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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



J B Neumann's Bilderhefte

Child Welfare *and* Birth Control

WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE LEFT OUT



The Federal Amendment Hearing



Companionate Marriage

Birth Control Review

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*The signed articles appearing in this magazine do not necessarily represent the opinions of either the Editor
or the American Birth Control League. They are printed because they are deemed intrinsically worth reading.*

BIRTH CONTROL IS A HEALTH MEASURE:

BECAUSE it reduces maternal and infant mortality by enabling the mother to postpone pregnancy until she has the health and strength she needs to pass safely through childbirth and to bring into the world a sound, vigorous child

BECAUSE it enables parents to limit their children to the number for whom they can provide a healthful home, adequate food and good care

BECAUSE it prevents the psychic ill health caused by the fear of undesired pregnancy and by long continued sexual abstinence in marriage

BECAUSE it lessens hereditary disease by enabling persons with transmissible defects to avoid parenthood

BECAUSE it decreases abortion by preventing unwanted pregnancies



Birth control is dependable and absolutely non-injurious, when proper methods are used. To learn such methods, married persons should consult their family physicians.

Forty-one medical schools in the United States now give their students instruction in contraceptive technique, and the number is increasing every year.

The Section on Obstetrics, Gynecology and Abdominal Surgery of the American Medical Association adopted in 1925 the following resolution —

Resolved, that we hereby recommend the alteration of existing laws, wherever necessary, so that physicians may legally give contraceptive information to their patients in the regular course of practice. Medical recognition and support of birth control is increasing rapidly.

In most states it is now legal for physicians to give contraceptive information orally. If in doubt about the law in your own state, write to the American Birth Control League, 152 Madison Avenue, New York City, or to the Birth Control League of your state.

Editorial

LEGISLATIVE hearings on birth control bills figured prominently in the news during the month of February. The federal hearing on the "Doctors' Bill" sponsored by the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control was held on February 13th and 14th, and is briefly described by Mr. Guy Irving Burch in this issue. Mr. Burch makes the interesting point that those who spoke in favor of the bill spoke as experts, while those who spoke against it, irrespective of what organization they represented, spoke only as theologians. The Catholic opposition is of course articulate and well in evidence on every occasion. It was not surprising that the newspaper accounts of the Massachusetts hearing on February 18th of Senate Bill No. 43 (quoted in the February REVIEW) bore out Mr. Burch's observation. Prominent physicians, clergymen and representative men and women from other fields, supported the proposed amendment thoughtfully and intelligently. A prominent Jesuit, doctors, lawyers and lay-members of the Catholic Church denounced it with ringing invective. There were cheers, jeers, hisses, everything but a reasoned weighing of evidence and an earnest endeavor to reach a conclusion.

As we go to press, February 24th, the hearing on the Connecticut bill (quoted in the February REVIEW) is taking place, and word comes of plans to introduce a bill into this session of the Pennsylvania Legislature to amend the restrictive statutes of 1870 and 1897. The tactical value of hearings in furthering the birth control movement merits careful scrutiny. It would perhaps be over-optimistic to expect the passage of birth control bills in the near future. What remains in introducing bills and securing hearings is the presentation of a strong case, and the focusing of public opinion through widespread publicity. Many feel that such activity stirs up the Catholic opposition and does more harm than good. At any rate, hearings are effective in direct proportion to our ability to present the facts and get them across to the public.

The experience of Pennsylvania points to another approach to the problem of restrictive legislation. As is well known, the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation gave up its unsuccessful attempts at changing the state law, and started a clinic in Philadelphia, backed by physicians of unquestioned standing. The Federation has grown and there are now three established clinics in the state. If the proposed amendment is introduced, will the legislature welcome the opportunity to bring the law in line with public opinion and the actual situation? Or will such an attempt to amend the law focus the opposition and precipitate an open conflict? The event will bear watching.

The April issue will carry accounts of the Massachusetts and Connecticut hearings. We shall perhaps then be able to draw some conclusions and answer such questions as: Is legislative activity desirable at the present time? How can hearings best serve the movement? We shall welcome expressions of opinion on these points.

A MINER, long unemployed, recently became the father of a third set of twins, which event brought the number of his children up to eight, the oldest being six. Under the comic jumble of figures, is a situation by no means untypical. There is abundant evidence that unemployment's most serious toll is taken from the children. Grace Abbott, head of the Children's Bureau, reports in a study of over 50,000 families, that four-fifths of them are already in debt for food, rent, fuel, medical aid and other necessities because of unemployment, and that in one-fourth of the families *the mother was pregnant* while the "bread-winner" was out of work. Three thoughtful men, Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore and Dr. John Dewey unite in urging speedy relief for the millions of children whose health is being impaired by undernourishment due to unemployment. While the country is wrangling about how relief is to

be given, and how unemployment is to be solved, it can at least free the unemployed from the burden of additional children

The three men mentioned above doubtless hold divergent points of view on most issues, but they unite in their concern for children. Here is common meeting ground. Everyone, whatever his station in life, his background, his calling, responds to the appeal of childhood. Can the happiness and health and development of children be furthered by birth control? The symposium, held at the annual meeting of the American Birth Control League and printed in this issue, shows the inescapable relation between birth control and child welfare.

A HUSBAND'S suit for the annulment of marriage on the ground that his wife refused to bear children was recently dismissed by Justice Edward J. Byrne of the New York Supreme Court. The wife's defence was that she loved children and hoped some day to become a mother, but that her present financial situation did not warrant starting a family. She testified that her husband was earning \$25 a week, supplemented by her \$35 weekly wage, an adequate amount for two people, but that with the coming of a child, three would have to live on the husband's earnings, \$25 a week. The conscious control of conception—birth control—is obviously implied in this case. When Justice Byrne ruled against the annulment, did he not virtually uphold this wife's right to use contraceptives for economic reasons, and uphold the right of someone—presumably a doctor—to give contraceptive information not "for the cure and prevention of disease," but for economic reasons? We have here, apparently, another hole in the crumbling dyke of legal restrictions.

THE WORK undertaken by the Junior Committee, described in this issue, might well be duplicated in other cities. There are many advantages in providing clinical service for birth control in settlements and other established agencies, the service may be started in a small way, it can be administered inexpensively, and will be readily used by poor women because it can be placed in their own

neighborhoods. Nor need this idea be confined to urban communities. Frequent requests from isolated country districts show the urgent need for some sort of clinical service along simple lines. Workers in the birth control movement see more and more clearly that to establish birth control service is a short cut through the jungle of misinformation, prejudice, and legal restrictions. As one correspondent writes: "A clinic in one month of operation will win more supporting friends and advocates than twelve months of discussion and lectures." If people could free themselves from the idea that birth control information must be secured surreptitiously, if they could realize that it is a legitimate health measure, and one of the many means at our disposal for bettering mankind, then contraceptive service could be provided in a community with the same simplicity as playgrounds, libraries, milk stations and dental clinics. Every doctor contacted, every person advised, every clinic established is a step along the way. Within the next few months we shall present data on the workings of the Junior Committee clinics, and hope that it will be useful for similar committees elsewhere.

DULLNESS in children is a problem which has long troubled the teaching profession. Why is a child slow to grasp new ideas? What is to be done with such children? Should they retard the progress of their brighter comrades? Should they be segregated? Mr. W. E. Wenner, Superintendent of Schools at Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio, went to the root of the problem in his address at the recent annual convention of the National Education Association in Detroit. He pointed out that many limitations in children are fixed, and that eighty percent of dullness is congenital. He asked for thoughtful consideration of birth control and sterilization of the unfit as a means of combating hereditary dullness. Here is clear thinking that puts the deliberations of the White House Conference to shame. Here is a courageous recognition of facts. If the teachers, in general conservative and shy of such subjects as birth control, begin to understand this problem, we shall find ourselves with a valuable ally.

Child Welfare and Birth Control

*What the White House Conference Left Out**

The ideal to which we should strive is that there shall be no child in America that has not been born under proper conditions that has not the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body

—President Hoover's Child Bill of Rights

If we could have but one generation of properly born, trained, educated and healthy children a thousand other problems of government would vanish

—President Hoover's address at the Opening Session of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection

The Physician's Viewpoint

By ERIC M. MATSNER, M.D.
Practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist

AT INTERVALS of about ten years, the questions of child health and child welfare have been considered of sufficient importance to bring to the White House a group of specialists in these varying fields. The first came under President Roosevelt, dealing particularly with child labor. The second conference, which was called by President Wilson, dealt with the less handicapped child, and with problems of child welfare in general. This last conference, called by President Hoover, might very well be called the Parents' Conference, because it dealt primarily with the problems of child welfare from a parent's point of view.

In placing the mass of information gathered by experts at the disposal of parents there was left out of consideration one of the most vital aspects. How many children can a woman bear and rear, maintaining even the minimum standards advocated at this Conference? Is it possible for her to apply these principles when her life consists either of a succession of pregnancies or a constant dread of them?

Physicians, who see the hidden motives and activities of life, must realize the supreme importance to the happiness of mankind of a proper sexual life. It is society's business to see that this is attained by providing proper conditions of married life. Civilization can be built only upon satisfactory family life. I do not mean to intimate that happiness and family life are dependent alto-

gether upon sexual gratification. We know that under extraordinary conditions satisfactory marital unions can be built upon the higher aspirations and tastes alone. But one is willing to say bluntly that sexual life is the elemental fact upon which satisfactory family life as a rule depends, and without satisfactory sexual life, marital life is irreparably damaged. And it is here that the importance of birth control comes in.

Is it possible to have satisfactory marital relations by having sex relations only for the purposes of procreation? Is it conceivable that a satisfactory relationship can be maintained in the shadow of constant fear and constant dread of pregnancy? As a physician my chief interest is in the medical aspect of birth control. Three of the greatest strides that have been made in medicine have been in the fields of control: the control of pain, in obstetrics and surgery, the control of infection, and the control of communicable disease. These three advances were made in the face of considerable opposition and indifference. But today we look upon them with the pride of achievement. A fourth, the control of conception, is imperative.

Experience has demonstrated that the mortality rate for infants is higher among those born at short intervals after preceding births. From a medical point of view it seems to me that the emphasis at this time should be laid upon the proper spacing of children rather than upon any other factor.

In a symposium in the last issue of the Birth Control Review, and in several other compendiums of opinion that have been gathered, the consensus of opinion of representative physicians is that there should be a minimum interval of at least eighteen months between pregnancies. It is obvious that this interval cannot be established without a knowledge of the means of contraception.

*Afternoon session of the Annual Meeting of the American Birth Control League, January 15th

In spite of the widespread knowledge of contraception, women have not shirked motherhood. But most intelligent women are controlling the size of their families, and are conscientiously attempting to apply all that science offers for the benefit of their children.

The time has come, I feel, when the medical profession as a whole must face this new and added responsibility. I hope that my contemporaries, and the younger colleagues who are to follow, will continue in the footsteps of the early pioneers in this field. I feel that it is essential for this newer generation of doctors to take advantage of the pioneer work that has been done and to carry it forward.

It is the privilege and obligation of each generation to make use of the increased resources to forge ahead in wider research, more intelligent legislation, more widespread education.

The Social Worker

By H. L. LURIE

Director, Bureau of Jewish Social Research, N. Y.

CONSIDERING the many and voluminous documents that have been produced by the White House Conference or promised for future publication it is surprising that any subject whatsoever was omitted. The Conference found time to embark upon many topics including the desirable play objects for the child in his home and in his backyard and equally important matters. But they left out almost entirely the problem of human reproduction. One might believe the social workers and physicians who took part in the Conference were of the opinion that children were still being brought by the stork, rather than that they were the results of human procreation, except for the fact that there is no part of the report devoted to ornithology. A particular section of the Conference did devote itself to the problem of maternal mortality. They issued a very interesting preliminary statement which, however, did not appear in the data released during the Conference. They suggested that it should be determined whether the temporary or permanent prevention of pregnancies is justified, also whether artificial interruption of existing pregnancies is justified. The problem of our excessive maternal mortality was being considered and the question was raised of approval of sterilization, either temporary or permanent, which might be undertaken by phy-

sicians for women whose lives would be endangered by further pregnancies. We trust that this subject will not be omitted from the final report and that recommendations will be issued.

Social workers do not usually add up individual cases to arrive at statistics of defectives and paupers, because we see in the most miserable of our clients very desirable qualities of decency and good will and tolerance and strength—even in people who might be classified statistically as subnormal, or mentally defective. We are therefore not impressed by birth control as a panacea for all social ills. We see, however, the inherent right of every family to use whatever resources there are available of knowledge or of skill, so that their lives may be made more desirable.

We become acquainted with families, generally, after they have encountered very serious difficulties, and our function as remedial agencies is the prevention of further family disintegration and demoralization. We should be under a moral compulsion to provide these families with whatever has been made available by civilized society in the way of resources or knowledge which will enable them to improve their conditions. I would say from my own experience that two-thirds of the families with whom we have had contact have attempted various means to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Frequently they have used undesirable methods, frequently they have resorted to abortions, frequently they have failed. For social workers, therefore, it is not a question of introducing methods of family limitation or birth control to families under care but rather of opening an avenue toward intelligent instruction, so that they may receive education in desirable methods of contraception suitable to their individual and social needs.

We are mindful not only of the needs for family limitation, but of contraception as related to the whole sex life of individuals. It is not sufficient to give individuals advice through which conception may be successfully avoided. We must make available medical and psychological advice concerning sex relations so that in limiting their families they may derive the greatest amount of satisfaction in the marital relationship. The stability of the home and the family depends in large measure upon satisfactory human companionship which is fundamentally related to satisfactory sex relationships. It is because of such opinions that many social workers believe that the Conference should go on re-

cord in recommending that individual families be helped legally and effectively to find the most acceptable methods of family limitation. Social workers and social agencies would be remiss in their responsibility if they did not in many instances—where there is physical or mental defect, or lack of earning power or handicap or extreme poverty or family instability—make it possible for married couples to get the contraceptive information and sex education suitable to their needs. Family service agencies intimately acquainted with the personal lives of many families in distress are in an unique position to add this fundamental service to their program.

A Public Health Viewpoint

By LOUIS I HARRIS, M D, D R P H

Formerly Commissioner of Health of N Y C

THOSE physicians who are interested in public health should of necessity be interested in birth control, not because birth control needs apology, but because the medical profession has not apparently in sufficient numbers caught its significance as a public health measure and rallied to its support. The public health angle emphasizes the need for this furtherance of birth control work, not here and there in a surreptitious or apologetic way, or in a clandestine or meagre way, but a bold, forthright, general promulgation of what knowledge we have. If doctors became a little less fearful of being tied up with your happy company, we would make very radical improvement in the methods of contraception that now obtain. For, unfortunately, we have been estopped from real, intensive, scientific work by the continual necessity of propagandizing, of battling for understanding, of being correctly understood, not as a prurient mob, but as a humane and scientific group.

Are we going to stop teaching medical students the indications or the contraindications for interfering with pregnancy? Can you conceive of any honest physician, regardless of what his private beliefs and inhibitions may happen to be, honestly and fully and intelligently teaching any group of medical students, unless he also teaches the dangers that are inherent in pregnancy, when pregnancy is too frequent, when there are certain mental diseases, when venereal disease or its after effects precludes pregnancy, when you have heart and kidney affections to deal with, or when a mal-

formation of bones in the mother makes it almost inevitable that she shall suffer untold agony, or that she may perhaps be unable to deliver herself safely of a child. It is inconceivable that preventive medicine can be properly taught, without a due emphasis upon the need for contraceptive measures as a preventive of these hazards.

Too frequently preventive medicine, as represented by those figures who are its leaders, is silent and fearful and timid of offending, and we need encouragement and stimulation to make more medical men like Dr Matsner and Dr Wile, Dr Knopf, Dr Holden and others take a courageous stand on this subject. Indeed, medical men must come to play a more distinctive role in the spread of contraceptive knowledge, and they must do so not in an apologetic or fearful way, as if they were possibly offending against some unwritten statute or social canons, but they must do so with that courage which is the proud tradition of real preventive and therapeutic medicine.

Child Spacing

By FREDERICK C HOLDEN, M D, F A C S

Director, Department of Gynecology, Bellevue Hospital, N Y Professor of Gynecology, New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College

AS a teacher of gynecology and obstetrics for many years, the necessity of instructing my students in methods of contraception, and the proper spacing of babies, has seemed to me of increasing importance.

Spacing children means the planning of each conception and pregnancy with a view to the best time and season, both for mother and child. Even with a healthy mother and a sound inheritance of bodily and mental endowment on both sides, too frequent and too numerous pregnancies are to be avoided, as undermining to the mother's health and as taking her from the care of her living children. When the mother is not entirely well, and the endowment not of the best, spacing and limitation are the more necessary. Economic considerations enter into nearly all cases and in families where the mother must work outside the home, the questions of number and interval are most acute.

Every family will have its own peculiar problems, but the following factors are involved in

each pregnancy that may be contemplated, and in all kinds and conditions of society

The age of the mother (and to a less degree the age of the father)

Her general health, present and past

The time since the last delivery or miscarriage

The sort of pregnancy and delivery she has experienced

The total number of children that are deemed desirable and which can be adequately reared

AGE OF MOTHER

The maternal death rate¹ is higher below fifteen years than at any other period, and between fifteen and twenty it is higher than from twenty to twenty-nine. It is lowest between twenty and twenty-four (five per 1,000 live births), next lowest between twenty-five and twenty-nine, and rises rapidly after thirty, by five year groups, from 7.4 to 10.3 to 13.1 to 19.2 at forty-five years.

The infant mortality also increases when the mother is less than twenty and more than thirty-five. Thus below eighteen the infant death rate is 160, at eighteen and nineteen it is 129, a rate not reached again till after forty.

In contrast with these, between twenty and thirty-five, the infant death rates are as follows:

Mothers 20-24	109.5
Mothers 25-29	101.4
Mothers 30-34	104.7

The best period for child bearing thus appears to be between twenty and thirty or thirty-five.

The simplest direct index of health of the mother is perhaps her ability to nurse the baby. When she can and does the child has a far larger chance at survival, as the figures show that artificially fed babies die four or five times as fast as the breast fed. As children born to mothers over thirty are most handicapped by artificial feeding this is another argument for earlier births. Artificial feeding also enters as a factor in spacing between births, as nursing must usually cease with a new pregnancy, for the sake of mother, child and the unborn.

Judging by maternal death rates the greatest risk is run with the first delivery as compared with any through the fourth. One set of figures given by

the Children's Bureau shows that the death-rates for mothers drop from 6.2 per thousand births at the first delivery to 4.3 at the second, and to 1.9 at the third. Thereafter they rise rapidly, being twice as high at the fourth, 4.2, and 7.5 at the fifth and sixth, and 8.2 at the eighth and later deliveries. Put another way these figures mean that a mother is three times as likely to die at the first birth, as she is at the third, twice as likely at the fourth, and four times at the eighth.

Infant mortality rates run much the same way as the maternal death rates. The first babies die more frequently than the second, but thereafter the rates rise steadily, being fifty percent higher at the seventh and twice as high at the tenth.

The greatest hazard to child life is the loss of the mother. Anything that saves the mother's life affects favorably the lives of her children, not only the baby just born but all still needing the mother's care. Four to five times as many babies die whose mothers do not survive their first year, and this risk is increased to seven times in the first few days after birth. Deaths among older children are also higher if the mother dies, especially up to five years.

But death rates only tell part of the story. For every death one can count several lives handicapped by lowered health and resistance to disease. The mother may survive, but if she is miserable and ill the children will all suffer. The nursing, most of all, as he will lack his natural food, but the others only in less degree.

INTERVAL BETWEEN BIRTHS

When the interval between births is too short to allow the complete recovery of the mother, and nursing for the child, the infant death rates tell the story. Thus if babies born after more than two years interval show an average death rate of 9.2 per thousand, those in the same group who are so unlucky as to be born less than two years after their brothers and sisters die at a rate of 14.7. Put concretely this means that three babies die who are born less than two years after the last child, for only two who will die if the interval is longer.

When babies come too close together, the first as well as the second suffers. Thus when a new baby is started before the first baby is a year old three times as many die as may be expected from all the other factors applying to that particular baby. This is in part due to the interrupted feeding but also appears to be due to the loss of care

¹ Most of the statistics cited are taken from the two reports "Causal Factors in Infant Mortality" (Pub. 142, 1925) and "Maternal Mortality" (Pub. 158, 1926) of the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.



Drawing by William Siegel

Courtesy New Masses

" but Holy
Father, look
what we have
already done
for the church!"

suffered because of the mother's energy being drained by a new pregnancy

Prematurity is twice as frequent when the interval is under two years, and premature infants die more frequently than those born at term

Prenatal Losses Except for stillbirths, which are highest at the first, all prenatal deaths increase steadily with the number of pregnancies. The only places where anything like exact figures are obtainable about abortion rates² are the birth control clinics, and from the figures that are beginning to come in we find that they run something like this

In a series of 520 pregnancies reported by 116 women there were 103 abortions, a rate of twenty-five to 100 live births. But these were at the rate of only seven to 100 in the first pregnancies, and they were at the rate of ten to 100 in the second pregnancies, while in all succeeding pregnancies they were forty-two to 100, and in the cases where there were more than ten pregnancies none resulted in live births. In other words, after the second pregnancy there are six times as many failures to carry

through to term as in the first pregnancy, and four times as many failures as in the second

While one abortion to four live births is a common figure reported for this country, this is high compared with England, and low when compared with some localities in Germany and France, where the rates are given as one abortion to every live birth. But any abortion is a sign of failure somewhere, and is never anything but deplorable. What proportion of these failures are deliberately brought about is unknown. The meagre records now available seem to indicate that from one-half to nine-tenths are the result of deliberate intention of which only a small portion are therapeutic, that is, necessitated by the health of the mother.

Abortions have an element of danger even when done with the best surgical skill and cleanliness. It is true that under the very best conditions the danger to life is lessened, and in Russia, for example, where the State assumes full responsibility and allows abortion to any woman seeking it, the mortality and even the morbidity is extremely low. But in other countries abortions are done often by persons with no medical or surgical knowledge, and under the worst possible circumstances. Even where the final step is taken by a surgeon in a hospital, for therapeutic reasons, the death-rate of the mothers is over four times the usual maternal rate, and more than twice the rate for ordinary instrumental deliveries.

² According to the most recent ruling of the Committee on Public Health Relations, New York Academy of Medicine, (1928 Report) "the term *abortion* applies to the expulsion or extraction of the product of conception previous to viability." No distinction is made between abortion and miscarriage, but a definite distinction is drawn between early and late abortion and premature labor.

But at best abortions are waste of time and energy, and the mother's strength is lowered and her children suffer, both those already born and those that may follow, as each interrupted pregnancy makes her less able to bear later

To sum up then, the wise mother and father will plan to have as many children as can be safely carried, safely borne and adequately reared

This will mean in most cases, under present living condition of the average American, not more than three or four children

These they will plan to have at intervals of not less than two years apart, for the sake of mother and children, but not at intervals much longer, lest the children lack companions near their own ages and the mother be worn out with long attachment to a nursery life

They will seek and follow the doctor's advice before, during and after each pregnancy, and especially apply what they learn from one experience to the next succeeding

Because the first pregnancy is especially critical for mother and child, this will be especially guarded at all stages

Breast feeding should be part of the birthright of each child. If the mother is under twenty or over thirty extra care will be taken at all these points

Finally, when the income is low, and wherever the mother and child cannot be assured of the proper care, all these precautions must be increased, and every help should be given to all parents thus to safeguard their families

Human Inheritance

By CHARLES R. STOCKARD, M.D.

Department of Anatomy, Cornell Medical School

WE KNOW very little regarding the inheritance of human traits, and when it comes to prescribing who should be parents and who should not, that is a very difficult thing to do. Very few people can or should do it.

The off-hand remark is made that if all the best and most intelligent people would only marry one another, we should have a very intelligent population. That is probably not so, of all the best and most intelligent people I know, very few have unusually intelligent children. What sort of parentage would be necessary or desirable in order to have a finer population? To determine that one

naturally asks who have been the greatest people in the country, and who have been the greatest men of history, and who were their fathers and who were their children. Take a few such persons, for example, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, the three outstanding presidents of this country. The fathers and mothers of these three men were practically unknown, they were ordinary, mediocre people. Who were the offspring of Washington and of Jefferson, the man who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and of Abraham Lincoln? How closely do they measure up to their fathers? If you go all through history picking out the eminent people, you will find a number of shocking things like this.

About all one can say on human inheritance is, if you take good stock you are likely to get better children, or population, than if you take bad stock. We do know that according to statistics and record, if two feeble-minded or insane persons marry, almost all of their children are feeble minded and insane and the marriage of such persons should be directly prohibited. It is ridiculous not to prohibit it. We also know that if an albino marries a pigmented person, all the children will be pigmented. We know that if two albinos marry each other, all their children will be albinos. We have the same knowledge about color-blindness and the bleeders. Those traits are definitely known to be inherited in an exact way.

About inheritance in lower animals we know a good deal. We have learned more since 1900 about inheritance than the world knew in all the time before that. This is due to the rediscovery of the Mendelian Laws of Inheritance. Through these one can accurately predict the results from crossing two different kinds of stocks. When one stock that has a certain characteristic is crossed with another that never had it, you will find how that characteristic is inherited. It is a definitely experimental procedure.

With human beings this cannot be done and it is very difficult to know accurate things about human inheritance. The problem in regard to inheritance and the welfare of the child is to get as good parentage as you can. But don't fool yourself into thinking that when you get good parentage you are going to get one hundred percent good offspring. You have only a better chance of getting good offspring from good parentage than from poor parentage.

Genius, about which we know little, is sporadic and very rare. Being rare, it is outbred and when it is outbred it is practically always lost. Nobody would think of suggesting any method of regulating that, but on the basis of animal experiment, and the way things are done in general, there are possibilities of getting high grade human stock, not on close inbreeding, but on general inbreeding. This has been practiced among some good stocks.

Human breeding is very much like other animal breeding and things that happen in one group happen in another. We should always keep in mind that many grades of germ cells may be in the same individual. Some are good and some are bad. If one pregnancy turns out to be good and another bad, it does not necessarily mean there was anything the matter with the mother or father at that particular time, but it very likely means that you may have gotten a bad germ cell one time and a very good one the other time.

An Ostrich Policy

By IRA S. WILE, M.D.

Associate in Pediatrics, Mt. Sinai Hospital, N. Y.

AMONG primitive people there was for a long time no conscious recognition of the fact that there is a relationship between child-bearing and sexual mating. And I think that there has been a regression to the same primitive state of mind at the White House Conference. For example, here is a long report of the Committee on Growth and Development in which there is no reference in any way to the age of the mother or the health of her child. Moreover, there is no reference to the fact that the health of the child is somewhat related to the health or age of the mother. The White House Conference should know that, according to the last government figures in 1928, there were 75,000 mothers of less than eighteen years of age, it might be shocked to hear that 10,000 mothers were under fifteen years of age. These are only a few of the things not considered in the study of child growth and development.

Here is the report of the Committee on the Infant and Pre-School Child. We find in it reference to day nurseries, saying that they are primarily for the relief of unsatisfactory economic or unwholesome social conditions in the home, and, sec-

ondarily, for training. But there is no reference to the relation between over-breeding and nurseries, or inquiry into the justification of nurseries, what they accomplish, their social meaning in terms of why the children are there. These matters are totally and completely ignored.

The Committee under the *agenda* speaks about education for parenthood. Little of our formal education pays any attention to the fact that pupils and students will sometime be parents, and will assume the responsibility for the care and guidance of young children. And with all that suggestive necessity of education for parenthood, there was not one word concerning what parenthood is, or how frequently parenthood should be practiced, a total avoidance of the fundamental phase of parenthood, namely, procreation.

Or, here is the Committee on the Physically and Mentally Handicapped. It talks about the handicapped child as no longer a liability but a potential asset—just how potential we don't know. The experts' opinions point to the great need of research in order to determine the fundamental causes—note the word—the fundamental causes that handicap children. Yet there was no question about the handicap of the unwanted child, the multiple birth injuries which cripple, and the inherited handicaps which might have been avoided. There was a total and complete ostrich policy.

Here is an organization representing, theoretically, the intelligence of the American people, considering child health and protection, gathered together for the purpose of arriving at an intelligent opinion concerning the method of protecting childhood. And there is not one reference to child bearing or birth control.

Dr. Wile at the conclusion of his address introduced the Resolutions, printed in full in the February issue. They were passed unanimously.

* * *

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

	1922	1924	1927
Denmark	85	84	83
England-Wales	77	75	70
Germany	130	109	—
New Zealand	42	40	39
Norway	55	50	51
Switzerland	70	62	57
United States	76	71	65

Havelock Ellis

By BRONISLAW MALINOWSKI

HAVELOCK ELLIS has been a personal experience to most thinking men and women of our age—a personal experience which lasts. His scientific work, his artistic vision and the dramatic role which he was made to play as the price of his prophetic influence—and which he played with a consummate dignity and restraint—all these surround him with that mythical halo which but rarely comes to a man during his lifetime. Those of us who have the privilege of personal acquaintance and friendship know well with what charm and nobility he acquits himself of this most dangerous and difficult burden. World-wide fame achieved early in life.

But personal acquaintance is merely a confirmation of the many things which he gives in his published, spoken and acted manifestation, for as all great men, Havelock Ellis lives and reveals himself in his words and deeds. All true and real things in life are simple at heart, yet with an infinite variety of iridescent surface. The thoughts and sentiments of Havelock Ellis are direct in intent, manifold in the grasp of essential facts, and sincere in expression. His philosophic attitude is non-partisan and non-sectarian; he always remains the synthetic metaphysician of life.

The simplest and the most fundamental truths are invariably the most difficult to see and to express. Havelock Ellis tells us that life in its fullest sense is worth living, that sex should be understood, indeed studied scientifically, that on the basis of such knowledge it must be morally vindicated, that a great many of the strict taboos and puritanic values of the past generation will have to change.

Sex is a great and wonderful power for evil and for good, and we must deal with it as we deal with other forces of nature: understand, respect and control it in the light of truth and not in the shadows of prejudice and preconception.

All this Havelock Ellis has given us. He has not proclaimed it as his own great "discovery," but has shown us the facts, illuminated them with his insight, lit them with the fire of his inspiration and enthusiasm. Havelock Ellis has never made sex the only explanation of all mental phenomena, nor has he advocated free indulgence as the remedy of

all spiritual and social evils, he never fell into the error of facile pansexualism, nor is his scientific work a system of one-sided doctrines. He was indeed the first scientifically to unveil most of the real mysteries of the sexual instinct. His analysis of the two-fold aspect of this impulse, tumescence and its release, his theory of modesty as a biological asset, his radical distinction between the socially relevant and the essentially personal elements in sex—all this and much more will remain as a classical and a lasting contribution to science.

His pioneering genius consists of a rare combination: common-sense and prophetic intuition. It has made Havelock Ellis anticipate most of the discoveries which are usually ascribed to psychoanalysis, and for which, indeed, he himself gives all credit to Freud, where this credit is really due. The whole path of theoretical development which we can follow in the seven volumes of the *Psychology of Sex* is strewn with innumerable findings bearing on practically all sound modern doctrines in the sciences of the human mind, human society and the human body. As life itself, and the manifestations of the wide world, Havelock Ellis's work harbors inconsistencies, and it will provoke, now and then, contradictions from even his most enthusiastic followers. One might almost say that to learn from him, by reading his books, is like being in touch with experimental reality, so little *partipris*, parochialism and egocentric vanity is there in his work. So that even on those points where we disagree with Havelock Ellis, we still remain indebted to him for stimulus and inspiration.

There is one aspect of Havelock Ellis's work, however, which he himself has tried to make non-dogmatic and tentative, but which will, I think, remain of permanent value. This is the ethical aspect, and here again it is his supreme tolerance and placidity of mind, combined with his warmth of heart and earnestness of purpose, which makes him go right every time. The dancing "Philosopher of Life" is never frivolous, never cynical and never bitter. He has—in spite of some false appearances and of some aphorisms which have been made about him—nothing of the satyr, nothing of the demon, too little, perhaps, of Dionysos. Some of us, made of a baser metal, may perhaps

miss this in Havelock Ellis, the philosopher, even more in Havelock Ellis, the artist, but no serious and honest man will miss it in Havelock Ellis the friend and the counsellor. Take only one issue, but the main issue of sex morality and of all the modern problems connected with it—I mean, of course, birth control. Havelock Ellis from the outset was not only a wise advisor and a consistent supporter of birth control, he was also one of the first to recognize the immense theoretical importance and practical position of birth control in all the vital questions of social ethics. He is unquestionably the most important representative of Neo-Malthusianism in England and in Europe, and serious supporters of birth control in America have chosen him as the Old World Patron Saint of the movement. In his great work on sex, Havelock

Ellis has laid the foundation of a new ethical attitude as well as of a new science, and he has given not only an encyclopaedia of facts and a system of ideas, but also a charter of a new freedom.

To me in my earlier youthful enthusiasms Havelock Ellis was first a myth, fraught with artistic and moral significance, later he was an intellectual reality in shaping the plastic phase of my mental development, finally he became a great personal experience when I met him and saw realized in life the anticipation of a great personality. In this, I am glad to say, I feel but one of the legion of his friends and admirers, for all of us like to share that which we regard as good and great. Havelock Ellis provokes just that unselfish admiration and devotion, and in this, perhaps, lies his greatest achievement.

The Companionate Marriage

By BEN B LINDSEY

The originator of this much misunderstood term outlines his proposals for a closer correlation between marital custom and the law

BECAUSE of the rather unique character of the Family Relations Court of Denver, and the informality of its proceedings—more like the confidences of a doctor's office than the testimony of a court—I had the opportunity, during nearly thirty years, of learning more about marriage and morals than could possibly come to a judge who merely sits on a bench and tries cases. I concluded that one of the great difficulties with modern domestic relations is the failure of society to make any adequate provision for the direction of its customs and habits. I decided that there is need for some constructive suggestions for remedying the evils I found in these customs. They were admitted, accepted and generally indulged in by the majority of married people without serious protest by either church or state. But these institutions had enhanced the bad features of our accepted customs and habits, by objecting to their legalization and scientific direction.

The theoretical institution of sacramental marriage provides, first, that there must be no relationship of the sexes unless they are joined in wedlock through a ceremony performed by a priest or representative of the church. This provision of

sacramental marriage has now been repealed by practically all of the states. The ceremony which gives the marriage validity is no longer limited to the priest—the representative of God on earth—who from savage times has claimed the right to make rules for the relationship of the sexes. Indeed the *ceremony*, that once was the *marriage*, is now, by law, only the *evidence* of the marriage.

The second rule of sacramental marriage is that there should be no relations of the sexes after marriage interfering with procreation. Even when the sex function is limited to that one purpose it is still "sin," but a method has been provided known as baptism, whereby after being "conceived in sin and born in iniquity" one may be "saved."

As a matter of fact, contrary to the theories of sacramental marriage, the companionate sex relationship is the one most often practiced in lawful marriage. This companionate relationship is said by our most intelligent specialists in the laws of sex and life to have its own creative functions. There is, of course, also the procreative relationship, called into being when it is desired. I do not mean to infer that marriage may not be sacramental from the standpoint of real love and mutual

consent of the couple at the same time as it is companionate I also heartily approve of a church ceremony when the couple desires it

I selected the term "Companionate" as a label or title of a constructive program for the legalization and scientific direction of the habits and customs of companionate marriage, which is, in actual fact, modern marriage. With my collaborator, Mr. Wainwright Evans, I have written a book dealing with this subject. It was originally called *The Moral Revolt*, but my publisher thought that the program I called *The Companionate Marriage* was a better title. This unfortunately led to some confusion. Many intelligent people thought that companionate marriage (about the only kind the clergy perform) was some new kind of marriage. The newspapers sensationalized it as "free love" and "trial marriage," when the purpose of its program was not only to oppose, but to reduce the prevalence of both. I soon found myself the storm center of unjust criticisms and misunderstandings that almost obscured my larger purposes in writing the book.

There are four habits or customs of modern marriage that I wish to legalize and socially direct under the label "Companionate Marriage." They are

1 Birth Control

2 Divorce by mutual consent for childless couples, and, under somewhat different conditions, for those who have children. There would be a commission of experts instead of the present divorce courts. These I wish to see abolished, just as we abolished the criminal court for children thirty years ago. I am convinced that this would materially reduce divorce. It is now the habit of discordant couples to rush off to lawyers and get a dishonest, easy divorce by mutual consent, without any scientific direction. The Institution of Human Relations, as I called the proposed substitute for the divorce courts, would surely improve present conditions, for it would substitute honest for dishonest divorce. The Institution of Human Relations would be composed of a commission of experts. There should be, I think, a psychiatrist, an expert from the medical or allied scientific profession, and a lawyer, especially trained in psychology and biology. The commission would have a certain time in which to try to reconcile the couple. If it succeeded, they would go on living together because they wanted to, but not, as under certain church laws, because they had to when they no longer loved each other. If it failed, then

upon mutual announcement of the couple that they still wanted a divorce for incompatibility, it would be granted—*because they wanted it*.

3 Sex education, and education in the art of marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. The habit and custom now is to get this through bootlegging in books, as we bootleg in liquor and birth control. Most good books on the art of love and the laws of sex and love are banned, and sex education is generally taboo in all places of learning. I am sure that a more comprehensive plan of sex education would result in more marriages, and more permanence in marriage. There can be no doubt that this is very much needed. Witness the fact that over six million out of the ten million men in this country between the ages of twenty and thirty are not married, and that in proportion to the increase in population in cities, marriage is decreasing and divorce is increasing.

4 Abolition of the present rather arbitrary provisions of the alimony and support laws. These compel the court to order the man to support the wife, regardless of the facts of the case and the economic status of the parties. These laws were passed when women were unable to maintain themselves in the economic world. But now there are many cases where they are unfair. For example, a man is making \$100 a month, and the wife, from whom he is separated but not divorced, is making \$150 a month. When he pays her \$50 a month out of his \$100, as the law provides, we have the rather absurd situation of the woman having \$200 a month and the man \$50, with the result that he can't get married again and she won't—while the enforcement of the law continues. The program of the Companionate Marriage would tend to end these absurdities and hardships by allowing the Institution of Human Relations to decide on all questions of alimony and support in accordance with the economic status of the parties and the facts of each case. There would be one provision: the man would generally be required to support the children in the custody of the mother. This is entirely consistent, for the mother lessens her own earning capacity in caring for the children, and she is, generally speaking, best fitted for that purpose.

This program is not of itself a campaign for birth control, though one of its four points is the legalization of this universal practice. Thus it becomes sympathetically allied with all organizations interested in the birth control movement.

Knowledge versus Opinion

An Account of the Federal Amendment Hearing

By GUY IRVING BURCH

"We must control population. We are forced to a choice. Nature's remedies are pestilence, war, disease and famine. Personally, I prefer the more human method to the cruel natural process"—HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

WE HAVE read with interest a number of newspaper accounts of the two hearings before a sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Gillett bill (S 4582) which would exempt licensed medical authorities from the provisions of the Federal laws which forbid circulation of contraceptive information. As we also had the privilege of attending these hearings we might add that on the whole the newspaper reports were fair to both sides and as extensive as practicable for the daily press.

As we let our memory run back over the hearings (the proponents were allowed about an hour and a half on Friday, and the opponents the same time on Saturday) we are convinced that those speaking in behalf of the bill spoke as experts while those who spoke against it spoke only as theologians, regardless of what organization they were supposed to represent. Dr. Fairchild is internationally recognized as an expert in the population field. Dr. Johnson spoke as a eugenicist, Dr. Williams as a practicing obstetrician. Rabbi Goldstein and the Reverend Dr. Potter had the point of view of modern religionists. Mrs. Sanger spoke from first hand knowledge of the experiences of thousands of women during the many years she has led the birth control movement in this country. On the other hand, all those who spoke against the Gillett bill, no matter what they were listed as representing, spoke as theologians might have spoken during the Middle Ages.

It seemed to us that those against the bill spoke in terms of votes, while those for it tried to present well-digested facts. In short, one side represented quantity while the other side represented quality.

The usual arguments against contraception as unnatural, irreligious, immoral and suicidal, were employed by the opponents of the bill, and these arguments were accompanied by the usual degree

of dogmatism and theatrics. Whether or not contraception is irreligious seems to depend largely upon whether one follows the Lambeth Conference or the Vatican Council. But the suffering and misery brought about by uncontrolled reproduction—one proponent stated that the natural family is about eighteen children—could hardly be looked upon with approval by any wise and loving Creator.

It was also pointed out by the proponents that if high death rates, poverty, illiteracy, child labor, poor housing, war, famine and pestilence are moral, then contraception is immoral, because contraception is one of the most effective methods of destroying these evils, as the experience of the upper classes and the countries of Northern and Western Europe will bear witness.

It was further pointed out by the proponents that because of the Federal laws against the widespread instruction in contraception by physicians to their married patients, the upper classes of the population who have the initiative and resources to evade the law and receive contraceptive instruction from their private physicians, practice contraception generally. On the other hand, the lower classes have neither the initiative nor the resources to effectively evade the law, and physicians will not risk their professional standing by unlawfully giving such instruction to charitable patients in public clinics. The result, it was said, is that we are rapidly breeding from the bottom.

In the large cities of Northern and Western Europe where contraception has been spread by the medical profession to the lower classes, the upper classes are now having more children than the lower classes. This phenomena has been testified to by no less authorities than Dr. Carl Edin of Sweden, Dr. Alfred Grotjahn of Germany, and just recently by Dr. Friedrich Burgdorfer of Germany.

It was interesting to see how the opponents of the Gillett bill attempted to use the work of Dr. Dublin and Dr. Kuczynski to prove their points from a population point of view. Probably every

population authority in this country has studied the works of Dr Dublin and Dr Kuczynski more than any opponent at the hearings of the Gillett bill, yet I think it can be safely said that there is not a recognized population authority in this country opposed to the Gillett bill. Nowhere is a little knowledge more misleading than in the field of population problems. The problems of war and the differential birth rate are perhaps the most vital population problems that face humanity, and in both of these problems it is evident that a wider spread of contraception among the general adult married population is necessary in preference to attempts to stimulate a cradle competition between the upper and lower classes by prohibiting contraceptive instruction.

Any description of the hearings at Washington would not be complete without saying a word about how a member of the American Federation of Labor told the Committee that that organization wished to go on record against the Gillett bill. It turned out that this honorable gentleman had no more credentials than his presence and two letters from the president of the Federation referring to a bill that was completely different from the Gillett bill. It might also be mentioned that certain members of the Episcopal and Methodist Churches appeared against the Gillett bill notwithstanding the fact that the Lambeth Conference of more than three hundred Episcopal bishops (and many branches of the Methodist Church) have gone on record in favor of birth control.

The Promise of Youth

By EDWARD M EAST

MORE than a decade ago Professor Lewis M Terman began an elaborate series of investigations on the development of gifted children. His object was an analysis of the problem of genius. Two reports of progress have appeared earlier. The first contained a detailed account of the physical and mental attributes of a thousand gifted children selected from about a quarter of a million pupils of California schools. The second, written by Dr Catherine M Cox, contained estimates of the early mental traits of three hundred geniuses of history.¹ The major conclusion of Dr Cox was that, contrary to popular impression, genius shows itself in early childhood. The present volume,² which is a follow-up of the gifted group tested in 1921-22, is designed to show whether or not the converse of this proposition is true. Geniuses have been superior children, but we do not know what proportion of superior children will have notable records in after life.

The members of the staff of the department of psychology of Stanford University do not claim that this latest report answers the question,

nevertheless, it does present us with information decidedly worth while.

There are many people who believe that such studies have no value. They see hordes of mediocrities contributing their mites to the sciences and the arts. They see near-morons, gifted only with effrontery, laying down futile laws, managing huge corporations, and teaching drivel to rising generations. And they come to the conclusion that the demand for genius is diminishing. But the fact is that in the future, as in the past, no really difficult problem will be "solved by a strictly average mind." The growing complexity of civilization will not do away with the necessity of genius, on the contrary, it will place a high premium upon genius. For this reason, every item of information that can be gathered as to the detection and cultivation of the superior individual has a value which can hardly be over-rated.

What conclusions, then, can be drawn from the present study? To the writer four points appear to have exceptional importance.

The first point has been held to be established for many years by the progress of investigation into the genetics of the lower organisms and by the direct studies of DeCandolle, Galton, Ellis, Cattell and Woods. It is this: gifted children come predominantly from family stocks which are su-

¹ Dr East's discussion of the first two volumes in this series appeared in the July, 1929, issue of the *Review*.

² *Genetic Studies of Genius, III The Promise of Youth*, by Barbara S Busks, Dortha W Jensen, Lewis M Terman, and others. Stanford University Press, 1930. \$6.00.

perior in both physical and mental traits. A proper gene pattern is the first and foremost requirements for attainment.

The second conclusion is that such family stocks have decreased in fertility during the last two generations to a point where they are scarcely maintaining themselves. To those who think infrequently and illogically, this fact is an argument against birth control. To those able to visualize the sociological situation more broadly, it holds precisely the opposite meaning. No equalization of the prevailing selective birth-rate can come about until the more unintelligent fraction of the population is supplied with birth control information. Then, and only then, can measures be taken which will favor the survival of the more desirable germ plasm.

Third, it appears that a considerable proportion of the gifted young children retain their relative superiority as they become older. They are largely A pupils in high school. They are elected to Phi Beta Kappa three times as frequently as other college students. Some show a decrease in outstanding ability as the years go on, and this fact opens up several important problems. Are pertinacity, ambition, and other such traits that are requisite for high attainment distinct from those traits measured by intelligence tests? Many psychologists believe that this is the case, and are developing means of rating these qualities. Further, are these essential characteristics hereditary, or are they qualities which can be cultivated to any degree in a random sample of the population? There is some indication that the second answer is correct. If so, what mistakes we make in training the young!

The fourth point throws some light on the old problem of secondary sexual characteristics. Of the thousand gifted children, 680 were boys and 320 were girls. The boys maintained their superiority relative to their fellow students much better than did the girls as adolescence came on. Mental development appears to slow up—perhaps it stops entirely—as sexual maturity occurs. It is quite possible, therefore, that the extra year or two of growth which is allotted to the human male is of more importance in explaining the relatively better intellectual performances of men over women than is any assumed difference in opportunity.



Press Clippings

PERHAPS in the not too distant future some Pope will commend the demonstrated laws of human heredity—the God-made laws of nature which govern human heredity—to the close study and obedience by the faithful, that the Church may give its blessing on all efforts by one generation to insure sounder physical, more capable mental and higher emotional and spiritual qualities in its posterity, and will point out how these sacred laws of nature which govern human heredity can be used most effectively to such an end.

—*Eugenical News*, February

THE question of birth control has more angles than the economic feature. They could be enumerated, but suffice it to say that the sociological feature of birth control is as important as the economic. Ignorant people are usually irresponsible people. They know nothing of the evils of excess. They know too much eating is followed by abdominal pain, they know too much cold is followed by rheumatism and other physical ills, they know that too much drink is followed by a dissipated constitution. These excesses they know and appreciate, but they seem to know nothing of the excess of procreation. They do not know that it is possible to have too many children, they do not know that it is a sin to have too many children—a sin because they are not able to support too many children. Of course we know and appreciate the attitude of those who believe that it is a sin against God to even think of regulating birth control. These same people, however, will admit that it is a sin against the same God to eat too much, drink too much and practice other excesses. It is largely a point of view.

People who are small wage earners and have small incomes and must depend upon wages for their daily sustenance ought, of all people, to be interested in an intelligent regulation of expenses, whether those expenses be the rearing of children, or the paying of rent, or the buying of food and clothing. We might just as well face the question fairly and intelligently. Birth regulation is coming, because it must come in self defense. It may be years before it takes legal form or is accepted, but in a country such as this, where our entire existence is reduced to the question of economics birth control or some accepted regulation must come.

—*Editorial, Pittsburgh Courier*, Feb 7, 1931

HARVEST GROUND

By LUCIA TRENT

*A CHILDLESS woman never knows
The rippling way that barley grows,
How cherry trees in budded spring
Begin their frail adventuring
Only we who once have been
Harvest ground and living kin
To each sunny fruit and flower
In prophetic travail-hour,
Only we may truly know
The miracle of things that grow!*

Yea-Saying

By ROBERT WHITAKER

ONE of the most sincerely religious men I have ever known, and one of the best and bravest progressives of his day and generation, had been the father of eleven children, of whom six had died in infancy. Yet he was fond of quoting in justification of the old fashioned family of large numbers (and many mortalities) the ancient scripture, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

The figure of speech employed might have suggested to him the military origin of this appraisal of fecundity. From primitive times, when man-strength was a consideration of consequence in the interests of tribal survival both against the forces of nature and the violence of rival groups, a high birth-rate was a desideratum from the viewpoint of rulers and warriors generally. To this day there is a latent implication of this military-mindedness in the espousal of the large family by such apostles of "preparedness" and the militant mood as Theodore Roosevelt and Arthur Brisbane, and their kind. Logically, the advocates of a human society established for common welfare rather than for habitual warfare have no reason for their reluctance in supporting a birth-rate founded upon common sense and a decent regard for the abundant life. Wherever either scripture or religion seem to lend support to lawless and unlimited creation of life, it will be found that the basis of such apologies for fecundity is essentially irreligious. It is cannon fodder or factory fodder that is wanted at the expense of fundamental moral considerations.

The churches and churchmen are slowly beginning to recognize these facts. Church folks are being converted to an open confession of faith in voluntary motherhood, protected childhood, and the rights of present-day parenthood. Under cover, these rights have long been assumed and practiced. In the interests of honesty this fact has compelled the cautious concessions of the Lambeth Conference. But forthrightness is of the very nature of virtue. To give consent with quivering lips is to put consent itself in a false light. The need of the hour is for a religious leadership which is not afraid to "let its yea be yea, and its nay nay."

For in public issues, "the apathy of the best classes is generally the opportunity of the worst." Ignorance is an evil and costly thing, but indifference to knowledge acquired and conviction achieved is more evil and costly. Abuses flourish whenever and wherever evasions prosper. The false sex-emphasis of our time is very largely a result or accompaniment of false reticences instead of healthy affirmations. The first quality of a guide is that he shall know his own foot-hold, and shall step out with confidence. Moral leadership has forsaken the churches in great degree because there is so little of moral decisiveness and vigorous outspokenness on the side of the righteousness which they present.

The attitude of a large number of church leaders toward birth control is still unsatisfactory, whether viewed from the standpoint of those who recognize it as a real issue of importance, or from the standpoint of churchmen whose business is the defense and enlargement of the churches and their influences for good. There is a feeling that "sheepishness" characterizes not only the followers of the creeds, but the leaders. The churches too often are dragged unwillingly by the ears into

the schools of modern thinking There is want of red blood in their consent to that which they can no longer refuse

Moral teachers of many sorts have made too much of the art of saying "no" It is important enough, but the art of saying "yes," and of saying it so that everybody understands it, is far greater and far more needed Religionists have more to fear from their own timidities than from any aggressiveness which wickedness has ever shown

Happiness is Blessed*

By RABBI FERDINAND M ISSERMAN

THE Catholic Church is true to its tradition, when it voices its opposition to birth control But I fear that opposition has come too late In the more civilized countries of the world birth control has come and it has come to stay It is characterized as a great sin in the Encyclical To anyone interested in maintaining the old marriage regulations it is the gravest of sins For birth control is the phenomenon which more than any other is making possible the complete reorganization of family life, as it is making possible the emancipation of women Without birth control companionate marriage could never have been advocated nor could Russell have suggested his marital heresies Without birth control women could not have the leisure that many of them have today nor could married women engage in occupations

Birth control is castigated as an interference with the laws of nature, but what is all of our scientific invention but an interference with the laws of nature? We have taken the power from running streams and used it to light our homes, to dig our ditches, to pave our streets, to remove the burden from the backs of men and of women The march of civilization has been signalized by man's utilization of the forces of nature for his service and for the enrichment of his life We have taken vaccines and inserted them into the human body, thus interfering with the laws of nature and preventing the spread of infectious diseases If God wants anything he wants the happiness and the welfare of His children, and whatever is conducive to such happiness and such welfare is religious and is blessed Nature has taken great pains to make sure that the life it has produced will be continued Every living organism, no matter how insignificant

and no matter how large, is filled with a supreme instinct to reproduce its kind In order to insure such reproduction, nature has been very prodigal and very generous in the creation of the reproduction apparatus It has known how terrific will be the struggle for existence, how of a million scattered seeds only one or two may be destined to germinate and to grow Every little plant uses all the arts of color and of beauty to insure its propagation

But with man, the situation is different Man by the use of his intelligence has minimized those forces which threaten to destroy human life Man has interfered in the processes of nature by lengthening the span of life, by reducing infant mortality If the purpose of nature or of God is to continue the race and to assure its onward march to its destiny, then that purpose can be fulfilled even though birth control is practiced When we read that in those countries where birth control is not practiced infant mortality is high, the standard of living is low, disease is more prevalent and life more miserable, then we see that birth control becomes a duty which religion can well sanction To those who are interested in saving souls for another world, birth control may be a grave sin, especially if they think of the saving of souls in terms of number, but for us who are interested in saving human beings for more joy and happiness in this life, who are interested in the perfection of the human race, birth control is both moral and justified

It is true that birth control information will be abused, it is true that before marriage and after marriage it may be misused, it is true that individuals may evade their obvious responsibilities, but nevertheless for the masses of decent and moral beings it will prove to be a good and not an evil Some countries are confronted with the great problem of how to dispose of their surplus population Wars, we are told, have served as checks upon the growth of population, so has disease Through the intelligent use of birth control, war and disease and economic distress will no longer be needed to regulate the number of souls that this earth can support I have faith that, though the knowledge of birth control is being abused and will be abused, the masses of men will use it morally and intelligently to limit their offspring, so that those whom they bring into this world will have opportunities for health, for sunshine, for recreation, for education and for happiness

*Excerpt from a Sermor

The Los Angeles Clinic

By ETTA GRAY, M D

THE Los Angeles Mothers Clinic was opened in April, 1925. In July of this year we established a branch clinic where two days a week are devoted to gynecological treatments, two days to contraceptive work and one day a week to prenatal care. Both these clinics are open every day from nine to five except Sunday, with a nurse in charge. Physicians are in attendance during clinic hours.

To date, December, 1930, we have registered a trifle over 6,000 patients. We have the cooperation of social service agencies, hospitals and other organizations concerned with the health and welfare of the community.

We have recently made a survey of 200 representative cases that have contacted the Clinic for two and a half years or more. The average age of this group is 28.8 years, average years married is 8.8, average pregnancy every eighteen months. This eighteen month period is usually one of lactation and gestation. It would appear that this group were so fertile that at the first opportunity after the normal physiological state of health was established, conception resulted. Racially there was a predominance of Americans.

These women were selected because of their age and past history of frequent pregnancies. Normally they never passed more than three or four monthly cycles without impregnation. Since being instructed at the Mothers Clinic this group has been protected for an average of thirty months.

In the 200 cases under consideration

35 are suffering from diseases classed as general, which include anaemia, malnutrition, etc.

22 have heart and kidney diseases

3 are mental cases

13 have tuberculosis

10 have venereal diseases

Of the husbands

41 are suffering from general diseases

13 have tuberculosis

4 have venereal diseases

2 are mental cases

Only illnesses sufficient to interfere with the discharge of ordinary duties or the earning of a living are listed.

In the United States most clinics giving contraceptive advice are limited by law to accepting cases with histories which would make pregnancy inadvisable for health reasons. It should be noted that patients frequently come to the clinic who have been warned to avoid pregnancy but have been given no instructions as to how they may successfully protect themselves.

The Junior Committee

THE Junior Committee of the American Birth Control League, which undertakes a specific piece of work each year, has pledged itself to personalize and publicize the birth control movement through two different channels.

1 Each member of the committee assumes responsibility for calling on leaders of the community, influential people in philanthropic and educational circles. The endorsement of such well-known leaders will serve to give courage to the rank and file of our populace and also to secure additional friends for the Birth Control League.

2 A series of luncheon meetings are held for sectional groups of welfare workers, to bring about a better understanding of the principles of birth control and a closer cooperation with our clinics.

A meeting was held on January 27th at the Bowery Y M C A, attended by case workers, nurses, social work executives and workers with juvenile delinquents. A second meeting was held on February 17th at the Bronx Union Y M C A. Dr. Elizabeth Pisssoort and Dr. James F. Cooper spoke.

The Junior Committee has already established two clinics—at Madison House, with Dr. Pisssoort in charge, and at the Jewish Maternity Aid, with Dr. Rose Boyer in charge. A medical advisory committee for these clinics and others to be opened this year consists of Dr. Ira S. Wile, Dr. Eric Matsner, Dr. Herman Lorber, Dr. James F. Cooper, and Dr. Elizabeth Pisssoort.

The idea of opening clinics in conjunction with existing agencies has great possibilities. The women are accustomed to going to the different settlements, the surroundings are familiar, there is nothing conspicuous about stopping in at the house where they go so often for all sorts of purposes, it does not necessitate being away from home for more than an hour or so, the advice also can be given very cheaply.

CAROL K. NASH, Committee Advisor

Book Reviews

THE BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF HUMAN NATURE, by H S Jennings *W W Norton and Co New York \$4 00*

MAN has always been a problem to man. From many angles he has considered himself and attempted to explain how he is what he is, and why he acts as he does. The biological angle is one of the more recent developments of this curiosity, and Professor Jennings' book is one of the latest efforts to explain this viewpoint in non-technical language.

"By the interplay," says Professor Jennings, "of the differences existing at the beginning of life with those that arise through later experience are brought about all the infinitely numerous kinds of diversities that we find among the individuals we meet in the world. By the interaction of the diverse individuals so produced, with each other and with their organic and inorganic environments, arise societies and civilizations. By the changes in the inborn characteristics as generations pass, together with the changes in the outer environment, arise the transformations of organisms in succeeding ages, arises the process of evolution. To understand individuality, to understand human nature and animal nature and vegetable nature, to understand society and civilization, the two classes of diversities must be examined separately, then in their interaction and consequences, and in their changes with the passage of time. This is the task of the present volume."

In this task, the author starts at the beginning of life—as far as the individual is concerned, and conducts the reader through the intricate journeyings of the genes—those "atoms" of the living world. The reader thereby gets the backstage view that will give him a more fundamental understanding of the front stage effect. So far as human beings are concerned, twenty-four pairs of gene-packed chromosomes constitute the main actors in the play—twenty-four handed down through each parent—forty-eight all told—making man, from the standpoint of heredity, in truth a double organism.

In the chapter on "Genes and Environment in Relation to the Mind," Professor Jennings says "An organism's behavior is his system of reactions

to stimuli, it is his system of adjustment to the conditions (present, past or future) that he meets. This system, viewed as it were from the inside, is what we call the mind."

And further on, he continues "The single human individual is not a closed-in system with an impervious shell, but on the contrary is so constituted as to be capable of response and of adjustment to a great number of diverse conditions and situations. He has, not a single definite pre-arranged fate or tendency, but a vast number of capabilities, a vast number of keys, as it were, through which environment may play upon him. Beyond question there are individuals in whom the elements are so mixed that they have a potential love for art, engineering, mathematics, sensual enjoyments, and many other things, in such individuals the environmental influences will determine which of these shall come to fruition. On the other hand, it appears that there are individuals in whom the capabilities for some of these lines of activity are nearly, or quite lacking, so that no environment can make of them great musicians, great mathematicians, great engineers."

In discussing what we can hope from eugenics and eugenic measures for decreasing the dependent and delinquent groups, Professor Jennings mentions among other methods suggested "that the present ban on the dissemination of knowledge as to how to decrease the number of offspring produced be removed, so that such knowledge may become available to the less efficient or intelligent groups," but he warns us that such measures are slow improvers so far as changing the general drift or tendency of man's racial heredity is concerned.

Some of the most thought-provoking chapters deal with biological fallacies and human affairs, the relative importance of heredity (genes) and environment, the biological basis of marriage and the family, race mixture and its consequences, how the inherited constitution becomes changed (the origin of diverse organic types), environment and the future of the race, and diverse doctrines of evolution.

I read the book twice, enjoying it both times. I should think the average intelligent layman would find it even more interesting, if he has any

real curiosity concerning himself, his neighbors, his friends, and why they all behave as they do

ORLAND WHITE

RACE HYGIENE, by Thurman B Rice *The Macmillan Co., New York* \$4 50

THE POET HEINE said "A man should be very careful in picking out his parents" Conversely, with greater practicality, parents should be far more careful in picking out their children To do this requires accurate knowledge of how children begin and the interplay of heredity and environment in the lives of both parents and children For "from seeds in the same pod come sweet peas climbing five feet high, while their own brothers lie prone upon the ground The stick will not make the dwarf peas climb, though without it the tall can never rise Education, sanitation and the rest are but the giving or withholding of opportunity"

Two small particles of living matter—one the egg, 1/125 of an inch in diameter and the other the sperm, 1/5000 of an inch in diameter—through their union create the human individual and close its contribution from heredity forever

"It appears certain that the rate at which a child progresses in school is determined in large measure before he is born," says Professor Thorndike "Schools do not reach the germ plasm, nor do classes in Americanization persuade a bad germ-plasm to forsake its evil ways," says Thurman B Rice, who is Associate Professor of Bacteriology and Public Health in the Indiana University School of Medicine, and Chairman of the Indiana Eugenics Committee

The book begins and ends with chapters headed "Is Ours a Dying Race?" Between these, much territory concerning life from the angle of racial relations to heredity and environment is covered

In calling the roll of the chapters, some of the more striking are headed The Triangle of Life, Variation, The Germ Cell, The Determination of Sex-limited Diseases, Economic Problems Affecting the Race, Heredity plus (not versus) Environment, A Critique on Existing Customs and Laws of Courtship, Marriage and Divorce, Factors in Marriage Selection, The Prevention of Germinal Waste, The Practical Application of Race-Hygiene

The chapter on "Prevention of Germinal Waste" deals with such subjects as the teaching profes-

sion, the celibacy of the priesthood, social caste and customs, how can large families be made popular, *the universal teaching of birth control*, criminal abortions, the protection of motherhood, and extra-marital motherhood

The book is very readable, the material selected is interesting and pertinent, the style is clear, and the language is non-technical There is a bibliography and an index

ORLAND WHITE

NEW GIRLS FOR OLD, by Phyllis Blanchard and Carlyn Manasses *The Macaulay Co New York* \$2 50

AMONG interesting recent publications about young people is *New Girls for Old* by Dr Phyllis Blanchard and Carlyn Manasses Dr Blanchard is the author of other books on kindred subjects and her work at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic has afforded opportunities to study the perplexing problem of the "new girl" Miss Manasses is in her twenties, only two years out of college, and fitted to reveal the thoughts of youth concerning sex, which are "long, long thoughts"

The place of birth control in the minds of girls of today is shown through a questionnaire This was sent out to New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the South, Minnesota and Washington, D C Of the 252 replies received, 103 were from college girls, 99 from working girls, 22 from young married women, 13 from girls living at home, 10 from students in professional training schools (for nursing, library work, law school and normal school), and 5 from high school pupils Four-fifths of the girls were definitely planning to use some method of birth control in their married lives to limit the number of their children Thirty-three percent of the whole group wanted to know more about birth control The authors say "As many girls wish for information along this line as the number mentioning other phases of sex adjustment This is all the more surprising since the common belief is that almost every girl is aware of contraceptive devices, and that this vast fund of information is one reason for lessened restraint in sex behavior The facts seem to be that the girl, although knowing of the existence of methods of birth control, is very ignorant of the exact techniques Apparently, also, the girl's eagerness for further information is not indicative of a desire to indulge in extra-marital relations, but rather of the wish to enter marriage with the as-

surance that she can protect herself and her husband from the burden of unwanted children"

The authors frankly admit that modern freedom, the automobile, separate apartments for young unmarried people and, above all, the use of contraceptives enabling a girl to escape unwanted pregnancies, give opportunity for sex experiments undetected and unpunished. There is less emphasis upon the preservation of physical chastity and men are becoming more tolerant on this point and less interested in a wife's past history. "But in spite of all these things which seem to favor temporary and changing love alliances, we find that young women are themselves beginning to doubt the wisdom of pushing such advantages too far."

Modern enlightenment has robbed matrimony of its terrors. No longer does its path lead you straight from the altar to the grave yoked with an uncongenial partner, divorce permits escape. Sex education is beginning to throw a beam into darkness and pre-matrimonial sex experience seems not to be wholly tabooed. Birth control makes motherhood something which may be courted or avoided at will.

MARY WINSOR

OUR CHANGING HUMAN NATURE, by Samuel D. Schmalhausen. *The Macaulay Co., New York* \$3.50

AS THE title of Mr. Schmalhausen's book suggests, our human nature is changing, but only one who has time enough to follow the author through his numerous pathological findings can understand at what a frightening speed we are changing. *Homo Sapiens* is in a bad way and must look to the combined efforts of psychologists, psychoanalysts, mental hygienists, educators and sociologists to pull him out of his neurotic, even psychotic, existence and set him into a new stability. Civilization bears too heavily upon his consciousness. He is being suffocated by a mechanistic age and is forced to discard old stable values for new pathological ones. This transitional period brings with it a change of primary importance—the creation of a new being termed by the author, "the fractional woman." This new animal who swears, crosses her legs, dresses unconventionally and indulges in what were formerly masculine vices, is paradoxically a serf to her new sexual freedom. Under her new régime she has freed herself from fecundity only to indulge her exhibition-

istic and narcissistic tendencies and carries her infantile demands into maturity. This "Fall of Woman" is a product of our over-mechanized, under-humanized Christian civilization.

The author gives a fairly clear picture of the various schools of psychology and psychoanalysis, paying special tribute to Freud, Adler and Jung—to Freud in particular for his artistic talents as well as his methods of such great practical importance. Mr. Schmalhausen wisely points out the important defect in the various "Schools of Psychology"—an over-simplification in theory with its consequent dogmatism in practice. A sound concept of human nature must honor the principle of interrelation.

The book offers nothing new in the way of a fundamental psychology. It is a rather over-stuffed compilation of poetry, dramatic and literary criticisms, psychological theories, even including three psycho-analytic portraits: the first of George Bernard Shaw, *The Last of the Puritans*, the second of Frank Harris, *The Gourmand among the Literati*, and the third of H. L. Mencken, *Idol of the Booboisie*. The answer to Mr. Schmalhausen's confused chapter called "Is Civilization Going Insane?" is yes, undoubtedly.

GERTRUDE DONIGER

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

DR. WOLBARST in *Generations of Adam* has written a valuable contribution to sex literature. While covering much material that of necessity has been written about many times, he presents it in an interesting style, easily read and understandable.

In elaborating the modern psychological explanation of asceticism of the early Christian Fathers and attributing it, among other things, to a lack of sex vision, Dr. Wolbarst traces the origin of much of the nastiness with which sex is associated in so-called Christian countries. St. Paul, whom many of the modern churches follow, confessed himself to be a sick man. His hatred of women and his unnatural attitude toward sex became the cornerstone for modern Puritanism with its blue laws, snoopers, persecutors and all around joy-killers.

Dr. Wolbarst advocates an acceptance of sex as a natural function and social provision for its expression without the stigma of sin.

The practicing physician, like Dr Wolbarst, sees a preponderance of abnormal sex case experiences, hence he is likely to stress the venereal picture and the abnormalities of sex out of proportion to their occurrence in community life. He has devoted several chapters to the prophylaxis and cure of venereal diseases, even including state board of health literature. This kind of literature is freely distributed by practically every city and state board of health. Persons who will not apply for and follow these instructions are not likely to be influenced by reading them in a book.

The common experience with young married people and with those contemplating matrimony or perhaps extra-marital relations is that they are not so much concerned about the probabilities of venereal disease, for which Dr Wolbarst recommends the use of prophylactic measures, as they are about a possible pregnancy. Yet in the entire book only slight references are made to this phase of sex relations.

Dr Wolbarst contends that sex relations, when they injure no one, are strictly personal affairs, and only when a child is born do they become a social matter. From this point of view it would have been highly interesting and valuable if the Doctor in his charming and candid manner had discussed birth control as a social affair. I cannot agree with his statement that contraceptive measures have not yet been developed to the point where they are both efficient and hygienic. And how is it possible for men and women to have freedom in sex expression without contraceptive advice?

It would also have been extremely valuable if the Doctor had included in his book on sex, a free discussion of therapeutic contraception as a prophylactic measure in lowering sickness and the death-rate. A book on sex is hardly complete without a discussion of the sex life of the eugenically unfit, variously estimated at from 3 to 5 percent of the population, and occasionally higher. Dr Wolbarst states that homosexual practices are almost universal where men and women are separated for long periods of time, and common in custodial institutions. Why not sterilize those of the latter who have no anti-social tendencies, and let them go free to marry their own kind? They might in this manner at least, have a normal sex life, something which the Doctor properly contends is the right of every normal person.

LYDIA ALLEN DEVILBISS, M D

GENERATIONS OF ADAM

A. L. WOLBARST, M. D.

"This book is a definite milestone in sex education, not so much because it turns its back squarely on theologic traditions and doctrines without rancor or radicalism, as because it offers for the first time a constructive substitute to take their place. We should like to see this book in the library of every educator, every enlightened parent."

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News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE "Doctors' Bill" of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Frederick H. Gillett of Massachusetts and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A hearing was held on February 13th and 14th. Among the many scientists, churchmen and others who appeared in favor of the bill were Margaret Sanger, Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, Professor of Sociology at New York University, the Rev. Charles Francis Potter and Dr. Sydney E. Goldstein of New York, Dr. J. Whitridge Williams, Professor of Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins, and Professor Roswell H. Johnson of the University of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn of Connecticut, and Mrs. Douglas Moffatt of New York.

It should be noted that the bill introduced was the "Doctors' Bill" originally sponsored by the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, not the proposed bill printed in the January issue of the REVIEW. The "Doctors' Bill" reads as follows:

71st Congress 2d Session S 4582, in the Senate of the United States

A Bill to amend Section 305a of the Tariff Act 1922, as amended, and Sections 211, 245, and 312 of the Criminal Code, as amended

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED That subdivision (a) of Section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1922, as amended, and Sections 211, 245, and 312, of the Criminal Code, as amended, are each amended by adding at the end thereof the following: "The provisions of this Section shall not apply

(1) to information relating to the prevention of conception if published either within or without the United States by any governmental agency, medical agency, medical school, or medical journal, or if reprinted after such publication, by any person or organization whatever nor

(2) to such information if sent by any licensed physician, hospital, or clinic, to any patient thereof, or to any other licensed physician, hospital, or clinic, nor

(3) to information regarding the name and address of any licensed physician, hospital, or clinic, giving advice relative to the prevention of conception, if such physician, hospital, or clinic, is situated in the state, territory, District of Columbia, or foreign countries to which such information is sent, nor

(4) to any article, instrument, substance, drug, medicine, or thing, that may be used for the prevention of conception, if sent to any bona fide wholesale or retail dealer in medical supplies, or to any licensed physician, hospital, or clinic, or if sent by any licensed physician to any patient of said physician

The American Birth Control League was one of the many national organizations which endorsed the bill.

On January 10th the Senate by a vote of 56 to 10 passed the Jones bill (S 255), intended to restore to the Children's Bureau the appropriation for the work formerly done under the Sheppard-Towner Act for Maternity and Infancy. The Jones bill is now before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

CALIFORNIA A bill authorizing any married person to apply for public "hospital treatment to prevent parenthood" was introduced in the Assembly on January 22d by George M. Bigger and E. H. Zion, with the backing of the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena. Under terms of the bill, married men or women might voluntarily undergo operations in any city, county or State hospital if convinced that children born to them would be likely to become public charges because of mental defects or "because of the inability of their parents to rear them."

CONNECTICUT The birth control bill which was introduced on January 22d will have a hearing on February 24th. Full details will appear in the April REVIEW. One of the many meetings in support of the bill was held in St. Michael's Parish House of Naugatuck, on February 16th. Mrs. Annie G. Porritt and Professor Robert R. Brooks of Wesleyan University were the principal speakers.

INDIANA A bill has been introduced in the legislature (H 220) for sexual sterilization of idiot, imbecile and feeble-minded inmates of state institutions.

NEW JERSEY A series of Round Table Conferences was held at the Maternal Health Center in Newark. It included a group from Short Hills, under the leadership of Miss Cora Hartshorne, graduate nurses from the Orange Memorial Hospital, a group of women from Summit invited by Mrs. Tompkins, a class of students from the Jewish Social Service of Newark, with their advisor, Mrs. Siegel, a group of women from

Glen Ridge, connected with various Boards of that town, under the leadership of Mrs Parkman. These meetings were conducted and addressed by Miss Henriette Hart, the Director of the League.

About twenty members of the New Jersey League attended the hearing of Mrs Sanger's Federal Amendment before the Judiciary Committee in Washington on February 13th. A large number of patients at the Maternal Health Center have signed petitions to the Senators urging favorable action on the amendment.

NEW YORK Dr Harry Elmer Barnes, former Judge Ben B Lindsey, Charles G Norris, Mrs F Robertson Jones, Dr James F Cooper, Dr Albert P Van Duzen, and Dr Charles Fleischer spoke on birth control before the Humanist Society on January 19th. The Reverend Charles Francis Potter, leader of the Humanist movement, presided.

Recent Meetings on birth control

January 13th Mrs F Robertson Jones spoke before Reconciliation Tours.
Dr Hannah M Stone and Dr Robert L Dickinson addressed the North Harlem Medical Society.

January 19th Dr Hannah M Stone, Dr Max D Mayer, and Dr Sarah K Greenberg addressed the Ocean Medical Society of Brooklyn.

January 27th Dr Charles Francis Potter addressed The Group.

February 13th Miss Sarah Taksen spoke before the Odessa Young Ladies' Benevolent Society.

A new medical society has been formed, called The Association of Socialist Physicians. Dr B Liber, Dr Hannah M Stone, Dr J Auslander, long advocates of birth control, are among the members. The aims of the society are as follows:

To interest both the medical profession and the public—mainly the workers—in the social point of view in medicine, to foster scientific studies of health conservation and disease prevention from the viewpoint of social medicine, to help the workers in their immediate demands for the improvement of their conditions and in their struggle for liberation from the present economic order, to study the social and economic causes of diseases, to spread this knowledge among the medical profes-

sion and also to popularize it among the workers, to hold before the public the necessity of adequate protection of the workers' lives and health in shops, factories, offices and mines, to advocate the socialization of medicine, to show that medicine, as practiced today, is unsatisfactory, costly and wasteful, *to support the movement for birth control among the working classes*.

This society will not be affiliated with any political party.

OKLAHOMA A bill has been introduced in the Legislature (H 64) for sexual sterilization of insane, idiotic, imbecile, feeble-minded or epileptic inmates of state institutions.

PENNSYLVANIA At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation Dr A Lovett Dewees was re-elected President and the other officers were re-elected. The new Vice-Presidents are as follows: Rev Waldo A Amos, Pittsburgh, Mrs N H Cowdry, Scranton, Mrs George deSchweinitz, Bethlehem, Rabbi W H Fineshriber, Philadelphia, Rev Nathaniel Groton, Philadelphia, Mrs Bolton Love, Easton, and Mrs Ella J Mountz, Clearfield. The following Committees are actively functioning: Literature, Speakers Bureau, Meetings, Publicity, Endorsements, Doctors and Maternal Health.

A Birth Control Luncheon was held in Reading at the Pennsylvania Conference on Social Welfare on February 26th. Dr A Lovett Dewees presided, and the topic of discussion was "Birth Control as a Measure of Social Welfare."

A Luncheon-Conference on the Prevention of Dependency will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia on March 18.

Professor Roswell Johnson of the University of Pittsburgh and Dr Theodore Diller, a psychiatrist, debated on "Is There a Valid Case for Birth Control," on January 30th. The debate was held under the auspices of the Allegheny County Federation of Women's Clubs, and was attended by over 400 members.

TEXAS A bill has been introduced in the Legislature (H 133) for sexual sterilization of insane, idiot, feeble-minded or epileptic inmates of state institutions.

WYOMING The Rock River Conference of the Methodist Federation for Social Service "notes the economic difficulties in the way of

(Continued on page 93)

Letters from Readers

WHO WILL EXPLAIN?

I am not a Catholic, but because many of my family are, I have always defended the Catholic Church. But a case has just come to my attention which makes me feel very puzzled.

This young woman is a devout believer, married to a Protestant. She has three children. There are definite signs of insanity in the family, and she refuses to have any more children, not for economic or selfish reasons, but because she feels the risk is too great. She is now refused the sacraments of her church, and as she is a devout Catholic, this causes her much pain. Her confessor knows the situation and the entire family, but refuses her absolution and communion. How can the Catholic Church defend such a position? I know that abstinence is advocated in such cases, but this marriage would surely go on the rocks if it were attempted.

Can you get some intelligent Catholic to explain that?

Baltimore, Md

C T H

A CANVASS OF DOCTORS

A few weeks ago I interviewed about forty-five British-Canadian doctors in Montreal, in an effort to obtain new subscribers for the *Birth Control Review*. The names were selected at random, so they are probably fairly representative. In only six cases did I meet with definite hostility. This was invariably from men well over sixty, and as it usually took the form of almost speechless indignation, there seemed nothing for it but to allow them to die off in undisturbed possession of their old prejudices. The attitude of the majority might be described as one of "benevolent neutrality." Some explained that they could not possibly have a paper "with that title" in the house, where maids or children might get hold of it. Self interest was given as a reason for not subscribing by a young doctor who frankly said "I am a baby doctor, and that sort of thing would be against my own interests." Eight were definitely sympathetic and subscribed.

The Province of Quebec is overwhelmingly Catholic, and the population of Montreal is about 75% Catholic. The birth rate is enormously high,

families of thirty children being known, and the average family in some small towns is ten. The Catholic Church not only enforces an absolute taboo of birth control in the French press, but appears to regard the mention of it in the English press as "an unfriendly act." Nevertheless contraceptives may be purchased in drug stores in Montreal (at a high price), and intelligent young French Canadians express their firm intention not to have unwieldy families.

Montreal

J C WILSON

A CLEAN REPEAL AMENDMENT

Can you find space for the following open letter to Margaret Sanger, Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, and the Judiciary Committee of the Senate?

"Millions of people are glad that Senator Gillett has sponsored a bill to facilitate the circulation of birth control information and materials (Senate Bill 4582). They will be far more grateful, if the bill is amended so as to remove the subject of birth control, at once and for all time, from its present position in the obscenity laws.

There are three potent reasons for amending the Gillett bill. They are to secure decency, enforceability, and the toleration if not the actual support of the Catholics.

The aim of the Senator's bill is admirable, namely, to permit the legal circulation of medically authorized contraceptive information and materials. But the bill leaves the whole subject of birth control as indecent as ever, so far as the law is concerned. Decency requires not merely a permit to circulate the "obscene" information, but the complete removal of the subject from all the laws that deal with dirt. Science is clean, not obscene. A clean repeal is the simple necessity for this bill.

Enforceability, in these days, is more than ever a prime requirement for new legislation. The bill as it stands is highly unenforceable. It provides exemption from the obscenity penalties for those engaged in the circulation of medically authorized contraceptive information or materials. But it is obvious that since the government now makes no attempt to enforce the unqualified prohibition existing in the obscenity laws, it would not and

could not enforce those laws, with the proposed Gillett alteration added. The present laws as to birth control are a dead letter. Nullification has become general. Bootlegged information and contraceptives circulate among growing millions of citizens. To retain any legal prohibition whatever becomes a mere gesture and pretense, so far as enforceability is concerned. The country is sufficiently loaded down already with laws which are honored only by being broken. To deliberately pass more such laws would be a decided lapse in legislative responsibility.

As to the Catholics, no really loyal Catholic could support or tolerate the Gillett bill. In proportion as Catholics accept the church teaching that the use of contraceptives is a sin, they could not approve a bill which specifically gives legal permission to certain people to aid in the increase of sin. But if the Gillett bill is amended, so that it simply strikes out from the several federal obscenity laws, all mention of contraception, then it will become a measure which reasonable Catholics can at least tolerate if not approve. Indeed they may well approve it, for to support the retention of the suppressive laws, implies marked distrust of the power of the church to teach its own people successfully. If the subject of birth control is altogether removed from the laws, the Catholics can then deal with it as they see fit, in view of the teachings of their own church.

A clean repeal amendment to the Gillett bill thus has back of it reasons of practicability, good citizenship and decency. It is to be hoped that the Judiciary Committee will see fit to report the bill with this suggested amendment, and that Congress will do itself the great honor of passing the simplified measure, before adjournment. It would greatly enhance the record of the Seventy-first Congress.

Astoria, Long Island MARY WARE DENNETT

MAN'S INTELLIGENCE IS HIS REDEEMER

In the early decades of the republic population increased 35 per cent in a decade. Immigration had no part in the increase. At that rate of increase, the population of the United States would now be 262,407,842 and in another hundred years it would be 5,275,979,603. Such an increase is appalling. In the face of it, all efforts to better mankind are futile and ridiculous. The human race would be doomed to endless misery. Such once seemed to me to be the case. War, pestilence and famine I believed to be blessings. Intemperance, if it would

kill, I considered a thing to be encouraged. All reasoning seemed to lead to pessimistic atheism. This view was confirmed by the writers who were the companions of my youth. Voltaire said, "Nature conducts herself for the preservation of the species without regard for the individual." Ingersoll said, "Life feeds on life." Haeckel declared that "there is no evidence of beneficence in creation." Byron sang of "souls who dare look the Omnipotent tyrant in his everlasting face, and tell him that his evil is not good." Their logic was in harmony with Malthus and seemed irrefutable. To use the words of Tolstoi, "I long remained in this belief."

Then a copy of Ross's *Changing America* came into my hands, and my attention was called to the falling birth rate in civilized countries, man was beginning to adjust himself to his resources. To me this came as a wonderful revelation. Like the prophets of old, I saw afar off the day of salvation and was glad. Man himself had risen from the dead and by his own intelligence, and not by any act of atonement made for him, his salvation was being accomplished. Dublin and other economists now show that population is rapidly becoming stable and adjusted to resources.

This may be disastrous for speculators, but the day of plenty for all is at hand. The lower animals should be pitied because of the condition in which lack of intelligence places them, but man should rejoice that he possesses the power to rise above the animal state. There is at least some evidence of beneficence in creation. Man's intelligence is his redeemer and "his Redeemer liveth and shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

Hazardville, Conn

HENRY F. FLETCHER

NEWS NOTES—(Continued from page 91)

marriage, puts itself on the side of education for marriage, challenges to an effort to make the relationship succeed, and endorses the principle of voluntary parenthood."

CANADA An ill-advised contest with a prize of half-a-million dollars, is announced for the Canadian mother who has the most babies by the year 1936. This sum is provided in the will of the late Charles Millar, lawyer and sportsman.

ENGLAND

A dinner to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of Dr. Stopes' Mothers' Clinic will be held in London on March 17.

An International Report

THE International Medical Group for the Investigation of Contraception was formed at the Population Conference at Geneva in September, 1927. It publishes an annual report* which aims at impartially summarizing information of statistical importance that bears on birth control as it becomes available in different countries. Birth control is a controversial subject on which feelings run high, but it is highly desirable that medical men and women should be supplied with accurate information on all its aspects.

DENMARK

By DR SV RANULF

The circles in Denmark where the use of contraceptive methods is condemned in all circumstances are extremely limited. The majority admit that there are instances where it is justifiable for married people to avoid having children without necessarily practising continence. But the prevailing opinion in Denmark is that it is not desirable to make it too easy for everybody to know about contraceptive methods, and how to use them. And yet on the other hand this public opinion is not strong enough to warrant legislation that will limit the freedom of giving instruction on contraception, or manufacturing and selling such appliances openly.

The reason for this attitude is to be found in the unconsidered reluctance that exists in the ranks of society most bound by tradition, even to speak about sexual matters, or to do anything to facilitate the gratification of sexual impulses. Others draw attention to the danger that young married people will cease to live a moral life, if they are able to adopt contraceptive methods. Amongst the educated classes the principal objection is the risk of race suicide if it is made possible for every married couple to limit the number of their offspring at pleasure.

GERMANY

By DR KURT BENDIX

ATTITUDE OF MEDICAL BODIES

In the Medical Society in Magdeburg a discussion on the subject of birth control took place on

*Excerpts from the Third Annual Report. All medical data, descriptions of methods and comparative results from different methods have been omitted. It is suggested that physicians send for the complete report to the Hon Mrs M Farrer, 13 Lansdowne Crescent, London, England. The price is 6d.

April 4th, 1929. The opinion was expressed that up to the present, preventive methods are for the most part ineffective, and that the principal task is to make them reliable. One doctor gave it as his opinion that birth control would lead to the retrogression and ruin of the nation. The housing shortage was not a determining factor, since it was just the owners of large houses who had few children. Another doctor stressed the importance of birth control in tuberculosis cases, as considerable aggravation of tubercular trouble was often caused by pregnancy. The Prussian Medical Board Committee (Arztammer-Ausschuss) at a meeting held on December 8th, 1928, passed the following resolution:

"Contraception as a professional practice is to be considered as undesirable both from the point of view of professional etiquette and of the opinion of the Medical Board Committee."

ATTITUDE OF THE INSURANCE AUTHORITIES AND THEIR INSPECTORS

The authorities of the Leipzig local sickness benefit fund (Krankenkasse) came to the conclusion that it was part of their duties to give contraceptive appliances to women members if a medical certificate was produced, and if the doctor considered that a possible pregnancy in the future would be a great danger to the woman's health. At the Krankenkassen-Tag in Nurnberg the establishment of birth control clinics and the use of the benefit fund for their support was recommended.

LEGAL POSITION

The manufacturers of contraceptive appliances, in order not to come in conflict with Paragraph 184, usually recommend their goods as being also preventives of venereal diseases. By doing this they are, however, jumping out of the frying pan into the fire, for in such an advertisement the State legal authorities see an offense against paragraph 7 of the law dealing with venereal diseases which is interpreted very strictly, for the "giving advice for self-treatment" is also a punishable offense. The decision is dated 14th October, 1929.

Differences of opinion have even occurred as to whether under the German law a patent can be taken out for contraceptive appliances. If they are considered as medical appliances then, under the German Patent Law, they are excluded from patent protection.

STATEMENTS BY DOCTORS

Dr Grotjahn The doctor should not oppose the use of contraceptive appliances He should prescribe them on medical, eugenic and social grounds after he has acquainted himself with the methods He ought not, as has been done up to now, leave the giving of advice to the people to midwives, social workers, druggists, waiters and barbers

Dr Recke I consider it undesirable that places where advice on marriage is given should concern themselves with birth limitation and instruction on sexual relationships, with contraception and the giving of the appropriate appliances

Dr Goldberg The question whether it is desirable that unmarried women should receive contraceptive advice is not unanimously agreed upon even in medical circles, although it is known that in Germany the expectation of life of the 160,000 illegitimate children born annually is considerably lower than that of legitimate children, that the infant mortality is almost twice as high, that a considerable number of the 4,300 cases of suicide by women which occur annually is due to unwanted pregnancies, that undoubtedly a far larger number than the above of *attempted* suicides takes place, and that thousands of women perish yearly from the consequences of abortion A doctor should give help to those who seek his advice, and should not neglect his duty because of questionable national-political aims The problem of birth control is, from its nature, entirely above party The dread of undesired pregnancy causes neurosis in innumerable unmarried women The regrettable reserve which many doctors show in regard to the hygiene of illicit sexual relationships leads women to bogus sources of information Advice on sex matters is specially necessary to unmarried women, and ought to be given by doctors

* * *

Visionary and dogmatic eugenics, divorced from economic and social concerns is futile, but it is not any more so than short-sighted and unscientific social work, divorced from considerations of size of family and hereditary factors Eugenics and social work can both become more adequate through the achievement of a close entente cordiale Eugenic social work constitutes an essential and neglected phase of any adequate program of social reform

FRANK LORIMER, Eugenics, March, 1930

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