

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

PROGRAM FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The 1940 Campaign

News from Abroad and the States



BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY THE BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION OF AMERICA, INC

Formerly American Birth Control League Inc and Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau

501 Madison Avenue, New York, N Y

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NO 3

IT is hard for citizens of a democracy to understand how states which wage war for lebensraum —land to relieve the pressure of overpopulation—can urge even coerce, their people to produce more and more of their kind, justifying this in the name of eugenics. We, too, recognize the problem of race building, but our concern is with the quality of our people, not with their quantity alone. Race building in a democracy is one cause in which all elements of our population can unite and, by the exercise of the rights of a free people, work together for the preservation of those things which we cherish most—peace, and freedom, and cultural attainment.

It is entirely fitting that 'Race Building in a Democracy' should have been chosen as the theme of the ANNUAL MEETING of the Birth Control Federation of America. Birth control, in the sense of voluntary parenthood, is a democratic means for counteracting the present dysgenic trend of our population, — for assuring the continuous improvement of the quality of our people. It is necessary to every plan for dealing with this great problem.

The meeting of the Federation with this theme pervading will bring together hundreds of workers from all parts of the country. As the schedule of events, described elsewhere in this issue indicates, there will be ample opportunity for each person who attends to hear the addresses of leaders in the movement, and to meet and know the thinking of others engaged with the same tasks. Thus each can help in the development of a program well coordinated within itself and with the activities of other related organizations.

Most important of all, the meeting will be an opportunity to dedicate ourselves anew to the work of building in this democracy a race which will want to, and which will be able to, assure the perpetuation of our democratic way of life.

WOODBIDGE E MORRIS, MD

GENERAL DIRECTOR BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION OF AMERICA INC

The Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Birth Control Federation of America, to be held on January 23rd, 24th and 25th at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, climaxed the first year since the merger of the American Birth Control League and the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, is expected to show a closely knit national organization which is better prepared than ever before to carry steadily forward the program of service and education. Virtually every state league will be represented, and an attendance of more than 500 is expected.

The meeting will be in effect a three day forum on Race Building in a Democracy. It also will mark the opening of the 1940 campaign of the Federation under the auspices of a National Committee for Planned Parenthood. Outstanding leaders in the fields of business, labor, family and youth, eugenics, mental hygiene, medicine, public health and religion in addition to leaders of the birth control movement itself, will address the gathering.

The program includes the presentation of papers showing the relationship of birth control to other efforts to improve the quality of people in the United States and there will be extensive discussion of practical means for making birth control information and advice generally available through clinics affiliated with the Federation, public health services and other medical facilities.

A major part of the program will be two sessions related to a discussion of a coordinated national program designed to develop means of cooperation among the state leagues and between state leagues and the national organization. There will be several events which will

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Birth Control Review, with this issue, suspends publication. Plans for a substitute publication program as described on page 47.

give delegates and representatives an opportunity to meet socially.

The Annual Meetings of the New York City Committee of Mothers' Health Centers and the New York State Birth Control Federation have been called for January 24th and 23rd, respectively and are being so arranged that those in attendance can share in the principal events of the program arranged by the national organization. Brief comment on some of the events of the program follows.

RACE BUILDING IN A DEMOCRACY: A SYMPOSIUM

Seven vital phases of this subject, each of major importance, will be presented on Tuesday afternoon, January 23rd. Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, a vice president of the Birth Control Federation, organizer and first president of the Population Association of America, formerly president of the American Eugenic Society, president of the Town Hall Club, and professor of sociology at New York University, will preside. It is planned to open the session at quarter past two and to close it at half past four o'clock.

Mrs. Sidonie Gruenberg, director of the Child Study Association of America, will speak for Family and Youth. Frederick Osborn, research associate in anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, will speak for Eugenics. Karl Menninger, M.D., chief

of staff at the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas, will speak for Mental Hygiene

Dr Robert E Seibels, chairman of the Committee on Maternal Welfare South Carolina Medical Society, and Dr Roy Norton, professor of Public Health Administration, University of North Carolina, will speak for Public Health

Mark Starr, educational director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, will speak for Labor, and Canon Cornelius P Trowbridge, of the Cathedral Church of St Paul, Boston, Massachusetts, for Religion and a speaker, as yet unselected, will talk for Business

Mrs Louis de B Moore is in charge of arrangements for this part of the meeting

LUNCHEON AND OPENING OF CAMPAIGN

The luncheon on Wednesday, January 24th will be an outstanding event of the ANNUAL MEETING This will be held at 12 45 in the ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt Professor Henry Pratt Furchild will discuss further the subject of Race Building in a Democracy, and Dr Woodbridge E Morris will speak on the subject of A National Program for the United States The meeting will mark the opening of the Federation's 1940 financial campaign Dr Richard N Pierson chairman of the Federation's Board of Directors will preside

Professor Fairchild, summarizing the addresses of the Symposium presented January 23rd will evaluate the significance of a birth control program in relation to other important social efforts to improve the general welfare

Dr Morris speaking on the national program will discuss how the Federation is prepared to assist in the application of the principles of planned parenthood to the broad program of Race Building

REGISTRATION

The Balcony Lounge at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York will be the meeting place of old friends and new acquaintances on Tuesday, January 23rd and Wednesday, January 24th It has been set aside for registration of those attending the ANNUAL MEETING The registration desks will be open from nine to five o'clock on Tuesday and from nine until two o'clock on Wednesday

CAMPAIGN NEWS

A new development of the campaign this year, of both immediate and long range significance in the financing of the Federation's work, and of great importance in the growth and strength of the movement itself, is the effort now under way to enlarge the Citizens Committee into a National Committee for Planned Parenthood

The National Committee will be composed of men and women who are representative national leaders in various fields, such as medicine, religion, education, business sociology

The Committee, to which wide publicity will be given and which will be featured in the pamphlet of the campaign and other publicity material, should do much, through showing dramatically the strength of the men and women behind the movement, to aid and make more effective than ever the efforts of all who are associated in the campaign effort

The campaign organization is rapidly being completed, initial gifts are being sought, and everything promises an auspicious public launching of the effort at the annual luncheon to be held at the Hotel Roosevelt, Wednesday, January 24th

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Federation's annual membership meeting has been called for noon on Wednesday, January 24th, in the small banquet room at the Hotel Roosevelt, with Dr. Richard N. Pierson, chairman of the Board of Directors, presiding. Election of Directors will take place and changes in Bylaws will be considered. Mrs. Francis N. Bangs is chairman of the Nominating Committee, the membership of which was given in the December issue of the *Review*.

Amendments to the Bylaws will be proposed including Article IV relating to the method of giving notice of annual and special meetings of the corporation, and amending Article VIII so as to permit the Board of Directors to amend the Bylaws.

A COORDINATED PROGRAM

Mrs. Frederick G. Atkinson, president of the Minnesota Birth Control League, will preside at a session, at nine o'clock Wednesday morning, January 24th, in the Hendrik Hudson Room of the Hotel Roosevelt.

Dr. Woodbridge E. Morris, general director, Birth Control Federation of America, who will discuss "What is a Coordinated Program?", will be the first speaker. He will be followed by Kathryn Trent, R.N., director of the Birth Control Federation's regional organization department, who will discuss "State Leagues: Their Relation to Public Agencies and to the Federation." Then Charles M. Smith, director of the Birth Control Federation's public information department, will talk about "Public Information." The last speaker will be Helen Kennedy Stevens, secretary of extension program, who will talk about

"Adequate Fund Raising for Local, State and National Organizations."

Discussion of "A Coordinated Program," with participation by the audience, will be continued on Thursday, January 25th, from 9 o'clock until noon, with Mrs. Atkinson again presiding.

Mrs. Penness Willson, president of the Mothers Health Association of Washington D.C., will lead the discussion on

"How to Establish Relationship with Public and Private Agencies," and Mrs. Robert Hsley, president of the New Jersey Birth Control League, on "Standards for State Leagues." Mrs. Union Worthington, president of the Birth Control League of Delaware, on "Public Information," and Mrs. Fifield Workum, chairman Northern Westchester Committee of Mothers Health Centers, Mt. Kisco, New York, on "Fund Raising." Mrs. Henry J. Mili, chairman of the regional organization committee, will give the summary. Mrs. Kathryn Trent, Helen Kennedy Stevens and Charles M. Smith will be consultants.

Mrs. Henry L. de Rham is in charge of arrangements for these sessions.

STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

Stimulating reports will be presented by the state leagues at a meeting which will begin at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Henry L. de Rham will preside at this session which will convene in the small banquet room of the Hotel Roosevelt.

It is expected that a large number of the state leagues will send delegates to the meeting. Leagues not to be represented have been asked to send to the Federation offices in addition to their full reports summaries from which a combined report for such leagues can be prepared and presented.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE ON THE TECHNIQUES OF CONTRACEPTION

Physicians and professional staff of birth control clinics as well as members of medical societies in the New York metropolitan area, have been invited to attend a medical conference on Wednesday evening, January 24th at 8 15 p m in the Hendrik Hudson Room of the Hotel Roosevelt. Dr Richard N Pierson, chairman of Federation's Board of Directors will preside.

The speakers will be Dr Robert L Dickinson, former president of the American Gynecological Society, former clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Long Island College Hospital, and vice president of the Birth Control Federation, and Dr Philip F Williams assistant professor of obstetrics School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania.

Dr Dickinson will speak on 'Requirements for the Ideal Contraceptive,' and Dr Williams on 'Modern Contraceptives—Their Values and Limitations.'

This session will be closed to the general public.

NEW YORK STATE BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

About two hundred delegates will attend the annual meeting of the New York State Birth Control Federation on Tuesday morning. It will be convened in the Assembly Foyer at the Hotel Roosevelt at half past nine o'clock on January 23rd.

Mrs Louis deB Moore, president of the New York State Birth Control Federation, will preside and will present her report as president. This will be followed by reports given by the county and local committees. Between thirty and thirty

six of these actively functioning groups will give in digest form, an account of their work during the past year.

Regional reports will be submitted by Mrs David Haller as president of the western region and by Mrs F Huntington Babcock as president of the eastern region.

Election of officers is the final item on the agenda. The hour from one o'clock until two has been set aside for an informal luncheon in the small banquet room of the Hotel Roosevelt.

FILMS

Throughout the meeting there will be showings of the medical films 'The Mechanism of Contraception' and 'The Biology of Conception.' Each of these is a fifteen minute presentation. The showings will be restricted to physicians, nurses, clinic personnel, and other professional workers.

'Why Let Them Die?', a slide film dramatization for the lay audience, also will be shown. In this film Mrs Margaret Sanger, Dr Robert L Dickinson, Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick, Dr Frederick C Holden, Reverend John Haynes Holmes and other distinguished advocates of birth control are seen and heard.

STATE PRESIDENTS DINNER

Invitations have been sent to all State Presidents who will be at the ANNUAL MEETING to attend a dinner at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, January 23rd. Gilbert Colgate, chairman of the Executive Committee and treasurer of the Birth Control Federation and Mrs Colgate will be hosts, and the dinner will be held at their home.

BOARD MEMBERS LUNCHEON MEETING

On Thursday at one o'clock in the small banquet room, the members of the board of directors of the Birth Control Federation of America will meet at luncheon. Dr. Richard N. Pierson, chairman of the board, will preside.

At this meeting the Federation's officers for the coming year will be elected and other business transacted.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE

Following the three day session, there will be a postgraduate institute on clinic procedures at the Margaret Sanger Bureau at 17 West 16th Street, New York on Friday, January 26th, from nine until five o'clock.

Mrs. Henry C. Taylor, chairman of the National Clinic Service, will preside. Kathryn Trent, R.N., director of the regional organization committee, will lead the discussion at the morning session.

The institute, as announced on December 19th, 1939 in a memorandum to state and local birth control organizations, is open only to clinic workers (physicians, clinic administrators, nurses and social workers) and is being limited to the first thirty registrants. Registrations should be sent to the National Clinic Service Department, 17 West 16th Street, New York.

Three cases, one, a non accepted case (existing pregnancy), the second, a new

accepted patient, and the third, an old patient, will be presented during the morning session. Visitors will observe the procedure with these cases. Time will be allowed for pertinent questions after each interview and for general questions during the discussion period. Dr. Hannah M. Stone, medical director of the Margaret Sanger Bureau, will summarize the session.

A discussion program is scheduled for the afternoon session. Dr. Lena Levine, member of the medical staff of the Margaret Sanger Bureau, and Dr. Abraham Stone, editor of the Journal of Contraception, will talk on 'Marriage Counseling'. After discussion of these talks, Dr. Woodbridge E. Morris, general director of the Birth Control Federation, will speak on 'The Clinic as a Teaching Centre for Physicians and Nurses'. There will be time for open discussion following this talk.

The Margaret Sanger Bureau will be open to visitors in connection with the other sessions of the ANNUAL MEETING.

Those attending the ANNUAL MEETING who wish to observe a simple birth control set up in extramural clinics may make appointments to visit one of the centers of the New York City Committee on Mothers' Health Centers by writing in advance to Mrs. Carol K. Nash at Room 1904, 304 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Delegates representing states as far distant from New York as Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, and Maine will attend the sessions of the ANNUAL MEETING. The adjoining states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut will send

many representatives. Maryland, New Hampshire, Delaware, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia also have designated members who will carry back to their state groups their report on the ANNUAL MEETING.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY TWENTY THIRD

- 9 00 a m Registration
- 9 30 a m Annual Meeting, New York State Birth Control Federation
Presiding MRS LOUIS DEB MOORE President
President's Report
Regional Reports
MRS DAVID HALLIR, Chairman, Western Region
MRS F HUNTINGTON BABCOCK, Chairman, Eastern Region
County Committee Reports
County Committee Chairmen
Election of Officers
- 12 30 p m Informal Luncheon (\$1.50) New York State Birth Control Federation
- 2 15 p m Race Building in a Democracy *A Symposium*
Presiding HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD PH D Professor of Sociology, New York University
- | <i>Speaking for</i> | <i>Participants</i> |
|---------------------|--|
| Family and Youth | SIDONIE M GRUENBERG, Director, Child Study Association of America |
| Eugenics | FREDERICK OSBORN, Research Associate in Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History |
| Mental Hygiene | KARL MENNINGER, M D, Chief of Staff, Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas |
| Public Health | ROBERT E SEIBELS, M D, Chairman, Committee on Maternal Welfare, South Carolina Medical Society
ROY NORTON, M D, Professor of Public Health Administration, University of North Carolina |
| Business | To be announced |
| Labor | MARK STARR, Educational Director, International Ladies Garment Workers Union |
| Religion | CANON CORNELIUS P TROWBRIDGE, Cathedral Church of St Paul, Boston, Massachusetts |
- 8 00 p m State Presidents Dinner

WEDNESDAY JANUARY TWENTY FOURTH

- 9 00 a m A Coordinated Program
Presiding MRS FREDERICK G ATKINSON, President Minnesota Birth Control League
Speakers Staff Members Birth Control Federation of America
WOODBRIE E MORRIS, M D, General Director
MRS KATHRYN TRENT, R N, Director Regional Organization
CHARLES M SMITH, Director, Public Information
HELEN KENNEDY STEVENS, Director, Extension Program
- 11 30 a m Annual Meeting, New York City Committee of Mothers Health Centers
- 12 00 noon Membership Meeting Birth Control Federation of America
-

JANUARY 23, 24, AND 25, 1940

12 45 p m Luncheon Meeting (\$2 00)

Presiding RICHARD N. PIERSON, M D, Chairman, Board of Directors, Birth Control Federation of America

Speakers 'Race Building in a Democracy — HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD, PH D, Professor of Sociology, New York University
'A National Program for the United States — WOODBRIDGE E. MORRIS, M D, General Director, Birth Control Federation of America

3 00 p m State League Reports

Presiding MRS HENRY L. DERHAM, Member, Board of Directors, Birth Control Federation of America

8 15 p m Medical Conference on Techniques of Contraception

Presiding RICHARD N. PIERSON, M D, Chairman, Board of Directors, Birth Control Federation of America

Speakers "Requirements for the Ideal Contraceptive — ROBERT LATOU DICKINSON, M D, Former President, American Gynecological Society, Former Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Long Island College Hospital, Vice president, Birth Control Federation of America

Modern Contraceptives — Their Values and Limitations — PHILIP F. WILLIAMS, M D, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

THURSDAY, JANUARY TWENTY FIFTH

9 00 a m A Coordinated Program *Discussion*

Presiding MRS FREDERICK G. ATKINSON, President, Minnesota Birth Control League

Discussion

Leaders MRS ROBERT G. ILSLEY, President, New Jersey Birth Control League

MRS PRENTISS WILLSON, President, Mothers Health Association of the District of Columbia

MRS FIFIELD WORKUM, Chairman, Northern Westchester Committee of Mothers Health Centers, Mt Kisco, New York

MRS UNION WORTHINGTON, President, Birth Control League of Delaware

Summary MRS HENRY J. MALI, Chairman, Regional Organization Committee, Birth Control Federation of America

1 00 p m Luncheon Meeting (\$2 00), Board of Directors, Birth Control Federation of America

Presiding RICHARD N. PIERSON, M D, Chairman

FRIDAY, JANUARY TWENTY SIXTH

9 00 a m to 4 00 p m Postgraduate Institute on Clinic Procedures

News from the States

Mrs George Dittman was reelected president of the board of directors of Tucson *Arizona* Birth Control Clinic at its annual meetings in December. During the past year 88 new members have been added to the group already supporting the clinic. Appreciation was expressed at the meeting to the Tucson doctors who give their services to the clinic.

The Maternal Health Association of *Missouri* in its report for the period covering January 1938 to January 1939 states that there has been a steady growth in the number of patients advised since the first clinic was opened in 1932.

Sixty-two women recently applied in one day for advice at the birth control clinic of the Maternal Health Association of *Ohio*. Requests for information have tripled during the last year. Efforts are being continued to increase membership and to obtain the additional funds necessary to carry on this educational work.

The *Rhode Island* Maternal Health Association reports an increase in 1939 of 22% in new patients over 1938 figures and their social worker states that 25% of the families of the new patients are on relief and are advised without charge.

During 1939 eight patients of the Dallas, *Texas* Clinic had planned pregnancies, spacing their families as their health and economic ability permitted.

The leaflets in Spanish recently issued by the Birth Control Clinic of El Paso, *Texas*, and mentioned in the December REVIEW, would be interesting to any clinic which has foreign speaking patients or prospective patients. The pamphlets are well written in simple language and inexpensively printed on brightly colored papers.

News from Abroad

The simplified birth control methods used in programs of several state and county boards of health in the United States hold promise for India, two distinguished Indian women now visiting New York told a recent luncheon meeting sponsored by the Birth Control Federation of America, at the Town Hall Club, New York. The speakers were Mrs Ammu Swaminadahn, a member of the Madras Municipal Corporation and chairman of the standing committee of the All India Women's Conference, and Mrs Kamaladevi, vice president of the All India Women's Conference.

Dr Hannah Stone, in introducing Mrs Kamaladevi, said. She has held the same ideals as Gandhi except one, she has come out strongly for birth control and feels it important to any program for the emancipation of women in India. Mrs Kamaladevi asserted that in India two million mothers die each year in childbirth and that the infant mortality also is enormous. In some industrial centers she added, 75% of the babies die before they are one year old.

We want birth control, she said, 'not only because our land cannot be made to feed the population of 400,000,000 we are approaching, but also because of the social and biological aspects of birth control.'

The meeting was the first of a series planned to keep workers in the birth control movement in touch with developments in America and abroad and to provide an opportunity for discussion and clearing of problems. Attending were staff and board members of the New York State Birth Control Federation and the New York City Committee of Mothers Health Centers, as well as of the Birth Control Federation of America.

Birth Control in Jamaica

MRS EDITH HOW MARTYN
*Chairman Suffragette Fellowship,
London*

There are no legal obstacles to birth control in Jamaica, governed as it is by British law and procedure. Inquiry showed that medical advice on contraception was obtainable from a few physicians in their private practice, and that several chemists stocked some of the well known appliances. Through the efforts of Dr McCulloch, the honorary secretary of the Jamaican Medical Association, a resolution that the Jamaica Branch of

the British Medical Association approves in principle of the teaching of the methods of birth control to the people of this Island was carried.

With the ground thus prepared it was not surprising that my campaign aroused immense interest and acted as the final stimulus to the formation, in March 1939, of the Jamaica Birth Control League. The main object, as set out in the articles of association, is to strengthen the sense of parental responsibility and to advocate the provision of facilities for scientific contraception, so that parents may space or limit their families and so mitigate the evils of ill health and poverty.

Public Information Program

As announced on page one, the *Birth Control Review* suspends publication with this issue. The decision to discontinue publication of the magazine which has served the birth control movement during so many years was reached by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors with deep regret, but with confidence that the publication program adopted in its stead would be even more effective in carrying forward the movement.

The *Birth Control Review* has been addressed in part to each of the following groups:

- 1 General Public
- 2 Organization Personnel
- 3 Contributors
- 4 Friends of the Movement

The new plan for periodicals provides for the dissemination of information regarding the birth control movement as follows:

1 *To the General Public* A continuous flow of information in magazines of general circulation through intensifying the activities of our writers bureau sup-

plemented by other means of information.

2 *To Organization Personnel* A bulletin issued monthly containing the information most likely to aid groups of workers throughout the country in directing their activities in the most effective manner.

3 *To Contributors* A newsletter, issued periodically, inexpensively printed and concisely written, describing the principal achievements of the movement and discussing current projects and future plans.

4 *To Friends of the Movement* A service of information, issued from time to time, mimeographed or printed by offset, containing abstracts of important articles on birth control and related subjects plus summaries of the Federation's own findings, designed to show birth control as a necessary part of any plan for social betterment.

The plan will be discussed in greater detail by Charles M. Smith, director of the Department of Public Information on January 24th during the ANNUAL MEETING of the Federation.

New Books

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF POPULATION

by *Raymond Pearl* London Oxford University Press, 1939, 416 pp. \$3.50

More population is made only by existing units of population and the quantitative aspect of population may be expressed simply by the ratio of births to deaths. The factors concerned in births and deaths are, however, extremely complex. The present study is primarily a detailed and objective analysis of biological, sociological and economic conditions and practices as they affect the expressed fecundity in a population—really the natural history of human reproduction as affecting population. It is concerned very largely with the quantitative numerical relations, but differentials between racial, religious and economic groups are considered in so far as pertinent data are at hand. The conclusions drawn are in most cases merely expositions of the results ground out by the calculating machine, only occasionally does the author indulge in speculation and the rare expressions of opinion are apt to have an ironical turn. The material used for analysis comes largely from two sources, the statistics of the U. S. Birth Registration Area for 1937 and over 30,000 personal reproduction histories, gathered in hospitals under supervision, of women of reproductive age and free from disease. The analyses are so detailed and complex that they are not only difficult to review but cannot even be catalogued in the space available. The whole work will be valuable to the biologist and the student of population, not only for results but also for methods of treatment of the data. Special attention is given to contraception as it affects population, and this will naturally be of interest to persons concerned with birth control.

In his discussion of the effects of contraception, elsewhere in the book, the author keeps close to the factual and objective. His is an attempt to determine to what extent contraception is practiced in the American population, as indicated by the sample studied, and what its demographic results may be. He does not pass judgment as to whether these are good or bad—he gives rather the impression of one holding down a ringside seat and observing with tolerant detachment a battle in which the participants seem oversure of what they are battling for. This is probably, however, the result of his attitude of neutrality, and it must be recalled again that he is dealing with contraception only as it affects births. The book is not directly concerned with those aspects of birth control which have to do with maternal health or the probable chances of the survival or welfare of the child after birth. Even in dealing with the differentials of contraception with reference to race, nativity and economic status, he offers no judgment as to the relative value of the different categories—the reader is left to make his own interpretations if he likes, according to his personal opinions or prejudices. The results of this survey are, nevertheless, of basic importance and should be studied by every serious student of birth control.

In the last chapter 'World Population in Past, Present and Future,' the author does relax a bit and give some discussion of the theoretical as well as the strictly factual. Considering the great mass of material that Dr. Pearl now has at his command and the relatively narrow scope possible in a book of this nature, one wishes that he may sometime in the near future give us a comprehensive survey of population problems, leaving many of

the details for reference to his earlier works and including not only his mature conclusions—but even some of his speculations

The Natural History of Population is abundantly annotated and documented, and, as might be anticipated, concludes with a most useful index

LEON J COLE

Professor of Genetics
University of Wisconsin

PEOPLE, by Henry Pratt Fairchild New York Henry Holt and Company, 315 pp \$3 00

The whole world, with one war recently ended and two more being waged on the plea of needing more room for populations breeding beyond the capacity of their countries to support them, is awake to the problems presented by the amazing increase, a practical doubling, of the number of living beings which has taken place in the last hundred years

This presentation of the subject, critically scientific, qualified at every turn by the caution of the lover of truth, offers the lay reader a unique opportunity to familiarize himself with the many aspects of the whole problem. In the light of the startling theories of Malthus, of the humanitarian zeal of Mrs. Sanger, and of the unemotional figures of the United States Census the story is told of the exuberant fertility of nature and her equally ruthless destructiveness, the birth and death uncontrol, which has brought us where we are

Dr. Fairchild's style is admirably clear and his points are reinforced by pictorial statistics which illuminate the text without producing the mental paralysis which is the layman's usual response to the older type of graph. There is no aspect of the subject which is neglected—the social effect of the growth or decline of populations—the genetic significance of an in-

crease or a decrease in numbers, the biological importance of the mating instinct and its special place in human society, the optimum population which can be regarded as desirable—the fundamental importance of eugenics in building for the future and above all the check which our limited knowledge and social indifference imposes upon us in our dream of creating beings fit for the perfect state

The part of peculiar interest to the readers of the *Review* is the discussion, which runs through the book, of the part that birth control has played in the past and is certain to play in the future of human society. Dr. Fairchild speaks of it as this new consideration,—absolutely revolutionary in its practical significance and its bearing on the problems of human welfare—and affirms with the eminent English scientist Julian Huxley, that the discovery of contraception must rank with the greatest achievements of human intellect, such as the invention of the stone hammer, the mastery of fire, the discovery of electricity, or the invention of the art of printing. He adds,

With this new weapon in hand we are prepared to attack intelligently and effectively the weighty problems of the relation of population to social progress and welfare

This book is of interest to the general reader but to those of us interested in birth control it is of fundamental importance for a knowledge of its contents will protect us from the accusation of superficiality in our judgments and of emotionality in our decisions. It needs to be read and inwardly digested by every friend of the cause

CORNELIA JAMES CANNON

President Massachusetts Mothers
Health Council



From the Editor's Desk



¶ Daily into the offices of the Birth Control Federation of America and state leagues and clinics all over this country come letters from men and women pleading for help in family planning. Not less than fifty people, (at least half of them men) themselves come into the national offices each week to talk over their problems. Similar personal visits also are duplicated all over this country. A definite need for family counselling is being partly met in this way.

Typical of letters received as evidence of the true American desire to have a planned family which the parents can raise and educate properly is the following:

Am writing you in regards to birth control. Me and my husband has four mighty fine children and I don't feel like we can raise and educate them as we would like to and of course four is enough for any family of small means as we are and if we don't find some kind of a control there will be more birth in our family. We have been married thirteen years and we have one boy ten and one girl seven and one girl four. Our baby boy is four months old. So you see that we have three already school age and it is quite a problem to keep clothes and books and other supplies for them and if you know of any safe sound birth control I certainly would appreciate knowing it and anything you write me would be kept confidential.

¶ The United States Public Health Service announced on October 30th, 1939 that for the first half of the year the maternal mortality rate had reached a new low of 4.0 per 1,000 live births—a decrease of 23% since 1937.

¶ Una Taylor, columnist, writes in the Charlotte, North Carolina, *Observer* of the fine news of that state being the first to include birth control advice in its public health service. She quotes a welfare worker who knows into what hopeless surroundings so many little lives are brought as saying, what a help it would be if it were legally as difficult for couples to have children of their own as to adopt them!

¶ Patients at the Brookline and South End, Massachusetts, Mothers Health Offices with three or more children had about 30% of their number on relief according to a review recently made for the *Journal of Contraception* by Martha G. Waldstein, formerly social worker at those offices. The percentage dropped sharply to 16% on relief among patients with only one or two children. Among those patients with no children none were on relief.

¶ A recent announcement of the Family Planning Association (Great Britain) states: The following have done us the honour of becoming vice presidents: Margaret Sanger, honorary chairman of the Birth Control Federation of America, Inc. which unites all the birth control organizations of the United States; Lady Cowasji Jehangir, M. B. E., president of the Family Hygiene Society of Bombay; the Rani Rajwade, president of the All India Women's Conference; Mrs. R. L. Scott, president of the South African National Council for Maternal and Family Welfare, representing the most progressive Dominion birth control organization; and last but not least Mrs. Elise Ottesen Jensen, president of the National League for Sex Education of Sweden.

BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION of AMERICA Inc

*Formerly American Birth Control League
and Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau*

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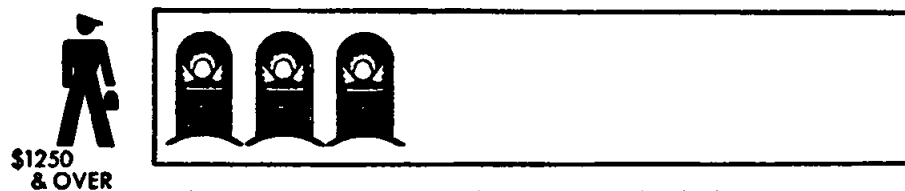
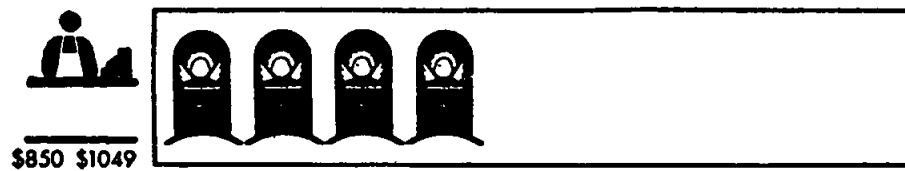
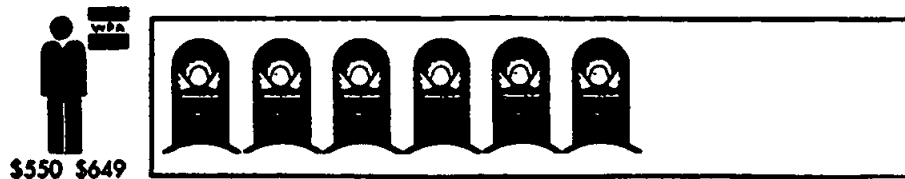
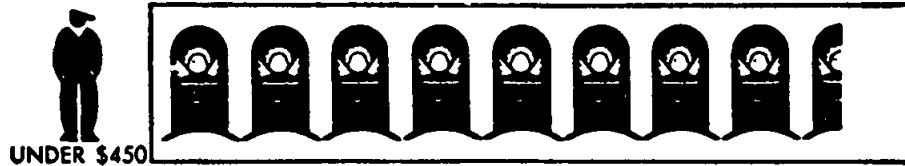
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