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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

ARTICLES BY

H. G. Wells

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Book Reviews of

My Fight for Birth Control by FRANK H HANKINS

Sex Education of Children by CECILE PILPEL

The Case Against Birth Control by GEORGE BEDBOROUGH

The New England Conference

Birth Control Review

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Editorial

DURING the last month two eminent authorities discussed population, and the question of birth control before renowned bodies of learned men—a striking indication of the present status of this “new phenomenon of the first magnitude, likely to affect all countries in the coming century” The descriptive phrase is quoted from the address of Professor Julian Huxley, speaking before the British Association for the Advancement of Science in London, on September 26th The birth rate has declined among almost every people of European descent, and the problem of the immediate future will be that of regulating human numbers to prevent either over or under population Professor Huxley discussed the “mystery” of high birth rates in the lower economic strata, and the fact that raising wages lowers the number of births May we suggest that better economic conditions make possible the acquisition of contraceptive information which the poorer classes cannot readily obtain or easily use? Statistics show that people in general want this information and that they use it when it is given to them Statistics also show that the birth rate rises when paternalism provides economic security, as in the Family Allowance system of Belgium, for example Will the differential birth rate solve itself when contraceptive knowledge is accessible to all classes alike, free from restrictions of law, financial fees and social taboos, and when, somehow, parents are enabled to support as many children as they desire to bring into the world?

THE SECOND SAVANT, Dr James R. Angell, president of Yale University, addressing the twenty-first congress of the American College of Surgeons in New York City, on October 17th, predicted that the elimination of the unfit through birth control would be one of the next steps in public health “What genetics may do,” he said, “to breed out poor strains and so further diminish needless human misery, no one can pre-

dict, but it is unthinkable that reasonable but drastic measures will not be found to diminish the number of births of the seriously unfit, to say nothing of controlling births in excess of the possibilities of a well-conditioned population”

BOTH Dr Angell and Dr Huxley show us what regulation of births can do to improve conditions But in order for it to accomplish the task contraceptive knowledge must be more widely spread and must, it goes without saying, reach those who need it In this connection it is significant to note that at the recent dinner of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, Dr John Dewey, who presided, and Mr H G Wells, the principal speaker, stressed the necessity for considering birth control as scientific knowledge, which, like other forms of knowledge, should be readily accessible, and pointed out the relation between birth control and the development of the individual in the better social order of the future

WE ANNOUNCE with deep regret the recent death of Dr J Whitridge Williams, outstanding obstetrician, accomplished writer and speaker, and effective champion of birth control as a means of bettering the lives of mothers and children The birth control movement has lost one of its strongest supporters. The following resolution was adopted at the dinner of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control

In view of the recent death of Dr J Whitridge Williams, professor of obstetrics at the Johns-Hopkins Medical School, obstetrician-in-chief at Johns-Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, distinguished member of the Advisory Committee of Doctors for the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, be it resolved

That those here assembled record with deep sorrow their sense of loss in the death of a man whose

life-work has been distinguished by his devotion to the care of women in childbirth, and to the ideal that children should be born only under those conditions which would tend toward the betterment of the human race

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent by the secretary of this organization to his bereaved wife with an expression of our deep sympathy

WITH THE passing away of August Forel in his eighty-third year, birth control has also lost a staunch friend and one of its pioneers. Forel wrote his chief work, *The Sexual Question* when only a man of unusual courage, authoritative knowledge and high moral purpose could dare to deal with the subject. With Havelock Ellis, Forel is in large measure responsible for giving thoughtful people throughout the world a new outlook on sex.

THE MONTH'S news is well peppered with motions and invectives of Catholic organizations, denouncing birth control. The appearance of this proscribed subject at the sessions of such bodies as the National Council of Catholic Women, the National Council of Catholic Men, the Brooklyn Holy Name Society, and the National Conference of Catholic Charities, is another proof that birth control has found a place in the public mind and can no longer be ignored. The Reverend Dr. John A. Ryan, professor of moral theology at the Catholic University of America, speaking before the last named assembly in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, on September 28th, acknowledged as much when he said that twenty-five or even ten years ago an address on birth control would not have been possible. In 1931, however, Catholic social workers find it necessary to devote a special meeting to considering the problem. They will not solve it, one may venture to predict, by following Father Ryan's counsel that "the only way to prevent birth control's evil effects is to prohibit it entirely." Ideas and knowledge have a way of pushing through restrictions, and one lesson from the book of history is that prohibition and restraint invariably help the cause they attempt to harm.

ELSEWHERE in this issue we give a full account of the New England Conference on Birth Control, held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League. Rhode Island, one of our recently organized leagues, acted as host for the meetings. With its many active workers, its well-functioning clinic and its group of distinguished supporters the Rhode Island League is a shining example of what courage and energy can do. We hope to report similar activity in many other states in the near future, and the further development of local organizations.

TWO ARTICLES in this issue continue the discussion of the monogamous and promiscuous tendencies of modern men and women. Dr. Hamilton, whose *Research in Marriage* was reviewed in these pages by Havelock Ellis, points out that the serious student must guard against believing only what he wishes to believe; he confesses to an emotional preference to monogamy, though his observations of both animals and human beings show that there is much to be said for the opposite attitude. An intriguing story of two monkeys illustrates his point. In the second article, Mr. Hollister reports the opinions of Mr. J. Edward Sproul of the Y M C A, Dr. Isabel Beck, instructor in Social Hygiene in the Y W C A, and Mrs. Marjorie Prevost of the Marriage Relations Clinic. On one point all are agreed, the need for more and better education for marriage. But beyond this they take issue with Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Calverton, whose thesis, it will be remembered, was brought forward in the September issue. Does the modern woman differ in her mode of life (granted that she *does* differ) because she has somehow developed a new set of reactions? Is the modern woman merely more verbalized? Have many factors of modern life, birth control among them, removed the coersions which stamped the sex patterns of earlier times? It is from this point of view that the discussion is particularly pertinent in our columns. Education for marriage and for post-marital adjustment must, as Dr. Hamilton puts it, guard against seeing only what it wishes to see, and must face the implications of the greater knowledge which is in our hands today.

My Views on Birth Control

By MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD, M D

Dr Hirschfeld is a noted sex psychologist. He is the founder of the Berlin Institut fur Sexualwissenschaft, and shares with Drs Norman Hare and J H Leunbach the presidency of the World League for Sexual Reform

THE question of birth control is a very real problem today. Only a few decades ago it was a matter for theoretical discussion, now it is an actual fact in the majority of civilized countries. The proof of its practical application is the general decrease in the birth rate, especially noticeable since the World War. In Germany, for example, the annual number of births per thousand was thirty in 1913, and only 10 in 1929, a decrease of two-thirds. There is hardly a country which has not shown a decrease in births. Two noteworthy exceptions are Russia (in so far as we may believe the official statistics) and Japan, both of which countries show an increase in their birth rates.

Not the *power* of procreation, but the *desire* for procreation has decreased, and a large majority of the population now favors a restriction in the size of the family. This desire to limit offspring indicates a heightened sense of responsibility. It is dictated by present social conditions, and shows the well-known interaction between biological and social factors. When we realize that in addition to other economic difficulties, there are today well over six million unemployed in Europe, we can readily understand that people no longer wish to bring an unlimited number of children into the world.

In birth control we are confronted by a phase in the history of sex which we must accept, and which is comparable to the period of transition from polygamy to monogamy. We know that two thousand years ago polygamy was widely practiced, and that a man could have one or several wives. The transition to monogamy was caused principally by economic factors, since 90 per cent of the men could support only one wife. By the time monogamy was elevated to a sacred and inviolable institution by the laws of State and Church, it was already firmly established. A similar process seems to be in operation in the limitation of offspring. We must remember that to a certain extent birth control existed long before

our time. We know from ancient literature that population was checked by exposure and infanticide, as well as by abortion and contraception. The Bible describes the exposure of the infant Moses and the *coitus interruptus* of Onan. But birth control in Biblical times did not have the same profound social significance it has today.

I shall not enumerate the various methods of birth control, but shall consider the only form of birth regulation which can be endorsed by the physician—the prevention of conception. This process alone does not destroy life and is not detrimental to the health of the mother, provided the proper methods are used.

The prevention of conception is important, first of all, because it is the only practical measure for preventing or at least lessening abortion. We cannot deny that abortions under all circumstances, even when performed by physicians, are dangerous. On the basis of thirty-five years experience, I am absolutely opposed to abortion. But I am also opposed to punishment for performing abortions, as in most cases only the poor and innocent come in conflict with the law, while the rich go scot free. Moreover the percentage of cases coming to trial is infinitely small, compared to the actual number of abortions. Not the abortion itself, but its discovery is punished.

Contraceptive methods are being devised in increasing numbers, particularly since the World War. In our Berlin Institute we have over three hundred different means and methods for contraception. Most of them, however, do not fulfill the requirements which physicians must demand: the method must be harmless, it must be as effective as possible, it must be easy to use. There are three principle groups of methods—the operative, the mechanical and the chemical.

Dr Hirschfeld's discussion of various methods is omitted. Editor's note

I learned at Margaret Sanger's Clinical Research Bureau that the United States law permits the dissemination of contraceptive information to

married women only, for health reasons. In Germany and in most other countries these limitations do not exist, and justifiably so, in my opinion. For we have here merely the question of a woman's rights over her own body. Moreover, experience shows that when proper methods are not available wrong and harmful ones are resorted to.

The biblical exhortation "be fruitful and multiply," which has been used by statesmen from Moses to Mussolini, has lost its force under pres-

ent day conditions. We realize that the quality of our descendants is of greater importance than their quantity, and that the words of the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, "*Not only to multiply, but to achieve freedom and self development, to this end let the garden of marriage serve you,*" have a truer meaning than the command to "be fruitful and multiply."

—Address before the International and Spanish Speaking Association of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists, New York City, December 26, 1930

Eugenical Birth Control for India

By A P PILLAY

Captain Pillay is the organizer and medical director of the Maternal and Infant Welfare Association of Sholapur. His recognition of the need for birth control in India grows out of his long experience in rural welfare work.

EVEN MEDICAL MEN, generally speaking,* ignore the hereditary factor in all their dealings with disease, though more than 2000 years ago, Aristotle taught, "Men are called healthy in virtue of the in-born capacity for easy resistance to those injurious influences which ordinarily arise, and unhealthy in virtue of lack of that capacity." There are two extreme schools of thought—one attributing all happenings in human life to heredity alone and the other to environment alone, completely ignoring the other factor. The consensus of opinion at present is that "it is the resultant of these two independent forces that count in human affairs", in other words, both environmental and heredity reforms are equally essential for the improvement of the human race.

Welfare workers have been attempting so far to alleviate the suffering around them and trying to keep alive all who are born, indiscriminately. Ante-natal, natal and post-natal supervision of and aid to mothers are undertaken, and the infant life is "looked after" till the age of five or six. By such methods, it is naturally those least able to survive who will be helped to survive. Philanthropy as it is undertaken at present, without any racial safeguards, helps most those least able to help themselves, (the careless, the foolish, the feeble, the inefficient, and the insane) to survive and multiply, and it is these persons who should

not be allowed to leave tainted descendants.

Broadly speaking, the aims of eugenics are two

1 To prevent the unfit from leaving any descendants

2 To encourage the multiplication of the more fit and useful citizens. No objection can be raised to these aims if we remember that the increase in population that has been occurring in all countries has been *differential*. To achieve the first, the remedies suggested are

- (a) the segregation of sexes
- (b) sterilization, voluntary or compulsory
- (c) family limitation
- (d) proper racial safeguards in the present method of welfare work

To achieve the second objective certain economic reforms are needed, but these are not within the province of welfare workers. The point that should engage the attention of welfare and social workers immediately is the question of family limitation. The two methods advocated for this purpose are continence and conception control (termed also birth control). The prudishness that once made this subject taboo is slowly disappearing. Continence may be adopted by those who can practice it without physical or moral or mental decline, while advising it for young couples, one must bear in mind that sexual appetite, after hunger, is the most dominating influence in the life of human beings and is insistent.

The following points are irrefutable

1 Certain ailments are aggravated by preg-

*Excerpt from *WELFARE PROBLEMS IN RURAL INDIA*, by A P Pillay D B Taraporevala Sons and Co., Bombay, India 1931

nancy and often end fatally after it

2 Certain forms of insanity, feeble-mindedness and idiocy are hereditary and the only way to eradicate them is by preventing those now affected from reproducing themselves. In England in the last 21 years while the normal population has increased only 14 per cent, the feeble-minded have increased 100 per cent

3 Too frequent pregnancies often result in death for women in feeble health

4 While it is admitted that it is a primary duty of normal married women to take their share in the maintenance and continuation of the race by bearing what children the country reasonably needs, they should not be forced to risk their own lives by producing babies like breeding machines

5 Parenthood should be discouraged where poverty is likely to prevent the children from being brought up in a decent environment or given reasonable facilities for mental advancement. It is certainly impossible to prevent children from suffering morally, mentally and physically when their number is too great for the mother's health or father's earning capacity. The hopelessness of improving the lot of toddlers in India in spite of careful work is beginning to dawn on welfare workers, and this is due to their neglecting the economic factor

6 The high maternal and infant mortality rates have a direct relation to frequent pregnancies

7 Feeble-mindedness is seen more in the slums where, for racial and economic reasons, conception control is very badly needed and it is here that welfare work is actively carried on. The report of the Mental Deficiency Committee in England (1927) clearly states that feeble-mindedness is largely segregated among a few thousand family stocks and the question of its eradication therefore assumes a simple form

8 At present unwanted pregnancies are very often terminated by intentional abortions—a sin against health, law, and nature

9 The educated classes already have access to contraceptive knowledge, while the working classes and the very poor have no means of procuring it

10 The universality of marriages in India makes birth limitation the more imperative

11 The prevalence of polygamy complicates the problem

12 If it is conceded that it is justifiable to give advice on conception control in certain cases, what

more competent body is available than maternity and welfare centers, the tried workers of which have the confidence of the people? The giving of this advice should be made one of the legitimate objects of these institutions. The information should be available to married women living with their husbands

- (a) to secure adequate intervals between births
- (b) for recognized medical reasons
- (c) to prevent the probable transmission of hereditary defects
- (d) for economic reasons
- (e) when they are below 18 years of age

Contraceptive instructions if imparted with discretion will,

A Enable every wife

- (a) to attain full development in mind and body before she becomes a mother
- (b) to become pregnant only when she is healthy and strong
- (c) to have sufficient intervals between child-births to regain her health
- (d) to keep her husband's love and thus promote happiness and harmony in the home
- (e) to avoid terminating undesired pregnancy by abortion

B Prevent or lessen

- (a) prostitution and promiscuity
- (b) birth of diseased and feeble children
- (c) child labor

C Reduce

- (a) hereditary diseases
- (b) infant mortality and maternal mortality rates
- (c) overpopulation and housing congestion
- (d) destitution and the resulting need for organized charity

Many of our workers and thinkers are convinced that conception control would prove an effective remedy against most of the evils India is suffering from, yet for various reasons, they are unwilling to advocate it openly or help in providing facilities for its being readily available to those who need it. The more experienced welfare workers are beginning to realize that while they are able "to extend the elastic cords of environment" by the methods they have been following, "the anchor of heredity still remains a drag on the race" and unless an attempt to shift it is made their work will achieve only partially successful results

Are We Monogamous?

By G V HAMILTON, M D

Dr Hamilton, author of "A Research in Marriage", gives his deductions on monogamy and promiscuity, based on animal research



Kate was a grandmother and Sobke a timid adolescent, but they were a contentedly monogamous couple. They belonged to a tribe of monkeys which I kept in a live oak woods where I had a laboratory for studies in comparative psychology. Kate had recently lost an arm and was confined in a cage when Sobke was acquired and shut in with her for companionship. After a few weeks they were turned loose and given the freedom of the woods. Sobke was soon accepted as a homosexual playfellow by the other adolescents of the tribe, and often wandered with them to distant parts of the place. Since Kate's handicap made it impossible for her to keep up with him, the end of the day often found the two lovers widely separated, but at nightfall they always called back and forth to each other until they effected a reunion. Their nights were spent in a tree near my laboratory, where they could be seen huddled up together. The first contact after a separation always elicited the typical rhesus croak of satisfaction, even when no sex play followed.

This simian love affair had been going on for about a year when I subjected the whole tribe to a few weeks of experimental captivity. The partitions between the cages were of wire netting, which enabled all the prisoners to see one another. Two monkeys were confined in each of the eleven cages. Kate was shut up with the bully of the tribe, who had persistently ignored her while they were at large. Sobke's fellow-prisoner was a young adult female who had been the cause of much fighting among the adult males. At first, the novelty of cage life and enforced companionship with a monkey of the opposite sex led both Kate and Sobke into a good deal of infidelity, but at nightfall they would peer through the separating partitions and call back and forth forlornly. Later, when they were moved to adjoining compartments, they slept as close together as the intervening wire netting would permit. Each invariably raged against the

other's mate whenever any love plays were in progress.

When the tribe was set free again, Kate and Sobke rushed into each other's arms, croaking and smacking their lips. For several days they were inseparable, and even after Sobke had resumed his wanderings with the other adolescent males, they continued to sleep together and to be, heterosexually speaking, strictly monogamous lovers.

When I found myself quoted in V F Calverton's introduction to *The Making of Man* in support of his general contention that Westermarck and Jennings are mistaken in assuming that infra-human primates tend to be monogamous, and again in his article *Marriage a la Mode* in the October BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW in discussing the "definitely antimonogamous tendency" of modern women, an uneasy memory stirred. I recalled that about four years after the conclusion of my work with monkeys, and about four years before the inception of my New York research in marriage, I had given a series of lectures at a conference of social service workers in a middle-western state in the course of which I had been definitely Westermarckian. I made a considerable hit by citing the case of Kate and Sobke by way of showing that even infra-human primates have monogamous tendencies. This example made it easy to prove that, among primates, monogamy is normal, and promiscuity perverse.

My marital research, which involved nearly four years of residence in New York, threw me in contact with various young intellectuals whose set of cultural compulsives contradicted my own. For a while I found myself in violent disagreement with their outlook on sex, politics, economics, and almost everything else but religion. I prided myself on being essentially a research man—objective-minded, indifferent to what inferences the facts of a given case might justify and motivated by purely scientific curiosities. The New York radicals were a lot of uncritical advocates and wishful thinkers, and a man of science has nothing in com-

mon with an advocate. Then it began to dawn on me that I, too, was an advocate and a considerably more inflexible one than most of my radical friends. I had an emotional need of believing that monogamy and property were institutions which science validated. Maybe Kate and Sobke were not, after all, such good evidence that man belongs to a normally monogamous zoological order. Maybe Juhus, my orang outang, was not disclosing significant capitalistic tendencies when he acquired a bamboo pole to supplement his arms in poking bananas out of Professor Yerke's puzzle box.

Calverton's theory of cultural compulsives presented in the Introduction to *The Making of Man* sharpens an hitherto vague and troublesome insight which I acquired during my marital research, and supplies a corrective concept which, in my opinion, other research men might profitably examine. The once unconsciously suppressed remainder of the Kate-Sobke story is a case in point.

One morning Sobke appeared in the laboratory yard with his tail held stiffly at right angles to his body, his fur erect, and his teeth bared. When Jimmy, who had been his closest adolescent friend in the tribe, appeared, and made the usual homosexual advances, Sobke attacked him savagely and sent the little fellow scurrying off in terror through the trees. Kate's boy friend had suddenly grown up.

A forlorn Kate appeared shortly after Jimmy had been shown his place. She croaked invitingly to Sobke, but he ignored her and began to make advances to Grace, a young adult female whom he had previously avoided. He licked the bully of the tribe and thereafter lived the life of a pre-war Turk, but his indifference to the crippled and elderly Kate was as great as that of the other adult males. She moped for a few days, then took up with Jimmy, who in turn grew up and repudiated her.

The somewhat extreme case of the monkey lovers and the psychiatrist who interpreted their behavior serves to illustrate the importance of cultural compulsives as determinants of research at-

tention. I had my training in comparative psychology at a time when the research student of animal behavior was taught that the worst possible sin against good method is to see only what you want to see. No matter how intelligently your dog or horse or other pet might appear to behave in a given circumstance, you must be very skeptical of your observation if it fits in with your prejudices. As a matter of fact, I let pass unrecorded much good material during my studies of monkeys because it was often impossible to check up on accidental observations which could not be repeated at will and under controlled conditions. Such material as I accepted for my records was, I believe, quite trustworthy in the sense of being objectively true. What I failed to see then was the selectiveness of my attention—a selectiveness which was largely determined by my particular cultural compulsives.

It is true that Sobke and Kate were monogamous lovers over a considerable period of time, save when I forced promiscuity upon them by forcing them to live in captivity with mates of my selection. It is also true that, when they were free in the woods and had access to all the other males and females of the tribe, they were as faithful to each other as, presumably, are fundamentalist spouses in Tennessee. But the whole story is a different matter. Kate was crippled and old and unwanted by the adult males of the tribe. Her only chance to enjoy their sexual favors was when she was shut up with one of them. Sobke was unusually timid, even for a young male rhesus under non-captive conditions. Kate came into his life at a time when he was a very frightened little monkey, and because she was old and crippled and had been abandoned by her grown-up daughter, she mothered him. He was simply being true to a mother-equivalent who accepted him as a lover. When his endocrines moved him up to the adult class, he became normally promiscuous. At any rate, and in spite of my continued emotional preference to monogamy as an institution, this seems to be an alternative to my earlier interpretation.

I have never understood why we should go through life apologizing for the cause of our existence and wailing "Miserer Domine" instead of shouting "Oh all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him for ever," and of all the works of the Lord and the most won-

derful by far, greater even than the power which has sown with the dust of gold the darkness of the night, is that which makes men and women seek each other for comfort and companionship and joy of children wisely and lawfully begotten

LORD BUCKMASTER

The Disappearing Double Standard

By HOWARD K HOLLISTER

THOSE who read V F Calverton's article *Marriage a la Mode* in the October number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW might jump to the conclusion that 20th century women are a new species, and have little kinship with their mothers and grandmothers of the 19th century. Such a conclusion, in the opinion of several leading present-day instructors in sex hygiene, would be unfounded.

Mr Calverton based his article, it will be recalled, on a discussion of three recent books, *Ideal Marriage*, by Theodore Van de Velde, *The Remaking of Marriage*, by Paul Bjerre, and *Are You Ready for Marriage?* by Isabella Hastie Smith. The first he calls "sentimental", the other two "silly". His bone of contention with the authors of these books is epitomized in the last paragraph of his article as "the criminal contradiction of studying the sexual problem of the 20th century men and women in terms of the 19th century approach which was shot through with error."

In an effort to secure representative opinion on the supposedly promiscuous tendencies of women of today, with sidelights on the attitude of men, the writer interviewed Mrs Marjorie Prevost, assistant to Margaret Sanger in the newly established Marriage Relationship Clinic, Dr Isabel Beck, a gynecologist whose work includes instruction in Social Hygiene in the Y W C A, and Mr J Edward Sproul, Program Section Secretary of the National Council of Y M C A's. All of these authorities agreed that modern conditions have brought into existence not a new type, rather a new outlook and a new attitude, none was ready to admit that modern men and women differ from their predecessors except in superficialities. Deep ingrained in the "modern" woman, despite her cigarettes, and her frankness (if not flippancy) in discussing sex matters, is the desire for one man and one only, according to the two instructors of women who expressed opinions, while the instructor of men says that "there is no double standard of interest in and capacity for sex expression."

On one aspect of modern sex relationships all of these authorities likewise agree, and that is the ever-increasing need and demand for enlightenment

on the physical and psychological adjustments requisite to a harmonious married state. By instructing both the married and those expecting to marry, these educators believe they are removing many of the causes of unhappiness in married life and preventing many a marriage from going on the rocks of divorce.

The programs of sex education conducted by various Y M C A units in New York City and vicinity were outlined by the writer in the July number of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. No doubt many readers were surprised at the scope of the activities sponsored by Y M C A's, and reassured by the modern viewpoints exhibited. The Y W C A, closely affiliated with the Y M C A, seems from present evidence to be gradually adopting policies of equal liberality. Though in the words of Miss Olive Van Horn, Program Director for the City of New York, "Questions of marriage and sex relationships are dealt with in the normal program, and are not separated out," it would appear that sex instruction, when given, is often of a type as modern as that presented in the regular advertised classes in preparation for marriage of the Y M C A. The book *Are You Ready for Marriage?*, commented on by Mr Calverton, was written by the Publicity Director of the Philadelphia Y W C A as a result of attending a series of lectures given there in 1929-30. Though Mrs George B Wood, president of that institution, has stated that "in no way does the Philadelphia Association sponsor the book," she goes on to assert that "the Association thought highly of the course of lectures as given and believes in the usefulness of this method of preparation for marriage through lectures and discussion."

In at least two New York City Y W C A's, the Central Branch and the Bronx Branch, courses in "Social Hygiene" are now conducted in connection with one of the regular social clubs. The instructor is Dr Isabel Beck. The women in these groups range from 18 to 30 years of age, and while the majority are single, a few are married. The attendance for some lectures has run as high as 125.

"My purpose in giving these lectures," says Dr Beck, "is to prepare young women to meet the

everyday problems of life, especially those arising out of the sex urge. The lectures cover concepts of anatomy, physiology, comparative biology, eugenics, heredity, questions of population control, personal appearance, conduct and ethics. The natural approach of relating the human sex impulse to all sex without sentimentality is the one used. In my efforts to inculcate sex knowledge on a rational basis I have had the finest sort of co-operation from the officials of the Y W C A, who have shown from the beginning a most intelligent and helpful spirit.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE URGED

Of the five lectures in the course, that on marriage is the most popular. The importance of preparing for marriage as one would for a career in law or business is emphasized and the old idea that instinct can be the guiding spirit in such an important venture is deprecated. Foreknowledge of the subtle intricacies of marriage in its spiritual, emotional and physical aspects is urged as part of the armamentarium of every girl who wants to make a success of her marital venture. Pre-marital consultation for both parties and the necessity for a thorough physical examination is stressed, and girls who are already engaged are urged to re-question their fiancés to follow that policy.

The question of illicit relationships before marriage is frankly discussed. It is explained that aside from the physical hazards such relationships usually result in serious emotional dislocations, if not in disaster, and that remaining within the bounds of social convention is a far-sighted policy which proves the wisest in the long run.

"From my observations of women both in groups and in private consultation, I should estimate that 75 per cent have sexual maladjustments, usually of an emotional nature, but these maladjustments do not usually take the form of promiscuity. There is, as Mr. Calverton says, a new woman, but she is not new all the way through. The promiscuous tendencies of the modern woman have been much over-rated by such writers as Judge Lindsey and other iconoclasts. There is, in Theodore Dreiser's phrase, "the varietistic impulse" in most women, but this impulse dies out after a woman has found a safe harbor in a physically and emotionally well-adjusted marriage. If any promiscuous desires survive in such a woman they will probably be sublimated. Only where marriage, as sometimes happens, does not bring emotional adjustment, does

the promiscuous impulse survive in an active form.

"That women who are promiscuous frequently do not enjoy it is illustrated by the case of a girl who came to me recently and confessed 'I don't know why I go on with this, I don't get anything out of it.' Here there was no fear of consequences, the girl was simply weary of subterfuges and the strain of keeping up an illicit relationship. Even among young and courageous girls of pronounced emotional stability this strain is great. Though their problem is different from that of the married woman, my advice to them is to weigh carefully the emotional consequences of promiscuity.

"Girls who come to me for pre-marital instruction often come again after their marriage and report that the way has been made easier for them. Often they will bring a friend who expects to be married for similar guidance. In the pre-marital physical examination most girls confess to having vague fears that they may not be quite normal and are greatly relieved when they find their fears baseless. As a matter of fact, few are definitely disqualified.

From my experience I believe that we who are interested in sexology have an enormous opportunity for effecting a noticeable slash in the divorce rate of the next generation. It is only natural that an organization like the Y W C A, interested in the survival of the family as a social institution, should sponsor an enlightened and progressive program of education which inspires happy and stable marriage.

The Marriage Relationship Clinic, established about six weeks ago by Margaret Sanger as an adjunct to the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, undertakes to instruct married couples and engaged couples on subjects other than birth control. On Tuesday evenings classes are conducted by Drs. Abraham and Hannah Stone, the former addressing men and the latter women. Individual instruction to couples is given by Mrs. Sanger and Mrs. Marjorie Prevost. The object of this clinic is to promote mutual understanding of the physical and psychological aspects of the sex relationship, to the end that marriages may be made enduring.

"If the average couple," says Mrs. Prevost, "will take the trouble to find out the real physical and emotional qualities of each other's personality, they can perfect a lasting, harmonious union. In our instruction both to unmarried and to married couples we always aim to provide the knowledge

which will enable these men and women to achieve this, the highest goal of human life"

Mrs Prevost believes not only in the innate monogamous instinct of women, but also that men are inclined to be monogamous in more instances than is usually credited. The old "double" standard of morality can be traced, in her view, to the *apparent* frigidity of many women, a condition existing through ignorance of the art of love on the part of so many husbands. Modern marital instruction, if it could be made available to all, she believes, would greatly reduce the number of couples applying for divorces. She also feels that

proper sex knowledge, if universal, would cut down the amount of promiscuity in both sexes. "The ideal," she says, "is monogamy and parenthood."

"Experience shows that sex subjects can be discussed in as clean a spirit as any others, and that proper sex knowledge operates to reduce rather than increase promiscuity in both sexes. I consider the book, *Ideal Marriage*, by Van de Velde one of the best modern works on the subject of marriage that I have encountered. I must therefore definitely take issue with Mr. Calverton's opinion of this book as well as with his remarks about the promiscuous tendencies of women."

Prevention in France and Spain

By WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M.D.

A CURIOUSLY anomalous condition, such as exists in no other country, meets the investigator of censorship of sex literature in France. The utmost liberty prevails as regards erotic or even frankly and undisguisedly pornographic literature. Books, pamphlets and pictures which here, even under the more liberal rulings of recent months, would unquestionably throw the author, publisher and seller into jail, are there exposed freely and sold to everybody, regardless of age, sex, creed, race or previous condition of servitude. They are not kept hidden in the shops, but are shown openly on tables outside so that anybody who loves that kind of literature, including various poses and perversions, may regale himself (or herself) for the modest price of ten to fifteen francs.

An entirely different condition prevails as regards one phase of sex literature—namely, books dealing with prevention or birth control. I am not exaggerating when I state that it would be much easier for a man committing murder, particularly if it be a *drame passionnel*, to escape punishment than for a man selling birth control literature or imparting preventive information. The law and the judges are merciless with any man or woman favoring or spreading prevention. And the peculiar feature is this: It is not only the actual imparting of preventive information that is illegal, the mere *favorable discussion* of birth control is equally so. You must not say a word in favor of the movement. This has

been so since the passing of exceptional laws in 1921, popularly known as *les lois scelerates* (the scoundrelly laws). Now and then a prominent, influential man, like Victor Margueritte, deliberately breaks the law, inviting prosecution. But such men the government is afraid to touch. It is the small man, without money to hire expensive lawyers and without influence, that suffers.

But while this deplorable condition exists in France, I was happy to see that an entirely different state of affairs prevails in Spain since the Revolution—which, by the way, has already accomplished wonders in that hitherto dark and priest-ridden land. Not only is the discussion of prevention free and legal, but the spread of actual preventive information is equally so. Republican Spain enjoys freedom of the press in the full sense of the word. Books on all subjects—sexologic, religious, political and economic—which would formerly have sent the publishers and sellers to prison, are now sold freely. Our friend, Giroud-Hardy's pioneer book *Comment Eviter la Grossesse* (How to Avoid Pregnancy) has been translated into Spanish and is circulated unhindered.

Spain is awakening from her millenium-long sleep, and is taking an honored place among the world's civilized nations, and as far as prevention is concerned, she presents a cheerful contrast to her two Latin sisters, France and Italy. I fear that the two latter are also badly in need of a little revolution.

H. G. Wells Speaks on Birth Control

OVER five hundred people met by invitation of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control to hear Professor John Dewey and H. G. Wells speak on birth control. The occasion was a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on October 23rd, arranged by Margaret Sanger and a distinguished group of sponsors.

Dr. Dewey, who presided, said that the birth control movement "is a part of the long-continued historic struggle between two forces—between old ideas, old habits, ignorance, dogma, prejudice, routine on the one hand, and new ideas brought to light by the progress of scientific discovery on the other. Every new discovery means a new power of control. Intelligent birth control is possible today because the knowledge of its practicability can be put into the hands of the individual. There is nothing on which progressive educators are in greater agreement than that education should develop the individual as an individual, but until secrecy and suppression—which have always bred mental and intellectual disorder—have gone, the cause of education will be impeded. How is individual development possible so long as there are too many children in the world? We need the proper spacing of childbirths, we need to put birth control knowledge into the hands of all parents—if we believe in the processes of individual education."

Mrs. Sanger spoke poignantly of the great need for birth control and the work still to be done. She concluded "I am concerned for *poor* women especially. If they would only rebel. Until restrictive laws are removed we are not a free people. We are all paying the increasing cost of charity, infant mortality, child labor, unemployment, slums and senseless misery. I urge a bigger drive on Congress to amend our laws, as much consideration to bringing children into the world as a farmer gives his stock, and the realization that parenthood must take its place in the front ranks of the new civilization we are striving to bring about."

Mr. Wells stressed the crisis in which our civilization now finds itself. "Will it," he said, "enter a new phase, or totter and finally fall? Man has ceased to be a haphazard creature, he should now plan his life.

"It is a remarkable thing, that your Federal

Constitution, which foresaw so much, did not assert the right of every citizen to knowledge—the knowledge of our historical origins, of our system of work and wealth, and the knowledge of the human body and its processes. The civilization of the future must not merely permit knowledge, but must make it swift and clear to all people. The present population of the world is 1,900 millions, the world is already too full. We have enormous masses of industrialized workers without employment. We are told that there are 750,000 unemployed in New York City alone. How much longer are you going to attempt to deal with this question by private charity? Unless a solution is found, four or five million industrialized human beings will have to get off the earth.

"Disorders of all sorts, war, disorganization of family life, and a considerable amount of actual famine are going to play their part in relieving the world of this burden. In a new book of mine where I am giving the probable growth of population in the years to come, I found it impossible to get the figures on the line. They occupy too much space. I was told the only way to print these statistics was by 'making the figures smaller and thinner.' And that is the only way we can support the increasing population. Life will come to mean a world without animals, for we shall not be able to support even squirrels. There will be no open country, no streams, cataracts, and woods, no independent travel—and still the increase will continue. On the other hand, think of the freedom a world of 350 millions might enjoy—a garden spaced with fine individuals moving on from strength to strength in happy conditions.

"The alternative is before us. Birth control is no longer considered a blasphemous interference with divine ordinance. It is a choice between mastery or submission, romance or scientific planning, adventure or creative architecture—and I might add if I were allowed—individualism or socialism.

"But birth control is not enough. It must broaden its basis. The more fundamental issue is a new education. We have to give every individual the knowledge that has revolutionized the thought of the past 150 years. Birth control is the most challenging of modern movements. It should become a conscious part of the great revolution we are working for today."

The New England Conference on Birth Control

A CONFERENCE on Birth Control, for the organizations and public of the six New England states—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut—was held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League in Providence on October 14th. This conference, the first of its kind, called widespread attention to the work of the recently organized Rhode Island Birth Control league, and the leagues of Massachusetts and Connecticut. It drew a large attendance of public spirited citizens, social workers and physicians, and has without doubt given a tremendous impetus to birth control work in New England.

The conference opened with a morning Round Table for Officers and Representatives of state leagues, which discussed *Birth Control Service for Every Community*. Following an address of welcome by the Reverend Anthony R. Parshley of St. Michael's Episcopal Church of Bristol, R. I., Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, president of the American Birth Control League said in part

Intelligent public opinion, all over the United States, is demanding that birth control information be made available to the poor. How can the American Birth Control League and the state birth control leagues satisfy this demand? How can we make scientific birth control knowledge accessible to the poor?

Some progress has already been made, but much remains to be done. Eighty-two clinics in eighteen different states are now giving contraceptive advice to the poor, but in thirty states there is no birth control clinical service whatsoever. In New England, Providence has the distinction of having the only birth control clinic. Forty-one of the seventy-five medical schools in the country now offer their students some instruction in contraceptive technique, while thirty-four still leave their students in complete ignorance of it. Progressive physicians inform themselves on the subject, but most of the rank and file of doctors are not acquainted with modern contraceptive methods. The endorsement of birth control by authoritative medical bodies such as the New York Academy of Medicine and by important Church organizations

such as the Federal Council of Churches has convinced the educated, reasoning public of the healthfulness and the morality of birth control, but the illiterate, unreasoning public, especially in country districts, must still be convinced. An energetic, systematic campaign is needed to put birth control across. For success, we must combine our efforts. We have met here today to work out a three-year plan for promoting birth control throughout the country, and particularly in New England.

STORY OF THE RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE

Mrs. Henry Salomon, president of the Rhode Island Birth Control League, sketched the history of this promising organization and details of the clinic which is operating under its auspices. As a pattern and inspiration to other local groups, her address is given in full.

Early last spring, about a dozen local people met with Mrs. Donald McGraw, director of field work for the American Birth Control League, to discuss their mutual interest in the birth control movement. Ten weeks after that initial move, the national league arranged a luncheon in Providence, for which there were 400 applications, and at which there were present between 250 and 300 people. A meeting that same evening brought together all those in Providence known to be interested, to talk with Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, president of the American Birth Control League, who had addressed the luncheon meeting. The accomplishment of this gathering was the appointment of a committee of five who were empowered to draw up a charter and to organize the Rhode Island Birth Control League under the laws of the state.

A definite step had been taken and was carried through to completion. A group of 25 women then undertook to feel out the interest and to look toward the formation of an honorary committee. About 150 people were solicited, and as a result of this effort, an honorary committee of 80, including 39 doctors, was formed. In addition to this group of medical men, our committee includes the President of Brown University, the Dean of Pembroke College, ministers of important Protestant Churches in the state, and leaders whose interest in vital matters has been demonstrated by their

active participation According to our by-laws, this committee is composed "of some of the people of the state who are interested and in sympathy with the objects and purposes of this organization They need not be members of the corporation"

At the same time a board of directors of 35 members was formed, 6 of them being doctors From this Board of Directors the executive officers were chosen, and the preliminaries of the formal organization of the League were complete

There followed two meetings of the Board of Directors at which Dr Edward S Brackett, Chief of Staff of the Providence Lying-In Hospital, and a member of the Surgical Staff of the Department of Gynecology of the Rhode Island Hospital, was selected as medical advisor To serve with him five other physicians were chosen to form a Committee on Contraceptive Advice, under whose auspices a birth control clinic was to be opened in Providence The personnel of this committee is as follows

Dr Paul Appleton, Vice-Chairman, member of the active staff of the Providence Lying-In Hospital

Dr Eric Stone, Assistant Surgeon, Dept of Gynecology, Rhode Island Hospital

Dr Robert H Whitmarsh, member of the active surgical staff of Homeopathic Hospital

Dr Bertram Buxton, Assistant Surgeon, Dept of Gynecology, Rhode Island Hospital, Visiting Obstetrician, Providence Lying-In Hospital

Dr Anna Danneman, Secretary, practicing psychiatrist and formerly of the staff of St Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D C

The League felt that it was very important that the supervision of the clinic should be entirely in the hands of the medical profession The by-laws include the provision that the Committee on Contraceptive Advice "shall have charge of the operation of all clinics conducted by the League, and shall act as medical advisors of the League"

POLICIES OF THE CLINIC

Any consideration of the clinic must include the policies and procedures as set down by the Committee on Contraceptive Advice They are

- 1 Contraceptive advice to be given only to married women, not pregnant
- 2 Contraceptive advice to be given only to such women who, because of mental or physical disability cannot safely bear children The economic situation to be taken into consideration only if it appears to be contributing to the mental or physical disability
- 3 Only such patients to be admitted who have been referred by private physicians, hospitals, clinics or recognized agencies

ics or recognized agencies

- 4 A social and medical history or abstract thereof with a statement of reasons for referring the patient to be available at the clinic at the time of consultation

The following procedures were also determined upon by the Committee, governing the present Clinic personnel of physician, graduate nurse and trained social worker

- 1 The Clinic physician shall exercise immediate supervision and direction over all clinic activities in addition to his medical work
- 2 The nurse shall be responsible for the usual office routine connected with her work, such as answering calls, managing and caring for patients in the office, assisting the physician, collection of fees, care of office equipment, materials, records, etc
- 3 The social worker shall interview all applicants for clinic service for the purpose of checking up on the patient's social and economic status and available medical information, and to secure such additional information as may seem necessary before presenting the case to the clinic physician for consultation
- 4 Patients not referred may be admitted for investigation at the discretion of the clinic physician
- 5 Social or medical problems not directly related to the particular service of a birth control clinic shall be referred to the proper agencies

The clinic has been open two days a week since July 30 During this brief time, women have come by personal application, or by written reference from a physician or community agency They have been accepted for clinic service on the basis of physical, mental or social disability, or a combination of these factors A fee has been charged according to the number, age, working conditions and income of each individual family, according to ability to pay The foreign born as well as those of native origin have come for assistance, and the majority represent families who are facing the stark reality of the present economic crisis The League feels that from the standpoint of assisting those women who most need the help of the clinic, this part of our work was instituted at the most opportune time To let the public know what had been accomplished, the newspapers throughout Rhode Island were given a notice of the opening of the clinic, and 300 letters were sent to physicians and social agencies

Our organization has progressed thus far What further steps are to be taken will depend upon the needs and wishes of such professional groups as physicians and social agencies, and of individual

women as revealed in our case records. We hope that this conference will emphasize, and to a certain extent determine, what functions the League and clinics can best fulfil.

Dr A N Creadick of New Haven spoke briefly for the Connecticut Birth Control League.

I bring you the greetings of the Connecticut League. For five successive sessions of the legislature, we have applied for an amendment to our archaic law. At the last session we succeeded in getting a favorable report from the judiciary committee but lost the bill on the floor of the house by reason of ignorant and puritanical objections.

For the ensuing eighteen months we plan an intensive educational campaign to remove this obstacle. The first five months will be devoted to a membership drive, the next five months to educational work, and the succeeding eight months to political activity. I am considerably impressed by the remarkable report you have just heard of the speed and success of the Rhode Island League.

I came here today to learn and not to talk.

Rabbi Samuel E. Gup, of Temple Beth-El, Providence, presided at the luncheon at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, and said:

"When enlightenment and understanding are employed for ethical purposes, they surely are a God-given blessing to mankind. They are employed for the noblest advantages when they safeguard health, when they make for a welcome and happy motherhood, when they save the physically handicapped, who may hardly eke out an existence. Not alone are the motives of the birth control league ethical from this standpoint, but for us to be here to share in this laudable enterprise is to partake of its ethical nature. We advance the cause of a moral civilization when we favor the high purposes of the Birth Control League.

Among those at the speakers' table were:

Rabbi Samuel E. Gup, Providence, Mrs. Cornelia James Cannon, Cambridge, Mass., Rev. Charles Francis Potter, New York, Mrs. Henry Salomon, Providence, Dr. A. N. Creadick, New Haven, Mrs. A. C. Martin, Philadelphia, Rev. W. Appleton Lawrence, Providence, Mrs. E. M. East, Boston, Prof. Philip Mitchell, Providence, Mrs. F. Robertson Jones, New York, Prof. Frank H. Hankins, Northampton, Mass., Mrs. Richard Billings, Woodstock, Vermont, Dr. James R. Miller, Hartford, Mrs. Frederick R. Hazard, Saunderson, R. I., Dr. Eric Matsner, New York, Dr. Robert Whitmarsh, Providence, Prof. Hannibal G. Duncan, Providence.

Professor Frank H. Hankins of Smith College, Mrs. Cornelia James Cannon of Boston, author of *Red Lust* and *Lazaro of the Pueblos*, and Dr. Charles Francis Potter, founder of the First Humanist Society were the speakers. Dr. Hankin's address on *The Social Value of Birth Control* will appear in full in the December issue of the REVIEW. Dr. Potter pointed out that opponents of birth control are on the defensive, due to the steady growth of the movement. Mrs. Cannon urged that birth control be considered as a scientific problem for the medical profession, the sociologists and the psychiatrists, not as a moral issue. She said:

The tendency in the older generation is to inject a moral issue into matters which are rightly to be judged only in relation to convention, taste or social expediency. Many parents in the past ten years have used up enough moral indignation over the sins of rouge, smoking, new vocabulary, lipstick and late hours to have furnished motive power for municipal reform from New York to San Francisco. The fervor back of the parental protest was excellent; the only practical difficulty was that conventions were given an ethical status to which they were not entitled, and children and parents talked and worked at cross purposes throughout their differences.

SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT NEEDED

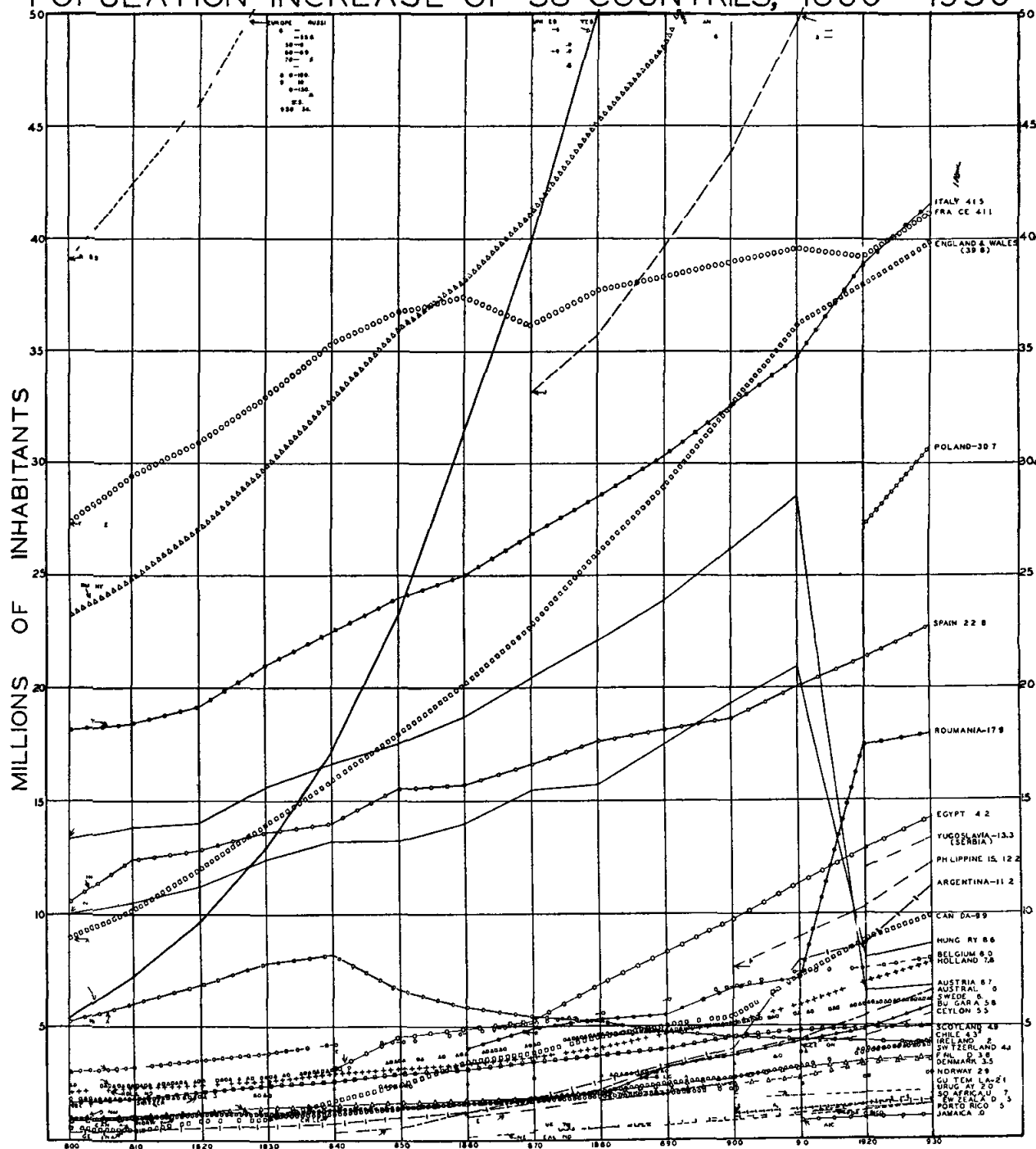
A somewhat similar situation prevails in the birth control controversy. A moral slant is given where no moral issue is involved. Unscrupulous opponents denounce birth control as a thinly-veiled crusade for abortion. Such an accusation betrays simple ignorance. But those critics who say that birth control in itself is sinful are injecting a moral and emotional element into a matter which should be dealt with objectively by the medical profession, the sociologists and the psychiatrists in a purely scientific spirit.

One of the moral slogans of the critics of the movement is that birth control is an interference with nature and therefore sinful. If that moral dicta were allowed to prevail the entire surgery of the world would come to an end overnight, and we would die of cancer and appendicitis by the hundreds of thousands instead of by the tens. Dentists' offices would close, nature would have full sway and perpetual toothache would distort the nation's face.

We think we have improved on nature somewhat in reducing the numbers in the endless procession of little white caskets, but there is more

(Continued on page 334)

POPULATION INCREASE OF 38 COUNTRIES, 1800—1930



See page 332 for Legend

Population Reference Bureau

Book Reviews

MY FIGHT FOR BIRTH CONTROL, by Margaret Sanger *Farrar and Rinehart New York* 1931 \$3 00

EVERY age has its own heroes and heroines. There seems to be something in human nature as well as in the eternal conflicts of the social order which makes this inevitable. It is never possible, however, for any age to forecast with accuracy how subsequent ages will rank those to whom it pays emotional loyalty and shouts its huzzas. There is as yet neither a science of cultural evolution nor a generally accepted philosophy of history. We are not, therefore, able to say just what are the forces that make the world go round. The "great man theory," which Carlyle formulated, that the history of any epoch is the biography of the great men who have lived and wrought there, is doubtless a very simplistic interpretation of the course of historical development. One can say with assurance that it is less popular in sociological circles than it used to be, though it still has a place in most theories of what we call "progress."

When, however, we have admitted that leaders are significant, we have before us the even more complex problem of determining which type is important. Do political leaders in themselves really matter, or are they merely the more or less accidental agents for the expression of underlying social forces? Do statesmen really control the destinies of nations, or are they mainly figure-heads, or at best merely convenient pivots through which the real forces of history do their work? What is the respective merit of statesmen, scientists, inventors, preachers, artists and agitators?

Regardless of our varied opinions, I suppose we will all agree that history, like the news of the day, is more than likely to be touched with romance. We will also agree that leaders hasten or retard the trend of events. Had there been no Darwin, the theory of man's animal origins would have been somewhat delayed. In view of all the facts we must admit that it would have been delayed only momentarily, but it would have gained less rapidly. We can now see that the times were ripe and that not only Alfred Russell Wallace but many other men in various countries were hot on the trail of the theory of natural selection and man's kinship

with the apes. The scientist tells us that whatever happens is inevitable in view of all the factors and conditions involved. So the Civil War. What significance then attaches to the unrelenting hatred of William Lloyd Garrison and the fiery eloquence of Wendell Phillips? Perhaps they hastened the day. But at this point I recall a favorite historical judgment of one of my famous Columbia teachers, the late Professor William A. Dunning, to the effect that, could the Civil War have been avoided, slavery would ultimately have died a natural death through the superior economic efficiency of free labor. This is a profound and apparently true observation, but conditions and personalities being what they were, the war could not have been avoided. Back of that mighty conflict was one of the most profound cultural conflicts of all history, so deep and inevitable that it makes the heroic courage and moral fervor of Garrison and Phillips seem but the white caps of a tidal wave. Some there are who think they made the wave, a truer view would seem to be that they belong in history because caught up irresistibly by that wave itself.

I see Margaret Sanger in much the same category. The times were ripe for her crusade. How many crusaders have perished ignominiously because they were born too soon! But Mrs. Sanger aroused from the first the widest publicity and the warm support of thousands of eager followers. Neo-Malthusian practices were already entrenched in the mores of the upper and middle classes of the entire western world. In western Europe and America the birth rate had fallen sharply for nearly forty years. The poor and disinherited, however, still were plunged deeply in poverty, ignorance and sin and held there in part by the hypocritical hands of ancient and exploiting priestcraft. There was, however, a world agitation for the suppression of poverty and a certain willingness to listen to the claim that poverty and fecundity go hand in hand. The war gave tremendous impetus to a somewhat sudden and vigorous revival of Malthusian doctrines. Women were emerging from the dark penumbra of Victorian seclusion and passivity. These factors were combining to take the discussion of sex out of that realm of taboo where every superstition strives to hide

itself and bring it out into the light of a new day

Not only was the time ripening rapidly, but Margaret Sanger was a rebel by both heredity and birth-right. Born at Corning, New York, in September, 1883, she was the sixth of eleven children of M. H. and Annie Purcell Higgins. Her mother died of tuberculosis at age forty-eight. Her father was a man of intellectual parts who under the right circumstances might have become a public leader and reformer on his own account. One suspects that he may have been looked upon by the neighbors as a good deal of a crank. He apparently had little use for physicians for he delivered his wife's children himself and when they were sick doctored and nursed them, placing great reliance on "good whiskey." He "was a philosopher, a rebel, an artist," a radical who followed Henry George and supported Bob Ingersoll while making a living carving tombstone angels, saints and cherubim out of granite and marble. Under these circumstances it is not remarkable that little Margaret had some early lessons in the dangers of engaging in free speech in this land of constitutional guarantees of elemental liberties nor that her childhood included observation of some typical examples of the persecutory power and tactics of the Roman church.

As a child Margaret discovered within herself a capacity for feats of courage and will power. In addition to the self she normally knew, she discovered another which "urged me to venture and action." She was intrepid, resourceful and very daring. Moreover, she early observed a social condition about which her life was largely to center. "Very early in childhood I associated large families with poverty, toil, unemployment, drunkenness, cruelty, quarrelling, fighting, debts, jails—and the Catholic Church." These evidences of insight, daring, fortitude, ego-sensitivity, self-assertion and determination prove once more that "the child is father of the man."

Those were the days of home nursing and Mrs. Sanger was profoundly impressed with the ceaseless round of pregnancies, births, abortions, child and maternal mortalities, especially among the immigrant and poor. She was horrified by the frantic and often fatal efforts of hopeless women to escape the iron-clad grip of female destiny—herb-teas, turpentine, steaming, rolling down stairs, slippery elm sticks, knitting needles, shoe hooks. The end of her patience came with the death through abortion of Mrs. Sacks of Grand Street.

This produced a violent emotional upheaval in the long suffering nurse which was destined to shake the foundations of ancient and sanctified institutions and make the squeamishly respectable females of the women's clubs gasp in self-imitative horror at the inroads upon conventional morality. That night as she gazed upon the sleeping city her mind pictured its hidden miseries: crowded homes, infant deaths, overworked mothers, baby nurseries, neglected and hungry children, child labor, repeated and unavoidable pregnancies, deaths of over-wrought mothers, fathers driven to drink, prostitution, poverty, misery, slums. A great resolution shaped itself. "I would never go back again to nurse women's ailing bodies while their miseries were as vast as the stars. I was now finished with superficial cures, with doctors and nurses and social workers who were brought face to face with this overwhelming truth of women's needs and yet turned to pass on the other side. They must be made to see the facts. I resolved that women should have knowledge of contraception. They have every right to know about their own bodies. I would strike out—I would scream from the housetops. I *would* be heard. No matter what it should cost. *I would be heard.*"

The first step was a search for contraceptive knowledge. The doctors told her to keep off that subject or Anthony Comstock would get her. But the die had been cast. There followed in 1913 a trip of the entire Sanger family to Europe. Before this Mrs. Sanger had made many contacts in the labor and radical circles, abroad she made many others. She tells us that thousands awaited her arrival at Grand Central on her return. And yet on the next page she very unaccountably says, "Now on my return from Paris I came at last to the realization that I must fight the battle against the Comstock obscenity laws utterly alone." She brought out *The Woman Rebel* in order to arouse the Comstockians, test the temper of the guardians of the law and arouse public opinion. Publicity came quickly. Within six weeks she had 10,000 requests for contraceptive information. Each of the six issues was forbidden mailing privileges by the New York postmaster. The furore resulting created valuable publicity. Meanwhile our heroine was engaged on her pamphlet *Family Limitation*, "dedicated to the wives of workingmen." Twenty printers refused it on the ground, as one said, that it was "a Sing Sing job." At length one whose name cannot yet be divulged was found, "now a promi-

ment leader in politics in another country," who did the work at night. He printed 100,000 copies which were sent to strategic cities for release at a given signal.

Before such release, however, she was indicted by the federal authorities and her case was called so suddenly that she had no time to prepare a defense. It was a crucial moment. She decided on exile, took the midnight train for Montreal and sailed for Europe under an assumed name. How she entered England without a passport is still a secret, but once in she began a year's most fruitful study. In Holland she came to realize that effective contraception must depend on personal instruction by persons equipped with anatomical and psychological knowledge. "The results of my visit to Holland were to change the whole course of the birth control movement, not only in America but in England and Europe as well."

Meanwhile Mr. Sanger had been arrested by a Comstock trick. Mrs. Sanger returned and notified the federal attorney she was ready to stand trial on the year-old indictment. However, the wide public interest in the matter, the protests of citizens, a letter to President Wilson by a group of well-known English men and women, the support of many women, the attitude of the press, all decided the government to drop the suit early in 1916. Mrs. Sanger at once announced her intention to establish a clinic. There follows the story of the opening of the Brownsville clinic, its raid, the hunger strike of Ethel Byrne, Mrs. Sanger's sister, and other events leading to the decision of the New York Court of Appeals that the penal code permitted physicians to give contraceptive advice and help to married persons for the cure or prevention of disease. This is one of the most dramatic episodes in the book. Mrs. Byrne's strike was no doubt an exhibition of fanaticism, courage unto death in behalf of what one conceives as a great cause is usually such. Be it so, it was just such fanaticism as served to make the whole birth control movement a ringing call to a new day of freedom for the women of the world.

We cannot trace here all the subsequent developments. This REVIEW was started in 1917, and within a year had 3000 subscribers. There was rivalry in the League, there was constant opposition, often of a subterranean nature on the part of churchmen. There was a visit to England and Germany in 1920, and the following year the First National Birth Control Conference, with the mem-

orable raid on the Town Hall meeting by order of the then Archbishop Hayes. Here as in dozens of other cases the opposition overreached itself and gave the movement wholly unexpected and price-less publicity under favorable circumstances. There is a full account of Mrs. Sanger's version of the Archbishop's flimsy defense, his sweetly innocent pastoral letter ("Children troop down from heaven because God wills it") and the spectacle of the New York police department using all its bluff, bravado, powers of deceit and disregard for law in an effort to shield the arrogant wire-pullers behind the scenes. Then came the trip to the Orient, followed by the London conference of 1922, a second marriage, the opening of the clinic in 1923, the sixth international conference at New York in 1925, the world conference of 1927 and the Zurich conference for doctors and clinical workers in 1930. Meanwhile occurred the raid on the clinic in 1929 due to a decoy patient, again wide public support, and the arousal of the medical profession due to police theft of private medical records. Finally came the parting of the ways. Mrs. Sanger felt it necessary to leave the REVIEW and the League to devote herself to the clinic and the reform of federal legislation.

It is undoubtedly a thrilling story of magnificent audacity and adventurous pioneering, or better, of a long campaign with many skirmishes and a number of decisive battles in which the strategy was one of continuous offensive and victory due in large part to the stupid blundering of the arch enemy. Certainly the public attitude has changed sharply and rapidly. The pronouncements of various ecclesiastical bodies in America and England have made birth control not only eminently respectable but a fixed feature of civilized marital morality.

One closes the book, however, impressed with certain of its weaknesses. One must very reluctantly say that it is neither good history nor good autobiography. As history it lacks balance and proportion, it is not only full of gaps but lacks discrimination as to what is important and what is not. It leaves too much untold and tells at too great length certain spectacular episodes already well known. There are almost no new and important facts in it. It is too scornful of exact dates and documentary evidences. The story doubles back on itself too often.

As autobiography it suffers irretrievably from excessive self-consciousness. Mrs. Sanger is too

much her own heroine, and not unconsciously so. The result is a humorless book, an egotistical book, a book in which the author fails ignominiously to give full credit to other persons and claims altogether too much for her own unaided efforts. Perhaps Mrs. Sanger never made any mistakes heretofore, but it seems to the reviewer that an opportunity for *noblesse oblige* has been badly bungled, an opportunity that not only would have bespoken nobility of character but would certainly not have injured the cause for which she has labored so indefatigably.

FRANK H. HANKINS

Mrs. Sanger's letter commenting on Dr. Hankin's review appears on page 331 —EDITOR'S NOTE

THE SEX EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, A
BOOK FOR PARENTS, by Mary Ware Dennett
The Vanguard Press, New York 1931 \$1.75

THIS book by Mary Ware Dennett marks a new phase in the field of sex education. It attempts to talk about a highly emotional subject in simple, easy, flowing language, and, happily, achieves the effect of a person-to-person conversation. It should be read from cover to cover, for often there is much wisdom on a given aspect of sex under a chapter heading not necessarily suggestive of that particular contribution. This is in no way derogative criticism, but rather an invitation to the reader to become well-acquainted with the contents. Those who know the history of Mrs. Dennett's fight against bigotry will make allowance for the undue amount of fighting spirit in some of her pronouncements. A true perspective of the value of the book can best be gained by reading it in its entirety.

It is permeated with the feeling of the beauty and joy in happy mating, and with resentment at everything in our social life which cheapens and vulgarizes it. Mrs. Dennett is hopeful that in due time happier concepts of the sex relationships will triumph. She has reason to be fully aware of the bigoted and distorted attitudes which prevail among the people who make up our parent class, our clergy and our judges, and thus her forecast has added value.

Where children's concepts of marriage have been badly formed, through being subjected to the effects of unhappy parental relationships, Mrs. Dennett finds that "such parents can recompense both themselves and their children to a surprising

extent, when once they grasp the basic cause of trouble and focus their minds and habits on the job of reconstruction."

The chapters on *Fear and Shame*, and *Can Wrong Concepts Be Righted?* contain direct and helpful counsel. But when we come to Appendix IV, *The Masturbation Problem, A Mother's Letter to Her Son in His Fifteenth Year, When He Was Away at School*, we must take issue with the author. In her Preface she states that the "book is for average parents, not those who are steeped in the intricacies of present day psychology." If this book were read only by readers "steeped in the intricacies of present day psychology," we would feel safe, for they could make their own deductions. Precisely because the book is addressed to "average parents," we question the soundness of procedure involved in that letter. The mother makes recommendations as to how and when masturbation should be practiced and states "I should say that the way which best served the purpose of wholesome relief would be the way which gave one the cleanest, sweetest picture in the mind of what marriage was going to be in the nice bye and bye." It is evident that this letter was written by a mother who was on most intimate and affectionate terms with her son. One may be permitted, therefore, to assume that "the cleanest, sweetest picture in the mind of what marriage was going to be in the nice bye and bye" is likely to call up a picture of the mother in the mind of the boy as one of those involved in such a relationship.

The practice of primitive people has been to separate the boys from the mother at puberty. The Freudian concept stresses the dangers of fixation on the mother. Granted that we neither accept nor reject this factor, nor accept practices evolved in the progress of civilization as binding, it seems to me that we cannot lightly disregard their implications until we have at least given them due consideration.

In regard to the positive recommendation of masturbation, one is tempted to question whether any father or mother knows enough of the inner psyche of the child to make a recommendation involving something so primary. It would seem therefore, much the wiser course to present the facts of masturbation as we know them and leave the application to the individual child himself, so that he may make such use of the information given him as will fit into his own psychic experiences.

Appendix IV is but a small part of the book,

but its content is highly important and diverging opinion must be expressed. The book as a whole is so clarifying and helpful in every other aspect, however, that no one particular point of disagreement can jeopardize its usefulness.

CECILE PILPEL

THE CASE AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL, by Edward Roberts Moore, Ph D, with Introduction by Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York. *The Century Co New York and London* 1931 \$2 50

THE theological aspects of birth control must be left to the theologians. The general public may set off against Roman Catholic opposition to birth control, the numerous resolutions in its favor passed by most of the other churches. If this book were nothing but "the official Roman Catholic" manifesto on the subject, it would primarily interest only those who obey the papal decision, which we already know is anti-birth control. The author, however, addresses the general public. He claims to speak in the name of "Revelation" but he also appeals to "the clear light of reason."

Dr Moore says that the medical profession "tells the theologian that the question is none of his concern." Perhaps so, but only to the extent that the same profession would repudiate the claims of mathematicians to dictate to a physician how to treat diabetes. Surely the attitude of the profession as a whole is as expressed last year by the British Medical Association: "That every medical practitioner has the right to advise either for or against the use of contraceptive methods." Unless that right, involving the physician's judgment and skill is conceded, medical science would be replaced by a recrudescence of magical spells and incantations.

Dr Moore very wisely refuses to commit himself to the proposition that the medical profession is preponderantly opposed to birth control. But he says, without quoting a single authority, "That cancer may follow as a result of contraceptive practice is a not uncommon medical opinion." Drs Stewart and Young in *The Lancet* (pp 1258-1262, 1926) said "There is now a considerable amount of evidence to show that childbirth predisposes to cancer of the cervix of the uterus, apparently from the trauma incident to this process." I am not qualified to speak further than to say that I have never heard of cancer being

caused by the use of suitable contraceptive methods following attendance at a birth control clinic. It is one of the many advantages of birth control clinics that, before the application of any contraceptive devices, physical examination by qualified physicians or nurses is a *sine qua non*. This procedure not only enables the sort of preventive indicated by the individual conditions to be prescribed, but it detects cases of hitherto unsuspected disease and directs the patient to the proper source of treatment.

Several times Dr Moore repeats the fallacy that "sterility is a result of contraception" (pp 19, 24ff) on the authority of Dr McCann, of an unnamed "specialist in Pittsburgh," and an anonymous New Jersey physician. Readers are advised to study Dr S Adolphus Knopf's article in the *Medical Journal and Record* (October 15, 1930, pp 368-371) on *The Myth About Sterility Following Contraceptive Methods*, and the same authority's recent articles in the same journal. In the latter (p 105, August 5th, 1931) evidence is quoted from Dr Lily C Butler in regard to "patients who wanted another child after periods varying from one to five years," 98 per cent of her cases became pregnant on discontinuing the use of contraceptives.

In regard to a much debated point, called quite properly "the so-called safe period," the author says, "While morally its utilization with the hope of avoiding pregnancy is admissible, it must be understood that there is no such thing as a period which is really safe." It seems unreasonable to make this very unreliable form of birth control "morally admissible," while denying moral admissibility to scientific and ever so much more reliable methods.

It is not easy to understand Dr Moore's objection to what he calls "the inappropriateness" of the term "birth control." His difficulty probably arises from his confusion of birth control with "the refusal of parenthood." Birth control means the control of conception, the wise spacing of childbirths in the interests alike of parent and offspring. The valuable data given by Mrs Caroline Robinson in *Seventy Birth Control Clinics* shows that the 13,000 patients reported upon by clinics had already borne an average of three children apiece.

One of Dr Moore's chapters is headed *Abortion and Sterilization*. It is unfair to attribute the act of abortion or its defense to birth control advo-

cates They not only oppose it, but show that the real friends of abortion are ignorance of and opposition to wise, humane scientific contraception

Sterilization is a eugenical proposition which forms little if any part of a birth control program, although I know few advocates of birth control who oppose its legalization Reasonably and humanely administered it is a sensible alternative to incarceration for certain types of criminals It seems that inheritable tendencies to violence and insanity may through sterilization no longer "visit the sins of the fathers" or even their "taints of blood" upon successive generations The whole theory may be wrong, but the remedy is likely to do little harm, and it is always subject to check up by reason and experience The motive is not a bad one, to prevent the perpetuation of homicidal abnormality by sterilization has far more to recommend it than, shall we say, "the well-known effect of castration in preserving the boy-like timbre of the human voice" (p 53) with which Dr Moore is familiar

Dr Moore, greatly daring, ventures to call as a witness against birth control that master of satire and paradox, Bernard Shaw Shaw is aware that birth control can be used for immoral purposes Theodore Roosevelt attacked Shaw's advocacy of birth control on this very ground Shaw replied that T R wanted a knife which could cut a joint of meat, but which could not cut a child's fingers Shaw's views are summarized in *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism* "The practical question for the mass of mankind is not whether the population shall be kept down or not, but whether it shall be kept down by preventing the conception of children or by bringing them into the world and then slaughtering them by abortion, exposure, starvation, neglect, ill-usage, plague, pestilence, famine, battle, murder, and sudden death Of all methods of keeping down the population there can be no doubt that artificial birth control is the most humane and civilized and by far the least demoralizing"

GEORGE BEDBOROUGH

EASIER MOTHERHOOD, by Constance L Todd *The John Day Company, New York* 1931 \$2 00

EASIER MOTHERHOOD is the story of the Gwathmey method of synergistic anaesthesia as applied to obstetrics Mrs Todd traces the early

experimental work, the history of the practice of this method in various sections of the United States, and a large section is devoted to the individual reactions of both doctors and patients There is also included a directory of hospitals where this particular type of technique is used

It is unfortunate that only one method of pain alleviation is considered by the writer, and one might very well question the advisability of a lay person treating such a highly technical and controversial subject But in this field, as well as in contraception, the demand by women has acted as a spur and an incentive to medical research This is evidenced by the fact that today at least two other means of producing analgesia in obstetrics are being practiced

One cannot over-emphasize the significance to women of the surcease of pain in childbirth We hope that *Easier Motherhood* will carry the message of the possibility of painless childbirth to many prospective mothers, and that they in turn, will demand of their obstetricians that the "racking horror of childbirth be no longer a stupid and cruel survival in an age that possesses the medical knowledge that makes it needless"

ERIC M MATSNER, M D

BOOKS RECEIVED

READINGS ON THE FAMILY, edited by Edgar Schmiedeler, Ph D *The Century Co, New York* \$2 75

JUDGEMENT ON BIRTH CONTROL, by Raoul De Guchteneere *The Macmillan Co, New York* \$2

WELFARE PROBLEMS IN RURAL INDIA, by A P Pillay *Messrs D B Taraporevala Sons and Co Bombay* Price rs 8/

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY, by John J B Morgan, Ph D *Richard R Smith, Inc, New York* \$3

DIVORCE A Social Interpretation, by J P Lichtenberger *Whittlesey House, New York* \$4 00

NUDISM IN MODERN LIFE, by Maurice Parmelee *Alfred A Knopf, New York*

WOMAN'S COMING OF AGE, edited by V F Calverton and S Schmalhausen *Horace Liveright, New York* \$3 50

HUMAN HEREDITY, by Dr Erwin Baur *The Macmillan Co, New York* \$8

THE MENTAL DEFECTIVE, by Berry and Gordon *Whittlesey House, New York* \$2 50

News Notes

UNITED STATES

THE American Birth Control League held a New England Conference on Birth Control in Providence, R I, on October 14th For full account see page 318

H G Wells, distinguished English author, spoke at a dinner given by the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, on October 23rd Dr John Dewey presided

CALIFORNIA Under the joint auspices of the Los Angeles Parent-Teachers Association and the Institute of Parental Education, Dr Elizabeth Hammons gave a free lecture on birth control on October 7th

The Southern California Branch of the American Eugenics Society met at the Los Angeles Public Library on October 12th to discuss *Preparation for Marriage* Dr Olga McNeile was the principal speaker On November 9th, Professor George B Mangold, of the University of Southern California, will speak on *The Eugenic Aspect of Social Work*, and Dr Paul Popenoe will present the monthly book review on Virginia P Robinson's *A Changing Psychology of Social Case Work* Robert W Poindexter, Jr, secretary of the Branch asks that all interested in this activity communicate with him at 4160 County Club Drive, Long Beach, California

CONNECTICUT The Connecticut Birth Control League was again pledged to an active legislative campaign at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors, which took place at New Haven on September 24th The first step is to be an extensive campaign of education, to be carried out by counties, aiming to reach the legislators from small towns There are two obstacles to success—the Roman Catholic opposition, which is felt to be permanent, and the ignorance and old-fashioned prejudices of the rural population, and of the average representative from the smaller towns, where the Catholic vote is not formidable The Board felt that no step towards the establishment of clinics could be taken so long as the law makes penal the use of contraceptives, and

thus puts any such clinic in the position of being a school of crime A budget of \$6000 was voted for carrying out the work, and the members of the Board agreed to attempt to raise the first \$2000 by their individual efforts

At the dinner which followed the Board meeting, the principal guest was Dr Robert L Dickinson, Secretary of the National Committee on Maternal Health Dr Dickinson urged combined medical effort in furthering the movement for birth control, and paid a high tribute to the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, as the only periodical carrying on a dignified and comprehensive campaign of education on birth control Mrs Donald McGraw gave an account of her work in stimulating interest in the other New England states and assisting in the organization of the Rhode Island Birth Control League

INDIANA A debate, *Resolved, That Birth Control Should be Legalized*, was staged by the Women's Department Club of Indianapolis on October 8th, four members taking each side The affirmative won

IOWA The Lanteen Laboratories, manufacturer of contraceptive supplies, has protested against the action of Iowa state officials in ordering druggists in Des Moines to stop selling Lanteen products Rufus Riddlesbarger, president of the concern, claims that Iowa statutes legalize the dissemination of information on birth control by physicians and druggists He plans to file libel and damage actions unless the order is rescinded

MASSACHUSETTS The Directors of the Birth Control League of Massachusetts are happy to announce the recent affiliation of the Massachusetts League with the national American Birth Control League Though this affiliation was arranged only a few days before the New England Conference several members of the Massachusetts League were present at the conference, including a group of doctors who attended Dr Matsner's lecture

MICHIGAN The Detroit Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held on Sep-

tember 19, passed the following resolution in support of birth control

We believe that the family should have only as many children as can be reared to be a real asset to society and that the right of married people following their conscience to limit the size of their families should be recognized, and that knowledge of birth control should be made available by pastor and physician

In Grand Rapids, Dr Albert P Van Dusen spoke on October 4th before the Michigan Universalist convention on *The Morality of Birth Control*, and, again, on October 15th before the Women's City Club

Mrs Morton Keeney, president of the Michigan Birth Control League, led a meeting at the residence of Mr Alec Dow of Ann Arbor to enlist new members, and is planning meetings in Pontiac, Flint and Kalamazoo

MINNESOTA The first meeting of the Minnesota Birth Control League was held on October 2nd at the home of Mrs Robert Taylor Mrs Duth Devny of the Family Welfare Association spoke on *Clinics and Welfare Work*, and Mrs W O Winston, Jr, gave an account of her visits to clinics in Cleveland, Chicago, and New York

MISSOURI Lutheran ministers of the Missouri synod, meeting in North Ridge the first week in October, recorded their opposition to birth control, the resolution concluded

Birth Control involves contempt for and rejection of God's most precious gift and noblest blessing to married people and a refusal to serve God, the church, and the state as God would have married people serve Him "

NEW JERSEY The fall program of the New Jersey Birth Control League opened with a large meeting at the home of Mrs Franklin Conklin, Jr, of Newark, at which Guy Irving Burch of the Population Reference Bureau spoke Miss Henriette Hart, executive director of the League, spoke before the Sisterhood of Temple Sharey of East Orange on October 6th Mrs Margaret Sanger spoke in Plainfield on October 27th under the auspices of the Plainfield Council of the New Jersey Birth Control League

NEW YORK The Western New York Federation of home Bureaus heard a lecture on

birth control at its meeting in Jamestown on October 6th, given by Mrs Alfred M Holmes, chairman of the Chatauqua County League of Women Voters

Margaret Sanger has opened a bureau for advice on premarital and post-marital problems other than birth control, in conjunction with the regular work of the Clinical Research Bureau at 17th West 16th Street

The New York City Committee of the American Birth Control League arranged a conference with leaders of study groups and members of the staff of the Child Study Association to discuss the relation between birth control and parental education Mr H L Lurie, executive director of the Jewish Social Research Bureau, pointed out that birth control is no longer a propaganda movement, but a problem of adult education Dr Helen Miller, Medical Director of Christ Church Health Center, spoke on *Birth Control and Child Welfare* and showed that an understanding of birth control is predicated in any child welfare program

The Child Study Association held a two-day conference on October 19th and 20th, taking up the subjects of Research in Family Life, Social and Economic Changes their effect upon man and woman in the Marriage Relation, and Trends in Parent Education

PENNSYLVANIA The Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church, meeting in Indiana, Pa, on October 5th, affirmed its stand in support of birth control, and adopted the report of its Social Service Committee, saying

In view of the effort being made to obtain a revision of our laws at the next regular session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature—in order that parenthood may become consecration and not an accident—we reaffirm the strong statement adopted by this conference one year ago in behalf of the Christian principle of family limitations

The Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation reports that it has moved its branch clinic from 1910 Pine Street to a more central location at 1402 Spruce Street, Philadelphia Dr Sophia Nabut continues as clinic chief, and sessions are held two afternoons a week Mrs Alleyne C Martin spoke at the New England Conference on *Some Problems of Organization*, and at a meeting of the Massachusetts League

RHODE ISLAND The outstanding event in Rhode Island was the New England Conference on Birth Control on October 14th, reported in detail in this issue (See page 318)

The final decision of the Ordinance Committee of the City of Providence which was reported to the Board of Aldermen and the City Solicitor, following the resolution of the Board of Aldermen to the Ordinance Committee to investigate the legality of the running of the Rhode Island Birth Control Clinic at 163 North Main Street, was that there is no existing law permitting any action against the operation of the Clinic, and further that the Ordinance Committee believed that it was not a proper subject for action by the city, deciding further that the Ordinance Committee would not hold a public hearing or report back any ordinance at the present time

CANADA

THE Labor Women's group of Greater Winnipeg unanimously passed the following resolution at its annual meeting on September 24th

In view of the present economic depression and considering the fact that, at such times, large workingclass families are a great burden on parents in particular and the community in general, and also because of the fact that contraceptive methods are available to those more happily situated financially,

Therefore, the Labor Women's group of Greater Winnipeg requests of the provincial department of health to inaugurate a series of birth control clinics at various points throughout the province as an adjunct to hospital services

JAPAN

ACCORDING to the N Y Times correspondent, at the present rate of increase, 15 30 per 1,000, Japan will have a population of 100,000,000 in thirty years. While her population will then approximate that of the United States in 1920, her cultivable area will still be less than half that of the State of California. Despite the fact that, emigration being impossible, birth control seems to some people the next best remedy, there is little general interest shown outside of a small "advanced" circle



National Organizations for Birth Control

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
152 Madison Avenue New York City
Mrs F Robertson Jones, *President*
Alice C Boughton, Ph D, *Executive Director*

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL HEALTH
2 East 108rd Street New York City
Robert L Dickinson, M D, *Secretary*
Louise Stevens Bryant, Ph D, *Executive Secretary*

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL
17 West 16th Street New York City
Mrs Margaret Sanger, *National Chairman*
Mrs Alexander C Dick, *Secretary*

State Leagues Affiliated with the American Birth Control League

CONNECTICUT BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
79 Trumbull Street New Haven
Dr A N Creadick, *President*
Mrs E B Reed, *Secretary*

DELAWARE BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
1019 Pine Street Wilmington
Mrs William S Bergland, *Chairman*
Mrs George A Elliot, Jr, *Secretary*

ILLINOIS BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
203 N Wabash Avenue Chicago
Mrs Benjamin Carpenter, *President*
Mrs Effie Jeanne Lyon, *Executive Secretary*

BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS
18 Joy Street Boston
Mrs Oakes Ames, *President*
Miss Caroline L Carter, *Executive Secretary*

MINNESOTA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
223 Walker Building Minneapolis
Mrs G C Shafer, *President*
Mrs H B Wilcox, *Secretary*

BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN
1222 Lake Drive S E Grand Rapids Michigan
Mrs Morton Keeney, *President*
Mrs Frank Stone, *Secretary*

PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION
1700 Walnut Street Philadelphia
A Lovett Dewees, M D, *President*
Mrs Alleyne C Martin, *Executive Secretary*

RHODE ISLAND BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
163 N Main Street Providence
Mrs Henry Salomon, *President*
Mrs Robert J Beede, *Secretary*

Independent Leagues

NEW JERSEY BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
868 Broad Street Newark
Mrs Zachariah Belcher, *President*
Miss Henriette Hart, *Executive Secretary*

Letters from Readers

MRS SANGER IN REBUTTAL

TO THE EDITOR

I have read Professor Hankin's review of the book, *My Fight for Birth Control* with much interest. I am particularly interested to note that the very things he considers as weaknesses are spoken of by Havelock Ellis as being its strong points. I have not Ellis' letter with me to quote from, or I could give the exact phrases, which would, I am sure, amuse you.

I should like to have Professor Hankins point out to me the "other persons" to whom "full credit" should be given. This is certainly something that I should want to correct. As I am already preparing for the next edition, I can very easily do this, if Professor Hankins will indicate to me the person or persons whom I have left out.

Furthermore, to my knowledge, Professor Hankins was not familiar with the facts of the earlier movement—at least I never heard of him until after 1922—and if he has knowledge which I have not of the movement preceding these years, I certainly would like to get it.

If Professor Hankins reviewed or read this book with the idea that it is a history of the movement or an autobiography, he is mistaken. It is neither, nor was it intended to be more than reminiscences of the part that one person played in the movement. In no place did I say that thousands of persons awaited my arrival at the Grand Central on my return from Europe. On page 78, I said that thousands of persons awaited the arrival of the children of the strikers of Lawrence, Massachusetts. I think that part should be read again and corrected. One can see how easily diverted a reviewer can be when he starts out with a "blind spot" somewhere in his sub-conscious.

MARGARET SANGER

New York City

THE PIONEER OF THE MODERN BIRTH CONTROL
MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

TO THE EDITOR

I have read the first editorial in the October issue of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* with deep but rather melancholy interest. Melancholy, because

it shows once more how the pioneer who has borne the brunt of the battle is often deprived of the honor and recognition justly due him. To write of the origins of the modern birth control movement in this country without even mentioning Dr. William J. Robinson is truly, to use a threadworn simile, like playing *Hamlet* with Hamlet left out. To write that "the American movement was *originated* (italics mine) and led by Mrs. Sanger" is historically incorrect, as can be proven by printed evidence—pamphlets, editorials, and other documents.

For ten years before Mrs. Sanger commenced her propaganda, Dr. Robinson was actively engaged in writing and lecturing on the subject and in sending practical preventive information by the thousands of copies, and he did it at a time when this was a dangerous undertaking involving great risk.

I have been familiar with Dr. Robinson's birth control activity for twenty-nine years. He lectured not only before medical societies, but before lay audiences as well. And Mrs. Sanger attended some of these lectures, long before she undertook her active work. The very formula that she used in her pamphlet *Family Limitation* she obtained from Doctor Robinson, who was its originator. The pamphlet for which Emma Goldman and Ben Reitman were arrested, was from Dr. Robinson's pen. I enclose a circular, which is twenty-two years old, and which was one of the second or third edition of five thousand which he distributed.

I well remember a meeting of the American Society of Medical Sociology, of which I was vice-president, presided over by the venerable Nestor of American medicine, Professor A. Jacobi, at which Dr. Robinson read his exhaustive paper "The Limitation of Offspring. The most important immediate step for the betterment of the human race from the economic and eugenic standpoint." That meeting took place on March 4th, 1911, and was recorded in the daily press. The paper was reprinted many times. To show what progress the birth control movement had made before Mrs. Sanger was at all known to the public, it is sufficient to mention that in 1912 Dr. Jacobi, then president of the American Medical Association, came out in his presidential address boldly and un-

equivocally in favor of birth control. This gave the movement a tremendous impetus and placed on it the cachet of respectability. The following year I presented to the New York County Medical Society a resolution endorsing birth control, which was voted down by a very small majority.

It is difficult to evaluate the influence of any one person's work in any progressive cause, but there is certainly no man in the United States who has done so much for the cause and has made so many converts as has Dr. Robinson. His editorials and articles in the *CRITIC AND GUIDE* for more than a quarter of a century, his books, his lists of pre-ventive formulas, and so forth, have reached literally millions of people. His work must in all fairness be acknowledged to have been, and still be of paramount importance. To speak, therefore of the origin and progress of the birth control movement in the United States without mentioning the second-to-none role played in it by Dr. Robinson, is not merely unfair—it is absurd.

A. L. GOLDWATER, M.D.

New York City

A LIBERAL ATTITUDE

TO THE EDITOR

It has required courage and wisdom, I know, for the *REVIEW* to take the liberal attitude that it has toward the various controversies in the field. It would be so easy to try to safeguard the single cause by avoiding anything controversial or constructive in related questions. But in the long run that is a short range policy—it does not really get one anywhere. In our educational work of dealing with young people it becomes increasingly clear that we cannot help them very much by compromising too much with obscurantism.

J. F. CRAWFORD

University of Wisconsin

EMPHATIC

TO THE EDITOR

I severed my connection with the Birth Control League at or before the expiration of my first year, stating that I did not read the paper or wish to be in any way identified with it. This *REVIEW* goes in the waste basket unopened, as I am not in sympathy with it, at all, and do not care to have it among the magazines I take. I think it can be very harmful to young married couples.

MRS. JOHN F. MILLER

Edgewood, Pa.

TOWARDS WORLD PEACE

TO THE EDITOR

Would you please mail me a specimen copy of your *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*. I am greatly interested in this highly necessary social reform, and regard it as the only way to world peace. In my opinion you are doing the greatest work in the world—and by far the most necessary.

HENRY CHELLEW, PH.D., D.Sc.

London, England

OUR INTELLIGENT ATTACK

TO THE EDITOR

I have read the last three numbers of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW* with enjoyment and admiration. I have always been an enthusiastic sympathizer with your cause and it is encouraging to see the intelligent manner in which you and your contributors attack the problems which are your concern. Perhaps some day I may be in a position to help you materially.

HORACE COON

Glen Ridge, N. J.

REGRETS

TO THE EDITOR

I regret that at this time I cannot send you a renewal of my subscription to your splendid magazine. Later on I will be able to renew. It is certainly worthwhile and educational.

J. C. D.

Chicago, Ill.

LEGEND FOR GRAPH ON PAGE 321

Due to lack of space it was impossible to plot the curves for India, which increased from 184.9 millions in 1870, to 333.5 millions in 1930, and the Chinese Republic, which increased from 439.8 in 1920, to 458.7 in 1930.

Countries marked with * are plotted for the following dates: Austria, 1929; Chile, 1931; Egypt, 1927; France, 1929; Germany, 1929; Guatemala, 1928; Holland, 1929; Ireland, 1930 (Northern counties), and 1926 (Free State); India, 1929; Italy, 1929; Russia, 1929; Sweden, 1929; South Africa, 1926; Yugoslavia, 1929; China, 1928.

The Population Reference Bureau, Washington Square East, New York City, which drew up the graph printed in this issue, has other material, tables as well as graphs, of interest to students of population.

In the Magazines

What's What in Russia By Maurice Hindus *The Ladies Home Journal*, October

The Soviet philosophy emphasizes the importance of motherhood and the child, yet no woman need bear children if she does not wish to, and abortions and birth control are legal

"To check the evil of widespread and unsatisfactory abortions the Soviets have of late launched a widespread propaganda in favor of birth control On my last visit to Russia I often stumbled into medical commissions that were making the rounds of the countryside educating the people in the ways of modern sanitation and hygiene and offering to women and girls a thorough course in the methods of birth control

"Unless there is a change in the present policy, which is quite unlikely, it is to be expected that on the completion of the second, if not the first, five-year plan there will hardly be a woman in Russia without knowledge of an effective process of preventing childbirth"

The College Wife By Judge Ben B Lindsey *Liberty*, September 26th

A plea for early marriage coupled with education in birth control Thus young people could pursue their studies and postpone bringing a family into the world until they were able, economically and psychologically to undertake this responsibility

Speaking of Revolutions By Hendrik Willem Van Loon *Weekly comment The Nation*, October 29

"Voltaire once got a medal from the Pope I always had hopes, but here goes my last chance For what I want to say is this Perillustrissimi Gentlemen of the Revealed Law, I fully agree with your general point of view, but let us get together upon this one point If we are to do without birth control for people then we must have birth control for machines, and if we are to do without birth control for machines then we must have birth control for people We cannot have our cake and eat it We cannot survive in a world in which both flivvers and infants multiply ad lib

"Machines have come to stay

"So apparently have babies

"But unless we want them to destroy each other

we shall have to make a very definite choice What do we want birth control for babies or birth control for machines?"

Can One Be Christian and Free? By Clarence C Little *Scribner's*, October

Dr Little questions the right of the Catholic Church to dictate on matters of physiology Can the Catholic Church maintain a position generally repudiated by modern men and women, Dr Little queries "Few people other than certain liberal and intelligent Catholics themselves will object to the Roman Church applying the most extreme form of non-scientific and unenlightened dogmas to its own adherents On the other hand, few people will allow to pass unchallenged its uninvited, ill-judged, and intolerant efforts at domination of the morals and personal sex problems of all mankind This hierarchy of celibate priests is as unqualified to give advice on matters dealing with the physiology of reproduction as their complete inexperience can make them"

Marriages and Birth Control, from the *Jewish Standpoint* *The Jewish Times*, Baltimore, Md., October 11

A presentation of various Jewish attitudes toward marriage and birth control, ranging from the Orthodox to the Reformed Dr Ira Wile closes the discussion "Jewish marriage laws do not tend to interfere with the biological conception of a happy marriage, as the Jewish laws are flexible, and tend to take on the color of the laws of the country and the period in which the Jews live"

What of Birth Regulation? By Mary Roberts Rinehart *Ladies Home Journal*, October, 1931

"I know quite well a man whose wife died during the birth of her eighth child, and who has carried ever since a bitter conviction that she died, not because of God's will but of his own weakness And recently I talked with a settlement worker who told me of women worn out with childbearing, old women at thirty, who continued to bear children so that they might hold their men

"Birth control is a two-sided question, although we assume it always to be the woman's problem. There is an unfairness here, for it is the woman

who must suffer to bear the unwanted child, although the responsibility for it is not hers alone. And her situation is the more acute because her frequent childbearing takes her out of the earning field and renders her entirely dependent on the man.

"The matter of birth regulation is one for both the man and the woman to determine, and the responsibility for its failure must be shared by both."

Biological Findings of the Census A Comment on the Analysis of the 15th U S Census Eugenic News, October

Census data contains a wealth of material for students of population and birth control

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 320)

to do. Why should babies be born to die in a few brief weeks or months, pushed out of life because of frail mothers, diseased fathers, or paternal economic inability to support all the children that nature can provide? We think only those should be born who are to live healthy happy normal lives, not at the expense of the weaker ones of their generation, destroyed in the competition, but by the application of the intelligent forethought of a civilization able to use the findings of science for the making of a better world.

In the present economic crisis there is a special urgency in the whole matter. Shall we encourage the families supported by our American equivalent of the dole, to add a million children this year to our dependent population or shall we help them to postpone additions to the family until parental self-reliance is equal to the task of more mouths to feed and feet to shoe? The knowledge of contraception, which is available to the married couples among the prosperous, cannot justly be withheld from the married couples among the poor. To them the knowledge is of fundamental importance both in their personal and economic life. These suffering fathers and mothers are appealing for the help which such information will bring. Who among us has the right to withhold it?

AFTERNOON MEETINGS

At the close of the luncheon, out-of-town delegates visited the Birth Control Clinic of Providence, while local advocates attended a membership campaign meeting led by Mrs. Henry Salomon. Over one hundred women are at work under her leadership campaigning for members—an enviable record of local interest and cooperation. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. Allyne C. Martin.

Two meetings, held at five p.m., closed the con-

ference. A Round Table for Social Workers attended by over eighty members of this profession, discussed *The Birth Control Clinic and Family Rehabilitation*. The address of Professor Hannibal G. Duncan of the University of New Hampshire who presided, will be published in December. Alice C. Boughton, executive director of the American Birth Control League, led the discussion, and pointed out what the social worker needs to know about birth control and birth control clinics in order to utilize this form of social service. Miss Boughton's presentation of the correlation between social work and birth control will be given in an early issue. Simultaneously, a closed demonstration of *Modern Contraceptive Technique* was led by Dr. Eric M. Matsner, Medical Director of the League. It was attended by physicians of Providence and other Rhode Island cities, and physicians from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

PATRONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Patrons of the New England Conference were: Mrs. Joseph Dana Allen, Eden Mills, Vermont; Mrs. Oakes Ames, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Paul Appleton, Providence, R. I.; Clarence A. Barbour, D.D., L.L.D., Providence; Mrs. Richard Billings, Woodstock, Vermont; Rev. Arthur H. Bradford, D.D., Providence; Mrs. Daniel B. Carroll, Burlington, Vermont; Thomas N. Carver, Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass.; Mrs. Edward E. Chapin, Rutland, Vermont; Mrs. Julian B. Clark, Burlington; Dr. A. N. Creadick, New Haven, Conn.; Dr. Murray S. Danforth, Providence; Mrs. George H. Day, Sr., Hartford, Conn.; Dr. A. Bliss Dayton, New Haven, Conn.; Mrs. William H. Field, Mendon, Vermont; Mrs. Curtis P. Fields, Greenwich, Conn.; Mrs. Henry L. Galpin, New Haven; Mrs. H. M. Goodwin, Fairlee, Vermont; Mrs. Dorothy S. Hall, Bridgeport, Conn.; Mrs. George W. Handy, West Hartford, Vermont; Mrs. George S. Hauck, West Hartford, Conn.; Norman E. Himes, Ph.D., Somerville, Mass.; Mrs. S. Foster Hunt, Providence; Dr. Edwin A. Hyatt, St. Albans, Vermont; Mrs. Louis Wilson Ingram, Hanover, N. H.; Rev. Asbury E. Krom, D.D., Providence; Dean W. Ladd, New Haven; Mr. S. O. Metcalf, Providence; Mrs. C. Allen Middlebrook, Jr., Burlington; Dr. James R. Miller, Hartford; Dean Margaret S. Morriss, Ph.D., Providence; Dr. Abraham Myerson, Boston; William Allen Neilson, Ph.D., L.L.D., Northampton, Mass.; Dr. D. C. Patterson, Bridgeport; Mrs. Frederick S. Peck, Barrington, R. I.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of the Birth Control Review published monthly at New York N Y for October 1 1931 State of New York County of New York

Before me a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid personally appeared Sonia Peretz who having been duly sworn according to law deposes and says that she is the Business Manager of the Birth Control Review and that the following is to the best of her knowledge and belief a true statement of the ownership management (and if a daily paper the circulation) etc of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24 1912 embodied in section 411 Postal Laws and Regulations printed on the reverse of this form to wit

1 That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are

Publisher—American Birth Control League Inc 152 Madison Ave N Y City

Editor—Stella Hanau 152 Madison Ave. N Y City

Managing Editor—None

Business Manager—Sonia Peretz 152 Madison Ave N Y City

2 That the owner is (If owned by a corporation its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock If not owned by a corporation the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given If owned by a firm company or other unincorporated concern its name and address as well as those of each individual member must be given

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3 That the known bondholders mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds mortgages or other securities are (If there are none, so state) None

4 That the two paragraphs next above giving the names of the owners stockholders and security holders if any contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

SONIA PERETZ
Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of Sept 1931

[SEAL]

JOSEPHINE LEVY
(My commission expires May 20 1932)

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CONTRACEPTION

BIRTH CONTROL

Its Theory, History and Practice

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Fellow of University College, London

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