

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance

January 1930

**Chicago Doctors Endorse Birth Control**

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**Catholicism and Birth Control**

By E BOYD BARRETT

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**The Conference Mass Meeting**

DR HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

DR SIDNEY E GOLDSTEIN

DR HARRY V B DARLINGTON

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**Radio Censorship; Library Censorship**

•

**Pennsylvania League Annual Meeting**

# Birth Control Review

VOL XIV

JANUARY, 1930

No 1

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

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## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

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

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

## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	5
PROMINENT CHICAGO PHYSICIANS ENDORSE BIRTH CONTROL	5
THE CONFERENCE MASS MEETING Dr H Ayde Prichard, Dr Harry V B Darlington, Dr Sidney E Goldstein, Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick	7
ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND BIRTH CONTROL By E Boyd Barrett	11
ECHOES OF THE CONFERENCE <i>Press Clippings</i>	13
JAPAN INITIATES BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS By Shidzue Ishimoto	14
POPULATION SECTION	
THE FUTURE OF THE JAPANESE BIRTH RATE By E F Penrose	15
A PRIMER ON POPULATION PRESSURE AND BIRTH CONTROL By Guy Irving Burch	16
HOW X RAYS EFFECT HEREDITY By P W Whiting	18
BOOK REVIEWS By Annie G Porritt, Norman E Himes, Jessica Smith, Anna R Whiting, James F Cooper, Elizabeth W East, James R Curtis	19
BOOKS RECEIVED	22
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE	23
THE NEW JERSEY BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE — 1929	24
NEWS NOTES	25
READERS' PAGE	28
LIBRARIES AND BIRTH CONTROL — TWO LETTERS	29

# Editorial

## ANNUAL MEETING *of the* AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

*Thursday, January Sixteenth*

HOTEL WOODSTOCK  
127 West 43rd Street, New York City

### *Speakers*

MRS THOMAS W LAMONT

MRS MINTURN PINCHOT

*A third speaker to be announced*

Business meeting and reports at 12 M

Luncheon with speeches at 1 P M

*Readers are urged to attend*

Luncheon tickets may be purchased through the  
REVIEW (\$1.25 per person)

IF it were possible to hit upon some phrase that carried the meaning of the words "Happy New Year" without their banality, the REVIEW would print that phrase across the top of this page, and wish that wish to all its readers. The work of the American Birth Control League is an attempt to make the New Year's wish come true. A world not overcrowded, a world of wanted and welcome children, of men no longer the victims of blind chance, of women no longer breaking under the burden of ill health and excessive fecundity, of knowledge accessible to all (but not forced upon any single person who does not wish to have it) this is our hope for the New Year, for the days to come.

THE work of the League goes forward. Again a bill which will make it legal for physicians to give contraceptive information will be introduced at Albany. Three states, where no adverse laws exist, one in New England, one in the Middle West, and one in the South, are to be organized by the League as

key states. Ideally there should be a Birth Control League in each of the forty-eight states, to amend the law where it is restrictive, to found and operate clinics where possible. The League invites correspondence with interested and responsible groups in any state where no organization exists, and stands ready to assist in the formation of state leagues. To furnish speakers for meetings, and material for speakers is an important part of the educational work. The fight against restrictive legislation, the formation of clinics where possible, the large and fundamental work of rousing the public to the urgent need for Birth Control, is the program for 1930.

THE refusal of the National Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast the recent Mass Meeting speeches of the National Conference (see page 7) is precisely what was to be expected. The reasons advanced for the refusal were the controversial nature of the subject, the fact that it is one on which the three great religious denominations are not in accord, and that the speeches might be irritating to a large number of owners of radio sets. This line of thought evokes so vast and terrifying a list of questions that one hesitates to begin. It is hard to imagine that some lonely farm woman, awaiting her tenth child, would be more irritated by Dr. Fosdick's stirring address on Birth Control than by an hour of Guitar lessons, or a political speech. But perhaps politics are barred as controversial. Or again, can it be said, because Jews, Protestants and Catholics do not attack one another in their sermons, that there is essential agreement between them, that they are in complete accord with each others doctrines as broadcast in their various sermons? Probably most owners of radio sets listen to the sermon of the particular denomination to which they belong, and when in danger of being irritated by a controversial utterance, turn off the current. The three great religious denominations have agreed to differ. And this is precisely what the Birth Control move-

ment wishes to do. It hopes that anyone who disapproves of Birth Control will have nothing to do with it. It merely says that those who are interested, who wish to know what such eminent clergymen as Dr. Fosdick, Dr. Darlington and Dr. Goldstein think, should be permitted to hear.

**C**HARGING that the National Broadcasting Company "neglected the performance of a public service which it was under moral obligation to perform" when it refused to broadcast the addresses of the National Birth Control Conference, the American Civil Liberties Union has protested to the broadcasting company, and its advisory committee of prominent citizens. Dr. Harry F. Ward, chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union, pointed out that controversial subjects more than any other need airing so that the public can form its opinion intelligently.

**I**f further proof were needed of the general hypocrisy that surrounds the radio attitude on Birth Control, it was furnished by a recent incident in Boston. Reverend Jones I. J. Corrigan, S. J., professor of Ethics at Boston College, was scheduled to speak on Birth Control during the "Catholic Truth Hour" from Station WNAC. Several active workers for Birth Control in Boston offered to present the other side, either during the same hour or later, but were informed by the station that as a matter of principle it did not "like to put controversial material on the air, in fact declined to do so." They were assured that Father Corrigan would say nothing antagonistic. How successfully Father Corrigan upheld the principles laid down by the company, can best be seen from the following verbatim quotation from his speech, as printed in the *Boston Herald* of December 16th:

America has to fear underpopulation rather than overpopulation. What are we to say of Mrs. Sanger's efforts and those of the American Birth Control League to legalize the dissemination of anti-procreation information? These protective laws are the nation's one defence against the spread of moral corruption. To repeal them or to impair anything of their vigor and force would be national suicide.

## SEX EDUCATION



"Mary Smith's mother told her the stork, and Susie Jones' mother told her the doctor — and now you tell me under a cabbage leaf! Humph. Come clean, mama, come clean!"

—Reprinted from the *Saturday Evening Post*, copyright, 1929, by the Curtis Publishing Co.

**W**HEN the National Child Labor Committee was formed it was thought that if the public knew the facts, knew about the horrors of Child Labor, this evil would soon be abolished. The National Child Labor Committee has recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It looks back to difficult work well done, to prejudice overcome, wrongs righted. But Child Labor still exists. As Dr. Lovejoy put it "the facts have been presented in such abundance that no social iniquity has stood condemned by a more convincing array of evidence."

Child Labor still exists. It will continue to exist while economic pressure forces children prematurely into the ranks of wage earners. It will continue to exist while men and women are forced, through ignorance, to bring into the world more children than they can provide for. Economic pressure has in the past proved stronger than laws, than public opinion, than ethical conviction. It will continue to be an unconquerable enemy. The Child Labor battle needs the help of Birth Control.

# Prominent Chicago Physicians Endorse Birth Control

*This remarkable credo was presented by Dr John Favill at the Conference held by the Chicago Woman's Aid, on December 5th See News Notes for details of the Conference*

**W**E the undersigned desire to record our belief in the wisdom and justice of making legally available to any woman of legally marriageable age the knowledge of how to prevent conception

Lay organizations working to this end use various terms such as "Birth Control" and "Voluntary Parenthood" A term more literally descriptive of their aims is "Conception Control" Neither they nor we are in any way concerned with a defense of abortions other than those necessary to help diseased women whom pregnancy threatens with death Such are, of course, legal

The Comstock law of 1873 preventing the mailing of obscene matter unfortunately classed the matter of the prevention of conception as an obscenity About half of the states have enacted somewhat similar laws As a result no medical book containing a chapter on methods of contraception can legally be mailed in our country The absurdity of having to omit this from books on Gynecology and Obstetrics, when specialists in these fields realize the frequent need of, and give, contraceptive advice, has perhaps been a leading factor in the present state of ignorance and indifference widely prevalent among the medical profession concerning this problem We know of but one leading medical school which gives any contraceptive instruction to its students

We realize there are both sociologic and medical aspects to conception control We realize that medical men are not trained sociologists But we claim the liberty of supporting such sociologic measures as appear to us to hold the greatest promise of good for society

Therefore, in an attempt to bring more medical attention to the matter of contraception, we desire to express our present opinions and conclusions under the following four heads

## LEGAL

The present confusion of varying state laws leaves

ridiculous contrasts, as instanced by Connecticut where a woman may not take any measure whatever to prevent conception, and New Mexico where physicians can advise and women carry out measures *ad lib* The Federal law should be amended to remove contraception from the class of obscenities and the present state laws should be repealed We are alive to the ill effects and dangers of passing unenforceable laws

## MEDICAL

Every physician of experience knows of cases where circumstances call for contraceptive instruction His ability to give this instruction, however, has often been inadequate No perfectly satisfactory method for all types of cases exists today Individual problems and conditions call for different methods Further research in contraception is certainly needed Clinical and laboratory work to this end under regularly qualified medical men and women is to be encouraged We here emphasize an answer to the argument of certain writers Because a method does not give 100% perfect results is no reason to abandon it Diphtheria antitoxin, anti-meningococcus serum and small-pox vaccines are pillars in our medical edifice But they are not perfect Contraceptive research has just begun It needs our help

## SOCIOLOGIC

We believe overpopulation is a leading cause of war Various calculations have been made as to the limit of possible population for this earth Whatever the figure may be, none of us doubts that there is a limit That war, famine and disease can keep us under such limit we have abundant faith But we submit that as human beings we are interested in preventing war and famine just as we, as physicians, are interested in preventing disease We believe the birth of many children to a pair of parents economically fit to support but one, or a very few, is a potent source of poverty and crime We view

with alarm the continuous growth of agencies for the economic assistance of the physically and mentally unfit which permits the propagation by such unfit of more and more unfit

We know that conception is controlled in a large majority of families which are economically independent. We believe this cannot be changed. We know that contraceptive measures are desired by many families in economic distress. Fifty thousand letters of appeal received in one year by the American Birth Control League attest this. The argument that the world would soon be depopulated fails to consider the normal desire for motherhood in the vast majority of women and the certain pride of parenthood present in most men.

The fact that some of the most unfit class of all—diseased and defective and parasitic—will not use contraceptive information or cannot be taught it, is a grave danger to the race. But we feel that such should be controlled by the state if they will not control themselves. This is a sub-division of the whole problem, and, while we do not see clearly a solution, we feel that hope lies in the direction of compulsory sterilization.

#### ETHICAL

There are many bases of ethics. Morality and religion vary with latitude, longitude and time. We cannot hope to speak with finality on such a complex problem. But we are unanimously satisfied that it is better to be born a wanted than an unwanted child, that it is better to preserve a mother's health by reasonable spacing of a few children than

to ruin it by too frequent pregnancies, that the mother of a growing family is presumably more valuable than one more child and should not be sacrificed for such, that to claim sexual intercourse in marriage should be entirely restricted to voluntary propagation is to cry for the impossible, that happy normal sex relations between young married people make for solidarity and stability of the home, that contraception permits earlier marriages and so works against prostitution, and that if contraceptive information should increase the present large number of illegal sex unions, this would be amply offset by the decrease in number of criminal abortions and illegitimate children.

Finally, we as men believe that if we had to undergo sickness, disfigurement, limitation of activities, discomfort, pain, danger and sometimes death for the birth of a child, we would insist that it was our absolute right to choose our own time for the process. Therefore, we believe this an essential and absolute right of women and encourage them to claim such right.

(Signed)

#### Doctors

Charles S. Bacon	George H. Coleman
J. Wendell Clark	N. S. Davis
John Favill	Anton J. Carlson
Ralph C. Hamill	Eugene Cary
N. Sproat Heaney	George W. Hall
David S. Levy	George de Tarnowsky
Selim W. McArthur	Rudolph W. Holmes
William Allen Pusey	Harold E. Jones
Eugene S. Talbot	Joseph L. Bear

## Dean Inge on Constructive Birth Control

**I**T is quite clear that some regulation of population is necessary. If the operation of natural selection is inhibited by humanitarian laws, if nature's failures and misfits are to be kept alive and encouraged to propagate, if those who cannot find work are to be maintained at the expense of the workers, some form of rational regulation must be found. Otherwise, the nation is certain to deteriorate by the increase of inferior stocks, and the standard of living must be lowered in order to support a population far in excess of the optimum number. It is childish to deny a perfectly obvious truth.

The human race, like every other species, tends to

multiply far more rapidly than the means of subsistence. In history we find that an equilibrium has been established partly by periodical famines and plagues, partly by war and massacre, and partly by infanticide, abortion, wilful neglect of infants, and by postponement of marriage.

The remedy which has now been adopted in all civilized countries is the deliberate prevention of conception, which has already reduced the birth-rate (as compared with fifty years ago) by about one-half. Even those who are most opposed to this movement must admit that it is a lesser evil than abortion or infanticide.

—*The Spectator* (London) November, 1929

# The Conference Mass Meeting

DR H ADYE PRICHARD,  
*Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of St John the Divine, introduced the speakers*

YOU came to hear three very prominent and very influential men who are going to tell you some facts and some opinions about what I believe to be one of the greatest economic and legislative problems that faces civilization today. What we are trying to do is establish a principle, and the principle is a principle of freedom, that there should be the same freedom in family life as there is in every other department of our life. That children, in other words, should be free, that they should be by choice, and not by chance. And that really is the slogan of this meeting.

DR HARRY V B DARLINGTON, *Rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, spoke*

I AM very glad to appear here this evening and to commit myself publicly as being wholeheartedly in favor of this movement.

Many years ago a friend of mine used to visit a relative on the farm in New Jersey, not far from Trenton. A brook ran through the place, between the house and the barn. On stormy nights he and his uncle went over to see to the stock and were many times left in complete darkness on the way by the lantern blowing out. They then had to return to the house again for a light, for it was dangerous to strike a match in the barn.

Years rolled by and recently the man went out to the old place again. No longer is there the danger of suddenly being left in the dark, for now a switch flashes on the electric lights for the whole way. We live and move in an age in which we pride ourselves on the use that we make of the knowledge that science has brought to us. But there are many who are unwilling to apply these facts to certain fields. They will use every means possible to control inanimate things, but when it comes to human

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*Most significant of the present status of the Birth Control movement is the unequivocal stand taken by the clergymen who spoke at the Mass Meeting of the National Conference. We print here excerpts from the addresses. Our readers' imaginations must supply the earnestness and enthusiasm of the audience, to get a complete picture of the evening.*

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relationships, our duty to ourselves, our children, our neighbors and our God, they cry, "Hands off!" "So far may you go and no further!" "This is sacrosanct!" They will insist upon using a lantern in directing their personal affairs when electric light is at their command.

We say we live in a democracy. Well, the rich and the clever get the information and the material for the limitation of their families, while the

poor and underprivileged are prevented by law from getting the same help, which would free them from the economic burden which keeps them poor.

Last year a woman admitted to me that she was to have another child, her third, and she did not know what she would do with another one to take care of, her husband was working seven days a week and over time and they just had been able to make ends meet and to pay their debts. If his health failed she stated, they would be destitute. She did not want the third child. The tragedy was, twins were born. Money had to be borrowed and the old father had to get a part-time job. It is doubtful now if the debts will ever be paid. The parents might have been able with the two children to have worked their way to economic independence, but with four they are doomed. What of the rights of the older two? Surely it deprives them of the advantages of proper housing, good food, and education, is a decided loss to the state, to say nothing of the individuals themselves.

I certainly do not believe that God created men and women just to be breeders, that their only reason for existence is to see how many children they can add to the race.

To turn from the underprivileged to the wealthier among our people, here again is the same problem. I am convinced that more divorces are the result of failing to face this question, than most people realize.

There are many who fear that if contraceptive information is made available to the married it will

find its way into the hands of others who will use the information for the promiscuous satisfying of their own lusts. Thus the inevitable result, it is claimed, would be a lowering of the moral standard of the whole nation, ultimately race suicide, because very few people would be willing to assume family responsibilities and vice would be encouraged. It would indeed be a calamity if such were to be the case. But it does not work out that way, as the experience of Holland well illustrates. According to Dr. Aletta Jacobs of that country, the necessary information for the limiting of families has been available to the mothers of Holland since the year 1880. While the birth rate has decreased year by year since 1880, the rate of increase in the population has grown from 11.4 per thousand to 17.8 per thousand in the year 1925. This increase is due to a surplus of births over deaths. In fact, this big growth of population in Holland is a danger to the country. Thus those who state that race suicide would follow have the case of the Dutch to explain away.

#### HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLLAND

Another thing of great importance for the morality of Holland and for the health and happiness of the people is that since 1880 the number of marriages has increased and the age of marriage has been lowered. From my observation, having been in Holland a great deal, I know divorces are rare, compared with other countries. There exists no regulation of vice, brothels are forbidden, and, what is more they do not exist. Venereal diseases are infrequent and the number of illegitimates is very low. To quote Dr. Jacobs again, in the last few years there were only 19.1 illegitimate children born out of every thousand new babies in Holland, while in the same years, England had 43.4, Scotland 70.9, France 87.9 and Belgium 84.1. The conclusion reached by the unprejudiced observer when visiting Holland is that it is a healthy, happy country with a high moral standard.

We pride ourselves that we live in an age when reason and the will of God prevail, but do they? It oftentimes seems that we are still using candlelight when electricity is at our command. Let us think of the story with which this paper commenced. In traveling life's highway are we willing to continue to chance it in the dark and storm and rain with the old lantern? Or living in 1929 do we use all modern methods?

I can see a new America some day in which children will arrive from choice and not chance, when poverty will be left behind, disease defeated and war truly outlawed, and all this will be largely the result of giving to parents the right to determine the size of their own families. As Nietzsche said, "Not propagating the race, but raising the level of humanity must be the aim of existence."

DR. SIDNEY E. GOLDSTEIN, *Professor in Social Service at the Jewish Institute of Religion, and Associate to Rabbi Stephen Wise at the Free Synagogue*, spoke

IF I understand the subject at all, I think that those who are opposed to Birth Control are opposed upon very obvious grounds. There is very little debate as to the advisability of Birth Control as applied to the defective groups in our community. Men and women generally agree that the defective groups ought to be controlled in some way, so that they may not burden society with unrestricted and unregulated reproduction of their own kind. Those groups, of course, ought to be, and probably in time will be, sterilized, now that the Supreme Court of the United States has at last declared constitutional the sterilization law in America.

We are not therefore concerned, as I understand it, with the defective groups, but rather with those that we regard as normal and fit for reproduction.

I think that we ought to be tolerant enough to state the arguments of our opponents. If I understand their arguments they sum themselves up into four sentences. Birth Control, in the first place, leads to race suicide. In the second place, it is contrary to the laws of our country, and for these two reasons it is unsocial. Then Birth Control encourages immorality. And in the fourth place, it is contrary to the laws of God, and for these two reasons it is unmoral or immoral, or unethical.

These arguments it seems to me are not very difficult to answer. Dr. Darlington has already told you something about Holland. Birth Control has been operating in Holland for over fifty years and the result is what? A decimation of the population? Not at all.

What some of our friends forget is this, that the population is not composed of those who are born, the population is composed of those who survive,



and the number that survives in Holland is large. In America at the present time the number that survives is about one million a year. That does not look as if America were committing race suicide through the operation of Birth Control.

Of course, it is true that Birth Control is contrary to the laws of some states. But who places those laws upon the statute books? If you will go back far enough you will discover that the laws relating to Birth Control all can be traced to one individual and to his propaganda, to Anthony Comstock. But the laws of the United States are not the laws of the Medes and the Persians. We have the constitutional right to plead for a change in our laws, an amendment of the law when we believe that the law as it stands is an impediment to social welfare and to the progress of the race.

#### IMMORALITY AND DIVINE LAW

Now may I take up the third argument that is sometimes offered, namely, that Birth Control leads to immorality. To whom does this really apply? Not, I am afraid, to the men. It applies chiefly to the women. The opponents of Birth Control are fearful that if we do instruct people in the methods of contraception we shall increase immorality among the women. What does that mean? Only this. That women are virtuous because they fear the consequences of sin. To me no fouler indictment has ever been read against the virtue of womanhood.

Of course, this argument applies likewise to families. We are told that Birth Control will demoralize the family. I have ventured to take the trouble to study some families in which Birth Control really is accepted, the families of doctors, and the families of lawyers, and the families of ministers, and the families of legislators, too, and I do not find that in these families the ethical standards are corrupted, and that the wife is demoralized, and the man is brutalized.

On the contrary, in families in which Birth Control is practiced, the family is able, because of its size, to develop normally, to develop richly, and to develop beautifully, and to develop those qualities that we associate with a higher type of family life. The holiness of married life does not depend upon conception, and it does not depend upon contraception. The holiness of married life depends upon one thing only, and that is the spirit of consecration with which a man and a woman come together in

order to realize through their comradeship, the supreme ideal of love. And wherever the spirit of consecration is present no danger need be feared, no darkness will enter the temple of their married life. So this argument seems to fall easily to the ground.

The fourth argument, of course, is that Birth Control is contrary to the laws of God. This is the strongest argument that men and women advance. What does it mean? And upon what is it based? Upon the old command, "Ye shall increase and ye shall multiply and replenish the earth."

When was that command given? It was given first of all in the beginning of the world when there were two people upon the earth. And then it was given the second time just after the flood when there were eight people on the earth, according to population statistics.

The arguments against Birth Control are easily answered, the arguments for Birth Control are readily understood. In Birth Control we have an instrument through which we are able to control the future and to insure to posterity a social state that will mean a state of justice and a state of peace, and a state of brotherhood.

REVEREND DR. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, *Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, Pastor of the Riverside Church, spoke*

**I** CAN RECALL the first time I heard about Mrs. Sanger. I wondered what on earth it was she was talking about. And here we are with an accumulated weight of public feeling on the side of this important reform movement, sufficient I should suppose to convince even the most thoughtless that here is something that intelligent people are giving themselves to because they believe it to be of profound social, moral and spiritual importance.

There are at least three great realms where my interest lies with regard to Birth Control.

In the first place, the population question. This seems to me to be the basic social question of the world. It is impossible that any other social question should be adequately solved if the population question is left unsolved. The last time I spoke on this question I received a letter calling me several various and different kinds of fool, because I did not recognize that nature takes care of this problem, that just as nature takes care of the population of insects in the world, so if we will only let

Mother Nature alone, Mother Nature will take care of the population question. Why could not I open my eyes and see that?

Of course, there is this much truth in it, that if we could let Mother Nature alone she would take care of the population question. But the difficulty is we have not let Mother Nature alone. For example, Mother Nature has habitually taken care of the population question by famines, tremendous famines, like those that even in recent centuries have depopulated India of millions upon millions of her people. Now we have scientific agriculture, rotation of crops, rapid intercommunication, so the products of one land are available in another. Famines are being outlawed. Mother Nature has been interfered with, she can't take care of the population question so neatly.

Plagues were another method by which Mother Nature did effective operative work.

Now the doctors are messing that all up. Mother Nature! What is she going to do with preventive medicine and all the rest?

War is another way by which the population question was until very recent date effectively taken care of. But if Mr. Hoover and Mr. Ramsey MacDonald and a few others like them can really get the world to renounce war as an instrument of national policy, poor Mother Nature will have a crimp put in her style again, and cannot so efficiently handle the population.

#### SCIENTIFIC CONTROL NECESSARY

Now the real problem is this. In handling the population question, we have so interfered with Mother Nature that we have got to interfere with her some more. That is, we have interfered with her in all the ways she has decimated the population, we must now proceed to interfere with her through the scientific control of the birth rate. And there is no other way out.

We have not reached the optimum here in the United States yet. Thank heaven this Birth Control Movement came on the stage a little in advance of our critical and desperate need of it, but it is going to take so long to get this across, to have it percolate down, to have it intelligently understood and practised, that we cannot too quickly begin an educative process of acquainting the people of the United States with what this means. We are not faddists. We are intelligent, serious-minded people. We are facing as wisely as we know how the basic social problem of the world, population,

and we see that sooner or later mankind has got to come around to this and find its salvation, so far as population is concerned, in a controlled birth rate.

My second realm of interest is the humanitarian. I can readily sympathize with the people who have a traditional attitude that makes them antagonistic to Birth Control, for of course, the pioneer days in this nation that are only a little way behind, naturally encouraged the idea of a large family. In those days to have fifteen, twenty or twenty-five children was the ideal. You had an appalling rate of infant mortality, for one thing, and you had an obvious need for as many strong hands as possible to clear the wilderness. Imagine carrying that over into the slums of New York City, into our factory towns and into our industrial situations. See what a piece of idiocy it is to maintain the ideals of those days for our own.

#### AUTOMOBILES AND BIRTH CONTROL

As a religious teacher I am more interested in folks than anything else. I am not interested in money, nor in technical details, I am interested in people, in what happens to personality. And I see what is happening to personality.

Mothers under present conditions, having a long, long series of babies, not wanting them, praying against them, and we having in our power the easily transmissible information that would save them, and held up from giving it to them, it is not a civilized country that permits that.

The last realm where my thought runs is distinctly ethical. The basic fact to be considered there is, of course, that Birth Control is here. Contraceptive information is actually in existence and is being used. It is being used by some people who have no business to use it, it is being kept from some people who have all sorts of business with it, entirely legitimate, and moral and right. But it is here. Now, once in a while somebody says, as though this were the gist of the matter, do you believe in Birth Control? It is like asking people if they believe in automobiles. They are here. You are not going to get rid of them. The question is, how are they going to be employed? So contraceptive information is here. The world is not going to drop it. It is percolating down. It is spreading, sometimes very unintelligently and ignorantly, because we won't let the physicians tell about it.

As an ethical teacher, a man profoundly interested in morality, I am concerned to get this whole

matter lifted out of our miserable suppressive policies into the light where we can begin to develop an ethical code about it

The plain fact is you are not going to get rid of contraceptive information. Did you ever hear of humanity giving up a power because it was dangerous? People say that contraceptive information is dangerous. Of course, it is dangerous. Could anything be more obvious than that it is dangerous? Every power is dangerous. New chemistry, with its amazing possibilities of developing health for the race, can be used for poisonous gases with which civilization may yet commit suicide. Airplanes are dangerous. We are not going to give up airplanes. We are not going to give up automobiles. We are not going to give up the new chemistry. We are not going to give up any power because that power has perilous uses. We are going to keep that power, and go on with it, and run the risks of its danger, and try to build up wisdom in the use of it and an ethical code for its control.

I am quite certain that there is no other way out so far as Birth Control is concerned. Is it dangerous? Why, of course, it is dangerous! But if you adopted suppressive measures, you have not helped things a bit.

It is this positive policy that must see us through. No negative policy will do. No suppressive measures will solve this problem. Contraceptive information is a power that is here, here to stay and to be used. Now, the sooner we get busy and begin trusting our children with the information, and putting them on their honor with its use, and showing them the social advantages and disadvantages of it all, the sooner we will get some decent ethical results.

The worst enemies of the ethical life of this generation are the people who are saying, "Hush." Hush never solved the problem. Ignorance never brought man through to the light. Once more, as of old, this movement is trying to say, "Let there be light."

## Roman Catholicism and Birth Control

*A Reply to the Rt Rev Dr William Turner, D D, Roman Catholic Bishop of Buffalo*

By E BOYD BARRETT

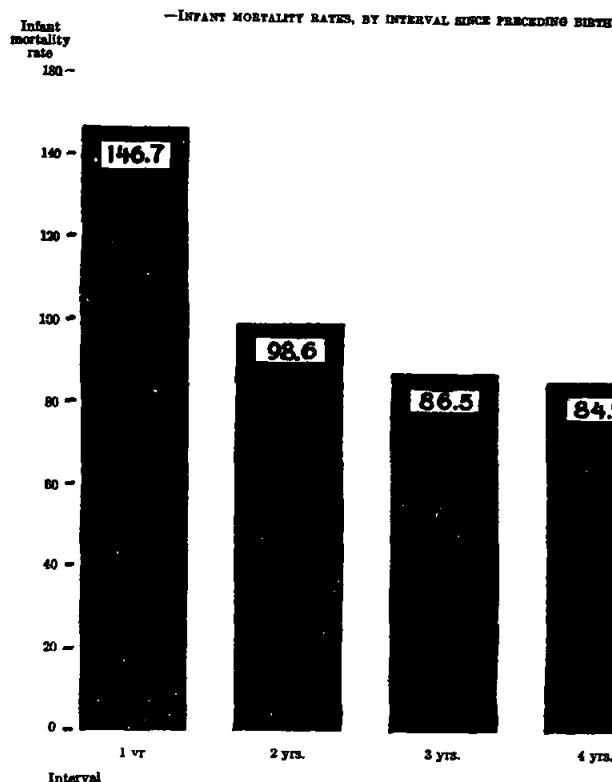
IT is reported in the press that Dr Turner, in addressing the Buffalo Council of the National Council of Catholic Women, described as "Bolshevistic" the conduct of Catholics who lent "a willing ear" to the opinion expressed at the recent Birth Control Conference by the present writer to the effect that the Roman Catholic Church would in due time modify her attitude with respect to Birth Control. "There is no chance," declared His Lordship decisively, "of the Catholic Church changing its attitude on that important question."

That it should be "Bolshevistic" for a Catholic to cherish the belief and hope that the Church would adjust her interpretation of the moral law to the social and hygienic requirements of the present day, is hard to understand. Is it Bolshevistic to think that the Church will repeat in the future what she has many times done in the past, namely change her outlook on moral or social problems? Has not the Church changed in respect to the morality of accepting interest on loans? Has she not, and that recently, bowed before modern

theories of democracy, and changed radically by foregoing her claim to the restoration of her Temporal Power? Is it not true that she has undergone a root and branch change since early times and that to quote from a book, *The Spirit of Catholicism*, p. 12, recently approved by the Cardinal Bishop of this diocese: "We Catholics acknowledge readily, without any shame, nay with pride, that Catholicism cannot be identified simply and wholly with primitive Christianity." Is it then Bolshevistic to think that changes in moral, nay even in religious matters, are possible with the Roman Catholic Church?

It is of course only too apparent that the wrath of the "heresy-hunters" in our midst is kindled against the advocates of Birth Control, as a few hundred years ago it was kindled against the advocates of the new astronomy. Pius X in his encyclical letter *Pascendi Gregis* struck the key note of their attitude: "Far, far from the clergy be the love of novelty." But heresy-hunters, from the days of witch-craft down, have proved luckless pilots of the

## An Irrefutable Argument



*Causal Factors in Infant Mortality U S Dept of Labor  
Children's Bureau Publication No 142*

Bark of Peter, and the Church herself repudiates them in the end

The thoughtful Catholic will, in spite of the outcry "heresy! heresy!" seek to discover what underlies the reference of Fr Martingdale, S J, to "the terrible burden" of the Church's doctrine about Birth Control, "which tends to break down the allegiance of thousands whose shoulders are not exceptionally strong." He will hope that there exists some misunderstanding as regards the true mind of the Church on the matter. If he finds that ultramontanians are not misrepresenting that mind, will he not await with eagerness a re-opening of the whole problem at Rome? Meanwhile he is aware "that he is by no means forbidden to reckon with the possibility of error in such decisions (as those of Sacred Congregations) and that he is permitted to prepare the way by more thorough study for a final solution of the question" (*Spirit of Catholicism*, p 220)

That some misunderstanding regarding the Church's attitude concerning Birth Control exists

seems evident. While Dr Turner is reported as declaring without qualification that it is *immoral* ("The Catholic Church will never change its attitude as to the *immorality* of Birth Control"), we find a consensus of Catholic theologians that "Birth Control is legitimate when the means are legitimate—surely no parents are obliged to have children" (*Sunday Visitor* of Bishop Noll, January 6, 1929). Were there not such a consensus of approval the common practice of Catholic confessors, who advise their penitents as to the use of "times" as a mode of Birth Control, would not be tolerated.

It may be that Dr Turner had in mind the practice of *prevention by artificial means* when he spoke of Birth Control as being immoral. But even in this matter of the use of contraceptives there is no ground for a dogmatic and general prohibition. Dr Turner is no doubt well acquainted with the teaching of Father Arregui, S J (*Summarum*, 3 ed p 140) which allows the use of contraceptives to Catholic women in a very common situation. Were it the mind of the Church that the use of contraceptives was *per se* immoral Father Arregui could not, as he is allowed to do, spread his teaching throughout the whole world without interference.

Dr Turner, whose learning is of high repute, must know better than most men that in some matters connected with marriage and procreation the moral theologians of the Church, owing to their latent prejudice in favor of the husband, and their inheritance of the sex-phobia mentality, hold and teach doctrines which, were they broadcasted, would shock the moral sense of the American people. He knows that there are not a few moral doctrines which the Church wishes to be kept from the public ear. He knows, in fine, for he is thoughtful and experienced, that the moralist who is over-critical of the moral teachings of others, the while he hides from view his own doctrine on kindred matters, is not in a secure or unassailable position and may even be open to suspicions of hypocrisy.

Hersey-hunters, as it seems, would do well before they describe as "carnivals of dirt"<sup>1</sup> the conferences of serious-minded men and women bent on lessening the sum of human misery, to visit a home where amid poverty and a great brood of ill-clad, underfed children, a tubercular mother lies dying—and to pray for an understanding heart.

<sup>1</sup>(See *Nativity Mentor*, published by Msgr Charles Belford of the Nativity Roman Catholic Church of Brooklyn.)

# Echoes of the Conference

*A few quotations, chosen at random, from the many editorials which appeared throughout the country after the National Conference*

The National Broadcasting Company refused to put on the air the addresses by prominent preachers and others given at the mass meeting of the National Birth Control Conference. The company stated that it declined to broadcast the speeches, "due to the controversial nature of the discussion, and due to the fact that it might irritate listeners, inasmuch as the Catholic Church and the Jewish religion are opposed to Birth Control in any form."

To deny the air to any topic merely because it is controversial and might irritate a considerable bloc of listeners is to adopt a highly dubious basis for discrimination, inconsistency and unfairness.

The National Broadcasting Company allows the freest access to the air by those who present orthodox views on religion, God, salvation, sin, the Bible, modern business and the like. These are now subjects on which there are intense and honest differences of opinion, and about which there is the liveliest sort of current controversy.

*Press Scimitar, Memphis Tenn., Nov 30, 1929*

## VOLUNTARY PARENTHOOD

Birth Control as an open, organized movement instead of a furtive, unmentionable but wide-spread practice appeared again last week when the American Birth Control League held, in Manhattan, its first general conference in five years.

The calibre of the sponsors suggested a changing social attitude—the wife of Morgan's partner, Thomas W. Lamont, the wife of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Cornelius N. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Flagler, Sherwood Eddy, Norman Thomas, Mrs. Stanley McCormick, Harry Emerson Fosdick.

The conferees pointed with satisfaction to recent endorsements of Birth Control—by the Junior League of New York City, the Universalist Church (last month), the Congregational Ministers of Connecticut, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (last June), the English National Council of Women (last month), the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, the New York League of Women Voters.

Disclosed for the first time last week to the gen-

eral United States public was the fact that Russian experimenters have successfully inoculated women against pregnancy.

*Time, December 2, 1929*

## BIRTH CONTROL

Public discussions of Birth Control, even in New York City, still arouse the righteous and frighten the faint of heart. The conference recently held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League was accompanied by the usual fireworks. In the first place, Dr. Shirley Wynne, Commissioner of Health of New York, canceled his scheduled speech on Birth Control and Health which he had agreed to make. At least those who arranged the conference were so sure he had agreed that they announced it in a leaflet three weeks before the meeting opened. Dr. Wynne, however, said that he had never promised to make the speech, he said it was a controversial subject, he blamed the misunderstanding on his secretary, and finally, after a good deal of prodding from various sources, he stated with great originality that the whole affair was a tempest in a teapot. On the whole, the incident was rather amusing than anything else and was awarded a handsome amount of space in the press. In the second place, the National Broadcasting Company refused to pollute its hook-up with the speeches of the Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick and the Reverend Henry V. B. Darlington who appeared on the program of one session of the conference. The vice-president of the broadcasting company explained lucidly that Birth Control propaganda was "objectionable to a great number of persons because of their religious faith."

Many of those most in need of Birth Control—the very poor—unfortunately do not know that it is possible. Such conferences as the one under discussion, with their attendant publicity are of great value to the cause of family limitation. They bring nearer the day which must surely come in time, when the law against the giving of contraceptive information will be removed from our statute books, and the matter will be left to personal taste.

*The Nation, December 4, 1929.*

## ALL SHOULD BE FREE TO LEARN

The fundamental question is that of public education and the consideration of just who ought to listen to a controversial debate. It would appear reasonable that it is exactly those who are likely to be irritated who should be given an opportunity to listen. Those who are pleased by a discussion are likely already to be converts who do not need to listen.

The skillful speaker on such occasions will aim to provide a maximum of persuasive enlightenment and a minimum of provocation. Such was certainly the case with the Birth Control meeting in question. It was presided over by an eminent cleric and the addresses were given by famous preachers. No

one asked the National Broadcasting Company to open its service to fanatical partisans of Birth Control.

Dr Fosdick observed at the meeting that Birth Control is here as much as automobiles. We cannot evade or deny this fact.

Hence, we should be acquainted with the merits and defects of the movement. Nobody should be compelled to listen to its advocates or to believe its tenets. But all should be free to learn as much about it as they will. The radio authorities cannot well take any other position unless they desire to surrender their claim to being an instrument of public education as impartial as it is powerful.

*Capital News, Lansing, Mich., December 3, 1929*

## Japan Initiates Birth Control Clinics

By SHIDZUE ISHIMOTO

ALL the Tokyo papers of today<sup>1</sup> give us epoch-making news of the Birth Control movement in Japan. Mr U Shirakamu, the first Assistant Mayor of Tokyo, has announced his new social policy of taking up Birth Control as a weapon against poverty. He says, "There is no question that to control surplus births will emancipate people from poverty. It is a pity that this very plain fact has in the past not been received favorably by some persons, due perhaps to misinterpretation of the present changing social conditions."

"The death-rate of infants of this city is between 13 and 17 per cent, and in some of the slum quarters the rate is over 20 per cent. If all the people of the lower classes enjoyed good health there would be no need for clinics, but as long as they suffer from high infant mortality and other evils, we should provide certain means to give them correct knowledge of contraception, and this plan must be put into effect as soon as possible."

It is reported by the social department of the Tokyo Municipal Office that there are in Tokyo about 23,000 families numbering 130,000 persons, who belong to what is called the card class. Our old proverb says, "poor people usually get many children," and it still holds true.

The Health Department of the City of Tokyo is considering the advisability of setting up Birth

Control clinics in the Municipal Health Advice Stations, eight of which have already been established in the slum districts in Tokyo. At the same time, there will be thirty-two visiting social workers among the poor, teaching the evils of prolific birth, the vital need of contraception, and also advising the women to come to the clinics.

It is eight years since Margaret Sanger visited Japan, and called Japan's attention to the importance of Birth Control. Many serious efforts were made by far-sighted and progressive people to bring this gospel to suffering families, but we have avoided taking any militant steps, because extreme action is often liable to nip the bud before the natural fruit is ripe on the tree.

The movement for Birth Control taken officially by the Social Bureau of the Tokyo Municipal Office will succeed. The Japanese governments — the central as well as the lesser political divisions — have a strong centralized power, and they have much better facilities for the execution of such an undertaking than any private association. As the City of Tokyo has fairly well equipped medical facilities, the clinics will be run by competent experts, and safe, correct contraceptive methods will be developed in Japan. At the same time the group of social parasites who are selling ineffective medicines or injurious instruments to poor mothers will vanish.

Fortunately we in Japan have no religious conflict on the subject of Birth Control.

<sup>1</sup>This account of the new development of Birth Control in Japan was sent to Margaret Sanger by Baroness Ishimoto in December.

## POPULATION SECTION

### FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND POPULATION

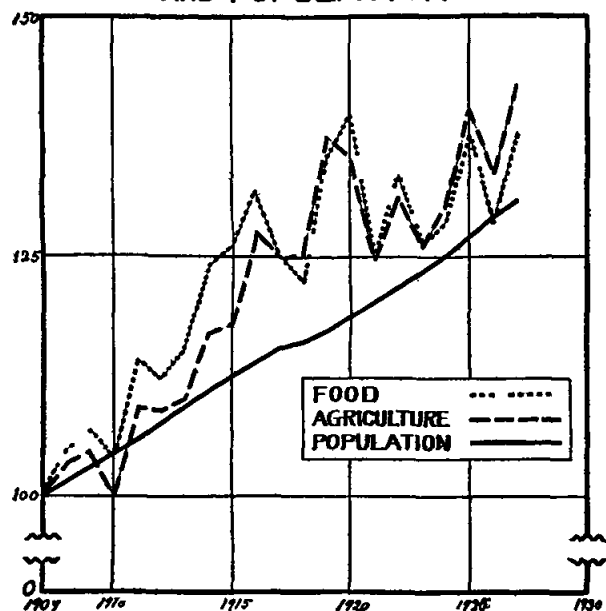


DIAGRAM E. GRAPH SHOWING GROWTH OF POPULATION FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

## A Note on the Future of the Japanese Population

By E F PENROSE

THE idea seems to prevail in Western countries that Japan's birth rate is in some way abnormal. In fact, however, it has in recent years been hovering around 34 per thousand, and this figure is not markedly different from the English birth rate in the seventies and eighties of the nineteenth and the German birth rate in the early twentieth century. Judging from the recent experiences of the countries of Northwestern Europe, a birth rate of 34 may be brought down to 20 within a few decades. It is quite conceivable that this may happen to Japan in the near future.

Some Western writers have conveyed the impression that the Japanese people are irreconcilably opposed to Birth Control. The present writer, after some study of the subject, emphatically dissents from this view. It would be irrelevant to deal with this matter in detail, but it may be pointed out that there is nothing in Japan corresponding

to the opposition put up by the Roman Catholic Church in Western countries, that the large family is not deeply rooted in Japanese history, since historians agree that the Japanese population remained practically stationary throughout the later Tokugawa epoch, and a stable population is not consistent with an average family of more than between three and four, probably not more than three in Japan, where celibacy is rare, therefore the assertion sometimes made that a large family increases the social prestige of the parents is not solidly rooted in history, is not true at all of the intelligentsia, and in the case of other classes must be modified by the fact that poverty diminishes social prestige in Japan as elsewhere, and that (contraceptive appliances) are all manufactured in Japan and can be bought without restriction. The present writer was invited to submit a statement to the Population Commission on contraceptive appliances used in English Birth Control clinics, and when the list and specimens were examined it was found that all but one had a counterpart of Japanese manufacture in Japan.

The only serious opposition to contraception comes from extreme nationalist sentiment and has much diminished in recent years. A great practical hindrance lies in the censorship of books, from which passages giving precise instruction in the use of appliances are often deleted. However, even the official attitude is becoming far more reasonable on the whole subject and the present writer ventures to predict that Japan's birth rate will pass through similar, though more belated, changes to those experienced in Western countries. Hence caution should be observed in predicting the future course of population curves given in this study.

—*Agriculture and Mineral Production in Japan*  
Published by the Institute of Pacific Relations,  
Honolulu, 1929

The existence of marriage does not depend on laws. If marriage is not an artificial creation but an institution based on deep rooted sentiments, conjugal and parental, it will last as long as these sentiments last. And should they ever cease to exist, no laws in the world could save marriage from destruction.

E WESTERMARCK

# A Primer on Population Pressure and Birth Control

By GUY IRVING BURCH

**T**HERE are many problems that demand thoughtful consideration but none more vital to the peace of the world and the welfare of humanity than the problems of population. As civilization and society are dependent in no small part upon the quality and quantity of population growth, it may be of interest to consider briefly certain fundamental facts concerning the problems of population pressure and Birth Control.

1 High birth rates are generally accompanied by high death rates (*See any pre-war or post-war table of a score or more countries of the world for any five or ten year period since 1900*)

2 Decreases in birth rates are generally accompanied by decreases in death rates (*Compare any five year pre-war period with any five year post-war period*)

3 Increases in birth rates have been generally accompanied by increases in death rates (*Note vital statistics of Ceylon, Chile, and Japan, during the 20th century*)

4 What has been said of the birth rates and death rates may also be said of the birth rates and infant mortality rates (*See similar tables of birth rates and infant mortality rates*)

5 Statistics from the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, show that "after the third confinement the risk (to the mother) increases rapidly." A proper spacing of births such as contraception permits would help to relieve this situation (*Maternal Mortality, p 35*)

6 High birth rates are not necessary for a healthy increase in population, the death rate must also be considered

7 Large families are not necessary for a healthy increase in population, a more even distribution of children along the entire married population is more desirable than large families

8 Knowledge of contraception has a tendency to stimulate the marriage rate and increase the married population (*See Groves & Ogburn "American Marriage and Family Relationships" Also see marriage rates and per cent of persons*

*married in New York State and New York City since 1900*)

9 High birth rates and large families are generally accompanied by poverty (*Pearl "The Biology of Population Growth," pp 159-63*)

10 High birth rates and large families are generally accompanied by ignorance and illiteracy (*Birth Rates Eugenics Review, London, July 1927 Illiteracy World Almanac, 1927 and 1928 Also see Army psychological tests and birth rates of foreign born groups in the United States Also see study of persons in Who's Who made by Professor Huntington in "The Pulse of Progress"*)

11 High birth rates, large families, and uncontrolled reproduction are generally accompanied by bad housing, unemployment, and undernourishment (*Compare birth rates and housing conditions in foreign countries Note high birth rates and large families of miners and day laborers Note high birth rates and large families of countries and classes where undernourishment is most widespread.*)

12 Large families are an important cause of child labor (*See Address of Owen Lovejoy, when Executive Secretary, National Child Labor Committee, before the Sixth International Birth Control Conference, Vol II, p 56*)

13 Uncontrolled reproduction and large families are fundamental causes of crime resulting both from environment and heredity (*William J Hickson, M D, Director Psychopathic Laboratory, Municipal Court, Chicago, and the late Max Schlapp, M D, New York Children's Court Clinic*)

14 Continence-in-marriage is neither a practicable nor normally desirable method of Birth Control (*National Council of Public Morals of England*)

15 Ignorance of contraception is a fundamental cause of mental disturbances (the anxiety neurosis for example) which have been known to have driven women insane (*S Adolphus Knopf, M D, Director, National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis*)



16 Continence-in-marriage and ignorance of contraception are fundamental causes of infidelity (*William Allen Pusey, M D*)

17 Ignorance of contraception is a fundamental cause of illegitimacy, because it encourages infidelity in the married and discourages marriage among the single (*See heading No 8, on Marriage rate*)

18 Ignorance of contraception is a fundamental cause of abortion (*See annual report, Clinical Department, American Birth Control League, 1925*)

19 This ignorance is a fundamental cause of infanticide and abandonment (*Particular cases, see The New York World, May 26, 1926, and February 16, 1929 General condition, see the New York Times, November 20, 1928, concerning Russia*)

20 Ignorance of contraception is a two-fold cause of prostitution. Prostitutes are generally recruited from families that have more children than the parents can healthfully support and properly educate, and the demand for prostitution comes from married men who fear to lead a normal sex life at home because of having too many children, and from single men who cannot afford large families and thus fear marriage

21 Knowledge of contraception will enable married couples to live a normal sex life in the home (*Dr William Allen Pusey, and Lord Daw-*

*son, of Penn, physician to the King of England*)

22 Reckless and luxurious breeding causes undue population pressure and leads to social unrest and war (*See Dublin Population Problems in the United States and Canada, Preface*)

23 Undue population pressure is a fundamental cause of famine and pestilence (*Note conditions in China, India, and the Near East, and compare with conditions in Northwestern Europe where contraception is fairly widespread*)

24 Knowledge of contraception has greatly improved the race in Holland, and has set the differential birth rates in order in such cities as Bremen, Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden (*See Proceedings, World Population Conference 1927, pp 205-6, 154-5, and Proceedings, Sixth International Birth Control Conference, Vol III, p 214*)

25 Knowledge of contraception will strengthen rather than weaken morality (*Professor William F Ogburn, Chair of Sociology, Chicago, in The New York Times, March 29, 1925 Also Dr William Allen Pusey*)

26 Nowhere in history or literature are the terrible evils of population pressure and the vital need for contraceptive Birth Control brought out more forcibly than in the Bible (*See Ezekiel 5 7, Isaiah 5 8, 49 19-20, 54-1, Jeremiah 15 9, II Kings 6 28-29, Lamentations 4 9, Amos 1 13, Matthew 7 17-20, etc, etc*)

## Figures and Tables from the Maternity Home at Sholapur, India

Contributed by A P Pillay, Honorary Medical Director

### ABORTIONS, MISCARRIAGES AND STILLBIRTHS

1	Percentage of primiparae confined in the Maternity Home who had abortions, miscarriages or stillbirths	22 8
2	Percentage of multiparae confined in the Maternity Home who have abortions, miscarriages or stillbirths	31 3
3	Percentage of all women confined in the Maternity Home who had abortions, miscarriages or stillbirths	29 7
4	Percentage of women confined in the Maternity Home who were definitely unfit for motherhood	19 2

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE, ETC, ACCORDING TO AGE OF MOTHERS

Age of mothers	Percentage of live births to pregnancies	Percentage of still births, miscarriages and abortions to pregnancies		Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	Percentage of women who had abortions or miscarriages or still births to total number confined
20 & under	80 3	24 4	19 6	173 7	25 2
21—25	88 0	13 6	12 0	249 2	32 9
26—30	88 1	13 8	11 7	235 9	40 0
31—40	91 7	9 0	8 2	265 7	48 4

# The Influence of X-Rays on Heredity

By P W WHITING

*A geneticist explains why the use of X-rays to secure temporary sterility has dysgenic results, and is to be avoided, pending further investigation with plants and animals*

**G**ENETICS, the science of heredity, has had a very rapid and remarkable development in recent years. Hereditary variation has been analyzed by scientific breeding experiments as due to numerous genetic units, the genes, which are located in certain microscopic bodies called chromosomes in cells of the germ plasma. These genes undergo recombination or shuffling from generation to generation according to the laws first formulated by Mendel, and later extended by modern investigators. Most hereditary variation is due to recombination of genes, but rarely, or at any rate relatively infrequently, does one of these units change into something different from what it was previously. Henceforth it reproduces not its old self but its new or changed self. Such a change is called a mutation. In the formation of germ cells and in fertilization the mutated gene may then enter into combination with the various other genes previously existing and in this way produce new types of plants or animals. The inner nature of the gene, why it usually remains stable, and how it mutates are questions about which much genetic research has centered.

## EXPERIMENTS WITH FLIES

To change the gene artificially by chemical or mechanical means has also been attempted again and again, but results have until very recently, been unsuccessful or at least uncertain. In 1927, however, Dr H J Muller announced to the scientific world that as a result of his studies with X-rays he was able to produce mutations with great frequency in fruit flies. "Treatment of the sperm with relatively heavy doses of X-ray induces the occurrence of true 'gene mutations' in a high proportion of treated germ cells. Every other one of the germ cells capable of producing a fertile adult contained an 'individually detectable' mutation in some chromosome or other."

Under "natural" conditions these chromosomes, the bearers of hereditary factors or genes, have

characteristic methods of distribution in the formation of the germ cells. The various types of inheritance depend upon the way in which this distribution takes place, and there is but rarely any departure from these laws of heredity. After X-ray treatment, however, irregularities are frequent. These irregularities in distribution of the chromosomes determine corresponding irregularities in the distribution of the genes contained within the chromosomes and hence corresponding diversity in hereditary transmission. The discoveries of Dr Muller have already been in part repeated by others with fruit flies, and investigations with other insects and with plants have demonstrated similar effects. By far the greater proportion of gene mutations and chromosomal irregularities result in lethal and semi-lethal effects causing death or weakening of descendants. These effects may fail to manifest themselves in the offspring of the treated individuals but may occur in later generations according to well known Mendelian principles.

The implications of these researches are of great importance for Eugenics and Birth Control. It has been suggested at various times that treatment by X-rays might be an important method of temporary or of permanent sterilization. Whatever may be said from the medical point of view with reference to permanent sterilization, it must be recognized that with reference to temporary sterilization there is a decided possibility that offspring conceived subsequent to recovery of fertility may be genetically defective, or may carry down to later generations genes determining defects of various types.

## FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED

Let us, therefore, await with interest the results of scientific investigations of X-rays on plants and animals. Temporary sterilization meanwhile, is to be avoided, not on account of any menace of general racial harm, but for the sake of the immediate offspring — the children and grandchildren.

## Book Reviews

HAVELOCK ELLIS, AN APPRECIATION,  
compiled, edited and printed by Joseph Ishill  
*The Oriole Press, Berkeley Heights, New  
Jersey*

THIS beautiful volume is worthy of the great man whom it honors. The press work is on a high level, in keeping with the best traditions of the printer's art. It shows the Oriole Press well on the way to rank with the great presses which have from time to time surpassed the wildest dreams of Gutenberg and Faust. The book is a compilation, made with loving care by Mr. Ishill, of tributes paid to Havelock Ellis on the occasion of his seventieth birthday last February. It includes a number which were printed in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. There are forty-four of these tributes, and among so many well-known writers it is impossible to single out any for special mention. There are eleven portraits and photographs of Dr. Ellis and his wife and home, and the chapter headings are decorated with woodcuts by Louis Moreau. Interspersed among the tributes are telling extracts from the pen of Havelock Ellis and his wife Edith Ellis. The book in either of its two forms (in boards, \$7.50, de luxe edition, \$25.00) would make a most acceptable gift for any lover of the great leader.

ANNIE G. PORRITT

MEDICO-LEGAL PROBLEMS, by Lord Riddell  
*H. K. Lewis & Co., London 1929 5s*

THIS is a series of four essays by a prominent British newspaper owner and publicist. Two of the essays are of special interest to readers of the REVIEW: the one on the "Ethical, Legal, and Medical Aspects of Abortion" and the last on "Sterilization of the Unfit." The work is not intended to be a technical treatise but is designed rather to instruct lay opinion. Lord Riddell shows by convincing case history analysis and by theoretical argument that there is a great need for eugenic sterilization in Britain. He shows the enormous expenditure on the defective classes and avows that while sterilization is no panacea it is an instrument of social control which, like Birth Control, we cannot

afford to continue to neglect. Every "field worker" for Birth Control should read it.

NORMAN E. HIMES

## Russia

EDITOR'S NOTE. Conditions in Soviet Russia change so rapidly that the two reviews printed here, and even more so the books with which they deal, no longer completely cover conditions in the only existing socialist republic. However they raise the important issues, especially that of the Soviet attitude towards Birth Control.

In Russia the communists have not, on the whole, been enthusiastic supporters of the Birth Control movement. For this there are a number of interesting reasons. In the first place, Marxist ideology presupposes that under communism, that is, perfect democracy, economic as well as political, there will be sufficient wealth to take care of much bigger populations than already exist. With equal distribution of products, large families need not necessarily mean privation, sickness, lack of opportunity, a high rate of infant mortality, etc. Secondly, in Russia, the Soviet chiefs believe that when the country is really industrialized, what now appears to be overpopulation, will be transformed into a condition of underpopulation. They hope in the course of a generation to industrialize the country, create a great urban proletariat, drawn mainly from the large rural populations. They also look forward to developing Siberia, now inhabited by a sparse ten million, and capable of supporting more than fifty million.

For these reasons, doubtless, both as orthodox socialists and as Russian patriots, the Soviet leaders do not actively favor a reduction of the birth rate.

A GIRL IN SOVIET RUSSIA, by Andrée Viollis  
*Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York \$2.50*

HERE is a refreshing book about Russia! A book written, in the author's words, "Without plea or apology," but for the sheer joy of recording the multitude of rich impressions gathered in three months of wandering unguided over vast stretches of Soviet territory. Miss Viollis is a keen and sensitive observer, to whom color and sound and individual behavior are as important as the vast political and economic processes that are taking place in Russia. Which is not to say that she disregards these processes. Although she makes no claim to giving more than a superficial reporter's account, she packs a great deal of information into her short chapters on industrialization, agricultural reconstruction and so on, and she handles her statistics so deftly — a rare gift! — that they in no way burden the gay and lively text. Much credit is due to the translator for preserving the grace and spontaneity of the style.

But what a pity that the information in this volume is already three years old, for things move

so swiftly in the changing Soviet world that the most accurate observer of even a year ago cannot be relied on for a picture of how things are to-day. What has not changed is the immense vitality and stir that Mlle Violis found, the enthusiasm and the zeal with which everyone, particularly among the young people, is working, building and learning. I would take decided issue only with the chapter on education, which seems to me unjust even for a superficial statement of the immense efforts that have been made in reorganizing the whole school system on modern lines, efforts which have moved John Dewey and many others to such profound admiration. Mlle Violis is quite wrong in concluding that since only four hours a day are spent on books there are only four hours of real work in the school day, and mistaken in her impression that the bulk of the instruction is reserved for political problems.

The short chapters on love, marriage and the position of women could hardly be expected to deal adequately with such limitless subjects. But it does seem a bit presumptuous to attempt to say, as yet, what has happened to love in the land of the Soviets, or even to be so sure of its transformation. The young categorist who, as she reports with some indignation, told her one soft spring evening that "social activity was a remedy for love," may well have spurned that remedy himself on such another evening. Problems of sex are certainly faced in a franker and saner way than elsewhere in the world, but even among the communists there are many different points of view as to their solution.

Mlle Violis explains briefly the simplicity of marriage and divorce procedure, and the special concern of the Soviet state for mothers and children. She is somewhat shocked to find "that the country which has made such intelligent sacrifices for motherhood and childhood should be the only one to practice abortion legally and openly," but is reassured when it is explained to her that this measure was taken to prevent the evil results of secret abortion, and only authorized when justified by economic or other conditions.

"But even in these conditions" the informant concludes "to permit abortion is not to encourage it. We shall always recognize it as a social evil. And so we are studying the question of scientific Birth Control. We do not feel that we are placing a ban upon the human race merely because we face the problem squarely and honestly — but we are

still far from a solution of it."

Mlle Violis might well have added that contraceptives are sold openly and legally throughout the Soviet Union, and Birth Control information is published by the Department of Health, and given freely through individual doctors, clinics and medical centers.

JESSICA SMITH

WOMAN IN SOVIET RUSSIA, by Jessica Smith  
*Vanguard Press, New York \$ 50*

WE have here a delightfully readable and thoroughly convincing book written by an authority, one who has traveled and lived among the Russian people and who speaks their language. She gives us a most entertaining and graphic picture of the city and country woman in society, in the home, in politics, and in industry.

Striking indeed is the contrast between the old and the new woman. The account of the changes wrought during ten years would be unconvincing in any country other than this, where extremes of behavior and startling accomplishments are the rule. It is a far cry from the days when the attitude toward women was expressed by the proverbs, "The woman's road—threshold to stove" and "I thought I saw two people but it was only a man and his wife," to the present when women serve as street car conductors, seamen, motormen, plumbers, locksmiths, electricians, engineers, Red Army officers, and even captains of ships, when a peasant woman in the government in response to the question "What is the attitude of the men toward your work?" can reply "It's very good, let me tell you! They are beginning to respect our authority because women sometimes work better in the Soviets than the men—they better know how to be economical."

Perhaps the most refreshing and hopeful part of the whole experiment going on in Russia is the attitude toward laws, especially those dealing with marriage and family life. The author discusses these subjects with frankness, humor, and objectivity. The laws are being constantly changed as experience dictates. A peasant woman who has become a judge expresses this clearly. "It's not easy to be a judge. You have to weigh carefully all aspects of the case and you can't go by precedent in Soviet Law. Every case has to be judged according to its special circumstances — and of course the interests of society have to be considered first."

In the chapter "Mothers and Babies," we are impressed by the attempt of the government to educate for better hygiene. Abortions are legalized but not encouraged. The results of this legalization are of interest. While there is a slight increase in absolute number of abortions every year, there is a decrease in the percentage of abortions to births, also a decrease in infant mortality and in the number of foundlings. Comparatively few childless women have abortions. The spreading of Birth Control methods has been advocated as the only means whereby abortions can be abolished. The government has been indifferent since there is no population problem, and men are needed to defend the Soviet Union in its still precarious position. Antiquated methods of Birth Control, with high percentage of failures, have resulted in the opinion that no method is sure and all are injurious. This attitude is changing and the department of health has recently issued several official pamphlets describing all known methods.

This book, accurate and unbiased as it is, should serve to stimulate and encourage all interested in women's problems, and to counteract the falsehoods and misstatements so generously spread by the enemies of the present regime in Russia.

ANNA R. WHITING

**AMERICA'S SEX AND MARRIAGE PROBLEMS**, by William J. Robinson, M.D. *Eugenics Publishing Co., New York* \$3.00

**I**N the preface, the author comments on the great number of sex books and says the trouble is not with the number, but the quality of them. He deplores the fact that many writers have only a book knowledge of the subject. He calls attention to the fact that he has specialized in this field for over fifteen years and written many books and magazine articles.

The case history method of illustrating matter presented is used. All names and identifying facts are, of course, omitted. The book is divided into ten parts. The first two contain the case histories, of which there are a hundred, and is concerned with "Causes of marital unhappiness, divorce and separation."

The other general divisions of the book indicate its scope: Love and Sex Instinct, Birth Control and Abortion, Medico Sexual Topics, Blackmail, Sadism and Accusations of Rape, Prostitution in

its Modern Aspects, Homosexuality, etc., Miscellaneous Sex Topics. The section on Birth Control is especially good, as might be expected from this old veteran of the cause. While methods cannot be discussed, the entire subject is presented in an enlightening and convincing manner.

Each of the general divisions consists of a great many short paragraphs touching every phase of modern sex problems. The style is reminiscent and colloquial, the author drawing on his long experience as a Sexologist, and while many generally accepted facts are stated, there is much new material and the whole is presented in an interesting manner. The book is free from sensationalism, and though the author waxes indignant at many practices in modern life which he considers stupid, there is an attempt to avoid overstatement. It is a book which can be read with profit by parents and which can be recommended to young adults of both sexes.

JAMES F. COOPER, M.D.

**INTELLIGENT LIVING**, by Austen Fox Riggs  
*Doubleday, Doran Garden City* \$2.00

**I**T should please Dr. Riggs that in *Intelligent Living* he has given us reason for contemplation—the contemplation which he feels is so necessary to the harmonious toning of our lives.

This book is not for fire-eaters or seekers of excitement, it is for those who know the value of reading quietly, and then re-reading some day—lest they forget. Nor does it cater to the faddists who are now dealing in the spectacular and in the eccentric. The mean has been observed in both the subject and its treatment. Even "pet" ideas have not been favored by exaggeration. It is unusual that a psychiatrist, who perforce has lived with quirks in all their queerness, can keep consistently to an idealistic average.

Since everyone today seems to be engaged in divorce either personally, philosophically or "reformatively", *Intelligent Living* has an immediate point—but it also has a point that is irrespective of time, for the author knows the fundamentals of human nature, as only a physician of psychoneurotic patients can. And as a master of the object lessons disclosed to him, he has considered them with a strange balance of conception that makes it easy to have faith in his presentation of the ways

of a "balanced life" by the avoidance of "maladjustment"

*Intelligent Living* is not a recipe for the poor in thought. It acts as a middleman, it grew from thought and thought will grow from it.

It is a book in answer to a popular demand. There seems to be a vague realization of the social distress resulting from the attempt of society to keep pace with the mechanism of civilization. And this book, the scientific psychology of the connoisseur instead of the pseudo-psychology of the amateur, is an answer that will satisfy many readers.

ELIZABETH W. EAST

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES 1914-1927 *National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York* \$2 50

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1928 *National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York* 50 cents

INCOMES AND LIVING COSTS OF A UNIVERSITY FACULTY, by Yandell Henderson and Maurice R. Davis *Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn.* \$2 00

WHAT does it cost to live?" is a question that is difficult to answer, for the question connotes no special group of people. The cost of living varies with the person, the locality, and the time. These facts are self evident but the method of answering them is not. The above named investigations set out to determine this by methods arrived at in a scientific manner, very different from the average survey.

From careful observation it is finally deduced that the average family spends its money as follows: for food 43 per cent, for housing 17 per cent, for clothing 13 per cent, for fuel and light 6 per cent, and for sundries 21 per cent. From this sundry account must come such items as recreation, medical care, reading material, insurance, furniture, charity, and other minor sundries. Medical care takes 8 per cent of the sundry fund.

As prices rise the real value of a dollar becomes less, its purchasing value diminishes, but as prices go down, the contrary results ensue, for the dollar purchases a larger quantity of goods. Using the purchasing value as of July, 1914, as 100 per cent, we may compare the cost of living then and now. From the 1914 value of 100 per cent, the cost

of living had a rapid increase to its highest point, 197 5 per cent, in 1920—almost twice that of 1914. This was followed by a drop in 1922. With business recovery the cost of living again advanced, and in 1925 again reached another high point. Since that time the cost of living has been gradually downward, the present cost being 161 per cent.

Turning from the cost of living side to that of income, we find that salaries, especially in the teaching profession, have not kept pace with the increase in the cost of living. It is true that teachers' salaries have been raised, but along with this there has been an increased employment of instructors instead of better paid professors. It has been found that the total income of the married instructor is greater than that of the single one. Conversely both the frequency of marital status and the number of children increase as income rises. This seems to indicate that low income is one of the factors limiting marriage and the number of children.

How then is the young instructor, who hopes some day to be a professor, to meet these circumstances? Birth Control is the answer. As his salary is increased, in like manner he may increase the number of his children. Sane, sensible Birth Control will allow the young instructor to marry and to make plans for the future. This is one of the social aspects of the cost of living and income.

JAMES R. CURTIS

## BOOKS RECEIVED

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS, Volume I, Statistics, by Imre Ferenczi and Walter F. Willcox *National Bureau of Economic Research, New York*, \$10 00

RELIGION IN HUMAN AFFAIRS, by Clifford Kirkpatrick *John Wiley and Sons, New York*, \$4 50

A COMMONPLACE LIFE, by Mrs. W. F. Robie *Rational Life Publishing Co., Baldwinville, Mass.* \$5 00

ARE WE CIVILIZED? By Robert H. Lowie *Harcourt, Brace, New York* \$3 00

WOMAN'S DESTINY AND BIRTH CONTROL, by Cecil E. Skitch *Adelaide Publishing Co., Adelaide, Australia* 3s

THE STORY OF MODERN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, by Sir Arthur Newsholme *Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md.*

# Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation was held on Monday afternoon, December 2nd, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia. Reports of standing committees showed a marked increase in activities and number of members throughout the entire state. Following this meeting, a joint dinner of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Birth Control League was held in the ball room of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, and was attended by several thousand guests. Mrs. Reginald Jacobs was Chairman of the Dinner Committee, Mrs. John O. Platt served as Chairman of Arrangements, and Mrs. S. F. Sharpless as Chairman of the Addressing Committee.

Dr. Jay F. Schamberg, a vice-dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine introduced the speakers. He said in part:

I believe doctors should be able to prescribe proper and safe contraceptive measures for sick or ailing wives. I believe doctors and other reputable persons should be able to supply Birth Control information to the poor and even average people who cannot afford to have families of large size.

Family limitation for economic reasons is a necessity in this age. Many people have an ingrained timidity which prevents them from trying to change laws. I believe it is my duty to obey the laws. But I also consider it a greater duty to work for the change of archaic, obsolete and cruel laws, such as the one of which we are now speaking.

Mrs. Donald R. Hooker of Baltimore told of the establishing of the clinic in connection with the Johns-Hopkins Hospital. She also stressed the fact that the demand for help from women throughout the state, especially in the mining districts is increasing daily, and that actual practical work should be carried forward at once. She said:

You have asked Legislators to change this stupid, senseless law, and they have refused out of fear of public opinion. Legislators are timid persons. Their whole careers depend on bowing to public opinion.

But you people of prominence are not doing enough in merely harrying Legislators. How can you expect Legislators to brave public opinion when you are afraid to do so yourselves?

I believe you should open a Birth Control clinic here tomorrow. The more prominent among you, socially, politically and financially, should sponsor the opening. You should accept responsibility for it. Your position in the community would make prejudiced cranks think twice about raiding the place or trying to close it by police force.

When it is closed, as it probably would be, your position would make the Courts view the breach of law more tolerantly. But the clinic might not be closed.

Dr. James F. Cooper made a very inspiring address, followed by a greeting from the President of the American Birth Control League, Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, and an address by Miss Henriette Hart, Secretary of the New Jersey League. An opportunity for discussion was offered and many questions on the various phases of the work were ably answered by Dr. Cooper.

The Literature Committee, of which Miss Mary Winsor is Chairman, had a display in the foyer, showing the progress of the Birth Control movement during the past year. Leaflets and pamphlets were distributed.

The Philadelphia newspapers were most generous in giving publicity to this meeting. The following excerpt from an editorial in the *Philadelphia Record* of December 5th is typical of the support of the press throughout the state:

The Birth Control movement has gone so far that it cannot possibly be disregarded by those concerned for social peace and progress. To disregard it would be hypocritical in the extreme, so widely is it practiced, so calmly is its practice accepted as custom by many of our least revolutionary-minded people.

The choice is simply this: Is Birth Control to be turned over to the ignorant and the unscrupulous, or is it to be wisely regulated, directed and controlled in behalf of public wellbeing?

Any law permitting knowledge of contraceptives to be disseminated among the people and

establishing regulations to safeguard the people against fraudulent or unscientific employment of that right must come, of course, from the Legislature

How many doctors share the belief that they should be permitted to conduct clinics for the exact purpose of disseminating such knowledge, so that it may be given correctly, scientifically, and not, as now, left to the quacks, with their

false pretenses and their exploitation of the credulous or distressed?

The majority, we believe, would favor a law permitting them to make free use of their expert judgment and professional knowledge — a law removing the present restrictions, so that Birth Control would itself be controlled by those best qualified to safeguard it against ignorance and quackery

## The New Jersey League—1929

**A**N increase in the number of meeting held, lectures given, and steady progress in the work of the Maternal Health Center brings 1929 to a close on a note of high enthusiasm. A report of the Maternal Health Center will be published in the February issue of the REVIEW

Chief among the important events of the year was a meeting in Montclair on November 22nd, at which Dr. Walter Timme, professor of Clinical Neurology at Columbia University, spoke. The meeting was organized by the recently formed Montclair branch, and was held in the Congregational Church. Miss Hart's report on the Maternal Health Center aroused much interest here as well as at meetings in Summit, Newark, Red Bank and Jersey City, where she has spoken recently. Meetings for New Brunswick, Plainfield, Milburn and Newark are scheduled for early January.

In addition to its State activities, the League is taking a prominent part in Mrs. Sanger's Federal work. A large delegation of New Jersey women attended the Boston meeting of the Federal Committee on October 8th. Mrs. Willard V. King of Convent was elected Federal Chairman for New Jersey, with Mrs. Wells P. Eagleton of Newark as Vice-Chairman.

In early November, Mrs. Sanger presented her plans of campaign to the State Board, at the invitation of the League. It was unanimously voted to support Mrs. Sanger, as the principal of physicians only giving contraceptive advice is one of the chief planks in the platform of the New Jersey League.

Mrs. King is organizing the state into Congressional districts, and an all-day conference will be held in early February, to discuss the plans of campaign. Mrs. King and Miss Hart are respond-

ing to many invitations to speak on the Federal amendment.

At the invitation of the Pennsylvania Birth Control League, Mrs. Charles Ashman and Miss Hart attended the annual meeting in that state. The New Jersey League has always watched the progress of the Pennsylvania Federation with keen interest and admiration, and was grateful for the opportunity of presenting a report of its activities, through Miss Hart's speech at the Pennsylvania dinner meeting.

For the first time, the New Jersey State Conference for Social Work, held in Trenton in early December, allowed Birth Control a place on its program. Miss Hart gave an address on the work of the League.

Invitations to speak, and contacts of all sorts with many organizations heretofore hostile or at least apathetic are increasing daily. The New Jersey League looks forward to a progressive and successful New Year.

About a hundred years ago, when Abner Kneeland was on trial in Boston, for blasphemy, the prosecutor pointed to an advertisement in Kneeland's paper, *The Investigator*, of a book that advocated Birth Control, as one reason why the accused should be convicted and sent to jail.

The change that has come over the common mind regarding this matter of Birth Control in the present decade is worth noting. Everybody is talking about it and outside the Roman Catholic church little opposition is shown and this is futile, except in keeping the law from being repealed, because as many Catholics as non-Catholics avail themselves of the art.

*The Truth Seeker, November 30th*



# News Notes

## INTERNATIONAL

The following Vital Statistics for 1928, bring out interesting comparisons and correlations

Country	Births * (per 1000)	Deaths * (per 1000)
Austria	17 5	14 4
Belgium	18 3	12 8
Czecho-Slovakia	23 2	15 1
Denmark	19 6	11 0
England and Wales	16 7	11 7
France	18 2	16 5
Germany	18 6	11 6
Hungary	25 6	17 1
Irish Free State	20 1	14 2
Italy	26 1	15 6
Netherlands	23 3	9 6
Northern Ireland	20 8	14 4
Norway	18 0	10 6
Poland	32 6	16 7
Scotland	19 8	13 3
Spain	29 9	18 6
Sweden	16 2	12 0
Switzerland	17 3	12 0
Ukraine	37 1	16 3

*Eugenics Review, England*

## UNITED STATES

The Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control has opened headquarters in Washington at the Carlton Hotel. Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn of Hartford, Conn. will serve as Chairman, directing the general work in Washington. Mrs. Sanger spoke on the Federal Amendment before the Men's City Club of Cleveland, Ohio, on December 14th.

**ILLINOIS** The Chicago Women's Aid held an all-day Conference on "Birth Control — its recent accomplishments and future possibilities," on December 5th. Mrs. Max Adler, who arranged the Conference, and acted as Chairman, and Mrs. Benjamin Carpenter, President of the Illinois Birth Control League, were the only lay speakers.

Prominent physicians emphasized the importance of Birth Control from the medical point of view. See page 5 of this issue for the verbatim statement issued by physicians at this conference.

According to the *Illinois Health Messenger*, the Central 35 counties of Illinois had a birth rate last year of 16.5 against 17.8 for the Northern third of the state, and 17.2 for the Southern third. The infant death rate in the Central counties was 61.7 per thousand births, as against 77.8 for Southern counties, and 62.1 in the Northern. As these Central counties are largely agricultural, it is interesting that Birth Control should have gained a greater hold there than in the more urban sections.

**MASSACHUSETTS** The Adelpic Union of Williams College chose Birth Control as a topic for debate with Hamilton College of Clinton, New York. Hamilton College authorities objected, and doubled their objections when the Williams debating team suggested "Companionate Marriage" as a less controversial subject. The National Debating fraternity Delta Sigma Rho made formal protest to Hamilton College, but the debate was called off.

Dr. C. C. Little spoke in Ford Hall, Boston, in early December on the topic "Is Birth Control a Proper Subject for Public Discussion?" The *Boston Herald* closed its brief account with the terse sentence "Dr. Little believes it is."

Dr. Little also spoke on Birth Control before the Harvard Liberal Club.

**NEW YORK** The New York State League of Women Voters, representing 12,000 women voters, endorsed the bill permitting physicians to give Birth Control information to married people, at its tenth annual convention in Albany on December 14th.

The Syracuse Chapter of the American Birth League held a meeting on December 9th to receive a report of the National Conference.

The Reverend Dr. Selden P. Delany, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Mary the

Virgin, condemned Birth Control in his sermon of December 8th, for the following logical reason

Now that some of our official teachers are advocating artificial restriction of the family, the future of the Episcopal Church begins to look even more dubious

It is an inescapable law of social development that the future belongs to those religious and racial groups which are reproducing themselves in sufficiently large numbers to survive. The result of Birth Control is extinction

Many addresses were made on Birth Control during December, and the increased demand for speakers on this topic is significant. Mrs. F. Robertson Jones spoke before the Women's Hoover and Curtis Club on December 5th, Dr. Hannah M. Stone spoke at the Labor Temple on December 7th, under the auspices of the Magazine *Evolution*, and Dr. James F. Cooper spoke at St. James Church, New York City, on December 29th

**OKLAHOMA** Reverend Homer Lewis Sheffer of the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, in an address on Marriage said that it should be attended by the courtesies of the courtship period, by Birth Control, by economic equality, and preceded by sex education

**WEST VIRGINIA** *The News* of Wheeling followed up the public interest aroused by the National Conference by organizing a symposium on Birth Control. Edward Kreutzer, Director of the Associated Charities, summed up the consensus of enlightened opinion, saying

Poverty and large families are serious handicaps. The old American tradition of log cabin, large family, limited education, heart-breaking struggle, as valuable concomitants of success, is accepted as a picturesque myth, but it receives no practical homage. We do not find many of our hard-headed millionaires giving their children experiences of this kind to fit them for the battle of life

#### ENGLAND

The change of Government to a Labor Government was heralded with hopefulness that, as the Labor organized women are almost universally in favor of Birth Control, something would be done to release knowledge through the Welfare Centers and Ante-natal clinics of the Ministry of Health. But

now, when in office the Labor Government seems as reactionary as the others. Dr. Marie Stopes and the Society for Constructive Birth Control have decided to change the form of Resolution which they have passed at big meetings all over the country. In Sheffield in November, Dr. Stopes addressed an open public meeting of 2,400 citizens, with Councillor Asbury, Chairman of the Sheffield Health Committee, in the Chair, and the Chief Constable and the Chief Police Surgeon of the county in the audience, and got passed unanimously the following Resolution

The Public Meeting of the Citizens of Sheffield demands that the Ministry of Health shall cease its interference with the medical practitioners and trained nurses in its employment, and shall no longer debar them from using their best professional skill in the interests of their women patients who need on good grounds to control their maternity

This stressing of the interference with medical practitioners seems now the most vital point in tactics, because the Labor Government has repeatedly announced that they think Birth Control an unsuitable subject for political action and interference, and they leave their doctors free to do what they like about it. But by *interfering* with doctors they are exerting a political influence in the direction desired by a hostile minority

(Kindly contributed by Dr. Marie Stopes)

#### GERMANY

*The Observer* (England) reports that such problems as unemployment and overcrowding, of old people occupying their homes after their time of usefulness was over, of unwanted babies in a too-full world, are the themes of the most important German plays in this winter's theatre season. The outstanding success in Berlin is "Cyankali," popularly known as the "Birth Control play"

#### ITALY

The new penal code, which will take effect in January, 1930, makes the practice of all forms of Birth Control penal offences, according to a dispatch to the New York *World* of December 9th. Twelve months imprisonment is the penalty for activity in Birth Control propaganda. Imprisonment up to four years is decreed for women who undergo illegal operations (abortions), with longer terms for those who perform them

## JAPAN

The Tokyo newspaper, *Osaka Mainichi*, comments editorially on the new policy of imparting Birth Control information to the poor (see page 14) as follows

Because of too many children, the parents who must work cannot work as much as they should. The children, too, are not properly educated nor are they sufficiently fed. Such people abound in cities in this country. We are often told of a family committing suicide en bloc because of the difficulties of living. If they do not commit suicide, the members of a family suffering from hunger and sickness are separated one from another and go to their ruination. The number of such families is legion. Such a condition is a great loss to the nation. The damage done to the cause of the nation because of the sickly condition of the people or of the unsound state of their mind, cursing the world in general, cannot be overestimated by any means.

The step taken by Tokyo to lead other communities is indeed highly commendable. The educated and wealthy class people of Tokyo — and other parts of the country for that matter — have been practising Birth Control all along. The question is how far the poorer and uneducated class of people would take the advice given them. Unless the poorer class of people, who constitute the majority, exercise Birth Control, the object aimed at by the Tokyo Municipality cannot be attained. For this reason, a nation-wide campaign of education in regard to Birth Control is necessary.

## BIRTH CONTROL PROPAGANDA

Birth Control propagandists are getting ready for a spring drive in Congress and the various State Legislatures. They are filling up the papers. But probably they will get nowhere next spring, when the Legislatures meet, there is too much silent opposition.

Yet they will get somewhere some day. After all, their movement is not one of compulsion. Neither is it one of prohibition. Rather it is a movement to secure permissive legislation.

As soon as a majority of the public find out what is wanted—that the Birth Control people are not really the terribly immoral folk they have been painted—then Birth Control will have a hearing.

*The Day, New London, Connecticut*

YOU cannot get all the leading books by the English pioneer, **DR MARIE STOPES**, in this country, but you can get the following—

**RADIANT MOTHERHOOD** \$2.50

**THE HUMAN BODY** \$2.50

**SEX AND THE YOUNG** \$2.00

These are published in America by **G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS**, 2 West 45th Street, New York.

or can be obtained from the office of the  
**BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE**

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PAGANY 109 Charles Street  
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50 cents a copy — \$2.00 the year

# 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*

IF HE HAD A MILLION DOLLARS

TO THE EDITOR

I am past 81 and in poor health. I am slipping—time is short, and there is nothing I could join that I could be so proud of as the Birth Control League. If I had a million or a billion dollars, every dollar would go to Birth Control, the greatest cause known to the world. I came into this world not wanted and never was wanted after coming. I and two older boys were horsewhipped and ill treated so we could not learn a thing in school and were turned out of doors to rot for an existence without schooling.

I wish I had the power to write a letter to every Congressman and Senator also to the President. I would like to write one that would move Heaven and Hell.

J K

Pasadena, Cal

TOWARDS A NEW INDIA

TO THE EDITOR

The victory of the Sarda Marriage reform bill is due to purely Indian agitation, which dates back to 1872, when Ram Mohun Roy, the great reformer, caused the Civil Marriage Act to be passed. The Home Member of the Indian Government at the time the Bill was introduced — Mr. Muddiman — opposed the Bill, and his successor Mr. Cerar placed every obstacle in the path of Mr. Sarda, the mover of the Bill. Enlightened India is heartily in favor of this measure, which will go a long way to remove some barbarous practices yet extant in India. These if translated into facts and figures would stagger the imagination.

For example, according to the Census of 1921, there were

612 Hindu "widows" who were babies not over 12 months of age									
498	"	"	between the ages of 1 and 2 years						
1,280	"	"	"	"	"	2	"	3	"
2,683	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	4	"
6,758	"	"	"	"	"	4	"	5	"

making a total of 12,106 "widows" under five years of age. According to the Census there were 97,596

"widows" under 10 years of age and 331,793 "widows" under 15 years of age.

Concomitant with the evil of early marriage are many other evils, such as prostitution and polyandry. Indian nationalist aspirations, which are today at white heat, aided by the new law, will present to the world a more inspiring India within the next few years.

J VIJAYA TUNGA

New York

A YOUNG WORKER OF SEVENTY-FOUR

DEAR FRIENDS

Again I thank you for the enjoyment the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW has given to me throughout the year.

To me it is the most needed magazine published. How strange that intelligent people will read fiction and pay for several publications of that kind — but will not read about Birth Control, and many of them look insulted if offered a copy to read.

Am sorry to say my health is no better than a year ago. As long as I live I shall work for Birth Control in my neighborhood. Am seventy-four years old now. With wishes for success. As ever —

MRS M BOZARTH

Seahurst, Wash

WHY HE SUPPORTS THE LEAGUE

TO THE EDITOR

Let me tell you something of my own life to show you the kind of births which the Birth Control League is trying to prevent.

I am 50 years of age. At the time of my birth my father was 63 and my mother was 40 and so far gone in consumption of the lungs that she only lived three weeks after my birth.

As a child I was so sickly I could not attend school, I was not expected to live to reach 21, but I did, although I was not strong enough to learn a trade. I married a girl as poor as myself, but thank God she knew of a strong pill. But the use of it every month probably was the cause of her death ten years ago. What we would have gone through

if she had given birth to a child every year is hard to think of, as I sometimes had to work for \$1 25 a day

My health is better in California (I was born in Maine) but I was born with poor eyesight, a defect in speech and very bad nerves I can do nothing but janitor work at \$4 per night and I support my old aunt

My father and mother did not wish for a child, knowing they were unfit, but contraceptives were unknown then My wife knew no other way than to poison the unborn child

That is why I joined the Birth Control League as soon as I heard of it, and give all I can of my small means to help the cause

H F P

*Los Angeles, Cal*

#### OUR ROUTE, OUR IDEAL

#### TO THE EDITOR

Ignorance breeds disease and too often Death Those who know and do not tell others are responsible for that deadly ignorance The attempt (foredoomed to failure) to tie up any knowledge "for married only" means one law for "married" and another for "unmarried" and, in these days, one law for rich and another for poor Knowledge is free and cannot be tied up, for such is the law of life and evolution

The Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease gives its knowledge to all — married and unmarried — with the approval of a Bishop, I believe How, then, does it come about that a similar knowledge is tied up The Past —the reign of Ignorance, Death, Blood, Tears The Future —the permanent reign of Knowledge, Health, Life, Peace, Love This is our route follow it This is our ideal

RUPERT L HUMPHRIES

*Martin Mill, near Dover, England*

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*I regard your movement as most important to peace, health and wealth and to the true emancipation of women The chief tasks now are the increase of clinical service and the removal of Federal restrictions on the use of mails by physicians*

ALICE HAMILTON, M D

## Libraries and Birth Control

### TWO LETTERS

#### BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Upon reading Mr Himes article in the November issue of the REVIEW, I looked into some library card catalogs The Library of the University of — lists

Lydia A De Vilbiss Birth Control, What is it? 1923

Adolf Meyer Birth Control 1925

Margaret Sanger The Case for Birth Control 1917

H G Sutherland Birth Control and Christian Doctrine 1922

G T K Maurice Birth Control and Population London

J E. Johnson Selected Articles on Birth Control 1925

Please express a critical opinion on these Since the latest material does not seem to be available, it would be of interest to know the quality of such books as we do have Are they fair or prejudiced, accurate, up-to-date, worth reading

*The editor of the REVIEW asked Mr Himes, the author of the recent article on "Next Steps in the Movement," to comment upon the above letter The name of the University is deleted at the request of our correspondent He writes as follows*

I am not surprised at the state of affairs at the library of the University of — Such is, in fact, the common situation What would you think of a university library that had five books on history, on labor problems, or even on the World War? Doubtless the university library has works on Birth Control not catalogued under the subject heading Cross referencing is expensive But even after allowance is made for these factors, it is clear that there is either (1) a "conspiracy of silence" operating or (2) that the faculty and librarians of the university do not realize in what an unfortunate state the library is in on this subject Either or both (I suspect both) of these are true, and neither speak well for the administration of the library

It would be interesting to know why the library of the University of — has never catalogued a

single one of the nine reprints of scientific articles from my pen sent them in the past two years. Surely sufficient time has elapsed. Receipt of these has never been acknowledged. If taking the trouble to thank the donors of gifts has helped to build up the Bodleian, the British Museum, the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque Nationale, is it inconceivable that a similar procedure at — might not help toward the same end? One may overlook the element of courtesy, and place the matter on a basis of self-interest. Is not such a policy shortsighted and ill-advised? Can it be that the reprints have been thrown away? Or have they been put away safely in a cupboard where they will be of no use to anybody? I suspect the latter. At the Boston Public Library there is reason to believe (but no proof of it) that my reprints were thrown away by some over-zealous Catholic in the receiving department. The librarian has been unable to determine whether or not such is actually the case since no acknowledgements of receipt were sent by the library.

Space is not available to review in detail the works listed. Who can say that this or that book is fair or prejudiced, accurate or carelessly composed, up-to-date, and especially whether or not it is worth reading? Evaluation opinions naturally differ. I may say that I think all worth considering though if I were to recommend to a student with limited available time a set of books, those mentioned (with the possible exception of Johnson) would not be among them. *The essential point to focus upon is the paucity of materials and the reason for it* rather than the question of balance. I would not say that they were ill-selected, though I personally should choose differently. What I am concerned about is their fewness.

A student at Columbia University has recently pointed out that he had difficulty in securing sociological data on the subject. I would be pleased if

# BUY BOOKS

FROM

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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## Contributors to This Issue

E. BOYD BARRETT, PH D is a former Jesuit priest, a Catholic, and the author of "The Jesuit Enigma" and "When Peter Sleeps"

BARONESS ISHIMOTO is a feminist and an active worker for Birth Control in Japan

GUY IRVING BURCH has been making a special study of population problems

ANNA R. WHITTING, PH D is a research worker in genetics and eugenics. She has recently visited Russia

JESSICA SMITH is a journalist who has spent several years in Russia

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students and faculty members throughout the country would report to me conditions in their own locality.

The American Birth Control League could perform an essential, constructive task by appointing a group of *scholars* to draw up a selected bibliography of books and pamphlets on the subject for the guidance of purchasing librarians. Some open-minded librarians are frankly looking for assistance in this regard. Many are desirous of serving the public as completely as possible and wish to have their catalogue as well-rounded and as complete as limited funds will permit. They lack guidance of a specialized nature. There is, however, no excuse for this lack of knowledge at the universities. It arises there from ignorance, indifference or misguided Puritanism, no one of which condonable in an institution of learning. If such a bibliography were drawn up by those who know the field I believe the libraries of the country would make use of it, though it is by no means clear that they would make as complete use of it as they ought. The ultra-controversial literature would be recommended only to the large libraries or to those having special funds for the purpose. Probably the small libraries would have to confine their lists to rigorously selected solid books. Only the large libraries would be able to afford the less valuable material on both sides of the problem.

Yours very truly,

NORMAN E. HIMES

# AUTOMOBILES *and* BIRTH CONTROL

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**T**HANKS to Dr Fosdick's happy idea, there has been a good deal of talk lately about automobiles and Birth Control. You don't ask a man if he believe in automobiles. You ask him if he can drive a car. According to Dr Fosdick, the question today — January, 1930 — is not one of belief or disbelief in Birth Control, but of use, understanding, control.

**C**AN you understand the many sided problem of Birth Control by reading a stray pamphlet, an occasional copy of the REVIEW, an article here and a letter there?

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### BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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