

July 1931

Vol. XV. No. 7

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



Drawing by M Lowengrund

Birth Control Review

VOL XV

JULY, 1931

No 7

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

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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

Single Copies, 20 cents, \$2 per year, \$360 two years,
Canada and Foreign add 26 cents postage per year

Entered as *Second Class Matter* March 11 1918 at the *Post*
office at New York N Y under the Act of March 3 1879

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Editorial

THE INTEREST shown in birth control at the National Conference of Social Work, June 14-20, is an indication of the steady progress of the movement. Birth control is no longer an outcast, an eager-eyed suppliant, a timid newcomer. When the forces of social betterment take council together, it has its appointed place, it is recognized as an instrument of preventive medicine, of preventive social work, and of race betterment. Meetings arranged by the American Birth Control League were filled to overflowing and well reported by the press. We print in this issue Robert W. Kelso's address Dependency and Birth Control, and Dr. Elias P. Lyon's address Is Birth Control Eugenic? In addition to these, George Packard, Chicago attorney, spoke on Birth Control — Is It Legal?, Reverend David Bryn-Jones, of the Minneapolis Trinity Baptist Church, on Birth Control, Is It Moral?, and Dr. E. E. Minnich, of the University of Minnesota, on Biology and Birth Control. Excerpts from these speeches, as well as details of the meeting on clinical service will appear in the August and September issues of the REVIEW. Discussion of birth control, however, was by no means confined to special sessions. It permeated the conference, and rightly so, for it touches many sides of life. To cite one instance, Dr. John W. Ellott, director of Social Education for the American Baptist Publication Society, speaking before the Church Conference on Social Work, declared that "the dissemination of birth control knowledge is now general, and soon will be universal." He recommended that "social leaders, both in the churches and out should cooperate in providing education for the wise use of birth control knowledge."

SUCH ESPOUSAL of birth control is heartening. It indicates a trend which cannot be denied, it offsets the disappointment felt by all interested in birth control, when the Presbyterian Commission on Marriage and Divorce eliminated the section on birth control from their report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, meeting

in Pittsburgh on June 2nd. The deleted section read as follows:

"Earnest Christian people are asking for the church's guidance on the subject of birth control. This subject demands attention today as never before. Economic conditions and a worthy standard of living, clearly make it wrong to bring children into the world without adequate provision for their nurture and proper consideration for the health of the mother.

"The Christian conception of sex clothes the relationship between husband and wife with a spiritual significance, sanctifying marriage as a divine institution. Moral control is the basic essential to a worthy experience of a marriage relation.

"In expressing its judgment on this subject, the church in no sense modifies its condemnation of sex relations outside of marriage.

"Two methods are possible in securing birth control. The first is continence. The second is the use of contraceptives. When this method is adopted in seeking the worthy objectives stated above, it should only be in fidelity to the highest spiritual ideals of the Christian home."

This seems similar in intention to the Lambeth Conference resolution, adopted by the Episcopal Church, and sufficiently mild. Its withdrawal was largely a matter of policy, because, it was felt, the time was not yet ripe for an open discussion and vote on the subject. Reports of the attitude of various denominations and localities toward the recent pronouncement of the Federal Council of Churches show interest mingling with timidity, and a sense of the importance of a united front. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church voted to remain within the Council, and appropriated \$18,000 to it, but it passed a motion offered by the Reverend Mark L. Matthews, pastor of the largest Presbyterian church in the country, in Seattle, that "the Council be instructed to hold its peace on questions of delicacy, morality and integrity, until we have an opportunity to talk them over."

Without doubt, this motion expresses the inner meaning of the Commission's action in

withdrawing the birth control section from its report—the churches are aware of the birth control problem, but they need time to talk and think about it. Any attempt to push through a formulated policy too soon will only stir up opposition, threaten the unity of the Protestant church, and defeat its own end. A clearer understanding of the issue is bound to result from discussion, pro and con.

IN THIS CONNECTION we call attention to the articles on *Do Women Want Children?* in the June and the current issues of the REVIEW. There has been a great deal of nonsense written about motherlove, and the feminists of the first decades of the Twentieth Century were stirred by a natural spirit of revolt against Victorian acquiescence and sentimentality. Like other—and less important jobs—child-bearing should be a matter of choice. But the pendulum is swinging back and the average young woman of today looks forward to marriage and children more than to causes and careers. There are, of course, some women who do not want children. We believe they have a right to plan their lives to suit themselves. This they can do, thanks to birth control, and fortunately so, for an unwilling mother will, in most cases, make a poor mother. But the desire and love for children, the delight in babies, the unquestioning response to helpless, young, growing things is, we believe, inherent in the physical and psychological make-up of the vast majority of women. We touch here upon deep and fundamental racial instincts. Given proper economic conditions, women—and men too—do not deny their most miraculous power, the creation of new life.

HARDLY A MONTH goes by without news of the formation of a new state league. Minnesota now joins the fast growing list, as described in the News Notes of this issue. We look forward to the time when every state will have a well-functioning birth control league, when every physician will be as well equipped to give advice on contraception as on any other physical problem, when every city and town will provide clinical service for those unable to consult private doctors, when a correct understanding of birth

control will make it a potent force for race betterment.

THE Medical Times and Long Island Medical Journal for June cites the medical objections to present contraceptive methods and comments editorially, "As medical scientists we must insist upon rational methods or none." It does not point out that research is retarded by the stigma that still clings to the subject of birth control, that the ambitious young physician does not command the same support and approval when he undertakes research in contraceptive methods as would be his due were he to engage in research in cancer, or tuberculosis, or a relatively unimportant matter, such as hay fever. The best medical authorities agree that present-day methods are harmless, reasonably sure, and fairly inexpensive. There is room for improvement, and the improvement will come when the problem is taken up by the best research talent, when all restrictions and slurs are removed. But before that time comes, the medical profession must free itself from such muddled thinking and misinformation as that which concludes the above mentioned editorial: "if a woman is not in condition to bear a child, is she fit for the exactions put upon her by sex relations?" Does the same question apply to men unfit for fatherhood? Has our honored colleague heard of the phrase "mutually beneficial" or read Havelock Ellis?

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU of the Department of Labor reports that one-fifth of 12,000 mothers studied in Philadelphia, in 1928, were found to be working out, to help support their families. Twenty-eight per cent of these working mothers were the chief breadwinners, and fifty per cent had children under 11 years of age. We should recall these figures when we hear platitudes about women's duty to their children, and about "health only" reasons for contraception. Family life and economics are interlocked, as long as women are forced out of the home to support themselves and their children, they must have the right to decide how many children they leave behind, uncared for.

Dependency and Birth Control

By ROBERT W KELSO

IN MY JUDGMENT the subject of birth control and dependency is, at the present moment, the deepest riddle of human conduct, a riddle concerning which a few plain pungent observations need to be

made and repeated, and reiterated until such time as the scientific knowledge of today can be harmonized with the folk customs of the past

Dependency is that degree of poverty that calls upon others for support. It is increasing throughout the world in the face of high perfections of mechanical aids in the production of food and the manufacture of products suitable to human needs. It is increasing in spite of a standard of living appreciably higher than in more primitive times. It is increasing because of two truths, one of which is an inevitable principle of physical life, and the other of which betrays our unreasoning attitude toward the future.

The first of these truths is the principle that man, in common with every other form of life, tends to increase his numbers beyond his available food supply. This rule operates under all economic conditions, through all sort of political weather, in spite of the influence of every creed or religion that man has ever invented, prevailing over all the influences of the past whatsoever.

The other truth is that man has consistently disregarded this principle in his philosophy of conduct. Through all the eons of time which represent our human day upon the earth, man has known little about the mystery of life, and naturally has ascribed to superhuman power, the propagation of his own offspring. Now has come a new day of scientific understanding, seen dimly in the past no doubt, but now realized with accuracy, which places the individual and his mate in possession of concrete understanding of the processes through which they young are propagated. At the same time it places upon them the obligation toward human society in general, and their prospective young in particular—to apply that scientific knowledge so

Mr Kelso, Director of the Community Fund of St. Louis, places "improvident propagation" well at the head of the list in his analysis of the causes of dependency. This article is the summary of Mr Kelso's address before the dinner meeting of the American Birth Control League at the National Conference of Social Work, June 18th

that the best possible heritage may be bestowed, and the broadest opportunity in life offered to their young.

So it is only within this past half century—intensively only within the years of this present century—that the question comes pointedly to the front of man's mind, "Shall we apply our new scientific knowledge to the propagation of our young, no matter what that course may do to our existing beliefs and folk customs, so long only as it tends to unprove the physical, the mental, and the moral status of the individual?"

In the narrow houses of the poor, we may find abundant proof the degrading and devastating effect of improvident childbirth. We find by sampling studies, that laborers' wives bear nearly twice as many children as the wives of professional men, yet we do not find that the professional class is dying out. By other studies we find that infant mortality is much heavier among the poor than it is among those better conditioned in the economic world. Of course these two facts go together. The wives of laborers who by and large are the poor, bear more children and suffer the tragic misery of losing them in infancy more frequently than do their better favored sisters. We need hardly ask ourselves why this is so.

An examination of the records of family relief societies reveals the typical working man's family as one in which the children have been born usually from eleven to thirteen months apart. After the birth of the sixth or the seventh child you see a mother worn out by the drain of childbirth, harassed by the heavy job of caring for a large flock, struggling along at washing and scrubbing, and keeping the household in shape for these children. If death has taken some of them the scars of that

death are on the mother's **face**—it is she who has **paid** the **price**. The truth is that she is all used up. Her lot has been hard, anyhow, **without** the **strains** of **childbirth**, but **in addition** she has never had a chance to recuperate after the **birth** of any one of her children, and the **drain** has been too great. The result is that she is not able to **give** the full measure of a mother's care to the children she has left. Each child has added expense in the home, and those who have died have brought heavy debt, **as** the death of a member in the **families** of the poor **customarily** means **expenditures** out of all proportion to any **expectation** or even hope of **financial ability** to pay the **bill**. Among the poor insurance is almost **invariably** **burial insurance**. One of the haunting fears of the poor man's family is that **if** any one of **his** loved ones should die it would have to be buried **in** a pauper's grave.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

But let us turn our **attention** now to the children who **survive**. The **family relief** records are eloquent in their monotonous **biographies**. The children are undernourished, they seem to run the gamut of **children's diseases** with rare faculty. The great advances in **immunization** have been a boon to them, but **still** they suffer. Sample **studies** by the U S **Public Health Service** have uncovered the fact that **sickness** among the poor is much more frequent than among other classes, and that the average **duration** of **illnesses** is over **twice** as long. Naturally **this** is what we should expect where the **opportunity** to procure **medical** treatment is less, where **nourishment** is less regular, and less adequate, and where the wear and tear upon **mind** and **body** is greater. We are in the habit of **saying** that these are the natural results of poverty, but we have the cart before the horse—they are **family** conditions **arising** largely out of the size of the **family**, which have produced the **condition** of too many mouths and not enough food. They have resulted in a poverty that **knows** no **elevation**.

Again the record reveals an ugly truth about these **surviving** children. **Their** schooling is but fragmentary. They are kept home for lack of shoes or clothes. They come to school **with** no **breakfast**, so much so that in all our metropolitan school systems, school lunches are **provided** and **given** to children who haven't enough food at home. **This** fact is evidence of **underprivilege** in these children in **their** preparation for life. **Again** we say

it is because of **their** poverty, but **again** I say we have **mistaken** the cause for the effect. The family from which they came has undertaken on too **slight** assurance, to carry a load of support too heavy to be borne. It is not a lack of loyalty to the job—it is not a **failure** of determination to work every day and earn workman's **pay**—it is only that the workman has taken on too much of a load.

The **American** laboring man's **family**, certainly in the lower **paid** occupations, follows a well **recognized** poverty cycle, which **begins** with the young fellow at the **point** of marriage. He **begins** house-keeping **with** his **bride**, and they **live** with **fair** competence above the level of want, Independent and courageous. Then come the children. The first makes some **difference** in the **family** budget but if it is a **healthy** child the young couple go forward **with** some feeling of prosperity. The second **child** is still not too much of a burden, but by the time there are five, the household is pretty well known to the **social** worker. Roughly **speaking**, the large **laboring** families that have not been at some **time** or another dependent upon **charity** are the **exception**. The **saving** circumstance is that the first and second **child** become old enough to earn, so that if the brood is not too large and the mother has not broken down and the **children** are not **sickly**, and all the other major **"ifs"** are **satisfied**, the household lifts **itself** **again** above the **line** of dependency and is **self supporting**. But as soon as the children leave to **establish** homes of their own, the parents find themselves **growing** older and older, presently **super-annuated** for the getting of a job, and **without** **savings**. They face a dependent old age.

So much of a **routine** has **this** poverty cycle become, that it may be taken as **axiomatic**, that large **families** **rapidly** produced, mean poverty, **misery** and a low quality of **physical** and mental **capacity** in the young.

As we classify and argue and **discuss** the **various** causes of dependency, we ascribe heavy toll to **drink**, a good deal to vice, the **heaviest** mark for **sickness**, but the professional case worker knows full well, how much drunken debauchery follows from the utter discouragement of men and women in the battle of life. They know how much of other **vices** **akin** to **drink**, **stride** along the same path, and they can tell you that the **families** of frequent and numerous **childbirths** are the families of many **sicknesses** and of frequent deaths.

If we were to look up and away from the **family** dependency records, at the far **horizon** of depend-

ency as you see it in the mass, we should find eloquent proof of man's improvident propagation of his young. So ingrained is the fallacy that numbers means strength and that rapidity of growth means progress, that we shall have to be careful not to fall into a false philosophy in our thinking. Our loud-voiced political leaders have for decades insisted that the people of the United States are great because they have grown so rapidly, because they have so many populous cities. In all probability our greatest weakness is our rapidity of growth. Somehow national character and race culture are deep matters of slow development.

From the economic point of view population growth is unsound that is not in complete attune with the development of available and dependable food supply. China is thought by the ablest students, to have been overpopulated for 300 or 400 years. She appears never to have placed the slightest check upon her birth rate. She recognizes three great forces that serve to keep her population down—war, famine, and disease. And so we find her today, as she has stood through all this time, at the saturation point, breeding about 16,500,000 young each year, and losing approximately the same number of souls by death. If this holocaust were ordained by the Supreme Being, the problem facing us would be different. So far as man has any reason to believe, Fate plays no such part—the real reason for it is Ignorance, and ignorance no longer justified, since scientific knowledge has dispelled it.

If we turn to India, we find the same situation—an agricultural people, seeking to support whole households on half an acre of tillage, dying by the hundreds of thousands, where even a moderate shortage of rainfall reduces the food supply. This Indian situation is interrupted slightly by the incoming of the British government, with imports and some regularization of supplies, but so long as the East Indian places no check whatever upon the numbers of his young, just so long must all other forces, economic and political, be overborne by the great compelling law of overpopulation.

Look where we will through the history of mankind, across the nations of the earth, we shall find that the deadly law of over-population is working constantly, rolling up populations in excess of the reasonable expectancy of feeding them. The population of the world today lives upon a huge *if*—if the grain and the vegetables and the fruit are produced *if* they are gathered *if* nothing goes wrong with the elaborate, intricate system of transporting

them from the point of production to the place of consumption and, finally, *if* the closely-herded population swarms at the terminals of these supply routes have the wherewith to pay for them, then man in his present state can live. But the chain of industry, like a conveyor, must move smoothly, and no link of it must get caught or break.

A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

The human family is becoming more convinced today than ever before, that there is something inherently wrong in this industrial system that has taken the world captive. We speak of business depression as a banking or an accounting difficulty, yet we are learning now that there are psychological factors governing credit behind these sick spells of industry. We are discovering by degrees, that the artifice of mechanized industry rests like everything else, upon fundamental factors of human motives, and that at the end of our analysis we shall discover our greatest difficulty to be the pressure of population upon food supply.

Let us be careful at that point, not to assume that birth control as a remedy means mere restriction of numbers or that the thing we need is a positive decline in the numbers of our people. What we do need is the propagation of each child with a maximum of physical opportunity for his sound up-bringing, the protection of the mothers so that they may give the maximum gift of strength to the child. We need in short a new philosophy of life, which will say that one child well bred, is worth a score of children who are scrawny, ill-conditioned and ill-favored of nature for the tasks of life.

Society's chief concern with the mating of the sexes is the propagation of children who shall be the best that their parents can produce. Society has no use for a miscellaneous collection of runts—it wants finestrung babies that are capable of becoming assets in the social balance sheet. So long as the human family neglects this vital service to its young, so long shall we have a dreary record of unnecessary dependency.

Nothing that is admittedly and unmistakably horrible matters very much because it frightens people into seeking a remedy, the serious horrors are those which seem entirely respectable and normal to respectable and normal men.

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Is Birth Control Eugenic?

Dr *Lyon*, Dean of the *Medical School* of the *University of Minnesota*, delivered this address at the mass meeting on birth control at the *National Conference* of Social Work

By ELIAS P LYON

THE answer is yes—neutral—no Birth control is a method of modifying population The same question regarding any method of modifying population must be answered "Yes—neutral—no " A more accurate answer demands the determination of the differential between desirable and undesirable types of population If there is no differential, i.e., if all types of population are modified alike, the answer is "neutral "

But usually there is a differential Let us begin with man in a state of wildness (I object to the phrase "state of nature" Anything and everything that conforms to Nature's laws is natural The automobile is as natural as the basket on an Indian woman's back, the radio is as natural as the waterfall) Let us assume man in a state of wildness—all his behavior instinctive and unmodified by reason Population is unrestricted from the reproduction standpoint, but it is restricted by disease and food supply The strong, the healthy, those with initiative survive and reproduce The weak, the deformed and those lacking the ability to adjust perish, usually without reproducing themselves There is a eugenic differential This method is called "Survival of the Fittest " Whatever else may have happened, all plants and animals including man have come to their present state under the operation of this law

Even under so-called civilization population may outrun food supply Conditions may become so poor that progress of certain kinds is impossible It is true the fittest survive, but it is the fittest to meet the peculiar conditions that exist That is the state of affairs existing under the American flag right now in Porto Rico Disease and poor living conditions go together, the securing of bare necessities absorbs the labor of the population, and there is no surplus for education and maternal improvement What that country needs is a ten-year moratorium on births What it gets is a mce speech from the President and an encyclical from the Pope

Or let us take war The best and strongest are selected to fight and die The feeble-minded and

their ilk, the cowards, the shiftless do not make good soldiers, they remain at home to procreate War is undoubtedly dysgenic So far as stature is concerned the records show decreased average height of Frenchmen as the result of the Napoleonic struggles That the average intelligence of this people was also lowered is not now capable of statistical proof but it is probable that it occurred Surely the last war had that effect War is dysgenic, and that is the worst thing that can be said about it War should be outlawed for this reason alone

Let us take modern medical science Thousands of children born today will grow up and reproduce, who under the conditions existing half a century ago would have died in childhood Among these, of course, are many of excellent inheritance, for death in the old days did not wholly respect the families of the capable But on the whole, medical science preserves a larger proportion of the unfit than would formerly have survived To this extent medical science is dysgenic And so also is an enormous amount of the social and philanthropic work of which this National Conference of Social Work and all informed people are so proud Those of you who are interested in homes for the aged may compliment yourselves on the neutral aspect of your endeavors so far as race welfare is concerned For the rest I can hardly think of a single group which is not striving to defeat the "Law of Survival of the Fittest " You are conniving at racial impairment you are dysgenicists, whether you know it or not

Celibacy is a dysgenic factor in so far as it withdraws from reproduction a group superior to the average in intelligence, imagination and moral control Some statisticians claim they can prove the dysgenic effect of celibacy in the religious sect in which it is extensively practiced

Education is dysgenic to the extent that it favors late marriage or no marriage, few children or no children among the more progressive and intelligent of the population The emancipation of women is dysgenic to the extent that superior

women **give** up home and family **responsibilities** in order to pursue a "career." The number of **Misses** among prominent women is **appalling!** **Misses** they are. Racially they are missing **something** very important.

But on the **opposite side** let us consider the feeble-minded. This socially **destructive condition** is distinctly **inheritable**. If in any way these people can be prevented from reproducing, the average **population** is thereby **improved**. **Sterilization** is one way. **Sterilization** is therefore a **eugenic** measure. Many people are **mildly** interested but **think** the task impossible. They talk of "a drop in the ocean," because we know the number of **feeble-minded** is very great.

But **consider** such a case as that recently reported in the *Eugenics* journal, entitled *Four Generations of the Dysgenic Family*. From Alma, **feeble-minded** progenitor, who came to **America** in 1850 have been traced about forty **living** adult descendants. Among these are so many **feeble-minded**, so many **criminal**, so many **incestuous**, so many **alcoholic**, so many **deformed**, so many **epileptic**, so many dependent on charity that the total goes way above the forty members of the **family**—in other words some of these are two or three **kinds** of **defective** or **delinquent** in one person. The cost to the state of **this** group doubles every five years and will total \$45,000 in the next five years. Now suppose Alma, the grandmother, had been **sterilized** before she had children. Several **social** workers would be out of a job and **tax** payers would be **relieved**. **Sterilization** of **feeble-minded** pays compound **interest** to society. But you have to use **imagination** to see it.

It takes **little imagination** to see a **crippled child**, a **sick** mother, a feeble old man and do **something** about it. But as someone remarked, "Notions of **cosmic** tragedy do not often **effectively** influence the **individual**." It will take **imagination** and much education to put into operation the thousand year plan needed for the improvement of the race. **Sterilization** of the **unfit** is one method that will be employed.

And now what of birth control? Is it **eugenic**? The answer is yes—**neutral**—no. But the more important **question** is does it operate **differentially**? The judgment of those who have **studied** this **question** most carefully is that it does so operate. They say that the **higher** classes use it more than the lower classes. In other **words** birth control, as it is used, is **dysgenic**. Further, they say the higher

classes so **limit** their **families** that they are not **reproducing** themselves. There is abundant **evidence** that **this** is true. The leadership of **America** does not reproduce **itself**. This is the most **disturbing—appalling—fact** that I know in the whole social, **political** and **economic** category.

Dozens of **studies** have been made **proving** **this** fundamental fact. No college group that I know of reproduces **itself**. **Harvard** graduates do not keep up **their** number. Yale graduates do not do so. Women's college groups have less daughters than **their** own total State **university coeducational** students fall **behind**.

I graduated from a small college. There were 37 in my class. With 37 real or **potential** spouses the number to be compared becomes 74. As class secretary I canvassed the group a few years ago and found 66 **children**. Just roughly I ran over the completed **families** of my acquaintance in the faculty of the **University of Minnesota**. They averaged about two children to the **family**. It takes over three to the **family** in order that any group may be **maintained**. **This** is because of deaths, **failures** to marry, **failures** to have **children**. **This** faculty is not **reproducing itself**. The men and women of *Who's Who* do not reproduce themselves.

CLASS SUICIDE

Why is **this**? Is it lack of money? Surely not **entirely**, for the bankers do not reproduce themselves. Is it **sterility resulting** perhaps from **intellectual** Me? I do not **think** so. I note that **missionaries** have large **families**, that poor clergymen do better than **rich** industrial leaders. Most of those who have **studied** the matter **think it is birth control**.

When you get right down to the naked truth many **intelligent** people do not want children because they cost so much—so much trouble **sometimes**, so much money more often. The average **intelligent, foresighted citizen** thinks he is **performing** his duty to the state and to **his family** better by **having** one or two **children** for whom he can provide as much as **possible** of the good **things** of **life** and especially an **expensive education**, than he would by **having** more **children** and **providing** less. Never **did** a more **falacious** argument **influence** the **action** of a great group of people. Nor is **this** argument new. **Writing** in the tune of Greek decadence Polybius complains "The most [our **citizens**] consent to do is to have one or two children, whom they leave rich and seated in the lap of **luxury**."

And where now are Athens and the Isles of Greece?

"Eternal summer **gilds** them yet,

But all except **their** sun has set"

The **danger** is not race **suicide** but class **suicide** **Birth** control, as someone says, is a "two edged sword" If **applied** among the least desirable types it would be eugenic **Applied** among the more desirable types it is **dysgenic** It is being applied in the latter not the former manner The well-to-do, careful, **farsighted**, intelligent use it The poor, **shiftless**, careless, weak-minded do not know about it or do not use it This is the main reason why I am in favor of **birth** control clinics and the widest possible **dissemination** among the poorer types of the same **information** which the better types have and use At the same time I think every effort should be made to impress on the leadership group the **obligation** of having larger **families** Calculating at present rates of **reproduction**, in the fifth **following** generation, it is said, **100** brain workers will have **14** descendents, **100** unskilled workers will have **236** descendents If **this** is not a danger signal, **heredity** is a **delusion** and the past **experience** of the race is no **guide** for the future "The **plain** fact is," writes Albert **Wiggam**, "if **civilization** is to continue, the **higher** classes must have more children"

The basic facts of all this are, of course, the facts of **heredity** **Heredity** determines all the **possibilities** of a man It is proved beyond all doubt that **intelligence** and the **qualities** of leadership are **inherited** **Education** does not make brains, it merely develops **their possibilities** **Brains** are bred, like short horn cattle or Percheron horses, from men of brains, as short horn from short horns or Percheron from Percherons

If you **think** the world will be better in **100** years with less **brains** and more morons, continue to do **social** work and do not have **children** One hundred and **eighty** babies are born every hour in these **United States** Only **eight** have a high grade of **Intelligence**, the great bulk will never **attain** a mental age of over **12** to **15** years **Considering** the increasing **complexities** of **life** in an age of science and **industry** it seems to me more **brains** are needed

"You wish to serve the state, **Niceratus**?" asked the Woman of Andros

"I do"

"And you admire courage?"

"I do, **Crysis**"

"Then go and bear **children**"

To which I add **Provided** you are above the average in **intelligence**, temperament and physical **heritage**

STERILIZATION AND CONTRACEPTION

By E E GOSNEY, *President, The Human Betterment Foundation*

CONFUSION results from carelessly coupling the terms eugenic **sterilization** and birth control together, in eugenic **discussions** Both **diminish fecundity**, but **imprisonment**, capital **punishment**, prolonged illness, and many other conditions also have **this** result For clear **thinking** it must be **recognized** that the differences between eugenic **sterilization**, as it is **practiced** under the laws of twenty-seven states and a number of **foreign countries**, and contraception as advocated by **birth** control students and **propagandists**, are greater than the resemblances For instance

1 Eugenic **sterilization** is **applied** by the state to persons who are, for the most part, Irresponsible Contraceptives can be used only voluntarily by people who are responsible

2 Eugenic **sterilization** is **irreversible**, permanent Contracept-ions **reversible**, never permanent

3 Eugenic **sterilization** will prevent any **possibility** of future **abortion** in that **marriage** It has

never been found whether contraception, as now practiced, leads to less or to more **abortions**

4 Eugenic **sterilization** is **certain** in its results, contraception is **uncertain**

5 Eugenic **sterilization** is, under usual state laws, ordered or **permitted** by the state, for the benefit of the state **Contraception** is **practiced** by the **individual**, on his own **initiative**, primarily for his own benefit rather than for the benefit of the state

6 Therefore, Society accepts the **responsibility** in the **application** of eugenic **sterilization** The **individual** alone accepts the **responsibility** in the **application** of **contraceptive** methods

7 Eugenic **sterilization** starts where contraception stops It is **applied** primarily to people or **families** without the **intelligence**, **emotional stability** or self control, to handle **contraceptives** successfully It succeeds where contracept-ions would **fail**

Do Women Want Children?

By NAOMI MITCHISON

MAY I be forgiven for writing a rather personal article—a provisional and bothered one? May I take the novelist's privilege of being unreasonable?

Because there are two or three rather worrying things about the writings and talk of those who favor birth control, both here in England and in the United States. I want to make them clear to myself and perhaps to other feminists, who may find themselves in the odd position of abusing and belittling one of the most interesting and often pleasurable things that a woman can do, and one which no man, however intelligent, can do at all.

When I first became interested in the theory of contraception, some years ago, and in its practical application in clinics and welfare centers, I thought that it was essentially a feminist activity. I was less interested in the eugenic or Malthusian aspect, because I have an inborn distrust of statistics and have seen too many doctors and scientists contradicting one another. But it did—and does—seem to me good feminism that women should be this much set free, should say when they were going to have their babies, and organize their lives on a more certain basis. Things were, of course, sunpler, in those days. We had the idea that certain contraceptive devices, properly used, were at least 99% safe, and that the extra 1% was a matter of scientific research, a few years work at the most. We thought little of the aesthetic inconveniences, supposing them to be equally temporary.

Since then we have realized two things: that the percentage of safety for an ordinarily fertile woman is lower, and that the ideal contraceptive, fool-proof, certain and at the same time without the emotional and aesthetic inconvenience of all present methods, is yet to seek and may well be, in spite of active research work, very many years in coming—if it comes at all. There has also been an increasing amount of birth control propaganda, designed for persons of all classes and carried on by all kinds of experts. And, as all situations should be reconsidered at frequent intervals, it seems

This distinguished English feminist protests against current anti-baby propaganda and urges women to hold fast to their right to be women, "to have babies proudly and gayly

about time that feminists should reconsider the birth control situation.

For, to my mind, there are two main dangers about which we must be wary. One is the constant danger of modern life, the danger of being regimented, of being bullied into doing a thing because everyone says that everyone else is doing it and that it is a capital thing to do, of being told that one is uncivilized and unscientific if one ventures a feeble protest. This regimentation has been applied to men for some time but only lately to women in their own special function as parents and potential parents. We are told exactly how to feed, clothe and play with our babies, so that we daren't put them into a pretty frock for fear of the all-wool enthusiasts (or for that matter a wooly vest for fear of the all-sun experts) or kiss them for fear of the psycho-analysts, or keep them a minute longer than clock-time at the breast for fear of the dieticians. The only mercy is that with a little hunting one can usually find one expert to contradict another, but it is all very heart-searching and effectually relieves us of many of the joys which were experienced both by the Cave Woman and the Victorian Mother-of-Ten. We are also told that we must have such and such an interval between births, it is hard to get an expert who will allow one less than three years, even if one has adequate food, clothing, housing and help with the children. The difficulty is that this regimentation is growing, one doesn't know where one will be next. Isn't it time to think about it before someone has to come with a banner and the great rallying cry: Women of the World, Anse, you have nothing to lose but your Experts!

The other danger is this: there is a constant anti-feminist movement going on in high-brow circles, especially in England and America. There is a constant, mghng anti-baby propaganda. We

are told of the horrors of motherhood, our flesh is made to creep. The undoubted **miseries** of being a mother (as **indeed** of **being** a person) in a bad slum are **given** this particular emphasis, so that we are led to suppose that all the **unhappiness** comes, not from **living** six in a room anyhow, **with** the father out of work, but from **having** that extra baby. The supposition creeps up the **social** scale, so that gradually the extra baby comes as a black mark in the **family** which can afford to have it comfortably and, if I may say so, **without** heresy, enjoyably. It has come to the pitch that a woman may reasonably and respectably ask her husband for, or apply her own **income** to, a car, a pearl necklace, a country cottage or a European tour, but that extra baby is a **thing** which she must feel it really rather dreadful and **shaming** to ask for! Well, at any rate there is that rather large **margin** of **uncertainty** about all **contraceptives**.

Of course **this** is not supposed to be so, all good **birth** controllers, from **Mane Stopes** onwards, carefully put in bits about how **nice** the **family** is, the well-spaced **family** of three, for **choice**. And it is not **necessarily** they who do the preaching. That **is** a matter of **public** opinion. And may I venture to wonder whether it is not perhaps at bottom male **public** opinion, added to the **opinion** of **immature** females and a **certain** number of mistaken female reformers, **which** is **belittling** our **babies** and taking away the pleasure and pride we had in **them**—or **trying** to—**depriving** us of what would be called, in any other **profession**, our **pride** of work? **This** is nonsense or anyhow **exaggeration**? Possibly. But all the same we ought to **consider** it. I have lately had three **children**, in unorthodoxly rapid succession, and really, from what some people **think** of me, they might have been burglars! Do for goodness sake let us stick to our right to be women, to have **babies** proudly and gayly **without** any kind of **social** shame, to get all the tremendous kick out of the babies, when we have them, as we possibly can—for soon enough they **will** be people on **their** own, **demanding** their own lives, on whose **bodily** beauty and mental freshness we must take care not to trespass—and above all to space them and have them as we and **their** fathers like, and not be **bullied** into doing the **hygienically** fashionable **thing** by any expert or any propagandist!



Dr. Scott is Right

I AM VERY GLAD that Dr. Scott has had the courage to **write** "Do Women Want **Children**?" and that you have had the courage to **publish** it. **You** will receive many letters of protest, many of them **hysterical** in tone. We always **resist** violently any **plain** **truth** which has its roots deep in our **emotional** life.

The fact is that Dr. Scott is correct, or nearly so. There is a type of woman who wants **children**, I regret to add that from my **observation** she **is** usually not a type that **is** desirable for racial welfare. Her exaggerated prototype may be found in the nauseating **heroine** of Rex T. Stout's *Seed on the Wind*. A woman who has any intellectual or cultural **interests** may accept motherhood as a **misfortune** or a social duty, but she does not ardently desire it or **suffer** for lack of it.

It is **impossible** in a letter to give the data on which **this** **dogmatic** statement is based, but I am nevertheless **convinced** of its truth. The so-called maternal **instinct** as we see it **displayed** today **is** a **perversion** of **civilization**, the **primitive** mother, like the **animal** mother, has her **babies** as she has **smallpox** or a broken leg, and forgets about them as soon as they are able to fend for themselves.

If the result of a **recognition** of **this** fact should be the **extinction** of the human race, there are those of us who could bear up under the prospect, but **if** **this** **is** **considered** a **calamity** then, as Dr. Scott says, **childbearing** will have to be **subsidized**, as is every other **sacrifice** laid upon citizens for the good of the nation or the race.

MIRIAM ALLEN DEFORD

Woman's Heritage

BECAUSE I do not feel that I am any glorious exception to the **female** sex, I **think** my personal **feelings** may be quite as valuable in this argument as the emotional **prejudices** (also devoid of **statistics** and proof) of one of the **opposite** sex—Dr. George Ryley Scott, author of the article "Do Women Want **Children**?"

If Dr. Scott is a **medical** man, he must surely be **familiar** enough **with** the whole **physiological** set-up of woman, and **with** its **special** attendant **psychological** reactions, to conclude that a creature so **biologically** designed for the **special** purpose of **reproduction**, would be rather more desirous of **fulfilling** **this** **function** than not, that she **might** also have some instinctive knowledge that the **psy-**

chance of completely forfeiting this process of reproduction would be, in the end, greater than the physical price of the pain of childbirth

Surely one cannot seriously suppose that every baby born in the so-called "upper class" (which is the admitted champion of birth control) is a "little mistake," that never would have been brought into the world but for carelessness or faulty method!

If the truth were known, one would find, I think, that there are many women who want a baby more than a husband, who would be quite content, if it were socially possible, to possess the former without the latter. The urge to realize this dream of a child goes far back into early Me and is very often the chief reason for marriage. Why must we think women more afraid to enter their own particular field of adventure with its attendant risk, than are men to enter them, of exploration and experimentation? Is courage a purely masculine virtue, or may it not be a human attribute capable of finding expression in both sexes?

It is as foolish to say that all women want babies as to say that all do not. Obviously there are some women who do not want them, although it is questionable to what extent these women may be considered to be "women" in a complete sense. There

are also many men who do not want children and many that do. In general though, it is fair to say that the love for all young things and the attraction toward them is a strong human trait, and that the majority of women do not lack courage and stamina sufficient to undertake the bringing of these little beings into the world.

Furthermore, birth control has made it possible for motherhood to be a glorious thing. Effective contraception being accessible, motherhood can now be looked upon as the expression of a conscious and voluntary participation, as an active agent, in the great creative work of Nature. No longer submissively conscripted, woman is now free to volunteer her whole being, ready to surrender her Me, if need be, toward the creating of new life. It is her heritage, her chance and her opportunity. She knows it. And freed from coercion, no longer of necessity over-burdened, she will bear a finer race of wanted human beings. She may also smile a little at the pitiable and vicarious fears of the male who, when he intimates that she does not want children, tries to make of her a snivelling and weak sister, afraid of her destiny.

HELEN MILLIKAN

Marriage in Transition

By JAMES H. S. BOSSARD

JUDGES, like doctors and lawyers, are in a position to gain considerable insight into a variety of human problems. Unfortunately, at least in one sense, the politics of their practice has led them as a rule to keep the knowledge thus gained to themselves. While it is extremely important for all persons who deal professionally with other people to respect always the confidence of their clients, it does seem legitimate to share the value of their experience with serious-minded students. In fact, it is a question whether the records of professional practice have been given sufficient recognition as sociological data.

It is all too seldom that one who is well qualified and has dealt for a long time with some intimate phase of human life will speak freely and frankly, in the formal pages of print, of his experiences and observations. When this does happen, the result generally is interesting and most often instructive. Certainly such a person, if at all intelligent and sincere, deserves an attentive hearing.

*Men, Women and Conflict** is a book of this kind. During his many years on the bench at Reno, Nevada, Judge Bartlett presided over some 20,000 cases of divorce. Obviously, there can be no question of the extent and range of his contacts and experience, nor, for that matter, of the importance of the problems involved. And his new book speaks frankly and intimately of a variety of aspects of the relations of men and women—marriage, divorce, birth control, child welfare, women in business, and the like.

There are those, of course, who will dismiss the book because it hails from Reno, insisting that as such it reflects only the seamiest side of the picture of American domestic life. Upon second thought, however, it must be obvious that Reno is only a geographical and legal accident. It might as well have been some other state, whose abbreviated residence laws could have been utilized to meet the

*Bartlett, George A., "Men, Women and Conflict," G. P. Putnam, New York, 1931. \$3.00

growing demand for easy divorce. In fact, recent legislative enactments in several other states indicate that Nevada's monopoly of this business is about over. At any rate, these legal developments, both in Nevada and elsewhere, however unpalatable to some, must be interpreted by the serious student as but the visible signs and symptoms of rather fundamental changes involving the family and marriage relationships.

For the sake of convenience and clarity, Judge Bartlett's observations will be presented under four heads: (1) divorce, (2) marriage, (3) birth control, (4) spirit of approach.

(1) Judge Bartlett believes in divorce and its contribution to human happiness. He accepts it as a sort of clean and justifiable spiritual surgery. Practical egress from a man-made trap which lacks emotional justification, he insists, is no menace to the marriage institution, but rather ennobles and elevates it. Reverting again to the analogy with surgery, divorce, he says, may be painful and radical, but like an appendectomy, it may be absolutely necessary for the well-being of the persons involved. Divorce should be easy, because it is love, alone, that unifies. When love is gone, it is a union in name only, "a travesty upon the thing it ought to be." Especially is society's wide acceptance of divorce "the banner of woman's triumph over marital slavery."

Judge Bartlett's emphasis upon the distinction between the complaints voiced by litigants and the more fundamental factors involved is a point well taken. Divorce is a human, not a legal, problem. The legal causes mentioned, as a rule, are but the symptoms of the "real causes" which do their festering beneath the surface.

Behind the legal complaints, he identifies "three very strong re-agents: money, affection and sex." Of these, sex is identified as the most important. "Experience with thousands of cases of divorce has left me with the ineradicable conviction that of all factors that contribute to happy marriage the sex factor is by far the most important. Affection, as distinct from sex, can save a couple sexually mismatched from divorce. The economic problem is present in most marriages and determines nearly as much of the success or failure of them as sex does. Family finances do most of their festering beneath the surface. Modern standards of living put such a premium upon the husband's earning power that few girls can hope to marry a husband near their own age without facing a greivous sac-

rifice. This disparity of marriage age is one of the commonest bases of divorce. Money involves the relations of a couple to outside society" and often becomes "the final fatal irritant."

(2) Judge Bartlett looks upon marriage objectively, as a social institution. And social institutions, like the Sabbath, are made for man and contrived for his happiness, and not vice versa. He sees marriage as in a state of change. Just as our ideas about physics, once considered as wholly fixed, have been revolutionized by recent scientific discoveries, so are our ideas about marriages undergoing transformation, "only we have yet to hear from a marital Einstein."

These changes are leading us to something considerably different, and better. As to the nature of the new, he has no set ideas. "What is happening is that civilization has brought us to a point of uneasy doubt on the one hand, and science fails us on the other. To assure progress, we must both curb our yearning for improvement and have faith with our research workers."

(3) Readers of this REVIEW will be interested particularly in his views on Birth Control. "A little daily experience in the divorce court would convince any but the blindest bigot. More marriages are wrecked by the complications that arise from unwanted pregnancy than by any other single cause. Divorce as a national evil is likewise unimportant compared with the forces of human pity and of national health which he so largely in the actuality of unwanted babies. The distress of the man and wife who cannot agree is unimportant as compared with the potential criminals they may send into posterity through neglected offspring. Every divorce judge or lawyer I know strongly favors the well-organized scientific promulgation of birth control information." Surely the observations of a man of Judge Bartlett's experience outweigh the sonorous generalizations of the lesser informed.

(4) The scientific objectivity and restraint with which Judge Bartlett deals with his material would do credit to the pretensions of many an academician. Throughout, he seeks, not to make out a case, but to report his experiences and observations. Moreover, even when he generalizes, it is with reservation. For as strongly as he insists upon anything it is this one fact that each case must be considered separately. "There are not, and never will be, two marriage situations exactly alike."

(Continued on page 223)

Sex Education in the Y.M.C.A.

By HOWARD K HOLLISTER

NO OFFICIAL opinion as to the necessity or advisability of birth control has been enunciated by the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States, but both the local organizations and their federating body—the National Council—seem to be fostering an extensive and intelligent policy of sex education wherever the local officers are qualified to organize group study or impart information in individual interview

According to Mr J Edward Sproul, Program Section Secretary of the National Council of Y M C A s, there are four chief methods whereby the national organization helps the local units in building up a rational ethic on matters of sex among their member groups

- (1) **Helping** to conduct demonstrations or experiments in sex education in local Y M C A s, and **getting** the best of these experiences reported to other Associations
- (2) Helping to make available needed publications, recommending, **reviewing** and **distributing** books in which sex subjects are treated in **straightforward** fashion, **publishing** some where necessary
- (3) **Helping** to train local staff members in sex education through study conferences and summer schools
- (4) Carrying on research in co-operation with a World Y M C A and Y W C A Commission on Sex Education, the object here being to **discover** the information basic to a sound program

"Today there are probably fewer direct lectures on sex in Y M C A s than one might have found some years ago," says Mr Sproul, "but more frequent dealing with this interest in its total life setting. Information is sought and given as it is pertinent or as questions arise in the midst of play, discussion groups, interviews, plans for activities, reading, etc. The information offered is undoubtedly sounder than

much that formerly passed for fact, and the highly emotionalized gathering with resounding 'thou shalt not's' is almost completely gone"

Instruction within groups aims to help people to become articulate and to deal with the subject objectively. In forums and discussion groups all sorts of views are expressed. In most of them no attempt is made to dodge the most intimate phases of sex perplexities. No fiat, or official attitude is promulgated, but men and boys are helped to understand the known facts, to arrive at their own opinions, and then to bring their conduct under intelligent control. This does not mean that every Y M C A secretary everywhere conducts groups in the discussion of sex problems. There are still many—perhaps a majority—who do not feel competent either to discuss sex matters with authority themselves or to arrange for such discussion. Evidence suggests that much of the existing program, however, is carried on with considerable skill.

In several Associations in and near New York City several kinds of groups offering adults and young people opportunities for discussion of sex problems may be found: first, groups of young men and young women who wish to know how to prepare for marriage; second, groups of married couples facing problems of family life; third, groups of parents interested in their own problems and in the education of children. The subject of birth control is one that comes up naturally in many of these meetings, and while no definite recommendations are made, experiences are shared, books made available, and names of reliable medical authorities given.

In scores of other groups among boys—like Hi-Y Clubs, Employed Boys' Brotherhoods—sex also finds its appropriate place. Specific information is often sought and given, talks are arranged where orderly statement is desired by an entire group, interviews are common.

As a result of summer schools, personal reading,

The Y M C A recognizes clearly the needs of the young people with whom it comes in contact, and is fostering an intelligent program of sex education and preparation for marriage. The REVIEW described the attitude of two local Y M C A s in its September, 1930, issue. Mr Hollister feels that a similar progressive attitude obtains throughout the country. An article on the work of the Y W C A along these lines will appear in an early issue.

university study, and special conferences, the number of **secretaries** competent as personal counselors is **rapidly increasing**. Knowledge of contraceptive measures and of recent research in this field is commonplace among the better **trained Y M C A** officers, both **professional** and **non-professional**, but probably no more so among the rank and file than among **citizens** generally. An official expression on **birth control** and **intelligent sex knowledge and discussion**, if ever made by the **National Council of Y M C A.s**, would undoubtedly take the same form as it did in the Federal Council of Churches—that is, in a **majority and minority opinion**. The close **affiliation** of the **Y M C A.s** with the churches would probably **result in wide circulation** of the Federal Council document rather than formulation of a new one.

It is **significant** that the books of Wmfield Scott Hall, which used to **strike fear into** the hearts of boys, are now out of **print**, while the modern, rational books, **So Youth May Know**, by Roy E. Dickerson, and **The Sex Life of Youth**, by Harry Bone and Grace L. Elliott, bearing the Association Press imprint, have sold thousands of copies since publication a year and two years ago. Mary Ware Dennett's book **The Sex Side of Life** has been distributed in **Y M C A.s** by the thousand. At the time of Mrs. Dennett's trial, three National **Y M C A** officers took places on her defense committee. They were **William E. Speers**, Chairman of the Home Division Committee, **Harnson S. Elliott**, Chairman of the Boys' Work Committee, and **Abel J. Gregg**, of the Boys' Work Staff.

Among the Young Men's **Christian Associations** in the New York area which have been particularly active in the movement for **intelligent sex education** for the past several years are **New York City**, **Brooklyn** and **Hackensack**, **Westfield**, **Montclair** and **Paterson**, **New Jersey**. In several of these, courses in preparation for **marriage** are held, often in conjunction with the **Y W C A**. A course given in **Brooklyn** in the **Spring** of 1930, and repeated at **Westfield** in the **Fall** of 1930, conducted by **William H. Dewar**, covered, among others, the following topics: What fundamental **qualifications** should govern the choice of a **mate**? What about physical

attractiveness, **heredity**, **social status**, **education**, **religion**, **moral character**, **disposition**, **wealth**, **money habits**, etc.? Do you know what the **physiological** laws of marriage are? Are there reasons why some men should not marry some women and why some men and women should marry no one? What **psychological** adjustments does marriage require? Should married women work? How shall our income be spent? Do **children** make or break marriage **relationships**? Are they an asset or a **liability**? Should they be born the first, the second or the **third** year after marriage? Or should there be no **children** at all? What information about birth control is available and **legitimate**? What makes for **happiness** in the home?

"Where figures have been obtained," says Mr. Dewar, the leader of the Brooklyn group, "It would appear that not over five per cent of the young men and boys who **participate** in local **Y M C A** groups have had sex **instruction** from their parents. It is therefore **plainly** the duty of the **Y M C A** to **provide this instruction** for its members."

"Our **experience** has been that the young men and young women who attend the **discussion** groups on **preparation** for marriage have a **serious, earnest** purpose. The **gatherings** have been **singularly** free from **curiosity seekers**. It is not required that those who take the **instruction** be **actually** engaged, but they must **recognize** marriage as **their** goal. Perhaps half of the young people who attended the **Brooklyn** class last year were living in **Y M C A** or **Y W C A** dormitories. The **joint activities** provided by the two **organizations**, such as dances, **sightseeing parties** and **picnics**, gave them what I might call sex education in the broad sense. Their **interest** in the **discussion** group was a natural sequel."

"In regard to birth control we take the **attitude** that Ignorance is no longer comparable with **innocence**. The members of our groups are informed on the **history** of the movement and **existing** laws, cautioned against **depending** upon **casual information**. Where the need for **information** about methods is **evident** after thorough **investigation** of **individual** cases, married couples or couples about to be **married** are told where and under what **circumstances** it can be had."



The White House Conference

The Sin of Omission

By **IRA S. WILE, M.D.**

THE deliberations of the White House Conference

on Child Health and Protection have been gathered together* for purposes of reference and for the guidance of those who are specifically inter-

ested in Child Welfare Medical Service, Public Health Service and Administration, Education and Training of the Handicapped are considered. The reports of the Conference Committees are presented in orderly form with careful presentations of facts and figures, theories and programs, ideas and comments, usually ending in a series of conclusions and recommendations.

It is significant that in an entire volume devoted to child health and progress there should be no recommendations concerning birth control. Here and there is a hinted appreciation of the fact that rapid child bearing and too numerous progeny have some relation to the health and protection of children. Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, Chairman of the White House Conference, for example, refers to the fact that "The intelligent control of our human stock offers a fundamental solution of some of our present difficulties and gives promise of a greater future for us as a people." Whether this refers to eugenics and matings in general or whether the "intelligent control" is to arise through the teaching of contraception is not stated.

Martha Van Rensselaer, in a splendid address, refers to the possibility "for children to be better born," but there is no carrying on of the idea to its logical conclusion save in a later paragraph in which she refers to a better understanding of the problems of parenthood and the development of individuals more qualified for marriage. Contraceptive guidance may have been part of her unspoken thought.

The most glaring sin of omission occurs in the

Birth Control failed to win any official recognition as a factor in promoting "Child Health and Protection", as Dr. Wile points out in this comment on the published proceedings of the White House Conference. Heredity was also ruled out of the discussion. Dr. Elias P. Lyon, Dean of the Medical School of the University of Minnesota, succeeded, however, in reading into the records at the February, 1931, sessions a protest against the neglect of the problem of heredity.

discussion of pre-natal and maternal care by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Fred L. Adair, M.D. One searches in vain among the conclusions dealing with infant and maternal morbidity and mortality which are admittedly "unnecessarily high," for a single hint of the relationship between too rapid child bearing and large families to those wholly preventable casualties. The ostrich has been outdone.

Those who are interested in the frank and honest discussion of birth control will receive no enlightenment from a perusal of this book. Everyone will approve all of its recommendations, although many will regret the sad and stupid omission of all direct reference to birth control in its relation to child health and protection. Article IV of The Children's Charter, contains a pledge "For every child, full preparation for his birth, his mother receiving pre-natal, natal and post-natal care, and the establishment of such protective measures as will make child bearing safer." In its essence and broadest implications this is the doctrine which the advocates of birth control especially commend and support.

Not One Cent for Heredity

By **ELIAS P. LYON**

A BEAUTIFUL PIECE of English composition, "A Children's Charter," came out of the Conference. In nineteen articles in nineteen separate ways it held forth how the environment should be perfected. I hope they will all be accomplished, although some of them hold implications of such far-reaching social and economic change that one wonders whether the politically minded

*White House Conference, 1930 White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. The Century Company, New York \$2.00 (bound) and 50 cents (paper)

men in charge of the Conference were aware of what they were *saying*

And in the whole nineteen articles there is not one word about heredity. Being informed that discussion on the floor of the Conference of such topics was not in order, I handed in a memorandum from which I quote the following

"Representing a group of biologists of the University of Minnesota, I wish to record the conviction that too little attention has been paid to Heredity in this Conference. We believe that the knowledge of heredity already existing offers great possibilities for race improvement. We are moved by the contrast between the very large expenditures of public funds, foundation endowments and private gifts, the enormous amount of social effort of all kinds, exerted on the environmental side, and the comparative neglect of the practical aspects of heredity as applied to man.

"We are aware of the unsatisfactory present situation of Ignorance, of prejudice, of unscientific propaganda. We attribute this situation largely to absence of an authoritative, united declaration on the part of experts in this field. We suggest that there be held a conference in which all phases of this fundamentally important subject may be investigated and discussed as fully and frankly as the environmental side has been at this conference. From such a conference we should hope for an authoritative program leading, as the generations progress, to the realization of what we believe should be the first cardinal declaration of a Magna Charta of Childhood: "Every child is entitled to be well born."

This memorandum was read into the record by Chairman Wilbur at the last session of the Conference and referred to a follow-up committee.

My colleagues and myself are enormously interested in this matter. We have reprinted the memorandum in the magazine *Science*. It is our hope that one of the great foundations which so freely spend large sums on environmental improvement may be prevailed upon to finance such a conference as we have outlined. We should hope that out of such a conference would come an authoritative program for the use of the extensive knowledge of heredity that already exists.

We are not pessimists. Neither do we underestimate the task. We see rather the inauguration of a thousand year effort to make a better race. If we in America can plan that far ahead, it will be something humanity has never done before.

Comments on Ellis' Article

FREEDOM AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

I FIND myself in complete agreement with Havelock Ellis in his article on *Marriage—An Enduring Institution*. I believe that monogamy is the ideal to which society should approximate. There should be nothing compulsory about it. Marriage should be made harder and divorce easier. Plenty of sex education and probably sane and decent sex experience should precede permanent marriage. The new sexology, far from destroying marriage and the family, is the only thing which can make possible a happy and enduring marriage for the majority of mankind. Most marital discord is due to absence of sex knowledge and to sexual maladjustment, both of which would be eliminated if we were civilized enough to disseminate scientific knowledge on sex matters and to permit pre-conjugal sex experience.

There is no doubt that a civilized society would permit voluntary sex relations outside of the recognized relationship in cases where marriage did not prove possible or desirable. Further, unmarried women should be allowed to have and rear children when intellectually and financially capable of meeting such a responsibility. In other words, we should not envisage a social order where sex expression would be limited exclusively to the legal family. But the family would be the normal unit in which to concentrate the recreative and procreative manifestations of human sexuality. Freedom and knowledge, such as Mr. Ellis has so valiantly supported, are probably the only procedure which can save the family in modern civilization. Obviously, the bonds of theological and legal intimidation are bursting. The new family order must rest upon intelligence, freedom, and adequate information.

HARRY ELMER BARNES

THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE

HAVELOCK ELLIS' article, *Marriage, An Enduring Institution*, in the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, is both timely and interesting. There is a great deal of wishful believing. People believe that a certain thing will take place because they want it to take place. Whether the facts are with or against them does not seem to disturb them. If all those who write about the "bankruptcy of marriage" and tell us that within a decade or two

mamage **will** cease to exist as an institution would examine the facts, they would see that their prophecy is merely a **reflection** of **their wishes**

As a matter of fact, proven by incontestable official statistics, the number of **marriages** has not been diminished, but increased "In 1890, for instance, 55% of the adult population of the United States were marned, thirty years later, in 1920 (the figures for the 1930 census are not out yet), the percentage was increased to 60' "Adult" **ap**phes to men and women over fifteen years old In other words, in a **population** of 100 milhon there were in 1920 about 4½ **million** more marned people than there were in 1890 (See *The Critic and Guide*, March, 1931)

The causes of the increase in the percentage of **marriages** are many, but without doubt the spread of the knowledge of prevenception or birth control **is** one of the most potent factors Anybody who is an earnest student of the subject **will** acknowledge that the fear of a large family was one of the most **restraining** influences, one of the most powerful brakes on mamage Now that all intelhgent men and women know about birth control, there is less **hesitation** in entermg the **institution** known as **marriage** And **it** is my well considered opinion that **with** the further spread of **prevenceptive** knowledge and **with divorce** becoming easier, the number of marnages **will** go on **increasing** Instead of taking place at a later and later age, as was the case a generation or two ago, marnage will take place at a considerably earlier age And **this** will do away, to a great extent, **if not with promiscuity**, certainly with **commercialized prostitution**

I definitely believe that **marriage**, instead of being a crumbling, **decaying**, putrescent, bankrupt **institution**, or whatever other adjectives our **ultra-radical**, half-baked sexologists may apply to it, is and **will** remain an **enduring** institution

Permit me to quote from my *Sex Morality*, Post, *Present and Future*, which I wrote exactly twenty years ago "The monogamic system of **marriage** **will** probably **survive** in the future as the dominant system The **family** will in the future as in the present form the **basic unit** of society, for a **happy, harmonious family** **is** the **best environment** for the proper **brnnging** up of **children**, for the proper development of character Of course **it** **is** possible that the state **institution** for the care of **children** in the future **will** be of a much higher character than the institution of the present But the **insti-**

tutions with which we are **familiar** do not **inspire** us with very great expectations in **this** respect A good home is **superior** to the best institution or asylum or **pension** or dormitory, and **no substitute** **has** yet been **found** for **mother** love and father love "

Whether or not the people **will** still **solemnize** their marnages with religious or legal ceremonies **is** a matter of minor importance One thing is certain **marriage** in the future **will** not be such a practically **indissoluble** arrangement or contract as **it** is now On the petition of both parties a divorce or **dissolution** of **marriage** will be granted **without** further ceremony, for the two persons who have to hve together are the best judges as to whether they want to continue to hve together or not And when there are no children to be taken care of, a **simple** declaration by husband and wife, repeated perhaps after a lapse of three or six months, should be and **will** be quite sufficient for the **termination** of the marriage contract Here the State should have nothing to say When there are **children** the State **will** make sure that they will be properly cared for and **provided** for, before a **di-**vorce is granted

Monogamy, **while being** the prevalent system, **will** not be surrounded **with** the **rigid** and iron-clad rules of the present day, **will** not be so absolute in its applications as **it** **is** **theoretically** supposed to be now, and occasional departures from it **will** not be **accompanied** by the **odium** and legal punishments of the present day The mass of the people **being** more **familiar** with the truths of **physiology** and **psychology**, **occasional** straying from the **straight** and narrow path of n g d monogamy **will** not be frowned upon by the wife Perhaps st **will** be **encouraged** by **her**

It is possible that **it** will be considered best for people to marry at a very early **age**—**eighteen** to **twenty-two**—**even** before the man can establish and support an **independent** home In such cases the young man and woman would remain at their respective parents' homes, **until** such a time when they could **live** mdependently, and they would meet only occasionally They would have to guard **against having children**, but the measures for the prevention of **conception** are easily taught and easily **carried** out

Changes the mamage institution **will** undergo, but a change does not mean **abolition** It very often means **strengthening** and **improvement** Our entire moral code, not merely our sexual mores, is **undergoing** a change, **is** in a **condition** of flux,

but that does not mean that our entire moral code **is** going to the dogs. On the contrary, we believe that **it is becoming higher**, nobler, more humane, and what is of equal **importance**, more **intelligent**

WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M.D.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

HAVELOCK ELLIS' **assertion** that the persistence of the **family** as an institution is to be expected and is **highly** desirable **socially**, comes with **particular** force from a **radical thinker** and a free-minded **sociologist**. His correlative assertion that **marriage** will vary in form and in **rigidity** of structure need not then alarm us. His emphasis upon its **essentially** human **origin** and character justifies us in **thinking** that the archaic theistic ceremony **still** in vogue will **give** place eventually to a type more humanistic, **like** the one already in use in the **First Humanist Society** of New York, based upon human **ideals** rather than upon **divine sanctions**

CHARLES FRANCIS POTTER

A MATTER OF BELIEF

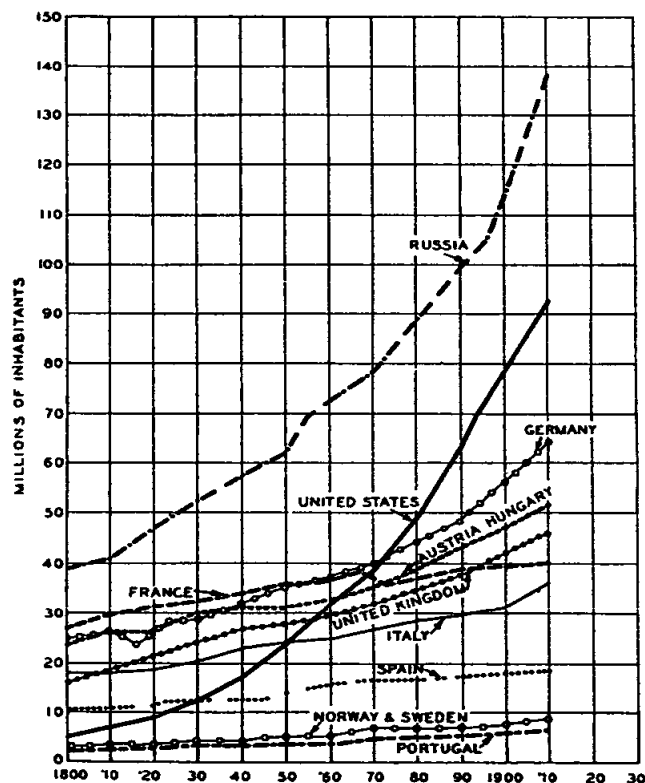
IN **Commenting** on Havelock **Ellis'** article *Marriage—An Enduring Institution*, my **inclination** is to say **if Ellis** says so, **it is very likely** so. He **is** no advocate or **special** pleader, his attitude is **judicial** and his judgment **cool**. **I think I** must follow my **inclination**. With these reservations. What is called "marriage" is an extremely complex **institution**, a folkway in which not alone amenable drives, interests and **habits** suffuse one another, **discordant** and **conflicting** ones also enter in. As an **institution**, marriage is an unstable **compenetration** of its components. Its **equilibrium** is **dynamic**, **shifting** now to **this**, now to that component for a base, **according** to the pulls and **intensities** of the centrifugal parts. **Thus** marriage has a **history**, which is a succession of forms that vary **with** the **time**, the place, the people and the cultural **situation**, and marriage consists of an assemblage of present forms which are the resultants of **similar** and of novel **influences** presently **operative**

Whether any one, or all, of these **influences** is strong enough to **disintegrate** the **institution** of marriage by **reinforcing** its centrifugal components, cannot be told from a study of its **biological grounds**, or of the sex life of savages, or of its **history** as an **institution**. The present state of **marriage** is present, not in so far as it repeats the past, but in so far as it **embodies** unprecedented

elements, and reacts to unprecedented **conditions**, which the past could not foresee and which could not be **predicted** from a study of the past. The **impact** of large scale industry and of science on **civilization** and its **institutions** has transformed the **dynamics** and patterns of **social life**, including the **family**, in the most unexpected ways. And these forces are **still** very far from the **maximum** of their **intensity**. The observations and inferences of **biologist**, **psychologist**, **anthropologist** and the rest, throw no light on how these forces affect marriage, or manage them. The "social sciences" simply **provide** data, like so many **articles** on the menu of a **cafeteria**, from which intellectuals choose and **publicists** **rationalize** the **satisfaction** of their appetites. But they do not enable us to **predict** that marriage **will** endure, or in what form it **will** endure or how long. These are matters of belief and preference, not of **scientific** forecasting. And it is because I prefer that marriage shall endure and so believe that it **will** endure, that I **align** myself with Mr. **Ellis**

HORACE M. KALLEN

POPULATION INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SINCE 1800



Carr-Saunders

France Needs Birth Control

By GEORGES VALOT

THE French law against the spread of birth control information is the most drastic of any country. It the Federal Council of Churches had issued a statement in France similar to that issued in New York in March all the members would have been put in jail.

To be or not to be that is now the question for France, where the population is decreasing. France strives for peace, but she believes in the old proverb, "Si vis pacem, para bellum." As compared with our population of 40 million, Germany has 66 million, and Italy has 41 million and is increasing at the rate of 450,000 per annum. This increase makes it absolutely necessary for Italy to extend its territory, consequently we see Italian leaders claiming Corsica and Nice as their own. This formidable Italian increase in population is a permanent danger for peace in Europe, and in case of war France will be overpowered by superior numbers.

Public opinion, various leagues and the government all join to urge an increase in our population. To that end the French government has tried to increase our birth rate in two ways: first by encouraging an increase in the birth rate, second, by repressing all measures which tend to diminish the birth rate.

Encouragement: bonuses, reduction in taxes, certificates of honor and good citizenship, and medals are meted out to those who produce large families of from 6 to 20 children.

Repression: ban on criminal abortion. Article No. 317 of our penal code is particularly severe for pregnant women seeking abortions, and for anyone who performs them. A physician convicted of teaching or practicing abortion is condemned to hard labor. Those who disseminate contraceptive methods or offer to disseminate contraceptive methods are punished by one to six months in jail and fined 100 to 5,000 francs. As a result, even in cases where a woman has had several Cæsarian operations, or is suffering from severe tuberculosis, it is absolutely a crime to prescribe contraceptives.

I challenge anyone to show me a single book on the population problem published in France which is not effected by the slogan "France is becoming depopulated because she has no children." Al-

though this point of view is based on the attitude of the French Government it is absolutely wrong. While from 1900 to 1929 the birth rate was diminishing by 45 per cent in England and by 49 per cent in Germany, the birth rate in France was diminishing by only 18 per cent. At the present time the French birth rate, 17.7 per thousand inhabitants, is higher than the English figure of 16.3 per thousand, and is very close to the German birth rate of 17.9 per thousand.

The French birth rate is satisfactory. If the population of France is decreasing it is because she is the only one of all the highly civilized countries to have a death rate of 18 per thousand. The following death rate figures are significant:

United States	11.9
Germany	12.5
England	13.5
Italy	16.0
Spain	18.0
France	18.0

These nations have approximately the same climatic conditions, and good hygienic institutions. The mystery is explained as soon as we compare the mortality and the consumption of alcohol in these various countries.

France stands at the head of the list, and after her comes Spain and Italy. Up to the advent of Mussolini, the Italian death rate was higher than the French. Now matters have been reversed, largely, I believe, because Mussolini has been successful in closing thousands of saloons. In the hope of reducing the French death rate, the Bureau for the Study of the Liquor Problem (*Office National D'Etudes Sur L'Alcool*) was founded last year, with the help of Professor E. Gley, former President of the Academy of Medicine in Paris. On behalf of this organization, I am traveling through many countries studying mortality in relation to hygienic conditions and alcoholic consumption.

I hope that I shall gather sufficient facts to prove that the trouble with France is the death rate not the birth rate, and that its death rate is due to its large consumption of alcohol. If I can succeed in reducing the death rate through lowering the consumption of alcohol, I shall indirectly help the birth control movement in France, for I shall point out that it is not the birth rate which is an evil, but the death rate.

Book Reviews

THE PHYSICAL BASIS OF PERSONALITY,
by Charles R. Stockard, M.D. W. W. Norton
and Company, New York \$3.50

THE Insane, the idiotic, and possibly the criminal are familiar examples of personality gone wrong. In the animal world such individuals would be promptly and inexpensively taken care of by the impartial struggle for survival. With a civilized people, believing in the sacredness of human life even though it be solely the prolongation of the physical existence of but the dead clay, the problem assumes altogether different proportions. The constantly increasing drag on positive evolution of humanity by the maintenance and care of the abnormal personality reaches proportions, in dollars alone, little short of astounding. From this single side personality touches every one of us, yet this may be the darker side. In our every day contacts it is always the personality of one human being touching that of another which looms to the fore. It behooves us, therefore, as intelligent human beings, to make a direct effort to understand the ways and means of personality. Furthermore, if we are to have a successful program for the prevention of the waste attendant upon abnormal personality, it becomes necessary to have a thorough understanding of the things to be prevented.

Dr. Stockard has presented, in the book under review, a unique contribution to the analysis of what makes personality. No aspect of this many-sided problem is over-balanced. Environment, heredity and development all come in for their proportionate share. In the space allowed for review, but one of the numerous important contributions to this subject can be cited. The instance chosen is from Dr. Stockard's own work in the study of personality in dogs. The many types and breeds of dogs are differentiated one from another in striking ways. In attempting to analyze the physical basis of these differences in personality, he has made crosses of these pure types one on another. In a cross between the short-bent-legged basset hound with the normal, wild-type, long-legged German shepherd, often in error called police dog, the hybrid offspring are all very closely alike in form, coat texture, color, and behavior, and this is true no matter which breed is used as sire or dam. The progeny are all short-legged like the basset

parent and none have the long legs of the shepherd. The shortness, however, may vary somewhat and is rarely so pronounced as in the pure basset hound. The short-legged, first generation hybrids all have the long drooping ears of the hound and never the erect ears of the shepherd, and the voice or bark is also more hound-like than shepherd-like. When these hybrid pups are reared by a shepherd mother and have never seen a basset hound, they will, when put on the field for the first time, scent with their noses down and bark as they run, behaving as their hound father would do, acting in a manner entirely unlike the reactions of their shepherd mothers with whom they have always associated. Thus their hunting instincts are as truly inherited as leg-lengths or hair color, being probably associated with acuteness of smell, and are not, in this case at least, developed as a conditioned reflex by observing the behavior of the mother.

Dr. Stockard has performed a real service in gathering together the scattered and varied literature on the physical basis of personality and summarizing it in such a pleasing style. In the space of 320 pages is collected a subject matter having a significant bearing on us all.

JOHN W. GOWEN

CHRONOS, OR THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY, by Eden Paul, *Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. London, England*

DR. PAUL takes as his thesis, *change in the forms of family life* caused by modern economic conditions, which have brought about woman's freedom from male dominance, both economic and personal, and by the knowledge of birth control now widely practiced. Therefore men and women can and do indulge in sex relationships suitable to basic human needs, though what these needs may be is not defined, nor is any evidence to support the assumption of widespread change in sex relationships given.

Having airily disposed of monogamy (apparently parents in the past got no emotional or social satisfaction from permanent relationships with one another or with their children) Eden Paul grants that children may be born, forgetting the assumption that birth control should eliminate such a contingency, he provides for their care by placing them in "scattered homes," where children will

be **guided** by adults who "have a talent for parenthood" and **will** become **socialized** through contact **with** one another

What the **ultimate** effect upon adults and children thus ahgned **will** be and hence upon society *per se* Dr Paul does not **disclose**

That there are profound changes occurring in family life today no one would **question** But whether the **ultimate** and universal adjustment **will** be along the hnes **indicated** by Dr Paul may well be challenged

ELSA BUTLER GROVE

MARRY OR BURN, by George Ryley Scott
Greenberg, *New York* \$2 50

THIS most uneven book is remarkably hard to review fairly With one hand Dr Scott gives what he takes away **with** the other One can say of him that he is sincere, forthnght, unafraid, that he is a thorough **believer** in birth control, and also in **legalized abortion**—in other words, over a **woman's right** to **possession** and use of her own body, that in **general his views** on **marriage** and on sexual **abnormalities** are **entirely** sane, and that he **recognizes organized** orthodox theology as the greatest enemy of progress in the sexual as in all other fields On the other hand, he is an **extremist**, next door to a **fanatic** on some **points**, he injures his own cause by the **wild** and **impossible claims** he makes, he betrays a personal **bias**, especially in regard to **feminism**, which makes him at times **ridiculous**, and to cap the **climax**, a great part—as he is fond of saymg, a "**big**" part—of his book is written in a language that never was on land or sea, with **neologisms** that **display** bad **Latinty**, and with a **pedantic** use of obscure and obsolete words that **will** wear out most readers' **dictionary-direct-patience**

Love, to Dr Scott, is a **fiction**, it consists in the **preservation** of an **illusion combined with** sexual **technique**, and apart from that it is **nothing** but lust plus **affection** But what has anyone ever **claimed** love to be expect lust plus **affection**, to reduce it to its lowest terms? When he **expatiates** on either **religion** or **economics**, he shows the same **emotionalism** and **prejudice** I happen to be in **entire** agreement **with him** on **religious questions**, and yet I feel that **misreadings** of the *Encyclopedta Biblica* **will** never help our common cause Likewise, I confess to a fellow-feehng **with** Dr Scott in his **animadversions** on **children**, in his statement—unpopular but, I **believe**, true—that **children** break up more

marriages than they **bind**, and that for those with Important work to do they are an **unmitigated liability**, but I cannot follow him when he concludes that therefore **child-bearing** must be made "**attractive**"—by repeal of **public education** and **child-labor laws**! Surely (and this **applies** as well to his **anti-feminist tirades**), if there are not enough jobs for all the healthy adults in the world, the **solution is** to **establish** a social system whereby there shall be enough, and not to **forbid** women from being self-supporting, or demand that children shall be! Much of the book, **indeed**, is a **wish-fulfilment dream** **Certainly** in this country there is no such **universality** of **Rationalism** as Dr Scott **proclaims**, and (as a member of the **British Rationalist Press Association**, and a constant reader of its literature) I doubt very strongly whether such a **condition obtains** in England **either**

Dr Scott **will** have down on him all the war nurses and other **aids**, all the **feminists**, all the **re-ligionists**, however **modernistic**, all those who love and desire offspnng, as well as all the "**moralists**" and reformers who would naturally attack a book of this nature As propaganda for birth control or for changes in our **marriage** system, his work frustrates its own end I know—and have not always **avoided**—the **difficulty** of **remaining judic-ial** and **impartial while** in the gnp of strong **emotional convictions** but the fact **remains**, as Mencken has **pointed out**, that **indignation** in literature defeats its object

If some **sympathetic friend** had taken the manuscript of this book and deleted from it all that arose from merely personal **emotional bias**, we should have a valuable work As it is, **Rationalists**, **marnage reformers**, and **birth controllers** alike must needs **sigh**, after reading it, "God save us from our **friends**!"

MAYNARD SHIPLEY

A NEW THEORY OF HEREDITY, by George Arthur Gaskell C W Daniel Co, *London* 2s 6d

EMPHASIZING the **psychical** rather than the **physical** aspects of **life**, the author of this bttle book sets out to expound a new theory of **inheritance** His arguments savor of the **séance** room rather than the laboratory, and he uses **biological** terms with a looseness which would cause even the most **charitably-minded biologist** to shudder, yet he sets forth an **interesting** point of **view** The theory, briefly, is that **life** and **inheritance** result

not so much from the **union** of two mature sex cells as from some "subtle **surrounding medium**" concerned **with** the "**super-physical** nature of **mind** and emotion," a **something** which surrounds our planet **like** an atmosphere and **which contains** the "special life processes of every **kind** of plant and animal on the **globe**" Lacking any **experimental** data whatever for support, the theory as **explained** bears the **virtue** of being novel rather than **convincing**

Of most interest to the readers of the **BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW** is a section in the **appendix** entitled "**Heredity and Birth Control**" Herein the author **includes** some correspondence **with** Charles Darwin, dated 1878 In answer to a letter written by Gaskell explaining some of **his generalizations** in regard to social selection, or the **birth** of the fit, Darwin replied, in part, as follows

I have lately been led to reflect a little (far now that I am **growing** old, my work has **become** merely **special**) on the **artificial** checks to increase, and I cannot but doubt greatly whether such would be advantageous to the world at large at present, however **it** may be in the **dis-**
tant future.

Suppose that such checks **had** been in **action** during the last two or three **centuries**, or even for a shorter **time** in **Britain**, what a **difference** it would have made in the world, when we **con-**
sider America, **Australia**, New **Zealand** and South **Africa**! No words can exaggerate the **im-**
portance, in my **opinion**, of our **colonization** for the future history of the world

If it were universally known that the **birth** of children could be prevented, and **this** was not thought **immoral** by married persons, would there not be great danger of extreme **profligacy** amongst unmarried women, and **might** we not become like to "**arrested**" societies in the **Pacific**?

In the course of a century, France will tell us the result in many ways We can already see that the French nation does not spread or increase much

It is **interesting** to note, here, the conservative stand taken **by** Darwin on the question of **birth** control There is little **doubt** that in the light of present **conditions** Darwin would have taken a more **optimistic** view, as the **writings** of **his intellectual** descendants, Julian **Huxley**, Leonard **Darwin**, and others, **evidence**

ESTHER F VREELAND

MRS GRUNDY A HISTORY OF FOUR CENTURIES OF
MORALS INTENDED TO ILLUMINATE PRESENT
PROBLEMS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED
STATES, by Leo Markun D *Appleton* and Co.,
New York \$5 00

MEDDLERS UPLIFTING MORAL UPLIFTERS, by H
I Brock *Ives Washburn*, New York \$3 00

CENSORED THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE MOVIE, by
Morris L Ernst and Pare Lorentz *Jonathan*
Cape and *Harrison Smith*, New York \$2 75

WHENEVER society or society's Volsteads,
Comstocks and Grundys, officially or unof-
ficially, go too far in attempting to **direct** and
regulate personal and **public morality**, there fol-
lows a **violently liberal reaction** We are **living** now
in such an era of **reaction**, in **testimony** of which
we have these three volumes, a few of many such
recently published

Mrs Grundy, like the poor, has been **and**—al-
though we deprecate **it**—will be always **with** us But
one thing is certain—and **this** is Mr Markun's
thesis—her good **reputation** is not what it once
was, for the simple reason that she is preeminently
fickle. She changes her **position** as to what is right
and wrong as often as the **minute** hand of a watch
Mr Markun's **thesis** is not new The burden of
Leck's History of European Morals is that the
recognized virtues are practiced in varying degrees
depending on the time and the place "There is
not," writes Mr Markun, "a single **definite** rule
for moral conduct that has always and everywhere
prevailed among men"

For instance, like Benjamin Franklin, Mrs
Grundy is not the same person abroad as at home
She changes her **attitude** in the Solomon Islands,
again in Persia, again in Moscow, and again in the
Tibet Nor is she the same woman today that she
was yesterday She has rewarded pirates, but has
reprimanded **children** in Cromwell's time for **having**
said that they had seen a **squirrel** run across a
road, she has condoned **gambling** but has frowned
at **ministers** who **baptized infants** born on Sunday,
she applauded, when a president of Harvard in
1673 said that he looked upon toleration "as the
first-born of all **abominations**," but she condones,
when enroute through Germany, the **activities** of
the **nudists** A strange woman **this**! A most **unre-**
liable authority! **Exceedingly** untrustworthy! For
exposing her anew, Mr Markun deserves **high**
praise He has shown how necessary **it** is for every-

body, singly and en masse, to get sensible about the regulation of moral behavior

Meddlers is an excellent companion volume to *Mrs Grundy*, for in it Mr Brock catalogues and criticizes the forces which he believes are interfering with the natural evolution of American moral life and thought. He finds meddlers everywhere, and as thick as mosquitoes in a September swamp. He finds them in church, in the psychological laboratory, in peace conferences, in patriotic assemblies, in the Senate and in the House, in the school and college, in the club, in the publishing houses, on your doorstep and in your back yard.

But even their ubiquity might be tolerated were it not for their iniquity! They are pestilential. They carry a poisonous stigma with them everywhere, which may, indeed, put a commendable citizen in class with a criminal. "If a man who takes a drink of synthetic gin, or a man who has in his possession a copy of a book by Giovanni Boccaccio is no less liable to arrest and punishment than a felon who breaks into your house, shoots you full of holes and tramples the baby to death in his eagerness to get away with the silver—then what price felony? What price law? What price decency? What price horse sense, and that of the damnest plamest sort?"

Here are symptoms that warrant such a book as Mr Brock's—a book unfortunately that the majority of the meddling brood will not—dare not read—for Truth's sake, (their Truth, of course) and Mrs Grundy's Truth.

Censored—a book of the same salutary type as the two preceding, corroborates our suspicions that in various states our films are "cut" frequently and in a most asinine and indiscriminate way. It is a book which might well be titled "Movie Meddlers," or "Mrs Grundy in Film-land."

For instance, in Virginia, "Unwelcome Children" was rejected in toto and thrown out of the state. But why? Here is the censors' comment: "This film is a photoplay with a clearly defined well-acted plot, but—terrible to relate in the name of all that is scientifically true and socially advisable—it involves such delicate questions as eugenics, birth control, and abortion, contraceptives and the like." "A Woman of Affairs" was shown to the august censors in Virginia, they barred it because it touched on the subject of syphilis.

No movie of any artistic importance was passed by the ladies and gentlemen of Ohio without some "unholy gesture" being snatched from it, with the

exceptions of the story of Christ, "The King of Kings," and Charlie Chaplin's "The Circus."

Peculiarly enough, each state board according to these authors, has its own pet aversions. Kansas suppresses nose-thumbing, Maryland neck-kissing, Virginia untoward remarks, New York political corruption, but Pennsylvania is "the most arbitrary and severe of them all," and works "with a fury and an inconsistency that offer no clues as to what it purports to serve."

When the movie industry decided to "get itself a bishop" it turned the fate of the movie "over to a politician and Presbyterian elder," and Messrs Ernst and Lorentz conclude that "we can expect no fight for freedom, taste or mature thought in the conduct of the movie barons so long as the Bishop of Hollywood chants his platitudes and swings his pot of purity." EARL H DETSCH

BOOKS RECEIVED

BACKGROUNDS FOR SOCIOLOGY, by Hannibal Gerald Duncan, Ph D *Marshall Jones Co., Boston, Mass.* \$4 00

THE CHILD IN PRIMITIVE SOCIETY, by Nathan Miller, Ph D *Brentano's New York* \$3 00

ESSAYS ON POPULATION, by James A. Field. Edited by Helen Fisher Hohman. *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois* \$3 50

FIFTY YEARS OF FREETHOUGHT, Vol 11, by George E. MacDonald. *The Truth Seeker Co. New York* \$4 00 (with Vol 1—\$6 00)

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE STATE, A Plea and a Forecast, by C. P. Blacker. E. P. Dutton and Co. *New York* \$1 00

BIOLOGY IN HUMAN AFFAIRS, Edited by Edward M. East. *McGraw Hill Book Co. New York* \$3 50

THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNFITTEST, by Charles Wicksteed Armstrong. *The C. W. D. and Co. London.*



A NEW ARGUMENT AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL

Suppose I go to a river where salmon are spawning and I pour a fluid into the stream which nullifies the power of the female eggs to germinate. The game warden catches me and brings me into court. I tell the judge that I did not kill any fish and am therefore not guilty of destroying salmon.

What do you think would happen to me in one of our federal courts?

REV. P. G. KLEIN
Seattle, Washington

News Notes

INTERNATIONAL

THE International Union for the **Scientific Investigation** of Population Problems held its second general assembly in London, June 15-19. The American committee included Dr Louis I **Dublin**, chairman, Dr Raymond Pearl, Dr Henry Pratt **Fairchild**, Dr Frank H **Hankins**, Dr P K **Whelpton**.

UNITED STATES

BIRTH CONTROL as a public health measure was advocated at the annual meeting of the Medical Women's National **Association** in Philadelphia on June 8th. Dr Ellen C Potter, **medical director** of the New Jersey Welfare Department and chairman of the race betterment committee of the Association, said "The medical profession should have the most comprehensive outlook in relation to race betterment, and this **view** should include **birth** control, selective **sterilization**, prenatal and post-natal care, sex **education**, mental **hygiene**, parental education and **behavior** problems." The organization has always favored birth control under medical **supervision**, according to Dr Olga Stasny, **retiring** president.

The Eugenics Research **Association** held its annual meeting on June 6th at the **American Museum of Natural History**, New York. Dr Clarence G Campbell, **president**, pointed out that "we can have small hope of making permanent improvement in **social**, economic or civic **conditions**, unless at the same **time** improvement is made in the hereditary nature of the human stock that is **involved** in these conditions." Among the speakers were Professor **Harrison R** Hunt, Dr Charles B Davenport, Dr Bessie B **Wessell**, Dr A F **Blakeslee**.

The newly organized National **Council** on Freedom from **Censorship** has undertaken the defense of **Mane Stopes** book **Contraception**, which was imported several months ago by Dr **R N** Taylor, a research **specialist**, and seized by the Collector of the Port of New York. The defense contends that any **scientific** book should be allowed free entry if needed for study.

CONNECTICUT Dr Herbert Thoms of Yale **University School of Medicine**, spoke at the fourth and last **forum** held on May 26th

under the auspices of the Naugatuck **Birth Control League**, and said that physicians should be granted the right, by law, to **impart contraceptive information** to married persons.

Addressing the annual meeting of the **General Association** of Connecticut at **Windsor** on June 10th, the Reverend Fletcher D Parker, of Hartford, called upon the Congregational clergymen to "speak out as **Christians**" **against** the law prohibiting the dissemination of **birth control advice**. He said "By our absurd laws here in Connecticut, we cause thousands of hapless parents to bring into the world other thousands of poor, unwanted children. The repeal of this law is a **primary** charge upon our conscience as pioneers for a better **Christian civilization**."

NEW JERSEY The State Federation of Women's Clubs, through their **Social Welfare Department**, will take up the study of **birth control** next winter. The **Social Hygiene Committee** of New Jersey League for Women Voters (55 New Street, Newark) has issued an outline for individual and group study of birth control, presenting both sides and **giving** references to **available** pamphlets and books. Dr **Eric Matzner**, **medical director** of the American Birth Control League, spoke on the "**Medical Aspects of Birth Control**" at the weekly luncheon session of the **Veritans Club** of Paterson on June 3rd.

MINNESOTA The Minnesota Birth Control League filed **Articles of Incorporation** with the Secretary of State of **Minnesota** on June 13th. The offices of the League, which is affiliated with the **American Birth Control League**, are **President**, Mrs G C Shafer, first Vice-President, Mrs R F Welch, second Vice-President, Mrs R J Dorer, Secretary, Mrs H B **Wilcox**, Treasurer, Mrs **Gilbert J** Holzer, **Chairman** of Finance **Committee**, Mrs W O Winston, Jr, **Chairman** of **Social Welfare Committee**, Mr. Charles P Wagner, **Chairman** of **Extension Committee**, Mrs A E Selby, **Chairman** of **Publicity Committee**, Mrs Bernard S Harris.

Mrs W O Winston, Jr, was nominated as **representative** on the Board of **Directors** of the American Birth Control League. Temporary summer headquarters will be kept at the home of Mrs

Shafer, 3037 Fremont Avenue South, to whom all **communications** should be addressed. Permanent offices **will** be opened **in** the fall.

A luncheon **in** honor of Mrs. **Benjamin** Carpenter of **Chicago**, **president** of the **Illinois** Birth Control League, and member of the Board of **Directors** of the **American** Birth Control League, was **given** on Wednesday, June 17th, at the Woman's Club **in** **Minneapolis**. A group of women from **Minneapolis**, **St. Paul** and **Duluth** attended. Mrs. **W. O. Winslow, Jr.**, **presided**, and **introduced** as speakers, Mrs. Carpenter, **Miss Gladys Gaylord**, of **Cleveland**, **Ohio**, and Mrs. **Donald McGraw**, **director** of field work of the **American** Birth Control League. The **aims** of the League were **outlined** by Mrs. **McGraw** and Mrs. Carpenter and **Miss Gaylord** described the work **being** done **in** **Ohio**.

CANADA

REVEREND Canon Lawrence Skey, rector of **St. Anne's** Anglican church **in** **Toronto** recently **issued** a statement that he would **give** birth control **information** to any young woman **in** his **parish** about to be **married**. **Giving** his reason for this defiance of **Canadian** law, he **said**: "I cannot **permit** women to go to their deaths from bearing too many **children** because doctors and governments will not **inform** them." No action was taken **against** the Canon.

GERMANY

A **NATION-WIDE** campaign for removal of all legal **restrictions** on birth control **is** **being** launched **in** **Germany** under the **leadership** of Frau Dr. Else **Kienle-Jakobowski** of **Stuttgart**. A "**Committee for Self-Incrimination**" has been formed, whose purpose **it is** to collect so many **affidavits** from violators that the courts **will** be swamped, and **prosecutions** **impossible**. The **Committee** **is** backed by **Lion Feuchtwanger**, **Karin Michaelis**, **Thea Van Harbou**, **Ernst Toller** and other noted **writers**.

JAPAN

A **BIRTHCONTROL** Women's League was **organized** on May 17th at a **meeting** held at the **Tokyo Y. W. C. A.** Baroness **Shizue Ishimoto**, long an advocate of birth control, spoke. It was **decided** that the League **will** **avoid** **political** **issues**, **will** **establish** **branches** and **clinics**, **hold** **training** **classes** and **discussion** **groups**.

Progress in Connecticut

THE Connecticut Birth Control League wound up its activities for 1930-1931, and fired its opening gun for the new year at a large luncheon **given** at the Lawn Club at New Haven. The **gathering** was **representative** and **included** many **physicians** and **prominent** women from all parts of the State. **Proceedings** were opened by a short speech from Mrs. **A. G. Porritt**, the **retiring** **Chairman** of the League, who **introduced** Mrs. **E. B. Reed** of New Haven, who **presided**. **Dr. C. E. A. Winslow**, who had been largely **influential** **in** **forming** the New Haven **Committee** of the League, was unfortunately called away at the **beginning** of the **meeting**, but the Yale **Medical** School as well as the **medical** **profession** of the State was well represented.

The work done **during** the **Legislative** session was **reviewed** by Judge **Epaphroditus Peck**, who **introduced** the **Birth Control Bill** **in** the **Legislature**, **piloted** it to a favorable report in the **Judiciary Committee**, and spoke for it when it came up for its final vote **in** the House. Judge Peck regretted its defeat, but **pointed** to the fact that the vote **in** its favor had **increased** from 17 **in** 1929 to 76 **in** 1931. He **attributed** this partly to a **growing** **sentiment** **in** favor of birth control, and partly to the fact that the bill had been much less drastic than that of 1929 by **which** a total repeal of the Connecticut law, **prohibiting** the use of all **contraceptives**, had been sought. The forces **which** the advocates of Birth Control now face, he told the League, are twofold. **First** there **is** the **opposition** of the Roman **Catholic** Church, and second there **is** the **conservatism** and Ignorance of a large section of the population, particularly **in** the over-represented **rural** towns of the State. The first opponent **is**, he **believes** unchangeable, but the second **will** **give** way **with** the advance of education. He **reviewed** at some length the recent steps **in** favor of birth control, taken by the Protestant churches, and **advised** the League to **continue** its efforts at education and gradual **modification** of the **attitude** of the average small town man and woman.

Dr. David R. Lyman, the **highly-respected** head of a large tuberculosis sanitarium, was the second speaker. He told of the desperate need of **contraception** for tubercular women and stated that **it** was **infinitely** preferable to prevent her pregnancy than to relieve her of it by **therapeutic** abortion, such as was **permissible** under the Connecticut law.

The most important report given at the meeting was that of Dr Herbert Thoms, who read a statement signed by Dr Comfort, Secretary of the State Medical Society

"As a medical organization the Connecticut State Medical Society is concerned solely with the medical and public health aspects of birth control, and not with social or economic considerations. The present Connecticut statutes provide for the legal performance of abortion in the presence of tuberculosis, heart disease, nephritis and other serious diseases. With this fact in mind it appears reasonable that our patients be further safeguarded by legalizing the dissemination of contraceptive advice for medical purposes by licensed practitioners, as was embodied in a proposed amendment to the State statute which was approved by more than 400 members of our society and by the Judiciary Committee of the present Legislature.

"The House of Delegates voted unanimously that the sentiments expressed in the above statements be approved by the Society.

"The House of Delegates also voted unanimously that this expression be referred to the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation of the Connecticut State Medical Society for proper study, action and report at the 1932 session of the Society."

Fortified by this support from the Connecticut State Medical Society, Dr Thoms moved that the Connecticut Birth Control League concentrate its efforts on the fight to secure an amendment of the Connecticut law on the same lines as the amendment introduced in 1931. The motion was carried unanimously.

The election of officers followed. Dr A N Creak of New Haven was chosen as President. The Vice Presidents are Judge Clarence S Hall, of Bridgeport and Mrs George S Hauck of West Hartford, Secretary, Mrs E B Reed, the Treasurer, Mrs Longshaw K Porritt. The Executive Committee are Mrs George H Day, Hartford, Dr A Bess Dayton, New Haven, Mrs Henry L Galpin, New Haven, Dr James R Miller, Hartford, Dr D C Peterson, Bridgeport, Dr Samuel Pierson, Stamford, Mrs A G Porritt, Hartford, Dr Herbert Thoms, New Haven, Mrs James K Whittemore, New Haven, Professor C E A Winslow, New Haven, Mrs Karl Young, New Haven. Mrs Leonard D Adkins is chairman of Fairfield County, and Mrs Alfred M Pease of Hartford County.

AYMCA READING LIST

FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE

"Marriage in the Modern Manner" by Dr Ira S Wile and Mary Day Winn—The Century Company—\$2 00

This is one of the best single books covering the range of subjects dealt with in the course, except the sex side of married life.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEX SIDE OF MARRIED LIFE

"The Sex Side of Life" by Mary Ware Dennett. Single copies 35 cents. Order from the author at 81 Singer Street, Astoria, Long Island. A pamphlet of 27 pages but, though brief, is quite complete. The plates are unusually well done.

"Introduction to the Physiology and Psychology of Sex" by Dr S Herbert Macmillan—\$3 00. A more extended treatise on the subject, in text-book character.

DEALING WITH THE ART OF LOVE IN MARRIAGE*

"Sex and the Love Life," by William J Fielding Dodd Mead and Company—\$2 50

"Modern Marriage" by Paul Popeno—Grosset and Dunlap—\$1 00

"The Sexual Life" by C W Malchow—C V Mosby—\$5 00

(Restricted in circulation)

"Happiness in Marriage" by Margaret Sanger Brentano—\$2 00

INFORMATION ON SEX FOR READING BY OR TO YOUNG CHILDREN

"Growing Up" by Karl de Schweinitz—Macmillan—\$1 75

A charming book, well illustrated.

BASIC INFORMATION AND COUNSEL TO PARENTS WHO WISH TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN

"Parents and Sex Education" by Benjamin C Gruenberg American Social Hygiene Association \$1 00

*For those who have already done considerable reading in this field, books by H W Long and W F Robie offer more detailed information regarding the enrichment of sex experiences. Long's "Sane Sex Life and Sane Sex Living" is especially helpful. They are not generally available but can sometimes be procured through the medical or psychological professions.

In the Magazines

IN MEMORIAM—JAMES FREYER COOPER

By S Adolphus Knopf, M D

THERE are many **discoveries** in the field of **curative medicine** and surgery which have lessened **disease** and suffering, prolonged **life** and **increased** human **happiness**, but no monuments in bronze or stone **exist** to perpetuate the memory of the great **physicians** and surgeons who attained those marvelous results. It **is** the same with those who have devoted **their** labors to the **prevention** of **disease**.

James Freyer Cooper was one of the great souls who belong to this latter group, but advocates of **such** unpopular ideas in preventive medicine as contraception are usually little known to the **laity**, and in many instances are frowned upon and **dis-** liked, particularly by men and women who are taught by their **spiritual** advisers not to **listen** to or read about **information concerning** such matters. Even **physicians belonging** to these **religious** persuasions are warned not to follow the **teachings** and works of the advocates of **birth control**.

Dr Cooper was, **until his** death, the medical **director** of the **American Birth Control League**, which **position** he had held for nearly seven years. It was my rare **privilege** to have known him personally and to have had many **intimate** talks **with him concerning** the problem which he had made his **life's** work. How far-reaching **this** work was, or how many **lives** of mothers of this generation have been saved by **himself** and the medical men and women who listened to **his** lectures and read his articles and books cannot **possibly** be **estimated**. If the letters **which** reach the advocates of birth control such as **Mane Stopes** and **Norman Haire**, of England, **Margaret Sanger**, the founder of the American Birth Control League, **Mrs F Robertson Jones**, the present head of the League, **Mary Ware Dennett**, the founder of the Voluntary Parenthood League, **Dr Robert L Dickinson** of the Committee of Maternal Health, **Dr William J Robinson**, the **indefatigable** writer of books on the subject of birth control, and the letters which came to Dr Cooper himself from mothers in **distress** and women who have been helped by the advice of **preventive** measures, could be **published**, they would constitute the best possible argument **in** favor of **scientific** **judicious** and **ethical** **contraception**, commonly

called "birth control." Such letters and personal appeals are daily coming from all classes of **society**, **high** and low, from all creeds and races, even from many whose church canons forbid them to resort to **contraceptive** methods.

In **his** **relatively** short **medical** career he accomplished more along the **lines** of preventive medicine than can be even remotely estimated. He was a teacher of a little known subject to thousands of **physicians** and students, a subject **still** forbidden in many medical schools of the country. He was a defender of womanhood and parenthood and an advocate of **medical** freedom, combined **with** the highest medical **ideal** and **ethics**.

Dr **Cooper** will not soon be forgotten by his friends, coworkers, fellow physicians, and students. Some day when birth control will be recognized by the general public, the **entire** medical and legal **professions**, and **particularly** by our **Legislators**, as **indispensable** to the physical, **spiritual** and **economic** welfare of any **civilized** nations, and when modern **medicine** will include scientific, **judicious** and **ethical** contraception among the most important subjects of the curriculum of **medical** schools, James Freyer Cooper's name will be known as one of **its** strongest, noblest and most efficient workers and teachers **in** this most **important** branch of **preventive** medicine.

—*Medical Journal and Record*, May 20, 1931

FEWEB AND BETTER

WHILE the churches continue to debate the right and wrong of **birth control**, the American **public** has apparently adopted the practice.

The census figures tell the story. In not one American **city** **having** over **50,000** population hitherto reported are enough **children** **being** born to **maintain** even a stationary population. In most of the **cities** there are only two **thirds** to three fourths of the number of children required to prevent a decline in the normal population increase.

Taking the country as a whole, the population **is** still **increasing** about **1½** per cent a year. **Statisticians** estimate, however, that **within** forty years the population **will** be stationary at **something** less than 170,000,000. **Then, if** we have not changed our immigration laws or our **habits**, there may be a **slight** decrease.

The importance of **this** change can hardly be overestimated It is **directly** attributable to **birth** control

Although some of the churches strenuously oppose this practice and others incline to **give** it qualified approval, the people, of all creeds and of none, seem to be accepting it

Fewer children are being born For more **attention** is being **paid** to health Consequently, death rates also fall The **expectation** of life has been greatly extended The emphasis of our **generation** has been **laid** on **providing** more health, more education and better opportunities for smaller **families** This is a new chapter **in** history

Collier's, June 20, 1931

A SIGNIFICANT STUDY

PRESIDENT HOOVER **in** his address before the White House Conference on Child Welfare said, "The birthright of every **child** should be a sound **mind** in a sound body, born under **conditions** which favor development"

In the ninety laborers' families **receiving** help from charitable agencies **in** Pittsburgh which were recently **studied** by the Birth Control League of Allegheny County the average number of **children** was **six** **According** to the family budget of the Pittsburgh **Federation** of Social Agencies a minimum of \$154 00 a month **is** needed to support such a family And yet not one man among those studied was earning enough to meet this minimum standard of health and decency

With this **situation existing** the **following conditions** are found to be prevalent There is undernourishment, ill health and lack of **medical** care, **improper** clothing and housing, lack of supervision of the children by the parents, delinquency, **child-labor** and **crime**, early marriage and a repetition of the above **conditions** in the next generation, and dependence upon **relatives**, agencies, or the state for support

In one family of eight children, every child **is** undernourished and in need of **clothing** The oldest child, a **girl** of fourteen who underwent an operation was very slow **in recovering** because she was not given the proper care and treatment Another child in the **family** broke his ankle, his crutches were homemade and awkward The two-year old baby needed **medical** treatment but there was no money, not enough to pay the rent Another baby is expected and the knowledge of this is accompanied **with** a feeling of dread, for the other children

are **in** want, they are suffering Which one of us who loves children could look forward with **anything** but regret to the birth of this child?

In **another** home the **responsibility** of the **family** has descended upon a fifteen year old **girl**, the eldest of **eight children** Since the birth of the last baby the mother has been a **semi-invalid**, unable to care for her family Cold, hunger, want, **suffering**, and early responsibility often cause the older **children** in families to run away from home in an effort to escape these chaotic **conditions** They usually find themselves worse off, especially if they have lacked the supervision of their parents **while living** at home In one family of seven **children**, the oldest **child**, a **girl** of **sixteen**, left home, was arrested with a gang of thieves and was sent to a reformatory

A father of **nine** children has had no steady employment **since** 1927 **Since** then he has been **picking** up odd jobs shoveling coal The mother is in very poor health and **is** now **receiving** hospital treatment, and yet two children have been born in the last two years The oldest two are married but have left **their** husbands and are **living** at home **Relatives** are **providing** temporary quarters for the children whose ages are 20, 17, 12, 8, 7, 5, 4, 2, and 1

It is necessary and very commendable that charity be **given** these people to relieve their immediate suffering However **it** must be evident to every **intelligent** person that our **responsibility** does not cease here The **community** must enable these people to **limit** their **families** by scientific and **medical** means, if we are to have children born with sound **minds** and sound **bodies** and with a chance for development

—*Editorial, Pittsburgh Press*, June 6

Will Birth Control Solve China's Problems?

By D O LIVELY

National Director, China Famine Relief, U S A

WHEN and if the National Government of China creates a National Economic **Planning** Council and **gives** such a Council the wherewithal to make the necessary **studies**, there are three outstanding absolutes **which will** get first attention They are

- 1 Reduction of armed forces
- 2 Increased food **production**
- 3 More and better roads

With our knowledge of the Central and South American countries, we should be able to realize

that revolution in China means an election in the offing. This does not **signify** the absence of **patriotism**, nor does it **indicate** a lack of progress. In the development of a **national spirit**, China has **made** and is making **giant** strides. The clan inheritance is slowly yielding to a national conception.

Considering how many **centuries** the **tradition-bound civilization** of China has been based upon and rooted in the family and the clan, those who measure what is now **taking place** in that country, and **men** do not make the common **mistake** of trying to apply a Western yardstick, note and evaluate **vast** changes.

There is reason for high hope in the **material** and cultural advancement of the Chinese, a people fundamentally great and admirable. First in importance is the unmistakable **awakening** of **China**, one **evidence** of which is the proposal to name a **National Economic Planning Council**.

One of the **evidences** of progress in **China** is the acceptance of and **enthusiastic** cooperation in the plans that **China Famine Relief U S A** has developed for the **solution** of the famine problem. Because of **their** fitness and since the **application** of **similar** methods banished famine from India, thus enabling that country to **consider** its **desire** for a place in the sun without having to carry the burden of hunger, it is **certain** that the perfectly **obvious** program which our **organization** is **fostering** will be included in the plans of the proposed **National Economic Planning Council**.

This program, purely charitable in intent, takes on **economic** habiliments and falls under five general heads, as follows:

Giving food to the **starving**,

Exchanging food for labor on roads and irrigation projects

Developing home **industries** among farmers and villagers in the famine areas,

Making available the demonstrated results of drought resisting seed and better **farming**,

Forming more **cooperative** rural **credit associations**

Now, where does **birth** control come in and is there a place for it in the **stabilization** of China? The answer to this question is that a service of great magnitude can be rendered **China** in **teaching** birth control to its people. **Leadership—disinterested leadership—is China's primal need**, but until a greater start has been made in meeting her food and clothing and educational **exigencies**, birth control must be patient.

Keeping in **mind** that since history began the root and branch of Chinese **civilization** has been the family and the clan, **remembering** that the cost of the cheapest contraceptive **device** is equal to a month's food supply for the average Chinese adult, and **realizing** that the rank and file of the population of **China** cannot read nor write, it will be seen that the **building up** of a consciousness of the **wisdom** of **birth** control is an undertaking of no little magnitude.

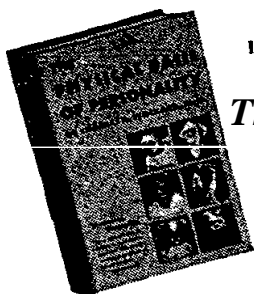
Let none **gather** from what **I** have said that the task is hopeless. There is, first, the tremendous and constantly **pressing** economic need over all of China. But if, like India, China can solve her food and transportation problems, and work out a **solution** of her **financial** difficulties, the field for the propagation of birth control knowledge **will** be ready for cultivation. What has been done in the **consideration** of birth control in the treaty ports of China has not dimpled the surface of thought in China proper, and when the **time** comes for tackling the subject in a real way, the methods that other **countries** have tried and found workable should be studied and used.

MARRIAGE IN TRANSITION

(Continued from page 206)

This explains why the law, the church, the opinion of the public and the screeds of all **writers** on marriage can only roughly approximate an application to **marital difficulties**. **This emphasis upon the Individuality** of the case, he carries to adultery. "Case after case of divorce convinces me, what is a sin in one **instance** is not a sin in others, no matter what the **beliefs** involved."

In summary, Judge Bartlett has **written** a provocative book. It would be easy to **criticize** it. The **material** might be organized to better advantage. There are numerous repetitions, as well as other earmarks of **composition** by a busy person. It is **obvious**, too, that the facts revealed in a divorce **suit** need to be supplemented by careful case investigation. Case studies such as Healy and **Bronner** have made of juvenile **delinquents** are even more necessary for **domestic** discord. But, and this is a matter of no mean importance, this is a fearless book, written out of a wealth of **experience**, and tempered both by a judicial spirit and by the mellowness of **maturity**. It is a relief, and an advantage, always, to read a book **written** by a man who has definite **ideas**, based on facts, and expressed with conviction and with frankness.



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By CHARLES R. STOCKARD, M.D.

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