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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance

New York Hearing

The Plight of Large Families

DISCUSSED BY

H. F. BUTTAN

and

PROFESSOR G. DE LAPOUGE

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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STILL ANOTHER REASON *for* BIRTH CONTROL



We round out the compelling arguments for Birth Control with

The Right of the Child to be Welcome

(What one writer calls the emotional scars of the unwanted child are the result of early psychic injuries which last through life. Gland specialists tell us that shock, either physical shock or the mental shock of an inopportune pregnancy can affect the unborn child by lowering the mother's capacity to nourish. After birth the harm that can come to him is even greater from a home unprepared and a mother distracted by worry and often jealous of the rights of her other children, from whose mouths the newborn has, as many mothers express it, "snatched the very food")

No writer has better stated the whole Tragedy of the Accidental Child than Margaret Sanger. We quote, in part, what she says in "Woman, Morality and Birth Control"

TO create
a race of
well-born
children it is
essential that
the function be
elevated to a
position of dig-
nity and this is
impossible as
long as concep-
tion remains a
matter of
chance

Declaration of
Principles of
American Birth
Control League

The first right of the child is to be wanted—to be desired with an intensity of love that gives it its title to being and joyful impulse to live. It should be wanted by both parents but especially by the mother, who is to carry it, nourish it, and perhaps influence its life by her thoughts, her passions, her loves, her hates, her yearnings. We are all familiar with the old wives' tale of children "marked" because of a mother's fright or other strong emotion, though we know little concerning the truth or falsity of this theory. Just as little do we know of the effect of fear, hate, yearning or disgust in the mother at the time of conception. My personal opinion, founded upon observation as nurse and as a worker in the Birth Control movement, is that the mother's emotions have a profound effect upon the child. I believe that the mother's fear of pregnancy has a most unhappy influence upon the life of her offspring, that it is responsible for the timidity, the fretfulness and feebleness of many infants.

Why the great number of feeble-minded children? Why the host of infants born too feeble to withstand the difficulties of the first year of existence? Why the weakling manhood and womanhood? Science has answered these questions in part, but only in part. I do not believe that they will be conclusively answered until account is taken of the condition of the mind of the mother from the moment of the creative embrace until the child is born.

The tragedy of the unwanted child—of the accidental child—only begins with whatever evil prenatal effect the emotional condition of the mother may have upon it. Usually it suffers a further handicap by being carried by a mother who is physically ill or overworked. Fear of pregnancy is frequently inspired in the mind of the mother by the burden of too many children or by want or by both. When it arrives, the accidental child usually finds itself in the ranks of the millions of hungry and neglected children. Often it is merely a candidate for an item in the infant mortality statistics.

We hear a good deal of sentimentality about unfailing mother love. We are told that even these unwanted children have *that* to protect them in their hard lots. But how few of the poorer women have the time and the strength to let mother love develop and express itself? We make a mistake in assuming that mothers are always kind. We forget that under the stress of caring for many children, under the strain of helping to earn bread for hungry mouths and clothing for bodies clothed in rags, the strongest mother love may turn bitter and cruel. If you doubt, go for a little while to live among the families whose mothers are overburdened with children, whose bodies and brains are worn threadbare with toil inside and outside the home.

Eugenists do well to insist that it is the first material right of the child to be "well born." But have they taken into consideration all of the factors? From what deep spring of moral and spiritual weakness arises this huge stream of the cringing, the suppliant, the submissive? Whence come the natures of these millions of human beings who are but tumorous pawns moved hither and thither upon the chess board of existence by a few powerful hands? Who can say that it is not because we come into life with the feeling, conscious or subconscious, *that we are not wanted—that we are accidents?* Who can say that it is not because we have graven upon our natures, the fear, the disgust, the loathing, the shrinking of our mothers?

Our imaginations are as yet too weak, too uninformed to portray to us the strength, the beauty and the wonder of a humanity yet to be brought into being—through children desired and created in the flame of love.

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EDITORIAL

AS WE go to press, the fate of two Birth Control bills hangs in the balance. One of these is the bill in the New York Legislature on which the Hearing was held on February 19. The other is the bill before the Connecticut Legislature for the repeal of the law prohibiting the personal use of contraceptives. The hearing on this bill was held on February 28th—too late to give any account of it in this issue. There is yet time for our New York and Connecticut readers to come to the aid of these bills by writing in their favor to the Chairman and Members of the Committees which have them in charge, and to their own assemblymen or representatives in the respective legislatures. In New York, the bill is before the Codes Committee of the House. In Connecticut the Judiciary Committee—a joint Committee of House and Senate—is considering the repeal of a useless and pernicious law, which stands in the way of the establishment of Birth Control Clinics.



DR CLARENCE C LITTLE, who resigned from the presidency of Michigan University on January 20, is at the moment the sufferer for his opinions. But such courage and such fundamental rightness as his cannot go without its reward. The press has shown its appreciation and his open support of Birth Control has already made converts throughout the United States. Many causes contributed to his decision to resign, but behind them all was the opposition among the Roman Catholics, who are strong in numbers and in political influence in Michigan, to his courageous and continuous support of Birth Control. At the time he went to Ann Arbor, Dr. Little was President of the International Federation of Birth Control Leagues, and an active worker in the American Birth Control League. At the very outset of his Presidency, he was the principal speaker at the Annual Meeting of the American Birth Control League, and throughout his four

years in Michigan, he has freely and frankly urged Birth Control, as a social reform, in addresses before groups and organizations of sociologists, biologists, medical men and women, and nurses. During all this time, he has been the object of unrelenting attack. Led by the Jesuit priest, Father McClorey, his opponents have used the radio and the press and have constantly worked on the Board of Regents to have him removed. The Regents stood by Dr. Little and the principle of Free Speech, and the resignation was on his own initiative. He recognized that with him in office, the reactionary influences would cripple the university by holding back appropriations. His courage and his sacrifice ought to fire the enthusiasm of every believer in Birth Control.



THE great political event of this month is the inauguration of our new President, Herbert Hoover. As we pointed out at the time of his nomination* we have reasonable grounds for expecting that President Hoover will be favorable to any measure or legislation which will forward the cause of Birth Control. The Child's Bill of Rights, enunciated by him as President of the American Child Health Association, contains seven clauses, each one of which states a right which is absolutely dependent on Birth Control. To enjoy these rights the child must be born of choice and not of chance, must be desired by his parents and prepared for before his coming. The parents must be fit to give him the "birthright of a sound mind in a sound body," and must be able to provide him with "proper conditions", "Hygienic surroundings", "sufficient nourishment", and "prompt and efficient medical attention". The final clause of the Child's Bill of Rights is of special importance to the advocates of Birth Control, for the unwanted child will not be given "the encouragement to ex-

*See BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, Aug., 1928, p. 224

press in fullest measure the spirit within" Such encouragement cannot be given in the overcrowded and poverty-stricken home where the mother has tried desperately, but in vain, to prevent the birth of the child, whose conception she did not know how to prevent. The Child's Bill of Rights might well have been enunciated by Margaret Sanger in support of her fight for Birth Control. It was put forth by Mr Hoover, and again and again in his campaign speeches, broadcasted over the length and breadth of the country, he emphasized its importance, and his concern that every child should enjoy its birthright — a birthright which is every clause hinges on Birth Control



WHEN a presidential candidate puts forward a statement like this Child's Bill of Rights, even though it was enunciated months before he was nominated, we have the right to believe that he approves of Birth Control. It would be a stultification of himself if he did not, for such a Bill of Rights is evidently only possible with the new order of things that will come with the universal knowledge and use of contraceptives. The old order of chance and submission to nature's tyranny must pass away. The great thinkers who look forward to a finer and better humanity practically all concede that Birth Control must be the corner-stone on which the happier future will rest. People will no longer have children because they cannot help having them. They will have children because they deliberately choose to have them, and they will have them when they choose. Even the European Governments that are bitterly opposing Birth Control—France and Italy for example—concede this. What else does it mean when prizes, honors, extra privileges are offered for large families? If large families are inevitable, why reward the parents? These are inducements to have many children and the fact that they are offered shows that the parents are supposed to have a choice whether they will have large families or not. Governments and churches have to acknowledge that science has overcome ignorance, and that it is now possible for mankind to bring reason and control into this most important field of human life. After man has won a victory over nature, after science has wrested from her the secret of control, there is no turning back. It remains now to extend the boon, that science has conferred, to the under-privileged men and women who have not had access to this precious knowledge

MANY of our readers, from their own memories and family records, will be able to confirm the thesis set out by D de Lapouge, in his interesting article on "The Numerous Families of Former Times"* M Lapouge maintains that in spite of the enormous families which are found in the records of well-to-do people in France, the actual survival rate was no higher than it is at the present time. All the rest was waste—waste of human life and happiness, of the health of the mothers and the children—and brought profit only to the undertaker and the gravedigger. M Lapouge goes back several centuries for his records, but there are equally many instances of small survival rates of large families, if we look to the first half of the nineteenth century, before the rapid fall of the birth-rate began to be perceptible. One remarkable fact, of which there are many historical examples, is the actual extinction of a family which had numbered in recent generations as many as ten or sixteen children. In other cases, the family name disappears, owing to the absence of male descendants, but the family persists to some extent in the female lines. The families investigated by M Lapouge were necessarily people of some wealth and position. It would be difficult indeed to ascertain the facts about the families of the poor, of which no complete records are accessible. But it is unlikely that there was a higher survival rate where circumstances were less favorable to either mothers or children.



THE case against Mrs Mary Ware Dennett for violation of the U S postal laws is still pending. But the bearing before the Federal Court on January 28th made it clear that the forces arrayed against Mrs Dennett, for circulating her pamphlet "The Sex Side of Life", are exactly the forces against which the advocates of Birth Control are struggling. On the one side are the ancient tabus, the darkness and ignorance, fear and dirty-mindedness and along with these, the Roman Catholic Church, as represented by priests and dignitaries. On the other, are pastors of Protestant Churches, teachers of youth, especially in theological seminaries, Y M C A leaders, and thousands of men and women who are working for purity and enlightenment among young people. Great encouragement has come from the press. Hundreds of articles, editorials and letters to the editor were published at the time of the trial, deprecating the attack on sex education, and pouring ridicule on the men who are trying to extinguish the light of our new day. We hope next month to be able to record the dismissal of the indictment.

*See page 72

Infant Mortality in Albania

By H F BUTTAN

MY EXPERIENCE in Albania has shown me that a wise Birth Control is one of the most vital needs of this fine, old race of indomitable mountaineer patriots. Unlike most of its neighboring countries, Albania is thinly peopled, the density of population being only one-fourth that of Italy and far below that of the other Balkan States. Although the people are naturally a vigorous and prolific race, a large part of the wide fertile valleys remain in sheep pasture for lack of enough manpower to raise the wheat, corn, oats, cotton, tobacco and fruit that thrives so well under the sunny skies and fine climate. The low density of our population is not however due to lack of births but to births so frequent that the infants lack vitality.

One of the pictures that will linger long in my memory is the frequent one of a sad group of people carrying a tiny coffin to its last resting place. One of my Albanian friends is Reshad, a well posted man of liberal education and a wide acquaintance in his own country's affairs. "There is little or no polygamy in Albania, because there is a shortage of women" said he, "and the reason is the same as for the frequent child funerals—one in three—too high a birthrate. Early marriage is general and large families common, with deadly results. Our School nurse was begged to try to save a baby, the last survivor of 14, she could do nothing as it utterly lacked the necessary vitality. I could give a dozen instances of such tragedies, all due to the inevitable annual baby."

THE PEOPLE are very intelligent and are hoping for better things, but only 5 per cent are literate and most of them are children, few are older than 25. Stern natural selection has killed off all the old, the weaklings and the fools, but the great mass are crushed by the poverty, ignorance and ill-health, that is the consequence of 500 years of Turkish misrule and neglect, capped by the 20 years of anarchy of the Balkan and World Wars. Now there is a good strong government and the king is doing all he can for education and agriculture. They are the oldest race in Europe and had they not been a fighting race would long ago have been destroyed.

I was recently a guest at a wedding in a small hill village in the interior. I wish I could tell you the picture as I saw it, the fire in the middle of the room, (it was just such an "upper room" as is spoken of in the Bible) with the smoke going out through the hole (not chimney) in the roof or seeping through the tiles, the black rafters, the absence of windows,

the unspeakable toilet, the water so ceremoniously poured over our hands, the one-piece of soap passed around, the dishes of food placed in the center of the table (6 inches high), the wooden spoons, the use of fingers in eating, the heavy meats and coarse corn bread, the lack of vegetables or fruits, the one glass that served us all with water, the gypsy musicians (who looked just as gypsies ought to look), the pallid children with protruding stomachs, the coughing women, the inflamed eyes, the songs of murder, revenge and sudden death, the folk dances, the ceremony of bringing home the bride in an ox cart, the 14-year-old bridegroom (immature at that) and the marriage ceremony which had been done by proxy a year before, a circumcision without either anesthetics or antiseptics.

AMERICANS ask me why so many of the children died at 2 or 3 weeks old. Why do any live? Yet this is in Europe, not Asia or Africa, and the village has plenty of fertile land, and live stock. The climate is really fine, the air pure and the location excellent. And these people are intelligent, patriotic, brave, honest, dignified and hospitable. It is not their fault that they are ignorant and poor. I try hard to help them and in all my 20 years of teaching I never had students so responsive and so anxious to learn better ways. It is not merely that the farmers need steel plows to replace wooden ones, horses to replace oxen, pure-bred dairy cows and irrigation. The need is deeper, they need to be taught to live. However much I try, I cannot go among them and teach them the hygiene of sunlight, the way to bathe and clothe babies, the source of malaria and dysentery, or how tuberculosis spreads.

Only a woman of their own race can reach the thousands of women who never go outside the house and tell them how to live.

I could fill many pages with examples. I give a recent one. One of the Albanian teachers has a brother who has been married three years, has had two children and lost them both. He appealed to me to help, as another child will mean loss of the wife as well and he loves his wife just as a man should. Our school nurse, a half-trained Greek girl with a heart of gold, was begged "to save the baby" but it had not a chance. Almost half of the babies of Albania die, and only education can save them. If only some of our ambitious girls could have an American Hospital training it would mean so much. I am glad to say that with the aid of friends I have one little gypsy girl studying in an Italian School of

Midwifery which, in its way, is a very good school. She will come back after two years and do great good. If I could send one of the girls from here to be educated as a real M D in old U S A and bring her back to practice among her own people, it would do more real good than the Red Cross and Near East Relief, as many of the neediest cases simply refuse to call any man doctor, even Albanian.

THE pupils of our girl's school are in every way like the girls of a first-class English or American boarding school in looks, dress, behavior, manners and innate good breeding. Nor are they lacking in the spirit of service. It is true they want to live, but they are willing to work for others with true missionary zeal. We are only a small school of 80 boys and 46 girls dependent on the contribution of Americans, but if a few of our girls can have the training that they want, it will carry life and happiness to thousands of the bravest, most dignified race in Europe. No effort at Birth Control seems to be

made, although there is no legislation or sentiment against it. On the contrary, accurate and scientific knowledge is welcomed alike by doctors and parents who know that a fair number of healthy children would give a larger and stronger population. I have already given advice to a few who desperately needed it. I do not see how we can help the bad agricultural and industrial situation without helping to improve the social condition. If the Turks killed half of the children in an Armenian village the missionaries would rave and the League of Nations "take steps", but when half of the children "just die" and many of their mothers as well, it is "fate".

The people here are gentle, kindly and very honest. Education is being encouraged by the strong hand of King Zagu I, but the country is too poor adequately to support any but elementary schools, and great good can be done by those workers in social hygiene who will spread scientific knowledge of the way to live and to raise men, as our school teaches how to raise better wheat and dairy cows.

The Numerous Families of Former Times

By PROFESSOR G DE LAPOUGE

IN THE course of my researches into the origin of the poorer classes I have searched a great number of ancient registers of the Civil State, particularly those of the town of Poitiers. The following was the problem before me. The class of the poor originates in two ways, one the unadaptable element which from the very beginnings of civilization, has, by reason of its inferior faculties, or owing to the presence of hereditary vices which hold it back, never been able to rise, the other coming from individuals of the middle and upper classes, who, by reason of bad crosses, of acquired taints, such as alcoholism or syphilis, are brought either directly or as the result of accidental circumstances into the group of the poor, and who do not succeed in rising out of it again in one or two generations, as do those whose social fall is due to economic causes. I shall publish the result of these researches, but I should like now to draw attention to a certain number of rather important points.

We have known for a long time that the birth-rate in former times was much greater than that of to-day without however, the population increase being more rapid. From the very beginning of my investigation I was able to confirm that, if families were very numerous, the number of those offspring which in their turn founded families was very small, which made the necessary balance. I then isolated, in order to study them more in detail, families of bourgeois traders above the poverty line, where mortality due to misery and bad hygiene prevails, and I have followed them for two or three centuries. The

results at which I have arrived are common to the generality of these families and bring out clearly the conjugal habits of a whole class in a Provincial town during the centuries which preceded the Revolution. It is most probable that life took the same course in other cities.

Marriages were between near neighbors, rarely with nobles or with persons of a lower class. One sees little trace of any desire or feeling for a rise in class. The daughters do not marry before 20—25 years, often later when their domestic and commercial education has been finished. The first birth follows sometimes nine or ten months after marriage, and rarely is delayed to the end of the second year. Births follow each other in a regular and rapid succession with one or two years' interval. They are always numerous and often very numerous. Sometimes, the same wife has twelve to eighteen living children. If she dies in labor, usually she is quickly replaced and the succession continues as before.

Lactation seems to have been the rule. If otherwise, the child was placed with a wet-nurse in the country. Lactation did not prevent the continuation of sexual relations and very often the death of a suckling child was followed a few months afterwards by another birth. Infant mortality was enormous but we cannot evaluate it exactly. First, the child dying when with a wet-nurse outside Poitiers cannot be traced, and further the very little ones were not always mentioned in the Register of Burials, as their death had no interest, civil or ecclesiastical. So at times the Priest was contented

to add to the entry of the baptism a note which often passes unnoticed in extracting the register, and which therefore does not appear in the tables,—*"Obut die"*—so there are no exact statistics possible. But to judge by the number of names which never reappear with marriage, or death, or in wills, I judge that a half and even more than that number of children never arrived at adult age, a very high figure in a wealthy class.

Big Families—Few Descendants

When I go through the genealogies set out as tables, I am struck by the fact that the number of children who survived and founded a family in their turn is about the same as to-day, two, three, rarely more. The others remain unmarried, work in the house, rarely away, the elder girls or the aunts are busied in helping the mother to bring up her flock. Many become priests or nuns, but my personal information makes it possible to say that in this category were found many whose descendants would have been undesirable.

The result of this low marriage rate is that those families (about thirty), which have been the basis of my work, were almost all extinct before the Revolution or soon after. There only remained, as far as I know, half-a-dozen in the middle of the nineteenth century. The names of the others have disappeared, which of course does not exclude the probability of descendants in the female side. Several of these families swarmed over to America or emigrated wholly in the last quarter of the eighteenth century to San Domingo, New York, Canada. I think they still continue on the other side of the Atlantic, and in New York, Detroit, Montreal, I have been able to see their descendants. They have kept their prolific habits and seem to be widely diffused and greatly multiplied without changing their profession as traders.

No Advantage Over Moderns

From the above we have the result that the fine families of former days with their respect for conjugal duty, their superabundant natality, nevertheless only contributed a small part to the development of the population in general, in fact gave to the wealthy and cultivated classes but little better results than the restricted families of to-day, in fact this high natality was expressed in the wearing out and the premature death of the mothers, the infant death of the greater part of the children and a great expenditure of effort, care and wealth ending only in mourning. The major harvest was clearly for the undertaker.

In order to illustrate this résumé I will give an example of a line following from about the time of Louis XIV to our day, and which in direct descent and as regards immediate collaterals corresponds in

all circumstances to the group described above.

De Nivenne, Samuel, master of Chatelliers, merchant, husband of Magdelaine Bonneau by whom he had at least 16 live children. Births almost annual, 16 in 21 years. Mean succession 15 months. We find no trace of descendants of these sixteen children who almost all died at a very early age. Samuel had a brother, Gabriel, married in January, 1699 to Marie Joyeux, who had 4 children and died in 1701, then to Anne Roustiere, who had one child. The family in spite of these 21 births, disappears without male issue.

Magdeleine de Nivenne, sister of the above, had surviving numerous descendants in the two worlds. She married at St Didier, the 12th April 1706, Francois Duclos, merchant and furrier, by whom she had at least 11 children born alive.

Some Instances

Of these eleven children only three were married and left descendants, Francois, Joseph and Marie-Magdelaine, who married 19th May 1741 at St Didier, Francois Gauffreau.

This Gauffreau belonged to a family of appalling fecundity which is extinct as regards males though it survives in the female line.

His father, Nicolas, husband of Marie Chenagon, cloth and silk merchant, married at St Didier, 16th June 1697, and had at least ten children. The eldest Claude Barthelemy, appeared to have had only one son who died shortly after birth. Francois on the other hand had an abundant posterity. Two girls died just after baptism and six others as young children.

Louis-Claude Gauffreau, brother of Nicolas and uncle of Francois, had at least twelve children by his marriage with Marie Joulain, all baptised at Notre Dame la Grande, first coming every year, then a little more slowly, beginning with the eighth. Of the twelve children of Louis-Claude and Marie Joulain and their four grand-children, no descendant survived.

Francois Gauffreau, silk and cloth merchant in his first marriage took Marie-Anne-Détois, St Didier, 14th June 1729, by whom he had at least six children. The boys died at an early age and the girls round about the sixties, unmarried.

Of his second marriage, with Marie-Magdeleine Duclos, already 34 years of age, Francois had at least nine children of whom three married and had descendants. Marie-Radegonde married at 40 years in 1790. Had only one daughter. Her two brothers had a less restricted posterity, but of these I have only incomplete records. Both in fact emigrated to San Domingo about 1785 and their descendants are dispersed in America after the massacre of the "Whites."

From the son, Francois Gauffreau, we know of

Over-Crowded Lands

By THOMAS NIXON CARVER

NO PROBLEM in the whole realm of human affairs is so acutely important, now and at all times, as the population problem. No problem requires for its discussion greater mental grasp and greater power of cogent expression, so deep seated are the passions and prejudices which prevent clear thinking in this field. No writer of the present day is better fitted than Professor Ross to bring to its discussion just those powers of analysis and of clear and forcible expression which are needed. He is able to think clearly and comprehensively, he has almost unique power of verbal expression, and he has the courage to "lay on and spare not." It would seem that the very walls of Jericho must crumble before the trumpet blast of this,* his latest and in some respects his best, contribution to the literature of the Social Sciences.

Professor Ross has made abundant use of such statistical materials as exist regarding the ratio of births to deaths in various parts of the world. The text is illustrated by thirty graphs bearing on that subject. But the statistical material is by no means the most valuable part of the work. It is quite possible for a competent statistician to be utterly incapable of understanding the population problem. As well expect a physicist to rely wholly upon recorded statistical data for the solution of his problems as expect an economist to solve all economic problems by the same method. Theoretical analysis is as important in one field as in the other. It is in the use of this method that Professor Ross has done his best work. The statistical evidence does show, however, how population responds to two modern factors, first how the death-rate de-

clines as a result of superior sanitation, second how the means of subsistence increases as a result of improvements in agriculture and industry. These facts, however, do not show an actual pressure of population.

The text is also illumined by abundant historical evidence, but even history, unaccompanied by theoretical analysis such as the economist has learned to use, does not throw much light on the question of population pressure. In fact, an increase of population which follows from an excess of births over deaths is more likely to indicate the absence of pressure, while a stationary population, which can only result from a balance between births and deaths, is certain to indicate either Birth Control or population pressure producing a high death-rate. The motive even for Birth Control is usually an economic one, that is, a desire to avoid a lowering of the standard of living. This, in turn, indicates a general feeling of the imminence of population pressure.

Three Outlets for Energy

The world over, men have used up their surplus energy, if they had any, in one of three ways, in multiplying, in resting, or in producing and consuming surplus goods. Most of the lower creatures spawn, or multiply up to their physiological capacity. This means, of course, an enormous birth-rate. That over long periods of time their numbers do not increase incalculably is due to one fact and one alone: their death rates are equal to their birth rates. Man, the economizer, the being who looks before and after, the balancer of desires, sometimes has the good sense to sacrifice the sex instinct sufficiently to make it pos-

four children from division of the property of Francois. One married in New York, and had at least seven children settled in New York, Montreal and Cuba. The descendants are known through a law suit over the undivided property with the descendants of Ribet in the middle of the last century, and they are continuing to develop in America.

Another son, Francois-Victor, emigrated to America. He had two unmarried daughters and a son Alexis, surgeon, anatomist, histologist, who continued the family traditions, and by his wives, had fourteen children, of whom nine were brought up, seven married, and six had issue, these very limited, two or three children, with the exception of Aimé who had six children, two with few descend-

ants. The descendants of Alexis who are still living, are all women, so the name is becoming extinct.

From the biological point of view we here encounter a very high fecundity from the commercial élite. It demonstrates the absence of venereal infection and shows in homogeneous heredity. This favors the embryonic development without hereditary discordance such as arrests development in a mixed population. All these families, living through two or three centuries under an endogamous regime, have made now one only.

From the economic point of view we find the same application as to-day in the case of only sons, but they arrived at it by selection, leaving to the most able the task of carrying on the family, the business and the home, where the unmarried might continue to live if they so desired.

*Standing Room Only, by Edward Alsworth Ross, The Century Co., New York

sible to enjoy something else This something else is likely to be either leisure accompanied by play, or goods in excess of physical necessities The Central American peon, if reports are true, takes his pleasure, not wholly in the form of sex, but partly in the form of leisure The Western European and the American take their pleasure not wholly in either sex or leisure, but largely in the form of goods The typical oriental, at least of the lower economic orders, takes his pleasure in the form of sex, which means that oriental peoples of the lower castes multiply to the point where it is impossible for them to have either leisure or goods in excess of physical necessity Katherine Mayo's "Mother India" has thrown new light on this problem It appears that the misery of India is not so much the result of British oppression as of masculine lust with its normal result, namely over-population

As to the actual pressure of population in those countries whose people derive their chief pleasure from sex, Professor Ross quotes at length from the accounts of travellers, missionaries and scientific observers as to the unbelievable misery of the masses in such countries as China, India, Java and Porto Rico As to the common assertion that it is injustice and exploitation rather than over-population which produces this misery, Professor Ross shows that while exploitation may aggravate the evil, nevertheless misery must exist without exploitation wherever and whenever the acreage from which food is produced is insufficient to produce enough for increasing numbers Under white rule, or as some prefer to call it, white exploitation, the food production of India, Egypt, Java, Ceylon, the Philippines and Porto Rico has increased enormously This increase would have added to the well-being of the former populations But, since the populations have increased as rapidly as the food supply, there is no material improvement in the condition of the average person No remarks of a reviewer could improve the following

Rapid Increases of Population

"During the sixty years, 1860-1920, the peoples in the tropical colonies and dependencies of the great nations added to themselves 105 millions—a twelfth of mankind in 1860 and equal nearly to the present inhabitants of the United States, yet a population un contemplated and unwilling, a chance by-product, so to speak, of capitalistic industry in the tropics

"During forty years of British rule in Egypt, 1882-1922, the population doubled In the Nile Valley to-day there are not far from seven million souls who might well regard the British as their god-fathers But for the Occupation most of them would never have been called into life, or else would have

quitted it before the census-taker made his rounds Galled by a sense of inferiority, the more self-conscious Egyptians "compensate" by furious anti-British agitation Few of them realize that most of the Egyptian population is due to factors which the British introduced and that widespread misery attended by decline in numbers is inevitable, unless the Egyptians can handle police, justice, railways, and irrigation works about as well as the British have been handling them

New Wealth — More Poor

"Since the fall of Napoleon III, the natives of Algeria have doubled Thanks to the cultural elements the French introduced among this hidebound people three millions are engaged in the Great Adventure of Living who otherwise would be mouldering under the sand, or else would never have been summoned from the limbo of the unborn It is safe to say that few natives ever reflect that half of them all dwell not on the familiar natural soil but on a mole of added production and trade built by French ability, science, and capital

"In India there is endless debate as to whether the lot of the masses has really improved under British rule It is a knotty point, and even the experts disagree Those, who deny that the masses are any better off, draw the conclusion that the British have pocketed the new wealth brought into being by the railways, the irrigation works, the tea gardens, silk culture, cotton, jute and steel mills, and other alien factors injected into the Indian economy They ignore the Himalayan fact that *in forty years the people of India have increased their numbers by fifty millions, or 20 per cent* Such myriads of extra mouths can eat big holes in a new prosperity, and it may be that here is India's missing dividend from the economic development the British have instigated Instead of living better, the natives appear to have spent their share in calling fifty million more souls into a crowded land Certain it is that, were the British to step out of the picture abruptly, not only would expansion cease but millions already there would starve While starving, their frenzied mass movements would dislocate industry and trade and hence still other millions would be doomed

"The response of the folk of the Philippines to the American occupation is a portent They have added five millions in a quarter of a century You would suppose that this growth would either rejoice or depress Filipino leaders It does neither, it is ignored Mere vegetative expansion inspires in most of us neither contentment nor gratitude, what we crave is the Better Life Nearly all the benefits white control brings to the denizens of the tropics are absorbed by them in mere numerical increase, yet this increase does not make them love foreign domination

"In less than fifty years the Singhalese have doubled, whereas, before the whites took hold, they were doubtless as stationary as were the Japanese in their hermit phase. Thanks to the spread of the scientific, great-scale growing of cocoanuts, rubber, cinnamon, and tea for foreign markets, the soil of Ceylon has become a gold mine. The local result, however, is not much gain in ease, comfort, and culture, but a prodigious spawning of coolies only little better off than their fathers were.

"The white man's insatiable demand for rubber and tin has caused the inhabitants of the Federated Malay States to double in number in twenty years. In half a century the people of the Straits Settlements have tripled. In sixty years British Guiana has doubled, while Trinidad has quadrupled. The blacks of Jamaica, 'a veritable forcing house for pickaninnies,' have doubled in half a century, while the whites, once a tenth of the inhabitants, have declined to a fiftieth. In South Africa, the Kaffirs are breeding so fast 'under the white man's broad shield' (as they say) that the thoughtful doubt if there is any future for the white race there.

Upsetting the Balance

"How little the white empires realize what they are doing appears from considering the record of the Americans in Porto Rico. When we took over the island, birth and deaths balanced at about 26 per thousand annually. Being the world's crack sanitarians, we presently reduced the death-rate to 18, while under the stimulus of prosperity the birth-rate rose to 37 — which would double the inhabitants in thirty-seven years. Population leaped forward until now the island is, next to Java, the most densely peopled agricultural region in the world — nearly four hundred to the square mile. No wonder life is getting harder than it was in the old days, when disease thinned the people out. There are not jobs enough to go round, and sentiment against the profits reaped by non-resident capitalists is rapidly rising. Had we multiplied chances to earn a living as fast as we saved lives, the Porto Ricans would now find life easier. We did both, but our sanitary exploits surpassed even our industrial exploits. The symptoms of overpopulation are plain. Yet the American governor does not dare suggest the obvious remedy — Birth Control. He recommends that the overflow migrate to Santo Domingo — there, of course, to repeat the performance on a new stage!"

"And when Santo Domingo is full?"

The whole matter is well summarized in the remark (p. 98) "The white race is today serving as a midwife to the blacks and browns."

As to the exploitation theory, one might make more of the fact that it is difficult, under the regime

of contract and without military force, to exploit any class or group that is scarce. When cooks, for example, are scarce and hard to find, no mistress can exploit her cook. When cooks are abundant and jobs scarce, exploitation is easy. Substitute the name of any other occupation for that of cook and the above formula is of universal application. Before the masses can be enslaved by the classes, the masses must first become the slaves of their own sensuality. When they are once emancipated from that slavery, they are automatically emancipated from wage slavery, or any slavery that is not based on military force or ghost fear.

Occupational Congestion

This suggests the one serious criticism which might be directed against the book before us. There may be such a thing as an unbalanced population even where there is no general overpopulation. This is a by-product of our extreme specialization and minute division of labor. There may be more teachers than there are schools. In that case many teachers are certain to be unemployed and the chances are that all of them will be poorly paid. The same general remark may be made regarding stenographers, lawyers, hodcarriers, farmers, ditch diggers, spinners, weavers, machinists, — members of any specialized occupation. In any such case, the members of the over-crowded occupation will be poor. Over-population is an undoubted fact in some old countries whose people have never learned to limit the size of their families. It is a distant possibility in this country. Meanwhile, occupational congestion is a present reality in every old country of Europe as well as of Asia. It is an imminent possibility here. It is the phase of the population question with which we should, all of us, be instantly and actively concerned.

Unfortunately, we shall receive no help from certain influential classes. The militarists who always want plenty of cheap cannon-fodder, and the narrow-minded employer who thinks that his income will be increased by an abundant supply of cheap labor, will be against us. Even labor leaders are sometimes beguiled into supporting candidates for high office who are opposed both to the restriction of immigration and to Birth Control. If one were not led to pity the ignorance of laboring men one might almost say that they deserve their poverty for supporting such leaders and candidates.



Surely it is better to have thirty-five millions of human beings, leading useful and intelligent lives, rather than forty millions struggling painfully for a bare subsistence

—LORD DERRY

Birth Control in Germany

By AGNES SMEDLEY

THE SUBJECT of Birth Control is now before the German public in all earnestness. This is due very largely to the work of the Birth Control Committee which was founded after Mrs Sanger's visit to Germany a year ago, and to the Clinic which it started in July. At first it was thought the clinic would be private, but when Dr Bendix, head physician of the Ambulatorium (Clinical Department) of the Krankenkasse (Sick Insurance), joined the Committee, the work took another complexion. Three rooms, completely equipped, were given by the Ambulatorium to the Committee, free of charge. The social worker and the trained nurse were also paid by the Ambulatorium. Here in big sunny rooms in one of the most densely populated worker's sections of Berlin—Neukoelln, 13 Schoenstedterstrasse—the first Birth Control Clinic in Germany began its work. From the day it opened, it was burdened with patients, mostly working women. One woman physician, maintained by the Committee, was in charge, while two other women physicians—members of the Committee—were for weeks in constant attendance, the three physicians being occupied for 4 to 5 hours at a stretch. At length an additional woman physician was engaged.

The Clinic and the Press

The Clinic, announced in the press, attracted wide-spread attention. Articles appeared in almost every leading Berlin paper and a representative of a Viennese daily appeared to investigate it. To the utter surprise of the Committee, the press greeted the venture with enthusiasm, only a few of the extreme nationalist newspapers perverting the facts and calling it a "nest of abortion." On the whole the press spoke of the Clinic as the best and sanest method of combatting the abortion scourge which claims so many unhappy victims each year in Germany, and against which the rigid law that makes abortion a penal offense has no influence whatever. The workers' press, especially, gave long write-ups of the Clinic and has since published many articles on Birth Control, while Professors have suddenly appeared in the bourgeois press in defense of the subject.

Then a very excellent thing happened. From October 1st, the Ambulatoriums of the Sick Insurance (Krankenkassen) of the city took over the Clinical work completely, paying all expenses, including the physicians, and even the contraceptive methods. Not only this, but it opened two other

Clinical departments in other sections of the city, applying the same methods as in the first. The propaganda work, however, remains the task of the Birth Control Committee. The Clinics are open but twice a week, generally in the late afternoon and evening when working women are free.

New Clinical Ventures

When the Ambulatoriums took over the clinic and started two new ones, the Birth Control Committee then went into a thickly-populated workers' section in Berlin-Reinickendorf, and opened a Clinical Department in the headquarters of the Department of Health, Hauptstrasse-46. Dr Max Hodann, who is one of the most active members of the Committee and city physician, is in charge, with two assistants, one physician and one social worker. This Clinic is private, and now furnishes the center for Birth Control work in Germany. Here the Committee gathers complete statistics from all the Clinics and Advice Bureaus whose questionnaires it has formulated, and here it carries on research in every kind of contraceptive method. From this point an all-German propaganda is planned and a net-work of physicians formed to propagate and further the clinical idea. From here also a two-day Birth Control Conference, with courses in contraceptive methods, was organized for Christmas week, only physicians being invited to this conference and to attend the courses. Apart from the practical demonstration courses, the preliminary arrangements for the preceding lectures will cover such subjects as the international Birth Control movement, the founding of a clinic, the psychological effects of Birth Control methods on women, and so on. From the Reinickendorf center, also, an attempt is being made to accumulate scientific information on sterilization, with the psychological after-effects on women. At the same time connection is maintained with other Birth Control Clinics, chiefly with the work of Mrs Sanger in New York, and the work of the Soviet Government.

German Basis of Clinical Work

The work in Germany differs from the work in America from the ideological viewpoint. The practical work is the same, however. Theoretically, the German work stands upon a Marxist, instead of a Malthusian basis. The entire Committee, with one exception, is composed of practicing physicians, active in the working class movement, who are Marxists. By this I mean,—expressed generally and

superficially, that they do not believe Birth Control alone will ever solve the problem of poverty. Poverty with its accompanying evils is to them the result of the capitalist system, and without the destruction of capitalism, poverty cannot be destroyed. To them, Birth Control is an essential health measure, and it gives the right to every woman to control her own body as she wishes, instead of being forced to be a breeding machine for factories and armies. "Control" to them, as to Mrs. Sanger and to the Russians, means the right of the woman to regulate the size of her family according to her desires and possibilities, it means no external control. Birth Control to them also has far-reaching psychological effects, and it has far-reaching effects in the struggle of the working class for emancipation.

I know there will be many women and men in America who would disagree with the viewpoint of the German work. Germany is not America. Germany is a country where the working class is a power. We had the choice here of organizing a Committee of upper-class men and women. We tried it. They were filled with "ifs" and "buts" and were afraid of their respectability, of their incomes, or of the effects upon the population of the country. We needed a Committee that was afraid of nothing except the condemnation of the working class. We built such a Committee. It does its work in intensity and determination, it meets priests or professors in debate before mass meetings, but it does not try to convince them, it merely tries to "finish them off"—to the applause of hard-working men and women.

Up to this time the Bund für Mutterschutz

(League for Protection of Mothers) a private organization founded years ago by Dr. Helena Stocker, a member of the Birth Control Committee, has maintained marriage and sex advice bureaus, where, among other things, contraceptive advice was given to women. The two advice bureaus of this League, in Berlin, are now co-operating with the Birth Control Committee.

A special word must also be said for the Advice Bureau of this League in Frankfurt am Main. The work done there is very excellent, from 20 to 50 women visiting the center on each of its two receiving days in the week. The women, however, are not examined or fitted in this center. They are sent to certain co-operating physicians for the things they need—contraceptive means, sterilization, or, when medical demands justify, for abortions. The work is under the direction of Dr. Herta Riese, who has one woman physician assistant and a social worker. Dr. Riese has proved herself a fearless and tireless worker. Similar work, but on a smaller scale, is being done in the advice centers of this League in Hamburg and Stuttgart and two or three other cities.

The future work of the Birth Control Committee will be to study all work similar to its own, to co-operate or co-ordinate where possible or necessary, to start or inspire clinics where none exist, and to spread the idea of Birth Control throughout Germany. The secretary of the Committee is Frau Dr. Martha Ruben-Wolf, Berlinerstrasse 129, Berlin-Niederschöneweide, Germany. All correspondence regarding the work should be addressed to Dr. Max Hodann, 34 Wiesenerstr. 34, Berlin-Tempelhof.

Birth Control in Russia

Two Years of the First Birth Control Clinic in Leningrad

By A. ANTONOV, M.D.

IN JANUARY, 1926, I made a Report to the Scientific Society of Maternity and Infant Welfare in Leningrad, where I offered, as a measure against the growing number of abortions, the foundation of Birth Control Clinics at the already existing 21 Maternity and Infant Welfare Centers in Leningrad. These were to fulfill the following practical problems:

1 To help with advice and direction any woman who ought not or does not want for some reasons to become pregnant, and

2 To give the necessary advice to those who wish to become mothers, but for certain reasons could not become pregnant.

Although among the clients of the Birth Control Clinic women of the last category will always be in an insignificant minority, their interests cannot be neglected.

Besides these practical problems, there is a great task standing before the Birth Control Clinic—to find out by numerous observations of the use of contraceptive measures, the real expediency and efficiency of each one of them. Till now this question has not been studied here at all from a scientific point of view.

The Section of Maternity and Infant Welfare of the Health Department of Leningrad approved the idea of starting such an establishment.

The first Birth Control Clinic in Leningrad, and evidently for whole Russia, was opened in February, 1926, at the 15th Maternity and Infant Welfare Center at Wassily Ostrov

One of the physicians for prenatal consultations, with the help of a midwife, gave information at special hours. Every woman who asked for contraceptive advice had to undergo a careful gynecological examination to decide on the advantage in the present case of applying a certain contraceptive measure. Several methods were recommended. When ordered to use one of these methods the patient learned there and then to apply it under the direction of the midwife. After that she was asked to come again in a week to be controlled in having rightly carried out instructions. The effect of the contraceptive measures was verified by inquiries during following visits at home by special health visitors and by forwarding special questionnaires in sealed envelopes.

Visitors to the Clinic

In the year 1926, the Birth Control Clinic was visited by 140 women, in 1927 by 350, and in January—March, 1928 by 140 women. The small number of visitors at the beginning was due to the fact that the population knew very little of the existence and the purposes of the consultation. Starting a new work, we avoided too large advertising and confined ourselves to the information of the local Abortion Committee, the Tubercular and Venerological Dispensaries and some other institutions. At the proper time, we directed there also the mothers from the Infant Consultation. As the number of our clients grew, from the year 1928 the Reception hours were held twice a week.

The originality of the problem before the Birth Control Clinic required a special form for the questionnaire. The questionnaire, originally offered by me, was examined by a special medical commission, a little altered and filled up.

The majority of our clients in the Birth Control Clinic are women, aged from 20 to 30 years, 67 per cent, 88 per cent of them live in registered marriage and 12 per cent in unregistered. Though the prevailing majority is literate, some of them—14 per cent have finished High School and 29 per cent Middle School. Only 8 per cent were not educated at all. According to their social position, 50 per cent of them are women-workers and workers' wives, 30 per cent women employees, and employees' wives, 9 per cent women students and students' wives. When classified by their monthly income (the earning of the husband, of the wife, or of both of them) 50 per cent of the families got 50 to 100 roubles per month. Taking into consideration that 88 per cent of the women coming for advice had children (1, 2, 3 or

more) it becomes quite clear why they wish to prevent conception.

Out of 630 women seeking for information 57 (9 per cent) had used contraceptive measures before. That proves once more that among women badly provided and of low cultured classes, contraceptive measures are very little known. What did they do then to escape an unwanted child? They resorted to abortion. Out of 630 women, 280 (44.4 per cent) had already miscarried, 105 of them only once, 75, twice, 45, three times, 33, four, and 22 five times and more. Therefore we think that a wide advertising of the Birth Control Clinic, as an Institution for helping women to escape unwanted maternity is very important.

When composing the questionnaire for Birth Control we included several questions concerning the sexual life of the woman. We thought it necessary to collect materials of that sort, because till now this side of women's life has not been studied well enough. Unfortunately our information is full of blanks, partly because these questions are an intrusion into the intimate life of women, about which one generally does not speak, partly because the surroundings where these questions were put did not always dispose to plain answers.

At any rate, we could certify that the majority of our clients began their sexual life more or less early, that is 44 per cent before 20 years, 41 per cent from 20 to 24 years and 15 per cent after 25 years. The frequency of sexual relations was reported only by 430 women. The majority, 72 per cent, had them 2 or 3 times a week, 14 per cent considerably less (once a week, once or twice a month) and only 13.5 per cent very often (three, five, six, seven times a week). The question "have you a desire for sexual relations?" was answered as "seldom" in 14 per cent and as "never" in 6 per cent of cases.

Why Many Marriages Fail

The following question "Do you feel any satisfaction after them?" was answered as "seldom" in 34 per cent and as "never" in 9 per cent of cases.

However poor our information may be, we do not regret having put these questions about the sexual life of the woman. There is a considerable number of women, who do not receive satisfaction in their sexual life. The so-called "sexual coldness" is the reason of many conjugal catastrophes. Therefore every separate case of sexual coldness by women must be carefully examined, because the fixing of its reason and origin can serve as basis for medical advice.

Thus according to our conviction a new domain of practical work is opening before the Birth Control Clinic, untouched till the present time. Surely

(Continued on page 94)

Do Women Want Children?

The Experience of the Clinical Research Bureau Proves That They Do.

An English physician recently stated that among the well-to-do "babies are again in fashion" Such a statement is flippant and disregards the fact that among normal women it is not fashion nor whim which dictates in the matter of bearing children, but economic and health considerations. Children have always been in fashion but women wish to have their children prepared for and welcome. What they desire is to give them a good start in life, a healthy mother and a suitable home. Evidence of this is given by replies to a questionnaire recently sent out by the Clinical Research Bureau to former patients. An almost startling proportion of the replies gave as the reason for not visiting the Bureau, the discontinuance of contraceptive measures in order to have another child. We present in summary a few cases taken from the records of women of all classes, both prosperous and poor.

Planning her Family

Mrs A twenty-five years old, when first seen, was ten months married and suffering a nervous breakdown following a spontaneous miscarriage. She had a period of several months' rest and recovery, then discontinued, because she "wished to have a child." She intends that all her children shall be planned, for she writes "I appreciate just how much your method has done for me and while I am not using it just at present shall certainly continue to do so after the birth of my child, which I wanted. Under the circumstances, it is not necessary for me to report back to you until I shall need your services again, which will probably be in the summer or early fall."

Willingly Taking a Risk

Mrs B, wife of a carpenter, is another who has taken a risk. She has a deformed pelvis. When she was first seen she was twenty-eight years old and had had twins by Caesarian section, one of whom died. Now, after almost three years of Birth Control, she is planning another pregnancy and looks forward without dread to another Caesarian section. Friends and family were opposed but she "wanted a family."

The Blessing of Contraception

Mrs C twenty-six years old, newly married to an interior decorator and herself a social worker, had no pressing financial problems though she was not rich, when she came first to the Clinical Research Bureau. But she was a cardiac and the doctor warned her to "be careful." For three years she used contraceptive methods, built up her nerves and general strength, then resolved to take a risk. Some one had told her that "people who use Birth Control can never become pregnant" so she was a little worried. Her worries were soon dissipated however, for in a month she became pregnant. Her baby is now several months old and she has returned to the Bureau for contraceptive sup-

plies. She says "For financial as well as health reasons, children would have been a burden sooner. Now our baby who was planned for is a joy. If no successful contraceptive had been found, our marriage would have been null and void. Many thanks for the help you have given me."

The Wanted Baby

Mrs D twenty-seven years old, the wife of a man earning \$38.00 a week and already the mother of four children, has a goitre which grows worse at each pregnancy. After more than two years of Birth Control she decided to have another child. She writes "I have had an increase in my family and can't really tell you what it means to me to be able to have a little one when we are ready and anxious for one, to be able to plan and look forward with so much love and pleasure to the birth of a wanted little baby. Furthermore she is the best baby I ever saw or heard of, has always enjoyed the best of health and is as good as gold, has taken the bottle entirely since three weeks old and is now two months old."

Good Reasons for Delay

Mrs F is another Irishwoman, who when she was first known was suffering from anemia. Besides that she was the wage-earner while her husband was finishing his course as a medical student. After two years of Birth Control she writes "I have discontinued and there is a baby coming." She adds "Had there been a baby before, my husband who was a dental student would have had to leave college. My own health is much improved and I am fit now to become a mother, my doctor says."

"I Want another Baby"

"Not now no more, because I want another baby" writes Catholic Mrs E in answer to the question whether she is using contraceptives. Nevertheless she used them for a year and plans to come again to the Bureau when this child is born.

When first known to the Bureau, she was a woman of thirty-two, had serious uterine, ovarian and bladder trouble and had three living children (oldest four years) and two dead. She is a janitress and her husband a porter who earns \$30 00 a week.

Handicaps Overcome

Mrs G's lungs and uterus were her reasons for coming to the Bureau. She was twenty-nine years old, a little over two years married and had had one still birth and two spontaneous miscarriages. Her husband's income was good (\$7,500 a year) and after a year of treatment and rest her doctor felt that she could carry a child to term. So she has discontinued, "because I wished to become pregnant."

Ready when Health Permitted

Mrs H, twenty-three years old, was suffering from low bloodpressure, anemia and uterine trouble. Her husband earned \$160 00 a month and she was just married when she came to the Bureau. She waited only a matter of months to build up. She writes "I discontinued because my health has improved and I wish to have a child."

Prompt Success

Mrs I, twenty-five years old, whose lungs were threatened four years ago, had at that time two children, one six months old and the other twenty-six months. Her husband earned \$30 00 a week. Her card reads in October, 1928 "Had a baby three months ago, pregnancy planned, conceived immediately." She has returned for re-examination and supplies.

Ready for the Sixth

Mrs K, thirty-five years old was not a poor woman, but she was a sick woman and was caring for a tiny baby, the last of three live births and two miscarriages, when she was seen first in 1925. She used Birth Control for three years and a half thereby "freeing her married life from tension" and she is now "most happily pregnant"—for the sixth time.

A Courageous Mother

Mrs N thirty years old, the wife of a tool maker who earned \$35 00 a week, was the mother of a baby a few months old and had had five spontaneous miscarriages in her eight years of marriage when she came to the Bureau in 1926. She writes in October 1928 "I am mailing you my small annual donation as 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 want another baby. Please keep me on your records as I mean to take advantage of your service again if everything comes out alright."

Not Daunted by Lack of Wealth

Mrs L twenty-eight years old, married when she was in need of treatment for uterine trouble and was suffering from general debility. She came to the Bureau soon after marriage, had medical care and used contraceptives for eighteen months. She now writes that—in spite of the fact that her husband earns less than \$25 00 a week—she has "discontinued and is expecting confinement."

"Much Happier"

Mrs M, thirty-seven years old, is amply provided for. When she came to the Bureau in 1925, she had three living children—difficult and dangerous births, because her pelvis was narrow—and she had had three spontaneous miscarriages. She writes in 1929 that, in spite of the extra hazards of child birth in her case, after two years building up she discontinued contraception and "we have a little daughter eleven months old whom we arranged for and wanted." "We are," she adds, "much happier and free from fear. We cannot thank you enough for your help, to which we owe everything."

No Uncertainty

Mrs O whose husband earns \$5,000 a year, when she first asked advice was suffering a nervous breakdown. She had been married three years and had one baby. She writes now that she is "having another child and will return after it is born for contraceptive supplies." Of Birth Control she says that it has made her "married life happier because there has been no uncertainty."

Planning for Best Interests of Both

Mrs P belongs to the prosperous middle class. Between them, husband and wife earn well over \$100 00 a week. At the time she came to the Bureau in 1926 she was twenty-eight years old, had been married over a year, was in ill health and her doctor wanted to insure freedom from pregnancy until she was restored. She used contraceptives for twenty-nine months then discontinued in her own words, "because we wished to have a child." She adds "Birth Control had allowed us to plan our lives in accordance with the best interests of both. We have both been working so as to have more for the event we are looking forward to."

"A Mental Blessing"

Mrs R, who came to the Bureau three years ago, and whose income was much less than half of Mrs P's, was twenty-seven years old and was suffering from anemia, but from the beginning announced her intention of having children. In reply to the questionnaire in 1929 she reported that she had discontinued precautions because she was much stronger and now "desired pregnancy." Birth Control, she stated, had in the three years interval been "a mental blessing."

Book Reviews

ANTHROPOLOGY AND MODERN LIFE, by Franz Boas, Ph D W W Norton and Company, New York 246 pp, \$3 00

THE past quarter century has seen a very notable increase in popular interest in human and social origins. Man has always been curious about himself, but it is only quite recently that he has had a cultural background which emphasized a naturalistic, as over against a moralistic or pietistic approach to humanistic study. The anthropologist, of course, takes a purely natural history view of man's origin and of his nature. He sees man as very largely a creature of convention, thinking the thoughts of his society and of his social class, feeling and reacting in ways generally thought "proper" and re-echoing the economic, political, moral and aesthetic judgments which his cultural setting has given him. At the same time he makes allowance for individual variation as a source of change and cultural differentiation. Since the anthropologist takes all mankind and all cultures at all times and places as his subject matter, he may be presumed to arrive at a ripe understanding of the general aspects of man's varied solutions of perennial problems.

In the above work, Professor Boas has brought together his matured reflections on a few of the major problems of the hour. He writes briefly on the question of racial equality, race mixture, nationalism and race, eugenics, criminology, cultural stability, education and the possibility of controlling cultural evolution. He writes as an essayist without encumbering his pages with the outward evidences of scholarly research. He often speaks pointedly and with an air of finality. He is thus able to touch on many moot matters in a few pages. It may, therefore, be doubted whether he has always made his position entirely clear. He seems at times to fall into self-contradictions, his style is often jerky and unfinished, and the sequence of thought is sometimes far from clear. His most interesting chapters deal with "The Problem of Race", "Eugenics", and "Education", but sprinkled throughout are interesting observations and reflections.

FRANK H HANKINS

HEALTH AND WEALTH, by L I Dublin Harper and Bros, New York

OUT of a rather compact group of figures, juggling them with the statistician's dexterity, Dublin makes a great many assumptions, and derives doctrines that are in places amazing, and in others provoking. The book is essentially a collection of essays selected from various addresses that the author delivered during the past three or four years. Many of these are technical studies mainly concerned with the economic value of human life. Some of

the subjects discussed are the population question, tuberculosis, cancer, old age, and prohibition.

Among his startling assertions is one stating that we are spending only fifty-nine cents per capita per year for child health work and \$100 per year per pupil for education of the child. Every year our sickness bill in lost wages and reduced production amounts to two and a quarter billions of dollars. Part of this is distributed among 150,000 doctors whose incomes are a little over \$3,000 a year as an average, 50,000 dentists, 140,000 nurses, and 200,000 orderlies and general hospital helpers.

The reviewer is temperamentally indisposed to measuring the value of human life in dollars and cents, and it is gratifying to read the confession of the author that he is purely a technician. I suppose the book will find its reading public from among those who are interested in an arithmetical treatise on human life.

As a technician, he makes statements which fall exceedingly short of the truth when considered in their fuller and more humane aspect. Thus he says that "the cost of bringing up a child may be looked upon as capital invested for our future needs." Such a view of parental-filial relationship is, to say the least, unfortunate. He speaks with almost puerile emotionalism about the question of Birth Control in the following sentences: "And what is the usual effect on the spiritual life of those who, through continued control, keep their families down to a miserly minimum? This is probably the most serious single consequence of the current fashion that it robs those who indulge in it of the greatest of all blessings and the source of deepest inspiration—namely, a family to provide for and to live for." He should add, "and keep in a state of unending economic and spiritual poverty."

It is unfortunate that a technician should consider these problems at all. His duty is to present arithmetical tables of statistics and data, and permit those who can, to peer more deeply into them and express their judgment out of them.

MORRIS H KAHN, M D

THE NEW MORALITY, by Durant Drake, Professor of Philosophy, Vassar College Macmillan New York \$2 50

THIS is a provocative book one that ought to breed many others in its likeness. One would like, for instance, to discuss at length Professor Drake's heroic arraignment of the jealousies and fears which, along with overpopulation and some lesser horrors, lead to the ultimate tragedy of war, but limitation of space forbids.

By "new morality", Dr Drake means "a morality basing itself solidly upon observation of the results of conduct", with the maximum of human happiness as its aim. Dr Drake, making no claim of novelty, has simply stated the

progressive, liberal position, readably and convincingly

In his analysis of Puritan fallacies, he states one doctrine which, if widely understood, would go far to remove the blighting traces of asceticism still with us "Sacrifice is not desirable for its own sake, but only when it is necessary to obtain a greater good, the sacrifice must *benefit* somebody, or it is sheer loss and wicked cruelty" And here is another statement, drawn from the author's good sense and deep humanity, which ought to be broadcast throughout the world "Instead of railing at divorce, let us rail at an educational system which has left people to grope blindly with these difficult problems of love and parenthood"

But is not the author's plea for Birth Control rather too hesitant? All that he says on the matter is good and worth saying, his attack on "irresponsible parenthood" is well done, what he writes of a possible "maternity endowment" is particularly wise and suggestive, the book can have none but a good effect Only—he might have said so much more! Surely one who can so vigorously denounce, for instance, the impediments to free speech and a free press, could have used the same force in stating the case for legalized contraception The Birth Control issue is clearcut There is no longer cause for hesitation, the claims of Birth Control advocates are substantiated by all the scientific research which has ever been directed toward sociology and economics and the sexual life

However, "The New Morality" is the work of a keen brain which has looked at our confused world with courage and understanding, and has found it worth while to hold fast to high visions born of this twentieth century

EDGAR WOOD PANGBORN

THRASYMACHUS OR THE FUTURE OF MORALS,

By C E M Joad E P Dutton & Company, New York

FROM the viewpoint of the reader perhaps the first requirement of any writer is to be readable This essential is amply fulfilled by Mr Joad in his contribution, *Thrasymachus*, to E P Dutton's "Today and Tomorrow Series" of small, stimulating and inexpensive books *Thrasymachus*, like the other books in this series, is easy to read It focuses on one idea and it keeps the focus throughout As friends of Plato will remember *Thrasymachus* was the disagreeable young man who broke in on the discussion of the nature of Justice with the idea that Justice is the interest of the stronger Mr Joad develops this text in a variety of human relationships, social, economic and religious, going so far as to maintain that, "morality, in general, is the interest of the stronger"

"Man, then," he says, "is made moral by law, he is not moral by nature," and he proceeds to point out conclusively that it is the stronger who in their own interest make the laws

Many of Mr Joad's points are barbed with a *bon mot* such as, "God, it seems, is cheaper than a living wage, and

no less effective as a means of securing social contentment," or, "The man who is deficient in talent can make up for it in virtue, and by assuring himself that God's noblest work is an honest man, put brains and capacity in their proper place" One can imagine the author relishing his phrases, but the reader also finds them palatable, even when he disagrees

As with most modern disputants of morals, Mr Joad spends the greater part of his effort on sex Marriage, divorce, feminism, each do their turn, but Birth Control takes the centre of the stage

Mr Joad even appears momentarily to drop his rôle of verbal caricaturist when he approaches this important topic and faces the future with the comic mask partially laid aside

"That the practice of Birth-Control is likely to increase," he says, "there can, I think, be no reasonable doubt

The advantages of Birth Control to the individual are so obvious that few will refuse to avail themselves of the knowledge which the State, in the persons of the medical officers in charge of infant welfare centres, at present withholds, while the disadvantages to the community of a system under which the lower strata proliferate unchecked, while the upper and middle classes barely keep up their numbers and the exceptional man who has the talent and energy to climb from one stratum into another finds it necessary to sterilize himself in the process, will, in the shape of a rapidly deteriorating population, force themselves upon the notice of even the most pious Birth Control has come to stay, it has also knocked the bottom out of what is called sexual morality" "We are in, then, for a wave of Puritanism on the one hand combined with the possibility of a new liberty of action on the other What will be the outcome?"

While we do not agree wholly with Mr Joad as to his picture of the outcome, being in fact considerably at odds with him, we recommend *Thrasymachus* heartily to our readers as an evening's companion "In such a world," says Mr Joad, "those who think the least have the best of it" Yet he makes us think enjoyably *Thrasymachus* is a book that makes you feel intelligent, you will wish to loan it to your friends—and to your enemies

EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER

THE PULSE OF PROGRESS, by Ellsworth Huntington
Scribners New York 320 pp Price \$5 00

SINCE the publication of his "Climate and Civilization," (Third Edition) and "The Character of Races," it must be evident to many persons that Professor Huntington of Yale fills a very important position in the Birth Control movement As a result of years of travel and research in the science of geography, he supplies much valuable evidence for Birth Control

In so far as "The Pulse of Progress," is a summary of many of his other books, much that is said in this book, has

already been said better and with interesting detail by Professor Huntington in other books, especially the two books referred to above. Anyone who has read these two books knows what a very interesting writer Professor Huntington is and they also know that a mind as active as this author's always has much new evidence to produce. And there is much new evidence in this latest book.

"All history," says Professor Huntington, "is a record of pulsations. One of the main tasks of history—perhaps the greatest—is to explain why nations or smaller communities constantly undergo such pulsations." The author explains these pulsations in terms of climatic conditions, racial inheritance, cultural development, and population pressure. The factor upon which both pulsations and the distribution of civilization are most dependent in the last analysis is climate. Climates change, according to Professor Huntington, and a change for the better or for the worse, is a throw forward or a throw backward, as the case may be. When the climate becomes bad, the crops become bad, population pressure is intensified, the race degenerates, development ceases and culture decays. With the decay of culture comes the much talked-about depopulation. But there is one important fact in the fall of civilizations which many do not appreciate, that is the fact that overpopulation always precedes depopulation, and that overpopulation ultimately results in depopulation. Therefore, the best way to stave off depopulation is to prevent overpopulation.

In the chapter entitled "The Handicap of Poor Land," Professor Huntington shows how poverty and large families go together. "The poorer the land the greater the number of children. This suggests a very distinct inferiority on the part of the poorer farmers. They apparently permit themselves to have large families, when they know that the children are going to be a burden and cannot be well educated or well provided for. Perhaps this will change when Birth-Control is well understood."

The problem of migration is a part of the problem of population, and in the chapter on "Migrations in the United States," Professor Huntington, in using "Who's Who" as a basis for comparing the value of immigrants from abroad, shows that there are many more immigrants in "Who's Who" from countries of northern and western Europe than from southern and eastern Europe. For instance, there is not a single country in northern and western Europe which has not, in "Who's Who", more than twenty immigrants per 95,100 population in this country, while on the other hand, there is not a single country in southern and eastern Europe which has more than twenty immigrants in "Who's Who" per 95,100 population in this country.

In other parts of "The Pulse of Progress," Professor Huntington speaks of the sterilization and dysgenic effects of cities, of the tragedy of farming, in that the more energetic migrate to the cities and become sterile, so to speak, while the dullards remain on the farm and multiply their kind rapidly, of the fact that health and energy are de-

pendent upon climate, of the time when Rome was forced to import food, of the similarity of the climates of ancient Athens and present-day south-eastern England, of the introduction of slaves into Rome, of the blonde invaders of ancient Greece, of the most important social traits, of thousands of migrations for better lands, of the qualities that build civilization, of the fact that climate is the most important factor in developing the human brain, of the overpopulation of the Israelites and the Chinese, of the dysgenic effects of the Russian Revolution, and, lastly, he pricks the ultra-optimistic bubble of belief that the Arctic and the Tropics will be able to adequately supply the hungry world with food.

GUY I BURCH

LE BETAIL HUMAIN, by Victor Margueritte Ernest Flammarion, Paris

LE BETAIL HUMAIN" (The Human Cattle), the second of the trilogy "Vers Le Bonheur" (Toward Happiness), continues the growth of Spirita Arelli begun in "Ton Corps est à Toi" (Your Body is Yours). Whereas, Spirita was a buffeted and integral part of society in the first volume, she now begins to rise out of the mass and surveys the panorama.

Her "companion", since the word "lover" has such a tabloid-journalistic tint, whom we recognize as Pierre Bernier, who helped her in the law case of the first volume, dies and leaves Spirita broken and desolately sad. To fill the cup to the brim, the baby foisted upon her by the attack of a dilettante, and left by her at the Assistance Publique, also dies and thus only Spirita's momentum carries her on. She becomes an assistant to an association which helps families in which births occur at regular intervals. There she sees the inane growth of cannon-fodder and the superstition against the obvious truth. Number against quality, environment stigma on the new born — "Le Betail Humain"! She meets a co-worker, a Macadonian, whose make-up helps her regain a hold on life. But Spirita does not have the resistance, physically, to view the intense suffering of a people, and after a breakdown, she becomes secretary to a great capitalist and manufacturer. Her education in the power and meaning of money begins—ad nauseum—rising to a climax when she overhears the conversation between two famous chemists in the office of her employer on a new lethal gas which will have extraordinary effects in the decimation of mankind in time of war.

So, Spirita is again alone, but as the book closes, she has found the companionship of the Macedonian. The two are viewing the unveiling of a monument to War-dead, with the mob cheering the bands, the glistening bayonets, the tramping soldiers. But the two are undergoing the subtle chemical change which draws two into one.

Upon the completion of the two volumes, one wonders what impulses have goaded people to hurl the epithets of "obscene" pornographic literature" on the works of Marguerite. History repeats itself, and one can only answer

these shouted banalities by quoting a few lines from the great Naturalist Zola "For me there are no obscene works, there are only poorly conceived and poorly executed ones. Our analyses can no longer be obscene from the moment that they become scientific and contribute a document."* Furthermore, those who, sincerely or not, believe Margueritte to be pornographic, probably have never seen a work which could be so styled, otherwise they would be unable to even venture the thought.

Margueritte has been and is writing documents. And never are any of them tinged with anything at which we might feel disgusted if we are cognizant of their meaning. We owe profound gratitude to a man of his caliber and his ability to devote himself to bringing to light and air, shades and colors which exist in life, but which on account of custom, hypocrisy, we are not always pleased to admit as facts.

IVAN BLOCH

BOOKS RECEIVED

- LIVING INDIA, by Savel Zimand, Longmans, Green and Co., New York \$3 00
- THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ADOLESCENT, by Leta S. Hollingworth, D. Appleton & Co., New York \$2 50
- SOME PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS, (Journal of the National Institute of Social Sciences), F. W. Faxon Co., Boston, Mass.
- THE CHANGING FAMILY, by George Walter Fiske, Harper Bros., New York \$2 25
- DOMESTIC DISCORD, by Ernest R. Mowrer, Univ. of Chicago, Press, Chicago, Illinois \$3 00
- HUNGER FIGHTERS, by Paul de Kruif, Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York
- TO THE PURE, by Morris L. Ernst and William Seagle, Viking Press, New York \$3 00
- RECENT GAINS IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, by Kirby Page, Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York
- A DOCTOR'S LETTERS TO EXPECTANT PARENTS, W. W. Norton, New York \$1 75
- THE PSYCHOLOGY OF YOUTH, by Jessica G. Cosgrave, Doubleday, Doran, New York \$2 00
- THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT MARRIAGE AND MEDICINE, Joseph Collins, M.D., Doubleday, Doran, New York \$3 00

E. P. Dutton and Co. have published on this side, Norman Haire's recent book "Some More Medical Views of Birth Control." Unfortunately in order to make the book mailable under our restrictive federal law, all description of methods—a feature which greatly added to the value of the English edition—has had to be cut out. The book is dedicated to Margaret Sanger "the great-hearted pioneer, who has done so much for the advancement of civilization and the increase of human health and happiness." We hope to give our readers a fuller account of this important book in a coming issue.

Periodical Notes

Time, the national weekly newspaper, published at Cleveland, makes the following comment on Judge Ewings' action:

Naturally enough, Judge Ewing's unconventional behavior on the bench not only created one of the biggest stories of the week but aroused fierce debate. Absurd though it may be to contemplate enforcement of Birth Control, most observers credited the Cleveland judge with having raised, sharply, an issue of paramount importance.

Outlook (N. Y.), January 16th, and *North American Review* (N. Y.), February, show the new attitude that is growing up toward the younger generation. Harvey O'Higgins, writing on "The New Morality," in *The Outlook*, believes that the immorality of today is more apparent than real and that "whatever happens to modern marriage on the operating table, it will not die, and the home will remain a home." Jesse Lynch Williams in *The North American Review* suggests that a "newest generation" is growing up who have begun to take more interest in objective ideas, to be less interested in sex and in their own subjective emotions. They regard "the post-war crowd as mere pioneers, explorers, an army, indeed, drafted by themselves to fight puritanism, Victorianism and suppressions, shock troops who went over the top to make the world safe for sexuality. Their successors are interested in sex too. But this insistent shrillness strikes the new crowd as funny. 'Why yes of course,' they say, 'but what of it?'"

China Tomorrow (Peiping, China). In a November number, Fan Fu An dwells on the "White Peril" which threatens China, and points out that even France, slower in growth than other western nations, is out-distancing China in its rate of population increase. Mr. An does not, however, deny that China has a population problem demanding Birth Control for its solution.*

An Apology to Dr. East

In Dr. Edward M. East's review of four lives of Darwin published in the January Birth Control Review an unfortunate mistake occurs. A line of the manuscript was left out, and two sentences were run together into one. The passage in question read, in the magazine "Possibly these are not the points to be stressed. He was the emancipator, not the destroyer." What Dr. East wrote was "Possibly Darwin did make 'hell a laughing-stock and heaven a dream.' But these are not the points to be stressed. He was the emancipator, not the destroyer."

We wish to offer to Dr. East our sincere apologies for this printer's error.

Editor

*Mathew Josephson "Zola and his Time", Macaulay Co.

*For Periodical Notes, see also page 95

Motherhood in Bondage

Within three months after it came out, reviews and reading notes on "Motherhood in Bondage" were published in the press and periodicals of Ohio, Oklahoma, Illinois, Oregon, Pennsylvania and New York. Each month we shall reprint excerpts from some of the best

MOTHERHOOD IN BONDAGE" is heart-breaking reading. The letters are presented without much editing, even without much classification, and with very little comment. They simply stand by themselves, one story after another of ill-health, poverty, overwork, of children who were born weak or who could not be reared in health and normal living. Some grouping of the selections there is: a group of letters from young mothers who were married in their early teens, another from women of pronounced ill-health, another from very poor families, another from women obliged to work to support their babies, and so on. Some letters are from the children of overburdened mothers, some from mothers who wish their daughters to be spared sorrows that they have known, some from husbands, but most of them are from mothers of young children who do not wish continued uncontrolled child-bearing for one or more of three reasons, because of ill-health, because of extreme poverty, or because, for one of these or for some other reason they feel unable to care rightly for more children than they already have. And almost every letter is marked by strong conscientiousness toward the child and toward society, and deep maternal devotion. In a large proportion of the cases, too, mention is made of the warm and happy affection between husband and wife. It is probable that many people who misunderstand the purposes of the Birth-Control movement will be brought to a clearer knowledge by reading these pathetic appeals from mothers who wish to hold to soundness and health in their children's lives and homes.

—(New York Times)

TRAGEDIES NEAR HOME

For years Mrs. Sanger has been disturbing our constitutional unwillingness to believe disagreeable facts. She used to be haled off to prison rather frequently when she first began to tell us about the results of enforced breeding, and the laws of the country still pretty generally forbid the giving of that information which has been so effectively used by the intelligent classes that as long ago as the roaring days of Roosevelt we were told that civilization would perish because the fit refused to breed, while the progeny of the unfit swarmed. Roosevelt's much discussed remedy was for the fit to breed as numerous as the unfit. But few women can produce a child every year or every eighteen months without serious injury both to the children's health and to their own. Even the poor cannot do it, as the letters Mrs. Sanger quotes too pitifully show. The intelligent and

powerful long since gave up the sorry attempt. For generations they have known enough about Birth Control to limit the size of their families pretty much as they have wished. And, since the shoe does not pinch them, they wonder skeptically if it pinches any one. The answer is to be found in this selection from the letters sent to Mrs. Sanger by desperately sick women who want to know how to prevent conception.

The letters are grouped into various chapters, each with a short introduction. The first will perhaps be the most shocking to a public that has recently derived so much satisfaction from the contemplation of the horrors, real or imaginary, of Mother India's child mothers. The first letter concerns a girl who married at twelve and became a mother before she was thirteen. There are several cases of girls married at thirteen and no less than 250 between the ages of fourteen and fifteen.

Other chapters concern families plunged into poverty by more children than they can support or by the repeated illnesses of the broken mothers, who emerge from serious operations only to become pregnant again, the struggle of women rendered unfit to be mothers by inherited or acquired diseases, yet forced to go on breeding their pathetic and monstrous growths, the economic and human waste of repeated pregnancies that every one concerned knew in advance could result only in stillbirths, the unhappy results of self-imposed continence and separation, the desperate remedies attempted by women denied knowledge of scientific ones. Perhaps the most ironical note in the book comes from the repeated warnings given by doctors to sick mothers that they must have no more children and the subsequent refusal of the same doctors to tell them how to prevent having children. Confusion and ignorance could go no farther. And this not a story of some far-away, probably immoral country. Its tragedy is being played out in the tenement house next door, on the farm next to one's summer cottage. It would be easier to change it than to invent a single one of the innumerable parts that send the cheapest automobile on its perky way.

—(ALICE BEAL PARSONS, *Herald-Tribune*, N. Y.)

PLANNED LIVES POSSIBLE

Conscious and planned lives are made possible by contraceptive measures. A sophisticated society, might doubt the amazing ignorance of such measures were it not for the indubitable authenticity of these letters, tragic or pathetic, with a sparse dignity of words or with a diffuse tabloid sentimentality. To compare them, however, to "the naked power of the old folk-ballads," as the editor does, or to "the chorus of a Greek Tragedy," as the publishers do, is to belittle by an undeserved praise documents that do not need it to point their summons to the cause for the sake of which they have been made public.

(New Republic, N. Y.)

The Detroit Birth Control Clinic

WE have great pleasure in publishing here the account of the first year of the Detroit Birth Control Clinic. We regard this Clinic with pride as one of our growing family of Birth Control Clinics scattered over the United States. In a letter from Mrs M B Sulzberger to the American Birth Control League, she writes of "your inestimable help, without which we could not have begun." This help included, besides much preliminary work in pushing the movement for Birth Control in Detroit, object lessons at the New York Clinic, and cooperation in interesting the doctors by Dr Cooper, who addressed two large medical meetings in Detroit, and stressed the importance of the new Clinic, as well as constant co-operation and encouragement from the A B C League and from Mrs Sanger. How successfully the Clinic has been launched is shown in the following report

IN THE spring of 1927 Mr Morris D Waldman, then director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, suggested the formation of a Birth Control clinic in Detroit, as the outstanding need of the city. Accordingly, a small group of interested individuals made it financially possible to conduct such an experiment in social service for one year, independent of any existing organization.

During that first year the Detroit Mothers' Clinic for Family Regulation not only demonstrated a need, but proved beyond a doubt that such a clinic is practically indispensable in a city as large as Detroit. At present a second year of existence for the Mothers' Clinic is being financed by the Jewish Welfare Federation, although hardly twenty per cent of the patients are Jewish women. The Clinic is now in the seventeenth month of its service.

Many important social agencies are now co-operating, among them, the Detroit Board of Health and the Psychological Clinic of the city public schools.

It is possible to run the Clinic efficiently on a limited budget because medical service, except for trained nurses, is volunteered.

The clinic rooms are at 1601 Blaine Ave. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 12 with a special clinic for colored women on Thursday morning.

The clinic accepts only such cases as have been referred after investigation, by authentic social or medical agencies, or private doctors.

Applicants are accepted for either of two reasons—physical or economic. The former applies to the ill health of mother or father, making parenthood undesirable, or congenital disability of offspring. There are cases of seemingly healthy parents whose children have serious stigmas. Economic reason refers to conditions of extreme poverty in homes where it is impossible to support another child without reducing the family's standard below normal health and decency. A large percentage of cases are

wholly or partly dependent on philanthropic agencies.

A social and medical history of every case is filed together with the letter of recommendation which the clinic insists upon. Then a complete physical examination of each patient is made by the attendant physician, before prescribing the contraceptive.

Often the examination of patients reveals grave physical conditions of which the woman herself was ignorant. She is referred to the proper agency in each case. Thus the Mother's Clinic becomes a connecting link in the chain of the City's health service.

Each patient is expected to return to the Clinic for check-up at least once after she is given the contraceptive. She is urged to return as often as necessary. There is no fee for medical service.

Two hundred and thirty cases have been successfully handled to date. About thirty per cent of applicants are colored women.

Educational talks before mothers' clubs have been given in different parts of the city. On August 9th, staff physician, Dr Harry Kirschbaum, addressed a group of students interested in sociology on the subject of Birth Control at the Young Men's Christian Association. This Clinic is listed in the Detroit Handbook of Social Service.

An article concerning the work of Detroit's only Birth Control Clinic appeared in the June number of the Jewish Social Service Quarterly Magazine. Facts have just been submitted for the same purpose to the Birth Control Review.

The Mothers' Clinic plans to add to its staff in the near future, a social service worker for follow-up work in the patients' own homes.

Information concerning the work of the Mothers' Clinic is constantly being asked for and given with these purposes in view: help in compiling articles, lectures, medical theses, for social statistics, for assistance in establishing such clinics in other cities.

Mrs Mayer B Sulzberger is president of the clinic committee, Mrs Harry Fursten is vice president and Mrs Ed Rosenthal recording secretary. The Board of Directors is made up of Mrs Aaron De Roy, Mrs Clarence Engass, Mrs Rose Lipson, Mrs Oscar Robinson, Mrs Andrew Wineman, Mrs Monroe Rosenfield, Mrs Milford Stern, Miss Emilie G Sargent, R N and Mrs Willard Pope. Dr Harry M Kirschbaum, Dr B Boudana Sherman and Dr N Wershow make up the Medical Staff. Dr Hugo O Freund, Dr Nathaniel Gates, Dr Harvey C Saltzstein, Mr Morris D Waldman and Dr John Slawson serve as a Professional Advisory Board.

The Directors while they are encouraged by the results of their eighteen months' work, desire to enlist continued and increased public support for the Detroit Clinic. They make an appeal on the grounds that

1 There was no such clinic in Michigan before the establishment of the Mothers' Clinic.

2 There is an excessive strain on all local social ser-

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Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery

After very little suffering, and but a short illness, Dr Alice Drysdale Vickery died on January 12th, at the age of 84. The following appreciation is from Mrs Edith How Martyn.

THE DEATH of Dr Alice Drysdale Vickery removes a very remarkable pioneer from the small ranks of those who 50 years ago were voicing the claims of women to a full human life, with equal opportunities in the political and economic spheres with men.

Nature made Alice Vickery a feminist, and the conditions for women in social life eighty-four years ago when she was born were such that she found full scope for all her feminist activities.

Forced to struggle for the right of entry to the profession of her choice, she had to go to Paris for part of her medical training and was thus one of the early band of women pioneers in the medical profession. Longing for a world in which women would have a chance to choose freely for themselves their paths in life, she quickly saw that there could be no real emancipation for married women until they controlled their own motherhood, until the laws regarding the guardianship of children, marriage and divorce were radically altered, until married women were free to follow occupations chosen by themselves and able to control their own property, whether earned or inherited. Naturally Alice Vickery was a pioneer in the Birth Control, or the Malthusian movement, as it was known in England. She was in court in support of Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh when they were tried in 1877, for selling the Knowlton pamphlet giving contraceptive information. With her husband she founded the Malthusian League and the monthly paper *The Malthusian*, now *The New Generation*, and henceforward her main interest was in the spread of the assertion of the right of women to control their motherhood, as a necessary condition to the enjoyment of life and all its opportunities. Dr Alice Vickery was one of the first to welcome Margaret Sanger in England, and to rejoice in the magnificent new impetus which Margaret Sanger's youthful energy and enthusiasm gave to the movement in England as well as in America. Margaret Sanger's triumphs and successes have always been warmly appreciated by Dr Alice Vickery.

MUCH SPACE would be wanted to deal at all adequately with all Dr Vickery's interests, but behind them all was her firmly rooted belief in the equality of women and men in all things, in her love of liberty and justice. Tested by these principles she never failed to recognize the many-sidedness of feminism and her contributions to reform movements were characterized by breadth of view, by deep sympathy and a ready appreciation of good work done by others.

She hated oppression, she resented any sort of law or convention which implied in any way the subjection of women, hence, against the law of coverture, the divorce laws, the laws of inheritance and the convention by which a married woman takes her husband's name and loses her own identity she waged unceasing opposition.

Her personality was delightful, for she never lost her youthful zest. A life-long worker for woman's suffrage she welcomed the militant suffragettes with open arms and my first clear recollection of her is at a meeting addressed by suffragettes just released from prison. She applauded our defiant speeches with evident approval.

DR ALICE VICKERY has been an inspiration to me during the 20 years I have had the privilege of knowing her, and I am glad to offer her even this slight tribute of appreciation. Her untiring zeal in the pursuit of her aims, her steady disregard of anything like discouragement made it impossible not to be impressed by the strength of her character and convictions. Alice Drysdale Vickery was not as well known as she deserved to be but such an idea never occurred to her and if it had, I am sure it would not have troubled her. With her, the cause always came first. Willing to take her full share of responsibility and work, if others seemed anxious to assume the burden she immediately stepped aside, hoping they would do it better. She could always find plenty of tasks to employ her thought and energy. She was absorbed in her ideals and seemed hardly to spare a thought for herself. In days when such a thing was extraordinarily difficult she successfully combined a career with marriage and motherhood.



A CLERIC TO CLERICS

Who would deny to motherhood consent?

The holy consecration of desire

Or who that makes of marriage sacrament

Could in its consummation less aspire?

Gift of the gods, the miracle of fire,

Is it less miracle lit by intent

Than loosened to the winds? Is whimsy higher

Than when creativeness with purpose went?

Or, when two souls in fellowship are blent,

Must perfect unison involve the buyer

In what were worse, indeed, than accident,

To make of mother-love itself a liar?

Or in a rape of infancy so dire

God His creative loan might well repent?

ROBERT WHITAKER, D D

The New York Hearing

THE hearing on the New York Birth Control Bill was held at Albany on February 19, in the Assembly Chamber which was crowded to the doors, the crowd being estimated at a thousand. From pulpit and church door the Roman Catholic Church had rallied its representatives so successfully that every legislator was inundated by letters and when the proponents of the bill arrived an hour early for the hearing every seat was filled with the opponents—laymen and women shepherded by a goodly sprinkling of priests.

The opposition, which was in the charge of Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the State Committee of Catholic Charities, opened with a non-Catholic speaker, the Reverend John Roach Straton of Calvary Baptist Church, New York City. He felicitated himself on having the Roman Catholic Church as an ally and essayed to prove that Birth Control was a direct attack on morality, civilization and religion. With him three Catholic priests were in entire agreement, they were Father W. C. Keane, director of Catholic Charities at Albany, Father John J. Lacey of Ogdensburg and Father Duane of Fordham University, New York City. They and G. H. Kennedy claimed not only to represent the Bishops of Albany and Buffalo but also their parishioners with no dissidents—a claim quite in contradiction to the facts of our experience of the Catholic laity. Catholic medical men were represented by Dr. John S. Clifford of Rochester and Dr. Frary C. Franczak, Commissioner of Health of Buffalo, who gave some idea of the extent to which the legislature had been circularized when he stated—without however showing the list—that 4,000 physicians had sent protests to the Speaker of the House. Although Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, President of the American Birth Control League, protested that his act was in contravention of the law, Dr. Franczak was allowed to exhibit a number of contraceptive devices on sale throughout the State.

OTHER opponents were Judge Donnelly of Rochester, who was responsible for a statement—abundantly disproved by letters from poor mothers received in great numbers daily by the League—to the effect that “no big families among the poor ever want Birth Control,” and Mrs. Thomas J. McGoldrick, of the Catholic Women’s Alumnae, who introduced a group of representatives of eleven other Catholic women’s organizations. Mrs. McGoldrick urged large families as “an economic asset” and introduced seven Catholic mothers, who averaged between them eight children per family, nothing was said about how many of these were dead. Members of the organizations represented were supposed, as in the case of the parishes represented by the priests, to speak with one voice against the bill.

Mrs. F. Robertson Jones was in charge of the proponents of the bill. She introduced as the first speaker Rabbi Sidney Goldstein of the Free Synagogue, New York City, to whom

religion did not mean a theological abstraction but a concern for social welfare, ethical and material and who urged Birth Control for the saving of infant and maternal lives. Other churchmen who appeared in favor were Dr. Peck of the Unitarian Church of Albany and Dr. Ernest Caldecott of the Universalist Church of Schenectady. To Dr. Caldecott, Birth Control made for morality and he demanded that Protestants be not coerced by Catholic opinion but left free to legislate and act in accordance with their own ethical standards in this as in other matters. He stated that eighty per cent of those whom his church is called upon to help are Roman Catholics. “The claim is made,” he added “that large families do not ask for Birth Control. Possibly not, but they do ask for charity, an infinitely more immoral thing.”

As against the 4,000 names of physicians claimed by the opposition, Mrs. Lillian Francis Fitch, representing the New York Federation of Women’s Clubs, presented the result of a questionnaire sent to 5,000 physicians which brought a four to one response in favor. Dr. Ira S. Wile of New York City, not only himself, as a specialist in the child, endorsed the bill but presented the same results, four to one in favor, from a poll of all medical schools in New York State. Dr. Hannah M. Stone gave her experience as Medical Director of the Clinical Research Bureau in N. Y. City.

DR. ERIC MATSNER, of Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City, representing the Committee on Maternal Health, read an endorsement of the bill by Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, secretary of that Committee, and gave some facts and figures from his own clinical work. At Lenox Hill he stated that over 500 women who had been given advice had been studied and of these 96 per cent had had complete success with the method used, that Birth Control did not cause sterility, as some opponents claim it does, and that neither self-control or abstinence were practical alternative methods of limiting numbers. Dr. John B. Solley of New York City, stated emphatically that “anyone who assumes that Birth Control is not here to stay has his head in the sand. Common contraceptives were manufactured to the number of many many millions a year as long ago as 1827. The number has increased enormously since then, in proportion to the demand of woman to have control of her own body.” Other physicians who spoke in favor were Dr. Benjamin T. Tilton, of St. Mark’s Hospital, New York City, Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf and Dr. Hilda Noyes of Oneida. Dr. Eleanor Conover represented the Women’s City Club of New York City, which based its support on the marked medical benefits of Birth Control.

Other women’s organization besides the Women’s City Club and the New York City Federation of Women’s Clubs, were the State League of Women Voters and more than one Settlement House. Mrs. Chauncey Hamlin of Buffalo

(Continued on page 93)

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New Jersey

THE New Jersey Birth Control League started the New Year with its usual vigor and enthusiasm. The first meeting for fund-raising was organized by the Morristown Committee. Dr. Elsie Mitchell and Miss Henriette Hart were the principal speakers. Dr. Mitchell who has spent many years in India and Russia told of the Birth Control movement under the Soviet Government in Russia. The hall was filled to capacity and both speakers were listened to with keen attention. In answer to an appeal for funds Mrs. Murray Coggeshall announced that \$1,300 had been collected. The Morristown committee, under whose auspices the meeting was held, included the following: Mrs. George Marshall Allen, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg, Mrs. Coggeshall, Mrs. Willard V. King, Mrs. John T. Gilesbie, Mrs. H. Thurston Maxwell, Mrs. Ridley Watts and Mrs. Charles R. Lloyd.

The Newark Committee is holding a reception in honor of Mrs. Cora B. Hodson, executive secretary of the British Eugenics Society, who will speak on Eugenics and Birth Control. Mrs. F. Robertson Jones has promised to attend the meeting and will give a brief resumé of the National work. The Newark Committee after careful consideration decided upon the plan that each community should try to raise a certain amount toward the year's budget separately. Plans are on the way to organize similar meetings in Jersey City, the Oranges and Plainfield and it is hoped that the entire budget will be raised before the beginning of the fiscal year in May.

The Maternal Health Center in Newark is progressing most satisfactorily. The eight-month period ending December 31st showed a total of 525 clinic visits by 325 cases. Several important medical meetings have been held and the possibility of adding a second physician and a clinic assistant and opening a second clinic has already been discussed. The need for a clinic in the southern part of the State is strongly felt. Miss Hart during a recent visit at Trenton, where she addressed a large group of Social Workers, interviewed several physicians. She has also made contacts in Camden. She is continuing the practice of visiting hospitals, clinics and social agencies as much as time will permit and has recently started on follow up visits. Interest in the work is becoming more widespread and the New Jersey Birth Control League has every reason to look forward to a successful year.

California

FROM Mrs. H. E. Coleman of Los Angeles comes the following interesting story of how Margaret Sanger impressed the women of the Pacific Coast.

Margaret Sanger has been in Los Angeles. The world does move, for even in this rather conservative city, no one

was astounded at her teaching. Instead they were anxious to learn and ready to hear and the "best women" of the city, who a few years ago would have been horrified to have any one think they were interested in such a subject as Birth Control, now were ready to say they were interested not only in the general subject, but also in its more widespread knowledge.

Of course no one could meet Margaret Sanger and keep their prejudices, if they were fair-minded. One remembered when she was in Tokyo the police were everywhere watching, since they thought she had been *persona non grata* in New York, while Margaret Sanger sat quietly, composedly, tranquilly, as if she had been having flower arrangement and ceremonial tea all her life, to teach her how to meet just such occasions.

Just so in Los Angeles. Whether at a small luncheon at the Women's Athletic Club, or in a conference or meeting, she was always the least assuming, the least domineering of the group, but with so vivid a personality, and so clever a mind, that no one could fail to know she would have the right answer and the right attitude.

To have been a reformer in an unpopular cause for years, and to stay an optimist, and a gentlewoman, and young! As one of the guests at a luncheon said, "You are younger than when you came here twelve years ago."

There are sad limitations on the time and strength and opportunities of a speaker under a bureau. These Margaret Sanger suffered. She was unable to speak over radio station KHJ in Los Angeles when it was all arranged, but the sister station in San Francisco hoped to be able to find an hour she could speak after she was manager free!

To have more than a thousand turned away was an achievement in Pasadena, city of conservative wealth. One of the brilliant "Tech" men said he had listened with deep interest, as much in the personality of the woman as in the cause, as he was already interested in it.

Los Angeles was in the throes of "flu" so the Trinity Auditorium audience was not so large as it might have been. But the interest! One could have heard a pin drop in the farthest balcony if any one had dared let one drop! And the reward for the speaker, when afterwards the audience surged to the front and would not go home without a word with her of appreciation, or question or just plain interest in being near her. The next day, one of her old friends said she had felt it an imposition that the audience should have stayed so long and so taken her time and strength. One had only to see the glow on the face of Margaret Sanger and hear her express the joy it had been to her, to know it was worth being away from home, and all the weariness of lecture tours, for the sake of meeting these people who so much wanted her.

Mrs. Crosby Ashley so well known in Los Angeles for her work in connection with the Young Women's Christian

Association and National Council of Women, presided at the public meeting for Mrs Sanger, and at a luncheon, given for her, representatives of Friday Morning Club, Ebell, Mothers Clinic and many other organizations were present and spoke in appreciation of her work

Between lectures and conferences with the leaders in the Mothers Clinic, Margaret Sanger met various groups, spoke at a tea at the Ambassador Hotel and was guest of honor at a number of luncheons and teas. Many leaders in the famous Club World of Los Angeles were in attendance at different functions, making her plea to Club women to come out for the movement seem almost unnecessary here.

Among those seen at the smaller meetings were such leaders as Sarah Bixby Smith, President of the Friday Morning Club, Mrs Charles Richmond, Past President of the Hollywood Women's Club and Chairman of International Relations for the General Federation of Los Angeles district, Mrs Kreider, Past President of the Friday Morning Club, Mrs Timmons, Chairman of the League of Women Voters, Dr Etta Grey, famous physician and surgeon, and Dr Hohl.

One feature of Mrs Sanger's tour was a movietone address, which was included in a Fox News Reel and exhibited in many cities throughout the United States.

Delaware

THE Delaware Legislature is to be asked to strengthen the sterilization law, which was passed in 1923, and which within the narrow limits prescribed by it, has shown satisfactory results. A report on the working of the law was recently made by Dr M. A. Tarumianz, superintendent of the Delaware State Hospital. In a majority of cases, he said, improvement has been noted in the condition of defectives operated upon. During the last two years 69 sterilization operations have been performed. Marked improvement was noted in five persons, some improvement in 21, and slight betterment in 25. In sixteen cases no improvement could be perceived. Ten of the 69 cases were women. "We must face the fact", said Dr Tarumianz "that the nation is being poisoned by the rapid production of mental and moral defectives. To insure the survival of the fittest we have to deprive such defectives of the power to procreate. Undoubtedly this is a most beneficent law."

ENGLAND

BIRTH CONTROL will figure largely in the campaign for the general election which will be held in Great Britain in the spring. The date of the election is not yet fixed, but it will come either at the end of May or early in June, and already candidates are addressing themselves to the task of winning votes. In this election the women will largely outnumber the men, and for the first time, women under thirty will be allowed to vote. Due to this fact and also to the nation-wide concern over the misery of the mining regions, where nearly half a million men and boys are permanently unemployed, Birth Control will be promi-

nent among the questions before the electors. The women of both the Liberal and Labor Parties have long been demanding the removal of the ban on the giving of Birth Control information at the welfare centers which receive government assistance. At present every such center receives instructions from the Ministry of Health which reads "It is not the function of an Ante-Natal, or a Maternity and Child Welfare Center to give advice in regard to Birth Control, and exceptional cases in which the avoidance of pregnancy seems desirable on medical grounds, should be referred by the medical officer of the Center for particular advice to a private practitioner or hospital."

In 1926 the House of Lords passed a resolution, proposed by Lord Buckmaster, calling for the withdrawal of this instruction. This was disregarded by the House of Commons. The Medical Committee of the National Council of Public Morals in 1927 also expressed an opinion adverse to this withholding from the women who most need it, of contraceptive advice. It stated "We are of opinion that no impediment should be placed in the way of those married couples who desire information as to contraceptives, when this is needed for medical reasons, or because of excessive child-bearing or poverty."

The over-population of Great Britain has been admitted by Mr Baldwin, the present premier. The congestion and misery of the mining areas is an alarming fact which the recent visit of the Prince of Wales has made even more prominent in the public mind. Emigration has proved of little value and the only hope seems to be in Birth Control. Every candidate for Parliament will be asked to reply to the following question —

"Will you, if elected, support legislative and administrative measures to permit the giving of information on methods of Birth Control by the medical officers at Maternity and Child Welfare Centers in receipt of Government grants?"

The new woman electorate ought to show unmistakably that to be elected the candidate must answer in the affirmative.

At a recent inquest in Yorkshire on a five-months old infant, it was stated that the family numbered ten children, and the father had made no effort to get work, but was living solely on a dole from the poor law guardians. The Coroner is reported as saying to the father "I am not exaggerating when I say that you have been getting children for the last ten years for other people to keep. That seems a ghastly unfair thing. You have the reputation of being work-shy. It is a wicked thing to take money wrung from hard-working people to keep your children." Public opinion is with the Coroner, but it also demands free access to contraceptive information.

GERMANY

A GERMAN medical journal — *Das Gross-Berliner Aerzteblatt* — in a recent issue, gives the number of abortions in Germany, as estimated by Professor Liep-

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The Population Question in Japan

CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, during 150 years preceding the Meiji Restoration in 1868 the population of Japan had remained practically stationary at 26,000,000. It seems paradoxical that, with the influx of Western thoughts and ideas, which include among others a desire to handle the problem of population from a scientific point of view, since the dawn of a new era the stagnancy in our population has given way to an alarming fecundity. 1872, the 5th year of Meiji, brought the figures to 30,000,000. In the beginning of the twentieth century, the population increased by five hundred thousand annually, in 1921 by seven hundred thousand, in 1925 by nine hundred thousand.

It is shown by reliable statistics that the numbers have been almost doubled during the sixty years since the Restoration. Already we have a huge population of over seventy millions, as it stands at present — a population which grows at the rate of a little short of one million every year. It is, indeed, a serious problem it may threaten, if let alone, the welfare and civilization of the nation, a situation, calling for immediate attention and action by the Government.

The unspeakable miseries that exist today among the poor are attributed by many to over-population and Mr Iso Abe, formerly professor of sociology in Waseda University and now leader of the Social Democrats, sees in Birth Control the only practicable remedy to the evil. Among those who take exception to such a view in favor of rigorous and instant limitation of population, are a small yet none the less influential group of "Imperialists." A stationary or dwindling population spells, according to their lights, the decline of a nation as a World Power. They hold to an incorrigible optimism, not necessarily based on sound facts or reason. There is, they contend, as yet plenty of arable land in our country to support more people on the one hand while a happy stroke of diplomacy will open up sparsely peopled foreign lands to our excess population. France is often referred to, quite inaccurately, as a victim of Birth Control which is paring down her population year after year, while, in fact, France's

population gains, though slowly, by some 40,000 a year. Strange type of men are the "Imperialists" theirs are minds which have ceased to grow. But our Imperialists have learnt one thing in connection with the population problem, that is, they would no longer mention further industrialization as a cure for unemployment resulting from the crowding of the island Empire. This much advertised panacea has been a myth and now they know it will not work.

Next come the moralists to denounce Birth Control. They denounce it for fear of its leading to sexual irregularities among the middle class which constitutes the very pith and marrow of Japan. "Quite reverse is the case," says Mr Iso Abe, "As men and women of marriageable age do their marrying sufficiently early in their youth without fears of mounting expenses from childbirth, the sexual morality not only of the middle class but of all the strata of the nation is bound to improve."

Fortunately, no religious opposition of consequence stands in the way of legalizing Birth Control in this country, as we have but a modest number of Catholics. The attacks from the Imperialists can be easily met by pointing out the facts. They talk vaguely of arable land yet uncultivated, not knowing the truth that only 15 per cent of our total area yields crops and sustenance to toilers. Nor are any extensive avenues opening out for our surplus population in sight.

With a view to evolving a sensible method to check the menace which is already keenly felt on all sides, a Commission on Population and Food was created by the Tanaka Cabinet in 1927 and it has worked hard on the subject ever since. Judging from disappointments in the past, we are not over-hopeful of the result of the Population and Food Commission's labors. Its investigation may drag on indefinitely, regardless of an annual increase of one million people in the population. What seems to have made the commission go slow on the problem of Birth Control is not the question whether a decline of birth-rate it may bring about is good or bad, but the regrettable fact that such decline will be greatest in the best elements of the population. There is no harm, however, in our putting into nationwide practice, tentatively, the scientific regulation of population with the sanction of law and trying our various moot points for and against Birth Control by experiment. For one thing there is no wisdom in letting such a serious problem merely drift on.

—From the *Japan Times and Mail*, Dec 10, 1928



"The triumphs of Science over the powers of Nature can never become the means of improving and elevating the universal lot until, in addition to just institutions, the increase of mankind shall come under the deliberate guidance of judicious foresight."

JOHN STUART MILL

GERMANY

(Continued from page 91)

mann, as at least 876,000 per year. Of the women who undergo these abortions 44,000 die each year as a direct result, while innumerable other women suffer more or less serious consequences. Professor Liepmann believes that more than half of the 876,000 are permanently injured. These figures are being used by the advocates of Birth Control to show the need of scientific information in the prevention of conception, in order to end this terrible sacrifice of Germany's mothers. The German Committee for Birth Control (*Geburtenregelung*) has established five clinics in and near Berlin where information is given under the supervision of doctors.

THE NEW YORK HEARING

(Continued from page 89)

spoke for the League of Women Voters, which, she stated, was working for the welfare of women and which held that "not quantity but quality makes for progress." The Citizen's Union, which has this year put the Birth Control Bill among its preferred legislation, was represented and Mr. Frank Pedlow represented both men and women in the United Neighborhood Association of New York City.

No better statement could be made of the need of Birth Control in poor districts than that read by Mrs. Henry Green in behalf of the Henry Street Settlement, New York City. She told of the pitiful demand of poor women for help in keeping their families down and she gave figures to show what it meant in ill health to be one of a large family. "Our settlement records show," said she, "that seventy per cent of all cases of pernicious anemia, of rickets, bow-legs, underweight, undernourishment and hernia have been found among the younger children belonging to large families where the mother, although still young, is a complete physical wreck from bearing and caring for her children. There are a large number of families where five or six minors are being meagerly supported by a father who averages but thirty or thirty-five dollars a week. It seems that in a great many cases the first, second and third born are usually well. It is only as the number of children increases that the health standards drop."

The hearing brought out even more strikingly than in former years that there is practically no opposition to Birth Control in New York State except what comes from the Roman Catholic Church, and that, regardless of what its representatives said before the Presidential election, that church is in politics and will remain there as long as it has any hope of defeating Birth Control legislation. This is the one enemy to be met and put to rout.

Correspondence

Editor

Massachusetts

I have just finished reading the article in my last REVIEW, by one who signs C V Drysdale, D Sc, F R S E, after it, and, although I haven't the slightest idea who he is, I'd like to shake him by the hand. I am a mother of four children all under six years old and have practiced Birth Control since the birth of my baby 10 months old. My last three children were 13 months apart. Can you not vividly imagine what would have happened to me if I hadn't been fortunate to meet a real human doctor who gave me your address. Now what I really want to say with all due respects to the Catholic religion is this. I have a sister-in-law who is a strict Catholic according to her own story and although she and my brother have been married five years or more they have no children, due to the practice of Birth Control and abortions, etc. She is one of a family of 9 girls and 2 boys. All of her sisters I know well and they all go to the Catholic Church and are married to Catholic men and still they all practice Birth Control and if necessary commit abortion to prevent having children. I

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have a girl friend who is Catholic and commits abortion without the slightest twinge of conscience and then confesses and is forgiven according to her religion and then does the same thing over again. I could name countless cases just like that. Why wouldn't it be much better to teach them the correct way of Birth Control and thus eliminate the dangers they subject themselves to now? Although perhaps its not just the best thing in the world to say, I'd be willing to bet money that if the very priests who forbid such things were able to bring 6 or 8 children into this world in 6 or 8 years they would look at Birth Control, the same as all women do, as the most wonderful of all the wonderful things in this 20th century

G R L

THE DETROIT BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC

(Continued from page 87)

vice agencies as well as their workers on account of the large families of the poor

3 The evils and dangers of illegal and heretofore inevitable operations can only be fought by contraceptive measures

4 Detroit has the highest birthrate of any American city

5 One baby out of every eight born in Detroit is a public charge

6 There is whole-hearted endorsement of such a clinic by public-minded laymen, social workers, ethically progressive ministers and professionally far-seeing physicians

BIRTH CONTROL IN RUSSIA

(Continued from page 79)

we cannot shut our eyes to the facts that there are different reasons why women remain cold, and that in many cases, as a certain author wittily says, the husband needs advice and the wife consolation. This last circumstance shows us how necessary a close connection between Birth Control Clinics and consultation regarding sexual life must be, where these institutions exist

Two years' activity is a short time to make any sound conclusions. But at the present time as well as two years ago, we take the liberty to declare

1 That the Birth Control Clinic is the best and the most effective measure against abortions, which are ruining women's health and often leading them to death

2 The Birth Control Clinic is a method for struggling against infant mortality, as the greater is the space of time between births, the less is the number of children in the family, and the more attention can be paid to every child. The healthier the children are the greater are the chances of their remaining alive. Therefore the Birth Control Clinic, attached to every Maternity and Infant Welfare Center is a problem of nearest future

To Control their environment
Women must be protected by the law
equally with men

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Late News

New York

THE month of February was spent by the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League in work preliminary to the Hearing on the New York Bill. Many thousands of voters were reached by a Birth Control radio talk given by Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, President of the League from Station WEVD on February 3. The culmination of many smaller meetings to interest local groups in the bill was the large luncheon held in Albany, February 13, under the auspices of the Albany-Troy and Nearby Towns Birth Control Committee, at which Mr. Walter Wellman, a lawyer of Schenectady presided and Rabbi Sidney E. Goldstein was one of the speakers. The Citizen's Union of New York City sent its delegate to Albany this year instructed not only to endorse the bill but to push it as on its preferred list of legislation. Another name was added to the already imposing list of endorsements when the Laymen's League of All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City, after listening to a talk by Mrs. Richard Billings, Vice-President of the American Birth Control League on February 11, passed a unanimous resolution in favor.

On January 28 Mrs. P. B. P. Huse, secretary of the League, addressed the Westchester County Ethical Culture Society at a meeting in New Rochelle, at the home of Mrs. Samuel Schlossberg and on February 11 she spoke at Elmira, to an audience representing thirty social service organizations, in the building of the Federation of Social Workers. In the audience were clergymen of five denominations.

At a meeting of the Rockland County Ministers' Association, held at Nyack, January 25, a resolution was passed petitioning the Codes Committee of the N. Y. Assembly to report favorably the Birth Control bill.

On February 14, Mrs. Robertson Jones spoke at the Virginia Day Nursery to a group of 39 representatives of the larger social service agencies of the Lower East Side of New York City.

MRS. SANGER RESIGNS EDITORSHIP

Mrs. Sanger announces her resignation as Editor of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* to devote herself to the work of the Clinical Research Bureau. On February 26 the first of a series of dinners to promote the work of the Bureau was held at the Hotel Plaza. Mrs. Sanger presided and the speakers were Owen R. Lovejoy and Professors Henry Pratt Fairchild and Frank H. Hankins and Dr. Hannah M. Stone.

Periodical Notes

Telegram (N. Y.) The movement owes a great deal to such columnists as Mrs. Walter Ferguson. At all times Mrs. Ferguson's syndicated column "The Woman's View" is open to Birth Control or related matters, she is sensible and unafraid and through her the message has been carried far and wide. In a recent column she tells the story of one of those pioneer mothers "upon whose weary bones our civilization is built." This heroine is the wife of the Rev. Isaac McCoy, who wrote a history of the missions to the Indians in the period 1818—1840.

"Not that the excellent man mentions his wife very often," says Mrs. Ferguson "but it is this very neglect that causes her to stand a vivid and glowing figure before the reader's eye. This pious Baptist minister, his wife and seven little children left civilization in 1818 and began their weary journey to the wilderness. His good 'help-meet,' as he calls her, is never mentioned without a new infant at the breast. And listen to this—She buried ten children, ranging from infancy to manhood, during their wanderings from Ohio to the Indian Territory. The chronicle does not give the exact number of children born to Mrs. McCoy, but it must have been well up in the teens."

Forum (N. Y.), January—An article on "Modern Marriage" differs from most recent radical writings on this subject in that its authors are not the immature younger generation, but are recognized authorities in early middle life. John Middleton Murry, husband of Katherine Mansfield, is one of the foremost English literary critics and his collaborator, Dr. James Carruthers Young, is a specialist in medical psychology and the author of many medical books. The collaborators have no fear of present-day changes in attitude toward marriage. They believe them to be a normal adaptation to a changing civilization. We shall quote in full what they say of Birth Control.

At the end they strike a note curiously archaic in so modern an article. "It is the man's business," they say, "to lead in married life, and it is the woman's business to know and to demand that the man should lead."

Grand Central Tab (N. Y.)—This weekly zone newspaper which circulates in the district around 42nd Street, publishes in a December number a most appreciative story of Kitty Marion. This is the more welcome as it was in this district last summer that the station guards and the city police combined to persecute "this quiet, smiling, and unobtrusive worker for The Cause."

Connecticut

THE Hearing on the Birth Control Bill which would repeal the present law against the practice of Birth Control was held on February 28, too late for any account to be included in this issue.

Dr. Karl Reiland,

Rector of St George's Church,
New York,

says:

"I value your publication for the brave way in which it is keeping before the public the question of Birth Control, the fundamental importance of which, as a subject for thought and discussion, is dawning more and more upon a wider distribution of thinking people. This is one of the projects which a later generation honors with its gratitude for having pushed ahead undaunted in difficult days."

Dora Russell,

Author of "The Right to be
Happy",

says:

"I think the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is a most valuable and intelligent publication. I like its form and I like its spirit, and especially I like the absence of extravagance and undue sentimentality. I think that everybody who is interested in the nurture of young children and in the serious problems which it raises, such as the waste of maternal strength and of child life, should not only believe in Birth Control but take your paper regularly."

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