

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

JUNE, 1930

Preventive Social Work

The Hundred Neediest Cases ■
What the Social Worker Can
Do ■ A Survey of Settlements
■ Poverty and Birth Control ■

*Book Reviews of Middletown ■ The
Social Worker ■ Are We Civilized? ■
American Charities and Social Work*

Birth Control Review

VOL XIV

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Preventive Social Work

I want some knowledge of Birth Control I have a little girl fourteen months old, and we are very poor people If we have children like some people, so near together, we won't be able to give them the things necessary for them Can't you please tell me what to do without injury to myself

Maybe I have done wrong in asking this of you, but I am surely in need of advice, and hope to hear

Every mail brings letters such as these The writers do not ask for charity, they ask for knowledge Let us teach them to help themselves Dr Alice Hamilton says "It is a question of offering to the poor who need it most, the knowledge and the power which has long been the possession of those who need it least"

Do you have books that teach Birth Control, and what do they cost? I have got to have something pretty soon

I have given birth to ten children, eight living, and two dead Given birth to most of them under protest, as I do not believe in large families for poor people I have all the work to do for my family My husband is getting surly and there is trouble brewing, so let me hear from you at once

KEEP THEM OUT OF THE GUTTER

I am a young woman of twenty-three, and the mother of two children One is twenty-nine months and one thirteen Have been married four years and haven't a cent I can call my own My husband isn't very strong — there is tuberculosis in his family—and he makes \$27 a week When we're through paying rent, insurance, gas, electric and so on there isn't anything left If anything should happen to him, I'd have to put my babies in the orphan home and go to work

We love children, but don't want to bring any more into this world, because we'd probably have to starve them I am taking my babies to the health centre and am doing my best to bring them up properly, but it takes all I can get to do it

I am ignorant and am worrying myself sick, and have no one else to go to for advice Please, for God's sake, help me We don't want to land in the gutter

THE RIGHTS OF UNBORN CHILDREN

I am a poor woman, living in a very poor farming section Children come by the dozen If they live, they live — if they *die* they die There are men down here who don't think any more about burying a baby than about burying a hog

We women are poor and ignorant, but we are writing for information and literature We are going to organize a Birth Control club Thanking you for any information, I am yours for the rights of unborn children

IN DEBT FOR EVERYTHING

I will say, first, that I love children, but I have three, one girl aged five, one boy of three and one boy of four months We are in debt for furniture, land, doctor bills, and many other things

I am twenty-four years old, my husband is twenty-eight We need clothes Our house isn't finished on the inside We need so much, but mostly information and help

FOR THE WIVES OF HABITUAL DRUNKARDS

I am writing to join your Birth Control League I think it is a very wonderful thing, especially for women who have men who are habitual drunkards I have two lovely children, my husband drinks and I have to work part of the time to help get along I love children, but I am absolutely in no financial condition to bring any more into the world I do hope and pray you will help me

TEN CHILDREN AT TWENTY-SEVEN

I have been married thirteen years I am now twenty-seven years old, have seven children and have buried three My youngest is one year and six months old, and I am expecting another baby

My husband is a miner and he earns so little Two of my babies have kidney trouble and I can't even afford to pay their doctor bills The last baby is so weak that she can hardly walk Though I feel perfect my husband is never well and has to work all the time I can't do a thing to help him — I haven't time

Editorial

THE most significant news of the month is the endorsement of Birth Control by the American Unitarian Association at its 105th annual meeting in Boston on May 20th. The resolution, which was adopted almost unanimously, recommends to the churches and members of the American Unitarian Association "an earnest consideration of the fundamental social, economic and eugenic importance of Birth Control to the end that they may support all reasonable efforts in their communities for the promotion of the Birth Control movement" (*See News Notes, page 185, for complete text of the resolution*).

The promotion of Birth Control means the establishment of clinics where possible, the removal of legal restrictions, the education of the public as to the real meaning and value of the Birth Control movement. With one more of the intelligent religious groups in the country actively enlisted in this work, we have indeed been given new strength. Our readers will recall that three other national religious organizations have endorsed Birth Control: the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Convention of the Universalist Church, and the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Let us hope that before long other religious bodies will fall into line, and that the weight of enlightened public opinion will wipe out the restrictions and taboos which still surround this instrument of public welfare.

THE China Famine Relief asks for immediate funds for famine-stricken China. Its appeal shows heart-rending pictures of starving children, and pleads that "the saving of human life is the greatest service we can render to humanity, to our conscience and to God." About \$35,000 per week is now being sent from America, but is insufficient. Simultaneously, Governor Roosevelt is asking for a three million dollar fund for the starving farmers of Porto Rico. No one can deny the humanitarian appeal of saving starving people. How about the more fundamental work of solving this ever recurrent

tragedy in China, of stemming the rising tide of over-population in Porto Rico? How about giving to these nations the means of bringing their population into some relation with their food supply? Only in this way can our dollars be of lasting service to these unfortunates.

EVERY few weeks the newspapers feature some prolific family, and fete the proud mother of fifteen, or twenty, or other preposterous number of children. The latest candidate for this ballyhoo has been discovered in Mexico City, the mother of thirty-two living children. She was crowned Mother Queen on Mother's Day, and was presented with a token blessed by the Pope. This will be a choice bit for sociologists a hundred years hence. They will wonder why no one enquired into this prolific mother's actual circumstances, her physical state, her psychology. It is safe to say that no woman can bear thirty-two children and make a good job of it. Neither physically nor mentally can she find strength for such multiplication of gestation, lactation and child-raising. It is time to stop this particular type of boosterism, and to realize that quality, both of adults and children, should take precedence over mere quantity.

ANOTHER example of newspaper sentimentality is the recent report, much featured throughout the country, of the mother who killed seven of her ten children, after unsuccessfully attempting to support them while her husband was in prison. When will the public draw the obvious inferences from these heart-rending stories? When will the workers for social betterment use preventive measures, where they *can* be used? The plight of this poor woman merits sympathy and succor, and condemnation of the system which puts the wage earner in prison with no adequate provision for his family. Let it also illumine a possible preventive measure, the spread of Birth Control to those classes which need it most.

JUDGE CHARLES A. OBERWAGER discusses sex education versus ignorant innocence in an article *To Know or Not to Know*, printed in a recent issue of the weekly magazine *Liberty*. The publication of such an article in *Liberty* is in itself significant. It means that this subject has passed beyond academic and theoretical consideration, and has caught the interest and attention of the general public. There is no argument in favor of ignorance as against knowledge, whether it be in the field of forestry, chicken farming, bridge building, sex education, or what you will. Let enough popular magazines state the case for their readers, and intelligent sex education will be an accomplished fact.

THE League for Women Voters was organized "to train and equip women voters to play an active and helpful part in our public life." To carry out this purpose its program consists of study and action along four general lines: (1) Efficiency in Government, (2) Public Welfare in Government, including Child Welfare, Education, Living Costs, Social Hygiene, Women in Industry, (3) Legal Status of Women, (4) International Cooperation to Prevent War. Bearing in mind the above purpose and program, we seek in vain for an explanation of the following occurrence at the biennial National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 3rd.

The suggestion was made to have a resolution introduced from the floor in favor of including Birth Control among the subjects on the official study program. The New York delegation agreed to act as a unit in deciding on whether this should be done. Let our readers remember that education and study for better citizenship are among the chief objects of the organization, that each individual group need not and does not take up everything suggested for study, that the consideration of a subject involves no obligation to act, and finally that a more liberal law governing contraceptive advice has been endorsed by the legislative committee of the New York League of Women Voters. Despite these obvious factors favoring the study of Birth Control, the New York delegation voted *not* to introduce the resolution! The League of Women Voters should face this

problem. Until it does, its elaborate study programs for many other subjects are as houses built upon the sands.

WE PRINT in this issue an account of a survey of one hundred settlements made by the Junior Committee of the American Birth Control League. The results measured in both tangible and intangible terms are far-reaching. The object of the survey was not to convert, but to make contacts, and gain a better understanding of the situation, whether for or against Birth Control, in each particular case. Educational work can be more intelligently planned with such facts as a basis. We commend the Junior Committee for a worthwhile achievement.

THE ESSAYS submitted in the college essay contest, and the range of colleges represented, give heartening proof that the subject of Birth Control is not taboo to college students. Unquestionably they are not afraid of this subject, they are interested, they are dispassionate, and wish to be informed. The better equipped each college library is, the more intelligent will be the attitude of the college student of today, who is the voter of tomorrow. We urge our readers to make contact with college libraries for us. We can put much valuable material, free or at nominal cost, at the disposal of any college which will make it available to its student body. We print the prize winning essay in this issue, and wish to thank our Editorial Board for serving as judges.

A RECENT editorial in *America*, the Catholic weekly, opposes the Shephard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act and the continuation of its work on the ground that it "creates jobs for politicians, and spreads the knowledge of devices forbidden by the natural, and in most jurisdictions by the civil, law." We have here, doubtless, an explanation of the opposition to this act, and of the curtailment of the work which has done so much good. Apparently Catholic fanaticism can go to the length of wishing to withhold even medical aid from mothers and infants, in its fight against Birth Control.

The Social Worker's Part

By NORMAN E HIMES

JUST as America has become economically-minded during the last century, so I predict it will become eugenically-minded during the next. All the signs of the times, if I read them right, point in that direction. It seems to me axiomatic that no nation can so much as lay the foundations of a great, permanent civilization and culture — much less achieve these — without a greater sensitivity towards, and a better understanding of, what might be termed the “rights” of future generations. In a sense all progress has been a groping, consciously and unconsciously, towards the realization of a better life for the masses and their descendants.

If social workers did not possess a desire to help others achieve this end, they would not be in their chosen profession. Clearly, programs for the realization of the fuller life differ, and none but the quacks can furnish blue prints for the final results of social evolution. But it does not follow that we have no standards to guide us — standards, albeit, which must constantly be adapted to changing circumstances.

Compared with such agencies of social control as law, custom, education and religion, Birth Control is new. This, in part, accounts for the resistance it meets. But I believe that social workers want to make use of all the agencies, including modern, scientific contraception, likely to further their purposes.

How can social workers give their clients the benefit of contraceptive knowledge? At the risk of misunderstanding and misconception, I venture to make a few brief, practical suggestions.

1 Inform yourself on the laws of your state with the object of determining what you can do within the current legal restrictions to get reliable contraceptive information to clients needing it. Thirty-one states have no prohibitory laws, a few others are more strict. There has been much misinformation current on the subject of the illegality of the dissemination of Birth Control knowledge.

2 Inform yourself on local resources. Thousands of American private practitioners are now prepared to prescribe the most approved contraceptive devices. These have served tolerably well in 100,000 cases in clinics here and abroad. There

are now 54 Birth Control clinics or contraceptive advice stations in the United States, 22 connected with hospitals, 20 independently conducted, and 12 under County Health Departments.

3 Study the subject from A to Z and inform yourself especially on the medical, social, eugenic and economic indications for contraception. A sound statement of these indications has been prepared by the Committee on Maternal Health of New York, and may be obtained by addressing this organization, 2 E 103d Street, New York •

4 Social workers who happen to think it desirable should be as free to engage in educational work on Birth Control, even though they work for a non-propagandist agency, as they should be free, if they see fit, to work for the minimum wage, old-age pensions, or child labor restrictions. Any other view seems to me to be based upon false distinctions that will not stand rigid examination.

5 Social workers could profitably visit one or more of the various Birth Control clinics for the purpose of studying and evaluating their work.

6 Get the subject discussed at staff, group and conference meetings.

WHEN SHOULD ADVICE BE GIVEN

I believe the following social principles justifiable and wise.

1 Parents should give birth to no more children than they can rear on a minimum of comfort level. A still higher standard would be desirable, but is not to be hoped for in the immediate future.

2 Parents who have become dependent upon the community and who are being assisted either by private or public agencies should cease to incur further responsibilities until they are able to discharge those they have already undertaken.

3 If one or both parents are insane, have been insane, or have marked mental arrestment, one of the parties, (preferably the male) should be urged to submit to voluntary sterilization. Two physi-

*This statement is incorporated in the article “Birth Control for the British Working Classes. A Study of the First Five Thousand Cases to Visit an English Birth Control Clinic” by Norman E. and Vera C. Himes. *Hospital Social Service*, June, 1929.

cians should concur in the judgment, and the legal rights of the individual and of the physician should be protected by proper, legal, signed documents

4 No mother should be compelled through ignorance to submit to a pregnancy if, according to modern indications, it is undesirable

5 Social workers should urge the sterilization of aments and dements upon discharge from institutions for their care This should be done on the ground that such patients are less well able (ordinarily) to care for their children than normals Personally, I believe such a policy justifiable upon eugenic grounds alone, but there are some scientists whose opinions are worthy of respect, who do not share this view, nevertheless they approve the policy on environmental grounds Sterilization is as necessary as segregation Why walk on one foot?

6 Permanent measures are only desirable when (a) the cessation of reproduction is indicated and when (b) contraceptive measures are likely to be unreliable owing to low intelligence

Doubtless other useful principles not mentioned

here will occur to the reader The above seem a good starting point Many will think that social workers should receive competent instruction in contraceptive technique not because the worker will want to instruct patients, but for the same reason that she should know a stethoscope from a thermometer — as a matter of elementary, background knowledge The author happens to know that members of the staffs of two leading American schools of social work have given at least one lecture to students on practical contraceptive technique Doubtless other schools will follow It is, in my opinion, their duty to do so Also the libraries of schools of social work should contain a few outstanding treatises on the subject These should be available to the professional student just as they are to medical students

When some of these standards come to be taken for granted and acted upon accordingly, social work will then be able to hold up its head as never before, and let the criticism that it is not seriously interested in preventive work pass by as unmerited and unworthy of notice

The Hundred Neediest Cases

By C DAVIDSON

SCIENCE has made great strides in the last decade and scientific methods have been applied to every phase of human endeavor Even charity, which was once considered to be a simple matter of spontaneous giving — a method which was found to be most wasteful — is now replaced by the less personal, but more effective organized relief work But for a brief period of the year relief organizations have found it feasible to restore some of the old personal interest in charity work by publishing the hundred neediest cases This is done around Christmas time when the public mind is filled with the spirit of giving and a generous response always results In reading the various cases it is found that many need only a temporary tiding over a difficult period, while some will need continuous assistance, but the most hopeless of all seem to be those who need to be taught Birth Control

It would be interesting to gather statistics of just how many families coming to the notice of the relief organizations, not to mention many who succeed in concealing their plight, are directly affected through ignorance of Birth Control A few

cases cited briefly from the list printed in the *New York Times* in 1929 will serve to illustrate

- Case 77 Was told in 1918 "You can't go on with your heart" Subsequently married, has four children aged 8 - 6 - 5 - 2
- Case 97 A woman of 33 — six children, another expected — husband deserted
- Case 79 Taxi-driver crippled in accident — six children, another expected
- Case 94 "Father of five disappears"
- Case 67 Father 34 years old, heart strained by overwork — wife never robust — five children

Now that the mischief has been done these pathetic cases must be helped, but how long can we permit such a condition of affairs to exist? How long will we let sheer ignorance on the part of the working class continue to create such obvious objects of charity? Why not discourage propagation on the part of an idle father, and why not afford real relief to a struggling mother who is trying to support an already large family? How can

six children born of sickly parents expect to get a fair chance in life? There is little doubt that both the parents and the children would agree that they are unwilling parties to what ruthless nature has thrust upon them

In our present state of civilization is it just or even wise that intelligent members of the poorly paid teaching profession, to take one example, should practice Birth Control and help the ignorant members of society bring up large families, perhaps to fill our hospitals, insane asylums and

prisons?

Why not face the problem squarely? "Less children and better children" is a slogan that has been heard for several decades. Let us make that proposition effective — for poor and rich, for ignorant and enlightened alike

Our younger generation is thinking and the time will come when it will be considered immoral to bear more children than one can honestly support. As the advertising slogan puts it: Eventually, why not now?



Cartoon by Garrett Price Courtesy the New Yorker

"AH, ITS' SPRING AGAIN, ALICE — THE MATING SEASON!"

Culture Becomes Introspective

By CLIFFORD KIRKPATRICK

CULTURE is becoming a word to conjure with. It no longer has exclusively the polite meaning given to it by literary and artistic folk. Mr. Powys still identifies the word with the higher phases of our intellectual and emotional experience. The man on the street still thinks of culture as the noiseless consumption of meals, a knowledge of art and literature and an equipment of personality traits known as refinement. For those who have been touched by modern social science, however, culture has acquired an infinitely broader meaning. It was once defined by a great anthropologist as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." More recent writers would include material objects such as tools, automobiles, alarm clocks and cigarette lighters within the category of culture since these objects are socially acquired. The point of view of modern social science may be concisely expressed by defining culture as the cumulative totality of socially acquired objects and impressions.

It is in an atmosphere of culture that we live and move and have our being. We appropriate religious beliefs, political attitudes, patriotic sentiments, moral standards and table manners, as inevitably as we breathe the air about us. A few inhabitants of our cultural universe breathe in the elements to be found about them and by the subtle alchemy known to genius exhale a new invention, a new philosophical system or a new religion. Thus our atmosphere is enriched in the sense of acquiring a composition of increasing complexity, and even ordinary mortals produce certain changes in a more or less unconscious process of appropriation and diffusion of culture.

It was only recently that we became conscious of the physical atmosphere about us and resolved it into oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and the rare gases. Still more recently have we become aware of the cultural atmosphere in which we live. The recent works of two eminent writers bear witness to our increasing consciousness of culture and interest in it as the outstanding factor in social life. To absorb these admirable volumes completely is to

become aware of a modern culture that has taken to introspection.

OUR CULTURE IN PERSPECTIVE

In *Are We Civilized?* Professor Lowie, an anthropologist of the highest rank, brings a message similar to that of Sumner's *Folkways*.¹ While equally authoritative it is written in a more popular style and none need turn from the panorama of contrasting cultures in boredom. His aim is to show us our own culture in its true perspective, against a background of cultures characteristic of other peoples, times and places. Are we civilized when our culture differs so recently and in certain phases only from cultures which we regard as barbarous? Furthermore can there be a standard of comparison not relative to our own culture? We do not spit on our friends. In parts of Africa it is the thing to do. Our grandfathers drove their plows through prairie soil long hours in the warm sunshine. Today men sweat in dark steel mills or are harnessed to a machine which makes parts for automobiles which carry them rapidly to no particular place. Is there such a thing as civilization and such a thing as progress? Lowie would reply in the negative and overwhelm us with evidence to the effect that while man is infinitely more inventive than the chimpanzee he is backward and inconsistent in matters of innovation. We who think ourselves civilized have only recently, and more or less accidentally, acquired a bag of tricks, scientific and mechanical, which superficially distinguish us from the savage.

We find that food objects such as tomatoes, maize, potatoes, chocolate, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, wine and beer have been borrowed from other cultures, and our modern science has added no important species of plants or animals to those handed down from the past. In Bolivia the Indian spits back part of his food into the common dish but as late as the Middle Ages in Europe nobles ate out of a common bowl and forks were unknown until the fifteenth century. Montaigne lacking this device ate so fast that he sometimes bit his fingers. For

¹*Are We Civilized?* by R. H. Lowie. Harcourt, Brace, New York \$3.00

some forty thousand years fire has been used to cook food but the methods of kindling it differed little from those of savages until the nineteenth century

Why should we wear the clothes we do? Oriental women veil the face while a naked lady from Brazil blushed violently when a plug was removed from her nose. Pre-literates go through processes of tattooing, scarification and mutilation, yet face lifting is not peculiar to savages. In the eighteenth century ladies wore head dresses so high that they could scarcely enter a carriage and since they teemed with vermin an ivory rod was used to jab at the itching spots.

In the field of technology the iron work of the African natives, the textiles of Peru, the tanning of North American tribes, the chipping of stones and the making of pottery all show a manual skill that compares favorably with our own.

THE UNCHANGING SEX PATTERN

In regard to marriage and sex relations the customs of pre-literate peoples show the utmost variety and yet the general pattern of sex relations is not fundamentally different from our own. In spite of infanticide children were usually treated with utmost kindness by primitive peoples at a time when brutal beatings were in order in Western Europe. Genuine brotherliness and civic virtue are more prevalent in many tribes without formal institutions of law and order than with us in spite of our elaborate machinery.

Art is old as the Stone Age, poetry and literature flourish among primitive people and considering their background and limited population their achievements are by no means hopelessly inferior to our own.

These are but a few of the facts that Lowie marshals to place our culture in its proper perspective. He points out the impossibility of explaining the ebb and flow of cultural events by the relatively static factors of geography and heredity, and deals many smart slaps to the racial determinists and the eugenicists. One feels, however, that judicious discrimination is occasionally suspended for the sake of effect. The "fanatical fringe" does not accurately represent the thought of a group and Professor Lowie would hardly care to be identified with all claiming the title of anthropologist. The implication that laws bring the torture chamber, and that the study of heredity brings the comparable evil

of tinkering with human beings is perhaps rhetorical.

If Professor Lowie's excellent volume raises doubts as to whether we are really civilized these doubts are not likely to be dispelled by reading *Middletown*.² We have here an intimate and detailed survey of the culture of Muncie, Indiana, a fairly typical industrial town of the Middle West with a high percentage of native born inhabitants. The purpose of the book is not only to present a sample of American culture but to note changes that have taken place since 1890. The investigators lived for over a year in the city, participated in the local life, used documentary material, personal interviews and questionnaires, thus collecting a mass of material in regard to life in *Magic Middletown*. The activities which they investigated fall into six general categories: getting a living, making a home, training the young, using leisure in various forms of play, engaging in religious practices, and indulging in community activities. The resulting picture is as depressing as those set forth in *Main Street*, *Babbitt* and *Americana*. Though one may suspect that the motives involved in selecting some of the material were similar at times to those which supply the *American Mercury* with its exhibits, yet the greater objectivity and the completer picture cannot fail to be impressive. If this be American civilization what indeed is progress?

Of the two general groups in Middletown, namely the working group and the business group, the former are closely bound to machinery by the "long arm of the job". The working class group begin work by seven o'clock and work some fifty to sixty hours a week, subject to the danger of unemployment and with less chance for advancement and independence than in former times. The close relation between employers and employees has broken down and support for organized labor is not as reputable as in the nineties. Pecuniary values and higher standards of living make for psychological poverty and a separation of groups along economic lines.

Marriage, formerly under religious control, is progressively secularized. While there is some relaxing of the sex taboo, the selection of the marriage partner and the marriage relation are still much under the control of convention. Romantic attitudes toward marriage are prevalent, but once

²*Middletown*, by Robert J. and Helen M. Lynd. Harcourt, Brace, New York. \$5.00.

marriage has taken place there seems little evidence of even intimate comradeship. Divorce has increased rapidly in Middletown as elsewhere. Discussion of Birth Control is taboo, although voluntary parenthood is generally practiced by the business class. In the case of wives of workers less than fifty percent use any kind of Birth Control. Of the majority not using contraceptives about a third vaguely approve of their use.

The dominant pecuniary values in Middletown are reflected in the almost universal desire of education for children as a means of getting ahead in the world. There is faith in education, but as a means to an end. The coming of the machine has enriched the curriculum in regard to practical courses but many of the venerable academic traditions remain untouched. A questionnaire in the high school showed an effective inculcation of the prevailing mores, and the majority of the students believe in the superiority of the white race, the pre-eminence and virtue of the United States, the sanctity of America's cause in the last war and hold a suspicion of the pacifist and the Bolshevik. The teachers are paid salaries which attract few original minds and given the prevailing pecuniary values, members of this profession have no lofty social status in the community. School life is active, even hectic, and there is an intense interest in athletics which reinforces the booster spirit.

In its hours of leisure there is nothing that Middletown relishes more than "a real good speech"

Content is perhaps less important than form of delivery. There is more reading but perhaps less thought than in 1890 and less serious discussion. The automobile, the radio and the movies have eliminated much of the spontaneous recreation in natural face to face groups such as the family.

Religious beliefs and rites remain little changed in spite of the transformation of Middletown since the days of the gas boom which launched it upon its industrial career. Religion is perhaps more passively accepted than formerly and the vigorous controversies of earlier day are less in evidence. While Rotary Club speakers prate much in Middletown of democracy, liberty and the supernal wisdom of the Constitution, cynicism concerning the machinery of government is general, and apparently justified by the prevalence of mediocre officials and more or less corrupt political methods.

Middletown is an important book. Its implications depend, however, upon the degree to which it is typical of American culture and the degree to which the changes which have befallen it are true of the country at large. The outstanding impression that one gathers is of discrepancy in culture change and of inconsistency in the total pattern. Getting a living has undergone the most pervasive change. This has affected leisure time, training the young and community activities. Middletown has not, apparently, caught up with itself and perhaps neither Middletown culture nor Western Civilization will ever become an integrated and harmonious whole.

The Junior Committee Makes A Survey

By ISADORA KERR

THE American Birth Control League had for some time realized the need for closer cooperation with the social agencies in Greater New York, a more definite and intelligent understanding of social workers' problems and attitudes in regard to Birth Control. It was felt that the educational side of the Birth Control movement might be widened if a clear statement of the aims of the League were presented to the social workers. Such a program required personal interviews with directors and executives of social and health agencies, matrons of day nurseries, physicians, nurses and case workers in hospitals and clinics. In February, 1930, the Junior Committee of the American Birth

Control League undertook the task.

One hundred social work settlements, relief agencies, day nurseries, hospitals and clinics were contacted. No Roman Catholic agencies or hospitals were included in the list. The majority of the organizations visited could not officially endorse Birth Control, even on scientific or health grounds, because of conservative boards, clients, patients, and the religious prejudice in the community. Many welfare agencies, health centers and clinics stressed the need for clearer understanding of the present Federal and state laws governing the giving of contraceptive advice. The visitors emphasized that the law of the State of New York permits

Birth Control advice to be given by licensed physicians for "the cure and prevention of disease"

Several clergymen, doing social work, stated their belief in the value of scientifically taught Birth Control, under the supervision of physicians trained in Birth Control technique. One said that he had been opposed to Birth Control on religious grounds, but after living in the crowded and poverty-stricken east side of New York, as a social worker, had reversed his attitude.

Health workers and two matrons of day nurseries believed that there would be a decrease in the number of abortions in their neighborhoods, if Birth Control were taught by physicians to the poor from whom all scientific knowledge of the subject has been so long withheld.

The Grand Street Settlement, located in a Jewish neighborhood, has taken an open stand for Birth Control, and a more liberal state law, that would permit physicians in the State of New York to give contraceptive advice when and where in their judgment it was advisable. Miss Rose Gruening, the head worker, a fearless advocate of Birth Control, was one of the group of social workers who spoke for the change in the law at Albany in 1928.

The head worker of one settlement had clubs for girls and boys where sex education was taught successfully. He suggested that the League promote and encourage sex education in settlements and educational centers.

Several other head workers believed that small groups of mothers and fathers could be encouraged to meet for advice and discussion of marriage and sex problems affecting their children, if the discussions were held by physicians who had the social attitude, and who were trained in Birth Control technique.

One of many cases told to the committee was that of a feeble-minded woman, a Roman Catholic, and the mother of seven mentally and physically defective children. All of the children had recently been placed in an institution for the feeble-minded, a burden on the state. The mother had refused all offers of contraceptive advice and clinical aid, because of her religion.

One mental hospital paroled mental cases with no advice in regard to the prevention of further offspring. The physicians in the institution were indifferent to the arguments of the social workers, whose agencies had to share the economic burden of additional children.

During the survey, which covered a period of ten

weeks from February to May 1930, the Junior Committee secured dates at Mother's Clubs, prenatal and baby clinics, and day nurseries, for speakers from the American Birth Control League. Approximately 25 organizations availed themselves of speakers, in English and Yiddish.

In the fall of 1930 the Junior Committee expects to continue the survey of hospitals, and it will add churches to its program. The clergy of various denominations will be approached, with the object of presenting the matter on a scientific and health basis.

The Junior Committee consists of Mrs. Francis N. Bangs, *Chairman*, Mrs. F. Gordon Brown, Mrs. C. Shelby Carter, Mrs. G. Jarvis Coffin, Mrs. W. Palmer Dixon, Mrs. Archibald Douglas, Mrs. Ferdinand Jelke, Mrs. Isadora Kerr, Mrs. William Ketcham, Mrs. T. S. Lamont, Mrs. Winslow Lovejoy, Mrs. Robert McC. Marsh, Mrs. Edmund W. Peaslee, Mrs. Walden Pell, Mrs. Baldwin Preston, Mrs. Henry W. Sage, Jr., Mrs. Jacob G. Schurman, Mrs. Morton Schwartz, Mrs. Hayden Smith, Mrs. John G. M. Stone, Mrs. Kalb Treadway, and Mrs. Thomas C. Wayland.

The sympathetic attitude among social workers, the desire for a more fearless and open advocacy of Birth Control, was the outstanding fact gained by the survey. The fine, constructive suggestions of social workers in daily contact with the struggle and despair of over-burdened parents in congested districts, where unskilled workers and unemployment are daily problems, the pleas on the part of hundreds of men and women among the poor for the knowledge possessed by the wealthy and educated groups, has strengthened the belief that further practical, intelligent, constructive work is needed and can be accomplished by a continuation of the recent survey.

Establishing a Birth Control clinic is not the difficult and expensive task many people think. All that is needed is a room set aside for the purpose, full or part time, the services of a physician and trained nurse, a table, cabinet for supplies, and a sterilizer. It is possible that as a result of this survey two new clinics will be established in widely separated parts of New York City.

Surely the time has come for a more fearless attitude on the part of physicians, social and health workers. The time has come for the physician and the social worker to have a clearer understanding of each other and of the possibilities for mutual aid.

Prize-Winning Essay

By RALPH BARNHART

Battle Creek College, Michigan

Awarded first place in the College Essay Contest The next four essays in order of choice were submitted by Robert N Ford, Pennsylvania State College, Penn., John Blanchard, Pomona College, Calif., Byra G Runnels, Defiance College, Ohio, and Virginia Wuerthele, Vassar College, New York, and will be printed in forthcoming issues of the

REVIEW

MAN'S struggle for survival and dominance over other living forms has not been an easy one, but it has been a fairly successful one. One after another he has subdued the arch-enemies of his existence, and one after another he has brought the various phases of his living into an orderly, reasonably secure, and fairly comfortable process of relative happiness and contentment. Famine, disease, and exposure no longer constitute a serious menace as they once did, wild beasts no longer harass his path, night no longer fills him with nameless dreads.

He has developed and organized the various fields of knowledge into classified sciences, agriculture, medicine, chemistry, engineering, psychology, economics, political government, literature, art, and religion, all for the purpose of taking life out of the hands of mere chance and the vagaries of fortune and reducing it—nay, expanding it—into greater possibilities for good. Seeking a better understanding of himself and of the world he occupies, he has attempted to remove the fears and risks usually encountered in the battle of the "survival of the fittest" through which he came, and through which practically all of nature's organisms have to go.

During those early periods of human existence when man's greatest problem was that of survival, he developed a reproductive capacity which was more than adequate in keeping his numbers well over the point of extinction. Those forms of life, human or otherwise, which did not have the safeguard of a proper numerical margin of safety great enough to get them through the most sweeping plague, or the most severe adverse climatic or food conditions, failed to survive and their descendants are lacking from contemporary scenes. Those which

did continue and are continuing at the present, have inherited this procreative ability and it is with them still.

The law of the survival of the fittest still obtains for a great many, in fact a majority of living forms. Their numbers are kept in check and the balance of nature maintained. Man alone has succeeded in overcoming these seemingly immutable laws of the jungle. He alone has apparently beaten nature at her own game. He no longer depends upon the force of numbers as the winning hand in the game of life.

As a result, man has encountered new problems almost as serious as the age-old one from which science has freed him, the fear of becoming extinct. Now he is harassed by the equally undesirable probability of becoming too numerous for comfort or possible sustenance. He has come to the place where he can see the end of the geographical path and he beholds it with much the same horror that the ancient mariners contemplated the dropping off of the edge of the plate-like earth which they felt sure awaited them at the other side of the ocean. The land area of the earth, however vast, has its limit. So has the food supply. Man has only to multiply himself by three, four, eight, or ten, and the picture he sees is by no means a pleasant one.

In other words, the very thing which has enabled the species to come to its present place in competition with the rest of the animal kingdom, and vegetable too for that matter, now threatens him. Nature's original friendliness has turned to indifference at his impending plight, and she mocks him with his overwhelming fecundity.

Yet how strange it seems that man, in his love of order, in his desire for progress, and in his exaltation of science, should thus neglect the next most important thing to life itself, *viz*, his own proper reproduction, the creation of his posterity. How contrary to the spirit of modern scientific thought that procreation of the species should be left so completely to the uncertain hand of fate, or rather, in the power of a biologic fecund capacity entirely out of proportion to present day needs and accommodations. And lastly, how utterly bad to allow ever larger proportions of that increase to

spring unchecked from undesirable elements, from classes of inferior eugenic worth

Furthermore, is it not altogether logical and right that an intelligent humanity should have the power and ability to decide the time and rate of its own increase? Should not every parent, group, and nation be able to accommodate the number of children to the food, room, and standard of living which prevail? Is it not foolish and dangerous to the future, to withhold through carelessness, ignorance, or willful neglect, this one important thing, yet give man vast power and control over every other portion of life's activity?

If society continues to do so, it can turn once more to the pessimistic predictions of Malthus and see a logical promise of those things he dreaded most. Unless a way is found leading out of the morass into which it is steadily advancing, it is apparent that the evening's gray of one century will be followed by the warning red of the morning of the next, the red of weeping eyes and the blood of slaughter. It is cruel to proceed in such reckless fashion, cruel to the fair prospects of human happiness, cruel to the generations yet unborn. There is but one way out, numbers must be limited. How?

BIRTH CONTROL SOLVES THE PROBLEM

"How?" is the question which still bothers him. Taking stock of himself man finds several things to render this problem very complex. He finds that the fundamental sex instincts are on the job to see that man will forever seek his mate and that offspring will result. Not much cooperation can be expected from the basic springs of human nature. Also he finds that nature in providing a means of multiplication forgot any natural check other than the death of the individual. This of course suggests infanticide, a method known to all races and to all times. But it is needlessly cruel and wasteful, and altogether too revolting to be considered by an age that worships comfort, efficiency, and scientific progress. Going to the other extreme, the painless killing of the aged and the declining has been suggested. It too is unthinkable, cruel, ineffective, the aged do not reproduce, and it is doubtful if it could be carried out.

The problem comes then to some means of the artificial prevention of superfluous offspring. The method or methods must first of all be effective. They must not interfere with the health of the individual, physical or psychological. Normal hu-

man relationships must not be affected. They must be of such a nature that all classes of society can make use of them. Methods now in existence are crude and ineffective, but such as they are, should be known to others beside high-school adolescents and college professors.

There is but one sensible answer — scientific Birth Control. Science must save the day, science must solve the problems that past science has created. Science can lead where blindly operating instinct can bring only ruin and despair.

Scientific Birth Control then, must be made a reality. The forces of scientific progress, scientific research skill, scientific resourcefulness can do their work if the other elements of our social order give their consent and their cooperative aid. The religious, governmental, educational, and related institutions, must forsake their unreasoned taboos, their superstitions, and their grossly misleading fallacies, and awaken to this genuine human need. Given scientific Birth Control and given the hearty support of all these agencies, humanity will have its own destiny within its grasp. Then, and only then, can society return into the paths of security and assurance from which a decreasing frontier and a slowly and steadily diminishing store of natural resources have ejected it.

There are other more specific social advantages. Given this control over his own procreative powers, every individual can consummate the love which calls for mating in the institution of marriage, without the delay usually required by early economic inefficiency. Love can be answered and marriage entered into when the call is the strongest, psychologists are unanimous in agreeing that this is the proper time. Love will no longer have to be put off, cast aside, or woefully perverted, simply because economic conditions make the risk of children too great to be considered. And marriage is the most stabilizing and uplifting human relationship known to modern society when conditions are right.

Woman too, will come into her own birth-right. For the first time she will be on a plane of absolute equality with the other sex. No longer a vassal to her own nature, she will be able to command a wholesome respect and independence never before known to feminine experience. Able to dictate her own life, she can refuse to be the victim of a vicious double standard of morals. History repeatedly tells us that no civilization can rise to heights of culture and artistic accomplishment with woman

occupying a definitely lower level of respect. A proper regard for womankind is an essential element of morality.

With greater respect for woman will come a greater respect for the things which women do. The home will become the revered haven of rest, inspiration, and strength it should be. Likewise every child will be a welcome addition to the society of which he becomes a part. This certainly cannot do other than to place a greater value upon those born, a eugenic principle at present very much unrealized. A general physical, intellectual, and

spiritual uplifting of society will be inevitable.

Much hard and tireless labor will have to be done before scientific Birth Control for all people will become a reality. But the work to be done is small compared to the good which will be accomplished. Until the problems above discussed have been solved human happiness will remain, as now it most certainly is, only a dream for the many, a vain hope for all but a few. And any philosophy of life which neglects earthly wellbeing and happiness as the goal of earthly existence is a foolishness and a deception.

Facts Everyone Ought to Know

By MARIE P. LEVINSON, M.D.

DOCTOR, just what is meant by Birth Control?" So many of my women patients have asked me this question that I believe most people who do not know about the subject would like to know, whether or not they admit it to others or even to themselves. In my office and in the clinics I have found women hungering for the opportunity of discussing their sex problems. Many are reticent about talking with physicians of the opposite sex, but when they meet a woman physician who will give them the time, they pour out all their pent-up questions on everything in married life, from contraceptive methods, to when and what to tell their growing sons and daughters about sex. Parents nowadays realize that to remain ignorant on the subject of Birth Control is to allow their children to know more than they do. College courses in sociology and economics bring up the subject, and every boy and girl hears and knows something about Birth Control. No one need feel that his natural desire to know about this timely question may not be openly satisfied.

Many think that Birth Control means abortion. Interrupting and terminating a pregnancy is not Birth Control. Abortion is against all the principles of Birth Control and needs to be condemned. Let this be clearly understood, and I believe many people will find that contraception is not the unspeakable subject they thought it was.

Birth Control means preventing an undesired pregnancy by harmless means *before conception occurs*. It means regulating the bearing of offspring by the voluntary application of some con-

traceptive method, which should be prescribed for each individual case by a physician. The laws vary in different states, many putting no legal restrictions on contraceptive information, some being permissive under certain conditions, and some absolutely prohibiting the establishment of clinics. The New York State law, for example, allows physicians to give married patients advice when it is necessary for the cure or prevention of disease. Under this ruling nine hospitals in New York City give Birth Control advice to their clinic patients, as do also the Clinical Research Bureau and physicians in private practice specializing in this new field.

What are some of the health reasons necessitating Birth Control advice? Women with tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, severe heart disease, epilepsy, kidney disease, insanity, high blood pressure, severe anemia, etc. would endanger their lives and health by repeated pregnancies, or even, in many cases, a single pregnancy. Such women require the kindest consideration, and no one can doubt the value of allowing a physician to give them Birth Control advice. Civilization and society have progressed to the point where preventive medicine plays an important part in modern medical practice. From the standpoint of preventive medicine, most women should be considered eligible for Birth Control information just after a serious operation, for a period after confinement, or while nursing a baby.

What about the mother who has borne eight children in ten years, whose husband is an habitual

drunkard? Shall anyone say that such a mother's health is going to be uninjured by more pregnancies? The social and medical aspects of such a case are interwoven, but I believe this mother should receive Birth Control advice

The advocates of Birth Control emphasize the importance of research in the field of scientific contraception to ascertain the most efficient and harmless methods. Medical societies are beginning to interest themselves in Birth Control and many meetings this winter are having papers and discussions

on this topic. This allows many family physicians to acquire knowledge of the subject, so that they may prescribe for their patients, or know where to refer them for accurate Birth Control advice

In conclusion let me emphasize that we now have contraceptive methods of a temporary nature, efficient, reasonably easy to use, harmless alike to parents and future offspring, psychologically unobtrusive, and nominal in cost. Such methods are obtainable only from a physician or a clinic, and methods from other sources are not reliable

Poverty and Birth Control

By HERBERT A. STURGES

A brief survey of what some sociologists think about over-population and large families as a cause of poverty

IN his book on *Poverty and Social Progress*, Dr Maurice Parmelee in 1916, only two years after the launching of the Birth Control movement under that name in this country, writes

A scientific study of poverty shows how fatuous are most of the measures whose familiar shibboleths are philanthropy, social service, moral reform and religion

The principal cause for a lower birth-rate among the higher classes doubtless is the attempt to maintain a high standard of living. This situation among the higher classes, therefore, instead of being so portentous of evil may after all be very significant of good, for if the lower classes can be induced to follow this example they may be able to better their own condition greatly, and to relieve the pressure of population upon the land and means of subsistence. But whether this tendency will in

course of time spread automatically to all the working class and to all of society is doubtful. To accomplish this end by artificial means efforts will have to be directed along two lines. In the first place, a campaign of education can be carried on whereby the poor would be taught how to regulate the size of their families by the use of contraceptives, and would be encouraged to do so.

It is obvious that by reducing the supply of labor in proportion to the other factors of production, unemployment can be prevented in large part, and the rate of wages can be raised. There are several methods by which this can be accom-

plished. The fundamental method is by the artificial control of the birth-rate, which will prevent the supply of labor from increasing more rapidly than the other factors of production. We have already discussed the stupid and brutal restrictions upon the artificial control of births in this country and elsewhere. We have shown that these restrictions are based upon religious and moral prejudices and social and economic fallacies, which are probably fostered by those to whose interest it is to exploit the working class. Few changes could be of greater value to society at large and to the poorer classes in particular than the abolition of these restrictions and the widespread dissemination of the necessary knowledge for the artificial control of births.

A land-mark in the history of American Sociology is Wolfe's *Readings in Social Problems*, published in 1916, in which first place is given to problems of population. "In the long run," says Dr Wolfe, "the basic social problem is that of population." The great truths enunciated by Malthus are given in Malthus' own words, even including Malthus' own proposed remedy for over-population, voluntary "moral restraint," which is replaced in our neo-malthusian doctrines by the more practicable technique of contraception.

In addition to the copious extracts from Malthus are interesting contributions by Havelock Ellis, Frank Fetter, Annie Besant and others. From the presidential address delivered by Dr Frank Fetter at the 1912 meeting of the American Eco-

nomic Association, entitled *Population or Prosperity*, printed in the book, and thus made available for students of social pathology, we may quote a few passages

Popular welfare in America is already threatened. To preserve the favorable relation of population to resources and to control in some measure the fate and fortunes of the children of this and future generations the two most important means possible are conservation of natural resources, and retarding the rate of increase of population.

For the conservation movement, that sadly belated attempt to check national prodigality, let us speak only words of approval. But we must recognize its limitations. Given a population steadily increasing at anything like the present rate, the real wages in America must decrease in terms of food, clothing, and fuel. The steady increase alone of population will offset the popular benefits of the new miracles of industrial progress.

Race suicide is very far from being an imminent peril for the nation as a whole. The real reason for disquietude is that this phenomenon is so largely correlated with education and with eminent attainment. In many families the birth-rate is much too high for the welfare of the parents, of the children, and of the community.

Already we have on our maps many cities swarming like ant hills, the delight of the real estate speculator and the despair of true friends of humanity. Shall it be our ideal to multiply men on city streets and in smoking suburbs, away from fields, and forests, and mountains, or shall we not rather give to all our people space to earn an ample living and to live an ample life, worthy of our democratic ideal?

Robert W. Kelso, Director of the St. Louis Community Fund and Council divides his subject, *Poverty*,¹ into three heads: I. The Meaning and Extent of Poverty, II. The Causes of Poverty, and III. Remedies, Attempted and Proposed. The first fifty-five pages are packed with facts and figures revealing the wide-spread condition of poverty in the past and at the present time. He concludes that the unskilled workers of America live in poverty. "Latterly," he writes, "man has by mechanical invention increased mightily his means of utilizing the forces of nature. A tremendous ac-

celeration in the production of wealth and supposed wealth is the result. But with this speeding up of human affairs comes also an accentuation of poverty. This accentuation of poverty has come to stay, and may be expected to increase in an accelerating ratio unless man, by taking thought, shall find himself enabled to decrease it."

In Part II, *The Causes of Poverty*, Dr. Kelso, after briefly laying aside as untenable the attribution of poverty to a Divine origin as an expression of the will of God, takes up a classification of recognizable causes of poverty. Eleven important classes of causes are given. These are, in effect, treated by the author as secondary causes, since he immediately states: "Over-population, so lightly held by the public generally, is nevertheless primary. It is the most vital consideration in our entire analysis."

Designated as "the most ominous and alarming" cause of human hardship, over-population and the resulting pressure of population upon available means of subsistence is given first place in the presentation of the several causes. In chapter V this subject is given full treatment, starting with the phenomenon of population boosting.

Over-population is an unpopular subject. Cults, jealous of their own ascent to supremacy, have mindfully issued the order, "increase and multiply." Nations, sure that greatness is the result of size, have urged a high birth-rate.

When there are too many mouths to feed, that fact inevitably means a shortage for somebody. In its broad economic effect it means an increase in the cost of living. Over-population sets up a vicious circle, for by increasing the cost of food, increasing unemployment, lowering wages and cheapening the grade of housing, it definitely lowers the standards of living. Poverty is an inseparable incident of the pressure of population upon subsistence. It is a social maladjustment resulting basically from that condition of pressure.

In his final theme, *Remedies Attempted and Proposed*, Dr. Kelso attaches the highest importance to the control and regulation of propagation. "The greatest need of mankind in his war against poverty," he concludes, "is for such control and regulation of his propagation as will result in a selective birth-rate. So long as over-population remains a controlling factor in human affairs the results to be expected from other means of combating poverty are small."

¹*Poverty*, by Robert W. Kelso. Longmans, Green and Co., New York. \$2.00.

POPULATION SECTION

Edited by GUY IRVING BURCH

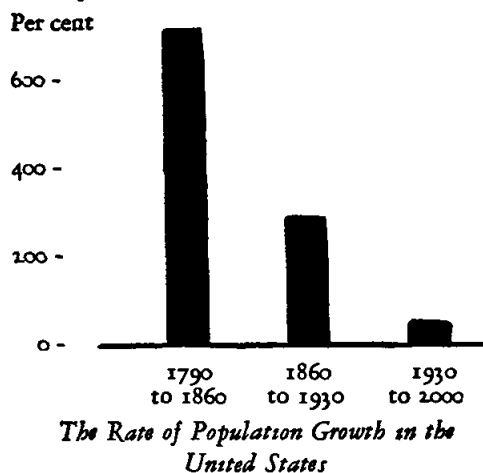
A Nation of Elders in the Making

By WARREN S THOMPSON & P K WHELPTON

IN 1790, one hundred and forty years ago, we took our first national census. At that time we had a population of 3,929,214. This in itself presented a very rapid growth in the century and three-quarters during which white settlement had been going on. But it seems small in comparison with the 31,000,000 we had in 1860 at the outbreak of the Civil War. During this period of seventy years our population doubled every twenty-three years and was just about eight times as large in 1860 as it had been in 1790.

By the time this year's census is taken, at the end of the second seventy-year period of our census taking, our population will have grown to 120,000,000. This is about four times its size seventy years ago, but it represents a rate of growth of somewhat less than one-half of the earlier period. There can be no doubt that during the next seventy-year period, 1930 to 2000, our rate of growth will still further decline.

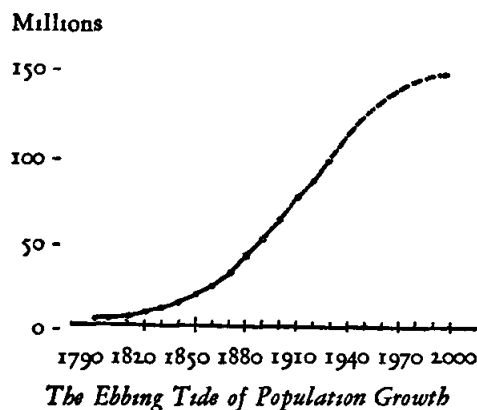
The changes now going on in the factors which will determine our future growth seem to us to indicate that our population in 2000 A D. will not exceed 185,000,000, and it is quite likely that it will be considerably less.



In the United States as a whole, the birth-rate has been declining very rapidly of late years. Al-

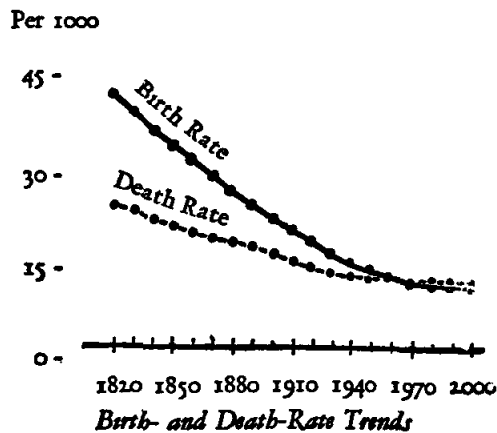
though this decline commenced over a century ago, it has been particularly marked since 1920. During the last 8 years the birth-rate has fallen from 23.7 a thousand of population to 19.7, or over one-sixth. The death-rate, on the other hand, has fallen more slowly than the birth-rate for some years, and since 1920 has scarcely fallen at all. The result is that crude rate of natural increase of 10.6 in 1920, which appeared very low then, had fallen one-third, to 7.3, in the year 1928.

This is probably not more than one-third to one-fourth of what it was prior to 1890. But that is not all. For even a continuation of the present birth- and death-rates at each age of life will result in a population having far fewer children and many more elderly people and, as a consequence, a rate of increase less than one-third the 1920 rate.



The personal advantages of small families are rapidly being realized by all classes of people in every section of the country. Grandfather used to say laughingly that his children were all boys but nine. But grandfather's children did not receive the expensive college education that we wish ours to have, neither did they have their teeth straightened, their adenoids and tonsils removed, and other improvements made over nature. Neither was grandmother concerned about woman's rights, political activities, or a business career.

Practically all of our social and economic problems will bear a different aspect as a consequence of this relatively slow growth, and when the population becomes practically stationary (probably by the last quarter of the century) we shall have to make many adjustments which we can only foresee rather dimly at the present time



Our estimates show that the rate of increase will be only two-thirds to three-fourths as great in the decade 1930-40 as in the decade just ending, and that the absolute growth will be little if any greater than it was in the decade 1890-1900. With this great decline in population growth and with a plant capacity already well in excess of our demands, it requires no prophet to foresee that our business men are soon going to face some formidable problems in adjusting our economic organization to the new situation. Will they be able to make these adjustments so easily and quickly that our prosperity will not lapse? Even with considerable improvements in individual purchasing ability, we must expect a far keener competition for the consumer's dollar than we have yet experienced.

We would not leave the impression that we regard this slowing up in our population growth as a cause of pessimism. We do not. It necessarily involves some very complex and difficult readjustments which will prove painful to many people whose habits of thought and action have been fixed during our period of rapid expansion. But there is a decidedly bright side to the picture. It has been more than we could do hitherto to care for the bare increase in numbers everywhere. No city has been able to house its schools properly because it was kept so busy providing new buildings for increased numbers that little attention could be given to better and more adequate housing. A slowing up

of population growth should be a veritable god-send to real educators everywhere, for it will give them time to consider the quality of their work. City governments will also have time to ask what can be done to make more decent living possible for the great masses of their working populations, if they are not so fully occupied with extending streets, sewers, transportation lines, and so forth. Just think of what a few hundred millions spent in beautifying our cities, in making parks accessible to all the people, in condemning and tearing down tuberculous tenements, and in building municipal theatres and music halls might seem in the lives of the working people in our cities!

We see reason to believe that as a people we are essentially incapable of a civic pride which is based on making our cities and States better and better places in which men can live and enjoy life, but as long as we are obsessed with the idea that bigness alone is a legitimate source of pride, we cannot expect much growth of the finer sort of civic sentiment. That our rapid population growth in the past has fostered this obsession with size admits of no doubt. When we can no longer boast of numbers we shall be more likely to take pride in our parks, our museums, our libraries, our healthy people, our good (not big) theatres, our clean streets, our smokeless factories, our comfortable homes for working people, our schools and universities that educate, our taste in music and a thousand other things more worthy our pride than bigness.

Far from regarding a slow population growth with dismay, we should look forward to it with eagerness because it will give us time, energy, and funds to spend on improving the quality of our living.

Meanwhile, the slowing up in our rate of growth cannot possibly take place without being accompanied by very significant changes in our national make-up.

When some way is found to keep the older workers profitably employed, this change in our age composition should increase our general economic prosperity. It will be recalled that the increase in older people is largely offset by the decrease in those under twenty. The proportion of the population in the most productive ages will change but little. Now, it is quite likely that even though a man of sixty cannot earn as much as he did at thirty, he will yet have more to spend on each individual dependent than he had during the years when he was raising his family.

Another consequence of our changing age composition will be an increase in the death-rate of our population as a whole. The highest death-rates always occur in early infancy and old age, our 1920 rate during the first year after birth was similar to that of persons over sixty, and during the second year similar to that of persons between fifty and sixty. The proportion of children under two will decrease in the future, but not nearly as fast as the proportion of persons over fifty will increase. Hence, even if death-rates at each age of life remain as at present, the general death-rate for the entire population will increase considerably, due to the older age composition. Of course we expect some continued decline in the death-rates of infants, but as previously indicated, the chance for saving there is becoming small. And part of the additional weaker infants carried through the first years will only swell the death-rates at later ages when they are weeded out. Death-rates for persons between ten and thirty have continued to fall since 1920, but comparatively few people die at these ages anyway.

We must learn to think of this rising general death-rate not as evidence of a decline in the effectiveness of medical practice nor of a relaxation in our public health work, but simply as the inevitable accompaniment of our increasing age.

EDITORIAL NOTE It has been impossible to present the great mass of evidence and detail which Thompson and Whelpton have given in their long article in the *American Mercury* for April. This should be taken into consideration when reading the above. Since the article appeared, Dr. Louis I. Dublin has reached similar conclusions in his article, "America Approaching Stabilized Population," printed in the *New York Times*, May 4th. Below is the concluding paragraph of Dr. Dublin's article.

On the other hand, there are certain very distinct advantages inherent in the situation which will more than compensate for the impending difficulties and the readjustments which will inevitably have to be made. A slowing down of population increase will give the nations of the world an opportunity to catch up. Population in most countries has increased faster than certain facilities necessary to civilization. The next half century should give opportunity for governments the world over to build schools, hospitals and other public works to relieve the present congestion which has been inevitable with the inordinate growth of our cities. This, together with the rising standard of living for the masses, should make the world a much better place to live in.

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Saskatoon, W. Diamond, United Farmers of Canada, Saskatoon News Agency, 156 Second Ave.

Book Reviews

THE SOCIAL WORKER, by Louise C Oden-
crantz *Harper and Bros , New York \$2 50*

THE SOCIAL WORKER IN GROUP WORK,
by Margareta Williamson *Harper and Bros ,
New York \$2 50*

THAT the scientific method is being used more and more in social work is cause for congratulation. From this point of view *The Social Worker* is a contribution not only to workers in this field but to the public.

Because of limitation of time and staff the study was limited to defining clearly the aims, methods and techniques in but three phases, Family, Medical and Psychiatric social work. It attempts to tell what is rather than what ought to be. The job analysis method has been taken over from the field of industry to determine the content of the job.

Information was secured through personal interviews with individuals engaged in the job analyzed. Staff conferences were attended, case records, handbooks and reports were consulted, and research studies compared. No reliable source was omitted. No general questionnaires were issued, but a general outline was followed as a guide in collecting material.

Responsibilities and duties both within the office and in the field are set before the reader in great detail.

It is surprising that family social workers in particular, who have much first-hand information about conditions of maternity and family life, of overcrowding, desertion and juvenile delinquency, have as yet shown so little interest in the larger biological problems of eugenics, sex education and Birth Control. The reading lists show a lack in this respect.

In most instances the value of social workers to the community cannot be over-estimated. Furthermore, they are in a position to collect information which no other source can so adequately give. Although it is true that many of the most important phases of life are the most difficult to measure, such a study as that of Miss Oden-
crantz shows that the social workers realize the need of scientific methodology and are determined to achieve it.

The Social Worker in Group Work by Margareta

Williamson is the second volume of the job analysis series of the American Association of Social Workers.

"Group work concerns itself with services toward individuals in a group brought together through a common interest and guided by means of suitable and congenial activities toward a well-rounded life for the individual." The group leader "attempts to meet the leisure-time needs, particularly of youth, by means of socially-minded leadership."

Positions in group work are found in settlements, community and school centers, Y W C A, Y M C A, Boy and Girl Scout organizations and the like. Group social work seems to have developed in America before case work, appearing in the Boston Y M C A in 1851. It has attracted more men proportionately than has social case work.

The sociologist in viewing the ills of society as well as the valuable activity of the social worker in relieving or preventing maladjustment cannot but look forward to the time when economic conditions will be so well-understood as to prevent a great deal of the present social wastage.

In the less tangible psychological realm the increase of consciousness of kind, together with the growing homogeneity of our people, may help group life to mould itself spontaneously and naturally without extensive outside assistance. Until then we shall be obliged to depend upon the heroic efforts of the social workers. Therefore the public, which must ultimately shoulder the costs of these problems, will appreciate the growing tendency to obtain studies in the actual conditions showing what has been done and what remains to be done.

It is perhaps too soon to expect from such a difficult field many constructive suggestions for large programs in applied sociology. Yet only from the accumulation of original data can knowledge evolve by which society may more easily control the growth and quality of its population, and the direction of cultural evolution. More specifically the causes of infant mortality, abortion, maternal mortality, and crime should be more definitely known and boldly and fearlessly attacked when discovered.

We may say to the social worker "We are interested in your method, and in your desire to im-

prove it. So far, so good. But what definite results can you show? What indisputable evidence have you to present?" Once the social worker can reveal this knowledge in tangible terms, society must compel the social engineer to utilize it.

In these two studies of the job analysis series we perceive a substantial step in the right direction. The person who would inform himself of the status and methods of social work to-day cannot afford to overlook them.

E P KIMBALL

THE RIDDLE OF SEX, by Joseph Tenenbaum
Macaulay, New York \$3.50

ONCE I began to read *The Riddle of Sex* it was impossible to lay it down. The exposition is clear and simple, the style is quite exceptional. The author sets himself a question at every step — the very question that comes to the mind of the reader — and proceeds to answer it with praiseworthy frankness and completeness.

The book is a consideration of sexology, with its social and psychological implications, beginning with its biblical interpretations and ending with the latest scientific developments, taking up both the sociological and psychological implications. For the layman, the chapters on the physiology of sex will prove an invaluable addition to fundamental education, and may be read with profit at any age period from puberty on. The problems that relate to marriage and Birth Control, and the medical and social considerations that arise out of these aspects of sex are ably presented.

Harry Elmer Barnes, in his challenging introduction, says "If Americans know what is good for them, they will buy a million copies of this book." I would go further in my optimism and anticipate the presence of the book in every household. As a eugenicist I would suggest placing it, as a companion to the Gideon Society's Bible, in every hotel room in the country.

MORRIS H. KAHN, M.D.

AMERICAN CHARITIES AND SOCIAL WORK, by Warner, Queen and Harper Crowell
and Co., New York \$3.75

IN a volume of over six hundred pages Professors Queen and Harper have reprinted Professor Warner's *American Charities* and have added numerous chapters bringing the story of the develop-

ment of American Social Work up to the year 1930. This is the fourth edition of Warner's *American Charities*, first published in 1894 and revised in 1904 and 1919. Professor Queen of the University of Kansas and Professor Harper of Kalamazoo College have contributed the first and the third sections of this recent volume, actually over two-thirds of the total material.

They have succeeded in bringing out against the background of *American Charities* of 1894 the evolving character of social work as represented by the activities of today. Professor Queen traces briefly the development of social work from concentration on economic problems with which Professor Warner was much concerned in 1894, through periods of emphasis on biology, and psychiatry, to a gradually developing recognition of the importance of the interrelation of individuals and groups, — the sociological approach. The contrasts of social work in 1893 and 1928 are well brought out by a comparison of the organization of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, as it was called in 1893, with its nine divisions, with the program of the National Conference of Social Work in 1928, with its twelve divisions.

Professor Harper has contributed valuable summaries of the Mental Hygiene Movement, Social Work in Industry, Social Work as represented by institutional activities, community and group work, and publicity. Professor Queen discusses various phases of social case work and the Council and Chest movement with a concluding chapter on social work as a profession.

In addition to presenting in readable form the development of social work activities in America, the book contains much interesting reference material. Many notes and a carefully selected bibliography will be of assistance to the student. The volume represents a vast amount of study and a perspective on the development of social work in America which arouses admiration. It deserves a prominent place in the gradually developing literature of this new profession.

WALTER W. PETTIT

I would rather have all the risks which come from free discussion of sex than the greater risks we run by a conspiracy of silence.

DR COSMO GORDON LANG,
Archbishop of Canterbury, England

CHILDBIRTH, by William George Lee, M D
University of Chicago Press \$3 00

ONE of the most important and most neglected fields of medical service demanding the application of the principles of preventive medicine is competent management of childbirth. Though the most prosperous nation in the world we have a maternal death-rate higher than that of any of the prominent civilized nations.

In the first chapter of this unusually valuable book on childbirth, Dr Lee states that less progress has been made in obstetrical research than in most fields of preventive medicine for the "very understandable reason that the interest of the community as a whole has been predominantly directed to its own immediate welfare, rather than to the future of those as yet unborn. Specialized knowledge of any great value is usually acquired only by long preparation and experience. A lack of interest in any field of endeavor will restrict workers therein to those few whose predominant incentive is not immediate social reward but the urge within themselves. In the profession of medicine the proportion of obstetricians has decreased for this reason, for, as more and more specialties have arisen, those less arduous and offering greater popular rewards have been ones increasingly filled. A vicious cycle has resulted, inasmuch as the public, ignorant of the complexity and importance of what takes place in the birth-process and not understanding what great improvements are possible, does not furnish the general interest which will draw doctors into this field of practice and into undertaking the intensive work on which improvements must be based."

He then indicates how little "those who do so much to raise the sodden dough of public opinion by the yeast of the written word" have done to arouse public interest in childbirth. Courtship and union are subjects certainly not neglected today in serious literature or sensational fiction or the movies. "Likewise, all human problems of the individual and his environment are dramatized from the time birth places him upon the stage. The crowning event between these periods, however, is almost always left off-stage as a gap between the essential scenes. When, exceptionally, childbirth has been portrayed in general literature, there are usually stressed only those emotional reactions upon adults that are of quite abnormal character,

with nothing to indicate that such reactions are exceptional and often needless.

And while interest in eugenics, and in birth control has increased greatly and is being popularized more and more widely in the news columns and in serious literature, and some welfare organizations are supplying information to expectant mothers in preparation for, and on the after-care of, their offspring, little has been written except in technical medical books for the student on "the occurrence and needs in the process of childbirth."

To the unusual task of supplying a work upon the marvellous drama of childbirth — for such it is — in language within the grasp of the interested layman, the author brings not only the rich experience of over twenty years as a clinician and teacher of obstetrics, but the very rare combination in a physician of psychologist, poet and writer.

While the body of the book is concerned with the mechanisms and technique of management of the various stages of normal and complicated labor, the first two and the last chapters form an essay unusual in medical literature.

Of many striking affirmations, ponder this "If every woman had a thorough physical examination as a routine procedure after maturity is reached following puberty, the basic pelvic conditions would be clearly known." And how much disease and suffering and unhappiness and tragedy could be prevented! Truly, if and when the masses of ignorant young women are emancipated from the superstitions that still enslave them.

This is a book that should take its place in the permanent library of every physician. It is a classic in medical literature which Sir William Osler would have praised and prized. It should be read by every one interested in human welfare and the difficulties which confront the physician in his work. To the social worker it should be an inspiration in her contacts with the great masses of women of the working classes, 80% or more of whom are living, according to reliable statistics, below a standard of health and decency. And as "most of our hospitals suffer from faulty planning, faulty organization, and faulty management," and it is not praise but recognition which is needed by the physician in his hospital work, this book might be read with profit by those hospital trustees who because of autocratic and bureaucratic business standards fail to comprehend the professional ideals and needs of "an honorable guild."

JOHN B. SOLLEY, MD

The Answer Box

As we receive many letters which raise points of general interest, we initiate in this issue a question and answer department for the benefit of our readers. We invite inquiry on Birth Control propaganda, history of the movement, literature, etc., and shall endeavor to furnish authoritative answers.

I am a physician practising in Louisiana, and would like to give contraceptive information to some of my over-burdened patients, if there is no legal restriction

H Q, M D

Baton Rouge, La

THE only anti-Birth Control legislation in Louisiana is Act 95 of 1920, a statute prohibiting the advertisement of "any secret drug or nostrum purporting to be exclusively for the use of females, or for preventing conception or procuring abortion." This does not interfere in any way with a reputable private doctor, or a clinic, instructing patients in the use of contraceptives.

I am working up a speech on Birth Control for our Women's Club meeting in June. Under what headings will I find books dealing with the subject in my public library?

Mrs H E

Cincinnati, Ohio

IN most public libraries, using the Dewey system of classification, books dealing directly with Birth Control will be found under the class number 304.22, the corresponding number for libraries using the Library of Congress system is HQ766. These books are listed in the catalogues under the subject heading "Birth Control." Supplementary books which deal very closely with the same problem will be found under "Birth-Rate" and "Population." Books on population are catalogued according to the country they deal with. A book on German population would be under G "Germany—Population."

Articles on Birth Control will be found in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *New International*, and the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. This last is, of course, opposed, and should be valuable in preparing a Birth Control speech, since it gives some idea of the objections which must be answered.

Magazine articles are listed under "Birth Control" in the *Readers' Guide to Periodic Literature*.

We are sending you a new and comprehensive list of books on Birth Control, population, child welfare, etc. Why not get your group to make a study of Birth Control, and then ask the library for the necessary material? Library boards are often willing to do this. Or if your organization is financially able to do so, you might buy the books and present them to the library when you are through with them.

Are there any state organizations working for Birth Control?

YES. Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have state organizations whose aims are identical with ours. California, Maryland, Michigan, and Ohio have active local groups. There is also the Federal Committee on Legislation for Birth Control, under the leadership of Margaret Sanger, working for the repeal of obstructive Federal Legislation. Write us for information and get in touch with your State league.

Is there any data showing the relation between infant mortality and child spacing?

H M de V

Little Rock, Ark

THE publications of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor contain much material on this point, and bring out, incidentally, the necessity for Birth Control. We particularly recommend No. 142, "Causal Factors in Infant Mortality" (30 cents). This contains, among other information, a chart showing the rise in infant mortality in direct proportion to decreased time between births. Here is proof positive of the value of Birth Control in reducing infant mortality. Send to the Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C., for their list of publications.

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

AN International Birth Control Conference will be held in Zurich from September 1st to 6th. The subjects for discussion will include

- 1 Reports from Birth Control Leagues and Clinics
- 2 Contraceptive Devices and Technique
- 3 Birth Control in Relation to Health and Economic Conditions
- 4 The Differential Birth-Rate and Eugenic Aspects of Birth Control

The membership fee is one guinea. For further information apply to the Secretary, Mrs Janet Chance, c/o A S Cobden, Esq, 10 Adelphi Terrace, London, W C 2

UNITED STATES

THE Presbyterian General Assembly's Special Commission on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage has issued a report which will be submitted to the Assembly, meeting in Cincinnati on June 2nd. On the subject of Birth Control the report reads

While frowning upon the widespread use of contraceptives for the total prevention rather than the reduction of the number of children, there can be no doubt that there may be a place for the contraceptive under medical advice

The American Unitarian Association adopted a resolution endorsing Birth Control at its 105th annual meeting at Tremont Temple, Boston, on May 20th. The resolution, introduced by the Reverend Dr Minot Simons, Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City, reads as follows

Whereas, it is becoming increasingly clear that, in the interest of social betterment, racial progress and a more wholesome family life, parenthood should be undertaken voluntarily and intelligently with due regard for the mothers' health and the children's welfare, both physical and moral. Be it therefore

Resolved, that the American Unitarian Association recommends to its constituent churches and members an earnest consideration of the fundamental social, economic and eugenic importance of Birth Control to the end that they may support all reasonable efforts in their communities for the promotion of the Birth Control movement

Margaret Sanger spoke at a luncheon of the Eastern Region of the Committee on Federal Legislation, held at the Ambassador Hotel, New York, April 24th

The American Eugenics Society and the Eugenics Research Association held a joint meeting on May 17th at the Hotel McAlpin, New York City. The Eugenics Research Association furnished the morning program, with ten short addresses and the election of new members and officers

The afternoon session in the hands of the American Eugenics Society, presented the following addresses

Eugenics and the Church, by Rev Kenneth C MacArthur

Eugenics in Theory and Practice in Fascist Italy, by Adamantios Th Polyzoides

The Use of Museum Facilities for Eugenic Education, by Dr Paul Burkholder

The Work of the American Eugenics Society, by Leon F Whitney

The Heredity of Key Families in Vermont, by Prof Henry F Perkins

The Eugenic Aspect of Population Theory, by Roswell Johnson

A dinner with Dr Henry Pratt Fairchild and Congressman Albert Johnson speaking, closed a stimulating and worthwhile day

As an Associate Group of the National Conference of Social Work, the American Birth Control League will hold three meetings during the Boston Conference as follows

June 10th, 3 P M The Birth Control Clinic and the Social Worker *Speakers* Dr James F Cooper, Dr Sidney E Goldstein

June 12th at 6 30 P M Dinner Symposium on Birth Control *Speakers* Professor T N Carver, Professor of Economics of Harvard, Owen R Lovejoy, Secretary, Children's Aid Society of New York, Joseph Lee, President, Playground Association of America, Dr Carl Bowman, Boston Psychopathic Hospital, Rev Robert W Jones, Bulfinch Place Church and the Parker Memorial, and others

June 12th at 8 P M Mass Meetings, Social Aspects of Birth Control, Reverend Clarence M Skinner, presiding *Speakers* Dr Ira S Wile, Professor Harry A Overstreet

MICHIGAN The *Grand Rapids Press* has been carrying on a lively controversy on the subject of large families, from which we quote the following volley

Why make the parents of many children feel like criminals? Surely this country was not built up by limiting the size of families

Are not children supposed to be an asset to the country and a blessing to parents? How about good Abraham Lincoln?

No one objects to any one having a large family if the parent has money enough to spend on the children and give them a fair chance

NEW JERSEY On April 27th the New Jersey Birth Control League celebrated its third anniversary. Miss Henriette Hart, Executive Secretary, presented a report on the growth of the Maternal Health Clinic, showing that it had given 1,780 treatments in the year beginning May 1929, as compared with 923 treatments in the year beginning May 1928. It has been necessary to increase the number of clinic sessions, and everything promises steady growth.

The Maternal Health Clinic marked the second anniversary of its opening with a luncheon at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, attended by 500 members and friends of the League. Margaret Sanger spoke on "Birth Control and Congress", Dr. Ira S. Wile on "Birth Control in Modern Times", and Dr. George B. Kirchwey on "Birth Control and Crime".

A discussion on Birth Control was presented at the State Convention of the New Jersey League of Women Voters, held May 13th and 14th at Morristown. Birth Control had been on the study program of the League, under the direction of Mrs. Wells P. Eagleton, chairman of the Department of Social Hygiene.

The subject was discussed pro and con, Rev. Dr. Edgar S. Wiers of Montclair speaking for Birth Control, and Dr. Margaret Mackay (Catholic) of Jersey City against it. Mrs. Harriman Simmons presided. Rev. Dr. John M. Cooper had promised to present the Catholic point of view, but withdrew when he heard there was to be an opposing speaker. After the speeches there was a general discussion, the questions showing that a majority was in favor of Birth Control. The League adopted an increased and intensified study program on Birth Control.

NEW YORK The Junior Committee of the American Birth Control League gave a luncheon to social workers at the Hotel Woodstock on April 30th, in order to discuss ways of arriving at a better understanding between the League and social agencies. Mrs. F. Robertson Jones presided. The speakers were Miss Frances Taussig, Director of the Jewish Social Service Association, Miss Rose Gruening, Head Worker at the Grand Street Settlement, Dr. Sidney Goldstein, Associate at the Free Synagogue, and Dr. James M. Cooper, Medical Director of the League. Bailey Burritt, Executive Secretary of the A. I. C. P., Dr. Knopf, and Rev. Lewis E. Christian, Minister of the Fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, contributed to the informal discussion.

The Clinical Research Bureau has moved from 46 West 15th Street to 17 West 16th Street, N. Y.

Mrs. Sanger spoke before the Brooklyn Section of the National Conference of Jewish Women at the Union Temple, Brooklyn, on May 13th.

Members of the League addressed meetings during May as follows:

Rabbi Sidney E. Goldstein, Reconciliation Tours, Labor Temple, New York

William H. Coulton, Union Methodist Church
Mrs. Richard Billings, Yorkville Community Association

Dr. James M. Cooper, Lions Club, Richmond Hill

Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, N. Y. Kindergarten Association

PENNSYLVANIA The organization of the Birth Control League of Allegheny County on May 1st was announced in the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph* by a seven column streamer: "Society Women here open Fight for Birth Control." On this date at the request of some of those formerly interested in the Birth Control Movement in Pittsburgh, a meeting was called at the home of Mrs. William Thaw. Mrs. A. C. Martin, of Philadelphia, spoke of the increased interest in the movement throughout the State, and told of the many letters received in the Philadelphia office from the poor of Pittsburgh, asking for help. At this meeting, the Birth Control League of Allegheny County was organized. The following officers elected: *President* H. C. Westervelt, M. D., *Vice-*

Presidents Mrs Raymond Kaufman, Mrs Wm Thaw, Jr, Mrs Alexander Laughlin, Roswell H Johnson, Sc D, Phineas Whiting, Ph D, Mrs Horace Forbes Baker, Mrs David Alter, Mrs James G Pontefract, Rev Waldo A Amos, Rev Percy G Kammerer, Jos A Gold, M D, Harold H Meanor, M D, *Secretary* Mrs Helen Glenn Tyson, *Treasurer* Miss Katherine M Edwards, *Chairman of Ways and Means* Mrs Wm Thaw, Jr, *Chairman of Meetings* Mrs Julian Kennedy, Jr, *Chairman, Headquarters Committee* Mrs John W Lawrence, *Chairman of Membership* Mrs Dudley D Pendleton

In less than a week after its organization, the Birth Control League of Allegheny County has secured an office at 804 Wabash Bldg, and installed a secretary. Intensive campaign for membership is in progress. There is no doubt that Pittsburgh will have a very live organization, as there has been great interest in the movement for years in this section of the State but until now leadership was lacking.

CANADA

THE Social Service Council of Canada, in the report of a special committee on family life, asks for more widespread consideration of Birth Control by the Church and a declaration by it as to whether it considers Birth Control methods good or bad and why. The section on Birth Control reads in part:

If the ministry of the church and church bodies generally continue to refrain from the consideration of such questions, they will do so to their own detriment. If scientific or artificial methods of Birth Control are bad, it is high time the Church should explain wherein they are bad to the people. If they are good, it is high time the church should break its silence on the subject.

Through the kindness of

REV L GRISWOLD WILLIAMS

*The Report of the Committee on Birth Control
adopted by the*

UNIVERSALIST GENERAL CONVENTION

is available for study, reference and discussion groups. Excerpts from this valuable and comprehensive report were printed in the May BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. Copies will be sent free of charge on application to this office.

Echoes of the Church Number

REV KENNETH C MACARTHUR, *Secretary of the Massachusetts Federation of Churches, and Secretary of the American Eugenics Society's Committee on Cooperation with Clergymen, writes*

I HAVE read your Church Number through with much interest. I am glad to see that several of the writers realize the importance of Birth Control from the eugenics standpoint as well as merely from that of the over-worked and poverty-stricken mother who has too many children for her strength and for her husband's financial resources. I believe that the movement will gain much from broadening it and showing its close relation with the problems of poverty and unemployment, disease, and particularly war and peace. Church people tend to be strictly pacifistic at present, but in the numerous discussions of the problem hardly any of the ministers mention the real menace to world peace by the unrestricted population growth of countries like Italy and Japan.

I have been interested in this subject, *etc.*, Birth Control, for several years, and have spoken on it before various ministers' conferences and groups of church men and women. I have had no serious opposition in so doing, and various individuals have expressed their hearty approval.

We give here a few additional statements received too late for inclusion in the Church Number

REVEREND MELBOURNE PARKER BOYNTON, *Pastor of the Woodlawn Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill*

MY theme confines me to statements that I have already made in my own pulpit. For nearly thirty-three years I have served as Pastor of the Woodlawn Baptist Church in Chicago. My wife and I attended the first conference on Birth Control held in this city. At once we became subscribers to and supporters of the movement. On every proper occasion since then I have not hesitated to make plain my position in this matter of Birth Control.

Last summer I taught a large class of young people in one of our summer assemblies. My general theme was *The Christian Home*. In one of the six lectures I made extended and careful reference to this matter. There was the deepest interest and most hearty response to this lecture on the part of the young men and women of that class.

Recently in my own pulpit I stated there was no stupidity more awful and sometimes more wicked than the old fashioned silence and shame that surround the birth of children. The silly lies concerning birth told inquisitive youngsters are invitations to vice and sin.

Why need we stay in the fears of a mysterious twilight when we can walk in the glorious light of truth? Tell the truth and in the truth we go free.

REVEREND ALLAN A. HUNTER, *Minister of Mt Hollywood Congregational Church, Los Angeles, Calif*

IF we of the church want men and women to remain permanently mated today we must see to it that such light is made available to them as shall make their path radiant. I know of a few older married people who appear to be deeply in love with one another without knowledge or use of contraception, but I know of other married people who do understand contraception and are so happy with one another that divorce is as unthinkable for them as abortion.

And they believe that Birth Control is a gift of God enabling them to win poise and power of spirit but most of all a growing sense of enduring partnership.

REVEREND GARDINER M. DAY, *Assistant Rector of St John's Church, Williamstown, Mass*

A REMARK made to me by a student from India who was in this country studying for the Christian Ministry has never left me. "I am carrying back to India," he said, "Birth Control as the Fifth Gospel." Surely few things seem more important if we are to build a kingdom of God on earth than an intelligent control of our population.

As a worker among students I am continually encouraged to find that more and more rapidly the younger generation is realizing the seriousness of the situation and the necessity not only for the personal practice of Birth Control, but also for the eradication of those laws on our statute books which so largely prevent the poorer and less educated classes of our population from securing the contraceptive knowledge which they so badly need, and if they knew of it, would desire.

The League is working along good lines in grad-

ually establishing clinics and agents in different parts of the country to furnish information. Especially are such clinics and agents needed in the rural districts. How is a poor individual located in some tiny hamlet to learn, especially if the doctor is not sympathetic with the movement, unless she can secure the information near at hand. The cry is, "Yes, Mrs. Blank has only three children. She knows how to prevent them, but I don't." A further difficulty is that of persuading the less intelligent people to use the methods after they have learned them. My belief is that one of the great needs of our rural districts is for women social workers who not only can give the information but can persuade the ignorant to use them. The retort which I have received many times "You have to take what God sends you," must be changed, and people must say "We will bring into the world only the child to whom we can give the opportunity of development worthy in the sight of God."

RABBI RUDOLPH I. COFFEE, *Rabbi of Temple Sinai, Oakland, California*

DURING my nine years of residence in Oakland, I have not heard one Jew or Jewess oppose Birth Control. Jews scoff at the theological objections to Birth Control. They are based on Bible sentences written thousands of years ago and now at variance with modern science. The Biblical verse "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth," was, at best, never an eternal command. It was addressed to only two persons, Adam and Eve. And further, that command has been fulfilled. To-day we have too many people, not too few. Witness China with nine million starving souls. American charity will never solve that problem but Birth Control will. China needs fewer babies in the face of its over-population.

Jews believe in Birth Control, the idea of children by choice and not by chance. We uphold the theory of "government of the people, by the people and for the people." This ideal demands intelligent voters, otherwise our nation is doomed. With national suffrage granted to all male and female citizens over 21 years, we must have educated voters. And Birth Control will stop this indiscriminate multiplying of idiots, imbeciles, and morons, which has become a national peril. The number of insane asylums increases annually throughout the land. Let us stop the sub-normal population from procreating its kind.

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

A TRAINED NURSE DEPLORES TABOO

I AM A SENIOR NURSE in training, have had very excellent courses in Gynecology, etc., but our training is sadly lacking in one of the most important problems of society and its solution, namely Birth Control

Why should this be kept under such dark secrecy? Why is it always taught that even thought upon such subjects as sex and contraception is unclean and evil?

I would greatly appreciate all the information you can give me on absolute methods. I realize that you are under a great handicap but I will be glad to be of any meagre assistance that I can render. There seems to be no one to tell us, mothers don't know and most doctors won't tell.

Please don't put your name on the outside of your reply, for suspicion might be aroused when the letter went through the hands of the hospital assistants in the training school office.

Boston, Mass

A M P

DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE US

AS I AM MOVING I wish to have my address changed, so that I will not lose any copy of your wonderful BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. I am a subscriber to your magazine and think more of it than any other one printed. In fact I would rather give them all up than lose your BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.

HAROLD A WILSON

East Foxboro, Mass

A CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS

I AM IN RECEIPT of a letter from the Circulation Manager inquiring about a renewal of my subscription, which has expired. Under the circumstances as I see them, I do not feel able to extend this subscription.

Let me record myself as being highly appreciative of the excellent standards of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, both as a journal of social science and as a piece of literature. I am also fully aware

of the numerous difficulties which hamper its publication. But one tends to find little utility in seeing the same points exploited again and again.

It is something like lectures on Birth Control. They usually consist of reiteration of the various reasons why the practice must be recognized as a function of our civilization. But they never get beyond this stage. Of course the obvious answer is that not much more can be done with the law in its present state, nor in the face of the ubiquitous high-handed operations of public officials. This is most unfortunate, but it means that some of us who must adjust our reading-matter to professional salaries cannot afford to repeat our study of the "elementary course" indefinitely.

If it should be possible for the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW to "start something" — just what, I cannot say — that would release it from its present position of being cornered by a cruel circumstance, I should be with it to the last ditch. This would probably necessitate stirring up the implications that reach beyond the special field of Birth Control, but which are perfectly obvious, and there are too many subscribers who are liberal on one or two subjects only.

I have enjoyed the issues that have come to me, and I wish that my position might be stated otherwise.

HOWARD DAVIS SPOERL

Orono, Maine

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF Michigan will offer two groups of courses in Hygiene and Public Health during the forthcoming Summer Session, June 27th through August 9th. As Birth Control is discussed in connection with these courses, it occurred to me that you might be interested in making some announcement of them. Complete details of courses, lectures, fees, etc. will be sent on application.

J. SUNDWALL, M.D., *Director*

*Department of Hygiene and Public Health, University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich*

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

I NOTICE in your May issue an excerpt from the the pamphlet "Birth Control", expressing the views of the Catholic Church on the subject. The beginning reads "Marriage has a three-fold purpose. First and primarily its purpose is the begetting and rearing of children."

This is an interesting statement, if true. What is its basis? The teaching of Jesus? I think not. Jesus' statement of the purpose of marriage is quite different. He makes no mention of children.

But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. *For this cause* shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. And they twain shall be one flesh. *St Mark X 6-8*

A study of the Kabbalah, the secret tradition of the ancient Jews, with which Jesus was no doubt familiar, reveals a meaning that has no connection with children.

It might be well for those of the clergy who insist on babies at any cost, to bear in mind Jesus' warning.

For behold the days are coming in which they shall say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.' *St Luke XXIII 29*

E. R. DOWLING

New York

A PROMOTION IDEA

PROBABLY one of the most practical suggestions that could be made to accomplish the end you seek is the following.

Secure from each county-seat in the United States the daily record of marriage licenses — including the names and addresses of both parties.

Men, Women and God

A HERBERT GRAY

Is the Church hopelessly out of step with social progress? Has religion anything to do with an intelligent view of the sex question?

Read this sane consideration of the whole problem \$1.50

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This can be obtained each day by various methods. One would be to solicit volunteers among your membership who will agree to send in such a list once a week or at regular intervals. Lists can be clipped from the newspapers, also.

Send to both parties — immediately — literature about Birth Control. The newly married are a class who will welcome information on this subject. They are willing listeners to what your movement contemplates. The weakness of the Birth Control movement lies in its failure to reach those most interested.

Keep a check for one year on the results from such a campaign. Someone would doubtless endow the postage for this work. Those with whom you make contact will advertise your league and your magazine.

Expand the plan later to include those who have just had children. This column is a common newspaper feature in most cities and readily available to you.

H E B

Kingston, N Y

PRAISE FOR A DISCERNING REVIEW

THE CURRENT ISSUE of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW has just reached me this morning and I hasten to express my warmest appreciation of the generous review of my volume, "Children of Fire and Shadow." Other reviewers have said very kind things about the book *as poetry* but none have expressed with such clarity and force the true aim of the volume and my desire to voice the woman's viewpoint. I am indeed grateful and shall always treasure the review.

LUCIA TRENT

Philadelphia, Pa

WHAT IS YOUR EMOTIONAL AGE?

JOHN FARRAR — I have found the *One Game Book* that has been delighting the family circle. Try it in your parlor.
PROF. JOSEPH JASTROW — I find it of great interest — you have shown great ingenuity.
BOB DAVIS — Thru it I have become so well acquainted with myself that it amounts to familiarly.

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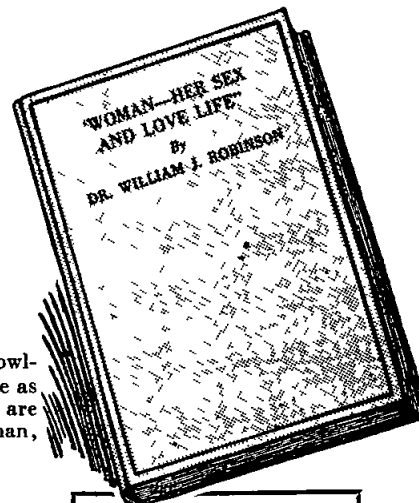
W O M A N

HER SEX and LOVE LIFE

and a FREE Book Offer of "BIRTH CONTROL"

Both books by DR WILLIAM J ROBINSON

One of America's Foremost Sexologists



"The best book on the subject in the English language," says Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, Professor Historical Sociology, Smith College

The discussion of the sex and love life of woman still requires unusual good sense and tact. Dr. Robinson has approached the problem on the basis of a most extensive body of information drawn from a long and active practice as a physician specializing in sex problems. His treatment of the issues of the sex and love life of women embodies exact and prolonged observation of material on the one hand and sanity in presenting his guiding principles on the other. It is unquestionably the best book to put in the hands of the woman who aspires to order her amatory and conjugal life on the basis of scientific facts, common sense and basic decency. Properly read, understood and applied, it would enormously reduce the unhappiness and maladjustments among American women and would materially lessen the causes of domestic discord. It is a book crowded with saving knowledge. It is the best book on the subject in the English language.

"Birth Control" FREE

This is one of the most successful books Dr. Robinson has ever written. More than 200,000 copies have been sold at the regular price of \$2.00. It is the sanest, most sensible presentation of the benefits and advantages of Birth Control ever to see the light of day. In Europe and America it is accepted as the outstanding scientific work on the subject. But for the special purpose of this unusual offer, Dr. Robinson has authorized us to GIVE THIS BOOK FREE to every man or woman reader of *The Birth Control Review* who accepts the offer presented on this page. To take advantage of this great opportunity, mail the coupon at once while the limited supply lasts.

THIS absorbing book contains the concentrated knowledge gained by Dr. Robinson in a lifetime of practice as a specialist in Sex and Sex Problems. In its pages are facts of vital importance to every man and every woman, married or single.

WOMEN EVERYWHERE GRATEFUL FOR THIS KNOWLEDGE

This great volume, "Woman Her Sex and Love Life," is Dr. Robinson's final summing-up of his long and persistent efforts to reveal the benefits of sex knowledge to all women. Leading authorities say it is the most complete work ever written about the facts every woman must know about sex for happiness in love and life. In it he reveals information hitherto kept secret from most people. He explains in the most understandable language those things which women have long wanted to know, but which they have often been unable to learn.

Read the partial list of contents on this page, and see how much definite, practical, helpful knowledge Dr. Robinson now gives you in the 412 pages of his valuable book. Let him tell you the simple, easy means that can bring the full joy and satisfaction of rational, sensible love experiences.

Thousands of women have read this book, and have obtained amazing benefits. Read the enthusiastic comments of just a few.

"I have just read your books, 'Woman Her Sex and Love Life' and 'Birth Control,' which I recently purchased. I must say I am very much pleased with them. 'Birth Control' covers my ideas on the subject as I had often thought. I am giving the book 'Woman Her Sex and Love Life' to my 18-year-old daughter, for I recognize that it contains all a young woman needs for her information on life subjects."—Dr. E. E. S., Plainview, Minn.

Mrs. J. K. of Little Rock, Ark., says: "Your book has been of great help, answering many questions that I have often wanted to know." And Mrs. F. A. of Philadelphia, Pa., writes: "We have just finished your books and we wish we had read them many years ago when we were first married." Still another woman, Miss H. B. of Chicago, Illinois, writes: "I have recently read your books and found them a very great help in the perplexities confronting me in anticipation of being married very soon."

These letters are on file. The names have been omitted in deference to the writers.

From these comments you can readily see the importance of *Woman Her Sex and Love Life*. Its practical information brings comfort, peace and hope to all who read it. Alone it is worth far more than the low price asked. Certain single chapters may mean a world of difference in your chances for married happiness.

Valuable Privilege FREE

Be sure to avail yourself of this opportunity to secure a copy of this valuable book. By ordering at once you secure the valuable privilege of writing Dr. Robinson personally regarding your problems.

MAIL THE COUPON NOW!

Read This Partial LIST OF CONTENTS

Because space is limited we can list only a few of the chapters in *Woman Her Sex and Love Life*. There are more than 200 all of them as important as these. The paramount need of sex knowledge for girls and women.

The sex instinct
Prenatal care
Who may and may not marry
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