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Children of Choice, Not of Chance



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—*Etchings of Today*

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

August 1929

Editorial

IN addition to the state laws restricting the giving of contraceptive information, which run the entire gamut from complete hindrance to absolute freedom, there exist the Federal statutes, dealing with contraception. We have reprinted these in full, on page 236 of this issue. There are four sections. Stripped of legal phraseology, so discouraging to the layman, the statutes say, in effect, that it is a criminal offence to circulate through the mail, or otherwise, any article, instrument or medicine, written or printed matter, giving contraceptive information, or indicating where such information may be obtained, and that the importation and transportation of contraceptive material or information is also a criminal offence.

The first thing that shocks the reader is the ever recurring juxtaposition and interchange of three totally unrelated terms and ideas. It is a criminal offence to circulate (1) an article which is obscene, lewd or filthy, (2) an article which is designed for the prevention of conception, (3) an article which is designed for producing abortion. What strange workings of the human mind lead our lawmakers to put these three concepts together! Surely it seems unnecessary to point out that obscenity, Birth Control and abortion are not only different terms, but conflicting terms.

Secondly, these statutes seem very effectively to tie everyone's hands. But it should be pointed out that, as is always the case, they are modified by that final interpreter of the law, public opinion, and that the situation differs from state to state, according to the individual state laws. Doctors *do* give contraceptive information in New York state, under the rulings of the state Penal Law, Section 1145. California operates clinics, within the law, though it cannot print their addresses.

But the general effect of contradictory restrictions, of inner confusion of terms, of state and federal regulations nullifying each

other, makes it imperative for those who recognize the constructive possibilities of the Birth Control movement to work for the repeal of these Federal statutes as well as for the repeal of restrictive state laws.

WHEN Dr William S. Thayer, of Baltimore, president of the American Medical Association, scored government intolerance and legal over-regulation of human life, Birth Control advocates might well have thought the hour of deliverance was at hand. But it was prohibition the good doctors were talking about at their eightieth annual session, held from July 8th to 12th in Portland, Oregon.

"As a nation," said Dr Thayer, in his presidential address, "we have of recent years set a rather sorry example in the passage of inconsiderate, ill-considered and intolerant prescriptions and prohibitions, some of which may be proper enough in certain localities where they represent the desire of the majority, but which, when applied to the country at large, interfere with the personal liberties of the people. Such laws cannot be enforced, they defeat their own ends. Intolerance is the most fatal enemy of liberty."

The Committee on Officers' Addresses approved Dr Thayer's stand as follows: "The committee especially commends and indorses the sentiments expressed by President Thayer concerning legislative enactments that are inimical to the best interests of the medical profession and the public, by restricting medical men as to what and what not shall be prescribed for the relief of human ills."

How these expressions of opinion would hold word for word as objections to restrictive legislation in regard to contraceptive information! The doctors object to prohibition because it is coercive government, and because it interferes with the practice of medicine. "Alcohol", said Dr Thomas C. Chalmers of New York, "is necessary in the treatment of certain diseases, and is one of the

main life savers and prolongers of life" How much more true of Birth Control Needlessly high maternity mortality and infant mortality are only the two most flagrant results of the restrictive legislation on Birth Control

We do not forget the many members of the American Medical Association whom we are proud to count as friends and supporters of the American Birth Control League and the Birth Control movement But we hope the day is not far distant when a president of the American Medical Association will point out the intolerably restrictive legislation, both federal and state, which hampers the physician in his most important work, preventive medicine, curtails the personal liberty of men and women, and denies to the people of this country that most inalienable right, the right to plan their own lives to the best of their ability

THERE are population problems of under-population as well as of over-population This is brought home when one motors through the great sparsely peopled plains of the prairie provinces of Canada The people are so few, so scattered, so far apart, and for comfortable human living there is need of more workers, more homes, more neighbors The Government of Canada is well aware of this need, and is trying to bring "desirable" immigrants from all the countries of Europe The immigrants have to come up to standards fixed by the authorities, but the need for men is, or seems to be, so great that these standards are not impossibly high Yet with all the demand for more people, the problem of under-population needs Birth Control perhaps as urgently as it is needed in over-populated countries Under-population means great distances It means isolation It means that doctors and nurses are often inaccessible, especially during the long bitter winters of the Dominion Considered from the point of view of the wife and mother, there is perhaps no family more in need of Birth Control, of the power to choose the time and to some degree the circumstances under which the mother shall bear her child than the family which has recently taken up a homestead far from the railway, and far from all that goes to make up modern civilization Cries for

help from the mothers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba come every now and then to the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW But it takes a personal knowledge of the conditions of the wheat farmer and especially of the life of the wheat farmer's wife to realize how great is the need for Birth Control in an under-populated country

The bitter irony of the situation is that in these countries where population is so much desired and needed, there is, for lack of Birth Control, the greatest wastage in the bringing into the world of new lives It is probable that Birth Control would lessen the actual number of births But knowledge that would save the lives of mothers, who die exhausted after bearing their sixth, seventh, or perhaps tenth child, knowledge that would enable the parents to bring into existence children who would have a fair chance of life and health, would not weaken but would enormously strengthen the new nation that is growing so rapidly to the north of us "My wife is dead", said a farmer in telling his story "She died with her tenth It died too, poor little thing There are nine living, but the three younger ones are weakly—never seemed to get hold of life You see, they all came so fast The elder ones are fine, but Maggie finds it hard to care for the children and it mostly falls on her, poor child She's only fourteen now"

Sometimes it is the wife that tells of her troubles and difficulties "It's so far to the doctor, and last winter when Bobbie was born the snow was so deep he (her husband) couldn't get through We did get a neighbor from four miles away I'm lucky to have a woman neighbor so near! And I got through, but I haven't been rightly well since If we could choose our time, I'd never have another baby in snow time" The idea that it was possible to choose her time was new to this woman and the feeling of power seemed to change her outlook on life Governments are doing their utmost to help the farmers to grow good wheat It is time that they took as much trouble to teach the farmers' wives to grow good human beings, for nowhere is this teaching more needed than in those under-populated parts of the world where fine men and women are so eagerly sought after

The Calamity Howler in Eugenics¹

By P W WHITING

IS the human species degenerating or is it progressing?

The majority of eugenicists hold that the present racial trend is downward. According to Dr S J Holmes, a representative eugenicist, superior stocks were formerly reproducing themselves as rapidly as inferior, but at present the race is losing its best inheritance. He argues that "Our civilization has brought about a very anomalous relation between success and fertility. Those who should have the most children commonly have the fewest, while those who should have few children or none at all usually have the most. From the eugenic standpoint this is obviously a very unfortunate situation."

GENIUSES AND FOOLS WELL SCATTERED

Dr Holmes does not think that the case is hopeless. The dysgenic selection of the past seventy-five years may be changed for the better. He thinks that this may be brought about by "a wider diffusion of knowledge of heredity and the elementary principles of eugenics."

An even more optimistic note is sounded by Dr Castle of Harvard University who says "The situation is not so alarming as some persons seem to think. The normal unperverted instincts of the average man have a distinctly eugenic trend."

The facts are often difficult to interpret. An apparent downward trend, extending over a few years, may be generalized into an alarming world-wide degeneration. In order that any trend should markedly affect the race, however, it must continue in the same direction for many generations. No losses are racially irremediable. Superior types will reappear in the next generation even if they are at any one time annihilated. It has been estimated that nine times as many distinguished men are produced by mediocre people as are produced by eminent people. This, of course, does not mean that distinguished men are as likely to be produced by

an equal number of mediocre people as of eminent people, but that hereditary factors required for greatness lie pretty well scattered in the population. Although there is a decided tendency for eminent people to occur in the same family, showing that heredity plays a part, we have no pure-breeding strains of geniuses. If all blue-eyed, tow-headed blonds were slaughtered in a brunette revolution, the atrocity would have to be repeated several times before blonds were finally exterminated. The brunettes themselves would produce a considerable number of blonds in their own families. In like manner although geniuses tend to have small families or no children at all, there are still a goodly number produced from the general population. All men are not born equal in hereditary make-up and in mental and emotional type any more than in figure and complexion, but in our mixed population all classes have a fair share of good, bad, and indifferent heredity. By reshuffling the bad or indifferent, it is possible to draw out some good combinations. It cannot then be said with man (as with pure strains of dogs or poultry) that like produces like, but only that there seems to be a certain tendency in that way. The more our melting pot is allowed to boil, the more our people become racially mixed, the less is it possible to predict the outcome of any marriage. Geniuses and fools are pretty well scattered throughout different strata of society, as also throughout different races.

THE MENDELIAN LAW

According to old-fashioned ideas of heredity, that is to say, according to the best information of a generation ago, the parents were thought to contribute half to the offspring, the grandparents, one-fourth, the great grandparents, one-eighth, and the great-great-grandparents, one-sixteenth. This is the law of ancestral heredity named for Sir Francis Galton, founder of the eugenics movement in England. Galton's Law assumes that like tends to produce like, but that children need not resemble their parents in all respects, for earlier generations taken together contribute one-half to the hereditary traits of the offspring.

In like manner, the Law of Mendel, named for its

¹Excerpts from Talk No VIII, the last of a series on "Heredity and Human Problems" broadcast by Dr P W Whiting from the University of Pittsburgh Studio during February and March, 1929. This series is printed as Radio Publication No 50, and may be obtained from the University of Pittsburgh Radio Station for sixty cents.

discoverer, the Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel, implies that on the average like tends to produce like. Two people differ by a single hereditary unit. One has black hair, the other red. The children show the dominant trait, black, but in the second generation, among the grandchildren, there will be only about 75 per cent with black hair. The others will show red, the recessive inherited from the red-haired grandparent. Mendel's Law analyzes the matter a little more closely than Galton's. Galton described the situation that applies in general, but not in detail. Neither Galton nor Mendel, however, knew that not even on the average does like produce like. Why should this be? Let us for the sake of simplicity consider what happens in mice.

NATURE GUARDS RACIAL WELFARE

Yellow-haired mice will not breed true. They always produce grays as well as yellows and although the yellows are twice as numerous as the grays, they are never any more so. Yellow by yellow gives two yellows to one gray. Grays breed true. You can't get rid of the grays in any case. If you keep selecting yellows as breeding stock and kill off all the grays you will get more yellows than you will if you breed from both kinds at random, but you can't get more than two yellows to one gray in any generation. That is fortunate for the mouse species. Yellows are evidently defective types. As they grow old, they become fat and lazy. The females become sterile much earlier than the females of other colors. We may readily imagine certain calamity howling mouse eugenicists proclaiming that the race is going to the cats, if gray mice should begin practising family limitation. But there would really be no need for this alarm although it is true that yellow and gray are both hereditary traits. Good selection (eugenics) can dispose of the yellows altogether. Bad selection (dysgenics) cannot, however, make the race all yellow or get rid of the gray completely. In spite of bad selection there would be plenty of hope for eugenic improvement.

The reason for this is very simple. If the yellow by yellow combination is formed, it dies before birth. It is too weak to live and is described as lethal. Many of these lethal combinations have been shown in different plants and animals. They doubtless cause a good many prenatal deaths in human beings. Some combinations are not entirely lethal. They are the so-called semi-lethals. The

result is a weak or sickly individual, probably not able to reproduce.

For all that medical technique may be able to do to save a few of these defectives, there will be but rarely a case of reproduction to lower the average stamina of future generations. One of the chief results accomplished by baby saving campaigners is to raise the mortality rate among children rather than to impoverish the race as many pessimistic eugenicists seem to think.

Those who howl racial calamity because our humanitarian measures are saving defective individuals, should realize that natural selection still exists in spite of the doctor, and that while a few weaklings may be helped to survive, they are but a drop in the bucket when all humanity is considered.

There is always a limit of degeneracy below which we cannot drop. Every individual, be he man, mouse, or fly, produces a series of reproductive cells ranging from better to worse. He himself represents the average. These cells combine by chance in fertilization with another series from a different individual to produce a variety of offspring in the next generation. Combinations that are far superior to the parents may be formed and develop into children of superior merit. When inferior combinations are formed, however, there is a definite limit. Nature says, "Thus far and no farther." And oftentimes the Shears of Atropos cut the thread of life very short. Uncounted numbers of lethal combinations vanish at such an early age that the mother is entirely unaware of it. Prenatal deaths are the eugenic method of Mother Nature. She guards our racial welfare whether we be aware of it or not, and even if we attempt by war or medical care to thwart her.

EUGENIC TENDENCY INNATE

It is very questionable whether "Racial impoverishment destroyed the great civilizations of the past," to quote Lothrop Stoddard, though it has been true at previous times, as it now is, that the classes of superior economic status have on the average fewer children. Granting for the sake of argument that in addition to greater opportunities there is also on the average somewhat greater innate ability in the wealthier classes, we should not be alarmed at the difference in birth-rate. Like tends not to produce like, but to produce a little

better There is an innate eugenic tendency that may be of greater importance in maintaining racial vitality than external factors, be they eugenic or dysgenic

There is little likelihood of racial retrogression under our present system of "let reproduce who will," but there are, under a sane and at the same

time radical and scientific eugenic program, unlimited possibilities of racial progression The average of human ability cannot sink below a certain level as long as the race is surviving, but by the proper means it might be greatly raised, even to the point of eliminating suffering, ignorance, and unhappiness from the world

The Sexual Chaos

By FRANK H HANKINS

NOTHING in the writing of extreme feminists and sex radicals of a few years ago suggested doubt of thought or uncertainty of action Nothing seemed clearer than the evils of puritanical repressions and evasions, the remedy for which obviously was bacchanalian expression and unabashed frankness Aided enormously by the war, the automobile, prohibition and other features of twentieth century culture, the critics of concealment, modesty and Victorian virginity have witnessed such a sudden transformation of popular sex mores as amounts to a virtual revolution As is likely to be the case when deeply planted customs are uprooted by a somewhat tempestuous mass movement, the pendulum has swung from pole to antipode, from reticence to blatancy, from concealment to exhibition, from modesty to vulgarity

FROM REPRESSION TO EXPRESSION

One can remember that not so many years ago the Y M C A and other agencies of progressive thought were asserting with considerable fervor that marital felicity was advanced by the preservation by men of that pristine purity required of all nice girls The ideal of a single standard of sexual morality fell into rough feminist hands, however, and was translated to mean that women should have all the rights of the traditional male both before and after the marriage ceremony The virgin gave way to the demi-virgin, chastity to a more or less hectic experimentalism, faithfulness of spouses to a mutual and complacent, but sometimes eager search for sexual variety At least so some of those who specialize in sexual lore have frequently told us, and told us repeatedly, although many of the traditional guardians of public morality have flattered themselves and stilled the anxiety of fearful parents by reiterating the

wishful thought that "the younger generation is better—or no worse—than its ancestors"—wherein the word "better" meant "has indulged less frequently in unlawful sex exercises"

In any case, the dominant note, if there be such at all, in a recent compendium of current opinion on the sexual problem in our age, "Sex in Civilization"¹ — edited by V F Calverton and S D Schmalhausen with an introduction by Havelock Ellis, is that we are now in the midst of mental, moral and sexual chaos We have moved from an age of repression neuroses to an age of "expression neuroses" What has happened in considerable areas is that the old morality, having lost its underpinning, has tumbled into a disreputable heap But a new morality has not yet emerged to give authoritative answers to recurrent queries Now nothing is more certain than that the vast mass of men must have a code to live by This is a necessity for mental economy, for emotional peace and self-assurance, it is a necessity for social harmony and for comeliness of living A survey of sex and marital institutions the world over would reveal that it seems to matter much less what the standards are than that there shall be standards of some sort, well-understood and enforced by the terrible powers of social ostracism

Since our civilization is steadily placing a greater and greater confidence in the logic and method of science, the new standards which are to replace the old must be given a scientific mandate But the evolution of scientific sexual morality is at the outset confronted with the apparently irreconcilable contradictions of human nature, also with the seemingly antagonistic interests of individual and society The conflict of individual and group is seen in the fact that childbearing subordinates

¹The Macaulay Company, New York, 1929 * 70

the mother to her sexuality and usually to her husband, while it blocks professional advancement and the attainment of other ego satisfactions, yet society must and doubtless will have mothers. But, as if this feminine tragedy were not enough, one finds recurring in these pages the suggestion, undreamed of by the extreme feminists of yesteryear, that the free-lance female may find herself also, like the hetaira of old, subordinated to her sexuality, which serves as a key to her social position.

SEX AND SIN SEPARATED

Thanks to the general decline of religious orthodoxy and the onslaughts of feminists, psychoanalysts and sexologists, there has been not only a general decline in the sense of sin, but sex and sin have been definitely separated. It became obvious that the sinfulness of sex rested in part on the mythological fall of man and other features of syncretist Christianity, in part on traditional ideas of property and property rights, and in part on male jealousy and possessiveness. At the same time the new psychology informed the world in loud tones that women as well as men have sex impulses and sex needs which have been crushed and perverted under the terrible and wicked obfuscations of Christian morality. The result was an enormous stimulus to the rising "masculine protest" of the feminine sex. Women not only demanded a square deal—an equality of rights—but proceeded to take charge of the situation. The younger generation especially seized the new opportunities with avidity, hence we find ourselves in an era of sex experimentation animated by the theory that sex is primarily for recreation and only incidentally or accidentally for procreation. We are thus in a state of moral bewilderment, a lost world afflicted with the blind staggers.

So far has the achievement of freedom gone that a secondary note recurring in these pages is a certain doubtfulness as to whether freedom is proving a solvent of all psycho-sexual ills. There is clear evidence here, especially in the long, loquacious, ambivalent but extraordinarily interesting chapter by Schmalhausen, that the era of fetishistic worship of freedom is passing. It is as if, freedom once attained, the glamour of its pursuit had turned to disillusionment. Complete casualness cannot create the profounder values of sexual attachments, but we do not yet know with any assurance whether the

craving for sex variety can be satisfied without destruction of modesty, loyalty, sincerity, enduring purpose, beauty, dignity, responsibility, intensity of passion, and that compassion and deep mutuality which make service a pleasure and dutiful sacrifice its own reward.

Every liberally minded person will thank heaven for the loss of the ancient taboos. They cramped and maimed the love life at many points. We may feel certain that an age of freer experimentation will eventuate in an age of enlightenment. If, perchance, which is not likely, we should in the end find ourselves very much where we started, we shall nevertheless be much better off, for we shall have a clearer understanding of ourselves. We shall have sounder reasons for our sex and marital mores and these will be permeated with a fresher, more humane spirit. If, as Schmalhausen says, we have plunged from repression neuroses to expression neuroses which will require a new chapter in psychoanalysis, we may hope to emerge with a balanced sweet reasonableness. True freedom is not found in willful license but in intelligent control for the sake of the larger ends which we know how to achieve. Theoretically the sexual life for at least the intelligent minority can be made at once free, beautiful and ennobling. For many it will doubtless remain a varying combination of heaven and hell.

FROM BEWILDERMENT TO KNOWLEDGE

The antinomies in the law and gospel of sex as presented by the various authors of this remarkable volume go far beyond that expressed in "the neurotic triumph of freedom." There is the dreadful problem of jealousy, a deep emotion springing from self-love and manifested by animals, children, savages and ourselves. Our authors tell us in various places that it is a mark of passionate attachment and declines with the casualness of relations and attitudes, but also that it is irreconcilable with a civilized love which cherishes for the mate complete freedom in seeking sex satisfactions. One queries then whether that civilized love which is free from jealousy is also casual and hence free from all but a momentary lustfulness. Mrs. Hale tells us that love cannot be free because it implies mutual emotional obligations, though lust can be free.

One cannot cease to inquire whether promiscuity and civilization can be reconciled. Or, if one does not wish to put the alternative so sharply, one can

(Continued on page 239)

Birth Control—First Aid in Social Work

By ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES

A Speech given by Mrs Jones at the Dinner Meeting of the American Birth Control League at the National Conference of Social Work, July 1

THIS is the first year that the American Birth Control League has been admitted as a Kindred Group to the National Conference of Social Work. Our admission to the Conference is significant, because it shows that the Birth Control movement is now considered a sound scientific movement for social betterment.

It is only a few years since we were regarded by most people as embarrassing cranks, to be humored but discounted. And some people thought that we were positively dangerous. Only the bravest organizations dared have us speak at their meetings, and they sometimes posted policemen at the door, to arrest us in case we broke the law.

But now things are different. We are invited to speak at the most conservative colleges and even at theological seminaries. College professors are lecturing to their classes on Birth Control, and clergymen are preaching about it.

MORE RECOGNITION NEEDED

We are recognized as a Kindred Group by the great social service organizations of this Conference. We are delighted at this recognition, but we are not satisfied. We want *more*. We hope that soon Birth Control will be recognized as First Aid in social work.

The reports at this afternoon's meeting on Birth Control clinics show that some social workers have already found Birth Control an invaluable aid in solving their problems. These social workers have in their towns Birth Control clinics, or hospitals or health centers where Birth Control advice is given, they have taken to the Birth Control clinics women to whom another child would mean disaster, women, for instance, with diseases, such as tuberculosis, which are aggravated by pregnancy, women who have had one child after another in rapid succession and are in desperate need of rest from childbearing, women who have so many children that they cannot possibly take care of any more, women whose husbands cannot support another child until

they earn higher wages, women whose husbands are drunkards or loafers, or both.

And in the clinics these women have been taught by physicians a simple, reliable and harmless method of Birth Control — by means of which they have avoided having another child until conditions justified it.

By securing Birth Control advice for the women, these social workers have been able to prevent, in some cases, disease, in some, dependency, and in others, child neglect and consequent delinquency.

But *most* social workers throughout the country have not this resource available. The laws of the states in which they work prohibit the giving of Birth Control information, or the doctors will not prescribe contraception because of ignorance of reliable methods, or because of religious prejudice.

Without Birth Control, often nothing can be done to prevent family wreckage. The social worker has to stand by and watch incompetent or sickly parents go on year after year having puny, subnormal children that they do not want and cannot care for. Birth Control not being available, the social worker can often do nothing until the family is actually "down and out." Then she can step in and patch things up by sending the broken-down mother away for a rest, eking out the wages of the incompetent father, or supporting some of the superfluous children in "homes", so that they may grow up and give birth, themselves, to unfit children, for social agencies of the next generation to take care of.

BILLIONS SPENT TO NO AVAIL

For pauperism is hereditary. The socially unfit have children and grandchildren who are socially unfit. We are today supporting in institutions the grandchildren of the dependents our grandparents supported. Thousands of able men and women are devoting their lives to the care of these dependents, and billions of dollars are spent for their care. Professor James Bossard of Pennsylvania University states that the cost of the care of the

dependents and delinquents in the United States may be placed conservatively at five billion dollars a year—about three times the amount of the annual expenditure for the whole public school system of the country

Yet for all the billions spent in welfare work, and the thousands of lives devoted to the noble work of relieving misery, there are no fewer unfit in this generation than the last, and there will be no fewer in the next. In fact, there will be *more*, because the unfit have large families

Leaders in social work are discouraged with this state of affairs. And in their search for some way out, they have turned to science for guidance. "We are not satisfied", they say, "to go on merely mending and patching up society, but effecting no permanent improvement. What we want is to build a healthier, stronger, sounder race. How can we do this?"

RACE BETTERMENT THROUGH BIRTH CONTROL

Biologists and sociologists answer, "You can do this by promoting Birth Control. Birth Control is the most practicable means now known for race betterment."

The advantage of Birth Control to the individual mother and the family is easy to see, but its effect upon the race is not so generally understood.

If the quality of the race is to improve, people who are below the average in their qualifications for parenthood should have fewer children than those who are above the average. Couples who cannot endow their children with health, vigor and intelligence should have fewer children than those who can, so that in each successive generation there shall be a smaller proportion of those who are socially unfit.

How can this be brought about? At present people of the very lowest economic class, who are as a rule the least competent, have the largest families. Married couples of the *best* stock in this country have an average of 2.9 children, unskilled laborers have 5 and morons have 7.

But incompetent, lazy or sickly people do not *want* large families. No man who can earn only starvation wages wants a lot of children. No sickly woman wants to bear a long succession of children. No selfish woman wants a big family. Luckily in this respect, private interest is in accord with public interest. For the good of the race, incompetent, sickly or selfish people should have few or no chil-

dren. And they *want* few or no children. The American Birth Control League gets every year thousands of letters from women who are obviously unqualified for childbearing because of ill-health, or physical defects, or other reasons, and who implore us to tell them how to avoid pregnancy, and thousands of women who for eugenic considerations should not have children induce abortions every year in order to avoid having large families, and are brought into hospitals physical wrecks.

In order that people of inferior stock shall have fewer children, all that we need to do is to remove the obstacles which have been put in the way of their getting Birth Control advice. That is what the American Birth Control League is trying to do.

State and federal laws adverse to Birth Control must be amended. The federal law now prohibits the mailing of contraceptive information and supplies, and 24 state laws specifically mention Birth Control in their obscenity laws, while the obscenity laws of most of the other states may be interpreted to cover contraception.

Religious prejudice must be overcome by education. Doctors must be acquainted with the best contraceptive methods.

Clinics must be established where the poor can get contraceptive information free of charge. Instead of making it difficult for incompetent people to practice Birth Control, we should do everything possible to encourage them to practice it. When Birth Control information is accessible, the very people who for eugenic reasons *should* limit their children, *do* limit them.

ASK SOCIAL WORKERS' HELP

It is safe to predict that when Birth Control information is accessible to the poor and incompetent, as it now is to the well-to-do and competent, fewer children will be born to those who are below the average in fitness for parenthood. Thus the proportion of the population which is socially unfit will be progressively reduced and the race will steadily improve. Birth Control means more well-born children, and fewer badly-born children. We ask you social workers to help us. Help us get the adverse laws repealed. Help us get Birth Control service established in hospitals and health centers and in special clinics.

For in the words of Havelock Ellis, "the only practical instrument by which eugenics can work is Birth Control."

The Post-War Population Problem

By A B WOLFE

These excerpts are printed to give some idea of both the magnitude and the ramifications of the Population problem, and its direct and logical connection with the Birth Control movement. No attempt has been made to summarize Dr Wolfe's monograph, which runs to over fifty pages, to include his listings and description of literature and research, or to note the copious references. Readers who wish to study the monograph in its entirety are referred to the "Journal of Political Economy", October and November, 1928, February, 1929.

FOR decades prior to the World War the problem of population had been slumbering in innocuous desuetude. Indeed, the popular impression was that a population problem in an economic or Malthusian sense no longer existed. There was, however, plenty of literature on other aspects of population. Sociologists and biologists competed in viewing with alarm differential fertility and the declining birth-rate. The "science" of eugenics was becoming popularized by enthusiasts far beyond a point justified by its thin foundation in scientifically established fact.

PATRIOTISM AND POPULATION

To many, in America and England, the problem of quality was the only aspect of population worthy of much attention. In Germany and France, for twenty years preceding the war, the literature of population consisted preponderantly of statistical analyses and disquisitions on the evils of the decline in the birth-rate. While there was a monotonous sameness in it, the German literature was on a higher scientific plane, on the average, than the French. In France men like Lucien March did beautiful work in vital statistics, but thanks to French nationalism and fear of Germany, a library of pre-war French population books consists mainly of propagandism for large families. In the United States the propagandist element was a little less pronounced, but it was sharpened by the racial contacts and prejudices engendered by immigration. The lamentations were over the decline in the birth-rate of the native American stocks—a point of view or sentiment traceable at least as far back as Francis A. Walker's famous articles on the effects of immigration on the size of the American family. Professor Ross coined the phrase "race suicide," and with characteristic energy Theodore Roosevelt quickly made it a popular moral catchword. The declining birth-rate was supposed to have dis-

proved the Malthusian doctrine once for all. Few persons took the trouble to examine rates of natural increase or the significance of the unprecedented absolute increase in population.

In this country the immigration problem naturally claimed much attention, from both economic and political points of view, but hardly at all as a matter having even remote relation to any Malthusian fear of redundancy in numbers. Organized labor favored restriction because of the belief that immigration made for low wages and unemployment, but any suggestion that immigration would tend to produce over-population would have been laughed at. Discussion of neo-Malthusian ideas was taboo, the phrase "Birth Control" had not been invented. Only here and there a sociologist and a few economists, whose opinions had negligible influence on the flow of public sentiment, gave thought to the probability of impending over-population and clung steadfastly, though passively, to the Malthusian doctrine.

INCREASE MEANT PROGRESS

Before the war, in the opening years of the present century, the westward movement of population in this country was still in progress, though at greatly diminished tempo. The people had gradually come to realize that the old frontier and free land were things of the past. Still, there was the boom in the Prairie Provinces of Canada, and our own western ranches were being rapidly and somewhat prematurely cut into farms. Also, thanks to the influence of interests which need not be analyzed, the program of irrigation and the Federal Reclamation Service was developed, with little thought and less investigation of the needs of the country or the economic feasibility of many of the reclamation projects. The voice of the booster was still blatant in the land. No discordant notes were sounded. Urbanization was proceeding apace, and the popu-

lar ranking of towns and cities was according to size and rapidity of growth, with scant regard for character or culture. Always afflicted with it to a distressing degree, the American people exhibited an exaggerated case of chronic megalomania. Some one has yet to write this chapter in folk psychopathology. In the mind of the American business man, especially the real estate agents — they had not yet become “realtors” — population increase was synonymous with progress. Unfortunately this confusion is still by no means uncommon.

INTEREST STIMULATED BY WAR

To the European peoples the war revealed in high light the basically vital significance of raw materials and agricultural resources. There was nothing in the war, however, to bring directly to Americans at large such a realization. Nevertheless, by a sort of vicarious process our attention was gradually drawn to the problem of world-resources, especially foodstuffs, in relation to population and survival. Practical interest in the population problem was stimulated by the strain to which our productive resources were put to supply the allies with raw materials and to get foodstuffs to France and England. Academic interest in population was revived in part through the current belief, fostered by quotations from Bernhardt and other German imperialists, that at least one of the German war motives was desire to secure additional territory for the rapidly expanding German population. The unprecedented losses of life as the war wore on and famine stretched its lethal touch across the Continent provided a tragic background for this interest. How would these losses be repaired? What would be their effect on family relations and sex mores? Would the average lot of the surviving peoples ultimately be better or worse than that of pre-war populations? Above all — and this was the focus of American questioning — would post-war poverty produce a surge of European emigration, headed like a tidal wave for our shores, and destined, unless we raised adequate barriers in time, to swamp us in a flood of unneeded and unwanted numbers? As things turned out, we did raise the barriers, in the nick of time, and thereby shoved the migration problem out onto the stage of international politics, where it now promises to play no inconsiderable rôle.

In seeking the significant causes for post-war recrudescence of interest in the population problem

we must not overlook the American Birth Control movement, embodied in the vigorous and courageous propaganda of the American Birth Control League and the Voluntary Parenthood League, and popularly personified in Margaret Sanger. It was in the nature of sheer coincidence that this movement should come so prominently and insistently on the stage in war time, though it is quite likely that the quickening of moral questioning which came out of war stimulation opened the way for a more ready hearing for the propaganda than it otherwise could have secured. The stupid attempts of city officials and Catholic prelates to prevent meetings for the discussion of Birth Control had the usual effect of advertising the propaganda and quickening interest among people who otherwise would have been apathetically indifferent. While danger of over-population is only one of the arguments advanced by the advocates of Birth Control, the idea of population pressure was nevertheless given public presentation in places and on occasions where formerly it would not have been mentioned, or if mentioned, would have been regarded merely as a curious academic vagary.

EDITORIAL NOTE These paragraphs are followed by a consideration of the rediscovery of the geometrical ratio, a survey of land resources, mineral reserves, fuel and power, a discussion of the distribution of population, migration and settlement, and the “laws” of population increase. Dr Wolfe continues

It is safe to say that the theory of population, which as yet, as Hugh Dalton observes, is “still full of gaps and ambiguities and still looks intellectually untidy,” will henceforth center around the theory of the optimum. The concept of an optimum, or ideal, size of population concerns both theory and policy. Theoretically, there is for any given state of the arts and any given supply of available natural resources, together with a given supply of capital instruments and a given social organization, a certain size of population which can operate these resources to the best advantage and produce the largest per capita income of consumers’ goods possible under the given conditions. Either a smaller or a larger population would work the resources to less advantage and reap a smaller per capita income, although a larger population would ordinarily produce a larger aggregate return.

Briefly, then, an optimum population policy would aim to attain and maintain such a balance between population and resources that the per capita real income of consumers' goods would always be at the highest possible level. The desideratum in an economic optimum policy is the standard of living, not populousness. In the true economic optimum, the desired balance between population and resources would be secured through the lowest possible birth-rate and death-rate, since in thinking about a standard of living or welfare we have to think not only of real income but of real costs, and an unnecessarily high birth-rate or death-rate represents a cost for which there is no return.

OPTIMUM BASED ON LIVING STANDARDS

There may be reasons for departing from a policy of the optimum thus defined, especially if the standard of living be thought of in purely physical terms. As the present writer has noted elsewhere, any one of a number of aims could theoretically be chosen for an optimum policy, but "the optimum," in the minds of most of those who have written on the concept, has reference distinctly to the standard of living. Since the World-Population Conference, it is true, certain writers have attempted, on no very adequate grounds, to substitute other criteria. It must be freely admitted that a standard of living is difficult to define. A part of the as yet unwritten theory of the optimum will involve an analysis of the elements, both positive and negative (costs and returns) which enter into the standard of living.

MILITARY MOTIVES SHOULD BE ABANDONED

The optimum policy as before defined would stand in sharp contrast to the traditional policies which, when they have had any rational basis at all, have been founded on military and mercantilist motives — nationalistic interests demanding a plentiful supply of soldiers and commercial demanding cheap labor. If students of the population problem could be brought to think in terms of the optimum, defined in some such way as that preceding, there would be tremendous clearing of the atmosphere and we might be spared further barren controversy over the rightness or error of the Malthusian theory and further lamentation over the declining birth-rate.

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT

However rapidly the idea of conception control was spreading, via backyard fences, before the war, the organized neo-Malthusian movement seems to have been in a moribund state, save in Holland and England. It was galvanized into vigorous propagandistic life in the United States by Margaret Sanger. We need not undertake a history of this new American contraceptive movement. It was strong enough to start a monthly magazine, the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*, in 1917. Two groups of Birth Control advocates developed early in the new movement. The larger and more influential, headed by Mrs. Sanger and organized as the American Birth Control League in 1922, advocates that the laws be amended to allow the medical profession to give contraceptive information. The other group, headed by Mary Ware Dennett, and known as the Voluntary Parenthood League, advocates the removal of all legal restrictions on the dissemination of contraceptive information. The Voluntary Parenthood League has concentrated its efforts on Congress with a view to repeal of the statute, got through Congress by the fanatical reformer Anthony Comstock in 1873, which classifies contraceptive information with obscene literature and forbids its transmission through the mails. Mrs. Dennett has also compiled an excellent collection of all the American laws, federal and state, bearing on Birth Control. The Birth Control League has devoted its attention to public education on the idea of Birth Control and to the establishment of Birth Control clinics where possible. It has also been responsible for several national Birth Control conferences, the first American being held in 1921, and has taken prominent part in international conferences. Mrs. Sanger was instrumental in the calling of the First World-Population Conference.

BIRTH CONTROL LIFTS SEX TABOO

The Birth Control movement has been one among many agencies which have helped to get rid of the conspiracy of silence on sex matters and to introduce a certain amount of rationalism in a department of life hitherto ruled largely — where ruled at all — by sentimentality, ignorance, superstition, prejudice and authoritarianism. Not the least of the public services of the Birth Control advocates is the fight they have made for freedom of speech and assembly.

The Booth at the National Conference

By ELISABETH GREW BACON

THAT no Conference on Social Work is worth while unless Birth Control has a place therein is now an axiom

That a Birth Control Booth is a necessary part of the general propaganda is proved by the crowd of visitors which pressed upon the limited space allotted—and overflowed into the adjacent booths—from the moment the sign "Birth Control League" was affixed until after even the partitions making the booth were removed. Keenly interested, earnestly inquiring and most sympathetic visitors thronged around us. The Visitors' Book is the most important feature of the work, in my opinion. So many illustrious names, so many professions, countries and states were represented! All who signed did so with genuine pleasure and as a proof of willing co-operation.

Thousands of pieces of literature were distributed—500 copies of the REVIEW found eager hands. \$124.30 was paid for books and pamphlets. It was interesting to note that the "best sellers" were books on marriage—Floyd Dell's fascinating pamphlet was quickly sold out—we could have sold hundreds more! Mrs. Sanger's "Happiness in Marriage" and "What Every Boy and Girl Should Know" went well. Dr. Knopf's "Various Aspects of Birth Control" was in great demand. It is obvious that social workers desire and require highly specialized and absolutely correct data on Birth Control. Dr. Knopf's pamphlet supplies this need perfectly. Sellers and customers, we were all grateful to him for giving us such a comprehensive study at so small cost.

Special mention must be made of the devoted, untiring efforts of those who assisted. Mrs. Anna Lampkin of Oakland, Mrs. John E. Cushing of San Francisco, Dr. Louise Everitt Tabor of San Francisco, Mrs. Kower of East Oakland, and Mr. Raymond Arnold of San Francisco. Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, Mrs. Lewis Delafield and Miss Henriette Hart visited the Booth frequently, and many of our local and visiting members made the Booth their rendezvous and were often pressed into service as the business outstripped the efforts of the three or four officially on duty.

The location of the Booth was not the best by any means, yet such was our drawing power that the obscure corner became the most noticeable and most animated spot. "You *always* have a crowd" was the general remark of other booth workers—"Just look at you people—you've captured the conference!" "One has only to follow the crowd to come to Birth Control" and so on.

Monday, July 1st was "Birth Control Day"—all our meetings taking place then. After that the deluge! The leading morning paper, which, of course, comes out the night before, ran great startling two inch headlines all across the front page: "*San Francisco Birth Control Clinics Bared*"

The reporter who secured this tremendous prize was elated by his success in gaining the most coveted space in his paper for his clever write-up. The other reporters were quite pathetically sad that they had not seen the possibilities coyly hiding in the speech made by the eminent woman physician, Dr. Adelaide Brown of San Francisco. Dr. Brown gave her report on the work of the Maternal Health Clinics, of which she is Medical Director. Owing to the ambiguities of the State law, the Maternal Health Clinic, as well as other clinics in California, do not publish their addresses, neither do they seek publicity. On the contrary, they endeavor to avoid it. The astute reporter was himself surprised that Birth Control clinics existed in San Francisco and he knew that if the argus-eyed press was unaware, the general public would be more so. Hence the headlines and the subsequent furore.

The Booth was inundated with reporters both men and women, photographers with complicated cameras and flashlights. The Booth was arranged and rearranged—we were implored "to look natural and seem to be selling the REVIEW"—others were asked "to look unconscious and be asking a question—or reading a book."

Unfortunately (for the Press) the spectacular raid they had anticipated never took place and the interviews, photographs and personal histories were relegated to the Morgue—and the headlines next day were all about the big fire!

Reverberations of our headlines continued,

nevertheless, and we were the envy of the Conference — no group or booth having ever before captured the front page

Through the influence of our immediate neighbor we were able to furnish the Booth most attractively and comfortably with chairs, table, rug, etc loaned free of charge by the Sterling Furnishing Co of San Francisco Through this additional accommodation we were able to entertain several small groups of inquirers at the same time

The outstanding question we were asked was "How can we start a Clinic in our district?", and invariably the question was asked by a deputation of two or more social workers Very thorough conversations ensued and if the suggestions offered are followed, many clinics will be opening before long,

many groups for investigation and education will be formed To help this work, it would be most valuable to have a concise pamphlet setting forth the State and the Federal laws on Birth Control and Sterilization, a pamphlet which could be sold at a nominal figure

The Birth Control movement is expanding by natural development into the wider field of human relations and the adjustment of men, women and children in their most sacred and intimate life Our work as a League will never be completed until we have won the whole world to our first aim — "Children of Choice, not of Chance", and until we have emancipated every human being from the tangles and taboos that enslave love, marriage and parenthood

Religion and Birth Control

By HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

EVIDENTLY it is high time for those whose dominant interests lie in the realm of ethics and religion to be outspoken about the vexatious and highly controversial subject of Birth Control Who inspired the recent raid upon the Birth Control Clinic in New York has not been publicly disclosed It is significant, however, that powerful religious interests are commonly suspected of the investigation, and that in general all but a few religious leaders are antagonistic, apathetic, or timorous about the matter History repeats itself In 1755, after an earthquake, a sermon was preached in Boston against lightning rods "In Boston," the preacher said, "more of the iron points are erected than anywhere else in New England, and Boston seems more dreadfully shaken Oh, there is no getting out of the mighty hand of God!"

To be sure, Birth Control cannot be prejudged by an analogy with lightning rods, but the similarity of attitude on the part of the religiously reactionary is too marked to be explained by accident Religion has so commonly resisted extension of the scientific control of life that it has become a habit

Birth Control arouses to poignant intensity this deep-seated attitude Contraceptive information, incomplete and uncertain as it may be, gives us new mastery over one of the most intimate and vital processes of our lives We can have children or not have them, we can space children as we will, if our

morals allow or are impotent to prevent, we can contract liaisons without some of the old risk of child-bearing, and in general we are handed an instrument of power capable of affecting deeply personal conduct, ethical standards, family life, and problems of population

No wonder folks are disturbed! Undoubtedly something has been let loose which will have a far-reaching and penetrating influence

REPRESSION FOLLOWS FEAR

The first reaction on the part of the fearful is naturally repressive The idea, however, that contraceptive information, being here, will not spread, percolate into one stratum of our population after another, be used ignorantly or wisely but be inevitably used, is of course unthinkable The familiar putting of the question, therefore, "Do you believe in Birth Control?" reflects a serious misapprehension of the issue Birth Control in this regard is much like automobiles They are not primarily to be believed in or disbelieved in They are here, they are being used, they will be used The only real question is, "How will they be used?"

At present, with the optimistic cheerfulness that characterizes prosperous America in dealing with so many of her problems, most folk whom I observe are employing the ostrich policy with refer-

ence to Birth Control. They know it is here. They know that some people who ought to have reliable contraceptive information are not getting it, and that many who have no proper business with it are getting it, and yet they resist with active antagonism or laggard apathy any endeavor to pass decent laws. They sometimes speak as though it were positively shocking to have physicians legally trusted to tell their patients the truth.

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE NEEDED

As an excuse for this obscurantist attitude one fact can be pleaded: contraceptive information is dangerous. Of course it is. All power is dangerous because it can be misused, and misused power causes endless misery. To suppose, however, that because power is dangerous, mankind, having once gotten its hands on power, will surrender it for fear of its peril, is a vain expectation. From education to airplanes all sorts of things are dangerous that no one is proposing to suppress.

Instead of further suppressive measures a positive attitude is urgent, if we are to arrive at any hopeful outcome. For one thing, the constructive social service to be rendered by the right use of Birth Control is immense in extent and in importance. This should be made a matter of wide-spread public education. The population problem is the basic problem of the world, and if it is not well handled no other social problem can at all be solved. No permanent help can be given to China, for example, until the pressure of her surplus population on the means of subsistence is relieved. And to say that this can be done indefinitely by improving methods of agriculture without lessening the rate of population increase is to fly in the face of known facts.

Sooner or later even the United States will pass its optimum mark in population, after which all increase in numbers will mean decrease in standards of living. We cannot go on conquering famine and scourge, encouraging preventive and curative medicine, quelling war, improving conditions of human survival—in a word, lowering the death-rate and increasing the birth-rate—without some compensating influence. Birth Control is a godsend indispensable to the world's future. What is needed is not suppression of the information, but wise instruction as to its meaning for the race.

As to immediate measures of philanthropy, a well-instructed person who knows the problem presented under present economic conditions by the

old and much-lauded household of a dozen children, must welcome the relief offered through contraceptive information. A huge family of children under present conditions is not virtuous but anti-social. To have as many children as can be well brought up, to space them with due regard to the mother's health, to have them come when they are wanted and because they are wanted—to encourage, in a word, a sane, scientific control over this most important part of human life—is the ideal.

As for problems of individual ethics which this new information involves, we must face them and not dodge them. Suppression will do no good, for it is suppressing nothing but knowledge, light, and candid thought. After all, chastity has been guarded more by modesty and common sense than by fear. The idea that the mere removal of the dread of conception is going to let loose a flood of iniquity is, I suspect, a misapprehension of the facts. Children of this new generation who have been trained in a code of honor involving the existence and the right use of Birth Control will be less likely even than their mid-Victorian parents to treat the matter lightly or to be beguiled by fools.

THE NEW KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

That the new knowledge is power, and that this power can be rightly or wrongly used, must become a recognized element in the ethical training of our children. There is no escape from this problem, or from this situation. The pathos of the situation is that while we allow the most salacious plays and magazines to circulate undisturbed, we shut out serious sex instruction from many of our schools and punish Mrs. Dennett for a frank statement of facts. Even in our families we commonly treat sex as though it were a tabooed subject instead of a holy and beautiful creative power. It is this silly and dishonest obscurantism which more than any other single factor is bedeviling the situation.

Meanwhile, the conservatively shocked and troubled souls, who find relief in attacking Birth Control and applauding assault of the police upon it, may as well make up their minds that contraceptive information is here, that it is being used, and will increasingly be used, that its misuse can wreck our morals, devastate our homes, and despoil our nations, that a right employment of it can be of profound personal, marital, and racial benefit, and that so serious a problem as this cannot be solved by suppression.

—*The Outlook and Independent*, June 19, 1929

Dr. Clendening Proves His Case

The amazing sophistry of Dr Clendening's article "Do Doctors Oppose Birth Control", (*Plain Talk*, July) and of his reply to a letter from Mrs Robert S Huse, asking him in justice to himself to correct flagrant misstatements, is heartening evidence of the weakness of the opposition to the Birth Control movement

Dr Clendening says,
in *Plain Talk*, July

The literature of Birth Control teems with more or less clearly expressed statements of the following articles of belief the members of the medical profession have exact knowledge of an unfailingly effective method of contraception They are taught this method in medical school

Mrs Huse writes to
Dr Clendening, July 17

Will you kindly let us know where such "clearly expressed statements" have been made in any literature put out by this organization? We constantly stress the fact that doctors have *not* studied contraception — that an enormous amount of research needs to be done in the field, that we believe that contraception is a medical problem which deserves just as much study as any other field of medicine and which has had, up to this time, practically none

Dr Clendening
replies on July 26

In (your) program you state that the League is in favor of "making motherhood voluntary rather than accidental and indiscriminate" In the third article of your belief you say that recommendation should be made by the family physician for such contraceptive methods as will

attain this end Now, if the family physician does not know an unfailingly effective method of contraception, motherhood will still be accidental and indiscriminate instead of voluntary In other words, the method must be unfailingly effective If the family physician knows such a method, then my statement that the medical profession knows this is true If they do know it, I take it as a fair assumption that they learned it in medical school rather than at a symphony concert or a chance visit to the Midnight Follies

Dr Clendening says,
in *Plain Talk*, July

No one deliberately attempts to be callous to the sights and sounds of human misery There is a genuine threnody of woe arising from the pages of Mrs Sanger's book (*Motherhood in Bondage*) But the causes of this woe are too complex to be solved by a game of tiddle-de-winks such as the Birth Control Societies propose

Mrs Huse writes to
Dr Clendening, July 17

In your attempt to make your article amusing and readable, you have overlooked the very serious misery caused by lack of knowledge of effective methods of contraception, both in the medical profession and among married people Your contacts with the type of people needing information may have left you

cold, but thousands of doctors do not feel as you do

Dr Clendening
replies on July 26

Concerning the amount of misery there is in the world, I am afraid I know quite as much about that as you do I am also afraid that I do not think you or the rest of the American Birth Control League are wise enough to be able to control it by any of the methods you have yet proposed.

Dr Clendening says,
in *Plain Talk*, July

There is no method of contraception which is not known to every adult male not actually the victim of microcephalic idiocy at the moment of his puberty The reason professors in medical colleges do not lecture on the subject is the same as the reason they do not teach the alphabet — everybody already knows it

Mrs Huse writes to
Dr Clendening, July 17

This statement is astounding in view of the fact that the vast majority of doctors to whom Dr Cooper has lectured during the past four years know nothing whatever of the use of the —, and that 98 per cent of the cases which come to us, advised by their doctors, have been told, by them, to use either a — or a —

No answer.

Book Reviews

POSTERITY, in the Light of Science, Philanthropy, and Population, by Frank W White, L R C P & S E *Watts & Company London* 2/6

WHAT IS EUGENICS? By Major Leonard Darwin *Watts & Company London* 1 s

THE case of eugenics needs no pleading to anyone at all familiar with the stubborn facts of the hereditary transmission of many physical and mental defects. It is obvious that humanity would be enormously benefited by any procedure which would diminish the number and proportion of defective individuals born. Although the need for such a procedure is obvious, it is one which we are prone to minimize or forget.

In "Posterity" the overwhelming magnitude of this need is convincingly demonstrated. A chapter of statistics, setting forth the appalling prevalence of serious degrees of physical and mental unfitness, is a challenge to immediate eugenic action to meet a present need which will not be met any other way. The chapter on over-population presents good reasons why we should consider the future as well as the present and take seriously the menace of over-population. The avoidance of this evil in the future is another of the great tasks of eugenics. The author strongly advocates the dissemination of sound contraceptive information among the very poor and the establishing of Birth Control clinics. He states however that "great care should be exercised to ensure that only the right people make use of these places".

The idea that the fit should be forced to breed against their will by keeping them ignorant of contraception is very repugnant to the reviewer. It is easy for the eugenicist in his concern for the welfare of posterity to forget the welfare of the present generation. There can be no objection to encouraging our fittest citizens to reproduce, but to compel them to do so is to enslave one generation for the benefit of another, which is certainly the same as enslaving one class for the benefit of another. The book with this one exception seems sound, interesting and important.

"What is Eugenics?" is shorter and simpler than "Posterity". The arguments are clear and very persuasive. It stresses particularly the need for

diminishing the birth-rate among the insane, the feeble-minded, the habitually criminal, and those suffering from physical diseases which are either directly inherited or which occur primarily in people bearing an hereditary predisposition. The author employs statistics only to show conclusively that the relatively less fit members of society are reproducing themselves more rapidly than the more fit. He outlines the various methods of reducing the propagation of the unfit, but states that unless every fit married couple has an average of three or four children the absolute number of fit people will decrease, however much we may curb the reproduction of the unfit.

In spite of this the author is humane enough to feel that all married women should have access to sound contraceptive information. On the other hand he writes "The path of duty is the road to racial progress. Our civilization cannot be maintained if the better stocks have small families. To make the production of families of adequate size widely felt to be a paramount duty of parents of good stock is the call of eugenics. The idea must be incorporated in our moral code and advocated with religious zeal."

Even if we agree with these ideas I doubt if many feel that our interest in posterity is sufficiently dynamic to counterbalance the strong forces which are at present tending to limit the size of families among the relatively fit. The author takes it for granted that the most fit among us should make great sacrifices in the interest of posterity. Whether they should or not is ultimately a matter of individual feeling and should not be made a moral question.

ERIC L. ALLING, M D

WHY WE MISBEHAVE, by Samuel D. Schmalhausen, Ph D. *The Macaulay Co. New York* \$3 00

DR. SCHMALHAUSEN, in his challenging volume, "Why We Misbehave", has given us the best analysis extant of the prevailing trends of psychology, and with it a brilliant, constructive synthesis and summary of their social significance. The author takes up the vital contributions of Freud, Adler and Jung, as well as of Watson, the

behaviorist, and the more academic psychologists, past and present, pointing out the relative merits and shortcomings of each. In brief, he considers the tendency to over-generalize, and the propensity to draw conclusions from formulated principles and abstractions, rather than to study each case on its own individual merits, a common weakness of even the more dynamically disposed of the new psychologies. By the same token, he acknowledges the work of Dr. Alfred Adler in the development of his "Individual Psychology", to be the most important and outstanding contribution of our times to dynamic behaviorism. The tendency of psychology to put on its clinical clothes and become, indeed, the handmaiden of psychiatry, is heralded as the supreme fact of modern integrative therapeutics and the Mental Hygiene movement—which, in its broadest sense, is the most refreshing and most promising expression of the New Psychology.

Schmalhausen is one of the authentic pathfinders in the bewildering quagmire of sex. On the question of Birth Control, he takes a most progressive and determined stand, considering the control of fecundity the basic instrumentality of a sane and healthy sex life. "Everything significant and perturbing in the contemporary world is traceable to the accessibility of the knowledge of Birth Control."

WILLIAM J. FIELDING

GETTING AND SPENDING AT THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF LIVING, by Jessica B. Peixotto. *The Macmillan Co.* New York. \$2.25

THE Eugenists who raise continuous laments over the small families of "our best people" should carefully study this little book. After reading it, they might feel moved to turn their attention to the task of increasing the recompense which the nation deems suitable for brain power when devoted to the teaching and education of the young. Birth Control is inevitable so long as children cost so much and would-be parents receive so little. We hope the book will have a wide reading.

Some passages should sink into the consciousness of those who would urge the middle class intellectuals to have large families. Dr. Peixotto shows that to support such families as they do have, many university men have to work at two jobs.

She writes

"As a rule salaries of these university profes-

sors (University of California) did not pay their living expenses. To live even at the advisedly modest type of the professional standard which a university circle represents, supplementary income was needed. The data makes this very plain. As will presently be seen, the spending program was uniformly worked out according to a spending plan in good repute among those teaching "how to spend wisely." None the less, in three-fourths of the cases, the average salary did not pay for those things regarded as needs, 75% of the faculty considered supplementary earnings necessary. In some way amounts representing, as a median or mean, from one-fourth to a little more than one-third of the total income are obtained from a source other than salary.

If this University of California group is typical—and a careful review of the facts in other universities gives good ground for believing it is typical—faculty members form a class giving services for which they receive a subsidy rather than a full-time salary."

ANNIE G. PORRITT

GROWING INTO LIFE The Magna Charta of Youth, by David Seabury. *Boni & Liveright* New York. \$5.00

THE MEANING OF LIFE As Shown in the Process of Evolution, by C. E. M. Joad. *Watts & Company* London. 1s

THE author of "Growing into Life" is called by his publishers "the highest paid consulting psychologist in America", who has spent his life "in restoring mental health to thousands." Certainly his book reveals a long and varied experience in dealing with psychopathological problems, especially among young people. Such case-histories as he cites in great number, together with the modes of treatment described, have given him a sound constructive basis on which to erect his conclusions about the relations of parents to their children.

He begins by analyzing the present revolt among young people, recognizing it as a *fait accompli*, and—at the same time—as a healthy phenomenon that is forcing the parents themselves into a new and better attitude, an inevitable transitional phase in the working-out of happier relationships between successive generations. The second section is a series of chapters dealing with human motives from the standpoint of a psychologist of the older school—that is, he shares only guardedly in the

theories of Freud on the one hand and of the Behaviorists on the other. Here he treats of mental imagery, impulse, "the boggy of sex", habit formation, the behavior pattern, etc., with special reference to the young. His third section is devoted to abnormal thinking and the various neuroses, with an excellent chapter on the ways in which we create neurotic children. "Preventive Psychology" (Part Four) presents an approach to mental therapeutics, suggests first steps in reconditioning, and leads into what he calls the Magna Charta of Youth—the essential principles that should govern our handling of our children.

Useful though this book may prove to parents, two things must be said of it. The ideas it develops are none of them very new to those who have already familiarized themselves with the findings of modern psychology. They were, many of them, revolutionary a few years ago, underlining them now is rather supererogatory. But the chief drawback is that the book is four or five times as long as it should be to get itself read by busy people. Of its large pages, set closely, there are more than 700—no parent is going to read 290,000 words to find out how to treat his children. At one-fifth its present length it would have had five times the practical effect.

By contrast, "The Meaning of Life" by the English scientific writer, C. E. M. Joad, is to be recommended as a brief and meaty exposition of the philosophical conclusions to be drawn from the workings of the theory of evolution. Highly metaphysical in its approach, it is not easy to follow. But its chief value for parents lies in what Joad has to say about the inheritance of acquired characteristics—that active battleground of the evolutionists. "If the gains of one generation cannot be handed on to the next, the notion of plan or purpose in evolution and of a cumulative progressive advance in realization of that purpose must be given up. Life on this basis resolves itself into a mere succession of generations—not an ordered advance." Joad resolves this difficulty by concluding that as yet we do not know enough about the apparatus of inheritance to be dogmatically certain that the acquired characteristic may not, in the long run, reappear permanently as the eventual result of inheritance. His argument is ingenious, and his position seems sound enough for us to share at least provisionally and temporarily.

ELIZABETH C. MOORE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SOCIETY, an Outline of Primary Factors and Fundamental Institutions, by Frank Hamilton Hankins. *The Macmillan Company, New York* \$4 00.

THE same qualities which made "The Racial Basis of Civilization" a pronounced success, are again in evidence in this more general treatise. A wide knowledge of the field to be discussed, scholarly care in the presentation of complicated facts and controversial theories, plus a vigorous impartiality, have contributed to make this an excellent book for the general reader as well as a desirable text.

The author introduces the student to the study of society by an exposition of the obstacles in the way of scientific objectivity. He continues with a discussion of the origin and antiquity of man, the various human races, the sociological problems connected therewith, and the factors affecting society, such as the physiographic, the biological, the psychological, and the cultural. Chapters on certain fundamental institutions, one on "Marriage and the Family" and one on the evolution of social organization complete the book.

On the whole, the book emphasizes the biological factor in society, perhaps disproportionately, though opinions will differ on this point. The discussions of race, instinct, and natural selection as operative in human society, and the matter of mental levels and inheritance of abilities are all carefully developed. In drawing a finer line in these matters than have many writers, Hankins shows judgment and balance. He may lean on the results of the army tests, and similar findings, too heavily for some students, but he does not lose sight of the fact that the tests apply to certain qualities only. He thinks that "the culture and tradition of any people is greatly affected by their inherent qualities" and that these cultural characteristics are "largely, if not fundamentally, an expression of their abilities and temperament." In the latter chapters on culture he points out, just as vigorously, the cultural basis of our characteristics and admits "that enormous cultural changes can occur without any change whatever in racial quality." In this general connection the relation existing between heredity and environment is unusually well presented.

Some of Hankins' social principles are of inter-

est considered in connection with reform. The reformer is interested in the causes of social change. Hankins sees change in cultural terms, and thinks that conscious attention may come to facilitate societal change as it has the development of mechanical inventions. He warns of the dangers of reform in developing unforeseen results but harbors no illusions as to this fact, recognizing that our problems demand action and compel experimentation. If reforms arise on the borderlands of knowledge, or at least in the fields where most men are uninformed, we may see why opposition is often intensely emotional. "It seems to be a fundamental psychological law that men have the deepest emotional reactions concerning the things which they believe and the greatest emotional indifference concerning the things which they know."

Egalitarian ideas in feminist reform must work themselves out through differences in function, Hankins thinks. He is skeptical of the ability of women to match the mentality of men, relying on familiar data as to the different physiology of the sexes and the historical scarcity of women geniuses. "Were women to have not only a monopoly of child-bearing and nursing, but also complete equality with man in the higher powers of the brain, poor man would cut a sorry figure in social life. As might have been expected, however, nature has made their functions more or less complementary."

The most serious criticism of the book, perhaps, will come from teachers who will not like the treatment given to custom, social classes, and institutions. Thus in a transitional chapter on "Society and Its Institutions", the fundamental concepts are treated in a rather dry and uninteresting fashion. The picture of institutions does not go beyond the elementary and partial definition by Sumner, and lacks Sumner's vividness. The average student will have difficulty in seeing these items as real parts of the social process. This chapter should have been an important part of the book, so that the student might actually *see* society. The preceding chapters on culture and psychological factors in society should have been tied up with this chapter but this is not done. Public opinion is hardly mentioned in the whole book and does not even appear in the index.

There is little attempt at being sensational in the book, as is well shown in the treatment of Birth

Control. The author deals with this matter in a sensible and natural manner, not forcing the subject unduly nor playing to obscurantism by avoiding it. Thus, when discussing the immigration problem, he thinks a sound policy must rest on the principle of selection. He recognizes the high birth-rate of recent immigrants as a danger when seen as a concomitant of their questionable intelligence level. The matter of increase in numbers of our population must be considered in the knowledge that its quantity and quality "overlap and intertwine: the quality of a population is, in the long run, determined by the relative rates at which different strains in it multiply—low birth rates at the top and high ones at the bottom—almost certainly leading to a deterioration of the population." Again, the welfare of the laboring class is tied up with their increase in numbers. "Throughout human history a too rapid rate of multiplication has been a perennial cause of poverty, even of famine and pestilence. In our own time, it leads to unemployment, excessive competition of labor, and the degradation of the lives of the working classes." Recent material progress has helped all classes, but "such advantages would have been enormously greater, had the workers not increased their numbers with such unrestrained recklessness. There can be little doubt that the spread of Birth Control downward promises more for the improvement of the conditions of labor than any other practical plan now under discussion." In fact, "it must be said that the spread of Birth Control is one of the most promising movements of modern times. It represents the application of scientific knowledge and rational control to one of the fundamental conditions of human happiness and welfare."

There has been a noticeable tendency in books on social theory to increase their comments upon Birth Control as a social factor. Too often their remarks have been incomplete and furtive. Here at last is a book on general social theory which treats Birth Control naturally, where and when it would logically appear, without embarrassment or undue fervor. For opponents who think that those who write favorably of Birth Control must perforce be particularists, this will be an enlightening volume. Proponents of the movement who read the book will find it useful for integrating their knowledge of Birth Control with a wider body of sociological theory.

FRANCIS M. VREELAND

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

THE World League for Sexual Reform, which will hold its third Congress at Wigmore Hall, London, September 8th to 14th, 1929, makes the following statement of its aims

The Second International Congress for Sexual Reform on a Scientific Basis (held on July 3rd, 1928, in Copenhagen) appealed to the legislatures, the press and the peoples of all countries, to help to create a new legal and social attitude (based on the knowledge which has been acquired from scientific research in sexual biology, psychology and sociology) towards the sexual life of men and women

At present the happiness of an enormous number of men and women is sacrificed to false sexual standards, to ignorance and to intolerance

It is therefore urgently necessary that the many sexual problems (the position of Women, Marriage, Divorce, Birth Control, Eugenics, Fitness for Marriage, the Unmarried Mother, and the Illegitimate Child, Prostitution, Sexual Abnormality, Sexual Offenses, Sexual Education, etc.) should be re-examined from a common-sense and unbiased standpoint and dealt with scientifically

Over fifty papers are scheduled. A few among the many speakers are Dr Harry Benjamin, Dr C V Drysdale, Prof Carr-Saunders, Dr Aletta Jacobs, Laurence Housman, Dr Magnus Hirschfeld, Hon Mrs Dora Russell, Dr Hertha Riese, Dr Hannah Stone, Bernard Shaw

UNITED STATES

THE Central Conference of American Rabbis, at its fortieth annual convention, held in Detroit, Michigan, from June 26th to July 1st, received a report from its Social Justice Commission, recommending that the Conference "recognize Birth Control as a method of coping with social problems, and that one or more papers on the subject be included in next year's program." Rabbi Edward L. Israel, member of the Commission, said in support of the recommendation "We realize the many serious evils caused by uncontrolled parenthood among those who lack the prerequisites of health, and a

reasonable measure of economic resources and intelligence, to give to their children the heritage to which they are entitled"

After a four hour debate, the Women's National Association, in convention at Portland, Oregon, passed a resolution offered by Dr Etta Gray of Los Angeles, favoring the establishment of Birth Control clinics in connection with well organized medical clinics

The "National Origins" basis of setting immigration quotas went into effect on July 1st. The differences in the numbers admitted from leading nations are shown in the following table

	<i>Old Quotas</i>	<i>New Quotas</i>
Armenia	124	100
Austria	785	1,413
Belgium	512	1,304
Czechoslovakia	3,073	2,874
Denmark	2,789	1,181
France	3,954	3,086
Germany	51,227	25,957
Great Britain, N Ireland	34,007	65,721
Irish Free State	28,567	17,853
Italy	3,845	5,802
Netherlands	1,648	3,153
Norway	6,453	2,377
Poland	5,982	6,524
Russia	2,248	2,784
Sweden	9,561	3,314
Switzerland	2,081	1,707

The National Medical Association, an organization of Negro physicians, surgeons, dentists and pharmacists, will meet in Newark from August 26th to 30th. They announce a Public Health meeting on August 27th, at the West Side High School. Dr C V Roman will speak on Birth Control.

California

MR S F ROBERTSON JONES, President of the American Birth Control League, called a meeting of representatives of the Alameda County Birth Control League, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Birth Control League, and the Northern California Birth Control Committee of One Hundred, on June 2nd, to form a general State or-

ganization These representatives formed themselves into a Committee to recommend to all local Birth Control groups of California, the formation of a California Birth Control League, to be affiliated with the American Birth Control League. Dr Ann Martin was appointed temporary Chairman. Among those present were Dr Ann Martin, Mr Raymond Arnold, Mrs Anna Gerlach, Mrs Elsie L Fisher, from the Alameda County Birth Control League, Mrs Frances N Noel, of the Los Angeles Chapter, Mrs Alice Park, Mrs Anita Stanton, Mrs A E Matheson, Mrs Caroline Nelson Rave, of the Northern California Birth Control Committee of 100, Mrs Lewis L Delafield, first Vice President of the American Birth Control League, and Mrs F Robertson Jones. Mrs Henry E Hill, honorary president of the Alameda County Birth Control League, although unable to be present, sent word that she was much interested in the formation of the state organization, and hopes to interest club women.

Iowa

GEORGE R KIRKPATRICK, a faithful fighter in the cause of Birth Control, gave a lecture on "The Meaning of Birth Control" at the Des Moines public library on July 5th.

Michigan

DR C C LITTLE, before retiring from the presidency of the University of Michigan, delivered a Baccalaureate address to the 1929 graduating class, attacking the opponents of Birth Control, and reactionary influences. "The Church and medicine," he said, "have been fellow conspirators in withholding from woman information which is her inherent right as a free human being."

New York

ACCORDING to an inventory of the Welfare Council of New York City, New York spends more per capita for sickness and less for prevention work than St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Montreal or Cincinnati. The cost of illness is estimated at between \$120,000,000 and \$150,000,000, or \$25 per capita. On the other hand, the budget for all health work is \$8,500,000, or \$1.42 per capita.

On the basis of these findings a committee is now at work drafting a program to be presented to the

social and health agencies this autumn. The city has 11,000 physicians, 12,000 nurses, 6,000 dentists and 200 hospitals, as well as innumerable druggists, laboratories and quacks. In comparison with this multitude of resources for the cure of diseases, the agencies for preventing disease and promoting health are a mere handful.

After five years of active work on the part of a large group of agencies, including the Women's City Club of New York, the New York State League of Women Voters, the State Charities Aid Association, etc., the Legislature has passed a law raising the marriage age for girls to 16, with the provision that a license can be issued to girls over 14 and under 16 if both the parents and the judge of the Children's Court give approval. Of the eight states having similar provisions (Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, New Hampshire, Kansas, Arizona, Oklahoma and New York) New York is the only one which has made provision for submitting documentary proof of age for all under twenty-one.

Oregon

THE Catholic Women's Society, in national convention at Salem on July 17th, passed a resolution against Birth Control asserting that "the dominant motive behind the movement is not the economic consideration, but the desire to shirk the responsibilities of large families and the desire of many mothers to escape the sacrifices demanded of them."

Pennsylvania

MRS A C MARTIN, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, has just returned from a trip through the central and western parts of the state. She reports that a Birth Control League for Erie County was organized in Erie on July 2nd, with Mrs E J Armstrong as President, Mrs Louise G Brecht, Vice-President, Mrs W H Patterson, Secretary and Mrs Milton Schaffner, Treasurer. Arrangements for a public meeting in October are under way. Other public meetings are planned for Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The Federation reports much activity, despite the summer months, and is especially gratified that thirty-nine more doctors have joined.

An attractive new leaflet just issued by the Federation carries expressions of opinion from Dr Kate W Baldwin, Dr H C Bazett, Dr Jay F Schamberg, and Dr Norris W Vaux, and the following statement

For nearly sixty years, since the passage of the first Pennsylvania anti-Birth Control law in 1870, it has been illegal to give contraceptive information. No exception is made in favor of physicians, even though the patient may be in such poor health as to render motherhood positively dangerous. In spite of the law, the prosperous, educated and intelligent classes have access to contraceptive information and limit their families. But the poor do not know how or where to obtain such information and cannot avoid having many children, even though unwanted. Vast numbers of diseased and unfit are born, enormous sums of money must be spent in charity and taxes grow heavier.

The law should be amended so that *Birth Control Clinics* may be established where doctors will freely and openly give contraceptive information to all married people who need it. Will you not help us?

PORTO RICO

ACCORDING to a dispatch from the Porto Rico newspaper, *Progress*, a law has recently passed the legislature giving suffrage to all women who can read and write. This same legislature also abolished capital punishment.

CANADA

THE Annual Report of the Department of Health of New Brunswick shows much success in the work of "Infant Conservation." Infant mortality has fallen from 134.9 per 1,000 births in 1920 to 96 per 1,000 in 1927.

ENGLAND

A CLEAR statement of the Birth Control situation in England was published by a Joint Committee on Birth Control Information, for use in the General Election. After the question "If elected, will you support measures to permit the giving of Birth Control information to mothers who ask for it, by the medical officers at Maternity and Child Welfare Centers in receipt of Government grants?" the pamphlet goes on to explain the present situation.

The result of refusing to give information in a scientific and decent way at the Maternity Centers to which mothers are accustomed to go for advice on their own and their children's health is to increase the number of poor mothers who—from sheer ignorance—have recourse to the un-

desirable practices advertised by quacks and various commercial agencies which frequently do not distinguish between contraception and abortion.

It is important to realize that this is not a question of Birth Control *versus* no Birth Control. The point at issue is whether the information available shall be scientific or whether it shall continue to be commercialized.

Further details of the report of the Mental Deficiency Committee bring out the following facts.

For urban districts, the estimate of mental defectives is 6.71 per 1,000, whereas for rural districts the estimate arrived at is 10.49 per 1,000. "It is of some interest and importance," says the Report, "to know that the increase has been caused not by deleterious industrial conditions of the large towns, but by selective hereditary features operating in isolated rural areas, although the environment of these areas is most conducive to the birth and maintenance of a healthy stock."

The number of certifiable mentally defective children who are not certified, and who are not even recognized as mentally defective, amounts to about 90,000, i.e., nearly six times as many as those attending certified special schools.

The Committee's recommendation of sterilization as a solution has precipitated violent discussion in the English press.

FRANCE

FRENCH vital statistics for 1928, recently issued, show that the population was 41,020,000 as compared with 40,920,000 in 1927. During the year the number of "live" births, meaning infants who survive birth not less than three days, was 745,315, as against 741,708 in 1927.

INDIA

THE first Self-Respect Volunteers' Conference was held at Pattakkottai, on May 25th and 26th. Mr Guruswami, president of the Conference and Sub-Editor of "Revolt" made the following plea.

The slavery of women in the name of chastity is one that demands our immediate attention. The chastity that imposes ignorance or servility upon a woman should go. A rational interpre-

tation of chastity should be partnership on equal terms. All the legal disabilities on women should be removed and they must have equal opportunities with their brethren.

We know poverty is chronic among the masses who form the bulk of the Non-brahmin population and the only immediate relief is Birth Control. The need for Birth Control is an accepted factor and what is wanted now is a vigorous propaganda among the people regarding the different methods of Birth Control.

IRELAND

THE Irish Censorship bill, based upon the findings of the "Committee on Evil Literature", appointed in 1926, provides for the setting up of a Censorship Board "to advise the Minister of Justice as to any books, newspapers or magazines circulated which, in the opinion of the Board, are demoralizing or corrupting", and gives power to the Minister to prohibit these publications in the Free State. All books, or even advertisements, relating to Birth Control, are, of course proscribed.

The *New Leader*, (London) commenting on the bill says

Undoubtedly there is a strong feeling that Birth Control should not be discussed. The Minister for Justice — who has distinguished himself by his attacks on individual liberty — has declared that he will not permit its discussion in journals circulating in Ireland. Yet judges are lamenting the increase in infanticide, the infantile death-rate in the Dublin tenements is reputed to be the highest in Europe, and, quite recently, in a school attendance case, out of a family of fifteen children three were found to be without clothes and so unable to attend. A policy of suppression in regard to Birth Control is not sufficient, it merely excites an interest and taints this at its source. Ireland's experiment in censorship bears every indication of being an unhappy one.

There is a form of infanticide not generally recognized and for this not the mother but society is responsible. It is the lack of Birth Control knowledge that causes infanticide—one sickly baby is forcibly weaned because another has been conceived—the toddler dies from the enforced neglect of the overburdened mother.

CHARLES U. FRANKENBURG

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TO THIS ISSUE

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Readers' Page

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

THE EUGENISTS' FATAL MISTAKE

TO THE EDITOR

I have read Professor Huntington's article in the July BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and agree entirely on one fundamental fact — namely, that practical success depends quite as much on temperament as upon intelligence. I have stressed this so much in my book "The Twilight of the American Mind" that nothing more need be said here about it. I differ from Huntington chiefly in the analysis of certain vocational statistics. His article convinces me afresh that eugenists have thus far failed to appreciate the gravity of the situation chiefly because their attention has never been duly called to the existing ratios between specific opportunities and specific abilities.

Dr Huntington has shown that ministers' sons succeed more frequently than the sons of any other professional group. We are all grateful to him for this discovery. But I cannot agree with his conclusion. "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."

This does not stand to reason at all. It would follow only if Dr Huntington could prove that there were available many more jobs suited to the special abilities of the sons of ministers. The figures he cites to prove the increase of opportunities for superior human types are, I regret to say, not at all convincing. Today there are 47,000 executive positions in the railroads, telegraph and telephone companies, whereas one hundred years ago there were none. But what of it? How fast has population increased in one hundred years? How many executive jobs in other lines have been abolished as a result of railroads, telephones, and telegraphs? And finally how many superior people were mal-adjusted a century ago as compared to today?

I agree with Dr Huntington's contention that there are many more jobs now open to various kinds of superior human beings than ever before. The only question I raise is: What kinds of superior types are in demand? I agree further that people

who rise considerably above the statistical average of mentality and temperament are today living in a Grade B Utopia, and this, of course, is all to the good.

But eugenists will commit a fatal mistake if they do not distinguish carefully between the adaptations of the better-than-average people and the adaptations of the highest types of intellect and creative imagination. Professor Huntington's arguments are thoroughly sound insofar as he applies them to the better-than-average masses. They have no bearing whatsoever on the future of the Best Minds.

WALTER B PITKIN

New York, July 1

CATTLE AND PEOPLE

TO THE EDITOR

I am writing about the condition in our community. They seem to be more particular about the cattle than they are about the people of this state. They come and test our cattle every six months to find out if they have tuberculosis or not. They claim that this will be the law soon. But people can marry that have tuberculosis, or insanity or any other diseases. They can bring as many children into the world as they can have, and they don't do anything to prevent it.

A Mother Living on a Farm

Leaf River, Ill., June 26

A LONG FIGHT

TO THE EDITOR

Those who are convinced of the social value of Birth Control are compelled to wonder at times at its slow progress and the tenacity of the opposition. The principal forces at work against the spread of Birth Control seem to be the commercial, the religious, and the militaristic.

The commercial classes think that limitation of population means limitation of profits. Of course this is true, and if we consider profits more important than human welfare we shall have to agree with them.

The religious opposition arises from the desire for increasing power and revenue by the churches through the exploitation of their parishioners. This is perfectly natural, unless the clergy have at heart the happiness of the parishioners rather than their own selfish interests.

It is not difficult to analyze the opposition of the militarists and the militaristic dictators like Mussolini, which arises from the desire for a larger population from which to recruit "cannon fodder" in war-time.

We must face the fact that there will be bitter and long-continued opposition to the spread of Birth Control. I am not one of the optimists who feel that the movement will soon sweep over all obstacles to an easy victory. Believers in the cause will have to "dig in" and be prepared for a long and gruelling fight.

E BARNES

Hartford, Conn., July 6

TWO PURPOSES

TO THE EDITOR

The new trend of the REVIEW shows improvement in some respects. It is scholarly — perhaps alarmingly so. Propaganda should serve two purposes, the conversion of those who are ignorant of the movement, and information for those already interested. No number of the REVIEW is complete unless it contains some simple, direct, elementary propaganda, of the sort which can be understood by the "man — and woman — on the street." It is our task to educate the ignorant American public, not merely or even chiefly, the highly superior classes.

MARY WINSOR

Haverford, Pa., July 11

EDITORIAL NOTE: This interesting letter states the dilemma continually facing the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in choosing its material. We hope to hear from more readers on this point.

WORD FROM MEXICO

TO THE EDITOR

The only reason why I have not sent in my renewal before this, is that I failed to see the notice, as the magazine lays on my desk for weeks without being opened. I am thoroughly convinced, and from selfish motives I do not read the Magazine, so as not to suffer mentally from the hopelessness

revealed therein. There is no one here whom I can interest in the matter. The Mexicans only laugh, and the few Americans who should be interested are so busy making a living that they pay no heed. They look at me and ask what good it does me. I have four children properly spaced, but people cannot realize that one may be interested for humanity's sake.

V W BENNETT

San Blas, Mexico, July 8

PRAISE

TO THE EDITOR

I am enclosing a check for a two-year subscription. You people are doing a noble and sadly needed work. You are doing what William Lloyd Garrison did in slavery times. You are the harbingers of race progress, and, of course, receive caustic criticism from many unworthy and unjust sources.

I'll be glad to contribute and co-operate.

B F SLUSHER, M D

Kansas City, Mo., July 3

BIRTH CONTROL AS CRIME PREVENTION

The fact that the number of deaths is twice as great among the children of large families than it is in small families (four children or less) indicates that, besides weakening the vital fabric "(the ductless glands)" of the mother, excessive reproduction debilitates that of the child and its defensive power against disease. Hence the predilection of children of large families to disease, particularly those of the poor, through deficiency of food, crowding in small quarters, uncleanness, etc. When we add to this the inevitable neglect and lack of moral training, the reason why large families are prolific sources of youthful criminals, prostitutes, narcotic addicts, etc., becomes clear. All these misfortunes would be mitigated and even prevented to a marked degree if Birth Control, or rather conception control, were studied and practiced with due care. In Holland and other countries where this form of prevention has, with government sanction, been practised under the guidance of family physicians, excellent results have been obtained.

DR CHARLES E DE M SAJOURS

Federal Statutes Dealing With Contraceptives

SECTION 334, TITLE 18,¹ CHAPTER 8, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES (CRIMINAL CODE, SECTION 211, AMENDED) *Mailing obscene matter*

This section deals with the mails, and makes it a criminal offense to circulate through the mails, any article, instrument or medicine intended for contraceptive use, and also any written or printed matter giving contraceptive information or indicating where such information or contraceptive material may be obtained

Every obscene, lewd, or lascivious, and every filthy book, pamphlet, picture, paper, letter, writing, print, or other publication of an indecent character, and every article or thing designed, adapted or intended for preventing conception or producing abortion, or for any indecent or immoral use, and every article, instrument, substance, drug, medicine, or thing which is advertised or described in a manner calculated to lead another to use or apply it for preventing conception or producing abortion, or for any indecent or immoral purpose, and every written or printed card, letter, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information directly or indirectly, where, or how, or from whom, or by what means any of the hereinbefore mentioned matters, articles, or things may be obtained or made, or where or by whom any act or operation of any kind for the procuring or producing of abortion will be done or performed, or how or by what means conception may be prevented or abortion produced, whether sealed or unsealed, and every letter, packet, or package, or other mail matter containing any filthy, vile, or indecent thing, device, or substance, and every paper, writing, advertisement or representation that any article, instrument, substance, drug, medicine, or thing may or can be used or applied for preventing conception or producing abortion, or for any indecent or immoral purpose, and every description calculated to induce or incite a person to so use or

apply any such article, instrument, substance, drug, medicine or thing, is hereby declared to be non-mailable matter and shall not be conveyed in the mails or delivered from any post office or by any letter carrier. Whoever shall knowingly deposit, or cause to be deposited, for mailing or delivery, anything declared by this section to be non-mailable, or shall knowingly take, or cause the same to be taken, from the mails for the purpose of circulating or disposing thereof, or of aiding in the circulation or disposition thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. The term "indecent" within the intentment of this section shall include matter of a character tending to incite arson, murder, or assassination

SECTION 396, TITLE 18, CHAPTER 9, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES (CRIMINAL CODE, SECTION 245, AMENDED) *Importing and Transporting Obscene Books*

This section makes the importation and the transportation of contraceptive material or information a criminal offense

Whoever shall bring or cause to be brought into the United States, or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, from any foreign country, or shall therein knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited with any express company or other common carrier for carriage from one state, territory, or district of the United States, or place non-contiguous to but subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to any other state, territory, or district of the United States or place non-contiguous to, but subject to the jurisdiction thereof, or from any place in or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, through a foreign country, to any place in or subject to the jurisdiction thereof, or from any place in or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to a foreign country, any obscene, lewd, or lascivious or any filthy book, pamphlet, picture, motion picture film, paper, letter, writing, print, or other matter of indecent character, or any drug, medicine, article, or thing designed, adapted, or intended for preventing conception, or producing abortion, or for any indecent or immoral use, or any written or printed card, letter, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, how,

¹The entire body of the United States Statute law is known as "The Code of Laws of the United States of America." The code is subdivided into "Titles", there being grouped under each title laws relating to a single general topic. "Title 18" is known as "Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure", and is divided into three parts. Part No. 1 has numerous chapters dealing with different offenses. Chapter 8, for example, deals with "offenses against the Postal Service"

or of whom, or by what means any of the hereinbefore mentioned articles, matters, or things may be obtained or made, or whoever shall knowingly take or cause to be taken from such express company or other common carrier any matter or thing the depositing of which for carriage is herein made unlawful, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both

SECTION 511, TITLE 18, CHAPTER 13, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES (CRIMINAL CODE, SECTION 311) *Places applicable*

This section merely relates the application of the following section to the punishment of offenses committed in places within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, such as the District of Columbia, territories and possessions, the individual states being left to deal with the offenses when committed under their several jurisdictions

Except as otherwise expressly provided, the offenses defined in this chapter shall be punished as hereinafter provided, when committed within any Territory or District, or within or upon any place within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States

SECTION 512, TITLE 18, CHAPTER 13, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES (CRIMINAL CODE, SECTION 312) *Circulating obscene literature*

This section makes it a criminal offense to circulate any article, instrument or medicine intended for contraceptive use, and also any written or printed matter giving contraceptive information, or indicating where such information or contraceptive material may be obtained

Whoever shall sell, lend, give away, or in any manner exhibit, or offer to sell, lend, give away, or in any manner exhibit, or shall otherwise publish or offer to publish in any manner or shall have in his possession for any such purpose, any obscene book, pamphlet, paper, writing, advertisement, circular, print, picture, drawing, or other representation, figure, or image on or of paper, or other material, or any cast, instrument or other article of an immoral nature, or any drug or medicine, or any article whatever, for the prevention of conception, or for causing unlawful abortion, or shall advertise the same for sale, or shall write or print, or cause to be written or printed, any card, circular,

book, pamphlet, advertisement, or notice of any kind, stating when, where, how, or of whom or by what means, any of the articles above mentioned can be purchased or obtained, or shall manufacture, draw or print, or in anywise make any of such articles, shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both

EXPANSION

Can you spare five minutes time?

Can you spare 75 cents or \$1.00?

(Or perhaps — 75 cents *and* \$1 00)

to help us expand?

Send us a list of from five to twenty names, and let us mail from five to twenty copies of this number to your friends. We will mark the copies "sent at the suggestion of —", check some special page, or send them "incognito", whichever you prefer

5 copies	. \$.75
10 copies	1.00
15 copies	1.35
20 copies	1.75

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Single Copies, 20 cents Subscription for one year, \$2 00 Subscription for two years, \$3 50

Help Us Expand

What Our Neighbors Say:

Clinical Medicine & Surgery (Chicago), July—An editorial on "Birth Control Today" reads in part

Birth Control is not a matter of religion or of personal morality, but one of public policy, sociology and biology, and it should be studied in this latter light, calmly and scientifically, without prejudice or bias, strictly on its intrinsic merits. Birth Control is essentially a development of civilization. Contraception is here to stay, the same as automobiles, telephones, airplanes and the radio, and the sooner we decide to study it in the cool, impersonal manner in which we deal with our other twentieth-century problems, the better for all concerned.

The World Tomorrow, July—In "The Story of Margaret Sanger", the second of a series of biographical sketches of pathfinders to a new society, the anonymous author gives a clear and vivid account of Mrs. Sanger's life and her work for the cause of Birth Control. The article concludes with the following comment on the late raid

So many highly respectable members of the community jammed into the court-room during the subsequent trial, so many highly respectable newspaper editors wrote indignant editorials that the case was almost literally blown out of the court by the sheer force of public opinion. Policewoman Sullivan was selected by the forces behind the attack upon the clinic as the goat and was publicly reprimanded by Commissioner Whalen and demoted. The whole incident afforded an ironic contrast with those "thunders of silence" from the respectables which greeted the first arrest of Margaret Sanger in the days of "The Woman Rebel".

America, June—Fulton J. Sheen, in an article called "Making the Stork a Bootlegger", effectively disproves his own case as follows

Sound logic is not always desirable. It is, in fact, the most dangerous of all things, if one starts with a false premise. The Birth Control propagandists are the most logical people in the world. Their first principle is that there is no future life. Now grant this first principle, which is wrong, apply rigorous logic to it, and you

have Birth Control. If there is no purpose in being a man there is no reason for begetting men. This is perfectly sound reasoning. The immorality of Birth Control is not a matter of authority, but of common sense. It is too often said that Birth Control is wrong because the Catholic Church says it is wrong. No! Birth Control is wrong because reason says it is wrong.

New Republic, July 3rd—Closing the *New Republic's* stimulating discussion on Birth Control, Joseph J. Spengler answers Patrick J. Ward's exposition of the Catholic position.

The thinking Catholic is in a dilemma. If he practices Birth Control, he frustrates the primary end of the generative faculty, and commits a mortal sin. If he fails to practice Birth Control when his reason so dictates, he frustrates the primary end of reason, as a faculty. In reality, it is as absurd to discuss Birth Control with a Catholic as it is to discuss evolution with a Missouri Baptist. The sound program consists in taking a leaf from the Catholic book, and in forcing through every legislature a law, legitimizing the contraceptive knowledge which almost all practice or try to practice.

Federal Council Bulletin, June — Benjamin S. Winchester writes on the need of a program of sex education and points out that it is a community task in which the Church may well take the initiative. He says

No social problems are more acute, widespread, or vital than those which grow out of the relations of the sexes. Whether it be the question of Birth Control, divorce or venereal disease, it is a matter which may intimately concern any of us and which, if ignored, may lead to tragic results.

The Christian Register (Boston), July—The substance of Dr. Cooper's address which called out the Boston police, and barred the speaker from Tremont Temple (see June BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW) is printed in this "Journal of Free Churches", under the title, "Birth Control and the New Morality".

THE SEXUAL CHAOS

(Continued from page 216)

query whether civilization and a greater or less degree of sex experimentation can be reconciled. And in this connection attention may be called to the fact that the premarital liberties described by Margaret Mead in Samoa and by Malinowski among the Trobrianders throw little, if any, light on the problem of improved sex institutions for our own society. Our social organization no longer rests directly on its neolithic basis, its whole context differs from that of Samoans and Trobrianders. Moreover, because a practice works well in another society is no assurance of its rationality, even though our own practices appear defective. Nor is McDougall's position sound. He seems to oppose the idea of applying reason to the sex mores, though at the same time he implies that the existing—or recently existing—taboos are eminently rational because they represent the deposit of racial experience. That does not look like psychology and it is very bad sociology. Some taboos probably represent accumulated wisdom, some represent age-old ignorance, superstition and downright error, some are merely due to historical accidents. Along with frequent reiteration of the social and individual value of free experiment, we find McDougall denouncing the abandonment of the taboos, Mrs. Hale telling us that she discovers no evidence that casualness in sex relations promotes the happiness of women, and Schmalhausen who gets a lot of fun out of poking half-true criticisms at McDougall telling us that thus far woman's freedom has produced only "a rather smudgy carbon copy of man's petty, grand and glorious vices." What can one conclude except that we are in a state of bewilderment into which only faint rays of a dawning knowledge are beginning to pierce.

SEX AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

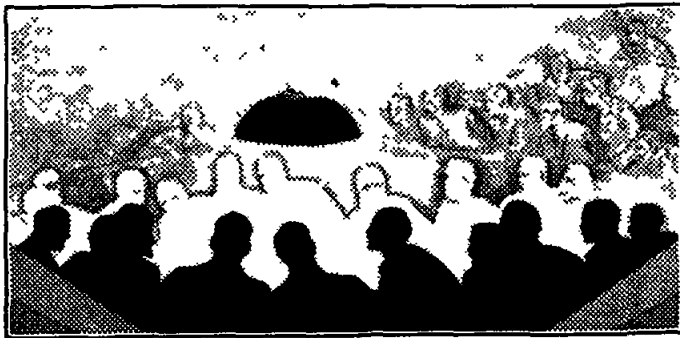
There is a whole section on "Sex and Psychoanalysis" in three chapters of which the mystical ritual and formulae are reverently and repetitiously set forth with great solemnity and in the last of which the Freudian constructs are subjected to a blasting analysis by Dr. Myerson. These and other references to the psychoanalytic approach leave the inquiring mind as bewildered as it was before as to what is the answer to the sex riddle. Another interesting conflict of preachment is found

in the varied views as to the relation of sex love to aesthetic creation. On the one hand we have the psychoanalytic views that the neuroses and psychoses find their roots in the conflicts of libido impulses with social convention and that the higher flights of imagination, the creative element in music, painting, literature and the plastic arts, is due to the sublimation of these self-same libidinous impulses. On the other hand, the protagonists of freedom are sure that freer and more abundant love will make the world more beautiful. But if the psychoanalysts are right, what will become of the arts, if we have freedom? Or, is their whole theory an imaginative and perhaps fictitious construct of that almost unimaginable being, a sex-hungry psychoanalyst? Or, is their theory substantially true, so that a people practising a casual and copious but cool promiscuity would be devoid of romance and aestheticism? Then, again, one can by no means determine from the views of our authors whether a recreational type of sex ethics would issue in ennui, in a "cold lasciviousness", or whether the whole psycho-physical nature would be repeatedly stirred to its depths by each fresh venture.

REASON WILL CLARIFY DISORDER

These queries are only a few of the many raised by the reading of these pages. One meets other conflicts and other queries throughout. But it is an eminently useful book. It is an honest and straightforward book. It presents many sides of a polymorphous subject, each aspect written by some one who has something to say and is qualified to say it. It is too profound a book to be appreciated by the sensation-loving mass, but it should be read by every person who claims for himself a place in that more or less intelligent minority which pretends to keep up with the times in things that matter. Moreover, it is an important addition to the literature of Birth Control, for a dozen passages make it clear that it is the spread of contraceptive information that has made the sexual revolution possible. Here is a tremendous tribute to the fundamental social and human significance of the Birth Control movement. It has made the problems centering in the relations of the sexes the most crucial problems of the present era for the future of civilization and the increase of human happiness. One need not despair that the light of reason will ultimately clarify the existing labyrinthine disorder. Along the path of trial and error lies the route toward human betterment.

In the light of MODERN SCIENCE



"The distinguished contributors who have been brought together, desire, I believe I may say, to contemplate sex nakedly and to do so in the spirit of science"—HAVELOCK ELLIS

SEX IN CIVILIZATION

In the light of modern science the distinguished contributors to **SEX IN CIVILIZATION** explain and discuss all the problems and aspects of sex. To read this book is a liberal education in modern sexology. It is this knowledge that pervades the new psychology and the new literature. It is the knowledge we need to understand ourselves and our fellow creatures.

HITHERTO relatively few people have had access to the important writers in the field of sex. Such investigations were found chiefly in clinical reports and academic monographs. In this book every intelligent reader may find what he has been looking for, set down, not technically, but illuminatingly and humanly, not vaguely or mincingly, but clearly and forthrightly.

SEX IN CIVILIZATION brings us up-to-date with the vital movement in which Freud and Havelock Ellis were pioneers—the movement of revolt against sex taboos, and of the substitution of sound information and sensible ideas for the old quackery and what used to be called sex hygiene. It contains what every man and woman of the present day should know.

Edited by

V F Calverton and Samuel D Schmalhausen

With an introduction by **HAVELOCK ELLIS**

AMONG THE 32 ENLIGHTENING CONTRIBUTIONS ARE

New Morals for Old	Judge Ben B Lindsey
The Civilizing Force of Birth Control	Margaret Sanger
Sex Differences	Joseph Jastrow
Sex and Education	Harry Elmer Barnes
Sex Enlightenment for Civilized Youth	Mary Ware Dennett
Sex in the Adolescent Girl	Phyllis Blanchard
The Art of Love	William J Fielding
Sex and Primitive Society	Alexander Goldenweiser
The Sex Impulse Normal and Abnormal	Dr Fritz Wittels
Sex in Religion Ancient and Modern	Robert Briffault
Should Sex Taboos be Abolished	by William McDougall

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