

February 1931

Twenty Cents

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL

Quotations and Comments



THE ANNUAL MEETING

Reports from State Organizations: Illinois,
Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Mich-
igan, etc. ▼ Field Work ▼ Junior Committee ▼
Headquarters ▼ American Birth Control League

Birth Control Review

VOL XV

FEBRUARY, 1931

No 2

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC
152 MADISON AVENUE. NEW YORK CITY
Telephones—Bogardus 0286-0287

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

Single Copies, 20 cents, \$2 per year, \$3.50 two years,
Canada and Foreign add 26 cents postage per year

Entered as Second Class Matter March 11 1918 at the Post
office at New York N Y under the Act of March 8 1879

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Editorial

AN ANNUAL MEETING is always a landmark and especially so in a movement still comparatively young. Last month saw the tenth anniversary of the American Birth Control League, and any worker who is inclined to feel discouraged, because the world seems slow to recognize the enormous value of birth control in the solution of many of man's most serious problems, should glance back over those ten years of the League's existence and rejoice that such tremendous progress has been made. At the meeting on January 15th there assembled a large, serious and deeply interested group of people who reported the actual steps taken towards the realization of our goal—bringing contraceptive information and service within the reach of every woman who needs it. The records were of clinics organized and opened, of doctors and social workers increasingly ready to cooperate, of the slackening of governmental opposition, whether from federal or local authorities, of toleration supplanting bigoted persecution, and of a gradual enlightenment of the public as to the meaning and importance of birth control. The noteworthy progress reported from Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan showed that the Birth Control League is by no means a local New York organization, but that its constructive work is beginning to permeate the nation. Connecticut is the only state reporting a legislative campaign. In other states legislative work—usually a barren form of activity—has given way to constructive action, for restrictive laws, where they exist, are based on a total misconception of the value of birth control as a medical measure and are not enforced, once it becomes evident that they are plainly against the common good. The morning session is fully reported in this issue. Together with the luncheon meeting and the afternoon symposium on *Child Welfare and Birth Control* or *What the White House Conference Left Out* it presented a vivid and rounded picture of the movement and the work of the League. Resolutions, given on the following page, were adapted

THE ENCYCLICAL of Pope Pius XI has shed no new light on the attitude of Catholicism towards birth control. It has, however, brought the subject into the open and will, we venture to predict, stimulate other religious denominations into taking a definite stand. Following the publication of the Encyclical, the League sent a letter to thirty bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church, pointing out that the issue between the Catholic Church and the rest of the civilized world seemed clearly drawn, and asking for expressions of opinion for publication. The response was curious. Some declined, but added that they were in entire agreement with the position on birth control taken by the Lambeth Conference. One offered the information that he was one of the sixty-seven dissenting bishops. One, Bishop T. Dallas of Concord, New Hampshire, wrote "Please tell your meeting that I think the Pope is right." The confusion of thought arises, apparently, because the Pope has linked his attitude on birth control with his attitude on marriage. It goes without saying that ministers in general believe in permanent monogamous marriage as an ideal. Many ecclesiastics, therefore, find themselves in partial agreement with His Holiness. But beyond a certain point, no non-Catholic can follow him. Birth control exists. Its use will decrease poverty, sickness and unhappiness, and the birth of the unfit, will increase health and happiness, and will better social conditions. To understand and use and promote birth control is the way of enlightenment and hope. To deny its existence and forbid it is the way of retrogression and death.

BY A CURIOUS chain of reasoning, Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the Horse Association of America, blames birth control for the farmers' difficulties, in that smaller families mean fewer mouths to feed, and suggests as a solution that the farmer grow more fodder for animals and employ more horses to eat the produce. Thus birth control works some good for horses at least. Seriously, here

is another instance of the prevalent misunderstanding of birth control, and the assumption that it means fewer children. In reality it means better children, few sickly children of bad heritage, and more healthy, vigorous

children of good heritage. It means more healthy, happy, wanted children, and has no objection to more healthy horses, too, we hasten to inform Mr. Dinsmore and the Horse Association of America.

Resolutions

Adopted by *the American Birth Control League at the Annual Meeting, January 15th, 1931*, New York and sent to President Hoover, Secretary *Wilbur*, Chairman, and Dr. *Barnard*, Director, of the *White House* Conference on Child Health and Protection

Whereas, The **White House** Conference has adopted a program for child health and protection, **which** the President has commended to the public as the "Children's Charter", and

Whereas **this** program includes among its **provisions** for every child "the **right** to grow up in a family **with** an adequate standard of **living** and the **security** of a stable income as the surest safeguard against social **handicaps**"—and "full **preparation** for his **birth**, his mother receiving pre-natal, natal and postnatal care, and the **establishment** of such **protective** measures as will make child bearing safer," and

Whereas the **realization** of such **rights** for many children is seriously jeopardized when their number and needs in a family exceed the **limitations** of income, health and **homemaking** abilities of their parents, **which** **limitations** may be reduced by parental education, advice and aid for families with under-privileged children, and instruction where necessary in measures for family limitation,

Therefore Be **It** Resolved that

The **American Birth Control League** endorses the "Children's Charter" and pledges support towards **carrying it** into effect throughout the **nation**

Furthermore Be **It** Resolved that

The League calls the attention of its members to the **following pertinent observations**

1 The Children's Charter demands "—for every child who is mentally handicapped, such measures as will early **discover** and diagnose his handicap, **provide** care and treatment, and so train him that he may become an asset to **society** rather than a liability" Obviously avoidance of **conception** is a measure to be **considered** in some

cases when advising husbands and **wives** who cannot reasonably be assured that **their** children would be free from the most hopeless of these handicaps **which** they **might** transmit

2 The "establishment of such **protective** measures as will make **child bearing safer**" requires especially careful **attention** to the **safeguarding** of women whom physicians have advised **against** conception because of heart or kidney **diseases**, physical **limitations** or other **conditions** which cause unwarranted risks when **associated** with pregnancy

3 The Charter's advocacy of protection "against labor that stunts growth, either physical or mental, that **limits** **education**, that deprives children of the right of comradeship, of play, and of joy" involves **questions** of adequate income, home and school **facilities**, and **environments** which are only **attainable** for many families when the number of children and the years between their respective births are such that parents and society can protect them in these **vital** needs

4 Finally it is of the greatest concern that **application** of the "Children's Charter," be preceded by intelligent planning toward that objective of "The Child's Bill of Rights" which Mr. Hoover described as "the complete **birthright** of a sound mind in a sound body" Wise marriage, and parenthood only for those who can **provide** good **heredity** for their children, will promote this right **Fair dealing** with the adults and children of each **generation** demands the opportunity of **marriage** and **parenthood** for the greatest number of **citizens**, consistent with this fundamental **right** of all children. Voluntary parenthood is a means to this end, when based upon prerequisite instruction on the **importance** of normal well-born children to the home, the family, and the nation

"We Are Deeply Touched..."

Excerpts from *the Encyclical* of Pope Pius XI,
issued from Rome, January 8, 1931

WHEN we consider the great excellence of chaste wedlock, venerable brethren, it appears all the more regrettable that **particularly** in our day we should witness **this divine institution** often scorned and on every side degraded

First **consideration** is due to the offspring, **which** many have the boldness to call the **disagreeable** burden of **matrimony** and which they say is to be carefully **avoided** by married people not through **virtuous continence** (which Christian law permits in matrimony when both **parties** consent) but by **frustrating** the **marriage** act. Some **justify this criminal** abuse on the ground that they are weary of **children** and **wish** to gratify **their desires without** their consequent burden. Others say that they cannot, on the one hand, **remain continent** nor on the other can they have children because of the **difficulties** whether on the part of the mother or on the part of **family circumstances**

But no reason, however grave may be put forward by which **anything intrinsically** against nature may become conformable to nature and morally good. Since, therefore, the conjugal act is **destined primarily** by nature for the **begetting of children**, those who in **exercising** it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose, **sin** against nature and commit a deed **which** is shameful and **intrinsically vicious**

Small wonder, therefore, if holy writ bears witness that the **Divine Majesty** regards with greatest detestation **this horrible crime**, and at times has **punished it** with death. As St. **Augustine** notes, intercourse even with one's **legitimate wife** is unlawful and wicked where the **conception** of the **offspring** is prevented. **Onan**, the son of **Juda**, **did** this, and the Lord **killed him** for it.

Any use whatsoever of matrimony **exercised** in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate **life** is an offence **against** the law of God and of nature, and those who **indulge** in such are branded **with** the guilt of a grave **sin**

As regards the **evil** use of matrimony — to pass over the arguments which are shameful ones — not infrequently others that are false and exaggerated

are put forward. Holy Mother Church very well understands and clearly appreciates all that is **said regarding** the health of the mother and the danger to her **life**. And who would not grieve to **think** of these **things**? Who is not filled **with** the greatest **admiration** when he sees a mother **risking** her **life** with **heroic fortitude**, that she may preserve the **life** of the **offspring** which she has **conceived**? God alone, all **bountiful** and all **merciful** as He **is**, can reward her for the fulfillment of the office allotted to her by nature, and **will** assuredly repay her in a measure full to **overflowing**

We are deeply touched by the **sufferings** of those parents who, in extreme want, experience great **difficulty** in **rearing their children**. However, they should take care lest the calamitous state of their external **affairs** should be the **occasion** for a much more **calamitous** error.

No **difficulty** can **arise** that justifies the putting **aside** of the law of God **which forbids** all acts **intrinsically evil**, there is no **possible** circumstance in which husband and **wife** cannot, strengthened by the grace of God, fulfill faithfully their **duties** and preserve in wedlock their chastity unspotted.

But another very grave crime is to be noted, venerable brethren, **which** regards the **taking** of the life of the offspring **hidden** in the mother's womb. Some **wish** it to be allowed and left to the **will** of the father or the mother, others say it is unlawful unless there are **weighty** reasons **which** they call by the name of **medical, social** or eugenic "**indication**"

As to the "**medical and therapeutic indication**" to **which**, using their own words, we have made reference, venerable brethren, however much we may pity the mother whose health and even **life** is gravely **imperiled** in the performance of the **duty** allotted to her by **nature**, nevertheless what could ever be a **sufficient** reason for excusing in any way the **direct** murder of the **innocent**? **This** is precisely what we are **dealing with** here. Whether **inflicted** upon the mother or upon the **child** it is **against** the precept of God and the law of nature "**Thou shalt not kill**", the life of each is equally sacred, and no one has the power, not even the **public authority**, to destroy it.

A Fundamental Cleavage

By REVEREND ELIOT WHITE

Dr. White, Assistant Minister of Grace Episcopal Church, New York, delivered this address at the Annual Luncheon of the American Birth Control League on January 15th

JULIUS CAESAR began his *Commentaries* by announcing "all Gaul is divided into three parts" Pope Pius XI by his recent Encyclical & divides all humanity into two parts — the Includers and the Exceptionists. The first consists of all who believe that the divine declaration in the last verse of the first chapter of the Book of Genesis is unqualifiedly true "God saw everything that He had made, and, behold it was very good." The second division consists of all upholders of papal infallibility, who must now understand the Bible to say "God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, with the exception of sex and its fulfilment, it was very good."

All the "Exceptionists" must now receive, ex cathedra, and without the slightest demur, the Encyclical's declaration that expression of the sex life between a properly married husband and wife, except with procreative intention, even after they have brought as many children into the world as they are convinced they can conscientiously provide for, "is an offence against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin." Although the Creator at the first looked upon sex and its fulfilment and saw that, as truly as stars, snowflakes and roses, it was very good, this papal edict pronounces it as in itself sinful, and declares that "the natural process of generating life has become the way of death," even within the churchly sanction of sacramental marriage.

This uncompromising and sharply defined statement completely demolishes all wavering opinion. The reaction to it on the part of every hearer must be absolutely for or against it, which is at least a help to clear thinking on the whole subject. It is revealing the line of cleavage between Includers and Exceptionists in every church. That line runs not vertically through any one organization, but horizontally through all. It resembles a geological "fault," in strata of rock or slate, and like that is liable to result in earthquakes. All the Ex-

ceptionists seem suddenly enlisted among the "faithful" of the Pope's jurisdiction. For to that banner are rallying all who, whether Catholic or non-Catholic in name, regard sex as inherently tainted with evil, uncleanness and shame, to be sanctioned, and that rather grudgingly, only when fulfilled with procreative intention. And so for the Includers, who still persist in remembering that declaration in Genesis, they are also vocal in every fold except the papal, wherein nevertheless present silence does not necessarily signify entire acquiescence.

The Pope declares himself "deeply touched by the sufferings of those parents who, in extreme want, experience great difficulty in rearing their children," but he adds "However, they should take care lest the calamitous state of their external affairs should be the occasion for a much more calamitous error." Now if this "calamitous error" consists in the use of any contraceptive means whatsoever—even though a family be already far too large, the wife and mother in mental torment and even in peril of death should she bear another child, with extreme poverty at the same time crushing the household out of all semblance to a home—then, frankly, after having now listened to the pronouncements of an ecclesiastic, exalted, but himself vowed to celibacy, we must in all fairness also give hearing to the married.

The following quotations are from genuine letters to one of the noblest of the world's women, who receives thousands of similar appeals from living and suffering American wives, and they are what the historian calls "fully documented."

"The reason I send for information is because I think if any woman needs help, I am the one. I am seventeen years old. I married when I was thirteen years old, and I am the mother of six children. My first baby was thirteen months old when another was born, then ten months after that I had twins, and ten months later another set of twins. Now I am to have some more. My husband gets awful cross with me when I get this way, he thinks we got plenty. It is also wearing me down. I never feel well."

Another letter

"I was married at the age of twelve years. One month before my **thirteenth birthday** I became the mother of my first **child**, and now at the age of **thirty** I am the mother of eleven **children**, ten of them **living**. My health has been poor the last two years now, and I don't **believe I could** ever stand **it** to have any more. Please won't you send me **information** so I won't have any more children, for we have more now than we can really take care of."

The writers of these two letters may have been a little cheered at hearing that the Lambeth Conference of the **Anglican Communion**, which includes the Episcopal Church in the United States, had the courage to make at least one carefully guarded official statement upon birth control in the summer of 1930. "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 lived in the power of the Holy **Spirit**. Nevertheless, in those cases where there **is** such a clearly felt moral **obligation**, and where there **is** a morally sound reason for **avoiding** complete abstinence, the Conference agrees that other methods may be used, provided that this **is** done in the **light** of the same **Christian principles**. The Conference records its strong condemnation of the use of any methods of conception control from **motives** of selfishness, luxury, or mere convenience." Would those **tragic** and **despairing girl-mothers** who wrote the letters quoted, who are now forbidden by our **obscurantist** and deplorable **restrictive** laws to secure the honest, (non-"bootlegged"), and **scientifically furnished** contraceptive **information** which they cry out for be accused by the Lambeth Conference of **seeking it** "from **motives** of selfishness, luxury, or mere convenience?" Perhaps the 67 **bishops** who voted at the Conference **against** even the carefully **qualified permission** that the **majority** adopted, so accuse these letter-writers. It may be that by the time of the next Lambeth Conference, 1940, some of them **will** even read documents **like** these **cries** of agonized young lives much of whose torment could so quickly and blessedly be **relieved**, and **decide** to vote the other way.

We cannot close our ears to two more letters, as **incontrovertible life** documents as the former

"I am **writing** to **see if you** can help me. I was **married** when I was 14 years old and now I am a mother of 16

children, 14 **living**, and now I am on my way for another **child**, three months. I was **sick with this** one, two months in bed and I am not able to stand on my feet yet. The doctor **said if** I ever have another **child** I should die, but I am on my way **with** the seventeenth. One **child is married**, and I have 13 to take care of, and I am not able to do **anything**. I am only 39 years old, and all wore out."

And this

"I have **tried** so hard not to become pregnant, but now am **again**, after **having given birth** to 14 **children**. It seems to me **it** was more than one woman should be asked to. Husband has cancer, and I have wanted to be all the comfort to **him possible** but now my heart **is** broken and makes me feel **like giving up**. Now I am along three months **again**. What should a woman **do**? I love **babies** but how can one do **justice** to a little bunch **like this**? I **sometimes** do not see how I ever have stood **it** all. I don't see why the law should not be in favor of contraceptives, **unless** that **it is in man's hands** and he does **not have** to **suffer** the **consequences**."

After **hearing** these tortured voices, "the faithful" must have to apply their **attention** very **exclusively** to the text of the Papal **Encyclical**, to be wholly **submissive** and free of any **possible** mental and **spiritual** revolt, as they read once more that birth control through **contraception** in any form "is an offence **against** the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave **sin**." And that although the **Pontiff** declares himself "deeply touched by the **sufferings** of those parents who, in extreme want, **experience** great difficulty in **rearing their children**," yet he must warn them to "take care lest the calamitous state of **their** external affairs should be the **occasion** for a much more **calamitous** error."

So, then, *Petrus loquitur*. It is hard to imagine impulsive and great-hearted **Saint Peter** so **speaking**. And assuredly we **discern** not in such pronouncements the **compassion** of Jesus of Nazareth.

Fellow churchmembers, the **time** has fully and urgently come, to **divest** our minds and hearts of prejudice and ignorance in **this** entire matter of sane and **legalized** birth control the world over. To work for the repeal of obsolete and socially **injurious** statutes which still **hinder** the **distribution** and **dissemination** of **scientific** and humane education in sexual **hygiene**. And **actively** to further the establishment of **clinics** for the free education of adults in the **technique** of **parenthood**—in **conception** as **well** as **contraception**—to help end **this** Ignorance and agony which threaten **deterioration** for **mankind**.



Comments on the Pope's Encyclical

REVEREND J A MAC CALLUM
*Minister of the Walnut St Presbyterian Church,
 Philadelphia*

THERE is much encouragement for the social reformer in this dehverance of His Holiness Pius XI In tone and outlook it is very much like what would have been said by any churchman fifty years ago Meantime the tide of opinion and practice has moved forward with Increasing acceleration Birth control has reached the stage where it has become a complex in the papal mind This is because the Pope has become aware that many of the faithful are limiting their families by the use of contraceptives It is a safe prophecy that they will continue to do so, as anyone who has educated Catholic friends can verify by comparing the size of their families with those of them parents and grandparents Some day another Pope will issue another encyclical in which this vexing problem will be eased out of the picture Already, in other mstances, Rome has done this very thing many times, and has developed the technique of changing front A notable illustration is the reversal of the Church's attitude on the taking of interest, which handicapped Catholic commerce and industry for generations and gave the advantage to Protestant competition It is the old story of organized religion versus science Science always wins in this conflict Every non-sectarian hospital in the world aims to save the mother in childbirth if both cannot be saved, but His Hohness, in the Interests of a dogma, would sacrifice the mother who is known to the unknown child His opposition to birth control is equally unsound and doomed to a rapidly increasing obsolescence among those for whom he speaks

REVEREND CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER
Founder of the Humanist Society

THE importance of this encyclical lies in the fact that the head of the most powerful division of Christianity announces the refusal of that Church to recognize as moral an accepted practice in modern marital relations When a majority of intelligent, honest citizens deliberately accepts a practice it thereby becomes moral, whatever any religious leader may say to the contrary Contraception is here to stay, and if the Catholic

Church refuses to sanction it, so much the worse for that Church

The reason behind the issuing of this encyclical is probably the fact, well known to social workers, that the new generation of Roman Catholics is quietly disregarding the teachings of that Church about birth control There are fifty-four clinics in the United States giving contraceptive information and in every one of them the Roman Catholic women come in equal numbers with the Protestants and the Jews

The Pope seems to lay most stress on the statement that contraception is contrary to nature Then let us respectfully suggest that he be consistent and lay aside his spectacles and stop shaving

MARGARET SANGER
*Chairman, National Committee on Federal
 Legislation for Birth Control*

EVIDENTLY the Pope beheves in birth control, although he countenances only one method, namely, continence Physicians agree, however, that it is unwise to attempt the general application of any single method Fortunately the Pope does not anywhere command us to have large families It is true that he quotes the Biblical injunction, "Increase and multiply and fill the earth," but as these orders have now been carried out, the earth is reasonably full By crowding together we may still have a few patches left for growing potatoes, but it is widely recognized that humanity suffers from over-population

I agree with the Pope's statements that "the cultivating of mutual love, and the quieting of concupiscence," as well as procreation, are purposes of marriage, and I applaud his quotation from St Augustine saying that "children should be begotten of love," but I question the traditional theory that procreation is the primary purpose of sexual union Reproduction may, mdeed, be the most tangible result, but who shall say, and how can he prove his contention, that this is the primary purpose? Consider the fact that nature demands sexual union during certain periods of life and under certain circumstances when there is no possibility of child bearing What is the logic of that, if the primary purpose is procreation?

The Pope maintains that any performance of the sexual act in a way **which** frustrates procreation is a "sin **against** nature." Yet he allows "virtuous continence," **which** must be somewhat of a sin **against** nature since it frustrates the "quieting of concupiscence," which, he **admits**, is one purpose of **marriage**. However, I think that to say "sin **against** nature" is only a manner of speaking. All of us, the Pope included, are habitually defeating the ways of nature, the advance of **civilization** has been achieved largely by **triumphing** over nature.

RT REVEREND ARTHUR S LLOYD
Suffragen Bishop of the Diocese of New York
 (Protestant *Episcopal* Church)

AS I READ the Pope's **Encyclical** I felt that the whole **Christian** world ought to be grateful for his very clear and **explicit** statement as to what has been the mind of the Church from the **beginning with** regard to **marriage**. To me it seems disaster that the necessary breaking away from ecclesiastical domination, **which** we call the **Reformation**, should have **carried with** it that change in the **public** mind which **induced** men to forget what the Church through the ages had **received**. It was a loss to **civilization** when the **Christian** world ceased to **think of marriage** as a sacrament, nor can we measure the loss that has come to the whole family in the attitude towards divorce, **regarding** it as an accident and not as a moral **disaster**.

I think the whole **Christian** world will thank him for his explicit declaration that **abortion**, in so far as **this** is used to enable people to escape responsibility, is murder. I do not believe anybody **questions this**, but it is well to have it stated.

But when he comes to the matter of birth control I cannot go **with** him. So far as I can see the Church has **nothing** to do **with this**. It is a matter for medical **science** to **determine** whether it is **against** nature. If it is, science itself will forbid it. If it is not, then it is a matter for the **individual**.

I was grateful for the statement **issued** by the Lambeth Conference. **This** seemed to me reasonable and entirely in line **with** the **Revelation** to **which** the Church is **witness**, but I confess I was the more pleased because **this** statement is **likely** to have influence in putting an end to what has seemed to me to be monstrous, depraved and **self-indulgent** people have access to the **findings** of

scientific **investigations**, for their own **indulgence**, while honest and **righteous** people are deprived by the law of the land from the relief and help that science might afford them. This seems to me a dreadful thing.

After all birth control is in line **with** every other finding of **increasing** knowledge of **physical** laws. All can be used for destruction, but I am persuaded that they are intended for the relief of unnecessary **suffering** and **distress**. In every case, the evil can be overcome only by **adhering** to the law of **life** **which** has been revealed to us, and it seems to me that the **business** of the Church is constantly to bear witness to **this**. Nor may it without fault leave off from pleading **with** people not to destroy themselves by **seeking** present relief from normal **responsibilities**.

DR HARRY ELMER BARNES
 N Y *Telegram*, January 10th

THE Pope has commented unreservedly on the **views** of the modern **scientists** and aesthetes with respect to marriage and sex. Suppose the process be reversed for a moment and let social experts with modern **perspective** pass **dignified** judgment on the dogmas of His **Holiness**.

The **scientific** and **historical** view is that morals are the product of man's **trial-and-error** methods of **conquering** the problems of physical existence and social life. In various parts of the world, meeting **different living conditions**, man has evolved widely **divergent** folkways and customs. Some, for example, have favored polygamy and others monogamy.

But in each and every case the **particular social** group, whether Mohammedan, **Christian**, **Buddhist**, **Shintoist** or what, regards its codes as **divinely** revealed and completely perfect. In the case of the papal moral views, the folkways **lying** back of them were those of the ancient Hebrews of Palestine, **modified** by later **Persian** and **Hellenic** influences.

A moral code is valuable and valid **in proportion** as it promotes a happy and efficient life on the part of those who practice it at any **given** time and place. It changes with **radical** alterations in the **life conditions** of the group.

On sex life the papal view is that the sole purpose of sex is **procreative**. The **scientist** and aesthete hold that the recreative is **quite** as important as the **procreative** end, and is the most **decisive** advance **which** man has made over the animals in **this** field.

With respect to procreation, the Pope holds that no limit should be placed on the production of children, and that "men are begotten, not for the earth, but for heaven and eternity" The modern attitude is that children are born for this life, and no more should be born than can live happily and decently here and now

BEN B LINDSEY

Founder and Judge, for twenty-eight years, of the Juvenile and Family Relations Court of Denver, Colorado

THE attitude of His Holiness the Pope on birth control seems to be due to what he calls "the law of God" I cannot admit that anything is "the law of God" just because it is so announced There are too many denominational and other interpretations of what the "word of God" means, any longer to give anyone the right to declare what the law is

As I understand it, the "word of God" (or one of them) that commands to continence is "Who-soever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" Doubtless other "Godly" authority is claimed for the rule that there can be no relationship of the sexes, even in lawful wedlock between man and wife without "sin" and for the threat of damnation if there is any artificial interference with its procreative purpose And to the "word of God" His Holiness adds the authority of St Augustine That cloistered ascetic of the early centuries, who knew as little about marriage as he knew about what is going on in the world today, is reported to have declared "The husband who hath sex relations with his wife interfering with the begetting of a child hath made of her a harlot"

The answer to this medieval rule is its very statement That carries absurdity enough, if not indeed insult, to the intelligent married people of today I do not believe that sex is "sin" This is the attitude of most intelligent people They take no stock in the application of the so-called "word of God" relied on by the Pope, much less that of the ascetic priest of the Dark Ages

I will not be misunderstood when I reasonably ask His Holiness how many "bad women" and "adulterous men" there are in the churches, according to these rules of the Vatican How many wives are there who have the right to divorce on the ground of adultery? No wonder his Holiness

the Pope announces that divorce shall not be permitted, even on that ground

In all seriousness, this "Bull" against birth control is the greatest boost that birth control has had for fifty years The Pope's strange declarations on this question of sex and sin come with a shock to the intelligence of the twentieth century People will now be more determined than ever before on their firm refusal to have their private lives fixed by the asceticism of the first century, when some of these saints did not even believe in marriage because they were sure the end of the world was at hand Unafraid people will find more cause than ever, without "guilt" or "sin", to rebel not only against tyranny but sheer stupidity

EDITORIAL, New Republic, January 21st

THAT the editors of The New Republic, like most Americans, disagree fundamentally with the principles advanced by the Pope is a fact that goes without saying The reasons for this disagreement have been often expressed and need not be repeated here We are more interested at present in the effect of the Pope's encyclical on non-Catholic Americans That it will have such an effect is not to be doubted The Pope is addressing himself not merely to the dignitaries of his Church, but also to those who guide the State Time and again he calls on "those who hold the reins of government" to preserve and enforce the laws against birth control, to make divorce more difficult (or preferably impossible), to cooperate with the ecclesiastical authorities "in order that through the united activity and energy of both powers, the tremendous evils may be checked which menace civil society as well as the Church" And our rulers, civil and ecclesiastic, will not be deaf to this appeal The Catholic Church is a minority in this country, but in many states it holds a veto power, it can turn elections, many Protestant legislators are afraid to vote against its wishes It cannot impose its ideals of marriage on non-Catholics, it has not succeeded in preventing Catholics themselves from practising birth control It can, however, support the hypocrisy of the New York divorce laws and the farce of our national laws against distributing birth control information It can help to preserve that opposition between law and custom which is one of the most dangerous features of our present civilization

Annual Meeting: January 15, 1931

THE morning session of the Annual Meeting was devoted to the work of local organizations and departments of the League. The reports printed here, necessarily much shortened, give an idea of the growing scope of the League's activities and the progress of the movement.

ILLINOIS

"The Illinois Birth Control League has had a very successful year. We have now six clinics—No. 1 at the headquarters in the business district, No. 2 in the Northwest Polish District, Nos. 3 and 4 in dispensaries of the Chicago Lying-In Hospital, No. 5 in the Jewish People's Institute, No. 6 at Mary Crane Nursery (Hull House).

We have given advice to 1679 women—an increase of 339 over last year's patients. Of these women:

- 876 were American-born white
- 234 were American-born colored
- 569 were foreign-born

The nationalities and religions vary in the different centres, there were:

- 967 Protestant
- 498 Catholic
- 207 Jewish
- 7 Miscellaneous

It is impossible to describe the social status of these women except by classifying the occupations of the husbands—which were as follows:

- 119 Executives and Merchants
- 231 Professional and Students
- 316 Office men and Salesmen
- 299 Tradesmen and Mechanics
- 515 Laborers
- 17 Farmers
- 182 Miscellaneous

This last—Miscellaneous—includes women who are teachers, stenographers, or otherwise employed in business. Most of the laborers are foreign-born—the majority being Mexicans and Italians. They are also of the more ignorant class of colored people.

Forty-eight, however, of our colored patients are the wives of professional and business men—postal clerks or letter-carriers—they are very ambitious for their children and eager to give them

good educations and opportunities—they often say 'We don't want more children than we can do justice to.' Our doctors find these women their most satisfactory and intelligent patients.

We find that in all classes economic reasons are given as the principal cause for seeking the advice—in the professional and business classes this is doubtless due to the higher standards of living, and to the fact that in many cases both husband and wife are employed and wish to delay having a family until such time as they can provide a proper home, for we constantly have reports of voluntary pregnancies—where the parents feel that they are ready to have children.

Our budget for the year's work was \$13,000. About half of this amount was raised by membership and subscriptions, the rest by fees from patients and sale of supplies. Owing to the unemployment situation and the resulting necessity for family restriction, we have had many cases for which no charge whatever has been made."

HELEN G. CARPENTER, *President,*
Illinois Birth Control League

PENNSYLVANIA

"During the past year our organization has continued the extension of its educational work throughout the 67 counties of Pennsylvania. Many of these counties do not have organized committees, but we have members in all but seven. The most outstanding piece of work in organization this year was the formation of the Allegheny County Committee. The Executive Director went to Pittsburgh in May and by mid-June a full committee had been organized, with Dr. H. C. Westervelt as chairman, headquarters were established, and office and field secretary engaged. Pittsburgh has continually increased its membership, has conducted several important meetings and has two physicians qualified and willing to receive needy patients who come through the Allegheny County Birth Control League. Bethlehem, Easton and Clearfield are the new additions to our local organizations, which now include, in addition to these three, Erie, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Lancaster and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Birth Control League.

The following committees are actively func-

tioning Literature, Speakers Bureau, Meetings, Publicity, Endorsements, Doctors, and Maternal Health The Maternal Health Committee is in charge of the Maternal Health Center, which was organized two years ago Over fifty social agencies in and about Philadelphia are bringing their patients to this center Careful research work is carried on by the staff of physicians Physicians come from all parts of the state to observe at this center, and are prepared to receive patients in their own counties

Pennsylvania is fortunate in having outstanding physicians on its Councils and Boards Through our Doctors' Committee the technique of birth control has been discussed in the senior class of the University of Pennsylvania and the Womens Medical College of Philadelphia We have noticed the increased interest of physicians in all parts of the state during the past year

Our office will have been established four years this April Our membership has almost doubled in the last year and our activities have increased more rapidly than in all three previous years "

ALLEYNE C MARTIN, *Executive Director,*
Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation

CONNECTICUT

"The Connecticut Birth Control League reports its renewed attempt to secure a change in its remarkable and unique law It is the only state which prohibits the use of contraceptives Its law reads

Every person who shall use any drug, medicinal article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception shall be fined not less than fifty dollars or imprisoned not less than sixty days nor more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned

Section 6246, Revised Statutes

In the last legislative session (1929) the League attempted the repeal of the law This was much criticized as too 'radical' a step, and this year the following amendment to the law is proposed

Provided that this section shall not apply to any person using such drug, medicinal article or instrument on the prescription of a legally practising physician

The chief advantage of the new bill is that it has been taken up heartily by a group of doctors, a petition, signed only by practising physicians, is

to be presented to the Committee in charge of the bill The League has secured a good friend in Judge Epaphroditus Peck of Bristol who championed the 1929 bill against his own political party and who stands ready to introduce the new bill "

ANNIE G PORRITT, *Acting Chairman,*
Connecticut Birth Control League

(Judge Peck introduced the bill on January twenty-second and it was referred to the Judiciary Committee of which he is a member)

BUFFALO

Mrs Chauncey J Hamlin reported on the activity of the local Buffalo Committee Four meetings were held last winter at which Dr Sidney E Goldstein, Dr James F Cooper, Dr Henry Pratt Fairchild, and Leon J Whitney presented birth control from four different aspects—the moral, medical, economic and eugenic These meetings were held under the auspices of the League of Women Voters and were broadcast over station WGR In each case the speaker met appropriate local groups, social workers, physicians, etc The Buffalo committee hopes to establish clinical service this year The members are Mrs George F Plimpton, Mrs Alfred Schoellkopf, Mrs Ansley Sawyer, Mrs Chauncey J Hamlin and Douglas Falconer

MICHIGAN

Mrs Donald McGraw, Field Secretary for the American Birth Control League, announced the organization of a state committee consisting of Mrs Willard Pope, Mrs Mayer B Sulzberger, Mrs Harry Farbstem, Mrs Harry W Kerr, Mrs James Watkins, Mrs David Levy, all of Detroit, and Mrs Margaret Winslow of Ann Arbor The Mothers' Clinic of Detroit has been in existence for three years Clinics are soon to be opened at the Women's Hospital and Harper Hospital, and plans are afoot for providing for additional clinical service in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and some industrial towns such as Flint and Pontiac

VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA

"The life of a field secretary for a national birth control organization is full of amusing incidents, discouraging circumstances, and many hopeful indications of an increasing interest in birth control It is impossible not to be amused (as well as grieved) at the ignorance of supposedly well-in-

formed people about what contraceptive—actually **is**. They speak of **it** with such vague awe that one **cannot** be sure whether they **think it is** a major operation or a **magic** formula. Even **among** doctors I often have to **explain** that we mean contraception and not **abortion**, by birth control.

I have been **trying** to find, in a **given community**, the resources that are **available** for contraceptive **service** and the best way of **getting this** to the poor women who need **it**. I went first to Roanoke, **Virginia**, where a **previous organizer** had spent a few days, some months **earlier**. Here we have a good group of **cooperating** doctors, the backing of all the **social** agencies, and an excellent chairman for the work. The best plan for **organized service** seemed to be to get **it into** the **out-patient** department of the Roanoke **Hospital**. The **superintendent** and many of the doctors were favorable and the matter was finally thoroughly **discussed** by the Executive Board—the first **time**, I was told, that an **appreciable** number of doctors in Roanoke had **publicly** admitted that there was such a **thing** as birth control. They **decided** that it was not a **thing** to be hasty about, and that **definite** action about a **clinic** would have to be postponed for the present. The chairman of the **committee** and the **superintendent** have agreed to keep **agitating** the matter until something is definitely arranged. In the **meantime** the **city** doctor has contraceptive supplies and the **Family Welfare Society**, the **Visiting Nurses**, the Red Cross and the local **chairman** refer cases to **him** or to other cooperating doctors.

In **Asheville**, North **Carolina**, things are moving much more **rapidly**. I was able to form a **committee** of eight **leading** women, **representing** nearly all the **important** women's **organizations** in town. There **is** no **city hospital** where a **clinic** could be opened but there **is** an unusual number of good doctors who do charitable work and who **include** contraceptive **instruction** in **this service**.

I next went to Charlotte, N. C., noted among other **things** for its large **church-going** population. They had scarcely heard about **birth** control but were interested and **willing** to learn although extremely **cautious** about **letting their friends know** of their interest. I was able to get a list of **cooperating** doctors, a **chairman** for a **birth control committee**, and the **cooperation** of all **social** agencies. I was asked to speak before the county **medical society** and at a luncheon sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The doctors refused to **discuss** my paper openly but the next day some

of them called me by phone to announce their **interest** and **cooperation**. The work in Charlotte has made only a **beginning**, but we are assured that all women known to the **Family Welfare Society** can receive contraceptive instruction.

From Charlotte I went to Atlanta, **Georgia**. About two years ago an **effort** was made to open a **birth control clinic** in Grady **Hospital** there. These plans never materialized as there were **internal difficulties** and **jealousies** among the doctors, an overcrowded hospital and **clinic** and no **social service** of any **kind** to push the work. At present there **is** little that can be done there, but there are one or two other **medical agencies** who are **willing** quietly to **include** **contraception** with their other **medical** work. This will mean that there **will** be a place where the **social agencies** and the local committee can refer cases and **will** be a good **beginning**. The Atlanta **Tuberculosis Association** has already passed a **resolution** making **contraception** a part of their regular **service**. While reaching only those women who have tuberculosis, or in whose **family** there is a tubercular infection, **this is** **important** in setting a precedent that **will** help with the work throughout the **city** and state."

MARGARET HUNTLEY, *Field Secretary*,
American Birth Control League

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

Mrs. **Francis N. Bangs**, **Chairman**, gave an account of the work of the **Junior Committee**. Dr. **Elizabeth Pisssoort**, **Medical Director** of the **Madison House Advisory Bureau**, reported that the Bureau opened on October **22nd**, and has had **forty-three** cases to date. The **Junior Committee** has **financed this** bureau and plans to open **services** in five other settlements **this winter**.

HEADQUARTERS

Mrs. **Roger Howson**, **Executive Secretary**, reported on the office work and listed three main sources of contact with the **public visitors**, who came in **astonishing** variety from all over the country and abroad, letters, **bringing** inquiries for **material**, for literature, **medical** and general **information** and for contraceptive **advice**—**this** last class **averaging** about 300 a month, and the telephone **bringing continual** requests for addresses of clinics and **physicians**, speakers for **meetings**, and statements for the **press**, etc.

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

"The REVIEW has endeavored to record the growing and **world-wide** interest in **birth** control through its **editorials**, news notes, book **reviews** and accounts of conferences, local **organizations** and **clinics**, and has endeavored to show how **birth** control affects the social life of the **community**. **Birth** control can be viewed from many angles and followed into many fields, law, **criminology**, social work, sex **education**, **religion**, peace, public health, and so on. In **addition** to general material the REVIEW has had two **special** numbers—one on *The Churches and Birth Control*, which showed that the **progressive religious organizations** in **America** are **behind** the movement, and that the Catholic Church **is** the only one actively and absolutely opposed, and a Doctor's Nuder, January 1931, which showed that the vanguard of the **medical profession** **recognizes** birth control as an **integral** part of medical practice but that further **teaching** of **contraception** in **medical** schools and further research **is** needed.

The emphasis on **heartbreaking** stories, on propaganda, on **passionate** pleas, **is** no longer necessary. But we must show the relation between birth control and many other problems, from the most personal ones, such as the **marriage relationship**, to the general ones of **international** peace and world unemployment. We must have more **special** numbers focussing on **particular** subjects, such as an **anthropological** number, planned for the early spring, a social work number, a eugenics number.

The REVIEW **is** the permanent record of the **birth** control movement in America and **in** so far as **is** possible of the movement abroad. It **is** a **record** of events, of books on birth control and **allied** subjects, and of **viewpoints**. We shall, I **believe**, look back on **this** period as the second in the **history** of the movement. We are passing steadily **into** the **third** period, when **birth** control will no longer be a reform, a cause, but will be recognized as a part of the general scheme of **social** and **racial** betterment. To reach this period we must **achieve** a new social outlook, and to develop **this** new outlook **is** the fundamental work of the REVIEW."

STELLA HANAU, *Editor,*
Birth Control Review

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL
LEAGUE

"The reports we have heard—from state and local **organizations**, members of the staff and **committees**—show how **active** the League **is**. I want to say a word about another group of workers, the **directors**. The **League** **is** very fortunate **in** **having** on its Board men and women who have been **in** the **birth** control movement **since** its **beginning**, who have gained **wisdom** from long **experience** but have not lost the enthusiasm of pioneers.

I am glad to have this **opportunity** to **discuss** our policy and program. At the last annual **meeting** we reported that we planned to engage **again** in **legislative** work in New York State. And we **did** so. We had an **experienced** **legislative** worker in Albany through most of the **session**, but she found the Roman **Catholic** opposition stronger than ever. **Legislator** after **legislator** would **consider** introducing our **bill**, **saying** he **himself** was thoroughly **in** favor of it but must consult **his** **constituents**. After a week-end at **home** our assemblyman or senator would report that he could not **possibly** sponsor our **bill**, as it would mean the loss of Catholic votes. In the early years of our Albany **campaigns** the Catholics **did** not seem to take our efforts very **seriously**, but last year they were thoroughly roused, and organized to oppose us. The **directors** have finally come to the **conclusion** that it will be best for the League to **discontinue** its efforts to get the New York law amended. These **campaigns** are very **expensive**, they **stir** up the opposition, and in view of recent developments **in** medical **opinion**, they now seem unnecessary.

The great need now seems to be the organization of birth control **service** for the poor in the **thirty** states **which** as yet have no such **service**. From several of these states we have had appeals for help and we have either sent **organizers** to them or plan to send them **this** year. Among these are Kansas, **Missouri**, **Virginia**, and **Ohio**. Usually the best way to get this **service** **provided** **is** to organize a state league, **which** **will** work for the **establishment** of birth control service either **in** a **hospital**, health **station**, settlement, or independent **clinic**, first in some central **city**, then **in** **surrounding** towns. Sometimes it **is** best as a first step to find, in various towns, **physicians** who in their **private** offices will **give** **contraceptive** **advice** to women referred to them by social workers.

The **cooperation** of **social workers** is very important, for they come in contact with the women who for **their** own good and that of **society** should not have large **families**, and who therefore most need **contraceptive** advice. We give social workers the addresses of **physicians** qualified and **willing** to **give** birth control advice, and of **birth control clinics**, we **explain** to them that the **giving** of birth control advice orally by **physicians** is legal in most states. Many of them do not understand this. Most of them say that they are heartily in favor of **birth control**, but cannot openly cooperate for fear of the disapproval of **their** board or of some contributor. We hope that soon the boards of welfare organizations will realize that the prevention of dependency is much better than attempts at its cure, and will insist upon **their** workers **encouraging** women in **their** care to get **reliable** medical **contraceptive** advice. We hope also that soon many contributors will make this a condition of **their** subscribing to a welfare agency.

Last year the League had three large **meetings** at the National Conference of Social Work in Boston attended by **social workers** from all over the country. Our booth, with members of **our** Board of **Directors** and of the Massachusetts **Birth Control League** in attendance, was one of the **busiest** at the conference, and gave us an **opportunity** to explain away many **misunderstandings** and to **gain** the cooperation of **social workers** from many states. **This securing** the **cooperation** of **social workers** we **consider** one of the most important parts of our work. For they are in contact with the **underprivileged** classes, and have a great **opportunity** to get them to **practice** birth control.

If birth control is to be **eugenic**, if it is to make for race **improvement**, those who because of **pauperism**, ill health or **incompetence**, are **unqualified** for parenthood must use **contraception** to **avoid** parenthood or **restrict** it. And the others, those who are healthy, **intelligent** and **financially** able to **provide** for children, must use **birth control**, not to **limit** **their** children to one or two, but to space the **births** of **their** children so that they can have a good sized **family** without **injury** to the mother's health. If birth control is to be made **eugenic**—and this is the **aim** of the **American Birth Control League**—there must be fewer ill-born children and more well-born."

ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES, *President,*
American Birth Control League

A Quiet Steady Confidence

By REV ALLAN KNIGHT CHALMERS

Excerpt from address delivered at the Annual Luncheon, January 16th

IT HAS always seemed so queer to me—the **fur-**ore that is **raised** in people's minds **by** the subject of birth control. I suppose it comes more than **anything** else from two wrong concepts about sex. There is a fact of **life**, I wish we could find some better word for it than sex, **which** has in it possibilities of great beauty. Man first abused and then became ashamed of that **beautiful possibility**, and we have suffered for **centuries** under this curious **stigma**. **Religion** fostered it with its **repressions** and smudged across the glory of man's **birth** that horrible taint "**in iniquity** was I born, and **in sin** did my mother **conceive** me."

Furthermore, there seems to be a **persistent** effort, unfortunately very much fostered by **religion**, that man must stay on the level of the animals and use this urge in life for the one **function** only—**conception**. We forget that there is a **spiritual exaltation**, an **uplifting** sense of togetherness in life, **which** comes in this **instinct**. We must not forget that there are two ends involved. Two people become one that there may be three, but two people also become one that they may be one.

From the **sociological** side, we are not **thinking** very clearly on birth control. We talk glibly of the so-called natural method of **population** control. Let **society** produce all the **children** it can, and then by **famine** and pestilence and war take off the surplus. **China** faces **famines** periodically and we are asked to **give** for **famine** relief, but no **attention** is **paid** to the **foundational necessity** that children have a **right** to be wanted and a **right** to have a decent chance to grow.

As far as war is concerned, the time-honored method of **population** control, I may be very queer, but I cannot see how man works it out when he believes in the **morality** of war and the **immorality** of birth control. If birth control is a **compromise** with the **bestial** in man, **which** I doubt, how much more is the **survival** of the unfittest in war, a fact of **physical** grossness and **spiritual insensitivity**.

Of course, all people cannot see it. They have been **trained** too long in the old ways of thought. We must let them have **time** to grow, **meantime** keeping a **quiet**, steady confidence in the positive rightness of our belief.

More from the Doctors

The Marriage Consultation Bureau

By ISABEL BECK, MD

The author shows that fear of pregnancy is responsible for much sex maladjustment, which, in turn, leads to marital difficulties and divorce

THE problems of marital sex adjustment are so intimately bound up with the success or failure of marriage that their analysis and solution are of both social and individual importance. In view of the fact that of all occupations in life marriage has been given the least intelligent forethought and preparation, it is not surprising to find that adjustments may require years or may never be achieved. The ideal solution of the situation would be a comprehensive program of sex education, both for the medical profession and the layman, and the education of public opinion as to the desirability of pre-marital examination and advice. Pending this solution, the establishment of marriage consultation bureaus to which men and women could come with their problems, would be of inestimable value. The physicians in charge of the bureaus should have had training in contraception, gynecology and psychiatry, and should preferably be married. Here the patient would find sympathy, understanding and help for troubles which are just as important as are the more conventionally accepted ailments from which they seek relief.

Although maladjustments may rest on physical incompatibility or on pathological grounds, such as homo-sexuality, emotional infantilism and fixations, the most usual are those in which frigidity and lack of interest in the sex relations are largely founded on the fear of pregnancy. This fear is one of the most powerful deterrents to any sort of satisfactory relations, and can devastate the spiritual values of marriage more effectively than any other single factor. Only the intelligent application of contraceptive knowledge can salvage these marriages.

Mrs. G's story is rather typical. She was an American-born woman, thirty years of age, a college graduate. She was married at the age of twenty-three and was very much in love with her husband. During the first five years of marriage they had used the usual contraceptives with the

result that she bore three children and had two abortions. By this time she had lost all interest in the sexual aspect of marriage, and after the last abortion refused to have relations with her husband because of her fear of pregnancy. They quarreled a great deal on this point. She sought contraceptive advice at a friend's suggestion because she was sure her husband was unfaithful to her and felt that she was responsible for the situation. She was given a clinically reliable method, and a year later reported that their marital difficulties had been smoothed over.

The girl whose attitudes have been distorted by miseducation or ignorance, and who has not been prepared to undertake the realities of the marital relations, cannot be expected to blossom into a responsive wife without allowing for years of adjustment. Re-education alone will not accomplish the desired end, unless a readjustment period is accompanied by a safe contraceptive method which will eliminate the factor of fear of pregnancy.

Mrs. M's marital unhappiness is an example of a combination of various factors. She was an American-born woman twenty-seven years of age, with a high school education, who had been brought up in a fairly affluent but highly conventional home. All the knowledge she had on sex had been acquired from her school friends, since her mother had never made the slightest attempt to enlighten her. When she married at the age of twenty-four she had very little notion of what she was going into. She was fortunate, however, in having a husband who was considerate of her, but even under these circumstances her marital relations were revolting to her. For a whole year only extra-vaginal intercourse was practised, her husband was unhappy and at his instance she went to see the family doctor, who did not prove of much assistance. After eighteen months, and in spite of the fact that the marriage had never been consummated, she became pregnant. After the baby was born her distress was worse than ever because of the super-imposed fear of

pregnancy After **eight** months of abstinence, she consulted her obstetnclan, who sent her for **contraceptive advice** She sought help because her husband's **consideration** was **beginning** to wear out and she feared **disaster** She was **given** a **contraceptive** method, **advice** and **instruction** appropriate to her case, **including** a supplementary **reading** hst Six months later she reported that she was **getting** along **nicely** and felt that she was on the road to normalcy, and that they were both very happy at the outcome

There are thousands of **marriages** in which sex maladjustment **is creating** unhappy **situations** Some reach the **psychiatrist** in the form of neu-

roses, some **sublimate into** other channels, some **achieve nothing** more than prolonged vague **dissatisfaction** and **unhappiness**, and a **certain** number **terminate in** the **divorce** courts

The **idea** suggests **itself** that the **marriage consultation** bureau, by **working** in conjunction with the **family** and **divorce** courts, would be instrumental in **preventing** a **certain** number of **divorces** in which sex **conflicts** and **inhibitions** form the unrecognized core of the **desire** for **divorce**

As an **important** component in the treatment of sex problems, **birth** control proves **itself** an **integrating social** force in the creation of happiness and in the **preservation** of the **family** unit

Medical Ethics from the Stone Age

By G VICTOR JANVIER, M D

Dr *Janvier's* answers to our *questionnaire* were *received* too late for *inclusion* in the Doctor's Number

MAN'S chivalry towards women should demand **protection** for her I wish I could inflict on one hundred men out of every thousand the **solitary** confinement over many months, during pregnancy and the **nursing period** I wish these men **might** undergo the hazards of pregnancy and a **painful** dehvery, the compulsory too early return to housework, as well as the care of a **family** I wish I could put upon them the mere **inconveniences** of frequently **recurring pregnancies**

Inside of a year, **all** hoary **obstructive** laws would be **undergoing revision**!

Accurate **scientific technique** in modern **prevention** should be **available** to every **progressive physician** Every county **society** should have one man **specially trained** in gynecology and **prevention** This **physician** should **visit** the doctors in every town of five thousand or more **inhabitants** and tram these doctors for **this** great work The women in the smaller towns adjacent could then **avail** themselves of **this opportunity**

The only way to make a thorough careful study of **scientific** **prevention**, the only way in which a **clinic** can be really successful from every angle, is to have as **chief** of **clinic** a **physician** possessed of sympathy, a **pleasing** personahty, a real background, a **special training** in **obstetrics**, **gynecology** and **prevention**

He or she **will** be an **active** worker in all **clinic**

and research **activities** and **function** as something more than mere scenery This **clinic** should have as consultants and **advisers** at least **one** or two **obstetricians** and **gynecologists** of high **standing** These also must know more of **prevencept~orthan** the average **specialist** in these branches today Every **clinic** should be a **teaching** center for accepted **physicians** in good **standing** and for the **instruction** of **senior medical** students

My answer to your question addressed to **obstetricians** regarding **child spacing** is Every **conscientious**, consistently **human**, scientifically and **practically** trained **obstetrician** knows that the woman who has the means at her command to space her **babies** $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 years apart, has the **best** chance of beanng healthy **children** and of **conserving** her own health and **vigor** so that she may be young at 50 **instead** of old at 35! How utterly **asinine** and cruel and how **unchivalrous**, to gravely warn a woman **against becoming** pregnant, **give** her no **advice**, and wave her out of the **office** to become a prey to constant **fear**!

Let us have less **religious bigotry**, less false **medical ethics** from the stone age and more of the **basic teachings** of Chnst himself He preached no double standard of morals or mercy He **did** not favor the male as God's chosen **vassel**! Let us **give** all women **their** deserved **opportunity** for a fuller hfe and personal hberty

A Preventive Measure

By C L BONIFIELD, M D •

WHEN I think of medicine being practiced at its best I always think of some general practitioner grown old in the service of a limited clientele in some small and rather isolated community—such an understanding character as Dr Weelum McClure in "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," or Dr Serocold in the recent book bearing that name. Having officiated at the birth, supervised the growth, witnessed the courtship and marriage of his charges, he knows the heredity that has produced them, the environment that has moulded them into the human beings they are. Practice with him, if not a science, is an art founded on knowledge and guided by an almost unerring instinct. He is their philosopher, their mentor, their friend. One can imagine with what care such a physician advises as to the mating of those under his care, and as to when and how many children should be borne.

In the more complex civilization prevailing in urban communities no one man can fill the place of the man of whom we have spoken, but the profession, ever mindful of its best traditions, tries by delegating its duties to individuals or to groups to accomplish the same things for which he strives. This was the spirit that prompted the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati to appoint a Committee on Maternal Welfare, and this is the spirit with which it has functioned.

Nature seems absolutely careless as to the welfare and life of the individual but provides for the perpetuation of the species with the greatest prodigality. Much of the food we consume is provided for us in this way. Wheat, corn, rye and oats are the seeds of plants. The eggs of fowls and fishes might be called the seeds of those forms of animal life. At birth the female human being has thousands of ova in her ovaries. Probably less than four hundred ever mature. There are said to be about two million spermatozoa in the semen ejaculated at one time. With ova and spermatozoa provided in this superabundance, can it be wrong to prevent their coming together at inopportune times? To make sure that some of the spermatozoa and ova shall come together nature has endowed the average human being with a strong sexual appetite.

Excerpts from an address delivered at the meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, November, 1930

This is so true that it is practically impossible for a normal man and a normal woman to live together for months or years in the intimacy that follows matrimony without sexual indulgence. It would make nervous wrecks of one or both of them if it were persistently tried. Experience has taught civilized people that one woman can give birth to and rear only a limited number of children. The number varies owing to the physical strength and vitality and the financial condition of different women. Every expectant mother hopes to have a healthy child and to be able to rear it well in a suitable environment. Knowing these things is it at all surprising that she attempts to have her children born at the time that seems best for them and for their parents, with reasonable intervals between their births that she may regain her vigor, and the child already on the scene may become a little less helpless? To accomplish these reasonable desires she cannot ask her husband to refrain from sexual intercourse. He would not do it if he promised. He would either persuade or force her to yield or he would wander from his own fireside. She, therefore, resorts to some contraceptive method. Everyone knows that this is commonly done by women in every walk of life. Some methods adopted are harmful, some inefficient. When efforts at contraception fail abortion is often resorted to. It is certainly better for these women to obtain advice as to contraception from a well qualified physician than from an ignorant layman. The well-to-do can always secure advice. The traditions of the profession demand that advice be supplied to those who need it most but are not able to pay for it.

The Committee on Maternal Welfare hopes eventually to operate clinics to take care of various phases of maternal welfare but thought a clinic where contraceptive advice could be given to those who for good and sufficient reasons need it, was the most urgently needed. The first year of the committee's existence, therefore, has largely been devoted to establishing and operating such a clinic.

What our nation at the present time most needs is wiser and stronger leaders. Its next most urgent need is citizenry with sufficient intelligence and education to recognize true leaders and follow their leadership. If the nation continues to grow it will be because the capacity for self-government grows and this implies that our present level of intelligence be maintained if not improved.

Unfortunately, a people does not have a tendency to improve **without** conscious effort on its part. On the contrary, it has a tendency to deteriorate. Modern **civilization** has placed in abeyance the natural law of the **survival of the fittest** by keeping alive the unfit. When the unfit reach maturity they reproduce their kind. Professor **Brigham** claims that the intelligence level in the United States has decreased in the last fifty years.

Mankind is the highest expression of life on this planet, but **life in mankind** is controlled by the same laws that control its lower neighbors. Like tends to produce **like**, is one of them. This is the law that permits the breeder to improve the **animals in** which he is interested. **This law** is the basis on which eugenics must rest.

There are three **possible** methods of **preventing** racial **deterioration** that can be used with hope of at least a **limited** amount of success. **Contraceptive** methods may be used to prevent the very poor from having more **children** than they can **properly** nourish and clothe. The second way **is** segregation of the unfit. The **third** is **sterilization**. **Segregation** is extremely **difficult** to enforce with **sufficient** stringency to make it efficient, and **is** very expensive. **Sterilization** can be accomplished by simple surgical procedures attended **with** little danger, and with slight discomfort. State laws should be so changed that it can be given a much **wider** application.

Massachusetts Doctors Take the Initiative

OWING to the uncertainty which exists in Massachusetts **regarding** **limitations** upon the legal **right** of a **physician** to employ adequate contraceptive measures for women suffering from **organic** disease, **it** has seemed to a group of **physicians** to be advisable to introduce at **this** session of the State Legislature the following **bill**, Senate No. 43, with the **accompanying** **petition**.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
In The Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-one

An Act relative to the Application of Sections Twenty and Twenty-one of Chapter Two Hundred and Seventy-two of the General Laws as affecting **Physicians**, Chartered Hospitals and **Medical** Schools, and Standard **Medical** Publications

Be **it** enacted by the Senate and House of **Representatives** an General Court **assembled**, and by the **authority** of **the** same, as follows:

Section twenty-one of chapter two hundred and seventy-two of the General Laws is hereby amended by **adding** thereto the following —

The provisions of this section and of **section** twenty shall not be construed to apply to an article or **prescription** used for the **protection** of health, or for the cure or **prevention** of disease, by a duly **registered physician** lawfully **practising** or by the **direction** or **prescription** of such physician, nor shall said sections be construed to apply to the treatment and prescription **given** for said purposes by chartered hospitals, or to **affect** **teaching** in chartered **medical** schools or **writings** in standard medical journals or the **publication** of standard medical books.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED

The **undersigned citizens**, who are all **practising** **physicians** of Massachusetts, respectfully **petition** for **legislation** in the form of the **bill** appended hereto for the purpose of removing the uncertainty in the **minds** of **physicians** and their legal advisers as to whether by the existing provisions of **Sections** 20 and 21 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws of Massachusetts the freedom of action of duly **registered** **physicians** and of hospital staffs and **medical** schools in **giving** treatment, prescriptions and **instruction** for the protection of health and the prevention of disease **is restricted**.

There exists in this Commonwealth a very urgent need for **providing** under proper auspices **effective** **contraceptive** advice and treatment to women of all classes who are **suffering** from **organic** diseases of the heart, lungs, or kidneys, or from other physical weakness, and to whom a further pregnancy is likely to be fatal, or at least permanently **injurious**.

The statute **mentioned** contains no **restriction** upon the **giving** of oral **contraceptive** advice, but in the normal practice of a physician, and in the regular work of **hospitals** and **medical** schools, there is occasion for **providing** and **demonstrating** the means and method of treatment, and for **written** and **printed** advice, **prescriptions**, and **instruction** concerning the proper use of the **things** **pre-**

scribed or recommended, and it is therefore important for the medical profession and those working with them to have a clear understanding as to the extent to which they are affected by the provisions of the above mentioned Sections 20 and 21 in the proper and legitimate practice of their profession

It is believed by the petitioners that these provisions were not enacted with the intent of making them applicable to registered physicians, and that as matter of right no such hampering restriction should be put upon a physician in the performance of his fundamental professional duty of relieving suffering and preventing disease

Many physicians, hospital staffs, and medical school instructors, however, feel uncertain as to the effect of these statutory provisions, and as a result of that uncertainty there are many women, especially among patients of the larger hospitals, whose lives are jeopardized by lack of effective advice and instruction

WALTER P BOWERS
ROBERT L DE NORMANDIE
FRANKLIN S NEWELL
LINCOLN DAVIS
SHIELDS WARREN
LEO V FRIEDMAN
BURTON E HAMILTON
JOHN H TAYLOR

JOHN ROCK
HOWARD B SPRAGUE
WILLIAM M SHEDDEN
GEORGE GILBERT SMITH
WILLIAM H ROBEY
JOE V MEIGS
CHANYING FROTHINGHAM

The signers of this petition have wide and varied interests

Dr Walter P Bowers is Editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and former president of the Massachusetts Medical Association Dr Lincoln Davis is a visiting surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate in Surgery at the Harvard Medical School Dr Robert L De Normandie is Chief of Obstetrics at Waltham Hospital, and a consulting obstetrician at the Massachusetts Women's, Newton, Melrose and other hospitals Dr Leo V Friedman is an obstetrician Dr Channing Frothingham is a visiting physician at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and an associate clinical professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School Dr Burton Hamilton is a heart specialist on the staffs of the Boston Lying-In and New England Deaconess Hospitals and an instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School Dr Joe V Meigs, surgeon, is on the staffs of Massachusetts General Hospital and the New England Deaconess Hospital Dr Franklin Newell is a consulting obstetrician at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Clinical Obstetrics at Harvard Medical School Dr William H Rohey, a heart specialist, is a visiting physician at the Boston City Hospital and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School Dr John Rock, an obstetrician, is on the staffs of the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston Lying-In and the Free Hospital for Women, and an assistant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Harvard Medical School Dr William M Shedden, surgeon is on the staffs of the Massachusetts General and the Collis P Huntington Mem-

orial Hospitals, and is an assistant in Anatomy at Harvard Medical School Dr Howard Sprague is a heart specialist, assistant at the Massachusetts General Hospital and assistant in Medicine at Harvard Medical School Dr John H Taylor is physician to out-patients at the Massachusetts General Hospital Dr Shields Warren is Pathologist at New England Deaconess and New England Baptist Hospitals, and an instructor in Pathology at Harvard Medical School Dr George Gilbert Smith is Urologist at the Massachusetts General and the Palmer Memorial Hospitals, Surgeon at the Collis P Huntington Memorial Hospital, and an instructor in Genito-Urinary Surgery at Harvard Medical School

Those who are interested in further details concerning the legal aspect of this question will find a discussion of the subject, with legal opinions concerning the interpretation of the Massachusetts Statutes, in the *New England Journal of Medicine* for January 23, 1931

It is unnecessary to discuss the desirability of having the law so changed that physicians may instruct patients who are unfit to bear children in the technique of contraception Many physicians at present do not hesitate so to instruct their private patients, the large city hospitals, where this type of instruction is especially needed, are reluctant to take action of this sort for fear of being thought to be acting contrary to law

Physicians throughout the State have shown great interest in this bill and over 1200 have already endorsed the petition

The Massachusetts Federation of Churches, representing ninety per cent of the Protestant Churches in the state, also approved the bill by a unanimous vote of its Executive Committee on January 6th In addition to this official action over four hundred ministers have endorsed the bill by personal signature

Contributed by Mrs Oakes Ames

Our laws against birth control are another example of legal foolishness The prohibition law does not prohibit, and the laws against the use of contraceptives are equally ineffective Practically everybody uses birth control measures The law interferes with the free presentation of knowledge of the more harmful measures of accomplishing this object And bootlegged birth control knowledge, like its alcoholic companion, has a destructive and devitalizing influence that could not possibly be computed

BERNARR MACFADDEN, *Phila News*, Dec 31

POPULATION SECTION

Edited by Guy Irving Burch

Italy's Birth-Rate

"During the past year the population of Italy increased by 515,000," says a report from Rome in *The New York Times*, January 21, 1931. "This was the largest increase ever recorded, the previous high record being 460,000, during 1928. It is too early yet, however, to speak of the success of Premier Mussolini's campaign for increasing Italy's birth-rate, since the abnormally high excess of births over deaths last year may be the result of that campaign, but it may also be due to fortuitous causes. The next few years will show."

"Births during 1930 totalled 1,085,000 and deaths 570,000. The birth-rate increased from 25.2 to 26 per thousand, and the death-rate decreased from 16.1 to 13.7 per thousand compared with the previous year. The net excess of births over deaths increased from 9.1 to 12.3 per thousand."

If this report is true, and there is no very serious reason to doubt that it is, the statisticians and population experts may scratch their heads and admit that the phenomenon is little short of amazing. For a country of any considerable size to break its previous record of annual population growth by about 25 percent in a single year is not far from miraculous. The birth-rate hopped up 0.8, from 25.2 to 26 per thousand population, which is a considerable feat in these days of falling birth-rates. But what is most startling, the death-rate declined from 16.1 to 13.7 per thousand population, in a single year. Now a death-rate of 13.7 is not surprising, because it is from one to four points higher than most of the so-called Nordic rates in Europe or the New World. It is the sudden drop of 2.4 in a single year that demands our consideration.

During the year 1930 the United States had a record low death-rate, but it cannot boast of anything like a 2.4 drop. Of course, the death-rate of this country is below the 12 per thousand mark (which is remarkable considering the high death rate of the negro population), and the lower a death-rate gets the less likely it is to drop further. Many population experts believe that it is about

time for an increase in the death-rate of most civilized countries because of a large percent of old people.

As the *Times* report says, the next few years will determine how successful Mussolini's campaign for a high birth-rate and larger population has been. True, the figures for a single year may be very misleading. It was only a year ago when we read that "Italy is alarmed as birth-rate drops in 1929," and that the "first 11 months show 29,460 fewer babies than the same period last year (1928)."

While Premier Mussolini and the Pope may congratulate each other on the vital statistics of Italy this year, it should not be forgotten that a single year may be misleading, and that from 1924 to 1929, the trend in the vital statistics of Italy gave these eminent personalities little reason for rejoicing. Notwithstanding all the ingenuous efforts of the Premier and the Pope, the birth-rate of Italy steadily declined from 28.2 in 1924, to 27.5 in 1925, to 27.2 in 1926, to 26.6 in 1927, to 26.1 in 1928, to 25.2 in 1929. So we see that the hop of the birth-rate back to 26 per thousand does not even pull it up to the 1928 level, not to mention the 28.2 birth-rate of 1924.

On the other hand, while the distinguished Premier is to be congratulated for the establishment of law and order in Italy and the promotion of public works which have helped reduce the relatively high death-rate which Italy in conjunction with other Roman Catholic countries possesses, the trend in the marriage rate of Italy between 1927 and 1928, should have given both the Premier and the Pope food for serious thought. Notwithstanding the heavy tax on bachelors, the number of marriages in Italy decreased from 246,000 for the first ten months of 1927 to 220,000 for the first ten months of 1928.

It is interesting to speculate on the future of any country, especially one that has been so much in the world's eye as regards population problems. Notwithstanding last year's vital statistics and abnormal population growth of Italy, the trend of

the birth-rate and perhaps the trend of the death and infant mortality rate will be downward. But notwithstanding this trend, **which will** of course be condemned by the **Premier** and Pope from year to year, and all the **material** efforts of **Mussolini**, Italy, which **is** overpopulated already, will feel the pressure of **population** keenly from year to year, sooner or later the Italian people **will** either demand release from **their spiritual and material** taskmasters, or will be goaded on by at least one of them to enlarge **their** borders.

Many persons have written of **conditions** in Italy and forecast the future. One person's prophecy is probably as good as another's, it may be of interest to try some of the **Biblical** prophets here.

"Therefore thus **saith** the Lord God, Because ye **multiplied** more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked **in** my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the **judgments** of the **nations** that are round about you, Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, **I**, even **I**, am **against** thee, and **will** execute judgments in the **midst** of thee in the sight of the **nations**" (*Ezekiel*, V *vi-viii*)

G I B

LARITHMICS

An Addition to Social Terminology*

By HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

TWO possibilities of devising a uniform scientific terminology are to limit a word from everyday language to a **restricted** meaning and to coin new words. The **disadvantage** of the former lies in the conventional **implications** which **cling** to old words, **especially** true in **sociology**. The latter procedure is justifiable only when there exists a clearly defined concept, **recognized** and used by a large number of workers, for **which** no appropriate word can be found in common language. There has grown up an entirely new body of thought, the study of the quantitative aspects of human population, for which the term "**population**" is now used. **This word**, however, refers to the **qualitative** aspect as well as to the **quantitative** aspect. **Larithmics** (from Greek roots meaning people and number) is suggested as an **appropriate** term for the study of the quantitative aspects of population.

* Excerpts from an article in *The American Journal of Sociology*, September, 1930

Today, **owing** particularly to the **introduction** of a new factor commonly **designated** as "**birth control**", **population** growth has become, at least **potentially**, one of the greatest of all instruments for human progress, to be handled just as **objectively** and **rationally** as the **political** system, the **agricultural** system, or the family system. There has accordingly grown up an **entirely** new body of thought and study, not **extensive** and distinct enough to be **considered** a separate science, but **restricted** and coherent enough to deserve and need a name. This is the study of the **quantitative** aspects of **human population**.

For this new study there **exists** no current word. To fill the gap, the present tendency is for the word "**population**" itself to be **dislodged** from its proper connotation and **given** a **limited** and **numerical** significance. The various "**population** conferences" that have been held recently have scarcely even **recognized**, as far as their **discussions** went, anything but the **quantitative** aspects of the subject.

The unfortunate nature of **this** trend need hardly be explained. "**Population**" ought to be the big, inclusive term, **combining** both the **qualitative** and the **quantitative** aspects of **this** great human interest. Fortunately, we already have a well-established term to **indicate** the study of the **qualitative** phases, **in** so far as they are connected with **heredity**—"eugenics"—and a less well-established word—"euthenics"—to **indicate** such **quality** as is secured by culture. The need of a corresponding word to cover the **numerical** aspects is recognized by practically all the **specialized** workers in the field, in this country at least.

In this emergency, the writer has been casting about for the **right** word to fill the gap. For **obvious** reasons it has seemed **desirable** that it should be **built** up from Greek roots. When the passage in the Old Testament where **David** "numbered the people" was recalled, it appeared that here should be found the precise roots sought for. Reference to the Greek **revision** of **this** document, the **Septuagint**, revealed that the two words in **question** were **laos**, people, and **arithmos**, number (cf. 2 Samuel 24 2 and 1 Chronicles 21 5). Further **consideration** confirmed the appropriateness of these roots. The next step was to **combine** them in condensed form, **which** done, there emerged the word "**larithmics**".

This word has been **submitted** to several of the special workers in the field and has, on the whole,

been cordially received. The purpose of this article, accordingly, is to introduce it to a larger audience—**larithmics**, the scientific study of the quantitative aspects of population.

This word has the following advantages. Its meaning corresponds precisely to the concept involved. It is euphonic, smooth, easy to learn, to spell, and to pronounce. It balances perfectly with eugenics. Like every such new word, its eventual success depends upon the reception given it, upon its adoption and use by writers and speakers who have occasion to allude to the concept it covers.

Larithmics, like every science, is divided into two phases: the pure, or theoretical, which is the study of how populations come to have a given size at a given time, and the practical, or applied, which is the study of what the size of population in any community ought to be to promote any accepted social objective and of how the desired size may be achieved and maintained.

With the introduction of this new term the whole field of population study may be diagrammed as follows:

POPULATION

Larithmics

Quantity

Pure Explanation

Applied Engineering

Eugenics

Quality by heredity

Euthenics

Quality by environment

POPULATION PROBLEMS, by Warren S. Thompson. *McGraw Hill Book Co., New York*
\$3.75

SINCE the outbreak of the World War problems of population have not only commanded increasing attention at the hands of social scientists but have even become fashionable conversational *hors d'oeuvres* among the genteel. For the coerced delectation of collegians several mediocre textbooks have hitherto appeared. Dr. Thompson's book also bears the earmarks of a text. Nevertheless it will prove of value to scholars, students, and dilettantes in the field of population study, for it makes accessible much material

long hidden in the cloistered pages of technical journals and in the forbidding tables of statistically rich monographs.

The comprehensiveness of this work testifies to the author's wide study of population problems, both in the library and at first hand. He touches upon population theory, deals with the social and demographic composition of population, and elaborates upon the various factors affecting trends in population growth. He devotes four chapters to the city, two to international population problems, and one to the optimum. The future growth of the American population and the social and economic consequences incident thereupon, the qualitative aspects of population, the relation of population to agriculture, industry, and commerce, the characteristics and trends in the American Negro population, and finally the prerequisites of population policy are treated. Tables and graphs enliven and add much to the worth of the book.

That the population question is many-faceted is obvious from the table of contents. Unfortunately, however, the author has failed to polish every possible facet. The history of the birth control movement and of the factors contributing to its spread are practically omitted. The development of preventive medicine and modern sanitation and their possible effects upon longevity are slighted.

The studies carried on by the author and his colleague, Professor Whelpton, lead to conclusions similar to those of Drs. Kuczynski, Dublin, and Lotka. In many countries population growth is ending. Hence future populations will be stationary and loaded with older persons. Future business leadership, therefore, must learn to utilize older workers, to adapt industry to slower increases in demands for essentials, and to relatively greater increases in demands for comforts and for commodities preferred by older persons. While Dr. Thompson suggests the possible necessity of paying parents to produce an adequate number of children, he does not emphasize sufficiently the fact that such a policy will almost inevitably be necessary in many countries if the economic evils of depopulation are to be averted.

Professor Thompson not only believes that positive eugenics is doomed to failure but asserts that no eugenic program other than curbing of the multiplication of the unfit is necessary. Present selective processes are not weeding out those stocks which he considers desirable. Unfortunately the

... *man's numbers*
and their relation
to his welfare ...

POPULATION PROBLEMS

By WARREN S. THOMPSON
 Director of Scripps Foundation
 for Research in Population Problems
 462 pages 6 x 9 \$3.75
 MCGRAW HILL PUBLICATIONS IN SOCIOLOGY

THIS new book deals with those problems of population growth and the factors stimulating or retarding it which are of such vital interest to thinking people today. The book attacks the situation from all points of view—both early and present-day theories. It presents valuable charts and tables which analyze the make-up of populations and show their distribution over the earth.

Among the comments which POPULATION PROBLEMS has called forth, are

"It is the best text book on the subject I have ever met"—E. A. ROSS

Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology University of Wisconsin

"An examination of *Population Problems* convinces me that it is a work of distinction"—J. E. CUTLER

Professor of Sociology Dean of the School of Applied Social Sciences, Western Reserve University

"I am delighted that such a comprehensive text on population has been made available. I know of no other book in the field which contains such clear and thoroughgoing analyses of the major population issues in the United States"—DONALD R. YOUNG

Wharton Assistant Professor of Sociology University of Pennsylvania

ON APPROVAL COUPON

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You may send me a copy of Thompson's *POPULATION PROBLEMS* (\$3.75) on approval. I understand that I am to return this book after ten days or remit for it.

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few existing studies of this matter by no means prove the validity of the view maintained.

In his suggestive chapters on the city as a unit of economic organization the advantages and the disadvantages of the city are marshalled into competing battalions. But the net results of the conflict are not given in anything approaching dollars and cents, for data are lacking. Yet, until we are able to translate urban life into an economic balance sheet, we cannot definitely decide for or against the city as an institution.

Although an ardent advocate of birth control Dr. Thompson takes exception to the generally accepted doctrine of an economic optimum balance between numbers and resources. He states that there are many optima of equal intrinsic worth, such as the religious, the cultural, the political. He implies, too, that abundant prosperity may prevent the development of an ethically desirable set of values and practices. From these views the renewer dissents. The realization of optima other than the economic involves repudiation of the economic optimum and of birth rationalization. For contraception finds its chief defense in the economic welfare it makes possible. That economic prosperity frustrates the realization of the aims now held in high esteem is hardly supported by available evidence. Not economic prosperity but rather the mal-distribution of prosperity may militate against welfare. To renounce economic criteria is to retreat into the morass of mysticism. As a matter of practice the optimum may be ignored in countries where population has ceased to grow. There, since depopulation is as economically undesirable as further population increase, the problem is to build a socio-economic organization around a stable, non-growing population. Herein lies the nearest practical approach to the realization of the advantages of the optimum.

The criticisms we have suggested in no way detract from the value of Dr. Thompson's study. It is undoubtedly the best general work in the English language now available.

JOSEPH J. SPENGLER

"Money breeds money" Some of it, alas, seems nowadays to have joined the birth control movement.

Boston Transcript

Book Reviews

IS SEX NECESSARY? or WHY YOU FEEL THE WAY YOU DO, by James Thurber and E. B. White Harper's, New York \$2 00

IS THE world round? Can steam make an engine go? Can electricity light a lamp? These and hundreds of other questions have been asked throughout the ages—at first in all seriousness and solemnity, and then the unknown becomes the obvious and we laugh at the same question.

Unfortunately, some questions whose answer is obvious are still being asked, and in all too great solemnity. Some people are still asking, either through word or action, *Is sex necessary?* and two writers have made that question the title of a book. Strangely, these writers do not attempt to answer their question through abstruse pages of medical cases, or through formulas of spiritual escape from the flesh, or through rules of psychology, or through any of the more familiar ways in which books on sex have been written.

In their method of writing, the authors have identified sex with joy. They are aware that sex is much more in need of laughter than solemnity, and yet in the humorous vein of many sentences lie observations such as the following: "The term 'reaction' seems to be used in this book to include not only those quick, unpremeditated reflexes which cause so much trouble, but also those slowly formulated prejudices, doubts, and suspicions which cause even more trouble."

The authors, both members of the editorial staff of *The New Yorker*, claim to have perfected a method by which to conduct their researches and write their findings without interfering with the business of living. Other writers, they declare, have been so busy writing about sex that they haven't had a chance to get about. Furthermore, the authors of this revolutionary revelation of the secrets of life lament the widespread reading of books on sex in place of actually getting acquainted with people. "To prepare for marriage, young girls no longer assembled a hope chest—they read books on abnormal psychology. If they finally did marry, they found themselves with a large number of sex books on hand, but almost no pretty underwear. Most of them, luckily, never married at all—just continued to read."

Zealous effort is expended in attempting "How

to Tell Love from Passion" and in probing "The Nature of the American Male." The dialogue concerning "The Lilies-and-Bluebird Delusion" on the wedding night is an insult to lilies. "Frigidity in Men" is admitted, and is often shown by "the recessive knee" and the "declination of the kiss." The authors warn untaught men, in "A Discussion of Feminine Types," to give weighty consideration to the company they keep. There is some hope for the great dilemma of "What Should Children Tell Parents." "Some children have told me that instead of quoting from books they have tried leaving the books lying around, opened at pertinent pages. Even this failed to work in most cases. The mothers usually just picked up the book, dusted it, closed it, and fitted it neatly in some nearby shelf. They thought it was dusty." Numerous drawings illustrate conclusions both made and not made.

This book is a most welcome relief from a vast literature of "scholarly treatises" on sex. It is unique in that its humor is not indelicate, but rather, provocative of thought. Humor of the type used in this book is sorely needed in all our human dealings, and adds a warmth to our thinking which is indispensable. Certainly if sex is necessary, no less is humor.

WAYNE EVANS

HEREDITY, by F. A. E. Crew Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith, New York \$60

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF HEREDITY, by Paul Popenoe Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore \$100

A POPULAR work on heredity (or genetics) from the pen of Dr. Crew is something for which to be grateful. Dr. Crew is one of the earlier appreciators of the once forgotten but now epochal work of the monk Gregor Mendel. Moreover, he is at present lecturer in genetics—the science of heredity—and director of animal breeding in the research department of the University of Edinburgh. What Crew does not know about heredity simply is not known.

Dr. Popenoe, on the other hand, as the title of his book would imply, is a practical man—a social hygienist of long standing. In his present valuable work, he has set himself to answer certain quite specific questions, such as "Will Your Son

Be a **Genius? Heredity** and the "Infant Prodigy" Your **Children's** Chance to be Talented **Heredity** and the Average Length of **Life Proving** Paternity by **Heritable** Characters **Selecting** a Child for **Adoption**

Dr Crew's book affords the **foundation principles** for complete understanding of Dr Popenoe's **conclusions**, whether or not you see "eye to eye" **with** all the latter's **views**. At any rate, Crew presents the facts that you must face, either as a student, or as a parent or **prospective** parent. One thing **is** certain: no one **can possibly attain** an intelligent **viewpoint** on the subject who has not read either these **little** books or **their** equivalents. Indeed, **it is uncertain** where (unless to some extent in Dr Terman's new book) one could obtain the facts presented by Dr Popenoe. He **is** the only **investigator** in **America** in some of the **lines** he has pursued. Crew's book, moreover, is important to the layman because he has made the facts of **heredity plain** to the **non-professional**, though one could find them elsewhere **if** one desired to spend the **time** and **labor** to look them **up**. Popenoe's work **is** in another class, what he presents **is largely** new.

Despite this general high appreciation, it is necessary, in **full** justice to the subject, to add a **scientific** protest **against** one at least of Dr Popenoe's **conclusions**. He thinks that persons who **inherit** good physical **constitutions** should, **willy-nilly**, have large families. As a matter of fact, this **advice is not scientific** at all. He states (page 87) that the small **family** system "**has** knocked the **spokes** out of this wheel of **evolutionary** progress." The "**priestesses** of **birth control**" do, indeed, "**warn** all **intelligent** people **against** '**breeding** like **rabbits**,'" but they do not warn any **married** couple **against** **breeding** like human beings. **If** "the strong couple **produces** not ten children, but perhaps two," this **is not** Dr Popenoe's business, or society's, but their own. Surely it is no affair of the extreme **eugenicists** to dictate to **married** men and women how many **children** they should have. What we want **is not** larger **families** from the fit, but smaller or no **families** from the unfit.

No advocate of **birth control**, so far as I know, has ever advocated **contraception** except in cases where it was quite **obvious** that the prospective mother and father would be unable to bequeath a decent **heredity**, or an adequate physical and **educational** career, to **their** offspring. From a strictly **scientific**—that is to say **genetic**, biological-point

of **view**, the more **richly** endowed human **beings** should produce the largest progeny, probably no one denies **this**. But **we** do not **live in a scientific age**, so far as **sociology**, economics, morals, religion, psychology, etc., are concerned. One may well ask: are the "prosperous"—the "**biologically fit**" under our present **economic** system—really the most fit to **survive** and propagate under a saner society?

To propose as a **scientific thesis** that the **beneficiaries** of the present system should have larger **families** for the benefit of humanity at large is one of the greatest errors of our current **super-eugenicists**. Before they can become the arbiters of the **birth-rate**, we shall have to evolve a method whereby those actually fit to survive—not the economically comfortable but the **intellectually** and **physically** superior—shall have larger opportunities. When that **time** comes, **it will** be time enough for Dr Popenoe and his school to choose those of us who are to produce the big **families**, and those who are to **limit** themselves to one or two children or none. **Until** then, let us concentrate on teaching **contraception** to the many who would be unfit to survive or propagate under even the **most** **beneficent** and just social **regime**.

MAYNARD SHIPLEY

HEREDITY IN MAN, by R. Ruggles Gates. *The Macmillan Co., New York* \$6 00

THIS is a revision of a work first published five years ago. It is a veritable encyclopedia of facts relating to all aspects of its subject. Here one may learn **everything** that is extant regarding **every** human trait from stature and eye color to baldness and from blood groups and allergic diseases to dipsomania and musical ability. There is a closing chapter of excellent quality on race **crossing**. The chief criticism of it is that it too exclusively concerned with facts and too little with principles. It thus lacks intellectual stimulus. Moreover it is **deficient** in literary merit.

F. H. HANKINS

THE HISTORY OF BIOLOGY, by Eric Nordenskiöld. Translated from the Swedish by Leonard Bucknall Eyre. *Alfred A. Knopf, New York* \$6 00

IT IS A pleasure to review a book that is so concise and **comprehensive** in its presentation of a subject that is **encyclopedic** in its proportions. The treatise is a **chronological** account of the de-

velopment of biology, based on a course of lectures given at the **University of Helsingfors**, Finland. Classical **antiquity** and philosophy are shown to be the roots out of which modern biology has grown. Though the **print** of the book is necessarily small, because of the amount of text, the format is good. The book is **interesting** and easy reading, and is recommended for a more scientific understanding of the subject than is presented by the popular histories of **philosophy** and biology.

MORRIS H. KAHN, M.D.

RECENT GAINS IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, edited by **Kirby Page**, *Harcourt Brace and Co.*, New York \$3.00

IN his Foreword, **Kirby Page** says "Smug contentment and sullen despair are equally perilous to society." Happily for the world, happily for **America**, sullen despair is, for the most part, confined to **Siberian prisons**. But I am not sure that there is not too much of smug contentment oozing out of the majority of the essays that comprise this timely book. "**Bigger and Better**" seems to stand out of the pages like an irrepressible watermark. Naturally **Kirby Page** desired first to enumerate "gains," and only the last four chapters have been thrown open for the complaints of pessimists, a type perhaps not so welcome in this country.

The first examination into "Recent Gains in Government" has been put into the able hands of **Charles A. Beard** who focusses attention on recent affairs in **Nicaragua**, the **Philippines** and **Mexico**.

Stuart Chase in "New Outposts of Business and Industry," tries to strike an optimistic note, but after enumerating the comforts and luxuries of the plain citizen, such as "silk stockings, Arrow collars, *The Story of Philosophy*, and membership in the Elks," he speculates. "How much happier these things have made him is, of course, another question. For the skilled workers, the clerks, the middle classes generally, they have operated to intensify the struggle of keeping up with the Joneses—aided and abetted by the massed forces of advertising, directed by skilled psychologists."

Mary Van Cleeck's "Recent Gains in Industrial Relations" is stimulating in view of the recent **Gastonia** struggle. She too agrees that the present industrial and economic development "stands in need of searching criticism by the social philosophers of all countries."

Norman Thomas discloses for the average citizen the deeper issues of the peace problem, and his essay on "Race Relationships," though not a complete Inquiry, contains an encouraging statement of positive gains. **Rockwell Kent** takes an individual and healthy attitude in his chapter—"Art," and equal in merit in its field is the discussion on "Advances in Science," by **Professor Jordan**. **Dr. Dewey's** critique is both admirable and patnotic, though one deplores his slur on the European immigrants who "have realized opportunities here that they never had at home." Surprising also is **Dr. Dewey's** reference to culture as "that elusive word." It is a very tangible word. He is surely philosopher enough to know that culture is not quantitative and that if Europe "shirked" the task of making culture a penny-in-the-slot system, it knew better. The one discussion that justifies the whole book is that on "Progress or Decadence," by **Professor Harry Ward**. What **Professor Ward** thinks on this subject should be heard by every thoughtful American.

A tribute must be paid to **Mr. Kirby Page** for his critical and arduous compilation. The result is a provocative book.

J. VIJAYA TUNGA

Books Received

THE FINE ART OF MARRIAGE, by **Horace J. Bridges**. Published by the Author, *Chicago, Ill.* \$1.00

THE WORLD'S POPULATION PROBLEMS AND A WHITE AUSTRALIA, by **H. L. Wilkinson**. P. S. King & Son, *London, England* 18s

SCIENCE AND GOOD BEHAVIOR, by **H. M. Parshley**. *Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis* \$2.50

THE SOCIAL WORK YEAR BOOK, edited by **Fred S. Hall** and **Mabel B. Ellis**. *Russell Sage Foundation*, New York \$4.00

THE RETREAT FROM PARENTHOOD, by **Jean Ayling**. *Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd.*, London 10s 6d

ADOLESCENCE, STUDIES IN MENTAL HYGIENE, by **Frankwood E. Williams**, M.D. *Farrar and Rinehart*, New York \$2.50

GENERATIONS OF ADAM, by **A. L. Wolbarst**, M.D. *Newland Press*, New York \$2.00

PHYSICANS' MANUAL OF BIRTH CONTROL, by **Antoinette F. Konikow**, M.D. *Buchholz Publishing Company*, New York \$4.00

News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE American Birth Control League held its annual meeting in New York on January 15th. The morning session is reported in this issue. Dr Henry Pratt Fairchild presided at the luncheon. Speakers were Reverend Allan Knight Chalmers, Juhan Huxley, Charles G. Norris, and Reverend Eliot White. The afternoon session, a symposium on child welfare—"What the White House Conference Left Out"—will be given in detail in the March issue.

According to a decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit, New York City, December 29th, the manufacture of contraceptives is legal. "There is no statute forbidding the manufacture or sale of contraceptives," the Court said. This decision was handed down in a suit of the Youngs Rubber Company against another concern. The defendant contended that Youngs was entitled to no protection of its trademark because it was making an illegal product.

The American Hygiene Association held its annual meeting in New York, January 23rd and 24th. Rachelle S. Yarros, Savel Zimand, Max J. Exner, H. E. Barnard were among the speakers.

CONNECTICUT The Connecticut Birth Control League will present a bill at the forthcoming General Assembly, amending the present law to legalize the use of contraceptives. This bill was first introduced in 1923.

LOUISIANA Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger, of Touro Synagogue, summarized the traditional Jewish attitude on birth control in a January sermon as follows:

First. The ancient Jewish law does not regard contraception as immoral.

Second. It inveighed against birth suppression, not birth control.

Third. Even the prime duty of being "fruitful and multiplying" was considered voidable under certain conditions.

If these conclusions were reached in the study of ancient sources, then there should be no inhibi-

tion on the modern spiritual leader from carrying on the study in the light of social, economic and industrial changes, pressing on us today.

We must consider always the holiness and crucial import of domestic relations as the Jew has fostered them. But we must also consider the evil of uncontrolled parenthood on the part of those who lack health, finances and intelligence as likely to rob the child of the inheritance to which it is entitled—the heritage of health, security and proper guidance.

The child moves us. We place him on the pedestal of love. We make every sacrifice for his care. By a spiritual lead we think not only of our own child—but of the child as the symbol of life and progress.

It is that symbol and not blind tradition that must move us as we are meeting the new problems of a changing world.

It is the welfare of the child and not the dignity of tradition that determines our attitude towards these modern problems.

NEW YORK The Right Reverend G. Ashton Oldham, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, addressing the Albany Ministerial Association on December 15th, said:

"In America we are conscious that thousands of persons are practising birth control. The Conference of Bishops in London merely urged that the problem be met frankly and openly on the theory that nothing of value can come from platitudes."

OHIO A debate on "Will the Dissemination of Birth Control Information Raise the American Standard of Living?" was held at the Cleveland Public Forum on January 2nd.

ENGLAND

MEDICAL officers of thirteen birth control clinics met in London in December to present data relating to the failure of contraceptive methods. Information was based on 6322 cases. Among these there were 685 failures to prevent pregnancy, but only 95 were unaccountable, i.e., failure occurred though the prescribed technique had been properly carried out. The remaining 590 were

traced to causes such as **incomplete following of instructions**, lapses in use of methods, faulty appliances, etc

A series of lectures on "Contraception and **Al-
lied Questions**" concluded on December 11th with a lecture by Dr **Stopes** on "**Positive and Negative Control of Conception in its Various Technical Aspects**" The lectures were free but **restricted to physicians and medical students** The series is cited by birth control workers as an **indication of growing** approval of the movement, in that the chairmen included **eminent physicians**, a cabinet minister and a bishop, and that the lectures were held under the patronage of King George V

FRANCE

A NATIONAL alliance for encouraging the increase in population and opposing birth control is active in France The *New York Times*, in an editorial of January 7th, says "The trouble with France is not the birth-rate but the death-rate The National Alliance would score better results by not worrying about birth control and campaigning for sanitation"

JAPAN

(Contributed by *R Ishii*, a graduate student at Clark University)

ACCORDING to the Tokyo daily *Asahi* (*Morning Sun*), 4,800 women come monthly to the eleven health services of the city of Tokyo Over 20% of the cases request information on the control of birth The city health services recommend that these patients go to the birth control clinic managed by an assemblyman named **Majima** During the months of May, June and July of 1930 the clinic advised 462 persons The reasons for seeking advice were classified as follows

Poverty	48%
Sufficient children already	36%
Ill-health	16%

The ages of the women were classified as follows

17-24	13%
25-29	28%
30-34	32%
35-39	15%
40 and over	12%

As to wages of the husbands 78% of the patients' husbands **received less than 100 Yen (\$50)** per month, while the **remaining 22%** had an income **over 100 Yen** per month

The number of children per patient was as follows

None	3%
1-3	37%
4-7	53%
8-10	7%

The *Japan Weekly Chronicle*, December 18, states that at the end of last year the **Commission** on Population and Food made recommendations to the Government that **appropriate** arrangements should be made to **give medical advice regarding marriage**, childbirth, and **contraception** to those in need of it, and that research should be conducted **into** the whole subject of **eugenics**

Last year the **Municipality** of Tokyo worked out a plan bearing on birth control, but it fell through owing to the opposition of the Home Office In spite of this **lukewarm attitude** of the governmental authorities, says the *Asahi*, the question of birth control will press for earnest **official** attention sooner or later

PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN
urges

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Ad contributed by *Elizabeth R. Fondiller* Bronx Leader

Letters from Readers

THREE MORE QUESTIONS FOR DOCTORS

TO THE EDITOR

May I suggest three additional questions to supplement the excellent ones in your January issue? I hope some of the doctors who read the REVIEW will answer them

1 Do you consider scientific contraceptive information "indecent" or "obscene"?

2 Would you like to have the subject of contraception completely removed from all the obscenity laws?

3 Do you think any laws limiting the circulation of contraceptive information could be generally enforced?

MARY WARE DENNETT

Astoria, L I

A GOOD EXAMPLE

TO THE EDITOR

Enclosed please find cheque for four dollars in payment of two subscriptions, one to be sent to the Public Library, Malden, Mass, the other to the Newton Free Library, Newton, Mass I should like both subscriptions to begin with the January number which I consider an unusually fine one

M A WILCOX

Newtonville, Mass

LET US NOT FORGET GENETICS

TO THE EDITOR

It would seem that too little weight and respect is bestowed on the subject of genetics Is this because this vastly important matter is scarcely yet become a science?

In The *Survey* of January 1, appears what the editors justly label as "a brilliant article" by H A Overstreet of the College of the City of New York This professor of philosophy describes how the recent centuries saw the sad triumph of rationalism over religion, leaving us bereft of the hope of immortality and of any sense that our poor short lives on earth have meaning and purpose to them This is the debit side of the recent historic period, to it should be credited certain opposite items among which Professor Overstreet chooses to name (a) improved scientific and economic technique, (b) an increasing humanity of man to man, to the child and to woman, (c) birth control

He then turns to the new period now opened in the history of thought in which he feels meaning and purpose and dignity are returning to man's estimate of his own soul This turn for the better, beginning with Darwin, has gone on to the idea of "emergent evolution" in which we ourselves may partake as creators, and to the newer discoveries of physics, with "matter" discarded Professor Overstreet, having paid this tribute to biology and physics, says he has also hopes of psychology, on what line, is not stated

Note that the question of immortality, which he raised in the beginning, is never returned to Is it not here that genetics, that most promising of the branches of biology, has something to say? Some profound speculations already arise out of the little at present achieved in genetics for instance, that "we are all descended from Alfred the Great", that the members of our race are all closely related and infinitely knit by blood to each other (far, far more closely than I to Alfred?—just as I am found to be more closely related to my brother than to my parent), that, as recently stated in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW human races each consist of four kinds of creatures—men, women, gametes and sperms The race, with its indelibly (?) imprinted norm of height and intellect and so on! The gonad with its sometimes suppressible but immortal (?) qualities—dominant and recessive! Just what kind of a wide immortality is here may not be clear, but at least the word and the high emotions it produces are returning to us Jennings in his *Biological Basis* of Human Nature, has treated lovingly of these high matters

Another with whom one would gladly discuss genetics is Mary Sumner Boyd In the January issue of this magazine she reviews my book *Seventy Birth Control Clinics* most satisfactorily She remains "optimistic in believing that birth control can help solve the problems of quality of population" She says I was not so optimistic Let me protest that I was merely more cautious in my genetics, saying that we can have as yet no certainty about the final net result after birth control completes its swing from the upper classes over to the lower For it is quite conceivable that among the lower classes their lesser worldly ambition and lesser worry over the future may leave

them, for an **indefinite time, in spite** of much birth control, **still more prolific** than the upper. In that case, the upper classes may countenance other means to check the **growth** of the lower, such as **civil war**, or compulsory Insurance taken out of the wages of the parents for every child born, or, on the contrary, subsidies to educated parents **in** order to **bring up** the upper class **birth-rate**. But these agencies **will exist** as themselves, not as **birth control**, and **their** results upon the birthrates **will** be their own and should not be labeled the results of **birth control**.

I also noted that we do not know for certain which classes are "lower," **especially** as regards physical and **emotional in-born traits**. And how can we **predict** a change in "quality" caused by **birth control** when we have scarcely defined any **in-born class qualities** as yet, except perhaps the **I Q**? Even in the present **uncertain state of genetics**, everyone agrees that the establishment of birth control clinics for the clients of the charities is pretty likely to be a step towards improved racial quality.

CAROLINE H ROBINSON

Phyladelphia, Pa

WE MUST SELECT AND LIMIT RACIAL STOCK

TO THE EDITOR

It is important to keep the stock (such as it is) from degenerating. It is however in my mind of secondary importance for unless in the next hundred years or so we learn how to select the stock, and limit it, I almost feel as if the life of the inhabitants of this planet is hardly worth preservation. Send me some fodder about this birth control business. I look on it as much more vital than the work of librarians, or ushers, or prelates or parsons, but I confess to a feeling that the ignorance of reproduction even amongst the most enlightened is appalling. We shall, even when you people get going, make terrible mistakes, but there is nothing which will ultimately save life on this planet unless it be the breeding of the people.

L D

Cheshire, England

HAPPY MARRIAGE THROUGH SEX COMPATIBILITY

TO THE EDITOR

I have been a reader of your REVIEW for a number of years and am heartily in sympathy with the birth control movement from all angles. It

seems to me, however, that there is one side to the subject which has never been sufficiently stressed and that is the spiritual value of mutually delightful intercourse between husband and wife. I believe it to be a fact that most marital discord, which all too frequently ends in divorce, begins at least with sexual incompatibility. Furthermore, I believe that when two young people love each other and marry (even though the girl's sexual education may have been faulty and inhibiting) there is a far greater probability of a happy marriage if the fear of unwanted pregnancy can be removed.

I should like to see one issue of the REVIEW give a symposium on this subject to, perhaps, in some small degree counteract the recent *pronunciamento* from Rome.

T R BUTTRICK, DDS

Detroit, Michigan

AN ENCOURAGING LETTER

TO THE EDITOR

I was very pleased to see the abstract of my Zurich address in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, and only wish it could have some influence on the powers that be on the League of Nations, but have little hope of getting them to take any interest in fundamental questions.

I am always glad to receive your magazine, the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, and to see the great progress the Cause is making in the United States. We have conquered over here so far as the teaching of birth control is concerned, but we are still a long way from getting its profound influence on social and international problems understood. I hope and believe that you in the United States will do a great deal in this direction.

C V DRYSDALE, MD

England

▼

Genetics gives fair warning to the sensible but timid social worker, to the short-sighted physician, to the perverted Comstockian, and to the sophists of the church, that civilization is in a dangerous situation, for which only one remedy is specific. Devise proper methods for safeguarding its use, if you will. But see that it is used to reduce the survival of the unfit, or the next generation will hold you to account.

E M EAST,
Heredity and Human Affairs

SEVENTY BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS

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