

May 1933

Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



—ALANSON—

VOL XVII, No 5

Two Dollars a Year

# *Birth Control for All*

**T**O GET a strong and healthy nation it is essential that we breed from the right stocks. There is no other way. The time has surely come when statesmen should face the grim realities of the present position and when it should become the duty of the State to spread amongst the poor and inefficient a knowledge of birth control methods which will begin to rectify the present deplorable situation.

A knowledge of birth control methods should not remain as a privilege of the well-to-do. It should become the right, yes, the right, of the millions of poor and struggling women who seek for a fuller measure of well-being and for the opportunity so to limit their families as to permit of health and strength not only for their children but also for themselves.

THE HONORABLE MR JUSTICE McCARDIE  
The Galton Lecture, Feb 16, 1933, London

## **American Birth Control League, 689 Madison Avenue, New York City** *Affiliated State Organizations*

### **ARKANSAS EUGENICS ASSOCIATION** 1806 Arch Street, Little Rock

Mrs Edward Cornish, *Chairman*  
Mr Graham Roots Hall, *Secretary*

### **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** 208 N Wabash Avenue, Chicago

Mrs Benjamin Carpenter, *President*  
Mrs Effie Jeanne Lyon, *Executive Secretary*

### **INDIANA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE** 4205 Washington Blvd Indianapolis

Mrs Lee Burns, *President*  
Mrs Theodore B Griffiths, *Secretary*

### **KENTUCKY BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE** E R No 1 Box 514 Louisville

Mrs Charles G Tachau, *President*  
Mrs Winfield Waters, *Secretary*

### **MAINE BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE** Cape Elizabeth, Portland

Mrs Deane Small, *President*

### **BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS** 18 Joy Street, Boston

Mrs Oakes Ames, *President*  
Miss Caroline L Carter, *Executive Secretary*

### **BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN** 1323 Lake Drive S E Grand Rapids

Mrs Morton Keeney, *President*  
Mrs Frank Stone, *Secretary*

### **MINNESOTA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE** 233 Walker Building Minneapolis

Mrs G C Shafer, *President*  
Mrs H B Wilcox, *Secretary*

### **MATERNAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI** 5088 Washington Ave. St. Louis

Dr R J Crossen, *President*

Mrs Albert E Taussig, *Secretary*

### **NEW YORK STATE BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION** 680 Madison Ave New York

Mrs George C Barclay, *President*  
Mrs Frederic Cromwell, *Secretary*

### **PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION** 1700 Walnut Street Philadelphia

Stuart Mudd, M D, *President*  
Mrs George A Dunning, *Secretary*  
Mrs Allyn C Martin, *Executive Secretary*

### **RHODE ISLAND BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE** 168 N Main Street, Providence

Mrs Henry Salomon, *President*  
Mrs Robert J Beede, *Secretary*

**VIRGINIA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE,**  
3026 Monument Ave Richmond  
Mrs A E Wilson Harrison

# Birth Control Review

VOL XVII

MAY, 1933

NO 6

## CONTENTS

CATHOLIC ADVICE ON THE "SAFE PERIOD" By Carl G Hartman	117
ETHICAL ASPECTS OF BIRTH CONTROL By Leland Foster Wood	119
PRODUCTION VERSUS REPRODUCTION By Guy Irving Bureh	122
THE MATHUSIAN BALL	124
BOOK REVIEWS By T Wingate Todd, Orland E White, J P Lichtenberger	126
LETTERS Harvy M Watkins, MD, Ernestine H French, Caroline H Robinson, Robert Briffault, Mrs Ed Cornish	128
THE NEGRO WANTS BIRTH CONTROL By Lemuel T Sewell, MD	131
NEWS NOTES	132
POPULATION CONTROL FOR UNEMPLOYMENT By W J Ruth	134

Published on the first of the month by the American Birth Control League Inc 689 Madison Avenue New York City

Single Copies 20 cents \$2.00 per year \$3.50 two years  
Canada and Foreign add 25 cents postage per year

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

IN 1928 Congress designated May 1st as Child Health Day and assigned to the President the duty of requesting its observance by government officials and by the people at large. Every May since then has seen appropriate celebrations under the direction of State Health Officers, with the assistance of the American Child Health Association, which initiated the idea. The slogan for 1933 is "Mothers and Babies First." Publicity material and suggestions for local programs emphasize that the quality of the adult citizenry depends on the opportunity for wholesome development provided in childhood, that privation in childhood will show itself in after years in impaired physical stamina, and in greater susceptibility to disease, and that the expectant and nursing mother must be properly nourished if children are to thrive. The birth control movement actively supports the program "Mothers and Babies First." It joins with health authorities in wishing to bring before the public the importance of maternal care and child health. But it looks for something more concrete than May Day celebrations, valuable as they are, and more basic than education for the pur-

pose of making the public "child health conscious." The United States has a higher maternal death rate than any other civilized country. It is estimated that over 18,000 women die in childbirth annually in this country, and that a large number of these deaths are preventable. Conscious control of motherhood, scientific knowledge of how to plan the coming of children with due regard to the mother's health, the health of the children already in the family and economic conditions, must find place in any program for "Mothers and Babies First." We look in vain for some mention of the necessity for scientific birth control in the estimable and carefully planned programs of the American Child Health Association. Pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers, adequate food, fresh air, medical care for children, full opportunity for growth and development—all these are needed. But they must be prefaced by knowledge of how to space the births of children, and how to prevent their coming when advisable. "Mothers and Babies First" becomes an empty phrase unless it is backed by scientific birth control instruction.

THE LEAGUE of Mothers Clubs, an organization of one hundred mothers clubs in New York, the Bronx and Brooklyn, understands, apparently, better than the Child Health organizations that mothers are deeply concerned in this matter, and that they seek both contraceptive advice and an understanding of what the movement means for them and their children. Though the League does not officially sponsor birth control or any other controversial topic, its Health Committee arranged a general meeting in response to many requests from its members. Poor mothers from all parts of the city gathered together on April 26th at Madison House Settlement to hear Margaret Sanger describe a world of the future where every child will be wanted. Though without benefit of Slogans, this mothers' meeting will perhaps be the most significant May Day celebration of the year.

**T**HE O'MALLEY anti-birth control bill, introduced into the Wisconsin legislature in March, was given a hearing before the Committee on Public Welfare on April 18th. As we pointed out in the April Issue, there is now no mention of birth control on the statute books of Wisconsin. The bill, written and introduced by Assemblyman John O'Malley, "prohibits birth control and provides penalties for the sale, possession or circulation of birth control information and devices," it classes birth control with abortion, and exempts physicians only when they prescribe contraception as a remedy to prevent communication of disease. The bill was attacked and supported vigorously at the Hearing, which drew a record attendance of over 300. Supporting the bill were Catholic organizations, and petitions bearing 90,000 signatures, according to newspaper accounts. Opposing the bill and denouncing it as a "vicious admixture of religion, politics, and ignorance" were church leaders, lawyers, members of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin, social workers, club women, doctors and mothers. Several ministers and educators stated that if the bill became a law they would consider it their duty to disregard it. Professor E. A. Ross of the University, (member of the Editorial Board of the REVIEW) summed up the opposition to the bill, saying "through ignorance you have created a monstrous bill—one of the most shocking I have ever heard of. Pass this bill and you will have a nation of morons in 200 years. The bill encroaches on the rights of hundreds of thousands of decent married people. If you want us to go down hill just pass this law and make Wisconsin the most backward state in the Union. Despite the denunciation of the bill at the hearing, the committee voted in its favor 6 to 1. What the final outcome will be cannot be predicted, though it seems unlikely that the bill will actually become a law. The event, however, shows the urgent need for education. O'Malley, himself, is reported to have said that his intention was not to restrict necessary medical activity but to protect the "youth of the state." Representative citizens of Wisconsin are aware of the dangers of such intentions coupled with a complete misunderstanding of the meaning

of birth control. They have asked the American Birth Control League to assist in the formation of a state birth control league in order that a local organized group may be on hand to function in preventing the passing of this bill or similar legislation, and in carrying on a state-wide educational campaign. The League is happy to announce that it has sent its executive director, Miss Ruth Topping, to Wisconsin to cooperate with the local groups at this crucial time.

**T**HE American Birth Control League has been informed that it is a beneficiary under the will of a good friend of the birth control movement, who died in California last month. Word comes to us that another supporter, also a Californian, has remembered us in her will. Birth control work must go on, despite bank holidays, depressions and shrinking contributions. It is suggested that those who understand the fundamental importance of birth control follow the example of our two California friends in making bequests to us.

**A** YEAR ago the REVIEW devoted an issue to *The Negro and Birth Control*, and enlisted as contributors prominent Negro writers, doctors and publicists. As an indirect result Dr. Matsner, medical director of the League, was invited to speak on contraceptive technique at the annual meeting of the society of Negro physicians, the National Medical Association. The Negro's need for birth control is great. Unfortunately clinical facilities for Negro women are woefully inadequate. Negro leaders understand clearly what birth control can do to improve conditions, both socially and racially, and have been quick to welcome any activity that brings birth control within the reach of the Negro poor. The Harlem branch of the New York Clinical Research Bureau has long been an example of how the birth control clinic may serve the community. On May first the New York Urban League will take over the management of this clinic, in cooperation with the parent clinic. This action on the part of the New York Urban League and the New York Clinical Research Bureau represents a step forward in birth control work and in Negro community affairs.

# Catholic Advice on the "Safe Period"

By CARL G HARTMAN

**I**T IS well known but often overlooked that birth control, in the broad sense of voluntary family limitation, is not only condoned by officials of the Catholic Church but that, under certain circumstances, confessors are allowed to counsel their parishioners in this direction. Official church literature even countenances such birth control when it is practised merely for economic reasons. The procreation of children is stated to be only one of the objects of marriage and is in itself not essential to marriage. Indeed, Catholic writers are quite in harmony with the "birth controllers" in contending that "married couples have not the right to bring into the world children whom they are unable to support." The command "increase and multiply and fill the earth" cannot mean that every person reaching puberty must necessarily breed — else those who take the vows of chastity (nuns and priests, e.g.) would be living contrary to the will of God. The Pope's Encyclical of 1930 says

Nor must married people be considered to act against the order of nature, if they make use of their rights according to sound and natural reason, even though no new life can thence arise on account of circumstances of time or the existence of some defect. For there exist also, both in marriage itself and in the conjugal use of the rights which it confers, some secondary ends, for instance, mutual assistance, the fostering of mutual love, and the allaying of concupiscence, and these aims the parties are not in the least forbidden to pursue, always under the condition however that their action preserves its intrinsic nature and therefore also its necessary relation to the primary end.

These and other illuminating facts one may read in two short treatises dealing with the "natural method" of birth restriction, published recently (chiefly for the clergy) by the Catholic Press "with ecclesiastical approbation." *The Rhythm of Sterility and Fertility in Women* by Dr. L. J. Latz, and *The Sterile Period in Married Life* by the Very Rev. Canon Valere J. Coucke.\*

The central idea of these books is not a new one

The old suggestion of Capellmann (19th Edition! in 1923) which has had a large adherence, held that a woman is fertile only for the first 14 days and the last 3 or 4 days of the menstrual cycle. That the Capellmann schedule needs revision in the light of the newer knowledge is recognized by the present authors, and they proceed to formulate the recently published data on the "safe period" for the more precise instruction of Catholic readers. They opine that, since moral theologians approved the Capellmann theory, they must also approve its revision as necessitated by the march of science.

This "revision" is very well done and the new observations are clearly stated and strictly applied—albeit too strictly and inflexibly, especially by Latz, as though the researches cited were the last word instead of only the latest. The effort is however most commendable.

The chief researches of the fertile period which the authors make the basis of their recommendations are those of Ogino of Japan and Knaus of Austria—hence somewhat unhappily called by Latz the "OK" theory. Knaus applied to the study of women what had been discovered in rabbits, namely that the uterus contracts upon the injection of pituitrin before ovulation, and is refractory once corpora lutea have formed in the ovary. The turning point from responsiveness to refractoriness, therefore, marks the time of ovulation. The test showed ovulation to take place in women around the fourteenth day of the cycle (limits: days 9 to 18). Ogino, on the other hand, argues that the correct calculation is from the expected menstruation back, namely 12 to 17 days. Since he never found an unruptured follicle after the 11th day preceding a menstrual flow he designates the 11 days of the end of the cycle as absolutely sterile, no matter how long or short the cycle may be. This conclusion Ogino says has been justified in the immunity to pregnancy experienced by his patients who have followed the rule. The texts reviewed quote other authorities (Smulders, Guchten-eere) on the "splendid" results obtained among "normal" couples who have carried out the instructions conscientiously.

The authors under review have, furthermore, acquired certain other results of recent researches

\*THE RHYTHM OF STERILITY AND FERTILITY IN WOMEN by Leo J. Latz, M.D., Latz Foundation Chicago Ill. \$1, 1933. THE STERILE PERIOD IN FAMILY LIFE by Very Rev. Valere J. Coucke and James J. Walsh M.D. Joseph F. Wagner Inc., New York 75 cents 1933.

that question the "established" textbook teachings of gynecology. They recognize, for example, the great irregularity of the menstrual cycle in women, which usually comes to light once the calendar is used and records kept. The physiology of the *corpus luteum* in relation to the changing motility of the uterus has been well digested by the authors, as indicated above, and they have gathered the idea that both the egg and the sperm are quite short-lived once they reach the female genital tract.

By and large the reviewer subscribes to most of these conclusions and has recently published his views in Chapter XIV of Allen's *Sex and Endocrine Glands*. In short, he believes that there is a relatively safe period, holding that the prevailing gynecological notion—namely, that a woman may ovulate and therefore conceive on any day of the menstrual cycle—is based in part upon uncontrolled evidence, in part upon inexact observation. The exigencies of space prevent discussion of the evidence, suffice it to say that the reviewer has made dozens of exact determinations of ovulation in the menstruating monkey by methods not applicable to women, and observations on the monkey agree almost to a day with Knaus' findings.

In the schedules worked out and tabulated by the present authors there are, however, several difficulties. The first refers to the low ebb of sex desire in women which all students of the subject report as obtaining during all but the end of the Ogino safe period. It is probable, however, that this defect is overcome in part by the beneficial effects on sex desire of abstinence during the three weeks of positive or relative danger of conception when the prudent couple practices self-control.

The second shortcoming of the "natural method" is a more serious one, the safe period is not yet proved beyond peradventure and certainly the exact ovulation rhythm for any given woman cannot as yet be determined. Like all physiological processes it is doubtless subject to great variations, just as the length of the menstrual cycle and the character of the flow are extremely variable. The Ogino method of counting back from the expected first day of menstruation is not only impractical but, if the monkey cycle is anything like the human cycle, the method lacks experimental basis, for in the monkey the post-ovulatory motility of the cycle is much more variable than the pre-ovulatory. That is, counting forward from the first day is safer than counting back even if

the exact "expected" day were known beforehand. Moreover, the method of Knaus is now being subjected to scrutiny and has been found wanting at the hands of various investigators. The prevailing opinion that ovulation may occur at any time of the cycle cannot, therefore, be brushed aside without much further proof, at least so far as the human species is concerned.

The authors recognize the dilemma "Figure as closely as you can," says Dr. Latz, "keep a record of your menstrual cycles for a year to get the norm, get several cycles again after pregnancy and lactation. The results will be as good as the data." But what is to be done about it while gathering the necessary information for constructing a safe schedule is not disclosed. Probably abstinence is implied. Abstinence during the fertile period is the keynote of the method and abstinence is praised even if it be absolute until the menopause and nature renders the woman permanently sterile. In case a woman were ill and her life in jeopardy through a pregnancy a further curtailment of the period of intercourse is the only suggestion made.

In evaluating the natural method Father Coucke is less categorical than Dr. Latz. Says the former "Consequently, confessors must make use of the greatest prudence and circumspection in suggesting anything to their penitents about this time of agensis, as long as the existence of the latter and its exact delimitation remain uncertain."

We thus get back to the sensible conclusion that the "safe period" is not absolutely safe. To this statement one may reply, however, that no method is absolutely safe, though in intelligent hands failures with contraceptives are extremely rare. Nevertheless, it is the reviewer's judgment that the "natural method" does offer Catholic women who avoid contraceptives out of religious scruples something that is likely, if followed closely, to reduce the incidence of pregnancies to a point approximating the record of our birth control clinics.

So much for the more scientific aspects of the volumes. Matters of creed or sentiment are outside the purpose of this review. Here and there are passages which suggest medieval sophistry, as for example the distinction between the natural method of birth control, periodic abstinence, and artificial methods, chemical or mechanical. It is argued that, inasmuch as God made the safe period and put sex desire into it, it is right to take advantage of it, since nothing is done to interfere with nature's processes. The marital act thereby maintains its

**intrinsic** nature, that **is**, semen **is deposited** in the **vagina** and the **migration** of sperms **is not** interfered with "In the case of **contraception** there **is** a **deliberate frustration** of the act of marriage, whereas in the case of **periodic abstinence** there **is no frustration** of the act of marriage "It **is gratifying**, however, to find a **winter** who **is not worried** about **underpopulation**, which might result, but

has not yet been proved to result, from voluntary **birth restriction**, it must furthermore be **encouraging** to advocates of **birth control** to find a **moralist** who **is quite willing**, in the **light** of the palpable good that comes from **information** on prevention, to face the danger to the "morals" of the **unmarried** that may **arise** from a **dissemination** of the **information**

# Ethical Aspects of Birth Control

By LELAND FOSTER WOOD

**C**ONTROVERSY on the birth control question has centered to a large extent in the **ethical** field. In some quarters the proposal to make parenthood voluntary by the use of **contraceptives** has been denounced as an interference with nature and as an **unethical** act. In other quarters such **limitation** of **births** has been presented as of the very essence of the ethical **attitude** towards mothers. **Society** **is becoming** much more **sensitive** about the need of **protecting** the health of mothers by **reducing** the burden of an **excessive** and unjust degree of **childbearing**. Furthermore, there are cases where pregnancy **is a peril** to the health, or even the **life** of the mother. **This is recognized** even by those who have been **critical** of the **birth control** movement.

A **writer** in the **Catholic** publication **Commonweal** of March 8th, 1933, **says**

Doubtless many women **die** as a result of inadequate prenatal care and other **avoidable** causes — but many others **unquestionably** are **virtually doomed to die** when they become pregnant. And it **is** small comfort to a **Catholic** husband or **wife** to be told that, whatever the doctor may say, one can't be sure that death **will** result unless **it** does result.

**If** the constant **coming** of children keeps the mother in an enfeebled **condition** and makes it **impossible** for the children themselves to **inherit** vigorous health, then it **is** perfectly **evident** that there is a duty of parents to **children** which can only be fulfilled by the **limitation** of the number of births. There **is nothing ethical** or **ideal** about the **birth** of unwanted children in families which cannot **provide** for those whom they already have.

The fact that the **relationships** of many husbands and **wives** are constantly marred by the fear of **untimely** and unwanted pregnancy, has been

**emphasized** as a factor detrimental to the normal love **life** of married **persons**. Therefore from the **standpoint** of an **ideal relationship** between the husband and the **wife**, some means of **regulating pregnancies** would seem to be **desirable**.

However, the persons who have come out clearly for **birth control**, on the **basis** of **solicitude** for over-burdened mothers, and a concern for the larger **social** welfare, and **with** no stake of personal selfishness in the debate (as some of **their** opponents have unadroitly insinuated) have been the center of a good deal of **bitter** attack. In the end, human **questions** are not settled by the amount of **passion** that **is** brought to **their discussion**, but by the calm and wise **decision** of mature **minds**, and by the general **acquiescence** of the **population** in that which seems necessary and **right**.

**Believing** that it was in the interest of their **constituencies**, and of the **public** in general, a number of **religious organizations** have made statements on the **birth control question**, some of them **slightly** and some strongly favorable to the movement. **These organizations include** the **Committee on Marriage** and the **Home** of the **Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America**, the **Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops**, meeting in 1930, the **Special Commission on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage** of the **General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U S A**, the **Department of Social Relations** of the **National Council of Congregational Churches**, the **Universalist General Convention**, the **American Unitarian Association**, the **New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church**, the **Central Conference of American Rabbis**, and, most recently, a **Special Committee of the Women's Problems Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends**.

**While it is unnecessary to go over** all the reasons

set forth for the positions taken in these statements, we may notice some of the main ones. The Lambeth Conference recognized that there are circumstances which demand the limitation of families and even make conception a clear menace to life in some instances, that there are cases in which a life of suffering would be imposed upon the unborn child owing to conditions of health or heredity on the part of parents, and also that, when the coming of additional children would render the mother incapable of carrying out her duties to the existing family, the need of preventing conception is apparent. The way to be chosen for carrying this out must be determined with reference to the spiritual desire of the family. The Conference appeals to the conscience of the individual couple, saying

Each couple must decide for themselves, as in the sight of God, after the most careful and conscientious thought, and, if perplexed in mind, after taking competent advice, both medical and spiritual

In our judgment the question which they should put to themselves is this: Would conception be for any reason wrong? If it would clearly be wrong, and if there is good moral reason why the way of abstinence should not be followed, we cannot condemn the use of scientific methods to prevent conception, which are thoughtfully and conscientiously adopted

The Conference holds that "children are the primary end of the intercourse to which marriage leads." However, it recognizes a secondary end "within the natural sacrament of marriage."

Where for any morally sound reason the first end is to be ruled out, it does not necessarily follow that the secondary end must be ruled out also, provided that self-control is exercised, and husband and wife have truly examined their consciences upon the matter.

The statement by the Committee on Marriage and the Home of the Federal Council makes the same points strongly and adds

A majority of the committee holds that the careful and restrained use of contraceptives by married people is valid and moral. They take this position because they believe that it is important to provide for the proper spacing of children, the control of the size of the family, and the protection of mothers and children, and because intercourse between mates, when an expression of their spiritual union and affection, is right in itself. They are of the opinion that abstinence within marriage, except for the few,

cannot be relied upon to meet these problems, and under ordinary conditions is not desirable in itself.

These ethical considerations in the birth control question are commanding wide attention and receiving very widespread approval, not as concessions to human weakness, but as ways of improving the home life and marital adjustment of Christian families.

The importance of these questions may be judged by the high interest in the controversial subject of birth control, and by the strength of some of the criticisms which have been hurled at these organizations for making such statements. Mrs. Rita McGoldrick, representing the International Federation of Catholic Alumni, pointed out the peril of a general increase of immorality as a result of the birth control movement at the Hearing on the birth control bill before the House Ways and Means Committee in May, 1932. She said: "Your bill, if passed, will mean that the boys and girls of this nation may obtain dangerous information that they might not otherwise meet with until they are much older."

The danger of the birth control movement has been much stressed by *The Commonwealth* on the ground that if the fear of pregnancy is withdrawn, unmarried persons will act without restraint. Furthermore, severe strictures have been passed upon those who, recognizing that contraceptive information is already widespread and is increasing in its distribution, believe that the use of this information must be controlled largely by the ethical restraints of the individual.

Whether *The Commonwealth* is now ready to accept this position or not, at any rate it has recognized that a general necessity for reliable control of births does exist. In its issue of March 8th one may read

Some may hold that there is no such genuine necessity, or that it is not a very pressing need, or that it is not very general. But such objectors, in the face of the plight of millions of husbands and wives must be diminishing rapidly in number. The fact that some 11,000,000 workers are unemployed in America today cannot be pondered without pondering the question of unregulated births. The fact that millions more are without reasonable economic security cannot be considered without considering births and sizes of families. The fact that hosts of other men and women are living at incomes far reduced from those upon which their respective stations in life



have been based, cannot be dissociated from the problem of family **limitation**

The **publication** in that issue of information about an alleged dependable sterile period in every monthly cycle, and the favorable review of the books which **give this** information, puts The **Commonweal** in a **position** very **similar** to the one which it had previously denounced that of **disseminating** "dangerous information" This has been pointed out by the **Catholic Weekly America**, in its February 25th issue

By thinking and experienced persons it has often been objected that one of the social **evils** of artificial **birth** control **is** that it has made **possible** the present almost universal immorality among high-school children by the taking away of the natural consequences, and that it has introduced an "amateur competition" that has all but **ruined** commercialized vice Does there not exist the same danger to Catholics now in this new and less costly **method** if it is **widely** advertised as "certain?"

If the real moral **objection** to **birth** control were its influence upon **unmarried** people, it would be inconceivable that its opponents could **shift** so easily to a **position** in which they would advocate a method of birth control easier, **simpler**, and (according to their statements) **reliable**, and would publish these facts in a journal for **family** circulation, and for all the world to see

Many Protestant leaders have recently expressed themselves in no **uncertain** way in favor of birth control, and there is no reason to believe that the number of those **taking** this position **is decreasing** However, **it is** evident that a part of the **constituency** of the Federal **Council** of Churches of Christ in **America is still** doubtful or opposed to the use of **contraceptives** This position was taken by some at the recent **Quadrennial** Meeting of the Federal Council at Indianapolis At the **same** time, the affirmative **side** was so strongly presented as to leave no doubt of the strength of approval of birth control among Protestant leaders The **Quadrennial** Meeting decided to refer the question back to the constituent denominations for study, instead of pushing the matter to an issue

The most recent statement in favor of birth control by a Protestant group comes from a Special Committee of the Women's Problems Group of **Philadelphia** Yearly Meeting of **Friends** It de-

fines birth control carefully to mean voluntary parenthood by the **regulation** of the number of children, **and** the time of their conception It **emphasizes** the **eugenic**, social, and personal aspects of contraception and holds that the fear of unwanted pregnancy creates an atmosphere in **which** the **spontaneity** of the love life of **married** partners is **impossible** Reporting on its study of Quaker medical opinion **it** says "There was very general approval of birth control, and several of the doctors mentioned the need for legislation which will legalize the giving of information through the medical profession They believe that the most modern methods of contraception do not lead to **sterility** and feel that **scientific** information should be given when asked for"

The general conclusions of the statement are as follows

1 **Birth** Control does not necessarily mean family limitation alone but planning for and spacing children as the whole welfare of the family may **indicate**

2 The proper use of approved contraceptive methods may **contribute** to the social and economic welfare of the home, and to the physical and mental health of parents and children

3 Sex expression for spiritual and physical reasons as well as for procreation **is essential** to normal family **life** This **relation** is **beautiful** and sacred and should be **exercised** through the full span of married life It should lead to the integration of personality by **linking** the spiritual with the **physical** and **making** them one in a way that no other single act **in life** can

4 Young people should know the physical and spiritual facts about the sex **experience** at the time of marriage so that they can more **intelligently** face their new lives and make the adjustments **which** are necessary to **their** happiness

5 Modern society has need for more Maternal Health clinics to deal with matters of disease prevention, conception control, sexual adjustment and other problems of married life

It may well be that the opposition to birth control rests largely in the fact that it is a new idea as well as a new technique worked out by science From this point of view it seems reasonable to hold that the **objections** which are now so prevalent may vanish in many quarters, and may be more accurately defined in others, as the real ethical **grounds** for birth control become better understood

# Production versus Reproduction

By GUY IRVING BURCH

**T**HE great mass production of goods which our **relatively** sudden **application** of technology has made **possible**, may have led many people to think that the problem of mass reproduction of human beings has been solved once and for all, and that it would be **permissible** to **exercise** to the full both man's **fecundity** and his **technical** knowledge.

If there were a race between mass production of goods and mass reproduction of human beings, production would **gain** a lead upon population growth and the wholesale **utilization** of labor-saving **devices** would endanger the welfare of **society** through unemployment and **disorganization** of **distribution**. On the other hand, if this **competition** between the cradle and the machine got past the first marker **without** completely **upsetting civilization**, human **fecundity** would be **certain** to **outdistance** mass production.

The **evidence** would seem to **indicate** that both production and reproduction should be **rationally** controlled **if society is** to escape serious trouble. **This** country should be very familiar **with** what may happen when **mechanical** production **is** suddenly **given** the **reins**. Our mineral resources are squandered at a **feverish** rate, our army of unemployed mounts to unprecedented figures, and normal **distribution is** thrown completely out of gear. On the other hand, when population growth **is permitted** or encouraged to **gain** momentum, as in the Central Powers before the World War, and as in such countries as Japan and Italy, the joy **ride** of unbridled fecundity **usually** ends in the court of Mars where the parts of the population who escaped the sentence of death may be burdened **with** debt for the rest of **their** lives.

It would seem to be of **considerable** importance to **society** that production and reproduction be kept fairly well abreast of each other **in** the progress of **civilization**. As mineral resources upon which mass production **is** dependent are **definitely** **limited** while the capacity for **increase** of population **is practically unlimited**, it would seem wisest to make reproduction the pace-setter, and to keep the pace slow and orderly. **This is** especially **advisable in** densely populated **countries** which **possess** little or no **mineral** resources.

It may be a far cry **in this** country from our

present state of **overproduction** to that of a scarcity of mineral resources and a **critical** overpopulation problem. All **technologists** agree that the **United States** is in a **singularly** fortunate **position** among nations as far as mineral and other natural resources are concerned. However, it should be remembered that we are now **living in a civilization** in which nations are more or less **interdependent**, and that almost every other nation **in** the world has a **relative** scarcity of mineral resources compared to **its quantity** of **population**.

We are told that the **United Kingdom**, once the proud **ruler** of the seas and the **unquestioned** center of world **civilization**, **is** fast **losing** its **position** and **is** helpless in the face of **dissipated** energy resources and technology. One of the results, we are told, **is** that England **will** soon be compelled "to make a free **gift** of **its** surplus 35,000,000 population to **its** various Colonial **possessions**." **Allowing** for **considerable** exaggeration **in this large** figure, **certainly** England **is** a good example of how **population growth** has overtaken a **great** industrial power once **rich in** mineral resources. She **is** now largely dependent upon one energy source—coal, many of her coal **workings** are already **three-quarters** of a **mile** under cover, and the great depth makes the daily average extracted per man only about **one-third** that **possible** in our own country. On the other hand, the population of England and Wales increased from 9,000,000 to 40,000,000 between 1800 and 1930, **notwithstanding** the fact that these countries exported millions of population to many parts of the world, **participated** in a number of bloody wars, and **practiced abortion** on no small scale.

Were England the only country **in** the world that had squandered her natural resources of **minerals**, the **possibilities** for mass production keeping pace **with** world population growth, **in** the near future at least, **might** not seem so **discouraging**, but many other countries, **if** not whole continents, are in much the same **condition**. The mineral resources of **Asia** are considered far too **limited** for a **high energy civilization**, while such countries as Fascist Italy and **Imperialistic** Japan are dangerously overloaded **with** **population**, and **their capacity** to purchase mineral resources **vital** to the

life of their people is steadily growing weaker. The practice of taxing bachelors and granting bonuses for large families in Italy is not likely to improve that country's condition, unless she is lucky in war.

In striking if not startling contrast to the rest of the world, North America, and especially the United States, is so rich in all the basic mineral resources that it can continue to support the present population at a high standard of living for some time to come. According to the technologists, while the United States has only 6.2 per cent of the world's population, she has 50 per cent of the coal reserves, 40 per cent of the iron ore, produces and consumes 69 per cent of the world's oil, and is the greatest producer and consumer of natural gas—85 per cent of the world's total. In short, the United States with only one-sixteenth of the world's population produces approximately one-half of the world's energy.

But although the United States may be suffering now from mass overproduction of both food and goods, due largely to the reckless exploitation of natural resources and wholesale cultivation of new lands, our good farm land is not unlimited and our essential mineral resources do not grow a second crop. In using our mineral resources to construct engines for mass production, some of which are in turn used to more rapidly exploit more mineral resources, we are squandering our precious metals. Production as a whole tripled between 1890 and 1928. The continuation at such a rate is physically impossible.

Granted that the United States can support a large population at a considerably higher standard of living, it is of the utmost importance that we have definite evidence of how long this country might support even the present population. The technocrats estimate that the capacity of America to produce physical wealth is such that we are assured of a sufficiency to keep us going for a thousand years, if our technological equipment is operated on a non-price basis. This is encouraging, granted that the evidence fully supports the statement, but are the technocrats assuming a stationary population or one increasing as fast as that of England and Wales during the last century? It would be of little value to build up a large population in this country (as is advocated by some current writers) by the wholesale exploitation of our mineral resources, upon which a technological civilization is dependent, only to have these essentials give out or become inadequate when the popula-

tion reaches the maximum.

If our population should increase as fast as that of England and Wales increased during the past 130 years, it would reach more than 500,000,000 by 2060, and about 2,500,000,000 by 2190. Thus within two hundred and sixty years, the population of this country might become one and one-half times as large as the present population of the world. To carry this growth up to a thousand years would reach fantastic figures, but I mention this to show that there is a considerable difference in the number of years a country can support a population of about 125,000,000, or a number five times as large.

A most important contribution to this part of the subject is a study of *Mineral Resources for Future Population*, presented at the annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in 1924, by F. G. Tryon and Lida Mann, of the Division of Mineral Resources, United States Geological Survey. It begins: "The immediate outlook for mineral supplies in the United States is encouraging. The ultimate outlook is discouraging." The authors' chief conclusion is:

As far as the minerals are concerned, the evidence forecasts in the not distant future a period of diminishing abundance and rising costs, in which—barring some revolutionary discovery of science that will free man from dependency on fuel and water power—it will be harder to maintain even our present population at the present standards of living. During the immediate future, our population may continue to increase and our standard of living may continue to rise, merely because our mines are still easy to work, but further increase of population will simply hasten the day of rising costs of energy and will make readjustment to the changed conditions increasingly difficult.

Similar conclusions are arrived at by the Hoover Research Committee on Social Trends and published in the Findings of the recently issued report *Recent Social Trends in the United States*.

Although we may be suffering now from overproduction of both food and goods, our good farm land is not unlimited and our essential mineral resources do not grow a second crop. In using the machine to more rapidly exploit our minerals and land, we are squandering our natural resources at a dangerously rapid rate.

Careful surveys of the mineral resources of North America and the United States should en-

able us to estimate fairly well about how many human beings this continent and this country can support at a high standard of living and for what period of time. Whatever the optimum number may be, it should be evident to all that mass pro-

duction of goods is no match for mass reproduction of human beings, and that the most effective method of meeting the problem is to limit population growth at its source, by controlling the birth rate.

## The Malthusian Ball

**H**ISTORY was made at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on March 22, 1933, when the first ball ever organized in the name of Malthus and in aid of funds for birth control propaganda was held. The event was remarkable in that it was the first of its kind in which the British Royal family allowed the use of its name in connection with the birth control movement. The patron of the ball was Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and this form of recognition, so important in England, drew unprecedented interest and publicity for the ball.

Another factor which contributed to the success of the undertaking was that the Honorable Mr Justice McCardie acted as president of the Ball Committee, freely gave his time and invaluable advice to the organizers during the weeks of preparation, and came especially from the Assizes at Lewes to serve as host to the hundreds of distinguished guests. Famous writers, scientists, clergy, educators, medical men and women, military and naval officers, actors, actresses, members of some of the best-known families in England, politicians, representatives of every church and creed were present.

The Malthusian Ball was held in aid of the international birth control movement. The Birth Control International Information Centre proposes to use a large part of the funds obtained to develop interest in birth control in the Far East, and especially in India. The Centre is in touch with a number of representative Indians who recognize how vital is the need for birth control in their country. It is hoped that they can, probably through a conference in India or Japan in the near future, be organized into a coherent group which will endeavor to lay the foundations of an integrated birth control movement in the Far East.

The program for the Ball carried the following statement of the aims of the Birth Control International Information Centre:

"The practice of birth control — which means the application of healthy and æsthetically unobjectionable expedients for controlling human fertility

—would rank with antiseptics and anæsthesia among the few unmixed blessings that have been bestowed on mankind, but for one fact that its distribution tends to perpetuate the tendency for the rate of increase of population to be greatest among the social classes and communities that have the smallest economic resources. The Birth Control International Information Centre does not hold the view that all the genetically best types are concentrated in the upper classes or among Western peoples. It faces the fact however that the birth-rate is highest among the people who are least well equipped to provide their offspring with the necessities of civilized life—with food, clothing, shelter, and education, and that populations are increasing most rapidly in the territories that are least able to support them.

"It was to spread the propaganda and practice of birth control among the nations that most need it that the Birth Control International Information Centre came into existence.

"As far as this country [England], the United States and the more advanced nations of Europe are concerned, the problem of conveying birth control information to all classes of society is being pursued with energy and success by the birth control organizations operating on a national scale. The Birth Control International Information Centre exists to stimulate interest in birth control in those countries which at present have no such organizations, to assist in the establishment of birth control clinics wherever they may be needed, and to act as a channel through which accurate data on all problems connected with the propaganda and practice of birth control may be directed to all parts of the world."

The cover design for this issue of the REVIEW is taken from the program of the Malthusian Ball. It may be thought of as symbolizing the ultimate goal of the international movement — children the world over, united in activity and happiness, planned for and wanted children.

## Book Reviews

MATERNITY HANDBOOK, by Anne A. Stevens *G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York 1932 \$1*

**T**HIS well written and profusely illustrated book has been prepared for young people on the threshold of family life by an author who has obviously had great experience in the questions and problems which inevitably occur during the gestation period. It contains a good deal of information which will also be obtained from the doctor or the nurse, but it undoubtedly will help greatly to fix this information in the mind of the patient and her husband. It is not a book to appeal to the general public, for whom it was not written, but it is a sturdy support for those whose minds are intently concentrated upon the responsibility which they have undertaken. It is full of practical details covering the entire range of the subject, and its dedication to fathers as well as mothers is by no means the least thoughtful of its lavishly distributed helpfulness.

One wonders, therefore, if it was by design that there is no mention of the advantages of intelligent spacing of children for which surely there was a place in this book and without which the volume falls short of perfection. In view of the pains taken to emphasize the fact that healthy pregnancy is an entirely reasonable risk (p. 7) it might not have been amiss to emphasize also the effects of too frequently repeated pregnancy, interrupted pregnancy, pregnancy in a debilitated mother or in a home where reasonable peace and child-nurture are temporarily impossible. The people who will most appreciate this book are the very people who would likewise have appreciated some intelligent advice and guidance on these problems.

T. WINGATE TODD

CRIME AND DESTINY, by Johannes Lange. With an Introduction by J. B. S. Haldane. *Charles Boni, New York 1930 50 cents*

**T**HE relative importance of heredity and environment as causal factors of crime is a subject involving endless disagreement. "The biologist," says Dr. Lange, "and even more the doctor who has to deal with the individual criminal, cannot help again and again seeing fate in crime, stronger than the free-will of the individual. The natural

tendencies one is born with, the surrounding world he grows up in, these are essentially destiny, and it is also destiny by which environment, with its countless influences, works to form natural tendencies into one whole."

"At the same time," he continues, "it is apparent—in another sense entirely—that crime cannot be construed as simple destiny. Present conditions and especially the steps we take for the prevention of crime are not unalterable, and I think that changes in this field could prevent more than one crime. In a double sense, therefore, fate is in our hands."

The real importance of this little book lies in the problem it raises and the individual destinies it describes. Dr. Lange studied thirty pairs of twins, all old enough to be legally prosecuted. These consisted of two types—the so-called "one-egg" identical, or monozygotic pairs, thirteen in number, and the "two-egg," ordinary, or dizygotic pairs, seventeen in number. In the first type, the differences between the members of a pair are largely environmental, since their heredity is as similar as that of two geranium cuttings from the same plant. The member of a "two-egg" pair of twins are necessarily no more alike, so far as heredity is concerned, than ordinary brothers and sisters in a family.

Considering these facts, "if the hereditary make-up had no importance, a comparison between mono- and dizygotic pairs of twins ought to show no differences. The agreement between the behavior of monozygotic twins would indicate the importance of heredity. The lack of agreement would throw the stress on environment. Finally, we could compare the behavior of dizygotic twins with that of other brothers and sisters. Since environmental influence can only be considered closely similar in the case of those who have grown up together, the importance of environment would be increased in proportion if, in comparison with other brothers and sisters, dizygotic twins showed a closer agreement as far as crime was concerned."

Only same sex pairs were considered and the material was provided through the Institute for Criminal Biology in Bavaria. In each pair at least one member had been imprisoned. Among the thirteen monozygotic pairs, the second twin was im-

prisoned in ten cases. Among the seventeen dizygotic pairs, the second twin had been imprisoned in only two cases. Hence, from these data, seventy-seven per cent of the monozygotic twins agree in their behavior toward crime, as compared with about twelve per cent for the dizygotic type, which would indicate that inherited tendencies play a preponderant part in causing crime.

"Our rough figures," says the author, "also permit the conclusion that heredity alone is not exclusively a cause of criminality, but that one must allow a certain amount for environmental influences. Finally we must try to make it impossible for human beings with positive criminal tendencies to be born."

The book is very readable, with few technical terms. Anyone intelligently interested in crime and its causes should read it and recommend it to his friends.

ORLAND E. WHITE

MISCHIEFS OF THE MARRIAGE LAWS, by  
J. F. Worsley-Boden *Williams and Norgate*  
London 1932 21 s

**A**LTHOUGH written from the point of view of the urgent need for the reform of the English Law of Divorce, the book deals with the underlying facts and circumstances which render the law inimical to the welfare both of the institution of marriage itself and to the parties whose marriages have broken down under the conditions of modern civilization.

In the historical sections the author discusses the situation existing under the Roman Civil Law, surveys with critical insight the controversy which has waged over the teachings of Jesus on the subject of divorce, describes the origin and sinister influences of the Canon Law, recounts the effects of the Reformation and explains the significance of the reform legislation of 1857 in England which he now considers reactionary in regard to the needs of the present. I know of no more adequate presentation of the background which illuminates the whole problem of divorce legislation, not only in England, but throughout the modern world.

Some of the evils of the present law are

1. That every suit for divorce must appear in the form of mutual antagonism or as a criminal complaint, whereas in many instances the divorce is mutually desired, requiring collusion in furnishing the evidence of guilt which often is essentially false because the real reasons for marital break-

down are not grounds for divorce recognized by the court.

2. The evils connected with the single ground for divorce, viz adultery, which require actual or feigned proof of this offense when the real causes are not in themselves immoral, and thus elevates the carnal issues of marriage above their spiritual nature.

3. The "spurious and diseased infant of the English law, the judicial separation," which is productive of sexual irregularity either promiscuous or monogamous, and works great hardships to those needing relief from intolerable conditions who otherwise might form happy and respectable marriages if they could gain complete freedom from a relation which has become a hollow mockery.

4. The inheritance from the Canon Law of the sacramental theory of marriage with its logical correlary of indissolubility, since the sacrament "cannot make people what they are not nor assure the maintenance of true marriage." Moreover the physical consummation which the Canon Law established as a condition of complete marriage is no substitute for love which is coming to be regarded as the only morally valid basis for marriage continuance as it now is for its initiation.

5. The necessity for "collusion or camouflage by which petitions for divorce which really are sought for other and sometimes deeper reasons are pinched within the definition of adultery." Those who oppose divorce law reform, he asserts, "do not consciously intend to encourage adultery, but the effect is to drive those who are sufferers from spiritual discontent in marriage to adopt the physical 'sin' (or the pretense of it) in order to obtain the only kind of divorce which the ecclesiastical mind in any wise will countenance" or which is provided for by legal statute.

Reform of the divorce law in the interest of justice and sincerity would cease to "advertise the cruelty of Christianity," would substitute true grounds for "collusive adultery," and would tend to elevate the moral and spiritual values of marriage above its physical aspects. The author adheres to the theory that divorces should be granted for such causes as "frustrate all the fundamental purposes of marriage." He advocates the establishment of the new comprehensive "grounds" of (1) incompatibility which he defines as "such disagreement between interests and inclinations of the spouses as excludes a life of common purpose, cohabitation, and further procreation of children,

and promotes violence in act and speech when the parties are not separated," (2) *mutual* consent or joint petition, by which the *antagonistic* or penal suit would be *abolished* and the real grounds for marital collapse substituted for *fictitious* ones

The safeguards to the protection of real *marriage*, in the interest of which divorce reform is advocated, are such as "restriction of the present extreme *facilities* for marriage," "longer official notice of *intention*," "no petition (for divorce) within three years of *marriage*," judicial separation (if retained) to cease to be effective after three years *either* by reconciliation or complete dissolution, and the *third marriage* to be "the final *matrimonial* venture" of any one person

The book is concise, scholarly, non-technical, easily readable and comprehensible. It will be read with profit by every candid person whether in agreement with the author's *conclusions* or not

J P LICHTENBERGER

THE STORY OF *SEX*, by Helena Wnght, with an Introduction by Paul Popenoe *Vanguard* Press, New York, 1932 \$2 00

THIS book is an earnest effort by a *physician* to give help to those who are *wrestling* with the problem of how to train their young people in a knowledge of sex, though they themselves have but an *empirical understanding* of its *implications*. The author *writes* from the same *point of view*. Having, as she states, no first hand knowledge of *biology* (save that remembered from her *pre-medical* courses), she attempts to *give* a summary of current *literature*, eked out by the "persistent *kindness* and *patience*" of experts. *This* is hardly enough for the task and the result is an account which is *painstaking* but lacks *freshness*, *originality* and *force*. On such a subject these *deficiencies* *magnify* themselves into defects. There *might* at least have been some effort to be exact in *dimension* and *phrase* which *legitimately* belong to a *physician's experience*. A *vas deferens* as thick as a pencil (p 91), a penis two or three inches long (p 93), a *vagina* of four to five inches (p 98), muscles of womb and "of the outside stomach wall" coming into *combined action* (p 107) are examples.

The *philosophy* lacks *clarity*. An amoeba combines in its *single cell* the *functions* of *ingestion*, *assimilation*, *metabolism*, *respiration*, *growth*, *movement*, *excretion* and *reproduction*. It may be

the first kind of living thing in the world but it is a mistake to call it simple (p 8). That the human embryo (p 107) needs nine months in the uterus because "the whole structure of *civilization* is the work of the human brain" *surprises* the reviewer more in the *connection* than in the isolated fact. On the basis of time, from that point of *view*, the period of *gestation* in the anthropoid, the mare or more particularly in the elephant, need qualification.

The reviewer protests *against giving* a public, which naturally looks for scientific accuracy, such misleading statements as "A very young baby cannot *think* at all" (p 124). "Growth in *height* and *weight* go on more or less *steadily* from birth till about the age of twenty-five" (p 115). "The forming of young cannot therefore be begun until the body has reached a *certain* stage of *maturity* called puberty" (p 110). Nail *biting* becomes an evidence of weakness of will (p 146), there is no *suggestion* of a *primary nutritional* deficiency. The dreary and almost *pernicious* but outmoded ideas of *infantile* masturbation are repeated. Indeed *perversions* would seem to be features of childhood and adolescence for which parents must always watch, they were once young themselves of course. Culture and *education* have *entirely* faded as causes of "sex *feeling*" on page 120. The *illustrations* are not very helpful.

The book is obviously *sincere* but it is to be hoped that the author will rewrite *considerable* portions for the second *edition*, when also one hopes that the introducer may modify the assertion on page xiii that men and women "*differ* in every cell of their bodies."

T WINGATE TODD

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

ABORTION LEGAL OR ILLEGAL? by A J Rongg, M.D. *Vanguard* Press, New York 212 pages \$2 00 1933

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY, by Paul Radin *McGraw Hill Book Company*, New York 412 pages \$3 60 1933

SOCIAL WORK YEAR BOOK Fred S Hall, Editor *Russell Sage Foundation*, New York 680 pages \$4 00 1933

THE FAMILY A Study of Member Roles, by Katharine Dupre Lumpkin *University of North Carolina Press*, Chapel Hill, N C 184 pages \$3 00 1933

# Letters

## THE STERILIZATION NUMBER

TO THE EDITOR

I have read with a great deal of **interest** a copy of the **April** BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW. The **articles** are excellent ones and should obtain the widest **distribution**. I do not **believe** that anything I may add in comment on **this** excellent number would be of any value.

There are three things, however, that should be stressed in **sterilization**. First, **it** should be looked upon as a part of the broad parole program — not as a panacea or cure-all, but one that **is** applicable to a certain selected group.

Second, **heredity** **is** oftentimes overplayed. Regardless of our **theories** of **heredity**, the mentally defectives in a large measure tend to **maintain** inferior homes **in inferior environments**, and to rear **their** children in an **inferior** manner. **It is** not what caused the defect, but the fact that they are defective.

**Third**, speaking from the **institutional** standpoint, the persons so **sterilized** should have had, **prior** to the **operation**, a **period** of years of suitable **training** so that they may be able to **maintain** their existence when **they** leave the **institution**.

An **additional** point, which I note is **incorporated** in many **articles** on **this** subject, **is** that we should approach **this** first as a **permissive** law and study those cases over a period of years, then **determine** how much further we should go **in modifications** of **it**.

DB HARVEY M WATKINS, *Supt*  
Polk, Pa. Polk State School

## NO RACE SUICIDE AT ELMIRA

TO THE EDITOR

The statements made in the article *Collegians' Race Suicide* appearing in your February issue do not agree **with** the facts in regard to the number of children born to college graduates as we have found them **in** a 1932 survey of Elmira College graduates.

This showed that of those who had **married** 69.8 per cent had had **children** (and in many cases the graduates were young **with families** incomplete, so that the percentage really should be larger). Further, we found that among our graduates the **infant mortality** rates were very low — only 28.77

—while the infant **mortality** rates for the **registration** area of the **United States** in 1927 varied from 47 in Oregon to 130 in **Arizona**, the average for the **white** population of the **United States** being 60.0, and for New York State 57.4. If college women bear **intelligent**, healthy children who **live** they are **evidently doing** better than mere birth rates would **indicate**. The average number of **children** per mother for **Elmira** graduates from 1859-1905 was found to be 2.36.

Further, our survey showed that (even **including** young graduates who may marry later) 53.4 per cent of Elmira graduates have **married** and that only 8.3 per cent are divorced. In 1929 divorces per 100 **marriages** were 4.2 in New York, 11.1 in **Pennsylvania**, 11.3 in Massachusetts, 23.3 in Ohio, 18.8 in **Illinois**, 18.3 in Colorado and 29.1 in California. **Comparison** of these figures with the less than 1 per cent of divorce **among Elmira** graduates shows a very **high** degree of **stability** among the **marriages** of **Elmira** alumnae.

In **view** of the above facts, you can see that we are not very much **worried** about "race suicide" of Elmira College graduates.

ERNESTINE H. FRENCH, *Editor*  
*Elmira, N. Y. Elmira College Alumnae News*

## WOMEN'S COLLEGES AND THE BIRTH RATE

TO THE EDITOR

Some **intriguing** correspondence has resulted from my recent statement in the REVIEW that "the **majority** of the graduates from the **big** women's colleges never bear a **child**." A **sceptical** reader gave some of these colleges an opportunity to rebut the **allegation**. But **psychologists** will not be **surprised** to hear that this enterprising person secured few responses, not many colleges rushing to **deny** the soft impeachment of **virginity** and so on. For the more profoundly **disquieting** an **idea** is, **especially** in regard to sex, the more **quickly** it is **commonly** rejected from **consciousness**.

**It is** now a quarter century since this subject began to be bruited and **during this time** the few college women who have taken up the cudgels have usually contented themselves **with denial** and defence on narrow lines. Thus a letter, quoted above, from Elmira, denies my figures, **triumphantly** announcing that more than 53 per cent of them **grad-**



uates marry and more than 70 per cent of those who marry have children. A little arithmetic will show that 70 per cent of 53 per cent is 37 per cent — that is, at least 37 per cent of Elmira graduates bear a child and 63 per cent or something fewer, depending on figures unknown, are childless.

And why are the exact figures for barrenness left unknown? Figures in these studies nearly always are left ambiguous and usually by the same device—namely, classes not yet 25 years out are deliberately and unnecessarily included and then it is announced that if children yet to come had been included, the figures would have been less unfavorable. This seems to me a device of "the Unconscious" for suppressing an unpalatable truth. The figures for Mt Holyoke were presented—likewise favorably, as I believe—in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, December, 1911. Of 668 married graduates, the facts were known about only 535, showing 18 per cent of barren marriages. This percentage would according to my experience have been raised if the missing quarter of the marriages had been investigated.

But the reply, in the past, of the really scholarly and penetrating statisticians on this subject has been "Well, anyway, college women are no more infertile than their sisters and cousins who did not attend college." This is, as far as I know, a sound contention, but shows a narrow interest in eugenics, almost an indifference to it. The really modern thinker, like my correspondent Mrs. George P. Baker of New Haven, will merely point out in passing this defence of the college per se and will concentrate on the problem of universal upper-class suicide, suggesting a "lack of virility" as cause of no marriages or "small or no family."

To me, it is not probably a lack of virility. I fancy such a lack cannot, biologically, arrive so quickly unless in the cases where a marriage has been made partly for money reasons with an "only child" or heiress who may be supposed to be of a weakling stock. In general, virility has not altered but has been overborne by ambition and the desire to live very "nicely" even at the sacrifice of doing without children.

The specific eugenic difficulty, the greatest of all, namely, the tendency of one-third of upper-class women to remain single, will not be soon solved. I believe it arises from our sex and courtship mores that the man is the superior, the aggressor. In consequence, thinking women, possibly all women, commonly refuse to marry their inferiors. It being

a logical impossibility for all women to marry their superiors or equals, one would expect to find a lot of unmarried men in the unskilled classes and a lot of unmarried women in the upper classes, which is precisely what we do find. A remedy that occurs to me is to arrange the marriage of educated young girls with older men. Thus the illusion of the man's superiority is maintained and the mores are not interfered with. This solution has long been used in aristocratic society. But whether such marriages are sufficiently fertile is very questionable. Another solution is to cultivate among marriageable girls a Christian and broadly biological sanity that does not over-emphasize the highly uncertain superiority of college men (except as to "go-getting") over the best men in the classes below.

CAROLINE H. ROBINSON

Swarthmore, Pa.

#### ELMIRA IN REBUTTAL

A copy of the above letter was sent to Miss French, who replied as follows:

In view of the statement which Mrs. Robinson makes that "Figures in these studies nearly always are left ambiguous and usually by the same device—namely, classes not yet 25 years out are deliberately and unnecessarily included and then it is announced that if children yet to come had been included, the figures would have been less unfavorable," I have asked Dr. Raymond B. Stevens, head of the Elmira College department of sociology who made the survey in 1932, to give us the figures for Elmira graduates from 1859-1909, those whose families are presumably complete. Dr. Stevens reports that

Of the Elmira College Graduates in the classes 1859-1909 inclusive

70.6% were married

78.8% of those who married had children, that is 55.4% of these graduates had children

It is worthy of note that these years, 1859-1909 include the period of 1880-1895 when marriage rates for Elmira College graduates (for some unknown reason) were lower than before or since. The above figures which were secured by Dr. Stevens by a "scholarly and penetrating" method, we believe to be as accurate as it is possible to make such data. They would seem to prove the truth of our previous statement that if figures for completed families were taken, the percentage of births would be higher.

## THE FRUITS OF REACTION

TO THE EDITOR

Though I have not, of course, made any **investigation** as to **birth control** in France, a few general facts have come to my **notice which I think will be** of interest to your readers. It is one of the many paradoxes of the present world that the country which was first **prominently associated** in people's minds with **limitation of families** is the one which appears to be at present the most backward as regards **birth control**. As you doubtless know, **legislation dating** from 1922 makes contraception illegal. The law is very **strictly enforced**. The best means of **contraception** are unprocurable, as **chemists** are **afraid** to break the **law**. It appears that the **uncertain**, old-fashioned methods are the ones most practiced. One notable result is seen in the enormous number of advertisements in the papers of *sages femmes*, that is, **abortionists**. One gathers from **conversation** and literature that **abortion** is **exceedingly prevalent**.

Such, in this respect as in all others, are the agreeable **fruits of reaction** and of attempts to put back the clock. This morning I came upon one of the most **amusing** books on which I have happened of late. Its title is *The Impossibility of Marriage, the Family, and the Home, except within the Catholic Church*. The country of Voltaire is now Roman Catholic.

Paris, France

ROBERT BRIFFAULT

## A CLINIC CONFERENCE

TO THE EDITOR

It has long occurred to me that we should have a Birth Control **Clinic** Conference so that those interested and those actually **participating** in the giving of **contraceptive advice**, might be eventually benefited. Such a conference would, I believe, encourage both the **physician** and the layman who are now engaged in the work. It should also tend to bring about a more **uniform** system of record **keeping, which** would be of great value for future **statistics** in research.

Mrs. Sanger had proposed such a conference, which was to have been held last year, but it was later deemed **inadvisable** because of financial **conditions**. I understand that she is now planning to get together such a group in the near future. I sincerely hope that it can be arranged and that all **clinics will** send representatives.

I believe that such a conference would also

stimulate the **organization** of additional clinics. I know the Arkansas **Eugenics Association** will have a **representative** there and I am wondering if others interested in the movement would not welcome such a **meeting**.

MRS. EDWARD CORNISH, *Chairman*  
Arkansas *Eugenics Assn*

Little Rock, Arkansas

## EDUCATION IS NEEDED

TO THE EDITOR

If some of the so-called **pious religionists** could handle the charity work I handle daily, they would stop **insulting** the **intelligence** of God by saying He would oppose **birth control**. Yesterday, a man was in my office **asking** for food. He had **six children**. I asked him if he would **like** to know how to keep from **having children**. Tears came into his eyes as he **said** he **wished** he knew how.

It is an **amazing** spectacle to me to see a great nation that, in effect, perpetuates **its own poverty-stricken** population by refusing to educate the lower classes as to how to prevent children.

Midland, Texas

PAUL T. VICKERS

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

CARL G. HARTMAN is **Research Associate**, Laboratory of Embryology, **Carnegie Institution of Washington**.

L. FOSTER WOOD is **Secretary** of the **Committee on Marriage and the Home**, **Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America**.

GUY IRVING BURCH is **Director** of the **Population Reference Bureau**.

LEMUEL T. SEWELL, M.D., is **obstetrician** at the **Mercy Hospital** and **clinician** at the **Maternal Health Center**, **Philadelphia**.

T. WINGATE TODD is a member of the Faculty of the School of **Medicine**, **Western Reserve University**.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER, professor at the **Wharton School of Finance**, **University of Pennsylvania**, is author of *Divorce: A Social Interpretation*.

CAROLINE H. ROBINSON is the author of *Seventy Birth Control Clinics*.

# The Negro Wants Birth Control

By LEMUEL T SEWELL, M.D

**T**HE question is **sometimes** asked "Will the Negro masses in **America** accept and **practice** birth control?" The same **question** could be asked about any other group, and the same answer **given** "Yes and no"

From my **experience**, **gained** by **coming** in contact with hundreds of Negro women in two pre-natal **clinics** and an **obstetrical service** in a Negro hospital, I feel that at least seventy-five per cent of these women are anxious for birth control information and that most of that number **will** carefully follow the **instructions given**. These women may not be concerned with the views of the **so-cio-logist**, the **scientist** or the **statistician** but they are impressed with two very **simple** reasons for needing **birth control information**, reasons which the most **illiterate** can understand **economics** and **health**

I place the **economic side** of the question first, because I have found this **side** the easiest to explain both to husband and wife. Too often in dealing with poor and **illiterate** groups, the husband is not considered. **This is unfair to him**, he must be included in the picture, from the very beginning, if we expect success to crown our efforts.

The Negro is not hampered by **religious restrictions**, as are some other groups. If the Negro pastor favors a **particular** subject, or if he does not condemn it, his followers **will** accept it as **alright**. There is no organized **opposition** to birth control in the Negro church. Many of the clergy have come out of large families, they know and appreciate the struggle of rearing a large family, and openly give their endorsement to birth control.

Probably **ninety** per cent of Negro physicians favor birth control, and stand ready and **willing** to **give** advice to **their patients**, or to send them to **clinics** for **instruction**. The Negro press, in the man, **gives** hearty support to the birth control movement, and does much to arouse the **interest** of its readers.

Negro patients of clinics are **cooperative** to a marked degree. In our **clinic** at the Maternal Health Center, just outside of **Philadelphia**, 158 women were examined, fitted and instructed **during** 1932. Of this number 134 made a return **visit** within two weeks, as **is required**, despite the fact that the **Clinic** is far removed from the **sections**

where most of the **patients** live. These patients are the ordinary types met in dispensary **practice**. One reason for the **high** percentage of return **visits** is the fact that both the colored and **white** workers regard each woman as a **patient**, and not as a "case" or "problem," which means much in this work. One **grateful patient** wrote as follows: "I no longer look upon the **married woman's life** as an **inevitable** and **continuous** one of sickness and **pain**. Because I can control the **size** of my **family**, I now **consider** pregnancy as a **blessing** rather than as an enforced, lamentable **condition**. I personally would **like** to thank you for the **kindness** and help shown, **without** distinction, toward the colored mothers." This is typical of the attitude expressed **regularly** at this clinic.

The Negroes are interested in birth control, they welcome it, and they will **practice** it.

## Books Abroad

AN INTERNATIONAL QUARTERLY

*Devoted to Comment on Foreign Books*

Issued by the *University of Oklahoma Press*  
Norman Oklahoma

"always informing and stimulating"

GEORGE H GANZMER *Dictionary of American Biography* Washington D C

"BOOKS ABROAD, which has acquired such an excellent standing as an intermediary between American and foreign letters

BARBARA MATULKA *New York University*

"To realize that there are other peoples cultured, thinking their thoughts and to read what they write is one of the surest ways of coming to understand and love them. That is the road to Peace, the road along which BOOKS ABROAD is helping us"

ROWLAND FSTCOURT *Piedmont Calif*  
(Delegate to the Peace Conference  
at *Berne Switzerland*, in 1924)

BOOKS ABROAD is an **effective** advertising medium. For rates, apply to the Business Manager,

TODD DOWNING, *University of Oklahoma*,

\$1.00 per year

35¢ per copy

## YOUR BOOK NEEDS SATISFIED

Any Books Mailed Anywhere in the United States or Canada at regular prices *Book inquiries gladly answered*

Free postage to BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW Readers

ACME BOOK SERVICE

Box 100 48 New Chambers Street New York City

# News Notes

## UNITED STATES

**A** RESOLUTION favoring birth control was adopted by the 137th annual New England conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church meeting in Winthrop, Massachusetts, on April 10. The resolution states that "The principle of voluntary motherhood, within the sacred rights of marriage relationship, is a legitimate right, not only as a health measure and social necessity, but also as contributory to the genuine joy and happiness of the marriage union, and is in harmony with the teaching of Jesus regarding the sacredness of human personality." It advocates "in the interest of morality, humanity and sound scientific knowledge, such changes in the present laws of our state and nation as will remove existing restrictions regarding this method of control of parenthood, so that duly qualified and registered physicians, hospital staffs, and medical schools may for the protection of health, prevention of disease, and the enrichment of family solidarity disseminate information that would assure the control of parenthood."

The American Statistical Association and the Population Association of America will hold a joint dinner meeting on Friday, May 12, at the Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street, New York City. The American Eugenics Society will also meet at the Town Hall Club on the afternoon of the same day. Who *Shall Inherit America?* will be the topic at the joint meeting. This general question will be discussed from various points of view by Dr. Frank Notestein, Milbank Foundation, Professor Frank H. Hankins, Smith College, Dr. Frank Lorimer, Eugenics Research Association, Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Dr. Earle T. Engle, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Mr. Fred Osborn, Eugenics Research Association, Professor Ellsworth Huntington, Yale University, and Dr. Paul Popenoe, Human Betterment Foundation, will speak at the meeting of the American Eugenics Society.

The Medical Director of the American Birth Control League, Dr. Eric M. Matsner, has addressed medical and lay groups in various parts of the country during the past two months, as follows:

North Carolina, Durham. February 2. Illustrated lecture to Junior and Senior medical students, to School of Divinity students and house staff of hospital at Duke University.

Virginia, Richmond, February 2 and 3. Illustrated lecture to Junior and Senior medical students, internes, house staff at Medical College of Virginia, address before lay group at Hotel Jefferson.

New York, Albany, February 10. Lecture at Albany Hospital and Medical College, conference with Medical Board of Albany Hospital.

Kentucky, Louisville, February 28. Talk on *Maternal Health and Birth Control* at the Kentucky Birth Control Conference, address on *The Technique of Contraception* at meeting for physicians.

Maine, Portland, March 31. Address before Cumberland County Medical Society, and lecture at meeting of the Maine Birth Control League.

New York, New York City, April 21. Radio address on *The Approach to Motherhood* in a series of radio talks under the auspices of the New York Academy of Medicine over Station WEVD. Lecture on *The Technique of Contraception in Symposium on Obstetrics and Gynecology*, held by the International Spanish Speaking Association of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists.

NEW JERSEY. The Junior Committee, which is now organized in eight communities, is holding regular monthly meetings at the League headquarters, 42 Park Place, Newark. In addition to the meetings, which are followed by round table conferences, the committee has organized a motor corps to bring patients from outlying districts to the clinic.

On March 26th, a conference at Greystone Hospital for the Insane at Morris Plains was attended by psychiatrists and staff members of the Mental Hygiene Clinic and by Dr. Hannah M. Stone and Miss Henriette Hart of the Maternal Health Center. A Case Study Committee was formed to work out plans for closer cooperation and more intensive study of cases referred to the Maternal Health Center by mental hygiene clinics throughout the state. Dr. Earl W. Fuller, Dr. F. Robinson, psychiatrists, Miss Mildred Hurley, Director of So-

cial Service, Greystone Hospital, Dr Hannah M Stone, Dr F Weiser and Miss Hart are members of the committee

Margaret Sanger spoke before the Present Day Club at Princeton on March 28th. As a result of the interest aroused by her address, plans are on foot for the establishment of a clinic in Princeton. Dr Hannah M Stone is scheduled to address Princeton physicians on May 11th.

Other recent events in New Jersey: Professor Frederick Gaudet of Dana College, Newark, addressed the members of the Junior Committee on March 3rd. Professor Albert Van Dusen and Miss Henriette Hart addressed the Lions Club in Elizabeth on March 9th. Miss Hart spoke to Dana College students in Newark on April 7th and conducted a round table conference on April 22nd.

**MICHIGAN** The Michigan Birth Control League opened a new clinic in Pontiac on March 14th. Sessions are held every Wednesday morning.

At the present time, in most of the clinics a very large number of those who are asking for the advice are dependent upon public welfare for their entire support. In Ann Arbor, eighty per cent of those who have been assisted to see physicians are on city or county welfare, the percentage at Harper and Woman's Hospitals has mounted steadily during this winter until now practically all are dependent upon welfare funds or living with relatives.

Since the Annual Meeting, there have been changes in the chairmanships in three cities. Mrs James Hubbard has succeeded Mrs Robert Baker, who resigned as chairman for the Pontiac Committee. Mrs Clifford Sparks has succeeded Mrs Leonard Field, III, as chairman of the Jackson Committee so that Mrs Field may give all her time to the clinic, and in Flint, Mrs Guy D Briggs has accepted the chairmanship of the committee and membership on the Michigan Board of Directors. All the cities have very representative people on their committees.

Two hundred twenty-five complimentary copies of Dr Matsner's Outline *The Technique of Contraception* have been sent to Michigan doctors who have requested it.

**NEW YORK** The New York State Birth Control Federation will hold a luncheon meeting at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel in Albany on May 18th. Professor Frank H Hankins and Dr Arthur Elting will be the principal speakers.

# THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE,

## INCORPORATED

689 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

Telephone—REgent 4 2137

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. P. ROBERTSON JONES	<i>President</i>
MRS RICHARD BILLINGS	
MRS LEWIS L. DELAFIELD	<i>Vice-Presidents</i>
MRS DEXTER BLADGEN	
MRS ROGER HOWSON	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Secretary</i>

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Mrs. Francis N. Bangs	C. C. Little ScD
Reginald Burbank MD	Mrs. Robert McC. Marsh
Henry Pratt Fairchild PhD	Stuart Mudd MD
Mrs. Mansfield Ferry	H. Adey Prichard DD
Mrs. John Mead Howells	Mrs. Hayden N. Smith
Mrs. Thomas S. Lamont	Benjamin T. Tilton MD
Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont	Mrs. Lealle J. Tompkins
Ira S. Wile MD	

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Edwinrd. Cornish	<i>Arkansas</i>
Mrs. James Whittemore	<i>Connecticut</i>
Mrs. William S. Bergland	<i>Delaware</i>
Mrs. Benjamin Carpenter	<i>Illinois</i>
Mrs. Benjamin D. Hitz	<i>Indiana</i>
Mrs. Oakea Amrs	<i>Massachusetts</i>
Mrs. Deane Small	<i>Maine</i>
Mrs. Morton Keeney	<i>Michigan</i>
Mrs. W. O. Winston Jr	<i>Minnesota</i>
Dr. Fred J. Taussig	<i>Missouri</i>
Mrs. George C. Barclay	<i>New York</i>
Mrs. George A. Dunning	<i>Pennsylvania</i>
Mrs. Henry Salomon	<i>Rhode Island</i>
Mrs. A. E. Wilson Harrison	<i>Virginia</i>

RUTH TOPPING	<i>Executive Director</i>
ERIC M. MATSNER MD	<i>Medical Director</i>

## MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Franklin G. Ebaugh MD	<i>Denver</i>
Poster Kennedy MD	<i>New York City</i>
William Palmer Lucas MD	<i>San Francisco</i>
James R. McCord MD	<i>Atlanta</i>
William Allen Pusey MD	<i>Chicago</i>
Fred J. Taussig MD	<i>St. Louis</i>
Jay F. Schramberg MD	<i>Philadelphia</i>
Tiffany J. Williams MD	<i>University Va</i>
Milton C. Wintemitz MD	<i>New Haven</i>

## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

(Copyright 1933 American Birth Control League Inc.)

SIELLA HANAU Editor

## Editorial Board

James H. S. Bossard PhD	Frank H. Hankins PhD
Mary Sumner Boyd	C. C. Little ScD
Guy Irving Burch	E. A. Ross PhD

Published by The American Birth Control League Inc.

## The WINDSOR QUARTERLY

Presenting through its successive issues a valuable summation of all meritorious tendencies in modern American literature, also, in recognition of the inevitable international influence, occasional related foreign material.

Edited by

FREDERICK B. MAXHAM IRENE MERRILL

Fifty Centy a Copy—Two Dollars the Year

Address HARTLAND FOUR CORNERS, VERMONT

## Population Control for Unemployment

By W J RUTH

**T**HE causes ascribed by **economists** for the present unemployment **situation** throughout the **industrial** countries of the world are **varied**. Each expert has **his** own view as to fundamental causes, but all seem to agree that the Great War must be considered a **contributing** factor. **Gold** and **mal-distribution** are listed, high-speed methods of **industrialism**, labor-saving machinery and **overproduction**.

In our already highly perfected production organizations, the constant **striving** for the development of efficient and more efficient **machines** to replace hand labor goes **merrily** on. As a result, labor **in** steadily increasing numbers is being forced out of **legitimate** employment. Almost any modern **machine** operated by one man can do the work of twenty men. In **construction** work, one man on a steam shovel and two men **in** motor trucks **will** take the place of a hundred men. **Machines** have even entered the banking and **accounting** fields, where they are exacting a **terrible** toll from the ranks of the **white-collar** classes. In every **industrial** country **competition** in open markets is **growing** steadily keener, the demand for labor **is shrinking** year by year, and the population is not **decreasing proportionately**.

Many worthy plans have been proposed for the relief of the unemployed. Shorter hours and a shorter **working** week, the taxation of capital for relief purposes, government aid to **industry** and **agriculture**, pushing forward of **public** works, and the back-to-the-soil movement. But any remedial measure adopted at the present time, however successfully **carried** out, can only serve as a temporary expedient.

Unemployment insurance, or "The Dole" as it is called in England, must eventually be adopted here as a permanent measure of **relief** as was done in England, and for **precisely** the same reason—to prevent a revolution. The burden of this **responsibility** must fall upon the taxpayer. A light assessment may be placed on the earnings of the worker, but the fund can never be self **sustaining**. And this Insurance, **in itself**, **will** not be **sufficient** to hold the working classes indefinitely in a state of contentment. **Assistance** given under such a plan must of necessity be very meagre, **permitting** only of the

bare necessities of life. **Honest** workmen will chafe under such restraint. Discontent **will** spread. Riots **will** occur. Through the succeeding years and **decades**, their numbers **will** steadily increase, and they **will** become more and more difficult to control.

We are faced at the moment with the gravest unemployment **situation** in the history of America, and extreme measures of **relief** must be taken by the government **if** we are successfully to pass through the crisis. Some means must be **devised** for taking up the slack caused by the substitution of **machines** for manual labor. The various plans proposed above **will** be of value in **bringing** about relief in the present **crisis**, but they cannot be regarded as a **definite** cure for our labor troubles or **as** an insurance against a recurrence in the future. In the final analysis **limitation** of population must be recognized as the only **practical** means of ultimately and permanently overcoming our unemployment **difficulties**.

To this end, then, **legislation** must be enacted providing that free clinics be **established** in all centers of **population** for the dissemination of social hygiene information. Doctors must be permitted to give such information upon request, and the sale of contraceptive material through **authorized** channels must be **legalized**.

**Having** thus made it easily possible for a man to obtain instructions on the limitation of **his** **family**, the law must see next that he makes use of it. Some **wise** and judicious means must be found of controlling the number of births in poor **families**, and **limiting** such births to the economic capacity of the parents to maintain, **nourish** and educate their children. A reasonable average **might** be fixed at two children to a **family**, with the proviso that where **additional** children were desired **sanction** could be obtained from the proper **authorities**—provided that conditions were found, upon **investigation**, to warrant it.

The "perennial" father is a menace to society and must be treated as such. **Like** the mental **defective** and those afflicted with **certain** hereditary **dis-**cases, he should, after due **warning**, be rendered incapable of further parentage. In some parts of the United States a fourth offender on much less **serious** charges, from the **point** of view of society, may be sent to **prison** for **life**. Such a law would, obviously, result **in** improved conditions in the **working** class home. But to be wholly successful, it would have to work both ways: **penalize non-pro-**duction as well as control **over-**production.

It is true that under existing income-tax laws the childless marriage is indirectly penalized—an exemption being made for each child in the family—but this method lacks the psychological effect of a directly imposed penalty on childless marriage. It should be provided that where a married pair, after a period of say two years, fail to assume this natural responsibility, they would be penalized by the imposition of a sur-tax of substantial proportions, annually, and so long as they are without children, and fifty per cent of this tax so long as they have but one child. The adoption of a child or children would serve to remove the penalty. Bachelors, physically fit and over the age of twenty-five, should be subject to a sur-tax on their income, which tax would automatically cease upon their marriage.

#### TO CHECK THE DIFFERENTIAL BIRTH RATE

The aim of such a law would be two-fold: first, to hold the population of our country stationary, thus avoiding the evils of overpopulation at present so evident in eastern Europe and Asia; secondly, to equalize the birth rate between the lower and the upper classes and check the multiplication of the poorer stocks.

A normal man and woman, when they marry and if their circumstances permit, ought to wish for one or preferably two children. A single child is at a disadvantage. But a large family becomes in many cases not only a burden on the parents but on the State as well—a burden which no man has a right to thrust upon his fellow citizens, who have probably been at great pains to keep their own record\* clear.

The limitation by law of a man's family may seem a desecration of the sacrament of married love, or an undue curtailment of personal liberties. But such is not the case. Conscientious objectors to contraceptive methods of birth control may still determine for themselves how this edict may be obeyed. Each individual may be guided by his conscience and his taste. It is surely within the right of the State to control by law any evil or the appearance of evil that might otherwise become a burden. The fecundity of the lower classes has already placed a very heavy burden on the State by its demand of an undue share of public money for the support and education of children, and if allowed to develop without control it may eventually become a menace to our national life. And as for personal liberty—there is no such thing anyway.

## The Practice of Contraception

### An International Symposium & Survey

The Practice of Contraception surveys the present state of knowledge on the subject by bringing together the reports of international authorities on contraception at the Seventh International Birth Control Conference.

*Edited by*

MARGARET SANGER

and

HANNAH M. STONE, M.D.

'Should be read from cover to cover by every doctor who wishes to be informed on this most important subject'

— *New England Journal of Medicine*

\$4.00

*Published by*

WILLIAMS & WILKINS COMPANY, BALTIMORE, MD

## Radio Series

on

### BIRTH CONTROL

EVERY MONDAY AT FIVE P.M.

**WEVD**

(1200 Kilocycle)

#### *Some other outstanding features*

WORLD TOMORROW RADIO HOUR

Every Tuesday at 8 15 P.M.

THE NATION RADIO HOUR

Every Wednesday at 8 15 P.M.

•

Tell your friends to tune in on

**WEVD**

# SPRING DANCE FESTIVAL

7th Regtment Armory, 66th Street, Park and Lexington Avenues, New York

*Saturday, May 6, 1933, 8 30 p m*

For the benefit of

## American Birth Control League

and other Welfare Organizations

Dance from the Opera "Emperor Jones"  
International Folk Dance Groups  
**Dance Stars in Toe and Tap Specialties and**  
Concert Numbers

===== General Dancing =====

\$3,000 in 50 prizes open to anyone who  
purchases a ticket Among them are  
Free Trip to Bermuda, Fur, Dresses, Jewelry,  
Rugs, theatre trckets, etc , donated by leading  
New York business firms

TICKETS 35 CENTS AND \$1 00

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Order from American Brth Control League, 689 Madison Avenue, New York

**The League receives 60%on all bckebs sold**

**BUY A TICKET AND HELP THE LEAGUE!**

## Human Sterilization

*THE HISTORY OF THE SEXUAL STERILIZATION MOVEMENT*

BY

J H LANDMAN, PH D , J D , J S D

The College of the City of New York

"Cannot be too highly recommended to anyone who  
desires to have at hand in a convenient form the best  
available information concernng human sterilization  
and laws in this country relating to human steriliza-  
tion, with a calm, drspassronate, unbiased discussion"

—*Journal of the American Medical Association*

"This hook is not propaganda ethercr for or against  
the program of human sterilization It is instead a  
scholarly and scientific treatment of available data,  
with conclusions that are constructively suggestive  
rather than dogmatically final"

—*Scientific Book Club*

PRICE \$4 00

S P E C I A L O F F E R !

To all who order on this blank before May 25th a discount of 6% will be given

.....

ACME BOOK SERVICE

48 New Chambers Street, New York, New York

I enclose

for which please send me

copies of HUMAN STERILIZATION

Name

Address

City and State