

# Birth Control Review

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DECEMBER, 1935

## A Night That Will Make History

**M**ORE than 2,500 men and women stood up in Carnegie Hall on the evening of December 2 to endorse a resolution demanding that birth control information be not denied to families dependent on charity and relief. The concerted action of the audience brought to a close the first public meeting on the birth control question held in New York for seven years.

The hall was filled to capacity with people who represented many walks of life—workers, professional men and women, people poorly clad, and a large number of social workers and visiting nurses who are serving the poor. For an hour before the meeting began the doors were stormed by eager crowds. Yet there were no curiosity seekers. The audience filed in quietly and listened attentively. Young and old, they clearly had come because of earnest conviction and profound desire to hear and to know.

The American Birth Control League, under whose auspices the meeting was held, looked back fourteen years to review a great change in popular opinion. In November, 1921, the first public meeting of the newly organized League in the Town Hall was broken up by the police, who mounted the platform. The intolerance that had inspired the action of the bluecoats gave rise to a burning indignation on the part of thinking people and an urge to act. That was the starting point for the movement to establish birth control service throughout the country. When the League began its work, not a single birth control center was functioning under medical direction in the United States. Today there are more than 230 such centers in 39 States.

Perhaps the most significant sign of progress was the wholehearted cooperation that social workers and social agencies gave to the Mass Meeting. The entire first tier of boxes had been reserved by social and civic groups, and many more boxes were requested than were

available. Among the 39 agencies that displayed their banners from the boxes were a number that a few years ago hesitated to go on record for birth control. One hundred men and women prominent in religious, educational and social fields sponsored the meeting.

Not only did settlement houses of the city show their colors proudly, but one headworker told from the platform of the vital part that the birth control centers in her settlement have had in promoting family health and happiness. Sitting in boxes as honored guests were mothers of many nationalities who are enrolled as patients at centers for contraceptive advice. The applause these women accorded the speakers came from first hand knowledge of what birth control has meant in bringing security and harmony to their own homes.

The quantity and educational nature of the publicity both before and after the meeting showed

the cooperation of the press in interpreting a question of vital national significance. The meeting was reported on the front page of the *New York Times* and other newspapers gave the event prominent display. So far clippings on the meeting have been received from 41 States and 200 cities. The League hopes that its State affiliates will find it possible to arrange similar mass meetings, and will thus further impress upon the nation's consciousness the need for immediate and rapid extension of birth control service in the present social crisis.

As this number goes to press, a sermon directed against the meeting by Cardinal Hayes of the Roman Catholic Church has brought a storm of protest in the press and in letters to the League. At last the issue has been thrown entirely open and the atmosphere has been cleared. The January REVIEW will print in full the vigorous reply of thirteen prominent clergymen to the Cardinal's accusations. History is in the making!

*WHEREAS, 25,000 babies a year are born to mothers on relief, and*

*WHEREAS, The present policy of withholding birth control information from these mothers is in humane, antisocial and undemocratic,*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, citizens of the United States, assembled in Carnegie Hall on December 2, 1935, demand that all agencies administering family relief inform mothers on relief where they may secure medical advice as to family limitation by methods in accord with their religious convictions*

## Lending Their Voices

*Excerpts from addresses by leaders in fields of religion, labor, and civic and social service made at the Mass Meeting in Carnegie Hall, New York, December 2*

**Dr Eduard C Lindeman, Chairman**

*Professor of Social Philosophy,  
New York School of Social Work*

This nation is still healthy so long as its citizens are willing to exercise their inalienable rights to gather in mass meetings and insist that their voices be heard. In characteristic American fashion we meet this evening to protest against what we concede to be an evil, a wrong and an injustice.

In spite of the fact that approximately 20,000,000 of our people are dependent upon public and private charity for their subsistence, the birth rate is rising, the birth rate is now approximately 50 per cent higher among families on relief than among non relief families. We believe that it is a non economic procedure to allow the nation's relief responsibility to increase in this manner, we believe that the main cause of increase in the birth rate of relief families is unfair discrimination which withholds from these families reliable birth control information. Now that the financing of direct relief has been turned over to the States and localities, the problem of the higher birth rate among relief families becomes even more a community responsibility.

Birth control is a reform based upon a deep seated conviction concerning the nature of justice. It involves basically a choice between right and wrong. Those who insist it is a fundamental right to exercise choice with respect to the matter of bringing children into the world cannot stop until justice is achieved.

We insist that social workers, and particularly those who are responsible for the welfare of families on relief, should be allowed to direct their clients to approved sources of information regarding birth control. There is no law which prohibits such action. Every social worker with whom I have discussed the problem in recent months has stated bluntly that he or she believes that such permission should be granted. They long to be freed from suspicion and from the necessity of complying with a ruling which appears to them unjust and inhuman.

We do not insist that social workers should give specific information to their clients, we do insist that they should be free to tell clients where such information may be reliably obtained.

**Canon H Adye Prichard**

*Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York City*

Some people say there are certain moral and religious objections to birth control. I do not believe a word of it. God sent man into the world to fulfill every quality he has. One is for a man to love a woman. I cannot believe that the only reason we should live together as man and wife is to produce children.

Jesus Christ said that a man must leave his parents, leave everything he has, and cleave to his wife. Only for children? I think not. I think He meant that a man must fulfill all he has in him, including the intimate quality of love which is in marriage. I can find nothing in religion which contradicts what we call birth control. I believe that Jesus would absolutely endorse it.

Morality is a question of the greatest good for the greatest number. We are moral because we must maintain undisturbed the society in which we live. Birth control is a purely personal matter. It does not affect society in the least. Therefore, it is a matter for the individual couple to decide whether birth control is right or wrong for them. Often we hear birth control called "murder." It cannot be likened to murder, because no personality is destroyed, no person has been conceived or born, no life is involved in this world or the next.

Some of you who are social workers know what frequent pregnancy does to a woman's health. Then there is the question of the child's health. To be deprived of certain things as a baby handicaps a person for life. In England, many of the boys who are nine teen or twenty years old today have little vitality or resistance to disease. These are the generation who were war babies. They came into the world when butter, cream, eggs—food that a young child should have—were not obtainable. Nineteen or twenty years later we see the results.

You and I are paying taxes for thousands of people who should not have been born. The people who are producing large families today are, in almost every case, the people who should not. If the grade of intelligence, understanding, morality, continues to go down, what will happen to this country in fifty years? Somehow, we must make it possible to raise the level of the population morally, intellectually and physically. That

is the whole point of the birth control movement Families in the future need not be what they are today

Every man and woman who can afford to have children and to give them the heritage of a sound body and mind, must do so It is the only chance the world has Do not be self centered, do not be ashamed, but bring into the world as many children as you can, to the glory of God

**Helen M Harris**

*Headworker, Union Settlement*

I am happy to second this resolution Not because they are on relief should the mothers in our unemployed families have access to birth control information, but because they are intelligent, self respecting and family loving women like the rest of us and have a *right* to build their family lives according to the desires and best judgement of themselves and of their husbands To deny them this right because they are poor and cannot afford to go to a private physician is to condemn them to a future of uncertainty in which fear, neurosis and physical breakdown too often loom large on their horizons

I speak from the experience of three birth control clinics in Union Settlement, with more than 1,200 mothers actively enrolled Many of the women who come to the clinics have a history of a number of self induced abortions They have come with devastating fears, uncertainties about life and marital difficulties that the clinic physicians have been able to dispel Perhaps the most gratifying thing to us is the growing file of planned babies, of whom we are very proud

Throughout the United States today, there is increasing sentiment in favor of the right of all citizens to a measure of security If we can establish the right of every family to security through birth control knowledge, we shall be taking a long step forward in the emancipation of all women

**Rose Schneiderman**

*President, Women's Trade Union League*

I am very glad to lend my voice in support of this resolution It seems to me an outrage and a crime to withhold from women whose husbands are on relief the information which would enable them to secure reliable birth control advice All of us know how inadequate relief allowances are—barely enough to keep body and soul together

What future have the children born in homes on relief? Unless the State is prepared to care for them permanently by family allowances, such as exist in foreign countries, many of these children will swell the list of our juvenile criminals

Ten million men and women are unemployed in the United States Every year an additional 600,000 young people are added to the list of those seeking employment Economists hold that after the depression is over we are likely to have a standing army of five or six million unemployed

Shall we continue to bring into the world children who are unwanted and who have no chance? The time has come when we must put an end to the agony and social waste that result from involuntary parenthood

**Mrs Thomas N Hepburn**

*Legislative Chairman, National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control*

The last time I talked here in Carnegie Hall was twenty years ago, when we were working for suffrage The anti suffragists warned us then that if women went to the polls, they would be assaulted by men Many of the arguments used against birth control at the present time are just as absurd

Birth control is not a controversial question, but an obvious social necessity Families on relief should have birth control information in the name of humanity But to advocate birth control for families on relief and not for all families is absurd Many of those on relief are not undesirable people, but people who have been unfortunate and for whom there is no place in our economic scheme at present

One argument used against birth control is that young unmarried people may learn about it We must realize that for the first time in history millions of girls are working in factories, shops and offices side by side with men If you believe that these girls' morals must be based on the fear of pregnancy at a time when science is removing this fear, you are wrong Young people are not timid, they are willing to take a chance They are full of idealism, full of hope If we can help them to build a morality based not on fear, but on ideals and intelligence, then we shall get somewhere One of the best ways to promote morality is to give marriage a chance

The commercial interests fill our magazines and newspapers with advertisements of contraceptives—some of them worthless We must see to it that young married people do not have to resort to drug store methods of contraception, but can go to centers where authoritative knowledge may be obtained There should be birth control clinics in connection with every hospital and dispensary Nurses are closely in touch with life But the Boards of Directors back of them are often afraid to act on any question concerned with sex, because of old taboos and superstitions As responsible

citizens, we all must try to get the straightforward point of view—and do something in our communities.

Birth control means happier homes and healthier children. It gives men and women the power to direct their lives. It enables them to control the great vital force which has drawn them together, the force that can produce joy, inspiration, life itself, but which we in our ignorance have allowed to bring about nervous upsets, despair, and even children who are hopelessly handicapped.

### Dr Sidney E Goldstein

*Associate Rabbi Free Synagogue New York City  
Chairman Commission on Social Justice, Central  
Conference of American Rabbis*

In spite of every program developed by the local, State, and Federal governments there are still 5,000,000 families in America dependent upon public aid, and somewhere between 20,000,000 and 25,000,000 men, women and children living below the line of decency. Every social worker knows that a child born into a dependent family greatly increases the burden that must be borne. We are not thinking of the cost of care to the State, that cost the State can carry. We are thinking of the additional burden that is placed upon the mother and that makes it impossible for the family to lift itself out of the depths of dependency and despair.

The relief allowance granted by the Government, whether it be local, State or Federal, is based upon what is termed the normal American family, that is, a family consisting of father and mother and three children. If the Government limits the allowance, as it must, the Government should also teach the families how to limit the number of children. For the sake of the child now born into destitution, for the sake of the mother who is overworked and overwrought by anxiety, for the sake of society that is striving to solve an almost overwhelming problem, we urge that the Government establish birth control clinics as a part of its relief program and make birth control information available to every woman and family that needs and wants it.

The relation of birth control to unemployment is becoming increasingly clear. Invention, mass production, machinery and scientific management are reducing the need for men. The productive power of the individual workman in America has increased 45 per cent in the last fifteen years. The machine is taking the place of men. In every important industry there is now a surplus of workers—in textiles, in steel, in coal, and in construction. One hundred and fifty years ago, Malthus called the attention of the world to the pressure of

population upon the food supply. We must now call the attention of the world to the pressure of the working population upon the job supply.

No one knows the complete solution of the problem of unemployment, but one item surely is found in the principle of limitation. We must limit the number of hours to not more than thirty per week. We must limit the range of the working population by taking the children out at one end and the aged out at the other. And we must also limit the volume of the working population through birth control. There is no social wisdom in bringing 150 potential workmen into the world if there are only 100 available jobs to fill.

I deeply regret the absence of the members of the Catholic Church from this symposium upon "Birth Control and the Social Crisis." The Catholic Church, contrary to general belief, is not opposed to birth control or to the limitation of the family. The dignitaries of the Catholic Church differ from us only in the matter of method. They believe in methods that seem to them wise and right and we believe in other methods that seem to us right and wise. We want the members of the Catholic Church to be free to employ whatever methods are commended by the leaders of Catholicism. We also, however, wish to be free to employ the methods that are commended to us by scientific research and our conscience.

I have cooperated with the leaders of the Catholic Church in advancing the program of social justice, and in our common crusade against indecency in the theatre and upon the screen. Now I appeal to the Catholic Church to withdraw its opposition to the program of birth control we are advocating. I appeal on the ground that the resolution we urge tonight will not compel any person to act contrary to his Church or his conscience. I appeal on the ground that in a democracy it is undemocratic to withhold from great masses of people the knowledge that is possessed by some. I appeal on the ground that it is socially unethical to condemn men and women to ignorance when scientific information would make them free and aid them to escape from the misery and exploitation and injustice of which they are now the unwilling and innocent victims.

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*It is unfair to a child to be born unwanted into any home, rich or poor. Widespread dissemination of contraceptive information to those who wish it would avert some of the kinds of misery we now are experiencing, including the poverty of many who are on relief rolls because they have more children than they wished.*

—from "Other People's Babies," by Mary Ross  
Survey Graphic, December, 1935

# Who ?      What ?      Why ?      How ?

(Published in response to innumerable inquiries)

## Purpose

*What is the purpose of the American Birth Control League?*

To make available reliable scientific contraception to all poor mothers who wish it

## Functions

*What, exactly, does the League do?*

1—Organizes local and state leagues and helps them to set up clinics

2—Encourages medical education in contraceptive technique by supplying text books to medical colleges. The League's medical director addresses medical societies and medical colleges

3—Publishes the *Birth Control Review* (circulation 11,000), and *The National Clinic Courier* covering technical problems of clinic management

4—Publishes medical and lay pamphlets and outlines

## Source of Funds

*How is the League financed?*

By memberships, voluntary contributions and grants from foundations

## Structure

*How is it organized?*

The national organization has an active board of directors, an executive committee and a medical board, and conducts its work through its twenty one affiliated state leagues and local committees. The state leagues are autonomous and function through a state board, medical advisory board and a medical director. The national and state boards issue complete reports, submit budgets and hold themselves strictly accountable to the contributing public

## Standards

*What control is there over the standards of clinics?*

The American Birth Control League issues the only official clinic certificate, which is signed by the members of the national medical board. Clinics which maintain the minimum standards set by the Medical Board of the American Birth Control League receive the certificate and may display it

Of the eight required standards, the two most vital are

"No member of the sponsoring group or clinic personnel shall derive any profit directly or indirectly from the manufacture, distribution, or sale of con-

traceptives—either chemical or mechanical. The center shall in no way be affiliated with or subsidized by any commercial manufacturer of contraceptives"

"Eligibility of patients for clinic admission will vary with location and should be determined by the Medical Board of the center. The Medical Board of the American Birth Control League recommends that only those unable to pay a physician's fee for private treatment be accepted. Private professional practice should not be diverted to clinics, the function of which is to serve the underprivileged"

## National Birth Control Organizations

*What are the birth control organizations?*

There are three national birth control groups, each with its special function

1—American Birth Control League (New York City), which, with its twenty one affiliated state leagues, constitutes the only organic national movement for clinic extension in the United States. President, Mrs. Francis N. Bangs, Eric M. Matsner, M.D., Medical Director

2—National Committee on Maternal Health (New York City), which is the authoritative medical body for research and information on all aspects of human fertility. Haven Emerson, M.D., Chairman of Board, Robert L. Dickinson, M.D., Chairman Executive Committee. The medical board of the A.B.C.L. cooperates closely with the N.C.M.H.

3—National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control (Washington, D.C.) Chairman, Margaret Sanger. Purpose—to amend the federal and state laws on contraception

*How does the American Birth Control League function in fields related to birth control?*

The League is a member of

- 1—The Council on Population Policy
- 2—The National Conference of Social Work
- 3—The New York Adult Education Council

The League is endorsed by the National Information Bureau which investigates organizations that depend upon public support

## Extent of Clinics

*How many clinics are there in the United States?*

There are 231 (November, 1935), located in settlements, hospitals, churches and special quarters. Approximately 50 of these are in hospitals and county health departments. Of these, 146 clinics are operated by affiliated state leagues, 85 are independent

Nine states have no clinics Of the 26 clinics in New York City and Brooklyn, 16 are affiliated with the A B C L (Example of local affiliation In New York City, the Committee of Mothers Health Centers is affiliated with the New York State Birth Control Federation, which is affiliated with the A B C L There are also county committees outside of Manhattan affiliated with the State Federation )

### Referrals

*What does the League do about inquiries for contraceptive advice?*

Inquiries received from organized states are referred immediately to the state leagues for follow up If the state is unorganized, the inquirer is referred to a local affiliated clinic or other reputable independent center, if such exists If there are no clinics, the inquirer is referred to a private physician (The League maintains a referral list of several hundred doctors whose qualifications have been investigated ) If there is no qualified nearby physician, inquirers are asked to have their family physician write to the medical director of the League

Mail inquiries are referred to the League by the United States Public Health Service, educational institutions, social agencies and several publications

### Policy Regarding Supplies

*What is the League's policy regarding contraceptive materials?*

"The American Birth Control League does not permit the use of its name or that of its medical director in the sales promotion of any contraceptive Any written or verbal statement or inference to this effect is a direct misrepresentation of fact and will be dealt with accordingly "

The medical director of the American Birth Control League, when asked to recommend products to new clinicians, gives a list of never less than four different manufacturers whose products have been found to be reliable by laboratory and clinic tests

### Legality

*What about legality?*

1—The federal postal law classifies contraceptives as "obscenities" and is intended to prohibit the sending of information or supplies by "mail or common carrier" The law acts as a psychological barrier Scientific contraceptive technique cannot be sent through the mails as it requires physical examination and individual instruction The law as it is interpreted today interferes neither with the shipment of millions of dollars worth of contraceptives, nor with the mailing of medical books and pamphlets It does not prevent the physician from giving contraceptive instruction to a patient Physicians, privately, and in the authorized clinics, proceed

within the law as it is interpreted (Since 1929, no one has come into conflict with the law )

2—Three states only have more or less prohibitory laws but they are loosely interpreted as public opinion grows in favor of birth control Two, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, have leagues and clinics, Mississippi, the third, has none In twenty four states there is no statutory mention of birth control In New York State, the law has been interpreted by the Court as permitting physicians to give contraceptive advice for health reasons The tendency is to merge health and economic factors

### Stand of the Church

*What is the church viewpoint on birth control?*

All the major Protestant Church organizations, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, the Rabbinical Assembly of America, have endorsed the legalizing of birth control Many Catholics endorse the principle but advocate the so called "natural" or "rhythm" method Four ecclesiastically endorsed books on this method are widely circulated Physicians are interested in further research on the rhythm method At present there is insufficient and inconclusive scientific data, and the method is impractical for dependents and illiterates who most need birth control

December 2, 1935

### AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

I have just returned from the birth control Mass Meeting at Carnegie Hall and I must tell you of the tremendous interest and enthusiasm among University Settlement women, young and old

There were seventy one in all Grandmothers from Austria and Roumania, all Jews, from our Guild Mothers' Club Younger Spanish, Greek and Turkish Jews, Italians, and one Irish Catholic woman who is a patient in our Mothers' Health Center

And last, but by no means least, my whole Utopia Club of girls from twenty two to twenty six years of age, half of whom are married and, having had premarital advice from our physician, are starting out without fear or shame in the great adventure

Our young patient whose husband beat her with his belt in the street and who was on the verge of suicide from the fear of another pregnancy a year and a half ago, was there in the box, happy, secure, fifteen pounds heavier and looking like a girl again

I am sure this evening has marked another great advance in the fight for voluntary parenthood and greater joy in marriage

ISADORA W KERR,  
University Settlement

## From Coast to Coast

### CALIFORNIA

The Birth Control League of Alameda County, California, has been accepted as an affiliated unit of the American Birth Control League. This organization maintains a mothers' health clinic in Oakland. Mrs. E. C. Lipman is president, Frances Wylie is executive secretary, and Dorothy Allen, M.D., medical director. We heartily welcome the Alameda County unit and look forward to the growth of its ably directed work.

### CONNECTICUT

"No publicity" was the watchword of the Connecticut Birth Control League when they opened in Hartford last summer the first clinic in a State with one of the most drastic birth control laws, which forbids "the use of contraceptives."

A reporter happened to get wind of a reference to the clinic made in an informal talk. Newspapers not only in the State but in New York City headlined the story. The League eagerly awaits the outcome. Though the publicity appeared in October, so far there has been no outcome, except greatly increased attendance at the clinic!

The legal advisor of the clinic gave the following statement to the press, "The birth control clinic confines itself strictly to advising married patients whose health, in the opinion of competent medical experts, requires the giving of such advice. I do not believe that the statute in question was intended by its framers to preclude such action. If it is to be construed otherwise, then I believe that grave doubt exists as to its constitutionality."

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Birth control luncheons are held in Washington, D.C., every Tuesday. Mrs. Stella Hanau of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control announces. The meetings, which are open to the public, take place at the Women's City Club. Especially planned for professional men and women, they begin and end promptly (12:30 to 2:00 p.m.), are inexpensive (fifty cents) and informal.

### KENTUCKY

Relief clients with four or more children, women with advanced cases of tuberculosis, and women for whom another pregnancy meant the risk of leaving an already large family motherless were among the cases cited by Dr. Esther Wallner at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Birth Control League. Mrs. Charles G. Tachau was re-elected president of the League.

The 221 patients who have been advised at the League's two clinics during the past year had an aver-

age of 5.5 pregnancies. Sixty per cent of the patients were referred by social agencies. Twenty colored patients were cared for in a physician's office.

### NEBRASKA

The Guild House of the largest Episcopal Church in Omaha is headquarters for the clinic of the Maternal Health League of Nebraska. The clinic holds one session weekly. Since it opened last April, there have been more than four hundred patients, all on relief.

### PENNSYLVANIA

An exhibit devoted to the technique of contraception attracted considerable attention at the recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in Harrisburg. Occupying a booth among the other scientific exhibits, this consisted of posters, anatomical diagrams, books and a collection of contraceptive devices. Arrangements have been made whereby the posters, which cover 100 square feet of wall space, may be loaned to physicians for use at medical meetings. Details may be secured from the American Birth Control League.

The attractive annual report of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation, just issued, contains a clinic map of the State, which shows seven new centers opened during the past year and a total of 23 centers.

### RHODE ISLAND

At the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Birth Control League, Inc., which took place on November 7 at the home of the honorary president, Mrs. Henry Salamon, high points of progress were reviewed. A total of 1,182 women have been instructed in the Providence and Newport clinics. About one third of the families are entirely dependent on public aid. Dr. Edward S. Brackett, Chief of Staff of the Lying in Hospital, Providence, was elected president. Dr. Eric Stone, who resigned as president, will serve as chairman of the League's clinic committee.

To extend birth control service throughout the State, the League plans, when finances permit, to subsidize physicians in outlying communities, who will treat indigent patients in their offices, using the technique, record forms and follow up methods of the clinics. Fifty-two doctors have applied for instruction in contraceptive technique, which is given at the clinics.

### TENNESSEE

Patients who cannot pay in cash, pay in labor or farm produce for the services of the Motherhood Advice Bureau in Greeneville, Tennessee. Fees are graded down to a few cents when a larger payment would be impossible. The center, which was opened in October, 1934, has instructed sixty mothers during its first year.

## Eugenics for Everyone

TOMORROW'S CHILDREN, THE GOAL OF EUGENICS, by  
Ellsworth Huntington, Ph D John Wiley and Sons,  
Inc, New York 139 pages. \$1 25 postpaid from  
THE REVIEW

How shall we encourage large families in the right kind of homes and discourage them in undesirable homes? How may crime and dependency be diminished, and politics, the arts and sciences be developed on a higher plane? "If we and our children are wise enough, eugenics can remake the human race into something akin to the very best that we have today," says this stimulating book.

The problem of improving the quality of tomorrow's children is one that cannot fail to interest any thoughtful adult. Yet most previous books on the subject, weighed down with technical phrases, have proved spiritless, if not unintelligible, for the average reader. Here at last is not only one of the most authoritative statements about eugenics ever issued, but a book that with its question and answer form, its simplicity and clarity, is eminently readable.

The author, Professor Huntington of Yale University, has had the active cooperation and collaboration of a large number of distinguished scientists in preparing "Tomorrow's Children." A few of the section headings give an idea of the scope of the book—scientific background, race hygiene, birth control, sterilization, standards of living, family responsibility, rural betterment, research. Questions about the inheritance of physical and mental traits, of interest to all parents, are answered in considerable detail.

A plea is made for the extension of birth control to less desirable families as an essential eugenic measure. "Modern contraception shows how a personal matter may develop into a social matter with well developed institutions to support it," the author states. "In the case of contraception the sufferings of some women moved others to attempt to find a remedy. Thus birth control became institutionalized in the form of clinics for the relief of women who were overburdened with childbearing, or whose health made it dangerous for them to have children. Very soon, too, the contraceptive workers felt that some way ought to be found for reducing the size of families where the parents were not able to support and train their children." Birth control in the future must be judged not by its immediate social effects, but by its ultimate eugenic effects, Professor Huntington contends.

"Tomorrow's Children" is a challenging and comprehensive catechism for everyone who looks to a more fortunate future for his country and for the world.

## Annual Meeting Dates Set

The annual meeting of the American Birth Control League will be held in New York City on January 22 and 23. Plans call for sessions on clinic problems, publicity and fund raising, and for a luncheon on the second day. Further details will be announced in the January REVIEW. A prelude to the national gathering will be the annual meeting of the New York State Birth Control Federation on the morning of January 22.

Make plans now for as large and representative an attendance as is possible from your State.

## Birth Control Review

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