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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

MARRIAGE—An Enduring Institution

By HAVELOCK ELLIS

Eugenics and Birth Control

By F. H. HANKINS

Do Women Want Children?

By GEORGE RYLEY SCOTT

Articles and Book Reviews by

ERNEST R. GROVES NORMAN E. HIMES E. B. REUTER
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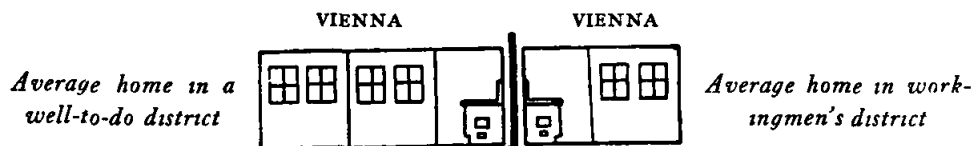
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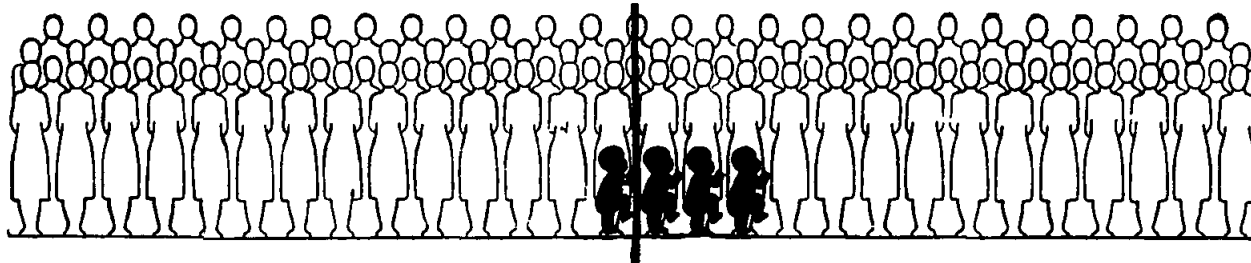
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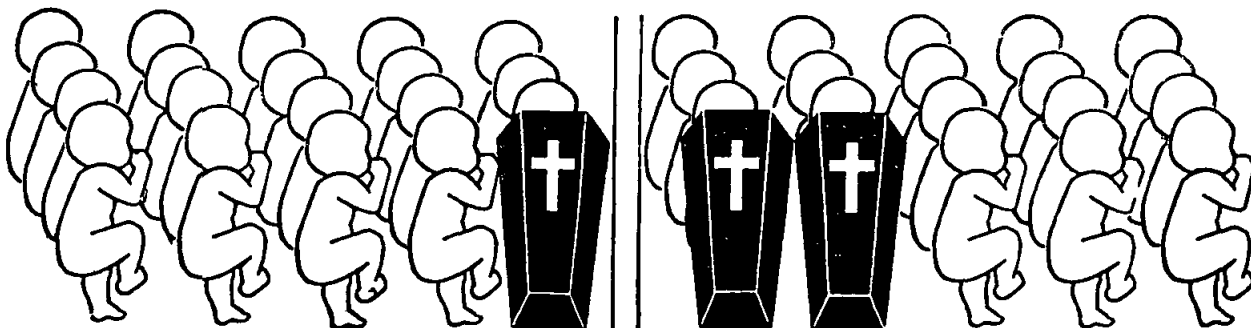
BIRTH RATE



Comparative Birth-rates per 55 women of child-bearing age

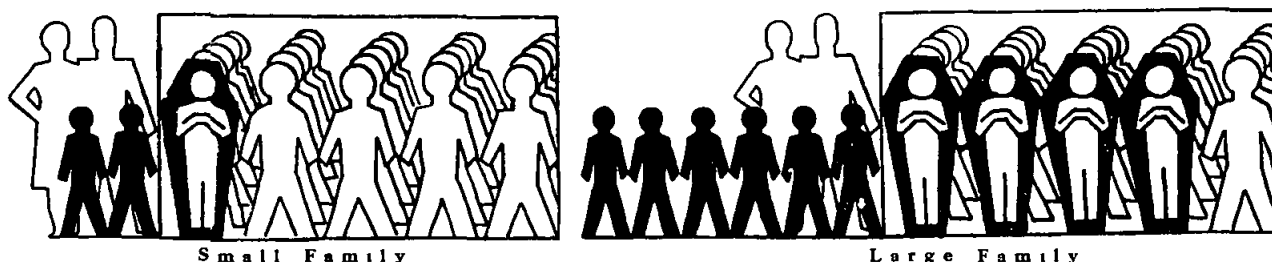


INFANT MORTALITY



Comparative Death-rates per 20 babies under 1 year of age

Infant Mortality in Comparison to the Size of the Family



Small Family

Large Family

DEATH RATES PER 25 CHILDREN

Editorial

THE POINT OF VIEW of a liberal judge and the first use of a jury trial in a custom's case gave added significance to the verdict in favor of Dr Rutger's book *The Sexual Life in its Biological Significance*, handed down by the Federal Court in Seattle on April 28th. This verdict terminates the year-old battle between C. E. Midgard, importer of 120 copies of Rutger's book, aided by the American Civil Liberties Union, against the action of the United States Custom's officials in seizing and libeling the book as obscene. No blanket inference as to the advantages of jury trial can be drawn from this one case, though without jury trial such cases must perforce depend entirely upon the attitude of the presiding judge. In this instance Judge George M. Bourquim's charge to the jury struck a gratifying liberal note. He warned the jury "against judging the book entirely on excerpts read from it," explaining that "it must be passed upon as a whole." "The matter of sex has bothered the human race ever since Adam ate the apple," he continued, "and the public is entitled to knowledge on anything that will be of benefit to mankind." Every liberal verdict removing censorship restrictions from such books as *The Sexual Life* and Marie Stopes' *Married Love* is a step forward in the general field of sex education.

RADIO CENSORSHIP is one form of restriction which directly concerns the birth control movement. The radio is an accepted method of reaching the public, and any curtailment of its use is as serious in kind, if not in degree, as infringements on the right of "free press and free speech." The issue is not clearly drawn. Mrs. F. Robertson Jones gave a talk in April on *Birth Control and the Churches* over WBNX, a small New York station. On the other hand, the Knickerbocker Broadcasting Company recently cancelled a proposed address over Station WMCA, on the life and work of Dr. Marie Stopes by her literary representative, George Bedborough. In rejecting the manuscript the

company notified Mr. Bedborough that the material was "too dangerous." If the radio is committed to a program of giving people wholesome pleasure and helpful information, it must soon formulate a policy which is consistent with its position as one of our important educational institutions.

A STUDY of 69,620 married women of white parentage recently completed by the Milbank Memorial Fund, shows that childless marriages are $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as numerous among professional people in cities, as among farm laborers, that in the city group, 18 per cent of the wives of professional men are childless, 16 per cent of the wives of business men, 15 per cent of the wives of skilled workers, and 14 per cent of the wives of unskilled workers. Assuming a uniform degree of sterility, the figures seem to prove that family limitation is practiced to a disproportionate extent by the so-called upper classes. This is the differential fecundity that makes birth control a dysgenic factor today. But far from being an argument against the spread of the birth control movement, the Milbank survey figures point to a simple solution. More birth control is needed, not less. Without doubt, certain strata of society have the means and initiative to secure birth control information, whatever the restrictions and difficulties. Through clinics and private physicians we must instruct the "under-privileged classes," who are the very ones who need it most.

IN THIS CONNECTION we quote an open letter from the president of the American Birth Control League, addressed to the leading church publications of the country. As Mrs. Jones points out, the people look to the churches for guidance. It is in their power to make this a constructive and eugenic movement.

By its courageous and clearly reasoned report upon birth control, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America has greatly promoted right thinking upon the subject.

But many conscientious, thoughtful men and women still believe that contraception is antisocial, because married couples well qualified for parenthood—intelligent, healthy and financially able to provide for children, are using birth control to limit their children to a small number, while couples unfit for parenthood on account of pauperism or physical or mental incompetence, are not using birth control at all, but are having large families of children, and the resulting unbalanced birth rate is dysgenic.

There is, unfortunately, much truth in this point of view—birth control as now practiced is deleterious in its effect upon the race. The remedy, however, is not *less* birth control, but *better directed* birth control. On the one hand, we must educate couples well fitted for parenthood to use contraception, not to limit their children to one or two (as is now too generally the case), but to space the births of their children, so that they may have a good sized family without injury to the mother's health. On the other hand, we must make birth control practicable for the unfortunate men and women who should not, either for their own good or for that of society, have many children, thus enabling them either to avoid parenthood altogether or to limit their children to a small number.

The positive and negative sides of this program are both important. If humanity is to improve, we must have in each successive generation more well-born children and fewer ill-born. Rightly directed, birth control is the most effective means of race betterment.

The American Birth Control League is working to make birth control eugenic, and we ask the help of the Churches. Is there any surer way to promote the realization of "God's kingdom upon earth" than thus to lay the foundations for a better endowed human race?

All workers in the field of contraception realize the need for a simple and inexpensive technique. This is evidenced by an editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, (April 25). "The difficulty with the present methods of birth control is their failure to meet psychologic, esthetic and economic considerations. Individual initiative is lacking and carelessness is a prominent trait in exactly that portion of society for which birth control is most generally advised."

It is precisely these considerations that have led to new types of experimentation. Thus far the studies have been confined to animal experimentation, and it is impossible at the present time to draw definite conclusions as to their effectiveness in producing temporary or permanent sterility in human beings. One series of experiments has as its purpose the immunization of the female by the inoculation of extracts of sperm. This, in a sense, is an attempt to "vaccinate" against pregnancy for a temporary period. Although the technique used and the results reported by investigators vary, the conclusions drawn on the basis of animal inoculations are definitely encouraging. A second group of workers have attempted to prevent conception by feeding animals with a diet of vitamin E. The third group is interested in the effects of the isolated female sex hormone on conception and pregnancy. It seems very probable that in the near future a method of preventing pregnancy in human beings either by immunization or the use of the isolated sex hormones will be perfected. One cannot overemphasize the tremendous contribution that such a method will be to medical science.

E M M

ONE OF THE RESULTS of the increasing interest in birth control is the stimulus given to scientific research in contraception. Although scientists have long been concerned with practical methods of contraception, it is only within comparatively recent years that reports have been published of extensive research in this field. There is undoubtedly a direct connection between the changed attitude, not only of the physician, but of society as a whole, and the increase in scientific re-

MOTHERS' DAY has focused public attention on the fact that our maternal mortality rate of 16,000 per year is the highest in the civilized world. It was pointed out that two-thirds of these deaths are preventable, that adequate care could save 10,000 mothers each year. Contraceptive advice is part of this care and should no longer be denied to the mothers of America.

Marriage—An Enduring Institution

By HAVELOCK ELLIS

THE decay of the family has long been a favorite theme of social alarmists * Looking back on the conventions which in their own early days were held to be sacred, whether or not they were actually observed, elderly people exclaim on the "bankruptcy" of those marriage conventions today and the consequent dissolution of home life

In a sense they are completely justified The conventions they were brought up in are really changing, marriage is not the same thing as it was in their early days, the new home is certainly different from the old It is true It has, indeed, been more or less true ever since social life began Yet, under all modifications, there has always been some form of marriage, and the home in some shape has still persisted

It is, therefore, only the shallow and the ignorant who can mistake the changes that take place in their own little day and environment for the obliteration of great landmarks—that is when we have put aside those well-meaning people who like to play with the idea of the "bankruptcy of marriage" in order to startle their fellows into a more lively concern with social problems As a matter of fact, it is necessary to take a wide view of human history, such as may be gained from Westermarck's *History of Human Marriage* or Briffault's *The Mothers*—I purposely choose two works widely opposed in their temper and conclusions—in order to realize that the family and the home, even under the most divergent social conditions that we can well conceive to be possible for Man, have still persisted

We may go further still It is not only a truth for the human species that marriage is omnipresent, it is even a general rule among the higher mammals This is not only so, as far as our imperfect knowledge extends, among the closely related anthropoid apes, it is so among the superior quadrupeds, the elephants lead a conventional life of the type familiar among ourselves—of which, with its related education of the young, adventurous camera-hunters are now revealing the details—while

among birds who are phylogenetically so remote from ourselves, the resemblances are often still closer It is vain for even the most conservative of human beings to lament the failure of marriage, it is futile for even the most light-hearted of radicals to hope to get beyond it The family is at the root of our bisexual constitution

"The abolition of marriage in the form now practiced," wrote Godwin, "will be attended with no evils It really happens in this, as in other cases, that the positive laws which are made to restrain our vices irritate and multiply them" It is more than a century since those wise words were spoken But the great pioneer who uttered them exerted no influence on legislation, and their truth has now had time to be illustrated by thousands of prohibition laws against all sorts of real or imaginary vices

There are at least three tendencies which we may term biological, common to Man and the animals immediately below Man, which constitute for the family foundations we cannot conceive as being overthrown (1) the impulse of sexual attraction which leads to mating, (2) the tendency to close comradeship, even apart from the sex of the comrade, within the herd or community, (3) the instinctive impulse of mates to care for their offspring

Yet it is true that the new social factors, developed during the life-time even of those of us still of middle age, are causing a greater modification in the conventions of marriage and the home than we can easily find traces of in our past history

The ever increasing approach to social and industrial equality of the sexes, the steady rise and extension of the divorce movement, the changed conceptions of the morality of sexual relationships, the spread of contraception,—all these influences are real, probably permanent, and they have never been found at work before in combination, seldom even separately Not one of them, however, when examined with care, bears within it any necessary seeds of destruction On the contrary, they are adapted to purify and fortify, rather than to weaken, the institution of the family, to enable it

*From the Proceedings of the World League for Sexual Reform, Fourth Congress, September, 1930 Excerpt from a forthcoming volume, *More Essays of Love and Virtue*

to work more vigorously and effectively rather than to impair its functions as what has been termed "the unit of civilization." It is true that the younger women of today are often dissatisfied with marriage, but that attitude is a belated recognition that they are entitled to satisfaction, and we may accept it as wholesome. The greater economic independence of women assists them in the task of sexual selection, and is found to be conducive to marriage, though it is also favorable to divorce when marriage is disrupted.

DESPITE CHANGES THE FAMILY PERSISTS

The greater facility of divorce aids the formation of the most satisfactory union. A greater freedom between the sexes before marriage, even if it has sometimes led to license, is not only itself beneficial, but the proper method of preparing for a more intimate permanent union. And the exercise of contraceptive control is the indispensable method of selecting the best possibilities of offspring and excluding from the world those who ought never to be born. As a matter of fact, marriage, so far from dying out, tends in various countries of the West to increase in frequency. Even the Great War, which was expected to make marriage more difficult for women, had no such effect, thus in England, in 1921, out of every 1000 women over fifteen years of age 520 were married, though ten years earlier (1911) only 506 were married. While as regards the production of children through the agency of the family, the danger that faces Western civilization to-day is not of a deficient production but of an enormous excess. So that, whatever changes of form it may undergo, we clearly have to reckon with the persistence of the family, whether that is a prospect which causes our hearts to sink or whether it fills us with satisfaction.

We might reach the same conclusion even without any close examination of the sociological data of to-day. It is enough to survey the fundamental biological facts on which all human or other societies must rest, or to glance at the history of marriage and the family from the earliest period at which our knowledge begins.

Not that that may be easy. We find many people doing it, with an air of the greatest self-confidence, and reaching exactly opposite conclusions, or, at all events, conclusions that seem to themselves to be opposite. On the one hand are those who start from promiscuity and regard the clan and the

mother (with perhaps her brother thrown in) as the most solid facts of the primitive situation. On the other hand are those who, in extreme reaction from that view, put the biological fact in the foreground and are inclined to discount any modification of it by cultural influences, so that the human family continues from the point reached by the animal, in father, mother, and offspring.

To-day it is perhaps possible to see that both these views have elements of truth, but that either of them is wrongly held if it is believed to exclude elements of the opposite view. That is the standpoint which I have myself for many years tried to indicate as probably the most correct, though I could not feel that I had the right to do so emphatically. Now I am more prepared to do so in light of the conclusions which have been reached by one who is perhaps, to-day, second to none as a profound investigator of these problems and an intimate student of the sex life of savages as it at present is carried on. Dr. Malinowski sees the elements of soundness and truth in each of the two hitherto rival doctrines, which have flourished side by side during the past century, and, except when they are stated in an extreme form, he denies that they are contradictory. They both present aspects of the big procreative institution of mankind, biological or animal marriage is the core, but it is capable of more or less transformation into culturally socialized forms. What mainly concerns us here to observe is that, whatever view of the family we adopt, we are still constrained to admit that, under all changes of form, it has always persisted, so that its existence may even be said to be woven into the texture of the species.

VARIATIONS IN FAMILY PATTERN

It has too often been forgotten that the family possesses this many-sided flexibility and has in different ages and lands shown endless variations of shape in adjustment to varying social conditions. Those who overlooked this essential fact have frequently cried out in rebellion against the whole conception of the family. Because they themselves chanced to come out of an unhappy family life—though the excellent qualities they have notwithstanding often displayed go far to show that even an unhappy family life may have happy results—they impetuously demand the complete abolition of the family. An anonymous German correspondent, who opposes my acceptance of the family as a suitable home for the young, and refers to the

certainly deplorable fact (to be matched also in other countries) that in all Germany and Austria during the last sixteen years only four Schools for Mothers have been founded or planned, has lately sent me a long and imposing series of quotations from eminent writers, ancient and modern, denouncing the family I quote a few at random "I reject family education altogether, public education is better" (*Fichte*), "Give me other mothers and I will give you another world" (*St Augustine*), "Of ten blows which a child receives nine are from its mother" (*T Hippel*), "Maternal love easily becomes pernicious, an animal affection, overlooking, forgiving, and sparing all the child's faults, immensely injuring the child itself, and imparting at the outset the germ of future illusions in life" (*Forel*), "Many women wish to abolish war, but these very same women, in the sphere of education, cannot give up those methods of force which call out rough passions and unworthy ideas of right, and are the counterpart of war" (*Ellen Key*), "Babies need better education than the individual mother gives them" (*Mrs Perkins Gilman*), "Poor child! Your father is tied to his office, your mother is vexed to-day, to-morrow she has a visitor, the day after, her moods" (*Pestalozzi*), "The family, the Hell of the child, the home of all social vices!" (*Strindberg*), "If punishment of the criminal is justified we must first ask How did he become a criminal? What was his mother like?" (*Brockhaus's Hours with Bismarck*)

Such outbursts have their significance They show us that an institution, however fundamental, will not fit everyone and that not all are worthy of the privilege it offers They clearly indicate that those who are not fitted, by nature or by training, for marriage and parenthood, would be well advised to follow some other career They are a warning that every institution must perpetually grow and change, if it is not to prove pernicious Above all, they impress on us how deeply founded an institution must be, which can evoke such hearty condemnation even from the most eminent personages without in the slightest degree endangering its stability

These traditions in the matter of the procreation of the race—we may repeat at the end what I said at the beginning—take the form generally termed *marriage* It is a form which from the first has been constantly varying its shape, but its most frequent shape has throughout been that of father, mother, and child, all three units,

as well as the community to which they belong, have generally found it suits them well to continue through the early life of the child, while even when the offspring is able to take care of itself the two parents have frequently found it to be their own comfort and joy to continue living together Here we have, in a fairly permanent form, marriage, even if by no means necessarily indissoluble, the family, and the home, even if by no means hermetically closed

All these related institutions—marriage, the family, the home—have been in recent years, as we know, the subject of fierce and brilliant attack As I write there comes into my hand a little book by Dr Eden Paul (*Chronos, or the Future of the Family*), containing much with which all may heartily agree, where I find it stated that "it is almost a commonplace to say that such an institution as the family is not necessarily a permanent part of human social life," and that soon "marriage in the present meaning of the word as the foundation of family life will have ceased to exist"

THE RUSSIAN EXPERIMENT

I will not again repeat that the variations, ancient or modern, in marriage, the family, or the home, do not in the slightest degree indicate any destruction of those institutions, that the very conditions which Dr Eden Paul and others regard as disrupting and undermining marriage and the family are really calculated to support and stabilize both, and that, as a matter of fact, so far from any decay of marriage being visible, all precise and reliable evidence points in the opposite direction

We may observe the progress now being made in the renovation of marriage and the family if we note what is taking place in Soviet Russia, where we find a social laboratory immensely instructive for our civilization to-day No doubt there are political and economic matters for which most people of the West would regard Russia as the last place to seek inspiration But that aversion cannot be brought into action where social matters are concerned Here, in the opinion of the most competent judges from other lands—those whose knowledge of the language and familiarity with the corresponding institutions of other countries best entitles them to speak—much has been attained that the rest of the world is still only striving to attain The progress reached is along our lines but it has gone ahead of us There has been an erroneous idea

abroad in the world that the Bolsheviks believe in sexual intemperance and promiscuity in sex relations, an idea no doubt based on the chaos which inevitably resulted at first when the new regime was so suddenly inaugurated. That disorder much distressed Lenin himself, who was entirely opposed to promiscuity and all merely physical indulgence, and held that the highest human elements entered the love-relationship. It is Lenin's doctrine which now permeates Soviet society. This doctrine, maintained by the young men and women of Russia to-day, Dr Yarros describes as "sincerely idealistic." Indeed, one might add that, so far from there being, as some people imagine, too little idealism in Russia today, there is probably too much, and of too fanatical a sort, more, for instance, than is now frequently manifested, as regards sex relationships, in America. The Bolsheviks, as "social idealists," tend to minimize sex, as an important part of life indeed but still only a part. There is complete facility of divorce, but, as in the countries of the West where divorce most tends to prevail, that is a purifying rather than a corrupting influence on marriage, and in Russia the majority of people still prefer the formal civil union to the freer relationships which also are recognized, nor is any effort made to separate children from their parents. It is felt that in the past the family has been too much an enclosed unit, but that is what so many of us are feeling also in the West. Dr Reynolds similarly could see no evidence of any break-up of the family as a permanent institution in Russia, though, on account of the housing difficulty, a certain amount of communal family life exists, while there is immense development of the hygienic, educational, and recreational elements. Among the peasantry the new laws have had little effect at all on the stability of marriage. Thus on the most advanced practical side the marriage situation to-day presents an aspect harmonious with that which it has long presented in the West on its more theoretical side.

Among the writers of to-day who have most broadly and most judiciously approached these questions it is easy to find a recognition of that aspect. Thus Walter Lippmann in a lucidly written book which has found a wide and appreciative audi-

ence, *A Preface to Morals*, while considering that the difficulty of a successful marriage in the modern world has been doubled, and that in the future there will be no compulsion on sexual unions except the inner compulsion to find a true adjustment, still holds that "the convention of marriage, when it is clarified by insight into reality, is likely to be the hypothesis upon which men and women will ordinarily proceed." From a very different standpoint, that of a Freudian psychoanalyst of the more cautious and balanced sort, Flugel in *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Family*, concludes that not only are marriage institutions so deeply rooted in Man's nature as to be essential, but that, in spite of their rather archaic character, "it is almost certain that they still perform a necessary and beneficial part in the process of psychical development—a part for which no adequate substitute could easily be found."

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MARRIAGE ARE SOLID

Flugel, it may be seen, would agree with those students of early institutions who regard marriage, whatever its various forms, as "archaic." The investigators who maintain the view that marriage is somehow less primitive in origin, are even more convinced of its immense present and future importance. Thus F. Muller-Lyer, who held that the clan so dominated primitive man that the family, though existent, was unimportant, and sexual relationships polygamous, yet proclaimed (in his *Phasen der Liebe*, translated under the title of *The Evolution of Modern Marriage*) a great future for sexual unions when men and women can face each other in equal economic independence and all motives for marriages have fallen into the background, with the exception of love, which "will be more and more the only determining motive that can induce a man and woman to deny their freedom and bind themselves permanently to one another." We may not regard love as the self-sufficient motive for marriage in so far as marriage involves procreation. Yet if the foundation of marriage seems so solid, even to one who regards it as a denial of freedom and a bondage, how much more for those who find in it no such denial and no such bondage!

Science begets knowledge, opinion ignorance

HIPPOCRATES

The Interdependence of Eugenics and Birth Control

By F H HANKINS

THE idea of controlling population in either its quantitative or qualitative aspects is comparatively recent. Malthus gave a very pessimistic view of humanity's future because he did not envisage the possibility of controlling population increase. Francis Place and his confreres held a more optimistic outlook, but their agitation seems to have been almost wholly nullified by the general mysticism of the day and the rapid growth of British industrialism. A generation or more later Greg and Galton, inspired by Darwinian findings, glimpsed the possibility of improving the hereditary quality of the race by selection for marriage and parenthood. It must be said, however, that the period from 1865 to 1931 has produced little in the way of tangible and positive eugenic results. The eugenics viewpoint has been assiduously cultivated by many able minds and is slowly but surely entering into the public consciousness. Sooner or later it may become one of the primary postulates of the mores relating to race perpetuation.

The practical results of the eugenics movement, however, seem limited to a few laws relating to sterilization or segregation of defectives, and spasmodic and ineffective efforts of the state and some religious bodies to prevent the marriage of certain individuals. Meanwhile there has been a rapidly growing mass of evidence that present tendencies in racial reproduction are dysgenic. The phenomenon is general throughout the Western world and the reason is everywhere the same. Neo-Malthusianism has outrun eugenics. The idea of controlling the size of the family has sunk more deeply into popular mores than has the idea of controlling the quality. Could anything make clearer the complete interdependence of the two phases of population control? It is suicidal to control quantity with no regard for quality, that way lies racial degeneration and social decay. On the other hand, it is impossible to control quality without controlling the rates of multiplication of the various stocks in the population. In the last analysis there is no way to control quality. Practical eugenics and selective rates of reproduction are synonymous, when such

selection gives preference to better strains. Birth control might thus become not only the most effective but the essential instrument of eugenic policy. The present dysgenic tendencies are primarily due to the relatively high rate of multiplication among those who as yet have no effective means of birth control. And, since family limitation has become an ineradicable part of popular custom, the only way to turn dysgenic reproduction into eugenic is to alter the incidence of birth control.

In times past certain eugenic enthusiasts have indulged in the absurd fantasy that we should soon be breeding strains of musicians, mathematicians and inventors, and even of moronic robots. Even were that possible we should have to regulate the supply of each. But such notions have yielded to the more sober realization that eugenic policies must, for a long time, be of a broad, general character applicable to the population at large. Here again birth control appears as the most effective instrument. At the present juncture of affairs, at any rate, the most effective eugenic measure before Western nations would seem to be the spread of contraceptive knowledge to those classes that have been least successful in the struggle for existence.

EUGENICS AND BIRTH CONTROL HAVE COMMON OBJECTIVE

There is urgent need, therefore, for consolidation of effort between the advocates of eugenics and of birth control. If the dysgenic effects of present reproduction are half as great as some students of eugenics believe, such consolidation ought to have occurred two generations ago. In the nature of the case this would have been difficult. The birth control movement has been deeply charged with emotion from the first. On the one hand, by touching sex relations intimately, it seemed to threaten traditional morality, on the other hand, it was moved by strong humanitarian desires to remedy poverty and vice and to free women from an often cruel fate. Moreover, birth control had at hand more or less effective and immediately applicable remedies

Eugenics, by contrast, has had to deal with vastly more complex problems. Not only has it needed more knowledge, but equally with birth control it has had to overcome immense prejudices. Many of its advocates have vaguely dreamed of its becoming a feature of popular religion at the very time that differential birth-rates were strengthening the religious forces violently opposed to their doctrines. Eugenics leaders have, perhaps, saved their dignity for the time being, but they have thus far led a losing cause and may, if children of the parochial schools continue to obey their mentors, lose even the opportunity of free and untrammelled research.

Whether we like it or not, eugenicists and birth-controllers are intimately bound together by a necessity inherent in the processes of population renewal. Moreover, and this is frequently overlooked, both seek to apply scientific knowledge to human reproduction. Back of both are research activities which necessarily have large zones of common interest, for example, researches on fertility and sterility, on maternal health, on differential multiplication, etc. The view seems to prevail that eugenic research deals almost exclusively with the inheritance of human traits. In that case it is one phase of human biology and, as pure research, is indistinguishable therefrom. But eugenics is, if one may take Galton for authority, much broader. It is in last analysis applied social science, or, if one prefer, the application through social policy and public opinion of some of the findings of human biology. When he coined the term, Gal-

ton said "We greatly want a brief word to express the science of improving stock, which is by no means confined to questions of judicious mating, but which, especially in the case of man, takes cognizance of all influences that tend in however remote a degree to give to the more suitable races or strains of blood a chance of prevailing speedily over the less suitable than they otherwise would have had. The word *eugenics* would sufficiently express the idea" (*Inquiries Into Human Faculty*). One may agree that more knowledge of human heredity is a primary desideratum of the eugenics movement, but in the light of this quotation one may also assert that the science and art of effective propaganda are essential parts of the same movement. One may even affirm that eugenic research might very well include study of how most quickly and effectively to overcome the opposition of religious intolerance and wilful ignorance. Eugenics, being an applied science, cannot be said to have become truly scientific until it has learned how to make itself effective.

If the foregoing viewpoint is sound, it should be evident that in the ultimate science and art of population control eugenics will include birth control. The latter is really one of the techniques of the former. Moreover, those of us who feel that, from the standpoint of the future of civilization, as distinguished from the solution of pressing individual problems, eugenics is vastly more important than the control of the numbers of the population must welcome every sign of rapprochement between the two hitherto unfortunately separate movements.

Quality Not Numbers Makes a Country Great

A NEW generation is growing up in nearly every country convinced of the morality, desirability, and social value of birth control. No movement ever went forward with more persistent sureness, but none ever encountered such a reluctance to sanction in the law and in current ideology what is increasingly becoming social practice.

An interesting illustration of this is found in the latest population statistics of Great Britain, a country where birth control has ceased to meet with much public disapproval, and where birth control methods are freely described in literature sold on any city street. Birth control has brought, as everyone knows, a decrease in births, but a still larger decrease in infant mortality.

With employment at a low ebb, with the need of restricted populations evident as never before for a dozen reasons of economics, peace, health, and general social well-being, the sanity of birth control is amply clear. But what happens when such figures are made public? It is the same in England as in France, Germany, the United States, or anywhere else. The papers print scare headlines "Figures the Worst Since the War", "Birth Control Bringing Great Britain Perilously Near a Stationary Population". Not yet can men shake off the bonds of tradition and come alive. Not yet can they fully see that quality, not numbers, makes a country or a people great.

The World Tomorrow, March

Do Women Want Children?

By GEORGE RYLEY SCOTT

IT SEEMS TO ME that the contention put forward by so many ardent birth control propagandists that modern women are anxious to have children but refrain from exercising what is fallaciously termed "the maternal instinct" because they are unable to afford so expensive a luxury, is a dangerously misleading hypothesis. Admittedly the evidence one way or the other is scanty, difficult to unearth, and when unearthed is of a decidedly shaky nature. But such facts as are available, when considered in conjunction with human nature, lead me to hold the opinion that there is a strong *prima facie* case in favor of the hypothesis that, quite apart from any such factor as expense, women in the tremendous main definitely do not want babies.

If the truth could be got at, I very much question whether women have ever been as keen on child-bearing as they have given out to be. Years ago, when no efforts—or at most crude and sporadic experiments—were made to avoid what was considered to be woman's destiny, when Christianity, with its censorious anti-birth control attitude, was all-powerful, and when, in addition, children were looked upon by the male partner, at any rate, as desirable and profitable products of the marital union, the matter was on an entirely different footing. Woman accepted the bearing of children as a natural concomitant of the married state, and however much, after her initial experience of pregnancy, she may have dreaded a repetition of the pains, discomforts and even dangers connected with it, she realized the futility of protest or of any attempt at rebellion. And, I fancy, in many instances, she publicly hailed the coming of yet another addition to the family with her tongue very thoroughly in her cheek! Those who made no such simulation of joy carefully avoided showing any signs of dismay. Even today, despite the fact that contraception is almost universally practised, few care to avow any acquaintance with birth control technique. Woman's mental and psychological developments are

not keeping pace with the economic, social and scientific developments that affect her environment. This is a point of great significance and I contend it is a point that is almost universally overlooked.

Largely because of this any statements made by individual women as to their reasons for avoiding or restricting child-birth (where any such admissions are made) must not be taken too literally. It is still felt by the majority—who, as I say, have not made the mental adjustments necessary to enable them to claim sanely that this matter of avoiding or indulging in child-birth is a purely private affair—that the childless married woman owes to society an apologetic explanation, hence the implication that her love of children has to be sacrificed because her husband cannot afford to rear them or because they would interfere with her own career. Largely, such talk is pure nonsense. For every single case where it holds good, there are 999 where it is a lie, deliberately given to the world in consequence of this deep-rooted, fundamental, sneaking fear that has been drilled into man and woman through Christianity's concept of sexual intercourse for any purpose other than the propagation of children, being a sin.

Already, however, to the close observer there are indications of a change in this attitude. A few of the younger members of the advanced set are beginning to admit, boldly and without any circumlocution, that they do not intend to bring children into the world. My point is that *what these few have the courage to say, most women are thinking*. Another decade will, unless I am very far wrong, see a tremendous increase in the number who will admit that any children that happen to be born to them will be accidents, another decade will similarly establish the truth of my contention that women are not so much concerned with limiting their pregnancies in accordance with their economical conditions as in preventing the birth of *any* children.

I admit the sincerity behind the cry of the birth

DR SCOTT, well-known English author, believes that women do not want children. This is a provocative point of view with which many of our readers will doubtless disagree. A writer who believes that women do want children will contribute an article for the July issue. We invite readers of the REVIEW to express their opinions on this subject.

controllers and eugenists for "better children and not necessarily fewer children," but I am confident it is not in the thoughts of the majority who practice contraception. You cannot give people the means to avoid conception without running the risk of them adopting these measures to such an extent as to end by having no children at all.

The fact that those who practise birth control often have one or more children provides no evidence of an itch for parentage. Even when supplemented with cries of glee at the advent of the baby, the evidential value still remains negligible. Queerly enough, just as few men or women will admit that they employ birth control devices, fewer still will admit that they have used any such devices and failed. Thus the vast proportion of the children born today do not necessarily present evidence of any desire for "few and better children" they merely present unimpeachable evidence that birth control technique is still faulty.

The trend of modern civilization is to destroy the need for children so far as the individual family is concerned. The need of the State is entirely another

matter. Because the State's need is directly antagonistic to the individual's need, and the individual happens to have in his hand the trump card, it is only a question of contraceptive technique reaching perfection for the birth-rate to cease altogether. Society may decide that more children are essential, but society is powerless if no individual member of that society is disposed to shoulder the burden.

Although holding most firmly these views, let me stress the fact that I am indisputably in favor of the dissemination of birth control knowledge. "Birth control resolves itself into a problem for individual solution. Every married couple have the right to decide for themselves whether or not they shall practice contraception." I wrote these words in my book, *The Truth About Birth Control*, I stick to them through thick and thin. To those obsessed with the fear of "race suicide" let me say that when the time comes, as indubitably it will come, that babies are becoming startlingly rare, the State will be compelled to subsidize child-birth—the one solution if civilization is to endure.

Crime and Birth Control

By NORMAN E. HIMES

FIVE HUNDRED CRIMINAL CAREERS, by Sheldon Glueck, now professor of criminology at Harvard Law School, and by his wife, Eleanor T. Glueck, is undoubtedly the most important single treatise on criminology, judging it as a contribution to knowledge, published in many a year. Moreover, this achievement is not likely to be equalled for some time to come. As a result of admirable statistical analysis, and the most thorough follow-up yet attempted of the post-parole careers of criminals, the authors have been able to show that out of the 510 men who left the Massachusetts Reformatory at Concord during the years 1911-22, eighty per cent were *not* reformed five to fifteen years later, but continued their habitual life of crime. Previous studies, and the official reports of parole boards, had claimed just the reverse,—that eighty per cent of the inmates of reformatories

were reformed. The Gluecks' study casts grave suspicion on the accuracy of a widely held view. As Dr. Richard Cabot says in his brilliant and readable Foreword, this is "a damning piece of evidence" not against the reformatory in particular—for the Concord Reformatory is among the most progressive in the world—but against our whole system of handling crime.

The survey, which required three years of co-operative labor to complete, and which cost \$11,000, furnished by the Milton Fund of Harvard University, would be cheap at double or treble the price. It is an illuminating example of what can be accomplished on a social science research project when it is amply financed and well-guided.

What sort of person is the average inmate? "He is already a criminal, and comes usually from a family containing other criminals, a large, illiterate, and impoverished family living in a congested city area. He is American born, of foreign parentage. In sixty per cent of cases he comes from a broken home. In eighty per cent of cases he leaves that

*500 Criminal Careers, by Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor T. Glueck. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$5.00.
Social Control of the Mentally Deficient, by Stanley Powell Davies. Thomas Y. Crowell, New York. \$3.00.

home before he is eighteen and begins to wander from place to place, working irregularly for short periods at unskilled, low-paid jobs, which he has left school at fourteen or fifteen to pick up. By his sixteenth year his delinquencies have begun. *These 510 boys had been arrested 1944 times—nearly four times each—before they were sent to the Reformatory.*"

The group had been sentenced for almost every type of crime, but nine-tenths of them were committed for major or serious offenses, chiefly for crimes against property. One-third of the men were of normal mentality, one-half being dull or borderline, and twenty-one per cent feeble-minded. Among Massachusetts school children, by contrast, seventy-nine per cent have been found to be normal or super-normal in intelligence, twenty per cent dull or borderline, and one and one-half per cent feeble-minded. The typical length of stay in the institution was from 12 to 15 months. After leaving the institution on parole, half of the men were failures. Sixty per cent of the parolees held their first job for periods of one month or less, if at all.

A NEW PAROLE PRINCIPLE

Perhaps the most significant contributions of the volume are (1) the study of the post-parole careers of these men, (2) the development of principles for the construction of prognostic tables so that a judge may, when faced with disposing of a case convicted of a new offense, determine the likelihood that the man before him will profit by recommitment to the reformatory. If not, it may be well for the judge to arrange for a more permanent type of incarceration. Likewise, parole boards will, by operating on the principles here laid down for the first time in criminological literature, be better able to decide on the probable parole success of a candidate for parole. Here is scientific method. The Gluecks have gone a long way to advance criminology, to make it a most positive social science. Heretofore criminology had been unduly comparable to the freethinkers' conception of religion—the positive science of the Unknown and Unknowable.

Speaking of the best methods of treatment, Cabot, following Menninger, asks "Shall we have Vengeance or Vision?" If by vengeance we mean unnecessary and ineffective cruelty, if by vision, we mean diagnosis (which, alone, is insufficient), or maudlin sentimentality or even just excessive experimentation the answer is No. What is required is neither Vengeance nor Vision, but Verification—

an index to the reformability of the material dealt with. In showing the need for and method of verification, in opening up new approaches to the attainment of predictability, this monograph is a signal achievement.

Certain weaknesses stand out clearly. It is regrettable that more work was not done on the heredity of these 510 men. Even if a reliable index of reformability can be worked out in the absence of more knowledge of the heredity of such groups—which is open to some doubt—such data would have been valuable in themselves. Moreover, the procedure followed in the study was based largely upon a thesis the book refutes. The dominance of environment in the etiology and persistence of criminal conduct. These men are constitutionally a bad lot, changed environment made hardly a dent in reforming them. This being the case one might have supposed that the authors would have looked elsewhere for explanatory factors. Richard Cabot says in his introduction:

I am not at all sure that the men studied in this book could have been reformed by any methods now known, no matter how much money and intelligence were spent on them. Perhaps this type of crime is a symptom of a self-limited disease of personality, which cannot be checked by any remedies yet found. I doubt whether any improvements which could now be suggested there [at the reformatory] would result in reforming the type of habitual offender who is now sent there from the courts of Massachusetts. Either he must be prevented (if anyone can do it), or he must be kept indefinitely in confinement, or he must be turned loose—as he is now—to continue his life of crime until he gets tired of it.

Either he must be prevented, if anyone can do it! Does Professor Cabot seriously mean to contend that if the parents of these criminals had had reliable contraceptive information, that fewer of them would not have been born? Does he mean to argue that, if these young men were sterilized, the future contribution of their bad stock would not be reduced? If he does, we cannot think highly either of his knowledge or his judgment. If he means that sterilizing bad stock will not cut off all future defect, he is on sound ground, but he seems rather to infer that controlling fertility is socially a useless procedure. He trots out an old fallacy and parades it as if it were erudition, saying that because we cannot cut off *all* racial defect in one swoop in the present generation, presumably we should do nothing.

Of the scores of detailed suggestions offered by the Gluecks for improving our methods of handling crime, one finds conspicuously absent from the list of remedies both contraception and sterilization. Surely there is lack of perspective and courage here. My guess is that the Gluecks are thorough believers in birth control, why then so little evidence of it when the treatment so evidently demands it. In these respects *500 Criminal Careers* falls short of being the book it might have been.

Davies' *Social Control of the Mentally Deficient*, unlike the Gluecks' treatise, makes no pretense to originality of treatment or findings. It is a revised edition of a textbook, perhaps the best in its field.

It is balanced and readable, the product of an author who has observed for many years the shifting emphasis in diagnosis and treatment of mental subnormals. It traces methods of treatment historically, though most of the space is given to current methods of treatment. The greatest weakness of the book is in its excessively environmentalistic approach. The chapter on "Eugenic Alarms" will, I predict, be read with amusement a few decades hence. Birth control is not even in the index. The discussion of sterilization is foggy-minded and insufficiently critical of objections. The book will please social workers and make demographers with eugenic and socio-biological leanings impatient.

Marital Advice Bureaus — The Next Step

By EMILY B. H. MUDD

A STUDY of cases handled in the Philadelphia Maternal Health Center and in several of the newer Birth Control Clinics show that the average age of the women whom we are treating as patients is between thirty and forty, the average number of children about five, the average income inadequate to support the already existing family. Generally some public health or charitable agency has been called in to help.

Contrast this with the situation among our friends. For the past eight years young men and women between twenty and thirty years of age have been coming to my husband and to me asking for information and advice on general problems of sex education, marital relationship and contraception. What happens to them? We readily refer them to excellent books written in a scientific spirit, to fine physicians who are eager to help them in their private offices, and, in many cities, to well-run birth control clinics. What use does this group make of the information given to them? Many have happy homes, two, three, and in some cases five or six "spaced" children, good health and at least a certain degree of security in their married life.

The difference in the ages of the women in these two groups is striking. Those who come to us personally are between twenty and thirty, those who come as clinic patients are, in the majority of cases, between thirty and forty.

Enough cannot be said for the importance of arresting the further dependency of such families

as come to our clinics, and of helping them to get back on their own feet. Now that the giving of contraceptive advice is a procedure accepted by many social service and public health agencies, and by an increasing number of private physicians, may we not go a step further and help to educate these women when they first think of getting married? May we not make information on sex hygiene, marital relationships and contraception as easily available through literature and contacts with cooperative physicians, nurses, and social workers to the young men and women of the less privileged group as we now do to practically all of the young men and women of the more privileged groups?

May we not look hopefully to the establishment of Marital Advice Bureaus in our cities in the near future, as branches of our Maternal Health Centers, or as separate bureaus run by existing agencies already interested in family welfare? The policy of accepting men and women about to be married, when properly referred, was adopted in December, 1930, by the Cleveland Maternal Health Association. Separate bureaus for marital advice have been established in Germany in private and municipal centers, and this scheme is at present being studied in detail by an American foundation.

Is not this the next step ahead in helping to make wifehood and motherhood as worthwhile and happy a venture as our present state of scientific knowledge makes possible?

—Excerpt from an address at the Pennsylvania Birth Control League Conference, Philadelphia, March, '31

Birth Control in Japan

Solution of Overpopulation

*A Review of "Japan's Economic Position"**

By E B REUTER

THERE is much ignorance and misinformation in regard to Japan and the Japanese people. Both factors are systematically capitalized by those individuals and those interests that profit through the maintenance of a powerful army and navy. To maintain a patriotic mob-mindedness that will keep the population willing to furnish unlimited money for an unnecessary military preparedness, there must be a bogey of national proportions. In the present decade that bogey is Japan. She is the "Yellow Peril" that is thought to threaten the peace and security of the Western world. Alone, or as the leader of Asian hordes, she is believed to be preparing and all but prepared to attack American defenses, overrun her territory, destroy her people, and Orientalize her culture. In other cases this "Yellow Peril" is transformed into an industrial bogey. Japan is pictured as a real or potential threat to Western commerce and industry and protection is sought in tariffs and such like medieval political hocus pocus.

That Japan is neither a military nor an industrial danger to the Western world is a well-known fact. The "Yellow Peril" is a propagandistic euphuism. It is a useful tool with which to arouse popular fears and manipulate public sentiment, but it has exactly the same type of reality as the ghost of Banquo at the feast of Macbeth. It exists in the minds of those who conjure it up, not in the world of external reality.

Japan is, of course, grossly and brutally overpopulated. Agriculture is the basic occupation and the density of population in the arable areas is about 2,500 persons to the square mile. The population has doubled in the past three-quarters of a century and the saturation point is about reached.

Relief for the population pressure is not to be found in the intensification of agriculture. Where the agricultural population on the arable land is already 1,300 to 1,400 per square mile, there is little hope of making the land support still more people. The amount of unused land that may be

reclaimed is very limited and not much increase of population can be supported in that way. Improvement in farm methods cannot much increase production, the land is already made to produce near its capacity. The mechanization of agriculture is more likely to react to the injury than to the welfare of Japan, the areas of the world of relatively sparse population, where farming operations can be carried on in an extensive way, are those most likely to profit by use of power and machinery in agricultural production. Relief through a change of diet is not a probability, the rice diet of the Japanese is already pretty close to the cost minimum for the support of human beings. Relief through immigration is not a possible solution and the Japanese themselves do not look upon it as such. There are few lands in the world open to an unlimited colonization. Emigration at best can absorb but a very limited fraction of the annual increase.

In the book, *Japan's Economic Position*, attention is given chiefly to a consideration of Japanese industrialization. But relief from population pressure is not to be found in this direction. The volume incidentally demonstrates this fact beyond the possibility of doubt. Japan is not an industrial nation in the American and English sense, though industrialization has been encouraged and subsidized for three-quarters of a century.

In any war with a major power the Japanese realize that they would lose. But win or lose, such a war would mean financial ruin. This the Japanese leaders know as do the intelligent persons of all other countries. It is only the jingoes who believe or pretend to believe that welfare is through the rattling of the sword. This, no more than industrialization, can be advanced as a possible solution of the increasing over-population.

The only choice that is really open to the Japanese people is between civilized and barbarian methods of population control. They may control the population or the destructive forces of nature will do it for them. The birth rate and the increase of population may be brought within the means of subsistence through a spread in the knowledge of contraception. If this is not done the numbers will be limited by an increase in the death rates. Either fewer will be born or more will starve.

*"Japan's Economic Position," by John E. Orchard
Whitlessey House, New York \$5.00

The present volume is in no sense a tract in the campaign for voluntary motherhood and the rational control of population increase. It is concerned to analyze in detail the economic position and possibilities of Japan particularly as an industrial power. It does the task in a thorough and masterly way. It is the most careful, painstaking, and exhaustive study in the language of Japan's resources and possible development. But this sort of a fundamental economic analysis is the most effective, unanswerable, and final argument for birth control.

A Change in Policy

Excerpt from "Japan's Economic Position"

By JOHN E. ORCHARD

THE possibility of positive checks on population growth has received serious consideration only within the past year. A few years ago, the discussion of birth control was "dangerous thought" and was hunted out and suppressed by the police as vigorously as communism is today. In the fall of 1926, at a luncheon given by a group of professors of Japan's most liberal university, birth control was mentioned in the course of a discussion of Japan's future and of her population problem. It was dismissed as a method of population control that could never come to Japan since it was so entirely contrary to Japanese ideals. It is significant of the changing trend of Japanese thinking that the professor who voiced the most decided objections to birth control has since declared in a printed statement that it is the only possible solution of Japan's population problem.

It is a change in philosophy that is today very widespread in Japan. The tremendous population increases of the past few years have forcibly emphasized the seriousness of Japan's future. The careful study of the possibilities of agriculture, of migrations within the empire, and of emigration to foreign lands, has shown that such outlets are entirely inadequate and that a much more effective remedy must be found. Attention has finally been directed to birth control. It has made little headway with the masses though the Association for the Protection of Maternity has decided to launch a campaign among the poor families of Honjo, a factory section of Tokyo, for the dissemination of birth control information. This is the first time that a woman's organization has taken any active part in the movement. Birth control is being discussed widely in newspapers and magazines. It is openly

advocated by many economists. Recently it was debated before a large audience in Tokyo by a professor of the Tokyo Imperial University and a professor of Waseda University.

Birth control is even being considered by the government though official utterances are strangely inconsistent. At the first meeting of the Food and Population Inquiry Commission in July, 1927, the speech of Baron Tanaka, then Prime Minister, was a breath from the past. Despite the purpose of the commission that he was addressing, he referred to the rapidly increasing population of the Empire as a cause for congratulation and an indication of the future prosperity of the state.

In marked contrast to the sentiments of the Prime Minister was the statement of Ichiro Hatoyama, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, at a meeting of the Cabinet and Vice-Ministers held in August, 1927, in the Prime Minister's official residence. Mr. Hatoyama began by declaring antiquated the idea that an increase of population was a sign of national prosperity.

The Home Office has proposed the enactment of legislation to make birth control compulsory among persons suffering from certain specified diseases and to require certificates of health before marriage. A commission has also been appointed by the government with Inazo Nitobe, a distinguished statesman, as chairman, to study the subject of birth control as a possible solution of the population problem.

After a secret investigation carried on at the direction of the Mayor of Tokyo, it has been recommended that the Municipal Bureau of Social Affairs give free information on birth control to any poor person having four or more children. The information is not to be given to the wealthy or to newly married couples. In March, 1930, a private birth control clinic was opened in Tokyo under the supervision of Dr. Yutaki Majima, and it was announced that a second was to be opened shortly in Osaka. As yet there has been no official interference with the Tokyo clinic.

In view of the difficult position of Japan, it seems probable that within a few years there will be a complete reversal of government policy on the population problem, and that positive checks on population growth will be advocated and actively encouraged. The strong paternalistic government is well suited to make the experiment with birth control not only for the limitation of numbers but for the improvement of the stock.

POPULATION SECTION

Edited by Guy Irving Burch

Population Pressure and War

IN THE February issue we called attention to Italy's rapid increase in population during the depression year of 1930. While the results of the world-wide depression which began in the fall of 1929 will not be fully felt on vital statistics until the figures are available for 1931 or 1932, Premier Mussolini is still continuing his campaign for "bigger and better" armies, navies, and air forces. As was described in these columns in February, during the past year (1930) the population of Italy increased by 515,000, which was the largest increase recorded. The previous high record was 460,000, during 1928.

In *The New York Times*, May 3, 1931, Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Chief Statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in an article entitled "Italy's Population Surplus Cause of Friction in Europe," tells us that "behind her extreme nationality and demand for a revision of the peace treaties is the pressure of expanding numbers."

"Students of such matters have been aware for a long time that Italy has been suffering from a serious ailment—nothing more or less than a maladjustment of population," says Dr. Dublin. "Italy is the classic example of a country with too many mouths to feed and with too little bread to feed them. This situation affects not only the internal economy of the country but manifests itself in unhappy international relations. The Italian people are clearly ill at ease. Unfortunately, few foreign statesmen and publicists have given much thought to this situation which, if continued unrelieved, may become a source of the greatest danger to the peace of Europe."

Dr. Dublin goes on to tell us that Premier Mussolini does not want war, but peace—a peace in which Italy will "have an opportunity to share more equitably in the world's supply of land and of goods." But as every other country feels much the same way as Italy does about the world's supply of land and of goods, such a peace is merely lip service. Few countries care to run the risk of defeat in war if they can get what they want otherwise. But unfortunately the world cannot supply every

nation with what it wants to support a rapidly increasing population, and it does not seem that Italy, any more than Germany, Russia, China, India, Japan, and a number of the Balkan States, is likely to be picked out as an exceptional favorite of the gods in this respect.

The more an expanding population gets the more it wants. As long as the United States and other countries of the New World, and France in the Old Country, left their doors open to Italy's surplus population, the longer Italy would carry on a high birth rate at the expense of the birth rate of the immigrant receiving countries. (See Henry Pratt Fairchild's article in these columns, December, 1930.) Dr. Dublin writes, "The Italians, a fertile race accustomed to glorify family life, are not prepared to halt their natural expansion as have other peoples of Europe."

The answer to this problem would seem to be that the Italians should prepare to halt what Dr. Dublin pleases to call their "natural expansion" as soon as possible. Furthermore, if Italians glorify family life, it would seem that they should have a care concerning the standard of living in their families. Furthermore, it is debatable whether the Italian race is any more fertile than any other race, or that the Italian race glorifies family life any more than any other race. Some people may be inclined to believe that these statements of Dr. Dublin are merely an apology for reckless breeding. We fear that such statements as these and those of Dr. Warren S. Thompson that Italy and Japan are merely in the swarming stage, are not very popular, if true. In any event, it would seem that these countries picked out a rather unfortunate time to begin swarming.

Growing at the rate of more than a half million in Italy and of nearly a million in Japan annually, these relatively small countries could consume a considerable amount of the "world's supply of land and of goods" within the coming century, even if this rate did not increase with the ever expanding populations. Japan seems to be making some attempt to get her population growth under con-

trol, but Premier Mussolini is very proud of what he imagines is Italy's "natural" expansion

"Soon our territory will be saturated by our growing population," Premier Mussolini told the League of Nations "We wish this and we are proud of this, because life produces life" One might be tempted to remark, "Well, if you wish this, why are you always fussing because your country is overpopulated?"

"Italy, he knows," says Dr Dublin, "is crowded as are few other countries of Europe, and this crowding is reflected in the low standard of life of her people What makes matters worse is that Italy is not meeting her population problem as are other nations by decreasing her excess of births over deaths Up to now, it has been very difficult indeed to introduce the practice of birth control into Italy No wonder then that the standard of living for the worker both in the city and on the farm is now pretty close to the minimum subsistence level To reduce the level further by adding to the population is an invitation to disaster, and no one sees this more clearly than Premier Mussolini himself"

Dr Dublin concludes "The solution of Italy's population problem that will give permanent relief would seem to lie in her ability to balance her population That has been the history of the other advanced countries of Europe In spite of every effort of the authorities to prevent, the Italian people will suit themselves and take advantage of such protection as science and universal practice makes possible"

It has been a great satisfaction for advocates of birth control to quote evidence for their cause from the writings of Dr Louis I Dublin, if for no other reason than that he has often been quoted by opponents of birth control and generally thought to oppose birth control himself But while Dr Dublin has not done lip service for birth control (some think he has done considerable lip service against birth control), he has produced some remarkable evidence for the cause of contraception, especially as regards the problem of war

Dr Dublin, when president of the American Statistical Association in 1924, wrote in the preface to the proceedings of the annual meeting of the association

"The World War was essentially an outgrowth of a pressing population problem which confronted the nations of Europe ten years ago The peoples of Central Europe were overpopulated Each coun-

try needed room for expansion and desired additional markets and colonies where surplus peoples could be accommodated and food could be raised for the use of the homeland Germany more than any other country was striving for a place in the sun, and found her borders shadowed on the one hand by France and on the other by Russia To make matters worse she felt a sense of superiority to France, whose population she had far outstripped in numbers The year of 1914 seemed to be an opportune time to strike for more territory The fears engendered in France and Russia by an ever growing Germany contributed to a state of mind which made war inevitable This is an outstanding example of an almost universal condition"

* * *

Those who imagine that the population of England and Wales is dying out for lack of natural increase and who believe that birth control *always* means birth restriction, may be interested in the following report from London in the *Journal of American Medical Association*, April 11, 1931

"The vital statistics for 1930, just issued by the registrar general, show that 649,430 live births and 455,497 deaths (excluding stillbirths) occurred in 1930 The annual increase of population was therefore 194,033, against an average of 191,824 in the preceding five years The birth-rate was 16.3 per 1,000 population (the same as for 1929, which was the lowest recorded) The death-rate was 11.4, being 2 below that for 1929 and the lowest on record The infant mortality was also the lowest on record, being five below 1928, the previous lowest, and 14 below that for 1929"

Of course, vital statistics for a single year are not nearly so reliable as those for a five-year period, but it does seem that low birth-rates and low death-rates tend to keep each other company As the birth-rate is not so recklessly grinding out its thousands as of yore, and as those who were born in the days of high birth-rates are now getting old and must die eventually, we may expect a rise in the death-rate per thousand population This rise in the death-rate will merely be a technical matter because many of the world's crude death-rates are now lower than a stable age composition of the population and the expectancy of life warrant The gradual rise in the death-rate which may begin to occur any year should certainly not be witnessed with alarm

G I B

Book Reviews

LOVE IN THE MACHINE AGE, by Floyd Dell
Farrar and Rinehart, New York \$3 50

THE NEW GENERATION, edited by V F Calverton and Samuel F Schmalhausen
The Macaulay Company, New York \$5 00

THE author of *Love in the Machine Age* writes the book with a definite object which he clearly states. He endeavors to stress the transition in family and marriage experience from patriarchal conditions to our present situation in a cultural era built upon applied science. It is an effort to interpret in popular fashion the information science has been gathering in recent years regarding human conduct, especially as related to matrimonial and parenthood experience. Necessarily the author stresses the emotional side of the problem of human happiness, since it is with reference to this that science has contributed most to the understanding of the difficulties of adjustment. He gathers his material from many sources with a catholic appreciation and a well-balanced judgment.

The book ranges over the entire territory of family experience, starting with a description of the biological growth of the human individual from infancy to maturity and ending with the mental hygiene movement, which he considers the most promising aid now in sight for helping people make their social adjustments.

The reader of this magazine will be most interested in the author's treatment of birth control. Birth control offers no safety for the adolescents who attempt to use sex as a means of amusement. Their knowledge of contraception is usually only of uncertain and archaic methods and their experience is too immature to give them the "energy, self-control and persistence" which is necessary for an effective technique.

The author holds that should an absolutely reliable, fool-proof method of birth control become available to adolescents, the modern attitude would be one of relief, that the new achievement of science would not increase sex indulgence among the adolescents, because there is already a general belief that they have trustworthy methods of protection against pregnancy. Here the author appears too much persuaded by familiarity with a group of adolescents which may or may not be representative of general practices and beliefs. No

adult is in a position to know, but if the author has close contact with current adolescent thinking, he must surely detect a growing skepticism in regard to the safety of sex freedom.

In his theory of birth control for the adult, the author steers away from the futile effort to solve marriage difficulties by legalizing pre-adult sexual experiments and emphasizes that modern thought still clings to the conviction that marriage should be an adult arrangement intended as permanent, and that society prefers to permit escape from failure rather than to start young people on their domestic voyage with the idea that the venture is merely a trial of love.

Birth control, he insists, for the rightly married is not a way of escape from parenthood but the means of regulating childbirth and preparing for child nurture, so that both parents and child may have the best conditions for a happy life.

The New Generation is an omnibus book with discussions covering a great variety of problems of education, morality, child care, parenthood, sex and marriage. Just as one visits a good department store believing that there he can make any sort of purchase, so the reader may safely turn to this book to find discussed in it every topic connected with youth. It is a literary spread with nothing omitted. The chapters, all written by well-qualified specialists, are arranged according to the following majority interests: Parents versus Children, The Child versus Civilization, The Family Romance, Potentialities of the Child, Education and Enlightenment.

The conventional criticism of such a compilation as this is the obvious comment that the material presented is of varying worth. This doubtless is always true, but it is more to the point to notice that the reader's background and interest chiefly fixes the value he finds in the different treatments. The reviewer felt, as will any reader, this variation in appeal as he traveled from chapter to chapter, but this subjective appraisal registers personal reaction rather than objective worth. Every reader will likely pass through the gate of entrance, the Introduction by Bertrand Russell, and leave with the expectation that the book will keep a high level of thought and dignity. If he ends his reading with the last chapter by Briffault, "Taboos on Human

Nature," he will carry away the impression that this discussion is the logical climax for the book.

To name some of the authors reveals the range of thought and the authority offered the reader—Watson, Mahnowski, Stekel, Glueck, Blanchard, Pruette, Terman, Gruenberg and Calverton

Agreement among so many specialists, each dealing with one aspect of a common problem, is not to be expected, and the editors have wisely not attempted to force harmony. Their endeavor was to bring together material worth the reader's thought, and in this they have succeeded.

ERNEST R. GROVES

THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNFITTEST, by Charles Wichsteed Armstrong C W Daniel Co., London 6s

"THE BRITON often sighs 'Oh' wad some power the giftie gie us ' yet he very seldom makes any attempt to see himself as others see him. Perhaps in this I can help him, for I know very well just how he seems to others, since I have shared that viewpoint, or rather those many viewpoints, and much of what I shall have to say in the present volume may be taken as embodying the opinions held by thoughtful foreigners with regard to Britain."

The author very ably does hold a mirror up before the British people, so they may at least steal a glance. He states his thesis clearly.

"The rights of those to be born are greater than ours, and our most solemn trust."

"Philanthropists ought to learn that by their efforts they may be continually helping to defeat the very aims which they have in view."

"We should, of course, try to rid the world of all pain of mind and body now being suffered to-day, provided this can be done without causing more pain tomorrow."

"Humanitarian" legislation is now destroying our fine stock, says Mr. Armstrong. The falling death-rate is one of the chief causes of degeneration, since in keeping the weaklings alive, and enabling them to procreate, we do not diminish but increase their numbers. This would be a good book for the average social worker to read, for the eugenic effect of social work is often farthest from her thoughts. I have long held that no social worker is more than half equipped for her work who doesn't have knowledge of birth control information, the courage to impart it and a good foundation in eugenics as a background. Without these

things the social worker often makes the world permanently worse instead of better.

The Survival of the Unfittest shows this to be a fact. It holds that the dole, which was brought about because "the inefficient always outvote the efficient," helps in the retrograding process. The author shows how necessary it is to follow natural means and thus reduce the minus elements and foster the better.

With several effective charts and many figures, Mr. Armstrong clearly shows the English people, and us, too, if we have eyes to see, that unless something is done presently to stem the degenerate tide, England will be swamped. He strongly advocates eugenic sterilization for the unfit and urges stimulation of the birth-rate of the better classes.

What Mr. Armstrong says about the morals back of eugenics and the remedies for reducing the unfit is well worth reading. He points again to Nature as a revelation of God's handicraft and bids us copy. That we cannot call immoral, for "who are we that we should presume to call any instinct base or any natural law cruel?" And he sums up the moral law in these words: "Learn of Nature and seek the happiness of all," for "her principal aim appears to be to make all her creatures happy." This was the exact same argument I used in *A Charity to Lessen Charity*, which I wrote six or seven years ago, and unless I am very much mistaken it is a sound argument.

I expect nearly every reader of the *Birth Control Review* will approve of *The Survival of the Unfittest*. It seems to me to be sound and humane, and to exhibit the deepest sympathy for the unfortunate, and, at the same time, loyalty to the best interests of the British people.

LEON F. WHITNEY

SOCIAL WORK YEAR BOOK, 1929 Russell Sage Foundation, New York \$4.00

THE SOCIAL WORK YEAR BOOK is another contribution by the Russell Sage Foundation to the rapidly growing literature in the field of social work. In something over 200 different articles, under 12 subdivisions, the general field of social work and its related interests are treated. In selecting problems the editors have limited themselves to those social conditions for the control, prevention or study of which some agency is organized.

No attempt has been made to define the area of social work and topics from various border line

fields therefore appear. The inclusion of such articles, the reader is informed, has been determined by practical considerations. As a result of this policy articles under the section on health include such topics as school hygiene, epilepsy and alcoholism.

The material on birth control was prepared by Margaret Sanger and appears under Group 1 on families or adult individuals, but a cross reference is included under the section on health.

The volume is already having a wide use in educational institutions and among social workers. The announcement of a large meeting of social workers, recently held in New York City, included a request that certain sections from the Social Work Year Book be read in preparation for the discussion.

An effort has been made to record events and developments in the various fields for the year 1929. Later editions of the volume are suggested, in which the record will be kept up-to-date. In addition each article gives a brief bibliography. Attention should also be directed to the comprehensive list of 455 national agencies included at the end of the book, classified alphabetically, and as to function. A valuable description of the activities of each agency is included. This is probably the most complete list of agencies in the national field which has been prepared.

WALTER W. PETTIT

A PRIMER FOR MOTHERS, by Wilhelm Stekel, M.D. Translated by Frida Ilmer, M.D. *The Macaulay Co., New York* \$3.50

DR WILHELM STEKEL has written a text for mothers (translated into English rather too literally) in the form of a series of letters to a young woman wishing guidance in the rearing of her children. The many problems she presents to him for his opinion, covering as they do the space of time from first conception, through the birth of four children, up to the approaching marriage of the eldest born, gives Dr. Stekel wide opportunity to express all his pedagogical views as well as his philosophy of life.

Stekel states in his first letter that since there is no guidebook which he can recommend to his friend, he is forced to write one himself. This volume is indeed one of the first to recommend in any extensive manner procedures in child training on the basis of psychoanalytic theory. Except for Mary

Chadwick's book on *Difficulties in Child Development* it stands alone.

From this point of view the volume is of marked interest to parents and parent guides. Their first question will be to ask whether the advice herein given is recognized by the psychoanalytic psychiatrists as being validly derived from their precepts. Does the fact that Stekel is the first to make unequivocal utterances in the field of psychoanalytic pedagogy point to courage born of knowledge, or to expansive egotism?

In his third letter Dr. Stekel congratulates his friend on having refused an anæsthetic at the time of her confinement. He adds: "Is it not true, that we love infinitely more that for which we dearly pay?" One dissenting psychoanalyst after reading this rhetorical question asked whether it did not follow as logically that one loved one's home most ardently only after crushing a finger in the front door. In the following sentence Stekel announces: "Painless deliveries are unnatural, and all that is unnatural has disadvantages." The author's acceptance of the unqualified term "unnatural" as an argument against anæsthetics during labor makes one suspect that the whole discussion is involved in rationalization. He does not, as he might, by virtue of the same argument, refer to contraceptives as "unnatural." Surprisingly enough, he does not refer to them at all—certainly an evasion of major importance in a "Primer for Mothers!"

Certain advice of Dr. Stekel's aimed at minimizing intrapsychic conflict in the child, is of great interest, since it is accomplished at the expense of other aims which have up to now been considered important. He removes the child from situations where it would ordinarily be present, for example, he warns against allowing children to observe their parents nude, preferring that they learn sex differences from observing their own age group. He feels that thus one minimizes the castration fears and secondary inferiority feelings. He is emphatic about keeping the older child away when the mother nurses and bathes the new baby. He advises locking the parents' library, so that the child will not be prematurely stimulated. In an age when locked doors have been considered the precursors of prurient curiosity and loss of confidence in parents these councils are provocative.

It can be said with certainty that Dr. Stekel would not be accepted by the analysts as their spokesman in this book. Analytic work with neurotic children has itself not yet progressed suffi-

ciently to offer a generally accepted therapeutic technique, so the fact that unequivocal deductions are not yet forthcoming in application to normal child development is not surprising

With this aspect of the book disposed of, one must still consider it as an expression of Dr Stekel's personal philosophy. It is warm in its sympathy for children, particularly for adolescents whose intensified conflicts are described vividly and with insight. Dr Stekel makes use of his vigorous energies to inspire parents to a hearty acceptance of life, for themselves and their children. His aim "to enable the new generation to develop all of its abilities in freedom" must be recognized as a genuine and fervent wish, though the guide posts toward this are frequently unclear and possibly misleading.

RUTH BRICKNER, M D

SOCIAL CONTROL OF SEX EXPRESSION,

by Geoffrey May *William Morrow and Company* New York \$3 00

WHY has society always tried to control the sexual life of men and women? According to the author, primitive peoples feared that unless the individual were curbed, the courses of the natural world would be disrupted. The ancient Hebrews more rationally acted to prevent confusion in their property rights, or to discourage possible religious prostitution and idol worship. From these two sources, the early Christian Fathers developed the doctrine of chastity amid the emotional and religious disturbances of the Roman Empire "because they connected the devil with the flesh, and virtue with abstinence." Today, the doctrine of chastity survives as the doctrine and law of sexual morality to which English law has constantly sought to give expression for English people.

To what extent have the methods of legal control of sex expression been successful? History shows that the church, after having obtained complete authority from the king over sex expression, could not enforce the doctrine in crude medieval society except on the rare occasions where the law sufficiently expressed the social attitude of the people to make possible its literal enforcement. Even then the law was not so expressive as repressive. Yet the laws of the 17th century regulating sexual conduct, as transplanted to America by Puritanism, remain the laws of today despite the very

obvious difficulties and failures of legal control. The author believes that the tradition as to sex expression is in practice and social outlook really disappearing in America, although doing so more slowly by some centuries than it has in England, where the church fails to exert its ancient authority.

Why does society today adhere to merely the skeleton of these laws? Because it has felt itself to be losing potential strength by voluntary non-marital sex expression. Vital statistics of Christian countries where the doctrine is bedded in custom and laws indicate that parents who indulge in extra-marital sexual activity show less fecundity than married parents, and their offspring are less likely to survive infancy. The consequence is that persons who indulge in non-marital sex expression have been dying out and thereby breeding themselves out. On the other hand, parents who live according to the social conventions tend to instill into their children these same conventions. However, the author feels that such statistics are related to time and place, and that the conventional doctrine of sexual morality creates the very conditions on which the statistics are founded. Again the social attitude of the past toward the unmarried mother and her child had a great deal to do with their survival. Additionally, where repression apparently succeeded, the stifled impulses have persisted and reappeared in perhaps more dangerous forms.

Today it seems that society no longer benefits so largely from the conventional marriage in that proportionately fewer children are born, due to the spread of knowledge of contraceptive measures. Economics is perhaps becoming a greater consideration in propagation than the older religion and morality. If under the latter it was highly opprobrious to bring forth children illegitimately, one might ask how less ethical is it to endeavor to compel the birth of children in families where they are or should not be wanted, or from whom they can inherit nothing but wretchedness. Thus while the older doctrine of sex morality served a valuable purpose in integrating and maintaining family relationships, some of these benefits have been superseded by other social developments. Some no longer depend on criminal law for their continuance, and are thus no longer questions of legal repression. They have become questions of medical and social regulation instead.

N M GRIER

News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE National Conference of Social Work will be held in Minneapolis from June 14-20. The American Birth Control League meetings will be as follows

THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH

6 P M—DINNER

Birth Control and Dependency

Robert W. Kelso, Director, St. Louis Community Fund

The Biologist's Point of View

D. E. Minnich, D. Sc., Department of Zoology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

8 P M—MASS MEETING ON BIRTH CONTROL

Is It Legal?

George Packard, Lawyer, Chicago

Is It Ethical?

The Reverend David Bryn-Jones, Trinity Baptist Church, Minneapolis

Is It Eugenic?

Elias P. Lyon, M.D., Dean, Medical School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH

3 P M—SYMPOSIUM

Are the Birth Control Clinics reaching those most in need of help?

Speakers: Mrs. Donald McGraw, Dr. Rachelle Yarros, Miss Gladys Gaylord and others

The board of managers of the National Council of Jewish Women voted "to endorse in principle the proposal to amend the postal laws in relation to information on birth control," at its Annual National Convention in New York on May 8th.

The American Eugenics Society held its sixth annual meeting at the Town Hall Club, New York City, on May 6th. Dr. Harry A. Overstreet, addressing the meeting, said that the science of eugenics is making progress because many people realize that means must be found to prevent deterioration of human quality. Both officially sanctioned birth control and sterilization of defectives are near at hand. The problem now facing eugenicists, he stated, is to determine the best type of persons to perpetuate. Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, President of the society, Guy Irving Burch, and Leon F. Whitney, were among the speakers.

A POPULATION Association of America was organized on May 7th at a meeting called for the purpose, at the Town Hall Club, New York City. The purpose of the Association was defined as follows:

"To organize, promote and support research with respect to problems connected with human population in both its quantitative and qualitative aspects and to disseminate the results of such research."

A tentative Constitution and By-Laws were adopted to guide the conduct of the business of the Association for a year, at the end of which it is contemplated that a permanent form of organization will be adopted.

Officers of the Association were elected as follows:

President — Henry Pratt Fairchild, *New York University*

Vice-President — William F. Ogburn, *Chicago University*

Second Vice-President — Robert R. Kuczynski, *Brookings Institution*

Secretary-Treasurer — A. J. Lotka, *Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Louis I. Dublin, *Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*

A. B. Wolfe, *Ohio State University*

Clarence C. Little, *Jackson Memorial Laboratory*

Frederick Osborn, *Eugenics Research Association*

Raymond Pearl, *Johns Hopkins University*

Leon E. Truesdell, *U. S. Bureau of the Census*

Niles Carpenter, *University of Buffalo*

O. E. Baker, *Department of Agriculture*

Ellsworth Huntington, *Yale University*

In addition to the officers, the following were present: Prof. Ray E. Baber of New York University, Prof. John A. Black of Harvard University, Mr. Guy Irving Burch of the Population Reference Bureau, Dr. C. G. Campbell of New York City, Prof. Robert E. Chaddock of Columbia University, Prof. J. P. Chamberlain of Columbia University, Dr. Robert L. Dickinson of the Committee on Maternal Health, Prof. Clarence G. Dittmer of New York University, Prof. James W. Glover of New York City, Prof. Frank H. Hankins of Smith College, Prof. Norman E. Himes of Clark University, Mrs. F. Robertson Jones of the American Birth

Control League, Mr Leonard Hsu of Yen Ching University, China, Mr John Kingsbury of the Milbank Fund, Dr George W Kosmak of New York City, Dr Frank Lorimer of Washington, D C, Mr Robert S Lynd of the Social Science Research Council, Dr C E McGuire of Washington, D C, Mr Adamantios Th Polyzoides, Editor of *Atlantis*, Prof Lowell J Reed of Johns Hopkins University, Mrs Margaret Sanger of the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, Miss Ruth Topping of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, Prof P K Whelpton of Miami University, Mr Leon F Whitney of the American Eugenics Society, Prof W F Willcox of Cornell University, Dr Linsly Wilhams of the N Y Academy of Medicine, Mr John K Wright of the American Geographical Society, Mr Frank Notestein of the Milbank Fund

CALIFORNIA Dr Etta Gray, Director of the Los Angeles birth control clinic, spoke on "Spacing of Children" in connection with the National Child Health Week program on May 1st

CONNECTICUT The following editorial from the Bridgeport *Herald*, (April 12th) merits attention as an indication of the attitude of the press, and the educational value of the recent campaign

The vote in the legislature on the birth control bill gave an example of party lines breaking down when they should have held, of state senators and representatives giving ground to an unsupported fear of punishment by the electorate and of religious compulsion shattering medical, humane and economic reasons which are very pressing

The legal ban on birth control continues in this state

That does not alter the fact that it is practised, in one form or another, under a variety of names, by a majority of married women of all religious faiths

Condemnation alone will never bring about passage of a sane birth control bill in Connecticut

There was and is sincere, but misguided, opposition to the measure, both in the legislature and outside

A comprehensive campaign of education must be organized on a twelve months basis to cover the state and slowly break down resentment to and fear of modern birth control legislation

Birth control is denied the poor, who cannot

afford to buy the information, on the mistaken theory that the poor will always be with us and should have many children and starve and suffer

The nation today is not going to the dogs because birth control is being extensively practised

Instead intelligent families are so spacing their children that each one will have at least a fair chance to be given health, strength, reasonable care and an education

The country gains, not loses, by this method of reproducing its men and women citizens

IOWA By a vote of 70 to 25, the Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa adopted a resolution on May 8th favoring the dissemination of birth control information and education on the subject. The resolution will be presented to the National Council of Congregational Churches in Seattle, Washington, in June

NEW JERSEY The Right Reverend Wilson R Stearly, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Newark praised the work of birth control clinics in an address at the Fifty-Seventh Annual Conference of the diocese on May 13th at Grace Church, Orange, N J. He said in part

The publication of the views of the Lambeth conference has done much to clarify a much-becclouded region of experience

Practically it has done nothing to fortify the position and enhance the usefulness of those birth control clinics which have gradually come to be established in many of our cities and which have proved a godsend and blessing to many harassed and troubled souls

The *World Telegram*, commented editorially on Bishop Stearly's speech, as follows

Here is another liberal churchman who gives his open and formal approval to that which the Council of Churches of Christ in America has tentatively sanctioned and which the New York Academy of Medicine has endorsed on the medical side. Progress, once started, is steady

Rational control of human reproduction is as sound and logical as anything civilization has evolved. But it has to make its way through a forest of prejudices, survivals and misunderstandings. The wonder is that its advance is already so rapid and so sure

At the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Birth Control League, Mrs Zachariah Belcher was re-

elected president Other officers for the coming year are Mrs Harris Ely Adriance, *first Vice-President*, Mrs Felix Fuld, *second Vice-President*, Mrs Franklin Conklin, Jr, *Treasurer*, Mrs Louis K Hyde, *Secretary*, Mrs E LeRoy Wood, *Corresponding Secretary*

Dr Hannah M Stone, Mrs Stuart Mudd of Philadelphia, and Miss Henriette Hart, addressed the meeting The following table shows the steady growth of the Clinic

	<i>First Yr</i>	<i>Second Yr</i>	<i>Third Yr</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patients	510	809	1300	2619
Treatments	809	1780	2614	5203
Sessions	99	176	274	549
Desk Visits	135	567	1218	1920
Mail Orders	67	344	842	1253

It is interesting to note that of the first 2000 patients, 982 were referred by 160 physicians and 90 social welfare agencies, including 8 mental hygiene clinics A medical report of the first 2000 cases is to be published soon It will be available for public distribution

NEW YORK Dr David Rhys Williams, of the First

Unitarian Church of Rochester, in a stirring sermon on Mother's Day said that if society desired to give the mothers of the race a real gift, they could do it by legalizing the dissemination of birth control facts He continued

Free access to the best scientific knowledge concerning birth-control would, in my opinion, prove to be the greatest single benefaction which this country could confer upon its motherhood Many of the world's profoundest thinkers and philosophers have voiced the conviction that every woman has the moral right and ought to have the legal right to determine for herself if and when she should become a mother I am compelled to agree with this conviction Maternity, to my mind, is so important an undertaking that it never should be left to blind chance

The New York City Congregational Church Association, at its semi-annual meeting on May 14th, adopted a resolution calling upon the General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches to instruct its Commission on Social Relations to begin a referendum on birth control among married members of its 6,670 local churches

Opinions on birth control would be sought only from members of the Church who have been married for at least five years and are the parents of

at least one child The results of this poll, the resolution added, would be available for petitioning Congress and the State Legislature regarding the statutory provisions which prohibit physicians from giving birth control instructions to married persons

The Reverend John Haynes Holmes, pastor of Community Church, New York City, named Margaret Sanger as one of the ten greatest women of today in his sermon of May 17th Mrs Sanger was described as "indomitable advocate of birth control, the greatest crusade in history for the emancipation of women The other women listed by Dr Holmes were Jane Addams, Annie Besant, Catherine Breshkovsky, Mme Curie, Emma Goldman, Helen Keller, Edna St Vincent Millay, Mme Sarojini Naidu, Sigrid Undset

The New York Business and Professional Group of Phi Beta Kappa Alumnae discussed birth control at their May 25th meeting All sides of the question were presented by Amanda K Berls, Dr Josephine B Neal, Grace N Brown, Clara B Woolworth, Mrs Eliot White, Mrs Robert E Speer

Recent speaking dates filed by the American Birth Control League are Mrs F Robertson Jones, radio talk over Station WBNX on April 28th, Mrs Carol Nash, at the Women's Division of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities on April 29th, Dr Olga Knopf, before the German Young People's Group on April 30th, Dr Helen Miller, before the Staten Island Nurses Club on May 4th

Margaret Sanger debated on birth control against Mrs Thomas A McGoldrick at a meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of Union Temple, Brooklyn, on May 3rd The strongest argument put forward by Mrs Goldrick against birth control was that "children of the poor are an economic asset They grow up and care for their parents, who, therefore, do not become public charges"

PENNSYLVANIA Dr Stuart Mudd, Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation addressed a most successful meeting of representative professional and business men of the Hungry Club in Pittsburgh on May 4th The Pittsburgh press has been most generous in the space allotted to birth control activities

The Birth Control League of Allegheny County has enlarged its Headquarters and has secured the

following endorsements for the Birth Control Bill No 1210

The Executive Committee of the Social Service Commission of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church,

The Executive Committee of the Social Service Commission of the Pittsburgh District of the Council of Churches,

The Council of Jewish Women

The Ladies Aid Auxiliary of the Montefiore Hospital

The Meadville Conference of the Unitarian Church

The Bethlehem League held its May meeting at the home of Mrs Robert P Linderman Dr Margaret Hassler, who is on the staff of the Reading Homeopathic Hospital, spoke In Reading the hospital with which Dr Hassler is associated, furnishes a room for the Birth Control Clinic certain afternoons a week and the sessions are largely attended

The Maternal Health Center in Philadelphia has, at this writing, advised 950 patients It is running a schedule of four afternoons and one evening a week and next week will add two morning sessions The question of opening one and possibly two branch centers in Philadelphia is under consideration

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE MOTHERS, by Robert Briffault *The Macmillan Co, N Y* \$4 00

THE PHYSICAL BASIS OF PERSONALITY, by Charles R Stockard, M D *W W Norton and Co New York* \$3 50

MEN, WOMAN AND CONFLICT, by Judge George A Barlett *Putman and Sons, New York* \$3 00

THE GIRDLE OF CHASTITY, by Eric John Dingwall *Routledge Pub, England* Price 10s 6d

MARRIED LOVE, by Marie C Stopes *Eugenics Publishing Co New York* \$3 00

LOVE CHILDREN, by Miriam Allen de Ford *The Dial Press New York* \$3 50

HUMAN BIOLOGY AND RACIAL WELFARE, edited by Edmund V Cowdry, Ph D *Paul B Hoeber, Inc New York* \$6 00

THE MAKING OF MAN, an outline of anthropology, Edited by F F Calverton *The Modern Library New York* \$ 95

ARE YOU READY FOR MARRIAGE? edited by Isabella Hastie Smith *Horace Liveright, Inc New York* \$2 00

In the Magazines

IT SEEMS reasonably certain that birth control will play a prominent part in the progress of our civilization Physicians should understand its indications and technic, so as to be able to give sound advice—and satisfactory literature is now available

One of the most important jobs for the doctor, right now, is to educate the public to the point where people will understand and cooperate For this purpose, a copy of BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW (152 Madison Avenue, New York City) on the waiting-room table will help greatly

Clinical Medicine and Surgery, April, 1931

* * *

BIRTH CONTROL AND SOCIAL WELFARE

By Alfred H Tyrer

Organizer of the Canadian Voluntary Parenthood League

Birth control is here to stay It is quite generally practised by the well-to-do and the professional classes It is not generally practised by the farming and the laboring classes, nor by the "lower fourth—including the submerged tenth—of the population that is producing over half of the next generation" These classes need it most and they will welcome the knowledge

Millions of dollars are spent in social service every year Are the apparently splendid results of all this work just blinding us to the actual conditions that are so ominous, and that no social service is touching? I fear so

—*The Churchman*, April 11th, 1931

* * *

A NEW TECHNIQUE IN RACE RELATIONS

By Newell Le Roy Sims

Too many Negroes are born, too many are sick and too many die each year, for these vital processes consume energy that might otherwise be accumulated for advancement So the Negro's program should include the conservation of vital energy The best way and perhaps the only practical way is to control the birth rate Birth control propaganda and techniques should be disseminated till no more Negro babies are born than can be properly cared for and prepared for efficient citizenship The great bulk of Negroes everywhere are overburdening themselves with progeny to whom they can give only half a chance in the world Thus they keep themselves impoverished and their race down They give hostages to the white man by making themselves dependent upon his

charity whereas by prudent breeding they might be independent Dependency of any kind is weakness Is it any wonder, therefore, that the responsible white community looks upon the average Negro as being irresponsible, without pride or self-respect when he supplies more than his quota of dependents and delinquents? Birth control should be urged as a step toward independence and greater power —*Opportunity*, April, 1931

* * *

EDITORIAL

Of course, in a great measure limitation of offspring has been with us for many years The recognition of its justification will merely make it possible for those who most need advice to receive it from competent authorities There will perhaps be a few sporadic cases of small manufacturers trying to profit by the sale of nostrums, there may be a few quacks who will follow suit By and large, however, one may hope that the various states will now pass legislation permitting the giving of contraceptive advice and care by licensed physicians —*American Medicine*, April, 1931

* * *

THE POPE ON MARRIAGE AND BIRTH CONTROL

By Horace J Bridges

Everybody admits that the power of separating sexual intercourse from parenthood is one that may be most gravely abused Nobody is more keenly aware of this than are those honorable physicians and social workers who advocate it They offer it solely as a remedy for the sufferings of families in which, by reason of the state of the wife's health, or of poverty, or the character of the father, or the number of living children, a further pregnancy would be dangerous or another child would make the economic burden insupportable Both the knowledge and the means of contraception should, if possible, be withheld from those who have no proper need of them, and have therefore no right to them But it is irrational and wrong to make the possibility of the abuse of anything a reason for prohibiting its proper use *Abusus non tollit usum* We have made this mistake in our policy with regard to alcoholic beverages By trying to prohibit their proper use we have rather increased than diminished the abuse of them One might have hoped from the Papacy, in regard to birth-control, not a duplication of this error, but a wiser policy But unhappily in all matters of sex the Roman

Church has always been governed by superstitions and taboos

—*The Standard* (published by the Society for Ethical Culture), May, 1931

* * *

EDITORIAL

The recent meeting in Providence sponsored by the American Birth Control League, and patronized by a distinguished group of intelligent, educated and altruistic citizens, both men and women, is an interesting evidence of the extension of this movement, which is gaining by leaps and bounds throughout the United States

That contraception is practiced among large numbers of intelligent people is no secret, especially to members of the medical profession That the haphazard and unscientific attempts at this practice are ill-advised and dangerous, and often defeat their own purpose is equally apparent

Accepting the fact that the public will continue contraception, it would seem that the always liberal medical profession should welcome any effort to direct such practice into scientific channels and provide only where indicated, the necessary information to further proper methods rather than the unscientific schemes of neighborhood gossip

There are now seventy-two so-called birth control clinics throughout the country with the number steadily and rapidly increasing The American League, with the avowed program of providing properly supervised medical clinics and disseminating correct contraceptive knowledge to the overburdened, under-privileged, and pathological mother, is at least putting the matter into better surroundings

Disregarding individual convictions whether of our own or promulgated by religious authority, contraception is definitely indicated in selected cases and would be a constructive step in decreasing hereditary diseases, lessening prostitution, reducing child labor, destitution, and the resulting need for charity But if indicated, it should be under medical supervision and strict scientific procedure, rather than that of over-enthusiastic or hysterical lay organization

Birth Control clinics have the virtue of selectivity of cases, ethical advice, and medical sponsorship They do not countenance the charlatan or the cultist, and are a potent factor in the elimination of the abortionist These virtues at least should commend them to liberal minded physicians

—*Rhode Island Medical Journal*, May, 1931

Letters from Readers

COMMENTS ON THE ANTHROPOLOGY NUMBER

TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for sending me a copy of the April issue of the *Birth Control Review*. I congratulate you on the excellence of your anthropological contributions, they are both sane and well-informed. You have reason to be proud of this issue.

RUTH BENEDICT

*Columbia University,
New York*

TO THE EDITOR

I have read the copy of your *Review* containing several articles on the practices of primitive peoples. I consider the article by my friend and former student, Dr. Lloyd Warner, a real contribution. The plan of including anthropological material in the journal strikes me as a very fortunate one.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

*University of California,
Berkeley, California*

TO THE EDITOR

Both the Warner and the Aptekar articles in the April *Review* are sound anthropologically, and to the point.

A. L. KROBER

*University of California,
Berkeley, California*

TO THE EDITOR

The value of your educational work will be greatly enhanced by its extension into the field of anthropology. An evolutionary view always is an adjunct to the instrumental use of current scientific knowledge.

You may record another black eye for sexual moronism and religious fanaticism.

EMANUEL KANTER

New York

FROM SCOTLAND

TO THE EDITOR

You Americans really are wonderful! I had been hardening my heart against taking your paper in this year because economies had to be made somewhere and as I already get the two British Birth Control papers I thought I had better give up yours—but your final warning, the third, I believe—at

last won me over and I gave my order for renewal to my own bookseller in Aberdeen. I thought this would be more publicity for you than getting it direct! Thus was the erring sheep brought back to the fold. I thought I would let you know how much I do enjoy your paper. Of course, a great deal of the purely American news is not very interesting for me, nor the agitations about your laws—but that is no reflection on your paper but merely on my insularity. Most of your articles I find extremely interesting and I keep a notebook for their main points as I always pass your paper on.

My own clinic in Aberdeen is doing quite well, but I feel that in this country birth control has penetrated about as far down the population as it will go and the most essential thing now is voluntary sterilization for those who "can't be bothered" with contraceptive methods, and, of course, for the mentally deficient. Also I wish a "perfect contraceptive," cheap, simple and reliable could be discovered. I was recently at the department of animal breeding (Edinburgh University) where research is being carried out on these lines, but what is perfect in a laboratory is not necessarily so in human practice, and though the experiments made in the clinics are useful scientifically they are heartbreaking from a human point of view if they are unsuccessful.

I noticed that a man was stopped at your Customs and a million tickets for the Irish sweep confiscated as "improper objects." Is that the same as your birth control appliances law? If so I think it is delicious to discourage that sort of gambling by bringing in tickets and encourage the gambling in pregnancies involved by keeping out "appliances."

LUELA PATON

Aberdeen, Scotland

SHOULD BIRTH CONTROL BE FOR MARRIED
WOMEN ONLY?

TO THE EDITOR

I see the old fogies are still arguing that if birth control information is made legal the young unmarried people will use it for evil purposes. The young, unmarried girls are exactly the ones who *need* information to save them from the disgrace of rape, illegitimate children, abortion, infanticide, and

other consequences of ignorance Who in the world *needs* this information more than the young and inexperienced? It isn't any disgrace for a married woman to have a baby It is the young, unmarried girl who must be saved from the disgrace and calamity of unwanted and illegal motherhood—which may befall her through ignorance of pre-venception Every young girl between 12 and 14 years should be taught the proper care and protection of her reproductive organs, just as she is taught to care for her eyes and teeth and complexion Indeed, they are far more precious to her, and much more important for her future health, happiness and welfare than the latter I can see nothing in birth control information for young people but a sensible, sane and necessary hygienic measure

YORDIE L. PRATT

Illinois

BIRTH CONTROL LAWS AN INFRINGEMENT OF
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

TO THE EDITOR

Under our Federal Constitution and its amendments, chiefly the first ten, known as the *Bill of Rights*, the people reserved and protected certain rights which they considered sacred and inviolable from interference by statute law Many laws have been passed which did tend to violate those constitutional rights

There have been some instances where the cry of the people for the maintenance of their "constitutional rights" has forced the courts to recant and admit that particular legislation was objectionable Such has been the fate of some statutes where the government, state or federal, has attempted, through the legislative branch, to invade the *sanctum sanctorum* of the individual and his private rights

The average man believes that so long as he exercises his private rights so as not to interfere unreasonably with the exercise of the private rights of others, the government "has no business" interfering with the exercise of such rights

In other words, we, the people, feel that only in those instances where the enforcement of the particular law is clearly necessary to preserve the public health, safety or welfare, is any encroachment on our private rights justifiable To voice our protest in all instances where we feel that the particular law is not necessary to such purpose, we have raised throughout the land the cry of constitutional rights

When the 18th amendment was enacted it aimed at a purely economic evil Immediately it became the law of the land, the so-called "dry" forces started a campaign to use the amendment and its enforcement as a moral whip—the drinking of liquor became, overnight a great, immoral act, deleterious to the health and safety and welfare of the people For ten years or more, now, the issue of constitutional rights against the amendment and its unlawful enforcement, has been growing in numbers and volume, until at last one member of the bench has shown moral courage enough to accede to the cry, and hold the amendment unconstitutional

Is not our most effective method, therefore, of getting the obnoxious anti-contraception statutes off the books, to show the people that their constitutional rights are being invaded? So fast as we can get the people to object on the ground of constitutional rights, just so much the quicker will the courts recant and hold those statutes unconstitutional

FRANK L. WALTERS

Seattle, Wash

TO THE EDITOR

As a subscriber and one of your very early followers I hope you will allow me to express my opinion The quotation from the American Birth Control League report of January 15th last, "the directors finally decided to discontinue its legislative work in Albany," seems a lament for the past and a hopeless attitude toward the future It is not the futility itself but the attitude towards it, that will determine its effect upon the movement

Real progress is never made by forcing legislative inertia,—especially when men in political life are too proud to remain poor and not for sale—it is only made by constantly feeding the mind mental food which enables the individual to grow naturally with ease, foresight, daring and ability to use his spiritual birthright to control his social and biological destiny

The ultimate aim of the movement is to teach those who are willing to learn the ideals that lead to better family relationships

New York

BENJAMIN BIRNBAUM

The unborn child of a mother enfeebled by too frequent pregnancies is robbed of its birthright before it is born

—NORMAN HAIRE

Settlement House Meetings

By ISADORA W KERR

AFTER speaking in different sections of Manhattan to many different kinds of settlement audiences, I should say that the general reaction was one of earnestness and a sincere desire to learn of a better and more intelligent way of approaching marriage and procreation

For example, a group of Jewish women from twenty-five to sixty years of age at Stuyvesant House showed an almost pathetic eagerness to make the younger women's marital experience happier and free from the constant fear of pregnancy. The discussion was very informal and frank, and it was agreed that most of their husbands did not want to have more children than they could support and rear in health. But many of their husbands were opposed to contraception because they thought it would either interfere with or put an end to marital relations. Birth control and continence were synonymous terms to them.

At Katy Ferguson House, a very intelligent group of colored women was interested in the question of abortion. They asked why Russia legalized it, whether it was harmful psychically, morally and physically. Evidently abortion is prevalent in Harlem. They all agreed that there was a great deal too much of it everywhere.

At Heckscher Foundation, about eighty women, Jewish, ranging from thirty-five to sixty, wanted to know why the League does not work more with the men of the families. They said that many of them would have adopted birth control long ago, but their husbands and sons were unconvinced. They planned to talk more freely and intelligently to their daughters and put the matter of birth control on a health basis.

At Bronx Union Y M C A luncheon, a young man, member of the staff, said that an increasing number of young men came to him at the "Y" to ask how to secure a physician's help and advice in regard to their approaching marriages.

The Utopia Club which I lead at the University Settlement, composed of Jewish girls from twenty to twenty-five, asked for a Round Table discussion on birth control. Dr. Helen Miller spoke to them last month. Two have been married recently and two are engaged. They love homes and children, but do not want to go ahead blindly and have more children than they can support and educate, as their parents did.

A group of young men and women to whom I spoke at a Methodist Church recently were holding off from marriage because, as they put it "We can get the theory and philosophy of birth control, but we can't get the practical advice before entering marriage and that is not the intelligent way to do. We may wreck our happiness by an ignorant start."

I am much impressed by what can be done through meetings and think that this form of educational propaganda should be developed.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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My ideas about birth control are very simple. I would never force it upon people who do not believe in it. I can not possibly understand why those who do not believe in it should try to force their opinion upon those who do believe in it. I would leave the decision to the individual man and woman just as I would leave them free to choose the sort of food they would eat for breakfast, the sort of house they would like to live in, the sort of life they would generally prefer to live.

—HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

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—From JUDGE JOHN M WOOLSEY'S Opinion

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