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BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW



BIRTH CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS

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The BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

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

MARGARET SANGER, *Editor*

ANNIE G PORRITT, *Managing Editor*

VOL VIII

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EDITORIAL

THE very remarkable pronouncement in favor of Birth Control, made in his inaugural address by Dr William Allen Pusey, President of the American Medical Association, justifies to the hilt the policy of the American Birth Control League. The League believes, and has consistently acted on the belief that Birth Control, while fundamentally an economic problem, depends upon medical technique for its success, and that the chief work of its lay advocates is the education of public opinion to demand of the doctors that they undertake what is rightfully their work. Dr Pusey's address proves that this education is attaining its object. Doctors are realizing that they cannot longer neglect a part of their own province, or leave it to be pre-empted by outsiders. The more courageous of them, like Dr Pusey, are proclaiming to their brethren the need for action. They are summoning physicians to take the lead in the actual work of Birth Control—the recognition of its need and the study of methods. There is yet an immense work for the American Birth Control League to perform. Public opinion is not yet fully aroused. A new moral standard needs building up. A demand has to be created which will compel the repeal of restrictive laws. The doctors who come out for Birth Control must be encouraged and supported. The propaganda must be spread all over the world, that Birth Control may be not only national, but international. To these further endeavors we are spurred by the support of such a man as Dr William Allen Pusey.

SOME good friends and loyal supporters of Birth Control take the position that there is no greater danger from Roman Catholics in politics, or from the election of a Roman Catholic President than from Baptists, Methodists or members of any other denomination. We refuse to accept this position even when stated by so good a friend to our cause as Heywood Brown. In his column in the *New York World* for June 24th, he wrote

I am not going to maintain that the Catholic Church never interferes in politics. I think it does. I believe it may be expected to mobilize its forces whenever Birth Control or easy divorce comes up for legislative hearing. And in New York, at any rate, some of its tactics against Birth Control have seemed to me unscrupulous. But the political activities of the Catholic Church are almost wholly defensive. In my judgment, its mass political activities are infinitesimal as compared to those of Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. It has engaged in no movement of anything like the scope of the Anti-Saloon League, which is wholly Protestant. "If you think the Catholic Church meddles in politics," a man once wrote to me, "why don't you fight it by joining the Klan?" In such a move there would not be for me even the motive of expediency. On my two pet legislative enthusiasms—Birth Control and easy divorce—the attitude of the Ku Klux Klan is precisely that of the Catholic Church and just about ten times as poisonous.

OUR experience of the last ten years of constant fighting has been that of all the reactionary groups in the country the Roman Catholic Church is the most politically pernicious and menacing to any progressive movement. We know nothing of the Ku Klux Klan. We have covered the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Klan has neither fought us, nor stood by us. In Cincinnati, when the Knights of Columbus threatened the hotel which housed our meetings with a boycott, if it permitted the Conference to go on, there was a vigorous uprising of the Masons and other fraternal orders who took a firm stand for us. Whenever there has been a group attack on Birth Control on the platform or in the press, it has been instigated or organized by Roman Catholics. We may cite an instance of recent date. In a small city near New York a campaign was in progress for a new hospital. A request for help made to a friend of Birth Control was met with a

promise of \$3,000 towards the building and \$1,000 a year for five years for maintenance, on condition a clinic was added, at which Birth Control information could be given to mothers who needed it. The matter was laid before the seven medical members of the Board. The five Protestant doctors to a man agreed to the conditions and desired to accept the offer. The two Roman Catholic members, while stating that they personally believed in Birth Control, refused to agree on account of the stand taken by their Church. Not satisfied with making their individual protest the Roman Catholic contributors were corralled and the threat was made that all Roman Catholic contributions would be withdrawn if the Protestant doctors were permitted to give Birth Control information to Protestant patients. Our experience has been similar with every board to which application has been made for permission to introduce Birth Control speakers or Birth Control resolutions. The minority of Roman Catholics insist on the majority submitting to a Church control of the lives and morals of Protestants. There is no reason to believe that the country would fare otherwise were the people to elect a Roman Catholic President.

THE advent of a Labor Government in England has not made for democracy in regard to Birth Control. The position in that country differs from that in the United States, in that the giving of Birth Control information and the sale of contraceptives are entirely legal. Physicians in private practice give Birth Control advice to their patients, and it is well known that such advice is acted upon by almost every family whose income is such as to permit of having a family physician. The poorer classes have no such luxury. They are dependent on hospitals, dispensaries and health centers for medical advice and treatment. Some months ago a health visitor was dismissed, because she had directed distressed mothers to the Clinic established by the New Generation League. This action of the Health Department put a stop to a tendency towards Birth Control on the part of the more enlightened medical officers. The plea of the deputation to the Labor Minister of Health, which we print this month, was for the ending of this discrimination between rich and poor in regard to Birth Control information. The plea was rejected by the Minister, evidently under the sway of the R. C. Church to which he belongs. He refused access to knowledge for the poorer mothers—Protestant and Jewish, as well as Roman Catholic. We cannot believe that Great Britain will permit Roman Catholic priests to rule—not merely those of their own church, but all the British people. We look for a speedy reversal of Mr. Wheatley's decision.

THE Democratic Convention came to an end at last. It has followed the Republican Convention into history where its results will be duly weighed and measured. One conclusion has, however, already been reached, both by the press and by most thoughtful people. Neither numbers nor noise are any indication of the importance of a conference. History is not made by hours of concerted yelling, and wild bursts of oratory have little effect on the progress of mankind. Next year, in New York, will be held a convention of a very different character from the political mobs of June and July. This is the SIXTH INTERNATIONAL NEOMALTHUSIAN AND BIRTH CONTROL CONFERENCE which will meet under the auspices of the American Birth Control League. The noise and the shouting, the brass bands and the wild oratory will be absent, but the Conference will mark another step forward in a movement which is leading the world out of misery, famine, fear and war into a new civilization as yet existing only in the dreams of our seers and prophets. No one really expects that the President who will be inaugurated next March, can do much to banish poverty and lift the world out of its fear and misery. The universal adoption of Birth Control is necessary to effect this great salvation, and through international Birth Control conferences the way can be found to this accomplishment.

THE Life Extension Institute has joined the army of organizations working for the health and welfare of children. It is arranging for thorough health examinations of the young as well as of adults. In its announcement of the new departure, it points out that "whenever large numbers of healthy children are carefully examined, it is found that altogether too many of them are suffering from physical defects and bodily impairments." It insists that a periodic health examination of the child will make these defects known and aid in their correction. But in many cases these defects and impairments can be traced to the conditions under which a child is born. Is the Life Extension Institute prepared to take up this aspect of the question? Is it prepared to urge Birth Control as the most fundamental means of securing the health and physical perfection of children? So far it has not taken a stand on the need of Birth Control for women, and yet what more important step than this towards the attainment of health and happiness, the extension of the term of life, and the intensification of its value could be taken in the interests of women? Continue to allow the children to be born of unhealthy, diseased, exhausted mothers, and no amount of after-care will eradicate the defects due to their heredity.

Some of the Social Problems of Medicine*

By WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY, M D

MY wife has a saying, that the other side of the street is always the cleanest—meaning thereby to illustrate the fact that we are less acutely conscious of difficulties at a distance than we are of those directly under our feet. This is true of other things besides sidewalks. The freedom from cares of youth, the good old times, the ease of life of other days, the extraordinary anxieties of our intense civilization, the perfection of our heroes, whether they are separated from us by time or distance—provided only they are separated from us, these are common illustrations of the kind illusions that distance effects. Most of us have a feeling that we have more than our share of difficulties.

And so it is with medicine. As a matter of fact, of course, medicine—like every other activity of civilized life—has always had its problems. It is perhaps true, therefore, that the difficulties that confront us in medicine now are no more perplexing than those which our ancestors have also battled with—and battled with, for the most part, with success.

The Social Revolution

It is nevertheless true that medicine, as a part of the present social organization, is passing through a time of extraordinarily rapid change, that important problems, which are in large part new problems, are pressing on us, and that, if medicine is to escape serious and damaging mistakes, it must consider these problems with deliberation, imagination and wisdom. If it is to steer a proper course over the changing social sea, even during the next generation, it must give wise consideration to the present trend of society. For the social organization, all observers agree, is undergoing an actual revolution. And medicine is going with it.

This government of ours was organized in a spirit of individualism. Given equal opportunity, men were expected to work out their own lives through industry, intelligence and character. Competition was allowed to exercise its wholesome influence in stimulating men in their wordly efforts. It was the acceptance, unconsciously, of the law of the survival of the fittest, long before Darwin had formulated that concrete conception and given it a name.

*President's address, read before the American Medical Association at the Seventy-Fifth Annual Session, Chicago, June, 1924. Reprinted with permission of Dr. Pusey and the Editors from *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, for June 14, 1924. The last part of the address which bore upon other medical problems is here omitted.

Now we have a new dispensation. During the last hundred years, the social trend has been continuously away from this spirit. It was inevitable that it should be so, our world has been transformed in that time by mechanical invention. As Robinson says, in that extraordinary book "The Mind in the Making"

There are more numerous, deeper and wider reaching contrasts between the world today and that of a hundred or even fifty years ago, than have developed in any corresponding lapse of time since the beginning of civilization.

And as Kipling puts it

The past years have so immensely quickened and emphasized all means of communication that our world is not merely "too much with us," but moves, shouts, and moralizes about our bath and our bed through every hour of our days and nights.

This revolution has placed men in new relations to one another and has made them dependent on one another, because of the intimacy of their contacts, in a way that never existed before. The danger in this situation is that the necessity for social co-operation tends to break down individualism and to encourage the less vigorous to look to society to do for them what it would be good for them to do for themselves.

The Trend to Socialism

And so the trend has been continuously from individualism to socialism. As the social problems have become more acute, this trend has been more rapid. The views that were socialistic at the beginning of the nineteenth century had become the views of the individualists by the middle of the century. Doctrines that Herbert Spencer was thundering against, with cold logic, as socialistic and dangerous, a little over fifty years ago, are now accepted without protest as an inevitable part of the social situation. This is not because Spencer's premises and logic were incorrect—it is not unlikely that in our ultimate experience it will be found that he was correct—but it is because necessity grasps at expedients, and social remedies that Spencer rejected have been utilized, for the practical reason that society had to take care of its rapidly developing situations and it found no other remedies at hand. This socialistic trend has been most rapid in the last twenty years. Hadley, for example, writing of it in 1914, says

During the last decade the United States has witnessed a movement in the direction of State Socialism very

different in character from anything which occurred in the century preceding

"The Cult of Incompetence"

How far this trend is going before it is checked, no one can prophesy, but it is clear that our civilization is committed to a sort of socialism, to the effect that the economically fit and competent shall take care of the weak and inefficient. It is an unconscious endeavor to set aside the law of natural selection and to counteract Nature's cruel but salutary process of eliminating the unfit. So far as the present social endeavor can be successful, it will tend to foster—to borrow Faguet's striking phrase—"the cult of incompetence." The tendency is to foster mediocrity at the expense of competence. This tendency is certainly humane, whether it is best for the future of man is another question. That will be determined by the future experience of the present cycle of civilization.

Of this social revolution, medicine is a part. Medicine is, in fact, particularly exposed to the dangers of socialization, because the projects of socialism that obtain the first acceptance are those that have to do with health and physical welfare. There is an evident tendency now to appropriate medicine in the social movement, to make the treatment of the sick a function of society as a whole, to take it away from the individual's responsibilities and to transfer it to the state, to turn it over to organized movements. If this movement should prevail to its logical limits, medicine would cease to be a liberal profession and would degenerate into a guild of dependent employees.

Now, this is a gloomy picture for a celebration, but, to paraphrase a statement of Birrell's, it is better to entertain a gloomy fact than a cheerful fiction.

The Inevitable Reaction

And there is another side to this picture. There are influences which will in time, probably, first check the socialistic trend and then cause a reaction. Probably this will come only after sad experience and at high cost, but society gets on only with such penalties.

In the first place, the effects of a natural law, such as that of the survival of the fittest, cannot be greatly modified nor long set aside by the puny efforts of man.

In the next place, the machinery for all these socialistic and paternalistic enterprises will in time become so large and unwieldy that it will be impractical and fall to pieces. When, in addition to the ordinary machinery of government, we add the new machinery for running the mines and the railroads and the telegraph and the telephone and

the wireless, for the stabilization of industry, for employment insurance and health insurance, for old age pensions, for socialized recreations and socialized neighborliness, for socialized health education and programs—when on top of these you pile the organizations for keeping the people from using opium and cocaine and alcohol and doing other things that are not good for them, for enforcing all sorts of laws that prohibit some of the population from doing things that another part thinks are wicked, for socialized nursing and medical care, for taking over obstetrics, child welfare and venereal diseases, for the care of the injured, crippled and defective—when these activities, nearly all of them temporarily good in themselves, have developed to a certain point, the burden will become too great. The men taken from productive occupation and private enterprise that will be required to man them will be such a large proportion of the population that, sooner or later, the social fabric will give way. There will not be enough of the population left for production to take care of the administrators, and a reaction, if not a crash, will come.

This is no imaginary situation. Attention is constantly being called to it. As Beveridge points out, even now there is one government employee for every twenty-one adults and, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, every eleven workers over 16 years of age support one government employee. In view of his wise statesmanship, it is not surprising, but it is a reason for encouragement, that President Coolidge has opposed this trend in his definite stand against federal support of such activities.

Power of an Enlightened Minority

In the next place, and most hopeful of all, society is usually saved from its own carelessness—except when a cataclysm occurs—by the persistence of a minority element which, through character, intelligence and force, is able ultimately to exercise a controlling hand in the direction of affairs. If civilization is to be saved from the effects of a socialized mediocrity, it will be by the presence in the community of this influential minority.

How shall we in medicine oppose this destructive social trend? By making ourselves, in the first place, a part of the enlightened minority that is the salvation of democratic government—that leaven which has caused the gradual advancement of mankind, next, by making our standard sound public policy, by being alert to the socialistic dangers to medicine and by aggressively opposing them, by opposing, as vigorously as can be done, the various governmental projects for practicing medicine, and

the efforts of organizations, public and private, including medical schools and hospitals, to go into the practice of medicine as a business. These things are already being done. They are fundamentally wrong, they are throwing to the winds the sound traditions of medicine that have developed from long experience and that from experience have been found to be essential to medicine's character and progress. The profession should bring all the forces of its influence to their opposition. It might well adopt as its motto here the words of Tennyson's Ulysses: "Strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."

Medical Socialism

These are but examples of how we can oppose the socializing trend in medicine. The essential thing is to be alive to these dangers and consistently to oppose movements that are unsound, regardless of their temporarily seductive character, for, as Spencer says, "If amid all those compromises which the circumstances of the time necessitate, or are thought to necessitate, if nothing beyond the exigencies of the movement are attended to, and the proximately best is habitually identified with the ultimately best, there can be no true progress."

It is, to take Spencer's phrase, the acceptance of proximately best measures, instead of following the sounder, harder course of working for the ultimately best measures for society, that is the danger to medicine, because it leads to medical socialism. The tendency has already resulted practically in medical socialism for the middle classes of Europe, and in doing so it has brought about a situation that is neither sufficient nor satisfactory for the public or the medical profession.

If we accept without prudent foresight expedients to meet temporary difficulties, such as the Sheppard-Towner Act, medical service will soon be in the same situation in this country. It is not for the good of the people of the country that they should be spoon-fed in the matter of taking care of their physical ills any more than in any matter in which they should take care of themselves.

Limitation of Population

There are two problems that are corollaries of these socialistic tendencies of society which a small group of social pioneers—and some faddists—have long been emphasizing, and in which leadership should be looked for in medicine. Thus far, however, medicine has made little effort to take a position in them that justifies leadership. These subjects are limitation of population by birth control and improvement of the race by breeding.

In our own time, one of the critical facts in man's

history has occurred. He has now covered the desirable parts of the earth. Until now, men have always had new hospitable territory over which they could spread when population became too dense. In the words of Turner: "Never again will such an opportunity come to the sons of men." There is no longer a frontier.

Population Growth

To consider only our own country. Our future population must make its support out of territory that is now occupied. Starting with a population of 5,000,000 people in 1800, the United States has in a hundred and twenty years passed 100,000,000. Nor is this remarkable increase peculiar to the United States. It is a world phenomenon. In the last hundred and twenty years there has occurred a greater increase in the world's population than in all the preceding tens of thousands of years. Within the span of life of children now living, our population will reach 175,000,000. With that density of population, the pressure of existence will become so strong that the death rate—particularly infant mortality—will overtake the birth rate, and the population will gradually become stationary. If no effort is made at birth control, Nature will take charge of the situation by eliminating those least able to resist. When this condition of saturation arrives, the humane plans of socialistic altruism of today will be wrecked in the struggle by society for mere existence.

As has been repeatedly pointed out, those people inherit the earth who multiply most rapidly, and, unfortunately, fecundity tends to increase inversely according to the social scale. Society will, and should, make every effort to do its best for its weaker members, but there is no good reason why it should not try to stem the tendency to the peopling of the earth by the defective, the unfit and the incompetent.

If these United States, if indeed, modern Christian civilization, is not to go down ultimately to the misery and degradation of the overpopulated countries of Asia, some cognizance must be taken of these facts, and serious effort made to control them. It is partly a matter of birth control and partly a matter of breeding. But the preponderant increase of the least fit part of society is the factor of the highest importance.

I particularly desire that the mistaken impression should not go out that I mean to say that medicine now has any satisfactory program for birth control. It has not. The point I am undertaking to emphasize is that the subject is of vast importance to the welfare of man, that it is one which should have scientific guidance, that for this medicine must be looked to and that medicine should undertake to

approach its responsibilities here by beginning to give the subject the continuous and serious thought that it justifies

Improvement of Race by Breeding

The chief concern of present-day eugenics seems to be the effort to eliminate hereditary disease. As a matter of fact, that is its least important function. The predisposition to disease by inheriting a physical body that is not vigorous is a common fact, but the actual inheritance of disease, as such, is a relatively unimportant social matter. The only great disease in which this occurs is syphilis, and the actual amount of hereditary syphilis that exists is infinitesimal compared with the total amount even of that disease. The real problems of eugenics are those of breeding to improve the physical and mental and moral qualities of the race. We know, thanks to the work of Mendel, the workings of many of the laws of heredity. Maud Slye, one of our own countrywomen, has shown that the effects of heredity can be foreseen and controlled with scientific definiteness by breeding. There is no doubt that the same laws could be applied successfully in the breeding of man. MacKay, in an exalted passage, in an otherwise singularly precise book, "The Happiness of Nations," has shown the ultimate that might be expected were it possible that the breeding of men could be improved to the limit of possibilities that we can even now see. No

practical man believes that scientific breeding can ever be applied to man as it can be to animals, but we may at least hope that, in time, society will give more than casual consideration to the possibilities of improving men by wiser breeding.

The First Step

The first step, and the only practical step at present, is the negative one of taking measures to prevent the increase of those who are socially hopeless defectives, the importance of this should have continuous emphasis. The first constructive step that could be taken would be to make some serious, persistent effort to encourage the mating of those individuals who are manifestly most fit. Society's methods here now could hardly be more haphazard. Marriage is largely a matter of propinquity, or economic or social consideration.

It would be a courageous man—and he ought to be a wise one—who would undertake to offer a social plan now for the improvement of human mating. I certainly am no seventh son of the seventh son. But the possibilities of wiser breeding are so great, and the holding down of the progress of man by our present course constitutes such a handicap, that it is hardly to be doubted, if men are ever able to see the vision, that they will make a serious effort to fulfill it. If there is to be effective leadership in this field, medicine must take part in it.

Illegitimate Children in Sweden

By ELIZABETH PINNEY HUNT

A CONSIDERABLE part of the work for children in distress is concerned with the problem of illegitimacy. In general, the situation in the United States is not satisfactorily treated by the law or by public authorities. Improvement in these respects is desirable. For constructive suggestions towards reform the example of Sweden is striking. The Scandinavian peoples seem to possess a well defined group sense of social responsibility. They are apt to carry on their activities, designed for the well-being of group life, on systems based on an equitable distribution of the burden. On such a system has Sweden attacked the problem of the illegitimate child—a serious question there, for of all the children born in Stockholm in the first decade of the present century, one-third were illegitimate. The same proportion has continued, with slight annual variations, to the present time. Stockholm's figures are characteristic of the urban population of Sweden.

TO meet this condition, drastic laws have been passed, and an effective administrative system

created. Under the State Social Department, there are Parish Boards of Child Welfare. The duty of such a board is to maintain public guardians, who personally supervise the life of each child born out of wedlock, until the child arrives at the age of 21. Any person officiating at the birth of an illegitimate child is legally obliged to record the facts with the Board.

To carry out so extensive a program, as well as to secure justice, the state was forced to insist that the male parent assume financial responsibility, and responsibility without loopholes. Here Sweden has taken a definite step forward. The father does not escape either in theory or practice. The law, administered by the efficient Boards of Child Welfare with their powerful Public Guardians, pins him to his duty and does so guided by the word of the mother regardless of her reputation.

What the effect of the present law will be, as a check on the male population of Sweden, is yet to be determined. The law has been operating only since 1918. Clearly it will not restrain the women

(Continued on page 236)

Mothers and the Government

The Case for Birth Control as Presented to the British Government

As recorded in our News columns, a deputation headed by H G Wells, Mrs Bertrand Russell, Dr Elizabeth Sloan Chesser and Dr Frances Huxley, waited on Rt Hon John Wheatley, Minister of Health in the MacDonald Cabinet, on May 9th They were strongly backed by women of the Labor Party, but their plea was refused Following are extracts from the brief that they presented

THIS deputation is asking you for two things First, that you permit working mothers to obtain contraceptive knowledge from the doctors at welfare centers and ante-natal clinics, and alternative to this general order, that you permit each local authority to use its discretion in this matter

It must be pointed out that the Ministry has recently gone backwards on this question Formerly the doctors in charge of centers used their discretion both in giving the information and in allowing the health visitors to do so The action of the Ministry in dismissing Nurse Daniels at Edmonton has caused doctors in the public health service to cease giving this information altogether

Yet there is hardly a doctor today who, consulted privately, does not admit that it is nothing short of vile cruelty to refuse the knowledge of contraceptives to women whose mental and physical health and, in many cases, environment and economic circumstances make it impossible for them to produce healthy children, still less to lead tolerable lives themselves

AN OBJECTIONABLE POSITION

A reply of the Minister dated February 21, 1924, to a resolution from the Fulham Branch of the Women's National Union of General Workers said that "exceptional cases, where the avoidance of pregnancy seems desirable on medical grounds, should be referred for particular advice to a private practitioner or hospital" We should like to point out the objections to this suggestion

(1) The doctors employed by the Ministry at Welfare and Ante-Natal Centers feel that it shows an unjustifiable lack of confidence in themselves They argue, very rightly, that if they are fit to advise on more difficult medical matters, they are fit to deal with this one also They know more thoroughly than any other doctor can the circumstances and details of each particular case

(2) The Ministry has no control over a private doctor to whom a woman may go So much anxiety has been displayed by the Government Departments at the spread of this knowledge through unauthorized persons that it seems curious that the Ministry, particularly under Socialist leadership, should refuse public control and refer us back to the efforts of private enterprise This is a matter of public health as important as housing or feeding babies and children, and it demands the attention of the Public Health Department If private doctors are to do the work, is the Ministry prepared to see to it that every panel doctor—most of whom are not well informed

on this question—is instructed in Birth Control methods, and to see to it that the doctors do give advice when they are asked? Further the expense of private consultation is very serious for people on almost starvation wages

(3) As to the hospitals, these again are not state institutions and are not controlled by the Ministry They cannot be compelled to give any information They are overburdened with work, and it means hours of waiting to obtain attention The doctors employed in examining patients cannot possibly find out so much about the case, in the time at their disposal, as can the doctor at the Welfare and Ante-Natal Center The doctors who see out-patients are for the most part young and inexperienced and work is done in the presence of young men and women students, which is likely to embarrass an uneducated woman asking for advice

THE PRACTICE AT HOSPITALS

Enquiry as to the present practice at hospitals has revealed

a That no machinery exists for giving the information to all who ask for it—as the well-to-do ask their doctors,

b That even cases medically unfit for pregnancy are only very rarely given practical information

As regards (a) a genuine enquiry by a woman at a big London hospital was met with insults

As regards (b) this statement of Dr Maynard of Leyfield Priory, West Derby, Liverpool, is of interest

"I have lived in hospitals or been attached to the staffs thereof for the greater portion of my life, and I never knew of any advice being given on the question of Birth Control, except in cases where there was a physical disability to the birth of a child in the normal way The only advice given in the out-patient department to a woman, who already had too many children or whose health had suffered from parturition, would be to have no more children, but to her enquiry how to avoid this, I have heard no other reply than a laugh Doctors quite commonly advise their better-class patients on the subject Indeed it is practically only the poor, who need it most, who are not nowadays instructed in the methods of control"

There are cases known to individual members of this deputation of women who have had severe operations and been told by the doctors to have no more children, but given no advice They have come back to the hospital

again pregnant and in danger of their lives. We suggest that, seeing that working mothers are dependent almost entirely on the medical care they can get from hospitals and the public health service, it should be compulsory for a doctor in such cases as the above to give clear and definite instructions in contraception, as he would do to a richer patient paying for the advice. Such a measure of compulsion would be difficult to enforce, and therefore it would be more rational and effective to place the matter in the hands of the doctors at Ante-Natal and Welfare Centers, as our petition suggests.

Dr Killick, Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, says

"My own feeling is that medical officers of Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics should feel perfectly free to give what personal advice they believe to be right and best to women consulting them. This ought to be made clear. It is the inalienable right of a doctor, provided he advises nothing immoral. It ought not to be possible today for anyone to charge a doctor with giving immoral advice because he or she advises Birth Control."

OBJECTIONS ANSWERED

The objections to any spread of Birth Control information seem to condense into the following

(1) It is against the religious and moral convictions of some sections of the community

May we point out that it is the business of the State to legislate impartially for all sects, and that to very large and increasing numbers of mothers—and fathers also—the cruelty and suffering to women and children involved in the present reckless and wasteful production of children is in the highest degree immoral and irreligious. We are not asking for compulsory Birth Control, but only that those who wish to practice it should be provided with the knowledge to enable them to do so.

(2) Birth Control would lead to immorality among young people

Without proceeding to argue as to the definition of immorality, or the extent to which sex information should be given to young people, may we point out that the request made in our petition is the surest safeguard of morality that could have been devised. Women who seek advice at Welfare and Ante-Natal Centers are married women, already pregnant or with one or more children, and the authorities can be tolerably certain that they are giving help and advice to persons who do not desire it for immoral purposes. Women intend to obtain this information and will not be prevented, and we would have thought that public authorities would consider it far more dangerous to young people to leave the matter to commercial and private initiative. Birth Control is a part of the work of ante-natal care and child-welfare which has developed so much recently and it should not be separated from it. The recent actions of the Ministry of Health,

however, seem to show that the Ministry does make this arbitrary and dangerous separation.

(3) Birth Control would diminish the supply of soldiers and of cheap labor

This is hardly an objection which will appeal to the present Ministry of Health, but the question of so-called "cheap labor" is closely related to the problem of unemployment, and the difficulty of absorbing our increasing population in industry. The rapid increase of the population in the early part of the nineteenth century was made possible by the industrial revolution, but we have now reached a point when industry is more stationary and less capable of expansion. It is argued by many Socialists and others that the establishment of state control of production and distribution would obviate the need for any limitation of population, but this is surely a short-sighted view. Since the census of 1801, the population of this country has increased four-fold, and though during the last twenty-five years the birth-rate has steadily fallen, the population is still increasing rapidly. We are also diminishing the death rate and the infant mortality rate by the resources of science.

The building of houses, improvements in organization, production for use rather than for profit are bound to be swallowed up in the rising tide of an unlimited population. Some of us, convinced Socialists, cannot see how the Socialist legislator, especially in a non-self-supporting country like this, can avoid facing this problem of Birth Control sooner or later. Mere quantity of population cannot be our aim. We desire a full and free life for all, fair leisure for all, space for all to breathe. What the individual parents have begun to see with regard to limiting their families to give the fullest chance to those children they do have, will, we feel, ultimately be aided by the policy of the State.

(The petition dealt also with the questions of the supposed evil physical and mental effects of contraception, maternal and infant mortality as affected by lack of contraception, abortion and its relation to the lack of Birth Control, and finally made a plea for the recognition of the claims of the working woman in her capacity as a mother. At every point its statements were strengthened by the quotation of authorities.)

THE DAY NURSERY

By MARGARET LORING THOMAS

Little waifs of chance
Sitting in a row,
Telling tragic tales
Of weary working mothers,
Why are you here?

Eddie, Anna, Rosie, Lucia,
Andrew, Tony, Fanny, Martha,
Little waifs of chance
Sitting in a row,
Why are you here?

COVERING THE
Democratic National Convention
 WITH BIRTH CONTROL LITERATURE

By ANNE KENNEDY

THE first real summer day in New York City found a group of women leaving the Headquarters of the American Birth Control League with armfuls of literature to distribute among the delegates of the Democratic Convention. Dropping from the Fifth Avenue bus at Twenty-Sixth Street, we encountered the first line of New York police, defining the restricted area. A few cordial words and a request for specimens of all the literature from the three patrolmen started us through the official line, to see the Deputy Police Commissioner in charge of the traffic around the hall.

We were now inside the sacred circle. We walked slowly around the block covered by Madison Square Garden, and found the Commissioner. He stationed us at the entrance to the Garden—a splendid spot to reach the delegates, and our adventures began. Many comments were addressed to us personally. Some of the delegates commented to each other as they passed on into the crowd. But each representative from every State, whether he was wearing a press badge or a delegate's button, carried away a leaflet about Birth Control and our Platform.

It was interesting and inspiring. The newsboy crying, "Here you are, latest Convention news," found few buyers, but hundreds of our leaflets were accepted. The delegates asked for them, read them as they walked away, folded them and put them in their pockets, commented on them. "Oh! Birth Control, yes I"—"What is it?"—"Please give me one"—"Thank you!"

A TALL Missourian stepped up and said "Say, I'm for this strong. Ever been South with this?" A Wisconsin delegate "I believe in this, it's what the country wants." Three women delegates from Florida "Give us some, please, this is too worthwhile to miss." Press-men hurrying by held out their hands and took the magazine. An Oklahoma delegate stepped up and said "We know something about this down where I live, and if you ever come there, you'll find a lot of us behind you, pushing it strong." A woman from Kentucky said "I've got a big farm and I don't see why the world shouldn't be full of babies—well, of course, Kentucky is not like New York."

One man, rushing along, took the pamphlet,

opened it, glanced at "What We Stand For," crushed it in his hand, and tossed it angrily into the gutter. Slowly a patrolman moved toward the curb, picked up the despised literature, read the title, folded it up, and put it into his pocket. Three women emerging from the Convention, looked at us with contempt and anger, then they stepped up to a police sergeant and pointed to us, but he smiled courteously and refused to remove us from their line of vision. Two women delegates from West Virginia stopped to say that they had always hoped Mrs. Sanger would come into the mining districts of their State. "We are sure," they said, "that she would find support." Then the police sergeant stepped up and said "I believe in this. I am in a precinct on the East Side, where the babies are put on the street at five o'clock in the morning and don't go in until midnight, many eat sleep and live in one room—less crime if more of this were being taught."

A FLORIDA delegate, as she reached for a pamphlet, said "I don't want to miss this." A man from Oklahoma in a panama hat, with a friend from Texas, stopped and said "Say, is this against the Bible?" A Californian with a McAdoo button lifted his hat "Thank you, congratulations, your message is a godsend." A newspaper woman from Ithaca "Splendid work, I wish to send literature to several of my friends." One man, without a badge or a panama, came by and mechanically took the pamphlet. After a few steps he turned back and smiled. It was Heywood Brown.

Then a man from Illinois, with a real western handshake, said "The day can't come too soon for the United States to legalize Birth Control Clinics."

A friend on the *Tribune* went by and smiled, just as a press man from Ohio said "Is this Klan literature?" An Indiana woman stopped and told us her state had found that the sterilization law had made a great difference in the state expenditure for feeble-minded. She hoped that someone would start a clinic, for she said "The doctors will have to be urged from the outside."

The delegates were now all indoors and we walked through Madison Square, handing out leaflets to mothers with many little ones, who thanked us and said "Does Mrs. Sanger see any-

(Continued on page 236)

HUMAN WASTE

Who Dare Deny Relief in Cases Like These?

The high death rate which always accompanies a high birth rate is not merely a matter of cold statistics. Translate it into the death of babies, and sense the pain and agony of the mothers who bear these babies only to lose them. Realize the suffering caused by pregnancies which do not result in living births, the miscarriages, the abortions, the premature births of which these mothers write. Contemplate the terrible waste of the lives of babies and mothers, the destruction of personal and family happiness, and ask yourself if you have not some responsibility for suffering which would be prevented if Birth Control information were available for all who are seeking it.

Ignorance Resented

Massachusetts

I have not been married eight years until June, and I'm just starting on my seventh pregnancy. My first baby was still born not quite thirteen months after marriage. In eleven months after that my oldest living child was born, a girl, nineteen months later, another girl, and next in fourteen months once more a girl. I then had two miscarriages, one at 4½ months and one at 2½ months—had to go to the hospital both times and be operated on. It is only about 3½ months since the last miscarriage, and I am pregnant again.

I didn't know what nerves were when I was married, but am just a bundle of them now. Have taken everything I ever heard of, but nothing ever helps me—only makes me feel more miserable.

My doctor told my husband that I get pregnant the easiest of any woman he ever knew, but still he will never give any advice to prevent it. My husband feels as bad as I do about it, but as we are both ignorant I don't see any relief in sight. I live in hopes after every confinement that I will have a rest before the next, but it is always only a matter of a few months.

Cruel Father---11 Children

Pennsylvania

If you will only help me, I assure you I will say a prayer for you every night of my life. I am a woman forty years old, and have nine living children and two dead. Was married 18 years. So you can see I have had my babies close. I weighed 185 pounds when I was married, now only 90 pounds. The doctors tell me a complete rest is the only thing for me and no more babies, but as to how to keep from it they do not tell, and I don't believe in operations and medicine. My baby is one year old and I feel afraid to wean her on account of another one. My husband is a blacksmith and of course poor. He doesn't like children and is cruel to them and to myself. Says it's all my fault we have children. Now you know it isn't and that I don't want so many if I knew how

to prevent them. My doctor said five years ago that his beating me before my baby was born was all that caused her to die. I have another little boy, eleven years old, who has never been to school, because, sorry as I am to mention it, he is foolish and has epileptic fits.

I have a daughter eighteen years old who is good to me, and yet I have to lose her, because she is going to be married the eighth of next month to a very good boy. But poor girl, her only fear is having children like her mother, and my heart aches for her, for now should be the happiest time of her life, shouldn't it? She loves children and wants four or five, but not until after a couple of years, till they can afford and protect them and till she gets built up a bit. You see her father beats her so. To tell the truth she is really getting married to have a home and a man to protect her, as I know he will as he worships her. He is 25 years old. I am writing more on my daughter's account than my own. So won't you please help me.

A Life of Bondage

Kentucky

I am 33 years old and have given birth to seven children in 12 years, and I ought to know what a horror it really is. While one of my babies was only a few days old, my oldest child died of diphtheria, and I have always known that she would have escaped that disease, if I had been able to care for her. So I firmly believe that the birth of that child was the indirect cause of the death of the other. Three of my seven children are dead, and if I had had only four, I would probably have four alive today and no dead ones, but instead I have three children under four years of age and one boy of eight and I am broken in health and am a nervous wreck. I often get so disgusted with life that I wish myself and my children dead.

I have a friend who has been married four years and is now expecting her fourth child. What a life of bondage for her. Her husband treats her any way he wishes, and like myself, she is perfectly helpless because she always has a small child in her arms and is expecting another.

Five Dead out of Eight

Iowa

I am twenty-five years old and have had eight children, and only three are living. Five were deformed or born dead. The doctors have brought on labor four times before time, as I was not able to bear them. I was operated on in the hospital a year ago last March. I stayed three months there before they would operate on me, as I was very low and pregnant also. They removed one of my kidneys. It was just eaten up with pus.

The hospital doctor advised me not to get pregnant again as I am very weak. But this last March I was confined again at seven months. The doctors brought it on, as I was unable to carry it. One doctor said it would take \$700 to cure me. But we are not able to pay that much, as my husband is only a laboring man. I have some nurse friends, and I have often wanted to ask them what to do, but I did not want to impose on them, as they were so sweet to me and I didn't think they could tell, if they knew.

If I was healthy and my babies were all right, I would not ask you for any advice. One of my nurse friends told me to be plain to my doctor, and let him know I was leaning on him for help. But I never could brace myself enough to tell him that. If I have to go on this way, I feel almost like taking my own life, as I am not able to give my children the time I would like to give them. My husband seems to be in perfect health. I don't take any dope of any kind, but have to take just lots of medicine.

Poor Dead Babies

Georgia

I was married when I was eighteen. My first baby was born dead. In twelve months after that I had a miscarriage of eight months. In 11 months after that I had another miscarriage when I was six months. Another miscarriage in 10 months, and still another in eight months. All these dead babies were puny looking little things. I have been treated by several doctors, but they don't seem to mend my condition. I am always very bad after losing one. I lost my last baby in January and am in mortal dread for fear I will be in the family way again. The doctors said I will never give birth to a healthy child, but they refuse to help me. My husband is poor and I have to help him all I can, and I had rather die than give birth to poor dead babies, and suffer as I have to suffer.

Terrible Experiences

Kansas

I am the oldest of a family of 13, my father's only means of support being by mining. You will realize what kind of a chance such children had. I married when only 16—a coal miner. Although he was very good to me, he was as ignorant as I. We had terrible trials to meet. I became pregnant soon after I was married and was terribly sick, and after examination I was informed that this

was in the tubes and I had to have an operation. I was finally relieved at death's door. The doctor then said "You must not get that way for a while, or you will die if it happens very soon." I can't forgive him to this day. He would give me no other information as to a preventive. I almost worried myself sick, and my husband the same, but that did not help me and so in a few months I became pregnant again, and in four months, without warning, I was taken sick and after three days of misery, I miscarried again, almost losing my life. We had an old doctor then and he said I should not have babies for at least three years or I would die. That is all he would say. Begging, both my husband and I asked him to give me something or to teach us how to prevent it, and he answered that he didn't know anything to do.

Well, I got well, and my husband took the best care of me. But that did not prevent pregnancy within that year. I became pregnant again and was very sick, but finally carried it safely through—a boy who is now 17 years old, and so help me God, he shall never be as ignorant as his father and I were. While nursing that baby for sixteen months, I was not pregnant, but soon after I was pregnant again, and when I was seven months I took sick and my baby came into the world dead. I thought I would never recover from this, as I was sick for about five years, but finally recovered. Since then I have had several miscarriages. Can't you help me to some safe information?

Seven Children—Four Dead

Indiana

I am a mother of seven children, four of them dead and three living. My husband is sick and not able to do any hard work. So I have been sewing for a living. But my health is getting so poor, I am not able to keep it up. If I did not have to have any more babies, I might regain my health. I have asked my doctor for a preventive, but he will not give me any. I am suffering with kidney and bladder trouble, and I am afraid that if I have any more babies they will suffer from the same. I have lost two babies with kidney trouble, and I would rather die than have another one. I am not fit to raise any more babies and also to work to help make a living.

A Sin to Have More Babies

Virginia

I am the mother of eight living children, one dead and have miscarried twice or three times. I am only 37 years of age. We farm, but find it difficult to clothe and feed these children as they should be, although we both work hard, yet things are much against us. Now, is there anything we can do? I feel that I need your advice and plan. Would it not be a sin to bring more of these innocent creatures into this world without means to care for them? Unless you can help me it means more misery and despair.

Book Reviews

Three Views of the Orient

By SYDNEY GREENBIE

TO the vast majority of Americans, brought up on *Kim* and *Madam Butterfly*, the three books* under consideration will come as a shock. Three westerners—an economist, a practical philanthropist, and a seer—set out to survey the social, political and spiritual conditions in the Orient. They all seek world-co-operation or international amelioration through adjustment. They all reflect a criticism of the west. They are an excellent trilogy, for while they treat of distant lands, their intellectual point of departure is from our own known western experience.

Charles H Beard

Professor Beard went to help Japan modernize her capital city, Tokyo. In his report to the authorities he lays bare the anatomy of Japan. The Imperial capital is controlled by the imperial authorities. Just and illuminating, the report is not altogether flattering. To the lay reader not versed in municipal administration, the most important chapters are at the end, those dealing with "Self-government in Tokyo" and "A Summary Work Programme." The tragedy lies in the fact that, when almost as the voice of God itself, the earthquake undid the centuries of stupid muddling, the "great leaders" of Japan, who set themselves up as the personification of light and intelligence, cast these sane recommendations to the winds, and started right in again to rebuild another shambles. Japan is modern, but not yet scientific.

Sherwood Eddy

To Sherwood Eddy, the world is a hive and all we need do is put it in better order. He moves about the globe like a vacuum cleaner, lays bare economic conditions in Asia, Europe, and America. Turn the world into a sort of model Y, and the factory system will be all right. Impose western industrialism on the East without these things and you have horror. His sketchy survey of world labor is nevertheless illuminating and trustworthy, at least, it is identical with my own observations in the East. After reading such a little book one understands the force that is driving on the Gandhi movement in India. In Japan, it is being fostered by young Kagawa, who may yet be another Gandhi. The New World of Labor is recreating the old world of Asia, as it has done the intermediate world of Europe and America.

Romain Rolland

But when we turn to Rolland and his story of Gandhi, these sober, practical recommendations begin to ferment. A new spirit is manifest in Asia. Rolland hints at a new Messiah. He barely notices the mechanistic factors that

are driving the world headlong. He does not see in Gandhi a compromise. Himself more inclined to the co-operative spirit of Tagore, he nevertheless recognizes in Gandhi, with his nationalistic, non-co-operative, non-violent dynamics, the real power of the East. Not only of the East, but for the world. He conjures up a vision of Christ before Pilate in Gandhi before the British judge. And there he leaves us, just as the economist and the philanthropist did in the two companion volumes.

Beneath them all we seek the substance of a reality, latent, hinted at, even approached. We see great forces at work in East and West. We can hardly expect these nations to be more responsive than ourselves. India hasn't the courage to rise to the heights of Gandhi, Japan, modern and up-to-date, hasn't the courage to become scientific, China, ponderous and sluggish, knows her own nature. Only in a combination of heart, brain and soul will they and the world move on toward betterment.

The Weeding of Mankind

Meanwhile, the squirming masses are driven more and more into the great cities and city management becomes more and more the real problem. Without this management, human life is degraded by industrialization. That is patent from all these books. Against this process of crowding, however, must be pitted an intelligent process of weeding. This is overlooked by all,—perhaps purposely. At present that weeding is cruel beyond all past standards of cruelty. If from within, the natural (not forced) industrialization of the Orient makes for a higher standard of living, there will doubtless come also a slow lowering of the birth-rate. These go hand in hand. Mr Beard, the economist, recommends the introduction of sidewalks to Japan to "make possible the use of baby carriages and relieve mothers' backs." The seer, Gandhi, prescribes the strengthening of character by disciplinary rules for body and soul, to relieve those self-same backs. Professor Beard himself was once more pleased that some Japanese guests showed more curiosity in his electric washing machine than in the views of a member of the legislature present, for, he whispered, he would rather introduce one washing machine to Japan than a hundred western legislatures. To this we can hear Sherwood Eddy saying "Hear, hear!" But these machines are meant to release human, generally woman, energy. For what? For more babies? For more culture? Upon these points the three books diverge.

* *THE ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS OF TOKYO*, by Charles Beard (Macmillan), *THE NEW WORLD OF LABOR*, by Sherwood Eddy (Doran), *MAHATMA GANDHI*, by Romain Rolland (Century)

A Review by M J Eaner, M D

"MEN, WOMEN AND GOD," by A Herbert Gray
The Association Press, New York

IN the organized attack upon sex-social problems, which has been under way for some fifteen years, the greatest of all obstacles to progress which has been encountered has been the perverted attitude of the adult public toward the whole subject of sex. Age-long miseducation and neglect in this matter has perpetuated from generation to generation an appraisal of the subject as essentially ignoble and unclean, to be met with shrinking, embarrassment and evasion. This unfortunate attitude has been found particularly accentuated in religious circles. The church and other religious agencies have not only shared the prevailing attitude of aversion toward the subject, but they have, in their otherwise commendable emphasis upon character training, given a meaning to "purity" and "chastity" which has forced young people in the "storm and stress" period of their adolescent years to regard all stirrings of their normal sex endowment whether physical, mental or emotional, as sin in themselves and a cause for self-reproach. Sex manifestations were to be utterly repressed, the "flesh" to be despised that the spirit might be liberated. The religious standard with respect to "purity" was based on what parents and teachers vaguely conceived human nature ought to be, rather than on what it essentially is. Normal young people, conscious of failure to achieve such a standard of sexlessness, have been driven to untold and terrible conflict and mental misery, and this has seriously handicapped their lives and marred their happiness.

A Guide to Social Behavior

In recent years some progress has been made in fostering among the religious forces a more wholesome attitude toward and a more constructive handling of the sex factor in life. Rev. A Herbert Gray's book, "Men, Women and God" comes at a most opportune time to help the good work along. Being written by a clergyman for the Christian Student Movement, and being also essentially sound both with respect to modern religious thought and the conclusions of science in the field of sex, it is certain to exercise a profound influence upon religious leaders and parents and in helping young people to a happy and social sex adjustment.

In welding together so splendidly the best contributions of science and the best contributions of moral and spiritual philosophy, in his dealing with sex-social problems, Mr Gray has rendered a conspicuous and sorely needed service to the field of religious education and character training. The book is characterized by frankness on avoided subjects, combined with rare delicacy of handling. The author holds up a high, compelling idealism combined with sympathetic appreciation of basic human nature. He has taken advanced ground without allowing himself to be stampeded by the radical advocates of sex freedom who emphasize individual sex adjustment without due regard

to social adjustment. The author is to be commended in that he has not been content to impose arbitrarily upon young people the prevailing sex-social conventions. He has taken great pains to present to them adequate and appealing reasons for waging a battle for self control and social behavior, reasons which will help young people to arrive not merely at rebellious choices, which leave inner strains and conflicts, but at convinced, satisfying choices, which are the essence of character. He has given them a rational basis for a social ethics of sex.

Sex a Normal Force

Mr Gray's interpretation of sex as a normal, constructive force in human life will bring hope and encouragement to thousands of young people. He says, "I start, in fact, with the faith that the sexual elements in our humanity, once rightly understood and finely handled, make for the enrichment of human life, for the increase of our health and efficiency, and the heightening of our joy. I believe that nothing is more necessary for the world today than that we should trace out the ways in which this tremendous life force, that is implanted in us all, may be used to forward the higher aims of our common life, and to help the race on its upward march."

The author never loses sight of, or seeks to minimize or to apologize for the basic, primitive, physical impulses of our sex endowment, but he leads us to appreciate the contribution which they make to life, when they are controlled and refined by the higher spiritual elements of a man's being which in the course of human development have grown out of this primitive physical base. He says, "When pure love dominates a life, all the sexual activities of the body may be transmuted and redeemed, until a complete life is attained in which all the primal forces of our beings find a happy exercise under the control of a passion that is at once physical, mental and spiritual. But the body is not in this process denied. It is accepted, understood, and made to play its true part. If passion be truly handled it provides the driving force for a life that is effective, courageous and joyous. He is most truly living a spiritual life who has learned to use all the powers of his incarnate nature in a life of strenuous activity and loyal love."

An Inspiring Book

The author has covered admirably the essential ground upon which young people need to be helped to think clearly and to arrive at wise conclusions. Comradeship, love, engagement, moral standards, a man's struggle, prostitution, the girl's problem, celibacy, marriage, and the influence of social conditions are among the main topics discussed. The book is at once inspiring and scientifically and educationally, in the main, sound. It is to be recommended not only for young people, for whom it was primarily written, but as well to all mature persons for the re-education of their point of view and appreciation with respect to the role of sex in human life.

MINOR NOTICES

WOMEN OF 1924 (Women's News Service, Inc., New York), is more than a woman's "Who's Who." It is in addition a handbook of the movements in which the women of the world are interested. In the issue for this year, it includes a full account of the Birth Control movement, with a complete history of its progress in this country. The Editor is Ida Clyde Clarke.

That germs do no harm and that the germ theory of disease may be safely disregarded is one of the heresies asserted by John Lockwood in his book on "Religious Healing and the Truth About Doctors" (The Beaver Book Company, Buffalo, N. Y.). There are many good recommendations in the volume, such as the emphasis laid on the value of pure food, pure air, pure water and sunshine. But before taking such a book as a guide to life, one would desire in the writer a better foundation of education and knowledge, and a better acquaintance with the discoveries of modern science.

A faithful chronicle of the somewhat wayward progress of an American woman, from childhood to the end of her first experiment in matrimony (albeit unwedded), told with easy facility, is the story of *The Eleventh Virgin*. There is no plot and very little character drawing—the men and women are merely puppets on which to hang the author's experiences and observations. There is a wealth of material in this volume, which may perhaps be useful in illustrating a future history of the woman movement, whether concerned with Birth Control, Woman Suffrage, or the tendency towards an equal standard of morals. Miss Day can write, and this book, which we should judge to be a first effort, gives ample promise of better work to come.

BOOKS RECEIVED

From the Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C. *THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN COTTON-GROWING AREAS OF TEXAS, HABIT CLINICS FOR THE CHILD OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE*, by D. A. Thom, M.D.

From Heath Clanton, Ltd., London. *WOMEN, CHILDREN, LOVE AND MARRIAGE*, by Gasquoine Hartley.

From the Author, Bombay, India. *BIRTH CONTROL*, by N. S. Phadke, M.A.

From the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, New York. *THE MONTICELLO PAPERS*, No. 1, THOMAS JEFFERSON, No. 2, EDUCATION.

Hitherto the development of our race has been unconscious, and we have been allowed no responsibility for its right course. Now in the fullness of time we are treated as children no more, and the conscious fashioning of the human race is given into our hands. Let us put away childish things, stand up with open eyes and face our responsibilities.

—W. C. D. WHETHAM

PERIODICALS

Mr. H. H. Powers, in the July *Atlantic Monthly*, writes on the recent controversy with Japan concerning the prohibition of Japanese Immigration. In his article, which he entitles "Grave Consequences," he restates and brings up to date the doctrine of Malthus. Unless there is deliberate control of the increase of population, there is no other prospect before the world than an increase of population followed by either war or famine.

Dr. M. M. Knight, in *Social Hygiene* for May, gives a new name to the deliberately childless marriage. He calls it "the Companionate," and urges that modern life has brought about a need for these unions which, strictly speaking, are not families. The attempt of the State to "preserve such a state of ignorance that the companionate may become a family, as in more primitive societies, even when the members do not wish it and cannot afford it," he characterizes as "a terrific deterrent to open, lawful mating." "It is a species of public chicanery," he writes, "whereby the poor or ignorant individual is tricked, by means of his instincts, into making an unwilling contribution at his own expense to the social group. The well-informed and fortunate classes see through the hoax and get off very lightly at the expense of a society which thus sterilizes much of its best stock." The suggestions for reform of the family, made by Dr. Knight, are well worth consideration.

The author of "Dædalus," J. B. S. Haldane, contributes an article on Eugenics and Social Reform to *The New Republic* for June 25th. In it he makes the somewhat novel suggestion that the thriftless poor, who now have the largest birth-rate, if possessed of the knowledge of Birth Control, would produce considerably less children than their more provident neighbors. The thriftless, he considers, have no great desire for children—a desire which is "one of the most respectable and unselfish of the elementary human desires."

The Woman Citizen, the organ of the National League of Women Voters, for May 17th, in commenting on the Cecilia Cooney case, arraigns society for its supineness in regard to the birth of the unfit. "Can we," it asks, "call a community civilized until it can assure every child decent surroundings? Yes, we would go even further back. Can we call it civilized until it will not permit a child to be born with such heredity?" The League has not yet gone on record as demanding Birth Control, but the general feeling of a majority of the members is undoubtedly friendly to the cause.

Current Opinion for July prints a summary of an article written by Grindell-Matthews, the inventor of the violet death-ray. The purpose of the invention was to cure war by making it too deadly for the nations, but prevention is better than cure and Grindell-Matthews sees in Birth Control the only means of substituting real civilization for barbaric war.

News Notes

UNITED STATES

New York

THE Committee on Maternal Health has completed a year's study of plans for the dignified and scientific study of Birth Control. This committee was organized in March, 1923. The Executive Committee includes Drs Haven Emerson, S W Lambert, James Pedersen, W F Snow and Robert L Dickinson, who acts as Secretary. It began by submitting its programme to the New York Obstetrical Society and the Academy of Medicine. A questionnaire sent out by the Society brought a strong vote in favor of the study, and the Public Health Committee of the Academy gave its endorsement.

According to the statement made by Dr R L Dickinson in the *N Y State Journal of Medicine* for June, "the first complete study of the literature has been made and a digest is to be published in a professional journal. The three Birth Control clinics—the Stopes and the Haire in London, and the new Sanger clinic in New York—have been inspected. For six of the leading hospitals of the city appropriations have been made to provide for collection of data, with the same approach that proved effective for tuberculosis. The opinions of authorities are largely gathered in the matter of indications for prevention of or postponement of conception, and a study of the field for sterilization is under way. An American observer in Holland will sift the conflicting reports concerning that much quoted experiment station in birth control. The committee hopes to secure new studies from the Continent, where the marked increase in abortion and the governmental and journalistic discussion of the abrogation of penalties for it have aroused new consideration of contraception, and a commendation of a professional investigation of the subject by the Committee on Maternal Health."

New Jersey

The Camden Birth Control League held an interesting meeting on June 20th, at which the Vice-President, Mr Herbert A Drake, gave an account of the Birth Control case in Chicago, and reviewed the favorable decision of Judge Harry M Fisher.

The Commissioner of Health had refused a license to the Illinois Birth Control League on the grounds of public policy, and the League then applied for a writ of mandamus against the Mayor and the Commissioner, ordering them to grant the license.

The Court, after upholding the contentions of the Illinois Birth Control League, granted the

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application for the mandamus "This decision," said Mr Drake, "is an occurrence of outstanding importance

"In consideration of the sacredness of life, parenthood should be voluntary" Mr Drake said in conclusion "Every free-born American husband and wife should be able to secure birth control information from competent sources, so that they can decide whether they will be parents, and when Birth Control helps to elevate woman and place her on an equality with man, where she belongs, it increases the beauty of parenthood and childhood, it strengthens the union of husband and wife"

California

From Pasadena comes a note which the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW would like to see duplicated from every town and city in America It reads

"The Pasadena Public Library presents its acknowledgments and thanks to a friend of the Library, thru the American Birth Control League, Inc, for the gift of the official organ of the League By order of the Board of Directors"

JEANNETTE M DRAKE, *Librarian*

ENGLAND

THE Walworth Women's Welfare Center which was started by the New Generation League of England, in 1922, is now under the charge of a committee whose chairman is the Hon Mrs Graham Murray, O B E Mr Harold Cox is Treasurer and Mrs Evelyn Fuller, Honorary Superintendent It is a voluntary enterprise and is supported by voluntary contributions In order to spread the knowledge of the existence of this Center, the Committee is issuing a *News Sheet*, which tells of the work and solicits support

A meeting on behalf of the new Birth Control Clinic to be opened in North Kensington, was held on June 23, at Camden Hill Mr Harold Cox presided and the speakers were Lord Buckmaster, former Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and Mrs H Dalton The treasurer of the Clinic fund is Hon Mrs Dighton Pollock, daughter of Lord Buckmaster

In the winter of 1922-1923, a London magistrate ordered the destruction of copies of Margaret Sanger's pamphlet, seized in the book store of Mr and Mrs Guy Aldred News now comes from London that these courageous book-sellers are having the pamphlet reprinted and will again put it on sale In this connection it is interesting to note that Marie Stopes, whose books giving equally intimate particulars concerning Birth Control are openly sold throughout England, has recently been presented at Court The Sanger pamphlet is for

the poor and sells for six-pence—but it will be strange if a Labor Government permits another prosecution of the Aldreds while King George and Queen Marie honor Marie Stopes

At the Winchester Assizes in April, Mr Justice McCardie advocated the sterilization of men and women who are mentally diseased. The Act of 1913 was designed to prevent mentally afflicted people begetting children. An amendment to the Act is needed. Sterilization would ensure that the world would not be burdened with children of infirm minds

GERMANY

A REPORT received from Dr Felix Theilhaber of Berlin tells of difficulties encountered by the Society for Sexual Reform. Poverty and unemployment of the members sadly reduced the funds of the society, nevertheless, during last winter much useful research work was done, and a number of valuable scientific papers by eminent authorities were published

COMING EVENTS

EVERY member of the American Birth Control League is urged to keep in mind the International Birth Control Conference which is to be held in New York next March. The exact date will be announced as early as possible, as the American Birth Control League, which is acting as hostess to the Conference is anxious to have a large attendance of members and of delegates from branches of the League and from women's organizations. Invitations have already been sent out to a long list of organizations, and the President will be glad to have names and suggestions for the sending out of more invitations. Efforts are being made that this International Conference shall be not only the most interesting series of meetings that have ever been held to consider Birth Control, but also that it shall represent adequately the thought of America on the subject, as well as the consensus of European and Asiatic opinion. Letters of cordial sympathy and encouragement have recently been received from Harold Cox, J O P Bland and Dr Norman Haire of England, from Professor Roberto Michels of Switzerland, Dr Ferdinand Goldstein of Berlin and Dr J Rutgers of Holland. Professors from the leading universities of the United States are showing much interest. It is expected that the Conference will be the most important gathering of the kind yet held in any part of the world

From September 22 to 27, the American Birth Control League will have a booth at the Commodore Hotel, New York, in the Women's Activities exhibit. The booth will be under the charge of

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Mrs George H Day, Sr, of Hartford, Conn, and Mrs J Bishop Vandever of Forest Hills, L I New York members of the League are offering their services either for whole days or for parts of days, for the work of distributing literature and explaining Birth Control to the visitors

Mrs Anne Kennedy is spending two months on the Pacific Coast She reached San Francisco at the end of July, and during August and September she will make her headquarters in the following cities San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Ore, and Seattle Mrs Kennedy will be glad to hear from individuals or groups interested in Birth Control She can be reached by letters addressed to Hotel Lankershim, Los Angeles, Cal

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

(Continued from page 227)

one who comes there?" Then we told them of the clinic and one woman said "I can hardly stand on my feet, I have had five kids in seven years Ain't it wonderful that she'll help us?"

People hurrying through the park turned and asked for a leaflet when they saw what others were reading Thousands of leaflets found eager readers and each afternoon of the long drawn-out Convention some of our workers stood within the blue-coated circle around Madison Square Garden and passed out Birth Control literature

One result of the campaigning work at the Democratic National Convention was personal calls at Headquarters by the delegates and many requests that the League do more extensive work in their States

Kitty Marion, who sells the REVIEW on the streets of New York, reported increased demands for the magazine Many of these sales were made to the badged and buttoned strangers who will carry the REVIEW back to their homes in towns and cities scattered over every State in the Union

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN IN SWEDEN

(Continued from page 224)

concerned But the point at issue is the care of the child And to fix effectively financial responsibility, in conjunction with a carefully planned social supervision for the life of the child to maturity, appears to be an interesting attempt to relieve the ancient social ills of illegitimacy

What is most needed is birth control amongst the poorer working-classes, who represent the greatest increase in the population A large number of the children brought into the world by these people are of no value except to provide work for doctors and undertakers

—SIR JAMES BARR, M D

OUR CORRESPONDENTS' COLUMN

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

As an enthusiastic admirer of Mrs Margaret Sanger and her work, I would like to have you state in your magazine that anyone desiring to forward Mrs Sanger's name to the *Pictorial Review* as candidate for 1923 honors, should state that her accomplishment for the year 1923 was the establishment of a Clinical Research Bureau

Many persons to whom I have talked on the subject have declared that the opening of the Birth Control Clinical Research work by Mrs Sanger is the outstanding and most worthy service to the people of this country

A member from St Regis Falls, N Y

Editor, BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

A woman in Los Angeles was the means of my eyes being opened to the law's encouragement of the birth of babies that ought not to be born The Associated Charities had sent me to see her because her husband was ill with tuberculosis, her child had just died of it, they had little food and no money She walked to the gate with me and stood crying, not because she had lost one child, but because she was afraid she might have another

Very earnest and sympathetic and ignorant, I promised to help her, and went for information to a physician I knew He explained that he could tell me nothing, as it was against the law He had narrowly escaped prosecution in another state for merely lecturing on birth control, and he was taking no chances That helpless woman—she was unquotably frank in telling how helpless she was—and the sickly children of tuberculous fathers, scantily cared for by charity whom I came upon almost daily, stamped the effects of uncontrolled child-breeding on my mind

Several years later the impression was branded in by the revelations of an infant welfare center in Washington, D C One afternoon in this center and one morning spent with one of the nurses on a round of visits to mothers and expectant mothers buried all interest in weighing babies and measuring milk I had but one burning thought—the need for birth control That was the "welfare" work that institution should have been doing

I said this to the nurse as we left a wretched little woman, with a blue-white face, soon to have her fifth baby and, the nurse admitted, not likely to live through the ordeal Her husband was worse than worthless The children were fragile mites One was nervous and "peculiar" The eldest, six years old, was in a hospital with a chronic disease

"She doesn't want another baby," the nurse said "These women actually kneel to us and cry and beg us to tell them something to keep them from having more children But, of course, we are not allowed to"

I never returned to the infant welfare center I joined the League for Birth Control

KATHERINE FISHER

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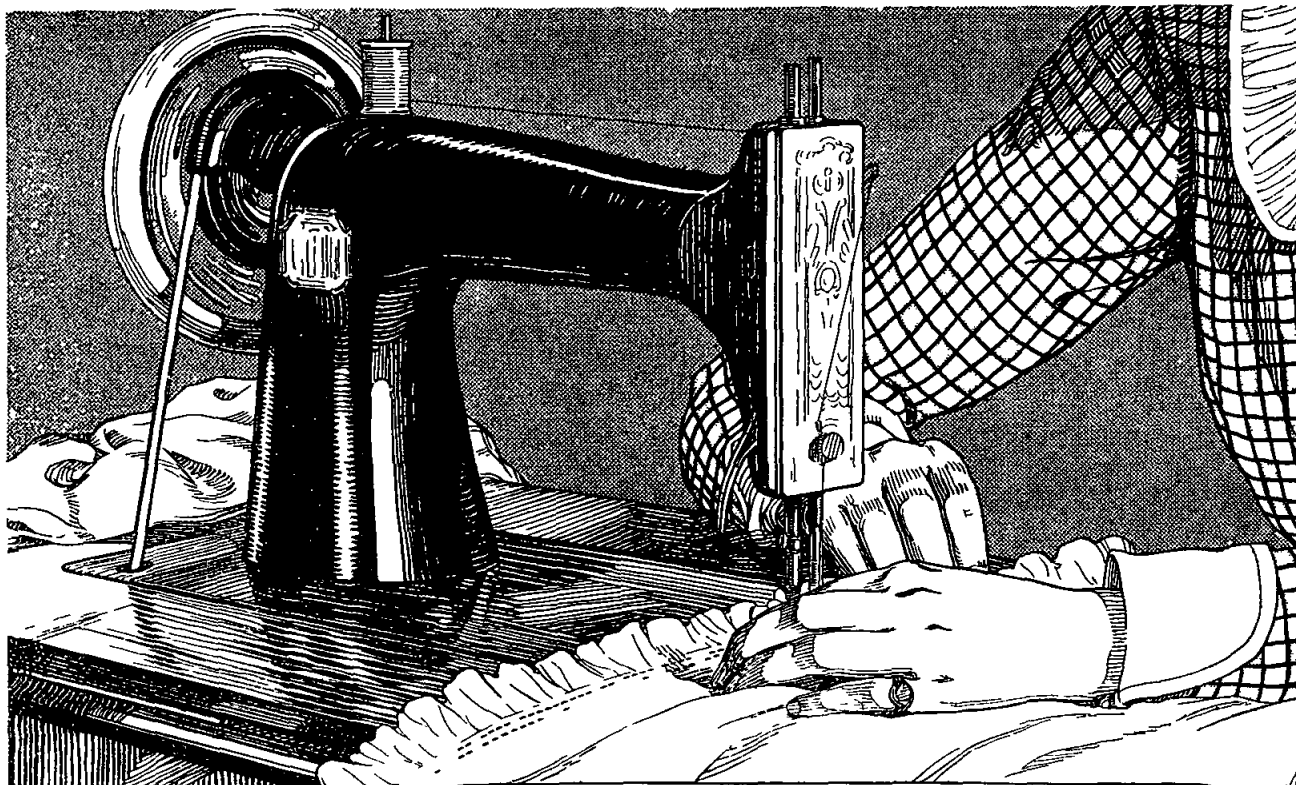
The arousing in the minds and hearts of our people of a living racial conscience which will prevent selfish conduct in married life, is the only real corrective for the self-indulgence which is at the root of much of our individual and national troubles. But before such knowledge can become general, and before it can be applied in the right way and in the right spirit, and with real regard to the true interests of family life and racial welfare, society must cease to label all those who apply such knowledge in everyday life as alike guilty of immoral conduct

Discretion must be used in attaching both blame and responsibility. Conduct in the sexual sphere must be judged by the same rules which apply to conduct in other spheres of human life—by the motive which inspires it, and by the effect it may have on individual and racial welfare

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