

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance



MOTHER AND CHILD

An etching by KATHE KOLLWITZ

Courtesy of Weyhe Gallery

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Editorial

THE BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW is primarily and mainly concerned with Birth Control, its morality, philosophy, scientific progress, social effects and implications, and with the history and progress of the movement. But it is clear that Birth Control, like every other fact in human existence, cannot stand alone. It is too intricately interwoven into the sex mores of the race. The practice of Birth Control has made possible a wholly new conception of the human family. How far this modern conception would have been formulated in the absence of the power of controlling conception, it is impossible to say. The fact remains that every writer discussing the modern family assumes that the chief corner stone of the building is Birth Control. However little some of our readers may approve some of these modern adventures into new fields of morality, Birth Control has undoubtedly done much to make them possible.

WE are therefore devoting a large part of the current issue to a discussion of marriage, and especially of the woman's part in marriage and her natural endowments in regard to sex. For it must be acknowledged that the great changes that have come over the institution of marriage, and consequently also over the morals of the civilized world in regard to sex relations, are due to the new freedom of women, and their growing economic independence, which permits them to assert themselves and to substitute facts for fables about their own nature, constitution and feelings. As the new morality in marriage must be built upon facts, a study such as that of Dr. Katharine Bement Davis, which is surveyed in this issue, is of the greatest possible value. Dr. Davis is not concerned with the morality of the conduct which is described in her study. It is not what women ought to do that she has investigated, but what women — above the average in respectability and conscientiousness — actually do. We have here the real contribution of fact which is so necessary before we can begin to

speculate on the future development of marriage and morality.

The books of Westermarck present another set of facts of a wholly different kind, but equally necessary for constructive ethics. We have spread before us the many and widely different patterns of marriage that at some time or in some country have commanded the moral acquiescence and approval of mankind. Man may learn from history, even if the world refuses to turn back and adopt any of the old mores which have passed away. One lesson is clear, morality is not static, but is continuously changing as conditions of life change.

Facts alone, however, are of little value without criticism and bold forward-looking speculation on their meaning. Hence the value of such books as Bertrand Russell's and the Binkleys', and the significance of the great number and variety of the books on marriage issued during the last few years. It is out of the wealth of thoughtful criticism, based on a wide knowledge of the facts, that we may hope for a higher and better conception of marriage than the outworn ideals of the Victorian age.

THE American Birth Control League receives an average of fifty letters a day, asking for contraceptive information, for advice on marriage and adolescent problems, for reading lists, for material on the Birth Control movement, to be used in lectures, studies and debates. Behind each letter asking for contraceptive information there is an earnest man or woman, laying bare a personal history for an unknown eye to read. We can picture the eagerly awaited answer, the hopes and fears. Because of obsolete laws, conflicting regulations in different states, because of old-fashioned sex taboos we cannot give all these writers the answers they desire. We must, in many cases, give them cold hard generalities about what is illegal, about how we are working to change the laws and educate the public, about how we hope the

time will come when Birth Control information will not be under the ban of law or taboo

The day must come, and soon, when Birth Control information will be given when needed and when desired, when Birth Control will be recognized not only as a legitimate health measure, but as a force for the advancement of society

THE proposal to restrict Birth Control information to married persons only is one on which there can be, obviously, many viewpoints. The value of fear as a deterrent, the effect of personal sex conduct on society, the ethics of controlling individuals through ignorance, all enter into this question. We print in this issue a courageous statement by Mrs. Annie G. Porritt, *A Question of Morality*, in which she takes the point of view that to withhold information from unmarried people does not prevent so-called immorality, but penalizes the unwanted child, and, incidentally, society and the race. We invite further discussion of this subject, which touches the whole question of the regulation of individual morals by law, and affects by implication the foundations of the Birth Control idea.

THE Welfare Council of New York City has recently issued a *Health Inventory of New York City, A Study of the Volume and Distribution of Health Service in the Five Boroughs*. Some idea of the thoroughness of the study may be gained from the following: the twelve chapters fill 298 pages, there are 27 tables and 38 charts in the text, four appendices of 41 pages contain 28 tables in addition to text, and there is a 14 page index. It is unquestionably a scholarly and definitive piece of work.

But in all the grand total of 367 pages, in all the sections on maternity hygiene, baby hygiene, lists of clinics, etc., Birth Control or contraception is not mentioned. Why, we ask, were the fourteen clinics of Manhattan offering contraceptive service omitted? Why does contraception, acknowledged in the medical profession as a legitimate part preventive medical practice, under certain circumstances, find no place in the thoughtful

summaries and comments? It is to be hoped that the authors, Michael M. Davis and Mary C. Jarrett, and the Committee on Recommendations, will find some way to make good this omission and complete an otherwise comprehensive survey.



Emblem of the English Society for Constructive Birth Control

WHEN Elizabeth Fox, director of the Public Health Nursing Service of the American Red Cross, spoke at the annual meeting of the Maternity Centre Association on January 30th, she said, among other things, that she believed the distribution of Birth Control information should be legalized. The Catholic weekly *America* makes editorial comment as follows: "The American Red Cross is supported by funds collected from the public, of which some twenty millions are Catholic. Does the Red Cross stand back of its official? Twenty millions of Catholics await with interest a reply from the Red Cross." As might have been expected Judge John Barton Payne, speaking for the Red Cross, explained that it "never takes any part as to controversial questions, either of political, religious or social character." Miss Fox stated that she had merely expressed her personal opinion. One question only resolves itself from the incident: is the Catholic press attempting to check the free speech of individuals by threatening the organizations with which they are affiliated with loss of financial support?

Sex and Marriage in a Modern Age

By LORINE PRUETTE

THE dogma of the frigid woman is slowly dying out in America. Nevertheless, I suspect that there are still in many parts of the country little circles of "refined" women who speak in hushed tones of the desires of men as if these were far from human. It is little more than ten years ago that the mother of a school friend instructed her daughter, and of course incidentally her daughter's friends, that Providence had neatly provided that men should have too much of "it" (by which she meant sexual desire) and women too little of it, thus insuring a sort of draw between the sexes which resulted in the production of enough children, but not too many.

Only about a year ago there was published here a translation of a book by a Danish anti-feminist who held that practically all of the women of Denmark were cold and hence unfit to have a vote which would permit them to legislate for the warmer-blooded members of the state. I believe he completed his argument by holding that the small percentage of women who were not cold would want their husbands to vote for them anyway. Obviously this fallacious doctrine made for greater comfort for men in matrimonial relations, since the woman was held to represent a settled factor of unwillingness or disinterest and the man's own urgencies could absorb his whole attention. This permitted the development of sex life upon a very simple level of reflex and habit, resulting in those stories which sometimes shock our modern ears, of wedded couples who hated each other for forty years and had intercourse every night. Nothing was expected of the woman, hence no skill was required of the man, and all the complexities of present attempts to adjust the sexual rhythms of the two partners could be cheerfully ignored. In those days the double standard of morals was a reasonable social recognition of what were held to be innate differences between the sexes. Today we are ready to grant that women may have emotional capacities suited to their biological functionings and the frigid wife is no longer the norm. But there can be no question that a double standard of evaluation still holds for most men, who like to believe in the

greater dynamic quality of their own sex. Urges. Psychiatrists can still be found maintaining that while men can respond to women generally, a woman's responsiveness is sharply limited to one or at the most a few men, a final variation of the old "coldness" doctrine, designed to bring comfort to manly hearts.

A VALUABLE INVESTIGATION

And now comes Dr. Katharine Bement Davis with her *Factors in the Sex Life of Twenty-two Hundred Women*.¹ This is the comprehensive report of the most important investigation of its kind ever conducted. Many of the chapters in the book have already appeared as articles, although the important material on homosexuality does not seem to have been published before. In this final form the book becomes impressive evidence of the fatuity of arm-chair theorizing on the subject of sex, and of the rewards to be found in specific investigations.

To say that these women represent the women of America would be quite misleading. They do not need to represent anyone but themselves to present a striking picture that no socially minded person can afford to neglect. They are unquestionably too intelligent to be representative, just as they are too well educated. Almost nineteen hundred are college graduates and all have filled out a detailed questionnaire requiring a high level of comprehension as well as of industry. Those who are disturbed by the findings will undoubtedly challenge the use of the questionnaire and will maintain that only those women having an excessive degree of interest in sex would submit to the burden of answering so many questions. That a special motivation was required cannot be denied. Appeals for co-operation in conducting the study were sent out to 10,000 married women. About one-third replied, asking for the questionnaire, of this number about a third returned them, so that histories were secured from 1,073 married women. It was found that college women much more frequently filled in the schedules, since they have been trained to express themselves on paper, and it was decided to

¹Harper, New York \$3.50

confine the unmarried group to college women who had been out of college five years. A list of 10,000 was secured from alumnae registers of the leading colleges. A somewhat greater response was secured from this group, 1,163 histories, the number was later increased to 1,200, making the total of 2,200 women reported on in this volume.

The industrious application of these women in answering a difficult questionnaire is evidence that they felt the investigation of the Bureau of Social Hygiene was a valuable undertaking. The burden of working up the material must have been tremendous, and, as Dr. Davis points out, many interesting correlations might still be worked out. But as it stands we have a vivid picture of the manner in which 2,200 women have dealt with the problems of their sex life. Material is furnished on the question of health before marriage, sex play before fourteen, sex instruction, masturbation, sexual experiences before marriage with men and with women. The importance to a happy marriage of satisfactory sex relations, as well as the importance of pleasurable experience at the outset, are suggested by the results. The question of periodicity of sex desire is taken up but by no means settled. It is obvious that this is a matter difficult to observe and easily obscured by a number of other factors, such as fatigue, other interests, etc. The high percentage of autoerotic and homosexual practices is one of the most impressive findings of the study.

USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES

Interesting material was secured from the married women regarding their use of and their attitude toward the use of contraceptives. Of the 1,073 women 734 expressed approval of voluntary parenthood, some making qualifying statements. Of this group practically all, 730, had themselves used contraceptives. Among the reasons given for such use only two mention a fear of childbirth. Other reasons given include insanity or tuberculosis in the family, family already complete, desire to space children, etc. Three state the husband did not want children while 25 say that they have no children and want none. The significant revelation is made that the group using contraceptives had a higher average of pregnancies and of children than the group which did not use them. It becomes entirely probable that the group which did not use contraceptives did not have the same need for them.

It is significant that the percentage of total emotional relations with women after puberty is very much greater among the unmarried women than among the married women, 605 to 306. This same difference is found for masturbation, 733 to 381. Seventy-one of the married women had had sex intercourse before marriage, 136 of the unmarried women had had relations with men. Some of the case histories given in the last of the book are particularly valuable as they show the varied approaches adopted by women in the search for sexual adjustment. Some of the cases show an easy and natural progression from one form of sexual experience to another, according to circumstances. The case histories are valuable also in making it clear that the women making these reports are relatively normal women, not sex-ridden, but aware of the difficulties in securing adequate, wholesome sexual expression.

ONE FORMULA NOT APPLICABLE

This noteworthy study of twenty-two hundred women is practically *sui generis*. As the cases are from the upper intellectual levels, where a variety of interests is more commonly to be found along with protection against early introduction to sex activities, it is not improbable that these women display less than the average experience to be expected of women in general. On the other hand, factors of intellectual curiosity and emancipation from conventional taboos might be expected to increase the figures for this group. This is not, after all, vastly important one way or the other. What is tremendously important is that Dr. Davis and her associates have introduced us into the lives of hundreds of women who display the emotional responses which it is only reasonable to expect from their biological equipment, and who in their sexual life act not according to one rigid formula but, like human beings everywhere, exist by means of approximations and adjustments as best they can. Before the evidence of these living, loving, suffering and often muddled women the ghost of the frigid lady as the norm for women becomes more than ever not merely incredible but faintly ludicrous as well.

A WITTY AND WISE BOOK

Juanita Tanner, however, produces *The Intelligent Man's Guide to Marriage and Celibacy*²

²Bobbs Merrill, New York \$3.50

in a manner which suggests that she does indeed derive, by temperament and inclination, from the man who conceived the sexless Ancients of *Back to Methuselah*. Claiming to be the daughter of John Tanner, who, it will be remembered, was victimized by the biological urge and the unswerving pursuit of the female in Shaw's *Man and Superman*, she comments upon many important matters in a style that is often witty and sometimes wise. Her chapter titles are diverting and her frivolousness before sacred subjects is refreshing. She points out that the question of whether or not contraceptives shall be used is now a dead issue and reminds us that these are advertised along with kitchen stoves in the leading women's magazines. Her suggestion of a custom-made family offers one way out of the present admittedly undesirable only child situation, children by adoption, as she says, also permit us to choose our relatives, which most of us have at times longed to do. Back of the persiflage and the sometimes acute observation one senses the feeling that while it may truly be better to marry than to burn, a mode of living more satisfying to delicate sensibilities would consist in the elimination of both possibilities and the wish, not advanced with any optimism, that it might be possible to drop all this pother about sex from the concerns of grown-up people.

A CAREFUL SURVEY OF MARRIAGE

Robert C. Binkley and Frances Williams Binkley appear in their title to come forward to the defence of an imperilled institution by reminding us of *What is Right with Marriage*.³ After having survived four years of the matrimony upon which they embarked with the dubiousness now becoming not only common but admitted among young couples, the authors, as trained sociologists, have written down the domestic theory upon which their mutual life appears to them to be modelled. The result is as careful and worthwhile a discussion of this vexed state of living as may be found.

The discussion of children as enhancing or degrading domestic life is particularly sensible and the position is taken that children are cherished objects in the family, competitors for love, loyalty and income, and finally participants in the domestic interaction. It is pointed out that children cannot be considered an investment. In spite of the fact that children restore to life a sort of primal con-

tact with the soil and a freshness of satisfaction, they are held to be inadequate as an aim in life, since we can neither finish their creation as personalities nor keep them as our creative task. "The value of children in the family, estimated in the scale of domestic values, depends first upon their quality as cherished objects as balanced against their quality as competitors, and second upon their behavior as members of the family. This being their domestic value, it is fitting to consider further their value in terms of individual purpose, and their place in an individual's life plan."

AFFECTION SHOULD BE BASIS

In the chapter on "Marriage and Sex Monopoly" the authors carry further their method of approaching a problem from as many sides as possible. Their discussion of jealousy is particularly sound, as well as their discussion of the baleful effects of compulsory sex monopoly. Their attitude is that monopoly is the desirable relation between two people who freely choose it for the purpose of conserving and increasing the aesthetic qualities of a relation that shall be private to them alone. They point out that this ideal is not in many cases maintained, and hold that the evils attending the failure of the ideal grow largely out of traditional attitudes inculcated by society, so that a marriage which might survive the distress of an additional relationship is wrecked by the habit of making sex loyalty the major premise of marriage. Worse than this, the marriage may be wrecked simply by attitudes of suspicion and possessiveness which society allows to flourish rankly in the domestic relation. Marriage is seen as based on sex but as meaning far more than sex, as ultimately the durable relation between two persons who express their love for each other by continued benevolent activity for the benefit of the members of the family. With Ogburn, the authors see the affectional basis as the only basis surviving to the modern family instead of the seven functions performed by the family of our ancestors. Most optimistic treatments of the present family suffer from being blind defences and protective utterances of the fearful. The authors of *What is Right with Marriage*, on the contrary, have produced a treatment that is as free from sentimentality as it is from sensationalism. Without dodging the things that are wrong with marriage they have refreshingly justified their title.

³D Appleton and Co., New York \$2.50

In the Day's Mail

This bride is planning for the future. If she is in good health the law in many states makes it illegal to give her information.

I would like to know something about Birth Control. I am a bride of three weeks and would like to keep on working for about a year. I do not want to do anything that will harm me in the least, nor use any medicines.

A young girl, cheated out of her youth, asks for advice.

I hear that I can get reliable information from you for the asking. Will you be so kind as to send it to me, a married woman or rather girl not quite twenty years old yet, and have had three babies in four years, the baby is now thirteen months old, and I am very much afraid of becoming pregnant again.

An intelligent request. In many states it cannot be complied with.

I am about to graduate from college, and am intending to be married, and so I apply to you for the information on this subject. I hope you can give me the latest and most scientific data.

A cry of stark despair. Worn out taboos and obsolete laws are responsible for such a situation.

Will you kindly send me information about contraception. I have thirteen children and I can't stand to have any more children. I am forty years old and in poor health.

Birth Control will save this home. Let us hope that a well-informed and broad-minded doctor is within reach.

I am twenty-five years old. I have been married since shortly after my nineteenth birthday. I am blessed with five of the buxomest, handsomest, most intelligent children in the state — so my husband and I believe.

My husband is a university graduate, and is working hard with an engineering firm. As yet, he is receiving a very nominal salary. We are forced to spend too much for hospital bills, and necessities for the babies. I have not dared to resort to the use of contraceptives, partly through advice from

medical men, and partly from old-fashioned hearsay. I would not become sterile for the world. Please give me your frank opinion. I need it, because I fear my husband is becoming tired of this endless chain of babies, and is beginning to tire of me.

Not only in India are there pitiful child wives. Birth Control will help this girl before she is utterly lost.

You may not believe that I am married, but I sure am. My age is sixteen and I already have a baby boy. I have read "The Aspects of Birth Control" by Dr. Knopf, but as I didn't have much education, I cannot understand it plainly. Can you advise me of a good way to keep from having children? I beg you to advise me, for I am so young. Probably before I am twenty I might have four children. As I am writing this letter, I am crying because I can just imagine how I am going to be tied down with all the children, so young as I am.

A young couple still hope to plan their lives. It is perhaps not too late. Common sense demands that they be given the means to help themselves.

We have been married two years and have a baby one year old and I am pregnant now. My husband makes a very small salary. We both love children and wanted children but would have liked to have waited until our income was enough to support a family. We can only afford the bare necessities now, and if babies keep coming as rapidly as they have been we won't be able to live at all.

Please, isn't there some way we can control conception until we can afford more children, and can take care of what we have? Thank you from the depth of my heart for any advice you will give me.

No one can blame her for wanting to know about Birth Control. If contraceptive methods were taught in medical schools she would probably not need to be taking "treatments for the nerves."

I will try to state as briefly as possible why I ask for contraceptive information. To begin with I won't be twenty-three years old until next month. I had three babies before I was twenty-two. My health was impaired after my second baby, and I

should never have had my third, but ten months after the second baby I started again. I thought I'd never go through with it. The last baby is now going on fifteen months, and my health is worse, I think. At least my nerves are. I've had all my teeth extracted, a tonsil operation, etc. I thought I was through with doctors.

Two months ago I had to resort to medicine, as I was pregnant again. Since then my nerves have gone from bad to worse, and I am now taking treatments twice a week for the nerves. I am about at wits' end trying to make ends meet, as my husband's salary is small, and there are so many expenses.

Can you blame me for wanting to know of something that is not injurious? I think you will see that I've gone through a lot for a girl of my age, and I hope you will be able to suggest something, or someone to help me.

A modern mother asks for advice. Will her doctor be wise enough to give it?

As my daughter is to be married in the near future, I am writing for some information on Birth Control.

Here is an illogical situation. Surely contraception is better than abortion, even though the abortion is therapeutic.

We have two children, a boy and a girl, twenty months apart, the youngest now two and a half years old. My doctor ordered me not to have any more for at least five years, as I nearly lost my life with the second. But as the laws are very strict here, he gave me no other information than to practice abstinence. He also told me if I became preg-

nant before that time, he would perform an abortion, which I think is a much greater crime than Birth Control, and which I'd never consent to. You can imagine what fear I've lived in from month to month.

Eugenists will approve of this family. Let us hope they will win out.

My husband and I are school teachers, but have not finished our education yet. We have a little girl one year old, but do not feel that we should have another until our education is complete. I am now studying for my Master's degree, and we wish that both of us might win our Master's degrees before having any more children. However we want to have more when we can afford them. Thank you for whatever help you can be to us.

Doctors still need education, but the medical schools are waking up.

I have had anemia for years. At times I am so bad, that I am hardly able to stand. I visit the doctor twice a week, at which times he gives me injections, and electric rays, and medicine. He has told me that it was inadvisable for me to have more children, for a while — I have a little girl three years old — yet he told me nothing more.

Why should this woman have to ask for information? It was the physician's duty to give it to her.

I am most anxious for information since I came very near dying in giving birth to a still-born child, and was told that having another child would probably take my life. So I want to take no risks. I shall accept your information as strictly personal.

Birth Control Not Race-Suicide But Race-Saving

IN many corners of the world of to-day, rural as well as urban, there are too many people, and the result is often an inhuman intensity in the struggle for existence in its cruder forms. Numbers outrun the available resources of life, and men and women are wizened and bent with care. Surely it were better to have forty millions healthy, vigorous, and joyous than sixty millions riddled with bad health, weakness, and depression.

Our argument is that a deliberate reduction of the birth-rate may tend to improve the health of children and mothers, may make life less anxious,

more secure, and with greater possibilities of fineness, may make earlier marriages among the thrifty more feasible, may promote the independence of women and increase their opportunities for self-development. But there is a further argument that Birth Control makes for peace, since an expanding population is one of the main causes of war.

Birth Control is not race-suicide but race-saving, and, speaking for ourselves, we regard it as one of the main lines of progress.

J ARTHUR THOMSON

A Question of Morality

By ANNIE G. PORRITT

IN the bills introduced during recent years in the New York Legislature a new legal restriction has been proposed, by the insertion of the words "married persons" in the clause which would permit the giving of contraceptive advice by physicians. The new restriction is in harmony with the tendency, exemplified in our prohibition legislation, to control the private morals of our people by law, and would probably be just about as effective as this other legislation has proved to be. Does anyone imagine that the presence of these words in the law would do anything to check sexual irregularities, or to keep our people more moral? The utility of the words is highly questionable, and there can be little doubt that it would simply be another case of an unenforceable "blue law."

On the other hand there would be a manifest disadvantage to the physician in embodying this restriction in the law. Is it to be a trap in which to catch an unwary doctor? When has it been a rule that a patient, coming to a doctor, must produce a marriage license before being treated? Just as well might one provide for treatment for married persons only in cases of venereal disease. There was strong opposition early in the fight against these racial diseases on the ground that the fear of contracting such terrible plagues was a necessary deterrent against vice. It was only after many demonstrations of the absolute need of protection for society, for the innocent victims, and especially for the children, that the advocates of free and impartial treatment for married and unmarried alike won their case. Now it is acknowledged that treatment for the unmarried is quite as important for society as treatment of the wife or child that has innocently contracted the disease.

USE OF FEAR AS A DETERRENT

There is a real parallel between the question of the treatment of venereal disease and that of contraception. The idea of refusing contraceptive treatment to sex offenders is that the fear of pregnancy and of the illegitimate child must be held over the heads of unmarried people as a deterrent. In other words, the innocent child must be made the whip to scourge the guilty parents, no matter what

the suffering or the disaster which must necessarily accrue to the child. Any social worker or any student of social statistics knows that the illegitimate child has the lowest expectancy of life, the smallest chance of happiness and success, and the greatest likelihood of becoming a social rebel, his hand against every man and every man's hand against him. It is the illegitimate children that fill our institutions, charitable and penal, and even when the illegitimate child escapes these worst consequences of his unfortunate origin, he is almost certain to carry with him through life a feeling of inferiority and bitterness. He will never enjoy the full birth-right that should belong to every child coming into the world.

SOCIETY PAYS FOR IGNORANCE

It seems to me that if we are to begin with a restriction in the law, it would be better, from the point of view of morality, to give contraception to the unmarried and to insist that, whatever people choose to do as regards their own personal sins, they shall not burden either society or the innocent child with the results of them. Can anything be more profoundly immoral than to inflict not only suffering of mind and body, but also demoralization which may result in criminality, on a human being, because for the sake of a possible deterrent to its parents we insist that no means shall be taken to prevent its birth? This is the century of the child, but the child will not come into its own until the very idea of subjecting a new-borne babe to punishment because its parents have offended against the current mores of society shall be abhorrent to the consciences of men and women, and until no one shall dream of insisting that a child shall be born merely to serve as the medium of punishment for its parents.

The refusal of contraceptive information to the unmarried does not, however, fall only on the heads of the babies and the parents. Society must also suffer, so long as it insists on continuing the flow of illegitimate children into our jails and penitentiaries. It is a highly expensive policy to the taxpayer. It is an even more expensive policy from the point of view of the Eugenicist. If the laws of

heredity are valid, it frequently means an insistence on the continuance of poor stock, and a multiplication of those least fitted to pass on the torch of life to future generations. If sex offenders are so undesirable that society feels justified in inflicting punishment on the most innocent of human beings in order to scourge them vicariously, would it not be better to prevent the perpetuation of people whose sex impulses are uncontrolled? Perhaps in this way our censors could secure a world to their liking.

Of course everyone knows that the mere fact of illegitimacy is no proof whatever of fitness or unfitness. It is the absence of a proper home with two acknowledged parents, and the attitude of society that constitute the tremendous handicap for the illegitimate child. We need for the sake of the child either to change our moral code as regards illegitimacy, or to do all that lies in the power of society to prevent the coming into existence of children whom we insist on handicapping from the moment of their birth.

Morals in Search of An Answer

By V F CALVERTON

PERHAPS no adage has done more harm than the one which says that "there is nothing new under the sun." Under the guise of such logic, new ideas have been scorned, and new movements denied originality and challenge. Apathetic minds have been able to conceal from themselves the fact of change by the constant repetition of that formula. The best and wittiest reply to the whole attitude was made by Guillaume Apollinaire:

"There is nothing new under the sun?"

"Nothing new for the sun perhaps, but everything new for man."

Apropos of this same attitude, one will frequently hear men and women say that there is nothing new in the morality of our age, nothing new in our revolt, nothing new in our vision. Let us turn to women for a moment. The emancipation of women today is of no great import, since there have been previous periods when women were emancipated, and nothing came of them. Women were in revolt in Rome, — but their revolt was of short duration. All that we are having today is but a momentary recrudescence of that phenomenon. There is no new woman. There is only the eternal woman. In time woman will revert to her inevitable norm.

Such conclusions, I believe, are an evidence of intellectual necrophilia.¹

But better than that, let us inquire in just what ways we have something new under the sun in the new woman, and why she will not, as did women of earlier centuries, revert anew to her old servitude. In the first place women as a whole are in revolt today, and not just the women of a special class.

Women of the middle classes have revolted as well as those of the upper and lower. In the second place, this rise of a whole sex is based upon more than mere moral — or immoral — protest and aggression. Finally, and most important of all, this twentieth century revolt is different and stronger than any previous revolt because it is fortified by the weapon of Birth Control.

It is out of all this that the new woman has come — and come to stay. It is because of all this that we are able today to begin to speak of sex with candour, and realize the presence of moral change without fearing it. And further, it is because of all this that we are confronted today with an increasing number of books and articles that are engaged with one or more important aspects of this theme.

Bertrand Russell's *Marriage and Morals*,¹ for example, has proved one of the most popular books in this field in recent years. It has been used as a study-book by numerous groups, and has been read widely throughout the country. In truth, few books have provoked as much discussion of the whole sex problem as this. And it is a curious thing to note that this discussion has been far more active among women than men. I say this with such conviction, because I have observed it to be a fact wherever I have lectured, as true, let us say, in Louisville, Kentucky, as in Cincinnati or Chicago. The women are more concerned because, for the time being at least, the whole problem is more vital.

¹"Marriage and Morals" by Bertrand Russell. Horace Liveright, New York. \$3.00.

to them than it is to men. Mothers everywhere are alarmed at what is happening to modern youth. In particular, they are worried about what is going to happen to their daughters — or sometimes, by way of invidious recollection, to their daughters' daughters. The reason for this concern is not hard to discover. The new morality, as it is now called, is not new for men. It is new for women. Women, who in the past accepted a position of subordination to men, are today in arms against this masculine supremacy. At the same time they have not been aware — or at least a great number of them have not — of the ultimate extensions of their revolt. Bertrand Russell's book has brought many of them, that is those of the old generation if not the younger, to a sudden halt. It has made many of them pause and consider. More, it has made them see that much that has been talked about in connection with the sex problem in this decade may turn out to be more than idle prophecy.

RUSSELL'S RADICAL PROPOSALS

What has Russell said that has caused such a furore of concern and confusion? To begin with he has stressed the wisdom of pre-marital intercourse, and pointed out that women who are virgins are seldom equipped to choose fitting husbands for their marriage. The virgin is naive, and, therefore, without that sexual experience and wisdom which are necessary to an intelligent selection of a mate. This is radical doctrine, indeed. Recalling that only a short time ago, a woman was not supposed to hold a man's hand, or, at least, not to kiss and caress him, until she was betrothed, we can see how far our morality has already advanced in the direction of a new formula, if not a new ethic. Not only has the age of the chaperon passed, but with it has gone the old emphasis upon the importance of virginity. But Mr Russell does not stop there. He urges further that marriage be contingent upon pregnancy. No couple, in other words, should get married, unless the woman has become pregnant. This is more than companionate marriage. It is a denial of marriage altogether except when it involves children. It is equivalent to saying that the sex relationships of people are an entirely private matter and have nothing to do with the State and the law save where children are in question. Revolutionary as such doctrine is from the standpoint of the old morality, Mr Russell goes further still in his remarks upon the future regulations of marriage. Adultery should not be considered as a

ground for divorce. Adultery in the physical sense, at least, should be considered a natural consequence of a modern marriage. Where in the past, only men were adulterous, and that clandestinely, women should now have the same privilege of having extramarital sex affairs. Russell believes that these adulteries, when once we recognize the wisdom of them, will felicitate rather than mar marriage as an institution.

BIRTH CONTROL BASIS OF EQUALITY

Birth Control, to be sure, plays a very important part in Mr Russell's logic. Without Birth Control his logic would have no conviction at all. It has been the knowledge of Birth Control methods plus the acquisition of economic independence that has made it possible for women to attain a position of equality in sexual as well as in political and social life.

Westermarck's *Marriage*⁸ is another popular book on this same theme that deserves our consideration here. In this study, Westermarck has tried to give us a synoptic picture of marriage through the ages. In a sense, he has provided us with an abridged edition of his *History of Human Marriage*. For the student, the book supplies an easy skeletal outline of the important changes that have taken place in the marital institution from the time of primitive to that of modern man.

One can find here, in rapid review, many of Dr Westermarck's various conclusions as to the basis of marriage, the nature of the incest taboo, the origin of endogamy and exogamy, and the numerous theories concerning group-marriage and promiscuity among primitive people. The presentment is always clear but not always sufficient. The very absence of the abundant material that made his *History of Human Marriage* such an invaluable document, tends to make this volume lag a little in interest, and fall short somewhat in conviction.

Nevertheless, for the general reader the book will provide an acquaintanceship with marital forms that most books on marriage leave out of account altogether, or mention in a passing footnote or paragraph. The fact that marriage grows out of the family, and not the family out of marriage, that as an institution marriage is more economic than sexual in origin, that it has evinced all va-

⁸"Marriage" by Edward Westermarck, Cape and Smith, New York \$1.50

rieties of duration through the ages — these basic facts alone will clarify the attitude of the general reader toward the whole problem of marriage and morals. In achieving such clarification the book serves a good purpose. Instead of viewing the present bankruptcy of marriage which has spread over the western world as something unprecedented, for instance, the reader can see in it a form of change that has occurred before in history, and which is to be expected in the career of any mores. Moralities have their curves of ascent and descent like the history of rivers. This fact is brought out in adequate detail in the discussion of the many forms of marriage that man has hitherto adopted, then rejected, and sometimes re-adopted.

CONCEPT DIFFERENT FROM PRACTICE

The same error creeps into this book which is to be found in his earlier ones. He fails to differentiate sufficiently between marriage as a concept and marriage as a practice. Westermarck himself is doubtless aware of the differentiations, but the reader will most likely be misled by his failure to emphasize them. Marriage in many primitive communities resembles so little marriage as we, with our modern categories of consciousness, conceive it, that it is practically a misnomer to use the same word to describe both conditions. Among the aboriginal tribes of Malaya, for example, individuals often *marry* forty or fifty times, the Cherokee Iroquois "commonly changed wives three or four times a year, among the Hurons women (were) purchased by the night, week, month or winter." Now while in a certain loose sense you may describe all these relationships as marital, there is a great danger of misapprehension in this type of nomenclature. It would be a highly intelligent procedure if we coined a new word for our anthropological vocabulary, so that this kind of confusion could not occur.

These books approach sex in a manner that would have been impossible a generation ago — even a decade ago. Such studies then, and they were undertaken by such persons as Ellis and Forel, were not disseminated in form available to the layman. The very fact of this change indicates an advance in moral attitude. Such progress would have been impossible without the emancipation of women, which in turn, as we have pointed out, could not have occurred without feminine independence in economic life, and advance in the knowledge of Birth Control.

READING LIST ON *Marriage Problems*

MARRIAGE, by Edward Westermarck *Cape and Smith, New York* \$1 50

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MARRIAGE? by Dr G V Hamilton and Kenneth Macgowan *A and C Boni, New York* \$3 00

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH MARRIAGE? by Robert C and Frances F Binkley *Appleton, New York* \$2 50

HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE, by Margaret Sanger *Brentano, New York* \$2 00

MARRIAGE IN THE MODERN MANNER, by Ira S Wile, M D and Mary Day Winn *The Century Co., New York* \$2 00

A PREFACE TO MORALS, by Walter Lippmann *Macmillan, New York* \$2 50

MARRIAGE AND MORALS, by Bertrand Russell *Horace Liveright, New York* \$3 00

MEN AND MORALS, by Woodbridge Riley *Doubleday Doran, Garden City* \$5 00

SEX IN CIVILIZATION, edited by V F Calverton and Samuel D Schmalhausen *Macaulay, New York* \$5 00

FAMILY LIFE TODAY, Edited by Margaret E Rich *Houghton Mifflin Co., New York*

MODERN MARRIAGE, by Paul Popenoe *Grosset and Dunlap, New York* \$1 00

WHOLESOME MARRIAGE, by Ernest R and Gladys H Groves *Houghton Mifflin Co., New York*

FACTORS IN THE SEX LIFE OF 2,200 WOMEN, by Katharine Bement Davis *Harper, New York* \$3 50

MARRIAGE AND THE STATE, by Mary E Richmond and Fred Hall *Russell Sage Foundation, New York* \$2 50

THE MODERN FAMILY, by Ruth Reed *Alfred A Knopf, New York* \$3 50

HYMEN OR THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE, by Norman Haire *E P Dutton and Co., New York* \$1 00

Propaganda Versus Basic Progress

By C C LITTLE

This provocative article answers Miss Winsor's plea for more propagandist methods, in the February issue We invite further discussion.

WHEN a progressive and fundamentally sound biological, medical, and social reform, such as the philosophy underlying the control of human conception, is to be considered, it can be treated in a different manner from those measures which are of doubtful value

The latter need constant bolstering by public education and propaganda in order to retain sufficient vitality to insure their survival from one social generation to the next. The former can rest assured that its foundation on truth guarantees its progress and eventual adoption.

During the past decade the strength of support for Birth Control has grown steadily. The growth has been too general and too uniform to be traceable to any one person or group.

As the number of healthy, happy and effective members of society who make use of contraceptives increases, they make converts by the hundreds and by the thousands. Once a convert is made, no elaborate or organized overhead is needed to keep him or her "in line." The results are so definitely satisfactory that an argument to insure the continuation of the present technique of giving individual information is both superfluous and uninspired.

PROPAGANDA PHASE FINISHED

It has seemed to a number of those connected in a more or less advisory capacity with the work of organizations favoring a wider spread of contraceptive information that the need of an "organized propaganda" phase of the problem has been passed.

Propaganda of an active and aggressive kind is always valuable as an outlet for certain types of dynamic extroverts. Without it they are apt to stew and sizzle until a means of utilizing their surplus energy is discovered and made available to them. There are many times when an outlet in the form of the dissemination of propaganda is the safest and best way of handling the situation.

Over against the attitude of impatience and irritation at the slowness at which social reform proceeds, there should be set certain important fac-

tors. The first of these is the old adage that "The mills of the Gods grind slowly." No fundamental change in social behavior comes rapidly unless there is a world-wide cataclysm such as the Great War to father its adoption. The control of human conception deals with a personal, intimate problem. It requires tact, patience, and individual, rather than group, treatment. It will continue to expand because intelligent people want it, and find it beneficial to their families and to themselves.

FORCED REFORM A BOOMERANG

We should also remember that a forced or hurried reform may prove to be a boomerang. Prohibition, which was jammed through as a national measure at a time of great emotional stress, before the people were really ready for it, is today a joke in our large centers of population. It is in those localities that alcohol has always been a problem. The problem has simply been shifted from one which involves saloons to one dealing with "speakeasies." It is still unsolved. To force any general dissemination of contraceptive information before the country is ready for it would be deliberately to court disaster.

It should also be recalled that laws neither make nor mar the progress of a social trend. There are thousands of towns in the United States where a fifteen mile speed limit for automobiles is required by law. A conservative estimate would be that 90% of the automobile drivers disobey this law daily, without incurring a penalty. The liquor situation is another example in point. When laws meet with the disapproval of the average citizen because he feels that his personal habits are unwisely restricted or his personal liberty unfairly threatened, he will act accordingly. Certain foolish and antiquated "blue laws" appeal today to our sense of humor. They are in no danger of coming back into active application, because more than a century ago they died naturally and unmourned. Civilization developed and left them far behind. It will not return to pick them up again, nor try to breathe

life into their already decomposed substance. Efforts, therefore, to solve social problems by law are interesting but not fundamental.

Progress in the spread of Birth Control information will undoubtedly be slower than anyone of intelligence would wish. This movement and Eugenics are in much the same situation. Both are sound and are growing in strength daily. Both require as a foundation much scientific research and knowledge.

The medical profession will acquire an attitude of respect for and interest in contraceptive methods when its clients demand it, and not before. Its clients will do so, for themselves, when they

realize its advantages, and will insist on it for others when the cost of the care of defectives pinches the public and private purse.

Those who try to force its general adoption earlier are probably happy in doing so. They are, however, very like those who have tried to correct poverty by curing the individual case temporarily. They may convert a Congressman or a Senator (if such a feat is not superhuman), they may change phrases of one or more laws. In the last analysis, however, an irresistible and general desire for healthy children, and the pressure of ever increasing expense in caring for defectives will join hands to convert not individuals, but the world.

Change the New York Law

A Summary and a Suggestion

By ALEXANDER LINDEY

MR McWILLIAMS' survey of the New York State contraceptive statutes in the February issue of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* is a succinct presentation of the numerous problems which now confront us. The present laws may be summarized as follows:

(a) Section 1142 of the Penal Law contains a sweeping ban on contraceptive advice and articles.

(b) Section 1145 contains an exception, and permits the use or application, by physicians lawfully practicing, or by their direction or pursuant to their prescription, of an article or instrument for the cure or prevention of disease, and also permits the supplying of such articles to such physicians or by their direction or pursuant to their prescription.

(c) *People v Sanger*, 222 N. Y. 192, purports to limit the exception contained in Section 1145, that states that "this exception in behalf of physicians does not permit advertisements regarding such matters, nor promiscuous advice to patients, irrespective of their condition, but it is broad enough to protect the physician who in good faith gives help or advice to a married person to cure or prevent disease."

Section 1145 is too harsh because no exception is made therein in favor of contraceptive *advice* as such, even though given by duly licensed physicians.

The *Sanger* case is confusing because, although it does cover contraceptive advice, it limits such advice to married persons for the cure or prevention of disease, and this is despite the fact that Section 1145 makes no mention of married persons. The *Sanger* case is further objectionable from the point of view of evidence, in that it injects the element of good faith as a requisite on the part of the physician, and possibly places upon him the burden

of establishing it. The case breeds confusion because it appears to indicate that, in order to justify the physician in giving contraceptive aid, the married status must be concomitant with the need for the cure or prevention of disease, and that in the absence of the status, treatment might not be given *even to cure or prevent disease*. In view of the foregoing it is obvious that there is urgent need for the revision of the present legislation. In such revision, the following points should be considered:

Duly licensed physicians should have proper latitude to give contraceptive advice and treatment to married persons for any purpose, *and* to other persons for the cure or prevention of disease. Persons acting under the direction, or pursuant to the prescription, of duly licensed physicians should be granted similar immunity. This is essential to protect nurses and individuals connected with Birth Control clinics. Moreover, it should be made lawful for physicians and persons acting under their direction, to announce to the community when, where, how and from whom contraceptive advice or material may be legally obtained. It should likewise be made lawful for a person who is not a physician, to tell another where the latter may lawfully obtain contraceptive advice or material. Proper exemption should be made in favor of manufacturers, distributors and druggists to insure proper circulation of contraceptive material for any of the legal purposes aforesaid.

Morris L Ernst, the attorney who defended the Birth Control Clinic with such signal success in connection with the police raid last year, has indicated a possible solution. He maintains that much of the present confusion could be cleared up if Section 1142 were permitted to remain, if Section 1145 were repealed, and if the following amendment were adopted to Section 1142

This section shall not apply to a physician, lawfully practicing or to a person duly acting under the direction or prescription of such physician, who sells, lends, gives away, uses or applies, or offers to sell, lend, give away, use or apply, or has in his possession with intent to sell, lend, give away, use or apply, any instrument or article, or any recipe, drug or medicine for the contraceptive treatment of married persons, or for the cure or prevention of disease, or who gives advice or information relative to contraceptive treatment for the purpose aforesaid, or who writes or prints, or causes to be written or printed, a card, circular, pamphlet or notice of any kind, or gives information orally stating

when, where, how, of whom, or by what means such advice, information, treatment, instrument, article, recipe, drug, or medicine may be obtained or purchased for the purposes aforesaid, nor shall this section apply to a person who gives information, orally or otherwise, stating when, where, how or of whom contraceptive advice, information or treatment may be obtained for the purposes aforesaid, nor shall this section apply to a person who manufactures, sells, lends, gives away, or offers to manufacture, sell, lend or give away, any instrument or article, or any recipe, drug or medicine for such contraceptive treatment, or who has in his possession or manufactures with intent to so sell, lend or give away any such instrument or article, or any such recipe, drug or medicine, at the direction or upon the prescription of a physician lawfully practicing, nor shall this section apply to any person who writes, prints or distributes, or causes to be written, printed or distributed, any circular, pamphlet or publication containing contraceptive information for use and distribution in the medical profession

Birth Control in China and Japan

By WALTER BUCHLER

CHINA'S population is estimated to number between 415 and 500 millions, the latter figure probably being nearer the mark. The majority are engaged on the land and are extremely poor, eking out a bare existence. But the average Chinese is a stoic, a philosopher who takes life as it comes, does not cry over calamities or misfortunes (which are fairly frequent in China), and his aim in life is to bring up as large a family as possible, so as to perpetuate his family from generation to generation. He marries as a rule at an early age, his parents choosing his future partner in life for him through the medium of a match-maker. The Chinese can have only one legal wife, but there is nothing to prevent him from imitating the example of Jacob and taking concubines, the number depending on his wealth. He marries expressly for the purpose of begetting a family and the larger he is able to make it the better he is pleased. Boys are preferred. What his wife and concubines think does not enter his mind, how he is going to bring up and support a large family is left to the future.

The fact is that woman's status is still low among

the Chinese — not in the matter of respect but in the work she must do. Among the poorer classes not only does she bear a large number of children, look after them and after the home, but she also contributes towards the family income. It is nothing uncommon for a woman in China to work harder than her husband. The birth and death rates in China are accordingly high, the competition for employment exceedingly keen, and wages are lower than perhaps anywhere else in the world.

Much of this state of affairs in China is due to lack of educational facilities and of opportunities for the ordinary Chinese to improve his position. The present Government does not seem unfavorably inclined towards Birth Control though, up to the present, little has been done in this direction. There is no open opposition from Central or Provincial authorities as there has been and still is in Japan. It is only the individual who has to be convinced, and that should not be difficult with the Chinese, who are always ready to listen to anything which may help them to a better life. Foreigners could do a great deal in this direction by establish-

ing a number of up-to-date clinics in the more important cities, starting with Shanghai. Instruction could be given to medical students, as well as advice to individuals, a small contribution being asked from all who can afford it. The Nationalist Government has already engaged foreign experts to advise it on railways, finance and other important national matters. Foreign help in the matter of organizing some system of Birth Control in China would certainly be welcome, and would help promote friendship between East and West, which is now more necessary than ever.

BIRTH CONTROL SPREADING IN JAPAN

Food and population are two of Japan's most pressing problems. For the former she is becoming more and more dependent on foreign supplies, while her population increases by about a million a year, and is now over 65,000,000. In the Tokugawa period, before Japan had any intercourse with foreign nations, efforts were made from time to time to check the birth-rate by late marriage, abortion and infanticide. During the last fifty years, however, the people have been encouraged to have large families — in fact this doctrine has been preached in Japan as a patriotic duty. The women had little to say in the matter and it was their duty to obey their lords and masters simply. This was no difficult matter, as women's whole upbringing tended in that direction. She had practically no freedom in the choice of a husband, little control over his actions, and no redress when they justified reproach. Her place was in the home, and her duty was to look after the children and the house.

During recent years, Japan has been passing through profound changes. The position of women

has improved, their voices are being heard — at least to some extent, though not by any means as much as in Western countries, and interest in physical health is greater than before. The increased cost of living due to high taxation and excessive protection, the desire for a better standard of living, and the tendency among Japanese to adopt new ideas and new methods, especially when introduced from abroad — all these factors have led to the spread of Birth Control among the Japanese people, rich and poor.

Officially*, the Japanese authorities frown on any policy of Birth Control and do not encourage people who try to preach this doctrine, they want to see the population increase and hope to solve the problems of food and population by encouraging emigration and developing Japan's overseas trade, thus creating more employment in the country. The Population and Food Commission set up by the Japanese Government seems to be in favor of Birth Control to some extent, and would enforce legal control over Birth Control clinics and methods, and the instruments and drugs on sale for this purpose. Not long ago, the *Nihon Ishikai* (Japan Medical Association) submitted to the Home Minister a recommendation for the enactment of laws encouraging Birth Control in Japan as a means of keeping down the number of physically unfit. The military authorities in Japan, however, are absolutely against any form of Birth Control, but there is every evidence to show that their influence with the people is on the decline, and that modern methods of contraception will be adopted in Japan to an ever-increasing extent.

*See JANUARY BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for account of the first official encouragement of Birth Control in Japan. Tokyo plans to initiate Birth Control clinics as a method of aiding the dependent poor.

The Apple Tree

By ISADORA KERR

Carefully he budded the apple tree

"No siree. I don't believe in Birth Control. I was brought up in a God-fearing home, by decent, law-abiding parents. My father always said, 'Let nature take her course. Let the babies come. They are welcome, and as long as I have a bite to eat they may share it.'"

"Yes, but in those days it was easier to feed a

large family than it is to-day. And besides, not everyone is as well fixed as you are. What about the poor in the big cities?"

"Well, if they were thrifty they could get along. I've always found that where there's a will there's a way and God provides. No siree, it's no use talking Birth Control to me. I believe in letting nature take her course."

Carefully he budded the next apple tree

POPULATION SECTION

The Law of Correspondence of Birth- and Death-Rates

Excerpts from "The Malthusian Doctrine and Its Modern Aspects"

By C V DRYSDALE

IF population constantly presses against the means of subsistence, the increase of population is kept back to the increase of subsistence, just as the speed of a train must be kept back to that of a train in front of it on the same track

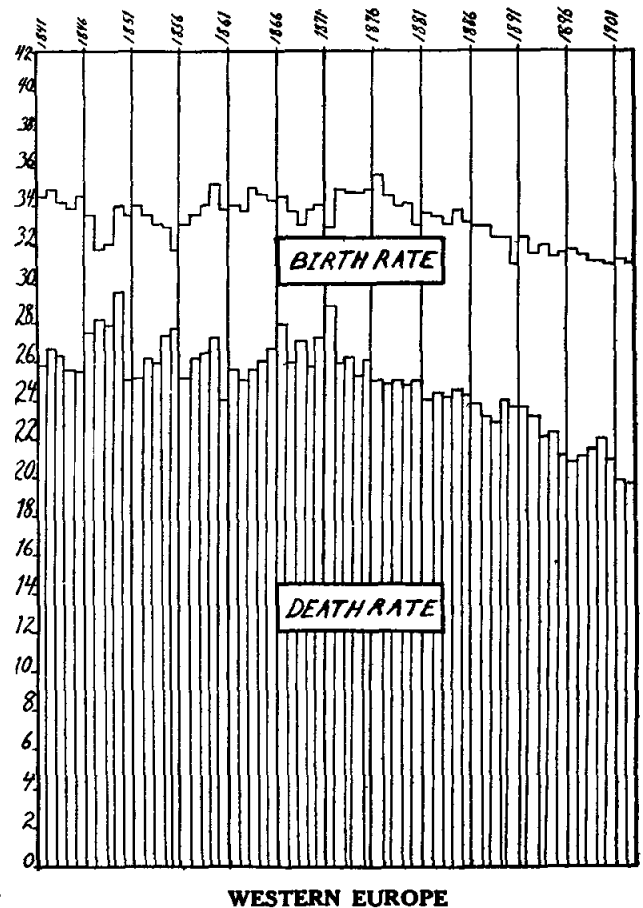
Now, in each country over a considerable period there is a fairly constant rate at which its food supply can be increased, either by improvements of its methods of agriculture, by the bringing of new land into cultivation, by improvements of means of transport, or by the development of its manufactures, which can be exchanged for the food of other countries

In long-settled countries, confined chiefly to the advance of agriculture, like France, India, and China, this increase must be comparatively slow. In those having large tracts of new land, like Canada and Australia, it may be very high, as it formerly was in the United States. The same is true of countries which, although long settled, have only recently escaped from severe feudal restrictions, as in Russia and the Balkan States. In the last category are countries which have already developed their agriculture fairly fully, but have natural resources and aptitude for manufacturing, as, for example, Great Britain, Germany, and the United States at the present day, and in these the increase will, as a rule, be at an intermediate rate. That is to say, that each country has a more or less definite speed of its food train (to use the analogy previously adopted) fixed by the energy and capability of its inhabitants and by its natural resources

What conclusion do we draw from this? Simply that as the population train cannot pass the food train, it can only advance at the same rate, and therefore any attempt to advance more rapidly will only cause collisions and loss of life. Or, in terms of population, all excess of the birth-rate over a certain minimum required to keep pace with the food supply will only cause an increase of the

death-rate, without accelerating the increase of population

In other words, a high birth-rate implies a high death-rate, a low birth-rate, a low death-rate, and



Figures on the left designate birth- and death-rates per thousand. Note the consistent decline after 1876, the time of the Knowlton trial

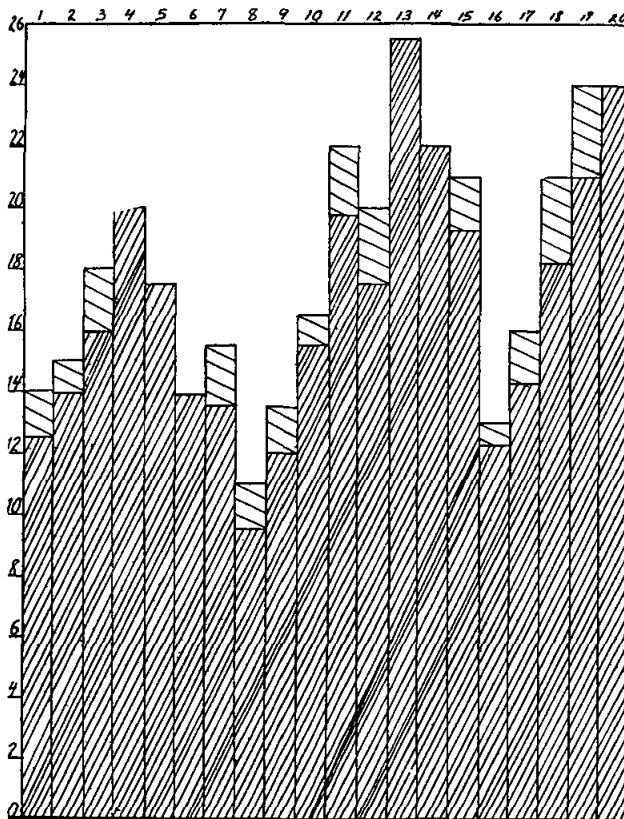
a rise or fall of the former should produce an approximately equal rise or fall of the latter. This may be called the law of correspondence of birth- and death-rates

Before going into the national aspect of this question, let us simply consider the homely example

of a laborer's family If we have a young couple setting out on married life in London on a pound a week, as so many thousands of couples do, this means, on the prices existing just before the war, that they could adequately nourish themselves and one child by very good management If the husband is a good average man, he may expect his wages to rise by five shillings a week every four or five years, and for each such sum they could support one more child But if the children arrive more rapidly than this, as they almost invariably do, they simply cannot be properly nourished, and, unless other help is forthcoming, they or the mother become ill from under-nutrition, and deaths occur, nominally due to certain diseases, but which have their origin in under-feeding Unless the birth-rate in the laboring classes as a whole, therefore, is exceedingly low, there will be deaths from pressure of surplus children on the family food supply, and the greater the number of births, the greater will be the deaths, as is perfectly well recognized by all who know anything of such families

Now, in the case of nations, the great bulk of their populations are always made up of the poor or wage-earning families we have been considering, and it is therefore obvious that, as a whole, the same rule should prevail, i e., that all births over a certain minimum should cause a similar number of premature deaths The minimum will certainly be different in different countries with different opportunities, as it is in different families, but the broad principle should remain, that countries of high birth-rates should, as a whole, have high death-rates, that those of low birth-rates should have low death-rates, and that changes in their birth-rates should produce similar changes in their death-rates except in so far as any rapid and fundamental change takes place in their productive powers, owing to the introduction of a new industrial regime, an escape from tyrannical restrictions, etc

A remarkable example of the correspondence of birth- and death-rates in various parts of the community, at the same period, is given in the case of Paris in 1906 Although the birth-rates vary all the way from 11 in the Elysee quarter to 24 in the working class quarters of Buttes Chaumont and Menilmontant, the death-rates are so closely dependent on them that the survival-rate in the high birth-rate quarters is no higher than in the low birth-rate ones, the correlation being actually as high as 95



PARIS, 1906

Figures at the top of designate arrondissements, those at the left birth- and death-rates per thousand

The law of correspondence between birth- and death-rates, deduced from the Malthusian doctrine of pressure of population on food, is one of the most definite and important laws in the whole range of sociology, and it affords a most striking verification of the doctrine

If subsistence can only be increased at a low rate, population cannot, of course, increase faster than it Consequently, if there is a high birth-rate (a low prudential check), there must be a high death-rate (a high positive check) to carry off the surplus We investigated this important deduction both by inspection of diagrams of the birth- and death-rates of various countries, and by calculation of the co-efficients of correlation between them, arriving at the conclusion that, in spite of the different possibilities of food production in different countries and at different epochs, the correspondence between birth- and death-rates was a very close one This is of the utmost importance, as it enables us to judge the extent to which the birth-rate must be further controlled in order to get rid of premature death through insufficiency of food

Book Reviews

MARRIAGE AND THE STATE by Mary E Richmond and Fred S Hall *Russell Sage Foundation, New York* \$2 50

MARRIAGE AND THE STATE" is the report of a practical fact-finding investigation which was designed to bring about improvement in American marriage laws and their administration "There has been too much discussion," say the authors, "too little intelligent action"

In making the study ninety-six cities and towns in thirty states were visited Forty-four of these places, however, were located in seven states — Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, Alabama, Wisconsin, California and Oklahoma — states selected for special investigation because they differed in frontier beginnings, statutory provisions, climatic and geographical conditions, industrial characteristics and racial influences License issues and "disinterested witnesses," such as judges, clergymen, social workers and doctors, were interviewed and there was correspondence with 588 places not visited

Part I describes "What Happens in License Offices" Probably the most interesting section in this part characterizes the marriage market town "To be a marriage market town the impression must somehow have gone abroad that getting married is there made unusually expeditious and easy" The marrying justice, the taxicab driver, the hired runner, the too obliging license issuer, and the marrying parson are types of exploiters found in these towns It is significant that not one of the fifty-seven marriage market towns discovered in the survey is in "a state that for any considerable time has had a complete advance notice law"

Part II, "Some Social Aspects of Marriage", begins with a discussion of youthful and child marriages "The marriage of a girl between sixteen and eighteen is described as a youthful marriage, and that of a girl under sixteen as a child marriage" Few boys marry in their early teens "We found that there were at the very least two-thirds of a million people living the United States today who have participated in a child marriage as one or the other of its two principals" Although the authors conclude that "sixteen is the lowest age standard that should be fixed by law as

the minimum marriageable age," a fourth of all the states cling to the old marriageable minimum of twelve for girls and fourteen for boys Hasty marriages, clandestine marriages and evasive out-of-state marriages are also discussed in this part

In Part III, "The Marriage Ceremony", the reader learns that "not more than a quarter of the marriages celebrated in the United States are civil," and that this number would be smaller if the types of marriage noted above were reduced in number Complications that often develop during the two or three difficult years of adjustment that usually follow marriage are best untangled with the help of a disinterested, clear-headed and sympathetic third person, say the authors, and suggest that the clergyman who by means of preliminary interviews takes a genuine interest in the fortunes of the two who are to become husband and wife, often later has an opportunity to become such an advisor

Probably the most valuable section in Part IV, "Supervision and Enforcement", is that devoted to recommendations Among the most important of these not already mentioned are state supervision of marriage license issuance, abolition of common law marriage, application for license by both candidates, verification as a substitute for publicity, home district issuance, a residential requirement, and the double license, i e one from each state, for out-of-state marriages

NORMAN S HAYNER

MRS ANNIE BESANT, by Geoffrey West
Gerald Howe, London. 3/6

THIS is without doubt the finest biography of Annie Besant yet published Though others will follow, none will say more in eighty-nine pages Here is sketched with a felicity of style most mature and readable, and with a penetration of insight and an objectivity most unusual, Annie Besant's unique career as a personality, a spiritual leader, a pioneer in social and political reform We need not refer to her, as we understand Lord Haldane once did, as the greatest of living statesmen in order to appreciate the undoubted influence of her activity As one of the most remarkable women of modern times who has championed against great odds Birth Control, free speech, woman suffrage, socialism,

Home Rule and education in India, trade unionism, the abolition of capital punishment — to mention a few — no one desiring to understand recent social changes can hope to do so without an acquaintance with her work. Readers of the REVIEW will be especially interested in the terse account of the Knowlton trial.

The book is as distinctive in the simple, unadorned beauty of its typography and format as it is significant as social biography or accomplished as a bit of literature. The first volume in a series on "Representative Women", it shows what can be done by way of publishing solid, well-written, well-printed books at so low a price as eighty-five cents in cloth. American publishers will learn many things from this series if they are wise.

NORMAN E. HIMES

A COMMONPLACE LIFE, by Mrs W F Robie
*Pine Terrace, Baldwinville, Mass. Privately
printed \$5 00*

THIS autobiography by the wife of a pioneer American sexologist is not an ambitious book, nor a book with a "purpose." It is simply a quiet, sunlit picture of simple, loving lives well lived, of hopes fulfilled, and trials met with a brave heart. It may well be typical of a large stratum of American family life among worthwhile people of whom little is ever seen in print, but who contribute much to the strength and beauty and well-being of the nation.

The book is well written and shows the author to be a woman of good education and sound intelligence. Evidently possessed of great energy and versatility, she not only bore seven children, but kept house, sewed, painted, played the piano, learned the pipe organ, taught the children music, took an active part in literary societies and women's clubs, taught school part of the time, helped her husband with his patients and with his writings, studied French, rode a bicycle, and yet found time to be gay and young with her children and to share generously in their hopes and fears, in their education, their love affairs and their marriages. A beautiful mother this, and a beautiful wife, a well-rounded central figure in this skilfully drawn *genre* picture.

Dr Walter F Robie is here shown chiefly in the role of lover, husband, and father, in which he appears to have been quite delightful, but very little

is said of his work except as it was the cause of various domestic changes. His interest in Birth Control, which is well known to have been both strong and of a practical nature, is only casually touched upon by the statements that he made a special trip from Baldwinville to New York to see Marie Stopes when she was here, and again visited her when in England, that he read a paper at Mrs Sanger's first Birth Control conference, and also at the Sixth International Conference.

Little is said of his books, except that "The Art of Love" and "Sex and Life" were suppressed through the efforts of the Watch and Ward Society in 1921, after which some copies of "The Art of Love" sold as high as \$50 — but the author never received more than thirty cents a copy for any of them!

Mrs Robie's own attitude towards childbearing is one which should please the eugenicists, and one which those interested in Birth Control should stress if the work is to become an effective agent for race improvement. I will give it in her own words: "I never wanted anything in my life as I wanted my seventh baby." "I could never see why people who could have them and who had plenty of money to educate them ever managed to get along without a baby all the time."

Here is frankly expressed the spontaneous feeling of a healthy, happy, intelligent woman, not rich in this world's goods, but with enough to live in comfort and to educate her children. Let those who fear that Birth Control will mean the dangerous reduction of our best stocks take notice! Given her favorable physical, economic, and emotional background, would not the great mass of women be likely to yield to the natural desire of happy wives to enlarge the family circle?

Perhaps the reason the book has so little to say about Dr Robie is that it was written not so much for the public as for the famous psychiatrist himself. All but the last chapter was finished before his death, and he read it with great interest and satisfaction. The final chapter deals with his death, which came so suddenly in August 1928, and quotes some of the tributes paid to his work and to himself as a man, in part as follows:

When Dr Walter F Robie began to attract attention by his writings, it was to bring down upon himself bitter criticism, cruel misunderstandings, and active persecution, for, with a mind which saw far in advance of his colleagues — he was boldly attacking the absurdi-

ties and superstitions of a subject which was wholly taboo among laymen and scarcely less so among members of the medical profession. But, regardless of all this, he persevered in his undertakings to bring about a better recognition of the importance of sex in relation to problems of psychology, sociology, and the American home.

He was already credited with being one of the foremost authorities on psychiatry, and was better known in England than in America.

From a paper read before a branch of the Massachusetts Medical Society

Mrs Robie met her great bereavement with fortitude. Something of her spiritual quality is shown in her reflections on their trip to Europe together when they were both past sixty. "It seems as if it must have been the very nicest thing that ever could happen to us. It even seems a little unbecoming to go on living after such a wonderful thing happens to a person." In less than two years Dr Robie died.

Limited in its appeal, and concerned with the lesser details of life as this book is, "A Common-place Life" is nevertheless a work of much homely beauty. It gives a deep insight into a wholesome way of living that is rarely reflected in the current literature of this restless age.

MARY LOUISE INMAN

Sociology from Two Viewpoints

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY, by Rudolph M Binder. Prentice-Hall, New York \$4.00

SO many textbooks entitled "Principles of Sociology" are being peddled around the colleges that an addition to their number must claim some distinctive merits. It may be said for this one that it is different from any other, but whether these differences which it exhibits are adequate to justify its existence is much more doubtful.

Professor Binder gives much prominence and space to the subject of population, but his argument lacks focus and cogency. His conclusions here, and throughout the book, are stated in the form of "laws", but his "laws", of which several appear in every chapter, are merely general observations or vague reflections. His "law of sex" is for example that "sex is the most vital and fundamental differentiation, on which all further steps in evolution depend." And he states a "law of religion" as follows: "Man has always and every-

where sought the aid of superhuman beings to assist him in the struggle for existence, and the character of religion has advanced or retarded his progress." It is rather absurd to single out such statements as laws, and it helps to give a pseudo-scientific character to the work.

Much that Professor Binder writes shows a sound common sense, but he is too apt to think that social problems can be solved by exhortation. His remedies for marriage difficulties, for example, are (1) that in modern society there is an over-emphasis on sex and that this should be avoided, (2) that pre-marital continence is socially necessary and individually beneficial, (3) that true love "founds a monogamic family, lasts through life, rears children, and becomes, through its telic attitude, the best social asset and the greatest boon to the individual." All this is very comforting but it is better preaching than it is science, and it utterly fails to come to grips with the real problem. A scientist must take human beings as they are or his good morals will run a grave risk of becoming bad science. To understand the problems of the present-day family we must see them in relation to a changing economic order, to a new status of women, to the decline in dogmatic religion, to the growth of city life, to the fall in the birth-rate and the death-rate, and so forth. Why, in this connection, does Professor Binder fail to discuss one of the most important conditions of the new character of the family — the practice of Birth Control?

The organism is a unit, body and mind, and it strives towards completion. This is the general law which underlies the numerous other "laws" which Professor Binder offers. But it is as vague as most of the rest until we know what completion means. Professor Binder goes so far as to approve of the sterilization of "all confirmed criminals with criminal ancestry." But perhaps they too are striving for "completion."

R. M. MACIVER

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, by J. O. Hertzler. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York \$2.50

SOCIOLOGY has reduced many of its readers to utter bewilderment. Those trained in the natural sciences are often repelled by vague and varied use of terms such as *social forces* and *social institutions*. A layman may especially puzzle over a term such as the latter because it seems to have nothing to do with almshouses, banks, jails and

universities, which he has come to regard as typical social institutions

Professor Hertzler has written a valuable book with a view to dissipating confusion and clarifying at least this particular concept. His book is a careful, scholarly and stimulating account of the institutionalized aspects of culture. It deals with the compositions, continuity and change of social institutions, their relation to each other, to environment, to the individual personality and to social values.

Following a discussion made with due respect for current sociological usage, he concludes that "a social institution is a complex of concepts and attitudes regarding the ordering of a particular class of unavoidable or indispensable human relationships that are involved in satisfying certain elemental individual wants, certain compelling social needs, or other eminently desirable social ends. The concepts and attitudes are condensed into mores, customs, traditions and codes." This statement is supplemented by an analysis of social institutions into the following components, ideas, attitudes, customs, codes, forms of social relationship, standardized habits, associations and physical extensions. This last item would include churches, jails and bank buildings, the parts confused with the institutions themselves by those sociologically unsophisticated.

The author shows himself a competent social psychologist in his discussion of the transmission of institutions and has full awareness of the reciprocal relation between personality and culture. Further acumen is displayed in his treatment of the inevitable process of institutional change, in that the ideal of a group mind is discarded in favor of the view that modification comes through the efforts of dynamic leaders and informed laymen. For many readers this discussion of change in social institutions with its stress on criticism and periodic overhauling will be the most interesting part of the book. In view of his stress upon institutions as a means to a good life there is scant justification for a large family as an end in itself when eugenic and economic considerations are such that misery is the inevitable outcome. All those concerned with storming the strongholds of obscurantism and bigotry will find his account of the essential basis of institutional inflexibility useful.

There are, of course, limitations to the book and problems inevitably remain unsolved. One may still be somewhat perplexed as to the exact meaning

of the terms marriage and family. One could also welcome some further discussion of social institutions in relation to concepts of the anthropologists, for example, that of the "universal culture pattern." While the obvious fact of overlapping functions of institutions make a rigid classification impossible, some further account might have been rendered of the relation between major institutions, such as that of the family, and minor institutions such as courtship, paternal authority, inheritance and divorce procedure. When does a custom become an institution? The ultra "tough minded" among the sociologists might suggest that Professor Hertzler is more preoccupied at times with values than is justified in a strictly scientific treatise.

All things considered the book is well worth the attention of sociologists and others interested in the institutionalized aspects of our culture.

CLIFFORD KIRKPATRICK

Books Received

THE TWILIGHT OF CHRISTIANITY, by Harry Elmer Barnes *Vanguard Press, New York* \$3 00

THE SEX LIFE OF YOUTH, by Grace Loucks Elliott and Harry Bone *Association Press, New York* \$1 50

CULTURAL CHANGE, by F. Stuart Chapin. The Century Social Science Series, *Century Press, New York* \$3 50

BLOOD GROUPING IN RELATION TO LEGAL AND CLINICAL MEDICINE, by Laurence H. Snyder *Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore* \$5 00

MEN AND MORALS, by Woodbridge Riley *Double-day Doran, Garden City, L. I.* \$5 00

HEREDITY AND HUMAN AFFAIRS, by E. M. East *Charles Scribner's Sons, New York* \$3 50

PORTRAIT OF A CHINESE LADY, by Lady Hosie *William Morrow, New York* \$5 00

WHAT IS EUGENICS?, by Major Leonard Darwin *Galton Publishing Co., New York* \$1 00

THE HUMAN MIND, by Karl Menninger *Alfred A. Knopf, New York* \$5 00

THE POISON OF PRUDERY, by Walter M. Gallahan *The Stratford Press, Boston* \$2 50

News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE Western States Conference on Birth Control and Population Problems, organized by Margaret Sanger, was held in Los Angeles on February 20th, 21st and 22nd. A general organization session, economic, medical, sociologic and legislative sessions and a mass meeting comprised the program.

The Conference Committee was as follows: Margaret Sanger, Chairman, Raymond H. Arnold, Executive Secretary, Mrs. Edythe C. Biorkman, Treasurer, and Theodore Curtis Abel, D.D., Malcolm Bissell, Ph.D., Fred L. Brainerd, Oliver M. Butterfield, D.D., Mrs. John P. Buwalda, Mrs. Kemper Campbell, T. Perceval Gerson, M.D., Mrs. Frank A. Gibson, Etta Gray, M.D., John R. Haynes, M.D., Allan A. Hunter, D.D., George R. Kirkpatrick, A.B., Mrs. Everett B. Latham, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, Mrs. Clark B. Millikan, Aaron J. Rosanoff, M.D., Mrs. B. P. Schulberg, Mrs. Sarah Bixby Smith, Mrs. Guy Van Buskirk, Miriam Van Waters, Ph.D.

As we go to press we have on hand only the program of the conference, giving subjects discussed, and speakers. We hope to give excerpts from some of these addresses in our next issue. We list here a few to give some idea of the scope of the Conference.

RUSSIA AND THE FAR EAST

Alexander Kaun, Ph.D. — *Professor of Slavic Languages, University of California, Berkeley*

POPULATION GROWTH AND EUROPEAN UNREST
Constantine Panunzio, Ph.D. — *Professor of Sociology, State Teachers College, San Diego*

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BIRTH CONTROL
Margaret Spring-Rice — *Chairman Birth Control Committee, North Kensington, London*

THE NEXT STEP IN BIRTH CONTROL
Margaret Sanger — *Chairman National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, New York City*

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE POPULATION PROBLEM
Graham A. Laing, M.A. — *Professor of Economics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena*

BIRTH-RATE AND EMPLOYMENT

George B. Mangold, Ph.D. — *Professor of Sociology, University Southern California, Los Angeles*

BIRTH CONTROL AS A CENTRAL FACTOR IN CONSTRUCTIVE FARM RELIEF

Ralph M. Rutledge, A.M. — *Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California at Los Angeles*

MEDICAL INDICATIONS FOR CONTRACEPTION

John V. Barrow, M.D. — *Past President, Los Angeles County Medical Association*

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIRTH CONTROL

Charles L. Bennett, M.D. — *Member, Medical Advisory Board of Los Angeles County Health Department*

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM AND BIRTH CONTROL

Reverend Allan A. Hunter — *Pastor, Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church, Hollywood*

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

G. V. Hamilton, M.D. — *Director of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, New York City, author of "A Research in Marriage"*

LEGAL OBSTACLES TO RACIAL PROGRESS

Margaret Sanger — *Chairman, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, New York City*

CALIFORNIA Mrs. Sanger spoke on the Federal Amendment before the National Council of Jewish Women, meeting in Los Angeles on January 16th.

CONNECTICUT The State Department of Health has recently issued a summary of vital statistics for the past five years. The birth-rate has declined 15 per cent, from 19.5 per thousand in 1925 to 16.5 per thousand in 1929. It is significant that the decline seems to be quite regular and systematic.

NEW JERSEY Mrs. Willard V. King spoke on the proposed Federal Amendment at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Business and Professional Women's club of Morristown, on February 10th. Miss Henriette Hart, of the New Jersey Birth Control League, spoke under the auspices of the League of Women Voters at the home of Mrs. Clifford M. Baker of Plainfield, on January 21st.

NEW YORK The League of Women Voters of Buffalo will hold a series of four educational talks on Birth Control, sponsored by Mrs. Chauncey J. Hamlin. The medical, the social service, the economic and the eugenic aspects of the subject will be presented. The meetings will be held in March and early April.

William H. Coulton will address the Bronx Hungarian Workers' Club on March 21st. Dr. Cooper spoke at the Workers' Self Education League on February 14th.

The American Birth Control League has recently offered to furnish speakers for Mothers' Clubs in New York City settlement houses. The Union Settlement, the Maternal Aid Association, God's Providence House, Madison House, and Bethlehem Day Nursery have already arranged for speakers, and further requests are coming in daily. The interrelation between social work and Birth Control cannot be too strongly stressed, and the quick response of the social workers is heartening.

PENNSYLVANIA Professor Harold W. Schoenberger, of the University of Pittsburgh, reports on a questionnaire recently answered by three hundred students under his direction. The majority were in favor of Birth Control and opposed to capital punishment and the eighteenth amendment.

CHINA

THE Shanghai Women's Association passed a resolution at its January meeting petitioning the National Government to legislate against the present system of concubinage.

JAPAN

The Medical News of February 8th carried the following report of the Birth Control situation in Tokyo:

Discussion and debates against the plan became prominent even among lawyers and physicians. The Tokyo Doctors' Association appointed commissioners to investigate this problem from medical and hygienic points of view. In spite of all the antagonism of the government and of the metropolitan police, Mr. Shirakama and Mr. Yasui are endeavoring to carry it out practically in some way or other. More than 500 letters of support have been received in the city office, and in eight health centers in the city. The social bureau has decided to receive the

registered poor in the public hospitals through the introduction of the district citizens' committee, but without much publicity.

ENGLAND

THE annual report of the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics for 1928-29 shows slow but interesting progress. There are twelve clinics affiliated with the central organization. No data on percentage of failures is given, but records are kept, in order to further scientific research. From September 1928 to September 1929, 3,881 new cases were treated, and 8,843 old cases returned.

The Shoreditch Borough Council passed the following resolution and sent it through the country for other Borough Councils to act on. News of its passage or rejection, with attendant discussions, is keeping Birth Control on the front page of the English press.

That this Council recognizes that the question of family limitation is one to be settled by the individuals concerned. It further recognizes, however, that a demand exists among working-class married women for reliable and private information as to methods of family limitation, and places on record its opinion that such married women should not be prevented by lack of means from obtaining the help they desire. It therefore calls upon the Ministry of Health to allow those municipalities who wish to do so, to provide facilities for such information through the public services.

GERMANY

THE Federation for Large Families is carrying on active propaganda for a return to the well-filled nurseries of the past. The organization, which has been in existence for ten years, has 500,000 members in 850 branches. Families with four or more children are eligible for membership.

* * *

The nation which sets before itself the ambition largely to increase its population is already a bad partner in the international commonwealth of mankind, and the Church which refuses to face such facts is a reactionary force in world progress. Each country ought to consider itself under an obligation to keep its population fairly constant.

DR. BARNES, *Bishop of Birmingham*

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

ADVICE TO INDIA

Upton Sinclair has recently sent the following letter to the editor of "Janmabhumi", Madras, India

DEAR SIR

I have read your two-page statement as to the purposes of your leaders in the event of your achieving Swaraj

I note that you expect to abolish famine from your country. This is a large task, and I looked with some concern to see if you know how to do it. I hope that you will pardon a suggestion from an outsider who, seeing the problem from a distance, may possibly be able to have a clearer view.

We are all familiar with the law of Malthus, which applies to humanity as to all things else in nature. Population, not restricted by social effort, presses upon the limits of subsistence, and is kept down by famine, plague and war. Assuming that you desire to abolish these three methods, there is nothing left but deliberate limitation of nature's blind fecundity. But I look in the paragraph dealing with your plans concerning women, and I do not find one word about Birth Control. It seems to me that this is certainly the most important matter with which you could deal.

I do not know the state of the laws and public opinion in your country concerning it. If you are legally permitted to teach methods of contraception to the masses of your people, then your program should call for the wide spreading of this knowledge. If there are religious or social prejudices against the use of contraception, you should certainly set out to oppose these. If it is simply ignorance which keeps your people from using this most important of all modern discoveries and social remedies, then you need a great campaign to spread the knowledge. Certainly, whatever else you may do, and however wise and benevolent may be your other efforts to help your people, you will accomplish absolutely nothing until you substitute quality for quantity in your racial production, and lift your people above those laws which govern the production of rabbits.

Please do not think that I am singling out the people of India for any special reprobation. The statements in this letter would apply equally well to the people of China, or Japan, or Italy or Great Britain or the United States of America. In our country it is only the propertied classes who practice Birth Control. The masses are kept in ignorance, mainly by the power of superstition. The only difference is that in Britain and America there are a few enlightened persons who see the problem clearly, and no one in our country would lay out a program of national reform without including the teaching of Birth Control. That is the reason for this letter.

California

UPTON SINCLAIR

A HEARTY FAREWELL

MY DEAR KITTY MARION

Many times I've stopped and bought a BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW from you at Macy's corner, then left it on a train seat or store counter, knowing full well that someone would find it and read it at home, or I've ridden in a Fifth Avenue bus holding it up for all to see while reading it — hoping to arouse someone's desire to buy a copy some time. Now you're going away and I shall miss you.

Many others will miss you, sincerely miss you, and I'm sure all of us are wishing you a happy rest in England. I've admired your courage to face the crowds and the smirks and the sneers and the rain and the winds every time I pass you.

I hope we may see you in New York again sometime. I'm tucking in a little valentine with every good wish for your happiness.

E K S

WITH A RENEWAL CHECK

TO THE EDITOR

Please renew my subscription for another year. The REVIEW is so excellent that I cannot afford to miss it. The Japanese viewpoint is certainly quite sane. India needs more of that too.

California

JOHANNA COZIER

A SUGGESTION FROM ENGLAND

TO THE EDITOR

I should like to tell you how we here in England appreciate very much the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

The REVIEW has one weak point, however You do not print enough description of the many methods of prevention * You have not sufficient articles on the point that the medical profession are against Birth Control because they would lose heavily Fewer confinements and fewer sickly babies mean more good health among the citizens and less cost for doctors and nurses I would suggest, also, that you run articles explaining the dangers of thousands of things used the month *after* conception The junk swallowed and the things done are ruining the health of thousands of women The REVIEW should emphasize the fact that criminal abortions go on, whether our opponents like it or not, and it is done with such ignorance that its results are ghastly The public has not yet realized that the Birth Control movement is strongly against abortion

I enjoy the mothers' letters, the accounts of Catholic activities, the articles on race improvement, etc

M E FRANK

London, England

**Our English subscriber probably does not realize that the law does not permit us to print or circulate descriptions of contraceptive methods*

STERILIZATION IN IOWA

TO THE EDITOR

It may interest your readers to know that the State of Iowa has a compulsory sterilization law, administered by a state board of eugenics, consisting of the Medical Director of the Psychopathic Hospital at the State Medical College, the Commissioner of Public health, and the Superintendents of seven specified state institutions This law was passed by the fortieth General Assembly in 1923

Each member of the board and the wardens of the penitentiary and the reformatory make quarterly reports of the names of persons whom they know to be feeble-minded, insane, syphilitic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates, or who are a menace to society

The purpose of the act is to secure a "betterment of the physical or mental condition of the person, to protect society from the acts of such

person, or from the menace of procreation by such person, and is not in any manner a punitive measure"

DR CORABELLE FOSTER

Des Moines, Iowa

THE LOOKER-ON DOESN'T SEE THE GAME

TO THE EDITOR

I have just found in the directory that your REVIEW existed and am writing to ask you to send it to me I am one of the victims of the ignorance of Birth Control I am 57 years old, have a wife and six children alive I left Ireland when I was 23 years old, went to South Africa, lived in Transvaal and Rhodesia until two years ago when I came to America Have had experience of Gold, Diamond, Copper, and Mica mining as well as hunting, prospecting, trading Speak about ten native lingoes, have had big money three times But perhaps my whole story may be interesting enough to sell, as it has been tragic to me

I may say both myself and my wife are Catholics, and as you know, the religion is opposed to Birth Control knowledge To my mind this is all bunk, in fact, I will go further and say that a celibate clergy know about as much about the question as a Wesleyan Methodist "Dry" does about Prohibition, in fact it is one of the cases where the looker-on does not see most of the game

Brooklyn, N Y

J J BOWLES

A VALUED SUPPORTER

TO THE EDITOR

It is with regret that I am compelled to pass the opportunity by for having your valuable paper in my home for another year It is only because I have not the money available that I am compelled to give it up now I have enjoyed every issue the past year and have received much inspiration and good from reading it I am enclosing some clippings from a local paper, *The Capitol Times*, which may reveal to some extent what the sentiment is in this locality

Since taking the REVIEW I have read a great deal from other sources on this subject Most of my reading has been books published by Haldeman-Julius Co of Girard, Kansas, especially Josephus McCabe, Havelock Ellis, and others

Two years ago Mrs Dora Russell, wife of Bertrand Russell, was scheduled here in Madison, at the University of Wisconsin, to speak on *Sex*, and the local priests and others raised such an uproar that the whole city became involved, and

she was denied a hall to speak in until the Unitarian Church finally let her have a lecture room. After obtaining permission to speak at the University she was denied it by President Frank after pressure was brought upon him, and the State Capitol was next secured, but the Governor was prevailed on to send a telegram closing the Capitol to her. The same thing happened at Labor Temple. Because it was an issue of free speech I became a sponsor for her lecture and afterward bought and read her book *The Right to be Happy* — this led to my subscription to the REVIEW.

I have a large family of eight children, all reared upon the farm until post-war deflation drove me, with thousands of other farmers, to the city where, of course, conditions have grown very little better for those of our class. These conditions have brought me face to face with the problems of Birth Control, and although personally I cannot now benefit much, yet I am interested deeply in doing all I can to spread the knowledge of sex and family limitation to my children and to everyone capable of receiving truth.

In the factory where I work I find it a pleasure to spread this sort of knowledge and am satisfied that your paper has helped me greatly in doing so.
Madison, Wisc F B H

MORE MOTHERS' LETTERS WANTED

TO THE EDITOR

Like so many other people I regret the discontinuance of the letters from the class we are trying especially to reach — they to my mind send Birth Control, its value, home to every reader's heart, making a greater and more lasting impression of its need than any or all of the arguments for it put together. My suggestion, which is upheld as you know by many, many others, is that every copy of the REVIEW should use at least six letters telling plainly the wretched tale of the women unhelped by Birth Control.

LINA IVES BRINTON

A VITAL PART OF THE FAMILY LITERATURE

TO THE EDITOR

Enclosed is my renewal for the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for the New Year. Your magazine is our magazine and is a source of inspiration and consolation, being a vital part of the family literature. I wish you and your staff a very successful year.
Zearing Iowa WALTER TILLMAN

Hail and Farewell!

By KITTY MARION

MANY are called, but few are chosen, and I consider it a great honor and privilege to have been a chosen instrument to bring the message of Birth Control to many thousands of people who would otherwise still not know of it. If I have helped to diminish unnecessary human suffering, I have received a very liberal education in return. What I have not learned about human nature from my work on the side-walks of New York is not worth learning. I have come to the conclusion that human nature is fundamentally good, but that depressive, oppressive and prohibitive training have warped, crippled and brutalized it to some degree in all of us.

Since the press has carried news of my trip to England, and of the testimonial luncheon given me by the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League, many strangers as well as old friends — including Catholics — have expressed their regret at my going, wished me good luck, and hoped to see me again. "If we don't meet in this world, I surely hope to see you in the next," said one woman. "This corner won't be the same when you are gone, I'll certainly miss you," said another. One of Macy's departmental heads told me the store felt it was losing an old friend. "I oughtn't to read this," said a charming young woman, "I'm a Catholic, but I do believe in Birth Control for those who can't support children properly." "I saw your picture in the paper. I thought you'd gone. Glad to get another look at you, and don't be gone too long," are a few of the hearty phrases of the last days.

Man does not live by bread alone, and all these friendly tributes are certainly food for my soul, which will sustain and uphold my faith in human nature wherever I may go.

While answering the call of old friends and old faiths, I want to thank all my friends on the streets here for their kindly help and encouragement, and all my would-be enemies for spurring me on to greater efforts by their opposition and abuse. And so, hail and farewell!

There is not a single item in the sex mores of a conventionally respectable American today which squares with either science or aesthetics.

HARRY ELMER BARNES

The Maternal Health Center, Newark, New Jersey

By HENRIETTE HART

IN May, 1928, the New Jersey Birth Control League saw its greatest hopes and main purpose realized when the Maternal Health Center opened. The clinic is functioning entirely separately from the League, which acts as Trustee, but takes no part in the policy and conduct of the clinic, this is entirely under the supervision, control and guidance of the Medical Committee on Maternal Health. The Secretary is the only link between the Lay and Medical group. The activities of the League are strictly educational and in no way medical. This sharp division of policy works well and has largely contributed to the building up of respect and confidence among the medical profession.

There are two factors which should be born in mind

- 1 That all data on the medical and sexual aspect of the cases are omitted. The report therefore cannot fully illustrate some of the most vital, scientific and dramatic phases of the work.
- 2 That to describe even a few of the numerous cases would be too long and perhaps too one-sided a process. Much of genuine appeal therefore is sacrificed, and this report cannot lay claim to being anything but a simple presentation of a few figures and facts.

The Maternal Health Center has been functioning 22 months. Its progress may be easily ascertained by the steadily increasing number of patients. In the first month 14 patients were admitted. Within six months the number doubled, increasing to an average of 50 new patients per month toward the end of the first year. At present our monthly average is 75 new patients. The number of clinic sessions has increased accordingly from one to five, with a clinic staff of three physicians and two nurses.

During the first year 510 patients were received, increasing to 880 during the next half year, exclusive of the large number of physical examinations and interviews given to patients, *refused treatment*, either for *no health reason*, suspected pregnancies, or because treatment was requested on purely economic grounds. The number of those requesting treatment is over one thousand.

The total number of treatments given at the clinic is 1,350. It is gratifying to find that 93 out of every hundred patients return for the technique-check-up-visit, which is necessary to ensure the success of the treatment.

The sources the patients come from are of interest. An analysis of the first 500 cases shows that

Hospitals referred	72 patients
Social welfare agencies	65 "
Physicians	85 "
<hr/>	
Total	222 "

In other words 44 per cent of our patients were referred by medical and social agencies, which is an extremely high rate, and indicates the confidence and support we have won. The other 278 patients came through the recommendation of friends and through the American Birth Control League and the New York clinic. Considering the large number referred by medical agencies and hospitals, it is small wonder that only 11 per cent can pay for the full cost of treatment and supplies.

The general economic status is low. Among the 500 families under consideration, 46 per cent have weekly incomes below \$35, including 11 families entirely supported by charitable organizations for a period of several years, and several families with incomes averaging \$20 — with 9 and 10 mouths to feed. These families represent trades of all kinds, the bulk belong to the unskilled labor classes. It logically follows that since most of our patients belong to the poorer classes, few have received an education beyond grammar school.

96 patients of the five hundred had had no schooling whatsoever.

219 attended grammar school, although the majority did not finish.

133 had gone to high school and 50 to college.

In regard to the racial and religious status of our patients, we find that the majority or 56 per cent are American born. Of the first 500 patients

290 were Protestants

175 Hebrew

135 Roman Catholics

In other words Roman Catholics represent 27 per cent, a percentage that increases to over 33 per cent if we include the Protestant women married to Roman Catholic men.

The average age of our women is above 30. However we have several mothers of 20 and under with

as many as five babies. A mother 35 years old, has nine living children and 4 dead. Another 35 years old, married at 14, has now 9 living children and confesses to 6 abortions. Weekly income averages \$25. A mother of twenty with four babies, now finds she has syphilis.

For the past six months we have done an intensive piece of research and follow-up work. We have kept in close touch with each case, either by correspondence or personal visit. A report on 108 patients, visited by our research worker, shows that none could claim that the method, if faithfully applied, had not been successful. There are patients, however, who are either too ignorant or slothful to apply our method, but such cause for disappointment is far outweighed by the hundreds of letters expressing gratitude for the help received.

The clinic is demonstrating its usefulness, beyond a doubt, and has won the support of the State, as evidenced by the active co-operation of 8 of the leading hospitals, 22 prominent social welfare agencies, and over 100 physicians.

Maternal Clinic, Philadelphia

We give here a verbatim quotation from the Philadelphia Record of January 22nd. This article is noteworthy both as a fair description of the work of the clinic and as an indication of the support of the press.

Birth Control is no longer an academic subject, but an accomplished fact, in Philadelphia and environs.

A clinic, supported by a group of widely-known physicians and welfare workers, has been disseminating Birth Control information for more than a year.

It was founded by the Maternal Health Committee. It is located in a suite of rooms in the McClatchy Building, Sixty-ninth and Market Streets, just across the Philadelphia city line in Delaware county.

Eighteen social service agencies of Philadelphia and vicinity and two public health nursing organizations are actively co-operating with the clinic.

Among its chief supporters is Dr. Jay F. Schamberg, president-elect of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. Dr. Schamberg is professor of dermatology at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

The Maternal Health Committee is headed by Dr. A. Lovett Dewees, attending physician to Bryn Mawr Hospital and secretary of the Main Line branch of the Montgomery County Medical Society. Other members are Mrs. Louis N. Robinson, Swarthmore, wife of the well-known penologist, Miss Anna W. Pennypacker, daughter of former Governor Pennypacker, Mrs. Jay F. Schamberg and Mrs. Stuart Mudd, wife of Dr. Mudd of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

The advisory committee is composed of Stevens Heckscher, Attorney David Wallerstein, Dr. Schamberg, Dr. Mudd, Dr. Joseph Stokes, Jr., of Germantown, Dr. H. M. Landis, famous tuberculosis specialist and professor of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. G. Victor Janvier, gynecologist of Philadelphia and Lansdowne.

Dr. Dewees, one of the founders of the clinic, discussed in general terms the purposes and the activities of the clinic, although he insisted its work is chiefly of interest to scientific circles and the medical profession.

WELFARE GROUPS SEND CASES

"Since opening our doors in 1928," Dr. Dewees said, "more than 200 patients have been received at the dispensary. Many of them were suffering with tuberculosis, marked anaemia, disease of heart or kidneys, persistent miscarriages, defective mentality and other forms of ill health."

He explained that the vast majority of the clinic patients were sent there by the 19 representative welfare organizations in Philadelphia.

"When you consider that the average family income of our patients is only \$28 a week," continued Dr. Dewees, "that the average number of pregnancies per family is five and that about half the patients have had miscarriages, you will realize the extent of the social problem confronting us."

"There came a real need for a maternal clinic."

The work of the clinic has included painstaking research and a careful follow-up of cases treated.

"We have demonstrated conclusively," Dr. Dewees resumed, "that in many of these families, the nervous, mental and physical health of both parents improved, in great measure, after the clinic had strongly advised against unwise practices."

The Maternal Health Clinic is altruistic in its aims. The type of patient advised and treated is comparable to the average case in the usual hospital dispensary. No charge is made, except in

cases where the patients obviously can afford to pay a nominal fee

Not only is a large group of welfare organizations co-operating actively with the clinic, but the work has been tacitly approved by two church federations

From the card indices at the clinic, Dr Dewees cited a number of cases which he said were typical of the patients

One woman, 31 years old, had been the mother of 11 children—an average of one child a year since her marriage. Five of her children had died and of the six living, three were mentally defective. The mother's own mentality was in danger

MOTHER 14 TIMES

One woman had been a mother 14 times in 14 years, with 11 of her children living, five of them "mild mental cases." That family had an income of \$15 a week

Another mother was trying to support a family of 11 children, three of them sickly, on a wage of \$18 a week

One mother of 10 children had developed tuberculosis

Other officials at the clinic pointed out that no patients are admitted to the dispensary for treatment or instruction, without a reference from a physician or a recognized social service agency. Appointments are invariably made in advance

Even in those cases patients are accepted only when their health is affected or threatened and only after a careful inquiry is made into the family's economic circumstances and history

A Delightful House

consisting of five bed rooms, two baths, sleeping porches, etc., and equipped with hot water supply, gas stove, electricity, garage and tennis court, on the shore of a small lake seven miles from Danbury, Conn., is offered as a summer home rent free to congenial people who will board owners over week ends from June 15th to September 15th. For further particulars apply to

MRS ROGER HOWSON

in care of the Birth Control Review

WANTED

December, 1929 issues. If any of our readers no longer need their December issue, we would appreciate its return

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CONTEST
CLOSES
APRIL 15TH
1930

Essay Contest *for* College Students

The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW offers a prize of
\$25.00

for the best essay on Birth Control submitted by a student enrolled in any college or university at the present time. The essay should not be longer than 1,500 words, should be simple and designed for the information of readers who know little or nothing of the Birth Control movement. It may discuss the subject from any point of view.

Suggestions:

Population pressure and Birth Control, race improvement, psychological factors, Birth Control as a health measure, social work and Birth Control, results of the spread of the movement, etc



Essays should be signed with the name, address and college of the writer, and should be sent to the Editor.

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW
152 Madison Ave. New York

A prize of \$25 will be awarded for the best essay. The Review will publish this essay in the June issue and will exercise the right to buy five non-prize winning essays at \$5 each for publication in subsequent issues.

The members of the Editorial Board of the Review will act as Judges.