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American Birth Control League, 1929-1933.

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FIRST NEWS LETTER FROM
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL
MARGARET SANGER, CHAIRMAN

Dear Friend:

May I use my first letter to you in many months to tell you, as a friend of birth control, about recent events in our work and of the big task that now faces us. I refer to the enactment of federal legislation to remedy the very terrible legal restrictions that now handicap our progress in any direction.

Because I think this federal legislation so very important and in order to devote myself exclusively to it except for my supervision of the Clinical Research Bureau, 46 West 15th Street, I resigned as President of the American Birth Control League on June 8th, 1928.

I refer specifically to that portion of the Penal Code of the Federal Statute which prohibits the use of the U. S. mails and all common carriers to physicians, scientists, druggists, publishers, importers, manufacturers, where knowledge or means to prevent contraception is concerned.

It isolates completely the individual work of each of the twenty-five clinics already in existence and the work of physicians and hospitals which are already giving information in accordance with the laws of their respective states.

Section 211 also makes it unlawful for one physician to send to another member of his profession the result or benefit of his practice. It also makes it unlawful to send to anyone the name and address of a physician, hospital, clinic, where contraceptive advice may be legally obtained within that state.

To illustrate, it makes it unlawful, punishable by five years imprisonment or \$5,000 fine, to write to any one in California for instance and give the address of any doctor or clinic, of which there are fourteen legally operating within the laws of California.

It prohibits the entrance from Europe of articles or books or appliances most necessary to advance the scientific work of the clinics or of contraceptive research in the United States.

On October 8th the Eastern Regional States, of which Mrs. Walter Timme of New York is Chairman, held a meeting in Boston at the Hotel Statler to discuss the further organization of the Committee and to outline plans. At this meeting state chairmen were appointed and it was decided to have a bill introduced in the seventy-first congress as early as possible. The meeting recommended that the Executive Committee secure the services of three important constitutional lawyers to draw up a suitable bill.

At Columbus, Ohio, on the 12th of November, important scientists, doctors, lawyers, professors, and interested persons from several of the middle western states gathered together at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel for a one-day conference to discuss plans for developing the Committee in the Middlewest. The meetings were very largely attended and there was a great deal of enthusiasm.

A similar plan to that adopted at the Eastern Regional meeting was adopted at the meeting of the Middle Western States and it was also agreed that the legal advisory committee should be asked to draw up a bill.

A Budget of \$100,000 was endorsed by both meetings.

Additional officers which have been added to the National Committee are: Mrs. Dexter P. Rumsey, of Buffalo, N. Y. as one of the Vice-Chairmen, Miss Margaret M. McChesney, an attorney of Boston, Mass., as Secretary and Mrs. Frances B. Ackermann, of Bronxville, N. Y., Assistant Treasurer. Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn of Hartford, Connecticut, will be Federal Legislative Chairman directing the work in Washington.

As the Seventy-first Congress goes into session this month, we have established headquarters at the Carlton Hotel, in Washington, and we hope to have people interested in Birth Control from all parts of the United States make a plea to their senators and representatives for support behind this measure.

Will you help us by joining this committee, writing to your Senators and Congressmen and to send us such financial help as you can.

Please fill out the attached blank and mail to us at your earliest convenience that we may be assured of the help and assistance that you have so generously and loyally given in the past.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Sanger

December 26, 1929

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL
46 West 15th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Please enroll me as a member of your Committee

Name _____

Address _____

I will write to my Senators and Congressmen whose names appear below:

Please find enclosed my check for \$_____ toward the work of the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION
FOR BIRTH CONTROL

46 WEST 15th STREET

New York City

MARGARET SANGER
Chairman

October 30, 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
10311 Lake Shore Boulevard,
Cleveland Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

As Chairman of the Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, I am calling together at Columbus, Ohio, November 12th, a group of persons living in the middlewestern states.

The object of this meeting is to gain a better understanding of the Federal Statute concerning Birth Control and to decide on the nature of a bill which we hope to have introduced in Congress this winter.

Already a number of important lawyers, sociologists, and doctors have signified their intention of taking part in this conference. We are particularly anxious that the committee should include some of those who are interested in the work from Cleveland.

Your name has been suggested to us as one who might endorse this work and be willing that we add your name to the list.

I hope very much that we may hear from you that you will help us in this way.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Sanger
Chairman

Nov. 7th, 1929.

Miss Margaret Sanger,
46 West 15th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Sanger:-

Permit me to thank you for your
letter of October 30th.

I shall not be free to attend the
meeting which you are calling for November 12th in
Columbus. But you may add my name to the list of
those who are interested in the work of your
committee.

With kindest regards, permit me
to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS/IR

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION
FOR BIRTH CONTROL

46 WEST 15th STREET
New York City

MARGARET SANGER
Chairman

November 18, 1929

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very
much for allowing us to use your name
on our Endorsing Committee. We are
very glad to have your support.

I am sorry
that you could not come to the Columbus
Conference.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sanger
Chairman

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL

SECOND NEWS LETTER

Hotel Carlton,
Washington, D. C.
March 21, 1930

Dear Friend:

A bill is to be introduced in Congress to amend Sections 334 and 396 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, and Section 135 of Title 19 of the U.S. Code. The draft for the bill is as follows:

"The provisions of this Section shall not apply (1) to information relating to the prevention of conception published either within or without the United States by a governmental agency, medical society, medical school, medical college or medical journal, or reprinted by any individual or organization after such publication, or

(2) to information relating to the prevention of conception sent by a licensed physician, hospital or clinic to another licensed physician, hospital or clinic or to a patient, or

(3) to information regarding the names and addresses of licensed physicians, hospitals and clinics in the State of destination which give advice relating to the prevention of conception or

(4) to any article, substance, drug, medicine or thing for the prevention of conception sent from within or without the United States to a bona fide wholesale or retail dealer in medical supplies or a licensed physician, hospital or clinic, or sent by a licensed physician to a patient."

The organization of the Committee is being perfected in the Western States by Mrs. Vernon Z. Reed of Denver, Colorado, who is acting as Regional Chairman, and Mrs. Imogene Daly Fisher of Denver, who is Vice-Chairman of the Western Region. Dr. J. H. J. Upham, Dean of the College of Medicine, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, is Chairman of the Middle Western Regional States. Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe of New York is acting as Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Regional States of which Mrs. Walter Timme of New York is Chairman.

More than 1000 additional endorsers were added to the Committee at the Western States Conference Held at the Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, California, February 20-21-22-23. Tremendous enthusiasm permeated the whole conference. Discussion of the different aspects of Birth Control was conducted by leaders in their respective fields of work. The program included the following:

DINNER: Mrs. Clark B. Millikan, Chairman,
Mr. Paul Jordan Smith, Lecturer, Author, Toastmaster.

RUSSIA AND THE FAR EAST, Alexander Kaun, Ph.D. - Professor of Slavic Languages, University of California, Berkeley. POPULATION GROWTH AND EUROPEAN UNREST, Constantine Panunzio, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, State Teachers College, San Diego. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND BIRTH CONTROL, Margaret Spring-Rice - Chairman Birth Control Committee, North Kensington, London. THE NEXT STEP IN BIRTH CONTROL, Margaret Sanger, Chairman, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, New York City.

ECONOMIC SESSION: Chairman, Remsen Du Bois Bird, A.B., D.D. - President Occidental College, Los Angeles.

POPULATION PROBLEMS IN MEXICO, Zeferino Dominguez, Research Agriculturist. BIRTH CONTROL AND THE POPULATION PROBLEM, Graham A. Laing, M.A., Professor of Economics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. BIRTH-RATE AND EMPLOYMENT, George B. Mangold, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University Southern California, Los Angeles. BIRTH CONTROL AS A CENTRAL FACTOR IN CONSTRUCTIVE FARM RELIEF, Ralph M. Rutledge, A.M. - Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California at Los Angeles. DISCUSSION: W. F. Adams, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of California at Los Angeles. Floyd F. Burchett, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California at Los Angeles.

MEDICAL SESSION: This session opened only to licensed physicians. CHAIRMAN, George Dock, M.D., formerly Professor of Medicine at University of Michigan.

MEDICAL INDICATIONS FOR CONTRACEPTION, John V. Barrow, M.D., Past President, Los Angeles County Medical Association. PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIRTH CONTROL, Charles L. Bennett, M.D., Member, Medical Advisory Board of Los Angeles County Health Department. MEDICAL INDICATIONS FOR BIRTH CONTROL FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF A TUBERCULOSIS SPECIALIST, Emil Bogen, M.D., Director of Tuberculosis Research at Olive View Sanatorium. THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE LAW, Mrs. Kemper Campbell, L.L.B., Professor, Medical Jurisprudence Loma Linda College of Medicine. THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND BIRTH CONTROL, Michael Craemer, M.D. REPORT ON 200 MOTHERS CLINIC CASES, Etta Gray, M.D., Medical Director, Los Angeles Mothers Clinic Association. MODERN TECHNIQUE OF CONTRACEPTION (Illustrated) Nadina Kavinoky, M.D., Supervising Mothers Clinics in the Los Angeles County Health Department. PSYCHIATRIC INDICATIONS FOR BIRTH CONTROL, Aaron J. Rosanoff, M.D., Consulting Psychiatrist for the State Department of Institutions. DISCUSSION: Alma Pennington, M.D., Director, Mothers Health Clinic, San Francisco, Ann Martin, M.D., Director, Mothers Health Clinic, Oakland, Francis M. Pottinger, M.D., Monrovia.

SOCIOLOGIC SESSION: Chairman, Reverend Oliver M. Butterfield, Pastor, Methodist Episcopal Church, Monterey Park.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM AND BIRTH CONTROL, Reverend Allan A. Hunter, Pastor, Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church, Hollywood. ORGANIZED LABOR AND LIMITATION OF NUMBERS, George R. Kirkpatrick, Lecturer, Author, Chicago. SOME PHYSIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BIRTH CONTROL, A. W. Meyer, M.D., Formerly Professor of Anatomy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. CRIME IN ITS RELATION TO PROLIFIC BREEDING, Justin Miller, J.D., Dean of the Law School, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. OUR BOOSTER PHILOSOPHY AND SOME OF ITS CONSEQUENCES, F. B. Sumner, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, The Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla. DISCUSSION: Malcolm H. Bissell, Ph.D., Professor of Geology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Chairman, Aaron J. Rosanoff, M.D.

LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES, Alexander M. Kidd, L.L.B., Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley. AMENDING LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES, Arthur E. Briggs, A.M., L.L.B., President, Metropolitan University, Los Angeles. DISCUSSION: Margaret Sanger.

A MASS MEETING closed the Conference Sunday Evening at Trinity Auditorium, Los Angeles, with Lewis Browne, Ph.D., Lecturer-Author, as Chairman. The speakers were Rabbi I. Coffee, Author, Editor, Minister, Temple Sinai, Oakland, on THE SPIRITUALITY OF BIRTH CONTROL; G. V. Hamilton, M.D., Director of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, New York City, author of "A Research into Marriage" on LOVE AND MARRIAGE; and Margaret Sanger, LEGAL OBSTACLES TO RACIAL PROGRESS. So much interest was aroused by the Conference that I was invited to speak before numerous groups before leaving California, including the Los Angeles Woman's City Club, The Faculty of Occidental College, The Curfew Club, Faculty of Children's Hospital, New York Club of Los Angeles and the Men's City Club of Los Angeles. I was also invited to speak before representative groups in Madison, Wisconsin, Minneapolis, Minnesota, St. Louis, Missouri and at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and at Syracuse, New York, on my return journey. Everywhere I found a very keen interest in the proposed Federal Legislation. We have established headquarters here in Washington at the Hotel Carlton, and we need the support of all those who believe in the need of better legislation for Birth Control.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret Sanger

Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control,
Hotel Carlton
Washington, D. C.

Please find enclosed my contribution for \$ _____ toward securing the passage of a Birth Control Bill by Congress.

Name _____

Address _____

Is Birth Control Moral?

By RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL.

Rabbi of the Har Sinai Temple of Baltimore

ONE feels a hesitancy in approaching the discussion of the religious aspects of the problem of birth control. To the liberal, this hesitancy is not born of any lack of conviction concerning the superior morality of an intelligent use of contraception. It is due rather to a disinclination to enter into theological arguments which are usually of little or no avail, because the different sides approach the discussion from such different premises. I have the utmost respect for orthodox religions of all denominations. I understand full well the bases on which Roman Catholics, Fundamentalist Protestants and Orthodox Jews denounce birth control. I cannot agree with their conclusions, but I do not question the sincerity of their beliefs. Moreover, I would not for a moment interfere with their honest convictions. I deeply resent, however, their interference with the honest convictions of others and their endeavor to invoke the law to foist their one-sided moral concepts upon their fellow-men.

Let us face the situation honestly and frankly. Among the better educated classes and certainly among that large group known as the middle class, some form of contraception is practiced by the great majority of people who are not sterile. They have no sense of sinfulness in the pursuit of this practice. Indeed, they feel that they are adopting the wiser and more ethical habit of life. Their moral judgment is corroborated by many religious organizations representing millions of adherents.

Let us look at the definition of morality from an historical point of view. We find at once that it is not a static thing, even in religious circles. Not even in the pages of the Bible! It is a far cry from the vengeful God of Samuel who punishes Saul for not exterminating the Amalekites to the great spiritual Being of Isaiah who pleads with man for universal peace. The God of Exodus with his jealousy and blood ritual and the slaughter of the first-born of one's enemies was moral enough in that day, but He was superseded by the nobler morality of the God of Hosea whose dominant characteristic is infinite love.

The intelligence of man grows through scientific knowledge, and with it his spirit grows, and his appreciation of God and morality. We feel that the potentialities of man for knowledge are God-given, and it is under the influence of this expanding God-

given intelligence that his moral concepts change. Dogmatic religion will not concede this fact. And when I say dogmatic religion, I do not confine the term to any one denomination. The reactionaries among religious groups have not only refused to concede development until forced to; they have bitterly opposed the progress of the mind of man, and in so doing have stultified his spirit. They fought against the teaching that the earth moved around the sun. Throughout the centuries they burned at the stake those who would tear the veil of ignorance from human eyes. Even today, they bitterly contest the right to teach, even as a theory, the evolutionary idea which science supports.

Their opposition to birth control is based on the Biblical command to Adam: "Be fruitful and multiply." But there is a greater command in that same Bible: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And the best known maxim of Jesus of Nazareth is a similar phrase: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We who have the advantage of modern scientific knowledge use intelligent means of regulating the number of our progeny. There are millions who are denied a decent knowledge of this subject, who come in throngs to doctors and social agencies and ministers begging for such information. If we were denied such knowledge, we would crave, in the name of the Golden Rule, that those who were informed would impart it to us. The ethical challenge is to show justice and love to the masses whose happiness is imperiled by ignorance of this important subject. Furthermore, this same Bible which commands man to "Be fruitful and multiply" also commands woman in the following terms: "In pain shalt thou bear children." By an analogous argument it is, therefore, obvious that it is God's law that pain must accompany childbirth. Why not, then, in the name of ethics, institute a statue against using anaesthetics in childbirth? Read the history of the development of anaesthetics and you will find the horrible story of religious opposition to this form of humanity. The lessening of the labor pains of woman is contrary to the will of God! Is that the God in whom you and I would believe? Is such a cruel Being, taking delight in the misery of His creatures, the Supreme Spirit? If He is such a Being, I say that I want nothing to do with Him,

that the finest morality of man would be to defy Him. But, I do not believe in this reactionary inter-advantage of modern scientific knowledge use interpretation of what is God's law. I believe that He has given man the mind to conquer pain and misery, and to work out a happier society. It is the pursuit of that law which is the real fulfillment of His appointed destiny for man.

A recent papal encyclical announced dogmatically that "birth control is against God and nature." I do not like dogmatic inferences concerning the monopoly of the knowledge of God. The definitions of God are innumerable. There are creeds of countless denominations, and even within these denominations millions of individuals differ as to what God is and what He is not—and God alone knows who is right and who is wrong. I, for one, cannot believe that the elimination of indiscriminate, irresponsible breeding is contrary to the will of a God who has given man a mind to discover how to modify and direct the blind forces of nature. I believe that the supreme revelation of God is the mind and spirit of man, that translate gross nature into aesthetic and social values.

Let us venture the thought, moreover, that if we are speaking of crimes against nature, celibacy is the greatest crime against the natural impulses of sex. The longing for parenthood is natural and moral. I say this not as the protagonist of any particular philosophy. I say it as a father. I wish that the millions of human beings who are denied the joy of parenthood could receive some sense of its physical and spiritual exaltation. I wish that homes of only one child would, (where the physical and economic conditions permit) enlarge the experience of parenthood and bring a most necessary companionship to their only child. No, I do not fail to appreciate the natural beauty of parenthood. I want it to be a wilful thing of man's ethical choice, and not a mere reflex of animalism. I want it elevated and ennobled by the knowledge that our God-given intellects have brought us, the intellects that help us to transcend brute forces of life and become in some little degree moral masters of our environment. I believe that the greatest morality consists in controlling blind nature. Celibacy or abstinence are ascetic cowardice. Bravery is to use and direct by intelligent control.

I have seen it repeatedly alleged by those trying to build up a moral case against birth control that it makes for immorality and license in family life. Anyone who is in a position which throws him into

intimate contact with many homes can testify that there is nothing which robs the married relationship of its finer beauty like the terror and often the hatred engendered between man and wife by the menace of too frequent pregnancies. Let us be wholesome enough to speak of a beauty to marriage that, in the existence of true love, transcends even the joys of parenthood—I mean the perfect physical union of a devoted man and woman. There, the physical becomes the channel of revelation of spiritual glory which only those who have loved in this complete manner can ever know. It is love of the *Song of Songs* which many floods of adversity cannot quench. It is the impulse to the finest idealism, the noblest of self sacrifice, the most glorious consecration of which man is capable. Contraception, intelligently employed, makes for the experience of this greatest joy of life. It is this more than all else which truly cements the marriage relationship.

I do not regard birth control as a panacea for economic suffering. Nor do I look upon it as a worthy permanent antidote for the results of social injustice. The exploitation and the economic oppression, which breed our slums, bind men in virtual serfdom and prevent them from having the environment or means for decent sized families, must be attacked fundamentally on other grounds than an advocacy of contraception. There must be a basic renovation of many features of our present greed society. There must be a finer social conscience. However, until the time of the realization of these economic cures arrives, contraception becomes an ethical phase of the problem of alleviating the terrible ills that now exist. In the present unemployment crisis, there are certain essential cures that must ultimately be put into effect. They are basic—yet it would be worse than criminal to say that we should not immediately feed the starving because such feeding is not a basic cure of the situation. Similarly, while in the economic field other measures are fundamental, it is immoral not to relieve immediately the sufferings of the oppressed by tendering them intelligent contraception, so that they may have few children in some decency instead of many at the price of starvation, vice, and death. The soundest moral and social arguments for birth control are outside the economic field. However, to fail to use contraception to alleviate the ills of present day economic society is simply to compound a felony.

(Reprinted from the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, July, 1932)

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689 MADISON AVENUE

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June 1, 1933

My dear Rabbi Silver:

It gives me pleasure to tell you that at
the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the
League you were nominated a member of the Board.

Will you do us the honor of accepting the nomina-
tion so that I may propose your name at our meet-
ing in October? I am enclosing a statement of our
aims. The Board, which is the governing body of
the League, meets in the forenoon of the ~~first~~ *third*
Thursday of every month.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs Lewis L.) Charlotte H. Delafield
Vice President

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
10311 Lake Shore Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio

June 7, 1933.

Mrs. Lewis L. Delafield,
Vice President, American Birth Control League, Inc.,
689 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Delafield:

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of June 1st. I am very pleased to accept the nomination of membership on the Board of the American Birth Control League. I am a very busy man and I hope that I may find time to render service to this cause.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:HK

The American Birth Control League

AIM

The chief purpose of the League is to make birth control information generally available in the United States, in order:

1. THAT MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY MAY BE REDUCED. Birth control will enable women to postpone pregnancy until their health is such that they can stand the strain of child-bearing and can give birth to healthy children.

2. THAT HEREDITARY DISEASES MAY BE DECREASED. Birth control will make it practicable for men and women with hereditary diseases to avoid having children. (The League advocates the enactment of laws for the sterilization of certain classes of persons with incurable hereditary defects.)

3. THAT CRIMINAL ABORTIONS MAY BE PREVENTED. When birth control information is accessible, women will be able to avoid undesired pregnancy.

4. THAT PROSTITUTION MAY BE LESSENERD. Birth control will enable young people to marry early and wait until their incomes are sufficient before having children; it will free wives from the haunting fear of pregnancy which often drives their husbands to prostitutes.

5. THAT CHILD LABOR MAY BE REDUCED. Birth control will enable married couples to limit their children to those the father can support with his own earnings.

6. THAT HOUSING CONGESTION MAY BE RELIEVED. Birth control will make it possible for parents to regulate the size of their family in accordance with the size of the house they can afford.

7. THAT DESTITUTION AND THE RESULTING NEED FOR CHARITY MAY BE REDUCED. Birth control will enable parents to avoid having more children than they can support.

8. THAT OVERPOPULATION MAY BE PREVENTED. When people understand birth control, they will voluntarily reduce the birth-rate as population pressure and the cost of living rise.

9. THAT THE RACE MAY STEADILY IMPROVE. Recent investigations show that among people who practice birth control, the less competent have fewer children than the more competent; hence we may predict that when birth control is in general practice, children above the average will outnumber those below it, and the quality of the population will gradually rise. The present restriction of birth control to the privileged classes works in just the opposite direction and produces race deterioration. Eugenists recognize birth control as the most practicable means of race betterment.

PROGRAM



To promote the general practice of birth control, we plan:

1. TO ESTABLISH, IN EVERY CENTER OF POPULATION, CLINICS where the poor may receive contraceptive advice from physicians.

2. TO ACQUAINT PHYSICIANS throughout the United States with the most approved methods of contraception.

3. TO WORK FOR THE AMENDMENT of such laws as interfere with the prescription of contraception by physicians.

4. TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PUBLIC, by means of lectures, pamphlets and the BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW, the importance of birth control to the family, the community and the race.

To carry out this program and finance it, THE LEAGUE NEEDS THE HELP of everyone who believes in it.



Will You Join the League?

MEMBERSHIP SLIP

I enclose \$..... as annual dues (\$2 to \$500) for membership
in the American Birth Control League, ⁶⁸⁹~~152~~ Madison Avenue, New York.

Name Address

Dues of \$3.00 or over include one year's subscription to the

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW.

(Please make checks payable to the American Birth Control League, Inc.)

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC.

689 MADISON AVENUE

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Editor, Birth Control Review

STELLA HANAU

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NEW YORK BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION
PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION
RHODE ISLAND BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
VIRGINIA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

August 30, 1933

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held 11:30 A.M., October 5, 1933 in the Directors' room of the Chase National Bank, Park Avenue and 60th Street, immediately following the Special Meeting of the American Birth Control League which has been called for 11:00 A.M. on the same date and at the same place. A reminder of ~~these~~ meetings will be mailed to you a few days before ~~it is~~ ^{they are} held.

You will recall that at the June meeting of the Board of Directors the day of holding the regular monthly meeting of the Board was changed from the first to the third Thursday of each month. The first regular meeting of the Board of Directors in the fall will be held, therefore, on Thursday, October 19. A reminder of this meeting also will be sent you in due course.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Topping

Executive Director

RT:JW

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC.

689 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

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VIRGINIA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

Sept. 29, 1933

Rabbi Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 11:30 A.M., October 5, 1933 in the Directors' room of the Chase National Bank, Park Avenue and 60th Street, immediately following the Special Meeting of the American Birth Control League which has been called for 11:00 A.M. on the same date and at the same place.

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors the day of holding the regular monthly meeting of the Board was changed from the first to the third Thursday of each month. The first regular meeting of the Board of Directors in the fall will be held, therefore, on Thursday, October 19. A reminder of this meeting will be sent you in due course.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Ruth Topping

Executive Director

RT:JW

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RHODE ISLAND BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE
VIRGINIA BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

October 16, 1933

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It gives me great pleasure to be able to inform you that at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Birth Control League on October 5th you were elected a Director, this election to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting in January. The Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month from October until May.

We are grateful for your interest in birth control and shall welcome your advice and assistance at the Directors' meetings which we hope you will occasionally be able to attend.

Sincerely yours,

Julie B. Howson
for

(Mrs. Roger Howson)
Secretary

JBH:JW

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

VOL. I, No. 1
(New Series)

Published by the American Birth Control League

OCTOBER, 1933

THE WELL-BORN CHILD

HAS the child a right to be well-born? Has society any need that the child should have that right? Has the physician, when he undertakes to promote the health of the rising generation, the right to have under his care only children for whom healthy growth and satisfactory development are possible? Is the time coming when society must answer "yes"? We believe so.

What is it to be well-born? We can not yet make a complete answer. Human traits are numerous, human heredity is complex, and our social organization greatly multiplies the intricacies of the problem. Much careful investigation is still needed upon the details of human heredity, upon conditions making for fertility and sterility, and upon the issues which involve not only the child but the home into which the child is born. The general principles of heredity and the influence of environment have been established and are presented in every section of this report, but much work still remains to be done to qualify the details of their operation, particularly in regard to the human race. We must face this pressing human problem with true devotion to the interests of the children yet unborn, whose lives and usefulness, whose very souls depend upon our pledged faithfulness. The physical and spiritual worlds are but two aspects of the same thing. Our efforts must be directed to see the problem whole, not split up into separate parts, and to frame our investigation with all human values uppermost in thought. We must seek the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Although we shall not know until much further research has been accomplished and education digested what is a practicable social definition of the condition of being well-born or what means society should take to apply its definition to practice, every physician already knows of specific types of cases in which it is obvious that children should not be born. The physician's criteria are better than those applied by the general populace because his are based on better information and on a more detached point of view, but there are laws in many states which limit the freedom and effectiveness with which a physician may give advice on these cases.

Upon the serious problems involved in sterilization

of the unfit, control of conception, prenatal handicaps and birth injuries, we urge the necessity of intensive study and unfettered education, in order that our children may be born with heritage of mental and physical health and into favorable home environments and thus become effective directors of our nation's destiny.

T. WINGATE TODD

PRACTICAL TALKS WITH STATE BOARDS

I

THE October and November board meetings of state leagues are the most important of the whole year, because at this time work for the entire winter must be organized and launched.

One of the essentials of efficient organization is the division of labor. In so far as practicable, let each Board member be responsible for a definite piece of work, as either chairman or vice-chairman of a committee. The committees needed may vary somewhat with local conditions, but most state leagues will probably find it expedient to have committees on: 1. County or town organization, 2. Medical cooperation, 3. Cooperation of social workers, 4. Clinics, 5. Meetings and speakers, 6. Fund raising, memberships, donations, benefits, 7. Publicity, 8. Nominations.

If leadership for these widely diverse branches of the work is not to be found among the present directors of the league, autumn is the best time to strengthen the board by adding new members, each of whom is qualified for the chairmanship of a particular committee. A physician, for instance, would probably make the best chairman for medical cooperation, while a woman having a wide acquaintance throughout the state and able to travel would be a good choice for chairman on county organization.

Another essential for efficient work is a careful plan. Ask each chairman to bring to the next board meeting a brief report on what has already been done in her field and what her committee hopes to accomplish during the year. For example, suggest that the chairman on cooperation of social workers report what social agencies now refer women in their care to doctors or clinics for contraceptive advice, and what steps her committee will take for winning over other agencies to this policy; that the chairman on meetings find out what

clubs, civic groups and church societies have not as yet had any discussion on birth control and make plans for getting the subject on their winter program, offering them a choice of speaker and title (organizations that would not consider a talk on "Birth Control" will often welcome one on "Planning the Family," "Rational Parenthood," or "Population Control"); that the chairman on medical cooperation prepare a map showing in which parts of the state there are already physicians willing and qualified to give contraceptive advice and in which parts there is special need for educational work this coming winter, and lay out a program for inviting the physicians in the latter districts to visit already existing clinics, offering them copies of Dr. Matsner's Outline, *The Technique of Contraception*, and asking them to arrange for discussion of the subject by their county medical societies. A map would be helpful also to the committee on organization. If these maps are hung in the league's headquarters, they can be used to show progress month by month, each new county committee, each new clinic being indicated.

Once the work is apportioned and planned, progress should be made each month by every committee, and reported by its chairman at the board meeting. Will the state leagues send us the best reports they receive from their committees? We should like either to publish them in the REVIEW or to send them directly to the committees doing similar work in other states, so that each league may have the advantage of the experience of the others.

In subsequent numbers of the REVIEW, we shall discuss the work of the various committees, and we should be glad to answer questions sent in by state chairmen. We hope that this department may be of practical value to them.

ELEANOR DWIGHT JONES,
President, American Birth Control League

Unlimited births lead inevitably to war and misery—see the effect in chronic starvation in China, in militarism in Italy and elsewhere, and in the general history of man.

On the other hand, voluntary restraint prevents the increase and tends toward the eventual disappearance of the best citizens in every country, leaving the future in the hands of the less desirable.

Hope lies in the education of these latter and in further and more drastic measures to prevent so far as possible the reproduction of the mentally and morally defective.

JOSEPH LEE,
President, Playground Assn. of America

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY ACCEPTS REPORT OF STUDY COMMITTEE

1. Contraception is an important medical aspect of vital importance to the American people.

2. Contraception should be under proper medical supervision and not under the control of the laity.

3. Contraception constitutes an important branch of preventive medicine today.

4. Contraceptive advice and treatment should be given by the family physician.

5. Physicians desiring to give contraceptive advice and treatment should be informed of the most modern and scientific methods, and the Committee suggests that when necessary, further arrangements for post graduate instruction be provided by our State Society.

6. The increase of criminal abortion, which may be conservatively estimated at two million a year in America, would be materially reduced if contraceptive measures were scientifically administered.

7. Contraception would minimize the number of therapeutic abortions in cases where pregnancy should never have occurred because of the presence of serious, organic maternal disease.

8. The Committee is reliably informed that commercial exploitation is being conducted by lay persons not properly qualified to give contraceptive advice, and it believes that such exploitation constitutes a menace to posterity.

9. The medical profession, after a period of several years, in which contraception has been largely under lay administration, should assert leadership in an organized way to control this problem.

10. The Committee is most strongly opposed to the giving of contraceptive advice and treatment without a very thorough analysis of the physical, mental, social, and economic status of the applicant, and it further believes that birth control should just as ardently encourage parenthood where it is indicated as it should endeavor to prevent it where it is contra-indicated.

11. Your Committee, after due investigation and consideration, recommends that the study of contraception should be indorsed by the medical profession of the State of Michigan, and it suggests that a permanent committee be appointed for further research and investigation.

DR. ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL, *Chairman,*
Grand Rapids

DR. JOHN L. CHESTER, *Detroit*

DR. W. C. ELLET, *Benton Harbor*

DR. GEORGE KEMPERMAN, *Detroit*

DR. RAY S. MORRISH, *Flint*

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

MICHIGAN

Michigan heads the list this fall with news of the utmost significance to the birth control movement. In 1932 the Michigan State Medical Society appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alexander Campbell, to make a study of birth control and report at the 1933 annual meeting. The report, printed on page two, was accepted with the proviso that the committee continue its study under the name Maternal Health Committee.

A second committee, consisting of Dr. Harold C. Mack, Chairman, *Detroit*, Dr. Norman Kretzechmar, *Ann Arbor*, Dr. B. W. Malfroid, *Flint*, Dr. Harry Nelson, *Detroit*, Dr. C. E. Toshach, *Saginaw*, was appointed by the Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology. It undertook to "investigate and summarize available information relative to the status of birth control in theory and practice, and to determine the attitude of the medical profession of the state of Michigan concerning this subject." Eighteen hundred and forty-six answers were received in reply to a questionnaire sent to each member of the Michigan State Medical Society. The question: *Are you in favor of birth control?* was answered as follows: 83 per cent, yes; 11.2 per cent, no; 5.5 per cent, no answer. Of the 1846, 144 stated objections to birth control. Among these the following were listed: religious, unnatural, public would take advantage of it, race suicide, ignorance, unlawful, unnecessary, patriotic reasons. The committee has prepared full reports, dealing with the subject from the legal, economic, religious and medical standpoint, which will be published in the MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL. The following brief excerpt indicates the attitude of the committee:

"An analysis of the questionnaires returned indicates that a favorable attitude is held by a large majority of the profession. . . . It seems plausible that eugenic aims can best be realized by extending the knowledge of contraception to and enforcing sterilization upon undesirable elements of society whose rate of propagation is in excess of that of the apparently more desirable classes. A judicious birth control program must also combat voluntary and involuntary sterility among the eugenically more desirable elements if the harmful effect of a differential birth rate is to be overcome. In the final analysis the physician must be guided by the social and economic needs of the individual and the family, for what is best for the health, and the social and economic welfare of the individual is undoubtedly best for the race.

"We, as a committee, are of the opinion that the birth control movement should be guided by the medical profession to exercise a proper control of its activities, to assure a more judicious use of methods which are both harmless and effective when necessary or desired, and to prevent exploitation of the laity by unethical agencies and individuals."

ARKANSAS

The clinic in Little Rock, which is maintained by the Arkansas Eugenics Association, chiefly serves women referred by social agencies. The physicians, nurses and clerical workers serve without compensation.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Birth Control Bill, which was passed by the House and rejected by the Senate in May, was referred to a conference committee of both houses in an attempt at compromise. The resultant substitute measure required the consultation of two physicians, one of whom was to be designated by the State Commissioner of Health. The Connecticut League, feeling that the bill was not consistent with the spirit of the birth control movement, did not support it. The lower house passed the revised bill by a vote of 174 to 60, but the Senate tabled it by a *viva voce* on the last day of the session.

DELAWARE

The Board of Directors, meeting on September 13th, initiated plans for raising funds to carry on the winter's work. The Wilmington clinic, maintained by the league, is open one day a week, with Dr. Verna Stevens in charge at the morning session and Dr. F. Earle Spencer at the afternoon session. Mrs. Ella N. McComb, R.N., is in full time attendance. Approximately one-third of the patients come from the underprivileged group and pay no fee.

ILLINOIS

The League had a booth at the International Congress of Women, held at the Palmer House, Chicago, in August. Visitors from all parts of the world were told about the work in Illinois and given information about the movement in America. The League will continue this winter to maintain its nine clinics.

KENTUCKY

The first Kentucky clinic opened in Louisville on June 19th with one session weekly. Dr. Esther Wallner is the staff physician and Mrs. Lucille Rogers is the social worker.

MISSOURI

The following statement regarding the name of the Missouri organization will be read with interest:

The Maternal Health Association of Missouri was

begun and supervised by leading obstetricians of St. Louis who saw the need for some form of Birth Control in the State. Their idea was to make contraceptive advice available in order to conserve the health of the mother when threatened by such conditions as;

(a) Constitutional diseases of the mother.

(b) Hereditary diseases of either parent.

(c) Criminal abortion which often follows too frequent childbearing.

(d) Too many children, undermining the mother's health and reacting on the new-born child.

St. Louis being a very conservative city, it was felt that the people would more readily accept the organization under the head of Maternal Health Association than to use a name containing the phrase "birth control," which immediately arouses prejudice. In accordance with our name we advise only women who have had one or more children. We hope, however, to extend our field of activity as soon as the Federal and State laws permit.

The Association is organizing a lending library to stimulate a better understanding of birth control. The National League has presented a file of the REVIEW, and other material to the library.

NEW YORK

The New York State Federation is steadily developing its county committees. Six counties are already organized:

Albany County: The Albany County Committee was organized in May, 1933. Birth control service is provided through a clinic at the Albany hospital. Special committees on education and membership will carry on the chief activities this fall.

Kings County: Three mothers' health centers are now operating. The attendance has been very favorable and there is an excellent advisory committee of Brooklyn doctors.

Monroe County: A Medical Advisory board has been formed. It is hoped that a settlement or hospital will soon be found in which to open a center.

Nassau County: The Nassau County Committee opened a center in the Matinecock Neighborhood Association at Locust Valley, Long Island, on May 3rd, 1933. There have been 21 sessions through September 15th. Up to the present time all expenses of the Center (salaries, supplies, equipment, printing, rent, etc.) have been met by contributions from interested neighbors. A general appeal for funds has just been sent out in Nassau County. Patients have come chiefly from the local Visiting Nurses Association and Welfare agencies.

New York City Committee: Eight mothers health centers are now sponsored by the New York City Committee. Attendance at these centers comes chiefly through social agencies, as a result of the New York City Committee's activities in contacting social workers.

Onondaga County: The Maternal Welfare Service of the Onondaga Birth Control League opened its center at 464 James Street, Syracuse, on June 20th. Dr. Sarah E. White is in charge. The Associated Charities, the Children's Bureau, the Free Dispensary, the Jewish Charities and three hospitals have endorsed the center and their social workers are authorized to refer patients.

The Federation announces with deep regret the death of its first vice-president, MRS. CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN of Buffalo. Mrs. Hamlin was a leading spirit in national and local birth control work.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation in conjunction with the South East Pennsylvania Birth Control League conducted a campaign this summer, not only to raise money but to interest new people. Before this campaign started a list of approximately 5,000 names was carefully compiled, including executive committees and board members of social agencies and hospitals throughout the south east district. It is interesting to note that 50 per cent of the returns came from new people.

The South East Pennsylvania League has been coordinating the organization and the clinical work. There are now seven Philadelphia clinics; the newest one is at 2104 Jefferson Street, under the medical direction of Dr. Virginia Alexander. Our Pittsburgh clinic has enlarged its quarters and is planning for a much larger centralized clinic for the winter. The Committee in Easton has already raised sufficient funds to support its clinic for the ensuing year. Bethlehem, Wilkes-Barre, Lancaster, Chester and Reading have flourishing clinics. There is every prospect of opening additional clinics in other counties this fall.

The State Federation and South East League will hold their annual meetings and election of officers in November as usual.

A Pennsylvania Appeal Letter

The severely pruned budget of our three groups for the coming year requires \$15,000 additional funds. This money is to go toward the actual work of giving needy mothers medical advice and attention which they seek from established clinics. It will also give aid and

counsel to many groups who wish us to open other Maternal Health centers.

The insistent demand for Birth Control has doubled in the last year. The significance of spacing childbirths increases in these present times of business depression. It is fundamental relief because it is preventive and not palliative. The work in clinics and in educating the public to its effectiveness furnishes not only immediate help but insurance for our social structure in the future.

May we suggest that this work deserves a worthwhile place in your philanthropic budget?

THE NEW DEAL

AN ANTHROPOLOGIST tells of an aged woman being fastened as a target for her grandson's arrows that for the sake of the many a life which had finally become burdensome to the group should be extinguished. We rightfully recoil from such barbarity; but is it more civilized to burden society with the care of hopelessly handicapped individuals who are never able to become an asset to the group, and whose birth and existence bring chiefly suffering to themselves and others?

The goal of the New Deal involves opportunity for youth, justice for the worker, and security for old age. The rightful complement of the N.R.A. drive for economic and social rehabilitation is an adjustment of the population problem. Never was the promotion of a sound and scientific program for birth control more essential. For there is no surer method of perpetuating the vicious circles of poverty and social inadequacy which retard progress than by the reckless breeding of those who are most poorly equipped in culture and economic status to rear families. The acceleration of the movement for sterilization of the mentally unfit denotes an intelligent appraisal of that aspect of the problem; the tragedy of large families among the lower economic strata is still outstanding.

And yet the menace of "breedocracy" is abroad in the spirit of the world. Italy, France, and Germany, among others, are promoting artificially stimulated drives for increased populations. A false nationalism may easily inspire a similar mob sentiment here.

I honor the work of the American Birth Control League to the end that recognized clinics may openly and scientifically instruct the needy in methods of birth control. Only a foolish obscurantism insists that a social invention which has already taken its place in the culture patterns of more favored classes shall be "bootleg" knowledge for the many.

WILLIAM WHITCOMB WHITEHOUSE,
Dean, Albion College, Michigan

BRIEFS

England: THE PRACTITIONER, a medical journal, brings out its September issue as a special birth control number. Lord Thomas Horder, president of the National Birth Control Association, points out that birth control becomes a less controversial subject every year; Havelock Ellis discusses the need for population restriction, and Dr. Eardley Holland states that "contraception does not exert any injurious physiologic or psychological effects."

The London Correspondent of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, under date of September 23, writes: "The birth control movement has made progress in the half century since Charles Bradlaugh's prosecution. This progress, like its inception, has largely been due to the work of lay persons, and the medical profession, with the exception of one prominent advocate, Dr. C. V. Drysdale, for a long time took no part in the movement. The publication of the works of Dr. Marie Stopes (who is not a physician but a doctor of science) has recently given further impetus to the movement, in which an important section of the medical profession has at last joined. The only opposition has come from religious persons, on the ground that birth control is immoral. The Roman Catholic Church is uncompromisingly condemnatory and its members in the medical profession attempted to organize some opposition. But nothing is heard of this now, not because the opponents have changed their minds but because they realize that they cannot check the movement. It has now too many influential supporters."

France: A special number of the French periodical PAMPHLET is devoted to birth control and the problems of removing legal restrictions in France. Alfred Fabre-Luce, the editor, pleads for the use of methods which are scientific and in accord with the dictates of public health. He laments the fact that in France, alone, the spread of birth control practice is not fully developed, and explains the attitudes of the Catholics and the Protestants toward the problems of family limitation. He sees in all countries a tendency to recognize the necessity for some form of family limitation.

Germany: A new sterilization law, designed "to aid in the elimination of offspring with marked hereditary defects and thus to promote a racial improvement," will go into effect on January 1st. It is anticipated that this law will be followed by positive legislative measures to protect families of sound heredity.

Holland: An Institute for the Investigation of Heredity has recently been established at the Hague. At the

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request of its director, Dr. J. Sanders, the League has sent a complete file of the REVIEW and other publications to the Institute Library.

India: A Calcutta press dispatch announces that the Governor of French India has invoked the French anti-Birth Control Law of July, 1920, in all French settlements in India. (*Amrita Bazar Patrika*—Aug., 1933.)

Annie Besant, champion of birth control, free speech, woman suffrage, home rule and other liberal causes, died in India on September 20th. Mrs. Besant would have been 86 years old on October 1st. She and Charles Bradlaugh were tried on the charge of distributing 185,000 copies of Dr. Knowlton's book *The Fruits of Philosophy* in 1877. Their trial and exoneration brought birth control before the public and resulted in the formation of the Malthusian League.

Wisconsin: A substitute amendment taking the place of the "O'Malley Birth Control Bill" was passed by the Wisconsin Legislature in July. The unfortunate feature of the bill, which is concerned only with the advertising or display of indecent articles, lies in the definition of the term. The Act reads as follows:

CHAPTER 420, LAWS OF 1933

To create section 351.235 of the statutes, relating to the advertising, display or sale of indecent articles, and providing a penalty.

SECTION 1. A new section is added to the statutes to read: 351.235 ADVERTISING OR DISPLAY OF INDECENT ARTICLES, SALE IN CERTAIN CASES PROHIBITED.

(1) As used in this chapter, the term "indecent articles" means any drug, medicine, mixture, preparation, instrument, article or device of whatsoever nature used or intended or represented to be used to procure a miscarriage or prevent pregnancy.

(2) No person, firm or corporation shall publish, distribute or circulate any circular, card, advertisement or notice of any kind offering or advertising any indecent article for sale, nor shall exhibit or display any indecent article to the public.

(3) No person, firm or corporation shall manufacture, purchase, or rent, or have in his or its possession or under his or its control, any slot machine, or other mechanism or means so designed and constructed as to contain and hold indecent articles and to release the same upon the deposit therein of a coin or other thing of value.

(4) No person, firm or corporation shall sell or dispose of or attempt or offer to sell or dispose of any indecent articles to or for any unmarried person; and no sale in any case of any indecent articles shall be made except by a pharmacist registered under the provisions of Chapter 151 or a physician or surgeon duly licensed under the laws of this state.

(5) Any persons, firm or corporation violating any provision of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred or more than five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not to exceed six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. In addition thereto, any license, permit or registration certificate issued under any law or ordinance to any such person, firm or corporation, shall be cancelled or revoked.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

AN ESSENTIAL part of the population problem is to get the people to see that they are confronted with a condition, not a theory. Fixed attitudes and prejudices are hard to break down, and the public is not easily impressed with what it has been taught to regard as at most a remote danger. The American farmer will not soon believe that overpopulation is imminent. There are, moreover, speculative and other interests which profit by population increase. And there are many timid, optimistic folk, dominated by traditional moral and religious sentiment, whose rationalizing proclivities prevent them from facing the issue squarely. To avoid admitting early danger of overpopulation, they institute an imaginary migration to the jungles of South America, or grasp at the straw of synthetic food and intra-atomic energy. It goes without saying that no bank would lend money to a business man whose plans for future solvency were as visionary as those of the optimists who think we need not worry over population increase. . . . It is a fault of population theory that it is man-made. This also puts a black mark against traditional optimistic attitudes, and against cameralistic and mercantilistic population policies from Frederick the Great down to our own time. Such attitudes and such policies never count the vital costs of a high birth-rate—the costs to the women of the race.

A. B. WOLFE

Scripps Foundation for Population Research

SUGGESTED READING

The American Birth Control League has initiated a book department equipped to fill all orders for books at regular list prices, and to suggest authoritative books on birth control, marriage, sex education, eugenics and allied subjects. The following recent books are recommended for your league, community, or personal library:

GROWING INTO MANHOOD, by Roy E. Dickerson, *Association Press, Y.M.C.A., N. Y.* \$1.00

LIFE IN THE MAKING, by Alan Frank Guttmacher, M.D. *Viking Press, N. Y.* \$2.75.

MY FIGHT FOR BIRTH CONTROL, by Margaret Sanger. Farrar & Reinhart, N. Y. \$3.00.

THE HYGIENE OF MARRIAGE, by Millard S. Everett. *Vanguard Press, N. Y.* \$2.50.

THE SEX FACTOR IN MARRIAGE, by Helena Wright. *Vanguard Press, N. Y.* \$2.00.

THE REVIEW FOR PERMANENT RECORD

If your personal file of the REVIEW is incomplete, we shall be glad to supply missing numbers without charge. Write at once, as some issues are already out of print.

THE REVIEW is now available for public reference in more than 150 libraries throughout the country. Requests for additional copies are coming to us daily. If you have no further use for back numbers of the REVIEW, kindly send them to the League office by express or parcel post collect. In this way, you will help us put the history of the birth control movement on permanent record in many communities.

The following numbers are particularly needed:—February, April, 1931; January, April, May, November, 1932.

Never did the social exigencies of the hour so completely justify a clear insistence on the reasons for and the mechanics of birth control. At no other time in my life has it seemed to me so important that care should go to the bearing of children. I am glad to see the American Birth Control League undertake the responsibility of advising the public in this matter, with renewed assurance and enlarged intelligence. I feel that the matter has become more and more one of general social concern, and wish you every success in the conduct of your campaign.

MARY AUSTIN

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the American Birth Control League will be held in New York on January 17th and 18th, 1934. Program and speakers will be announced in the next issue. All members and friends of the birth control movement are urged to attend.

The American Birth Control League

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IN REPLY

We invite our readers to send inquiries on all phases of birth control work for reply and discussion. Each subsequent issue will reply in detail to one question of general interest.

Is the number of contraceptive clinics declining or increasing?

The first birth control clinic in America was opened by Margaret Sanger in October, 1916. The following figures indicate the steady growth of clinical service since then. In January, 1932, there were 104 centers for contraceptive advice; in January, 1933, there were 121; by June the number had increased to 133 and today, October, 1933, the total has reached 137.

Should welfare groups be asked to pay fees for clients they send to birth control clinics?

Logically, yes, since they must pay for the care of the unwanted child which might be born if contraceptive service were not available. Practically, the request should not be so insistent as to alienate the welfare groups. There is a growing tendency to see birth control as a matter of public health. As such it might well be financed by welfare groups and public funds. In this connection it is interesting to note that the clinic in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is tax supported.

Where can one find data on the so-called safe period, suitable for lay reading?

The two books issued for the laymen by the Catholic press are *The Rhythm of Sterility and Fertility in Women* by Leo J. Latz, M.D. (Latz Foundation, Chicago) and *The Sterile Period in Family Life* by Very Rev. Valere J. Coucke and James J. Walsh, M.D. (Joseph F. Wagner, New York). A review and scien-

tific criticism of the theory and of these two books by Professor Carl G. Hartman was published in the May 1933 issue of the REVIEW. Dr. Eric M. Matsner, medical director of the League, sums up the matter as follows: "There are a series of non-fertile days in the menstrual cycle. But the variation between different women makes it impossible to apply any general rule which would safeguard all women."

Has any religious group recently endorsed birth control?

An influential group of Quakers—the Special Committee of the Women's Problems Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends—issued a statement favorable to the movement in April, 1933. It emphasized the positive aspects of birth control in these well-chosen words:

"In the minds of a great many people the term 'birth control' has come to mean but one thing; limitation or prevention of the birth of children through contraceptive methods. We understand it to imply much more than that. We use the term in a broad sense to mean voluntary parenthood by the regulation of the number of children and the time of their conception. This means planning for children and spacing them according to the best interests of the family."

How can social workers be contacted and brought into the movement?

This question is of vital importance and is frequently asked. It effects the financing of clinic work, the number and kind of patients, the place of birth control in social service work. We have asked Carol K. Nash, field secretary of the New York City Committee and a social worker of wide experience, to discuss the matter fully in the November issue. —EDITOR'S NOTE

BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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Sent to all members of the American Birth Control League and affiliated State Leagues

The American Birth Control League

Its Aim: To promote eugenic birth selection throughout the United States so that there may be more well-born and fewer ill-born children—a stronger, healthier and more intelligent race.



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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing to ask if we may include your name among a distinguished group of approximately 500 leaders of public opinion in America, whom we wish to list as sponsors of an AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON BIRTH CONTROL AND NATIONAL RECOVERY to be held in Washington, D. C., on January 15, 16, and 17, 1934.

Your consent in this regard entails no financial obligation of any kind, but it will be most helpful in convincing Senators and Representatives that responsible and intelligent citizens in every state of the Union, endorse our efforts.

With 3,500,000 families dependent on public relief funds, this is the time of all times to unite our forces for what we hope will be a final drive on Congress to amend the Federal Laws which now prevent the mothers of these families from obtaining this form of constructive assistance through hospitals, dispensaries and public health agencies.

The Preliminary Program enclosed will give you a more detailed idea of what the Conference will cover. Many distinguished sociologists, scientists, educators, physicians and others have already consented to speak at the Conference, or to lend their names as sponsors.

Your valued assistance in this way would be greatly appreciated. There is no obligation to attend the Conference although we hope very much you will find it possible to be present. As the time is short, may I hear from you at an early date?

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Sanger
National Chairman.

S:R

November 10, 1933.

Mrs. Margaret Sanger,
17 West 16th St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Sanger:

In reply to your kind letter of
November 8th, permit me to say that you may
include my name among the sponsors of the Conference
on Birth Control which you will call in Washington.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK

American Conference on Birth Control and National Recovery

AT

THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 15-16-17, 1934

Under the auspices of the

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL, INC.

President, MARGARET SANGER

1343 H STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

NA tional 4780

December 20, 1933

Dear Friend:

I know you are interested in the progress of our work, and I am writing to ask if you will grant us permission to use your name as an unofficial representative of your State for our Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control.

Our Conference Program is under way and we desire to indicate geographically where our support comes from. Your State is weak compared to some others. While we have hundreds of endorsers there, we want to build up our list of state representatives.

I hope you will consent to help us in this way. There is no obligation involved. If we may list your name, please ~~write or~~ wire collect.

With appreciation, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Sanger
President

enclosure

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