

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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## CAUSE FOR REJOICING

A NOTE of jubilee was sounded at the May meeting of the American Birth Control League through the announcement that the number of birth control centers in the United States had passed two hundred. Turning from its problems of the moment, the League looked back on the results of its recent work, and found them good. From such positive proof of the power of concerted action, League members recruited new strength to go on with the fight, until no community in the nation shall be without centers for reliable advice on family planning.

A five year report of progress read by Mrs. Louis deB Moore, Chairman of the Executive Committee, pointed out, "Only thirty-one such centers were listed in 1930. Since November, 1934, 52 centers have been opened, an average of about two per week. We are jubilant at this sign of awakening to social responsibility, though we regret that it took the depression to hasten action."

New York State leads with 35 centers, of which 26 are in Greater New York City. California is second with 30 centers, Pennsylvania third with 25 and Michigan fourth with thirteen. Nineteen State birth control organizations are now affiliated with the League, as against seven in 1930.

Calls to help establish more centers are pouring in from social and relief agencies throughout the country, Mrs. Moore stated. Though the League is turning its immediate energies to meet the need of underprivileged mothers, its continuing goal is to lower America's shockingly high maternal death rate, to promote child health and to make motherhood a matter not of chance, but of choice.

Mrs. Moore closed her talk with an appeal to League members for summer activity. "The pressing need, the ever-present poverty and distress, the appeals for help go right on through June, July and August," she said. "The clinics remain open, the staff at headquarters carries on. If we are what we profess to be, advocates of birth control, we will not drop out now with the thought of picking up in the Fall. Wherever we go, there are people to be won—some who need hear only the few words of a friend to become themselves enthused, some who will read a pamphlet while on the train, others who could and would give money if they knew more about this great work."

## FIVE YEARS' PROGRESS

### BIRTH CONTROL CENTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Listed in 1930	31
November, 1934	148
June, 1935	202

## BIRTH CONTROL IN A CHANGING WORLD

TO A WORLD darkened by economic distress and armament in a frenzy of nationalism for another war, the birth control movement holds out substantial hope. Little territory is available now for expansion, the struggle for subsistence that leads to war and misery may be checked only by rational control of populations.

In Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and Catholic Fascist Austria, birth control centers have been closed and the dissemination of contraceptive information prohibited. But women under Fascism have given their answer to the dictators who bid them bear more babies to fight future wars. Birth rates indicate that the movement which gained ground in these countries in earlier years is by no means stifled. Despite Premier Mussolini's energetic campaign for more population, despite his gifts to mothers of large families and his taxes on bachelors, Italy's birth rate has declined since the advent of Fascism. In 1924 it was 29 per 1,000, it was only 23 in 1934.

Germany's birth rate has increased somewhat, having reached 17.6 during the first half of 1934, as against 16 in 1931. Many of the young couples, married with the aid of State dowries, have produced a child. But Nazi officials are said to be worrying as to whether these families will be increased. The economic conditions under which German mothers know their children must live do not promise great success for Adolf Hitler's population policies.

France is using patriotic persuasion to again emphasize to her people her old fear of "race suicide" and lack of man power for national defense. Her laws forbidding birth control centers have neither been tightened nor relaxed. And yet the eyes of the world, turned upon Russia's experiment in social planning, observe that race suicide has by no means followed the

legalization of contraception and abortion under the Soviet laws. About three million a year has been the Soviet's recent increase in population.

Into the teeming countries of Asia, knowledge of contraceptive methods is filtering steadily, through the efforts of missionaries and native doctors and nurses. Elsewhere in this issue are reports which show that thoughtful Japanese are realizing that their country might more wisely relieve the pressure of her pent up population through birth control than through war.

It is significant that those European countries now most stable economically and politically, are liberal in their attitude toward birth control. In the Scandinavian countries and The Netherlands, where contraception is firmly established, infant mortality is low and social conditions are above the average.

The Ministry of Health in Great Britain has officially recognized birth control as a public health measure. Clinics in England and Scotland are increasing. However, Britain's progress is retarded, as is ours in the United States, by lack of training in contraceptive technique among physicians.

The birth control movement in Europe was organized and growing in the days before the World War, when its pioneers in America were blazing the trail. But the comparatively young movement in the United States has travelled fast in the last few years, in spite of the handicaps of an archaic "obscenity" law and of religious opposition. An increasing number of State medical societies have gone on record as endorsing the principles of birth control or have called for an authoritative investigation. The powerful Medical Society of the State of New York is the latest to sponsor such an investigation.

Centers for contraceptive advice in the United States have increased more than five fold since 1930, a remarkable growth. People of courage and conviction have forged ahead, setting in motion in their communities the forces of practical action that have provided birth control service for overburdened mothers.

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**JANE ADDAMS**  
1860-1935

The League wish to pay tribute to Jane Addams as a courageous friend of the birth control movement in its early and difficult years. Hull House was the first welfare organization in the United States to offer underprivileged mothers the advantage of contraceptive advice. One of the most interesting experiences of the delegates to our annual meeting in Chicago last January was a visit to this historic clinic.

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## SERVICE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN HOLLAND

**T**HOUGH the land of dykes and tulips has long enjoyed a commendable sanity concerning birth control laws, the need of the poor and unemployed for free contraceptive service is great, a recent report from Dr. Aletta Jacobs points out. A clinic opened in Amsterdam under medical supervision on September 21, 1931, has had more than 3,000 new patients each year with the number of unemployed patients increasing from 13% in 1932 to 22% in 1934. Previously the New Malthusian League of Holland had been able to help only about 600 women a year through the visits to their homes of women trained to give birth control service.

All religions are represented at the clinic, about twenty per cent being Catholics. Patients unable to pay even a small fee are helped through a fund established in memory of the great pioneer, Dr. Jan Rutgers, and through donations from some 39,000 members in the country at large. A request for subsidy for the unemployed group at the clinic was refused by the Common Council of the city.

The clinic's services include medical examination before marriage and advice to the married on such problems as sterility and sexual maladjustment. It is not at all out of the ordinary for sixty or seventy patients to visit the clinic in a single evening or noon time. In the first year there were only two consulting hours a week, now there are eight. Physicians are learning birth control technique at the clinic, and monthly congresses of interested physicians are held to discuss scientific problems. The medical advisory committee includes directors of all the League's clinics in six cities of Holland. Among the visitors last year was a Belgian physician who wanted to establish a clinic in Antwerp.

Administration is supervised by a husband and wife, who live at the clinic. The staff consists of four doctors and three nurses. A number of physicians and medical students have availed themselves of the opportunity to learn the theory and practice of contraception at the clinic.

The value of publicity is recognized. Exhibits of posters are held frequently. A radio speech made by the director brought letters from all parts of the country. More than 1,000 letters a year are received by the clinic.

Raising funds to maintain the clinic and to establish others is a problem. "However," Dr. Jacobs reports, "our financial troubles disappear if we think of the thousands we have helped in their need. We are still going strong!"

## BIRTH CONTROL IN SOVIET RUSSIA

By MARGARET SANGER

SO MANY conflicting reports about the practice of birth control and the spread of abortions in Russia have been circulated, that I decided to make a brief tour last summer and ascertain the facts for myself, as well as time would allow

I visited dispensaries, hospitals, clinics and Institutes for the Protection of Motherhood in Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad, Odessa and elsewhere. Contrary to the oft-quoted warning that I would see only what I was supposed to see, I found that I was able to see anything that I asked to see, and many things that I was not supposed to see

To understand the Russian birth control situation, and the abortion situation, for the two are connected, one must keep in mind the attitude of Soviet Russia toward its women. This would delight the heart of the staunchest feminist. Equal rights are a settled and accepted fact. Woman is equal to man in every occupation, in sports, in the arts, in marriage—in all activities. When pregnancy begins this equality ceases

Then the woman becomes a protegee of the State. Both the mother and the child are under the protection and care of the government, to an extent perhaps never before equalled in history

As might be expected, given this attitude and the Russian social and political philosophy, there are no laws against birth control, and no religious objections. The right of a woman to have birth control instruction is clear. And this right need not be bulwarked, as in our country, by "health reasons," "economic reasons," "eugenic reasons," but is granted as a simple *human* right

It is on this ground that abortions are allowed, though under restrictions to safeguard the health of the woman. Abortions must be performed in hospitals under proper conditions. The woman must remain in the hospital three days, and must stay at home for the following seven days. She receives full pay during this period of absence from work

Abortions are discouraged, however, and a woman who presents herself for a first abortion is urged not to have it. Birth control advice is given largely as a means of lowering the tremendous number of abortions. The total number is not known, but the number for Moscow alone is roughly estimated at 100,000 per year

Birth Control advice is usually given at the Women's Consultation Centers, where women are urged to go not only for medical advice, but for legal, domestic

and occupational problems as well. Here (as in the dispensaries and hospitals in practically every city, town and village I visited) there are posters warning women against abortions and urging them to practice contraception instead

While this seemed most convincing and encouraging, I was disappointed to find that the actual materials available at the birth control clinics were very poor, or that materials were lacking altogether. Physicians in charge are familiar with all the methods used throughout the world, but no effort is being made, apparently, to import any mechanical or chemical supplies. Those manufactured in Russia have not proved satisfactory. Qualified manufacturers are needed

I was also disappointed to find that research on immunization, which was begun several years ago, has apparently been discontinued. This is particularly unfortunate in Russia. With supplies so poor in quality and so inadequate, the techniques generally used elsewhere in Europe and in this country, cannot be followed

All the officials with whom I discussed the matter stated that as soon as the economic and social plans of Soviet Russia are realized, neither abortions nor contraception will be necessary or desired. A functioning Communistic society will assure the happiness of every child, and will assume the full responsibility for its welfare and education

Abortion, as I have said above, is discouraged and is looked upon as a temporary measure. For the present, birth control is encouraged, and better methods would be welcomed. It is my impression, however, that Russia does not want a controlled population, on the contrary, she wants an increased birthrate. But every medical man and woman with whom I talked endorses birth control as a means of lessening abortion, as a fundamental right of all women, and as a health measure

In summary theoretically, there are no obstacles to birth control in Russia. It is accepted, not on economic grounds, but on the grounds of health and human right. Practically, supplies are few and are of poor quality. Russia's need is for the importation and manufacture of tested and reliable supplies. In this respect America is far ahead. On the other hand, we could well take example from Russia, where there are no legal restrictions, no religious condemnation, and where birth control instruction is part of the regular welfare service of the government

## GERMANY LOSES GROUND\*

By MAX HODANN, M D

AFTER the war, liberalism, democracy and socialism acquired much influence in Germany, owing to the reaction against imperialism. This led to a great development of welfare work and eventually to the organization of centers providing advice on birth control.

In 1919 the first Sex Consultation Center was opened at the Institute for Sexology at Berlin, as a result of the work of Dr Magnus Hirschfeld. Advice on contraception and its practical application became part of the regular program. By 1933 there were considerably over 100 of these official and semi-official birth control and sex therapy centers which gave free advice, referred cases to practitioners and rendered practical assistance, where possible, either free or for moderate fees.

To some extent these centers were maintained by local authorities as part of the Public Health Service. In Berlin the local panels, which now form one central association, added to their ambulatory clinics special sex advice centers which were open also to non-members. Lastly, a number of private welfare organizations, with or without municipal or trade union support, started centers of their own, to this latter group belonged the National Birth Control Association, the Mothers' Protection League, People's Association for Sex Reform and others. This group included also the Mothers' Protection Association founded by Dr Helene Stocker who, like most exponents of the German birth control movement, is now an exile from Germany. These associations had a total of about 103,000 lay members just before the movement was attacked by the Nazis.

When the Nazis took over the government in 1933, the position was completely altered at one stroke. The Nazi Medical Association took the lead in all medical matters. Its members, usually well to-do middle class men, held ingrained militaristic views and were under the spell of authors preaching "German Race Improvement," "Uplift" and "Race Hygiene." It was only logical that their first blow should be directed against birth control. The Hirschfeld Institute was wrecked by Nazi students who burned all the records, and the building was taken over by the Nazi Lawyers' Guild.

All Sex Advice Centers were closed by specially appointed municipal commissioners. In Berlin, a promise was given that after reorganization they would be reopened as centers for Eugenics and Race Improvement. This promise has not so far been kept.

The Sex Education Associations were dissolved and some of the officials arrested as having "Bolshevist" tendencies. The Socialist Medical Association, which had been very active in birth control work, was broken up and some of the leading members arrested or forced to leave the country. One of the most prominent birth control workers, who is now enjoying English hospitality, was brutally maltreated and was able to leave Germany only after prolonged convalescence.

As a counter movement against birth control the Ministry for Propaganda and National Enlightenment created a special "Increase of Population" Department, which so far has published two pamphlets "Mothers, Fight for your Children" and "The Coming Generation." Both of them advocate unlimited propagation because a falling birth rate would endanger the existence of the German nation and in the last analysis is responsible for the prevailing economic crisis. To quote from the original "Assuming that during the last fifteen years roughly one million more children per annum might have been born, we have here the reason why tens of thousands of German shoemakers, tailors, labourers, farmers, teachers, printers, midwives, physicians, toy manufacturers and home workers found no market or no work. *The shortage of children is partly responsible for unemployment* (italicized in the original). It is a fact that German children today are insufficiently provided with clothing and shoes and still less with toys, yet Officialdom condemns every birth control measure as high treason. No law has so far been passed to prohibit the sale of contraceptives but it is said that such a law is in contemplation.

Propaganda, as already mentioned, stresses by all possible means the fact that the individual is in danger of having to carry extra burdens and that only a rising birth rate can stave off the evil. Nothing is said as to how propagation is to be made easier. The only argument is this. Since 1924 the German people have spent 8,000 million marks on alcohol and tobacco and accordingly "can afford" to have children. These admonitions have hitherto had very little effect because of the lowering standard of living in Germany. Attempts are also being made to stigmatize childless women and childless marriages. The following remarks, which I heard recently, show what women of the poorer classes think of all this propaganda. "Why isn't Hitler married?" "Why hasn't Hitler any children?" "He is working on a four year plan and takes four years for that."

Being opposed by powerful forces, the propaganda for a higher birth rate will probably fail in the long run just as it did in Italy.

\* Extracts from an article in the 1934 report of the International Medical Group for the Investigation of Contraception.

## NEWS ACROSS THE SEA

## FINLAND

ANY American city has a long way to go before a request can be made to its City Council for funds to start a birth control clinic. Helsingfors did this recently, however, with encouraging results. The clinic was opened in January, 1935, with two sessions a week, according to clippings translated from the Finnish through the kindness of Mrs. Elna Orrman.

Before the Council put the question to vote they asked the Health Department to appoint a committee of physicians to make an investigation. The committee's recommendation was favorable and the Council voted 25,000 marks (about \$550) for the first year of the clinic, which is known as the Bureau for Sexual Advice.

Three factors influenced the committee—lowering standards of living due to the depression, increase in venereal disease since the World War and increase in abortions. Legalized abortion, as in Russia, would not be the solution, it was decided. So the committee turned to the method of prevention used in America and England, first weighing carefully the fact that Finland wishes to increase her population.

The Bureau, subordinated to the Health Department, has been established in connection with an already active dispensary. Its staff consists of a gynecologist and a registered nurse. No charge is made to the destitute, others pay a very small fee. Close connection is maintained with the city's bureaus for prevention of venereal diseases, psychological bureaus, tuberculosis dispensaries and maternity bureaus. Patients also are referred by the Board of Charity. Men and women who are of age are advised, whether they are married or single.

## INDIA

A curious statement was attributed to Mahatma Gandhi in recent press dispatches, reporting his comment on a proposed bill authorizing the government to supply contraceptive information—a measure that was defeated. "If the Indian people multiply like rabbits," said the Mahatma, "they will have to die like rabbits. If nature brought about an excessive increase in the population, it is up to nature to solve the problem thereby created."

However, there are many signs that India's people are awaking to the need for birth control, reports Mrs. Edith How Martyn, Director of the Birth Control International Information Centre in London, who has just visited the Mahatma's overpopulated land. Teachers, missionaries and doctors are eager to hear about practical methods of contraception, she found. The

All India Women's Conference resolved "This conference is more than ever convinced that on account of the low standard of physique of women, high infant mortality, and increasing poverty of the country, instruction in methods of birth control through recognized clinics is a necessity."

## ENGLAND

"Despite the fact that lay interest and inquiry are both awake and pressing on the subject of birth control, medical opinion is strangely discordant and ill formed. The majority of medical men and women still begin practice with no instruction in contraceptive methods—a startling anachronism when we remember that memoranda have been issued to public authorities by the Ministry of Health encouraging the formation of birth control clinics and the giving of medical help to women whose lives and health make contraception desirable. Surely this defect should be remedied without delay."

*From the Presidential speech of Lord Horaer to the Medical Society of London 1934*

## DENMARK

Fascistic thinking has conquered Germany, Denmark's neighbor, and thereby it gains great influence in Denmark, Dr. J. H. Leunbach reports. Denmark still has no birth control clinic except the first, opened in Copenhagen in 1924. A ballot cast by the physicians of the country has shown that the great majority are in favor of contraception as well as of therapeutic abortion. Yet only a couple of lectures are delivered yearly on contraception at the medical department of Copenhagen University, and no practical demonstration in the technique is given.

## JAPAN

On February 4, 1935, the Japanese House of Representatives discussed the population problem when Isao Naka, a member of the Minseito Party, asked the Home Minister whether his department had studied the question of birth control. The Deputy quoted numerous instances of social tragedies and declared that birth control is of the greatest importance as a measure whereby the life of low-class officials and salaried men with small incomes may be made more worth living.

Minister Goto opposed the proposal. "History shows," he said, "that once the idea of birth control holds a firm grip over a nation and is widely practiced, such a nation is destined to ruin. The exertions of a

people under adverse conditions furnish the motive power for national progress" He promised, however, to lay the matter before the proposed National Policy Council for study and investigation

Mr Naka thanked the Minister for this promise and added "I can well imagine what the National Policy Council will report Our nation is becoming more and more nationalistic and militaristic The welfare of the people does not mean much if it is opposed to the interest of the army, which needs more soldiers than a regulated birth control would furnish"

### YOUNG CHINA SEEKS A WAY OUT

Dr Eric M Matsner,  
American Birth Control League  
Dear Dr Matsner

Overpopulation in China has been one of the biggest social, economic and public health problems This is growing more and more serious in the last few years when many parts of our country has been seriously hit by different famines Millions of infants are starved and thousands are sold away for slaves and also thousands are killed when they were born With our old traditions the child production is considered glorious and good luck to the family, many are not until recently awaking up to realize the problem for study

I am expected to go back to take charge of one of the rural health stations, and I am writing to you for some suggestions The contraceptives prescribed in the United States will not be very practical in China The first thing it is more costive than the poor farmers get, secondly they are little hard to get, thirdly with the old tradition and shyness the women will not come for advice, and fourthly there are only few medical men who can give the advice and know how and when to use I have read your book, the manual you wrote for the League, and so far I can see there are three more methods probably more practical to be tried out in China (Here the writer suggests a method which he says "will be easily made in any home and is inexpensive")

*From a letter of April 14 1935, written by a Chinese physician studying in an American hospital*

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"It would be officially denied, but the best private authorities state, and with admiration for her courage, that Queen Mary is behind the birth control movement, recently permitted increasing propaganda in England"

*The New Yorker*

### JAPAN'S ATTITUDE

By BARONESS SHIDZUE ISHIMOTO

OUR birth control clinic in Tokyo was opened ahead of schedule in March, 1934, because more than a thousand women had already written to us asking for help They had seen in a Tokyo daily paper a suggestion about the clinic, given by Miss Natsu Kawasaki, the leading feminist and conductor of a question and answer column for women

This clinic is the first in Japan which stands firmly on a scientific and non-commercial basis The techniques used in the Birth Control Research Bureau in New York are strictly followed here, except that the necessary supplies are now produced in Tokyo to save the expense of importing them

Our work is proving that if the clinic takes pains to instruct mothers, these modern methods of contraception are also applicable to the Orientals, whose habits and mode of living are so entirely different from those of the West The wives of peasants in the northern district of Japan, whose standard of living is unspeakably low, inform us through letters that they can learn this Western method well A branch clinic has been established in this poverty-stricken district The word passes from one laborer's wife to another, as she tells how peace has been regained in her family since she succeeded in removing the constant fear of undesired pregnancy

The general attitude of the public here toward birth control is hard to express It is obvious that Japan is controlled at present by military influences, so it is natural to encourage more population as an expression of the nation's strength However, we have never heard a single opinion against birth control, which is generally recognized as one of the means to prevent continuing poverty and misery The Women's Congress at its annual meeting in February, 1934, passed a resolution that the idea of birth control should be supported by the nation as an expression of the united voice of its women This may indicate that there is strong support among liberal women, even at this time of difficulty for any progressive, liberal thoughts Abortion is strictly prohibited, and we are trying to mark a definite line between abortion and lawful contraception in the public mind New devices for simple contraception are repeatedly advertised in our women's magazines, though none of these devices is reliable

Though our footprints are still very faint, I can assure you that they are on the way to progress This little clinical work has a promising future

### NORTH CAROLINA'S NEW LEAGUE

**N**ORTH CAROLINA, the latest State to organize for birth control, is particularly fortunate in the set-up of its Maternal Health League, established May 6 in Winston-Salem. Through its official and other professional relations, the League can immediately make use of existing public agencies in all the one hundred counties of the State. Ten per cent of the counties can be cared for by one of the finest hospitals in the South. Affiliation with the North Carolina Conference for Social Service keeps the League in touch with important developments throughout the State. The annual meeting of the League's Board of Directors will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

The outgoing and incoming presidents of the State Medical Association have expressed their good-will. Also the North Carolina Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology, through at least half of its members, is known to be sympathetic to the undertaking. And finally, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, through its endorsement, has informed the medical, health and welfare leaders of the State that the women of North Carolina stand solidly behind them in their birth control efforts.

Field work by Ruth Topping, Field Director of the American Birth Control League, was instrumental in securing this state-wide crystallization of opinion and the formation of the new League.

### CURRENT MAGAZINES

See the birth control poll in the June *Forum* and help to swell the total by sending your vote to the magazine. The poll calls for a "showing of hands" on two questions—amendment of Federal laws, and birth control instruction as a part of preventive medicine.

The article "Contraception by Rhythm" by Anthony M. Turano, in the June *American Mercury* should also not be missed. The author says in part, "The ancient holy war of the Catholic Church against birth control clinics has finally simmered down to a casuistic wrangle about the best methods to effect a stipulated result. Evidently, the sin dwells entirely in the kind of knowledge one uses to bring the same result. Nature may be cheated with impunity by lying in wait to catch her napping, according to the charted course of a lunar calendar suspended from the bedside. Unfortunately, when the 'natural' formula is fairly analyzed, it seems to be largely a mixture of moral theology with a few grains of dubious biology."

### American Birth Control League

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### "FARLEY" BILL CARRIES THREAT TO BIRTH CONTROL

**E**FFORTS to tighten the existing postal restrictions on scientific contraceptive information and supplies are being made in Washington. At this writing, the "Farley" bill is before the Post Office Sub-Committees in both houses. Its purpose is to make conviction for sending so-called obscene matter (including contraceptive literature and supplies) more certain. It provides for the prosecution of sender or receiver of non-mailable matter *at the place at which it is directed to be delivered* as well as at the place where it is mailed.

At Hearings before the House Post Office Sub-Committee, Congressman Pierce of Oregon submitted an amendment exempting physicians, hospitals, clinics and medical schools from the restrictions of the bill in matters relating to contraception. It was brought out at the Hearings that *The Rhythm* "published with ecclesiastical approbation" and describing fully the safe period method of family limitation, is allowed to pass unmolested through the mails for any lay person, adolescent or adult, to read. On the other hand, *Contraceptive Practices* by Dr. Hannah M. Stone, a medical pamphlet written by a physician for physicians, has been ruled non-mailable.

Without the amendment, the "Farley" bill is unwise and dangerous and will increase the present restrictions against scientific birth control advice. Write at once to your congressman and also to Hon. James M. Mead, chairman of the Post Office Committee at Washington, urging the inclusion of this vital amendment.

The only opponents to the amendment at the Hearings were three representatives of the Catholic Church. Monsignor John A. Ryan, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, stated that in his opinion birth

control would not be justified even to save the life of a mother. A verbatim excerpt from his testimony follows:

*Mr. Ashbrook, Chairman:* You think birth control would not be justified or warranted even to save the life of a mother?

*Monsignor Ryan:* No. Not any more than the killing of a fetus would be justified, the doctor killing the fetus, subordinating the life of the fetus to the life of the mother.

### FASCIST MOTHERHOOD

In an article entitled "Fascist Womanhood and Heroism," the *Giornale d'Italia* celebrates the memory of an Italian woman to whom the "Christmas Night" prize of 25,000 lire was posthumously awarded. Her merit consisted in the fact that at the age of fifty years, when she was already the mother of eight children, this woman "refused to listen to the doctors who advised her to submit to artificial abortion because it was impossible for her to survive another confinement, and died in agony in giving birth to her ninth child." The 25,000 lire must have been a consolation to the husband and the eight other children, whose mother could have been spared to them if she had had contraceptive advice.

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## BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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

*The population saturation point of the world is now placed too low. Birth control and birth selection are imperative if a high plane of civilization is to be maintained.*

WARREN D. SMITH, Professor of Geography  
University of Oregon

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