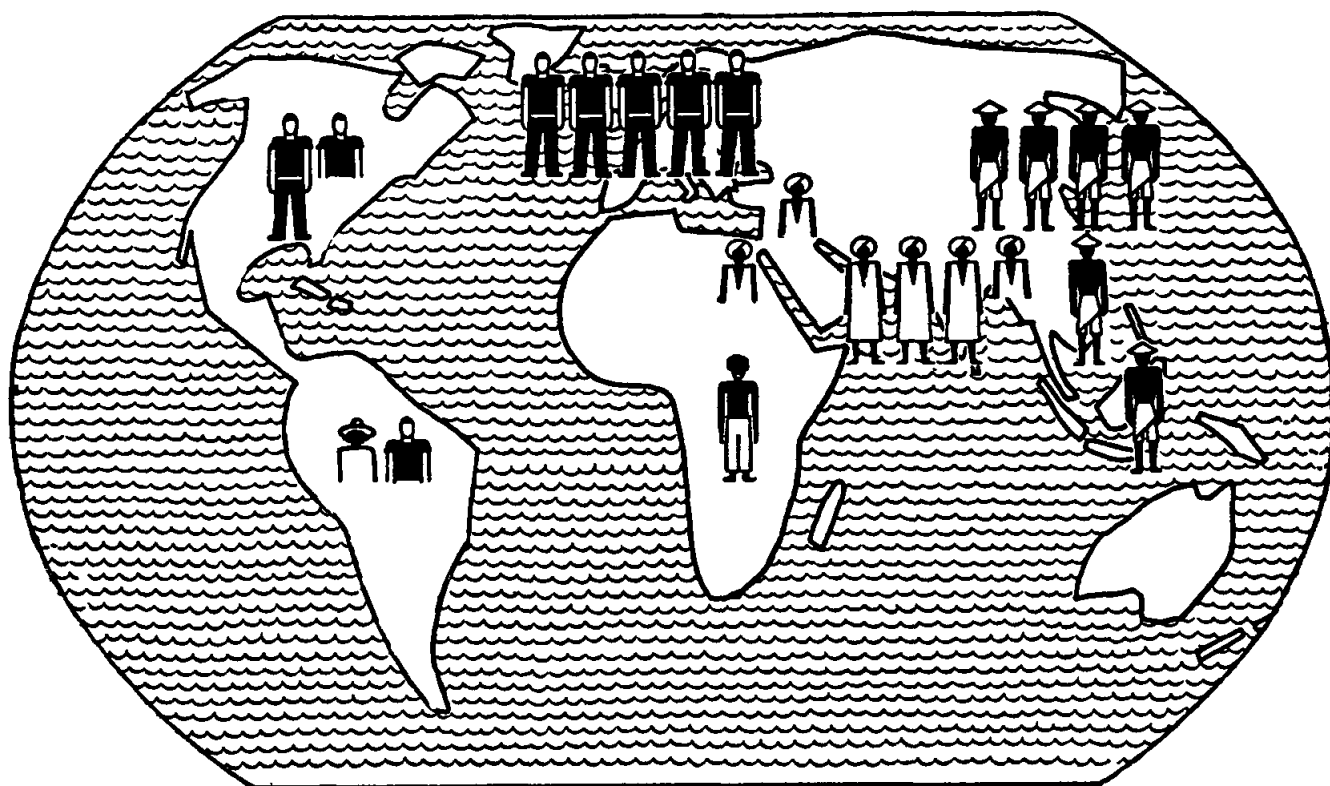


July 1929

Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance



== POPULATION DISTRIBUTION ==

(Each Figure — 100 Million People)

*Courtesy Gesellschafts und Wirtschafts Museum Vienna*

# Birth Control Review

VOL XIII

JULY, 1929

No 7

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC  
104 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY  
Telephones — Chelsea 8901 8902

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## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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*Published on the first of the month by  
The American Birth Control League, Inc*

Single Copies, 20 cents, \$2 per year, \$3.50 two years,  
Canada and Foreign add 25 cents postage per year

Entered as Second Class Matter March 11 1918 at the Post  
office at New York N Y under the Act of March 3 1819

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# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

July 1929

## Editorial

**T**HE evolution of civilization requires a constant shift in what Professor Sumner very aptly called the folkways and mores. These are in their totality not merely the group ways of doing things, they include also the group modes of thinking and feeling. These feeling-thinking modes are largely standardized attitudes of approval and disapproval which give sanction to the group ways of behaving. It follows that the evolution of culture involves a shift in emotional attitudes. New mores must be enshrined in those emotional automatisms which guide and nourish that public opinion which is the ultimate force in social control. A revolutionary movement naturally finds the whole mental-set of the mores against it at the start. It makes progress first by winning tolerance, in time, if successful, it finds its main tenets enshrined among the sacred values of the group life. This in brief is the social history of many great historical movements, such as the rise of democracy, the emancipation of slaves, the higher education of women and many others. It is for these reasons that the public reaction to the recent raid on the New York Birth Control Clinic possesses a very noteworthy significance. A few years ago such police activities would have called forth a few angry protests, considerable enthusiastic approval, and a volume of admonitory editorial soliloquy. Recently there was a little of the latter but it was scarcely noticeable amidst the vast avalanche of angry protestation. This event thus registers an extraordinary shift in public sentiment. Birth Control is not only winning the open intellectual assent of those who speak for the great public, but it is slowly acquiring some of that emotional attachment which safeguards the mores. Blindly to attack the ideals of family regulation will soon arouse the same sort of indignation as its public advocacy did, not long since. In this respect the Birth Control movement parallels a host of others which

have transformed mediaevalism into modernism.

**T**wo events of the past month have brought to the American Birth Control League fresh evidence of the crying need for the extension of the movement. As was noted in the June Issue, Sherwood Eddy has been giving a series of radio talks, and has spoken decisively and fearlessly on the subject of Birth Control. The result has been an avalanche of letters which plead for help with the tragic repetition of a Greek chorus. We quote a sheaf of opening sentences. "You can doubtless imagine the relief I felt at hearing that I could write to you for help. Have heard your lecture. Will you inform me how to get help. I am a mother of six. Listening in on the radio, I or rather both my husband and I, would like to know. Having listened to your talk over the radio, I wonder if I am one who may be helped."

Further refutation of the insidious statement that "everybody knows about Birth Control" came unexpectedly in mid-June, when Dr. Lulu Peters, who conducts a widely syndicated health column, wrote in answer to a query. "Yes, I do believe in the Birth Control movement. Your letter indicates that you misunderstand its aim entirely. If you will read their magazine, the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, you will find that its purpose, instead of retarding civilization, is just the reverse. The address of the League followed. The result of this unsolicited paragraph was again a deluge of letters, requesting information, copies of the REVIEW, inquiries, coming from over eighteen different states.

**T**HESE are specific incidents with specific results. But as signs of the times, and as indicators of the work ahead, they are important. We need to enlist all the complex and various media which exist for stimulating and

focussing public opinion. We need to enlarge our facilities for reaching those who should be helped, and having reached them, we need to be able to help them. In a word, more publicity, more clinics, more legislative activity is the threefold task that lies ahead.

**T**HAT the American Birth Control League is an active member (a kindred group, to use the exact title) of the National Conference of Social Work, held in San Francisco from June 26th to July 3rd, is an indication, both of the present status of the movement, and the progress it may be expected to make in the near future. The mere fact that the issue of Birth Control is discussed along with other more generally accepted problems of social work, is noteworthy. It means that Birth Control is acknowledged as a weapon against human distress, as a method of combating poverty, illness, delinquency, and industrial maladjustment. It means that many agencies, and many workers in diverse fields will leave the Conference with an increased understanding of the aims of the Birth Control movement, and the importance of the Birth Control issue.

Yearly the list of conferences grows. The possibility of combining valuable work and play, of meeting co-workers, and visiting pleasant places, appeals to everyone. The time is ripe for the American Birth Control League to participate in the majority of these conferences. Everyone knows that the issue of Birth Control is discussed at a Conference on Population, at a meeting of the World League for Sexual Reform. Everyone should know that it rightly belongs in any fundamental and honest consideration of War and Peace, Unemployment, Adult Education, to name a few at random, and at the conventions of such organizations as the American Association of University Women, the United Parents Association, etc.

**I**N America, sociologists and economists were the first among scientists to recognize the crucial importance of the world-wide problem of overpopulation and to stand frankly behind the Birth Control movement

in its early days. Among the pioneers of this group of neo-Malthusians were Frank Fetter, whose recognition of an impending population problem goes back to 1894, when none but he, in this country, recognized that such a problem existed, the late J. A. Field of Chicago University, E. B. Reuter, Warren M. Thompson, now head of the Scripps Foundation for Population Research, and A. B. Wolfe of Ohio State University. It is especially fitting that it should be one of this group who has brought out the source book and guide to the already voluminous and imposing literature of this subject. Dr. Wolfe's monograph, "The Population Problem since the World War: A Survey of Literature and Research", is a compact and comprehensive monograph, and a work of real scholarship. Its publication should be counted among the important events which have crowded of late upon the Birth Control movement. From the fact that he is saturated with his subject, Dr. Wolfe has been able to make a just estimate of the contribution of each writer which is invaluable to the general reader. From the fact also that nothing in the literature has escaped him, he has given us full and comprehensive information not only on the better known aspects, but on less known but highly important subjects such as the food supply of the far distant future, when the resources now existing have been exploited to the limit. No one who desires to study the population problem, or indeed the general literature of Birth Control, can afford not to know about this invaluable little volume. (*Editorial Note: We hope to print excerpts from Dr. Wolfe's monograph in the August issue.*)

**I**N the campaign preceeding the recent General Election in England, the Catholic Church abandoned its supposed stand of "hands off politics" and used its press to tell its followers what to think and who to vote for. Neat mud pellets of "dastardly", "indecent", "nefarious" and the like were hurled at Birth Control, and Catholics were ordered to abandon party lines and vote against supporters of Birth Control whoever they might be. Thus are Church and State kept apart! Thus Catholicism shows its true colors.

# Italy's Problem — Overpopulation

By GAETANO SALVEMINI

**I**N a speech to the Chamber of Deputies on May 26, 1927, Mussolini issued the command to Italian women to breed him not less than fifty million subjects by 1950. While waiting for the desired fifty million, Mussolini demands eight million men of fighting age between 1935 and 1940, the period, he says, when "European history will reach its crucial point. Then Italy will be able to make her voice heard and will at last receive recognition from her neighbors."

## SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS

Italy had twenty-eight million inhabitants in 1881. She now has forty-one million. During the last half century, twenty-eight million Italians emigrated in search of work, eighteen million returned, and ten million settled permanently abroad. In the five years immediately preceding the Great War — allowing for temporary emigration and repatriation — there was a net emigration of about 200,000 per year.

After the war some of the channels which previously carried the currents of Italian emigration, were blocked. The United States and Canada have closed their doors. Germany, Austria and Switzerland absorb today only a small part of the pre-war emigration, and emigration into France decreased after 1925. In 1927, Italy's net emigration was 70,000, as compared with the average yearly pre-war figure of 200,000, given above. Italy's crucial problem today is how to find work for her surplus population, which is no longer absorbed by foreign countries.

The Fascists think that this problem can only be solved by acquiring new colonies where Italian emigrants may be sent. They think that Italy's colonial empire should include as much as possible of Germany's former colonies in Africa, and of French possessions on the Mediterranean. They do not regard the population surplus as an evil or a danger, but speak of it as Italy's greatest strength.

The Fascist government, therefore, is striving to promote an increase in population by checking emigration, promoting repatriation, granting exemption from taxation and other privileges to large families, imposing a heavy tax on bachelors, and

prohibiting Birth Control propaganda.<sup>1</sup> Thus the steam accumulates in the boiler. Italy, Mussolini proclaims, must either expand or explode. The growing population provides Fascism with a reason for demanding colonies, and at the same time with the strength to conquer them.

If there were no solution other than expansion or explosion, the Italian population problem would be desperate. Germany's former colonies in Africa are unfit for white labor. More suitable for Italian agricultural labor are the lands on the Mediterranean shores. But these lands are incapable of supporting a denser population than they now have, unless their economic conditions are revolutionized by large-scale transportation, and huge investments of capital spread over a long period. Tunisia, conquered by France in 1881, has absorbed barely 80,000 in half a century — a yearly average of 15,000, despite the fact that both the government and private individuals have expended vast sums of money on its economic development. To secure the capital necessary to promote sufficient agricultural expansion to provide work for emigrants, the Italian government would have to cripple economic development at home. The number of unemployed in Italy would mount more rapidly than the number of emigrants absorbed by the colonies. The disproportion between population and employment, far from being readjusted, would be aggravated. Italy would be condemned to hunger and anarchy.

## ANOTHER SOLUTION

Fortunately there is another solution. The Italian birth-rate is decreasing. In 1902, when the population was 32.5 million, 1.1 million children were born. In 1925, with the population at 40 million, the number of births was 1.15 million.

The increase in the population of Italy in the last twenty-five years is caused, not by a high birth-rate, but by a lowered death-rate, due to improvements in standards of living and in hygiene. But while life cannot be prolonged beyond certain limits,

<sup>1</sup>The opposition of the Catholic Church to Birth Control acts effectively and automatically against the spread of Birth Control propaganda, and economic pressure ties the hands of even the most progressive members of the medical profession.

there is no set limit to a decline in the birth-rate. Despite Mussolini's peremptory orders to increase and multiply, the women of Italy produced 20,000 less children in 1926 than in 1925. In 1927, they went from bad to worse, producing 50,000 infants less than in 1926.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore likely that in the next quarter of a century, the birth-rate will continue its downward trend.

People of good faith and good will outside of Italy should see through the Fascist bluff, composed half of complaints that the growing population of Italy cannot be fed, half of threats against peace if the neighboring countries do not hand over territories to this growing population. A government which boasts of promoting an increase in its population is not justified in making this increase an excuse for

<sup>2</sup>Possible explanations of the decrease are that economic stringency has, as usual, caused some postponement of marriage, and that the very vehemence of Mussolini's militant campaign for more babies has started an inevitable reaction

demanding colonies, even if these colonies could absorb the surplus population.

The Fascist government should cease restricting emigration as though it were a crime, and should cease urging Italians to have children as a patriotic duty whether they really wish them or not. Then, and then only, will it be entitled to ask other countries to consider in friendly spirit the problem of Italian over-population.

At the same time people of good faith and good will outside of Italy should realize that a population problem does exist in Italy. The decline in the birth-rate is a slow phenomenon. For many years to come, large numbers of Italians will need to emigrate. Unless this problem of Italian emigration into the sparsely populated countries of the world is solved, an over-crowded and restive Italy will always be tempted to throw in her lot with other discontented peoples in order to break down the barriers which pen them in.

## Ryosai Kembo Shugi

### Good Wife and Wise Mother

By HARRY EMERSON WILDES

**E**IGHTY THOUSAND MINERS and coal passers, many working underground, 300,000 fishers, a million factory workers, and more than a million farmers contribute to make up the total of 3,500,000 women workers in Japan. Mostly between the age of 15 and 25, and earning between \$10 and \$50 monthly, these working women represent about 13 per cent of the total female population.

Far less in numbers are the few hundred women doctors, dentists, social workers, writers and musicians. Even in the elementary schools, the female refuge of the western world, the women are but 80,000 strong compared with more than twice as many men. Yoshiko Kawata, former "Miss Japan", a geisha, heads the list of actresses and movie stars, together with Sumiko Kurishima, Japan's Joan Crawford, and Nobuko Satsuki, her Katherine Cornell. The actresses win princely salaries of from \$150 up to \$300 monthly, the teachers \$50 and the office workers even less.

Restlessness pervades these women. Due to foreign books, to western movies, to the examples set by mission families, to the more than 20 monthly

magazines which cater to women, and, above all, to the resistless sweep of industrialism, women are awakening. The old subservience to man, based on economic inequality, is giving way.

The force of custom is, of course, opposed to innovation. For generations, women in the East have learned that theirs is a subordinate lot, that they owe obedience to man. This, as the Japanese have said, is Onna *Dangaku*, the "whole duty of woman." And the weight of custom is powerfully re-inforced by official teachings, for in the Official Text Book of Ethics, compiled for girls' schools by the Educational Department, the following injunctions are laid upon the students:

It being the woman's lot to marry, help her husband, bring up her children and to attend to housekeeping, she should aspire to become first a good wife and next a wise mother.—This is the famous *Ryosai Kembo Shugi* or "Good Wife-Wise Mother Principle."

It is the everyday duty of the wife to welcome her husband with a gentle look and kind words when he returns home in the evening, fatigued with the day's task. He must be cheered up, so

that he may go out refreshed to attend to his duties the next morning

Obedience to the husband is what is expected of a wife as a matter of course, but in case he should behave himself in a way that is derogatory to his own reputation or disgraceful to the good name of the family, he should be remonstrated with calmly and with gentle words. Jealousy or angry words should be avoided.

Not all the men, it is true, assent today to the *Ryosai Kembo Shugi* theories, and masculine support for feminine emancipation is growing, but too many of the older publicists still greet suggestions for sexual equality with gusts of cynical and ribald laughter. Dr Masujiro Honda, long a Foreign Office and an Imperial Household attache, thus greeted the feminist proposals in 1924:

If a woman tries to be like a man in every respect and to think and act like a man, and to attain to the same legal status as men, not only will she forfeit the heavenly gift of feminine graces, but also deprive men of their sympathetic encouragement, and make the family and society almost impossible without gentle and loving guidance. The unfaithfulness of the husband is the wife's chance of recreating affection between them, but the wife's unfaithfulness is worse than suicide itself, because the husband has no gift to win her over.

The inequality of women shows readily in the 10 per cent divorce rate which ranks Japan high in the list for divorcing nations. For while the husband may divorce his wife for infidelity, the wife has no such privilege. Disrespect to her mother-in-law is a grievous, and divorceable offense, but is not so serious when a man acts thus to his wife's mother. Nor has the wife a cause for complaint if her husband has recourse to prostitutes, for the system of licensed immorality is time-honored, and, together with concubinage, is almost expected.

#### THE WORLD'S OLDEST BUSINESS

Licensed prostitution enjoys a longer history in Japan than does any legalized business of the western world. Its origin can be definitely traced to official recognition by the Emperor Yuraka, whose reign ended seventeen years before the fall of Rome, and probably this recognition was but a registry of existing enterprise. Eleven hundred years elapsed, and then, in 1573, four years before Sir Francis Drake sailed round the world, the government set up a central Prostitution Bureau. In 1589, the first official redlight district was opened

in Kyoto. Formerly the prostitutes had plied their trade at wine-feasts, or in connection with the theatres and inns.

Financial stringency, it seems, dictated governmental policy. The prostitutes were looked upon as sources of taxation, and while the estimate of Colonel Yamamura, of the Salvation Army, that each girl was made to pay an annual assessment of some \$2,225 may be too high, there is no doubt that the fees were heavy. The income thus provided has continued to be an important item in the nation's budget. By the law of 1881, each prostitute must pay a tax of 7 per cent of her earnings and the brothel keepers too must pay 10 per cent of their profits. Since the gross revenue of the brothels in Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe alone amounted to approximately \$20,000,000 in the earthquake year of 1924, the taxes due the government were not to be ignored. This sum accounts for the excessive zeal exerted in the stamping out of unregulated and unlicensed vice, and for the discouraging of the so-called "modern trend."

So large a business must require an army of employees. The Social Bureau of the Home Office admits that Japan possesses some 53,765 official prostitutes, in addition to the 75,000 geisha and the 48,000 "waitresses", who are generally regarded as occasionals. Nor do these figures allow for the clandestines who are certainly increasing. The little red brochure "How the Social Evil Is Regulated in Japan", which tourists buy in Yokohama estimates that nearly 2,000,000 women are engaged in prostitution, or "10 per cent of the female population of all ages." This estimate is certainly too high, but that the brochure is permitted to be sold under the stringent censorship provisions of the Empire and under the police supervision that suppresses any publication of which the police may disapprove, argues in favor of its authenticity.

To recruit this army of over 50,000 prostitutes requires an annual increment of perhaps 8,000 girls a year. This figure contrasts unfavorably with the total of 5,685 girls admitted to the Tokyo municipal high schools and universities in 1923, the last normal pre-earthquake year. Particularly is the contrast bad when it is remembered that Tokyo virtually monopolizes all the higher education for girls. Tokyo's official employment agency had calls for 10,922 girls as geisha, waitresses and prostitutes, but only 7,711 could be found. This number rises, of course, in the years of trade depression.

Efforts to **abolish prostitution** have thus far been of slight **avail**. Mme **Kubushiro's** Woman's Moral Reform Society has **petitioned** yearly for some forty years **against** the system, Mme **Yajima**, Japan's "Grand Old Woman" lent her full force towards **abolition**, and, in 1925 **Tsunejiro Matsuyama** introduced a **bill into the Diet**, at the request of the **Purity Society**, to prevent new **accessions** to the ranks of **either prostitutes or brothel-masters**. Few votes, it must be confessed, were **registered in favor of the motion**, for the fear of loss of revenue, together with the still greater fear of **unrestricted immorality**, was too great to overcome. Then, too, the police were **quite unwilling** to lose a source both of **illicit gain** and of sought-for refugees. **Motoo Kira**, chief opponent of the **bill**, had **objections** even more fundamental, and perhaps more **convincing**. He contended that the **Occidental lands** where **segregation** was **illegal** were centers of **hypocrisy** and **viciousness**.

They actually have **vices lowering** them to the status of the **animals**. Of **chastity** there is none—**Public prostitution** has **existed** for three centuries in Japan, and yet I have not heard that **politics** and public morals have been **seriously vitiated**. Secret **prostitutes** carry **infection**. Most of the **conscripts** spend Sunday in the **licensed quarters**, and yet they are **discharged** from barracks with their health **improved**. As for the **evil effects of licensed prostitution**, they must be as naught compared to the **demoralizing effects of dancing orgies in which ladies and gentlemen dance all night with the wives and husbands of others**.

But Japan is **moving** onward. Her **social atmosphere is clearing**. The spread of equal economic opportunity for both men and women, now in its very early **childhood**, cannot but produce all through the **Orient** the same effects which it has produced in other **regions**. The single standard finds more and more supporters, and more and more **practitioners**. **Concubinage** is legal, but is **dying** out, even in the Palace where old customs might be expected to endure the longest.

#### THE SPREAD OF BIRTH CONTROL

**Birth Control** may now be openly supported, although it is still illegal to **give definite information** as to **contraceptive practice**. The Government, which had **discouraged** Mrs. Sanger from **speaking** during her tour of the **Orient**, now places few **serious restrictions** upon the quiet efforts of

Baroness **Ishimoto** and her followers. Several of the more **important** newspapers advocate the **practice** as a means for **combating** congestion. Kyoto and Osaka, the **twin manufacturing cities**, and Tokyo, the **capital**, show **birth-rates** of 29.62, 28.27 and 32.16 as compared to the **national** average of 34.92. The more remote prefectures of North Japan **resist** the tendency for smaller **families**, as is shown by **birth-rates** mounting up to 45.24 in Aomori.

Scholars, as well as **social reformers**, are **looking** to **birth limitation** as a cure for population **ills**. These problems, in these days when **emigration** is made **difficult**, must needs be solved at home. **Bad times in industry**, due largely to the use of rayon and to the **competition of India and China**, add an **economic** argument to the **social** and the moral reasons for **Birth Control**. Japan will not accept **immediately** the **principle** of voluntary **limitation**, but her upper groups are **practicing** that **principle**, and her lower groups are bound, in time, to follow **their** example.

## The Declaration of Geneva

**BY** the present **Declaration of the Rights of the Child**, commonly known as the "**Declaration of Geneva**", men and women of all **nations**, recognizing that **Mankind** owes to the Child the best that it has to **give**, declare and accept it as **their** duty that, beyond and above all **considerations** of race, **nationality**, or creed

- I THE CHILD must be **given** the means requisite for its normal development, both **materially** and **spiritually**
- II THE CHILD that is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the **delinquent** child must be **reclaimed**, and the orphan and the **waif** must be sheltered and succoured
- III THE CHILD must be first to **receive** relief in times of **distress**
- IV THE CHILD must be put in a **position** to earn a **livelihood** and must be protected against every form of **exploitation**
- V THE CHILD must be brought up in the **consciousness** that its talents must be devoted to the **service of its fellow-men**

—*The World's Children*, May, 1929

# A Migration Policy

By ARTHUR E MORGAN

**I**N a century world population has more than doubled **Immigration does not permanently relieve pressure of population**

Some overcrowded nations, such as Italy, Japan, and Belgium condemn **Birth Control** and encourage a high birth-rate. Some, like **Switzerland** and **Holland**, with **Birth Control** openly taught, have **overproduction of high-grade people**. Some **nations** have a concept of values in which quality of life is considered along with quantity. This standard **requires limitation of population**. Its fulfillment would be **nullified by unlimited immigration**. Some nations, like **Australia**, perhaps **incline to absurd standards of desirable sparsity of population**. There are **differences in the cultural and genetic qualities of individuals who wish to emigrate, and in the contributions they can make to a new environment**.

The following code is suggested in contrast to the **international anarchy which now exists concerning emigration**

## TWELVE POINTS

1 As the field on which the adventure of human life might be pursued, the earth belongs to mankind as a whole

2 **Right to control its occupation must rest ultimately on the effect of that control on human welfare**. **Accident of present occupation does not confer on a people the right arbitrarily to prevent immigration**

3 **International policy should favor migration which tends to raise the quality of world population, and should discourage that which tends to lower such quality**

4 As ability increases for measuring biological and cultural qualities, **migration should be allowed which raises the eugenic and cultural levels of the receiving nations, and any nation should be allowed to prevent immigration which would lower the average quality of its population**

5 **Marked excellence, representing biological or cultural inheritance, should be free to migrate at will**

6 Any **nation**, however backward, should have the right to prevent **influx of persons rating low in human quality, for public welfare requires that sparsely settled regions be reserved for good stocks and cultures**

7 The **optimum density of human population is yet to be determined**, and a nation should be supported in any intelligent effort in good faith to **attain new standards of worth and welfare through controlling the density of population**. A country making such an effort might limit immigration to persons ranking with the best third of its present population. Control of immigration should be in some such relative way, not by absolute or arbitrary prohibition

8 A **nation which by the high quality of its social, political, and economic life has created superior living conditions**, should not be required so to open its doors that its superior standards would be submerged by **influx from nations less skillful and intelligent in managing their affairs**

9 **Desire to maintain ethnic purity is not in itself a valid reason for excluding immigrants**, but some degree of **racial discrimination** should be allowed until the facts of race equality or inequality, and of racial mixtures, are more definitely determined

10 There can be no permanent solution of the population question without **Birth Control**. A nation which intentionally and indiscriminately stimulates a high birth-rate and suppresses knowledge of **Birth Control** cannot properly demand outlets for its surplus on the ground of overpopulation

11 Reasonable recognition should be given to immature peoples who are on an ascending curve of culture, but who require time to express their innate genius, unsubmerged by peoples who already have reached cultural maturity. The world cannot afford to lose the **unique contributions** of such peoples

12 Reasonable doubt as to the total effect on human welfare of any movement of population should be resolved in favor of nations wishing to control the quality of their own people. Interference with domestic affairs should be limited to clearly defined cases

— Notes, Antioch College, Vol 6, No 13

# The Doctor's Duty?

XOT BIRTH CONTROL BUT ABORTION

When our baby was born fifteen months ago, a Caesarean section was performed, this being necessary because of a number of abdominal operations which had been performed upon my wife. Upon completion of this delivery, the surgeon called me aside and told me that in the case of my wife becoming pregnant again, he would advise an abortion, and that he would be willing to perform the operation, as any doctor would agree that in her case it would be taking a very long chance to try and deliver another child from my wife.

It is difficult for me to understand a code of ethics that will actuate doctors in an extreme case like this to perform an abortion, and yet prohibit them from giving information to prevent pregnancy.

ONE CHILD, ONE STILL-BIRTH AND  
TWO MISCARRIAGES AT  
TWENTY-THREE

I was married in 1923, at the age of seventeen. One year later I gave birth to a baby boy through a Caesarean operation. The baby weighed fourteen pounds and was born dead. Septic poison developed, and I could not walk for months. Eleven months after this, I again became pregnant and gave birth to a girl, again by a Caesarean operation. Baby is not yet three years old, and I have had two miscarriages since then, through weakness. I am afraid that I will again become pregnant. Is there not some way that all this misery can be prevented? Do you not think that I am justified in seeking honest and reliable advice?

SIXTEEN MONTHS APART

We have a little girl nineteen months, and a boy three months. When the girl was born our family doctor and a specialist to whom my wife also had to go, warned against another child for at least two years. No information was dispensed, however, as to ways of avoiding pregnancy. In consequence, our little boy came along. Now we are just as badly off as before, regarding information, and do not know what to do. Can you help us?

SIXTH CHILD AT TWENTY-FIVE

I am a young woman of twenty-five, and have been married six years. I have had a child every year, and life holds nothing but poverty and suffering for me. We have had no chance whatsoever to save. I am about to have another child, and haven't even the necessary amount for the doctor and hospital bills. I've spoken to my doctor and he realizes the terrible time I have, bringing children into the world, but he refuses to help me.

THE SECBET

We have four children in the last five and a half years. My woman is twenty-four and I am twenty-nine. Our first two are all right, but the other two are little sickly things. Our doctor said not to have any more, but he did not tell us the secret how not to have any more, so I am writing to you as to what to do.

TWO STILL-BIRTHS

I have had two babies since my marriage, and both of them were born dead. The physician has said that the next time I give birth to a baby I shall, in all probability, die. We both know the moral and social significance of Birth Control, and what we wish to know now is the actual technique.

SIX CHILDREN IN SEVEN YEARS

I am twenty-four years of age, have been married seven years, and am the mother of six children. My first two children were born in the same year, one on January 8th, 1923, and the other on December 14th, 1923. My husband is only a year older than I am. He has very poorly paid work, earning only \$27 per week.

I have not been well since the birth of my last baby, three months ago. Our family physician says that this is due to my having had so many children so close together. In the name of God, whom I think never intended women to be just child-bearing drudges, won't you please tell me what to do?

**EDITORIAL NOTE** These letters were received by the American Birth Control League during June, 1929.

"The medical profession understands its duty in cases where conception is contra-indicated, and is competent to perform it"

W N WISHARD, SR., MD  
—Journal of the Indiana  
State Medical Association,  
May, 1929

# Who Are Competent?

By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON

**I**N an article on *The New Competence* in the June **BIRTH** CONTROL REVIEW Professor Pitkin does good service by insisting that believers in Birth Control define more clearly the kind of people whom they wish to produce, and that eugenists ought to know more about sociology. One may perhaps question whether eugenists are really opposed "to Birth Control in the upper intelligence classes." Practically all of them not only preach but practise Birth Control. They merely assert that when groups like lawyers, chemists, ministers, railroad managers, business women, social workers and heads of large business enterprises have families so small that each succeeding generation diminishes in size, a good thing has been carried too far.

One may also be surprised at his statement that "maladjustments of work have never caught the public attention, nor have people outside of vocational research fields given them much thought." Is not the proverb about square pegs in round holes fairly old? Did not a great wave of enthusiasm for vocational schools sweep the country not many years ago? Even in the dark ages of the nineties the college boys of my day talked long and earnestly about the kind of work they were best fitted for. Or once again one may wonder why Professor Pitkin implies that a "lopsided intellectuality" which would give us "a hideously maladjusted world" is characteristic of the children of clergymen. Is that consistent with the fact that in proportion to their numbers ministers' sons outrank practically all others in attaining what is commonly called success? They do this not only in the ministry, but in science, business, literature and practically every other field. Almost their only rivals are the sons of professors and missionaries.

## BIRTH CONTROL'S AIM

Yet in spite of all this Professor Pitkin is right in insisting that the aim of Birth Control should be to produce competent, well adjusted, and therefore happy people. Such people must be able to adjust themselves to the new order in which machinery and intricate organization play a vital part. And above all, although Professor Pitkin does not say so, they must be competent to adjust themselves

to a new order which is likely to change in the future even more rapidly than in the past. That is the acid test of fitness.

## THE ADJUSTABLE AND ADJUSTED

But who are these competent, adjustable and well adjusted people? Was Lincoln one of them when he was a champion railsplitter and sailed a raft down the Mississippi River? Was he also one of them when he was defeated as a candidate for Congress, and when he became President? I have no right to speak for eugenists, but I am confident that most of them think that Lincoln's value lay not merely in his I Q, but in his temperament. He did indeed possess an unusually keen intellect, but he was far more remarkable because of his friendly, humorous disposition, his courage, his persistence, his teachableness, and his willingness to do his best at any task no matter how humble. Perhaps we do not need many Lincolns, although personally I should like to see a few dozen about the place, but we certainly need more people who possess not only good intellects but such temperaments that even if they never reach the top of the ladder they work willingly, enthusiastically and wisely. Such men and women are competent, adjustable and well adjusted. They make their positions important even if the positions themselves are not important at the start.

How many such men are likely to be found among a hundred sons of missionaries? How many among a hundred sons of day laborers? Among Yale graduates of thirty to thirty-five years ago, the sons of missionaries, no matter what their occupation, are considered by their classmates as much more successful than the sons of any other professional group. Among recent graduates the sons of missionaries again outrank all others not only in scholarship, but in leadership as exhibited in extracurricular activities. The sons of professors come next, while those of farmers and of men with no specific occupation bring up the rear. In other words the sons of certain groups systematically show an unusually high degree of competence and of adaptation to their modern environment not only in college but in the work of life when they reach the

age of fifty or **sixty**. It stands to reason then that if these well-adjusted groups had more **children** and some other groups less, the **proportion of well-adjusted, competent people would increase**.

#### MORE INTELLIGENT PEOPLE NEEDED

Assuming for a moment that everybody has the **right** temperament, does the world, as **time** moves on, need a smaller or a greater number of people **with superior intelligence**? The only safe way to answer **this is** by **getting** exact figures as to the present trends. Professor **Pitkin** says that "**within a few generations the number of superior minds required to manage the world will be perhaps one-tenth of the number now wanted**" What do the **statistics** actually show? In **1820** no **railroads**, telegraph or telephone **officials**, superintendents and managers were **required**, in **1920** there were about **47,000** of them and thousands of others were on the way toward such **positions**. Surely a goodly number of these need **superior intellects** as well as **superior** temperaments. In **1890** almost nobody was needed to **improve the designs of automobiles, airplanes, radio outfits, Diesel engines**, and dozens of other new **inventions**. Nobody was needed to run the huge **factories in which those things are made**. At the last census, **proprietors, officials, superintendents and managers in the automobile business alone** numbered over **14,000**. Today thousands of men of **high intelligence, sound judgment and equable nerves** are needed to run not only the old **kinds of factories**, but many new **kinds** and also to plan systems of **roads, airways, radio broadcasts** and a host of other new **activities**. **Similar** men are needed to run farmers' **co-operative organizations, city planning bureaus, and social welfare work**. Thousands of others are needed to plan for the **stabilization of agriculture, run agricultural experiment stations, manage cold storage plants and raise the level of life on the farm**. A **generation** ago the demand for such men was scarcely a tenth as great as now. Shall such **positions** be filled by **mediocre** men with barely enough **ability** to hold **their** jobs or by men capable of **doing** the job better than **it** has been done before? Are the sons of **missionaries** or the sons of bootleggers more likely to do the **job in this** better way?

Of course there are some **occupations** where the demand for workers **is diminishing**. Canned **music** and the **radio** may have lessened the demand for **mediocre musicians**, but they have increased the demand for those of extremely **high quality**. We

cannot be sure of **getting** that **kind** unless we have an abundance a little lower in the scale. **There is** less need now than formerly for fine penmen, but there **is a howling** need for good stenographers who can be trusted to write exactly what **is said** to them, or to make corrections if the wrong word **is** used by **mistake**. The same **thing is** true all along the line. The demand **is** everywhere for people who in both **intellect and disposition** are at least a little better than the present average in each **occupation**. If we could thus **raise** the general degree of competence and **adjustability** at every level, our whole **social and economic** system would step upward. Practically all jobs would become pleasanter and **easier** because more **improvements** would be made and there would be less lost **motion** and fewer **things** to try the nerves. Last year a well **meaning** but **stupid** and **unambitious** ex-soldier **worried** me because he cut my lawn so slowly and never **trimmed** the edges. **This** year a college freshman does **it** much better in half the **time** and does not worry me. **The soldier** is **physically superior**, but **his** Intellect and temperament make **him incompetent** even in **his** own job. **The job is** the same in both cases, but the world's respect for the doer **is** very **different**. The same kind of **difference** appears in almost every job when **it is** done by competent and well-adjusted persons **instead of by incompetents**.

#### LIMITATION AND TRUE CONTROL

Another phase of the matter pertains to the unemployed. Who **is being forced** to the wall by the **curious increase** in unemployment which has lately gone hand in hand with the **rapid** growth of our **prosperity** and of our use of **machinery**? Those who are **walking** the streets in search of work, those who are **asking** for charity, and those who are **failing** to adjust themselves to our **rapidly changing social** order are not the children of college graduates to any **appreciable** degree. They are mostly the **children of relatively stupid** people whose temperaments and **intelligence** are such that they cannot **readily shift** from one **occupation** to another. Thus no matter whether one looks at leaders near the top, at stenographers and lawn mowers in the middle, or at the unemployed near the bottom, **it** appears that in order to adjust ourselves to the new **social** order each level of **society** needs a larger and larger **proportion** of people who are more **competent and adjustable** than the present average of

their group. If that be so, and if there is any truth in heredity, birth limitation is needed among the incompetent of every group, while true birth control is needed among the competent. The best kind of control means that the children of the competent must be neatly spaced, and not so numerous that they are too great a drain on the parents, either

physically or economically. But it also means that they must be numerous enough so that in the long run the competent types who excel in both intellect and temperament will increase, while the incompetent types who are poorly adjusted will diminish no matter whether they are born in palaces or hovels.

## 'A Sob Assignment'

By MADELINE GROGGINS

I HAD been sent to the Infants' Home of Brooklyn "to get a good story."

What is called in newspaper language a "sob story" was meant, of course. The City Editor intended that the reader should weep over the plight of the ninety new-born infants sheltered there, should weep, and possibly be inspired to contribute something toward a deserving charity. Nothing more.

In one way the City Editor was doubtless right. The children were deserving, and as for their plight being a pitiful one — that could be seen at first glance.

But when it came to writing the article so that in some way the whole subject of Birth Control should be implied, he put his foot down with a decided "No!"

"We must keep our columns free from propaganda", he boomed. "Nothing of that sort goes here."

This is not the place to discuss how free or unfree newspaper columns are from propaganda — propaganda disguised as news about public utilities, or the Pope, or the super-sanctimonious attitude toward life in general. Tune-honored utterances on these subjects have always made good copy and always will. Here I want merely to tell what I saw in that Infant Home, an institution that accepts for indefinite periods — often for their entire youth — children who are not necessarily orphans, but whose parents have simply found it impossible, due to economic conditions, to keep them.

I have said that there were ninety children there. I have not yet said that they began at the age of one day old. One day, and already in an institution, supported by public money and dubbed with the title "charity ward." One day, and already bereft of the normal influences of a home

Nor were these, let me hasten to say, the children of those unfortunate ones usually spoken about with capital letters — Unmarried Mothers. No, these were perfectly "legitimate" children, the offspring of "legitimate" unions, and as such descended direct from God.

JENNY, SELMA ET AL

Who were they, then? And why were they here?

There was, in the first crib, Jenny. Jenny, so the Superintendent told me, was the product of a feeble-minded servant-girl mother and a father who had deserted. They were married, right enough, but who could bother with a woman who at forty-four years of age had been so careless as to go ahead and have a child?

In the next crib, Selma. Selma's mother was in Kings Park Hospital, hopelessly insane. The doctor had told her that, after the seventh child, she should have no more. For, after the seventh, she had had word that her entire family had been wiped out in a Pogrom in Russia, and the news had naturally, to put it mildly, weighed upon her mind. Nevertheless after going insane she had conceived this one. The baby? What would become of the baby? The father, a peddler, did not know. He brought it here.

Little William's mother had died in childbirth, the fifth childbirth for her in six years. Harold, over there on the cot, was seven years old — I thought he was four — blinded and stunted, with a syphilitic inheritance.

A group of six children were sisters and brothers. They were the last six out of a family of 14. For the first eight the mother, the wife of a peddler of old clothes, had managed to provide. With the ninth she had become desperate, and asked this charitable institution to accept the child. The

good and zealous ladies in charge, beaming with conscientious pride, had accepted the little one. But there had been a tenth and an eleventh and a twelfth! The good ladies' patience was a little tried. Still, they accepted them too, their smiles a trifle less broad. The Lord had **provided**. The last two had come a week **ago—twins**. The good ladies, their faces **quite** set, accepted the **inevitable**, and planned another charity bazaar. And all these children were being given such excellent care. There **was** mother's milk for the new-born ones, purchased at great expense from a nearby hospital, and **rushed** in sealed containers hourly to the Home to meet the requirements of the different feeding schedules. There were psychologists to test the older ones, and dietetic experts to keep them from pining away

#### THE INSTITUTION STAMP

For, as social workers guardedly admit, the mortality is high in **institutions** for children. If they do not actually **die**, at least the mental health of even those born **without** taint can never be compared to that of those **in** the world outside. The children inexplicably, even in the best of **institutions**, fade. That "asylum look" becomes fixed. In the ordinary world they are always creatures apart.

Therefore the unusual precautions, and the tremendous efforts needed to make them thrive. Where in the average group the percentage of mentally abnormal is small and steady, here there is scarcely a child that is totally "right"—this is both the cause and the effect of institutional life. The routine life of an asylum warps even the best of children. Children whose advent into the world has been so unpropitious that they have had to be placed in a Home have usually been warped from the start.

Chronic encephalitis is almost general. Indeed, it is the largest single problem that workers in institutions for **children** spend sleepless nights over. Whether due to neglect **in** early youth or to mental and **emotional** factors making for **instability**, it is the most common curse of the "charity child."

So with nail-biting and thumb-sucking. The average **child** at **sometime** or other indulges in these pastimes, but not **with** the long persistence of the asylum youngster. And **while** psychologists are divided as to the exact amount of horror attached to these practices, there is no doubt that their persistence into adolescence and sometimes even to adulthood indicates a personality that is not entirely up to the mark.

In the **opening** scene of Olive Schreiner's "Story

of an **African Farm**" a little boy lies upon his cot bemoaning the fate of mankind. Someone has told him that every time a clock **ticks** a human being dies and is sent to Purgatory. The little boy **listens** to the ticking of his watch, and it seems to **him** that he cannot **bear** the thought of this endless procession. Why, just as he has lain there another horde has passed on.

And he **cries** "Oh God, stop them. If only while I am **praying** here, save a few. Please, just a few!"

I felt almost as did that little boy as I came away from this Home. Not that all these tragedies could have been prevented—parents do die, and the unforeseen always does happen. Not, **indeed**, that the **majority** of even the sadder cases in this institution were utterly hopeless and that it were better to promptly etherize the children on the spot. But the waste, the appalling waste that a mother should die because she had borne one **child** too many, that another should be too ignorant to stop fifteen from coming to fill up an asylum, one after one after one.

And the devoted **ladies** spending their lives getting up bazaars, **sitting** through Wednesday afternoons in **sewing** circles, racking their **brains** in thinking up some new way of wheedling money out of their **rich** neighbors to pay for the "poor orphans", many of **whom** would have been better off, had they never been born at all.

I felt like crying dramatically with the earnest little boy in the story.

"Oh, Lord, spare just a few. Just a few!"

## Church and State

*Reproduced from the Catholic Herald (London)  
May 18th, 1929*

The Catholic Vote  
Will Be an Important Factor  
At This Election

It Should Be Refused  
To Any Upholder of  
The **Nefarious** and Obscene  
Policy of  
BIRTH CONTROL

There are Liberal, Labour  
And Tory **Candidates**,  
Why Support This Infamous **Thing**?  
VOTE AGAINST THEM

# Genetics of the Gifted

By EDWARD M EAST

THE problem of **genius** is probably the most important problem that the **civilized** world has neglected, and the **psychologists** of Stanford are making a senous attempt to analyze it. Its value **lies** in the fact that a few thousand **extraordinary** people have **written** the **history** of human Intellectual progress. The other **millions** have been hewers of wood and drawers of water. Leith **estimates** the population of the **United States** as somewhat over a **billion** in power of work. We have two **billion pair** of hands to work for us, and only **100 million** mouths to feed, **900 million** dumb servants, **sired** by the **cerebrations** of the few. No wonder we are prosperous. Yet we neglect these few **with an inconceivable stupidity**. Especial care and **training** are **given** to the subnormal. At all hazards the moron must be taught to spell **I s-e-e a c-a-t**. The **gifted** must shift for themselves.

If we are ever to remedy **this situation**, the first step is to find out how to pick out the **gifted**. For this reason, Dr **Terman's** study,<sup>1</sup> if it can be **continued** over a term of years, may prove to be an **Investigation** of first **magnitude**. Those of us **who** happen to be teachers know what **ineffectual** methods are in use for **separating** the sheep from the goats in our herds of students. We are **willing** to **give** ear and eye to the **psychologists**, therefore, when they propose to **revise** our methods. And it becomes more and more demonstrable by the cold **logic** of **statistics** that they are **making** headway. One is **inclined** to agree **with Terman**, after **studying his evidence**, that abihty **is** uncovered more easily and more accurately by Intelligence tests or **even** by the mere fact of having made a school grade at a **given** age, than **it is** by teachers' **ratings**. The records show that if one would "**identify the brightest child** in a class of **30 to 50 pupils** **it is** better to consult the birth records in the class **register** than to ask the teacher's **opinion**."

The subjects upon which **Terman's** study were based are not the **1,000 bnghtest** children in **California**. The method of **selection** was not **rigid** enough or complete enough for that. But they do form a group of **extraordinarily gifted individuals**.

selected in the **proportion** of one to each two hundred of the total school children of the same ages. Unselected children **exhibited Intelligence Quotients** **varying** from **50 to 145** with the average about **100**, of course, the selected group had **I Q's** **ranging** from **130 to 195**.

**Precautions** were taken to prevent sex preference in **establishing** the **gifted** group, yet the **ratio** of boys to **girls** was **116 100** — a somewhat greater excess of boys than **is** found in the general **population**.

The racial **origin** of the group was **English**, **30 7** per cent, German **15 7** per cent, Scotch, **11 3** per cent, Jemsh, **10 5** per cent, **Irish**, **9 0** per cent, French, **5 7** per cent, and the rest **scattering** below **3** per cent each. The **proportion** of **gifted** children of **various** racial **origins** to be expected from the general **distribution** of the population is **difficult** to **determine**. It can be **said** however that the **Jewish** population filled **their** quota **twice** over, that the Japanese were as good as the **average** whites, that the **Italians**, Portugese and **Mexicans** did not fill their quotas, and that the two **gifted children** of part negro blood should be **multiplied** by three to fill that quota.

When **classified** by the **occupation** of the fathers, it was found that fathers of **gifted** children in the **Professional** Group filled **1003** per cent of their quota, while skilled and **unskilled** laborers filled only **35** per cent of **their** quota.

Though the home **environment** of the **gifted** group was above the average, there was no **evidence** to **indicate** that the **superior attainments** found were "the product of **artificial stimulation** or forced culture". The **children** were usually allowed to go their own way. They had the same amount and kind of **training** as other students. It was the inner urge and capacity that sent them ahead, and they went ahead in **intellectual** subjects and not in manual **training** subjects. The **heredity** factor stands out in their make-up. The **578 families** of the main group yielded **676** subjects, though over **500** younger **children** were not tested. The number of **families having** two representatives in the group is more than 1,200. **tunes** the number chance would **give**. And in the group are a very large **num-**

<sup>1</sup>Genetic Studies of Genius. Vol. I. Mental and Physical Traits of a Thousand Gifted Children, by Lewis M. Terman. Stanford University Press. \$5.

ber **with eminent relatives**. Yet they are a healthy lot, somewhat **healthier** than **is** the general run of school **children**.

The second volume,' by **Miss Cox**, is one of the most **interesting** books I have ever read, but **interesting** rather as a human document than as a **scientific** study. It is **fairly** crammed **with** personal data from **biographies** of 300 of the world's greatest men, but **it** does not form a good argument for converting the **skeptic** to the value of the **intelligence** test. Dr. Cox and her collaborators have **given** I Q's to each of the **subjects investigated**, whether proper data for such an **estimate** **existed**

\*Genetic Studies of Genius Vol. II Early Mental Traits of Three Hundred Geniuses, by Catharine M. Cox. Stanford University Press \$5

or not. The results are rather **disturbing**. Harvey, **Lavoisier** and **Richelieu** are rated I Q 120, along **with mediocrities** like **Rossini** and **Wilberforce**, two of the world's greatest **artists**, **Durer** and **Velasquez**, are rated 125, perhaps the greatest **mind** of England, **Newton**, **is** put at 130, **Lagrange** and **da Vinci** are rated at 135, while the higher **ratings** **include**, among the high grade **minds**, some **particularly stupid** persons. As a matter of fact half of these people should not have been rated at all. We do not know enough about them. And **if** the ratings on the **remainder** are accepted **tentatively**, they **certainly** show no high **correlation with attainment**.

About all one can really conclude from the study is this: men who **did extraordinary things** were above the average in **ability** as children.

# Heredity, Disease and Pauperism

By E. J. LIDBETTER

**N**O examination of the problems of **population** can be complete today **without** a **consideration** of the problems of **heredity**, for population depends upon **reproduction** and survival and these **in** turn depend upon heredity. The problems of **population** are no longer to be regarded as essentially economic, but as mainly **biological**. In this respect, the **teaching** of the **economists** of the 19th Century needs to be **modified**.

If the **economic** theory of the last century on **this** important **question** needs to be **modified**, so also must the **social theories** that arose out of **it**, particularly **in** the matter of social inadequacy, in its **various** forms, for these, we now know, depend to a very large extent upon **heredity** and not, as was formerly supposed, upon economic **conditions**.

The social **conceptions** of the 19th Century **failed** to appreciate the **primary significance** of **reproductive competition**, or of the fact of human **Mententiation** that arose out of **it**. It presumed a community of co-equals **in which** all men stood on a **uniform** plane. However a man **might differ** from **his neighbor**, **social** theory assumed an equality of understanding and **opportunity** and an equal response to **social** and **economic influences**. The dangers that lurk **in generalization** were accentuated by a **doctrine which ignored** the **diversities** of character, temperament or condition, or obscured them under an assumption of **uniformity**.

To a large extent these **views** prevail to-day and **it** is probably the **survival** of **this attitude** **in** relation to the socially inadequate that prevents those **in authority** from squarely **facing** the questions as to what kind of person the pauper **is**, what his antecedents were, what he **is** likely to become, and **in particular**, what **his children** are **likely** to become.

## A PIONEER RESEARCH

Some **questions** such as these were in the **minds** of the members of the (English) **Eugenics Society** in 1910 when that **Society** commenced research as to **heredity** **in** relation to pauperism. The research then commenced has **steadily** continued, save only for the **interval** during the war. At first the work was somewhat **disconnected** in character, and later attempts to **organize** research broke down from various causes. The **experience** gained was, however, of very great value, and there emerged from those early efforts, first, a **recognition** of the great **sociological** value of such a research and, **secondly**, a clear understanding that, **if** full **importance** was to attach to results, the work must rest upon a statistical **basis**. We learnt that the mere collection of haphazard of a large number of **pedigrees** would be of much less value than an attempt to measure **pauperism, heredity** and **disease** in relation to a definite community — a **statistical examination**.

Accordingly, on a date in 1923, when post-war

conditions have somewhat settled down, a census was taken of all the persons in receipt of relief in a certain Poor Law area in East London, care being taken to exclude the large number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief in consequence of the industrial depression then prevailing. The population of the area was roughly 120,000, while the number of persons appearing in the census so taken was 2,850, nearly all in institutions. This number included 500 insane and 230 idiots or imbeciles.

#### DEFINITE OBJECTIVES

The figures give some idea of the extent of the work attempted. The scope of the work may be gathered from the objects sought, which may be stated as follows:

- 1 To ascertain the measure of family chargeability (i.e. maintenance at the public expense), and as far as possible to reduce the results to pedigree form.
- 2 To ascertain the age of onset of defectiveness and the incidence to repetition in chronic cases.
- 3 To measure the periods of chargeability against the periods of independent support.
- 4 Generally to compare the ascertained family chargeability with cases of individual chargeability.
- 5 To obtain records of fertility and survival, infant mortality, birth intervals and suchlike information in the last generations.

#### TWO ELEMENTS REVEALED

A first examination of the pauper pedigrees so there appears to be an almost automatic segregation—far complete reveals matters of considerable interest. In the first place, while the persons included in the pedigrees have a sufficiency of common characteristics to constitute them a class by themselves, division of kinds into particular groups. Broadly speaking, the pauper community is comprised of two elements: (1) that which represents original defect and its transmission, (2) that which represents the perpetuation of low-grade stocks, “the mildly incompetent, the spiritless and dull.” These two groups appear faithfully from pedigree to pedigree, revealing the distinctive character in each group. While these two elements appear side by side in the same pedigree, nevertheless they segregate

out in their several characters, so that it is possible to identify the groups as they breed true to type.

The law of anticipation, or antedating, has long been recognized in pathological inheritance in man. These studies invariably confirm that law. But it is interesting to observe the effect in mental disorder, for not only does the operation of this law result in the manifestations of disorder in childhood in the fourth generation so as to bring the persons under control before the procreative age, but its effect in such cases is to form the meeting-place of insanity and imbecility. The generally distinctive characteristics of these separate disorders merge in the imbecility of the child.

These studies serve to illustrate my point as to the peculiar grouping of special kinds of defect. They also show the very remarkable extent to which assortative mating occurs. In the most unaccountable way like not only produces like, but like is attracted to like in marriage and parenthood. This appears in all these groups.

#### LIKE ATTRACTED TO LIKE

In families where insanity occurs, and often before the onset of insanity, the members intermarry. Also among tuberculous persons. Three groups of feeble-minded persons are linked up by marriage while two families with a history of tubercle are connected by the marriage of persons not themselves affected, and produce a large tuberculous stock. Similar associations are to be observed among those stocks in which no pronounced defect appears — the groups of people who are poor all round.

This no doubt accounts for the consistency of the types to be found in the pedigrees. It probably also means that, by inbreeding, the types have become more settled or fixed than is common in normal groups of the population. This is perhaps a good thing for the community in general, for if defectives must reproduce, it is better than they should do so together than that good stocks be vitiated by interbreeding, or, on the other hand, that the strength of the healthy people should be available to carry on the defect.

This attraction of like for like and the inbreeding resulting from it confirm, and in a measure explain the first impression that there is in existence a race of chronic pauper stocks, breeding together in and through the community, closely inter-

(Continued on page 201)

# Judge Rosenbluth's Opinion

*Believing that the Raid on the Clinical Research Bureau and the subsequent trial have had far reaching results, in clarifying the legal status of the Birth Control movement, and calling out the support of both the medical profession and the socially minded public, we reprint here verbatim the Honorable Abraham Rosenbluth's Opinion, handed down at the Harlem Court, New York City, on May 14, 1929*

PEOPLE V SIDERI ET ALS

**THIS** is a prosecution under Section 1142 Penal Law Defendants **Pissort** and **Stone** are duly licensed physicians Defendants **Sideri**, **Brestwell** and **Field** are nurses, connected with the office of the two defendants, physicians Mrs **McNamara**, a policewoman, and married, feigned that she sought the advice of defendants, for a method to prevent conception She gave to these defendants a detailed medical history, and, in connection with her statement, the defendant physicians made a physical examination of her, and, in their opinion, found a condition, which would undoubtedly constitute a disease, within the meaning of Section 1145 Penal Law A contraceptive was duly prescribed for Mrs **McNamara** and she was instructed by defendants, in its use

By Section 1145, Penal Law, physicians, and nurses who act upon the instructions of physicians, are absolved from the prohibitions of Section 1142 Penal Law, if they act in good faith in instructing a married woman in the use of contraceptives (People v Sanger, 222 N Y 192) Good faith, in these circumstances, is the belief by the physician that the prevention of conception is necessary for the patient's health and physical welfare Good faith, or the lack thereof, in the prescription, and direction to use the contraceptives, are thus made the basis of guilt or innocence That Mrs **McNamara** came to defendants in an avowed search for a means of preventing conception, and disclosed that purpose to defendants, does not, of itself, furnish a basis for an inference of bad faith, on the part of defendants It may well be that, in spite of her purpose to search out and beguile a suspected violator of the statute, Mrs **McNamara's** physical condition, as disclosed only to the doctors, defendants, made their advice and instructions to use the contraceptive, entirely necessary to prevent disease, as defined in People v Sanger (supra), and

in good faith Beyond what the defendant Doctor **Pissort** tells us, that in her opinion the contraceptive was necessary to prevent disease, we know nothing of Mrs **McNamara's** physical condition One cannot fairly come to a conclusion as to the good faith, required of defendants, by the statute, without knowing something of the diagnosis The diagnosis will tell whether the prescription was warranted or not The law is plain that if the doctor in good faith believes that the patient is a married woman, and that her health requires prevention of conception, it is no crime to so advise and instruct therein (People v Sanger, 222 N Y 192)

In a criminal prosecution, the burden of an affirmative showing of guilt rests on the people (People v Davico, 170 A D 337) Good or bad faith is of the very essence to determine guilt or innocence, under the statute (People v Sanger, 222 N Y 192) If Mrs **McNamara** was in such physical condition, before she consulted defendants, that a prescription of the use of the contraceptive was unwarranted, and necessarily made in bad faith, that was easily susceptible of affirmative proof The prosecution at bar, rested its case, without any evidence to challenge the diagnosis made by defendant, Dr **Pissort**, and her opinion based on that diagnosis In view of the state of the evidence, it is unnecessary to decide whether, if Dr **Pissort** had not taken the stand in her own behalf, and given evidence of her good faith in prescribing the contraceptive, the case would still have been deficient in proof of lack of good faith The burden clearly rests on the people, in this kind of prosecution, to negative the good faith of the doctor or nurse (People v Davico, 170 A D 337)

Without such evidence, there is no basis upon which the court can find that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed On the evidence presented there can be no conviction by a trial court Defendants are therefore discharged

## Book Reviews

### Heredity for the Layman

HOW WE INHERIT, by Edgar Altenburg,  
Henry Hdt & Co., New York \$3 00

IN this modern **mechanistic** age we think **nothing** of stepping on a Pullman of a crack limited train, going to sleep in Boston and **waking** in Washington. How we got there or what transpired in the meantime we do not know, in fact many of us do not care to know. Yet were we **sufficiently** interested we could find out. We could see the **mechanism** of the steam **engine** and discover the underlying principles by which it works, so, too, **with** the **mechanism** of heredity. It has been **working** since the **beginning** of time. But we lazy, self-sufficient humans **egotistically** accepted it, and **inquired** but **little** further **until** the last century. Then souls possessed of prying **curiosity** **investigated** life processes to **discover** the **mechanism** and the principles of the mechanism by which the characters of the parents were transmitted to their offspring. Dr. Altenburg presents this fascinating story in a most readable manner. We see unfolded the processes of reproduction, cell **division**, Mendelism, and chromosome maturation as the basis of **heredity** — the **engine** carrying on the destiny of the race.

Dr. Altenburg presupposes no **previous** knowledge of biology by the general reader. Throughout he presents a most readable story of the chromosome theory of inheritance which may be easily understood and enjoyed. The principles of **heredity** are explained **with** human **material**, as far as possible, although the material and methods actually used by the geneticists are also presented.

The first several chapters are concerned with reproduction in the cell, and inheritance as seen through the **microscope** and through the **breeding** process. Some of the **interesting** chapters **which** follow are Hereditary Basis of Sex, **Inbreeding**, **Twinning**, **Negro-White Cross**, and finally the Artificial **Changing** of a Race by **Breeding** or "**Selection**"

**BIRTH CONTROL** REVIEW readers **will** be especially interested in the data on the inheritance of feeble-mindedness, and in the fact that feeble-mindedness is on the increase. In speaking of the

reason for this increase the author says "Probably the mutation arose just as frequently in the past as now, but a continuous and **vigorous** process of elimination prevented it from **spreading** among our ancestors, a process **which** is not **occurring** today **because** the feeble-minded receive special attention and so have to reproducing age"

This book may be recommended to any reader for the **simplicity** of its expression, the **clarity** of its exposition, and its scientific merit.

JOHN W. GOWEN

HEREDITY, by A. Franklin Shull *McGraw-Hill*  
Book Co., New York \$3 00

PROFESSOR SHULL has **given** us an excellent book clearly **presenting** the most **recent** advances in genetics, the science of **heredity**. The subject **is** treated in such a way that the layman should have no difficulty in grasping it.

About **two-thirds** of the text deals with **principles**, which are illustrated by examples chosen from various plants and animals. The **topics** include physical basis of **heredity**, Mendelism and its **various complications**, sex-determination, non-Mendelian heredity, and evolution of new types. **Emphasis** is placed upon the **distinction** between embryology and **heredity**, so often confused by **biological** writers. Evidence against change by "the inheritance of acquired characters" is briefly and clearly presented. Practical applications of genetic knowledge to **agriculture** and to legal questions are discussed.

The remainder of the book is devoted to human problems, the **inheritance** of structural, **physiological** and mental traits in man. **Taking** the point of view that under present conditions the race is **deteriorating**, the author states that the eugenic program in the **United States** consists of research, education, conservative **legislation** and **administration**. Stenization or segregation of **defectives** is advocated. Increase of **superior** types is highly desirable and, in this latter connection, a brief survey of the Oneida Community **is** introduced. Reduction of birth-rate among **inferior** classes might solve both the Malthusian and the eugenic problems. **This**

may be brought about by the repeal of **certain** laws forbidding the **dissemination** of **Birth Control** information and even by **instruction** in **government-controlled clinics**

In **discussing** race problems, the author holds that Negroes are inferior to whites. **Since hybrids** are usually from **white** father by black mother and thus replace an equal number of pure blacks, **hybridizing** has been **eugenic**. Nevertheless, for **social** reasons, **miscegenation** is **questioned**. Dysgenic effects of losses in battle are offset, in part at least, by methods of **selection** of the army and by **Increased mortality** of the **civilian population**. A brief account of the laws **governing immigration** is **given**, and **eugenic** quality rather than **nationality** is **emphasized**. **Immigrants** should not possess **traits preventing their assimilation** nor "qualities **subversive** of government of the **American type**"

The general **attitude** of the author seems to be in favor of the **maintainance** of the **political, economic, and social status quo**. **Eugenic** reform, however, is advocated to counteract assumed racial **deterioration** and to produce **superior** types. The frank advocacy of **Birth Control** is **admirable**

P W WHITING

THE TRUTH ABOUT HEREDITY, by William S Sadler, M D A C McClurg, Chicago \$2 60

**F**EW scientific books are **intelligible** to the layman. Fewer still are **interesting**. Dr Sadler knows his subject, and knows how to present it with unusual sympathy. As the second of a series of five volumes—the first was "Race Decadence"<sup>3</sup>—he has very **painstakingly** tried to show that a better race is not **only possible** but, **considering** such **findings** as Davenport's to the effect that "mental **defectives** constitute one per cent of the **population** of the United States", is absolutely necessary

Dr Sadler outlines very clearly and **consistently** the progress of the **science** of **Eugenics**, from the time when **Darwin's theories** first forced people to **realize** that it was a **science**, up to the present day. He **examines** the theory of **heredity** held by Lamarck, regarded "as the founder of the complete modern theory of descent", and gives an **explanation** of the **Mendelian** theory, which De Vries promulgated and elaborated. For the layman, the **mutation** theory of **genetics** is a most hopeful idea. "If ancestors always bred **true** to stock, there would be **little** or no **opportunity** for **biologic** Improve-

ment or race betterment. Each **succeeding generation** would be **uniform** with its predecessors, just like a manufactured **article** being turned out of a set mould." It is **interesting** to know that **Burbank** achieved most of his successes by **following** the **Mendelian** theory of **hybridization**. Any layman who reads this book will be thankful to Dr Sadler for the message that "**inheritance** in **living things** is regulated by law, and may be more or less controlled by man, in his own case, even as he has proven **himself** able so **fascinatingly** to control it in both plants and **animals**"

Naturally, coming from the **Orient**, and holding a **different philosophical** outlook, I am not in **entire** sympathy with all Dr Sadler's hopes, but I **heartily** agree with him when he says "We may **improve** society in two ways by **breeding** large numbers of **superior individuals**, and by **handing down** to **posterity** an **improved educational system**"

J VIJAYA-TUNGA.

DAUGHTER OF EARTH, by Agnes Smedley Coward McCann, New York \$2 50

**T**HIS book is a prayer for freedom, by one who knows that there is **nothing** for the prayer to be addressed to except a human will for better **living**. It is the story of a life that **might** have been free and happy and altogether **beautiful**, but for human **ignorance** and fear. If the story is **autobiographical**, so much the more **significant** at least one woman has found the courage and **ability** to tell what modern **existence** has done to her. If a few hundred more could find that courage and **ability**, the **indictment** ought to be **sufficient** to make even the **American mind** **examine** itself with **something** like a healthy honesty

"Daughter of Earth" tells first of the **life** of a **brilliant** and **imaginative child** forced to grow up in the far less than human **conditions** of the **proletariat**. Probably the cause of Birth Control will never find a more **frightful** and **dramatically** perfect argument in its favor than that of the **conditions in coal-mining communities**, where **swarming** human **lives** are worth a few dollars a head to a bloated and sprawling **industry**. Out of this, the Daughter of Earth struggles to a sort of **independence**, but still **chained** by the nightmare **chams** which **ignorance** forges for all **things sexual**. There comes what might have been love—deformed

and shattered by the fear of pregnancy and of sex itself. Then follows a **historical** account of the sort of **hysterical persecutions** which were **carried** through in **war-time** under the name of **American patriotism**. This part could stand alone as a demand for the **introduction of intelligence** into our **political organism**.

Agnes Smedley is by no means **blind** to the **beautiful and gracious thing** that life might be. Her **chief desire** appears to be to destroy the sleek complacency with which the comfortable majority **views** the world order. The book is like a **beautiful voice crying in pain** in the darkness outside a Victorian parlor. A parlor with **antimacassars**, almanacs, a **Bible**, pantalettes on the statuary, and **nineteen children** on their way to the graveyard.

For the sake of a needed **optimism**, one must believe that the respectable souls in the parlor may eventually hear the **voice**, or that their **great-grandchildren** may

EDGAR WOOD PANCBOBN

## Problems of Childhood

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF CHILDREN, by Helen Thompson Wooley, Ph.D.  
*Macmillan, New York*

MRS WOOLEY has been a **practical investigator** of the educational problems of children. The basis of the study are children at work and at school with measurements and **re-measurements** of the same group in terms of **their intellectual capacity** and accomplishment as well as in **relation** to the **industrial** and **social** facts affecting their lives, together with their **physical** status.

Intelligence tests are interpreted as **evidences** of **inherent native power** rather than as **instruments** for **determining** the effect of **environment**. Some of the **conclusions** merit **attention**. In **physical** tests the school child was found **superior** to the **working child** between the ages of 14 and 18 years in **height** and **weight**, although the workers **evidenced** greater **steadiness**. Mentally the school children were **superior** in every form of test and more **particularly** those **involving reasoning** and judgment at **all** ages up to 18 years, but more markedly at age 14.

There is a **considerable significance** in the fact that among school children there was **likewise** a

**superiority** of **social** and **economic** status, but one cannot draw too many conclusions from this fact whether one **thinks in** terms of large families or low wages. Fortunately the author has preserved her sense of **proportion** with a **rational exposition** of facts **without** too many **conclusions**.

Soundness of judgment is **evidenced** throughout in **discussing** the problem of **changing** the nature of schools to meet the needs of **different** types of children or in **preaching** the value of **scholarships** for children of **superior mentality** who might be **obliged** to leave school because of the **economic** dependence of **their families**.

Most **significant** is the intelligent note of stress upon the need for **diagnosis** of the **individual difficulties** of children, **including their psychological** variations from social pressures. There is no argument for educational placement as an end and aim, but rather a **recognition** that the essence of **vocational guidance** consists of educational guidance.

The **viewpoint** of an educator **prevails**, **tinctured**, however, by a **wide** experience which bears **witness** to **humanitarian** trend. While **seeing** the conflicts in **education** due to the **machine** age and industry, while **facing** frankly the changes in hours of labor, Mrs. Wooley **appreciates** the attitude of the worker toward his labor and senses the fight between **machine** power and **brain** power. **Working time** and **leisure time** are seen as **distinct** phases of human life. **Drudgery** and **direction in industry** are set **against** the **right** of the whole worker to his fullest **expression**.

The **Experimental Study of Children** merits attention for its **statistic expression** of **certain** fundamental **differences** among children. These fundamental **differences** call for **intelligent** and **individualized** thought concerning personal adjustments in school and in industry.

HEREDITY AND CHILD CULTURE, by Henry Dwight Chapin, M.D. *Dutton & Co., New York, \$2.60*

AFTER a lapse of **six** years the second **edition** of Doctor Chapin's book appears. It contains much new **material dealing with** mental **hygiene** and the **sociological** aspects of **child life**. One completely new chapter on, "The **Wider Functions** of the Modern School" is all too sketchy and is not **written in the Chapin style**. The parts of the book that appear most **sincere** are those represented by Doctor Chapin's larger **experience** and personal

interest There is unusual value and cogency in his discussion of the importance of proper nutrition, particularly the discussions of human milk dairies The material presented in relation to the dependent child, the family and the adoption of children, centering largely as it does around Doctor Chapin's rich experience with the Speedwell plan, merits attention

Doctor Chapin calls attention to the fact that there are approximately thirty-two thousand children born out of wedlock annually in the United States Without reference to this particular statistic Doctor Chapin raises his voice in favor of the family whose size is in harmony with an ability to raise children properly He properly comments, "There is nothing admirable in bringing forth children who are born to suffer, whose emaciated little bodies soon find fortunate rest in Potter's field This is not so much race suicide as race homicide" There is a lovely touch to Doctor Chapin's naive suggestion that those comments will interest advocates of Birth Control

THE CHILD AND SOCIETY, by Phyllis Blanchard *Longman, Green and Company New York*

**M**OST sociologists deal mainly with the problems of adults Phyllis Blanchard gives a picture of the facts and methods involved in the socialization of children Her treatment of conduct in terms of an adaptation to mores would have met the favor of William Graham Sumner The volume reveals the methods that are utilized in the endeavor to secure the conformity of children to adult situations There are also indicated the lines of cleavage between individual and collective standards of behavior which are responsible for most of the frictions during childhood

The chapter dealing with the social significance of adolescence reveals a sympathetic rational understanding of actual sex attitudes during this transitional period There is a commendable absence of moralizing over morals which are seen in a state of transition because of shifting mores

Throughout the volume there is a conservative statement of principles For the most part the author has sought to give an intelligent exposition of facts and has been content to register her opinions concerning the essence of their meaning, and their basic origins The book throughout is fair,

well balanced in judgments, temperate in viewpoint, readable and helpful to those who desire to understand the child in relation to the world

IRA S WILE, M D

UNDERGRADUATES, by R H Edwards, J M Artman, Galen M Fisher *Doubleday, Doran, New York \$4 00*

**U**NDERGRADUATES is frankly a study of morals It deals with a complex of conditions—physical, mental, moral and social that go to make up the modern college or university It goes into the various subjects exhaustively and publishes much primary data In fact it is as a source book and for the purpose of reference that it is likely to be most valuable It is a review rather than an analysis—and presents with impartiality the various pieces of information which go to make up the authors' collected material

To the reader—even though he may be at first hand familiar with some phases of college life—it will bring the impression of confusion, contradiction and lack of settled and polarized forces Frankly it may be argued that this very fact is one of its strongest and most convincing attributes The very qualities referred to are those which characterize actual conditions in many of our colleges and universities and form the greatest handicap to students as well as the most serious obstacle to constructive educational development

In an overgrown, highly strung civilization where "surface action" is abundant and the opportunities for contemplation almost nil, even the educational institutions and churches are not immune to unsettling forces

To those willing to take away an impression of serious lack of cohesion and who enjoy original thought about disturbing situations, *Undergraduates* will provide both the material and the necessary stimulus It may also by implication serve the useful purpose of showing what a small proportion of the students and environment in a college are fairly classifiable as "collegiate" in the sense used by the sensational novelist or the writer of the comic opera

It seems doubtful whether the book will be widely read by the general public but for the teacher, sociologist or thoughtful and forward-looking parent it is well worth while

C C LITTLE

# News Notes

## INTERNATIONAL

**THE** World League for Sexual Reform, whose aim is "to place the attitude toward sex on a scientific, instead of a theological basis, will hold its third international congress in London from September 9th to 13th. The presidents are August Forel, Havelock Elhs and Dr Magnus Hirschfeld. The honorary secretary is Dr Norman Haire, from whom further information may be obtained. The subjects for discussion are

- 1 Marriage and Divorce
- 2 Birth Control, Abortion and Sterilization
- 3 Prevention of Venereal Disease and Prostitution
- 4 Sex and Censorship

Another and separate conference of the *Internationale Gesellschaft fur Sexualforschung* is announced for August, 1930 also in London. It will be a purely scientific meeting, under the direction of Professor F A E Crew.

## UNITED STATES

**F**OLLOWING the conviction of Mary Ware Dennett on April 27th, in the Brooklyn Federal Court, a Defense Committee, national in scope is being organized to carry the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals, and ultimately, if necessary, to the United States Supreme Court. Among those who have already joined the committee are Josephine Daskam Bacon, Dr Robert L Dickinson, Harrison H Elliott, Ida M Cannon, William Hodson, Dr Kendall Emerson, Norman Himes, Kenneth Macgowan, J Prentice Murphy, Joseph Jastrow, and Owen Lovejoy.

As a direct result of the Dennett case, Fiorella H La Guardia of New York introduced the following bill in the House of Representatives, on June 10th

To amend section 211 of the Criminal Code (title 18, section 334, United States Code of Laws) relating to mailing obscene matter and as amended exempting from the provisions thereof matter regarding sex hygiene or sex education, provided same is a medical or scientific pub-

lication, or is issued, or approved by an officer or department of the United States, a State or subdivision thereof.

The Bill was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Following the exposition of the Immigration situation by Mr Guy Burch in the June BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, readers will be interested to hear that under the championship of Senator Reed, the National Origins method of allotting immigration will supplant the 1890 foreign born basis of immigration restriction on July 1st. The new percentages are 81.8 for northwest Europe to 15.8 per cent for southwest Europe.

## California

**THE** American Birth Control League will hold three sessions at the National Conference of Social Workers in San Francisco, as follows:

- 1 A Round Table on Clinics, on July 1st. Representatives from California, New Jersey, New York, Chicago, and possibly Denver and Detroit will compare methods, etc.
- 2 A Dinner Meeting at the Hotel Bellvue, on July 1st, Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffee presiding.
- 3 A Symposium on Birth Control, under the chairmanship of Mrs Elizabeth McManus of Los Angeles. Representative workers in the movement will make fifteen minute addresses.

On July 2nd, the various California groups will meet with Mrs Robertson Jones, president of the American Birth Control League, to discuss ways and means of forming a general California State organization.

**EDITORIAL NOTE** The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for August will carry detailed reports of these meetings, and excerpts from the speeches.

## Illinois

**DR** RACHELLE S. YARROS has expressed her disapproval of the attitude of the Chicago Medical Society in regard to the work of the Illinois Public Health Institute and its action towards Dr Louis Schmidt, when he advocated lower cost

for medical treatment, by tendering her resignation to that body. In a letter stating her reasons for this action she says in part

I hoped that the **Chicago Medical Society** might recognize that the **Public Health Institute** advertises for the sake of keeping the public informed as to the dangers of venereal diseases, and the need and facilities for treatment, that they might perceive that this is merely one method of securing needed publicity for the eradication of social diseases

I hope that the **Chicago Medical Society** will soon begin to co-operate with the social and philanthropic agencies that are trying to aid in the solution of the problems of proper care of the sick and the prevention of disease

### Michigan

**REVEREND HERBERT L. JOHNSON**, dean of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Detroit resigned early in June, charging that he had been ordered not to preach on sex, prohibition, or labor. His sermons frequently dealt with the need for disseminating Birth Control literature

### New Jersey

**THE Medical Society** of New Jersey, founded before the Revolutionary War, and generally accepted as representing the most influential medical opinion of New Jersey, went on record at its meeting on June 15th as favoring a law authorizing sterilization as a means of checking the rapid growth in number of mental defectives in the State. Dr. E. R. Mulford, retiring president, asserted that the situation has become so serious as to require legislative action. The society instructed its judiciary committee to make a thorough survey of the situation and draft a sterilization bill for presentation to the legislature

Mrs. Robert S. Huse, Executive Secretary of the American Birth Control League, spoke on the "Implications of the Dennett case and the Raid on the Clinical Research Bureau", at a luncheon meeting of the Union County Council of Republican Women at Cranford, New Jersey, on June 5th. Mrs. Huse discussed the subject of censorship in relation to sex education and the Birth Control movement

### New York

**A SYMPOSIUM** on Birth Control was held at the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, on June 2nd. Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, secretary of the Committee on Maternal Health dealt with the medical aspects, Dr. Leshe E. Luehrs, psychiatrist for the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities spoke on the mental hygiene aspects of contraceptive practice, Miss Joyce Baldrige, secretary of the navy yard district of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities presented the social worker's problem of large families and poverty, and Mrs. Jobertson Jones, president of the American Birth Control League gave an account of the present status of the American Birth Control movement, the clinics, and the practical ways in which liberally minded citizens can help the movement

The audience, largely made up of members of the Church, went on record as unanimously in favor of a change in the present New York law regarding Birth Control

The Joint session of the Eugenics Research Association and the American Eugenics Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History on June 1st. Among the fifteen papers read, were

Eugenics Aspects of Soviet Russia, by Professor Roswell H. Johnson

Some Untouched Birth Control Research Problems, by Norman E. Himes

Mr. Himes stressed the need of determining a policy in establishing Birth Control Clinics. "How can we most effectively found more clinics in the United States," he asked. "Should we crash through as Margaret Sanger so bravely, ingeniously and successfully did in New York, or should we pussy-foot as they are doing in Boston?"

Birth Control was widely discussed at the open-session of the Medical Society of the State of New York, meeting in Utica on June 3rd. A resolution advocating Birth Control met with divided opinion, and was referred back to a committee for revision

### Ohio

**CHARLES F. BRUSH**, scientist, philanthropist, and humanitarian died in Cleveland on June 17th, at the age of eighty. One of his last notable acts was the establishment of the Founda-

tion for Population Study and the Betterment of Humanity, in memory of his son, Charles F Brush, Jr

## ENGLAND

**S**IGNIFICANT of the political mindedness of the English is the way in which the issue of Birth Control was brought to the fore in the campaigning which preceded the recent General Election. The Catholic Press issued explicit directions to its readers. As an example, we quote the *Catholic Herald* of May 25, omitting the capitals, italics and spacing which spread this pronouncement down an entire column.

Three vital and solemn matters to which the Catholic electors must give attention.

1st and foremost Our Catholic schools

2nd and urgent Birth Control

3rd and most grave Socialism

There are Tory Birth Controllers, there are liberal Birth Controllers, there are labor Birth Controllers. There are men of all three parties in favor of this obscene and decadent policy. They are all despicable. As a rule, one or other of the candidates in a given constituency will agree not to advocate this policy of race suicide. In that case we would vote for the candidate who gives the most reassuring reply.

On the other hand, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship issued a manifesto to women voters, directing them to vote for those candidates who supported peace (the League of Nations and a reduction of armament), equal pay and opportunities for men and women, family allowances, the extension of maternity benefits, and the right of medical officers at maternity and child welfare clinics receiving government grants to give Birth Control information.

Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health reported to the House of Commons, that the findings of the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency commission showed 300,000 mental defectives, the number of insane increasing at the rate of 2,000 annually, and the present treatment of the problem ineffective. His recommendation is segregation and sterilization.

## FRANCE

**T**HE National Birth Rate Alliance announces that a campaign against birth prevention is necessary, as the true birth-rate of France is still

low. French population has increased 800,000 in eight years, Germany four millions, Italy four and one-half millions.

According to a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the department of the Seine offers prizes for large families, in an attempt to combat depopulation. The prizes are not large, but the number of persons taking advantage of them is considerable. It is evident, the report concludes, that the low birth-rate in France is due to economic causes and not to peculiarities of race.

## Look Out Below!

By JOHN MAC ELHINNY

**A** GREAT deal has been written in regard to the modern tendency toward small families. The scarcity of families containing eight or more children is being viewed with alarm. Of course, most of these critics are men. The women seem to be surprisingly well pleased with small families. Children last longer now than they used to. In the old days a mother wasn't considered a competent authority on the care of children until she had buried five or six out of her 12. Today a few good children are as likely as not, barring accidents, to last a lifetime.

The modern idea is to have a few children and bring them up scientifically. The old idea was to have five or six extra children to cover expected losses. Often the losses didn't occur and then the overhead expense became something terrible. Children of today are so well nourished and cared for that they can almost be guaranteed. The only people who really have a legitimate kick against modern methods are the undertakers. The greatest step forward came when parents decided that doctors were better posted on what and when a baby should eat than was the baby itself.

Healthy children are the most economical. A \$15 doctor is cheaper than a \$75 funeral. If things had kept on as they were going there would have been a terrible housing shortage in the cemeteries. Of course, modern parents are denied the pleasure of contemplating what a comfort and help the departed children would have been to them in their old age. Children used to be a speculation, now they are an investment.

—*Brooklyn Eagle*

# Readers' Page

We urge our readers to *express their opinions* for *publication* on this page. Comments, *criticism, ideas, suggestions*, for the REVIEW *and* for *the Birth Control movement*, are *welcome*

## DOUBLE DUTY

### TO THE EDITOR

Why not suggest to your readers that just as soon as each new issue of the REVIEW has been read, it be passed along, personally, with a word or two if possible, or else marked and mailed, to some friend or friendly enemy? Don't let a single copy gather dust or be destroyed. Give or mail them to ministers, editors, teachers and writers. Remember, that just **like** that other fight for human freedom, the Abolition **movement**, Birth Control thrives on controversy. The tide of public interest and favor is running strong now. Make every copy of the REVIEW do double duty

GARTH CATE

*Syracuse, N Y, June 1*

## A CHILESE POINT OF VIEW

### TO THE EDITOR

I read with great interest the article by Maxwell S Stewart on "China's Only Hope". While I admire his courage in advocating Birth Control for the Chinese, I cannot agree with his major premise nor with his ready-made solution of the Chinese problem. I am not at all sure that the cure might not be worse than the disease, so to speak. I am not convinced that with the spread of contraceptive knowledge, presto! **China** solves her problems.

If we realize that the last bulwark against our not-too-admirable form of industrialism lies in a strong **family** system, we should be thankful to China. I believe that the Birth Control movement will **undermine** our family system, thus giving impetus to the processes of industrialization now going on at a much slower rate. It is all a vicious cycle. Birth Control or industrialization versus famine or war. At what place we shall cut the cycle is **entirely conditioned** by our concept of **values**. When I think of bath-tubs, radios and automobiles, I prefer the Western scale of values, but when I feel life as a poetic movement, I wonder if we would not rather starve or be killed in war but be left alone with our dreams, than to live the life of a **well-fed**, contented and colorless man-machine. We are used to starvation and we are beginning to enjoy

war, the glorious pastime of the West. We know what industrialism has done to the manhood of the West. Birth Control leads to industrialism, which in turn leads to war and **famine**. So the cycle goes on and on.

How can one who sees all these **things** dare to advocate anything as China's **ONLY HOPE**? There seems no hope for China, except to brood and suffer, and perhaps in time we shall find a way of accepting the blessings of our machine **civilization** without losing that tiny **lyrical** voice now so stifled the world over.

It might interest you to know that China invented the first artificial contraceptive **device**, which was later introduced to Europe. So the birthplace of the Birth Control movement **is** really in China.

YAP CHU-PHAY

*New York, June 13*

## TWO OPINIONS

### TO THE EDITOR

In the June issue I note that you have **discontinued publishing** letters from the unfortunate mothers. I consider this change a good one.

My **feeling** is that sometimes we are too sentimental. However, I admit that the occasional publication of a client's letter is most telling, but don't let us have too much of it. I have always been interested in the news notes and **wish** we could have more from various foreign **countries**.

A C MARTIN

*Pennsylvania, June 4*

### TO THE EDITOR

I wonder why the REVIEW **is** omitting the letters from the overburdened mothers who write for advice and relief. It seems to me that at least one-half of the value of the REVIEW **is** lost without them, for they never fail to arouse a fresh desire to do something constructive for the movement. The most interesting features to me are the letters showing in such very human concrete form the need for the information, and then the reports on what is **being accomplished**, both in this country and abroad.

Most of my friends are college graduates who have had at least a smattering of Sociology and Economics. However, when one suggests that a wide-spread knowledge and practice of Birth Control might remedy many undesirable social conditions, they say "Yes, it would if only the people who most need it would practice it, but they are just the ones who don't." Then if I can hand them a REVIEW open to the page of mothers' letters, they realize that those women who do need it are only too willing to follow the information if they can secure it. Likewise the letters are a good reply to people who say "Why all the talk and fuss about Birth Control? Everyone I know practices it."

If the primary purpose of the REVIEW is to create interest and educate the public as to the need of Birth Control, I suggest that you continue to print the letters each month. If I tire of them I know that they will be the means of interesting someone else, and that is quite a worthwhile accomplishment. I often think that if the REVIEW could be sent regularly to the wife of every United States Senator and Congressman it would not take long to repeal the Comstock law.

ELIZABETH EDMONDS

Chicago, Ill., June 3

## Pamphlets

Through the kindness of Dr S Adolphus Knopf, we offer his report on "Birth Control Laws, their Unwisdom, Injustice and Inhumanity" FREE with every copy of "Various Aspects of Birth Control"

COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL HEALTH Biennial Report, 1927-28, New York

The Committee on Maternal Health (founded 1923) is a body largely made up of physicians who recognize the crying need of studying certain aspects of the problem of human fertility. Its biennial report for 1927-1928, recently published, outlines accomplishments during the five years it has been in existence and dwells more particularly on its activities of the last two years. The subjects relating to maternal health which the Committee has studied both from the literature and by clinical research, are sterilization, sterility, the anatomy and physiology of human reproduction, venereal disease and prostitution—in so far as these touch its other subject matter—average sex life and the control of conception. On these subjects, says the Report, the Committee's "object has been to inform the medical profession, and to persuade it to take a leading part in the scientific investigation of these problems in preventive medicine—the demand for such a committee arose because, with the exception of sterility, these subjects are generally avoided by organized medicine in its

professional publications and gatherings and in medical lectures though of vital importance to social health and commanding increasing attention from biologists, economists, eminent lawyers and clergymen and particularly from educators and sociologists."

In all its fields of interest, and especially in that of contraception the Committee works for the support by medical societies of such legislation as may be needed. To quote again "it acts as a clearing house. So far it has secured authoritative advice and original data through correspondence and personal interviews in nineteen countries—its publications, addressed to the medical profession, include thirty articles issued and prepared and seven books under way. It aids lay education in its field by conference with writers and speakers on the medical and anatomical content of text and illustration." For 1927 and 1928 work for Birth Control was divided into a sub-committee (chairman Dr Frederick C Holden) which has general supervision over nine hospital clinics in New York City and a Maternity Research Council whose object is to arrange co-operation with the Clinical Research Bureau, affiliated with the American Birth Control League, which the report describes rightly as "the largest Birth Control clinic in the world." Another activity which has a very direct bearing on Birth Control is the partial financing of light laboratory research projects on fertility and its regulation. Among the volumes now in preparation by the Committee is a medical treatise on contraceptive technique. Appendices to the report are a resume of the legal status of Birth Control throughout the United States and a list of 29 contraceptive centers now in operation in this country.

The Committee on Maternal Health has offices at the headquarters of the Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, New York.

IDEALS OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE Report by the Committee on Marriage and Home Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York

A committee of twenty-one, largely professional church workers, under the chairmanship of Bishop James Cannon, has prepared the first of a series of reports making inquiry into the function of the church in the new social movement. Stating the aims and ideals of marriage in this preliminary survey, they plan to issue subsequent pamphlets on training for marriage, religion in the home, the church and divorce, Birth Control, etc.

Somewhat at variance with this clearly laid out plan of study, the report makes many arbitrary pronouncements, such as "Divorce, even when allowed by the church, must be looked upon as a tragic and humiliating failure." "As civilization becomes more unified throughout the world, all forms of polygamy will finally disappear." "The chief danger of companionate marriage is that it puts sex desire first."

Nevertheless, the report is an honest and courageous attempt to face a present day problem and point the way to a solution. There is an excellent classified bibliography.

## PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

THE CONTROL OF CONCEPTION, PRESENT AND FUTURE, by Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D. Committee on Maternal Health, New York

STERILIZATION WITHOUT UNSEXING, by Robert Latou Dickinson, M.D. American Medical Association, Chicago Ill

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1928 National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York

# Our Neighbors Say:

*New Generation* (England), April—An editorial titled "How to Stop War" reads

The only way to end war **is** to end the causes of war. The chief cause of war has always been the need of outlets for **growing populations**. **Nations** compete for new lands to feed **their** people, for raw **materials** to feed **their factories**, and for markets for **their** exports to enable them to pay for **their** food and raw **materials**.

**Expanding populations** keep the world in continual unrest. **Mussolini** has lately told us that "Italy must expand or she **will explode**." **American** newspapers have **predicted** a naval war with **Britain** for the markets of the **Pacific**. We are **building** a naval base at **Singapore** to protect **Australia** **against** the **growing** population of **Japan**. The **rapid** growth of the German people was the **main** reason of the Great War.

War **is becoming** every year more deadly. The only safety for **civilization** is to abolish it, and the only way to do that **is** to cut down the birth-rate throughout the world, and **limit population** to the **available** resources.

Sane **Birth Control** **is** the remedy for war.

*Review of Reviews*, May—Charles H. Sherrill, in an article on Italy's **increasing population**, called "Italy's **Overflowing Boot**" says

It may well be that the old lady who **lived** in a shoe **didn't** know what to do about it, but **Mussolini** does. Let us not forget that Italy **is** an intensely Roman **Catholic** country, and that the teachings of that church preclude any **possibility** of **Birth Control** advocates **making** headway **against** the constant increase of **Italian** population. But under proper government guidance, **increasing population** **is** a powerful **instrument** for **national** advance. **Bismark** found it so, **Mussolini** **is finding** it so. If the reader doubts this premise, let him talk with the first Frenchman he meets and learn what a constant threat to French **security** **is** the contrast between her stationary population and Germany's **steadily growing** one.

*North American Review*, May — Margaret Sanger writes on "Women and **Birth Control**", and says, **in conclusion**

Women clamor for deliverance from compulsory motherhood. Yet dull **witted legislators**, both state and federal, refuse to **sanction** the

dissemination of harmless **contraceptives** to those unable or **unwilling** to undergo a pregnancy that may be fatal to mother or **child**.

Whether **Birth Control** **is** right or wrong, moral or **immoral**, a need or a **nuisance**, one **thing is certain**. Mothers of ten or of one can no longer by the mere **exercise** of a function common to all **living** creatures **consider** themselves exempt from **social responsibility**.

*Outlook*, May 8th — The editor, commenting on the verdicts **against Dreiser's "American Tragedy"** and Mary Ware Dennett's "The Sex **Side of Life**", says

These **verdicts** reflect on **society** rather than on the authors. Even **if** they are reversed in **higher** courts, the **basic** aspect of the cases **will** be left untouched. At bottom, the **significant** problem **is** one of **improving** the **calibre** of **juries** and one of **educating** the **public** to a healthier attitude towards sex.

*The World Tomorrow*, June — E. P. Kimball writes on "Training for Parenthood", and points out that there **is** a very serious problem, accentuated in **America** by **averse racial** and **religious** groups, and by sex taboos. He says

But whether we want it or not we are gradually **being** forced to **admit** that there is a problem and one that sooner or later must be solved. The newspapers and census reports tell us **directly** and **indirectly** that **divorce** **is** a growing phenomenon, that **juvenile** delinquency jumps by leaps and bounds, that **crime** **is increasing**, that venereal **disease** **is** everywhere prevalent, that known **abortions** number hundreds of thousands each year, that infant mortality is a blot on modern **civilization** and that thousands of women **die** needlessly **in child-birth**. The old codes once **fairly satisfactory** do not function adequately today.

Margaret Sanger **is** met with a boo and a **smirk** because she **is** devoting her **life** to **bringing** about factors which **will** produce more **intimate** and **faithful relations** between husband and **wife**, because she believes that motherhood and fatherhood should be a chosen role, because she **wishes** to see generations of children who are wanted and who may be brought into the world not doomed beforehand **with disease**, because she

wishes to decrease the **individual** grief and social loss brought about each year by the thousands of mothers who die in **childbirth**

No one may drive a machine **without** &biting **evidence** that he can run it. He must **obtain** a **license**. To preach or to teach or to practice **medicine** or the law, the **individual** must demonstrate a **modicum** of **evidence** before he is allowed to take up the profession. But anyone may enter the most **vital relationship** in life, **running** great **individual** and social **costs** and risks even to unborn generations, merely for the asking. Before a license to marry **is given**, why should not applicants be obliged to show that they have **received** a **suitable minimum** of knowledge **preparing** them for married life and parenthood, as well as evidence of **physical** and mental **health**? Everyone who knows engaged people knows that they are not only **willing** but eager to do **anything** to make **this** new venture a success. They seek information and knowledge, and where do they find it? Sometimes from the **disappointed** and **disillusioned**. Too often from quacks and from the gutter. The state, **given** social **sanction**, through its **trained physicians** and **psychiatrists**, could **perform this function**. How much better before marriage than in **divorce** courts and courts for **juvenile delinquency**!

Already we have **organizations like** the American **Social Hygiene** Association, the National **Commission** for Mental **Hygiene**, and the American Birth Control League, but these need to be **given** vastly more approval and support.

*Forum*, June—"One Who Did" writes, anonymously, on "What It Means to Marry a Catholic" **Taking up** the fundamental **Catholic conception** that one marries to beget **children**, the writer says:

Under present **social** and **economic conditions** the problem of **limiting** one's offspring forces itself upon every husband and **wife**, no matter how much they may long for a large family. "No **sin is** worse than Birth Control", shout the clergy. To be sure, Catholic **economists like** Dr. John A. Ryan of the Catholic **University** **proclaim** that **family limitation** is necessary in modern life — but **limitation** by sexual **abstinence** only, never by contraception. More **children** may mean **financial distress** for the entire family and sometimes **physical ruin** for the mother, yet marriage for **procreation is** held up as the sacred and only means of sexual **gratification**.

*Survey*, June—Wesley C. Mitchell sums up the **findings** of the report "Recent Economic Changes in the **United States**" in an article "Americans **All**". He lists the reduction of birth-rates as a **vital** factor **bearing** on **economic conditions**, and says:

A reduction of birth-rates has been **going on** during our period in most states of the Union. The decline seems to be more rapid than the **decline** in death-rates. Moreover, first the war and then **legislation restricted immigration**. **This decline** in population growth has affected the whole social **situation** profoundly in ways **which** concern the student of sociology and politics quite as deeply as they concern the **economist**. It **will** be long before the full **effects** upon national life become clear, but certain prompt, **economic** consequences must be noted.

In most **periods** of prosperity, the lag of wages **behind living** costs **continues** and gradually deprives **working** people of part of whatever gain they made from the lag in the **preceding** depression.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

**POSTERITY**, by Frank W. White. *Watts & Company, London.* 2 sh., 6 pc.

**SEXUAL LIFE OF OUR TIME**, by Dr. Iwan Bloch. *New York Allied Book Company, New York* \$8 00

**DAUGHTER OF EARTH**, by Agnes Smedley. *Coward, McCann, New York* \$2 50

**SLAVES OF THE GODS**, by Kathenne Mayo. *Harcourt, Brace, New York* \$3 76

**WHOLESOME PARENTHOOD**, by Ernest R. and Glady's H. Groves. *Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass.* \$2 00

**HARRIET MARTINEAU**, by Theodora Bosanquet. *The Chaucer Head, New York* \$7 50

**RACE AND POPULATION PROBLEMS**, by H. G. Duncan. *Longmans, Green & Co., New York* \$2 50

**A PREFACE TO MORALS**, by Walter Lippmann. *Macmillan Company, New York* \$2 60

**THE SOCIAL WORKER**, by Louise C. Odencrantz. *Harper & Brothers, New York* \$2 50

**INTELLIGENT MAN'S GUIDE TO MARRIAGE AND CELIBACY**, by Juanita Tanner. *Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, Ind.* \$3 50

**THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES 1914-1928**, *National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York* \$2 00

# The Raid and the Press

**EDITORIAL NOTE** *The following, chosen at random from the many press comments on the outcome of the raid on the Clinical Research Bureau, are typical of the support of the press*

Outlook, May 29—

The attitude of the New York press and public has indicated a recognition of the wisdom of disseminating Birth Control information in accordance with the New York law, which specifies that such information may be given for medical reasons. It seems likely that public sentiment in favor of legally established clinics as well as public opposition to such police methods as were exhibited in the New York raid, will continue to grow

Nation, May 29—

The Birth Control Clinic of New York City, having been upheld legally, can resume its functions with increased zeal. Now that everything has been comfortably adjusted, let it be said that the Birth Control movement has never had a luckier turn of fortune than the raid afforded. For the policemen who temporarily closed the offices and took the doctors and nurses to the police station were also stupid enough to cart off with them a number of medical records of patients at the clinic. The shouts of protest that arose from highly respectable physicians at this outrageous and unprecedented violation of medical ethics must have been heard a considerable distance beyond the office of the Police Commissioner. It would be a pity to lose the force of this opposition to a bad law. In the main it is the opposition of the Catholic church that has kept it on the statute books. Were the law repealed, as it should be repealed, no Catholic would be obliged to disobey the dictates of his conscience or his church. But persons who wished it could obtain, openly, decently, and without connivance, information to which thousands of quite respectable citizens now believe they have every right.

New York Telegram, May 15—

The Magistrate is to be congratulated in all sincerity.

He was not able, of course, to atone for the violent injustice which had been done to the courageous and altruistic women physicians and nurses.

But in spite of the martyring of the five women,

the cause of individual liberty and of social sanity has certainly been newly vindicated and advanced by the indignity of the raid and by the advertising which resulted from the manhandling of the case in court.

New York Evening Post, May 15—

Nevertheless, the clinic and the intelligent public opinion which backs it may look with some satisfaction upon the outcome of this attack by the police. Unquestionably, the incident has helped the cause of Birth Control. Unquestionably, too, the fight was easier to make and easier to win than was the case a decade ago. Enlightenment marches forward.

New York World, May 16—

The law which forbids the dissemination of the knowledge of Birth Control is a law which attempts to say that a certain kind of knowledge shall remain a secret. But if you arrest people and drag them into court for not keeping the secret, it is obvious that you are giving away the secret. The only way a law of this sort could conceivably be enforced would be by a dictatorship which secretly arrested the propagandists and secretly exterminated them. It is an obvious farce to try to keep a secret by lighting a blaze of publicity around a few people who are giving away the secret. There can, therefore, be two opinions on the moral justification of Birth Control, many opinions on its value, and there is obvious need of wide discussion of its practice. But among persons with common sense there can be no two opinions about the plain futility of trying to stop the discussion by discussing it loudly in a magistrate's court.

The attempt to impose secrecy by law is a lost cause. It is also in fact a rather ignoble cause. Mrs. Sanger's clinic was established to furnish married women who cannot afford to consult a physician with knowledge that is to-day available to every married woman who can afford to consult a physician. A law which works so as to deny to the poor and innocent what is freely obtained by every one else cannot seriously be defended on the ground of morality. It is in effect class legislation of a peculiarly odious sort, because it can be enforced only upon those who are too helpless and too innocent of the ways of the world to circumvent the law.

## HEREDITY, DISEASE AND PAUPERISM

(Continued from page 193)

married, not to any extent recruited from the normal population nor sensibly diminished by the agencies for human improvement, education, and other environmental conditions. Indeed, the general rise in the standard of living appears to have no effect upon this community save an improvement in personal comfort and an increase in survival, made evident by the fertility rate to be found among them.

That conception of "national degeneracy" which presumes the occurrence of widespread admixture of defectives with the normal community is probably unsound. While the term might be justified in the statistical sense, i. e., to indicate a disproportionate increase among the unsound as against the sound members of the community, it is probably incorrect if it is intended to suggest that wide sections of the sound people are being vitiated by these defective stocks. The evidence suggests that this group of defectives and of low-grade types are closely intermingled and overlap (of 100 pedigrees very few are without a lunatic, and some have several), but they preserve their general characteristics from generation to generation and probably do not often vitiate good stocks by intermarriage or derive strength from that source. A few thousand family stocks probably provide the great burden of inherent defectiveness which the community has to bear.

## FERTILITY RATE

The existence of such a section of the population is of great social significance in many respects, but its fertility rate is of great importance. The studies as presented show a high fertility rate, and unfortunately this is the minimum. In the last generation shown in the studies, few of the marriages are complete, in the generation prior to that the data are incomplete and some of the marriages are not complete. The results shown are therefore not final on this important point. We must wait until the statistical work is complete before we can form an opinion as to the fertility rate in these groups. Meanwhile, we may be assured that the rate of reproduction in these groups much exceeds that of any other sections of the community. I am not suggesting here that in these groups there is a natural-

ly higher fertility than in the normal community, but rather that they have neither personal, parental, nor social responsibility in these matters.

While the trend of all social movements for at least a century has been in the direction of emphasizing parental responsibility (for all normal people) it has lifted the burden of responsibility from the shoulders of these people, so that the worst can survive as well as the best. For many of them, adaptation to slum conditions and endowment from various public sources have probably produced a community that could not survive in other conditions.

There is another point closely related to this. It is sometimes suggested that from these defective stocks there may issue from time to time some individual of better quality, a kind of sporadic reversion to the normal. Here, again, the evidence does not support the suggestion, but, for the reasons already given, the evidence is not final on that point. But, if more desirable stocks were being founded upon such sporadic issue, there would surely be some evidence of the fact.

Such happenings might be expected under simple Mendelian conditions, but the assortative matings and consequent inbreeding disclosed in these cases lead us to expect the opposite, that the low-grade will become more fixed and established and that the defectiveness will become more acute and more intense.

## NATURAL SELECTION ESSENTIAL

It is a platitude in these days to speak of natural selection as the essential agent of human progress. Yet the fact remains. The arrest or actual reversal of that process will be found when the selective death-rate is suspended, and the relative fertility of the defective groups exceeds that of the normal. The differential death-rate is still very high in those groups in which actual defect appears, while, among the mildly incompetent and low grade types of people, it is not nearly so high. In either case the incidence is not established. But there can be no doubt as to the high fertility rate in both these groups, in a few cases reaching the limit of human fertility. The trend of all modern organization is towards the accentuation of both these factors. Their conjunction affords the most serious problem that human organization has to face at the present time.\*

\*Extracts from a paper presented at the World Population Conference at Geneva in 1921.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

ANNIE G PORRITT is Secretary of the American **Birth** Control League, and was **Managing Editor** and later, **Assistant Editor** of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW**. She has been **active** in work for Woman's Suffrage, and **Social Hygiene**, and is the **editor** and **compiler** of a book on the legal **handicaps** of women.

**JAMES S H BOSSARD** is Professor of Sociology at the **University of Pennsylvania**. He is the author of "Problems of **Social Well-Being**", has **edited** three **issues** of the **Annals** of the **American Academy of Political Science**, and is a **contributor** to **Social Forcer**, **American Journal of Sociology**, etc.

**MARY SUMNER BOYD** was **Managing Editor** of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** for four years. She is the author of "The Woman **Citizen**", and (with **Marguerite Tracy**) of "**Painless Childbirth**". During the Woman's Suffrage campaign she served as an authority on legal and **professional handicaps** for women.

**FRANK HAMILTON HANKINS** is Professor of **Sociology** at **Smith College**, and was formerly at **Clark University**. He is the author of "The **Racial Basis of Civilization**", "An **Introduction** to the Study of **Society**", and various other books and **periodical contributions**.

**CLARENCE C LITTLE** is a **biologist**, a geneticist and the **Director** of the **Roscoe B Jackson Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research** at **Bar Harbor, Maine**. He was formerly President of the **Universities of Maine and Michigan**.

**KENNETH MACGOWAN** is the author of "The **Theatre of Tomorrow**", "Continental Stagecraft", "What's **Wrong with Marriage**", (with **Dr G V Hamilton**) and (forthcoming) "Foothtgts Across **America**", a survey of the **Little Theatre** movement undertaken for the **Adult Education Association**.

## CONTRIBUTORS

### TO THIS ISSUE

**GAETANO SALVEMINI** was professor of **History** at the **University of Florence**. He was arrested and **tried** for **opposition** to the **Fascist regime** and forced to leave **Italy**. He has held a **professorship** at the **University of Oxford**, and is now in **Amenca** for the second **time**, **writing** and **lecturing**. As one of the foremost **histonans** of our day, **his** stand as a leader of the **anti-Fascist** movement is **significant**.

**HARRY EMERSON WILDES** is the author of "**Social Currents in Japan**", and of numerous magazine **articles** deahng with **onental problems**. He was formerly professor of **Economics** at **Keio University, Tokyo**.

**MADELINE GROGGINS** is a graduate of **Cornell** and **Columbia Universities**, and is employed on a metropohtan dally newspaper.

**ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON** is **Research Associate** in **Geography** at **Yale University**, and is a member of the **Advisory Council** of the **American Eugenics Society**. Among his books are "**Builders of Amenca**", "**The Pulse of Progress**", "**The Human Habitat**".

**EDWARD M EAST** is Professor of **Genetics** at the **Bussey Institution for Research in Apphed Biology, Harvard University**, author of "**Mankind at the Crossroads**", "**Heredity and Human Affairs**", etc.

**IRA S WILE** is **Associate** in **pediatrics** at **Mt Sinai Hospital**. He is a lecturer at the **New School for Social Research**, and author of "**The Challenge of Childhood**", and (with **Mary Day Winn**) of "**Mamage in the Modern Manner**".

### DR A B WOLFE, of Ohio State Unversity writes

"My **opinion** of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** may perhaps be inferred by fact that I have been a **subscriber** to it almost from the **time** it was started. I have kept a complete file to **which** I **find** myself frequently refernng. The **REVIEW** is a journal of unquestionable value, my very best wishes for **its continued** service"

Send in a **subscription** for that **apathetic friend** or **cynical enemy**