

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Children of Choice, Not of Chance

Does Prolific Breeding Cause Crime?

By JUSTIN MILLER

A Prairie Marriage

A TRUE STORY

The Method of Evolution

By H. J. MULLER

Making Birth Control Respectable

By CLARA TAYLOR WARNE

Birth Control Review

V o L X I V

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Editorial

ON March 3rd the United States Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a decision reversing the conviction of Mary Ware Dennett by the Federal Court in Brooklyn last April for sending obscene matter through the mails. This admirable decision written by Judge Augustus N. Hand, and made unanimous by the concurrence of Judges Thomas Swan and Harrie B. Chase, not only frees Mrs. Dennett and permits her to send her pamphlet *The Sex Side of Life* through the mails, but it changes the theory of the obscenity statute by injecting the question of truth and sincerity. The decision says in part:

The defendant allowed some of her friends, both parents and young people, to read the manuscript which she had written for her own children and it finally came to the notice of the editor of the *Medical Review of Reviews*, who asked if he might read it, and afterwards published it. About a year afterwards she published the article herself at twenty-five cents a copy. Twenty-five thousand of the pamphlets seem to have been distributed in this way.

At the trial, the defendant sought to prove the cost of publication in order to show that there could have been no motive of gain on her part. She also offered to prove that she had received orders from the Union Theological Seminary, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, the Public Health Departments of the various states, and from no less than four hundred welfare and religious organizations, as well as from clergy and college professors, and that the pamphlet was in use in the public schools at Bronxville, N. Y.

The foregoing offers were rejected on the ground that the defendant's motive in distributing the pamphlet was irrelevant and that the only issues were whether she caused the pamphlet to be mailed and whether it was obscene.

But the important consideration in this case is not the correctness of the rulings of the trial judge as to the admissibility of evidence, but the mailing of an "obscene, lewd or lascivious pamphlet." It was for the trial court to determine whether the pamphlet could reasonably be thought to be of such a character before submitting any question of the violation of the statute to the jury.

The old theory that information about sex matters should be left to chance has greatly changed and, while there is still a difference of opinion as to just the kind of instruction which ought to be given, it is commonly thought in these days that much was lacking in the old mystery and reticence. This is evident from the current literature on the subject, particularly such pamphlets as *Sex Education*, issued by the Treasury Department, United States Public Health Service, in 1927.

The statute we have to construe was never thought to bar from the mails everything which might stimulate sex impulses. If so, much chaste poetry and fiction, as well as many useful medical works would be under the ban. Like everything else, this law must be construed reasonably with a view to the general objects aimed at. While there can be no doubt about its constitutionality, it must not be assumed to have been designed to interfere with serious instruction regarding sex matters unless the terms in which the information is conveyed are clearly indecent.

It may also reasonably be thought that accurate information, rather than mystery and curiosity, is better in the long run and is less likely to occasion lascivious thoughts than ignorance and anxiety. Perhaps instruction other than that which the defendant suggests would be better. That is a matter as to which there is bound to be a wide difference of opinion, but irrespective of this, we hold that an accurate exposition of the relevant facts of the sex side of life in decent language and in manifestly serious and disinterested spirit cannot ordinarily be regarded as obscene.

No case was made for submission to the jury and the judgment must therefore be reversed.

As a statement of the proper limitations of the obscenity law and as a recognition of the modern viewpoint on sex education this decision is epoch-making. We congratulate both Mrs. Dennett and the Court for having clarified an important issue.

WE PRINT in this issue two opinions on the place of propaganda in the Birth Control movement. It is, apparently, agreed that the early "soapbox" days of the "Cause" are over. How much still remains to be done must not be underestimated. Granted that Birth Control has begun to take a place in society,

granted that a movement so inherently right will proceed to some extent on its own momentum, let us not underestimate the necessity for crystallizing public opinion, for educating the timid, for organizing against the superorganized opponents of the movement. We welcome further discussion and suggestions as to the future tactics and scope of the work.

WHAT constitutes a majority? The experience of the American Birth Control League in the New York legislature this winter would lead us to conclude that a well organized minority can successfully function as a majority. From the opening of the Legislature until the middle of March, the League had a legislative representative in Albany, trying to get its bill introduced into the present session of the Legislature. This bill is to permit doctors to give contraceptive information to married persons. Approximately a dozen members were approached. In each case they were personally in favor of the bill. In each case, however — usually after a week-end visit to his constituency — the member changed his mind, and found himself unable to have anything to do with the Birth Control bill. Three were frank enough to say that they did not care to brave the Catholic political machine and lose the Catholic vote at the next election. The remainder made evasive excuses, assuring the League's representative of their personal interest.

One-third of the population of New York state is Catholic. To this extent we can gauge the number of the minority opposition to Birth Control. On the other hand, assuming that small polls indicate tendencies, the following facts are pertinent. In 1929, Dr. Ira Wile undertook for the League a poll of teachers of medicine in New York State medical schools. The result was 9 to 1 in favor of removing legal restrictions from Birth Control. In 1929, the Legislative Committee of the City Federation of Women's Clubs also undertook a poll of 5,000 doctors, chosen at random from the New York State medical directory. The result was 4 to 1 in favor of removing legal restrictions. Furthermore this bill is on the active program of the League

of Women Voters, has been endorsed by the City Federation of Women's Clubs, and thirty-six other civic and social organizations.

It is to be hoped that some organization, some magazine or newspaper will undertake a state-wide poll on this subject. Meanwhile, it does not seem an overstatement to say that a minority is ruling the State Legislature, not only by its votes, but by preventing the introduction and consideration of a bill which has the manifest endorsement of representative groups of citizens. *The New York Legislative Record and Index* from January 1 to March 8 shows that 1,650 bills were introduced at this session of the Legislature. It is difficult to imagine that they were all of so much greater moment to the welfare of the people of the State of New York than the proposed Birth Control bill, that the latter could not even be granted a hearing.

IT is a pleasure to announce the advent of *The New Freeman*, under the editorship of Suzanne La Follette. No one interested in freedom of thought and in fearless journalism can underestimate the contribution of *The Freeman* during its brilliant career. The first two issues of the new enterprise give every indication of upholding the same high standards.

THE old saying about not seeing the woods because of the trees was never truer than among workers for Birth Control. So involved are we in theories, in tactics and political activities that it is easy to lose sight of the fact that tragedies are occurring daily because of ignorance, because of secrecy, because knowledge may not be freely disseminated. We publish in this number an unsigned true story from Wyoming. Let any one who thinks the Birth Control cause is won read this poignant account of a life battered and bruised and almost destroyed for want of intelligent help.

MUSSOLINI has recently urged every woman in Italy to produce one baby a year for five years. This is pushing the stimulation of the birth-rate to the point of absurdity, and will, doubtless, have a fortunate reactionary effect.

The Method of Evolution*

By H J MULLER

DOUBTLESS most of my readers know the story — it is said to be largely fictitious — of Kaspar Hauser. According to this story there appeared one day on the streets of a town in Germany, about a century ago, a youth, half blinded by the light of day, bent and decrepit, practically unclothed, unable to talk, dazed and befuddled by the objects about him and the persons who crowded round. His origin was traced — so the story goes — to the cellar of a house, then abandoned by its owners, where for some unknown reason he had been kept since infancy, without companions, practically without care, his food being thrust in to him and no knowledge or hint of the outer world being allowed to reach him for some sixteen years. When the owners left he escaped, and was dumb-founded to discover the world. But he was not feeble-minded, he learned to talk, he learned the use of objects and the ways of people, and so, undertaking work and forming human associations, he became drawn into what for most men would be the ordinary stresses and cares of life. The tremendous change seems, however, to have overstrained the powers of adjustment of his cramped mind and body, and he lived a short, tragic life, capped by violent death.

This is a fitting allegory for describing the present situation of mankind — at least, the first portion of the story seems *a propos*, although we may hope that the ending will not be. Mankind to-day is in the position of Kaspar Hauser on his first emergence. For ages we have remained cooped up within blank walls of artificial construction, knowing of nothing beyond, behind, beneath, above, imagining at most another cell or two much like our own cell on the other side of the wall. Unexpectedly, however, through a combination of luck and a certain amount of scheming, we have managed to creep through a series of crevasses in the structure, and have gained a view for the first time of the brilliant real world outside. It stretches far beyond our reach, but is ours to roam.

The vastness of the amount of space and material

is but one aspect of this sudden expansion of our universe. The seemingly magical extension of matter inwards, discovering microcosmic realm within realm in the interior of all parts of all things, is another direction in which as yet unlimited vistas have opened. But in following our chosen topic we are concerned more with a third kind of removal of bounds, lying in the realization of the tremendous reaches of time behind and before us, as compared with our primitive conceptions of earth and life history, and in the realization of the immensities of change that have occurred, are occurring and will occur in that life, during periods of time such as we have evidence for. It is this which shakes our human composure, perhaps more than any other revelation of nature.

PROOF OF PLASTICITY ABUNDANT

The protracted reaches of time, with their long-drawn-out processes of transformation, now stare us plainly in the face. Go up the steps of the main building of our university and look beneath your feet the dead relics of fantastic creatures of the sea that crawled here many millions of years ago are obvious everywhere, ground off to serve as your footrests. Follow with the geologist and trace these changes and others grade by grade. Then delve into the history of your own body, as it unfolded its heritage from the egg, and note the dim rehearsal of past events that it seems so unnecessarily to go through, as by some ritual incantation recounted every generation anew. In your early stages *your* gill slits, *your* fish's heart, fish's brain and fish's circulation, then later *your* split lip, *your* pointed ear, *your* coat of body hair, *your* tail. And note the traces of these obsolete structures, in lower creatures so useful, even in your adult selves. Now accompany the breeder of plants and animals to his farm, and let him show his new and fancy varieties. Compare them also with the records of their ancestors and, if you can, deny the plasticity of protoplasm.

Is evolution "a fact"? Am I a fact? What is a fact? The philosopher says that he cannot say I am a fact, but that he knows *he* is a fact, and that that is all he knows for sure, but I am not sure he

*Excerpts from an article of the same title, originally delivered as a public lecture at the University of Texas, and published in the *Scientific Monthly*, December, 1929.

knows that much. However, I will not dispute it with him. He and I and evolution may all be a hoax, but I think we have enough evidence to convince us that we will all have to stand or fall as hoaxes together. And that is enough to satisfy me, at the present stage of the game. If I am a hoax, you may be sure then there is no evolution, and if evolution is a hoax you may be sure there is no me, but if either evolution or I exist, then you need not doubt that the other exists too, and by the same token.

It ill befits us, however, to remain wrangling over such abstractions when we stand confronted with the view of a great hitherto unknown world of which we form a part. Admitting, for purposes of living, the reality of this world of ours, we must forthwith bestir ourselves to find out its possibilities and the rules which govern its activities. Even though we may be but as little motes drifting helplessly in its great currents, still we cannot keep our self-respect as men without striving to understand its operations, and, if possible, to make at least some little impression upon them. What, then, are the methods of operation of these great evolutionary processes in which all life has been caught?

THE QUARREL OVER THE CAUSATIVE AGENT

It is here that the real doubt and divergence of opinion among the so-called "experts" has been supposed to exist. "Darwinism is dead," it is sometimes parroted, and though Kammerer died tragically by his own hand, the hypothesis of the inheritance of acquired characters which he among others advocated is claimed to have plausibility. Many, if not most, medical men still believe in it, but some philosophers prefer evolution through a kind of inner drive — "orthogenesis", still others who make themselves heard believe that instead, or in addition, there is a direct influence of the kind of environment upon the kind of variations that occur, with the result that fitter and fitter, or occasionally, less and less fit, organisms are brought into being. To "explain" the fortunate adaptive responsiveness on the part of the organism, the guesses range from an internal, rather short-sighted, cell-intelligence, the "entelleche", to an external, far-visioned perfecting principle.

Amongst the various voices — so our students have to learn from some contemporary texts — there are also to be heard the voices of "neo-Darwinians," who arrive at a finite end by an almost infinite number of steps, or slides, back and forth,

of almost zero individual magnitude, the backslides, however, being each time discontinued. And opposed to these, it is often stated, are the voices of different kinds of "mutationists". Some of the latter would have one adapted species change directly into a differently adapted species by just doing so, others would have each more advanced type emerge out of the more primitive type by losing an inhibition. Then, too, there are the voices of those claimants who say that new products arise only by the crossing of preexisting types, followed by the formation of a combination type representing certain elements from each of the old. It is not explained here whether the second species arose by crossing between the first and third or whether the third species arose by crossing between the first and second, or both. Altogether, you see, this is not a process of a species raising itself by its bootstraps — not so crude. Here *A* lifts *B*'s bootstraps, and *B* lifts *A*'s, onward and upward forever!

After such a maze of opinions, of which these form only a part, the slate is left pretty blank (or rather, evenly scrawled over) for the teacher, the student or the outsider to write in, large, his own personal beliefs. Among these, there is one belief which is especially common. It starts out by stating that every effect has its cause, and a definite effect has a definite cause, and goes on to say that therefore it is only reasonable to suppose that a definite kind of variation, or difference arising between an offspring and its parent, must have been due to some definite condition or quality of stimulus, within or surrounding that parent, whether we can at present trace it or not. A repetition of this condition then would bring forth a similar variation again. In some quarters it is added further that such causation must therefore tend in itself to explain the course of evolution. This in turn would seem to circumvent the necessity of invoking "natural selection" to do more than help out in a secondary and occasional fashion. For, it is often said, it feels "*philosophically unsatisfying*" to believe that all the order and organization of living things could have come about through such a chance process as natural selection admittedly is.

REAL DATA NECESSARY

It is evident that a real decision of the questions at issue can be reached only on the basis of real data regarding the nature of those differences which distinguish one generation of individuals

from its predecessors, and which they in turn tend to transmit as a heritage to their descendants. That is, we must not remain content to view evolution from afar, but must view close up, as through a microscope, the transitions now occurring out of which the evolutionary story is pieced together. The science which essays this study is called "genetics."

Dr. Muller proceeds to a consideration of Genetic Principles for the Non-biologist, the Randomness of Mutations, X-rays a Cause of Mutations, Similarity of the X-ray to the Natural Mutations, The Nature and Significance of the Genetic Effect of Radiation, The Role of Multiplication and of Selection in Turning Accident into Order. He concludes

THE TASK AHEAD

The real problems of the generation of new living things are only commencing to open up. The occurrence of variations, although "accidental" in the sense just explained, nevertheless is subject to a mechanism our knowledge of which is as yet in its most elementary stage. Moreover, the biologist of broader view is not so well satisfied with his own frame. He knows that there never has been any one objective in the course of evolution, and that every creature, including man, is only on probation, and may give way before another in which a more advantageous succession of mutations happens to come along. The vast majority of species, in fact, have perished along the way, and only a relatively few survive, through change, to form the continuing threads of life that branch out again.

Man, however, is now the first creature in the world to have this advantage — he has reached some understanding of this process of evolution in

which he has hitherto been caught and blown about, and with understanding there frequently comes some measure of control. He can now produce mutations for the first time, and I have no doubt he will soon experiment with this knowledge and in time by its means greatly improve and alter the forms and functionings of those domestic animals and plants which he has taken under his care. Look at the motley shapes of flies that have been made in the laboratory, and you may more readily appreciate the possibilities thus presented.

Despite these advantages, we are to-day almost as far as ever from producing to order the exact mutations which we want. Enough, for the plants and animals, simply to produce a great many mutations and then take our choice, as nature has done in a far slower and more halting fashion. But the research must go on. Man must eventually take his own fate into his own hands, biologically as well as otherwise, and not be content to remain, in his most essential respect, the catspaw of natural forces, to be fashioned, played with and cast aside.

If we have had a billion years of evolution behind us, and have advanced from something like an ameba to something like a man, then, in the many millions of years which are still in store for our world, why may we not be able to make a further great advance, perhaps far greater even than this, because under our own increasingly intelligent guidance? At least, if we are men as we like to think of men, challenging all things, we must make the attempt, and die fighting if need be, with our eyes open.

NO PROGRESS WITHOUT VARIATION

In the swamp the tendency is steadily toward rank growth. To be sure, the swamp may produce orchids — the most beautiful and fragile and delicate bloom known. Our slums are like that — breeding crime and disease, over-crowded, producing unfortunate and unfit, and yet occasionally giving us a great musician, a great actress, or a great merchant because the densely populated area has good blood and good heredity here and there in it and because the conditions are exotic and the strong individuals produce strong mentalities, strengthened and enriched by the very force of the pressure about them. Neither the jungle nor the slum is desirable, and some day we will do away with both, as we are gradually doing away with our

own swamps in the South, until that time comes we must be content with the occasional orchid of genius who is the fruit of that environment.

Plants must have elbow-room, and when we give it to them they improve and grow strong. When a man is crowded down to a bare subsistence and pushed upon on all sides by necessity, by competition, by economic demands, he has little chance for growth. He cannot even grow up to the measure of his possibilities, he becomes more and more like all his fellows. There is no chance for variation — that is as clear as daylight — and without variation there is no progress and without progress there soon begins to be retrogression.

LUTHER BURBANK

A Prairie Marriage

A woman's losing struggle with ignorance and isolation

I WAS married only two months when I discovered that I was pregnant. Well, I didn't want to be, but what was I to do about it? I soon decided that it was all right. Wasn't I going to have three children and why not start now? But I hadn't planned to have a baby until we had a home instead of a tent on a wind swept prairie. We had no funds, no water, and the hot Wyoming sun blistering down on that tent, the white glare. Sleepless nights, days of nausea, canned food and craving for a cool drink of water, and not another soul in miles and miles to talk to. But I was only twenty then, and I was looking forward to the time when I wouldn't be so lonely and sick — to the time when I would have my baby to play with. If I hadn't been able to convince myself that all this suffering was worth it I would either have gone mad or died. Finally it was time for me to take the railway journey to the town where there was a hospital, and the morning arrived when I was wakened by pain. Twenty-seven hours of it, and after I was back in my room I learned the baby had not lived. For just a few minutes the nurse let him lie in my arms and he was gone. Heartache, disappointment, misery!

Back again to the shack on the prairie and in less than three months pregnant again. Still no home, no funds, no nothing. I couldn't convince myself that it was all right this time, and that I wanted it to be so. For seven months I fought against it, I didn't want the baby — the layette prepared for the first one would do — guess he was going to die too — so what difference did it make. The same pain, nausea, the blinding headaches, the same hot sun, debts and loneliness. Finally the baby arrived, but I didn't experience any thrill when they brought him to me, just relief. I was too tired to think or care or even rest.

Of course I was young enough to make a quick recovery, and soon thought he was the grandest baby that ever lived. For a fact, he was about as puny and sickly as a baby could be. Ten months later, pregnant again. But this time I didn't mind. We were living in a little village and getting along. Somehow I got through my pregnancy and confinement pretty well, but I decided I'd had the

three I planned for and there weren't going to be any more.

I consulted two doctors about how to avoid pregnancy but they couldn't help me. When I became pregnant again, I had an abortion. Had four of these and lived in constant fear of pregnancy. Came an afternoon when I visited my sister-in-law who was sick. A neighbor told me she had had an abortion. I called the doctor. I stayed with her through two days of agony and was with her when she died. She left three babies, one nine months old, a two year-old and a three year-old. Then I decided there weren't going to be any more abortions for me. How to prevent them? Abstinence, of course.

I don't advise any married couple to try it. Our married life hadn't been a path of roses anyway, but it grew steadily worse. *He* would leave immediately after supper and not come home till the small hours, night after night. I couldn't go visiting, had the babies to stay with, even though they were asleep. I wanted my husband home with me and when he was there I was afraid to have him touch me. We were again in debt. Quite by chance I earned \$20 doing some typing and since I was a capable stenographer I thought I'd earn some money. So I found work, hired a young girl to take care of the children. When I would leave the house *he* would look on my every movement with jealousy and suspicion, and from then on things went from bad to worse, until we wound up in the divorce court. One more marriage gone on the rocks, another home broken up, and two more children to be brought up by an estranged couple.

I wonder what our life would have been like had we had knowledge of Birth Control. Oh, we had great plans for our marriage, our home, our babies. We weren't going to be like other married folks, and we most certainly were never going to quarrel. To make sure of it on our wedding night we decided if ever we should disagree we wouldn't go to sleep until we kissed and made up. But that doesn't work, nothing works when a wife is afraid to be a wife, but how could I help it? If I had known *how* to be a wife and mother, the lives of all of us would have been different.

Does Prolific Breeding Cause Crime?

By JUSTIN MILLER

LET us start with a normal young man and a normal young woman of average intelligence, whatever that may be. Let us assume that they have grown up under fairly satisfactory home conditions and have become thoroughly imbued with the normal standards of home and family and community life. They have been regular church members and have secured proper moral and religious training, are grammar school and secondary school graduates and have received the training which is customary in those schools. After the man has gotten a job, they get married and make a brave start toward the establishment and maintenance of home life and the perpetuation of the institution of the family.

We may begin with the assumption that the young man's salary will not be sufficient to provide all that he or his wife may desire. The standards of living which he has been taught in school and the standards of wants which he and she have established by reason of their associations with others in the community in which they have lived cannot possibly be provided out of his beginning earnings. The young people will live below par during their early years, getting their start. Let us assume that they willingly undertake this obligation and begin honestly to play the part which society has dictated that they shall play. During the first few months they learn to make the monthly pay check take care of the rent, clothing, the necessary food for the family and a reasonable minimum for amusement and enjoyment. Perhaps what they have brought with them into married life, coupled with presents more or less generous given to them by their parents and friends, may help them on their way. Little or no provision is made in their thinking for extraordinary costs, such as those occasioned by unexpected illness or accident or by unexpected development of dental trouble and other causes of domestic financial difficulties.

After a year or two a baby arrives upon the scene. The cost of bringing babies into the world has increased so tremendously during the last few years that only the very rich or the very poor can

afford to have them. For the average family the advent of a baby may mean borrowing in order to cover the emergency. It requires additional outlay for clothing, for food, for nurse and medical attention, and at best it puts a strain upon the income which was not fully appreciated by our young hero and heroine. In case complications of any kind ensue either for the mother or child, they are plunged even further into distress.

Let us hurry on with the birth of our children to a point where we may come properly within the descriptive title of my address, that of prolific breeding. Let us assume that the family arrives at the point of three or four or five children. That would be regarded as a normal average a few generations ago. Or, to make the problem more difficult, let us assume that the number of children becomes six, or eight, or ten, which was not at all unusual in the days of our parents and grand-parents. What happens to our young people then? Of course, by that time the struggle has become so severe that they do not pretend to live up to the standards which they originally set for themselves.

A CATALOGUE OF CRIME

One of the first things which is thought of, of course, is a way in which to avoid having more children, or to dispose of those already present. In the absence of knowledge of methods of contraception the more drastic measures of abortion, self induced, are sometimes adopted. This is a crime. Perhaps this is the first crime we should list, as being one of a secret character, one which does not come into open conflict with the rest of the world, which promises more or less safety from observation by interested outsiders and by arbitrary law enforcement officials. A very closely related offense is that of child murder, the killing of a new-born child. This is equally an offense and while in some jurisdictions such as Italy, consideration is given to a mother who within a few hours of the birth of a child, kills it, in this country it is regarded in the same classification as a premeditated, cold-blooded taking of the life of another person by an adult in the full possession of normal faculties.

The assumption of the burden of maintaining a

*An address delivered at the Western States Conference on Birth Control and Population Problems. Space considerations have necessitated some shortening.

home and the family may involve breaches of the law in addition to those directly related with reducing the number of children which I have just discussed. It may take the form of a struggle against the society which has imposed such severe conditions. One of the first breaches which is apt to take place is that of embezzlement. For the man who is employed in a position where he can embezzle money or goods, this is a temptation frequently impossible to avoid. Even those in more or less responsible positions respond to this urge and there seems to be an increasing amount of crime of this character.

Closely related to the crime of embezzlement is that of larceny which involves not a taking of property under the control of the employee, but a taking from the possession of another, usually a secret crime and largely of the same character as that of embezzlement. The same conditions which provide the temptation for embezzlement obtain also in the case of larceny. It is not necessary to repeat the conditions which make it more or less inevitable or to mention again the standards of living and the conditions of community life which make the temptation too great for the man with a large family of children, a large number of mouths to feed and bodies to clothe.

Another crime of the same character which falls under this classification is that of burglary. Burglary is one of the most easily committed crimes which we have. The possibilities are obvious. The hungry parent, or the parent with a hungry child or with a child who needs clothing, can very easily bring himself to the commission of this crime if it be necessary in order to save himself or a member of his family. During period of unemployment, especially during severe winter periods, these crimes against property—larceny, embezzlement and burglary, rapidly increase, and then fall off again when the period of good weather and employment begins. For the man and woman with a large group of small children, the temptation is, of course, increasingly great, and where starvation is the other alternative, it is not hard to account for the increase in the number of crimes of this kind committed.

It is necessary to take only one further step to arrive at the crime of robbery which means the forcible taking from the person of another of personal property. This brings us the large group of highway robberies, holdups, thuggery, etc. which

is common during periods of unemployment in every large city community and to a certain extent in smaller communities. Of course this crime is closely allied with murder, as is also the crime of burglary in some of its phases where it involves the entry of a dwelling house, especially in the night time. If the person who is attempting to commit the burglary or the robbery is thwarted in his effort by the unexpected appearance of a person or by unexpected resistance, then a killing may result, and the most serious crime in the whole category may be placed against a person who in desperation in his effort to maintain his family which has resulted from prolific breeding, may find himself at the head of the list of those who commit crime.

AVOIDANCE OF DUTY AND ITS RESULTS

The discussion which has preceded this point has been based upon the assumption that the parents of the children have assumed the burden which has come to them as the result of prolific breeding, and have struggled against an increase in that burden or have struggled against society in anti-social ways in order to attempt to equalize the burden. Our next problem is that of methods of attempts to *avoid* the burden, and first, I shall speak of methods of avoidance used at the expense of the children themselves. Of course the easiest crime to commit in this category is the failure to provide the child with the necessary food, clothing or medical attention. This is an offense which is very common in large family groups. Along with this goes the violation of school laws, keeping children away from school to work, the selling and apprenticing of children into dangerous occupations or for immoral purposes, and the employment of children in such work as involves their going to immoral places as messengers or otherwise. All of these offenses are defined and punished as crimes and of course most frequently arise out of family situations in which there are too many children for the parents to keep them under control or supervision.

The attempt to avoid the burden which results from prolific breeding is sometimes expressed in terms of efforts to get out from under the burden and this involves, of course, what is sometimes referred to as the poor man's divorce, desertion and abandonment. The abandonment of a minor and the desertion of a wife are both crimes, very commonly committed.

With desertion and abandonment, of course, come the break-up of the home and the disintegration of

the family This sort of moral shock is disastrous in its effect upon each member of the family group Let us consider what the husband's possibilities are in the field of crime In the first place, the man who has broken away from family restraints no longer has a place in the community and is not bound by the usual conventions of life or of society Frequently he becomes an outlaw He may be merely a hobo, a tramp, violating the law in minor ways such as vagrancy Perhaps he may become a more vicious character, venting his spleen against a society which has been too hard for him by committing any sort of crime which may come into his way The temptations which arise to commit anti-social acts when restraints have been removed, are greatly intensified So far as the sex life of the husband is concerned, he is soon plunged into the temptations of a large number of offenses in order to gratify his passions He may indulge in rape, either the old common-law rape by force, or statutory rape upon younger girls He may indulge in incest upon members of his family He may commit crimes against nature of all sorts and varieties, unnatural crimes which are known to prevail widely among the group of disintegrated humanity which has broken away from the normal restraints of society He may satisfy himself by seducing girls with promise of marriage without any expectation of marrying them He may commit sex crimes against children, a number of which are defined now by the statutes of each of the states Or, he may go about from place to place marrying women and abandoning them with the advent of childbirth This, of course is the crime of bigamy or polygamy as it is defined in some states

WOMEN ALSO SUCCUMB

For the wife, the same possibilities open She is presented not merely with the problem of taking care of herself, but with the problem of taking care of her children and for this purpose she may marry another although her husband is still living and be guilty of bigamy She may indulge in the crime of adultery and participate promiscuously with other men who will provide her with the necessities of life Of course the lowest depth to which a woman in such a position can fall and no doubt often does fall, is that of prostitution Those portions of our cities which specialize in vice are full of derelicts of this kind, the product of the broken home and of the too great pressure put

upon women under present-day conditions of life as a result of the burden of prolific breeding

This portion of my picture then is complete I have taken a normal, healthy, happy boy through a phase of life which has made him a derelict tramping the highways, an occasional laborer, a potential criminal, perhaps off and on serving time in penitentiaries or jails, and being kicked about from county to county as a vagrant I have brought the woman to the position of a prostitute dropping steadily lower and lower in the social scale and less able to maintain any sort of decent self-respect

THE NEXT GENERATION

Now let us look at the other side of the picture Let us take the second step in the development of civilization which results from this sort of problem, and consider what happens to the children They are the parents of the next generation or they should be They are the ones in whose hands is placed the preservation for civilization of the institution of home and family

Can we expect normal children, normal men and women, normal husbands and wives to come out of the conditions of life which I have just pictured? Can they start out with even the honest intentions and good will which were possessed by their parents? Obviously not

What happens to the child in such a home? What happens to that moral fiber which is necessary as a resistant to crime? Improperly fed, improperly clothed, improperly cared for, hungry, cold, starved mentally and morally, we cannot wonder that such homes produce ill-adjusted and delinquent juveniles They are, from the beginning, in the group of "dependent" children described by our Juvenile Court Acts Without any positive action upon their part, they have already become a charge upon the public and subject to control and treatment by the court Perhaps they may be taken from such a home in order to avoid further contamination If so, the home ties are broken, such controls as existed are gone, and unless the children are properly handled in the institutions in which they may be placed, or in the foster homes to which they may be sent, the results may be even worse than if they had been allowed to live under the squalid conditions from which they were taken If they be allowed to continue to live in such homes, they are the victims of the evil practices of the adults with whom they are living All social workers, all who

(Continued on page 125)

Propaganda and Social Evolution

By FRANK H HANKINS

IT IS an interesting question whether and to what extent propaganda is effective. By this much abused word, I take it, are meant the efforts of a minority of any social group supporting a

change in custom or law to convert themselves into a majority by changing the opinions of the indifferent and unbelieving. It takes all the forms whereby it is believed opinions may be altered. Our war experiences gave such activities a somewhat sinister connotation in popular thought, but this is by no means deserved. The same means are necessarily adopted by both good and bad causes, and one cannot tell in the light of traditional prejudices or other emotional complexes, whether a cause is good or bad in any final sense. Only the social sequel can evaluate it. Now since every cause must have publicity, it may seem obvious that propaganda must be effective.

But as one looks back over a long list of lost causes, nothing is more obvious than that an enormous amount of vigorous agitation has seemed to accomplish little or nothing at all. Great enthusiasm, feelings of righteous crusading, heroic leadership, and material resources have all proven futile over and over again. At other times a new movement gathers momentum rapidly and swings forward to a relatively easy success. American history is full of lost causes, such as the Greenback, Rag Money, Granger, and Anti-Trust movements, the Free-Silver agitation, and the pre-war Socialist propaganda. All these are now sunk almost without a trace, except the last, which is floundering about weakly on three legs with no program except opportunism. The progress of events put all the cheap money programs on the shelf, reversed completely the anti-railroad consolidated attitude of the 80's, and so encouraged financial and industrial combinations as to make Roosevelt's trust-busting hysteria look like the demagogic gyrations of a political Don Quixote.

Success in propaganda is obviously dependent on many factors. Of these the most important would seem to be harmony between the new movement and the general cultural trend. Movements

Dr. Hankins and Canon Prichard, expressing divergent points of view, continue the discussion of propaganda begun by Mary Winsor and Dr. C. C. Little

running contrary to underlying currents of social evolution are almost certain to be defeated. Movements requiring some alteration in traditional religious and moral attitudes are likely to gain

ground slowly, as these are phases of culture more difficult to change than the political or the economic. Nevertheless we are witnessing a slow but thorough and inevitable transformation of even the most sacred myths, taboos and mores by the irresistible influences of science and industry.

The recent successes of the Birth Control movement are an adequate guarantee of its harmony with the spirit of the times. Opposition to it occupies a position very close to the holiest part of our most hoary traditions. Yet the movement has made astonishing strides — clear proof that it has the aid of powerful social allies in the *Zeitgeist*. Birth Control has become an integrated part of the domestic institutions of the upper layers of society. With the passing of another generation it will be found diffused throughout the whole population. Until that time propaganda will still be a necessary means of education and conversion. The struggle in the political sphere has only fairly begun, and legalization is an essential step toward the formulation of a rational scheme of sex ethics, familial institutions, and population policy. The open support of the medical profession is likewise dependent in part on the continuance of effective publicity.

At the same time, Birth Control strikes so deeply into the foundations of our whole scheme of institutionalized relationships that it now needs above all things a clearer understanding of its own significance. It can only learn this through researches relating to the declining birth-rate, the small family, marital relations, and, in fact, the whole set of questions relating to sex, woman and the family growing out of the decline of patriarchal institutions and the rise of an urban civilization. The crusading era of the movement has been necessary to destroy its taboo character and bring it into the realm of the reasonable. The approaching era will be one of research and synthesis.

Propaganda — As I See It

By H ADYE PRICHARD

IN all propaganda the essential question to be borne in mind is the particular section of humanity which it is intended the propaganda shall influence. One does not aim to teach the miserly habits of thrift — but a proper generosity, nor to persuade the careless that recklessness is a virtue.

Whom, then, are we trying to assist and educate by our Birth Control publicity? Not, we should assume, the unmarried, who might be tempted to make illegal and immoral use of contraceptive information — not the healthy parents of healthy children, enjoying enough of this world's goods to insure adequate education and support for an increasing family — not, except for purely vicarious reasons, women who have passed beyond the child bearing age, or men who have no more than an academic interest in the whole subject. Let us decide the scope of our propaganda first, and then it will be easier to formulate the means.

My only personal interest in the Birth Control movement is the necessity of limiting or entirely suppressing the families of married people who, because of disease, hopeless poverty, mental deficiency, moral degeneracy, or other similar causes, cannot be expected to produce children — or more children — who will be anything but a burden to the public or a menace to spiritual or material progress. Such married couples are far more numerous than most unobservant judges are liable to estimate. Even in our small country towns — even in our villages — there is a considerable element of the population without which the state of society would, quite frankly speaking, be improved. There is no question of personal discrimination, but there is a question of public responsibility and expediency.

If these various classes are accurately described above, or if the general field has in any way been indicated, there remains the problem of bringing the force of propaganda to work in such a way that contraceptive information may reach their hands, and not the hands of those for whom it is not intended. And, that this may be done, there is need for a great deal of personal and individual work. Appeals should be made to the humanitarian and

social sympathies of doctors, ministers, social service workers and public school teachers, for, by virtue of their different professions and callings, they are the ones most likely to know the inner lives and tendencies and opportunities of the families of the *submerged tenth*. If the interest of these men and women can really be aroused, and the magnitude and meaning of the problem duly impressed upon them, a body of enlightened opinion in the most strategic quarter of all can gradually be formed, and general public opinion is bound, in time, to follow.

In other words, propaganda, as I see it, should not at present be too widely broadcast. But it should be impressively and increasingly directed at those who, by their special profession and opportunity, may be presumed to be in the fullest touch with the importance of the situation. With the present state of general feeling in mind, this writer would give to the propagandists the advice to go slowly and selectively, remembering that the mass of people are as yet unconvinced, and can only be convinced by experts.

A nation's first and last responsibility is the welfare of its children. Those children who have neither health or happiness, who were born in ill smelling, sunless tenements, whose hunger drove them early to the sweat shops and mills and mines — those children, who in body and soul have become dwarfed and misshapen, are not fit citizens for a republic. They are at once a danger and a reproach.

Our immigration laws do not permit the weak and unfit to come into our country, but a singular change of sentiment occurs when mothers wish to restrict another kind of immigration, far wider and more fateful.

HELEN KELLER in *Midstream*

Until Birth Control is recognized as a necessary social prophylactic by public health officials and family welfare organizations, well-intentioned philanthropy and social service is nothing but a brutal gesture to posterity.

EDWARD M. EAST

Making Birth Control Respectable

By CLARA TAYLOR WARNE

The first director of the Mothers' Clinic of Los Angeles describes its background, inception and some of its far-reaching results

THE MOTHERS' CLINIC of Los Angeles opened April 1st, 1925, according to announced schedule, housed in two rooms in a downtown office building. Three clinics weekly were to be held, staffed by women physicians of standing in the city. Dr. H. G. Brainerd was the medical director, and some half dozen prominent specialists constituted the consulting staff. The purpose of the clinic was to instruct women in methods of preventing conception. It was specifically decided, inasmuch as this was to be a pioneering and test venture, that such instructions were to be given only for therapeutic purposes, and not for economic or social reasons.

The next step was to secure patients. Advertising "any medicine or means for the prevention of conception" is barred by the California law. Personal contact was therefore made by the clinic director with all social and public health agencies. The clinic and its proposed work were discussed before various local professional organizations and before the prominent women's clubs. The social agencies and public health organizations promptly started to refer patients, as did private physicians. Women who had been instructed sent their friends and neighbors. And so the work grew. All this is amply recorded in the annual reports of the Mothers' Clinic Association.

THE BACKGROUND

It should be of interest to discuss the background of this project. Remote perhaps, but still important, was the effect of the women's rights movement, and of the Neo-Malthusians, the agitation of Margaret Sanger and the American Birth Control League, the capable personal instruction and writing of Dr. Antoinette Konikow of Boston, the teaching and agitation of Dr. Rachelle Yarros of Chicago, and the experimental work of the Washington University (St. Louis) Obstetrical Department.

Following Margaret Sanger's visit to the coast in 1916, considerable activity developed. A Birth Control League was organized in San Francisco

and the bay district, which conducted a campaign before the 1916-1917 California Legislature to obtain the repeal of existing laws with reference to Birth Control. Certain Southern California individuals assisted in this. The effort was fruitless, and the subsequent war period entirely eclipsed and prevented further agitation.

New action came at a successful meeting held at the Yosemite Valley session of the California Conference of Social Work in 1923. Hastily called and entirely unprogrammed, this meeting was well attended. Presided over by Dr. Martin A. Meyer, well known Rabbi of San Francisco, its speakers included Dr. William Ogburn, of Columbia University, Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Secretary of the California State Board of Health, and a number of others. A resolution was introduced and carried at one of the regular sessions to have Birth Control placed on the program for the next conference.

A few months later, at the annual meeting of the California State Medical Association, the retiring President, Dr. H. G. Brainerd, in his presidential address, came out vigorously in favor of Birth Control as part of a eugenic and public health program.

It was next suggested that a clinic be opened in Los Angeles to teach contraception for therapeutic purposes. An opinion of the State Attorney General and independent legal advice indicated that there was no law in California against *teaching* Birth Control. The sole prohibition was against *advertising*, as indicated above. Dr. Brainerd and other local leaders endorsed the project, and promised their support. This was during the latter part of 1923.

In May, 1924, at the Long Beach session of the California Conference of Social Work, one of the regular conference luncheons was allotted to the discussion of Birth Control. This meeting attracted by far the largest luncheon attendance at the conference. A resolution was presented requesting that the conference endorse the establishment of a clinic for therapeutic purposes. Though this resolution passed the Resolutions Committee, it

was opposed by certain conference members, on the ground that the Catholic members had not had an adequate opportunity to present arguments against Birth Control. It was finally decided that the resolution be laid over, and that a debate be arranged at the 1925 session, where both sides of the question could be fully discussed. The principal speaker of the conference, Dr. Edward T. Devine, of New York, stated that he regretted that action on such an important resolution should be deferred, and that he hoped those interested would go ahead so that such a clinic would be functioning long before 1925.

THE CLINIC OPENS

Dr. Devine's hopes were to be fulfilled. In September, 1924, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Birth Control League was organized. The purpose of the group, as generally expressed, was to open a clinic. Officers were elected and a Clinic Committee was appointed which immediately started to function. Dr. Brainerd accepted the presidency of the organization.

In February, 1925, the clinic committee reported that they had found a suitable location and recommended the immediate opening of a clinic. The writer was selected as clinic director, and Dr. Brainerd, as medical director, undertook to organize a staff. Space will not permit more than a listing of those jointly interested in this pioneering venture. They were Dr. H. G. Brainerd, Dr. Aaron J. Rosanoff, Dr. Jennie Spencer, Dr. Olga McNeille, Dr. T. Percival Gerson, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, Dr. Miriam Van Waters, Miss Theresa Levy, Mrs. Edith Bjorkman, and the writer.

These persons, with their varied points of view, all agreed upon the necessity and propriety of a clinic to function as a respectable public health institution in the city of Los Angeles. They were jointly willing to pool their time and efforts for its success. They had effectively done things in their own several lines and believed in the success of a clinic to be formed and operated as suggested.

And so, Birth Control became respectable. Under the sanction of such patronage, the clinic was able to operate without question from any source. The City Health Commissioner gave instructions to the clinical physicians and nursing division to refer all cases properly requiring contraceptive instruction to the Mothers' Clinic. The Superintendent of the County Charities directed his workers to follow

the same procedure. The Mothers' Clinic became an integral part of the respectable medical public health work in the community.

Something should be said about the clinic's offspring. As soon as it was firmly established that such a clinic could function well within the law, other persons and groups became interested in spreading the work. One of the first of the clinical staff made use of her training in the clinic, and as a staff doctor of the Los Angeles County Health Department, organized Mothers' Clinics which function at seven of the health centers maintained by the department. The Pasadena Dispensary operates a Mothers' Clinic for its patients.

The movement spread throughout the state. In San Diego a group secured the inauguration in the County Hospital Clinic of the teaching of contraceptive methods. In Oakland and Berkeley, there were two health centers which tried instructing their patients. This proved unsatisfactory, and in March 1929, under the capable leadership of Dr. Ann Martin, the local Birth Control League together with physicians, public health and social workers, organized and opened a Mothers' Health Clinic which instructs only in contraceptive methods. Directly as a result of seeing the operation of the Oakland Clinic, the Alameda City Health Center, in an adjoining municipality, inaugurated the policy of instructing their patients.

If further proof of respectability were needed, it came with the endorsement of Dr. Adelaide Brown of San Francisco. For years a member of the State Board of Health, she had long been active in maternity work. At the National Conference of Social Work, held in San Francisco in June, 1929, Dr. Brown announced that she was operating two clinics in San Francisco. These, she said, had the active support of the most conservative of groups, the American Association of University Women, and the Stanford University Medical School staff. She stated also, that instruction *should* be given, and that in her clinics it *is* given, not only upon medical findings, but also where social and economic conditions demand it.

Like other one-time radical causes, the teaching of Birth Control has become entirely respectable. It has taken its place in the community life. It will soon be one of the recognized normal processes of social functioning in maternity and public health work, and a part of every well regulated program for social welfare.

The Psychiatrist States His Case*

By AARON J ROSANOFF, M D

AMONG the mental disorders which come to the attention of psychiatrists there is a very large group which it is customary to classify under the general heading of constitutional mental disorders

Cases included in this classification are supposed to develop on the basis of an inborn predisposition to such disorders. The essential cause in such cases, in the opinion of many, is bad heredity

Accordingly, the first medical indication for Birth Control from a psychiatric standpoint is found in cases of constitutional mental disorders, and has in view a eugenic object, namely, the prevention of bad heredity for the possible offspring

Whether voluntary Birth Control would accomplish such a purpose is a question. Heretofore, Birth Control has proved to be, from this point of view, a two-edged sword, cutting more often the wrong way than the right way

Many believe that, if knowledge of Birth Control technique were disseminated more freely, and thus made widespread in the population or even accessible to all without exception, then it would no longer be a factor in the production of the existing unfavorable differential birth-rate. This may be questioned, but it is the writer's opinion that some improvement in the situation would result under such circumstances

Pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation are found among the incidental or contributing causes of mental disorders. In every mental hospital may be found records of cases in which these causes have precipitated attacks of mental disease which, in all probability, would not have occurred had pregnancy been avoided

Accordingly, we find here another indication for Birth Control in the field of psychiatry. A woman who is emotionally unstable, or who shows other evidences of a vulnerable mental constitution should be advised against pregnancy, not only from a eugenic standpoint, but also from the standpoint of her own mental health

Fear of an undesired pregnancy often leads either to complete continence or to a very unsatisfactory love life. This in turn is the cause of a

great deal of psychoneurotic illness and suffering. In such cases a resort to a harmless and dependable method of Birth Control would remove the principal cause of the nervousness. We find here, accordingly, a third indication for Birth Control in the field of psychiatry

Only a narrow-minded psychiatrist would permit the implication that the advocacy of Birth Control or opposition to it should hinge entirely on the question as to whether psychiatric problems could be solved with its aid, or rendered more complicated and more difficult. Psychiatry must solve its problems with or without the aid of Birth Control, as the case may be. There are reasons for the advocacy of Birth Control outside of the field of psychiatry as well as within it. It would seem out of line with the present humanistic trend in human affairs to say that psychiatry, or any other interest in the existing regime, calls for women being tricked into childbearing whether they wish it or not, by means of being kept in ignorance of the technique of Birth Control. From that point of view, I, for one, would say, "If the heavens fall, involuntary parenthood shall be abolished"

OF all the problems which will have to be faced in the future, in my opinion, the most difficult will be those concerning the treatment of the inferior races of mankind. The population of all countries will come to be more and more regulated in regard to numbers by the standard of civilization which their inhabitants are determined to maintain, and we ought to decide, in the first place, whether it would be preferable that there should be a larger number of persons at a lower level of civilization or a smaller number at a higher stage of culture. There have always been at work certain factors tending to keep down the numbers of the people, most of them attended by a considerable amount of suffering, but really preventing the still greater suffering which would result from overpopulation. If we decide, as we ought to, for the higher culture and the smaller numbers, some pressure will always have to be maintained

*Abstract of address delivered at the Western States Conference on Population and Birth Control, Los Angeles, February 21st

MAJOR LEONARD DARWIN

Hibbert Journal, January, 1930

The Poetry of Lucia Trent

WHATEVER may be said in criticism of the age in which we live, one of its outstanding characteristics is that a larger proportion of people than ever before are attempting to get at actualities. This is why the poetry that satisfies us today depends far more than the poetry of any other time on the truth and depth and poignancy of its thought. If we have these essentials in poetry, it is, for many of us, enough. But without them, neither fancy nor form satisfy us. Modern poetry, responding to this modern need, has substituted an emotional understanding of all humanity for the emotional egotism of the older poetry.

In nothing is this to be perceived more strongly than in what is written by the poets about love and maternity. And among the poets the women have made as noble contributions as the men on love, and far the noblest on maternity.

Lucia Trent's volume *Children of Fire and Shadow** well illustrates this. Of maternity she writes in a spirit that is grandiose, and as almost always with women poets, nobly lacking in egotism. The poems *Breed*, *Women*, *Breed*, and *Birth* are highly concrete and personal expression, but they are not personal in application. In *Breed*, *Women*, *Breed* she pours out her subjective emotion for other mothers.

Breed, little mothers,
With the tired backs and the tired hands,
Breed for the owners of mills and the owners of
mines,
Breed a race of danger-haunted men,
A race of toiling, sweating, miserable men,
Breed, little mothers,
Breed for the owners of mills and the owners of
mines,
Breed, breed, breed!

Self-forgetfulness is very much more distinctive of women's poetry than men's. In *Birth*, Miss Trent spends few words on what she is to go through, her whole thought is what life is to mean for the child.

Oh little child I hold beneath my heart,
Who try to tear the walls of flesh apart

Which bind you captive through these restless
days,

Your little feet shall bleed on human ways,
Your little hands shall strike on treacherous spears,
Nor shall your wounds be soothed by mother tears

And yet I bear you to the joy of things,
To sun-flushed autumns, pioneering springs,
To lustrous music where mad waters sound,
To the rich homely fragrance of the ground

Oh little child, I long to give you birth,
To bear you to the majesty of earth,
To bear you to a world where men still dare
To speak for justice though their hearts despair,
Where men still mount their faith's brave citadel
And seek their vision in the face of hell

In this is neither egotism nor sentimentality. What moves her deeply is what birth means to all women and to the race as women carry the race on. The mothers' sorrow is not for themselves alone. In creating life and going down to the grave for it each time, perhaps they come nearer to the Delphic Sibyl's vision of all life than men ever will. *Pregnant* is such a vision of the meaning of all life.

How shall I be comforted
Who fear the burning travail bed,
Who fear the changeless law of earth
That pain must flower at every birth?

And yet I know my flesh to be
A pathway to eternity,
A trembling bridge with which to span
The brave adventuring of man,
A passage for the spirit's flight
Toward quenchless, universal light

In a *Maternity Ward* expresses more of self, but characteristically the poet forgets her pain but recognizes her passion and prizes it the more for the price she has paid for it.

We have loved in laughter, loved in pain,
And bent the flower of passion to our will,
Watching the stars take anchor in the sky,
The young moon saddle the gaunt, black hill
But I have never loved you more than now
In this bare room, immaculate and white,
Now that I am the mother of your child

This is a holy night

M S B

**Children of Fire and Shadow*, by Lucia Trent. Packard and Co., Chicago. \$2.00

POPULATION SECTION

Birth-Rates and Industrial Employment

By GEORGE B MANGOLD

THE large birth-rates before 1750, which gave us many families of ten or more children each, did not result in any rapid increase of population. Death-rates were so high that frequently only one or two out of such a family survived to adult life. These high death-rates had made high birth-rates necessary. The wastage of human life is almost unbelievable. A reduced death-rate has wrought a great change, and a continued high birth-rate gave Europe the great increase it enjoyed in the last century. New conditions face us and it is no longer necessary to bring eight people into the world in order to nurse three to adult life. When one-half the birth-rate produces the same increase of population, an entirely unjustified burden is imposed on the women of a country if they are required to retain the same rate of fecundity as that of previous centuries.

The present birth-rate in this country is approximately 25 per one thousand of the population. This is an excess of more than ten over the death-rate and accordingly our annual surplus is about one million per year. Constant efforts are being made to reduce death-rates to a minimum and further savings should be expected. Every death before the productive period of life represents a loss on the social investment. Furthermore it is a definite loss in costs of motherhood, medical service, maintenance of health, living costs and other expenditures.

High Birth-rates are neither a Social nor an Economic Necessity

Production of wealth does not require a larger force of human beings. Most countries are less in need of additional population than of stabilized conditions. Nor do we need to breed large populations so that certain countries may enjoy a numerical preponderance for some future war. An Oriental birth-rate and a semi-occidental death-rate have greatly over-populated Japan and parts of China and India. The rapid increase of population in England between 1780 and 1850 brought intense misery to the English people in spite of the great

industrial advance that occurred. It was impossible to meet the economic and occupational needs of a growing multitude. Adjustments cannot be made in a day and therefore many a life was snuffed out or became a sacrifice to industrial maladjustment. It is not necessary to attain a larger population in order to insure the maximum of productive capacity with the means of production now on hand. There was a time when the demand was for men. At present the insistence is on substitutes for men. It is totally gratuitous to assume that the condition of the arts and of industry will at all times run parallel to the growth of population, particularly if that growth is the outcome of irresponsible breeding. Consider for a moment the fact that reports tell us that at least 2,000,000 Chinese will starve this year — more than 5,000 in a single day. Neither in China nor in India, where millions never reach the fifth year of life, is the per capita production at all comparable to that of our own country. Numbers have not proved to be of economic advantage.

Modern Industry Has Made Smaller Families Necessary

Formerly men were paid according to the existing standards of living of the family. That is, their wages were roughly related to the cost of living of a family instead of that of the individual. Standards of living may have been low, nevertheless wages had a family basis. This condition no longer exists, since an individual wage basis now obtains. Wages or salaries are no longer increased when a man marries. In fact in certain quarters there is a tendency to discriminate against the man with a large family. And for certain work single men are preferred to married men regardless of the size of the families of the latter. The entrance into industry of millions of single men and women has made the retention of the family wage system impossible. The single and married working side by side receive the same wage and the present tendency is in the direction of equal pay for equal work for men and women.

Unemployment

At present the number of workers outstrips the opportunity for successful employment. The menace of unemployment is not a passing phenomenon. There is no common sense in blinding our eyes to the existence of a serious situation in this country. An unduly large proportion of individuals are out of work and bad conditions have existed for several years. Figures show that in some industries a regular decline in the number of workers has occurred, although these industries have been prosperous. The fact is that the need for men has declined as machinery and natural power have been substituted for human energy. It is not likely that we will ever need so large a proportion of men for a given output as we have in days gone by. The steam shovel that digs the cellars and basements of our big buildings displaces hundreds of men. It is idle to say that these men will find work elsewhere. In the first place a number of years are necessary to

bring about the adjustment of skilled laborers, and again many adjustments can never be made.

The great virtues of machinery are two: the machine is substituted for man and a larger product is obtained. Without a better distribution of wealth, however, the gains will not accrue to labor and continued poverty will obtain. Why the world should be burdened with a great over-supply of permanently poverty-stricken individuals is not clear. Adjustments in the direction of a greater participation of all in the products of industry will surely be made, but it is a slow process. The situation does not justify continued over-production of labor. The hoped-for better distribution of wealth would thereby be indefinitely delayed. No valid argument in favor of a high birth-rate is apparent at this time. Meanwhile low standards of living are threatened. Reproduction without thought for the future increases unemployment, forces married women into industry and weakens the constructive home influences.

Newly organized Population Reference Bureau announces:

The chief purposes of the Population Reference Bureau will be the gathering, correlating, and distributing of data concerning population problems. The Bureau has been granted office space by New York University, and is now located in Room Sixty-six, South Building, Washington Square East, New York City.

Professor Henry P. Fairchild is President of the Bureau, Dr. Clarence C. Little is Secretary-Treasurer and Guy Irving Burch is Executive Secretary. The other members of the Council are Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, Professor Edward M. East, Professor Ellsworth Huntington, Professor Raymond Pearl, and Professor Edward A. Ross.

The primary function of the Bureau will be that of an information source and clearing house to which all persons seriously interested in population problems may refer or contribute scientific data. This will require constant attention to official records, scientific research, statistical data, year-books, annual reports, reprints, lectures and periodicals. Newspaper reports will be investigated, traced to their sources, and verified when possible.

Material gathered will be filed for public reference, and if resources permit, will be published in quarterly bulletins, and in an annual dictionary.

Public sources of information will also be used when advisable. The quarterly bulletin will attempt to keep its readers informed concerning current events in the broad field of population, and may give some space to original research. The annual dictionary will attempt to keep important statistics concerning population up to date.

Some of the problems concerning the general problem of population on which the Bureau will gather data are: population growth, pressure, and movement, birth-rates, death-rates, infant and maternal mortality rates, still-births and miscarriages, illegitimate births and infanticide, age and sex composition of population, rural and urban composition of population, marriage and divorce, standards of living, colonization and migration, eugenics and Birth Control.

To facilitate this educational work many individuals and organizations have offered to cooperate. The Bureau was organized on the assumption that there was vital need for such reference work in the broad and important field of population. There is no charge for the services of the Bureau, and it welcomes the cooperation of all persons and organizations interested in any of the population problems to be considered.

Book Reviews

MAN AND WOMAN, by Havelock Ellis, *Houghton Mifflin Company* \$5 00

THIS book is standard source material for the study of secondary and tertiary sexual characters assembled by historical and objective methods "Secondary sexual characters, when we put aside the primary sexual agents of procreation, are those obviously sexual characters which render the sexes directly distinguishable to each other and indirectly attractive to each other Tertiary sexual characters are not usually obvious and not invariably associated with the same sex, but are found on the average to predominate in one sex"

Havelock Ellis began in 1882 to collect these data which were published in 1894, and after many editions and translations into other languages have now been revised for the first American edition The original aim was to see how far sexual differences are artificial, the result of tradition and environment, and how far rooted in the organism The conclusion sees man and woman as a whole, saying that sexual balance should be expressed in terms of equality "the sexes are perfectly poised in complete equivalence" and the "two halves of the race are compensatory in their unlikeness"

That capacity for wholeness which views man and woman as one, also sees the organism as a unity physical and mental are one, physiology and psychology are inseparable

The physiological exposition comes first It interrupts the story of the primitive sexual division of labor,—man the hunter, militant and powerful in fierce spurts, and woman the homemaker, building up the industries by steady and continuous expenditure of energy, — at the very moment when this story introduces woman's physiological mystery

The scene shifts to metabolism, calcium salts, respiration, blood, pulse rate, temperature, nutrition and excretion, susceptibility to poison, to the viscera, thoracic, abdominal and thyroid "If we knew thoroughly the physiology of the thyroid, we should know more of the nature of emotion than all introspection has ever taught" The monthly physiological cycle curves from ovulation to the abortion of menses as an index of the emotional life The growth and proportion of the body, the pelvis,

the head, the senses and motion, each have separate chapters

The psychological counterpart of the observation on sexual differences of physiological origin begins with the section on the unconscious, studied from the point of view of "definitely ascertainable phenomena in their relative sexual incidence" It examines sleep-walking, mesmerism, hypnotism, trance, ecstasy, catalepsy, witchcraft, dreams, hallucinations in the sane, anaesthesia, meteorologic sensibility, insanity, hysteria, convulsive manifestations, fear, nostalgia, irritability, exaltations of obscenity and cruelty and religious phenomena The sum total of these observations is that women are more emotional than men

Interpretation is active and positive in the chapters on the artistic and intellectual impulse As an actress, a singer, a dancer, a politician and a writer of fiction, woman has been a great artist But no poet, no painter, no sculptor, no musician, no philosopher, no abstract thinker, no religious leader, unless possibly Saint Theresa, is a woman Insanity reveals the poverty of her imagination, for she has not even delusions of grandeur Man's supremacy in the fine arts is compensation for his biological inferiority, this sphere is too limited for a creator who has the power to make words into flesh

The adverse judgment against vocational feminism is on two counts, first, "the amount of wages is almost exactly proportioned to the amount of energy the organism is able to put forth" and the typical woman has less energy than the typical man, second, it is axiomatic that women in meeting the male occupational standard must overcome not only the man's difficulties but also the inertia of the maternal interest she has suppressed

The situation of the sexes about life seems much like their situation about religion, for which woman can supply much of "the living spiritual substance, if man will supply the mould for it to flow into" Meanwhile, sex is modifiable, nothing is settled, industries tend to make men like women and our progress, in spite of the patterns of masculine culture is toward feminization Only Nature can tell what social modifications are possible

The method of this research was the collection of the "sometimes trivial and laborious reports,"

topic by topic, publication by publication and country by country, of the workers in these subjects all over the world. While the result is usually thought of as a pioneer book in subject matter, it should also be recognized that the recombination in comparable terms, the applying of analysis and the working of the mass into a unified design summarizes a tendency in method. Like yesterday's radio operator who passed an international broadcast literally through his own body, the writer has almost literally sifted the material through his own psychic organism. The product is a philosopher's book — in which a most just and highly intellectualized style is also most sensitive and emotional. The proof of that rare and strange equilibrium which permits a man to write so successfully an interpretation of man and woman is in the form of the book and that intuition of technique which repeats from sentences to paragraphs to chapters the power of a design in which the whole is the full consummation of all the parts.

Just as the mystery of woman has left its mark on the literature written by men, so it imprints any research by men involving the evaluation of the madonna concept. Such an element skews the total in one way, while in another, as Havelock Ellis reiterates, it is skewed because comparisons of women with men have nearly always been made upon masculine ground. Until the driving force of the hunger for maternity becomes so prized that scholars collect data to prove man's lack of it an inferiority, it is impossible to measure the feminine resources of a world which tacitly assumes that that "cunningly contrived girdle of pelvic bone is on the side of mediocrity" in more ways than one.

These limitations of research are history's coins, on the other side of which our day is not able scientifically to look

LURA BEAM

CRITIQUE OF LOVE, by Fritz Wittels. *The Macaulay Company, New York* \$3.50

CRITIQUE OF LOVE is a series of essays on various topics relating to the love life of our times. Written by a Viennese psychoanalyst and from a psycho-analytic standpoint, they deal with such matters as "Le grand amour," "Great Haters," "Love and Marriage," "The Child-woman," etc. The topics just mentioned are the most interesting ones.

The book is very readable and entertainingly written, even though there are numerous Teutonic

touches in the style that are somewhat clumsy, particularly the redundant German *the*. The essays, however, should not be considered a text-book of analysis; they are rather a piece of *belles lettres* by a psycho-analyst. Here and there Dr. Wittels presents certain analytic conceptions (for example, the meaning of money) which are not those of Freud and the rest of the psycho-analysts. In fact, the reader must not assume that the practices described, a purgative for temper tantrums, for example, are universally recognized as good analytic procedure.

In general the question might be raised whether the author has not over-popularized his presentation, and thereby reached a public somewhat intellectually beneath that usually addressed in a serious work. His appeal to the more cultivated classes would then be proportionately less. The publishers have helped create this impression by means of a jacket that is in very bad taste for an ostensibly serious book on a quite serious subject.

BERTRAM D. LEWIN, M.D.

AN OUTLINE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS (*For physicians and medical students exclusively*), by James F. Cooper, M.D. Introduction by Ira S. Wile, M.D. *The American Birth Control League, New York* 50 cents

Dr. Wile's introduction reads as follows:

OBSTETRICIANS and gynecologists daily meet eager questioners concerning contraception, yet the curricula of medical colleges fail to present the possible answers to medical students. A falling birth-rate attests the prevalence of contraceptive practices. Psychiatrists, pediatricians, internists, and general practitioners as well as laymen have the right to expect intelligent information upon the general subject from those whose special service is devoted to the protection of women from unnecessary and preventable disease and death. It is unwise and unsound, as well as indefensibly reactionary, to ignore the responsibility for teaching the theory and practice of contraception in the light of the modern ideas on prophylaxis. The rational practice of contraception would obviate many criminal abortions and many therapeutic abortions, decrease the necessity for multiple Caesarian deliveries, and lessen the catastrophic effects of pregnancy among women with severe dystocias, tuberculosis, psychoses or other physi-

cal and mental conditions contra-indicating pregnancy

A suitable text or guide book for teachers of obstetrics has been lacking, but this defect is now remedied by Doctor Cooper's succinct, clear exposition of contraceptive methods. The author has been a student of the subject for more than a decade since he was a clinical instructor in the obstetrical department of Boston University Medical School. As a professor of clinical laboratory methods in Fukien Union University at Foochow he had ample opportunity to study and appreciate the significance of an unrestricted birth-rate. Following medical war service with the British army, he became Medical Director of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League. For five years he was engaged in the practical study of contraceptive methods with varying techniques, their advantages and disadvantages, their dependability and adaptability to special personal needs. His unusual experience with 10,000 clinical cases serves as the scientific background of his personal judgment and advice which he has epitomized very carefully for the consideration and use of his medical colleagues who teach and learn obstetrics and gynecology.

WHY WE ARE MEN AND WOMEN, OR FACTORS DETERMINING SEX, by A L Benedict, A M, M D, F A C P *Allen Ross and Co., New York \$2 50*

THE author begins his preface with the statement, "It is never safe to use the word *never* in medical writing, and always unwise to use the word *always*." While this paradoxical affirmation contains much of truth and is laudably cautious, after reading the two hundred and seventy pages of text which follow, one is inclined to wish it had not been taken quite so seriously by the author. For the book is a curious mixture of the new and the old, of the results of modern scientific investigation mixed with medieval notions and poorly supported suppositions. The list of references is surprisingly catholic, ranging from the scientific writings of such investigators as Morgan, F H A Marshall and E B Wilson to the *Literary Digest* and the *New York World*. The worst of it is that all are thrown into the balance as if of essentially the same weight. Furthermore, well known and readily available treatments of particular subjects are commonly overlooked and reference made to the

most curious and obscure sources. Thus in the chapter on *Twins* no mention is made of the important studies of Newman or Wilder on human twins nor of Lillie's explanation of the free-martin in cattle. In fact the author is frankly skeptical of the existence of hormones. He seems to have about as positive an opinion on this as on anything in the book, and goes out of his way to express it. Nevertheless, he refers (perhaps inadvertently) to the adrenalin secretion as "a hormone which gives tone to the muscles and blood vessels and causes a sense of strength and well being."

For anyone who knows what value to place on the different theories and facts, the book contains an interesting though somewhat disconnected statement of the older ideas of sex-determination, some discussion of the physiology of sex reversal, and on the whole a clear statement of the role of the chromosomal mechanism in determining sex. Such a reader may also find unusual reference and interesting suggestions on various phases of the subject. It is to be feared, however, that a novice in the subject is likely to be left with a rather confused notion as to what is pure conjecture and what is relatively well established, or of what is trivial and what is fundamental. Above all, the reader who is looking for "practical" suggestions is likely to be left wondering what he got.

The author's contention that long established notions should not be pushed aside as of no value on purely theoretical grounds is worth consideration by the scientific investigator. It is presumably based on the assumption that when there is a great deal of smoke there must be some fire. Certainly where there is smoke the possibility of a fire should be investigated, but it is not necessary to conclude that everything that looks like smoke is due to a conflagration.

Unfortunately the lack of an index prevents ready reference to such points in the book as one might like to look up.

L J COLE

DO YOU WISH TO EARN EXTRA
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Write to the

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

About Liberal Commissions on Subscriptions

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

THE First International Congress on Mental Hygiene will be held in Washington, D C from May 5th to 10th. The principal purposes of the Congress are

To bring together from all countries, at this First International Congress, workers in mental hygiene and related fields, for exchange of information and experience and for mutual consideration of individual and social problems growing out of nervous and mental disease, mental defect and mental and emotional maladjustments of the individual to his personal and social environment

Through news and comment resulting from the Congress, to arouse greater world interest in mental hygiene, and secure greater acceptance of the ideal that mental disease can, in large measure, be prevented, and that greatly increased governmental and philanthropic expenditures for mental health will find justification in lives saved for productive activity and will be good public policy

Through a program planned for the purpose, to endeavor to correlate the special knowledge and experience of psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric social worker, occupational therapist, public administrator, educator, sociologist and those of related professions, in determining how best to care for and treat the mentally sick, to prevent mental illness and to conserve mental health

The program committee consists of Dr Frank-wood E Williams, Chairman, Dr C Macfie Campbell, Dr William Healy, Dr Lawson G Lowrey, Dr Howard W Potter, Dr Arthur H Ruggles. Over thirty representatives of participating countries will be present, and allied and related fields, such as anthropology, education, eugenics, philosophy and sociology will have their spokesmen

An International Hygiene Congress will be held in Dresden from May 15 to September 30. More than two hundred scientific associations, the League of Nations, and the individual governments of twenty countries will participate in the exhibition which is a special feature of the Congress

UNITED STATES

THE Western States Conference on Birth Control and Population Problems, held in Los Angeles, February 20th-22nd, drew a large attendance and enlisted the support of the press, both in the West and throughout the country. We are fortunate in being able to print in this issue several of the addresses made at the conference

The National Conference of Social Work will meet in Boston, Mass., June 6th-14th. The American Birth Control League will participate

Birth- and Infant Death-rates in Our Largest Cities in Order of Infant Death-rates — 1928

City	Population	Infant Death-Rate	
		Per 1000 population	Per 1000 live births
Cincinnati	413,700	21.82	85.75
Baltimore	830,370	19.06	79.26
Detroit	1,378,900	23.51	77.39
Boston	799,200	23.46	77.11
Pittsburgh	673,800	22.45	76.75
Buffalo	555,000	21.73	74.01
Philadelphia	2,064,300	17.88	70.59
Milwaukee	560,000	22.31	67.70
New York	6,017,700	21.00	65.54
Washington	552,000	16.29	64.71
Los Angeles	1,200,000	14.79	64.59
Newark	474,000	20.68	63.66
Providence	274,400	21.64	63.30
Cleveland	1,010,300	17.74	60.18
Chicago	3,157,400	20.82	57.28
St. Paul	298,000	17.15	53.99
Minneapolis	455,900	18.31	51.02
San Francisco	670,000	12.19	45.65
Seattle	383,200	13.03	42.66

CALIFORNIA America's first clinic for marital problems has opened in Los Angeles under the direction of Dr Paul Popenoe. It is called the Institute of Family Relations and is sponsored by the California branch of the American Eugenics Society. More than one hundred such clinics are successfully functioning in Europe

MARYLAND Station WCAO, Baltimore, does not ban Birth Control from the air. Witness the newspaper account of the talk broadcasted by Rev Ignatius Smith, professor of philosophy at

the Catholic University, Washington, D C on February 18th Reverend Mr Smith said in part

Economically speaking, Birth Control helps to justify a nation's crime of failing to pay working fathers a family wage It makes for divorce and abbeys the supine and criminal negligence of cities that fail to provide free hospital service for maternity cases

NEW YORK The first of the series of meetings on Birth Control sponsored by the Buffalo League of Women Voters was held on March 11th Rabbi Sidney Goldstein of New York was the speaker We quote a portion of his informal letter reporting the meeting

The place was crowded with women and we also had present a few men, including two priests—one a professor of philosophy and ethics in the Catholic College The audience was composed largely of members of the League of Women Voters and they were intensely interested After the lecture itself we had some discussion in which Father Bowen presented his point of view It was not difficult to answer him and I took occasion to plead with the Catholic Church to withdraw its opposition in order that the rest of the people might be permitted to practice legally what they are compelled to do in spite of the law

At 6 30 I spoke over the radio and had an interesting time imagining what the radio audience would say and write to Mrs Hamlin the next day In the evening Mrs Hamlin arranged a supper meeting of about thirty social workers of Buffalo We went over the ground very carefully with this group

Dr James F Cooper addressed the second meeting, held on March 18th and Dr Henry Pratt Fairchild is scheduled as the third speaker

Mrs Sanger will speak before the Syracuse chapter of the American Birth Control League on April 8th

Bishop Daniel Joseph Curley of Syracuse issued a letter on March 10th, to be read in all Roman Catholic churches of the diocese The letter read in part

(An evil) of a similar character in its defiance of nature and of the law of God is that inculcated in the neo-paganism of our day, which its protagonists designate as Birth Control Let no one be deluded by the professions of philanthropy of the disseminators of this iniquitous contamination of a nation's life and of the

individual's spiritual and physical health It is not the economic problems of the poor, it is not the welfare of children nor sympathy with motherhood, it is not death prevention, but birth prevention and sex freedom, that have given this monster new life through the agencies of atheistic communism

Dr S Adolphus Knopf spoke at the Rand School, New York City, on February 22nd on "Birth Control for the Benefit of Humanity"

Meetings for which the American Birth Control League provided speakers were as follows

March 5th	Mrs Thomas H Montgomery at the Educational Alliance
March 7th	Mrs Thomas H Montgomery at God's Providence House
March 7th	Mrs F Robertson Jones at the Mecca Temple
March 9th	Dr James F Cooper at the Church of All Nations
March 10th	Mrs F Robertson Jones at Kips Bay Neighborhood House
March 17th	Mrs Richard Billings at the League of Women Voters, Richmond Hill
March 21st	Mr William H Coulton at the Bronx Hungarian Workers' Club
March 24th	Miss Sarah Taksen at the Beth-El Sisterhood

WASHINGTON The *Seattle Star* has been running a lively series of letters on Birth Control The argument started from the discussion of the case of a man who was jailed for shooting a deer out of season to provide his twelve children with much needed food Starting with the poser "Are twelve children too many for a man of moderate means to support?" the question finally developed into "Should large families of the poor be prohibited by the government?" Here are some of the opinions

Any man who lets his wife in for bearing twelve children should be put in jail

I think the person who condemns large families and spends his life accumulating a fortune is committing a crime

Surely there is no need for any woman to bring a dozen or two dozen children into the world unless she knows the father can support them

We would have no population if it were not for the children of poor people And these are

the children who fight when the country is at war

Do you ever hear of a millionaire with ten children? You do not. It is always the poor man who has so many, and often criminals and degenerates come from this class

CANADA

THE United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section) gave unqualified support to Birth Control at its convention on February 27th. It asked for

The removal of the ban on safe, sane and hygienic contraceptives, immediate provision for the training of all practising physicians in the application of such contraceptives, clinics in all hospitals far and wide for the dissemination of such contraceptive methods

The convention stated its belief as follows

Birth Control is the only humanitarian way of preventing a mother from becoming overburdened and broken in health. In countries where Birth Control is legalized are found the healthiest, happiest and most normal people on earth. Birth Control is destined to play a most effective part in erasing two of the biggest blots on modern civilization in all countries — namely, maternal and infant mortality

CHINA

GREWSOME figures come from the Shanghai Public Benevolent Cemetery Society which reports having picked up more than 30,000 dead persons in Shanghai during 1929. Of these 28,620 were infants. Infanticide is still rife in China, and will continue until Birth Control provides a more humane method of controlling over-population

ENGLAND

ANATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL CONFERENCE will be held on April 4th at the Central Hall, Westminster, to demand the giving of Birth Control information by Public Health authorities. It is being organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics, the Women's National Liberal Federation, and the Workers' Birth Control Group

A public meeting of the Committee on Information on Methods of Birth Control was held at Friends House, on March 20th

Contributors to This Issue

H. J. MULLER is Professor of Biology at the University of Texas, has been long engaged in investigation in Genetics and was awarded the annual prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1928 for research on the effects of X-rays on heredity

JUSTIN MILLER is Dean of the School of Law of the University of Southern California

CLARA TAYLOR WARNE is a social worker and public health nurse engaged in private social work, formerly Prenatal Instructor, Washington University Medical School

AARON J. ROSANOFF, M.D. is Neuro-Psychiatrist at the Los Angeles Diagnostic Clinic

GEORGE B. MANGOLD is Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California

LURA BEAM is a member of the staff of the Committee on Maternal Health, in charge of a study of "Average Sex Life"

BERTRAM D. LEWIN, M.D. is a psychoanalyst

IRELAND

THE Censorship Board is finally complete and will begin functioning. Under the Censorship Act a complaint about the contents of any book can be made to the Minister, who may refer the complaint to the Board of Censors. If the Board endorses the objection a ban against the circulation of the offending publication in the country may be issued. All publications advocating Birth Control will be rigidly suppressed, as well as papers or books which persist in publishing advertisements on the subject

ATHEISM

Catalog of anti religious books FREE Tracts 10c.

American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, Inc.
119 E 14th Street New York, N. Y.

Letters from Readers

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

PROHIBITION AND BIRTH CONTROL

TO THE EDITOR

Not long ago the president of the American Medical Association openly protested against the "inconsiderate, ill-considered and intolerant prohibition law." An anti-prohibition talk is laudable. A pro-Birth Control talk would be an achievement. There is a world of courage, of intellect of progressiveness between these two. The latter has to do with sex and this puts it into an entirely different class.

In our country the Puritan attitude toward sex is almost as strong among doctors as among laymen and sex-taboo is surprisingly prevalent. However, I am optimistic, the attitude toward sex in this country has fortunately somewhat changed for the better in the last decade, possibly due to the upheaval of the Great War. In spite of a Canon Chase, a Mr. Sumner, an evolution trial, a raid on the Birth Control Clinic, American civilization is progressing. After all we may still live to see the day when Birth Control will be openly and officially endorsed by the representative body of American physicians, the American Medical Association.

But to wait for this event would not be practical. Your educational campaign should therefore be carried on among doctors as well as among laymen. The medical profession is responsible for a nation's health. It should also be made responsible for *quality* to supersede *quantity*.

HARRY BENJAMIN, M D

AN ANSWER TO DR. LITTLE

TO THE EDITOR

In the last issue of your magazine I noticed an article by Professor Little on "Propaganda versus Basic Progress." The attitude of the professor seems to be that a good cause will progress because of its inherent goodness and therefore propaganda is not needed to secure its acceptance.

Casual observation of modern life discloses propaganda as one of the dominating influences of

the time. We have been deluged with propaganda of all sorts: religious, war, aviation, political and commercial (otherwise known as advertising). Any organization devoted to the spread of certain views finds it necessary to secure the public eye and ear through propaganda.

It is doubly essential that an organization which is devoted to improving the public welfare should utilize all means at its command to place its views and aims before the public. The Birth Control movement, having limited resources, is necessarily handicapped in securing public attention. It cannot buy expensive publicity and is shut off from other means of publicity through opposition, working in underhand ways. Therefore it would seem doubly important for the movement to seek all possible means for spreading its purposes before the public. The chief reason for the slow growth of the Birth Control movement is its inability to secure sufficient public notice.

It would seem to the writer that basic progress, without propaganda, is of little value to a world which is ignorant of it. Militant propaganda of all kinds is the principal need of the Birth Control movement in order that its vital importance may be realized by the public at large.

H E B

Hartford, Conn

PRAISE FROM A CHURCH TOWN

TO THE EDITOR

Our REVIEW is coming regularly, and I believe we will have a new subscriber or two for you among our friends here in — who are reading ours. This is a terribly churchy town, so it is only in whispers and behind closed doors that we younger people can talk Birth Control — unless we wish to risk our jobs by talking openly.

We think the REVIEW is reflecting an ever-strengthening movement for the cause of Birth Control, and we hope that we may some day soon be in a position to do more in the way of aiding the spread of contraceptive knowledge.

O C F

AMERICAN EDITIONS OF TWO GOOD BOOKS

TO THE EDITOR

Under separate cover I am sending you for your files copies of the American editions of *What Is Eugenics?* (\$1 00) and *Posterity in the Light of Science, Philanthropy and Population*, (\$1 50)

These books were both reviewed in your August, 1929, issue but I would greatly appreciate it if you would put a notice in your paper advising your readers that they can now obtain these books, published in America, through their local dealers or direct from us

CHARLES McALPIN PYLE, *President,*
Galton Publishing Co., Inc

New York

MEDICAL IGNORANCE ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL
DEPLORED

TO THE EDITOR

The ignorance of many physicians about scientific contraception, and the immense amount of individual ingenuity and perseverance required to obtain the proper information is appalling. I am a woman of intelligence, but I must confess that I never got at the truth of the matter until two summers ago, when I met a doctor from Johns Hopkins University. We spoke of the splendid work of the Birth Control League, and I asked these questions: "Just what is the technique? Is it adequate for all situations, and under all circumstances?" This doctor's answer was clear, logical and convincing.

In reviewing the advice of the various physicians whom I have visited during the eighteen years of my married life — and I have never failed to put the question to each of them — I am amazed at the discrepancies in the suggestions made by doctors on this subject. To begin with, the family physician recommended cleanliness. I objected to the soundness of it and he said that hundreds of women did nothing else. After the birth of our first child, ten months after our marriage, the attending physician said, "Now wait a while before you have any more." I challenged him and said "How?" He said "Leave that to your husband." Four years later we planned for another child which came along in due time. However what we did not plan for, was the third one. The obstetrician who attended me at that time was well up in his profession, and I thought that here was my chance to find out something. To my horror and surprise he suggested an

operation. I argued and got nowhere. He had nothing else to offer on the subject.

I was mystified at meeting with virtually the same result in each case. I thought that it might be unprofessional or unethical to give such advice. Whenever opportunity offered I talked to my personal friends in the medical profession, bringing up this baffling topic. The results were the same. All this time I argued with myself that there *must* be some sure method of contraception for intelligent women. It never occurred to me that the Birth Control League had any more information than the many doctors whose advice I had asked. I did not suspect that medical reticence was caused by ignorance.

It appears that medical colleges have not given much attention to the training of their students in the technique of contraception. The newer attitude toward marriage and sex relationships would make it substantially necessary, I should think, for every doctor to be able to give adequate information and advice to those qualified to receive it. I sincerely believe that much of the tension in family relationships would be greatly relieved if the husband and wife were at ease in this matter. The everlasting fear of pregnancy permeates every phase of family life. When I think of the security afforded by a sound method of procedure, I wish that more might have recourse to such information.

Brooklyn, N Y

G W C

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER GIVES ADVICE

TO THE EDITOR

I have been a subscriber since 1917. I believe it was, or shortly after you began publishing the *Review*. In all this time I have made but one suggestion and that was in reference to street selling of the *Review*. But since you solicit opinions and suggestions, I will offer my opinion and at the same time a suggestion or two. The articles are too learned, some of them. In reading them a person must have the latest unabridged dictionary at his elbow. And even that would not avail always, for the writers seem to coin new words as they go along. A propaganda paper such as the *Review* purports to be, in the interest and for the good of the poor and humble, should be printed in language that they could understand.

Several pages are devoted to reviewing books, some of which are not related to Birth Control. This feature might perhaps be omitted altogether.

I was very much pleased when you issued a labor number, and also had articles in another number by people in the labor movement. Perhaps it would be well to expand in this direction, for who knows but labor may be destined to break down all barriers and put this movement across triumphantly. I would suggest, too, that you print those letters of helpless and despairing women, as you did at one time in the *REVIEW* — "lest we forget" that there is so much misery and desperation among married people in the lower classes.

I am of the laboring class, my sympathies are with it, and I hailed Birth Control as the one effective weapon of the laboring class, a weapon they could use individually, in spite of the Church and Press, and in defiance of judges, juries and policemen. But you are on the ground and I believe you are trying to do your best.

Ft Pierre, S D

WILLIAM RHOADS

JUST AS WORTHY A CAUSE

TO THE EDITOR

HAVING read a recent issue of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*, I wish to make a few comments. I have been married a little over three years and have two children, a boy and a girl, both wanted and welcome and providing us happiness that we could not otherwise realize. They were born seventeen months apart, thus they can grow up together, go to school together and in general enjoy mutual interests.

My wife was thoroughly informed on the subject of motherhood and was well trained in the care of babies before she had one of her own. The benefit to the children can be imagined. Since you are in favor of making available contraceptive information, the clinics would be visited by great numbers of people. Would it not be just as worthy a cause to make available information concerning motherhood? This would doubtless break down some prejudice and aid publicity. In fact, why not make it known that information relating to motherhood would be dispensed in conjunction with contraceptive information?

Woods Hole, Mass

LESTER L. BOSS

Why not vice versa? The English Birth Control movement is focussed on securing for Infant Welfare Stations the right to give contraceptive information, an obviously more practical method of dealing with the situation.

"WHAT IS EUGENICS?"

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The *REVIEW* will publish the prize winning 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.



Write for further details. Pass this news to your college friends.

DOES PROLIFIC BREEDING CAUSE CRIME?

(Continued from page 107)

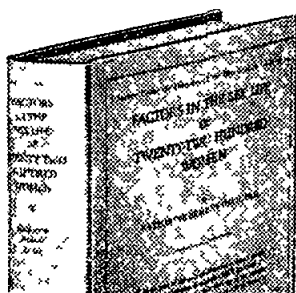
know the elementary results of the investigations of the sociologists during the past decades have heard or have seen the conditions under which such children live, whole families living in single rooms, children witnessing without any restraint all sorts of sex practices between adults. It is true that such things are prohibited by law, but who shall deny them when families live under such conditions and are unable to live under any other? It is perfectly natural that children should copy the acts of their elders, and sex delinquencies follow as a matter of course.

Such children are tempted by crime. Petty thievery, petty burglary become the natural, perhaps almost instinctive reaction upon their part. Just to take a bizarre example, let me read from a newspaper clipping taken from the *Los Angeles Times* under a Chicago date line of last March (1929) "Shivering Boy Steals Stove to Cheat Cold. During the early morning hours a slight fall of snow filtered down. No unusual occurrence for this time

of the year, but significant in the life of a 16-year-old boy, Raymond Monroz. Raymond sat huddled in his little room alone, but couldn't sleep because of the cold. He spied a warm glow in a basement window a few doors away. Closer inspection revealed a stove gleaming in the darkness. The final act in the human drama came two hours later. Anton Lakoski, owner of the basement, awoke in his bed shivering. His stove was gone. Likewise his kindling and some coal stored near by. Outside the half open window he saw wheel tracks from a boy's wagon in the snow. The tracks led to Raymond. When the police arrived the boy was huddled asleep before a glowing stove in a bare, dreary room. He was taken to the police station."

As has already been pointed out, such children are frequently improperly employed. They frequently have no proper way of getting normal recreation, and easily come under the influence of others who have learned before them the methods of crime and who are enjoying the results which it produces. In the study conducted in Chicago by Breckenridge and Abbott, of 584 delinquent boys and 157 delinquent girls, it was found that 47%

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— new facts in the field of birth control!

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of the boys were from families of six or more children and 21% from families of eight or more children. Among the girls the corresponding percentages were 34% and 13%. In the same study, it was found that 76% of the boys and about 90% of the girls came from "very poor" and "poor" families. In Gillin's text book on *Criminology*, it is asserted that the non-workers among juveniles are responsible for a little over 1/3, the workers for something over 2/3 of the offenses committed, by children between the ages of six to sixteen years.

The lure of money, with which can be purchased pleasures denied in poor and over-crowded homes, has been given as the greatest inducement toward prostitution. It is said by Bonger in his text book entitled *Criminality and Economic Conditions* that if a woman is not a prostitute before she is 21 years of age, she will never be one.

DISILLUSIONED YOUTH

Much of the disillusionment of modern youth has been caused by the conditions of squalor and misery under which its members have grown up. The rapidly changing conditions of society, which have on the one hand imposed higher standards of living, and on the other hand more difficult conditions of competition, have produced a situation under which life in a modern city for a child in a family of six, or eight, or ten children growing up under the care and supervision of the average working parents, cannot but be disillusioning. These children, as they grow into adults, as I have already said, are much more apt to avoid the responsibilities of married life and child raising which brought them to the squalor and misery which they have known. As a result they will be more apt to avoid the normal home conditions and the normal ways of living and will be much more easily susceptible to the effect of an outlaw or anti-social life. In an effort to have what others have without paying the price for it, they will go through the same routine of development in crime which has been followed by the adults which I have previously described. Embezzlement, larceny, robbery, burglary — all fall easily into this classification. The taking of automobiles belonging to others in order to take the girl friend for a ride, the writing of bad checks in order to have money enough to buy clothing or to attend a party follow in natural order. Such pursuits bring these youngsters quickly into contact with the "fences", and they are subjected to further temptations and further pressures to commit

crime. It is not long before an association is formed with a gang, semi-social, semi-political, semi-criminal in character, and before long our youngster is well on his way toward a criminal career.

A natural result also of this process of disillusionment and breaking away from the normal standards of values is to encourage vice and unnatural social contacts. Marriage is scorned, the sex passions are gratified in an irregular manner, and we come again to the cycle of seduction, rape, prostitution and crime against nature.

Now let me stop again to call attention to the fact that I have been considering the average person. The effect of these conditions upon those who are above the average, or below the average, may be quite different. For the person above the average of intelligence and capacity, other methods are used for working out of these difficulties. Usually this takes place through the discovering of methods of Birth Control, voluntarily expressed by means of contraceptive methods. The results which I have pictured are avoided by the avoidance of large families.

For the group below normal, especially where defective intelligence is found, the restraints which I have described are not practiced and the lessons which I have suggested as having been taught to the youth of the average group are not learned. Marriage goes on. Birth of children goes on. Squalor and misery continue and the pressure of life becomes too severe. A new group of potential criminals is bred for each succeeding generation, in increasing numbers to prey upon the rest of society.

CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT AND STUDY NEEDED

As I suggested at the commencement of this discussion, I have painted a picture, intentionally, in gruesome lines. I have not attempted to give any of the palliating conditions nor to suggest remedies. I leave that for the constructive thought of those who are engaged in carrying on this program. I believe thoroughly in taking steps to secure a study of this problem in a scientific manner. Only as a result of such study can we expect to produce results sufficiently far-reaching to make any substantial change in the present situation. At best the solution is one which will take years to accomplish and in the meantime we will have need of great patience and understanding in the application of palliative measures.

The American Birth Control League

1929

AIMS

The chief purpose of the League is to make Birth Control information generally available in the United States, in order

- 1 That maternal and infant mortality made be reduced
2. That hereditary disease may be decreased
3. That criminal abortions may be prevented.
- 4 That prostitution may be lessened
- 5 That Child Labor may be reduced
- 6 That housing congestion may be relieved
- 7 That destitution and the resulting need for charity may be reduced.
- 8 That overpopulation may be prevented
- 9 That the race may steadily improve

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