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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Youth Plans for the Future

I have been one year out of college (now 23 years of age) and have had enough experience in the business world to know that it will be a number of years before my salary will provide adequately for children. I am not yet married but expect to be within two months — to a girl with whom I have been going for the past seven years.

We have both seen enough of people, of colleges, of Zoology, of Sociology, to know that such a thing as "Birth Control" exists, and that it is necessarily imperative to practice it if the children that are brought into the world eventually (and they are wanted) are enabled to have their share of the world's education, and wealth, and full living, and their birthright of a happy childhood and a healthy body.

But while we are aware that "Birth Control" exists, we have come in contact with the various methods of its application only in the most vague manner — friends — gossip, etc., and we find that we are about to enter marriage fully understanding each other, and fully knowing where we want to go — and what our goal is, but entirely lacking the knowledge of how to get there.

I am nineteen years old and engaged to be married in October. I have never had anyone to tell me anything about Life. I know nothing but just the bare facts. Would you be so kind as to tell me what I should know? I hear people on all sides discussing Birth Control for and against, but no one ever says what it is. And I know no more than just what those two words tell me. Do you think me very stupid? I want exact facts, not just what someone else thinks.

I am planning to be married soon to a man of thirty, I am twenty-four. We want to raise a family, but at the present time do not feel that we can shoulder the financial responsibility as well as would certainly be possible in a year or two from now, nor could we give children all the opportunities and comforts which we feel they are entitled to, and which they would be more certain to have if we saved our money for a while before having children.

We do not want to impair our good health by experimenting in ignorance or by seeking advice which may or may not be dependable.

The constructive side of Birth Control is nowhere more inspiringly shown than in the letters from young people eager to make the most of marriage both for themselves and for their unborn children.

Please therefore, if you think our plan is wise, send the information.

I am to get married and we shall have to prevent conception for the first year anyway. Can you give me any information regarding the best method from a sanitary and ethical point of view? I am not writing this because of curiosity but because I feel that health and happiness depend on a knowledge of these subjects.

Am a secretary to a man in a large manufacturing concern in this city and have been with the company for a number of years. I came to work for this company when I was 20 and am now 25. I am engaged to a young man and we would like to get married next month. This young man does not have much money saved and I would like to keep my position for a while after we are married so we can save enough to get our home and put aside for a rainy day. My problem is that I would not want to have a family right away and would like to know if you could or would tell me where I could obtain information on Birth Control. Please do not misunderstand me. I *do* want a family but after we have saved enough money to permit it.

This young man and I are practically alone in the world and could be happier if we were together and it seems as if it would take years for him alone to save enough money to make a family and home possible. I hope you will understand how I feel because I want to do all I can to make our marriage possible.

We are "modern", intelligent, well-educated young people — my fiancee aged twenty-seven, I am twenty. We have been engaged three months and are to be married shortly. Although apparently deeply in love, apparently having everything in common, with a thorough understanding of each other tending to make our marriage a success — yet we do not wish to have children until we have weathered and conquered the storms of several years of marriage and are financially able to give our children a *real* upbringing.

Editorial

THE most significant news of the month is the resolution passed by the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops, meeting in London on August 15th. By a vote of 193 to 67, with 43 of their number not voting, the Bishops, drawn from all parts of the world, and avowedly a conservative body, passed the following resolution

Where there is a clearly felt moral obligation to limit or avoid parenthood, the method must be decided on Christian principles. The primary and obvious method is complete abstinence from intercourse as far as may be necessary in a life of discipline and self-control.

Nevertheless, in those cases where there is such a clearly felt moral obligation to limit or avoid parenthood and where there is morally sound reason for avoiding complete abstinence, the conference agrees that other methods may be used, provided this is done in the light of the same Christian principles.

The conference records its strong condemnation of any methods of conception control from motives of selfishness, luxury or mere convenience.

The original report submitted for adoption by the Committee on Birth Control merits its attention.

In our judgment, the question which married couples should put to themselves is this: Would conception for any reason be wrong? If it would clearly be wrong and if there is good moral reason why the way of abstinence should not be followed, we cannot condemn the use of scientific methods to prevent conception which are thoughtfully and conscientiously adopted.

Other reasons are often urged for the use of such methods. Circumstances of income, housing and education are all advanced in justification. These need careful scrutiny. We are unable to accept conception control as the right solution of unsatisfactory social and economic conditions which ought to be changed by the influence of Christian public opinion.

It is obvious that the final form, which was the only resolution not passed unanimously

by the Conference, is a compromise. Despite this, it is a step forward for the International Birth Control movement. It is an acknowledgment that Birth Control is part of the fabric of present day life, and that it must be reckoned with. The Bishops have put their sanction on a universal practice, and have thus increased the power of the church and the vitality of the Birth Control movement. On page 267 we quote some of the press comments on the resolution.

CAN sex education and research into sex conduct be overdone? Mrs. Laidlaw, whose article *The Sex Questionnaire* we print in this issue, thinks they can and makes a plea for a saving sense of humor. From a different angle, two Y M C A secretaries explain the real importance and need for sex instruction and Birth Control discussion among the young people with whom they work. We do not know if these are typical of the general attitude of the Y M C A. If one may deduce anything from random letters, the organizations dealing with young people are making a concerted effort to rectify the mistakes of the Victorian generation, which allowed its children to grow up in blissful ignorance of the most important problems of life. We should be interested to hear further, officially or otherwise, from Y M C A and Y W C A leaders about their work along these lines.

A WHIMSICAL little story in the August 15th issue of the *Survey* opens: "Visitor advised Mrs. R. to purchase a little rouge and powder." A year after this entry was made in the record, the A I C P closed the case, which had run for six years. Mrs. R. had ten children in twelve years of marriage. Six were living, four had died of pneumonia. The husband earned "as high as \$45 a week." The family was going on the rocks. The couple quarrelled. The wife was a bad manager, a slattern, the husband restless. Then the young and sagacious visitor decided to put some pep into Mrs. R. and she gave the advice quoted above. It worked miracles. The husband's interest revived. The home grew

neat and they all lived happily ever afterwards. The record does not bother to tell what happened when the eleventh child came, or the almost inevitable miscarriage or abortion. How eight people lived on an income which sometimes rose as high as \$45 a week is also left shrouded in mystery. Does a relief organization purposely side-step the issue of Birth Control, that it can countenance such fairy tales? Does it really think that a woman who has had ten children in twelve years only needed to have her vanity stimulated with powder and rouge, to make the cricket sing on the hearth once more? Why not tell the whole story?

A READER has recently cancelled her subscription because, as she puts it, "I am trying to found a family, and have thus far met with little success. It seems like rubbing it in to receive the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW each month." We have regretfully removed her name from the subscription files, but are sending her, with our compliments, this current issue, hoping that she will read the article on *Sterility* by the eminent English gynaecologist, Dr W Blair Bell. This incident brings into focus a prevalent misunderstanding, due in large part to the term *Birth Control*. *Birth Control* has all the weakness as well as the strength usually found in slogans. It catches the imagination, and comes easily to the tongue, but it is, strictly speaking, a misnomer. We say *Birth Control* but we mean conception control. We do not mean only pre-emption, Dr William J Robinson's term, nor do we mean contraception. We mean the control of conception, which has its positive as well as its negative aspects. The study and cure of sterility, the absolute prevention of conception through sterilization when circumstances necessitate it, and the conscious control of conception according to the physical, psychological and economic conditions of the parties concerned, are all part of the general movement which has been called aptly, though not entirely accurately, *Birth Control*. The term is here to stay. It has been incorporated in the language of common usage. It is found in dictionaries, books and encyclopedias. We must learn to understand it in its fullest sense.

MR C E MIDGARD, a book dealer of Seattle, Washington, recently imported 120 copies of *The Sexual Life as a Dominant Factor of Vitality in Man and Woman, in Plants and Animals*, by Dr Johannes Rutgers, translated by Dr Norman Haire. He placed this order at the request of a number of his clients, prominent scientists and physicians. The books were held up in the customs inspection, as obscene under Section 305 of the Tariff Act. The Chief of the Bureau of Customs ruled as follows:

An examination of the book shows that in the opinion of the Bureau it is not strictly speaking a scientific or a medical treatise and that it contains numerous passages that are regarded as offensive to the innate modesty of the average man and woman. The Bureau is of the opinion that the book belongs to the class of publications prohibited under Section 305 of the Tariff Act.

Perhaps no better comment on the character of the book can be made than by quoting Norman Haire's introduction, written in May, 1923:

Dr Rutgers is known in England chiefly as one of the pioneers and leaders of the Dutch Birth Control movement, to which we British and American advocates of Birth Control owe so much. But this volume shows him to be a profound thinker, very widely read in the literature of his subject, of vast experience in the practice of his profession, possessed of a strong critical faculty and an unusual capacity for independent thinking.

Mr Midgard is a public-spirited citizen, whose interest in this particular importation is negligible. He sees the danger of the present law, and is preparing to carry the case to the highest court, as a fight against censorship of the most pernicious kind. We are with Mr Midgard and wish him every success. The stupid censorship of scientific books is of a piece with the law which classes prevention of conception with obscenity. On the following pages we print a comment on Dr Rutgers' book and this case by Mary Ware Dennett, whose courageous stand against censorship resulted in complete vindication, and the removal of the ban on her estimable pamphlet, *The Sex Side of Life*.

Censorship in the Customs

By MARY WARE DENNETT

THE outstanding impressions of Dr Rutgers' book are first, that it is written with a quaint decorum which implies that civilized sex expression is the outcome of good breeding and fine feeling as well as response to the sex urge, and second, that the book represents a very high individual and social idealism

It is quite probable that not all modern scientists will fully agree with Dr Rutgers on every one of his points, notably that in regard to auto-erotism, but it is safe to say that no normal-minded scientist will fail to recognize the value of this wise old Hollander's long and wide experience as a practicing physician, and also the fact that in this good doctor were combined the qualities of the researching scientist and the loving humanitarian

It seems almost incredible that any average customs official could honestly decide that this book is "obscene", and as such must be debarred from importation

That such a decision has been made constitutes yet another striking opportunity for the people of this country to think seriously as to whether they want laws which vest in a few officials the power to inject into their rulings the reflection of their own sadly perverted concepts of sex. And further, it presents a chance to consider whether it is wise public policy that the educational limitations of any particular customs officer should force a high-minded citizen like Mr C E Midgard, the book-dealer who imported the Rutgers books, to face the expense and annoyance of a court trial. And further yet comes the question as to whether the people of the United States want their access to scientific books on sex controlled by a few mis-educated men who happen to hold governmental positions

A jury trial, thanks to the recent measure passed by the initiative of Senator Bronson Cutting, is preferable to a decision by a single customs official, but even that is by no means a fair or reliable means of settling the question of "obscenity". Gradually but surely people are waking up to the idea that obscenity lies not in words, phrases or acts, but in the mind of the person who is unable to see certain words, phrases or acts without a feeling of dirty

excitement, and that the cure for this wretched state of mind is not in suppression, but in letting the sunlight of a proper educational environment shine on that individual from his earliest days. The government is merely piling up the trouble it wants to lessen by this whole program of suppression

The district attorney of the Federal Court before which the Midgard case will be tried, has stated what parts of the Rutgers book are officially deemed "obscene". The selection is illuminating. It clearly indicates that in the minds of the officials, sex itself is dirty and dangerous. For the passages chosen for condemnation are those which discuss most concretely the nature of the sexual functions, and those which explain most clearly the dual quality of the human sex impulse,—its instinct toward procreation and its conscious reach toward happiness. The more specific the discussion, the more "obscene", seems to be the governmental criterion. In other words, these officers are still actuated by the old nasty notions and blind fears about sex, from which the modern scientific and ethically progressive world has emerged. They are still in the dark ages, deceiving themselves into the belief that sex safety lies in sex ignorance

One need only read the opening and closing chapters of Dr Rutgers' *The Sexual Life* to recognize the ideality of his aim in writing the book. His genial love and hope for humanity permeate every page. His picture of normal mated living can hardly be excelled for beautiful loyalty to the finest ideals yet evolved by the human race. This governmental blunder leaves the good doctor's memory unblemished. It merely reveals the distressing limitations of some of our officials who have been entrusted with the nation's business

It is indeed amazing that any official could be so obsessed by his own preconceived horrid notions as to let them outweigh the plain evidence of the Rutgers book itself, not to mention the sketch of the doctor's life given at the end of the volume, from which the following bits are quoted

Johannes Rutgers was born in the little Dutch village of Hallum, the fifth of six children of the

local pastor Both father and mother were of old and learned Dutch families, and they were his first school-masters Like Cornelia of Roman fame, the good mother taught her sons herself, and under her able tuition, the young Johannes matriculated at Groningen University He was a lover of nature even at that early age, and threw himself with ardor into the study of plants, flowers and insects

When twenty-two years old he prepared for the church, and had terminated his theological studies with success, although too young to be appointed to a curacy in Holland He got his first call at the age of twenty-four, shortly after his marriage

Soon however he decided to take up medicine, and after obtaining his degree began his long practice in Rotterdam where he worked untiringly in the interest of all his patients, both rich and poor, his sound good sense, his unfailing patience and loveliness, led his patients one and all to cherish the greatest affection for him His rule of life was to be of use in the world, to help the afflicted Personally he was incredibly selfless, and simple in his ways Apart from his practice he devoted himself exclusively to natural history

Dr Rutgers fell asleep at his daughter's home and died as he had lived, respected, beloved, and at peace with all men

Sterility in Women*

By W BLAIR BELL, F R C S, England

IN any study of sterility in the human race we should try to discover what is the trend is sterility more common to-day than it was, say, fifty years ago? This must be a matter of sociological and national importance in some of its aspects as they are related to conditions of environment Moreover, we must consider the effect of sterility on the health, character, and outlook of the individual woman, both in respect of her own personality and in relation to the circle in which she lives We know, indeed, the influence of a happy family life on those immediately concerned, and we fully realize the importance of it to the nation at large So it is that, properly considered, the question of sterility becomes a large and weighty issue

In a remarkably short space of time, certainly not more than forty years in this country—indeed, it is only 130 years since Malthus' book on the limitation of population was first published—the control of childbirth has become common enough to vitiate statistics in regard to sterility, fertility, and fecundity, especially in relation to the upper classes It would be impossible to-day to collect figures as accurate in regard to sterility and fecundity as those set out in the following table, which illustrates the fertility of women as estimated by Matthews Duncan from data given in the registers of Glasgow and Edinburgh in 1855

Influence of age on the fertility of married women. Showing the percentage bearing a child within two years of marriage (4,500 marriages)

<i>Age when married</i>	<i>Percentage bearing child within two years</i>
16	12 9
17	30 0
18	46 4
19	57 8
20-24	90 51
25-29	75 8
30-34	62 9
35-39	40 9
40-44	15 4
45-49	4 3

Matthews Duncan points out that these figures are not absolutely correct, for dead children are not reckoned in the records from which they were obtained Still, he regards them as indicative of fecundity at different ages at that date

According to the latest official statistics it appears that the birth-rate per 1,000 of the population has fallen from 32 3 in the eighties, and 29 4 in the nineties of last century, to 16 3 in 1929, for England and Wales generally, and to 15 9 for London The gap between the birth-rate and the death-rate is, it seems, being rapidly closed In the last forty years, which is the period of Birth Control, the birth-rate has dropped to one-half of the previous level Moreover, in the Registrar-General's

*Excerpt from an address delivered before the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society, February 12th, 1930

Decennial Supplement (1921), under the section on "Occupational Fertility," it is stated that in Class I—the highest grade—the fertility rate per 1,000 married males under 55 years of age is nearly half that of Class V (unskilled workers). Since the wives are included and births alone are taken into account, the term "fecundity rate" would be better than "fertility rate." No account has been, or could be, taken as to the exact influence of contraception, but it must be clear that this factor has been concerned in the upper classes, otherwise their low fecundity rate is inexplicable. Such a state of class sterility could not occur naturally.

According to Matthews Duncan the Glasgow and Edinburgh registers indicated that 15 per cent of all marriages were sterile.

DEFINITION OF STERILITY

The definition of the term "sterility" has never been satisfactorily determined. Matthews Duncan wrote "Sterility is generally considered to imply the condition of a woman who, under ordinary favorable circumstances for reproduction, does not bring forth a living and viable child. But the term is used with many other meanings."

Quite recently, in a discussion at the Royal Society of Medicine, there was a difference of opinion on the matter. Some held that the term should indicate failure to conceive, while others maintained, as apparently did Matthews Duncan, that abortion should be included. For myself, I think it is more exact to hold to the original meaning of the word, which was jejune, empty, or barren, so it is from this point of view I shall review the subject, and therefore shall not discuss abortion. It is necessary to add that sterility may be primary or secondary—that is, after previous fecundity—and that it may be absolute and permanent, or temporary and curable.

CAUSES OF STERILITY

In the first place it may be said that it is unscientific, and often inhumane, to subject a woman whose only complaint is sterility to what may be tiresome, if not painful, investigations, and perhaps to operations, until the condition of the husband has been established. It should be definitely understood that before anything is done to a woman the husband must be examined. In a considerable percentage of cases the male partner is found to be either impotent or temporarily or permanently sterile from absence or abnormality of the sperma-

tozoa. According to Matthews Duncan, Gross placed the number of sterile husbands at 17 per cent, while modern writers have estimated the figure at 20 per cent in unfruitful marriages.

Sterility in women is due to congenital or acquired lesions in the generative organs, or to some disordered physiological state, and somewhat rarely to toxicological factors.

Dr. Bell next discusses the various causes of sterility, and the prognosis for relief in each case. This section has been omitted as it is entirely medical.

OCCUPATIONAL AND TOXICOLOGICAL FACTORS

There seem to be no actual figures that serve to show whether occupation *per se*—apart from age of marriage, environment, and so on—has a definite influence on fertility and fecundity. Still, we do know that in those industries in which chronic lead poisoning used to be common, sterility was produced in men and, to a less extent, in women. So, also, chronic alcoholism may produce sterility, and therefore occupations in which women find an opportunity for drinking may show a reduced fecundity rate.

PSYCHICAL FACTORS

Civilized woman, with her "educated" outlook on sex questions, can hardly be considered an ideal female mammal from the breeding point of view. This is not directly her own fault, circumstances of over-population and environmental disharmonies have led to the suppression of natural sexual manifestations, and have fostered abnormal variations in the exploitation of sexual desire. Such widespread deviations from the strict physiological path as now exist must in time have some effect on actual fertility and fecundity. It need hardly be said that the more natural men and women are in their manner of living and loving the greater will be their power of reproducing their species. In primitive man, no doubt, as with the rest of the mammals in the wild state, and with the birds, the coquetry of courtship was the immediate prelude to mating and almost inevitable conception. It is certain that love-making stimulates the sexual functions, so the ability of some men to arouse desire in, and to fertilize, a woman who is sterile with another partner may be the whole story of what we call "incompatibility" or "selective sterility." No one can accurately foretell what will happen in the future, it is, indeed, difficult to say how much right or wrong there is in the growing assumption by

man of the prerogatives of nature, and perhaps, after all, I should not tread on such slippery ground

SUMMARY

1 No woman should be subjected to unpleasant examinations or treatment for sterility *per se*, until her husband has been proved fertile. A considerable percentage of men are temporarily or permanently sterile.

2 Statistics concerning sterility in women generally are inevitably vitiated by the widespread adoption of contraceptive measures.

3 There is no evidence that women are more infertile now than they were fifty years ago.

4 Some congenital anomalies of the genital tract are amenable to treatment.

5 Of the acquired lesions causing sterility infections of the Fallopian tubes are the most promi-

nent. Recent methods of investigation and of surgical treatment afford the hope that in some cases relief may be effected.

6 Conservation of function, when possible, should always be attempted in operations on the female genitalia.

7 Physiological derangements of the metabolism and the regulators thereof, and dietetic factors, are becoming well understood, and this may soon lead to improvements in treatment.

8 Psychical factors doubtless are responsible for both voluntary and involuntary sterility. The influence of these factors has not yet been fully investigated by scientific methods.

9 Good health, a natural mode of life, and a normal psychological outlook, in the absence of physical defects and lesions, are the concomitants of natural reproduction.

—*The British Medical Journal*, April 5th, 1930

The Sex Questionnaire

By HARRIET B. LAIDLAW

FOR modern youth sex education must be very literal, very obviously sincere and unforced, incidental and casual, and especially not in the least confidential or sub-rosa. It ought to be obvious by this time

1 Just what young people need

2 How to tell it to them

Many of us who have had sociological training, both university and laboratory, are a little mystified concerning the ultimate use and application of questionnaires on Sex Urge and Experience. There is no doubt that the thing is being overdone. The reaction which we see in such books as this new wholesome roar of mirth, *Is Sex Necessary or Why We Feel the Way We Do*, is only one indication of the reaction of the healthy public mind. But the most interesting thing is the attitude of the high-school and college students themselves. In a recent issue of the Rollins College *Sandspur* I find this mild protest written by one of the students

WHY?

In this age of modern children and modern parents, why all this over-emphasis of sex education in college? Ever since we have been able

to understand, the Primary Facts of Life have been drilled into us until we are sick of the matter. Having been educated at home, in prep school, and in Freshman Hygiene, why not let well enough alone? Is there any need of compulsory attendance at lectures on the same old subject treated in the same old way? If there were any Rollins Freshmen who lacked knowledge on this subject, the required Freshman Hygiene course should have sufficed. If it didn't, they can always write home to Mother. Continual harping on the subject can have only two effects, neither of which is good. It either makes us sex-conscious or disgusted.

Of course we are for liberal education, and such extensive sex teaching of adolescents is comparatively new, but we must not carry it to the extreme. Excess instruction is destructive to its own end.

A very sensible student said the other day, in reference to these very impertinent questionnaires that dig up things that to the healthy are a passing interest and that to the abnormal should probably not be dwelt upon anyway. "These old goats must have their minds dreadfully fastened on these subjects. Of course they are vital, and of course

they are elements in our consciousness and experience, but we have other things to do besides sitting and feeling our pulses over them, and most of us are able to work out our own problems, and if we are so far gone, or so mentally and morally inefficient that we cannot, how much good will these questionnaires do us anyway?" Another one remarked "Say, what do they want to do with them anyway? Are they farming them out to authors who want to write sex novels, who have had no life experience of their own? It gets me!"

One thing that is very obvious to everyone, and I hope it is not unjust, is that the people who are making these emphases must be given to mulling over sex subjects in a way that borders on the pathological. I have been asked if I know of any questionnaires promoted by the students themselves. Although I have been in touch with questionnaires in many colleges I have never known any that have been promoted by the students. What I do know is that many of them, many more than the poor unsuspecting investigators would imagine, have been filled out by students in joint session, amid gales of laughter. These young people may be a little ruthless, they may even at times be a bit Rabelaisian, but they are essentially breezy and wholesome. That is the whole point, light and air

and occupation and chance for growth, and even out of muck and black dirt what flowers blossom! Why should we take it for granted that our young people cannot cope with sex, certainly as well as we did? The rank and file of the human race is more wholesome than it was, I say this at the expense of sounding paradoxical, because the young people of today know more about sex and life and psychology than any other generation perhaps ever did.

My advice is to let the old and middle aged people stew in their own juice on this subject and let the young people alone in their own wholesome way, without peering and prying too much. Sex education should be given anyway between the ages of five and ten years. Whatever you can tell children after that has not much bloom or beauty, surprise or wonder to it. By the time they are fourteen they should literally know everything about everything. Then let them work out their problems. The new ideas in education have very much to do with team and laboratory work and the conference idea where pupils practically teach each other. Do let us apply some of our educational principles along this line.

After all is said, what are they doing with all these sex questionnaires anyway?

SUGGESTED READING IN SEX EDUCATION

The Adolescent Girl, by <i>Phyllis Blanchard</i> Dodd, Mead	\$2 50	Sex and the Young, by <i>Marie C Stopes</i> Putnam	\$2 00
Love's Coming of Age, by <i>Edward Carpenter</i> Vanguard	\$ 75	Coming of Age in Samoa, by <i>Margaret Mead</i> Morrow	\$3 00
The Sex Side of Life, by <i>Mary Ware Dennett</i> — Published by the author	\$ 35	Sex for Parents and Teachers, by <i>Dr W L</i> <i>Stowell</i> Macmillan	\$1 50
Growing Up, by <i>Karl de Schweinitz</i> Macmillan	\$1 75	Youth in Conflict, by <i>Miriam Van Waters</i> New Republic	\$1 00
Sex and Youth, by <i>Sherwood Eddy</i> Doubleday, Doran — Library edition	\$2 00	Attitude of Mothers Toward Sex Education, by <i>Helen Leland Witmar</i> University of Minne sota Press	\$1 00
General pamphlet edition	\$ 15		
Student pamphlet edition, abridged	\$ 15		
Undergraduates, by <i>R H Edwards and others</i> Doubleday, Doran	\$4 00	What Every Girl Should Know, by <i>Margaret</i> <i>Sanger</i> Revised English edition	\$ 75
The Sex Life of Youth, by <i>Grace L Elliott and</i> <i>Harry Bone</i> Association Press	\$1 50, 75c pa	The Way Life Begins, by <i>B C Cady and V M</i> <i>Cady</i> American Social Hygiene Ass'n	\$1 50
Living With Our Children, by <i>Lillian E Gil</i> <i>breth</i> Norton	\$2 50	Some Information for Mother, by <i>J G Gavut</i> American Social Hygiene Ass'n	\$ 15
Adolescence, by <i>G Stanley Hall</i> Appleton (2 vols)	\$10 00	The Sex Factor in Character Training, by <i>M J</i> <i>Exner</i> American Social Hygiene Ass'n	\$ 10

Sane Sex Education in Two Y.M.C.A.s

It Must Include Birth Control—By J. J. Ray

Mr Ray is Assistant General Secretary of the Hamilton, Ohio Y M C A He has recently been appointed to the chair of Association Science at the Y M C A Graduate School at Nashville, Tenn

MUCH has been said about the negative side of contraception. It is this negative attitude that has caused most of the opposition. If we stressed the positive aspects a little more vehemently, I believe the majority of people would readily see that it is one of the most important movements confronting our modern civilization. This positive phase of the movement is stated very clearly in the aims of the Birth Control League. Birth Control has several very powerful enemies. Certain religious forces, prejudices, ignorance, and fear of change, are all serious obstacles. For this reason we need facts about the benefits of contraceptive practice. Nothing can dispel the enemies of change so quickly as unquestionable findings. I am glad to see our clinics building up this data.

Our local Y M C A is not sponsoring this work by official action, but sex education including Birth Control for married persons, is accepted as a natural part of our program and that is sanction enough. Of course Birth Control is a powerful instrument to place in the hands of human beings, but so is an airplane, and so are scores of other mechanical marvels that we have learned to make serve useful purposes. The policy for all sensible persons to pursue in their attitude toward Birth Control is one of frankly critical analysis of all methods and techniques. We have made so much advance that even though we do not have any 100% solution, the benefits possible from the findings that we have made thus far so overwhelmingly outweigh the misery resulting from ignorance, that only the foolish would say we are not better off than formerly.

Those of us who have been in character-building and welfare agency work know beyond all doubt that the intelligent spacing of children is one of the important means for bringing happiness to family life. I am of the firm belief that if more intimate knowledge of the benefits of contraception could be disseminated among those people whom it

should properly concern, opposition would quickly vanish. Fortunately, the last decade has seen public opinion gradually swinging to the open support of this movement. This result has been obtained because the public is getting facts and these are not the bogeys that were anticipated. But getting facts is not enough. Information must be made available to all classes of society. Here the medical profession has a real responsibility. I am very anxious that physicians assume this responsibility before others less able to do so assume it. But, I cannot censor the medical profession too severely for their seeming passivity in the face of what I feel is one of their major concerns. They have been loaded up with so many responsibilities in the field of health, that Birth Control, with all its attendant complications, has seemed an unattractive field, at times, more than unattractive—even dangerous.

The viewpoint of the laity is also due for a change. We so often connect the doctors with abnormal and pathological conditions that it is not easy for the majority to think of the doctor in the same breath with normalcy. For this reason it is very difficult to connect the doctor with normal and happy sex relationships. With the increasing emphasis upon preventative medicine, however, I hope we can gradually come to think of the medical profession as primarily interested, not in disease, but in health. With a changed attitude of the laity, we may actually grow to expect help and assistance from doctors.

My personal interest at present centers around the growth of a well established and intelligently sponsored clinic, revision of legislation to make the dissemination of Birth Control knowledge legal, and the creation of an intelligent, tolerant attitude in all the different civic-minded groups in a community that it is possible to reach. The benefits to humanity resulting from the intelligent use of Birth Control are so great that it is tragic to know so much misinformation exists and so many crude techniques are practiced. The positive benefits

seem to me to be self-evident. What other movement promises so much in the field of marital relationships? Any technique which promises to reduce misery, poverty and discouragement in the lower economic levels, that will release sex from slavery to the procreative function, that allows the

normal sex function without fear of unwanted pregnancy, that places the responsibility for the building of a family in the hands of husband and wife, that eliminates danger from disease and death due to too frequent child-birth, certainly deserves the support of more than the so-called intelligentsia

It Is a Necessary Service—By L. Wayne Emory

Young Men's Secretary, Y M C A , Anderson, Indiana

ONE of the greatest tasks which we, as social workers, are facing is that of giving adequate sex information to the young men and young women with whom we are working. Many groups have shied away from this field and have been satisfied to leave these young people in the dark just as their parents have been. They are acquainted with the results of ignorance and know its dangers, but yet for some unknown reason they fail to do much about it.

Our local Y M C A has definitely set out to give our older boys and young men a series of presentations and lectures on sex, with the hope of building proper attitudes toward the place of sex in life.

There are three potential groups with which we are planning to work this year. They are:

A The young man who hasn't had any sex instruction and knows little more than what he has picked up on the street corner. With this group we are setting up a series of presentations by doctors and intelligent laymen. The classes are limited to fifteen and freedom of discussion is always to be encouraged.

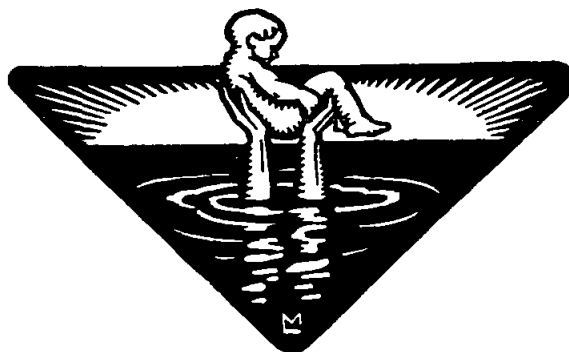
B The second group with whom we plan to work, is the young man who is expecting to marry in the near future. With this group we will present a series of lectures on "Preparation for Marriage."

The course will consist of lectures on the anatomy of both sexes, marital relations, psychology of sex, proper attitudes, the family, children, when and under what conditions they should be born, and the responsibilities of marriage in general. Our leadership will be composed of physicians, laymen and ministers.

C We are planning to organize several young married people's clubs composed of homogeneous groupings. We feel that the majority of the young married people in these groups have not had a great deal of instruction preceding their marriage, and that now would be an opportune time to give this instruction. At the same time, it would give us an opportunity to help them solve the problems which they have experienced. Our series of lectures and presentations will be built around "marriage and its responsibilities." Here again we will use doctors, laymen and ministers.

This is to be only one phase of their program as the group will continue together as a club pursuing other interests from time to time. Each of the above series of presentations will be supplemented, wherever possible, with pamphlets and other source material.

In this way the Y M C A can render a real service to its young men as well as being a constructive force in its local community.



A Birth Control Meeting in Paris

By JESSE QUITMAN

AWARENESS has its origin in contrasts! And yet, our feeling of insecurity constantly craves the familiar, the familiar which is the very opposite of contrast. It is doubtful that humanity dislikes the tedious and monotonous. Its greatest excitements resemble the adventuresomeness of the small child who dips its bare toes in the waters on the edge of the beach and runs back imaginatively frightened to the safe arms of its mother. We are all toedippers into the sea of adventure.

My mind was filled with the consciousness of this fact after listening to a Birth Control meeting here in Paris, the other evening. France is thought to be, and to a large measure is, the land in which the free play of ideas is least interfered with officially today, and yet when Dr. Norman Haire of London, England, began his address at this meeting, he deemed it advisable to preface it by saying — (in French of course)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am given to understand that not merely do your French laws prohibit the giving of specific information about contraceptive methods, but go so far as to make it a criminal offence even to recommend Birth Control generally. As an Englishman I have no intention of dealing with conditions in your country, but I shall limit myself to telling you what we do in England.

The audience to which these remarks were addressed was brought together by a Masonic group in one of their halls in Paris. Both men and women were present, a touch of Gallic color being lent the occasion by the Masonic shoulder sashes of the men. Now what is a bewildered American to think of such a situation? Here is a country in which the population is stationary, and stationary, unquestionably, because Birth Control is more generally practiced throughout France than anywhere else in the world, and yet, in the face of this glaring actuality, there are the laws which make the whole business a crime against the state.

Spiritually France has not as yet recovered from the World War. Important as mechanism is in the waging of modern war, men, numerically, still play the greatest role. Italy and England each with a

population as great as that of France, Germany with one greater, call for births from French mothers. The *Alliance Nationale Pour L'Accroissement De La Population Francaise* is an organization of distinguished Frenchmen for the encouragement of the increase of births in France. They call upon all of those Frenchmen and women who wish to save France to come to their aid in increasing the population. French clear headedness and Gallic logic are as subject to the demoralizing influence of fear as the cerebral processes of other and perhaps less enlightened people. Frightened people behave hysterically. All the organized efforts that have hitherto been made in furtherance of an increase of population through births have been fruitless. The official publication of the *Alliance Nationale* despairingly proclaims such to be the fact. On occasion, Frenchwomen have willingly died for their country. The comprehensible wish to live an individual life is too powerful to permit Frenchwomen to listen to the plea, to live a long, but more burdensome life for its interest. It is one of the inescapable paradoxes of group life that man will die for the group but will not, for long periods, live for it. Unquestionably, in time, Gallic clear headedness will, even in the field of Birth Control, prevail. They will recognize that the French people can never be persuaded nor coerced to do that which runs contrary to their wishes and the knowledge that enables them to make their desires effective.

Coming from America where many surreptitious thrills are to be gotten, to a land where you may lawfully bathe in champagne seated on the sidewalk, it was disconcerting to my preconceived notions to find myself present at a bootleg meeting. Yes, the whole French nation is a bootlegger on Birth Control. Just as prohibition in America has not done away with the custom of drinking, so prohibitory laws in France have not done away with the practice of Birth Control. As a lawyer, my professional pride is hurt at the impotency of laws. I should like to think that the printed word in the statute book is omnipotent, but it seems that my professors at Law School exaggerated

A College Woman Looks at Birth Control

By VIRGINIA WUERTHELE, *Vassar, 1930*

Another of the prize-winning essays chosen in our College Essay Contest

ALTHOUGH Birth Control is commonly thought to be something strange and untried, and, therefore, dangerous, it really is not new at all. Only the forms of its existence have changed. Birth Control may be said to exist throughout the plant and animal kingdom. Every species of plant or animal is prepared to produce a great many more of its number than can possibly survive, once produced. A very small number of the seeds developed by one plant ever fall into suitable ground or secure favorable conditions for growth. The other seeds are lost or crowded out by other plants. The same is true in the animal kingdom. Of the large number of individuals created, only a very small percentage reach maturity, principally due to environmental limitations or to enemies which prey upon and reduce their numbers. A single bacterium left to multiply without hindrance would produce enough bacteria at the end of three days to fill the ocean basins three million times or sufficient to make thirty-three thousand bodies the size of the earth. Living conditions, and the pressure that other species bring to bear, create a balance among the various species. This is nature's Birth Control.

Among primitive peoples, Birth Control has been and still is practiced consciously. In some tribes, young girls at the beginning of puberty are kept underground or in the dark because it is believed that the sun's rays cause pregnancy. Mechanical abortion as a form of Birth Control has never been uncommon. Still another form is to expose to the weather the newly born infants that cannot be taken care of and leave them to die. It has not been until comparatively recently that scientific, healthy and humane methods of Birth Control have been evolved.

The objections to Birth Control have been many and varied. They have been based on religious, moral, economic, and hygienic reasons. Religious opposition has formerly been based on God's injunction to man to be fruitful, to multiply and to fill the earth. It was felt that to interfere in any way with this divine command was sinful. From the

moral and ethical point of view, it is held that if Birth Control information were made common, sexual relationships might become casual and free and not involve the responsibilities of marriage and child rearing. In addition, the powerful check of punishment by the consequences would be entirely absent. Economic and social opposition claim on one hand, that limitation of the birth-rate causes a decline of the numbers of the upper social classes of which society has the greatest need, and at the same time permits the lower classes to breed unhindered. Therefore Birth Control should not be practiced or spread. On the other hand, it is argued that if limitation were general, the masses would not breed so profusely and that the entire economic world would be upset by the scarcity of cheap labor. From the hygienic point of view it is held that Birth Control is injurious, that it introduces a strain on the nervous system by its very practice, that it is unaesthetic and therefore prevents complete relaxation at the consummation of the sexual act. Or it is asserted that the use of appliances and chemicals is necessarily injurious and causes poisoning or mechanical injury of the tissues.

PRACTICAL VALUE BRINGS STRENGTH

Whatever the philosophical ideas brought forward to support a movement may be, they count for little except when fortified by more obvious and practical considerations. The philosophers and psychologists may be able to advise or predict certain advantageous changes in society but it is only possible for these changes to overcome public fear and inertia when this inertia is opposed by positive, material benefits. Some of the first practical work in Birth Control was done as a means of preventing the spread of venereal disease. Although it was not always possible to control the disease itself, yet it was possible to develop some method by which it would not be spread and, even more important, prevent the birth of children venereally infected. The sale of appliances for this purpose is nationally legalized. The protection of health became a

weapon in the hands of those who were trying to further the Birth Control movement. By the action of the New York courts several years ago it was held legal to give Birth Control information to anyone needing it for physiological reasons. On the strength of this decree, a clinic was opened in New York City for this purpose. This clinic has been raided from time to time and brought before the courts, but the previous ruling has always been upheld. Unfortunately, the New York law in its strict interpretation does not permit information to be given for economic reasons. A woman may have five young children already, she may be living in a tenement, while her husband is making only the barest minimum for their subsistence and yet, so long as there is nothing physically wrong with her, she cannot be told how to prevent the birth of more children.

It is physiologically possible for a woman to bear a child every year or about thirty children in a lifetime. It is obvious that the limiting factors without Birth Control are delayed marriages, interruption of sexual relations, or the breakdown of the reproductive system. And the economic and physical limitations acting on new individuals are even more merciless. Nature is extravagantly wasteful in her provisions for the continuation of the race. It is this waste that Birth Control can prevent. That mothers will not be weakened, and sickly children born, the spacing of children at not less than two years apart has been advised by health authorities. If this advice is followed by changing the law, it will mean that, after the first child, mothers will be given Birth Control information to use at their own discretion. These are the practical considerations which have brought about the present status of Birth Control.

The old psychological attitudes towards sex and sex information are very slowly breaking down. In line with the old reasoning that all discussion of sex leads to immorality, plays, books, and pamphlets have been censored or kept from the country. Plays such as Bourdet's *Captive* and O'Neill's *Strange Interlude*, although barred in some parts of the country, have been able to reach audiences in other parts. The removal of the ban on Mary Ware Dennett's pamphlet, *The Sex Side of Life*, written by her as sex information for her young sons, the recent decision handed down that the context of parts of a book or a play as well as the specific examples must be considered in censorship, the recent support of Birth Control by the Meth-

odist Church are hopeful signs of the coming change.

And yet there are a great many aspects of the Birth Control movement which have not been brought before the public for consideration. It is all very well to consider life divine, but any life brought into being under adverse circumstances, barely able to survive a childhood of poor care and insufficient food, reaching a maturity without any special provisions made for its welfare, can hardly be said to be divine. There was a time in the economic history of our civilization when human beings in themselves were valuable to society. During the pioneer and agricultural period of our country mere numbers were an asset. But in our present age when machinery is continually taking the place of labor, the constant large numbers of the unemployed bear witness that we no longer need numbers but rather, well-equipped, intelligent, and healthy individuals capable of coping with a machine age.

BIRTH CONTROL CAUSES PROFOUND CHANGES

Something must be said of the physiological and hygienic side of Birth Control. The method employed is to prevent by harmless mechanical or chemical means, or both, the union of the sperm with the ovum. The percentage of failure of the preventatives is very small and is usually attributable to careless use. The most successful method is under the control of the woman. The use of contraceptives in no way hinders or interferes in the sexual act so that it cannot be objected to on psychological or aesthetic grounds. And it is in no way injurious, according to the statistics of the New York Clinical Research Bureau.

The fact that women themselves can determine whether or not they want children may bring about profound psychological changes in the common attitudes toward love, marriage, and parenthood. When sexual relationships between men and women were almost irrevocably certain to involve children, women were completely dependent on men. A woman who could not be sure of support in the event of motherhood was looked upon as foolish, disgraced, and sinful as well as unfortunate. But with the use of contraceptives, women who are unwilling or unfit to marry and become mothers will not be denied sex experience. Women will not need to marry for support, but only when they feel that marriage as a permanent sexual relationship and the rearing of children will add a fulfillment and a happiness to their lives that they would not otherwise have had.

POPULATION SECTION

Edited by Guy Irving Burch

The Eugenic Aspects of Population Theory

By ROSWELL H JOHNSON

THE best introduction to the theory of human population is the study of the theory of sub-human population.¹ This is the reverse of the historic order in which Darwin's analysis of animal population was suggested by the studies of Malthus on man. Animal population is governed by the following laws

The ratio of the number of potential progeny to the two parents varies directly with (a) the average life expectation of the female at puberty and (b) the percentage of young that will live to maturity and reproduction. It follows from this that the potential reproductive ratio is not a maximum reproductive rate, as is sometimes too hastily supposed, but an optimum rate. For should the number of progeny be born at too great a rate the female will have her life expectation shortened disproportionately, with the result that the actual number of progeny will be decreased by the undue increase of the number produced per year. Furthermore, if the potential number of progeny is too great, there will be too many young for the food supply, and fewer of them will be able to reach maturity than if the undercrowding were less.

Thus natural selection in a species produces an equilibrium. Fecundal selection or the principle of descent from the most fecund, tends to increase the potential reproductive ratio, on the other hand, lethal selection, or descent from the longer-lived, keeps down the potential reproductive ratio, because where fecundity per year is excessive the parent has a shorter life, and also where the fecundity is excessive the number of progeny surviving to maturity will be reduced because of the undue crowding.

This is the situation in the highest sub-human species. Let us call it the first or adjusted stage. The potential reproductive ratio was apparently about 2 to 18. However, the mother seldom lived

long enough to make this potential ratio actual, and the infant death-rate was extremely high.

As sub-human intelligence increased, as *Homo sapiens* evolved, two effects on the population can be noted. The greater intelligence prolonged the life of the mother and at the same time permitted a higher survival rate of the infants. The consequence was a maladjustment, because natural selection had developed a reproductive ratio for the old condition. This maladjustment put a heavy strain on the means of subsistence and as a consequence tribes overflowed their borders in mass migrations. These produced the wars with which history abounds. Furthermore, the maladjustment also produced a heavier death-rate from over-crowding within the tribal unit. Such data led Malthus to formulate his statement, natural enough at the time, that the birth-rate is naturally excessive. We may call this the second or Malthusian population period. Much of the world still remains predominantly in this stage, most conspicuously China, India, Japan, part of Italy, and the Balkans, and much of the Russian agricultural areas. The result is, as those countries reveal, severe poverty and a shorter expectation of life.

But Malthus erred in venturing to predict that the birth-rate would always be excessive except for the checks he listed: vice and continence. He failed to foresee that methods of conception control, relatively effective, harmless, cheap, and simple, would be discovered and that their use would become ethically approved and widely utilized. Not only did this take place but, what is still more significant, it became evident that, given this control, the will to bear children was inadequate not only to sustain the high excessive birth-rate of the time of Malthus, but also more recently to maintain even a stationary population. Elsewhere² I have given evidence to show that the individual motivation without some form of social stimulus would not be adequate.

¹This article was read at the joint annual meeting of the American Eugenics Society and the Eugenics Research Association, held May 17, 1930. It appears in substantially the same form, in the September issue of *Eugenics*.

²Motivation of Childbearing, *The Eugenic News*, Vol. 12, p. 102.

The third stage of population development theory, the voluntaristic, is already reached in more than half the Nordic nations. This stage involves the use of conception control, and a decrease in the excessive Malthusian birth-rate to a birth-rate that is merely adequate or inadequate. That this will become nearly universal seems highly probable. The people whom one would expect to be most resistant to Birth Control practices, because of their philosophy of the family, who have become exposed to it, namely, the urban educated Chinese, Japanese, and Mormons (I refer, of course, to the present day monogamous Mormons) show clearly that this resistance is impotent to prevent the spread of conception control.

After this brief examination of the historical stages of population, we are ready to examine the eugenic aspects of the third stage. We shall first consider the differential spread of conception control by various national and racial units. In general, nations have responded to conception control in much the same order and degree as they took up modern medicine and the higher education. On this point, then, our conclusion is quite pessimistic, because the negative correlation of these traits and fecundity produces a dysgenic effect. But when conception control has fully won its way over the face of the earth, then this negative connection will be very greatly reduced, and will, there is fair reason to expect, give way to a slight positive correlation which would be actually eugenic.

Next we may consider class distribution. Here there are two stages.

When a nation discovers that its population is decreasing, the reaction of society has been as follows:

- 1 Legal repression of means and information for conception control
- 2 Bachelor tax
- 3 Aid in maternity cases
- 4 Direct baby bounties
- 5 Tax exemption for dependent children
- 6 Encouragement of maternity as a praiseworthy humanitarian service

Let us examine the eugenic results of each of these reactions.

1 Legal repression of means for information concerning conception control. Where this is attempted after a population has widely practiced conception control it is relatively ineffective, as in France today.

The repression is more effective, however, in a country where the information has not been widely spread, as in Japan, or as in Italy, where the dominant church is restraining in some degree the practice of conception control and thus checking the rapidity of the decrease of the birth-rate which, nevertheless, declines. The attempt at legal repression gives a type of distribution of conception control, however, that is mainly dysgenic, as numerous studies of differential fecundity have shown. Note for instance, K. B. Davis's recent study *Factors in the Sex Life of 2,200 Women*, which finds that American educated women by a very large majority approve and practice conception control. Yet were information wide-spread and the material and medical services given free, it is probable that conception control would at least be far less dysgenic than it is, and might probably even be eugenic. This expectation is based on Wood's study of Harvard graduates, and Edlin's Stockholm data. We see from these studies that in groups having equal knowledge of contraception control and access to methods, fecundity may become positively correlated with income.

It would then appear that a society which maintains its level by repressing conception control by law, reaps a dysgenic result.

2 Bachelor tax. This tax, made much of in Italy, is unquestionably dysgenic and dysthenic when large enough to be effective. It forces into marriage too many of the venereally infected, impotent, deformed, or other defectives.

3 Aid for maternity cases. This aid is probably too small in amount and operates for too short a time to materially influence the birth-rate. An instance of the largest amount of aid known to me is that in the Soviet Union which includes sixteen weeks vacation with pay for manual working mothers and twelve weeks for mental workers. In so far as this may be slightly effective, it is probably on the average dysgenic as appealing most to the poorest.

4 Direct baby bounties, also, are again normally too small to prove effective. Here again, only in the land distribution and "aliment" systems in the Soviet Union, are the baby bounties large enough to be effective.

5 An exemption of a part of the income from income tax for children is a widespread device in various nations, being \$400 per child in the United States. Where nearly all pay a tax, such exemp-

tion is dysgenic in proportion to the degree of correlation that income has with "capacity" But it sometimes happens, as in the United States, that less than half of the adults pay any income tax Under these circumstances the exemptions are eugenic in some measure with the same qualifications as above

Eugenicists may well favor as the best economic incentive for an increased birth-rate not a baby bounty, nor redistribution of land, nor an "aliment", but a large exemption from income tax for each child in an income tax system where at least the poorer half of the adults are wholly exempt This should of course be accompanied by efforts to make the distribution of wealth as highly correlated with ability as feasible by sound economic legislation and practices

6 There remains for discussion the plan of inculcating adequate parenthood by precept This is divisible into a variety of types

- A A reward in heaven for the super-fecund, as with the Mormons
- B Benefit for the souls of the ancestors, as in Confucianism
- C Greater recognition of the gratification from the comradeship of their children and probable aid in old age
- D Nationalistic patriotic appeal
- E Humanitarian service

Such inculcation is more eugenic than the methods previously listed because it involves some sort of idealism, though the quality of the idealism differs

In the motivation of heavenly reward, the relatively backward intellectually are unduly influenced by reasoning based on revelation rather than on experience

In ancestor "worship" there is a social motive element, but it has the same shortcoming, intellectually, as the heavenly reward motive Furthermore it is mixed with the self-interest on the part of some, of getting return favors from the spirits of the ancestors and the ceremonials of the descendants

In gratification for later life the appeal is a mixed one It will be felt more by those who have less intellectual interests to compete for attention

In nationalistic patriotic appeal, which is well exemplified in Fascist Italy, there is less idealism than is felt in the motive of humanitarian service as the appeal is so largely based on fighting instincts

It is in the call for humanitarian service that we may expect the greatest and least contaminated value But our concern lies in the fear lest it be not sufficiently potent We greatly need a study of this type of motivation with a view to its extensive development

SUMMARY

To summarize, population theory shows three stages They appear successively in time, and gradually change Both the earlier ones still persist in certain countries The first, the adjusted, was universal and is still found in the most primitive tribes The second, the Malthusian, replaced the first stage in some regions sooner than in others A continued high birth-rate and a reduction of the death-rate produced over-crowding with many unhappy consequences The third, or voluntaristic stage, has displaced the Malthusian stage in some regions only, but it is rapidly gaining ground and will probably become universal In this stage, birth-rates cease not only to be too large but threaten to be too small or actually become so Society meets the threat by attempts at social control of the birth-rates Five methods have been appraised above and varying conclusions have been reached, but with special appreciation of a measure making much of adequate parenthood as a humanitarian service

The official census puts the United States population at 122,698,000 This is an increase of 16,987,570 or 16.1 per cent over the 105,710,620 total registered in the 1920 census

—N Y Sun, August 8

WITH deep regret we note that official returns from the final Assembly District show that the city of New York has increased its population 1,335,315 or 23.8 per cent since the 1920 census We could get along beautifully without extra population Our ideal should be that little city of Mill Hope, or something like that, which in the census returns gained 0.0014 of a person in the last decade Consider how pleasant life must be there No overcrowding No changing neighborhoods No tearing down of old landmarks, but peace and quiet New York doesn't need a "Watch us Grow" movement On the contrary, it ought to launch a big "Stop Our Growth" movement

—N Y Evening Post, July 9

State Organizations for Birth Control

These brief reports give some idea of the work of the Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania leagues. Ideally there should be an active league in each state to operate clinics and to combat obstructive legislation where necessary. We urge readers to join their local organizations. The October issue will carry reports of the California, Connecticut and Massachusetts leagues.

Illinois Birth Control League

203 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

SINCE the first medical center of the Illinois League was opened in 1924 we have given contraceptive advice to 5,908 patients, of whom 1,340 came in 1929. Our records for 1929 show that

818	patients came for economic reasons
124	" " " health reasons
174	" " " economic and health reasons
197	" " " in order to space their children
26	" " " for various other reasons

1 patient came because she did not want children

The religious beliefs remain in about the same ratio as in previous years

Protestant	782	58 35%
Catholic	391	29 18%
Jewish	146	10 89%
Orthodox Greek	12	1 56%
No Religious Belief	9	

These patients have come to us from the following sources

Friends and patients (this is most encouraging since our advice is evidently giving satisfaction)	624
The Infant Welfare Society	167
Hospitals and clinics	141
Doctors	114
United Charities	89
Social agencies and settlements	58
Nurses	38
Miscellaneous sources	109

The nationalities are varied as usual — numbering twenty-nine in all

American	768
American colored	170
Polish	74
Italian	71

Russian	45
Mexican	28
Bohemian	19
Austrian	13

and a scattering of Slovakian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Armenian, Persian, Croatian and so forth. It must be born in mind that many listed as Americans are Americans born of foreign parentage.

We have been doing better work and getting better results than we did in the first few years of our organization. We know more about our subject and have learned how to handle the foreign women whom it is so difficult to reach. In this connection, the various social organizations have been of the greatest assistance.

At one of our Centers on the Southwest side of the city, we use the equipment and have the most earnest cooperation of the Chicago Lying-in Hospital Dispensary. At our Mary Crane Nursery (or Hull House) Center the work has grown so steadily that we have been obliged to open another clinic in addition to the one which has been in operation for several years, and in September we are opening two clinics a week at the West Side Dispensary of the Chicago Lying-in Hospital. Space does not permit giving a detailed report of each of our six clinics, the North Wabash Avenue Centre, the North Lincoln Street Centre, the Centres at the Henry Booth House, the House of Social Service, the Jewish People's Institute and the Mary Crane Nursery. Suffice it to say that No. 1, which is where most of our well-to-do patients come, has not only paid expenses but has contributed something toward the upkeep of the other centres which have so many free patients that they cannot possibly make both ends meet. The clinic in the Stock Yards neighborhood is thriving and satisfactory and is reaching many of the South Side colored women. The clinic at the Jewish People's Institute is still being very ably handled by the volunteer committee from the Chicago Woman's Aid.

Officers of the Illinois League are Mrs. Ben-

jamin Carpenter, *President*, Mrs James F Porter, *Vice-President*, Mrs Willoughby G Walling, *Treasurer*, Mrs Nathan S Davis, III, *Secretary*, Mrs Effie Jeanne Lyon, *Executive Secretary*, Dr Rachelle S Yarros, *Medical Director*. The Directors are Mrs Maurice L Goodkind, Mrs Robert W Hamill, Mrs Herman Landauer, Dr Rachelle S Yarros, Miss Grace E Temple, Mrs Max Adler, Mrs Payson S Wild, Mrs George Packard, Dr Clara M Davis, Mrs Arthur W Cushman, Mrs James A Field, Mrs D B Phemister, Mrs Thomas L Marshall, and the officers

N. J. Birth Control League

47 New Street, Newark, New Jersey

THE New Jersey Birth Control League was organized in May, 1927. A year later, a clinic, the Maternal Health Center, was opened. The New Jersey State Law with reference to Birth Control permits the giving of contraceptive advice for *just cause*. While this is, in effect, liberal and satisfactory, it did not seem so to the general public when the League was first organized. Misapprehension and fear of consequences prevailed, and it took exactly one year of intensive organization and educational work to create sufficient moral and financial support to establish a clinic. The interpretation of *just cause* — by decree of a medical committee — limits the giving of contraceptive advice to patients needing it for health reasons only. This excludes purely economic cases, but we do not despair. It should be noted that the bulk of our patients are in very poor circumstances, economically.

The clinic is now entering its third year, and is made use of by practically every community within a radius of forty miles of Newark. It is particularly gratifying that a large number of patients (close to 60 per cent) are referred by physicians, social agencies, hospitals and mental hygiene clinics. Excellent results have been obtained among the 1,600 patients treated. Individual consideration is given to each patient, and much stress is laid on the importance of the second visit, necessary for the recheck of technique. Close contact is maintained either through correspondence or follow-up visit. In connection with the research work, begun in May, 1929, over 2,000 letters were mailed and 268 visits were made. Complete results of this study will be published shortly by Dr Hannah M Stone, Medical Director.

The New Jersey League no longer finances the clinic, which is conducted under the auspices and supervision of a Medical Committee, composed of ten prominent New Jersey physicians. The closest cooperation exists, however. The fact that the clinic is used so extensively is due largely to the educational program of the League, which has included, among other things, about two hundred lectures before medical societies, hospital boards, etc.

The League is also taking an active part in the work of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control. Under the leadership of Mrs Willard King, State Chairman, the proposed amendment has been presented to a large number of state organizations, and this winter's program will include further organization of the state into congressional districts.

Plans for the opening of other Birth Control centers are now under consideration. As an indication of the growth of the League and the changing attitude of the public and press, it is interesting to note that whereas, three years ago, it was difficult to get even twenty women together for this work, our last annual luncheon was attended by over five hundred men and women prominent in social, medical, religious and political circles.

Officers of the New Jersey League are Mrs Zachariah Belcher, *President*, Mrs Willard King, *First Vice-President*, Mrs Harris E Adriance, *Second Vice-President*, Mrs Henry Young and Mrs Franklin Conklin, Jr, *Treasurers*, Mrs Royal S Schaaf, *Secretary*, Miss Henriette Hart, *Executive Secretary*, Dr Hannah M Stone, *Medical Director*. Other officers are Miss Cora L Hartshorn, Mrs Dwight Morrow, Mrs Dwight Kirkby, Mrs Frank Hall, Mrs Allen Lindley, Mrs Murray E Coggeshall, Mrs Farnham Yardley, Mrs Russell Colgate, Mrs Wells P Eagleton.

Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

1700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa

THE Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, which was formed over three years ago, has realized the importance of active committees throughout the State, in order to educate the public to the need for Birth Control, and has, therefore, made organization one of its chief activities.

There is a State Federation, of which Dr A Lovett Dewees is President, a South-Eastern League, which includes Philadelphia and surrounding counties, with Dr Joseph Stokes, Jr as President, and a strong committee in Allegheny County, with offices in Pittsburgh, headed by Dr H C Westervelt. Other active leagues have been organized in Berks, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Erie, Clearfield, Northampton and Lehigh Counties. It is significant that all these leagues have prominent physicians serving on their committees, as well as other outstanding men and women.

In counties where committees have not yet been formed, the individual memberships are constantly increasing. The State Federation has members in practically all the 67 counties. Every league is directly affiliated with the State Federation which is able to assist the local groups with the help of such standing committees as Membership, Literature, Finance, Meetings, Legislative, Doctors, and the Speakers' Bureau, etc.

Mass meetings have been held in many sections of the state. Prominent Birth Control speakers have been cordially received, much enthusiasm shown and favorably publicity given in the local papers. Demands for speakers before organized groups are constantly increasing. The changed attitude of the Press has been one of the most encouraging proofs of progress in Pennsylvania.

The Doctors' Committee, through systematic circularization of questionnaires, has found tremendous interest spreading among the physicians in the practical use of modern Birth Control methods. The upper classes of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia have had lectures on the technique of contraception.

Through the splendid work of the Literature Committee several valuable leaflets have been compiled. Requests for this literature have come from many states and several foreign countries. Thousands of copies have been distributed and no letter to a new contact leaves the office without some suitable leaflet enclosed. This material has been sent to about 400 State Libraries and material for debates, theses and speeches has been supplied by State Headquarters.

The Board of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation is firmly convinced that continual educational work is necessary even in states where clinics are established. A state headquarters and systematic field work in addition to volunteer help

are absolutely essential if continued progress is expected.

Officers are A Lovett Dewees, M D, *Pres*, Roswell H Johnson, M S, Mrs Stanley Bright, G Victor Janvier, M D, H R M Landis, M D, Mrs Charles N Loveland, Stuart Mudd, M D, Jay F Schamberg, M D, Joseph Stokes, Jr, M D, Norris W Vaux, M D, H C Westervelt, M D, *Vice-Presidents*, Mrs George A Dunning, *Secretary*, Samuel Emhn, *Treasurer*, and Mrs Alleyne C Martin, *Executive Director*.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

W BLAIR BELL, M D, F R C S, is President of the British College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University, Liverpool.

CAROLINE H ROBINSON is the author of "Seventy Birth Control Clinics" recently published under the auspices of the National Committee on Maternal Health.

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HARRIET B LAIDLAW is a Director of the American Social Hygiene Association.

ROSWELL H JOHNSON is Secretary and Treasurer of the American Eugenics Society, and Vice President of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation.

True Statesmanship

CONSTRUCTIVE Birth Control means the stoppage of waste. It saves the community the loss as well as the misery of births of infants doomed to die or be enfeebled or hopeless, and makes the survival of those children a woman bears voluntarily when she is in good health almost a certainty. By spacing the children, although the births in some families may be fewer, the number of children growing up may be increased. We maintain that the use of constructive Birth Control is true statesmanship in the creation of healthy and happy populations.

DR MARIE C STOKES

Book Reviews

HARRIET MARTINEAU, by Theodora Bosanquet *The Chaucer Head, New York* \$7 50

TO most of those who are well acquainted with the literature of the early nineteenth century, Harriet Martineau stands chiefly as the writer of prosy stories for children. It is hard to imagine her the favorite of society, with lord chancellors waiting on her doorstep and great European countries ordering her books translated for use in their schools. Nor yet do we usually regard her, as is her undoubted right, as the champion of causes so unpopular as to bring down upon her the wrath of these statesmen and potentates, while she pursued her quiet course, caring only to speak out the things that she believed.

It was chiefly her advocacy of Birth Control—weak and feeble as we should now consider it—which brought about the loss of her popularity with many of the great ones of the earth. She devoted one "Tale" to demonstrating to the proletariat that their hope of prosperity was dependent on the restriction of the number of their children. She urged "preventive checks" on population at every opportunity. She did not put forth any measure for such prevention except celibacy and late marriage, yet her efforts to awaken people to the evil results of over-breeding shocked and alarmed her friends and aroused her enemies to attacks on the character and morals of an author who could hold "such unfeminine and mischievous doctrines on the principles of social welfare."

Miss Martineau's reputation, however, was too well-established to be ruined even by her advocacy of Birth Control. Soon after this interlude, she went to America where she was received with all the honor that could be paid to a successful author. But there her uncompromising conscience led her to throw herself into the then unpopular cause of abolition and she became an object of attack and hatred to the greater part of American society of the Eighteen-Thirties. Her later life was one of invalidism which never prevented her from continuing her work as a writer, and a list of her works would be astonishing even had the author been of robust health and ample energy. Unfortunately her work was capped with an autobiography, in which her usual candor and outspokenness demon-

strated themselves in free criticism of the people she had known during her long life. It was published soon after her death, and as many of the people mentioned were still living, it produced a bad effect and led to a storm of unpopularity from which Harriet Martineau has hardly yet emerged.

This latest biography by Theodora Bosanquet does little to redeem Miss Martineau's memory. The author seeks at every opportunity to show her own cleverness by interposing supposedly witty remarks at the expense of her subject. She utterly fails to bring out the greatness of a character which could triumph over such handicaps and make its impress to so great a degree on English and European thought. She fails also to show the charm of Miss Martineau's character which drew to her so many warm friends and admirers. She leaves us wondering why a woman always more than a little deaf and almost blind, without beauty or personal distinction, and enthusiastically embracing such unpopular causes as woman suffrage, Birth Control and abolition, should have been so great a favorite, and should have been able to open so many doors of opportunity in the world of society and letters.

ANNIE G. PORBITT

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

THE CHILD'S HEREDITY, by Paul Popenoe *Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore* \$2 00

BIRTH CONTROL attempts to divorce sex and reproduction, the Y M C A wishes to purify sex of sex-expression, and Dr. Popenoe hopes to rescue heredity from chance. These are not strikingly original ideals, but they are subjects of perennial interest, and so in books that deal with them we look hopefully for new attitudes and especially for new and adequate information, wondering whether sex behavior and eugenics can be treated in such a manner as to indicate progress in theory and practice comparable to that of Birth Control.

Reading the two books under review, we find that in general the answer to this question is no. The eugenic ideal, so compelling in the abstract,

gets no new practicability from Popenoe's work, and the ideal of chastity will be brought no nearer realization by the work of Ellhott and Bone, reporting the labors of the Y M and Y W C A *Commission on the Relations between College Men and Women* whose deliberations formed "distinctly a group project" It is quite possible that this failure may be due in part, at least, to the refusal of all concerned to give realistic consideration to modern contraception The subject is barely mentioned in either book But both ideals, of course, are full of ancient riddles, and no one could ask for complete solutions A better question might therefore be this Are the books valuable regardless of the validity of their basic contentions?

In the case of *The Sex Life of Youth* the answer is again a regretful no Regretful because at first sight we seem to be in possession, at last, of a liberal, informed, and modern treatment of a subject that appears (to the elders, at least) to be of vast importance But this impression quickly evaporates when we discover the method of the authors It is simply to begin each topic with a few broad-minded, come-more-than-half-way-to-meet-you statements, and then to veer slyly about until a position of perfect propriety is finally reached Boiled down to a word (the authors' own), the book offers a simple cure and substitute for sex difficulties "If college [or the factory, or Main Street, or life in general] offered more opportunities for the creative participation of men and women in social affairs, dramatics, the out-of-doors, and athletics, sex would not be so serious a problem" In the last chapter, *Religion and Sex*, liberal pronouncements appear again, mingled with much cant about "personality" and "the glory of God" It is stated that "he who follows Jesus can affirm the worth of life joyously, and confidently assert that his best self is his true self" How such essentially dishonest stuff can fail to alienate the members of Christian Associations is difficult to see

I believe that all such books are futile If we feel that we must meddle with the sex life of youth, the most that we can do is to come clean with *all* the information we have, sociological and physiological, and let nature take its course And above all we should not minimize the fact that what constitutes a lofty ideal for one set of circumstances, becomes a priggish inhibition for another, under different conditions

Popenoe's book is unique and valuable It offers at a low price an extraordinary array of facts

about human inheritance There is a simplified but adequate treatment of genetics scattered through the work in an ingenious manner, in correlation with topics of great interest to the average parent, and good illustrations are numerous Here you will find the answer to that common question Do you think so and so is hereditary? I doubt if there is any other book intended for the public which will fail so seldom in this respect As I have said, Popenoe supports the eugenic ideal, but let it be clearly understood that there is no propaganda in this book It contains facts All honor to the author for writing it and the publishers for making it so inexpensive There are 316 pages, including a good index, excellently bound and printed

H M PARSHLEY

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

DR MENNINGER has written a book for the layman who wishes to learn about psychiatry in a painless way There are many who have read a little here and a little there, have heard the technical psychiatric terms, vague ideas about psychoanalysis, mental hygiene, and some hints that there is such a thing as a new method of bringing up a child For these Dr Menninger offers an opportunity to clarify their concepts and to add a few facts to what might otherwise be vague abstraction The book is divided into six parts, entitled Principles, Personalities, Symptoms, *M o t i v e s*, Treatments, and Applications The author does justice to these various titles Particularly worthy of comment is the narrative style Dr Menninger is a psychiatric story-teller, the human interest carries the reader unwittingly into the midst of psychiatric problems In a book of this scope, to pick out minute points for criticism would be trifling The information imparted is on the whole perfectly reliable

BERTRAM D LEWIN, M D

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF YOUTH, by Jessica G Cosgrave *Doubleday, Doran & Company, Garden City* \$2 00

"AT the very basis of life for all of us must be something that makes it really worth while Most adapted and contented adults find this worthwhileness of life in objective accomplishment — their business or profession or children Young

people who cannot point to such accomplishment must find it in life itself, must in their thoughtful and introspective moments be shown how to answer for themselves the question "What it is all about? Is it really worth while, all this struggle and effort and immense paraphernalia of living? Toward what it is really directed?" These are the questions that the author has tried to answer in *The Psychology of Youth*, and she has done so in an admirable manner.

The book is divided into two parts "Problems of Childhood" and "Problems of Youth." In the first section, such topics as child thought, concentration, will, emotion, reasoning, and ideals are discussed. Happiness, family adjustment, popularity, affections, self expression, and the pattern of a woman's life are the subjects treated in the second part. Although the book is written for parents, any young man or woman would make no mistake in reading it.

JAMES R. CURTIS

DOMESTIC DISCORD, by Ernest R. Mowrer, with the collaboration of Harriet Mowrer. *University of Chicago Press, Chicago* \$3.00

DOMESTIC DISCORD is a critical discussion of the analysis and treatment of disorganized families. In the opinion of the reviewer the most stimulating and significant portion of the book is the presentation of various techniques for the treatment of domestic discord in Chapters X-XIV. In these chapters the author begins with indirect treatment processes, i.e. those not carried out by the case worker herself, follows with direct treatment processes, and concludes with a discussion of the sociological treatment of domestic discord.

Of special interest to readers of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* is Dr. Mowrer's criticism of the use of Birth Control instruction as one of the indirect treatment processes in case work. That large families only add to the economic burden which is often at the root of the discord situation, and that the fear of pregnancy following sex relations is often responsible for sexual incompatibility are reasons given by case workers for use of this technique. Mowrer criticizes this approach as too simple and says that it does not give credit to other factors in the situation, nor can it be used in all cases with equal success. But "when placed in proper perspective as one of several parts of treatment, it may become an effective technique. Especially is this

true when combined with more intensive instruction in sex hygiene."

Direct treatment processes in case-work are of two fundamental types: (1) the "ordering—and forbidding" technique which means "commanding the disappearance of that which the case-worker considers undesirable, and the appearance of the desired" and (2) the "persuasion" technique in which the case-worker attempts by advice, argument and reasons—appeal to will, to fear, or to love of children, for example—to influence behavior in the direction of adjusting conflicts. These techniques deal very largely with external symbols, according to Mowrer. "Little or no attempt is made to get at the genesis of the discord."

Analysis preparatory to sociological treatment "must take into account every element of the individual's experience which is related in any way to the domestic discord." Of twenty cases treated in this way by Harriet Mowrer, twelve ended in adjustment. Only 6 per cent of the cases in the same organization had resulted in adjustment previously. This new approach is illustrated concretely by means of a case study.

Because of its implication that family social work is a failure, the book as a whole is a challenge to case workers.

NORMAN S. HAYNER

HEREDITY AND PARENTHOOD, by Samuel C. Schmucker. *The Macmillan Company, New York* \$2.50

THE presentation of a scientific treatise in such form as to be intelligible to lay people is always a commendable undertaking. Were it not for the below-mentioned criticisms, the book *Heredity and Parenthood* would serve a useful purpose. But it is unfortunate that a scientist should introduce the inexplicable "God" to confuse the otherwise clear presentation of his subject, as this author has done.

There is also a serious omission, i.e., the question of Birth Control. There is no more important subject than this, particularly in leading up to the final discussion of "Children's Love Affairs", "Age of Romance", and "Bachelor and Spinster".

With a chapter on Birth Control included and adequately developed, the book *Heredity and Parenthood* could be highly recommended to young people.

MORRIS H. KAHN, M.D.

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

THE Fourth Congress of the World League for Sexual Reform will be held in Vienna from September 16th to 23d. Among the many prominent speakers scheduled are Dr Julius Tandler (Vienna), Dr K H Leunbach (Copenhagen), Dr Eugene Steinach, Dr Gregorio Maranon (Madrid), Dr Helene Stocker (Berlin), Dr Norman Haire (London), Dr Otto Lampl (Prague), Dr J K Friedjung (Vienna).

"Birth Control and Human Economies", "Sexual Misery", and "The Rights of Children" are some of the general topics announced for discussion.

The Seventh International Birth Control Conference will be held in Zurich September 1st to 5th. The preliminary program states the aims of the Conference to be "to bring together the directors and workers of the various contraceptive clinics throughout Europe and U S A in order that methods and technique now prescribed and employed in the clinics may be fully discussed."

Subjects announced for discussion are "Birth Control in Relation to the Health and Economic Conditions of Men, Women and Children", "Reports on European and American Contraceptive Clinics", "Can the Differential Birth Rate be Changed?", and "International Peace and Population Growth".

UNITED STATES

THE Health Survey of the American Medical Association and the National Education Association, made six years ago, has recently been revised and republished. We quote a few items from the wealth of material.

There are 75,000 blind, 45,000 deaf and dumb, 300,000 mental defectives, 700,000 cripples unable to be self-supporting in the United States. Maintaining these handicapped individuals costs \$100,000,000 yearly. The general death-rate has been cut in half in the past 30 years. In 1900 more than 16 out of 100 babies died before they were one year old. Now only 7 out of 100 die. Both the deplor-

able and encouraging items are arguments for Birth Control.

CALIFORNIA A succinct comment on the usual lamentation about the low birth-rate is contained in a recent editorial in the *Los Angeles Examiner*.

From the Office of Education in Washington it is learned that the baby crop is falling off. In an average group of 200 American families in 1915 there were five children born. A similar group gave to the world less than four babies in 1928.

In California the birth trend is downward, although the great increase in population accounts for more babies.

There is, in Los Angeles County at least, a bright side to this otherwise lugubrious picture. Here the effective work of the Health Department keeps down infant mortality with such good results that the decrease in births—prevailing here as elsewhere—is overcome.

Dr John L Pomeroy, head of this department, just reports that the infant mortality rate, which was 120 per 1,000 in 1923, has been cut to 60.6 per cent in 1929. This means a saving of babies at the rate of 1,200 a year. If couples are going to keep to low scores in the family-raising business Los Angeles County, for one, is going to make the most of the little.

OHIO Rev John B Ascham, Superintendent of the Cincinnati Children's Home, addressed the Social Service School of the Episcopal Divinity School and urged the students to take a stand for legalized propagation of Birth Control knowledge.

A more general practice of Birth Control by poorer classes would aid in reducing the number of dependent children, now increasing yearly. The church has a very definite duty also in working for the sterilization of the feeble-minded.

The average intelligence of the people of our Nation is being lowered due to the fact that the upper classes are not reproducing themselves and the lower classes continue to have large families.

NEBRASKA Again a spectacular newspaper clipping has come to our desk, this time from Auburn, Nebraska, announcing the tenth

child born to a girl of 18. The young mother was first married at 11, and bore first still-born twins, then triplets, two dead and one living, and again twins, one dead. A divorce and second marriage followed, with two still-born children, and then a tenth child. This brief biography of child marriage, this slaughter of the innocents, needs no comment. Where is the vaunted common sense of America that even a single case such as this is permitted?

ENGLAND

AT the Modern Churchmen's Conference held in Oxford on August 20th on *Problems of Personal Life*, Dr Douglas White, physician and surgeon, said in part

Birth Control must have its place in determining the future of the family and the nation in spite of its dangers. Unwanted children, whether in or out of marriage, are undesirable productions, misfortunes alike to themselves and their parents. Responsible parenthood ought to consider both the spacing of children and the economics of the family. That, in the main, is the cause of Birth Control.

FRANCE

AT a recent Congress on Family Allowances, held in Lille, the striking effects of economic security were clearly demonstrated, proving once more that people will have children when they can afford to have them, but that no amount of coercive legislation will raise the birth-rate, if the means are not provided. According to Mr Guillermin, administrative Director of the Lyons Fund

"The birth-rate for members of the funds reporting as well as that of the general population declined in 1929, but the birth-rate in the funds was considerably above that of the general population. Infant mortality in the funds in 1929 was 4.93 per 100, as against 9.34 for the whole population, and the rate of still births in the funds per 100 was 1.7 as compared with 3.8 for the whole of France."

GERMANY

Contributed by Caroline H. Robinson

GERMAN progress in Birth Control, hindered somewhat by "medical feelings of shame", is discussed by Dr Helene Stocker in *Die Neue Generation*, January, 1930.

An important court has discarded the legal precedent, formerly set up by the highest tribunals, which associates Birth Control with unchastity.

A booklet called *Abortion or Birth Control?* with a striking jacket-picture by the famous artist Kathe Kollwitz was written by Dr Martha Ruben-Wolf, and a hundred thousand copies were sold in the six weeks before publication. Its circulation was then stopped by judicial process. It is still under ban, as court proceedings have been neither pressed nor quashed. The booklet listed twenty marriage advice stations in Germany where Birth Control advice could be obtained, and described also two simple anti-conceptional methods, advising, however, that a physician be consulted to insure success with these methods.

Dr Kurt Bendix, a Chief Physician in the Sickness-Insurance Dispensaries of Berlin, conducted a study and research course in Birth Control which was sponsored by distinguished men and attended by 200 physicians. But a leading medical journal cancelled an account of this undertaking when the article had gotten as far as galley proof.

Dr Stocker feels that these incidents as well as a number of others mentioned by her show up the officials and physicians as very inconsistent. For many German cities have allowed the installation in the public toilets of automatic vending machines to sell contraceptive devices.

It appears to me that this development, which I cannot endorse as easily as Dr Stocker does, is likely to ensue in any country where the physicians are unwilling plentifully to supply the public need for contraception in a reasonably cooperative spirit. Seeing that the purchaser will usually prefer to buy his supplies without appealing to a drug-store clerk, one expects a large profit to accrue to the owners of automatic vending machines, and it will not be easy to prevent their bribing petty officials to allow the machines to remain. This is a matter which may well engage the attention of the retail druggist. If they are wise they will assist the rest of us in getting the physicians and dispensaries to forestall this development.

JAPAN

ACCORDING to the *Osaka Mamschi* of Tokyo, the Home Office is trying to put a curb on the teaching of Birth Control methods, and has announced that *Sangerism*, as this newspaper calls contraception, will be taught only in the municipal clinic, and very sparingly. The local Federation of Labor Unions, physicians and social workers have held meetings protesting against this decision.

Comments on the Lambeth Conference

JUDGE BEN LINDSEY

"If the church could recognize the true relationship between man and woman it would help greatly in morality throughout the world. Regarding the section of the resolution stating that the primary purpose of marriage is procreation, I think that it should be left to the couples themselves, depending on their health and economic conditions.

I presume that is what they mean when they state that normal obligation to limit or avoid parenthood must be decided by Christian principles."

WALTER LIPPMANN

"In regard to Birth Control, the conference decided not to forbid what the most powerful and highly educated laymen in the Church practice and justify."

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

"I am not surprised by the report. On the subject of Birth Control the bishops have given way under the overwhelming pressure of an accomplished fact. The whole thing is just an attempt to see whether the church can be brought into some relation with modern views.

I do not think the church will gain any new ground or make up the ground it has already lost. I do not see how the church's attitude to this question can be reconciled with its attitude on divorce. The bishops ought to have discarded the prayer-book and the articles of religion and a few other things. Then they would have got nearer the twentieth century."

NEW YORK WORLD, (Editorial, August 16th)

"The conference has been urged to take this action by Lord Dawson of Penn, the king's physician, who pleaded with its members not to condemn a method widely practiced by members of the church. It is significant that the approving vote of 193 included a majority of the Low Church bishops in England and that the opposition vote of 67 included most of the colonial and missionary bishops from parts of the empire which have other standards."

JOHN S. SUMNER

"The sanction of the London bishops at the Lam-

beth conference of Birth Control was placed on moral grounds, and, as they stated, 'according to Christian principle.' Our organization is interested in Birth Control only when the laws on the statute books are violated.

Therefore, we would be talking at cross purposes to comment upon the acts of the conference. The same thing applies to the subject of divorce."

DEAN INGE

"Now it is admitted for the first time that the morality of an act depends on the motive, and men and women must judge for themselves whether the motive for wishing to limit their families is of purely Christian standards or not. This decision will bring comfort to many troubled consciences.

The bishops unquestionably are right in deploring the increase in irregular connections which has followed the knowledge of methods of prevention. In any case, Birth Control has come to stay. The only course open to the Church is that which the bishops have now taken—to bring the practice before the tribunal of sensitive and enlightened conscience."

NEW YORK TRIBUNE, (Editorial, Aug 16th)

"Such action by the House of Bishops should carry great weight both inside and outside the Anglican Church. It should help convince many who have condemned as immoral the agitation to change the present stringent prohibitory law that this movement is no expression of laxness but is a serious effort to make the law conform to what is in fact the practice and the principle of high-minded members of the community. It is difficult to understand the point of view of those who still argue that it is moral to force children upon homes that do not want them."

HARRY ELMER BARNES

"Although there is a certain hangover of medieval Puritanism in their pronouncements, for the church to come out for Birth Control at all is encouraging and proof of their enlightenment.

Of course, the church, always a cultural laggard, is only jumping on the band wagon for Birth Control, having failed in its heretofore consistent fight against it.

The bishops have merely announced their acceptance of progress made in spite of them, and their inability to suppress it. But no matter how late, their action is very gratifying because of their prestige and power."

BROOKLYN EAGLE, (Editorial, August 16th)

"It is said that some of the High Church Bishops shed tears when the Lambeth vote, refusing to denounce Birth Control, was announced. All of the 'Broad Church' Bishops and nearly all of the Low Church Bishops were strong for the course taken. That it may be a Christian duty of some married couples not to have children was the most effective argument of the majority. There is speculation to the effect that this recommendation may hasten an Anglo-Catholic exodus from the Anglican Communion, but only speculation is possible at this time.

Taking everything into account, the resolutions of the Lambeth Conference are in accord with the spirit of the age."

MARY WARE DENNETT

"Considering the Anglican Bishops' past, this recognition of the practice of Birth Control is a big step. I am glad to join in the loud applause for the Bishops, believing their steps is a great encouragement to social progress.

The church is not creating anything, it is merely admitting, reluctantly, the progress already made."

DR HANNAH M STONE

"Much of the responsibility for the Birth Control resolution must lie with Lord Dawson, who has for many years been an ardent advocate of Birth Control in England. But the large majority in favor of the resolution would indicate that it expresses the sentiment of the church as a whole.

While Birth Control is not a panacea for all our social ills, it nevertheless remains one of the most vital problems of the day, and it is encouraging to note that the church is taking a more liberal attitude toward it."

DR SIDNEY E GOLDSTEIN

"I believe the resolutions of the Lambeth conference as cabled to America do nothing more than give sanction of the bishops to the social movement now established and which now is a matter of widespread practice."

(Continued on page 271)

The Answer Box

I note with interest your editorial in the August number concerning the failure of the American Medical Association to mention the subject of Birth Control at their recent Detroit meeting. On the same page is a pathetic letter of inquiry from an over-burdened mother. This led me to look through the entire magazine to find your list of Birth Control Clinics for the benefit of just such suffering women. I could find no such list, not even the address of the New York City clinic.

Why are these not published?

No list of Birth Control clinics is published in the REVIEW because, under the strict interpretation of the Federal Law, Section 334, it is a criminal offense to circulate through the mails any written or printed matter giving contraceptive information or indicating where such information may be obtained. See the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW for August, 1929, for the complete text of this statute, and for editorial comment on restrictive legislation. It should be noted that mail under this heading going from one physician to another is unmolested.

Why not print BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in large letters on the wrappers of the magazine, and also on your envelopes? I note that you have only your address and room number. This would be an effective publicity device.

Your suggestion is a good one, but unfortunately most people are still far from broadminded on the subject of Birth Control. We have many letters asking us to "please reply in a plain envelope," and inquiring, before subscribing to the REVIEW, if it comes in a plain wrapper. Let us hope that general education and a better understanding of the meaning of Birth Control will change this attitude.

Can you recommend a good simple book on heredity? I want one with no propaganda slant.

How We Inherit by Edgar Altenburg, Holt, \$2.40, is excellent. The American Birth Control League has recently issued a book list, which will be sent free of charge on request. It lists twenty books on Heredity and Eugenics, most of which are suitable for the layman.

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 SOUND AND ENLIGHTENING ARTICLE

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the copy of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW containing one of Mr Aptekar's articles on primitive Birth Control. I congratulate you on being able to publish his sound and enlightening studies in this field, and the point that he makes in this first article deserves especially wide circulation from its first-rate importance, namely, that Birth Control is not solely as it is so often thought, a means of population control, but rather a technique of societal engineering, as he says, adaptable to a very wide variety of uses.

RUTH BENEDICT,
Department of Anthropology,
Columbia University

New York

A HUMANIZING MOVEMENT

TO THE EDITOR

Some time ago, purchasing a newspaper on one of the stands in Times Square, I noticed a copy of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW sticking out among various other magazines. Like many other men, who are indifferent to essential movements, it completely left my mind, a few moments after I left that stand. In the last few days, however, I have come across two items of news which brought it back to memory. Under date of July 25 "Taylor Holt of Martinsburg, W. Va., killed his three children, because — as he said — they could not take proper care of them, their ages were — 7, 6 and 5 years, respectively." The second piece of illuminating news appeared the next day, and read as follows — "The five children of Anna S——, 32 years old, were found destitute, and were sent to the Children's Society. Their respective ages were — 12, 10, 9, 4, and 21 months old. The mother was tubercular, and the father is at present confined at the Insane Asylum, in Central Islip." Now, here are two cases in point, to make our deluded "moralists" sit up and take notice. An unskilled

laborer — who probably never made enough to support one child — brings one into the world every year. Could such a thing happen, if his wife had free access to the teachings of Birth Control? And what can we say, when we hear of five children being born to an insane father, and a tubercular mother. I am sure, the mother — apparently she was tubercular for some years — would have done all in her power not to be the involuntary incubator that she was, had she had the slightest inkling of such a thing as Birth Control. It is a great humanizing movement, all honor, I say, to those who work and agitate for it.

L. CHASKIN

New York

SUPPORT FROM CHINA

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for sending the Church Number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. In the August issue of *The Chinese Recorder* I am writing a special article on this subject. I thoroughly believe in your cause.

ROBERT F. FITCH, *Acting Editor*
The Chinese Recorder

Shanghai, China

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY RENAISSANCE

TO THE EDITOR

The World War undoubtedly was the greatest factor, in the past quarter century, in the freeing of human thought. The war was bloody, carnal, yet as little as we of the present can see of the war's aftermath, one thing does stand out — barely out of range of our physical eye — the ruins of a proud fortress that had withstood for many years the assault of enlightenment. We see that 1914 started a renaissance. Birth Control together with several other of the forbidden arts and sciences have been awakened from their lethargy and, after first hesitating, have become marks of recognition of the

THE GREATEST EVER

so-called "intelligentsia" the world over Sex education is now a required course in some public schools Books are now being written on subjects which their authors previously dared not air in public Birth Control is being intelligently practised as it never was before Clinics have been established by the professional man as well as by the layman for the dissemination of contraceptive advice

And so let there be one more war—let the "battle cry of freedom" ring forth once more—this time for the human mind For the past fifteen years the world has been undergoing a revolution—a revolution, not on the battlefield, nor in the social ball room, nor in the political club, but rather in the minds of men Birth Control, along with many other of the forbidden follies of the past, indicates that it will become the governing factor of our future civilization

JOSEPH JUDSON

New York

SOME INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS

TO THE EDITOR

Pictures are what has "sold" the REVIEW in my experience The one you ran about a year ago showing a mammoth, round shouldered man with his worn out wife, again a mother, did more good in our neighborhood than all the other issues I just left the REVIEW open to that page, lying on the table It got a "contact" every time *

I like the suggestion made by one reader for sending one's copies to others and have tried to do it Another "Market" is newlyweds and newly-engaged Who needs guidance more than they?

If there is no law against it, why all the secrecy? Why do you have "A B C League" instead of "American Birth Control League" on your envelopes? And I've wondered why your name and address are not on the wrapper of the REVIEW

Another thing If the league for changes in Birth Control legislation had the same address as the Birth Control League, it would simplify things And the above committee has too complicated a name for the layman to remember

MRS BYRON CHADWICK

Painesville, Ohio

*Our correspondent doubtless refers to "Another Kid" by William Gropper, published in the September, 1929, issue *Editor's note*

TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to say a few words in favor of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW I think the May Number is the greatest one that I have ever seen It is only too bad that a copy cannot go in every home Certainly, the ministry are falling in line The May REVIEW contains some wonderful articles They are all so good that I will refrain from mentioning any in particular

If they are still obtainable I would like to have twenty to place in the hands of ministers and prominent and influential laymen I wish the REVIEW and its officers and supporters, support and courage to press on

J M HAVELY, M D

Torrington, Wyoming

LIKE A FEW MILLION OTHERS

TO THE EDITOR

We are just like a few million other people, with wage cutting and scarcity of good jobs we are obliged to spend no money except for absolute necessities Best wishes for you and your work Will subscribe again later

T C K

Cleveland, Ohio

A HELP IN TIME OF NEED

TO THE EDITOR

Carry on the good work of Birth Control and spread it abroad among the poor, for they need it most It surely helped me out in the time of need, I will always praise the good work We need it in our town We have people here in our county on starvation wages, and they should have help

Mrs G W R

Kentucky

TO THE EDITOR

Why doesn't the REVIEW print more articles about sex education, both for grown people and children? Birth Control can never be thoroughly effective until the old taboos and superstitions concerning sex are removed, not only among the upper intellectual classes, but in the whole body of the population

J W CURTING

Chicago, Ill

COMMENTS ON LAMBETH CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 268)

DR MARIE STOPES

"The bishops' statement is a great victory for the mothers of England"

KANSAS CITY POST, (Editorial, Aug 16th)

"Despite its wording, the Lambeth resolution is significant in that it is a partial admission that Birth Control is becoming widely practiced, especially among the upper classes of England, and that the Established Church might as well make the best of the situation. Many other denominations officially opposed to Birth Control, both in this country and England, are faced with a similar condition"

REVEREND WALTER C BIHLER (Chicago)

"Any one who has had anything to do with social service work would heartily indorse the position taken by the Lambeth conference on Birth Control. This position is in line with the attitude of such noted English clerics as Dean Inge who has studied conditions in the slums of London and is in a position to judge the advisability of Birth Control"

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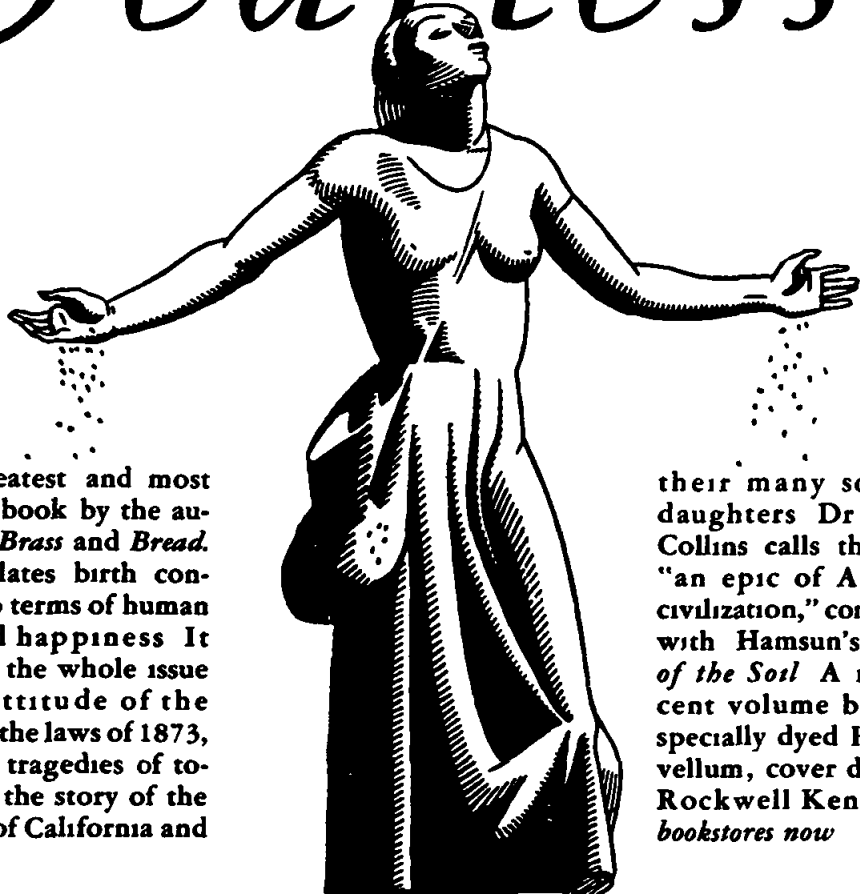
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