Seal our high sanctities again

Birth Control in India

By R. D. KARVE

BOMBAY is at last alive to the importance of Birth Control. We are here at present in the midst of a lively discussion of the pros and cons of it, and even the *Times of India*, which considers itself the "leading journal of Asia", has opened its orthodox columns to correspondence from both parties. A Catholic priest expounded the dogma of his Church, and a moderately worded editorial answered him in the same issue. Then followed floods of letters containing the usual arguments which our opponents, for want of better, still insist on repeating. One gave a long list of people, *sordidant* great, who—were the 16th or perhaps the 30th children of their parents, and other equally ridiculous arguments were not wanting. I am glad to say that all these were satisfactorily answered.

The starting point of all this was the ban pronounced by the Bombay Cinema Censors' Board on a film—specially prepared for this year's Baby Week Show in Bombay at the instance of the Baby Week Committee. The film merely showed a family brought to ruin by too many children, and suggested that Birth Control might be useful in such a case. The Censors' Board unanimously thought that this might offend a large section of the public, and banned it, though they do not see anything objectionable in a Christian propaganda film, for instance, which must certainly be offensive to non-Christians, who form the vast majority in India. I am told the Commissioner of Police, who is the president of the Board, was mainly responsible for this action. Unfortunately for these wiseacres, Lady Wilson, the enlightened wife of the present governor, was the President of the Baby Week Committee and, Government having the power to overrule the decision of the Censors' Board, the film was ultimately allowed in spite of them.

Official Support

The result of this official backing has been remarkable. When the Baby Week was first started in India, I was the only one who dared to point out, through a local journal, that, though there was nothing wrong in teaching hygienic methods of puericulture, this could not have any practical value if these methods were beyond the reach of the poor, and that even supposing that they succeeded in making the babies live a little longer, the Baby Weekers made no permanent provision to feed these surplus babies, and that Birth Control propa-

ganda must necessarily come first, if the Baby Show was to have any desirable effect at all. The Baby Weekers were horrified and shouted with all their might against this heresy, and were warmly approved on all sides.

Now all this is changed. Of course some people have genuinely come round to our way of thinking. But the official support has persuaded a lot more, who may of course veer round again in its absence. But for the present at least, there they are.

It is now more than six years since I began to write on this subject, give practical advice to anybody who asked for it, and stock Birth Control appliances. In the interval, the Bombay Birth Control League came into existence and went out of it. It did no practical work, and now even the sign-board is not there. Nobody was sufficiently interested in it, or devoted to it. My own work was slightly interrupted for some time when I had to look for a job, having preferred to give up a professorship at a local missionary college rather than my propaganda work, and not having any private source of income. Having succeeded in getting one, I can now resume work with all vigor, and more and more people ask for advice, though it takes them some time to overcome orthodox prejudices and put it into practice.

A Birth Control Magazine

In July last year, I started a monthly magazine for propaganda purposes in Marathi, my mother tongue, spoken by 20 million Indians, and which boasts of an extensive literature. To make it less monotonous, and as I am interested in Social Hygiene in general and often find people unwilling to publish my views, which they call ultra-radical, I have not confined the magazine to Birth Control, though the subject finds a place in every issue. Of course this is a matter of considerable expense for a man of my meagre means, and I cannot say how long I may be able to pull on unless I get a good deal more public support than I have obtained so far. But I intend to persist as long as I can. Some of our journals are still so backward as to refuse advertisements of my magazine, but the more advanced ones have begun to accept advertisements of Birth Control appliances. One undesirable result of this is that a number of spurious products are being advertised and, in the absence of correct information, a good many people are misled.

Along with the demand for information about

Birth Control, I get any number of letters asking for methods of abortion. Of course here, as elsewhere, abortion is not permitted by law except to save the life of the woman, and I can only tell my correspondents that the best method of abortion is the surgical one if they can get a doctor to do it, and supply information about the best Birth Control devices for future use.

With the Government hampering every forward step in social reform on the plea of non-interference, and doing practically nothing for the education of the masses on account of the undue importance given to military expenditure, all progress in this country has been so retarded during the last

hundred years, in spite of the British pretense of trusteeship, that the first thing any social worker has to do is to devise methods of educating the people in every possible direction, without looking to the Government for support or indeed even to the public, the supporters of any new idea being as usual in a woefully small minority. A general mental background has to be created by constant hammering at religious and traditional prejudices before Birth Control will be accepted as a matter of course. This is what I am trying to do, and a hard job it is, as everybody knows who has ever tried to do the like. Still I hope for the best.

One of Our Prize Winners



THE FOUNDLING BASKET By ELLIOT DOLD
(Received 4th prize in the Birth Control Cartoon Contest)

The *London Spectator* recently awarded a prize for the best epigram on the "Modern World" to the author of these lines —

"Science finds out ingenious ways to kill
Strong men, and keep alive the weak and ill—
That these a sickly progeny may breed,
Too poor to tax, too numerous to feed"

C A MARTIN

MATERNITY

All night
I hear their cries,
Thunder across the clouds
Why is it that new life must come
Through storm?

ANTONIA Y SCHWAB.

Children of Choice

The Joy of Desired and Welcome Children

One note that sounds through the letters that we are receiving from women who have been helped by Birth Control is the love of freedom. Women are ready to face the ordeal of childbirth. They go bravely and gladly forward to it even when they know that it means special danger and great suffering. But they want above all things to be free—to choose for themselves and to know that it is of their own will that they bear children, and not as the prisoner of chance or of a fate over which they can exercise no control. Free choice for women does not mean no babies. The future of the human race is safe in the hands of free women.

A Lesson Learned

Connecticut

I am one of those lucky women who have been made happy through a knowledge of Birth Control. When I married I was very much run down. Although desirous for children and maternally mature, my husband and I curbed our desire for a family, until the doctor thought it possible for me to bear the strain of childbirth. We were then blessed with a darling daughter.

Through a series of complications I once more found myself in poor health. Thoughtlessly I allowed myself to become pregnant, the consequence was a miscarriage. The disappointment to a lover of children was so great that I tried again, and then again—each time with a miscarriage.

Now I have learned my lesson. Who could be a stauncher friend of Birth Control? Through lack of practising it, I have so far failed to have more than one child. Through its aid, I now hope to wait until I am sufficiently established in health to prevent our daughter from becoming the most pathetic thing in the world—an only child.

C

Heroic Motherhood

New York

Both my husband and I are members of large families, with a record of high fertility for generations on both sides. We married when he had just started to practice his profession, on a salary which the business girl of today would hardly accept as a beginner's wage and with a nest egg in the bank.

From baby-hood I was a strong feminist and one of the things I resented most bitterly was the fact that my mother, whom I adored, was broken in health by excessive childbearing, and that I myself had not been wanted, or planned for, but was an accident of fate. As children, we were all sensible of the constant discussion of what it

cost to feed and clothe us. When it was absolutely necessary to have new shoes, I always felt guilty. It did not seem fair to me that, when I was here through no choice of my own, my father should constantly stress the point of the expense of a large family and I determined that my children should never have this humiliation to bear.

It seemed to me, always, the rankest injustice that women, who endure all the pain and discomfort of childbearing were allowed no choice as to how many children they should bear.

I was so afraid of marriage that I would not seriously consider it for years. When I finally became engaged I talked the matter over with the man I afterwards married and he agreed that I should have my children only when I wanted them.

Four months after my marriage I was taken ill with pneumonia—and was in bed for nine weeks. This exhausted our nest egg and left us entirely dependent on my husband's salary. It took us almost three years to accumulate enough to make me feel that it was safe to go ahead and have my first child.

Through five months of my pregnancy I suffered every discomfort possible—unending nausea—a racking cough which brought on intercostal neuralgia—violent headaches and insomnia. Then I had a respite until the month before the baby was born, and a kidney complication started. I went through a terrible labor—so long and so arduous that I almost lost my child and was weak and ill for a year afterwards.

Through all this I was sustained by the thought that I wanted my baby—I had chosen to have him and I was willing to endure anything to have him come safely into life.

After five years I attempted the experience again—went through all and more than I had with the first pregnancy and lost the child—still-born at seven months. After this I was ill for so long that it seemed madness to try again—much as I wanted another child.

The fact that we were able to control the coming of our children meant the salvation of our married life. I would never have endured bearing children I did not want, nor would my health have stood the strain of it. Had we been able to find no means of regulation I should most certainly have refused to live with my husband or left him. I would never have borne children for whom we could not possibly have made decent provision. My sense of responsibility towards those to whom I was giving life was too great, terrible as the alternative would have been to me.

Above all, however, was the joy of feeling that my children were coming to me welcome—that I wanted them—and that through the nine months of misery, and the torture at the end, I could look forward to the happiness of having those precious, planned-for little human beings laid in my arms.

H

A Contrast

New York

The dedication of your magazine has always been an inspiration to me. Voluntary Motherhood. It seems so just, so socially right, that every woman should choose her motherhood, and every child have a right to a heritage of health and love. A mother's desire for her child is like a spiritual cocoon wrapping the unborn in the finest emotional atmosphere. For example

My first child was desired, longed for and born into a happy family atmosphere. This child has shown this heritage of health and love in its character, bright, sunny, affectionate, sound mentally and physically, a rational well-balanced human being.

My second child was not desired. At that time I knew no dependable contraceptive, she was conceived too soon after the birth of the first, and the atmosphere of the home made her coming a tragedy. The physical and mental strain experienced at that time has been her heritage. She is high strung, emotionally unbalanced, nervous, and cannot adjust herself to life and its requirements. She feels the conditions into which she was born and reflects them in her character.

Unwanted children experience too great a handicap. The world does not guess how deeply embedded in the psychic natures of the unwanted child is the anguish of the mother.

Personally, I know of no other gift so great as the knowledge which made it possible for me to choose my period for motherhood. I have been of far greater value to my family, to my friends and certainly to society, and as for myself, the value lies in the difference between freedom and slavery.

Margaret Sanger has through her vision and courage lifted the human race into a spiritual atmosphere that will carry it on to a greater appreciation of its destiny.

K

Gratitude

Illinois

The latter part of June, my husband took me in to Chicago to visit the clinic. We're very much pleased with results so far. Hardly seems possible that results can be as guaranteed, but we'll soon see.

Not only that, but I was given some advice that John says is alone worth the cost of the trip. I've always been ashamed of everything connected with sex, and the doctor gave me advice that may help to clear things up.

Was given a very cordial invitation to visit the clinic whenever I'm in Chicago, and to keep in touch with them. That will be my first stop when I'm in there again.

How Wonderful Life Can Be

Rhode Island

Your letters have always been so warm and personal—they make me very anxious to meet you, Mrs. Sanger, and thank you in person for all your interest and the help Birth Control has been to us.

We are so happy in this "coming event" which was planned for, and I do want to tell people how wonderful life can be with Birth Control. My husband and I are much closer than any of my friends who do not believe in it.

M

What Might Have Been

Canada

May I add my testimony to the series of interesting letters that are appearing in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, telling of the proved benefits of Birth Control. I have two children, healthy and quite up to the average in intelligence and attractiveness—we think they are far above the average, but that is probably parental prejudice. At the birth of each of these children I suffered excessively and only the skill of the doctors who attended me saved my life. After the coming of the second child, I was solemnly warned not to have any more and was given careful instruction in Birth Control. It had been my strong desire to have four children, but it was certainly far better to live and care for my little girl and boy than to face almost certain death in attempting to have the other two that I had so greatly desired.

Both my children are now in college. I myself am in excellent health, and have been able to keep pace with them in their mental development. I have the happiest of homes and the most devoted of husbands, and we both take the keenest interest and delight in the progress of our children. What a contrast to what might have been without Birth Control?

W

Book Reviews

THE RACIAL BASIS OF CIVILIZATION, Frank H Hankins, Alfred A Knopf New York 1926 pp 384

THIS book, as the sub-title indicates, is a critique of that form of the doctrine of racial inequality which, in the hands of writers like Madison Grant and Lothrop Stoddard, has played such a pernicious part in post-war propaganda by fanning the flames of inter-racial contempt and hatred. The adulation of the blue-eyed dolichocephal by these writers has stimulated a preference for blonds which would indeed be amusing, if the consequences were not so nearly tragic. The dogmas that all which is great in creative genius, organizing ability, and power of leadership is preeminently embodied in the Nordic race and that the salvation of the world depends upon the maintenance of Nordic domination in world politics have a plausibility, at least for members of that race, which makes their scientific examination a very necessary public service. This service Professor Hankins has ably rendered in a book which is as readable as it is convincing.

The main thesis of the book is that, while all human qualities are found among all races of men, they are found in varying degrees. It follows, therefore, if the thesis be sustained, that, to consider only the political aspects of civilization, while almost every type of political behavior is possible for any nation, some types of behavior are easier for some nations than for others. In other words, some races are naturally better fitted for life in a modern democracy than others. But it also follows, upon the same hypothesis, that, in view of the wide range of variation among members of the same race, inferiority or superiority in political capacity cannot be attributed to a particular individual on account of his race. Political distinctions on account of race alone consequently have no basis in biological fact. Moreover, as Professor Hankins believes, the crossing of sound strains of different races is biologically sound. Hence "well-endowed Italians, Hebrews, Turks, Chinese, and Negroes are better materials out of which to forge a nation than average or below-average Nordics." But for the existence of racial antipathies,—a sociological fact, whatever its biological foundation,—a wise immigration policy would ignore racial differences altogether, and confine itself to selecting the individuals from all races who measure up above the average of the individuals already within the country. Racial prejudices, already established, may make such a dispassionate policy of selection among immigrants inexpedient, but surely they do not justify propaganda designed to whet those very prejudices.

Such is the drift of Professor Hankins' argument. While denouncing in vigorous and effective terms the extravagances of the Nordic cult, he does not fall into the

opposite error of racial egalitarianism. There is no respect, he thinks, in which races are precisely equal. But since the cause of racial inequality is the unequal distribution of different types of individual within the race, the policies to be pursued in consequence of it must be based upon a study of individuals, regardless of race, not upon generalizations, no matter how glittering, about the character of races. This is a book which should be widely read in the interests both of common sense and of better inter-racial relations.

A N HOLCOMBE, PH D

THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY, by Dora Russell New York, Harpers

ONCE upon a time there was a king who was very ill indeed. Doctors from far and wide were consulted but none could diagnose his illness. One day a wise old physician was found who declared that nothing but the shirt of a happy man could possibly cure the king. Straightway couriers were dispatched to find this precious article. The king lay on his death bed, for it seemed to be as difficult to find the cure as it was to make the diagnosis. The couriers could find no one who would admit that he was the quite happy man. As they were returning to the castle empty-handed, they heard a shepherd singing. His song was to the effect that he was the happiest man in the land. (It happens so in fairy tales.) Forthwith the couriers demanded his shirt for the dying king. "But my good sirs, quoth the shepherd, 'I have no shirt and never had one'."

'Tis an old fable but one is reminded of it after reading Dora Russell's treatise on the Right To Be Happy. Men and women are entitled to happiness is her claim—but she has not found the garment of happiness despite all her biological, philosophical, sociological searchings. Her thesis is a reaffirmation of every modern movement in psychology, sociology, and biology. There is too little perspective, however, to be able to consider these trends as the true roads to happiness.

The author begins her treatise with an exposition of the concepts of happiness of the Chinese, the Greeks, and the Christians. Each civilization is rooted in primitive superstitions and ignorance. The more or less static society of the Middle Ages is bound by the vise-like influences of early Christianity and Judaism. There was no happiness then, because there was no chance for a real satisfaction of man's basic instincts.

Mrs. Russell then discusses the sources of modern rationalism. With a fine appreciation of the scientific spirit, she analyzes the materials of happiness which have been improved by that spirit—the material things that

make life easier and give greater opportunities for the mind's play. In caustic tongue she belabors those groups in society who are fanatics—the men who believe in economic revolution for the elimination of all evils, or those who believe absolutely in the “status quo.” It seems to this reviewer, that Mrs. Russell has long since settled her own economic difficulties, and projects that equanimity and poise that come with economic security, against the rest of the world. She pricks the bubble of the ideals of conduct which previous civilizations and philosophies have developed for happiness, and armed with a single weapon, scientific knowledge, she strides forth in search of the happy shirt.

“The first and most elementary principle of a society that wants to make people happy is to satisfy the primary instincts of human beings.” Food, work, or activity, and knowledge, are three instincts which must be satisfied. Modern society does not do this. The fourth instinct is that of sex. The fifth that of parenthood. These last two instincts are surrounded by a mesh of ethical and moral standards far worse, according to Mrs. Russell, than those which surround other phases of our life. In the chapter on Sex and Parenthood the author makes an excellent contribution to the many studies made on women. She indicates the way in which scientific knowledge in the form of Birth Control enables women to secure happiness in sex without the responsibilities of parenthood. On the other hand, when the woman has met the man whom she feels will make a good companion and a wise father, she can enter the realm of parenthood with a joy and happiness that is rare to-day.

Men and women are indeed entitled to happiness. Mrs. Russell points out the bugaboos of unhappiness to-day but whether she has found the royal road to the positive state is a moot question.

Theresa Wolfson, Ph.D.

PARENTHOOD AND THE NEWER PSYCHOLOGY, by Frank Richardson, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y.

MANY conscientious parents hoping to learn from books on child psychology how to meet the problems of behavior and education which they face hourly in their efforts successfully to “bring up” their children, are to-day in the position of the sadly perplexed mother who is quoted by Dr. Richardson in his introduction as saying, “But, Doctor, I read and read and read these books that you recommend. They are intensely interesting, but when I lay them down after I have read of the awful things that may happen if I *don't* bring up my boys according to the dictates of modern psychology, I find myself absolutely at a loss as to what I *should* do. They are so stimulating, —but I don't know quite what they stimulate me to *do*!”

It is to help these eager but worried parents—and there are many of them—that Dr. Richardson has written his

book on “Parenthood and the Newer Psychology.” His aim is to give to them the theory of the “newer psychology” so simply that they can understand it without a background of extensive reading or study of psychology, and so practically that it will be of real service to them in their daily problems. In this aim he has succeeded to a remarkable extent. His book is readable, suggestive, and certainly to the parents of young children intensely interesting.

There are chapters on Love as the Greatest Thing in the World, on Arrested Development, on Consciousness, on Reason and Emotion, on Imitation, and so forth. These are followed by very practical chapters on Education, Discipline, Sex Education and Religious Instruction. It is not necessary to agree entirely with all the theories of modern psychology as set forth by Dr. Richardson to find the book of great value. He has accomplished what he hoped to do. He has brought “to fathers and mothers seriously burdened with their job some of the real help that is inherent in a knowledge of a few of the cardinal principles of the newer Psychology.”

Grace Norton Lorenz

ANTHONY COMSTOCK, ROUNDSMAN OF THE
LORD, by Heywood Broun and Margaret Leech
Albert & Charles Boni, New York \$3.00

THE greatest world contribution by this zealous gentleman was a new word “comstockery”, coined by Bernard Shaw, which will long be employed to define neurotic prudery. This single word will outlive any memory of Comstock's career.

But for the present day, there are many who will be interested in Heywood Broun's and Margaret Leech's story, one which splits hairs in its efforts to be fair. It shows us this savage old adolescent first as the Civil War soldier who kept a painstaking and sanctimonious diary. As Broun says, “Comstock was one of those who could eat his cake and suppress it, too.” There is a margin of doubt in many minds whether or not this bulldoggish, corpulent fanatic did not have something of a vicarious thrill over his “necessary and painful investigations” of the wickedness with which his fair land was threatened.

We read of his strange marriage to the colorless Margaret—sublimation of his mother complex, in Freudian terms—of his relentless cruelty to his victims, a cruelty which caused more than fifteen persons to commit suicide. We see him as the intolerant, middle-aged man with his moron foster daughter, of whom he always spoke as a “loving child.” We see the bulldoggish reformer grow old, bewildered but still unceasing in his attacks, physical and otherwise. Nothing was spared. He did not know the meaning of the word discrimination. Abortionists and Birth Control were stupidly confounded. The lottery game and the art students' league catalogue came under

the same category of indecency. Everything which attracted his subconscious, septic mind, outwardly camouflaged as a public benefactor, was considered fair prey.

Comstock lent attraction to art because of the hazards with which he surrounded it. Probably he did some small amount of actual reform—who wouldn't in such a ruthless, long-lived career?

At last, he died. Because he left a meager estate, some claim that his immunity to graft makes him rather a hero. But the majority react to his death with a sigh of relief and a wondering whether Comstock did not have trouble in choosing between the stern God, for whom he labored, and the attractive, wicked, personal Devil, against whom he fought. Surely, it would be difficult to have nothing more to reform!

NALBRO BARTLEY

EUGENICS, by A. M. Carr-Saunders (Home University Library) Henry Holt and Co. New York

THIS BOOK is an attempt to present, in an elementary but biological way, the science of eugenics. Because he feels that our present scientific knowledge of eugenics is inadequate, the author does not concern himself with its application to society.

Mr. Carr-Saunders wrote this book from the point of view of the Englishman living in the British Isles. He is apparently not cognizant of some of the important research bearing on the relative influence of environment and heredity published in leading scientific journals in this country. In fact, statements which seem inconsistent might be cleared up, if the reader were referred to the original work of the men quoted by Mr. Carr-Saunders. No customary, adequate, or detailed bibliography is listed in the book. The few references given include the "Eugenical News" and the "Proceedings" of the First and Second International Eugenics Congresses, while no mention is made of the "Proceedings" of the various Birth Control Conferences to which some of the finest scientists of the world contributed. Probably one of the most outstanding scientific periodicals in this particular field in our country is the *Journal of Heredity* and Mr. Carr-Saunders does not mention it.

On page eighty-nine, the author states that mutations "are relatively so rare they cannot possibly have an appreciable effect in producing variability." In view of Blakeslee's work on *Datura*, alone, many biologists would differ with this statement.

The author's treatment of the whole matter of mental testing is interesting and fairly presented. It is particularly fitting to sound a note of caution in the interpretation of such data, and to realize that along with environment and heredity, an individual's social acquirements should be considered.

For the lay reader of the "Home University Library" series, this book presents an interesting introduction to eugenics.

BEATRICE N. JOHNSON

"LOVE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE", "RUNAWAY", and "AN OLD MAN'S FOLLY", by Floyd Dell. Published by G. Doran Co. 1925.

"LOVE'S PILGRIMAGE", by Upton Sinclair. Published by the Author. 1926.

THE essential quality of Mr. Dell's works besides the presentation of social problems is the charming way in which he pictures his people and their actions. Whereas Mr. Sinclair is inclined to be bitter, Dr. Dell is optimistic. "Love in Greenwich Village" represents to "us moderns" the Village in its pre-"lecture tour for one dollar only" days, when those who lived there worked out their experiments in art, in love and in life.

"Runaway" is the story of a man whose ideals and soul's unrest force him to leave his smug, comfortable home to wander to the Orient. His return home and subsequent experiences with the K K K thrown in for good measure, make the book very interesting to read.

An old man of means whose latter years are spent among young people of radical thought and tendencies is the ground upon which "An Old Man's Folly" is built. All three books are written with insight, sympathy and delicacy.

Sinclair's "Love's Pilgrimage" is a most serious and eager attempt to depict the struggles of the mal-adjusted creative artist in an antagonistic world. At times the work shrieks a bit too loud, but the matter contained amply redeems that fault. In all, one does not encounter any especially vivid or novel thoughts. Mr. Sinclair presents, not the whimsical side of life like Mr. Dell, but the harrowing demands of existence. His book is the strongest sociologically, but it sets no "mass" problem. His is the specialized individualistic struggle.

IVAN BLOCH

CONCERNING PARENTS—A Symposium on Present Day Parenthood. New Republic, Inc., New York.

THIS little volume consists of a group of articles by well-known experts in the subject of childhood and the family, with an introduction by President Bird Stein Gans of the Child Study Association. The writers include almost all of the men and women who have made prominent contributions to such aspects of the question as the relations of members of the family to each other and to the community, parents and the new psychology, teachers and the new education, leisure and recreation, and the parent's outlook on life and on the rights of their children to freedom and moral education. In so large a collection of essays it is impossible to single out any for comment. But it is noteworthy that as yet an Editor does not dare to include the all-important question of Birth Control and the right of the child to a fit and proper place in the family and in the community into which his parents introduce him.

Periodical Notes

Eugenics Review (London)—The fall quarterly number (October) has two articles of interest. C V Drysdale discusses the "Scientific Bases of Birth Control" and Norman E Himes, in an article to which we shall give more detailed notice later, presents "Some Racial Results of the Birth Control Movement"

Survey Graphic (N Y) for November—Recent estimates of the cost of living have based their findings on an ideal sized family as yet far from realization, according to Daisy L W Worcester who writes on "This Amazing Prosperity". The Industrial Conference Board is the worst offender, for it has in its calculation of workmen's budgets casually dropped out one of the three children formerly allotted to such families. It is by such manipulations, Mrs Worcester maintains, that individual prosperity has been represented as on the upgrade, in a period when average cost of living is at a level enormously higher than it was a few years ago.

The Family (N Y) for November—Harriet L Herring reports an investigation into the wellbeing of the children of working mothers. She concludes that not only has the attitude of the public toward the working mother become of late years one of approval, but that the relations between mother and child in this group were in no way impaired by the mother's work, and the physical condition of the home was in the vast majority of cases excellent. The 100 mothers had an average of 2-2/3 children each.

American Magazine (N Y) for October—In an article on "What Is Happening to the American Family?" Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick calls attention to the fact that the idea and the name "Companionate" marriage did not originate with Judge Lindsey but with Professor Knight of Barnard College. In Dr Fosdick's explanation of what companionate marriage is he restates his case for Birth Control. "Companionate marriage", says Dr Fosdick "signified simply the wedlock of two people who, for various reasons all the way from pleasure to health, wished to marry without facing, at least in the early years of their union, the responsibility of children. That there are situations where such an arrangement is both innocent and desirable must be obvious. Two people going to a difficult missionary field may be well advised not to have children. Conditions of individual health at home may make such an arrangement temporarily imperative. He would be hard-hearted as well as ill-advised who would insist that two professional students working, let us say, for higher degrees, might not marry until they were able to support a family. To be sure, even in its simplified form, this modern variation from the historic family depends on methods of controlling birth, but that it is in-

evitable, that it is in widespread and constantly increasing use, that it is often absolutely necessary and generally innocent, most observers would at once agree."

Journal of the American Medical Association (N Y) of October 27th—In an article on "Indications for Therapeutic Sterilization in Obstetrics", Dr J Whitridge Williams of Johns Hopkins analyzes a group of cases where absolute sterility was a life or death matter. He adds "It must follow from what has already been said that I believe in the justifiability of contraceptive advice under proper conditions, as the more radical procedure of sterilization could be justified only after the former failed or in case we are persuaded that our patient is too unintelligent to follow it." He then proceeds to discuss the present status of Birth Control.

British Medical Journal (London) for September—Dr M Sourasky tells us that the Jews are showing an even greater decline in fertility than the rest of the world. He gives figures in proof from Jewish and non-Jewish communities in many European cities including London, where Stepney, a largely Jewish section, shows a greater decline of the birth-rate than Poplar or Southwark, whose population, of the same economic and social status, is largely Christian.

RECENT PAMPHLETS

AGE AT PARENTHOOD, ORDER OF BIRTH AND PARENTAL LONGEVITY IN RELATION TO LONGEVITY OF OFFSPRING, by S J Holmes, Univ of California Publications in Zoology, vol 31 no 15 pp 359-375

In the records of royalty studied there was found no significant correlation between age of parenthood and longevity of offspring.

THE CHILDRENS BUREAU, U S DEPT OF LABOR, Childrens Bureau

What it is, what it has done and what it is doing for the children of the United States

FIVE YEARS OF HEALTH DEMONSTRATION IN SYRACUSE AND CATTARAGUS COUNTY, Millbank Memorial Fund Quarterly Bulletin, New York Health Demonstration Vol VI, No 4

The summary shows a significant decrease in infant mortality in both Syracuse and Cattaragus County

PIERRE CHARDON Edition de L'en Dehors Paris

A tribute by his fellow idealists to a leading French anarchist

THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE AND HYGIENE OF MATERNITY AND INFANCY U S Dept of Labor, Children's Bureau, Publication No 186

This report of the operation of the Act of November, 1921, for the year ended June 30, 1927, shows that the infant mortality for the year was smaller than in any year since the act went into operation, and was 12 per thousand less than in 1921. Maternal mortality, on the other hand, was lowered only by 2.6 per thousand.

Birth Control Clinics in Chicago

IN 1924 we opened our first center in the business district of Chicago in connection with the main office of the Birth Control League. In 1925 we opened a center in the thickly populated Polish District. Shortly thereafter we opened a center in connection with the ethical culture settlement in a Bohemian and Polish district. Since then we have established one in the thickly populated colored district, one in an Italian and Mexican district in connection with the Health Center of the Mary Crane Nursery of Hull House, and one in a Jewish district.

We have kept careful records of all those to whom the contraceptive information was given and those to whom contraceptive information was refused because of already existing pregnancy or other reasons. We have information as to (1) reasons for seeking contraceptive information, (2) religious affiliations, (3) racial stock, (4) results of use of special methods of contraception.

I append herewith a briefly summarized report of the work of the Chicago Birth Control Centers for 1927.

Illinois Birth Control League Combined Report of Medical Centers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 for the year 1927

Total number of cases, 1,238

Number of cases to whom contraceptive advice was given, 1,037

Number of cases to whom contraceptive advice was refused, 201 (because of existing pregnancy, suspected pregnancy, etc.)

Of the 1,037 cases to whom advice was given during the year 1927, reports had been received, on March 31, 1928, from 436

Of the 436 cases upon which reports had been received, 396 cases reported as successful for periods of from 1 to 14 months, 24 cases reported as not using the method for various reasons, 16 cases reported pregnancies, all but one admitting that the method had been used incorrectly.

Reasons for asking advice

Economic	830
To space births	208
Health	111
Too old	16
Domestic trouble	11
Husband ill	2
Wanted examination	6
Do not want children	1
Wanted children	1
No record	52

1,238

References

Papers, books, lectures, etc	106
Patients, friends, relatives	398
Infant Welfare Society	182
United Charities	135
Hospitals, clinics, medical schools, dispensaries, etc	141
Doctors	62
Settlements	25
Visiting nurses	42
Miscellaneous organizations	50
Sign and phone book	21
Woman's World's Fair	26
Miscellaneous sources	44
No record	6

1,238

Religions

Protestants	648
Catholics	355
Jewish	221
Others	19
None	2
No record	3

1,238

These are statistics typical of those for other years and are similar to those of other clinics. They serve to answer the contentions of the opponents of Birth Control as well as the honest questions put by the physicians and lay people who have not followed the progress that has been made in the application of the method of Birth Control.

The first contention of the opponents of Birth Control is usually that the intelligent and well-to-do are the only ones that will avail themselves of the information. Our experience shows that the poor, ignorant and foreign-born are just as eager for this information, if they find out that there is a real possibility of regulating and spacing children and that the necessary information is within their means. We have hundreds of cases that have been referred to us by different charitable agencies, and many of these are tragic ones of poverty, illness and excessively large families. To these patients we gave information which they followed carefully and successfully, and we have received many expressions of gratitude from them. This refutes the claim that many of those who need the information most, cannot use it.

The number of failures among such patients is in fact not greater, in our experience, than in the higher social groups, provided we take special pains

to teach the patients just how to use the contraceptive method. It is necessary for the patient to learn to use the method herself, which takes time and patience. The moral and social reasons for Birth Control and social hygiene must be taught at the same time.

Against contentions that those seeking information want no children we can again cite our own records. In looking them over we find the most negligible number of people giving the reason of not wanting children. In fact, most of the patients invariably ask the question whether contraceptive methods will make it impossible for them to have children if they should wish to later. While in the beginning of our work we had many who came to the center for abortions, thinking that abortions and Birth Control were synonymous, very few such cases come to us now, since more of the public have learned to realize that we do not approve of, or perform abortions. We give information only to those who are planning to make a better and happier relationship in their family life.

The reasons given by the largest group of our patients are economic, next comes the desire to space pregnancies. It is interesting to note that the desire to avoid physical discomfort does not play as important a part with our patients as Birth Control opponents would have us believe. One other important reason given is the health of the mother and occasionally that of the father.

We find many cases of unpardonable negligence or indifference on the part of the physician to the welfare of the patient. Both men and women physicians of high standing have often dismissed the question of further pregnancies and their dangers to such patients by simply saying that they had better have no more children, or that they had better get something that will keep them from having children.

We have a good deal of evidence that many of the husbands of our patients are equally interested in Birth Control. We encourage the idea of their coming to talk things over with us, which of course is very desirable in order to impart the broader significance of social hygiene.

We receive in our centers, and especially in the one down town, a good many newly married or couples about to be married. They are usually intelligent, American-born persons. We find among them self-respecting, self-supporting young women who expect to continue their work until the husband is able to support a family. Some of these young women are studying for professions and expect to have children when able to support them. Some of these patients have already become parents voluntarily. In fact, all our experience mani-

festly goes to prove that there is no danger that scientific information on the subject of Birth Control, or intelligent postponement and definite spacing and restricting of the number of children, will result in the extinction of the human race. It is interesting to note that almost a third of our patients are Catholics, and when the center is located in a Catholic neighborhood the proportion rises much higher. Since Birth Control is used largely for the purpose of giving the children born better opportunities for development, no religion can seriously impeach this ethical standard.

One other bit of information of interest is that our work has brought us in connection with thirty nationalities.

RACHELLE YARROS, M D

(Reprinted from *The Medical Woman's Journal*)



Contrasted Views

By KITTY MARION

SAY, sister, do you know the Lord slew a man for this?", said a man who was distributing religious tracts "Not for this,—you've got the wrong idea entirely!", I contradicted him very emphatically. He did not wait to get the *right* idea, but bolted across the street.

An elderly woman with a kindly smile said "God will curse you for doing this." "No he won't", I returned cheerfully, "God is *good* and never curses anyone." "But you are destroying His work", she said. "With prevention there is nothing to destroy", I answered. "Well, you'll see", she warned me as she passed on.

"God bless you for the good work you are doing", say many women as they pass, and "You're doing the finest work for humanity, keep it up", say the men.

"You all ought to be arrested for putting this out", said a man while I was making his change. "Oh, I don't think so," I answered nonchalantly. "This will simply increase immorality among the young people" said he. "Not necessarily", I answered, "With Birth Control young people can marry without the fear of having a family they are unable to support." "Oh, well, I think nothing of it", he said. "Well, you will when you've read it" said I.

A woman whose eyes were affected told me that both her parents were blind when they married. She herself married a widower with two children, but she would not bear any for fear of passing her affliction on.

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

SINCE the first general assembly last summer of the International Union which was formed at the World Population Conference in September, 1927, the following commissions have been formed (1) Population and Food Supply E M East, Chairman, L March, Vice-Chairman, (2) Differential Fertility, Fecundity and Sterility F A E Crew, Chairman, Severino Azanar, Vice-Chairman, (3) Vital Statistics of Primitive Peoples C Gini, Chairman, also Malinowski, Pitt-Rivers, Schmidt of Australia, Pinto of Brazil, Schlaginhaufen and Hrdlicka

UNITED STATES

New York

THE directors of the American Birth Control League have received notice that the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Social Work has approved the application of the League to be admitted as a kindred group to the Conference. The League will therefore have a regular place on the Conference program for 1929. This is one indication that the movement is making steady progress among social workers. Another indication is the large official attendance of social workers at the annual reception given by the Clinical Research Bureau on November 14th. In former years workers have come individually but this year they came as official representatives of their societies. The attendance was larger than ever before and the guests represented about thirty city organizations.

Mrs Constance Heck is continuing her work in Putnam and Westchester Counties. In Westchester committees have been formed in Rye, Port Chester, Mt Kisco and White Plains. On November 20th the Mt Kisco committee arranged a meeting at the Woman's Club for Mrs F Robertson Jones, President of the American Birth Control League and the following day a meeting, at Westchester Hospital, arranged by a medical group, was addressed by Dr James F Cooper, Medical Director of the Clinical Research Bureau. In Putnam County a committee was formed at Cold Spring at a luncheon held on October 27th at the home of Mrs Walter Timme, member of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League.

Connecticut

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the Congregational Churches of Connecticut, at its 61st Annual meeting, voted unanimously to support the Bill of the Conn Branch of the American Birth Control League. The Conference was in session at Greenwich, November 9th, and before the vote was taken, it was addressed by Dr James F Cooper, Medical Director of the American

Birth Control League. The invitation to Dr Cooper was extended by Rev T F Rutledge Beale, Pastor of the Park Street Congregation Church of Bridgeport and head of the Social Work of the Congregational Churches of Connecticut. Mr Beale is Chairman of the Birth Control Committee of Bridgeport.

The resolution passed by the Conference reads —

Be it resolved that we, the General Conference of Congregational Churches of Connecticut, place ourselves on record as supporting the bill sponsored by the American Birth Control League, which reads

"Sec 6399 of the General Statutes is hereby repealed", and that a copy of this resolution be placed in the hand of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature.

The Section of the law to be repealed reads "Every person who shall use any drug, medicinal article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception shall be fined not less than fifty dollars or imprisoned not less than sixty days nor more than one year, or both." With this law repealed, there is nothing on the Connecticut Statute books to interfere with the giving of Contraceptive advice by doctors in clinics.

Pennsylvania

THE Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation reports a membership extending to 29 counties, in many of which a group is working to perfect local organization. The doctors' committee is doing excellent work in all parts of the state and, mainly through its efforts, about 900 physicians have expressed interest in the work of the Federation. Mrs George A Dunning sends the following report of significant developments in recent months.

Those of us who have been constantly in touch with our Headquarters have been greatly interested by the ever increasing number of visitors who drop in, beside telephone calls and letters asking for literature and for information on every aspect of our work, and have been tremendously encouraged by the progress our cause has made during this year, when we have not been in a Legislative Campaign.

Mrs Reginald Jacobs, Chairman of Meetings, reports that there has been much interest shown among the colored groups. Dr A Lovett Dewees and Mrs A C Martin spoke at the Cheyney State Normal School (for the colored) in the Spring. In June, Mrs George A Dunning spoke to the Council of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chester County, in West Chester. The Negro Labor Congress was addressed by Mr Meves, and in July the State Federation of Colored Womens' Clubs met at Chester, at which time Mrs Martin had an opportunity to reach several of their committees and distributed literature. The Trade Union Leagues in and about Philadel-

phia have asked for speakers which were sent through this office. Womens' Clubs and lodges are also asking for speakers and literature.

A most important step was taken when the following Resolution was presented and passed, by a large vote, at the Convention of the State Federation of Womens' Clubs on October 11th in Lancaster. This Resolution was introduced by the Resolutions' Committee, Mrs. Frank Miles Day, Chairman —

"Recognizing the importance of Birth Control and feeling the necessity of understanding the movement, we recommend that the various aspects of Birth Control, its influence on population, health, dependency and family life, be made a part of the study course of the Clubs composing the Federation."

Headquarters has been in touch with Luzerne and Lycoming County branches and Williamsport. Northampton and Lehigh Counties have also been in touch with Headquarters, and there is considerable interest in that section. Mrs. Mary B. Nelson, Executive Secretary of the Berks County branch, sends encouraging reports of the advance of the movement and the increased interest among the social agencies in that part of the State.

Margaret Sanger was guest of honor at a dinner given in Reading, November 1st, by Mrs. Gustav Oberlander, an active member of the Berks County Branch of the State Birth Control Federation. Following the dinner she addressed an audience of 400 members of the Woman's Club and the Berks County Birth Control Branch on "Passports for Babies."

Meetings for Mrs. Cora B. Hodson were held in November by the Alleghany County branch and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Gales Lloyd at Haverford.

The Annual meeting of the Federation was held November 22nd.

California

THE subject of Birth Control, writes Mrs. Warne*, occupied a prominent place on the regular program of the annual School of Adult Education, held August 13th to 27th, at Mills College, Oakland, California. Following the very excellent lectures and discussion of the "family", the lecture being given by Dr. J. P. Lichtenberger, Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, it fitted properly into the schedule of subjects to be considered by the group.

Dr. Ann Martin, President of the Birth Control League of Alameda County, and active in Birth Control activities around the Bay District, discussed very ably the subject "The Present Status of Birth Control in California." She explained the scope of the work which could be done without any trouble under the California law, which only

prevents the advertising of teaching methods of contraception. Then the work being done in the clinics at Berkeley and Oakland was told, with the limitations found necessary due to the nature of the clinics conducted and patients applying for instructions.

It was apparent throughout that the work was taken as an accepted fact, and both the talk of Dr. Martin and the discussion which followed went to the point of the practical problems presented. The need of broadening the scope of the work and establishing a clinic similar to the Mothers' Clinic at Los Angeles was stressed. Dr. Martin called on Clara Taylor Warne of Los Angeles, who was attending the conference to report on conditions in the South of California, and also to relate experiences in getting the Mothers' Clinic started at Los Angeles. Mrs. Warne pointed out the need of making contraceptive instruction a part of the regular technique of effective public health work.

The general discussion which followed, indicated an interest in furthering the projects urged by Dr. Martin, and it is likely that the work will be decidedly advanced as a result. It is apparent, as was urged by some of the speakers, that there should be some activity which would result in the more widespread teaching of contraception in all communities.

ENGLAND

THE plight of the workless miners and their families in the various coalfields of England, Wales and Scotland, is engaging the attention of both the Government and the press of Great Britain. Very practical help is being given by Birth Control organizations, in the opening of maternal clinics where the miners' wives may learn to avoid further pregnancies until there is some chance of decent support for the families they already have. Until recently the birth-rate of the miners has been the highest of all occupational birth-rates in England. Even now there are voices raised in the newspapers deprecating the giving of Birth Control information in the mining villages. The objection is based on the argument that the miners form an excellent, intelligent and exceedingly valuable element, and their birth-rate ought not to be checked, because England needs such people. If England needs them, the miners' wives are now saying, let England find some way to employ the dispossessed miners and to provide food, clothing and decent living conditions for the children who are now on the verge of starvation. Until England does this, the miners' wives will welcome the clinics where they may learn how not to bear children who would take the scanty bread from their brothers and sisters.

Edith How-Martyn sends the following comment:

In her admirable summary of the status of Birth Control in England given in the October REVIEW, Mrs. Margaret Pollock has overlooked the important contribution which the feminists have made to the recognition of Birth

*This letter, received from Mrs. C. T. Warne of Los Angeles, supplements the report we gave last month of the discussion of Birth Control at the School of Adult Education held at Mills College, Oakland, California.

Control as a factor to be taken into account by the Government

The chief feminist organization in England—the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship—has given a sound and fine lead on the importance of the public recognition of Birth Control. The columns of its paper, *The Woman's Leader*, have been open to free discussion of this subject even when it was more unpopular than it is to-day.

In March, 1926, after a strenuous struggle at its annual conference, the right of married women to the knowledge of Birth Control was placed on the immediate programme of the Union. The practical outcome has been that every candidate standing for Parliament is asked to reply to the following question —

If elected will you urge the Minister of Health to allow information with respect to methods of Birth Control to be given by Medical Officers at Mother's and Children's Welfare Clinics in receipt of government grants, in cases where a mother either asks for such information, or in the opinion of the Medical Officer the health of the parent renders it desirable?

In this and other ways the Union is educating Members of Parliament.

This departure on the part of the Union has been dubbed the New Feminism and on that ground adversely criticized by feminists who place more emphasis on Equal Rights. The President of the Union, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C C, J P, made the spirited reply — "We regard family allowances and knowledge of Birth Control not as a side-show or excrescence on feminism but as part of its very core. We see the great majority of women engaged during the best years of their lives in the vastly important work of keeping homes and bearing and rearing children. These women work as hard as any wage-earners, yet legally their economic position is that of serfs. Further, although no economic provision is made for the children, the mother responsible for their care is shut out by her poverty from the knowledge that would enable her to control and space their births, knowledge that is at the disposal of every woman able to pay for it." In April, 1926, the Union convened a Conference, which was crowded with representatives of about thirty organizations, in support of Lord Buckmaster's motion in the House of Lords.

At a recent Labour Women's Conference in Brussels, the attitude of the English delegates—with the notable exception of Miss Dorothy Jewson—was deplorably reactionary. They opposed any discussion of Birth Control. In commenting on this regrettable action, the editor of the feminist paper says —

"*The Woman's Leader* adheres to the policy in this matter of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. That is to say, we demand freedom for all married women to practise, or not practise, contraceptive Birth Control according to their individual needs and ethical views.

In order that this freedom may be effective we demand that information concerning the most generally approved methods of contraceptive Birth Control shall be made accessible for such married women as desire it, at maternity and infant welfare centers which provide the normal contact between the working mother and a qualified, disinterested medical practitioner. We draw a sharp distinction between the prevention of pregnancy and the destruction of pregnancy and our policy has never led us to challenge the existing state of the law in this country which prohibits the termination of a pregnancy except under medical direction for medical reasons. Therefore we could not support any resolution which coupled a demand for access to contraceptive knowledge with a demand for legalized abortion." Further —

"We consider that whatever may be the merits or demerits of (a) access to contraceptive knowledge, (b) legalized abortion, both are eminently suitable subjects for discussion at an international women's conference."

The attitude of the Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is in marked contrast with that of the other chief feminist organizations—the National Council of Women, the Women's Freedom League and the Six Point Group. Not one of these organizations of women has even discussed Birth Control, much less put on its programme the demand for knowledge to be available at the State welfare centers.

The Women's National Liberal Federation, in May, 1927, adopted resolutions which declared —

"While emigration can only be a temporary cure for over-population and by its process of selection may be a danger to the country scientific Birth Control provides a means of increasing the efficiency of the nation."

"Information should be available to married women who ask for it at the welfare centers controlled by the Ministry of Health by this means enabling the poorest members of the community to obtain information to which the wealthier classes already have access."

The position of the political parties in not declaring themselves willing to remove the ban placed on the State welfare centers throws a great responsibility on the only all-party, political, feminist organization which stands for the policy expressed in Lord Buckmaster's resolution.

Whichever political party—Conservative, Liberal or Labour—is returned to power at the general election in 1929, it will not be pledged to any policy in this matter and our main hope for success must be with the non-party National Union.

The Union has achieved many reforms which find supporters in all parties and may they be again successful! A movement is being organized having for its object to obtain in the next Parliament as many members as possible who are pledged to support action on the lines of Lord Buckmaster's motion.

We confidently expect victory in 1929.

IRELAND

THE Evil Literature Bill, which specifically prohibits the publication, sale or distribution of any book or paper containing advocacy of Birth Control passed its second reading in the Dail on October 24. The bill was then postponed to November 21 when it will enter on its committee stage. No amendment on the drastic nature of the bill has so far been made, and there is little hope of any softening of its terms as regards Birth Control before it becomes law. In regard to this subject, Mr Fitzgerald Kenny, Minister of Justice, who is in charge of the bill, stated that in regard to Birth Control it had been suggested that this might be treated as a social question and its merits argued out. That was a proposition to which the Government could not and would not assent. They would not allow, so far as it lay in them to prevent it, free discussion on this question. They had made up their minds that it was wrong, and that conclusion was unalterable. In that conclusion most people in the country were in agreement with them. "That question," he said, "shall not be freely and openly discussed, and shall not be dealt with in any book or periodical circulating in this country." An example such as this, of the legalization of rules of morality founded on Roman Catholic religious teachings, where Roman Catholics hold the power, shows the reasonableness of the opposition of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW to the election of Governor Smith to the Presidency of the United States.

DENMARK

THROUGH the United Press comes a report of a bill providing for sterilization of the physically abnormal on authorization of the Ministry of Justice, which has been introduced in the folketing (assembly) by S Rytter, Minister of Justice.

SWEDEN

A DISPATCH to the *N Y Sun* states that the condition reported by Dr Edin at the World Population Conference in 1927 continues to prevail. In the better quarters of Stockholm more births are taking place than in the poorer sections. Social workers, says the report, are gratified to see the change coming about and believe it to be due to the voluntary practice of Birth Control on the part of those unable to support large families.

JAPAN

ACCORDING to reports in the *Japan Times* in July, the Japanese Government Commission on Population, of which Dr Nitobe* is Chairman, has appointed a subcommittee made up of Drs Sen Nagai, Tooru Nagai and Tokuzo Fukuda.

*Elsewhere in this issue we publish an article written by Dr Nitobe for a Dutch journal.

Among other matters, says the *Japan Times*, this subcommittee has been instructed to investigate the following matters:

1 Should Birth Control be advocated as a solution to the nation's population problem?

2 Is it advisable to limit by legal procedures the discussion of the propagation of information on eugenics?

3 Is it not advisable to exercise police supervision over the present so-called information offices on Birth Control, and over the chemicals and instruments sold by various drug stores and other places for contraception, apart from the question as to whether or not Birth Control is advisable from the national standpoint?

Various arguments were advanced by the committee members on the subjects at their meeting. It was agreed by many that, even if the practice of Birth Control might not be desirable, economic causes and health conditions necessitate it in many cases.

Birth Control, it was contended, should be based on eugenics. If the practice is legalized, only expert medical men should be allowed to give advice.

Government efforts to encourage emigration are costing almost five million yen this year, a sum more than 25 per cent greater than last year. The expenditures include, according to the *New York Times*, full information about the possibilities of self-support in Formosa, Saghalien, Korea and the Pacific Island, Argentine, Chile and Brazil. While such experiments as this are being made the population problem is freely debated on platform and press, according to the reports of recent visitors and residents, among whom is Charles McVeagh, Ambassador from the United States. One of the ablest recent discussions is a paper read before the League of Nations Association of Karuizawa by Prof E F Penrose on the international aspects of the problem and its bearing on Japan.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

PRIZE pensions for proud parents" might well be the slogan of Representative Manuel Fuentebella, who views with alarm the spectre of Birth Control, and is urging the Philippine Legislature to act.

A bill he has introduced provides—In a family of eight, free vocational education for one child, a family of twelve, free government education for two, and in one of twenty-four children, the mother and father shall be given a pension of \$15 a month each for life—(U P)

LAST MINUTE NEWS

By a vote of four to one the Convention of the New York League of Women Voters in session at Buffalo, November 23rd took Birth Control from the list of endorsed measures where it was placed last year and placed it on the list of legislative measures which are to have the League's active support in 1929.

Correspondence

A FRIEND WORTH KEEPING

Bureau of Fisheries, Biological Station,
Key West, Florida,

Editor

I was one of the original stockholders of the *REVIEW*, and very proud of my Certificate for \$10 00 I was getting along in years, and, not being strong, had great difficulty in making a bare living

This is the first time since the terrible days of the World War, when even old men could get work, that I have held a position with fair wages My son had been Acting Superintendent of this Station several years, with old Daddy as housekeeper, he being a bachelor of 35 I got no wages, and rarely any spending money On June 8th last, son was transferred to another Biological Station and I was appointed "Custodian" here, at \$75 00 a month This Station is to be closed up in January next, and then I shall probably make my home for my few remaining days with my daughter

I cannot tell you how I have longed to help with the grand work of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* I am near 70, and rejoice that I have lived to see the phenomenal progress of this most needed reform in human history When I received my commission as Custodian here (I live and work here all alone, and have a house as big as a hotel), I said to myself "Now I can do something for the *REVIEW* pretty soon" So I enclose \$5 00 and regret that I cannot make it \$500 or \$5,000 Please continue the *REVIEW* to me, it won't be for very long I will notify you, when I get done here, of new address

Praying for continued health for everyone of your valiant workers, I shall always be yours gratefully,

ELI FRANK STEPHENSON, *Custodian*

FROM ONE OF THE VANGUARD

October 15, 1928

Dear Mrs Sanger

At first I was very sorry when I heard that you had resigned from the presidency of the League but I have come to realize that in the wider sphere of influence which you have undertaken you will have greater power

I am not at all doubtful as to results, sometime or other you will succeed, and I am hoping it will be in my lifetime I can remember quite well the great agitation for the abolition of slavery, although too young to have any part in it, public opinion made it at last possible for our great Lincoln to wipe out the stain I had the privilege of working to obtain the political liberty of women, and even while the antis were shouting "it can never be", the clerk sounded the hour and the 19th amendment was part of the Constitution

I was in the band of men and women who fought to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, that also is written in the laws of our country

I have been on the side of those who insisted that war among nations should be outlawed and the Briand-Kellogg Treaty is evidence that a minority has again won and become the majority

So it is not much to hope that another success may be added to those already reached In one life-time, after eighty years have passed, one can do but little, but my hopes and best wishes are with you in this work

BELLE DE RIVERA

A LETTER WE APPRECIATE

November 1, 1928

Editor

I had no intention of letting my subscription lapse as I am heartily in sympathy with your work If there is anything I could do to help, please let me know I would be interested in hearing about meetings, lectures, etc

I think the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* is magnificent and hope it won't be merged or changed

Cordially yours,

E T DANA

TWO BOUQUETS

London, England

Editor

What a splendid level you reach in the *REVIEW*—heartiest congratulations and best wishes from

EDITH HOW-MARTYN

Editor

Every good wish and congratulations on the sustained interest of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*

EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER, M D

ONE OF THE MANY WE RECEIVE

New York

Editor

It is a comfort to know that the scientific study of contraception is under way I find I have to answer many and increasing inquiries from my youngest patients about to marry and married

Judge Lindsay's sane and practical analysis of a situation confronting us, which he is candidly and capably trying to solve to meet a condition of our times,—now not met at all or met in a way most disastrous to human welfare and happiness—makes it quite necessary for advisors of inquirers on these matters to be well informed on what is really best and most reliable along these important lines

A N C —, M D

What Will You Give Them For Christmas?

The American Birth Control League Asks You to Help in Constructive Work for The Needy



Anna B — is 35 years old, she has had eleven children, two of whom have died, and seven miscarriages, making eighteen pregnancies in all. Her husband and oldest boy together earn \$27.00 a week. As this is not enough for the family of eleven to live on, Anna tries to earn a few dollars a week working out. A social agency is boarding out her four months old baby.

This is not an imaginary case, Anna came to the Clinical Research Bureau affiliated with the American Birth Control League this autumn, and was taught a safe method of contraception. Nor is this a unique case. Hundreds of women like Anna, whose life since marriage has been one long misery of child-bearing are helped at the Bureau every month.

Many of those who are given aid write pathetic letters to the Bureau telling what Birth Control has meant in their lives. Mary H is one of these. Her husband was in temporary straits and she was ill. It was necessary to prevent her children from coming too near together so that she should have time to receive treatment and to meet medical expenses. About two years later she wrote us:

I will not be calling at your place for quite some time. I am three months pregnant and not through any flaw in your wonderful idea, but just because, thanks to your advice I now want and can afford another baby. Please keep me on your records as I mean to take advantage of your service again, if everything comes out alright.

But throughout most of this country there is no Birth Control information available for poor mothers like Anna or sick mothers like Mary. They go on, year after year, giving birth to unwanted sickly children for whom they have neither strength nor money. And the charitable public goes on, year after year, providing nurses to attend these women in their yearly confinements, hospitals for them to go to when they break down, and asylums or boarding-out homes to take care of their superfluous children.

This Christmas time you will receive many appeals for the relief of families which are "down and out" but our appeal is different. Our work is Prevention. It is not mere patching up.

The American Birth Control League begs you to help it bring contraceptive information within reach of the poor, so that they can limit their children to those they can provide for and *thus keep the family off the charity lists*.

If you believe that this is the intelligent, scientific, humane way to help them, won't you send us your membership dues or a contribution today as *the very best Christmas present you can give the poor?*

ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES *President*

(MRS. F. ROBERTSON JONES)

I enclose \$ _____ as contribution to the American Birth Control League

\$ _____ as annual membership dues (2 to \$100)

Name _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable to the AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE Inc

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SOME PATIENTS

A Heroine

Short, weak woman Her first child

It was a premature birth It simply came too early, unexpected But at delivery her pelvis proved to be extremely narrow as a result of rickets in childhood A Caesarian operation was performed at the hospital Within two weeks she was home and had nobody to take care of her or her baby

There was much more work to be done with this miserable, four pound creature than with any normal baby She did it—day and night She is very poor Her husband is a worker and labor leader, whose union has been on strike for about a year They live in a cheap, furnished room and do not always have enough food

And now, at seven months, the child is splendid As big and plump and chubby as the average specimen Active and smiling and happy

The mother is much weaker than before Anemic, coughing, hardly able to continue her work Frequent attacks of exhaustion, during one of which she will probably die

Ashamed

A young-looking woman of 37, mother of many children, some quite small, is brought to me in a taxi all the way from New Jersey She has been bleeding profusely for a week Fearing to be pregnant and to miscarry

My examination shows a doubtless large uterine fibroid, size like a four months pregnancy I tell her to go right home and go to bed She needs complete rest Perhaps the bleeding will cease She will need an operation

While I am explaining to her the seriousness of her condition, she says

"That is nothing, doctor, I am so happy not to be pregnant Look! "

And she goes out into my waiting room, takes a baby from her daughter's arms and brings it in

"You see, this is my grandchild—and I have already three like that—and I would be ashamed to become a mother myself Better death than that!"

No Time

Woman, 30, two children, wife of a factory worker

First confinement badly done, lacerated her cervix and perineum very much Neglected, not repaired, which never happens with rich women Among the poor the doctor is usually less skilled and cannot expect an additional fee He is always in a hurry

The second childbirth made matters worse

She is working hard, doing her housework, also washing and ironing clothes Much on her feet, little rest and sleep

A Suggestion for Christmas

Give your friend a present that will remind her of you every month in the coming year

Subscribe for her to the

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Yearly Subscription \$2 00

If she is already a believer in Birth Control she will find much to interest her If she does not believe in Birth Control it is probably because she does not understand the movement The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW will give her the reasons and arguments for it

Send also for our Book List—free on application

In it you will find the titles of books which would be suitable for other friends

Included are these standard books

Aspects of Birth Control	\$ 50
<i>By S Adolphus Knopf</i>	
Standing Room Only	3 00
<i>By Edward A. Ross</i>	
Builders of America	3 50
<i>By Huntington and Whitney</i>	
<i>(10c postage on each book)</i>	

There are also books by many other authors, American and English Get the List and look it over for yourself

Address

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW
104 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

She is "feeling her inner organs falling out", she says Indeed, there is prolapsus of the vaginal walls

Pain, fatigue, always sleepy General debility, much underweight

Now an operation is necessary, but it could have been avoided

But as I explain to her that she would need a long convalescence, she gets up and goes to the door

"No use, doctor, I have no time for an operation and for rest afterwards If I had, I would rest now, as you tell me to do"

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