

October 1929

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance



Courtesy of the Weyhe Gallery

WOODCUT by E M DARWIN

Birth Control Review

VOL XIII

OCTOBER, 1929

No 10

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

104 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

Telephones—Chelsea 8901 8902

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MRS F ROBERTSON JONES *President*
MRS RICHARD BILLINGS }
MRS DEXTER BLAGDEN } *Vice Presidents*
MRS LEWIS L DELAFIELD }
MRS ANNIE G PORRITT *Secretary*
MRS WARREN THORPE *Treasurer*

MRS PHILIP G BARTLETT
MRS ZACHARIAH BELCHER
MRS CHAUNCEY J HAMLIN
MRS THOMAS W LAMONT
STUART MUDD M D
H ADYE PRICHARD D D
BENJAMIN T TILTON M D
MRS LESLIE J TOMPKINS
IRA S WILE M D

MRS ROBERT S HUSE
JAMES F COOPER M D

Executive Secretary
Medical Director

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

(Copyright 1929 American Birth Control League Inc)

STELLA HANAU *Editor*

Editorial Board

ANNIE G PORRITT *Chairman*
JAMES H S BOSSARD Ph D
MARY SUMNER BOYD
FRANK H HANKINS Ph D
C C LITTLE Sc D
KENNETH MACGOWAN
E A ROSS Ph D

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

Single Copies, 20 cents, \$2 per year, \$3 50 two years,
Canada and Foreign add 25 cents postage per year

Entered as Second Class Matter March 11 1918 at the Post
office at New York N Y under the Act of March 3 1879

CONTENTS

WILL BIRTH CONTROL BREAK UP THE HOME?	275
EDITORIAL	276
THE NEXT STEP By Margaret Sanger	278
BIRTH CONTROL IN FRANCE By Sue Green	279
CONTRACEPTION AND MATERNAL HEALTH By Helen Miller, M D	281
ROMAN CATHOLIC GROWING PAINS By Hudson Chapman	283
CEYLON'S MENACE By J Vijaya Tunga	284
EVOLUTION OR SOCIAL PROGRESS By Herbert A Sturges	286
BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT IN GERMANY By James Freyer Cooper, M D	288
THE OFFERING By Helen Hoyt <i>Poem</i>	289
SALVATION FROM THE MORON By George R Kirkpatrick	290
BOOK REVIEWS By Orland E White, John W Gowen, Madeline Groggins, Ernest Minor Patterson, John B Solley, James S H Bossard, H Wilbur Ross	291
BOOKS RECEIVED	294
NEWS NOTES	295
READERS' PAGE	299
CONFERENCE NEWS	301

Will Birth Control Break up the Home?

I AM writing to you for some authentic knowledge of Birth Control. Will you please, please help me. Surely if anyone is entitled to the information I ought to be. No one can possibly imagine the suffering and despair of a woman in my position.

Six and one-half years ago I married a youth, just out of college and starting on a teaching career. I loved him dearly. In those six and a half years I have given birth

to four children, which it seems to me is too much for any woman to bear, but yet what can I do. We try to be careful and all that, but it just seems to be no use. My husband has wanted to advance himself in the teaching profession, but all that our married life has been is simply one struggle after another to pay doctor bills and expenses.

We just can't provide them the things that they should have such as milk, eggs and nice clothes, on my husband's salary, and there seems to be no hope of his advance. My health is giving way under the strain, we can't afford to hire anyone to help me and it is just one drudging hopeless day after another. The last baby is not well and cries continuously.

My husband is growing bitter and disillusioned at not being able to carry out any of his hopes and desires and blames me for the number of children we have. He says no man can expect to get anywhere with a woman loading him down with children all the time.

When I think of the future, with the possibility of more children and the suffering and despair it seems the only way out for me is death. I love my children and would be glad to have them if only we could have lengthened the time between their coming, so that I could have had a rest and we would be better able to care for them.

I have stated my case very frankly to you, and I beg of you to tell me just how to control birth. Surely you can see how badly I need the information. It will save my very life for me.

HERE are three letters which answer this question more poignantly and emphatically than any amount of sociological data. Here are miniature biographies, the tragedies of earnest women, whose lives have been wrecked through no fault of their own, who have been kept in ignorance through the stupidity of our laws, and the inertia of our social conscience. Picture these hopeless men and women — these children—if Birth Control had helped them build their homes.

I AM very eager to learn about Birth Control. I am a poor mother with a house full of babies — nothing but babies. We have been married for fourteen years, and our babies are so close together—I am now sick and weak and nervous, and unable to give my children the proper care. I am so run down and used up, I am just a wreck.

I am thirty-six years old, and feel about twice as old. I need your help and advice.

more than anything in the world. This information will be a blessing to me. We should have had it sooner. Let me know of someone who can and will help me, for our family is so large and our income so small, and my health has failed.

We just can't afford any more children, for they would only be sickly and delicate.

JUST by accident I saw your address in a newspaper, and I decided to write for information about Birth Control — what it is, and if it could help me.

I have three small children under six years of age, which is not so bad, but there is always the terrible fear of another coming. My health is poor, and I have all my own work to do, in contrast to my big, healthy husband, who never makes enough money to clothe and care for our children properly. He says, "That's what women are for — to bear children," but he forgets the duties of a father, I think. I am worn out already, though still young. I only weigh ninety pounds, and, oh, how bitter and discouraged I am. My husband beats and kicks me, even when I am pregnant, but for the children's sake I try to make the best of it.

It seems criminal to bring children into the world when they cannot be given the education and proper care to which they are entitled. It seems to me that it might be better for me to leave my husband (if I could) rather than have more children, and sick-en and perhaps die—and leave them all motherless.

Editorial

NEXT month, for the third time in the history of the Birth Control movement, New York is to be the scene of a Birth Control Conference of national scope. The conference will open at the Hotel Astor on November 18th, and will, we believe, form one of the well-marked date-lines in the progress of the movement. We shall then be able to look back over the eight years that have passed since the First American Birth Control Conference opened its sessions under the presidency of Margaret Sanger at the Hotel Plaza in November 1921, and rejoice in the fact that the mind of the nation has been changed largely through the process of education which the American Birth Control League has been steadily carrying on. That first conference was marked by active opposition on the part of the city authorities. The mass meeting was suppressed at the instigation of certain persons high in authority in the Roman Catholic Church, and Margaret Sanger and a number of her associates were arrested. No such attempt to crush a great and growing movement is even conceivable in connection with our coming meetings. Even in March, 1925, when the second great Birth Control conference was held in New York, there was a complete change of attitude on the part of the city authorities. The 1925 Conference was of international scope and delegates were present from a large number of the European countries and from India and Japan and South America. Possibly this fact may have impressed those who would still have liked to interfere with freedom of speech in regard to a cause of which they disapproved.

AT THE coming conference there will be no need for propaganda speeches. Birth Control is now generally accepted and its practice by the intelligent classes is recognized. What is needed is an understanding of its application to the pressing problems of population and poverty. The first session

therefore will be devoted to Birth Control in its relation to social welfare, and experts in social work will speak on this aspect and discuss the benefits and dangers of making Birth Control accessible to the poor and ignorant as well as to the rich and educated. Two other subjects to which sessions will be devoted are Health and Race Improvement. Maternal mortality is engaging much attention both in England and in America, and in England the Government has set up an inquiry into its causes and into methods of lowering the shameful number of deaths of young mothers due to childbirth. But as yet, no one in authority has dared to point out that the first step should be to prevent conception when the mother is unfit to bear a child with safety to herself, and a fair chance of bestowing on the infant its birthright of a sound mind in a sound body. Open discussion of this aspect of the question is the best means of changing the minds of governments as to the duty and advisability of making Birth Control information a part of public health work. Another and most important session will be given to the consideration of "What is the most important work now ahead for the American Birth Control League?" In this connection there will be an explanation of obstructive laws, especially Federal Laws preventing the importation of Birth Control supplies and prohibiting the use of the mails for literature and records.

WE PRINT in this issue an article by Dr Cooper describing the Birth Control movement in Germany. In contrast with America, there are no legal restrictions, and as a result there are, Dr Cooper estimates, over eighty clinics, giving contraceptive information and sex instruction. Despite this, the American Birth Control League receives letters from Germany at the rate of about fifty a month, asking for advice, books, medical instruction, etc.

This paradoxical situation gives new proof

that it is not enough to enlist the support of the medical profession, to establish clinics, to abolish prohibitive legislation. These things must be done. But over and beyond these, education and publicity and an enlightened point of view are needed. Birth Control must be understood as a constructive welfare movement, must be discussed openly and without fear. Then only will Germans stop writing secretly to America for information and help which they have a legal right to secure at home. Then only will all people refuse to secure in devious and inadequate ways information which should be theirs for the asking.

WE WELCOME the opportunity of presenting the Birth Control situation in France as well as in Germany in this issue, for France, apparently, holds a diametrically opposite viewpoint on this subject officially, whatever the private convictions and practices of her individual citizens may be. Italy, ready to "explode or expand", as Dr. Salvemini put it — and hoping to expand, by fair means or foul, on the one side, and Germany, outnumbering her on the other, have driven France to a high pitch of anxiety over her low birth-rate, and her high infant mortality rate. If ever a situation called for Birth Control it is this. Birth Control, rightly applied, could help France solve the very problems she is vainly attempting to deal with by

restrictive measures. For above all else, Birth Control means the conservation of life, the birth and survival of the fit, and the development of a population commensurate with a country's needs and resources.

ACCORDING to a recently issued report of the United States Public Health Service, there are at present about 2,500 counties in the United States, of which 467 are provided with whole time health officers. Experience indicates, the report states, that the best foundation for national health is the county health department under the direction of a properly qualified county health officer, that specific health problems such as tuberculosis prevention, malaria control, venereal disease prevention, child and maternity hygiene can best be handled as part of a well-balanced program under such local health departments.

Doubtless it would be utopian to advocate that this county health service should be enlarged in scope as well as in quantity, and that its maternal and infant health work should include a complete Birth Control service. But the time will come, we predict with confidence, when such service will seem an entirely obvious and logical and integral part of public health work. Meanwhile, we must advance step by step, to break down the wall of prejudice, taboo and ignorance.

Program Committee for the National Conference

LEON J. COLE, PH D, *Professor of Genetics, University of Wisconsin*

EDWARD M. EAST, PH D, *Professor of Genetics, Harvard University*

HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD, PH D, *Professor of Sociology, Yale University and New York University*

FRANK H. HANKINS, PH D, *Professor of Sociology, Smith College*

CLARENCE C. LITTLE, LL D, *former President of Michigan University, Director of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research at Bar Harbor, Maine*

ADOLF MEYER, M D, *Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Johns Hopkins University Hospital*

WILLIAM F. OGBURN, PH D, *President of the American Sociological Society*

WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY, M D, *former President of American Medical Association*

The Next Step

By MARGARET SANGER

*The Penal Laws of the United States, which obstruct and prohibit Birth Control,
must be amended by the united effort of intelligent Americans*

THE greatest experiment in race building the world has ever seen" — this is the great human drama now unfolding in these United States, according to Sir Arthur Keith, England's leading anthropologist. Are we going to play a leading role in this great racial drama? Are we going to push through to victory? Or are we going to sit back content to remain passive spectators of a play which threatens to turn into a national tragedy? There can be *one* answer only — we must act, courageously, promptly and in unison. If we refuse, we brand ourselves as lacking not only intelligence, but also courage.

What is the next imperative step confronting us? I can answer this question in two words — co-ordination and co-operation. Let me explain why.

Birth Control does not mean mere contraception. It has two aspects — positive and negative. It aims to place in the hands of every potential mother in America the power to say yes or no — to decide for herself *if* and *when* and *how*, she shall fulfill the function of motherhood. Birth Control will enable a woman to act as a free, self-directed, autonomous personality. It will liberate motherhood. For, remember, without free mothers we can never produce free and strong children.

CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION NEEDED

But this Magna Carta for womankind cannot become operative without co-ordination and co-operation. Last May we scored a great victory in New York City in vindicating the right of the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau to function without the interference of obstructionists. That right is possible in other states — in California, for instance. But due to obsolete statutes written into our Federal Penal Code by prurient fanatics, unified action on the part of all intelligent and far-seeing groups in the United States has been impossible. Therefore I say that the first step toward the co-ordination and co-operation of our forces,

acting as a nation-wide unit, can be effected by the removal of the obstacles enacted, under the sinister influence of the late Anthony Comstock, into the Federal Penal Code.

The Federal law not only excludes books or pamphlets containing contraceptive information, but it makes it a crime, punishable by five years imprisonment or \$5,000 fine, to tell anyone where, or by whom, such information may be given. In other words the Federal law makes it a crime for me to write to anyone in California and give the address of any doctor or clinic, of which there are over seven legally operating under the laws of the State of California. Preposterous truly. The same law prohibits the sending of clinical reports to doctors, or the interchange of records, data or scientific facts regarding the studies made in various localities on the technique and methods of contraception. It prohibits the entrance from Europe of articles or books or appliances most necessary to advance the scientific work of the clinics, and of contraceptive research in the United States.

The Federal laws (Sections 334, 396, 511, 512) must be amended, to allow medical and scientific books, records and articles to be sent through the mails to and from the physicians, and to include necessary provisions for the patients as well as for druggists, importers and manufacturers.

The amendment to the Federal law must be secured by a general protest of enlightened and intelligent citizens throughout the country. I have the honor to be Chairman of the Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control (46 West 15th Street, New York City) and we invite readers of the *REVIEW* to participate in this national campaign.

Here I have only briefly indicated the network of obstructions and obstacles which have been created by these Federal statutes. They stand as a veritable barbed wire entanglement which we must clear before the American nation can carry to suc-

cessful fulfillment the greatest experiment in race-building this world has ever witnessed

To join in this national campaign is to align oneself with the forces of intelligence. This is the most profoundly patriotic act now possible for American citizens. It means to play an active part in a great human drama. Here is an opportunity to be embraced joyfully, reverentially, religiously

To present a united front — valiant, indefatigable and undefeatable, against the powers of prejudice, prurience and stupidity — to gain strength by our very solidity, and to march joyfully into the future! There is an increased sense of living, more thrills in fighting, than the passive critic ever feels. Support the Federal Committee and discover this for yourself!

Birth Control in France

By SUE GREEN

The French opposition to Birth Control can be dispelled only by an understanding of its positive side, by a realization that it can help France build a stronger, better race

THERE is no permitted work or propaganda for Birth Control in France, nor will any be possible until the opinions of both the "man in the street" and the student of population problems have greatly changed. To understand why this is so, we must examine the actual conditions here. France is the country where Birth Control, individual and unacknowledged, has been practiced for a longer period and on a wider scale than in any other country in Europe on the same level of civilization. The most important factor in producing this state of things was the law of inheritance, that required an equal division of property among all children of a family. France was preeminently agricultural, and a very large proportion of her soil, after the sweeping away of feudal privileges, was in the hands of the peasant proprietor, the small farmer. These small owners, passionately attached to their land (see Zola's *La Terre* to realize the strength of this passion), sought, by limiting their families, to avoid too great a division. So began the diminution of one of the most desirable classes of French citizens. In the middle class, also, social and economic conditions led to a limitation of families earlier and on a wider scale than in surrounding countries.

With these facts in mind, we are not surprised to discover that France, after her losses in the Great War, finds herself underpopulated. In the South, large numbers of foreigners, Italians, Poles, and others, are working as agricultural laborers, while

in many other parts of the country there are also large contingents of foreign labor. Another fact that has a disturbing effect on the national imagination is that France has a long land frontier, with neighbors who are more prolific than herself. One of these neighbors — Italy — is constantly urging increase of population as essential to national safety.

So it comes about that the fear of any further diminution in her population, and the desire for increase, is almost an obsession, and any talk of restriction of births is looked upon as unpatriotic and dangerous. In 1921 a law was passed making it a penal offense to discuss in public the question of birth restriction.

LARGE FAMILIES ENCOURAGED

Since the war, many efforts have been made to bring about an increase in the size of the family, and as it is recognized that the economic conditions make it exceedingly difficult for thoughtful people to incur the responsibility of bringing up numerous children, most of the efforts attempt to relieve the economic pressure. One hears also much talk of the duty of giving children to France. There are many instances of large sums being given by wealthy Frenchmen, to be distributed as family allowances to large families, the payments generally beginning with the third child. One scheme of particular interest was put into operation over thirteen years ago by the firm of Michelin among its workpeople

The family allowances are on a scale that makes the birth of a child a positive economic advantage. As a result, the birth-rate in the Michelin community is double that of France as a whole, and since the workpeople live in a model village, the survival rate is also much higher. This *expérience Michelin* has attracted much attention in France, and is especially welcome, as showing that the cry one used to hear from the pessimists, "The Frenchwoman is no longer fertile," is unfounded.

Hand in hand with the effort to increase the number of births goes the effort to bring down the high rate of infantile mortality. The standard of public hygiene in France is far below what she wishes it to be. I think one of the reasons that this is so is that she does not make use of her many capable women. Not only do her national and municipal governments continue to refuse women the vote, but even state institutions, orphanages and the like, until recently denied them their share of activity. Since France, in everything but politics, is perhaps even more conservative than England, she will retard her progress in all questions of public health and the uprooting of old abuses by refusing to put into motion the powerful lever of the woman's vote.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL NEEDED

Much, however, is being attempted, and it is through her social workers that France may become aware, that she too, in spite of her diminished numbers, needs a certain form of Birth Control: not Birth Control that shall lessen the number of her useful citizens, but Birth Control that shall diminish, if it cannot stop, the production of the

wasters, the whole category of undesirables, those who "should never have been born" as a judge of the Children's Court of the Seine said mournfully, after some particularly revolting cases of juvenile criminality. Because organized social service is still undeveloped in France, she has not yet fully recognized the terrible burden that these undesirables will be, as the responsibility of the community towards them becomes more generally realized. So far, the attitude of the average Frenchman makes him recoil from even this form of Birth Control, as something dangerous.

Some months ago, as a member of a group who were discussing the perfectibility of the human conscience, I was asked to present an idea that might form a nucleus for discussion. I took the view that to perfect the conscience we must aim at perfecting the body, through which the conscience works, and went on to speak of measures of control. When the discussion was about to begin, the president, a doctor, came up to me and asked, "Do you want to be expelled from France?" "Certainly not," was my answer. "Then we had better not discuss your paper," he replied — and we did not.

Despite such incidents as this, thoughtful people not only recognize the need for a quality population, but are ready to go a step further, and admit the desirability of checking the population of the tainted and the deficient. But they are not prepared to consider the application of measures to bring about this check. They feel that it is too dangerous, for it seems to the Frenchman a greater misfortune to prevent the birth of one desirable than to permit ten undesirables to come into the world.

Eugenics and Euthenics

The development of the individual man is dependent on two very distinctly co-operating factors, called by Francis Galton "Nature and Nurture." On these rest the twin sciences eugenics and euthenics. Eugenics is the science of being well born. Euthenics is the science, and the art, of being well brought up. This involves being properly nourished and properly trained, thereby making the best of what Nature gives. Whatever the final product, Nurture at the best has only Nature to build upon and the best products of Nature may be

ruined by gross deficiencies of Nurture. Eugenics must go hand in hand with euthenics, if the highest results in the conduct of life are to be attained.

Accident, vice, disease, narcotics, bad bringing up, have made criminals of many of decent heredity, but the majority of the morally delinquent are mentally deficient as well. The typical criminal is a moron of one sort or another. Suitable training is a help to all types of men, but education can never replace heredity.

DAVID STARR JORDON

Contraception as a Means of Conserving Maternal Health

By HELEN MILLER, M D

The maternal death-rate has not been reduced in proportion to the death-rate from other causes, despite the advancement of medicine and scientific research. Dr. Miller, Clinical Director of the Maternal Health Center in Newark, New Jersey, believes that Birth Control will reduce maternal mortality.

DISEASE is the arch-enemy of mankind. War, pestilence and famine have stalked abroad in the land ever since man was man and banded himself into social groups. War, we hope, is being controlled or outlawed by national pacts, famine, through the principles of economics in the interchange of food stuffs is becoming increasingly more rare, and pestilence has been halted in its onward march by the application of scientific rules and practices of sanitation and hygiene.

Many diseases have been intensively studied by competent physicians and scientists, and these studies have resulted, in some instances, in the practical wiping out of certain diseases. Smallpox and yellow fever are examples. The prevention and cure of tuberculosis has progressed, and work in the control of cancer is giving much encouragement to physician and layman alike. Investments in scientific research and practice are paying dividends in alleviated sufferings and lengthened life.

There has been a gradual lengthening of human life and a lessened mortality, particularly in all age groups above one year, during the first quarter of this century. This fact is born out by accurate records and statistics.

MATERNAL AND INFANT DEATH-RATE UNCHANGED

But in these studies a striking and most significant fact confronts the investigator. It is this—that though, through all the wonderful painstaking care of the physician, the research worker, the chemist and the student of science, the aggregate lives of the nation are being lengthened and mortality cut down, the maternal death-rate has been practically unchanged, as has the death-rate of the infant under one month.

Here is a condition which should give us pause. There can be no over-emphasis of the importance

of fighting cancer, tuberculosis, diphtheria and the rest, but in these noble works may we not have overlooked or relegated to a place of less importance a condition that should be in the very forefront of any plan for the betterment of the world? The right to be well born is fundamental. A handicap in health at birth gives others, more fortunate, a head start, and each lowered vitality brings the whole average down on the scale.

CHIEF CAUSE IS MATERNAL UNFITNESS

Advancement in prenatal care has been marked. Both the private and clinic patient have been given the increasing benefit of discoveries, refinements and improvements in prenatal methods. But notwithstanding all this advancement, the maternal death-rate has remained the same. And the chief and predominating cause for this is the unfitness of the mother to bear a child. This physical unfitness is many times the cause of the unwillingness of the mother to continue the pregnancy. All sorts of the most crude and injurious methods are used to bring on a miscarriage. If the miscarriage fails to eventuate, a most morbid desire for self-destruction often follows. And the terrible risk of dangerous and fatal complications is arrested by the fact that puerperal sepsis is the direct result of many of the attempted abortions, with death of mother and child as the end.

Maternal deaths are more numerous than deaths from any disease except tuberculosis. The United States Public Health Report over a period of ten years gives the deaths of mothers between the ages of 15 and 25 years as being eight to every 1,000 births due to puerperal infection, and toxemia of pregnancy accounts for 48 per cent of maternal deaths. In the deaths of women from all causes between the ages of 15 and 50 we find tuberculosis

the chief cause. It claims 27.6 per cent. But the second is pregnancy with 11.3 per cent. Then follows these causes:

Cardiac	8.1%
Cancer	8.1%
Pneumonia	4.9%

Heart disease, itself, is a common and dangerous complication of pregnancy for women who have borne a number of babies. In a study of cases over a period of four years in the Boston Lying-In Hospital, 20 per cent of the maternal deaths were from cardiac disease. In other hospitals we find the figures just as high.

These women should never have become pregnant. The condition of their health was such that they should have been warned of the danger of pregnancy and been instructed in contraceptive methods as sanctioned by ethical medical practitioners. For contraception each year is coming more and more to take its rightful and legitimate and necessary place in the general scheme of the practice of medicine.

There are a number of well recognized conditions

where its practice is indicated. The nursing mother, for instance, should never become pregnant. The breast is nature's food for the new born infant, and search as we will we cannot find a substitute that is as good. The mother's milk is the baby's birthright, and it is our duty to see that that birthright is not interfered with. Much infant mortality can be prevented if the baby has mother's milk for the natural full term. A pregnancy a few months after childbirth necessitates weaning and substituting a medical formula for nature's complete baby food. Many other medical conditions could be noted that make the giving of contraceptive advice necessary. The well-being of society itself depends more on the *kind* than the *number* of human beings that are brought into the world. Present lives are to be considered as well as future lives.

The opposition to the proper dissemination of contraceptive advice has come, mostly, from the unknowing, the stupid and the bigoted. It is encouraging, however, that in this department of medicine a more intimate interest is being taken by physicians, and a more sane and sensible view by the general public.

Man, the Rebel

By UPTON SINCLAIR

WHAT, precisely, is the difference between nature and man? The difference lies in the fact that nature is apparently blind in her processes, she produces a million eggs in order to give life to one salmon, she produces countless millions of salmon to be devoured by other fish apparently no better than salmon.

In what ways have the reasoned and deliberate purposes of man revised and even supplanted the processes of nature? A modern civilized man is hardly content with anything that nature does, nor willing to accept any of nature's products. He will not eat nature's fruits, he prefers the kind that he himself has brought into being. He is not content with the skin that nature has given him, he has made himself an infinite variety of complicated coverings. He objects to nature's habit of pouring cold water upon him, and so he has built himself houses in which he makes his own

climate, he has recently taken to creating for himself houses which roll along the ground or which fly through the air, or which swim under the surface of the sea, so he carries his private climate with him to all these places. It was nature's custom to remove her blunders and her experiments quickly from her sight. But man has decided that he loves life so well that he will preserve even the imbeciles, the lame and the halt and the blind. In a state of nature, if a man's eyes were not properly focussed, he floundered into the lair of a tiger and was eaten. But civilized man despises such a method of maintaining the standard of human eyes, he creates for himself a transparent product, ground to such a curve that it corrects the focus of his eyes, and makes them as good as any other eyes. In ten thousand such ways we might name, man has rebelled against the harshness of his ancient mother and has freed himself from her control.

—*The Book of Life*

Roman Catholic Growing Pains

By HUDSON CHAPMAN

An optimistic view that Catholicism will gradually assimilate the point of view of Birth Control and Eugenics

UNDER the imprimatur of Cardinal Hayes, Dr Charles P Bruehl, lecturer to Roman Catholic student clubs, has accepted practically everything for which the American Birth Control League and the Eugenics Society stand "Have a regard for the conditions of health of each other,"¹ he writes, "and for the well-being of those who will be born to you Do not shun the charges of pater-nity, unless it be for higher motives and for the sake of greater self-sacrifice" We must point out, how-ever, that he has not fully grasped the implications of such health and well-being To quote again "Moral theology knows nothing of an absolute right to marry The right to marry is dependent upon fitness to fulfill the duties of the married state"

AN ALMOST UP-TO-DATE PROGRAM PRESENTED

But the author marks a new solicitude for the welfare of the individual in the family, to be attained by avoiding "improvident procreation," and devotes most of his book to a surprisingly up-to-date eugenics program He even admits steriliza-tion, though only for the good of the individual patient The way the "Authorities" are handled on this point is perhaps worth quoting at some length, as it is illustrative of the process of gradual integration of scientific knowledge with a rigid system which would seem to have no place for it Speaking of the treatment of sexual types of in-sanity by sterilization, he says "The principle as enunciated by St Thomas is unimpeachable, its practical application, however, in the light of modern scientific discoveries requires a revision We know more now about the influences of bodily con-ditions of our psychic life It has been satisfac-torily established that certain moral perversions have a physical substratum Excessive erethism may have its origin in an abnormal functioning of the sexual glandular system Now, in this case the

resulting overwhelming sexual desires and the im-pulses for their gratification would have nothing to do with the will, but would have their seat in physio-logical conditions A surgical operation, then, might well afford relief in a situation that would yield to no moral means Contrary to the opinion of St Chrysostom, concupiscence would be really diminished by such an operation, because the ab-normal sex urge in that case would come from ex-cessive glandular secretion, and, when the flow of this secretion is stemmed, the cause of the abnormal sexual excitability would have ceased to exist, and the effect would likewise disappear The operation, therefore, would not be trying to remedy a moral evil by physical means, but would be alleviating a physiological abnormality, in which there is noth-ing contrary to logic"

There is no hint of the effect on children of being brought up in contact with feeble-minded parents, as he masses argument and argumentative quota-tion against eugenic sterilization, even quoting with approval a repulsive passage about an imaginary happy family where a good looking feeble-minded woman was to marry a well-to-do man and have her defect covered up

CONFLICT IN AUTHOR'S MIND

The general impression from Bruehl's book is that his mind is muddled by subservience to priestly dogmatism He has read some scientific material, as one sees above, though he still postulates "moral" good and evil as metaphysical entities dis-tinct from the personalities in which they appear His reading includes parts of Havelock Ellis, from whom he quotes an excellent statement justifying intercourse on grounds other than procreative, but, on the other hand, a group of theologians, Father This and Father That, assures him that immediate fatherhood is the only atonement for sexual inter-course and he assents blindly, and with a shudder at the wickedness of "nullifying the will of God by misapplying the faculties for which He has provided a definite use and specific end" The

¹"Birth Control and Eugenics, in the Light of Fundamental Ethical Principles," by Charles P Bruehl Joseph F Wag-ner, New York

pigeon-hole thinking which allows him so to shudder and leaves him undisturbed by the complete failure to apply the procreative faculty in those parts of the Roman church where priestly celibacy is enforced, is perhaps typical

How far Bruehl has gone with the eugenicist may be seen "the Church marriage legislation can now be easily defended on eugenic grounds" Here he stumbles into the old trap laid for the feet of the supernaturalist by Descartes Reason was to be the handmaiden and humble explainer of the ways of God to man, but as soon as the church was defended on the grounds that it stood for things justifiable by human observation and deduction the way was open for the dependence of the church on science

Sterilization, then, permitting intercourse without fear of procreation, is here accepted Many divines have accepted and are telling their flocks they may indulge in intercourse with every hope (and prayer) that no consequences will ensue The church admits sterilization for the good of the patient, it must soon admit contraception for the

good of the patient The next step is "for the good of the children" and we shall see in the Roman church the gradual emergence of the lay point of view, namely, that one's mental and physical health being promoted by intercourse, such harmless means as are or may become available are to be encouraged in the interest of a fuller family life

An organization as big as the Roman Catholic Church is, in the nature of the case, bound to exhibit a decided cultural lag The stand-patters make themselves heard early and emphatically, with the result that progressive men must, for the sake of preserving outward unity, keep silence until the evidence in favor of change becomes so overwhelming that the reactionaries may, in their turn, be silenced. Priests are not allowed today to pound their pulpits and inveigh against the Copernican system or even the theory of evolution When the stabilizing, beautifying effect of contraceptive measures on marriage is thoroughly realized, the theologians can be counted on to find contraception a praiseworthy defender of the "sacrament" of marriage

Ceylon's Menace

By J VIJAYA-TUNGA

In spite of its magnificent resources, Ceylon is being ruined by immigration, exploitation, and uncontrolled breeding

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

This quotation from Edward Alsworth Ross' book "Standing Room Only", brings out a number of facts, but it needs elaboration. It is hard to determine whether Mr Ross is being sarcastic, humorous, or contemptuous, and if so, at whose expense.

First let us consider this "hermit phase", that is attributed to the East, owing to a wrong in-

terpretation of Oriental philosophy There never was a wholesale hermit phase in the East For all we know, the temple and forest attracted as many and no more people than the church and cloister did in Europe in the Middle Ages What was more attractive about hermit life in the Orient was the fact that the hermit, *tapasya*, of the Orient was invariably a householder, a husband and father, and his home sheltered many children other than his own The hermit, so-called, lived away from city and market, and tried, within the forest solitudes, to realize through meditation and study the teachings of the wise men of his age. It was not a hermit phase that prevented over-population, it was the more natural conditions of life in those days This was, of course, not peculiar to the East

It is no longer possible to go back to "natural con-

ditions" We must make the best of existing conditions, with the help of science and present day knowledge

"Ceylon has become a gold mine," says Mr. Ross. But for whom? For the natives of Ceylon, or for those who, possessing the power and the money, can exploit this gold mine? I agree that "the result is not much gain in ease, comfort, and culture," but I must take exception to the statement that the coolies of today are better off—even a little—than their fathers before them. Their fathers were decidedly better off.

EARLY CONDITIONS WERE GOOD

The situation in Ceylon is in every respect far better than on the mainland, India. The land is fertile, the climate is unequalled, and the population is not yet excessive. But there is every sign that conditions will soon be similar to those in India. The unhygienic, unsanitary plight of Indian cities is due to two causes. First, under the old system there was no congestion, and people were able to keep their villages clean and healthy, without modern plumbing and drainage. This is true in villages of the Sinhalese, far from towns and cities. But the modern city is an invention of Western industrialism. When it developed without giving the people the means of equipping themselves to meet new conditions—in plain language, when the government of the country passed into foreign hands, so that the revenues were used for the pleasure of the rulers, instead of for the benefit of the ruled—the indigenous people continued to live under exactly the same conditions, while modern civilization, epitomized by its crowds, its trolley cars, and automobiles, sped by with blatant shrieks. Knowing how Japan reorganized its social life within less than a decade, because it had the necessary money and the will, we must conclude that the evils of modern Oriental city life are purely a product of industrialism plus foreign exploitation.

In Ceylon there was never a "coolie" class. The poorest peasant had his patch of land which he tilled and ploughed, and when he hired out to his neighbors he still retained his self-respect, pride, and soul. When the forests of Ceylon were opened up for tea and rubber planting, and when along with this work there went a steady undermining of the economic and social standards, the Sinhalese were reluctantly forced to work on the plantations of the whites. But they asked for fair wages, they

dictated their own hours, and what was most important, they went back to their homes (because they then *had* homes) after the day's work. These conditions were not satisfactory, at least to one party. Then the evil system of labor recruiting was started, under which a *kangana* (overseer) would go over to the famine stricken districts of India, and speak of the land of milk and honey, where gold could be picked up for only a few hours work. In hordes the starving families of Southern India began to pour into Ceylon. When once they got into the service of the "estates" and sought the shelter of the "estate lines," as the habitations for these wretched people were called, there was an end to freedom and the beginning of perpetual debt.

Despite this, to emaciated, hungry, sunbaked thousands from India, merely to live under the mild sky of Ceylon was a blessing. The immigration of the "coolie" class from Southern India has become a menace to Ceylon. The Government finds it difficult to get the immigrant to observe the customary sanitary laws of the country. In Colombo, the capital of Ceylon, there is today much congestion, owing to the influx of South Indian laborers, and not only is there "spawning," but due to overcrowding and unhygienic conditions, a spread of contagious diseases, and an increase in infant mortality.

OVER-POPULATION WILL BRING DISASTER

The main nationalities in Ceylon are the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Mohamedans, the Burghers (descendants of the Dutch and Portugese with a sprinkling of Eurasian) and the Europeans. Also certain minor classifications, not important for our discussion.

In the 1921 census, the Sinhalese, the indigenous people, totalled 3,016,154. The 1926 census showed that they had increased by only 282,503. The number of immigrant Indians, on the other hand, has increased by 25,379 during these same years, an entirely disproportionate increase. There are today 900,000 Indians in Ceylon, as against a total population of 5,000,000.

It is obvious that there will shortly be economic difficulty in Ceylon, over-population and increasing social distress, unless the condition of the "coolie" class is improved. While waiting for such Utopian solutions as garden cities, co-operative industries, shorter hours, higher wages, etc., I emphatically believe that the laboring classes in Ceylon, Indian

immigrants and natives alike, should have the same scientific information as to contraception, that has been found useful and necessary in other industrial populations

As I have shown above, Ceylon, because of sudden industrial development, and undue immigration from India, finds itself on the brink of an industrial situation, comparable to that existing in

the West. It is only logical to conclude that the same fundamental help—Birth Control—should be given to her. Contraceptive knowledge is practically non-existent in Ceylon. The Sinhalese though slow moving, are open minded towards new ideas. When Birth Control is finally introduced into Ceylon, I believe it will soon gain a strong hold

Evolution or Social Progress

By HERBERT A. STURGES

Man, unlike other animals, has the power of controlling his numbers, and he should do so for the sake of peace and progress

IS man the creature or the creator of his fate? The great dilemma of life is the battle of love and hunger. Living things multiply, and then they starve, fighting, struggling among themselves for the means of life. H. G. Wells in his new book "The Open Conspiracy" writes ¹

It is true that man, like the animal world in general from which he has arisen, is the creature of a struggle for sustenance, but unlike the animals, man can resort to methods of escape from that competitive pressure upon the means of subsistence, which has been the lot of every other animal species. He can restrain the increase in his numbers and he seems capable of still undefined expansions of his productivity per head of population. He can escape therefore from the struggle for subsistence, altogether, with a surplus of energy such as no other kind of animal species has ever possessed. Intelligent control of population is a possibility which puts man outside the competitive processes that have hitherto ruled the modification of species, and he can be released from these processes in no other way.

Some philosophers and sociologists raise the question, has there been any real progress in the past? Is the general lot of mankind better today than it was in the Dark Ages? When we look around and note the progress of machinery, the growth of population, and the development of commerce, we seem to find plenty of evidence for believing that there has been progress. When we consider the new and increasing powers of scientific medicine to control disease, we would like to con-

clude that mankind is certainly better off than ever before. But when we learn that mechanical, commercial, and medical progress have free play to benefit the people mainly in the New World, in the Americas and in Australia, while the Orient and most of Europe are too crowded with teeming populations to have the money to spend or the energy to indulge in these modern inventions, our eyes are opened to the real condition.

ECONOMICS MUST BE ORGANIZED

As long as population crowds on supply there is misery, unemployment, economic distress, malnutrition, poverty, and war. This is the condition under which animals live in their natural state, and it is the condition of human life almost everywhere. Domestic animals are spared the burdens which follow over-multiplication, since they are allowed to breed only up to the point where there is effective demand for them, which includes the power to provide them with the food and the other necessities of their lives. They are really better off than are many human beings, who are too numerous to live well on the natural resources available.

Man as the creator of his own fate must organize from truly religious motives the economic pattern which is the condition of world-peace and goodwill. Wells writes

The security of creative activity implies a competent regulation of the economic life in the collective interest. There must be food, shelter and leisure for all. The fundamental needs of the animal life must be assured before human

¹Doubleday, Doran, New York \$2.00

life can have free play Man does not live by bread alone, he eats that he may learn and adventure creatively, but unless he eats he cannot adventure His life is primarily economic, as a house is primarily a foundation, and economic justice and efficiency must underlie all other activities

So long as the majority of human beings are begotten involuntarily in lust and ignorance, so long does man remain like any other animal under the moulding pressure of competition for subsistence Social and political processes change entirely in their character when we recognize the possibility and practicability of this fundamental revolution in human biology

POPULATION CONTROL MUST BE WORLD-WIDE

In a world so relieved, the production of staple necessities presents a series of problems altogether less distressful than those of the present scramble for possessions and self-indulgence on the part of the successful, and for work and a bare living on the part of the masses The propagandists of Birth Control admit that their project must be either universal or dysgenic If a population in some area of high civilization attempts to restrict increase, organize its economic life upon methods of maximum individual productivity and impose order and beauty upon its entire territory, that religion will become irresistibly attractive to any adjacent festering mass of low-grade highly reproductive population The cheap humanity of the one community will make a constant attack upon the other, affording facile servility, prostitutes, toilers, hand labor Tariffs against sweated products, restrictions of immigration, tensions leading at last to a war of defensive massacre are inevitable World Peace remains a vast aspiration until there is some substitute for the present competition of states for markets and raw material, and some restraint upon population pressure

Among the larger issues of the readjustment of man and nature which is the major condition of human progress we would include the matter of the optimal population for each world area, under given conditions of soil fertility, agricultural and industrial technology, and the habits and customs of production, exchange, and consumption of the people of each territory In the World Population Conference of 1927 at Geneva, these subjects were apparently not deeply discussed, but a beginning has been made, and serious and social minded biol-

ogists and economists are everywhere taking up the study of these great topics which so vitally concern the life and welfare of our human kind. If these problems can be solved, and to the extent that they can be solved, humanity will emerge from the domination of the brutal forces of evolution and the struggle for existence and enter into the long-desired condition of social progress

Prize Essay Contest

The Eugenics Research Association offers a prize of \$3,500 for the best essay upon the causes of the fall in the birth-rate, with especial reference to Europeans and persons of European stock

The treatment should be historical, should include an analysis of studies already made upon the subject, and should lay stress upon the phenomenon in peoples of Nordic, or chiefly Nordic origin in all parts of the world Preference will be given to essays which are based upon objective studies rather than expressions of opinion

The contest is open to the world, and laymen as well as professional investigators are invited to compete The essays may be written in English, German, or French

Essays must not be signed, but each must be identified by a motto, and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name and address of the author

The Association reserves the right of publication of essays submitted

The essays in competition for this prize are to be mailed to the Eugenics Research Association, Cold Spring Harbor, N Y, U S A They should be posted so as to reach their destination not later than June 1st, 1930

"Foxes think large families among the rabbits highly commendable Employers who want large supplies of cheap labor, priests who want large numbers of parishioners, military leaders who want plenty of cheap food for gunpowder, and politicians who want plenty of voters, all agree in commending large families and rapid multiplication among the poorer classes"

THOMAS NIXON CARVER

Birth Control Movement in Germany

By JAMES FREYER COOPER, M D

Germany has well developed clinics, and the need for a Birth Control program is recognized There are no legal restraints

GERMANY'S interest in Birth Control, taking tangible form in the opening of various centres and clinics for sexual advice, came to a focus in 1924 when the League for the Protection of Motherhood opened a centre in Hamburg. This was soon followed by the opening of centres by this organization in Frankfurt, Mannheim, Breslau and Berlin. The program of the League includes the giving of Birth Control information to those who in its judgment need it. Up to the present time about one hundred such centres have been organized. In many of these centres the Birth Control phase of the work is very prominent, while in others it is insignificant. On the whole, the League has been very influential, especially through its publication, *Die Neue Generation*, in bringing to the attention of social workers and the general public the great need for an intelligent attitude on procreation.

By 1927 it was recognized that Birth Control should be a part of sex education, and the Saxony Ministry for Work and Welfare issued a pamphlet stating that Birth Control should be a part of the program of the sex information bureaus.

The social and economic disasters resulting from ignorant and indiscriminate breeding were the first to be recognized, and public measures started for their relief. The medical needs had been recognized by many physicians, and information was given privately to such cases as the doctor felt required it, but no public health program included the study or application of Birth Control for the cure or prevention of disease in an organized manner.

COMMITTEE FOR BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZED

In the early spring of 1928, Mrs Sanger visited Germany and addressed a group of doctors in Charlottenburg, a suburb of Berlin. Soon after this meeting, the Committee for Birth Control was founded by Miss Smedley and Dr Ruben Wolf, who called together Dr Schminke, Dr Hodann, Frau Dr Stocker, and Dr Winternetz. This was

principally a Medical Committee, and its purpose was the founding of Birth Control clinics, to give contraceptive advice and study the problems of contraception. Mrs Sanger assisted in financing the first clinic, which was established in Neukolln, a suburb of Berlin.

Dr Bendix, a well known physician in Berlin, and associated with the *Krankenkasse* (State Sick Insurance Bureau) became interested and introduced a contraceptive service into six of the *Amblatoria* (out patient treatment centres). Dr Bendix became an active member of the Birth Control Committee. Patients at these clinics receive Birth Control advice and supplies at the expense of the government, just as they would any other advice or supplies of a medical or surgical nature.

KNOWLEDGE SPREAD THROUGH COURSE

In December, 1928, the Committee for Birth Control arranged a course in Birth Control for doctors, to meet the growing interest in the subject among physicians. This course was held in Berlin in December 28-30, 1928, and was attended by nearly two hundred doctors from various parts of Germany. It is believed that many more would have attended had it been possible to make the announcement through the medical journals. At the request of the Berlin doctors who were not able to be present, this course was given again and another attendance of about two hundred was recorded. Excellent reports of these courses have appeared in leading medical journals, and the medical profession of Germany is, much more than formerly, inclined to consider Birth Control favorably from the sociological as well as the medical viewpoint.

The various papers presented at this course have been printed in a single volume under the title "*Geburten-Regelung-Vorträge und Verhandlungen des Arztekurses vom 28-30, 12, 1928*" (Birth Control Lectures and Discussions of the Medical Course from December 28-30, 1928). The book is ably edited by Dr Bendix. Three thousand copies have been printed, and it is available at all medical book-

stores in Germany at a reasonable price. This book gives the exact status of the movement in Germany at the present time, together with a complete discussion of the methods now in common use. It also gives a list of the clinics recognized by the committee.

The Birth Control Committee is entirely advisory, and has no executive control. Each clinic is independent and administers its own affairs. It adopts its own methods and carries on its own experiments. All clinics co-operate in the study of the common problems. A uniform history card is used and the information gathered is available to the Committee. Over 3,000 cases have now been recorded and the data from these cases is now being compiled for the first report by the Committee.

Besides these clinics, recognized by the Committee, there are many other centres where advice is given, but many of these are so strict in their re-

quirements for the giving of information that they are excluded from the printed list. It has been estimated that if they were included, the number of centres where Birth Control advice is given in Germany would be more than eighty.

The need for intelligent procreation, including a program of Birth Control, is being recognized in Germany by an ever larger number of social workers, editors, judges, physicians and others interested in the welfare of society. The centres for the dissemination of sex advice and marriage problems, as well as Birth Control clinics, are constantly multiplying. There is no legal restraint in the giving of such advice, either verbally or in writing. The entire future of Birth Control in Germany depends somewhat upon the political situation, which at present is favorable, but Fascism or any other reactionary movement may interfere very greatly with its progress.

The Offering

By HELEN HOYT

If no child be born to us,
No new life be founded
Of this delight of love, this adoration,
This vigor of love wherewith our love abounded,
What have we given the god of love who gave us
our love
For thanks and for oblation?

We took the fire of our fire
From an old altar:
From an old generous hearth by others tended,
By votaries, age on age, whose reverence did
not falter
This temple for the great honoring of love to keep
alight,
Garlanded, defended.

Shall we, who so richly received,
Make no returning?
What is our need to bring, our diligent share
That future lovers find the flame still clear, still
burning,

Shall we have only the plenty, the peace, the pleasure
of love,
And never love's care?

If all had but taken of love
And none ever had given
Out of their beauty of thought the beauty to this
shrine —
Built it from earth and stones so high into
heaven —
Ah, less exalted would be our love that today ex-
alts us,
Less rapturous, less benign

As a torch is lit from a torch
Let a child spring from our fire
This is our offering to love and love's acclaim
Out of the fullness of faith we have in our full
desire
Shall be faith for this sacrifice, strength from love's
strength,
Flame replenishing flame.

Salvation from the Moron

By GEORGE R KIRKPATRICK

*Unless the moron's rapid increase is checked by Birth Control, he will destroy
our civilization*

The earnest Eugenist speaks
*See the happy moron,
He doesn't give a damn
I wish I were a moron
My God! Perhaps I am!*

ABOUT ten years ago our federal government discovered the moron — in multitudes. Unsentimental and rigid examination revealed him to be so inadequate and incapable that he was worthless even for cannon fodder.

Mentally meager, culturally nothing, socially as selfish as a shark, sexually as eager as a rabbit, careless as a crow and prolific as a rat, the moron now in astonishing numbers confronts society as a grinning, scoffing brute in boots — and in full possession of sovereign political rights. He more and more successfully defies a large and worthy minority, who despise him but are too weakly sentimental or ill-informed to recognize him for what he is: a rapidly and dangerously self-multiplying menace. Because of his actual and potential numbers, the moron is the sociologist's puzzle, the statesman's dilemma, the educator's despair, nature's mistake, and, quite possibly, the future's defeat.

The moron is an increasing menace to mankind. Nature would destroy him in large numbers. Heretofore society also has fortunately made little or no effort to preserve or to perpetuate him. But now he is protected, coddled and actually promoted. He breeds with Biblical abandon, and is not discouraged by the religious in his industrious reproduction of his personally and socially worthless self. His progeny are expressions of the "mysterious will of the Lord" — in the judgment of many patriotic citizens. But the moron is a mistake — in social multiplication. He should, perhaps, if practicable be removed by substruction. However, it would be illegal (and unkind) to kill him.

Unless this rapidly multiplying moron is somehow instructed in Birth Control, he will in the end dominate a society that has neglected his fertility and his political power.

Because of their human rights, the morons cannot — and of course should not — be herded into lethal chambers, and because of their political rights, only a few of them can be sterilized. But many millions could be instructed and encouraged to use Birth Control.

Sooner or later (let us hope not too late) Birth Control will be recognized as a means and method of social salvation. Not by prayerful blindness, not by tearful but useless sighs, not by inane supplication, "Lord, help us," but by the simple biological process of preventing conception in sexual unions between morons — here, in this practical application of science, is a large measure of social betterment. It would seem to be up to the statesmen, social workers, sociologists, and educators to produce the ways and means of spreading the great new light of simple Birth Control methods.

This country spends annually five billion dollars on dependents and delinquents, one-half of this expenditure, very probably, goes to the moron and his progeny. That is, every hour of the twenty-four nearly three hundred thousand dollars is spent on the swiftly multiplying moron. Really, it would seem that this matter of spreading Birth Control is important enough for the attention of a statesman.

To say that Birth Control is an unnatural interference with the process of nature simply begs the whole question as to what "nature" is. A sane philosophy would regard the inventions and discoveries of civilized man as no less a part of nature than the practices of the savages. They are natural extensions of human aptitudes. Unless we are to hold that ancient things are more natural than modern, and consequently that polygamy is more natural than monogamy, and promiscuity than either, we may as well get it into our heads that Birth Control is on its way to become as natural as wearing clothes.

JOHN MIDDLETON MURRAY and J. C. YOUNG, M.D.

Book Reviews

THE RELIGION OF A DARWINIST, by Sir
Arthur Keith, *Watts and Co, London* 2 s

MAN IN THE LIGHT OF EVOLUTION, by
J Arthur Thomson *Lindsey Press, London*
1 s 6 d

THE GOSPEL OF EVOLUTION, by J Arthur
Thomson *G P Putnam's Sons, New York*
\$2 00

IN a sense, these three books are travellers' accounts of work done, explorations made and ideas thought out. But the regions traversed are not geographical areas, governed from distant capitals, but depths of rock and mind and organic tissue. For these are records of scientific expeditions in search of Truth. Sometimes the explorers sought her among the rocky layers comprising the earth's surface, sometimes through bits of tissue under a microscope, or in a dissecting laboratory with needle and scalpel, and sometimes they hunted in a monastery garden or in an experimental plot. In all cases the search was incomplete and many watchers of the trails are still standing patiently by.

"Organic evolution," says Professor Thomson in *The Gospel of Evolution*, "means that the present is the child of the past and the parent of the future." In two hundred and twenty-four interesting pages, he tells in simple, untechnical language, the history and meaning of this present day scientific concept of how things came to be. Here are pictured the beginnings of the earth and her sister planets, the rise of plants and of the tribes of animals that ate them. From its contents the average reader ought to secure a real knowledge of what this much discussed subject of evolution means, both in general and in relation to man, he will learn the history of the difficulties involved in attaining this concept, and, in addition, will realize that this effort towards understanding the past began long before the days of Charles Darwin.

Man in the Light of Evolution is a lecture dealing particularly with man and his evolutionary ascent, rather than his descent. "It is especially in the light of evolution that we feel sure of man's promise of future achievements worthy of the past. Far from depreciating, evolutionism aggrandizes man."

In *The Religion of a Darwinist*, the author of one of the latest and greatest treatises on *The Antiquity of Man* unlocks the most carefully guarded apartment of his mental home and most unreservedly pours out the miscellany of beliefs, concepts, and ideas that constitute his religion. In his own words, Sir Arthur Keith says "And here am I, a son of the most reserved nationality under the sun, doing an immodest, almost indecent thing. I have not only thrown open my sanctuary door, but exposed its unlovely poverty to your gaze." He speaks only for one Darwinist, for Darwinists and scientists in general are individualists. But there will be many who will agree with his statement that "he watches nature at play to learn if it be possible to modify the rules of her game," and that "he learns and hopes to accomplish his object." But what has this to do with religion? Read it and see.

ORLAND E. WHITE

ANIMAL ECOLOGY, by Charles Elton *The Macmillan Co, New York* \$4 00

TO those subscribing to Birth Control it will be of interest to know that this charmingly written, carefully conceived compilation of research on the interrelations of animal populations comes to the conclusion "that it is failures in regulation of numbers of various animals which form by far the biggest part of present-day economic problems in this field." The book is particularly valuable in showing the means by which nature (another word for chance) brings about this control of animal population. After all, nature is not kind to the feelings of her excess children. Famine and pestilence are the only means known to nature by which to reduce populations to reasonable limits. It is food which is of prime importance both in bringing on the over-population and in reducing it. In years of plenty population increases to unmanageable limits, in years of scarcity starvation results, cutting down population not only to a reasonable size but far below the actual numbers which nature if properly governed could support — for famine strikes deep at the vitality of the race.

The case of the lemming, Norwegian and Canadian, is typical. Rising to a maximum of over-

population in years of plenty, culminating in an avalanche of extra mouths to feed, these animals soon exhaust their native food supply. There is nothing to do but migrate. But the country available for migration has but scant food for these settlers. The migration takes the lemmings to the sea where they swim until they die, or the bursting epidemics reduce the starved population to very few individuals. In the face of these facts one cannot help but be reminded of East's book *Mankind at the Crossroads*.

Finally it may be urged that this excellent summary of the subject of the interactions of animal population be read by all students who desire to arrive at the fundamentals of population problems, social and economic. This review has selected only a mite of the excellent whole.

JOHN W. GOWEN

THE ART OF LIFE, from the works of Havelock Ellis. Selected and Arranged by Mrs. S. Herbert. *Houghton Mifflin and Co. New York.* \$2 50

THIS book should be read, as should all of Havelock Ellis' work, with the quiver of the wind in the trees, and to the sound of the running sea.

God gave us our naughtinesses to help us. When they fail to help us it is best to give them back with as little delay as possible. (Selection XV)

He is showing me his garden at Henley-on-Thames, his garden thick planted with roses and verbenas and pansies, and with a wide view of the valley below, but having one patch left purposely straggling and wild.

"This is my wild patch," he is saying. "What fun would there be in a garden without a wild patch?"

Or again

It is by art and religion that men have always sought rest. Art is a world of man's own making, in which he finds harmonious development, a development that satisfies because framed to the measuring rod of his most delicate senses. Religion is the anodyne cup — indeed of our own blood — at which we slake our thirst when our hearts are torn by personal misery, or weary and distracted by life's heat and restless hurry. At times, the great motor instincts of our na-

ture, impelling us by a force that we cannot measure or control, cause us to break up our dainty house of art, or to dash down bravely the cup of healing. But we shall always return to them again, they, too, represent an instinct at the root of our being. In the recognition of this harmony lies the secret of wise living. (Selection LIII)

It is Havelock Ellis nodding to me from behind a bowl of flowers upon a table spread with nothing but bread and cheese and — yes — Campbell's tomato soup, and discoursing, slowly, as if time did not exist, upon eternal mysteries such as these.

Mrs. Herbert's task of selection has not been an easy one. Her book, evidently designed as an introduction to Ellis, or for what is called the gift type of book, presents paragraphs grouped under the headings of Love, Art, Morality, Philosophy and Religion. To select from a man whose deep knowledge is matched only by the marvellous felicity of his style, whose passion and gaiety — the qualities he himself so highly lauds — are tempered by such sanity and balance, puts an unusual strain upon the compiler. It is not from poverty of material that Mrs. Herbert has suffered. It is from overrunning wealth.

MADELINE GROGGINS.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS, by Gillin, Dittmer and Colbert. *The Century Co., New York.* \$3 75

TO readers of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW this treatment of social questions will have special interest because of the space given to problems of population. The book is divided into four parts, dealing with the nature of the social problem, problems of population, the home and economic life, and socialization. The discussion of population alone occupies about two hundred pages.

Any reader will find some parts of the book appealing more strongly to him than others, since the topics covered are so numerous and of so great a variety. It is helpful to have them classified for convenience, even though one may wonder a little over the logic of arranging them in only three groups aside from the introduction.

But it is the elaboration of population questions that is most interesting and most welcome. There are biological, geographical and sociopsychological aspects. There are problems of movement, composition and distribution, quality

and race relations. All are surveyed in a well balanced, judicious manner. The treatment is liberal, the authors having throughout a clearly progressive attitude toward their topics. The reviewer has found the survey of race relations especially interesting and helpful.

If any points are to be singled out for emphasis they probably should be the care with which the different social theories are presented even where the authors dissent, and the moderation with which they state their own conclusions. Also attention should be called to the fact that the latest findings of data, and the latest theories based thereon, are carefully presented.

ERNEST MINOR PATTERSON

A DOCTOR'S LETTERS TO EXPECTANT PARENTS, by Frank H. Richardson, M.D.
W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. New York \$1.75

WITH fine candor born of intelligent observation and discerning sympathy the author admits that no man can know what maternity signifies to woman, of suffering, of sacrifice of selfless devotion. In this respect he has little in common with the complacent medieval philosophy of celibate priesthood still preaching to its millions of expectant fathers and mothers that "little children troop down from Heaven," and that the crowning glory of motherhood is to have as many children as possible, the inference being that the crown of glory is naturally to be presented to God's "instrument of creation" in Heaven if not on earth.

Having man's place in this process of creation firmly established in mind, the author, as a physician and psychologist, has quite a little to say to the expectant father in nine of the eighteen letters composing this little book.

According to the "blurb" on the dust-wrapper one of the three things that make this book distinctive is that whereas fatherhood has generally been thought of as commencing with the baby's birth, a father's job begins long before. We are glad to be reminded of this. For when the unexpectedly pregnant married or unmarried woman seeks a physician in order to be relieved of the tragedy of having an undesired baby, the abortionist who prevents the fatherhood from being successful becomes a peculiarly vicious species of inhuman animal, to be baited by the State, the priest-

hood, and, mysteriously enough, the police. If this is so, why has the discovery of the real fatherhood job, emphasized so admirably in the text, come so late in our modern scientifically enlightened civilization? Is it, possibly, for the same reason that the man-ruled State with man-made laws sanctions the manufacture of over six hundred million contraceptives for the male for "the prevention and cure of disease," but forbids the manufacture or sale of contraceptives to be used by women for the same purpose?

The book deals with the psychological aspects of expectant parenthood as a distinctive feature. Distinctive indeed. Just how far the author enters into this thus far delicate and embarrassing field of investigation in eugenic parenthood should be interesting to every woman. Perhaps the author will enlarge upon this in a later book. It is to be hoped that he will. For modern woman is making rapid strides in her quest of the truth about sex, eugenic motherhood, and her marital rights.

The author omits to take up the very important question of the proper spacing of children, and the equally important matter of contraception in the intervals. But he is seriously and rightly concerned with the importance of imparting true information to children about how babies are born. Also he has many valuable hints to the father about his duties to his wife during pregnancy, confinement and lactation.

The book as a whole should stimulate wider reading, not only of the author's other works, but of other intelligent books on parenthood reviewed in these columns.

JOHN B. SOLLEY, M.D.

THE BUILDING OF CULTURES, by Roland B. Dixon. Scribners, New York \$4.00

THIS is a book about culture building by a professor of Anthropology at Harvard University. It tells how the influence of environment in this process is permissive rather than mandatory, how out of the genius of a people evolve most of the basic features of its culture, how some cultures grow great and are diffused over a wide radius, that the rise of every great culture tends to decrease the cultural variety of the world, how such variety, subsequently renewed, yet lacks a former sharpness, and how the present day spread of the culture of western Europe stands out as the most

striking process in history, affording us an opportunity to observe at first hand the forces involved in culture growth

The United States represents a colossal experiment in culture building, "an experiment in which from a single parent culture, not one but a whole series of new cultural types and subtypes are being born" The process involved, while not new, "is working here on a scale probably never approached before"

Those interested in the Birth Control movement will be interested in his fear "lest in this great experiment in national and racial blending, too large an infusion of other temperaments and ideals may occur, or that clearly undesirable ingredients may be mingled with the good There is danger that low ideals or dangerous and subversive temperaments may be brought by defective and criminal classes, whom their mother countries are only too glad to export Danger that such a flood of the more backward peoples should come that by their lack of vision they might, at least for some time, become a dead weight tending to hold all culture back Or danger, lastly, that through an ever widely open door, either so vast a mass of some particular people should enter as by sheer weight of numbers to produce not a welcome enrichment of our culture, but its virtual replacement by their own, or so variegated a population should result that by the multiplicity of ideals all hope of attaining any one might be lost In other words, that too many cooks might spoil the broth"

JAMES S H BOSSARD

THE NEW CITIZENSHIP, by Seba Eldridge, Ph D *Thomas Y Crowell Co, New York* \$2 50

THE CURE FOR DEMOCRACY" would have been an appropriate title for Professor Eldridge's work The author attacks the theory that the well-being of a citizen is wholly dependent upon his working capacity It is Professor Eldridge's contention that the civic life is a very important factor in the well-being of the individual, since political action is a determining factor in shaping the welfare of citizens

The author contends that our complicated civilization necessitates a type of citizenship training which has not yet been realized and thinks that about two hours per day should be devoted to

training all persons capable of attaining citizenship From the viewpoint of Professor Eldridge only a limited number are capable of performing the duties of citizenship in a modern democracy

In order to prepare individuals for citizenship, the writer advocates the formation of citizens' organizations for the study and discussion of civic problems These citizens' organizations would be under the supervision of trained leaders and supported by private donations

Professor Eldridge admits that his plan for reforming democracy by the formation of citizens' organizations is perhaps a utopian scheme He says the stakes at issue are so great, however, that he believes the plan worthy of consideration and suggests a method for trying out his scheme for the operation of citizens' organizations

The author points out the shortcomings of certain proposed plans for reforming democracy such as the short ballot, initiative, referendum and recall He states that some degree of civic education is being promoted through certain social agencies In this connection he mentions the work of The American Birth Control League as an agency "most promising from the standpoint of those who believe in Birth Control as one approach to the treatment of population problems"

H WILBUR ROSS

BOOKS RECEIVED

STERILIZATION FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT, by E S Gosney and Paul Popenoe *Macmillan, New York* \$2 00

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY, by Rudolph M Binder, Ph D *Prentice-Hall, New York* \$4 00

YOUR FAMILY TREE, by David Starr Jordan *D Appleton and Co, New York* \$3 00

THE BROKEN PINION, by Emile D Stonehill *The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Ia*

SOCIAL CHANGES IN 1928, edited by William F Ogburn *University of Chicago Press, Chicago* \$1 00

THE CHRISTIAN AND BIRTH CONTROL, by Edward Lyttelton, D D *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London* 3 s 6 d

POVERTY, by Robert W Kelso *Longmans Green & Co, New York* \$2 00

POPE OR MUSSOLINI, by John Hearnly *Macaulay Co, New York* \$2 50

News Notes

UNITED STATES

WITH Margaret Sanger as Chairman, and Mrs Benjamin Carpenter as Vice-Chairman, the Committee for Federal Legislation on Birth Control will work for the amendment of Section 311, etc., of the United States Penal Code. A preliminary meeting was held in Chicago on June 30th. The Committee has divided the country into four regional sections: East, Mid-West, South and Far-West. Each section will have a regional committee. Within the sections there will be state committees, and an active group working for the amendment in each congressional district. A one-day conference to elect officers of the Eastern regional committee will be held at the Statler Hotel in Boston on October 8th, and a conference for the Mid-Western regional committee will be held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, on November 12th.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently made a study of 500 married government workers making less than \$2,000 a year, and found that 49 to 69 per cent were badly in debt. Extra jobs, boarders, children prematurely at work, neglect of health and overcrowding were the rule. According to statistics furnished by Leo Wolman, well known economist, 96 per cent of the population of the United States earns \$2,000 or less per year. Even a rough guess at the number of married people in this 96 per cent, makes it possible to draw the obvious conclusion of the urgent need of Birth Control information.

California

The following report was sent to the *Review* by two men prominent in constructive Birth Control work. They ask that these notes be printed anonymously, but that their names be supplied to anyone on request.—*Editorial Note*

BIRTH CONTROL WORK IN LOS ANGELES

1 The city can practically provide itself with those supplies which cannot be imported and which have, until recently, been difficult to procure. Two small companies, headed by doctors, manufacture the material. One of these doctors is a former head of the Health Department.

2 Under a distinguished Commissioner, the County Health Department maintains Birth Control services in four of its stations. An able woman physician is in charge, furnishing advice to those married women, who, for health reasons, should postpone or permanently prevent pregnancy.

3 The Mother's Clinic (for Birth Control) is well endowed. It finds the need for treatment for women for medical or general health reasons relatively so well met, that it is turning its attention particularly to economic and social conditions which demand advice. It is to be hoped that this clinic may be able to carry out the kind of *intensive* follow-up work undertaken by Norman Himes for Kensington (England), that it may cover considerable periods, with very full histories, carefully analyzed, and that the detailed study of indications for control of conception may be undertaken.

4 In general, the medical profession cares for its own private patients—Los Angeles physicians not being able to see why their clients, with proven needs, should have to go to free clinics.

5 For the feeble-minded, who are able to earn their own living, and for the insane, whose families can care for them, the law provides that those who are fertile, and should not propagate their kind, may, after adequate investigation and complete safeguards, be sterilized without unsexing. These feeble-minded and insane are sterilized in state hospitals, and released on parole.

6 There is organized study and dignified educational action towards securing the same legal privileges in the way of sterilization for those of sound mind, who must not have children and who are patients of private practitioners.

7 An enlightened public opinion upholds this program.

Such provision for protection of the health of mothers and children, for lessening the frequency of abortion and illegitimacy, for limitation of the number of mental defectives, for lowering the cost of unnecessary institutional care, sets a pace other communities might well follow. Clinical research, in the way of follow-up of the sterilized, has been carried on by the Human Betterment Foundation endowed by E. S. Gosney. Laboratory research is

almost the only measure not included in this active work, and this should be initiated

Kentucky

THE Louisville *Courier Journal* of September 15th carries a letter on Birth Control, from which we quote the following

Until a few years ago I was a practical nurse and midwife. Often I have ushered the eighth and tenth baby into a three-room shack, where there was not even food, to say nothing of clothing

As long as we murder 20,000 mothers in childbirth in the United States every year, 100,000 babies at birth, 100,000 month-old babies, to say nothing of the babies and children who die at other ages, as long as we can afford to grind up thousands of children in mills and factories, and work them to death on farms, as long as men are tramping the streets and highways barefooted begging for work, in order to buy bread for their wives and children, as long as there is a reform school, jail, prison, home for feeble-minded, asylum for insane, in the world, we need sterilization and Birth Control

Montana

THE following paragraphs from the *State Federation of Labor 1929 Legislative Program* are significant

Word came from New York State — which has the sliding scale of Workingmen's Compensation — that the married men, especially those with large families, were being thrown out of work by corporations which favored single men on account of the insurance companies giving reductions on insurance premiums for single employees. This places a premium on the labor of single men and childless men which men with large families cannot overcome

The superintendent of a Montana corporation, employing a few hundred men, is quoted as informing his employees who are married that, if they wanted to hold their jobs, they had better figure on practicing Birth Control, because of the easier working of Compensation for men with small families

Nebraska

THE State Board for the examination of mental defectives, formed last July in compliance with the sterilization law enacted by the legisla-

ture, will meet for the first time in October, to examine those patients within the scope of the law from each of the state hospitals

According to the provisions of the enactment, feeble-minded and insane inmates of state institutions, and inmates who are habitual criminals, may be cited by the Board for examination and possible operation. Relatives of those cited for examination are notified, preliminary to the Board's review, and may appeal to the courts if they see fit, after operations have been ordered

New Jersey

THE New Jersey Birth Control League reports that increased attendance at the clinic has necessitated the appointment of an additional physician

Miss Henriette Hart, Executive Secretary, addressed the annual meeting of the National Medical Association, an organization of Negro physicians, surgeons, dentists and pharmacists, in Newark on August 28th. Keen interest in the methods of establishing clinics, and various aspects of Birth Control prolonged the meeting until midnight

New York

BIRTH CONTROL, eugenics, short skirts, companionate marriage, divorce, the decadence of morals and many other modern tendencies were condemned in resolutions adopted by the New York State branches of the Catholic Central Verein and the Catholic Women's Union of America, at their September 2nd meeting in New York City

Mrs. J. Bishop Vandever is in charge of the American Birth Control League Booth at the Women's Art and Industries Exposition held at the Hotel Astor from September 30th through October 5th. Members of the Board of Directors are assisting. Books, pamphlets and the *REVIEW* are on sale, and a "voiceless speech," a motion picture and leaflets are being used to drive home the meaning of Birth Control

Wisconsin

THE physician's conscience must be his guide in the matter of dispensing information on Birth Control methods, according to Fred M. Wylie, a prominent lawyer of Madison. Mr. Wylie, ad-

dressing the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Medical Society on September 11th, said

Whether a physician might legally give information on the subject of Birth Control was recently submitted to me for an opinion. I found that a federal statute prohibits mailing of any writing giving such information, but that, beyond that, there appeared to be no express law on the subject, and I advised that each physician must exercise his own judgment as to whether, in the particular case, the information should be given, having in mind the ethical, religious, and medical elements involved.

BELGIUM

THE Belgian League of Large Families, with an enrollment of 93,801 families with four or more children, held its eighth congress in Limburg in August. The League recommended that the Government reduce direct taxation for large families, that it suppress the inheritance tax in the direct line of succession and reduce it in the collateral line, and that the State assume full support of all children beginning with the fifth.

DENMARK

ACCORDING to the *Woman's Magazine of Information*, there is a steadily increasing interest in sex questions in Denmark. Shrewd business men take advantage of this, and arrange meetings with high entrance fees. Sensational magazines are circulated, and students at the University discuss sex matters, despite the more old-fashioned views, which still have a very strong hold.

In an effort to meet this situation intelligently, the three largest organizations of women workers recently united in sending representatives to the Secretary of Education, requesting that sex education be made obligatory, both in the public schools and in the higher institutions. They also sent a delegation to parliament, to present the following requests to the Committee on the Amendment of the Penal Code:

- 1 That no law should prevent the distribution of information on Birth Control methods
- 2 That abortions should be legal if performed at recognized hospitals and clinics,

and if declared by a physician necessary for a woman's health

The delegation pointed out that the present strict law had not succeeded in preventing abortions, but had brought both sickness and death to many women unable to procure contraceptive information.

ENGLAND

A NEW society called *The League of National Life* has been organized in England for the purpose of combating Birth Control. Its prospectus (which wilfully misrepresents Birth Control by calling it Birth Prevention) opens with these statements:

- 1 Birth Prevention has bad physical and moral effects upon those who practice it
- 2 Birth Prevention is a sign of National Decline
- 3 It is a counsel of despair offered in place of effective social reform
- 4 It is opposed to science and religion

Sir George Newman, chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health, summarizing the 1928 vital statistics, reports that both the birth-rate and the death-rate are decreasing, with the result that England and Wales are almost within sight of a stationary population. The 1928 figures were 39,482,000, the females outnumbering the males by 1,690,000.

The infant mortality rate was 65 per thousand, the lowest yet recorded. On the other hand, the maternal death-rate was 4.42 per thousand, the highest recorded since 1911. Figures showed that in 660,000 births, 292 mothers died, and tens of thousands were seriously invalided.

An effort to meet this high maternal mortality problem was made by the British Medical Association at its August session, in a scheme for the development of a national maternity service. In addition to enlarging and supplementing the existing National Health Insurance, it suggests the provision of adequate midwifery attention, augmented, wherever necessary, by medical assistance before, during, and after childbirth. The Association frankly recognizes that there is room for consider-

able improvement in the training both of midwives and of doctors

Mrs Clinton Chance sends us notice of the opening of a Marriage Education Centre in London. The intelligent realization of the correlation between sex education, marital difficulties, Birth Control, etc., is best shown by quoting from the announcement

Any woman who would like to have a talk about some problem in marriage or motherhood, or have explained to her something she does not understand about sex, or Birth Control, or marriage, or any girl who wishes advice before marriage may see Mrs Chance

The following are some of the subjects on which advice may be asked

How to teach children about sex

Distaste for the marriage relationship

The facts of marriage (for girls before marriage)

The best ways of preventing pregnancy (Birth Control)

GERMANY

THE excess of births over deaths in Germany in 1928, according to the provisional report issued by the federal bureau of statistics, was 442,889, or 7.9 per thousand of population, as compared with the 1927 excess, which was 6.4 per thousand. The total population of Germany, including the Saar region, is estimated to be 64,600,000.

FRANCE

INFANT mortality statistics in France showed an increase from 1927 to 1928. The proportion of deaths among infants under one year in relation to the total number of living births rose to 91 per thousand, as compared with 83 per thousand in 1927.

INDIA

The *Indian Social Reformer* reports the marriage of a Hindu widow, under the auspices of the Hindu Widow Reform League.

SWEDEN

The eighth session of the International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare was held in Stockholm from September 19th to 24th.

A Strictly Personal Affair

By ELSIE ROBINSON

THEY tried to put through a "eugenics" marriage bill in the California state senate recently. The measure directed that applicants for marriage licenses should file with the clerk a verified certificate, made under oath, that neither applicant suffers from a certain heinous disease.

The majority of the senators approved and the bill was expected to go up to the governor. Then up rose Senator Daniel C. Murphy and blocked proceedings with the following protest:

"This," he declared indignantly, "is one more blow at the sacred ideals of marriage. Why shall we keep up this eternal prying into the strictly personal affairs of people? We are being investigated to death. The mass of the people do not need any more investigating."

So the possible marriage of the unfit is a "strictly personal affair"! That's interesting news, and it should be glad tidings to long-suffering taxpayers who are supporting the jails, county hospitals, insane asylums and homes for the simple-minded, which are at present housing the tragic consequences of such unfit matings.

"Sacred ideals" of marriage? Mebbe! Marriage itself is sacred—the most sacred institution in human life—but some of our ideals concerning the same certainly need a lot of renovating.

Have you ever gone through a home for the simple-minded? Have you ever seen the pitiful drooling, gibbering children that have been brought into the world because the state was too considerate to "investigate" their diseased and imbecile parents?

At present, in most of our states, the simple-minded and diseased may wed without question and spread their dreadful contamination through countless generations. Recently in San Francisco a 15-year-old girl, so subnormal that she was practically an idiot, applied for a marriage license. The outraged authorities had to give it to her because her simple-minded mother gave her consent.

The marriage of the unfit is not a "strictly private affair"—not while innocent children must suffer the consequences of such marriages—not while you and I must foot the bills!

Los Angeles Evening Herald

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

CHINA RECOGNIZES POPULATION PROBLEM

TO THE EDITOR

In your July issue I note an interesting letter from a Chinese, Mr Yap Chu Phay, in which he expressed dissent from the opinion in my recent article that Birth Control is essential in China if that country is to free herself from the vicious circle of poverty, ignorance, disease and famine. Mr Yap's objection to Birth Control as a solution to China's problem is interesting, and on first reading rather plausible. He readily admits that the prevailing large families result in continual famines and constant warfare, but fears that the undermining of the Chinese family system would hasten industrialization with its accompanying evils.

As a Westerner, I hold no brief for industrialism as such, at best it is a mixture of good and evil. But the obvious fact in China is that industrialism is already here and growing, and it is already eating at the very roots of the traditional family system. The old family system in China is doomed and every new contact with the West is hastening its demise. I would like to challenge the statement, however, that Birth Control of necessity leads to a weakening of family ties or that it necessarily will lead to industrialism in China. The traditional family system is dying not because of propaganda or even primarily because of the cultural invasion of the West, but because it is unsuited to the needs of modern life. The old village economy of China has been broken down by the contact with Western international capitalism, and the village is no longer able to fulfill its own needs. Consequently millions of village dwellers have been driven to the cities because of their inability to support themselves longer by handicrafts in competition with the machine. The development of native industry is therefore imperative, if China is to escape permanent economic servitude.

In preserving the old family system intact, Mr Yap is arguing against enlightenment in any form, for the very basis of that system was an absolute, rigid conservatism which rejected all change what-

soever. The changes are now taking place and Young China is not finding the old system suitable. However if his main concern is to preserve an agricultural economy as against industrialization, the only hope that I can see lies in Birth Control, for Birth Control *does* offer the possibility of the restriction of population to that point where it can be supported on the land without supplement of industry.

Fortunately for China, Mr Yap's attitude is not wide-spread in the educated classes. I find that the majority of these men are rather easily convinced of the necessity for population restriction and feel it must accompany the gradual industrialization of the country.

MAXWELL S STEWART

*Yenching University,
Peiping West, China*

A PROPAGANDA PROGRAM

TO THE EDITOR

I think the letter in the August number from "A Mother living on a Farm" will convert many who hitherto have given the subject hostile consideration, or no thought.

Birth Control as yet is pioneer work, and as such, we pioneers must put our backs to the wall, grit our teeth, and "dig in" till knowledge ousts ignorance, and common sense creates success. At present the line of progress is as uneven as the temperature chart of a typhoid patient. The thermometer of Public Opinion points to abnormal fluctuations, it is for us pioneers to wait, watch, and act steadily and unflinchingly till the mercury finds its normal line.

Birth Control means taking one's hat off to the past, and one's coat off to the future. The majority up to this point omit to take off their hats, and stubbornly button up their coats the closer

K PHILIPPA LARGE

*Mudford Harbor,
Christchurch, Hants, England*

TWO SUBSCRIBERS WRITE

TO THE EDITOR

As a sociologist, I feel that the dissemination of information on sex life, including Birth Control, is the greatest factor in promotion human welfare and happiness. I heartily approve of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW — but cannot afford to subscribe this year — but on second thought, I *will* subscribe

P E H

Urbana, Illinois

TO THE EDITOR

I am just awfully sorry I can't afford to subscribe for the REVIEW just now. I have enjoyed it a great deal and have passed it on to my friends — but just now our financial condition isn't so very bright so I must forego the pleasure of the magazine for a few months anyway

Very sincerely,

MRS W M

Los Angeles, California

dent that it was a disgusting and immoral movement

My mother, too, was raised in a Catholic family, yet it was only when I was quite grown that she learned for the first time (from a Catholic friend) that it was uncatholic not to have children whenever they arrived—according to nature. My family has always believed, and still does, that that is its own affair

I have not attended regularly the Catholic church, or any other, but do not intend that this shall always be so. Meantime I am being guided by the rule of "Right for Right's sake"

I'm with you for getting those laws passed allowing Birth Control. I suggest that you do not worry about the Catholic opposition, unless it hurts you *too* much — then try drilling below the surface. I believe you will find it crumbling just like a hollow tooth

I hope you find this letter encouraging. Anyway, I'm with you

(Mrs) C

Berkeley, Cal , August 25, 1929

A CATHOLIC WOMAN'S OPINION

TO THE EDITOR

I am always amused at the "Catholic opposition" to Birth Control so often mentioned in your magazine. Personally, I believe the Catholic people are with you, just as the rest, or will be as soon as they know the facts. I suppose the Catholic opposition is real enough as you feel it, but I believe it to be the voice of just a small controlling group, and not the voice of the whole. I can only judge by my own experience

I was born in a Catholic family, tho' we weren't strict Catholics. We children attended Church, mother sometimes, father did not

I was baptised, received communion, studied catechism, and was confirmed, yet never was the issue of the control of the size of the family—pro or con—brought into the open, or discussed in a way I could recognize

I belonged to a Sodality for a while. I remember that one or two motions were unanimously passed protesting against some immoral movement — I do not remember just what — there was no discussion pro and con, just a few words by our presi-

A PROTEST

TO THE EDITOR

As a subscriber of several years' standing may I be permitted to register a protest at the omission of mothers' letters which used to be a most interesting feature of your magazine. These letters written from the heart gave a real and deep meaning to the cause of Birth Control. Without these letters the magazine seems to be degenerating into a mouthpiece for biologists and population "experts" whose writings are scarcely intelligible to the average layman. The future of your magazine when monopolized by such writings as at present is not difficult to predict, as causes which do not embrace a human appeal generally end in futility

MRS KATHARINE S BARNES

West Hartford, Conn , Sept 10, 1929

It is very important that in all classes of life there should not be more children than the parents have the money, the strength and the patience to rear with tenderness

DORA RUSSELL

National Birth Control Conference

Hotel Astor, New York City, November 18, 19 and 20

We give below subjects and speakers now scheduled. Plans for the conference are naturally still incomplete. The November REVIEW will carry full details of all speakers, etc

Monday, November 18th

Social Welfare Meeting at 2 30 P M

Chairman DR. FRANK H HANKINS

Speakers to be announced

Reception to Delegates at 5 P M

Tuesday, November 19th

Reports of Clinical and Legislative Committees at 10 A M

Chairman MRS. F ROBERTSON JONES

Topics *Should the federal amendment strike out "Prevention of Conception" from the obscenity acts, or should it provide for exceptions to the prohibition in the case of physicians, etc?*
What is the most important work for the American Birth Control League during the next few years?

Speakers to be announced

Luncheon at 1 P M

DR. E BOYD BARRETT and others

Health Meeting at 3 P M

Chairman DR. IRA S WILE

Topics *Contraception versus Continence for Married Persons*
Birth Control as a Public Health Measure
Progress in Contraceptive Research

Speakers to be announced

Mass Meeting at the Engineering Auditorium at 8 15 P M

Chairman CANON H ADYE PRICHARD

Speakers REVEREND HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, RABBI STEPHEN S WISE, REVEREND HENRY DARLINGTON

Wednesday, November 20th

Race Improvement Meeting at 10 A M

Chairman DR. HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

Topic *Will the general practice of Birth Control promote race improvement?*
Speakers DR. CLARENCE C LITTLE, DR LEON J COLE and others to be announced

One of these New Books

A PREFACE TO MORALS, by Walter Lippman

The first chapter of this book is worth the price of admission. It is a brilliant delineation of the spiritual bewilderment in which multitudes of the present generation find themselves.

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

ULTIMA THULE, by H. H. Richardson

Drama sure and subtle, a moving and saddening book, spacious and noble.

New York Herald Tribune

MEN AND MACHINES, by Stuart Chase

It was high time for this book to be written. Mr. Chase steps into the intellectual vacuum to cast up a balance sheet of the gains and losses the machine has brought.

New York Times

MARRIAGE IN THE MODERN MANNER, by Ira S

Wile and Mary Day Winn

The authors have made a fine contribution to the subject. Buy a copy of the book and give it to the next young couple you know who are hopping off.

HERSCHEL BRICKELL, *North American Review*

HOW WE INHERIT, by Edgar Altenburg

Presents in simple language an outline of our present knowledge concerning the great and all important problem of biological inheritance.

VERNON KELLOGG, *New York Sun*

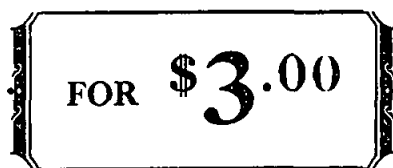
SEE HOW THEY RUN, by Grace Carlsle

The story of high hopes everywhere baffled and thwarted through lack of understanding. Youth is sacrificed before old tricks and old hypocrisies. Youth betrayed from within and without.

Saturday Review of Literature

and the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for a year

(\$2.00)



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

104 Fifth Avenue New York N. Y.

I enclose \$
year to

(Add \$1.50 for 2 books or 2 years subscriptions) Send the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for

Name

Address

Send Book

(GIVE TITLE OR TITLES)

to

Name

Address

CONTRIBUTORS

TO THIS ISSUE

MARGARET SANGER needs no introduction to REVIEW readers

DR JAMES F COOPER, Medical Director of the American Birth Control League, has just returned from a three months trip abroad, making a survey of centres and new contraceptive methods

J VIJAYA TUNGA was educated and taught at Mahinda (Buddhist College) in Ceylon. He was formerly co-editor of "The Island Review", Ceylon, and Examiner in Sinhalese to the University of Calcutta. He is now in New York, lecturing and writing on oriental subjects

HERBERT A STURGES is professor of mathematics at Lombard College, Galesburg, Illinois. He has been active in the Birth Control movement for many years

GEORGE R KIRKPATRICK is a lecturer and debator now touring in the West. He makes the Birth Control issue one of his most frequently used subjects

HUDSON CHAPMAN is an instructor in Sociology at the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia

SUE GREEN lives in Paris. After teaching both in England and in Constantinople, and serving as a nurse in the French military hospitals during the war, a meeting with Margaret Sanger focussed her interest on the Birth Control movement

ORLAND WHITE is Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm at the University of Virginia

Pioneers of Social Progress

everywhere are turning today for needed social reforms to

LABOR

Birth Control advocates, as progressive social thinkers, must keep in touch with the labor movement. Quickest, easiest, most stimulating way is to read

LABOR NEWS

the Newsmagazine of the Labor Movement, published by Federated Press, for 10 years America's only labor news gathering agency. In

8 CONCISE PAGES

Labor News each week brings you complete coverage of the American and foreign labor scene

Pioneers of Social Progress

familiarity with these facts is more than a need, it is a duty



SUBSCRIBE—\$2.00 PER YEAR
SEND FOR SAMPLE COPY

THE FEDERATED PRESS 112 East 19th St New York City

- ☐ Send me LABOR S NEWS for one year I enclose \$2
- ☐ Send me LABOR S NEWS for six months I enclose \$1
- ☐ Send me a sample copy of LABOR S NEWS free and let me see for myself

Name

Address

City and State

Are "Free Women" Free?

In this moving and important volume a great apostle of feminine freedom pictures the soul struggles of the "free women" of Russia



MME ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAY
*who has written a fascinating, challenging book
that you must read*

A GREAT LOVE

By ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAY
Soviet Ambassador to Norway

No change that the Russian Revolution has wrought is more important than the changes it has authorized and encouraged in the relationship of the sexes

What do these changes mean IN HUMAN TERMS?

Are women who are "free" happier for their liberty?

Is this an example or a warning?

Mme Kollontay is primarily an artist and the characters presented here are first of all interesting and exciting. But the book is much more than ordinary fiction. For years to come the problems set forth here will be the subject of bitter debate. It is a violent, vehement, passionate criticism of life. It will thrill you. It will give you food for thought.

You can buy *A Great Love* at any bookstore, or it will be sent to you C O D if you fill out the coupon below

VANGUARD PRESS
100 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Send me C O D (or enclosed find check for \$2.50) Mme Kollontay's volume, *A GREAT LOVE*

Name _____

Street and Number _____

City _____