

Lands of Hunger

June, 1928

Twenty Cents

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

*"Children of Choice, Not of Chance"*



*Photo Baruch Berlin*

# THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC

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# TEN GOOD REASONS *for* BIRTH CONTROL



Woman's Right, Married Love, Health of Mother and Child, Welfare of Children and Abolition of Poverty have been given as reasons for

## *Birth Control*

*The Use of Harmless and Effective Mechanical or Chemical Methods  
of Prevention Called Contraceptives*

Another reason of the utmost importance to the future of the human race is

### **Reason VI — THE RELIEF OF OVER-POPULATION**

*Over-population means a greater number of people that a country can maintain in comfort With over-population, there are large sections of the people who have insufficient food, homes too small and crowded for health and morals, and no chance of developing up to the best of their possibilities*

Here is what a few thinkers say —

**T**O create a race of well-born children it is essential that the function of motherhood should be elevated to a position of dignity and this is impossible as long as conception remains a matter of chance

Declaration of  
Principles of  
American Birth  
Control League

In a country, even thinly inhabited, if an increase of population takes place before more food is raised and more houses built, the inhabitants must be distressed for food and sustenance

THOMAS R MALTHUS

Surely it is better to have thirty five millions of human beings leading useful and intelligent lives, rather than forty millions struggling painfully, for a bare subsistence

EARL OF DERBY

The ancient system needed an unrestricted breeding to meet the normal waste of life through war, pestilence and a multitude of hitherto unpreventable diseases The new knowledge sweeps away the venerable checks of pestilence and disease, and confronts us with the congestions and explosive dangers of an over-populated world The New Civilization is saying to the Old now We cannot go on giving you health, freedom, enlargement, limitless wealth, if all our gifts to you are to be swamped by an indiscriminate torrent of progeny

H G WELLS

The earth can support only a certain number of humans, just as of oysters, or codfish, or rabbits, or sparrows When that limit is reached some form of control will come into operation It may be the control of a diminished birthrate or of an increased death-rate In fact population has never been uncontrolled Population control is a necessity It lies with man himself to decide whether control shall be by rational processes, adapted to promote human welfare and happiness, or by the ruthless and cruel processes which nature inevitably imposes, when other means fail

HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD

In two hundred years (at its present rate of expansion) there would be ten times the present population of the globe, and then, even if mankind were fed by a fall of heavenly manna, they would be so crowded and would poison one another so terribly, that life would hardly be worth living

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS

As in our more limited communities and cities, where self sustaining and self reliant sections of the population are forced to shoulder the burden of the reckless and irresponsible, so in the great world community, the more prosperous, and incidentally less populous nations, are asked to relieve and succor those countries which are either the victims of the wide spread havoc of war, or militaristic statesmanship, or the age long tradition of reckless propagation and its consequent over population

MARGARET SANGER

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

Four Steps to Our Goal — Agitation, Education, Organization, Legislation

VOL XII

JUNE, 1928

No 6

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## EDITORIAL

ANOTHER milestone of the Birth Control movement was passed last month when Birth Control made its open appearance at the Conference of Social Work at Memphis. The delegates were prepared for it at the very beginning, for on May 1st—the day before the Conference opened, Miss Jessie Condit of Newark, N. J., read a paper to the probation officers, whose conference preceded the more general meetings, and to doctors, judges and early delegates who crowded the meeting. Miss Condit pleaded for serious consideration of family limitation, in spite of the fact that Judge Hoffman, who presided, had denounced Birth Control as a means of family adjustment that should never be taken into consideration. At the close of her paper, Miss Henriette Hart, of the New Jersey Branch of the American Birth Control League, made a plea for an unbiased consideration of the subject—a plea that was received with tremendous applause. In spite of Roman Catholic protests, the feeling of the meeting was unmistakably in favor of Birth Control. An equally warm reception was given later in the Conference to the paper of Dr. Hannah Stone, of the Clinical Research Department of the American Birth Control League. Dr. Stone gave from her own experience instances of the value of contraception in meeting the problems of the Social Workers. In addition to these papers, Birth Control permeated the Conference through the constant work done at the Birth Control booth, which was presided over by Miss Mary Pokrass, of the Clinical Research Department, the story of which is given in her own words on another page

the family was wrong. Now priests and Roman Catholics of high station declare that it is wrong to bring children into the world when the parents are unable to care for them. But the only method to be used is "self-control." By self-control these self-constituted law-givers of the human race mean actually celibacy in marriage, for anything short of celibacy would not prevent the family from increasing by a baby every year. The ideal preached to the world by these unmarried hierarchs is therefore that, when the limit has been reached and husband and wife realize that there must be no more babies, the marriage shall practically be dissolved. Marriage is utterly incompatible with celibacy. Sexual union has a great spiritual and moral purpose wholly apart from reproduction. It is necessary to hold husband and wife together, to keep harmony in the home, to enable the parents to live in love and companionship and to bring up their children within the bonds of a united family. Self-Control with these objectors has become a parrot cry. As a matter of fact self-control belongs rather to the Birth Controllers, for Birth Control is far removed from thoughtless indulgence of desire.

THE demand that the Roman Catholics shall not interfere with our freedom of conscience, shall not try to force us to submit to moral precepts which we refuse to acknowledge, has new force when the two moral standards are compared. Will the people of the United States submit to be governed by a religious minority which holds to a moral standard of the past, a standard far below that which is being developed and defined by our best and finest thinkers? On the one hand there is an obsolete tabu—a mystic and unreasoning command based on a supposed "law of nature." According to this standard the use of contraceptives is prohibited, because they enable people to use a faculty in such a manner as to "make its natural

AS is usually the case, the only protests at the Conference of Social Work were from Roman Catholics. It is remarkable how greatly the Roman Catholic position has changed since the early days of the Birth Control movement in New York. Then any interference with the natural growth of

end impossible of realization" This is the reason given by Father Ryan in his pamphlet "Family Limitation", and because of an obscurantist dogma like this, the world must be left to its misery, and men and women are forbidden to use their God-given intelligence to raise themselves above the level of the animals On the other hand is the newer moral standard, that has become possible with the aid of science It includes the rights of little children, the right to be well born, to have a reasonable chance to live and develop, the right of men and women to happiness and harmony in the home, the right of the nation to protect itself against decadence and disaster, the right of all humanity to have sufficient space on earth, that one nation shall not crowd another into war, and that there shall be food enough for all The Roman Catholics say that Birth Control is immoral We claim that for us Birth Control is of high moral value We do not ask to constrain their consciences, let them cease to attempt to constrain ours



THE uselessness of philanthropic efforts that are not based on Birth Control is illustrated by two recent appeals for the relief of children in the Far East One is from an American society for the welfare of Chinese children whose need arises out of famine conditions Famine in China is no accident It is a recurrent event, and not a calamity which once relieved is not likely to recur Malnutrition—a state of chronic semi-famine—is the normal state in that land which man multiplies far faster than his food Famine there can never be ended until the rate of population increase slows down Yet the programme for children presented by this society—the programme by which it plans to raise the physical and mental standards of the race,—contains no provision for educating parents as to the importance of Birth Control nor for giving contraceptive advice It calls for seven-and-a-half million dollars at once "to tide Shantung over until the next harvest" Unless sums as great or much greater are put at the same time into the permanent constructive work of population control, this demand will be indefinitely repeated to "tide over" the next and the next famine year, with no permanent improvement in the outlook for the Chinese children If American money is to be spent in China, cannot something more helpful be done with it than merely keeping alive hungry children who can never be really satisfied, because the number of mouths to be filled increases unchecked?

EVEN more futile is an appeal of the Leonard Wood Memorial on behalf of the children of the lepers at Culion Four subscribers have sent us copies of the circular letter, as a striking illustration of conditions allowed to persist and accepted as the will of God by religious people On the sad island of Culion is the largest leper settlement in the world It contains already 1,000 healthy children "sentenced to die in a leper colony" A photograph shows a group of infants, permitted to be born just as in the normal world, with no effort at prevention Born clean, they are from birth prisoners with the diseased, destined in the end themselves to fall victims of leprosy Could a child be born to a more tragic fate? By all means let us care for the thousand living children in the Leonard Wood orphan asylum But what of the future? Shall we stand by and see other thousands brought into the world in leper colonies without taking steps through Birth Control, or sterilization to save these little ones from so awful an existence? What more convincing or imperative health reason could there be than this? Yet there is no hint of such salvation in the appeal Leper mothers are to continue to add the pangs of childbirth to their other sufferings, and after the birth pangs are over, they must give up their babies to be brought up in the Memorial Asylum Even with this sacrifice, they are not assured of the safety of their little ones, or their rescue from the dread disease from which they themselves are dying Yet this is the best that even the most well-intentioned philanthropy and the most self-sacrificing devotion can offer, when Birth Control is completely left out of the programme



ACTIVE work, looking towards the next legislative campaign, has begun in Connecticut Strong committees are being formed in the cities and larger towns, and next year the Connecticut Branch of the American Birth Control League hopes to be able to remove from the Statute Book the absurd but pernicious law which forbids the personal use of contraceptives On behalf of this work, we have been asked to appeal to our readers who live in Connecticut, or who have friends in that State, to send the names of all those who would be interested and would aid in the work, and especially of doctors and ministers, to the Chairman, Mrs George H Day, 27 Marshall St, Hartford, Conn

# Saint or Statesman

By HAROLD BERMAN

**T**HERE is one characteristic that usually, if not invariably, distinguishes the Saint and Preacher, turned leader, from the Statesman and the born leader of men. Both of them aim to lead their people into the path of righteousness, political and social well-being and material prosperity. Both of them sincerely desire to see the happiness of their people based on solid and just foundations, to erect a state that is to endure for as long a time as it is possible for a political organism, the creature of man's limited gifts, to endure. But each of them is seeking to accomplish this desired end by means of his own peculiar lights, which are the fruits of his own inner light and psychology, aided and abetted by his training and environment.

## Realist or Idealist

The born statesman, even the most idealistic among the tribe, is essentially a realist. He must, in his sincere desire to mould or to remould a nation, take full cognizance of things as they are, both in the psychology of the people that he essays to lead, and in the external and surrounding circumstances. In other words, while the statesman's ultimate view may sometimes be the prismatic and dazzling tints at the end of the rainbow, his point of departure must ever be the corporate reality, as well as the frequently vulgar actuality. The priest and moral preacher, on the other hand, usually ignores vulgar and unpleasant reality altogether, but fixes his gaze steadily upon the distant and ever receding abstract Ideal of Perfection. He is not burdened by any superfluous and hobbling baggage of actuality, but does invariably bring along an excess baggage of Dreams of Perfection, of a paradisaical blissfulness and a well-being that is as complete as it is faultless and impossible. Being hardly, if at all, aware of vulgar actuality, knowing but little of human nature and its weaknesses, he abhors compromise, decries any and all concession to be made to human frailty, the give-and-take arrangement that forms the basic structure of orderly human life in any and every form of society.

The result is that the saint and preacher in politics invariably ends up in failure. If he is not corporally and literally burned at the stake, in the doleful manner of Savonarola and his unhappy imitators of all times, he is at least burned vicariously, or in effigy, by the speedy undoing of his life-work. The achievements of Cromwell did not

outlast his own span of life, nor did the work of others of his ilk who sought not to effect reforms within the structure of a certain society, but to reconstruct it, *in toto*, and after their own, admittedly beautiful design.

## Tolstoy and Gandhi

The past-half century has afforded two outstanding and glorious examples of the saint turned statesman and his total failure to achieve anything lasting in the affairs of men—Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi. Both these remarkable men had led a conventional life up to a certain, and mature, period of their career. For a time they both accepted society, with all its faults and virtues, as they found it. They sought neither to change it nor to improve it over much, but merely to live in it. They mingled with their fellow-men, shared their pleasures and indulgences, developed their weaknesses, their virtues and qualities, esteeming good that which the rest esteemed good, and vice versa. All of a sudden, and by the workings of some mysterious inner soul-chemistry, they experienced a total change of heart. They, like Paul on the road to Damascus, suddenly beheld the light, and they became transformed. The light that they beheld, however, was not of this earth, but of a distant, deity-frequented Elysium. And in Elysium, men have not corporal bodies but only disrobed, ethereal souls, and these possess no failings, and are hampered by no weaknesses. They have been stripped of all selfishness, jealousies, greeds, as well as passions. And the fiat goes forth from these vision-seeing preachers that all corporal, earth-bound beings must henceforth be recreated in that perfect image, become as perfect as these spirits are!

## Points of Resemblance

There are several striking points of resemblance between these two social and political reformers, Tolstoy and Gandhi. Both of them were determined, outspoken and uncompromising opponents of the government of their respective fatherlands. Both of them preached in all seriousness the paradox of overcoming tyranny by the means of a complete and negative non-resistance. Both of them exalted labor and the handicrafts, and enjoined their practice as a sacred duty upon each one of their adherents (though there was no identity of

motive in the two instances) And both of them eventually came around to the preaching of the suppression of the sexual impulse in the human being, excepting its indulgence for the purely procreative purposes, as a great desideratum, as a means of elevating the human race

It is quite true that Tolstoy propounded his thesis (in his "Kreutzer Sonata," issued in 1889) out of purely religious, or moral motives, while Gandhi's motivation in his manifesto is to be found in the over-population of his native India and the many problems that arise from it Yet it remains a fact that both of these Saints turned Statesmen have seized upon the most utterly impractical and even impossible remedy for an ailment, be it moral, physical or economic, that admittedly does exist in our society or a great portion of it, and that both of them considered the normal functioning of the human animal, in the only form that Nature has cut out for him, as fraught with sin and born of iniquity!

One may even go further and say that, even as it was not the non-resistance preachments of Tolstoy that finally redeemed Russia from the oppressions of the Romanoffs, but rather the very-much active resistance of the people, backed by their soldiers' guns when turned against their own commanders, equally so has the non-cooperation movement of Gandhi failed to bring about the liberation of the Hindus from the galling yoke of the British oppressor The saint in politics, no matter how pure are his intentions and lofty his visions, reasons not at all from the premise of reality, but rather from

the premise of the abstract, the premise of desire and hope He discovers a fountain of perfection in his own soul, and totally overlooks the imperfections that lodge in all other people's souls

There is yet another point to the argument If Tolstoy's impossible gospel was preached frankly as a moral panacea, Gandhi's gospel is being seriously advanced by him as a cure for the manifold economic evils that so thickly beset his India And herein the propounder of this strange thesis has erred not only once but twice For, not only is his saintly advice entirely impossible to follow on purely physiological bases and reasons, embodying as it does a counsel of perfection that runs counter to all the known instincts and habits of all creatures, including the human, but it is bound to fail utterly to cure the evil to which it is seriously proposed to apply it as an unailing cure

The question before us is one of over-population of a certain country, of the too great reproductive increase in the average Indian family Viewed from this angle, what appreciable difference does it make in ultimate results whether man indulges his appetite freely, or only once in, say six months, or even once in an entire year? The final result would still be the same, and that particular country still would be suffering from over-population, as well as its consequent economic and social evils! But, such ever are the fruits of saintliness applied to practical, every-day life, and such are the solutions that Saints and Apostles are able to propound to the very real and knotty problems of everyday life, and such is their efficacy!

## Population and Food Supply in India

By DR R K DAS\*

**I**N 1921, India had 319 million inhabitants or seventeen per cent of the world's population In forty-nine years, from 1872 to 1921, the population in India increased by 113 millions, of which fifty-nine millions were due to the territorial expansion and census improvement, thus leaving a real increase of fifty-four millions or twenty per cent, as compared with an increase of forty-seven per cent in Europe in fifty years, from 1870 to 1920

This slower growth of population in India is due to the higher death rate rather than to the lower birth rate While, from 1880 to 1910, the average annual birth and death rates in England and

Wales, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Spain were respectively 3.11 per cent and 2.20 per cent, thus leaving a surplus of 0.91 per cent a year, those in India from 1885 to 1910 were respectively 3.64 per cent and 3.08 per cent with a surplus of only 0.56 per cent a year During the last decade, the death rate in India amounted to as much as 3.41 per cent as against the birth rate of 3.69 per cent, thus leaving a surplus of only 0.28 per cent a year From 1885 to 1921, the average rate of growth was, however, 0.48 per cent a year

At the rate of growth of 0.48 per cent a year as above, the present population of India would amount to 325 millions What would be the rate of growth in the future is a matter of speculation But it might be safely assumed that various social movements, especially those for health, would decrease

\*Extracts from a paper presented to the World Population Conference



the death rate, and, at a very conservative estimation of an increase of 0.5 per cent a year, the population in India would, in all probability, amount to 370 millions in 1950

### Cause of Poverty

The fundamental cause of India's poverty is the lack of growth in productive power in proportion to the increase of population within a century or more. The low productivity of Indian agriculture is best indicated by the per hectare yield of 6.9 quintals of wheat as compared with 26.7 quintals in Belgium, and 14.4 quintals of rice as compared with 34.5 quintals in Japan. In agricultural efficiency, India stands only twenty-second among the different countries of the world, with an index number of 85, as compared with 221 in Belgium. There are several factors which have contributed to the low productive power or industrial inefficiency in India, such as starvation and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, social customs, industrial systems and political conditions.

The pertinent question is whether India can increase her productive power and supply the needs of her present population. In his treatise on "Production in India", the present writer has estimated that, provided the arable land could be used for two crops a year, on the average three-fourths of the soil fertility, as well as other resources, could still be available for productive purposes. But the possibility of their utilization depends upon the efficiency of labor and the sufficiency of capital. That Indian workers have a potential efficiency as great as that of any other people has been clearly shown by the investigation into the conditions of

Hindustani workers on the Pacific Coast, which the present writer undertook for the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1921-22. But by far the major part of India's man-power is underfed, diseased, illiterate and unskilled. India is equally deficient in the possession of her social capital. Machinery and mechanical power have up to this time been applied to only an insignificant part of her industrial life. Nor are there large social savings which could be transformed into working capital in the immediate future.

### Future Prospects

The prospects of rapid increase in productivity are not, therefore, very bright. Moreover, the more or less limited supply of forests, fisheries and minerals, even when fully developed, can scarcely supply the growing needs of the progressive civilization of such a vast population. Of the arable land, about fifty-five per cent is already in use and any intensity in cultivation would operate only under the condition of diminishing return, especially in India, where land has been cropped from time immemorial without any return in the form of fertilizers. The appropriation of the other forty-five per cent of the arable land would require irrigation, drainage, fertilization, acclimatization and other scientific treatment. In short, it would take at least two generations before India could acquire industrial skill and social capital for the application of modern science and invention to the full utilization of her resources, and thus be in a position to solve the problem of the present food shortage. In the meantime the present population would increase at least by fifty per cent, if not more.



## China Twentieth Century

### IN THE WAKE OF THE BLUE EXPRESS

*(In time of peace the Blue Express connected Peking with Shanghai)*

Like carrion gulls astern some regal ship—  
Scavengers which trail her from her port  
To swoop upon the surplus waste of men  
Who dine like princes at some foreign court—  
So, in the wake of this, the Blue Express,  
Garrulous, greedy urchins, fleet of foot,  
There swarmed a crowd of animated rags  
Grown querulous through want, a few old hags,—  
Each tense upon the grim, precarious task

Of gathering, in baskets, coals new-spilt  
From fiery craws of engines over-fed  
Upon such tenuous chance their breath they built!

From blue-plushed ease, some tourists from afar  
Looked and said, "How queer these people are!"

STELLA FISHER BURGESS

Reprinted from *The Survey*

# The Birth Control Movement in India

By N S PHADKE

THERE is no doubt that the movement for Birth Control is gaining ground in India, though actual statistics showing its progress cannot be produced, since there exists no organization which undertakes the work of collecting the necessary data. The Bombay Birth Control League which was founded in 1923 continues to do some valuable work, but owing to unsatisfactory finance it has to limit its propagandist activity only to registering members and supplying them with information and advice on the subject of contraception of a purely academic character. The League is endeavoring to enlist some lady doctors on the executive Committee so that expert practical help will be rendered to parents who approach it for such assistance. Letters of inquiry received at the League's office clearly show that in every corner of the country parents are realizing the rationality and urgency of Family Limitation through the use of safe contraceptives. A decently furnished Birth Control Clinic is very badly needed in Bombay and the League is trying to secure funds enough to make it possible to establish a Clinic of this type. The Baby Welfare movement has assumed a very tangible form in nearly all parts of the country, owing to the support received semi-officially from the government and from the rich classes, and Baby Weeks have now become quite common. The promoters of these Baby Weeks, however, are still fighting shy of the question of Birth Control, and when requested to advocate it as a plank in their programme, express hostile views. This is due to the usual reasons of orthodoxy and slavishness to taboo. Inquiries made in the leading chemists' shops show that the demand for contraceptive material has during the last four years increased roughly four times.

## *An Epochal Book*

The publication of my book "The Sex Problem in India" has marked a very important stage. The fact that the book, which makes a very strong plea for the use of healthy contraceptives as the only reliable means of controlling progeny, has been very favorably received by the people and the press is full of its significance. The book came close on the heels of Miss Mayo's "Mother India" and every reviewer of "The Sex Problem in India" has pointed out how its constructive spirit is bound to serve as a very valuable corrective to the various ignorant sweeping generalizations about Indian

Motherhood made by the writer of "Mother India."

Birth Controllers in India are very eagerly looking forward to a proposed visit of Mrs. Sanger to their country. They are sure that a visit from her will have great educative value and will give a decided impetus to the cause of Birth Control.

Mahatma Gandhi has not of late expressed himself on the question. But it is evident that his opinions continue unchanged. He is a very ardent advocate of Family Limitation, but he is fiercely against the use of artificial contraceptives. He piously believes in the efficacy of continence. It is a sign of the times, however, that a great leader of thought like Dr. Ravindranath Tagore has thrown his weight on the side of the movement, and that a large majority of journalists, writers, social workers and university professors view the progress of the movement with favor.

## *An Important Departure*

The Prince of Rajkot—a very important State in the northwest of India—provided a distinct proof, in a recent speech of his, that the Birth Control Movement is bound to make an increasing appeal to the best intellects of the country. When addressing the opening session of his People's Assembly in the last week of January, he referred to Birth Control as one of the most urgent questions. He asserted that parents who had already a few children had every right to Birth Control and exhorted the medical profession to tackle the question and find out some effective means of family limitation that would be within reach of the poor people of India. He concluded by promising that he himself was soon going to appoint a committee of physicians for this purpose.

It is so encouraging that the Prince has definitely sided with the movement, and if anything considerable comes out of the correspondence which, as Vice President of the Bombay Birth Control League I have opened with him, the movement is bound to make an important step towards the practical realization of the principles of Birth Control in India.

## *Government Attitude*

In our country, government maintains an attitude of tolerant indifference towards the promoters of the Birth Control movement. When we started the Bombay Birth Control League in 1924 we tried to ascertain what view government would take of

our activities, and we soon came to understand that we would be left unmolested so long as we kept beyond the application of the law which punishes indecency. From that time till now we were under the impression that Birth Controllers would neither be supported nor obstructed by government.

Recently, however, things have taken a different turn, and it can now be safely said that at least the government of the Bombay Presidency is prepared to give a helping hand to the cause of Birth Control.

Before I can explain this change I must state that for some years past there has been growing in India a child welfare movement, known as the Baby Week movement. The promoters of this movement hold every year a Baby Week in all important towns of the country. The movement has gathered considerable strength and it claims as its organizers very rich and influential persons. These people,—I am here speaking particularly of the Bombay Presidency—had from the start rigidly kept away from the topic of Birth Control, and in the various articles which I had occasion to write in the press on the Baby Week movement I had continually pointed out the gross lack of insight which was evident in this policy of the organizers of the Baby Week.

### *An Awakening*

I am not aware what led this year to a change of policy on the part of the Baby Week authorities. But whatever the cause, the important and gratifying fact is that they came to understand that the work of child welfare, for which the Baby Week is primarily intended, cannot be carried on without adopting Birth Control as part of the programme. When in March last the Baby Week was to be held in Bombay, the organizers decided not only to ar-

range a series of lectures on Birth Control, but took a step further and prepared a film to be screened before the visitors to the Baby Week exhibition. The film was titled "If she only knew" and it depicted the evil effects of excessive child bearing and indirectly taught the lesson of Birth Control.

The film was banned by the Board of Censors, but the Bombay Government reversed the Board's decision. The Governor personally attended a show of the film, and during the week the film was screened every evening before a big audience. The Baby Week Committee has the Governor as its Chairman and many other offices of the organization are held by men who are either government officials or important persons supposed to be in close touch with government. The recognition thus accorded to Birth Control, as part of the Baby Week, clearly signifies that the Bombay Government is on the side of the advocates of Birth Control. It will not now be very long before a Birth Control Clinic is established in Bombay and governments of other presidencies of India are very likely to follow the example of the Bombay Government.

The scenario of the film, which is produced on a very modest scale, was written by Mr P. J. Murzban, who is a member of the Baby Week Committee, the chairman of which is Lady Wilson. The film gives a series of statistics showing the birth rate and infantile death rate figures, etc., and then unfolds the story of the wife of a poor man who gives birth to a child with annual regularity, thus increasing their poverty-stricken state. The mother dies as a result of the hardships she has had to endure, her eight children do not survive very long, and the husband, broken by the sorrow he has suffered, seeks solace in suicide, thus marking the final extinction of a family which has overgrown itself.

## *China*

### AN ANCIENT LYRIC

(of the Tang Dynasty, 618-905)

By NIEH I CHUNG

Plant in the spring a single grain,  
In the autumn, harvest ten thousand seeds  
Let this go until, within the Four Seas,  
there remains not one uncultivated field—  
Even then farmers would stand in  
danger of starving

*Translated by Stella Fisher Burgess*

# Roman Catholics and Birth Control

By CHARLES V DRYSDALE

**D**URING the last few years the Roman Catholic opponents of Birth Control have come to the conclusion that they must organize themselves against the rapid progress of the birth controllers, and we have seen the formation of the League of National Life, and now hear of the *Ligue Internationale de la Vie et de la Famille*, which has just been formed at Geneva, and which proposes to hold an International Conference at Paris next year. We have not hitherto troubled ourselves to refer to the activities and arguments of these opponents, as we have simply been amused by them, and by the naive simplicity of those who fondly imagine that they can commence arming themselves at the present day against a movement which has had a start of half-a-century, and has already conquered the great majority of the civilized world. Locking the cell door after the prisoner has escaped has always been regarded as the apotheosis of futility, but to advertise his escape and the method by which he effected it to his fellow prisoners is surely even a greater depth of folly. Those of us who have labored so long in the Birth Control cause have never been troubled in the least by arguments, denunciations, or even laws against it. Our only effective enemy was the conspiracy of silence which prevented its discussion, and when our opponents play into our hands by organizing leagues and conferences to advertise it, we can only hail with joy the formation of these leagues and hope that they will be as active as possible.

Why, indeed, should we not welcome their efforts? We neo-Malthusians have no vested interests in Birth Control. We have no great organization or authority to which we are subservient from which we have gained or are likely to gain either profit or honor. All we are seeking is to promote human happiness and the ennoblement of the human race, and we have no desire to advocate Birth Control if it can be attained in any other way. Our study has convinced us that it cannot be attained without Birth Control, and we have therefore felt impelled at continual personal sacrifice to advocate it, but if the Roman Catholics or anyone else will show us a better way or even an equally good one, we shall be delighted and be quite ready to help them. Let us have open discussion and let the best cause win.

## Guileless Birth Controllers

It is well to mention this at the outset, as our opponents are seriously handicapping themselves by a misconception as to the people they have to do with. To their morbidly obsessed minds we birth-controllers are envoys of Satan, with the cunning of the serpent, and they are constantly agitating themselves over our supposed Machiavellian tactics, when in reality our operations are guile-

lessly simple. It has been simply laughable to read the comments of the Roman Catholic papers over the Geneva Conference, their anxiety concerning a supposed deep laid plot by the birth-controllers to hold a propagandist meeting under the guise of an impartial scientific gathering, and the triumph with which our ovation to Mrs. Sanger was hailed as an indiscretion which revealed the cloven hoof. Our intention to hold a Conference at Geneva was openly announced at the New York Birth-Control Conference two years ago, and although our original plan of making it a propagandist gathering with the object of drawing the attention of the League of Nations to the question was abandoned at the instance of various high personages who came into it, we allowed them to have their way and accepted the position loyally. We were perfectly well aware of the activities of our opponents, and that they were present at the dinner, and our tribute to Mrs. Sanger was no indiscretion, but a mark of our complete indifference to their tactics and presence.

Now that the new International Population Alliance has been successfully launched, we shall get back to our propaganda, and shall probably be holding another international Birth Control conference before long, which will be openly announced as soon as it is decided upon. Our opponents then will be perfectly welcome to take any action they please.

## Steps Already Taken

It would be well for the Roman Catholics and for any birth-controllers who are perturbed at their activities to consider what has already happened, and also how the Roman Church has already been forced to concede point after point until it has already really abandoned its whole case against Birth Control, as it has had to abandon its mediæval ban on the Copernican system, and its more recent one on the doctrine of evolution. In France the adoption of Birth Control commenced with or soon after the Revolution, although the great mass of the people still remained Roman Catholics, and by 1841 the practice had grown to such an extent that the Confessors found that the men refused to submit to interrogation concerning it, and absented themselves from the services. The Cénomanic Bishop, D. D. Bouvier, therefore appealed to Rome as to whether these interrogatories on marital conduct were compulsory, and received a reply from the Holy Clerical High Court of Doctrine, dated June 8, 1842, and signed by A. de Retz, S. P.,\* containing the statement "Concerning the sins of married couples in relation to their marital duties, as they are generally termed, the

\* This judgment which was translated from an article by Dr. Med. Josef Kocks, of Bonn, in *Die Neue Generation*, of June, 1914, appeared in *The Malthusian* for October 15, 1914, p. 77.

father confessor is not compelled to interrogate" Even at this early date, therefore, the powerful Roman Catholic Church recognized that the tide of Birth Control had already set in so strongly in France that it was wiser to appear blind to it than to attempt to stem it

### Beginnings of Birth Control

Except in France the adoption of Birth Control only began to become general from the date of the Bradlaugh-Besant trial of 1877, and the enormous rate of its progress in this short period of half-a-century is shown by the halving of the birth-rate in this country and in Germany, and considerable reductions in nearly all other countries of Europe, except Russia, and similar reductions in the United States and Australia. If those who had adopted Birth Control had no children, this would indicate that half the married couples in England and Germany had adopted Birth Control but as even these generally have their one or two children, it implies that their proportion is much higher, and that a considerable majority have adopted it. It probably is not an over-estimate to claim that Birth Control has been adopted by half the population of civilized countries, or far more than one hundred million people, if one may assume that the children will follow in their parents' footsteps, that this has happened in the teeth of opposition and denunciation on every hand. What chance has even the Roman Catholic Church, with all its infallibility and threats of excommunication, of checking this progress? It has abjectly failed to check it in Belgium, which now has nearly as low a birth-rate as France, in spite of being crowded with priests, it appears to be failing even worse in Roman Catholic Austria, where we understand that even abortion is widely advocated and practised, and it is failing to prevent its spreading to its own supporters in other countries. The Roman Catholic papers have just been rejoicing in the statement of Prof. Grotjahn at the World Population Conference that the German Catholics have a higher fertility rate than that of the Protestants and Jews, but they omit his further statement that this fertility fell from 4.0 to 2.0 births per marriage in Bavaria between 1913 and 1920, which indicates that although the Roman Catholics have lagged behind the others in adopting Birth Control, they are now resolved to do so with all haste.

### R C Pronouncements

Before 1915 the Roman Catholic Church pronounced that "all interference with the primary end of marriage is grievously sinful." These words appeared in a pamphlet, "Modern Problems and Catholic Principles," by the Jesuit Father, J. Keating, which was exposed for sale in the Westminster Catholic Cathedral in that year under the heading "The Marriage State." To leave no doubt upon this point, the reverend Father went on —

"The Church looking beyond mere earthly good, proclaims that all adults have a right to marry (unless they have abandoned that right by vow, or have been justly deprived of it as a punishment for crime) if they are substantially capable of fulfilling the duties of marriage, including, of course, the education of their offspring. She teaches that no wrong is done to the State by the begetting of sickly or imbecile children unless the parent can do nothing to support them. Nor is wrong done to such children themselves, because, in view of the eternal happiness normally within their reach, it is better to have been maimed or tainted than not to have been born at all."

But in 1913 the first National Birth-Rate Commission commenced its sittings, and on January 20, 1915, the Right Rev. Monsignor Brown gave evidence representing the Roman Catholic Church, and in this evidence he conceded that married couples had a right to practice abstinence by mutual consent if they have good reason for wishing to avoid procreation, or that they "may be allowed to limit intercourse to the inter-menstrual period, sometimes called *tempus agenseos*"† All mechanical and chemical methods of contraception were classed with *Cotus interruptus* as Onanistic, and were forbidden. It is noteworthy, however, that the concession to employ the "safe period" implies that married people may indulge in the pleasures of intercourse while wishing to evade its consequences, which morally concedes the birth-controller's contention. Immediately after this evidence the present writer visited the Westminster Cathedral in order to obtain another copy of Father Keating's pamphlet, and found that it was no longer exposed there.

### A Crowning Touch

But now comes the crowning touch. In the *Dublin Review* for January-March, 1922, the Right Rev. Monsignor Brown contributed an article entitled "The Church and Prostitution" devoted principally to a pronouncement by the Rev. Father Vermeersch, S.J., Professor of Moral Theology at the Gregorian University, Rome, in a new edition of the work, *De Castitate*, published in the previous May. This pronouncement deals with venereal prophylaxis, and appeared in Latin, but the present writer made a translation of it which appeared in the issue of the *New Generation* for January, 1923, p. 7. It commences by three questions concerning the use of ointments by which the venereal contagion of syphilis may be avoided: 1. Whether a man does not sin formally who employs an antiseptic ointment before fornication, so that he may be immune from contagion? 2. Whether it is not possible to dissuade people from the use of such ointments? And 3. Whether it is not possible to hold the pharmacists of such ointments as venal? In reply it is stated that the

† The Declining Birth Rate. Report of the First National Birth Rate Commission, p. 393.

use of ointment even after a sin is committed is formally culpable, and that "the intention of committing fornication is evil, since it is always evil to sin or wish to sin, but the evil is not in sinning and at the same time to seek means, morally indifferent in themselves, for evading the evil consequences of sinning" To Question 2 it is replied that "He will sin who shall consciously induce anyone to sin by revealing or advocating medicine or practices, but nothing stands in the way of your indicating to anyone who declares his intention to sin, how he may sin with the least injury to his body" And to Question 3, although it is agreed that open sale of prophylactics should certainly be prevented if it would deter men from fornication, yet this cannot be hoped for and that although it cannot be denied that an easy supply of them will remove the fear of fornication from the more timid, yet the injury of syphilis to other innocent persons is so terrible that we are perfectly justified in risking this greater temptation, especially as it is poor morality in anyone only to refrain from sin through fear of disease It may be added that this remedy may also be used by married persons if they make honest use of it

### Making Prostitution Safe

Monsignor Brown's comment on this pronouncement was as follows —

"It is clear from this that Father Vermeersch considers it lawful to make use of protective methods, both before and after intercourse, and that he considers the removal of the fear of consequences an insufficient ground for prohibiting their use, having regard to the terrible scourge of venereal disease This is a very important utterance on the part of a distinguished Roman Professor, who has studied the whole question very carefully, both as it affects the individual and society in general"

We may further take it that this pronouncement has official approval, or its publication would not have been sanctioned We therefore find that the Roman Catholic Church, which absolutely forbids the use of chemical contraceptives by women who cannot have children without danger to themselves or risk of hereditary taint for those children, and which still maintains that no wrong is done in bringing a diseased child into existence, yet permits men who deliberately intend to commit fornication to employ chemical ointments to evade the consequences of that "sin," and calls such means "morally indifferent in themselves" It enjoins abstinence on married couples who live in close contact and constant desire and opportunity for union, while admitting the impossibility of restraining men from yielding to chance temptation

### Cruelty to Women

The history of the Roman Catholic Church in the middle ages prevents any surprise at any unscientific or brutal action on its part, but it is usually credited with a high

degree of astuteness, and the absurdity of its present position in this matter passes understanding In spite of its cruelty to women throughout its history, its chief support still comes from them, and when this latest pronouncement becomes generally known—as the birth-controllers should make it their business to see to—even the Roman Catholic women will rise in revolt at such an insult Already considerable numbers of Roman Catholic women are attending the Birth Control clinics and helping to disseminate Birth Control literature, and are getting restive at being catechised and lectured on their maternal duties by unmarried priests There are limits even to the religious subservience of women, and when they realize that they are still to be debarred the use of chemical contraceptives and be required to dissuade their husbands from intercourse when they do not desire children, thus subjecting them to outside temptations, which they may indulge in without risk by employing chemical protectives, not even the Pope and all his majesty and ministers will restrain them "Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat" Rome has already made a fatal slip, and she will soon have to take the last bitter step of accepting the verdict of science in this matter, as she has had to do whenever she has resisted it Her cowardly surrender in France in 1841 was the first confession of impotence, before any Birth Control propaganda was in existence, her concession of the *tempus ageneseos* in 1915 admitted the right of married people to enjoy intercourse while not desiring and wishing to evade having children, and her concession of the use of chemical preventatives as a means of evading the dangers associated with fornication, and admission that the methods were morally indifferent in themselves admits the contention of the neo-Malthusians that if restraint of birth is necessary, any method which is not inimical to health may be used Their moral objection to contraception has therefore completely broken down, and they can now only fight us on the scientific ground of the supposed medical evils of contraception, concerning which they have made statements of the "frigid and calculated" variety, even claiming that they were demonstrated at the recent World Population Conference All that we shall say on this point now is that the fall of the death-rate and great increase of longevity which has been manifested *pari passu* with the fall of the birth-rate, and the recent report of the Government Actuary, which shows a remarkable fall of the death-rate both in men and women during the decade from 1910-11 to 1920-21, from the age of 25 (about the average age of marriage), reaching as much as 20 per cent at the ages of 40-45, is evidence for the great gain to health from the adoption of Birth Control, against which no statements of even the most eminent gynecologist can be of any avail, even if many other medical authorities of the highest eminence were not on our side, and, further, that even Roman Catholic women who blindly accept their church's teachings and warnings are living side by side with others who limit their families and

# A Berlin Birth Control Clinic

By AGNES SMEDLEY

THE visit of Mrs Margaret Sanger to Berlin during the past winter has not proved fruitless in so far as a Birth Control Clinic is concerned. At the time she came, she hoped to induce the Association of German Medical Women, or at least individual members of this organization, to start a Clinic in Berlin. Although most of the women physicians are advocates of Birth Control, give their patients contraceptive information, and sincerely oppose the law that makes abortion a crime, they feared to act upon Mrs Sanger's suggestion. The best way, some of them said, was to work in connection with the Marriage Advice Bureaus already existing. These Bureaus—but chiefly the Marriage and Sexual Advice Bureaus founded and directed by the Bund fuer Mutterschutz (Frau Dr Helene Stoecker's creation)—are indeed doing good work, but Mrs Sanger had in mind a Clinic that would devote itself to giving contraceptive information and the collection of scientific statistical information about each patient.

But now a Berlin Birth Control Clinic has come into being. Among the physicians who heard Mrs Sanger speak were two Communist women physicians who had for years been ardent advocates of Birth Control and one of whom—Dr Rubens-Wolf—had recently made a study of such work in Soviet Russia and published two booklets on the subject. She had tried in vain to have a resolution passed by which the Association of German Medical Women would have committed itself to Birth Control, and only after Mrs Sanger had gone did she learn of her suggestion about a Clinic.

After considerable delay a Birth Control Committee has now been formed, chiefly on the initiative of this woman-physician, and a regular Birth Control Clinic, modelled on the New York one, will be opened in May in Neukoelln, one of the most densely populated working class districts of Berlin. The Committee consists of the following members

who show the advantage they gain for themselves and their children. It will not be long before these women discover the abominable false hoods by which they and their little ones have been dragged down to the depths, and when their eyes become opened we do not envy the plight of the Roman Catholic Church.

*Magna est veritas et praevaleret.* By all means let our opponents have their leagues and conferences and even try to stifle the Birth Control movement. The matter has already passed out of their hands or ours. The men and women of our generation and those to come will decide for themselves, and no church or law can affect their decision or action.

Health Commissioner, Dr med Richard Schmincke, head of the Health Department, Neukoelln President  
 Dr Helene Stoecker director of the Bund fuer Mutterschutz (League for the Protection of Mothers) and editor and publisher of the "New Generation" monthly 2nd President  
 Dr med Max Hodann, City physician and medical director of the Health Department in the district of Reinickendorf-Berlin 3rd President  
 Miss Agnes Smedley, representative of Mrs Margaret Sanger of New York City  
 Dr med Martha Rubens-Wolf, practicing physician and author Secretary-Treasurer  
 Dr med Leo Friedlaender, practicing physician and physician in charge of a new Birth Control clinic just being founded by the International Workers' Aid

The Clinic will bear the name of the "Beratungsstelle fuer Geburtenregelung", or "Birth Control Clinic". It is the first time that the words "Birth Control" are being applied to such an institution in Germany. The Clinic will start as a private venture, supported by private funds.

Health Commissioner, Dr Schmincke, is Director of the Clinic and has presented furniture and medical equipment for the waiting and treatment rooms. The physician in charge is Dr med Mathilde Winternitz, a physician at present employed in the Woman's Department of the great Charité Hospital in Berlin.

The Clinic as thus launched, will be an important landmark in the Birth Control movement. It will be important for many reasons, first, the giving of contraceptive information is not illegal in Germany, and no health indications are necessary before physicians can help a woman who wishes it, this will give the Clinic a broader scope of work than is possible in America, secondly, every member of the Committee and the Clinic is active in the working class movement, and of the eight of them, five are physicians, third, the statistical information collected, together with the follow-up work, will give a mass of scientific, social, economic and health material which will speak for itself, fourth, an attempt will be made to keep in the closest contact with other clinics doing similar work—the New York Birth Control Clinic, the English clinics, and the work being done in Russia. The Berlin Clinic will adopt the methods found most certain and harmless by these institutions.

Starting as it is forced to do, on a small scale, we expect that it will not be more than a month before the Clinic will have its hands full. The poverty in German working class districts, such as Neukoelln, is very deep. Abortions are a scourge, ruining the health and endangering the lives of untold thousands of working women whose poverty prevents them from securing the contraceptive methods that the upper classes use. Infant mortality is very high in these districts—and there are mothers who, if asked if their last child lived, have been known to reply "No, I had no grave-yard luck this time." "Grave-yard luck" is an ordinary phrase in the working class districts.

# Motherhood and Ill-Health

## The Ideal Mother is a Healthy Mother

*The quickening of the national and international, conscience on the subject of maternal mortality will not be complete, unless a higher standard of health for mothers is included. It is not sufficient just to keep a mother alive. The ideal mother is one whose child comes to her by her voluntary choice, who goes through pregnancy normally and without distress, who recovers speedily and completely from childbirth and who is ready and able to give her baby and other children, if any, the full loving and happy care that childhood needs. How far we are yet from this ideal the accompanying letters plainly show.*

### Badly Spaced Babies

Alabama

I feel that you can and will help me in my trouble. I am 24 years old. I married when I was 19, thoughtless of the troubles ahead for me. In just ten months after I married, my little girl came. In just eighteen months another girl came. In eighteen months a boy came, my health was bad to start with. I had kidney trouble after the birth of my first baby. The kidney trouble got so bad I would be in bed for days, my second girl has the same trouble and bloats all over at times, my boy is fourteen months old and is weak in his legs. I have been operated on for female troubles although nothing was removed. I am not able to sit up more than an hour at a time.

My husband is a laboring man, the salary is small. Our doctor bill takes more than he can make, I cannot earn a penny to help him any.

The doctor says I must not have any more children that I will surely die. I have no way to avoid getting in the family way so I did not know what to do. Only write to you for some advice. Oh, I will appreciate more than tongue can tell if you will only help me. I pray only not to have any more children so I can get well. It would be a God-send to me if I can get well.

### "No One Knows what I Suffered"

Wisconsin

I am coming to you for advice and help, if you can give I have three children and looking for another this year. We are on a farm and owe for half of it yet. With no one to help me and my husband's father, 67 years old, with us too to care for, besides garden, chickens, canning of fruit and other household duties, I just think I'll lose my mind if another has to come to care for and sew for. I do not have help at birth like I should. Just a girl for 10 days and she could not care for baby so I had to get up on

seventh day, and after 10 days did all my own work, even the washing for all the family. No one but myself can know how much I suffered. It seems terrible to bring another into the world, when you know those you have go without so many needful things. I feel so bad all the time now, suffer from the "heart burn" and pressure. It makes me so nervous and cross. Mother always taught me an abortion was disgraceful but I believe in my case it would be right. Please, please, tell me how to care for myself hereafter. I am desperate, would rather die than go through what I know is ahead of me. My husband will not go to doctors and see what can be done. So many doctors will not tell one anything. I try to keep away from my husband, but it causes quarrels and almost a separation. I love my children and husband, so feel I must do something before it is too late. Before our last two baby girls were weaned, another was in the womb. My mother has 5 living children and three died in infancy. My husband's mother had 7 living and three dead. She died in 1920 from the change of life. I do hope you will answer at once and tell me something to do.

### Six Years Seem like Sixty

New York

I am writing to you today in the hope that you may help me, as I've been told you have helped others. You have probably heard thousands of stories like mine and heard the same cry for help which is what I am doing. Asking you for the advice which money can't even buy. Not that I have a lot of it, although I would be willing to part with my last penny for it.

I have been married six years which seem like sixty. During that time I have had three children the first being a premature child, now five years old, it took every cent we had and put us in debt so that we still owe doctor's bills. In the next two years I miscarried two more children each at six months. And two years ago, had a very serious operation as a result of having so many babies.



and so close together Now, March 12 I gave birth to one more baby and I am hoping with your help and advice, it will be the last I am sickly, weak, anemic and also have kidney trouble, so am beginning to think life isn't hardly worth while I am asking you as woman to woman, give me the advice no one wants to give me Those that know seem to think, "let her find out the way I did" They try so hard to keep their secret Please write to me and I shall certainly be grateful to you as I am sure a great many poor souls have been

## My Share of Trouble

Saskatchewan

I would very much like to have some information how to keep from having children every year or so, as it has been in my case I have been married 5 years and have three children The oldest 4 years, the baby 1 year I had Brights disease with the first two and was not expected to live The first one came at seven months I was in the hospital 5 weeks with the second one, taking treatments and medicine to keep it from coming too soon, was in bed all that time With the last one by strict dieting and taking medicine I managed to keep it in check I am only 21 years so I have had my share of trouble I always feel tired and nervous I do my own work as we cannot afford a girl We have all we can do to make ends meet now without having any more children so would certainly appreciate help from your League

## A Record of Large Families

Georgia

I have three children and am awful weak all the time, can't hardly do my work, can't hardly give the children the care I ought to give them So I fear for more children I wonder if you can advise me what to do not to have more I would thank you many times I have a sister and she said she would kill herself if she has more, so please let me hear from you soon The children are just a year apart There was ten in our family I had one sister and eight brothers, so I am afraid I will have so many My husband had five sisters and six brothers, so please write soon

## Three Dead out of Four

North Carolina

I am writing, seeking some advice or information on the subject of safe contraceptives My fifteen years of married life should have been wonderful, but tragedy has marked us down the years I have one darling girl, nine years old, whom I long to stay with I lost the three older ones, two at birth, and the first baby only lived six weeks This whole summer has been a period of horrors I underwent a serious operation in March, the surgeon thought I had cancer and advises me I cannot bear a child Yet I can become pregnant Yet he demes he knows any preventive I am nearly crazy thinking over

the situation I love my husband and child, and it is for their sakes as much as my own that I ask this information

## Five Babies—One Living

Maine

I am writing you in regard to a dear friend of mine She was married when she was fifteen, has been married six years and had five babies, only one living one The first is a healthy child The next two lived only a short time and the last two were born dead The mother's health is all gone She is worried to death for fear she will get pregnant again, and that is what she don't mean to do until she gets her health back The doctors here won't tell her what to do She begged me, for God's sake, to write you Her husband is a heavy drinker and half brute

## Only 22, but Health Gone

Alabama

I feel as if I should write you asking for information Will you please tell me a sure remedy to prevent having any more children? I have one little girl At the birth of my little girl I had fits and just lingered along for three weeks, after, and then I came down with a nervous trouble and was hardly able to walk across the floor I was under a doctor's care all year without good results I am able to do my housework, but not well and strong, like I ought to be I am 22 years old and I don't believe I ever will be healthy and strong again My husband is not healthy and he has catarrh and it troubles him awful There was something wrong with my little girl's head, matter coming out of her ears I don't know whether it was the catarrh or not, I am just not able to care for the children as I ought to I just haven't any patience with my little girl I am so nervous, I am too scared to go through with what I have gone through with It just scares me to death to think of being in the family way again I almost faint when I think of it Do you think it is best for us not to bring any more children in this world as long as our health is not good, and my husband is unable to work for a large family and I am not able to care for them?

## Worn out at 28

New York

I am taking the liberty of writing you my own case Five boys ages 7 years, 5½ years, 4 years, 2 years and 3 months I am 28 years old—and with each child there is, oh! so much more to do, and a working man's wife has so little chance to take even a little rest and so with more children comes the inevitable breakdown of health, and how can a mother give her children the necessary home life if she is worn out having so much to do I haven't even any relations in this country, just a bride adapting herself to a new country

# Family Limitation and Family Health

By HANNAH M. STONE, M.D.

*Read before the National Conference of Social Work, Memphis, Tennessee, May 8, 1928*

AS physicians and social workers we are primarily concerned with the health and welfare of the individual and of the individual family, and it is from this angle that we must approach here the problem of Family Limitation. The wider and perhaps more controversial aspects of the subject, the effects of Family Limitation upon World Population, upon international relations, upon racial qualities and so on, lie beyond the scope of our present discussion. Our main interest here centers in the health and well-being of the parents and the children, and the phase of the subject which is of immediate concern to us is the relation of Family Limitation to Family Health.

That the size of the family has a direct bearing upon its health is quite obvious. Certainly the health of the mother is greatly influenced by the number of pregnancies she has been through, and it is the opinion of many competent observers that the health and well-being of the children in a family bears a definite relation to the number of children there are in it. At times it may be to the benefit of the parents and of the family as a whole to increase, and the physician has often the occasion to advise a mother to undertake a pregnancy for the sake of her own physical or mental welfare or that of the other members of the family. More often, perhaps, under present conditions, and particularly in the type of family with which the social worker generally comes in contact, it appears to be distinctly to the benefit of the parents and of the children that the size of the family be restricted. That Family Limitation is an important factor in conserving the health of a family is now being recognized by many social agencies, and those, whose duty it is to care for the health and welfare of the family, are coming to consider this factor as a valuable aid in their social treatment of family case work.

## *Indications for Birth Control*

There are a number of indications for Family Limitation. Some of these are quite generally recognized and need only be mentioned briefly, others are subject to more controversy and difference of opinion and require perhaps a fuller discussion.

It is well known, that certain ailments and physical defects of a woman make childbearing and childbirth distinctly dangerous to her. Among such conditions are, for instance, tuberculosis, diseases of the heart, of the kidneys, pelvic tumors and inflammations, pelvic abnormalities, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, certain psychoses and so on. Pregnancies in women suffering from such condi-

tions often result disastrously, or else leave the mother an invalid for many years.

That women under such circumstances should be warned against pregnancies and should be instructed in the best means of limiting their families is quite generally admitted. This phase of the subject belongs distinctly to the field of preventive medicine, and its importance in conserving the health of the mother and the well-being of the family has long been recognized. Even in those states of the Union where there are statutes prohibiting the dissemination of any information in reference to Family Limitation, exceptions are generally made for those cases where the advice is given for "the prevention or cure of disease." A physician exercising this function can hardly be found guilty of any offense, whether legal, moral or ethical, and a large number of such patients have been referred during the last few years to the Clinical Research Department in New York by physicians, clinics and hospitals.

## *Indications other than Mother's Health*

Now, while ill-health on the part of the mother is admitted as a valid indication for limiting the size of the family, it is more rarely recognized that ill-health on the part of the father is frequently just as strong an indication for restricting the number of offspring in the family. The disease may be familial, and family limitation is advisable from a genetic and eugenic standpoint. The husband may be afflicted with syphilis, epilepsy, or some other transmissible disease. Or he may be suffering from some disability which renders him incapable of supporting even a small family with any degree of success. Disabilities of this type may be due to any chronic incapacitating ailment, to permanent injuries, and particularly to chronic alcoholism, drug addiction or delinquency. Some of the life histories of such families are extremely pathetic and are a most convincing argument for the urgent need of Family Limitation from the standpoint of the health and welfare of the family.

The following few cases from the Clinical Research Department will illustrate this type of family problem.

Case No. 5959—E.K.—Referred by a social service organization. Patient is married 10 years. During this period she gave birth to 11 children (once to a triplet). Eight of the children are living, the oldest is ten years and the youngest 10 months old. Social worker states that the husband is lazy, unreliable, unfaithful, a heavy drinker, without a steady income. Wife has to depend almost entirely on charity for the support of the family.

Case No. 5990—R.S.—Referred by a social service organization. The husband is suffering from tuberculosis. Has been in a sanitarium on and off for the last 10 years. Unable to do

any work. Wife had 9 children, eight are living, the youngest is two years old. Entire family is supported by a charity organization. Wife states that she dreads her husband's homecoming from the sanitarium, for fear of a further pregnancy.

Case No. 6748—M. C.—Referred by a psychiatric clinic. Married thirteen years. Had five pregnancies, four living children, the youngest being 7 months old. Of all her children only one is normal, all the others are serious mental defectives. Husband is a laborer, earning \$22 a week. The woman states that she would rather commit suicide than bring forth another defective child.

Any number of such cases could be cited from our records, but every family social worker is acquainted with this type of family case and further examples are unnecessary. Many social agencies have for sometime been realizing the need of judicious family restriction in such cases and frequently send such mothers for advice to the physician or to the special clinics.

### *Health of the Children*

So much, then, as to the condition of the parents as an indication for Family Limitation. But family overpopulation and over-crowding has a distinct effect upon the physical and mental status of the children as well. The morbidity and mortality in families with a large number of children, particularly when these are born without a sufficiently long interval, is much higher than in those with fewer.

There is a large class of women in whom pregnancies follow too closely upon each other, to their own detriment and to the detriment of their offspring. It is quite generally accepted that with our present mode of living there should be a definite period of rest between pregnancies. The mother should have some time to recuperate between successive childbearings, and the number of her offspring should not depend merely upon the extent of her fertility. Lack of proper spacing of births has a deleterious effect upon the children as well as upon the mother. According to one observer, children born at intervals of less than two years show a notable deficiency in height, weight and intelligence, as compared with children born after a longer interval. Furthermore, Dr. Woodbury\* of the United States Children's Bureau published some very interesting data where he clearly shows that too short an interval between childbirths markedly affects the infant death-rate. Where the interval between births, is three years, the infant death-rate is 86.5 (per 1,000 births), when the interval is two years, the rate is 98.6, and when it is only one year, the infant mortality goes up to 146.7. Certainly a very striking increase.

Family overcrowding and poverty are also important factors in infant mortality as shown by Dr. Woodbury's findings. In homes, for instance, where the average number of persons per room is less than 1, the infant death rate is 52.1, where it is two or more per room, the death rate is 135.7. Furthermore, in families where the per capita income from the father's earnings was less than

\$50, the infant mortality rate was 215.9, as compared with a rate of only 60.5 where the per capita amount averaged \$400 or over. These figures clearly and strikingly indicate the influence of family overcrowding upon family well-being.

### *A New Baby Brings Privation*

During my work in a pediatric department of a large Maternity Hospital in New York, I have had mothers tell me time and again that with the coming of the new baby they would be forced to deprive the other children of some of the actual dietary essentials. Many of them found it very difficult, for instance, to buy sufficient milk for more than one or two children, and some of them actually went so far as to continue nursing the baby for many months beyond the suitable time, in order to avoid the necessity of having to purchase bottle milk for the infant. These are actual cases, and not at all rare.

It is undoubtedly the earnest belief of all socially minded individuals that some day our social system will be reorganized on a basis where every family will be provided with at least the essentials for life and health. For the present, however, it would appear only reasonable that in conditions of marked economic distress and poverty the size of the family should be kept somewhat within the bounds of the means of subsistence, and that judicious advice for Family Limitation under such circumstances is distinctly indicated as a health measure both for the parents and for the children.

Another point to be considered in connection with Family Limitation from a medical viewpoint is the reduction in maternal morbidity from abortion and its sequelae when scientific means of Family Limitation becomes a part of our public health problem. That the number of induced abortions in the United States is very high is common knowledge. No definite figures are, of course, obtainable. In a study of 3,000 cases referred to the Clinical Research Department, the number of such operations admitted in the histories given by the patients totalled 2,298, many women had as many as four, five and even ten. This, perhaps, even underestimates the actual number, for women are generally reluctant to admit the occurrence of induced abortions.

In ancient times the size of a population was often controlled by the practice of infanticide. Today in civilized countries infanticide is a very rare occurrence, but abortions have become very common and numerous. We are fast approaching, however, a more progressive and more humane stage of population control, when the brutal practices of old will be supplanted by the use of scientific and harmless means of Family Limitation.

Whatever our individual opinion may be regarding the need of birth restriction as a national, international or racial policy, it is only rational to agree that in very many cases family restriction is indicated from the individual family viewpoint, and that Family Limitation is often an important aid in the conservation of Family Health.

\*Woodbury, Robert Morse, *Infant Mortality and its Causes*, Baltimore (1926).

## Book Reviews

SEX PROBLEMS IN INDIA By N S Phadke D B Faraporevala Sons & Co, Bombay

**T**HE SEX PROBLEM IN INDIA" is a plea for a eugenic movement in India centered around the science and philosophy of Birth Control. Mr Phadke is professor of mental and moral philosophy at Rajaram College, Kolhapur. It is certainly a fortunate thing for India that a man of his position and education should be the leader of the Birth Control movement in India. This book is meant primarily for India, though the able introduction from the pen of Margaret Sanger imparts to it an international connotation. The orthodox in India will no doubt cry curses on a book like this, but the younger generation will gratefully welcome it, and thank Professor Phadke for clearly showing a way out of the present population problem in India.

We know nothing about the political views of Prof Phadke, but all through the book there runs ample evidence of a patriotic passion. He wants to see India happy, healthy and prosperous, and above all, perhaps, he wants to make India fit for her coming fight for freedom. He writes "We are prepared to give tough battle on the political field. But no nation has ever fought the battle of freedom to victory, unless it was rich in physical strength and offered invincible military resistance to the enemy." Mahatma Gandhi in his Nirvanic indifference to the lessons of history may not agree with Prof Phadke, but youngest India knows the validity of Prof Phadke's argument in the foregoing quotation.

Professor Phadke reveals in the pages of this book some startling facts and figures regarding the condition of health and marriage in India. But he attacks our social evils in a spirit that disarms anger, whereas the viciousness of Miss Mayo's malicious spirit as revealed in "*Mother India*" encourages bitterness of a virulent nature and contempt of the most uncompromising character. Professor Phadke discusses the sex problem in a normal way, whereas Miss Mayo handles sex in an abnormal way.

Apart from the chapters on Birth Control and contraceptives, perhaps the most useful part of the book is represented in Prof Phadke's able refutation of the infamous scriptural claims of the orthodox Hindus for early marriage in India. He quotes Hindu scriptures and gives authentic evidences to prove that early marriage is not sanctioned by the Hindu scriptures, nor is late marriage condemned by them. The happiest of all solutions of most of the problems of life was given by Buddha when he said "Avoid extremes, follow the middle path." Early marriages kill child mothers in India, and late marriages produce human beings like Miss Katherine Mayo in America.

This is a very useful book for India. Compared to the vast population of India, only a few read English. So

this book should be translated into all the vernaculars of India. But if that is impossible, then at least the chapters on Birth Control should be translated into different vernaculars and printed in pamphlet form for free distribution. If Prof Phadke lacks the necessary funds, then the American Birth Control League might finance this project for the good of India. Until India comes to herself, she needs Birth Control, and it is also true that to come to herself India needs Birth Control. So let there be more light and more literature on the subject in India.

BASANTA KOOMAR ROY

THE HARVEST OF THE YEARS By Luther Burbank with Wilbur Hall Houghton Mifflin Co Price \$4.00

**I**N his "second summer", that interval of mellow retrospection, Luther Burbank, plant wizard, philosopher, friend of all mankind, took inventory of the years. Told simply, pertinently, Mr Burbank sketched the story of his life, beginning with the boyhood spent in Lancaster, Massachusetts and carrying through until almost the close of his colorful life which ended in Santa Rosa, California, a mecca for the curious, the argumentative, the adoring.

Always interested in plant life and a lover of flowers, he believed that an outstanding incident in his boyhood was an important factor in determining his career. Walking along a snowy New England road, he discovered an oasis of grass, fresh and springlike, some vines and shrubs, apparently oblivious to the surrounding winter scenery. This thrilled and puzzled the boy. From that moment he began wondering how this could come to pass, what was the miracle of plant variations, the power of environment. To him, this oasis was one of nature's secrets which he had fortunately stumbled upon.

Mr Burbank paid tribute to his father's nephew, Levi Sumner Burbank, who was also inclined towards natural science and who, to some extent, crystallized the ambitions and thoughts in young Burbank's inquiring mind.

The book has a kindly, tolerant note throughout. There is nothing of regret or animosity. He was almost amused by imposters and imposers, even as he was thrilled and made grateful by the tributes and friendship of the worthwhile. It would seem that he had no personal vanity, any more than he had a greedy desire to benefit materially. First and last he was a great student and a friend to all living things.

In his admirable introduction, Mr Wilbur Hall explains how the book came to be written and his own part in bringing this to pass. He tells of the human, amusing sidelights of Burbank's character and defends the attitude of the plant wizard towards orthodox religion. Burbank believed in the immortal power of the influence

for good Dogma, creeds, eternal life, salvation were mere phrases His was an unshakable faith in the power of right and the power of wrong and to each man was given an opportunity to wield this power and to make either his own heaven or hell

"There was a touch of the mystic about Burbank" writes Mr Hall Surely, there is a touch of mysticism in much of his plant experimentation, a mysticism strengthened and made practical by his patience, his loyalty, his impersonal attitude towards his work

NALBRO BARTLEY

## MODERN SCIENCE AND PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Edited by Benjamin Gruenberg, Norton Co, N Y  
\$3 00

THE little red school house opened the doors for knowledge, and we no longer kill our scientists as did the French when they guillotined Antoine Laurent Lavoisier in 1794, because he studied the relationship between fire and air, and their reaction upon each other

This is a most interesting book, with each chapter written by a scientific specialist on his own pet subject

Dr Charles R Stockard gives some very interesting reports on inheritance and environment We could wish that parents were more interested, but to many, parentage means only another mouth to feed

Dr Hugh S Taylor of Princeton tells us some wonderful facts in chemistry which would have cost him his head, if he had lived in the 14th century

Our scientists hope to eliminate disease, so that doctors will not need to know how to treat small-pox, typhoid, and the rest Long strides, but they are making them, just the same!

Dr Walter H Eddy gives us an excellent article on foods and food values We need the knowledge in our homes

Dr Wm A White gives us a report of his study of nerves and brain, from the single cell up to the individual and the race—a chapter well worth reading

Dr C E A Winslow tells of primitive peoples who attributed illness to demons or magic, and leads us to modern science with its test tube of cultured germs, the real cause of various diseases, their prevention and the good work done by modern scientists

Dr Haven Emerson tells us how modern people are cared for and protected by law, of pure water, clean milk, sanitary homes and cities, epidemics prevented or controlled, and the span of life lengthened

Science strides and leaps ahead, telling us how to live longer, with fewer aches and less illness, but the individual still "digs his grave with his teeth," poisons his system by non-elimination and the added poisons which he eats or drinks Who can protect a man from himself?

Chemistry and the microscope make this an age of miracles, the last hundred years has done more for humanity than the preceding thousand, and we shall go

ahead still more rapidly, even though forty per cent of our adult population are a dead weight on the remaining sixty per cent

Eugenics and Birth Control are of vital importance in world progress—the worker, the tax payer, is carrying too heavy a load It is time for scientific men to face the question squarely, think straight, and give us remedial information and laws

ELLA K DEARBORN

## Parents and Children

"The Normal Child"<sup>1</sup> and How to Keep it Normal in Mind and Manners, is described in its subtitle as "Suggestions for Parents, Teachers and Physicians" Dr Sachs in a few brief chapters deals with some of the problems bearing upon the development of the normal child at various periods—Infancy, the Nursery Period, the School Age, Puberty and Adolescence His treatment of these problems is sane and sensible, but not peculiarly suggestive or illuminating Nearly half of the little book is devoted to an interesting essay on the Evils of Psychoanalysis

"Intelligent Parenthood"<sup>2</sup> contains the Proceedings of the Mid-West Conference on Parent Education held in Chicago in March, 1926 by the Chicago Association for Child Study and Parent Education The program included such subjects as "The Child, the Home and the Community The Health of the Child, Sex Education, the Problem of the Adolescent, and Training for Character" Many of the speakers were well known experts on various phases of child study From its very nature, the book makes rather disconnected reading and the different papers vary vividly in originality and helpfulness It contains, however, enough that is interesting and suggestive to make its publication well worthwhile

In this pamphlet<sup>3</sup> prepared for the Bureau of the Census in Washington, Miss Nienburg, presents facts and draws conclusions about that much neglected sharer in the world's work—the Woman Home-Maker The study relates to the 74,000 married women enumerated in the city of Rochester, New York in 1920 Miss Nienburg points out that a special schedule for the enumeration of home-makers is necessary before we can have presented to us many of the facts in which we are especially interested Her study shows, however, that much of interest is already available in the Census figures as taken in 1920

GRACE NORTON LORENZ

<sup>1</sup> B Sachs, "The Normal Child" published by Paul B Hoeber, Inc, New York

<sup>2</sup> "Intelligent Parenthood" The Chicago Association for Child Study and Parent Education, published by the University of Chicago Press

<sup>3</sup> "The Woman Home-maker in the City" Bertha M Nienburg, published by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D C—1923

## In the 1928 Periodicals

*Worlds Work*, N Y (March) In "Many People as a Cause of Strife," Henry Kittredge Norton outlines the cause of strained relations between those nations which must of necessity send out emigrants and those which, of necessity also, resent being asked to receive them into their already well-filled territories

*Eugenics Review*, London (January) Sir George H Knibbs, one of the world's greatest experts on population, discusses "The Fundamental Elements of the Problems of Population and Migration"

*Critic and Guide*, N Y (February) This is a Birth Control Number Twenty-five pages are given to an analysis of 900 letters from poor women asking the editor for contraceptive advice

*Critic and Guide*, N Y (March) The editor prints and goes to the pains of answering a proposition seriously made by Anthony Ludovici that, to save the trouble of contraceptive precautions, unwanted children should be allowed to be born and then "sacrificed at birth" In spite of the revulsion of feeling against such cruelty which is created by the proposition, there are points worthy of consideration in Mr Ludovici's article that make it well worth reading

*The Cosmopolitan*, Calcutta, India The January Number of this magazine, which is Vol I No 1, has an article by N S Phadke of the Bombay Birth Control League on the bearing of the World Population Conference on the population problem of India

*The Forum*, N Y (April) In "Choosing One's Children Side-Stepping the Stork," a young mother explains the need for Birth Control for the young couple of small income

*The Outlook*, N Y (March 7th) Bertrand Russell tells why he believes that we need a new morality in the field of sex relations

*The Century*, N Y (March) In "Extern" by Charles Anthony Robinson, "a baby snatcher" tells how slum babies come streaming into the world

*The Woman's Journal*, N Y (January) "Baby and Job—by Choice" by Virginia M Collier is a sympathetic study of the increasing body of women for whom home alone "isn't enough"

*The Outlook*, N Y (March 15th) "The Biological Pigeonhole," by Grace Kellogg Griffith is a demand for the reconciliation of motherhood and a career, through the agency of Birth Control

*The Century*, N Y (April) "In Blackest Italy" by James Waterman Wise is an account of the spiritual tragedy of a country whose increasing numbers threaten to rivet tighter its chains

*Scientific Monthly*, N Y (February) "Our Richest Source of Vitamins" by Josephine E Tilden shows that "down to the sea for seaweed", may be the next step in replacing our disappearing sources of food

*Harpers*, N Y (March) "Why They Failed to Marry" by Katharine Bement Davis, is a popularization of the most recent of Dr Davis' studies of the sex experience of college women Her study is a psychological cross section of those fifty per cent of college women who are celibates

*Journal of Social Hygiene*, N Y (March) Hattie D F Haub in "Equipping the Adolescent Girl" tells how an eighth grade class in hygiene was taught both the facts and a sane and clean attitude toward the facts of sex

*The Family*, N Y (March) Lorine Pruette contributes a study of the novel as the contemporary mirror of the family, and of the novelist as a "social historian"

*Plain Talk*, N Y (January-April) An anonymous contributor to the January Number, who told her own good and sufficient reasons "Why I Don't Want Children", proved the first of a flood of letters and longer contributions In April Mabel Evans Gilman tells "Why I Wanted Children" She had one child because all her life she had "wanted and planned" to have one "Maybe" says she "it was the good old racial urge that made me want to have a child, maybe I was afraid of missing something" However, Mrs Gilman though she wanted more, appears to have stopped at her one child The reason? "The only thing that I really regret", says she, "is that economic conditions have made it impossible for me to have nine more"

*Plain Talk*, N Y (April) "What can we hope from Eugenics?" asks Professor H S Jennings of John Hopkins University He does not categorically answer his question but points out certain difficulties, among them that of setting and abiding by eugenic standards He concludes "Enlightened hope in eugenics demands amelioration of the environment in order that eugenic measures can be accurately directed insistence on this demand may be the chief contribution of eugenics to human welfare"

*The World Tomorrow*, N Y (March) "The Sexual Relationship in Marriage" Frederick Harris believes to depend for success on perfect spontaneity and perfect mutual adjustment Of Birth Control he says "I am led to regard the practice of Birth Control as a wise and creative measure in modern life The fine freedom of mutual love cannot be realized in marriage in the presence

of the continual hazard of bringing into the world children for whose adequate nurture the parents are economically, physically, or morally unprepared"

*Plain Talk*, N Y (May) Count Keyserling falls victim to the all too common habit of European visitors of learning all about the United States in a week. American women are his subject, and he finds that we in America are passing into "The Rule of Women." The American husband is already enslaved, "with the triumph of the woman movement the matriarchal state has been practically restored" and woman "has lost her characteristics as a love-being." It is not altogether surprising to one who knows the continental European man that the Count should consider comradeship and equality between the sexes as the antithesis of love, which in his definition demands enslavement of women.

To those to whom the freedom of modern youth is obnoxious "Those Petting Puritans" by Hary Hughes, a description of the old fashioned practice of "bundling" will give pause for reconsideration.

*The Medical Journal and Record*, N Y (April 4th) continues the discussion of Birth Control. One of the eight contributors is opposed (making a total of four out of over 80). This contributor, who does not sign his name, states that personally he "would rather be of poor quality than non-existent." "This" remarks the *Journal* "is a fine argument." The other contributors approve and two eagerly ask for reliable contraceptive information.

The May number of the *Journal of Social Hygiene* contains a valuable addition to Paul Popenoe's record of Eugenic Sterilization in California. In it he discusses the attitude of patients and of patients' relatives to sterilization. He finds that in almost every case the attitude of relatives was favorable. He quotes one case of opposition. The wife of a man who had been sterilized divorced him. He explained, however, that she had long been unfaithful to him, and realized that after sterilization she could no longer use him as an alibi in case of pregnancy. The attitude of the patients themselves was also in general favorable. There was sometimes a sentimental regret over the inability to have children, but at the same time the patient felt relief over the fact that there was no further danger of the arrival of children possibly defective, and in any case beyond the capacity of the parents to care for.

The April Number of *National Health*, a British periodical officially recognized by the chief national organizations concerned with infant and maternal welfare, prints an account of the opening of new Birth Control clinics at Oxford and Birmingham, and also tells of the rural work of the Cambridge Center, which has helped women from 45 rural villages—the only clinic serving the country women.

*Survey Graphic*, N Y (May) Eleanor Rowland Wembridge writes in characteristic picturesque and vigorous style of the "Girl Tribe" who, more clear-sighted, honest and self-dependent than their mothers, are yet very little better equipped with a plan of life the means of carrying it out. One wonders how far this is their fault and how far the fault of the generation that brought them up.

## Books Received

THERESE, by Francois Mauriac—translated by Eric Sutton. Boni & Liveright. N Y C. \$2.50.

WOMAN IN FLIGHT, by Fritz Reck Malleczewen. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.

THE HUMAN BODY, by Trevor Heaton, M.D. E. P. Dutton Co. N Y C. \$3.00.

THE SERVICE OF MOTHERHOOD, by Margaret E. D. Smith. Heath Cranton, London. 3/6 net.

HAVELOCK ELLIS, PHILOSOPHER OF LOVE, by Houston Peterson. Houghton-Mifflin Co., N Y C. \$4.50.

THE FAMILY IN THE MAKING, by Mary Burt Messer. Putnam, N Y C.

THE SONGS OF INFANCY AND OTHER POEMS, by Mary Britton Miller. Macmillan Co., N Y C. \$1.75.

PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, by P. Vidal De La Blache. Henry Holt and Co. N Y C. \$5.00.

THE WORLD'S FOOD RESOURCES, by J. Russell Smith. Holt, N Y C. \$3.50.

SEXUAL APATHY AND COLDNESS IN WOMEN, by W. M. Gallichan. T. Werner Laurie, Ltd., London, England. 7/6 net.

THE CHILD AND SOCIETY, by Phyllis Blanchard, Ph.D. Longmans, Grene and Co., N Y. \$2.50.

THE HEALERS, by B. Liber. Rational Living. New York City, \$3.00.

HEALTH WORK IN SOVIET RUSSIA, by Anna J. Haines. Vanguard Press, N Y City. 50 cents.

FEMINISM, by K. A. Wieth-Knudsen. Constable and Co., London. 12 net.

LOVE AND LIFE, by Don Cabot McCowan, M.D. Covici Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill. \$3.50.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER, by Dame Millicent Fawcett and E. M. Turner. Assoc. for Moral & Social Hygiene, England. 1/6.

SOME MORE MEDICAL VIEWS ON BIRTH CONTROL, edited by Norman Haire. Cecil Palmer, London. 7/6 net.

ANNIE BESANT, by Geoffrey West. Viking Press, New York. \$2.00.

RAINBOW ROUND MY SHOULDER, by Howard W. Odum. Bobbs Merrill, Indianapolis, Ind. \$3.00.

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN NATURE, by Alfred Adler. Greenberg Pub. Co., New York City. \$3.50.

## A Question of Policy

### Shall the Birth Control Review be combined with a Eugenics Magazine?

*We would like opinions from our readers on this question. In view of its importance, Mrs Sanger addressed a letter to all the members of the National Council. We quote below the more important paragraphs of her letter, along with some of the replies. More of these will be printed in our next issue. Will you tell us what you think of the question?*

From Margaret Sanger's letter

"On March 30th last I held a conference with Mr Leon Whitney Mr A. E Wiggam and Mrs Ives, representing the American Eugenics Society, and Mrs Lewis L. Delafield, Mrs F. Robertson Jones and Mrs M. S. Boyd, representing the American Birth Control League

"The purpose of the conference was to discuss the advisability of combining the Birth Control Review and a Eugenics Society magazine, with the object of reaching a wider audience and covering a more extended field. This would necessitate giving up the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW as a separate organ of the League, and must be carefully considered pro and con before a decision is made. As a member of the National Council I would much appreciate your ideas on this project."

From Dr Frederick Charles Heckel, New York City

"Your letter to hand, and in reply would say that it might be to some advantage to combine the two societies, but I would not care to have Birth Control lose its identity as to publication or the spirit in which the cause is now put before the public."

From Professor E. M. East, Dept. of Plant Genetics, Harvard University

"I think it would be most unfortunate if the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW should be combined with an organ of the Eugenics Society. While there is a similarity in the aims and ideals of both associations, there are many people who are interested in the one who are not interested in the other. Moreover the type of education needed and the method of attack on the problems involved are quite different in the two cases. The Editorial Board of the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW has produced a wonderful maga-

zine, and I am inclined to believe that a combination would prevent continuance along the lines already established, which would be a pity."

From Franklin H. Giddings, Professor of Political Science, Columbia University

"I think it would strengthen both movements, the Eugenics and the Birth Control, if the two magazines could be consolidated. Neither movement is strong enough at the present time, I fear, to warrant any expense that might be saved by cooperation."

From Dr Benjamin T. Tilton, New York City

In regard to your inquiry about the advisability of combining the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW and the Eugenics Society magazine, I should personally be in favor of such a combination. The objects of the two publications are very similar, but at the same time the combined magazine would reach more people and would increase the interest and education of the present subscribers to each magazine. It would also be cheaper to publish the material under one cover. I feel, however, that the words "Birth Control" should appear in the name of the combined magazine.

From J. E. W. Wallin, Professor of Clinical Psychology, Miami University

"I believe that the contemplated move should prove valuable because, if for no other reason, the vigorous propaganda against the Birth Control movement has made the term itself a matter of aversion to many people who would read the material if it appeared in a journal with a title less given to arouse prejudice and opposition."

From Professor Walter F. Willcox, Cornell University

"About combining the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW with a publication of the Eugenics Society, I confess my first impression is unfavorable. I have liked the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW so much that I would be glad to see it continue in its present form and with its main purpose unchanged until we get New York legislation on the subject modernized."



## News Notes

### UNITED STATES

**T**HE National League of Women Voters, at its annual convention in Chicago, April 23-28, again refused to put Birth Control on its study programme. Efforts were made to secure a place for it both in the Social Hygiene Committee and in the Committee on Child Welfare, but in spite of the fact that there was a substantial majority in favor of it, counsels of prudence prevailed. The subject was too contentious and the women in authority in the League preferred to leave this vital subject to the American Birth Control League.

### New York

**T**HE following letter has been received by the American Birth Control League. It comes from an organization of women, aggregating 200,000 which was not afraid to tackle the subject of Birth Control and to give it hearty support and endorsement.

New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc

*President*  
**MRS HARRY HARVEY THOMAS**  
*Hon. President and Founder*  
**MME. BEILE DE RIVERA**  
*Chairman of Resolutions*  
**MRS. ROBT D BLACKMAN**

Headquarters  
 Longacre Building  
 1480 Broadway, Room 1025.

The New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc, in Convention assembled on May 4th, 1928, endorsed the following resolution by an overwhelming majority and earnestly requests your aid and cooperation in securing the desired result.

*Whereas*, Contraceptive information and treatment is the right of every married person, and

*Whereas*, The lack of such knowledge causes great misery, privation and want in thousands of homes, and

*Whereas*, Such lack of knowledge is the cause of much crime by both parents and offspring, and

*Whereas*, This country is far behind Europe in the dissemination of such information, and

*Whereas*, A similar Bill will be introduced in the next session of the Legislature,

*Therefore be it Resolved*, That the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs in Convention assembled hereby endorses the principle contained in Bill No 1028, permitting physicians to give contraceptive treatment to married persons, and urges the passage of such a Bill at the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely yours

(Mrs R D) **BLANCHE SYLVANA BLACKMAN**,  
*Chairman of Resolutions Committee*

The exclusion of the Birth Control Exhibit from the Parent Teachers' Exposition\* had momentous conse-

\*This incident, which happened too late for record in our May num-

quences for one champion of the cause. Heywood Broun made a spirited protest against the attitude of the New York newspapers, and especially of the *World*, which claims to be more liberal than most of them on the question and in regard to the tyranny of the Roman Catholic element. The *World*, resenting this protest, which appeared in the *Nation* of May 9th, accused him of disloyalty and severed his connection with that paper—thus banishing his very popular column from its editorial page.

### Pennsylvania

**T**HE Southeastern Pennsylvania Birth Control League, of which Dr G Victor Janvier is president, held its regular board meeting at Headquarters, 1700 Walnut St, Philadelphia on April 17th.

Mrs Kenneth Rockhold, chairman of the membership committee, reported most encouraging returns from the renewal notices which were sent out in March. This League now has about 600 paid-up members.

Mrs Reginald Jacobs, chairman of meetings, stated that addresses had been made to colored groups, women's clubs, the Main Line Business Women's Association at Ardmore, and that on May 2nd the League of Women Voters of Radnor Township will have Dr Donald Young, of the Department of Sociology—University of Pennsylvania, speak on the need for Birth Control at the home of Mrs George S Worth, St Davids, Pa. She also stated that the State Normal School for colored students at Cheyney, Delaware County, Pa, had asked Dr A Lovett Dewees and Mrs A C Martin to speak on the need for Birth Control in social welfare to their faculty and students on May 9th.

The following resolution was adopted and sent to the Public Charities Association—

- 1 *Whereas* the voters of the State of Pennsylvania will be called upon in the new general election to vote upon a bond issue of \$50,000,000 for the construction of buildings to permit the segregation and care of larger number of the insane, feeble-minded, epileptic and delinquent persons,

*And Whereas* such construction will lead to the prevention of birth of very many of those who otherwise would become a burden to the community

ber, although it was commended upon editorially, gave rise also to the withdrawal of Kenneth MacGowan, theatrical manager and vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Walden School, and Bruno Lasker, editor. These two men were on the programme of the Exposition as speakers. They objected to the censorship of the exhibits by Dr William O Shea, Superintendent of Schools of New York, who had accepted full responsibility for the barring of the Birth Control exhibit, and who condemned it as unfit for an exposition which would be visited by school children, though he had not inspected it, and did not know of what it would consist. After a vain protest the American Birth Control League secured a vacant store just opposite the Central Palace, put up their exhibit, advertised it with placards and fliers and had the satisfaction of seeing it crowded with visitors during the whole period of the Exposition.

*Be it resolved* by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Birth Control League that we strongly urge all our members and all the other voters in Pennsylvania to vote for the bond issue and to influence other voters in its favor

Dr Janvier gave a report on his visit to Dr Stone's clinic on April 11th, and was most enthusiastic regarding its work

Mrs George A Dunning, secretary of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, has been abroad since February but will return in May and take up her active work for Birth Control in Pennsylvania

### California

ON April 26, the California Federation of Women's Clubs, at its annual Convention in San Francisco, listened with approval to a declaration in favor of Birth Control made by its President, Mrs W W Green Mrs Green also advocated the sterilization of the feeble-minded, "if we do not want millions more feeble-minded to propagate and absolutely wipe out our present standard of living" Interviews with other leaders in the Federation brought out strong support for Mrs Green's stand

Carl Rave, of Oakland, who divides his time between carpentry and Birth Control, is in jail again

This time, Rave has been incarcerated at San Jose Halted by a policeman for peddling Birth Control literature without a permit, Rave admitted he had no municipal license In lieu of \$50 cash bail, Rave was held in jail

Rave had spend considerable time in jail because of his selling a well known pamphlet on "Family Limitation," which he sells wherever there is a market San Francisco dug up an ordinance fifty years old and arrested Rave He was fined \$25 in police court, but Superior Judge Harold Louderback released him because of a technicality

Rave was arrested at Petaluma, under a state law passed in 1874, but was released when conviction was held doubtful Austin Lewis, attorney for the Civil Liberties Union, has defended Rave in some of his battles against the law Rave has also been arrested in Richmond and other points

Various excommunications delivered by judges and others against Rave's book have aided in creating a land office business for him, it is said He has never yet been successfully convicted, the laws covering the prohibited sale of sex and Birth Control works being held of doubtful validity

### Colorado

FROM Denver, Ruth Vincent writes —

I want to tell you about our splendid achievement in Denver in establishing a clinic Under the name of the Denver Maternal Hygiene Committee, we have organized our officers, medical advisory committee and council This

group has sponsored a clinic in the Gynecological Department of Colorado General Hospital, where contraceptive information is given to married mothers As far as possible, we have patterned our routine after the New York clinic, so that our studies and records will have some uniformity To date we have had over a hundred patients I believe Colorado now has the unique position of being the first state to maintain such a clinic in a publicly operated hospital Since it is a state hospital we hope to develop the work in the state Eventually there will be a state organization, affiliated with the League—my much desired goal The members of the board have deemed it expedient to proceed without publicity, so I am unable to forward you the list of their names—with the exception of the officers

President, Mrs Imogene Daly Fisher, Vice-President, Mrs Frances Wayne Secretary, Mrs Charles Kassler, and Treasurer, Mrs Ernest Morris

The President, Mrs Imogene Fisher, is wholly unafraid and has rendered us invaluable service She has made many things possible for our success She will no doubt play a prominent part in the development of the state work, and possibly its extension in the West, since we hope to use Colorado as an example of how the work can be carried on, if properly organized A fine ground-work has been laid for the future, and there is every reason to believe that this contribution to the social welfare of the state will become a definite part of the program for community betterment"

### Connecticut

AS a result of the investigation of the State Humane society of conditions at the home of Mr and Mrs Richard Leffingwell, in Norfolk, two weeks ago there was a hearing in the probate court before Judge R B Stoekel Saturday morning to decide what would be done with the remaining seven children Two of the girls already were in institutions Four of these younger ones were committed to the county home at Winsted, one sent to Harwinton, one to Woodbury and one put in charge of the selectmen It is expected that this one will be sent to the state school for feeble-minded at Mansfield The charges of neglect against the parents were continued thirty days on condition that they leave the state within twenty days

### Missouri

AT a meeting of the Kansas City Open Forum on April 26, Dr E A Burkhardt advocated the free dissemination of Birth Control information to married people and scored the suppression of such information as being the cause of poverty and of the disproportionately large families of the poor He warned his hearers of the danger of over-population and of the failure of the food supply

The Birth Control as a means of saving "thousands of lives of untold misery" was recommended by the February grand jury at St. Louis in its final report to Circuit Judge Killoren.

The report stated that an investigation of the city sanitarium showed 25 per cent of the institution's patients would not be there if laws had been changed years ago, as suggested by medical authorities. It continued:

"Birth Control is not necessarily for your grand jury to consider, but we feel the question, so far as it relates to insane and feeble-minded men and women, is of vital importance to the community as a whole, and especially to the taxpayers.

"It is therefore recommended that the entire question be taken up by the incoming grand jury and passed on, if necessary, until the most satisfactory solution of the problem results. It seems to us that hundreds of thousands of dollars can be saved and, what is much more important, thousands of lives and untold misery can be spared."

## CANADA

THE Province of Alberta has passed a law for the sterilization of persons considered unfit for parenthood, being the first in Canada to experiment with such legislation. Other provincial Governments are watching the outcome with much interest, and Manitoba already is considering a bill which may be adopted a year hence.

The Alberta measure deals only with the insane. It provides that patients of a mental hospital, before being released, shall appear before an examining board. If the board is unanimous in its opinion and the patient has given his or her consent or, if the patient is considered unfit to give such consent, agreement has been expressed by parent or guardian, the act becomes operative. The act was opposed vigorously in the Legislature, and its constitutionality is likely to be attacked in the courts. A decision in its favor will be of advantage to all Canada.

The health authorities in Manitoba, according to their present plans, would go further than the Alberta law and extend sterilization to habitual criminals as well as the feeble-minded and certain types of insane persons, but the whole question will be given further study in the light of Alberta's experiences with the new act. Alberta and Manitoba, it might be added, are the only provinces not under the hand of one or other of the old political parties. They have Farmer governments which arose in the post-war days of depression and which have continued in power with their strength but little abated.

## SERBIA

A CORRESPONDENT to the "World's Children" (London) describes conditions that call for Birth Control even more imperatively than in most European countries. In this country, which has never recovered

from the World War, the children of the war period now growing to manhood and womanhood "bear traces both physically and mentally of what they have suffered." Nor is the generation now coming into the world better off. Serbia is swept by a scourge of tuberculosis which takes heavy toll of the children, and it has an infant mortality rate of 200 per 1,000 births, the highest in Europe.

## CHINA

A SPECIAL correspondent in a despatch, dated April 20, from the famine region of Shantung, gives a vivid description of thousands of refugees fleeing northward towards Manchuria in an effort to escape starvation.

"According to reliable estimates," he adds, "of the three million inhabitants in an area of 100 square miles around Tehchow, 30 per cent are doomed to die of starvation beyond the reach of help, 30 per cent may be saved if given food or a chance to earn it, 30 per cent will probably survive with the greatest difficulty, and only 10 per cent, representing the wealthiest classes, are able to escape privation.

"This is only one of the affected regions, conditions elsewhere are reported to be still worse. All over the province farmers are tearing down their houses in order to buy food, the sale of women and children is resorted to here and there as a last desperate expedient and is reported to be increasing. The investigators tell of cases where mothers have drowned their babies rather than see them slowly starve."

Writing of famines in China, Will Durant remarks:

"In China man is exploited not by subtraction, but by multiplication. At 20 nearly all girls are married and five-sixths of the men, therefore there are four generations to our three. The religion of ancestor worship leads every man to desire many children, that his spirit may be properly tended by them after his death.

The birth rate ranges from 55 to 60 (births per 100,000 population per year), in the United States it runs from 15 to 20. The death rate does not lag far behind, in Hong Kong, in a normal year (1909) 87 per cent of all the children died before completing their first year. Milk is unknown. If the mother cannot nurse her child it dies.

From this point of view the periodical famines have certain advantages that explain the equanimity with which the survivors view them. Those who succumb forget their suffering, those who remain find fewer mouths to feed. Three million peasants die in any average year from lack of nourishment, but the philosophical Chinaman, hardened by many repetitions, looks about him calmly and observes, "Plenty Chinamen left." Here in this tropical fertility of the Chinese is their peril to themselves and to the world. The west thinks to control the danger with many guns, but it would be wiser to send a shipload of contraceptives."

## Correspondence

### *An Appreciation*

London

*Editor*

Thank you for the copies of the March Sterilization Number. Most excellent and valuable. That part of the number, would, if reprinted, make a useful little pamphlet, all the better for having various views.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

### *Japan and Birth Control*

Tokyo, Japan

*Editor*

The newspapers here in Japan keep continually advocating Birth Control, and imply that Mrs. Sanger would get a better welcome on her next visit. It is frequently remarked that Birth Control is the only remedy to cope with the industrial impasse of Japan. Certainly, in a short time, when greater care for infant welfare and improved hygiene and sanitation lessen the present terrible infant mortality, Birth Control will become an urgent necessity for the middle and lower classes.

EILEEN CASEY

Massachusetts

*Editor*

We hear very little of Birth Control up this way. However, Professor Blakeslee of Clark, who is one of the leading authorities on the Far East, and who has just returned from a trip to China and Japan where he talked with many prominent Chinese and Japanese, strongly emphasized the need of Birth Control for Japan in a public lecture early in March.

M. H. B.

### *A Christian Protest*

San Antonio, Texas

*Editor*

I have just returned from church, my church, the church of my fathers, where we said the Apostles Creed "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in His Only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary—" and this brings vividly home to me the belief that God also intends that his earthly children shall be conceived by the Holy Ghost, inasmuch as that the prospective parents should undertake conception knowingly after having satisfied themselves by means of application of scientific facts revealed to man by God, and prayerfully asking his guidance, thus intelligently fulfilling the intent of the holy sacrament of marriage, rather than by accident

and often against the will and judgment of the parents, as do the lower animals and savages.

This accidental conception can no longer be the will of God than is the institution of polygamy. Polygamy was encouraged by God in the time of Solomon, but as the race developed this became a moral as well as a legal crime, and with the revelations that have now been made to us promiscuous and unwanted conception is a moral crime and should soon be a legal crime.

Yours for legitimate Birth Control

CHAS. E. B. FLAGG, M.D.

*Dr. Morris answers Mrs. Sanger*

*The following letter from Dr. Robert T. Morris is a reply to one from Mrs. Sanger, in which she criticized his contribution to the Open Forum on Birth Control in the "Medical Record." We invite further comments on the subject. Part of Mrs. Sanger's letter read —*

I have come across your interesting contribution (to the Open Forum of the *Medical Journal and Record*) in which you kindly mentioned my name. I cannot get from this what you really mean. You rather infer that there is no population problem at all, or, perhaps, you mean that Birth Control would not solve it, *if there is*. I should like very much to have you write out your views for the readers of the *BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW*. I have been in touch with many scientists in Europe, and while there is a difference of opinion as to the solution of the population problem, I think it is safe to say that of the three hundred scientists who assembled in Geneva to discuss the subject of population, not one of them denied that there is a population problem. Do you agree with this, and if not what is the matter with the world?

*To which Dr. Morris replied as follows —*

Answering your letter of March 26th, there is indeed a population problem but it is not to be approached, in my opinion, from the angle of Birth Control.

They tell the story of the German professor who read a paper on the subject of valuable metals that are found in a belt around the world. He gave a geological explanation. An anthropologist arose to discuss the paper and said that the subject was not a geological one but anthropological. The belt around the world containing valuable metals lay in the temperate zones inhabited by people of active temperament who found things.

The population question, in a similar way, is social rather than agricultural. The civilized world has found it best to repress one primal instinct and has developed the idea of sexual control. There remains another primal instinct to be brought under control. Man, as a

social primate with gregarious instinct, has a tendency to collect in large flocks. The next step for some cultural period of the future will consist in exerting control over the primal flocking instinct as the present cultural period has exerted control over the sexual instinct. Run a treading machine through the crowded populations of India and China, pitch fork the people so far into the jungle that tigers will have to dodge to get out of their way, and the people will then dig in and raise so much food in the way of soy, dasheen and rabbits, for example, that overproduction of food will make them shout for a McNary or a Haugen to come on the run and give them quack medicine for the relief of political pain.

Do not for a moment believe that my attitude is inimical to Birth Control. It is one of the essential movements belonging to our cultural period for the control of the feeble-minded, the insane, the poverty stricken and the diseased. I have been fighting for you and your cause in more ways than you can possibly know and in quarters where a word has carried potential.

It is for this reason—my earnest interest in your case—that I wish to see an elimination of the agricultural factor which agricultural experts know to be sounding a false note.

I am just back from a motor trip through Florida and the South where we often rode for hours through unoccupied land that would support several people to the acre under conditions of intensive cultivation on the one hand, or subsoil crops, that is, tree crops which require little cultivation and which do not exhaust the soil perceptibly, on the other hand.

## The Conference of Social Work

By MARY POKRASS

THIS year for the first time, at a National Conference of Social Service Workers the American Birth Control League conducted a booth. The Conference was held at Memphis, Tenn., from May 2nd to 9th. Hundreds of people, including practically all the delegates visited the booth, and many books and pamphlets were distributed.

A paper read by Miss Jesse Condit of the Children's Aid Society of New Jersey, at the National Probation Officers Conference, the day before the opening of the Conference proper, did much to stimulate interest, as it definitely recommended Birth Control.

Dr. Stone's paper, which was read at a joint meeting of the Family and National Hospital Social Service, was an excellent opportunity for one who had done actual work with the League to discuss the necessity for, and the results of Family Limitation, and contained some very interesting statistics. The discussion following both of these papers was exceedingly interesting.

At the booth many discussions took place. It was a

pleasure on entering to find numbers of people already coming in before the early morning meetings. By the time we had put our literature out for display, people were asking questions, giving examples from their own work and buying books on the various aspects of the Birth Control question as well as on sex education. All morning long people came, singly and in groups, to buy, to talk, to sympathize, to question, to bring back friends who wanted to know about the League, what it was doing, and how it expected to overcome present legislative difficulties. Our visitor's book gradually grew into a list of names representative of every organization which sent delegates to the Conference.

There were the Salvation Army Workers, who expressed a deep interest in the movement. There were the policewomen and the probation workers and the women who dealt with the unmarried mother. "I've been advocating this for years" many would say. There was the lovely little wife of a Southern doctor, practicing in a small town. "My husband has been talking about this at his medical meetings for many years", she said, "it drives him mad not to be able properly to advise his sick women how to prevent pregnancies that may prove disastrous to them." There were two young women from a western organization who felt that the most important thing they could do for their destitute families was to obtain for them the proper advice so that they need not bring more children into such unhappy conditions.

There was the head of an institution that took in boys from poor homes—they had just taken for the third time four boys of a large family, whom they were to care for until the mother could return from the maternity hospital, where she was soon to be delivered of another baby. There were clever young sociologists who came in groups, together with one or two doctors, to discuss the effect of Birth Control on society and on the individual. There was the Episcopalian minister who chatted on the proper way to educate people as to the need of contraception, and the means by which research could be carried on and data given to physicians.

A man from Memphis stopped to tell us he did not believe in Birth Control because he had ten healthy children. When reminded of those thousands of children who are puny and diseased and miserable, he quoted the Bible to show that God sanctioned the birth of such unhappy babies. "The sins of the fathers will be visited on the children." But a mild old man, a philosopher and a scholar, took him to task on his quotation. He quoted to him the proper version—in English, as well as in the beautiful German from Luther, "You people who quote the Bible so readily and so inaccurately must become students, you must know the whole Bible, and know it thoroughly" he admonished him, and in his gentle, old eyes there was wisdom and sadness. A young woman who belonged to the mental hygiene department pounced on the proud father, and with her eyes blazing, as she thought of her problems among the children, so badly in need of help, she

described to him the numerous homes she found, where children were bred without any thought as to their welfare. When last we saw the poor fellow, he was on his way down to the mental hygiene booth, guided by the young woman who was trying to show him that children's lives are often undeveloped and more often warped.

When we were particularly busy, people from other booths, who were interested in Birth Control, frequently came and assisted us in meeting and talking to people. Passers-by lingered to listen to discussions of the rights and wrongs of the whole question. One man who wanted to be sure Birth Control meant weeding out bad stock, as in cattle, did not sympathize with the problems of those who may be free from disease, but are living in privation and misery. With him we came to the question of child labor, and he denied that the conditions of children in the industries are at all regrettable. "Let me give you real facts on conditions of child-labor in the South", said a nearby young woman. "I've just been carrying on an investigation." "Where do you come from?" our opponent asked her. "I've been carrying on studies in Louisiana, and I've lived in Louisiana all my life, so you can't say I'm working under the bias of a Northerner", "Why, that's my state", he said, and listened to the young woman's statistics with unwillingness to believe the possibility of such appalling conditions.

So the days passed, and we met and talked, it seemed, to everyone at the Conference. Some scientists, a few sentimentalists, many ministers, teachers, psychiatric workers, doctors, lawyers, desertion officers, immigration officers, social workers of all classes, came and spoke their interest and enthusiasm for the Birth Control movement. On every hand there were comments on the striking popularity of our booth. One woman told us of a feeble-minded couple she had cared for, who had ninety-three mentally deficient grandchildren. And an old, old lady, who had been doing social work in the South for years and years, told me in her trembling voice of case after case where her poor sick charges had begged her for some help. This pathetic little woman could not believe that the time would ever come when all through the country, on barren farms and rocky hills, in crowded cities and far-off towns—for all alike there would be the possibility of having only as many children as they could care for and really want.

I was sad when I took down the booth at the end of the week. I had never before come in contact with such large numbers of people who were so intelligently interested, and who could speak with authority on the great need for Birth Control. And when one of the principal speakers of the week came to pay his respects to us after basing a good part of his lecture on the proper control and limitation of certain groups or types, we could heartily say to him, "You made a great speech for Birth Control!" To us it seemed the keynote of the whole conference, and his friendly expression of interest in the movement was typical of the general attitude of the delegates.

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