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Children of Choice, Not of Chance



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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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CONTENTS

THE CURSE OF ABORTION	307
EDITORIAL	308
POLITICS AND BIRTH CONTROL. By Edward A Norman	310
PRESENT TRENDS IN BIRTH CONTROL. By Dr Stone, Dr Tandler, Dr Riese, Dr Blacker, Dr Campo, Dr Sundquist	312
WILLIE LEARNS ABOUT SEX By Edith Barnett <i>Illustration by Mabel Dwight</i>	314
A DAY AT THE OFFICE	316
NEXT STEPS IN THE MOVEMENT By Norman E Himes	317
NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM	320
LET DOCTORS FACE THE PROBLEM By Earl C Sage, M D	322
BOOK REVIEWS By J A MacCallum, G V Hamilton, M D, Frances M Vree land, L J Cole, Annie G Porritt	324
BOOKS FOR GENERAL READING By Coley Taylor	327
NEWS NOTES	329
BOOKS RECEIVED	331
READERS' PAGE The Pennsylvania Law, What Catholics Say	332

The Curse of Abortion

The American Birth Control League, from its inception, has put itself on record as steadfastly opposed to abortion

Anyone who knows about Birth Control knows that it would do away with abortions, which occur in appalling numbers in America every year

MARGARET SANGER

He who would combat abortion and at the same time assail contraception may be likened to the person who would fight contagious diseases and forbid disinfection. For contraceptive measures are important weapons in the fight against abortion. The use of contraceptive measures is largely responsible for the fact that the number of abortions does not increase immeasurably

MAX HIRSCH, M D

The number of abortions performed annually in the United States is enormous. Since all but therapeutic abortions are illegal, exact figures are not obtainable, but it has been estimated variously by experts that somewhere between 500,000 and 2,000,000 abortions are procured annually in the United States

HANNAH M. STONE, M D

Not only has Birth Control nothing in common with Abortion but it is a weapon of the greatest value in fighting this evil. With its help we may hope to limit and, I trust, eradicate this criminal practice. It is not generally known outside the medical profession and social workers, how widespread this practice is. It amounts in fact to a national disgrace. I say national because the United States leads all other countries in the number of abortions performed yearly

RACHELLE YARROS, M D

The knowledge of how crudely to produce abortion is as old as any knowledge in civilization. The trade is passed down from mouth to mouth, and, with the demands there are for it, cannot be ex-

tinguished. It is one of the tragedies of civilization which is most completely concealed. Practical methods of Birth Control offer the only relief from this tragedy

WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY, M D

There is one measure and only one which will positively do away with the evil of abortion, and that is teaching people how to avoid conception

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M D

The knowledge of contraceptive measures would be the saving of the lives of thousands of poor mothers who in their desperate efforts to get rid of an unborn and unwanted child resort to violent and dangerous means

S. ADOLPHUS KNOPF, M D

Thoughtful people who have studied the subject have pointed out over and over again that information with regard to Birth Control, dispensed by competent and high-minded physicians, would be the most powerful means of decreasing the number of abortions

ALICE HAMILTON, M D

The bringing about of an abortion should never be necessary, can never be moral, and should rarely be legal

JOHN C. VAUGHN, M D

Abortion is life destroying, prevention of conception is life saving. The interruption of pregnancy to destroy a developing ovum entails physical hazards to the woman which often add to the mortality rate. At the same time, this is the destruction of life, feticide, literally speaking, infanticide

IRA S. WILE, M D

Editorial

THE cause of Birth Control is already won, why hold a conference?" This is a question put by a strong believer in Birth Control, when asked to take part in the National Conference which is to be held in New York this month. Before answering, one pauses to think. Is the cause of Birth Control really won, no matter how completely it is accepted by most thinkers, and no matter how generally practised it is by the intelligent and educated people. In many states the law still makes it impossible to open clinics for poorer mothers, and the United States Government still maintains a ban on the use of the mails for the conveyance of Birth Control information and materials, and absolutely prohibits the doctors here from profiting from the experience and inventions of Birth Control workers in other countries. Does this show that the fight is over?

Attempts have been frequently made to secure alterations in these obstructive laws. Bills have been introduced many times in the New York Legislature, and three times in the Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Colorado and California have been given opportunities to get rid of their archaic laws on the subject. If the cause of Birth Control had really been won, the Legislatures would have swept these laws from the statute books without even the necessity for the advocates of Birth Control to conduct any political campaign. But not one step has yet been taken towards making legal and honorable a practice which everybody concedes is followed by the majority of respectable and educated people.

IT is evident that the legal position alone would justify the holding of a Birth Control Conference. But there is more to be done than alter laws. Public opinion is not yet fully won over. People need to be convinced that Birth Control is an essential factor in all social service work — that without Birth Control there must be an increasing amount of dependency and of multiplication of the deficient and unfit. Still more they

need to clarify their ideas concerning the relation of Birth Control to sexual immorality. These questions will be fully discussed at the coming conference, and at the mass meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, November 19th, the main subject will be "Is Birth Control Immoral and Unsocial?" or is it, on the contrary, a step onward towards higher morality and a greater sense of responsibility to the coming generation, and to the sweeping away of that tremendous blot on modern civilization, the slum and the slum dweller. That this question is considered serious and well worth answering is evident from the fact that Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Henry B. Darlington, are willing to come out and discuss it publicly at the Mass Meeting. Another aspect that needs careful examination is the fact that Birth Control information is easily accessible to the privileged classes and inaccessible to the very section of our population which is most in need of it. The Conference may shed light on this and other difficult problems which still face the Birth Control movement. The American Birth Control League invites —and urges— all friends of the movement to come and aid in answering these questions.

PSYCHOLOGICAL factors, and their effect on the human body, both in health and disease, are taken increasingly into account in the practice of medicine. It is not therefore, surprising to find that at the second annual graduate fortnight, conducted by the New York Academy of Medicine in October, Dr. Charles P. Emerson, dean of the Medical School of Indiana University, spoke at length on "The Function of Emotions in the Production and Prognosis of Disease." "The Injurious effect of a long maintained depressing emotion," said Dr. Emerson, "has never, we feel, been appreciated. We endure all the effects of strong emotions if only this duration is brief or the qualities varied. That the depressing, paralyzing emotions called fear, apprehension, worry and so forth, weigh

heavily in the balance against a patient has long been suspected"

Records of any Birth Control Clinic will bear this out. Again and again the records read "Health improved since continuous fear of pregnancy has been removed." Letters to any Birth Control organization are also tragic testimony. The fear of pregnancy long maintained, has broken down many an otherwise healthy woman, has lowered her vitality, her resistance to disease. Modern life has brought many unavoidable tensions and emotions — worry, struggle, speed. Let us counter-balance this, since through modern discoveries we are able to do so, by removing the ever pressing fear of unwanted pregnancy.

THE public has recently been shocked by the news that two brothers, aged seven and nine, killed a boy of three "for the thrill of it." Johnny and Jimmy are the oldest of five children, the remaining three being six, four and two years old. The father has been an inmate of the State Asylum for the Insane in Connecticut. After his release the mother divorced him because he was an habitual drunkard. She was forced to place the two oldest boys in a Home. To our knowledge, no press comment on the killing has pointed the obvious moral. Why did this couple have five children in seven years? The father's earnings apparently never rose much above \$27 per week. Should they have had children at all, or, at any rate, should they have had them after the father's derangement? Is there any way of telling if this family carries an inheritable tainted strain? If so, what is to be done? Will anything be done, or will these five children grow up to produce twenty-five more children, to be brought up in Homes, and in their turn? The answer is Birth Control information for all, and sterilization when needed. But the public does not ask these questions, nor want the answers. Not yet.

IT may well be doubted whether there are many college students in America who have not heard more or less about Birth Control. One might conclude, therefore, that the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW has no message

for them. That would be a serious error. It is also an error to suppose that such discussion of sexual matters as appears in the REVIEW may corrupt the good manners of such readers. Youth in America are well aware of sex, and college men and women are considerably brighter on the average than their non-college contemporaries. But there are many testimonials to the effects that college students, largely no doubt in consequence of their greater intelligence, take sexual matters more seriously, with more real modesty and deeper understanding than those less favored. But they need to know more of the struggles of mothers of large families in general and of working class mothers in particular. They need to know more of the significance of population problems for the future of the nation, for the quality of the race, and for international peace. They will be the leaders of public opinion in the rapidly approaching years who will exert a large influence on legislation, on judicial decisions, and on the administration of the law. They are now coming from every walk of life and from every racial and religious element in society. Their views and standards will spread to nearly every nook and corner of our social life. The REVIEW should reach them and should carry material which will make it of interest to them.

A COUPON in the current English *Birth Control News* (London) reads as follows

Kindly send me the free leaflet of practical instruction in Birth Control. I am married

Name

Address

To the Honorable Secretary, Constructive Birth Control

At first glance this seems a far step ahead of our situation, where we are hemmed in by legal restrictions as well as by bigotry and apathy. But supporters of Birth Control in England find that they still have much work ahead of them. We should bear this in mind, and remember that though the legal battle must, logically, be fought and won first, the less spectacular work of education must go forward continuously and vigorously.

Politics and Birth Control

By EDWARD A NORMAN

In this provocative article, Mr Norman gives the reasons, as he sees them, for the lack of success which has been encountered in the legislative work of the movement. His varied experience in economic research and active business lends weight to his arguments, though many readers may not be in complete accord with either his premises or conclusions. Mrs Huse, Executive Secretary of the American Birth Control League, supplements the article with suggestions.

DURING its active existence the Birth Control movement has applied itself to the attainment of two chief objectives: the enlightenment of the public on the topic, and the abolition of legislation restricting the dissemination of Birth Control information and supplies even when given under competent medical supervision. In the former of these two its measure of success has been large. In the latter its record to date, from the point of view of concrete achievement, is one of failure.

It is hardly necessary to remind readers of this publication of the enormous change in public attitude that has come about in recent years. Although Birth Control has long been widely practised by the native population in this country the sentimental conventions of the past kept it, along with all else pertaining to sex, from being openly considered as an important therapeutic and sociological factor. The workers for Birth Control have succeeded however in having their subject share in the general reorientation of thought on sex matters. Today all who have an open mind on sex, Catholics not necessarily excepted, have no doubt of the propriety, as well as of the personal and social value, of the voluntary regulation of the size of families without forgoing normal sexual relationship. Now, hardly any but the professionally virtuous or professionally Catholic, and the stodgy and out-dated, oppose Birth Control. Only the slum element, the poorest and most benighted as well as one of the largest sections of the population, is unaware of the possibilities and availability of the methods of Birth Control. The usual American man or woman takes Birth Control for granted, employs it in marriage, and is indifferent to, if not ignorant of, the legislation prohibiting or restricting it.

With respect to the laws, however, in spite of much effort and expense, nothing has been ac-

complished. The statutes at present are as they were in 1920, with the exception of the addition of a federal prohibition on the importation of Birth Control material or literature.

In spite of the general enlightenment on this subject, the need to change these laws persists, for two reasons. First, the poorest people, who most need to limit their families, must be taught Birth Control. Teaching Birth Control however, by its nature cannot be undertaken illegally. It can be effectively done only by recognized dispensaries, which dare not violate any laws. Secondly, it is distinctly detrimental to the social atmosphere of the nation that nearly all respectable Americans with any education should be made criminals or at least accessories to law violation because of the fanatical dogmas of particular groups.

WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS DISPARITY?

It is pertinent to inquire into the reason for the disparity in the results of the two main lines of Birth Control endeavor.

At first, no doubt, the inability to change legislation was due to the lack of a considerable public demand for such alteration. However, as a result of the successful education work, this condition has changed. Without doubt the opposition to-day is made up mainly, in fact almost wholly, of the Catholic church organization. A few scattering fundamentalists find themselves aligned with it — this pruriency being perhaps the only point of practical agreement between the two groups. These fundamentalists, however, particularly in the North, are of small consequence.

The problem thus resolves itself into finding out what it is that prevents a proposition, having the backing of a large and powerful element of the population, from making headway against the op-

position of a minority, and a divided minority at that. For it is well known that lay Catholics in great number do not see eye to eye with the hierarchy on this matter.

OPPOSITION USES POLITICAL METHODS

It is obvious to any observer that the Catholic organization in this field as in any other in which it is interested, utilizes its political opportunities and capabilities to their utmost worth. Legislators are told frankly, often openly, that their receiving the Catholic vote depends on their attitude on Birth Control, and they usually believe it. Political methods are used in political matters. To many it appears that the advocates of Birth Control use *anything but political methods in their political activities*, and that their failure in this field is perhaps largely due to this fact.

May we fairly ascribe the failure to employ realistic methods to unfamiliarity with the realities of politics? It is a conclusion that is difficult to avoid after observing some of the attempts at changing the laws. The usual method has been somewhat as follows. A bill has been drafted, and a lawyer, generally not a legislative expert, has been asked to examine it. It is given a perfunctory perusal, which fails to alter its cumbersome amateur form. It is placed in the hands of an inconspicuous assemblyman and a state senator, from constituencies without a considerable Catholic element, who can by introducing the bill make the gesture of championing a social welfare measure without risking anything. After introduction, the bill is duly referred to a committee and is scheduled for a public hearing.

THE HEARING

Then the Birth Controllers display their innocence and take the hearing seriously. True, they do fortify themselves with endorsements by a few progressive organizations, but every one that they obtain is nullified by several condemnations by Catholic societies. The chief reliance is placed on the hope of convincing the members of the legislative committee, despite the fact that the opposition uses forensics of at least equal quantity and quality. The Birth Control proponents appear to have the school-book idea that legislators are chosen by the people to go to the seat of government and legislate for the well-being of the body politic ac-

cording to the inclinations of their own judgment and wisdom. Of course the facts are entirely otherwise. The ordinary legislator views himself as pursuing a career in politics. To follow that career he must hold political office. To have political office he must have the votes of a majority of his constituents. The best way of knowing if he will have those votes is by consulting the political leader back home. On broad measures such as this, local political leaders follow the instructions of their state leaders. And whether or not they will support a measure is known long before the hearing, and the hearing is an empty formality without influence on any legislator. Legislators are not statesmen, as the Birth Controllers seem to think. They are politicians and require a "quid pro quo" for their votes, especially on a question with as much "dynamite" in it as this.

REALITIES MUST BE FACED

The opposition does not rely on its oratory at the hearing to determine the issue in its favor. It uses political methods. It approaches the state political leaders and tells them that it will cost them some important support if they do not kill or at least refrain from furthering the Birth Control bill. It also reaches the local political leaders and causes them to use their influence on the legislators. Further, it uses the close organization of the Catholic Church to cause thousands of well distributed voters to write their legislators voicing their opposition. In the face of the tangible situation thus created, the committee hearing ceases to be a hearing, for the legislators do not hear, or at any rate dare not give heed to, the logic, etc., poured forth by the Birth Control supporters. The bill dies in committee. But even if it didn't it would never reach the governor. With the complete lack of preparation it would be smothered by a vote in either house.

It would be deplorable, however, if anyone were to conclude that because the merits of a cause do not determine its legislative fate no Birth Control bill will ever be passed. It must be remembered that the same methods are there for either side to employ. There are definite aspects of the Birth Control cause that if intelligently presented can attract important political support. Nevertheless, political leaders will not expend their efforts on any cause unless its sponsors are willing to co-

operate in the use of political means in political matters. In the opinion of the writer there can be no success in the attempts to improve the laws on Birth Control until the leaders of the movement appreciate these realities and apply them.

ORGANIZATION WILL BRING SUCCESS

A Note by P B P HUSE

EVERYONE who knows anything of the way politics function will agree with Mr Norman that bills pass or are defeated not on the merits of the issues involved, but because orders come from those in control of the machine.

There is no doubt in my mind that there is more sentiment in favor of a change in the restrictive statutes on contraception than in opposition. But those who believe in this change take too much for granted. They are not articulate — except in private. They are not a compact, directed group,

as is the Catholic opposition. They are a loose aggregation of uncoordinated units, and no one has the authority to direct them, or to speak for them.

When these friends of the Birth Control movement realize that intensive organization is necessary for success, and band themselves together to fight for it, then pressure can be used on the political leaders, and the battle will be won.

It is a question of organization, well financed. I do not know any leaders of the Birth Control movement who believe that a hearing decides the fate of a bill. Hearings are useful only because of the publicity they call forth, and because they make people realize that there are restrictive laws which should be amended. Through these hearings, and through the varied work of the League, we reach the people who will eventually be organized — in order that we may use the direct political methods which Mr Norman, quite rightly, believes can alone bring results.

Present Trends in Birth Control

Leading authorities in various countries evaluate the status of the movement today, presenting the legal situation, the attitude of the public and of the medical profession. These excerpts are taken from the second report of the International Medical Group for the Investigation of Birth Control, June, 1929.¹

AMERICA

By DR HANNAH M STONE

LEGAL STATUS

GENERALLY speaking, the laws in America concerning Birth Control are very restrictive. The Federal law classifies contraceptive literature and contraceptive supplies with "obscene, lewd and lascivious" material and makes them non-mailable within the United States. Although this law is not very strictly enforced at the present time, yet there have been several prosecutions under it, and because it is nation-wide in scope, it seriously handicaps contraceptive work throughout the Union.

¹The International Medical Group, formed in 1927, exists to facilitate the exchange of information on the subject of Birth Control between members of the medical profession in different countries. Reports are edited and published from time to time by Dr C P Blacker, London.

Medical journals have actually refused to print medical articles on contraception because of this law, and the exchange of scientific findings and views is thereby greatly hampered.

The Federal law is primarily a postal law and applies chiefly to the sending of any contraceptive information or supplies by mail. In addition, however, there are many local State laws which serve to reinforce the Federal restrictions, and further prohibit the dissemination of contraceptive knowledge in any other way. This actually implies that a physician is not permitted to prescribe contraceptives for his patients, except in the States where he is expressly exempted by law, or where such advice may be given for medical reasons. Social, economic, racial and other factors are not considered as a valid cause for such information.

Although considerable latitude is granted the physician in the interpretation of "medical indica-

tions," and, to my knowledge, there have been no prosecutions for infringements of these State laws, nevertheless they effectively hinder the progress of clinical Birth Control in the United States

PUBLIC ATTITUDE

The odium which has hung about Birth Control for so long is now gradually lifting, and what is emerging is a perfectly respectable public question. Certainly the idea of Birth Control is gaining wider recognition and attention in the United States at present. Lectures, discussions, magazine articles, pamphlets, and even books on the subject appear in larger numbers.

As an expression of this increased public interest, many local Birth Control organizations are being perfected for the purpose of promoting favorable legislation and the establishment of clinics in the various States. Furthermore, many prominent social and even political organizations, particularly of women, have openly come out for Birth Control as a social need, and have advocated changes in the laws. Birth Control is slowly coming to be recognized in America as an important social problem.

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The progress of Birth Control in America is perhaps most concretely expressed in the growth of the contraceptive clinics. In spite of legal difficulties, of religious hostility and even, at times, of medical opposition, the number of clinics is constantly multiplying. The first Birth Control clinic, that of the American Birth Control League in New York, was opened in 1923. Since then 27 other centres have been established, most of them within the last two or three years. Undoubtedly this is but a beginning, and within the years to come there will probably be numerous centres for contraceptive information all through the country.

What is perhaps most significant in this respect is that many of these new centres have been established as a part of hospital services, either in connection with the gynecological departments, or else as special services. And even when centres are opened by lay organizations, they are generally under the direct supervision of a medical board, usually consisting of leading local physicians. This, it would seem, is fair evidence of the growing appreciation on the part of the medical profession of the value and need of contraception.

Until lately the attitude of the medical profession in this country towards Birth Control has been one of apathy, if not of direct opposition. The opposition was based on the usual objections. Birth Control is unnatural, it will lead to immorality, it will cause race suicide and so on. The apathy, again, in my opinion, was due to a disappointment with the usual contraceptive methods, and to a lack of concrete knowledge regarding the newer methods.

There are, however, many signs of a changing attitude on the part of the profession. The New York Academy of Medicine, for instance, the most representative and most conservative medical body in the country, has announced a lecture on contraception as a part of its annual series of public health talks. Papers on contraception appear more and more frequently on the programs of medical societies generally. The Committee on Maternal Health of New York, composed of leading gynecologists and obstetricians, and whose executive secretary is Dr. R. L. Dickinson, is actively in favor of medical contraception and has initiated several hospital clinics in New York City. A book on Birth Control methods, written by Dr. Cooper of the American Birth Control League, was recently published in New York, and while it adds no new material, it will no doubt aid in spreading greater knowledge about present day contraceptive methods to the medical profession.

AUSTRIA

By DR. JULIUS TANDLER

LEGAL STATUS

The importation of contraceptives is regulated by the law of 1920. The manufacture and sale of such goods in the country is not regulated by any special law, but a Ministerial Decree provides that commercial dealings in contraceptive articles are only allowed to chemists and surgical instrument makers for medical use and under medical direction. Only such methods are legally prohibited which are known, from their ingredients or otherwise, to be poisonous or injurious to the health.

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The attitude taken up by the medical profession

(Continued on page 334)

Willie Learns About Sex

By EDITH BARNETT

Scene — Study Group Meeting at Priscilla's home

Priscilla (*reading*) Remember, young mothers, that it is of utmost importance TO SATISFY the Inquiring Mind NEVER PROCRASTINATE — answer the child's questions immediately and thoroughly

(*Closes book and removes glasses*)

My, I've gotten a lot out of that chapter, haven't you? — Yes, I'm afraid it's late And the baby's still crying (*Looks at watch*) Just exactly one hour Well, according to Dr Holt, she has forty-three minutes to go yet Goodbye Maud (*looks behind portiere*) Willie — Willie! come right out and say good-bye to the ladies — Why? Because when people leave your home, you must always say good-bye It's polite No, dear — the right hand Well, goodbye, everybody Goodbye Next week we're meeting at Joan's aren't we? Good-bye (*Listens to baby Looks at watch Sits down with book*)

Willie, what ARE you doing Leave that clock alone Yes, of course It goes because papa winds it WHAT? You want a baby brother instead of a sister? Why, how can you speak so of your sweet little sister? I'm surprised at you, Willie No, we can't have a brother next month Jane is only six weeks old It takes nine months No, the Doctor doesn't bring babies in his bag How did you ever get that idea? — When mother has time, she'll tell

ILLUSTRATION BY MABEL DWIGHT



"No dear, it's not a baby It's an Amphioxus"

you all about it — Oh, here's father Hello, dear, how tired you look Did you have a busy day at the office? Willie, run and get Daddy's slippers — because mother says to — (*glances at book with guilty start*) — because Daddy's too tired to climb the stairs, darling (*Exit Willie*)

Charles, what DO you think? Willie is asking QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE Isn't it wonderful — a mere infant of fourteen So sweet and innocent I haven't told him anything yet, but I will just as soon as he gets back — I

know you're hungry, dear, but this is SO important — and the book says we should answer their questions IMMEDIATELY — OH NO I'd better tell him After all, you never took Zoology A — How could you know what to tell him? — Yes, I know he's a boy — even so, you'd better leave it to me You run up to baby (*looks at watch*) it'll be all right if she stops crying now (*Willie enters*) Thank you, Willie You saved Daddy a trip upstairs

Come, Willie dear Come to mother Sit here at the table Now mother will tell you all about babies (*takes pencil and paper*) First I'll draw you a picture — Now, Willie What do you think THAT is? No, it's not a baby It's an AMPHIOXUS And this is its digestive system Later I will show you how this changes in the higher animals (*draws*) Now this is an amoeba — a one-

celled little microscopic animal. Higher animals have many cells and are called Metazoa. Repeat that after me, Metazoa. Yes, a baby is a Metazoa. Now that's very important because we are animals and belong to the Metazoa group in contradistinction to the Protozoa or unicellular animals. Our bodies consist of about 26 thousand billion cells. Think of that, Willie — No dear, those are not babies' eyes. Those are amoeba. Now I'll draw you an earthworm which is also an invertebrate. Yes, In-ver-te-brate. That means earth worms have no backbone, like people. Wait — I'm coming to babies. Don't look at the earthworm if it makes you feel sick. (*To Fred, who is calling*) Not much longer, dear. I've finished Metazoa already.

Now, Willie, babies grow just like little chickens or little rabbits — or little earth worms — No, not exactly out of an egg, but almost. You see, Willie, if Mother sat on an egg like a hen, she'd break it. Yes, the father's a rooster — you hear him crowing in the morning — NO, Father's calling, not crowing. Yes, dear, right away. Now to return to our amphioxus which is after all the first step — You don't WANT to hear about it? You want to know how babies come? (*swallows hard*) Yes dear. When two people marry and love one another very much, a dear little baby — WHAT? who told you THAT? Why, Willie — WHAT? Fred, Fred — you tell him — he knows already.
(*rushes from the room*)

Birth Control Must Accompany Expansion

WE must recognize that the knowledge of harmless and reasonably certain means of preventing conception changes almost beyond belief the likelihood of a population's growing up to the limits of subsistence under the conditions of modern life. There is no people that cannot and probably none that will not, sooner or later, adapt its fertility to the actual situation in which it must live. The personal advantages of controlled fertility are so obvious that it is unthinkable that they will not appeal to all peoples. There are, of course, obstacles of various and different kinds opposed to the control of conception by the traditions and customs of different peoples. But among a people that is rapidly emerging from the thrall of superstition, it is not at all likely that these inheritances from the past will long postpone the conscious control of growth in numbers by almost the entire population. The control of conception is one of those great movements in the history of mankind that proceed to their issue in spite of all difficulties, albeit, at times, they seem to proceed far too slowly.

It must be made clear to these peoples who seek relief from their present congestion through expansion that this relief can be granted voluntarily only if they will undertake to see that methods of Birth Control become generally known and that no official obstacles to its practice are raised. The present situation is becoming steadily more dangerous because of the differentials in birth-rates that

now exist. Western Europe and its colonies have adopted Birth Control so widely within the last generation that they no longer need the settlement areas that it appeared probably they would need a generation or two ago. Nor are they exploiting their tropical colonies as rapidly as seemed likely to the empire-builders of the last century. This fact of a rapidly declining birth-rate in the West puts a new face on the matter of holding all their present possessions. But it is quite clear that the Japanese, the Indians, the Italians, and the Slavs cannot expect to expand at their present rates for any great length of time. The earth will not hold them. On the other hand, since the peoples of low birth-rate do not need all their present holdings, they should not expect that the crowded peoples will sit calmly by and starve while these holdings remain unused.

It must be recognized colonial expansion is no solution of the problem of population pressure in Japan or any other country if it is not accompanied by the practice of Birth Control. There would, indeed, be "standing-room only" on the earth within a very few generations if the Chinese and Japanese, over four hundred millions of people, were to expand in the century and a half that lie ahead as the Europeans have in the last century and a half.

WARREN S. THOMPSON
Danger Spots in World Population

A Day at the Office

The two questions "Doesn't everybody know about Birth Control?" and "What does the League do all the time?" may be partially answered by this cross section of the activities of the American Birth Control League

NINE O'CLOCK The sun streams in the big windows fronting on Fifth Avenue. Our little office girl, whose ambition is to have "six of her own" some day, counts and opens the mail.

From all over the world the appeals come. From India we are asked to send "all available information and materials — our need is so great." From China, the Philippines, Germany, etc., individuals and organizations ask for advice. But most of all from our own American mothers comes the reiterated cry "Help us."

"I am a married woman of twenty-three with five babies." "We are very poor and I am all tired out." "I am the mother of ten, my daughters are soon to be married. I don't want them to go through what I have suffered." And, from the other angle "I would rather die than live as my mother has." Every mail adds to the composite picture of misery and despair.

There are letters from school and college students. They want material for debates, for articles, for theses. Doctors want data for papers, statistical reports, information about contraception.

The telephone supplements the mail. "Yes, there is a clinic." "You'll have to see the doctor. Perhaps she can help you." "No, we can't give out printed information." "No, we give no advice about an abortion." "We have a list of books which may interest you. Can we send it to you?" "You can subscribe to the REVIEW at this office," etc.

The visitors begin to come. Women who have heard that we can "help them out." They "just can't go through with it again." In dismay they refuse to believe us when we tell them we can do nothing for them. That they must go to the Clinic after the baby comes. One woman wails over and over that a friend told her to come here. Torn with pity, we see her go away, weeping and desperate. We know that she will hunt up one of the unscrupulous sharks that wait for just such prey, and spend her last cent on a crude and dangerous operation.

Foreign visitors. They come literally from "the ends of the earth" — interested academically in Birth Control, or seeking definite information for themselves. They are amazed when we tell them that we can give them nothing in print. They cannot understand why it is legal for doctors in a clinic to give information which cannot be printed and carried away. Mr. B. wants advice on how to start clinics in Albania. A large order to fit into a morning's routine. Mr. F. calls to discuss the situation in Porto Rico, and wants our advice about translating some of our literature.

A boy and girl come. They are to be married next week. She proudly shows the marriage license. They are very poor, very young, deeply in love. They sit holding hands while she pours out her story. She is one of nine children. "I hate my mother," she says darkly. "She never had no right to have all us kids. We had no fun, not even enough to eat, no decent clothes, nothing. She never told me a thing I'd ought to know. I'm not goin' to live like her. My kids are goin' to have a chance."

We refer her to a doctor, hoping that he can find some legal way of advising her.

Comic interlude. Enter, a distinguished man with a large dog. "I came to tell you that I got in here by mistake last year. Since then my cow has refused to have a calf, and this dog has had no puppies." We disclaim responsibility for his domestic disasters, and add with a twinkle that we stand for positive Birth Control. We pass by easy stages to a discussion of our work, and he leaves a check.

Three frightened Italian women come, huddling together for courage. They are clinic cases, and are sent there.

People ask for literature. They are studying, preparing for a debate, writing an article. Enthusiastic crusaders want to lecture on methods of contraception, and are astounded when we explain that such well-meant efforts may land them in jail.

Husbands come. With ill concealed embarrassment they start casually "Happened to be in New

York on business Thought I'd find out what you folks do, anyway " "Have a half hour before an appointment in this neighborhood—dropped in " One is suddenly earnest—"What can I do? My wife just mustn't have another baby now The doctor said —" again the chorus of the letters, the phones, the visits is taken up We tell him about the League, the laws, refer him to a doctor He goes out reassured

Most pathetic of all are those who nerve themselves to come, thinking they will meet with a rebuff They most often tell of unhappiness in marriage Men and women who are about to separate because the ever present fear of pregnancy makes normal relations impossible Mrs B is afraid we may laugh at her When she finds a sympathetic ear, she becomes an "all day sitter " She pours out her troubles, as in a confessional "I never told any one this It's such a relief to talk To think I

didn't know that we could go on living together without always being afraid It makes one ashamed, when one loves children, to feel so about a baby "

A doctor calls He wants to know what is being done Never had any course in contraception in medical school Advises at times, but feels that he hasn't the most up-to-date information He is referred to the clinic

A pleasant-faced working woman comes to pay her membership dues She has with her a five year old boy "He's my last," she says proudly "I work hard, but I kin keep up with it, now, thanks be I won't have any more unless I want 'em "

We thank her for her gift, almost hating to take the hard earned money But, as we well understand, it is a symbol to her of a new life of hope and freedom The boy grins at us from the door, wide eyed and friendly We call it a day

Next Steps in the Movement

By NORMAN E HIMES

Mr Himes' research work in Birth Control enables him to speak with authority on the suppression of Birth Control data by public and university libraries To break this censorship is only one of the pressing tasks ahead

NO ONE who has followed the American Birth Control movement from its initiation as early as 1828 by Robert Dale Owen, eldest son of Robert Owen, can doubt the enormous progress since made Moreover — and that is *our* encouragement — most of this advance has been made since 1914 when, if I may be permitted a mixed metaphor, Margaret Sanger, that Joan D'Arc of American womanhood, took up her cross

The rising standard of living, the liberation of women, free public school education, the release of the inherent commonsense of the people consequent upon the increased weakening of the bonds of theological obscurantism, the more considerate attitude of men, and last but not least, progress in social theory have combined to help us realize that the old wastage, the unnecessary suffering must stop if we ourselves, as co-builders of an intelligently directed social order, are to be "saved"

For the first time in our history we are now beginning to enjoy a clear spell of insight into our prolonged, collective insanity in matters reproductive Yet we still have among us clergymen, self-appointed municipal censors, dumbfounded, invertebrate legislators who continue, either from lack of wits, political short-sightedness and self-interest or whatever motive or reason you will, to range themselves on the side of ignorance, black magic, and the healing art as practised by an African medicine man This situation and no other — unless indeed it be interference with the free acquisition of knowledge and wisdom itself — is the crowning disgrace of our civilization And nothing will deliver us from its continuance but renewed efforts — a united front that knows no breaking

The Birth Control movement is the most fundamental, the most revolutionary movement in all social history When more completely established as

a social institution, when the inarticulate demands of the populace are realized in diffused knowledge, there will be ushered in, if wisely employed as I have faith it will be, an era of domestic tranquillity and happiness, an age of national and international prosperity the like of which the world has never before been blessed with. Does this mean that Birth Control is a cure-all, a panacea for all social maladjustments? Of course not. It simply means that Birth Control is a social tool comparable to the first use of the human hand, the invention of the wheel, the harnessing of natural forces as power, the use of moveable type—a force which may “make or break” our culture. It is my sober judgment that the movement for the intelligent control of human reproduction makes even political democracy pale into insignificance, but I have no desire to compare the incomparable, or to argue which blade of a pair of scissors is the more important in cutting. I wish merely to point out the greatness of the ideal we are all working for, to call attention (by mere mention) to our past success, to give hope for the future and a few suggestions as to next steps.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Possible next steps likely to bear fruit are so numerous as to make selection difficult. I shall emphasize only a few.

First we need legal reform. The newly formed Committee on Federal Legislation on Birth Control is now being organized and is dead in earnest—as legislators throughout the country will have reason to learn within a year. We cannot, however, stand by while those in power are being enlightened. No person interested in matters of public concern can fail to be aroused while thousands of American women are annually murdered—I use the term advisedly—or, if not murdered, then sentenced to years of needless suffering because they are condemned to continue childbearing when still the victims of physical and mental ill health. The clinic movement must be extended. There are now twenty-eight in this country. There should be ten thousand. Who will volunteer to found, finance, manage and properly staff a new clinic? Who will see that all possible is learned from European experience? What is being done in *your* town?

We need several hundred motor-car caravan clinics to serve the inaccessible rural districts where women are wasting—even as the famished Chinese

wither away in stricken Shensi—because we are content with what *we* know, because we are indifferent to human suffering, and because we lack the push to alter this intelligently and vigorously. Many states are free from restrictive legislation. Why not take advantage of this? Are there any to step forward to test the constitutionality of some of the state statutes? I am not a lawyer but I believe a good case could be made for their unconstitutionality.

FIGHT ABORTION WITH BIRTH CONTROL

Marie Stopes' two English caravan clinics have been successful not only in getting contraceptive advice to the rural districts but in uncovering the awful extent of the demand for abortion as a consequence of ignorance of conception control. She reports in the October number of the *Birth Control News* (London) that while one of her caravan clinics received in an unstated number of days thirteen applications for Birth Control information, there were eighty requests for criminal abortion. Within three months, it is reported, she has had no less than twenty thousand requests for abortion. The situation is not greatly different in this country. How long is the ghastly business to continue? The answer is: So long as women are kept in ignorance of the control of conception. No doubt some abortions will always take place, since we cannot look forward to a revolutionary change in human nature, but there is every reason to believe that with the diffusion downward of Birth Control knowledge the number will be considerably reduced.

FIGHT LIBRARY CENSORSHIP

There is need for a country-wide agitation against those directors of public libraries who, as self-appointed guardians of the public morals, determine what the mature public shall and shall not read. If we are to get our message to the American people the so-called free public libraries must be free in fact as well as in name. They are now little short of glorified propagandist organizations, and the pity of it is that the librarians do not themselves know this. They will, of course, deny my allegation. I am, however, in the possession of some damaging facts about which there can be no dispute. The majority of libraries, for instance, will not list the subject title “Birth Control.” This is no oversight, it is a deliberate policy. In those

that do list it, only the most innocuous titles are included. The more enlightened books, if purchased at all, are often carefully kept from the reading public.

It so happens that the New York Public Library lists the subject title "Birth Control." If you will examine the catalogue cards you will find that those on Birth Control are the most soiled, the most thumbed of all those in the library — mute testimony to the public's thirst for knowledge on this subject. When I used the library for historical research some months ago it was only with great difficulty that I was able to secure access to certain titles I knew the library had but which were uncatalogued. In reply to my inquiry written from London the possession of certain titles was admitted. My scientific purpose was clear and my distance from New York safe. But to this day the people of New York do not know that these works are in the library, they are deliberately, by wilful design, kept in ignorance.

THE CASE AGAINST BOSTON

In priest-ridden Boston it is the Catholic Church which tells us (indirectly, of course) what we shall not read. That Church knows what is good not only for Catholics but for all others. *It's will must be our will.* It is my understanding that the overwhelming majority of the books on the *Index* — perhaps all of them — are not available for circulation from the Boston Public Library. It contains very few books favorable to Birth Control, many opposed to it, and nothing on the medical aspects of Birth Control if one is to judge by the card catalogue. This same library has recently deleted parts of certain numbers of *Scribner's Magazine* disapproved of by the Watch and Ward Society and Mr. Casey, the city censor and high priest protector of Boston culture. *These cases are not isolated, they are symptomatic of an infectious disease which has become epidemic in America,* and which increasingly is making us the laughing stock of Europe. The Boston Public Library also suppresses publications of scientific merit on Birth Control.

It may be unwise to make available to adolescents advanced medical books, but is the same true of adults? Clearly it cannot be true of adults in the case of books which contain information the dissemination of which is not illegal. Should not adults

be able to read the case *for* Birth Control as readily as the case *against* it? This is now virtually impossible in the great majority of American libraries. And note that it is not because there is no demand for this knowledge. A similar lop-sided emphasis seems to be characteristic in a lesser degree of most great university libraries among which Harvard, for example, is no exception. Most of them do not list the subject "Birth Control." One might think it were not a social institution or that inquiry into it were obscene. The few titles listed at Harvard are relatively worthless. I know a Harvard tutor who has repeatedly tried to get Harold Cox's *The Problem of Population* put on the tutorial shelves. These efforts have been of no avail, the individual in charge of such purchases considering the book ephemeral. So much the worse for the immaturity of his judgment.

Thought on this subject is not now free, there is no free communication of ideas on the subject, the public libraries are in bondage — slaves to the ignorance and piety of librarians and to well-meaning but ignorant and meddling politicians, the river of knowledge has been polluted so persistently from such variegated sources that it is now beginning to stink. How long the American public will be willing to put up with such a condition I confess I do not know. I hope it will not be for long. A mere handful of people are as yet aware of the dangers inherent in this situation. We as the advocates of Birth Control, must have our say through the public and university libraries.

What is the situation in *your* town and what do you propose to do about it? If you leave the matter for *others*, you may rest assured it will not be done for a long time.

Child-bearing should be welcome, and provided for. To those of education, physique and character, it should come for the benefit of the human race, but does it and how long will it? Those fitted by the three essentials mentioned above all too frequently have standards of living far ahead of their finances. It is not the physical fear of child-bearing but the financial fear of child-bearing and child-raising that inhibits parenthood among the more fit. This situation will be faced out at some time — perhaps not in our lives. When it is, who will lead the way — doctor or laity?

ELIOT BISHOP, M.D.

NATIONAL BIRTH

NOVEMBER 18, 19 and

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

Birth Control and Social Welfare

HOTEL ASTOR, 2 30 4 30 P M

Chairman FRANK H HANKINS, PH D, Professor of Economics, Smith College

BIRTH CONTROL OR DEPENDENCY

JAMES H S BOSSARD, PH D, Department of Sociology, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

THE BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC AS FIRST AID IN SOCIAL SERVICE

ROSE GRUENING, Head Worker, Grand Street Settlement

SARAH SAPERSTEIN, Director Social Service, Jewish Maternity Hospital

DOES BIRTH CONTROL PROMOTE IMMORALITY?

CANNON WILLIAM SHEAFE CHASE, D D, Director, N Y Society for the Suppression of Vice

JOSEPH MAYER, PH D, Secretary, Investigation of Prostitution in the U S, Bureau of Social Hygiene, N Y

Discussion How can Birth Control information be made accessible to those most in need of it?

Informal Reception to speakers, physicians, and members of Birth Control and welfare organizations.

AT THE HOME OF MRS THOMAS W LAMONT, 107 EAST 70TH ST, 5 - 6 P M

N B For cards to this reception, apply at Conference Information Desk, Hotel Astor

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

Achievements and Plans of Birth Control Organizations

HOTEL ASTOR, 10 A M - 12 M

Chairman MRS F ROBERTSON JONES

Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control

Committee on Maternal Health

Voluntary Parenthood League

American Birth Control League

Connecticut Birth Control League

Illinois Birth Control League

Massachusetts Birth Control League

New Jersey Birth Control League

Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

Birth Control Research Bureau

ROBERT L DICKINSON, M.D., *Secretary*

MRS MYRA PLAUT GALLERT, *President*

MRS F ROBERTSON JONES, *President*

JAMES F COOPER, M D, *Medical Director*

MRS GEO H DAY, *Honorary Chairman*

MRS BENJAMIN CARPENTER, *President*

MRS ZACHARIAH BELCHER, *President*

HENRIETTE HART, *Secretary*

MRS REGINALD JACOBS, *Director*

HANNAH M STONE, M D, *Medical Director*

(Reports from Birth Control Clinics in Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Pasadena, Oakland, Baltimore, and Cleveland)

Discussion The Next Step?

Admission to all meetings except luncheon is free

The public is invited

CONTROL CONFERENCE

1929 • NEW YORK CITY

Luncheon, Hotel Astor, 1 P. M.

Chairman HEYWOOD BROWN

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, TODAY AND TOMORROW

BOYD BARRETT, PH D, former Jesuit priest, author of "When Peter Sleep" etc

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE LAW

MARY WARE DENNETT, author of "Birth Control Laws" and "The Sex Side of Life"

Birth Control and Health

HOTEL ASTOR, 3 P M - 5 P M

Chairman IRA S WILE, M D, Associate in Pediatrics, Mt Sinai Hospital

BIRTH CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

MURLEY WYNNE, M D, Commissioner of Health, New York City

THE MENTAL HYGIENE OF VOLUNTARY PARENTHOOD

MES L MCCARTNEY, M D, Chief, Division of Mental Hygiene, Connecticut Department of Health

THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN'S DILEMMA REGARDING BIRTH CONTROL

ADOLPHUS KNOPE, M D, Formerly Professor of Tuberculous Diseases, N Y Post Graduate School and Hospital

BIRTH CONTROL AS A FACTOR IN THE SEX LIFE OF WOMEN

ANNAH M STONE, M D, Medical Director, Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau

Mass Meeting: Is Birth Control Immoral and Unsocial?

ENGINEERING AUDITORIUM, 25 WEST 39TH ST 8 15 P M

Chairman H ADYE PRICHARD, D D

HENRY V B DARLINGTON, D D

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, D D

STEPHEN S WISE, PH D

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

Birth Control and Race Improvement

HOTEL ASTOR, 10 30 A M - 11 30 A M

Chairman HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD, PH D, Professor of Sociology, New York University

WILL BIRTH CONTROL PROMOTE RACE IMPROVEMENT?

LARENCE C LITTLE, Sc D, Former President University of Michigan

WHAT MEANS RACE IMPROVEMENT?

J COLE, PH D, Professor of Genetics, University of Wisconsin

WILL BIRTH CONTROL IMPROVE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE AND CHARACTER?

ALBERT E WIGGAM, Author of "The Next Age of Man," etc

Resolutions

11 30 A M 12 M

Chairman of Committee MRS ANNIE G PORRITT

Resolutions must be submitted in writing before 3 P M, November 19th

luncheon tickets are \$2 00 Order from American Birth Control League

Let Doctors Face the Problem

By EARL C SAGE, M D

Preventive, in distinction to merely curative medicine, must include Birth Control. Dr Sage, Nebraska State Leader of the Joint Committee on Maternal Welfare, sums up the present facilities for contraceptive care, and draws some interesting conclusions

WE physicians cannot ignore the social problems of our day.¹ Poverty, crime and social injustice are too intimately associated with disease, and illness, and human suffering. The latter cannot be eliminated without eradicating the former. We, therefore, should take a leading part in the discussion of contraception from its social aspect. But whether this aspect of the problem interests us or not, the individual and medical aspect of contraception is of immediate concern to us. Daily we see in our practice cases where proper contraceptive advice would prevent a great deal of physical and psychic illness, and it is our duty to render this service. Medicine today strives not merely to be curative. Its ultimate aim is to be preventive, and scientific, intelligent, contraceptive advice is, in innumerable cases, the highest expression of modern preventive medicine.

There appear to be ten million married women in the United States, fertile, and neither gravid nor nursing, living with fertile partners. Thus we have twenty million husbands and wives for whom the question of spacing children or of begetting or not begetting may have to be translated once or twice a week into action or decision. Is the problem to be left entirely to propagandists and theologians? Do doctors acquiesce in a theory of ascetic marriages? Or do we study the medical aspects of the situation?

As we recognize the right of woman to choose her vocation, to participate in the offices of government, to conduct business, and select her own husband, so we recognize the right of woman to decide how many children she will bear and when she will have them. We believe, however, that the control of conception at least so far as any artificial means are concerned should remain a matter of medical case work, in that married women who

for good reasons should not become pregnant, should be guided by competent physicians. We do not advocate, therefore, the indiscriminate broadcasting of Birth Control methods.

PROVISION FOR ADVICE

Medical advice on Birth Control can now be obtained by married people with a proven need in twenty-eight organizations, in twelve cities, in ten states of the United States. Not taking into account early unsuccessful attempts to start Birth Control clinics fifteen or more years ago, this development has all come since 1923. Twelve have started in the past two years. Of the several sorts of organizations, the separate stations supported by lay organizations, such as the American Birth Control League, are historically first. There are eleven of these. Next, and most numerous are outpatient services conducted as parts of obstetrical or gynecological health departments. There are seventeen of these, not including incidental services by family welfare agencies which have undertaken responsibility for family "adjustment" in its most intimate sense, by control of the number and incidence of offspring as part of general physical and psychological rehabilitation. Only two societies have reported such organized service to date, but many are considering it. As the services are not available except for clients of these particular agencies, they are not counted in with the others.

In the following list a single star (*) indicates a service in or affiliated with a gynecological or obstetrical department, or one entirely under the control of physicians. A double star (**) indicates a service sponsored by a lay group and not connected with any medical organization.

Berkeley, California

*Berkeley Public Health Center

Los Angeles, California

*Therapeutic contraception service in Child Hygiene Division of County Health Department, two clinics

**Mothers' Clinic

¹This article is a portion of a longer study of the Birth Control situation, which will appear in one of the forthcoming issues of the Nebraska State Medical Journal.

Pasadena, California
 **Mothers' Guidance Clinic at Pasadena Dispensary
 Denver, Colorado
 *Colorado General Hospital
 Chicago, Illinois
 *Michael Reese Dispensary
 **Six Medical Centers under Illinois Birth Control League
 Baltimore, Maryland
 *Bureau for Contraceptive Advice
 Detroit, Michigan
 **Mother's Clinic for Family Regulation
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
 *University Hospital Dispensary
 Newark, New Jersey
 **Maternal Health Clinic
 New York City, New York
 *In outpatient departments of the following hospitals, under the auspices of the Committee on Maternal Health
 Beth Israel
 Lebanon
 Lenox Hill
 Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn
 Mt. Sinai
 N Y Infirmary for Women and Children
 N Y Nursery and Child's
 Sloane
 Woman's Hospital
 **Clinical Research Bureau
 Cleveland, Ohio
 **Maternal Health Clinic, under the auspices of the Maternal Health Association
 University, Virginia
 *University Hospital, Gynecological Clinic

Whatever the auspices or source of support, all these services are real clinics in the sense that they are under the immediate control of physicians, who examine each applicant and administer treatment.

The hospital services are generally restricted to patients referred from other departments in the same institution for health reasons, though a few admit applicants from outside sources. As a rule, contraceptive advice is given only for therapeutic or preventive reasons, but several states including California, Illinois, and Michigan, allow care for social or economic causes, such as large families, dependency or danger of dependency. In New Jersey advice may be given for "due cause." The separate stations operate under the legal restrictions of their states in the matter of admissions.

In all the services regular medical examination is given, treatment is adapted to individual needs, and records of varying completeness are maintained, with follow-up. Except in the hospital and public health clinics, however, little attempt is made to co-ordinate the specific service with other health needs. In certain hospitals the Birth Control service is carried on in connection with such allied services as the treatment of sterility and sterilization.

SUMMARY

1 The development of twenty-eight organizations giving information on Birth Control, in twelve cities, has all come about since 1923. The American Birth Control League is historically first in this field. It was founded in 1914, and reorganized in its present form in 1921.

2 After several medical bodies and public welfare organizations refused to study contraception, the Committee on Maternal Health was organized, under full medical control, in 1923. Its address is the Academy of Medicine Building, 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue, New York.

3 One of the first acts of this Committee on Maternal Health was to report on the medical situation, including the technique of contraception (Dickinson, Robert L., *Contraception: A Medical Review of the Situation*, Transactions of the American Gynecological Society, 1924, Vol. XLIX).

4 One doctor in every eight in the country has written to the American Birth Control League for information. Over two hundred county medical societies, covering every state, have asked for talks on Birth Control.

5 On the average, applicants are treated in Birth Control clinics after four pregnancies, and with three living children, nearly half have four or more living children. Comparatively few young married women apply.

6 Birth Control involves every mother after delivery, for she requires instruction in what measures to take to avoid pregnancy until she is fit to bear another child, it includes every convalescent from an operation or a real illness. Nearly one-fourth of all adults are affected.

7 The clinically approved methods of contraception, as outlined by the Committee on Maternal Health, show 95 per cent protection, which compares well with medical treatment in other fields.

Primitive man — natural man — went about naked, living on such fruits as he could pick with his fingers or such animals as he could kill with his hands. Civilized man wears clothes, travels by train or motor-car or airplane, cooks his food, reads and writes and uses the telephone. All these practices man has evolved in defiance of nature, and therefore to condemn Birth Control as unnatural means absolutely nothing at all.

HAROLD COX

Book Reviews

THE CHRISTIAN AND BIRTH CONTROL,
by Edward Lyttelton, D D *The Society for
the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, Lon-
don 3 s 6 d*

THAT master of dialectic, Francis L. Patton, sometime president of Princeton University, was accustomed to say to his students "If you will allow me to state the premises I do not care who conducts the argument" Dr Lyttelton has built his book upon this principle. He never loses sight of his initial assumption that contraception is a direct violation of the will of God. The necessity for proving this dogmatic declaration never occurs to him. He takes it as axiomatic and finds what he regards as ample support for it in the rhetorical question "Will any ordained minister of God's Word and Sacraments avow in public that he is a contraceptionist? If not, why not? It is because the voice of conscience is still believed in many quarters to be the Voice of God"

We need scarcely pause to show the naivety of this psychology. If, until his seventh year, a child is taught that the moon is made of green cheese, he will always be uncomfortable emotionally when he hears anyone denying or deriding this belief, even though he is intellectually completely emancipated. Thus any qualms of conscience felt by any of the increasing multitude of those who practice contraception are due to early conventional ideas rather than to an innate perception that it is wrong.

As an argument the book scarcely commands serious attention. If it furnishes the strongest reasons that can be advanced against contraception, the battle for Birth Control is already won so far as logic goes. But there is a sense in which this is a very important book. The author is a former headmaster of Eton, an influential churchman, and a scholar of distinction. The fact that he has discussed the subject openly and called it to the attention of the bishops of the Church of England will go a long way toward making such discussion respectable. Hitherto the mention of Birth Control outside of propagandist circles has been to the accompaniment of the smirks and sheepish grins of the prurient and the violent censures of the prudish.

The book is in the form of a brief open letter to the bishops of the Church of England, some of

whom the author evidently suspects of condoning a practice that he believes to be inimical both to health and morals. The letter is followed by his argument against contraception. This is set forth in a dialogue in which a doctor who seems to be more of a theologian than a physician, the local vicar and a social worker, engage. The reader must have a stony heart if he does not feel profound sympathy for the social worker. Never did a more inarticulate man try to present a cause that was lost before he opened his mouth because of his own intellectual weaknesses and the verbal strength of his adversaries. Though he raises the spectacle of the squalid misery of the slums, with the attendant tragic pressure of over-population, the doctor and his friend, the vicar, monopolize the debate. Each of them takes at least a paragraph and often a page or even two, every time he speaks, but the poor social worker has to be content with two or three lines, and is nearly always confused or silenced by the superior wisdom and culture of his opponents. No wonder the poor man vanishes from the book about two-thirds of the way through and never reappears. The other two go on with their doctrinaire discussion in blissful oblivion of his absence from the scene. This artistic defect in the book is inexcusable and can only be accounted for on the supposition that the author has a blind spot of wide circumference caused not by lack of intellectual power but by a fixed idea which closes his mind to the obvious. To justify this criticism read the solution offered by the doctor for the dual problem of poverty and over-population in the crowded areas of the slum.

Meantime establish a rudimentary but wholesome respect for law by insisting on punctuality as to payment of rent, get hold of the children, teaching them, through the school-teachers, to say their prayers morning and evening, and some of the mothers will back you up. For religion never fails with all. Much besides this you may learn from Church Army workers.

For sheer inanity surely this cannot be surpassed. How far removed the author is, both in knowledge and sympathy, from an understanding of the problem. But the vicar reaches the nadir of credulity when he declares that, with rare ex-

ceptions, God will protect a woman from conception when pregnancy is fraught with grave danger of her life!

When men are controlled by a religious complex, they are even willing to sacrifice human lives upon the altar of their prejudices. The vicar speaks exultingly of the death of a woman, who had been warned against further child-bearing by her doctor, because, after her death, her husband told him that "before his loss he never had felt so near to Christ as now." Fortunately the straw man had disappeared from the book before this sentimentality was expressed. Surely such reliance upon magic would have galvanized the mind of the dullest social worker ever invented into some semblance of manly response. It was well for the author to have him out of the way before the vicar set forth the final ground of his conviction that contraceptives are wrong because they enable some women to escape death.

In every crowd men of all the centuries jostle one another. Dr Lyttleton belongs to some remote mediaeval generation. He is interesting as an exhibit of the belated type of mind which must be won over before Birth Control can be established on a scientific and legal basis. But though he seems unalterably opposed to it, the very frailty of his arguments affords almost certain ground for assuming that he is not fully convinced that he is right. The truth that must be admitted sooner or later is that it is only common sense to use as much foresight and intelligence in raising children as in breeding domestic animals. If this is not Christian, then so much the worse for Christianity. But the history of the Christian Church shows conclusively that in the long run Christianity absorbs the best thought into its system. It is a safe prophecy that Birth Control will be no exception to this rule.

J A MACCALLUM, D D

INDEX PSYCHOANALYTICUS, compiled by
John Rickman, M D *Hogarth Press, London*
18 s

THE fourteenth volume of the International Psychoanalytical Library is a comprehensive bibliography of the literature that has grown out of Freud's great discoveries in the field of dynamic psychology. There are represented in this index four general types of writers: (1) the Freudians,

(2) the analysts who, like Jung and Alfred Adler, represent schismatic schools, (3) the academic psychologists who have been more or less receptive of Freud's teachings and (4) the essentially hostile critics — even including Knight Dunlap.

The titles of the books and articles cited are a kind of post-graduate course in psycho-analysis for both clinicians and academic psychologists. In addition to its obvious purpose, *The Index Psychoanalyticus* is a survey of what the more productive students of human nature have found important enough to write about.

G V HAMILTON, M D

WORLD DRIFT, by Edward Alsworth Ross
The Century Co., New York \$2 00

WHO has not, in this day of social change, wished that he might obtain a perspective on the whole situation? Professor Ross, the distinguished sociologist, provides such a picture in his book, so aptly termed "World Drift." He obtains his vantage point from years of careful study and extended sociological journeyings in all corners of the globe. He chooses to sketch his view of trends and patterns by the media of type cases and vivid illustrations, his gift for style enlivening the whole. The first three chapters cover material of especial interest to readers of the REVIEW, somewhat along the line of his remarks in "Standing Room Only", in which he shows the dysgenic and unfortunate social effects of the present birth-rate.

Several chapters deal with the method which he has used in his books on various countries, called "scientific interviewing." In using this technique the author had many amusing and instructive adventures, of which he relates a few. They must be read to be appreciated. Some of the last chapters deal with the drift of the younger generation, and there is a last and trenchant one on the "Military Mind."

Although the style is easy the book must have been hard to write for it is laboriously compounded of sound facts wherever they are needed. One may be a little inclined to criticise the author's view of some of the trends discussed. Sometimes they would cancel each other if continued. For instance, the projection of the trend to greater populations would seem to conflict with the trend to greater use of capital. If countries become "chinified",

will not the resulting cheap labor cut short the "intensification", to use the word adopted by Ross, of capitalism?

Few of the chapters in this book fail to show in some way the importance of the population problem as it looms up constantly larger for the majority of mankind. The "Moloch of immoderate maternity" is complicating the situation on the steep slopes of "Appalachia," in troubled British India, and even in places where this intensification of the use of capital proceeds apace. "World Drift" is a valuable book for the general reader.

FRANCIS M. VREELAND

THE NATURAL INCREASE OF MANKIND,

by J. Shirley Sweeney *Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore* \$4.00

THIS is a consideration of the population question from a study of the "natural rate of increase" shown by the available statistics of various nations. As an indicator of the population status the author uses the "vital index" as proposed by Pearl. This consists of the birth-death ratio and is expressed by the formula $100 \times \text{births} - \text{deaths}$. The values obtained by this index are taken as a measure of the "biological soundness" of a population at the moment. Changes in the population due to migration being disregarded, values above 100 indicate that the population is increasing and below 100 that it is on the decline.

The nations are first considered on the basis of their mean vital indexes since 1885 (in so far as the figures are available) and then with regard to the trends they show during that period. In a general way the populations having the larger magnitudes of the mean vital index show a lower slope or rate of increase. This is taken as indicating that regulatory checks (biological and economic) tend to govern the magnitude and rate of increase of the birth-death ratios. Voluntary birth restriction (Birth Control) is taken to be one of the most potent factors affecting the birth-rate. Both this and the lengthening of life through health measures operate to lower the vital index.

The extensive literature on world population is discussed rather fully. From the facts available the author is inclined to believe that over-population is a real menace of the future unless man adopts some means for its control. Already a number of

nations have reached a state of relative over-population, but it is believed that this condition will tend to be adjusted so long as relatively undeveloped regions are available. The remedy suggested to forestall the final over-crowding is a *league of stationary populations*, in which each nation should agree (by means of Birth Control) to maintain its vital index at 100, that is, where the births would just equal the deaths. Whatever the practicability of such a scheme, it offers an interesting subject for speculation. It is suggestive of the "national origins" provision in our immigration laws. One important aspect, the result of differential fertility within the component populations, is given some consideration.

L. J. COLE

ABOUT OURSELVES, by Harry Allen Overstreet *W. W. Norton and Co., New York* \$3.00

THE most difficult and the most important art for human beings is the art of living together. It is an art that receives surprisingly little attention. We are supposed to learn it incidentally, just somehow, and the numerous failures to attain even reasonable skill in it seem to give little concern to our educators. To be successful in the art, the first thing would seem to be an understanding of the two parties concerned — ourselves on the one hand, and other people on the other. And here is a book which supplies a basis for this understanding. Professor Overstreet, in "About Ourselves" lays a foundation for ordinary normal people to learn the art of living with and among other normal human beings. He shows us how to read beneath the surface of, not only our own reactions to life, but also those of other people whose conduct may be obnoxious or even revolting. He uses the work of the psychologist of the last fifty years to help each of us to manage our own life and to meet the various inevitable contacts with a sympathetic understanding that takes the sting out of the hurts and bruises that come to all of us in this imperfect world.

ANNIE G. PORRITT

Birth Control is in action — now. It seems to me to be a quiet, communal response to the crowded conditions of to-day.

WARWICK DEEPING

Books for General Reading

By COLEY TAYLOR

For our readers who wish to know about recent books which do not pertain directly to the Birth Control movement, we introduce a new feature this month Mr Taylor is a contributor to various magazines, has made the English translation of "The Father of the Indians" by Marcel Brion, and was formerly assistant editor and dramatic critic of "The World Tomorrow"

PACIFISM IN THE MODERN WORLD, edited by Devere Allen Doubleday Doran, New York \$2 00

HOW LIKE A GOD, by Rex Stout Vanguard Press, New York \$2 50

SEE HOW THEY RUN, by Helen Grace Carlisle Cape and Smith, New York \$2 50

THE UNDER DOGS, by Mariano Azuela Brentano, New York \$2 50

DEATH OF A HERO, by Richard Aldington Convict-Friede, New York \$2 50

ULTIMA THULE, by Henry Handel Richardson W W Norton New York \$2 50

THE LIFE OF LADY BYRON, by Ethel Colburn Mayne Scribner's, New York \$5 00

WITH the visit of Ramsay MacDonald, and the resulting columns of front-page space given to talk of reduction of armament, sea parity, and international conference, leading, one hopes, to a real establishment of peace, a volume examining pacifism in its various relationships to the complex world we know is more than relevant and timely, it is a necessity *Pacifism in the Modern World* is a brilliant symposium, clarifying much that is popularly misunderstood or misinterpreted, the various essays are a real contribution to the literature of the subject, and an illumination of a way of life For pacifism is shown to be, not the negative thing it is commonly supposed, but a positive philosophy

"Pacifism, then, I should call an attitude to life, arising from a belief in human capacity for social action, which stresses the importance of the reaction of person upon person and group upon group, and which consequently uses only methods calculated to evoke co-operative action in seeking to achieve a progressive integration of life in every field of human relations," says Paul Jones, in his essay, "The Meaning of Pacifism" Rufus Jones agrees The pacifist "stands for 'the fiery positive' Pacifism is not a theory, it is a way of life It is something you *are and do*"

E Merrill Root, in his essay, "Life's Bread and Wine", shows the need of carrying that philosophy

into action in every day life "The man in the street accepts war not so much because he is a fool, as because his life is foolish He wants adventure and poetry almost all men will admit that war is irrational, but that is the very reason they feel an obscure inner impulse towards it If war is irrational, so much the better, anything to escape the rationality of every day" and later, "The great wrong of our civilization is its dullness Consider industry The spirit of man asks for fairyland and is given a factory We all know the mill that long oblong of red brick, shaking like a dinosaur with appendicitis Who would not rather go to war (at least until he found that lice, mud, gas, and Big Berthas were just as bad) than spend his life in a mill?"

Pacifism in the Modern World is very stimulating — a rather brisk departure from the usual volume of essays Among the twenty-two contributors are Rabindranath Tagore, A Fenner Brockway, Sarah Cleghorn, Roger Baldwin, George A Coe, and A J Muste, offering interpretations as various as their personalities

Little of literary value has appeared on the Mexican Revolution, for some time we have heard of Mariano Azuela's novel, *Los de Abajo*, as the finest presentation of the sordid days of Pancho Villa and Huerta It has recently been translated and published here as *The Under Dogs*, with drawings by J C Orozco, one of the more interesting of the younger Mexican artists It is a hard-boiled, objective story of a bandit revolutionist and his followers, in words Azuela is as merciless and frank as Goya was in painting and drawing, those who are romantic about "proletarian revolution" would do well to read it Azuela is surely a new force in Latin American literature his crisp style — incidentally it would be interesting to compare his work and Hemingway's from the point of view of style — is completely out of the flowery Latin tradition

Richard Aldington's novel, *Death of a Hero*, has created a great stir in England, and must make a strong impression here, for it is a very striking and personal book. Aldington presents the life of George Winterbourne, a young English painter, who was killed in the war, and is now, like so many thousands of others, forgotten completely. The novel, in Aldington's hands, is no timid, impersonal affair. He goes back to the tradition of Thackeray, and to that of Sterne, commenting on his characters and the life that influenced them as he sees fit. And since he is sincere and has a very fine gift for satire one is thoroughly amused and interested by his sketch of Victorian and Edwardian life. The last third of the novel, the war years, is one of the ablest and most stirring records of experience in war that has yet been written, it is bitter and tremendously moving.

Henry Handel Richardson's *Ultima Thule*, hailed in some circles as a masterpiece, seems to me much less than that. In its best pages it is quietly effective, it is, however, in others, singularly bad — especially in places where the author attempts to present the attitudes and thoughts of the children in childish words. The attempt is not convincing. Since it is the final book of a trilogy, one cannot, I presume, blame the author for the casual appearance of many characters who were involved in the life portrayed in the other books, but they seem phantoms or mere names, in *Ultima Thule*. The story is that of Richard Mahony, once a distinguished Australian surgeon, wealthy and a socially important man. In middle age, after years of retirement and travel he returns to Melbourne, poor, to begin all over again. He does not succeed, the story of his failure and decline to madness is sincerely told in a prose that is competent, but sometimes dull.

How Like a God by Rex Stout suffers, in my opinion, from a speciously clever unconvincing trick. His protagonist, a successful business man in every other way cheated and defeated in life, remembers the events of his career of love while mounting the stairs to kill a woman. This artificial device, effective enough for a detective story, cheapens what otherwise would have been an extremely good psychological novel. Mr. Stout has a fine perception of character, and has shrewd insights into contemporary life, and a nice sense of values. He has no need of tricks or side-show conjuring. But the pages devoted to mounting stairs are few, and the

rest of the novel is worth putting up with them. It is, except for this one glaring defect, a very fine presentation of neurotic character.

See How They Run, which attempts to present "three modern girls" in their search for love, seems to me not to succeed at all. The three girls, for one reason or another, leave their homes in Chicago, and come to New York. All become chorus girls, and live together, and their adventures in love are given. The author is not sure in her prose, she attempts a staccato style, and the "stream of consciousness" technique to reveal her characters. All of them, from the sensitive Olivia to the taxi-driver, think in the same patterns and rhythms of words, all apparently react the same way. She has neglected to make her people real. One recognizes the types readily enough, but fails to see the individual that is always present in a real being, however typical.

Ethel Colburn Mayne, whose life of Byron is one of the few sound and intelligent biographies of the poet, offers in *The Life of Lady Byron* a most interesting study of the beautiful girl Byron married and tormented. The Lovelace family placed the letters of Lady Byron, those of her mother, Lady Noel, and others, heretofore unpublished, at Miss Mayne's disposal, they clarify a great deal in the Byron legend. Lady Byron emerges as a very real person, Byron is treated fairly and intelligently, and one understands Augusta Leigh better. Surely an incredible story, that of their stormy relationships, one worthy of Byron's invention. An admirable, interesting, and very fair biography, it is the only reasonably complete study of Lady Byron, a central figure in one of the world's strangest and most hectic sexual dramas.

CONVENIENCE VERSUS REWARD

The truth about Birth Control is, that it is *never* convenient, or economical, to have a new baby. It is a struggle to carry it, a struggle to bear it, and a struggle to rear it. But though all this is well known to the careful student of economy and convenience, what is not known (when the years have flown by) is the Reward.

There is something very thrilling and very touching, in being thanked by your children for having given, to each, his band of friends, allies, and play-mates!

M. SMITH—*The Woman Leader*

News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE National Birth Control Conference will be held in New York, November 18th, 19th and 20th. For full details see pages 320-321

The Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control held a one day Conference in Boston on October 8th. The speakers were Dr. Clarence Russell Skinner, Professor of Applied Christianity at Tufts College, and Leader of the Community Church of Boston, Dr. Alice Hamilton of Harvard, Dr. Thomas N. Carver of Harvard and Margaret Sanger. Detailed plans for the Federal work were discussed at an organization meeting, with Mrs. Walter Timme, Regional Chairman for the Eastern States, presiding. The executive committee will include four regional chairmen for the East, Middlewest, West and South. There will also be an Endorsing Committee of 1,000 prominent people drawn from the entire country, who will endorse the proposed bill. Mrs. Sanger announces that the second regional conference, for the middlewestern states will be held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel in Cleveland on November 12th.

A special session was devoted to Birth Control at the General Annual convention of Universalists in Washington on October 23rd. "Birth Control and its bearings on Religion" was discussed by Mrs. Donald R. Hooker of Baltimore, and Rabbi Sidney E. Goldstein of New York.

Appealing from Mary Ware Dennett's conviction on April 23rd for sending obscene matter through the mail, Morris L. Ernst, attorney for Mrs. Dennett, has filed forty-eight assignments of error in the Federal Court in Brooklyn. Ernst contends that errors were committed by Judge Burrough in excluding testimony showing that the pamphlet has been ordered by churches, charitable institutions, the Y. W. C. A., public health agencies, physicians, judges and members of Congress.

The National Council of Catholic Women, in convention in Washington on October 3rd, passed resolutions against "Birth Control legislation, companionate marriage, and the so-called eugenic

laws dealing with marriage, childbearing and sterilization of feeble-minded insane and criminal persons." Bishop Christopher F. Byrne of Galveston, addressing the Council said:

Birth Control is the detestable sin. We need more Christian Cornelias to make proud display of the jewels of their spotless married lives and so shame the kings and queens of selfishness and lustful pleasure, who would deny to our homes God's plan to brighten them with His own image in the souls of little ones.

California

ASERIES of lectures sponsored by the Alameda County Birth Control League was opened by Dr. Clifford Sweet on September 19th. Dr. Sweet spoke on "Birth Control from a Physician's Point of View." At the second lecture, "Birth Control from a Minister's Point of View" was discussed by Reverend O. W. S. McCall of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Dr. Etta Gray spoke on "Birth Control as a Means Towards Better Health" at a Public Health Conference held in Hollywood on October 16th.

New Jersey

BIRTH CONTROL figured in divorce proceedings, when a decree was granted in Newark on October 15th because "the husband locked the wife up to prevent her from having any more children." Chancellor Berry, in announcing his decision said: "In my mind there is no excuse for such action on the part of the defendant. There are many modern methods of Birth Control other than the much criticized surgical operations."

New York

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, Brooklyn, debated on Birth Control at a Forum meeting on October 19th. Arrangements for sending the debate over radio Station W. B. B. C. were cancelled at the last minute. Air censorship of Birth Control will obviously have to be faced in the near future.

Pennsylvania

THE Y W C A of Philadelphia will sponsor a lecture discussion course on marriage. The course is described by Miss Grace E. Miller, educational director of the Association, as "Constructive planning for the size of the family, and the ethical, economic and religious aspects of family limitation." The Association's radical departure from its usual attitude was explained by Miss Miller as follows:

We intend to thresh out the subject thoroughly for the benefit of the girls, letting lecturers state the religious and ethical prejudices against Birth Control, while the physician and economist state the facts in its behalf.

We are trying to meet the needs of girls and young women who seek reliable and complete information for the subject of marriage. It is much better for us to supervise their acquisition of information about Birth Control than it is to let them stumble upon the information casually without learning all sides of the problem.

During October Dr. James F. Cooper spoke at public meetings in three large cities in the State, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation. The first was in Wilkes-Barre on October 15th, arranged by Mrs. Charles N. Loveland, Chairman of the Luzerne County Birth Control League and Mrs. Thomas H. Keiser, Secretary. Doctors of Luzerne County met Dr. Cooper for a special medical meeting. On October 16th a similar meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce Hall in Scranton. A third meeting in the auditorium of the Y W C A at Erie, on October 18th, under the direction of Mrs. E. J. Armstrong, Chairman of the Erie County Birth Control Committee, was well attended.

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters will discuss Birth Control at its annual Convention to be held in Pittsburgh November 20th and 21st.

The Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation will hold its annual meeting at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia on December 2nd. The afternoon meeting will be followed by a dinner. It is expected that delegates from all parts of the State will be present.

Utah

DR E M McHUGH spoke at the Unitarian Laymen's League of Salt Lake City on October 19th on "The Attitude of the Modern Church on Birth Control."

Washington

REVEREND G F QUINAN, lecturing on "Marriage, Divorce and Birth Control" at Our Lady of Lourdes cathedral in Spokane on October 14th, inadvertently brought out the connection between Birth Control and peace. He said "Birth Control destroyed the mightiest empire the world has known, Rome. They had no children, soon they had no soldiers. Birth Control is not a question of this or that doctrine, but merely a question of the natural law, which is equally binding on every human, and any sane discussion of it must be from this standpoint."

The following article from the *Seattle Star*, is indicative of the temper of the West towards Birth Control.

Birth Control, no matter what the puritans and politicians may decree, is as certain a process as birth and death. If we had less legal hysteria and more study of nature law we would save much trouble and more expense.

Churches can howl about defeating God's good plan by not making a brood mare out of a woman, politicians can pass laws to punish those who refuse to furnish unlimited cannon fodder, old maids of both sexes can rave about the obligations of parentage but in exact proportion as any nation becomes civilized, in exact ratio to its dawning general intelligence, in that ratio will sex control be practiced, and in exact proportion to the intelligence of its citizens.

You will discover if you look into the matter that the inmates of prisons and asylums do not come from homes where two or three children were reared, the lower you go in the social scale, the more progeny, and the more worthless the progeny.

ENGLAND

THE National Council of Women, in conference in Manchester on October 16th, adopted a resolution favoring the giving of Birth Control infor-

mation at government health centres. The resolution was proposed by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship

HOLLAND

BIRTH CONTROL was denounced by the Dutch Catholic League of Large Families at its national congress at Nymegan, on September 9th. J. W. Van Meergeren, the president, announced that the purpose of the congress was to "protest against the modern spirit of love of ease and of pleasure which is at the bottom of Birth Control practices." The League was founded in 1916, has 69 branches and 10,000 members.

INDIA

THE Child Marriage Bill passed the Indian Legislative Assembly on September 23rd by the solid majority of 67 to 14. The bill is applicable to all religious communities, and establishes a punishment of imprisonment for a month or a fine of one hundred pounds for all persons who celebrate the marriage of girls below 14 and boys below 18 years of age.

ITALY

FIGURES compiled by the Central Statistical Institute show that despite baby campaigns there were 22,209 fewer births in the first nine months of 1929 than in the same nine months of 1928.

BUY BOOKS

FROM

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

We will send you, promptly, at the regular retail price, any book mentioned in this issue. We will send you selected reading lists on Birth Control, and allied subjects. We solicit your patronage.

BOOKS RECEIVED

MODERN CHINESE CIVILIZATION, by Dr. A. F. Legendre. *Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York* \$2.75

THE RIDDLE OF SEX, by Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum. *Macaulay, New York* \$3.00

DANGER SPOTS IN WORLD POPULATION, by Warren S. Thompson. *Alfred A. Knopf, New York* \$3.50

MARRIAGE, by Edward Westermarck. *Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York* \$1.50

MARRIAGE AND MORALS, by Bertrand Russell. *Horace Liveright, New York* \$3.00

MAN AND WOMAN, by Havelock Ellis. *Houghton, Mifflin Co., New York* \$5.00

PACIFISM IN THE MODERN WORLD, edited by Devere Allen. *Doubleday & Doran, Garden City* \$2.00

THE LIFE OF LADY BYRON, by Ethel Colburn Mayne. *Scribner, New York* \$5.00

ULTIMA THULE, by H. H. Richardson. *W. W. Norton Co., New York* \$2.50

SEE HOW THEY RUN, by Helen Grace Carlisle. *Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York* \$2.50

DEATH OF A HERO, by Richard Aldington. *Covici-Friede, New York* \$2.50

HOW LIKE A GOD, by Rex Stout. *Vanguard Press, New York* \$2.50

THE UNDER DOGS, by Mariano Azuela. *Brentano, New York* \$2.50

THE question of Birth Control is inescapable. Its best form is what has been called "constructive Birth Control," viz., that which takes account of what has been discovered in regard to the laws of inheritance of physical and mental qualities. Mendelism, a study of the nature of heredity, embryology, advances in psychology, in education generally, and in national and personal hygiene, have shown that it is easily possible to have far better conditions in the matter of the reproduction of human beings. To secure them practically is worth while. As people grow in intelligence and develop in character, their interest in the quality of future generations progresses, and we realize that what in the past was left entirely to chance, may in the future be wisely directed, to the great advantage of humanity. One may say that the human race is rapidly reaching new ideals in regard to its responsibility to the generations to come. Indifference to the fate of those born under bad economic, physical and psychical conditions is giving place — perhaps all too slowly — to benevolent concern.

SIR GEORGE H. KNIBBS

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

A CONSTRUCTIVE IDEA

TO THE EDITOR

I have given your address to a woman who lives a few miles from here, whose daughter at twenty-four has two babies fourteen months apart, with no knowledge of preventing further arrivals

Birth Control is, to my thought, one of the few worthy causes, and I feel like saying so to each solicitation for foundling homes, and similar charities, incidental to unwanted children

S G D

Plainfield, New Jersey

THE PENNSYLVANIA LAW

TO THE EDITOR

I think your using one page of appeal letters is a good thing, since all our work is so heavily weighted with emotional content. People's thinking is, of course, altered radically only by emotion

We must not allow our emotions to dominate our thinking, however. The tendency of people deeply concerned with advancing a new cause is to overestimate the strength and solidarity of the opposition. I tried to show a sociologist's attitude toward the Roman Catholic Church in my article in the October REVIEW

Emotion has so far made the campaign of the Pennsylvania Federation clumsy. In spite of Dr. R. L. Dickinson's expressed opinion that Pennsylvania made exception for books and medical schools, it was decided that the Pennsylvania law was watertight, and the whole organization has spent a great deal of time and energy telling everybody it could reach how terrible the law was. This was simply the direct emotional reaction to what seemed an intolerable situation, and recalls the early days of "The Woman Rebel." I submit that we have simply thereby built up the case of the opposition. It would be decidedly more effective to stress the specific exemption in the 1870 law in favor of physicians. A legislator listens more readily to a plea for clarification of an old law than

to a plea for reversing the decision of a previous legislature, especially on a point which can be called "moral"

In the interview quoted by Mary Ware Dennett, in her "Birth Control Laws", Anthony Comstock specifically repudiates the view that any of the "obscenity" laws could be used against reputable physicians, arguing that not one such case had ever been brought to court. The first and only case to date is the farcical one against Dr. Hannah Stone and her assistant last May.

Especially in speaking to physicians must we emphasize this aspect of the legal situation. All this legislation was written by Comstock. He, and therefore the men who passed his bills, never had any intention of dictating a code of marital relations, much less of medical practice. Heywood Broun and Margaret Leach have shown us the genesis of Comstock's terrific emotional drive. As an innocent adolescent, with no knowledge of the place of sexual intercourse in adult, married love, he embarked on a great crusade to free the Negro, only to find that his companions' main interest was in sexual adventure of no loftier type than the cheap tales which have amused "single men in barracks" these twenty thousand years. Comstock loathed this talk, loathed the cheap pornographic books the men treasured in their knapsacks, loathed himself when, inevitably, he felt the urge they revelled in and glimpsed the appeal of the books they liked. Like the censors of all ages, he took the result for the cause and dedicated fifty years of ceaseless activity for keeping sex off the news-stands.

Pennsylvania Pamphlet Law 63 (May 12, 1897) does not repeal the 1870 law, but merely makes a clear distinction between "obscenity" (whatever that is) and contraceptives and things for "causing unlawful abortion." This would, of course, exempt physicians practicing "lawful" abortion, and should justify any physician in giving such contraceptive information as he sees fit. I do not, then, think it either accurate or psychologically sound for the REVIEW to accept the local organiza-

tion's view of Pennsylvania as a state where the law is very bad

There is need of a short amendment to P L 63, referring to P L 39, Section 2, and I propose the following "An Act to clarify the position of the medical profession in accordance with the final provision of Pamphlet Law 39, Section 2 'Be it enacted that nothing in the Act approved March 16, 1870, P L 39, nor in the Act approved May 12, 1897, P L 63, shall be construed to affect advice given by lawfully practising physicians, registered nurses, or duly licensed midwives or the sale to those advised of such materials as may be prescribed'"

HUDSON CHAPMAN

Philadelphia, Pa

WHAT CATHOLICS SAY

TO THE EDITOR

The letter regarding "Catholic opposition" in the October issue of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is most encouraging, and it thoroughly confirms what Catholics have said when buying the REVIEW from me on the street. More and more do Catholics see and follow the light of Birth Control.

Quite recently a young working man said "I do admire the work you people are doing. I used to belong to the Catholic Church, but left it just because of its attitude on this subject. I have discussed it with my married sister, and she is going to leave too. We know better than the Church how many children we can afford to raise decently." So many men and women say practically the same. "I am a Catholic, but I believe in Birth Control. I won't have more children than I can bring up properly." "I had so many because I didn't know better, but I want my children to be enlightened." "It's all very well for the priests to tell us to have plenty, they wouldn't be so eager if they had to provide for 'em."

Sometimes I ask them "What about the Church?" and the answer generally is "I don't care, the Church doesn't help us any," while some consign the Church to the place it invented for the eternal damnation of those who neglected to do the "will of God" according to its lights. Yesterday a young man, evidently going on a journey, to judge from his "Sunday best" and a suitcase, stood a good five minutes looking at the REVIEW, though

I pretended not to notice him. At last he edged up and with a rich Irish brogue he asked if that paper was for not having any babies. While I explained what it stood for his head kept on nodding in agreement, but when for further information I offered him last month's number to read, he declined with genuine alarm. "No, no, I'm afeared to read it," he gasped. "Why," I said lightly, "you've nothing to fear reading this. Everybody reads it, even priests buy it sometimes just to see what it is." That seemed to reassure him, and he folded it into as small a space as he could and tucked it away in an inside pocket while he told me he was thinking of getting married but was "afeared" of having a family right away when he could not afford one. I told him I was glad he had sufficient sense of responsibility towards a possible family, but not to worry, to read the paper and see what was being done to help people.

KITTY MARION

New York

WHO WILL ANSWER THIS LETTER?

TO THE EDITOR

As the fifth child of a splendid mother who gave birth to eleven children, eight of whom she reared to reputable manhood and womanhood, and though my path in life has not been one of roses, I am glad that she knew nothing about contraceptives, or like the soul in "The Blue Bird", I might still be waiting on that hither shore for a bark to bring me over, to face all the Birth Controllers would save us from. Either life is worth the living with all that it entails, or it is a sin *per se*, and should never have been imposed on us by an anthropomorphic or any other kind of a God.

When I remember that Theodore Parker was one of eleven children, I cannot but wonder if his beautiful soul would ever have been incarnated, had his parents been of the intelligentsia of today. And how many souls quite as shining and gifted as his, may not have been denied passage to this shore of time.

I must smile at some of the arguments of those who would limit the output of life. While the only ones fit to "multiply and replenish the earth," they are the only ones who practice Birth Control, leaving it to the poor and "unfit", who are too near

to the heart of Nature to have anything to do with contraceptives

We hear so much about "quality rather than quantity," as if quite as wonderful qualities have not appeared in large families as against the limited output of "the fit" How many geniuses has the one-child family produced as compared with those of large families and humble parents? What of Leonardo Da Vinci, who was an illegitimate child? We have never heard anything of his father's legitimate ones

There is nothing more pathetic than an only child unless it is no children at all Every boy should have a brother, every girl a sister, and thus there would be brothers and sisters all around

Surely if the Power, which "some call Evolution, and others call it God," is as wise as it is credited with being, it would not have made such fecund conditions for the perpetuation of life on every plane of existence, and not at the same time provided ample resources for the maintenance of that life to be "perpetuated and multiplied"

Perhaps my standpoint is narrow and intolerant, but I am coming to think that even intolerance has its place in the scheme of things that are I am only intolerant of wrongs that should be righted

AGNES G WATSON

St Petersburg, Florida

PRESENT TRENDS IN BIRTH CONTROL

(Continued from page 313)

for or against Birth Control and apart from political, religious or national motives, differs in regard to indications and methods

As regards the indications for Birth Control, some doctors desire that only medical ones shall be considered, but doctors who are interested in social welfare desire the recognition of medical, social and eugenic indications

GERMANY

By DR BERTHA RIESE

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Contraceptive methods are not as unreliable as they are said to be The want of reliability depends much more on subjective, psychological facts than we generally imagine The reasons for failure are as follows —

- 1 In our country not only the general practitioners, but even the gynaecologists are insufficiently acquainted with reliable methods
- 2 Doctors generally want their patients to come back every month, instead of making a woman independent and able to practise contraception without medical aid
- 3 Doctors do not explain minutely enough the simple but important details
- 4 Doctors in general know the gynaecological contra-indication to contraception, but they pay insufficient attention to the psychological There are couples who will never succeed in practising contraception If we want our patients to rely entirely on the method, we must not recommend the usual contraceptive technique to those who we have reason to suppose are unable to perform properly methods every one of which requires energy, self-control and persistence

GREAT BRITAIN

By DR C P BLACKER

PUBLIC ATTITUDE

It is an encouraging sign of the times that in the course of the last year there has been a general realization of the need for a more detailed investigation of the sociological effects of Birth Control and the efficacy of methods than has as yet been made

The attitude of the Ministry of Health in the matter of allowing the Medical Officers under its jurisdiction to advise women as to practical methods of Birth Control, remains unchanged The Ministry does not allow such advice to be given by medical persons working under it

Several books dealing with the medical aspects of contraception have appeared in the last year "Medical Help on Birth Control" (Putnam's, 6/-) and "Some more Medical Views on Birth Control" (Cecil Palmer) are symposia by different medical authors favorably disposed to Birth Control Of these contributors the best informed on the subject is Dr Norman Haire, who edited the second book and wrote the first paper in it

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

It is difficult to know whether the attitude of the medical profession towards the subject has undergone any substantial change

The falling birth-rate was discussed at the Cardiff Meeting of the British Medical Association last year. The discussion threw no new light on the general state of medical opinion on the subject, which would now seem to be at a standstill, pending the publication of new data. For the time being, it appears that everything worth saying has been said on both sides.

SPAIN

By DR. A. DEL CAMPO

LEGAL STATUS

There is no prohibitive legislation on this subject at present, since the modern methods of Birth Control are of recent origin. But I am sure that the Government would oppose any legislation that facilitated their dissemination.

There are two laws that indicate the temper of the legislator on the population problem — (1) Bachelors tax, (2) Subsidies and suppression of taxes to big families.

PUBLIC ATTITUDE

The Roman Catholic Church has an influence over the majority of people in Spain, particularly over the middle classes, the intellectual and working classes, however, are guided less by it than other classes.

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The medical profession as a whole ignores the problem, and gives advice only when it is a clinical necessity. This is the point of view taught in the medical schools.

SWEDEN

By DR. ALMA SUNDQUIST

PUBLIC ATTITUDE

Because of the low birth-rate—the lowest in the world—of Sweden, Birth Control work is beginning to encounter some unforeseen difficulties. Some very influential persons, political economists and others, who used to be fervent supporters of Birth Control are beginning to change their mind to a certain degree, fearing that the movement is going too far and that it may in the near future

cause a "National Suicide" of the Swedish race. There has been no question of special measures against the movement, but where sympathy used to be found it is now sometimes lacking.

ATTITUDE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

On the other hand many members of the medical profession are beginning to show more interest in Birth Control, and probably the question is going to be discussed during the year in the Swedish Medical Society or in some section of it. Professor Almkvist of the Medical School (Karolinska Institutet) in Stockholm, has recently published a booklet "On the Sex Question" where Birth Control is recommended, and he is preparing a paper on Birth Control that will probably be published in one of the next numbers of a medical paper (Svenska Lakartidningen).

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of the Birth Control Review published monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1929. State of New York, County of New York.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Mrs. Stella Hanau, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Managing Editor of the Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation) etc. of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411 Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:
Publisher—American Birth Control League, Inc., 104 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City.
Editor—Stella Hanau, 104 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City.
Managing Editor—None.
Business Manager—Lydia Altschuler, 104 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City.

2. That the owner is (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company or other unincorporated concern, its name and address as well as those of each individual member must be given.)
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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are (If there are none so state.) None.

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STELLA HANAU
Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day September, 1929.

[SEAL] SIDNEY BENJAMIN
(My commission expires March 30, 1930.)

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