

Birth Control Review

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Population and Peace

By STEPHEN DUGGAN, LL D

Director, Institute of International Education

THREE groups of people who make up society are well known to you all. First there are those who limit the size of their families in order to maintain a decent standard of living and who space their children to enable the mother of the family to maintain her health. Another class, through ignorance, go on reproducing without any consideration of the means of support they can give their children. The third group consists of those who for religious or other reasons try to have a large number of children.

Nations may be divided into the same three classes. In some highly civilized and cultured nations, there is practically no illiteracy, the population has a high degree of intelligence and a high standard of living is maintained. Such nations are Holland, the Scandinavian countries and Great Britain, which have educated their people in the principles of the limitation of population. The people of other highly civilized and cultured countries, for example, France, practice the principles of limitation, though their governments do not officially adopt the policy of limitation.

The second class of nations, such as India and China, are characterized by an appalling problem of over population. The degree of poverty in India is almost impossible of belief. Millions of people there pass from the cradle to the grave without ever having had their hunger appeased. The pressure of the population upon the food supply is a constant menace. The death rate is more than twice as high as in Europe. One out of every five children born dies before it is one year old. India during the past decade has had an increase of population of over 35,000,000. As a nation she is like the improvident individual in our own midst. She increases her population without regard to its deplorably low standard of living.

Then there is the third group of nations, such as Italy, Japan and Germany, that deliberately stimulate the growth of population in the interest of inter-

national prestige. Their governments grant marriage loans, reduce taxation on large families and place high taxes on bachelors. Every one of these nations, however, has today a constantly falling standard of living, which is causing the greatest anxiety in political circles.

It seems entirely fair to make a comparison between the first and last groups. Both groups are European, and have shared in the traditions handed down by the Greco Roman civilizations. Of the countries in the first group, practicing limitation, all have democratic forms of government. Their theory is that the State exists for the benefit of the individual citizen—to give him the opportunity to develop his personality and thereby contribute to the advancement of his country's civilization and culture.

On the other hand, practically all the countries stimulating population growth have dictatorships. Their theory is that the State is supreme, the individual counts for nothing. He must be ready at any time to leave his family, to give up his life itself, at the command of the dictator. Not only has he nothing to say with regard to the disposal of his own life, but he is kept from knowing the true conditions in the democracies that do limit their population. Every organ of public opinion—the newspaper, the radio, the mass meeting, even the pulpit—is closed to criticism of the government point of view. For the advocates of limitation as one way of approaching the good life, the prison door stands always open.

Another characteristic of the dictatorships opposing limitation of population is the reliance on force as opposed to reason. Death in war for the State is the sole principle of limitation. These dictators practice Young men with the most hopeful prospects for con-

tributing to the welfare and culture of their countries must become a mass of rotting flesh in a trench because their government, at the expense of other nations, demands room

Why do dictators foster large families at home, yet justify wars of conquest by their expanding populations? This paradox is explained by Dr Duggan, distinguished authority on international affairs

for the emigration of its surplus population

One of the soundest tests of the degree of civilization in a country is the place assigned to women. In the interest of a large population, every dictatorship except the Russian has reduced woman to an inferior status. She is frankly regarded as a breeding animal to produce men to carry out the purposes of the State, especially its war purposes. Either she has been excluded from the university, or her numbers there have been drastically reduced. Wherever it has been possible for her job to be given to a man, she has been driven from employment. Nothing sadder has happened in the recent history of Fascism than the manner in which women have been thrust back to the lower position in life from which they emerged only recently as the result of decades of struggle.

In contrast, women have an honored place in the democracies which believe in limitation. They are regarded as individuals who have the right to develop their personalities to the highest degree.

The claim of the dictatorships that they need colonies as outlets for surplus population has practically no justification in fact. Japan secured Formosa in 1895, Korea in 1905 and South Manchuria at the same time. Yet during that period of forty years, not so many Japanese have emigrated as equal the annual increase of population in Japan proper. When the distribution of territory in Africa took place in 1885, Germany received large colonies in East and Southwest Africa. Yet when the World War broke out, the total number of Germans who had emigrated to those colonies was only 22,000.

Similarly, millions of Italians have emigrated to the United States and to Argentina and Brazil, but few to the Italian colonies. Moreover, the Italian experience proves that emigration is no solution of the problem of surplus population. The millions who emigrated from Italy simply left a void which was quickly filled by new births. The United States, Argentina and Brazil offer Italians opportunities for improved living conditions. The Italian colonies do not, nor does the territory for which Italy is fighting at the present time.

No excuse that dictators give for their demand for colonies is so thoroughly a matter of camouflage as their professed desire to secure a better living for their people. If that were their true aim, we should not have the present propaganda for large families in Japan, Italy and Germany. No, the demand of dictators and militarists for colonies is animated solely by imperialism—by the desire to have greater weight in the councils of the nations. It is not to live, but to rule, that they want room for surplus population.

A Study of 31,000 Women

MORE than fifty per cent of married white women practice birth control in some manner, according to a survey made of 31,000 representative women in twenty six large cities of the United States by Dr. Raymond B. Pearl, professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Pearl's findings, the result of a five year investigation of human fertility, were revealed on March 26 at the annual conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund held at the New York Academy of Medicine. His paper was read before a conference on population studies.

Dr. Pearl's conclusions bear out the experience of birth control centers throughout the country, which find that the majority of patients coming to them for the first time have been practicing contraception by more or less effective means. In such cases the centers teach a principle that has already found acceptance with the patient. However, they substitute scientific, harmless methods for hit or miss methods that are frequently dangerous to health.

Negro women in cities are not naturally more fertile than white women, Dr. Pearl also concluded. He stated his belief that the annual statistics revealing the actual difference in births merely reflect wider and more effective birth control by the white women.

According to their own statements, 42.7 per cent of the white women analyzed and 15.4 of the Negro women had practised birth control in some manner before the time of record. The study, however, indicates wider resort to contraceptive measures than these admissions reveal. Dr. Pearl thinks it probable that 55 to 60 per cent of the married white women in the general population represented practised birth control.

An analysis of the average pregnancy rates of white women practising birth control regularly and steadily throughout their married lives, without intermission of any sort (because they desired no children at all), led generally to a reduction of pregnancy rates below those not practising contraception in the same age periods, of only about 20 to 30 per cent on the average, it was found. Dr. Pearl interprets this low rate as an expression of the comparative lack of intelligence and the ineffectiveness of these women relative to their practise of contraception. Among the Negro women in the same category the reduction of pregnancy rates was "insignificantly slight," he said.

Commenting on these studies, Dr. Clarence Cook Little, President of the American Birth Control League, has stated the following opinion, "The widespread need for birth control clinics in the United States is made

more apparent by the results of the significant studies on birth control reported by Dr Raymond B Pearl. Dr Pearl's figures are in marked contrast to the high percentage of success revealed when the scientific method advocated by the American Birth Control League is practised."

"Research extending over a period of fifteen years has proved the method to be harmless and from 90 to 97 per cent effective. Records of the first 1,000 cases at the contraceptive centers maintained by the New

York City Committee of the League show 91 per cent success in the use of the method, although many of the women advised were of limited intelligence and understood English with difficulty.

"Dr Pearl's survey was made in urban districts. Undoubtedly the percentage of women in rural districts who practise birth control in any form would be lower. The service of few of the 250 birth control centers in the United States is accessible to the farm mother who is worn out by incessant child bearing."

Family Case Studies in the Ozarks

By MORRIS G CALDWELL, PH D

Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky

THE most important American industry, the business of human reproduction, emerged from the throes of depression and produced a bumper baby crop in 1934, consisting of 2,158,919 new human models. The rate of reproduction increased from 166 births per 1,000 of the estimated population of the United States in 1933 to 171 in 1934, thus yielding an absolute increase of approximately 94,000 babies.

The sudden increase in the baby crop raises many pertinent questions of social policy, large range social planning and population control. The upward trend of the birth rate appears to be unwarranted in view of continued widespread unemployment and the chaotic condition of many of the major industries at the present time.

Two alternative policies appear to be open to the American people: 1 a policy of uncontrolled breeding, resulting in a lower standard of living, poverty and dependency; 2 a policy of rational control of both the quality and quantity of the population in conformity with economic and social needs. The first alternative is unthinkable in the light of past American experience with a high standard of living. Thus, the second alternative remains as the only feasible plan of dealing with population problems in a constructive way. If population control is appropriate for the general population, it is even more necessary for public dependents.

Case studies selected by the author reveal the urgent need for birth control knowledge among public relief families in the Ozark region of south central Missouri. The following three studies, taken from the files of the Dallas County Emergency Relief Office, Buffalo, Missouri, in September, 1935, are typical of the many thousands of dependent families in rural districts who are unable to get birth control information or to purchase the necessary birth control equipment.

Family A is a squatter family, consisting of father and mother, ages 49 and 40 respectively, and nine children, all living at home. The children range in age from two to twenty two years. In the one room floorless cabin the family occupies, the only furnishings are two beds, a kitchen table and an old wood stove. The children are scantily clad. There is not even one pair of shoes among the entire family.

Mr A has never been employed at a permanent job. The family are barely able to subsist on the products grown on a few scattered garden patches which they cultivate. Mr A told a social worker, "We live up to the Bible. We let every day take care of itself."

The need for birth control is further illustrated by another squatter type of family, the B's. Mrs B, age 37, has ten children ranging in ages from a son of fifteen to a baby of a few months. Since her marriage in 1919, she has given birth to a child on the average of every 16 years. Mr B, a veteran of the World War, was admitted to a nearby Veterans Conservation Camp last summer and later was transferred to a government hospital on account of illness. This left the complete care and support of the children to Mrs B. Without a breadwinner in the home, the family is facing starvation. They are scarcely able to eke out a bare subsistence from a primitive type of truck patch gardening carried on by the mother with the aid of the oldest son.

However, if Mr B decides to return home after the recovery of his health, the family situation will be even more complicated than it is at present. His return will mean one more person to feed. Also, his presence in the home will undoubtedly mean the periodic return of the stork. This would be a tragedy for the health of the mother and the welfare of the other children.

A similar situation is presented by the C's, tenant farm family. Mrs C, who is 35, has given birth to nine

children during the 17 years of her married life. The children are from one to 16 years of age.

Mr C deserted the family last July because the economic burden of supporting them all was too great for him to bear. He was in debt to many of the grocery stores in the nearby town. The soil on the farm he rented is stony and non-productive and he could not afford to buy the necessary farming equipment. Mr C is now in California under the pretext of looking for employment.

Mrs C has assumed complete responsibility for the family support. She was able to provide the children with garden vegetables during the summer and early fall. Now, however, the family is almost destitute and its diet consists of canned tomatoes, beans and a few potatoes.

Mrs C believes that her husband may return home some day after his financial difficulties blow over. But she prefers to shoulder the load alone rather than undergo another unwanted pregnancy.

These case studies are typical of hundreds of other dependent Ozark families, who are not only desperately in need of food and shelter, but of birth control.

The Toll of Abortion

STARTLING statistical evidence on abortion is presented by Dr Frederick J Taussig in his new book, "Abortion—Spontaneous and Induced," published by the C V Mosby Company, St Louis. This authoritative study, available to physicians only, is sponsored by the National Committee on Maternal Health.

Dr Taussig makes the following summary:

1 For the United States the figures obtained showed that 681,600 abortions times a death rate of 1.2 per cent equalled about 8,000 abortion deaths annually.

2 In the past forty years there has been a marked increase in the number of abortions, due to a widespread resort to induced interruption. The years immediately following the war and the recent period of depression have shown the most pronounced increase in the number of abortions.

3 With the decrease in birth rates during this period, the ratio of abortions to confinements has changed from 1 to 7 forty years ago, to 1 to 3 at the present time. In some industrial centers the number of abortions approximately equals the number of full term deliveries.

4 Of the total abortions only 25 to 30 per cent are spontaneous, 10 to 15 per cent are therapeutic and about 60 to 65 per cent are illegally induced.

5 Over one half of the illegal inductions of abortion are done by physicians, one fifth by midwives and

the remainder by the patients themselves.

6 The vast majority of all abortions equalling 90 per cent occur among married pregnant women, especially those between 25 and 35 years of age who have had several children. The recent increase in abortions has been primarily in this group. Among unmarried pregnant women the greater proportion of abortions occur in the younger age groups.

7 Abortions, both spontaneous and induced, occur most frequently in the second and third months of gestation.

8 The religious affiliation of the patient has relatively little influence on the incidence of abortion.

9 The rate of abortion deaths is half again as high among the Negro as among the white women of this country, but the total maternal death rate among Negroes is twice that of the whites.

10 The number of abortions and the number of abortion deaths is proportionately twice as great in the cities as in country districts.

11 Abortion constitutes the greatest single factor in our high puerperal mortality, one fourth of the total amount. Of the deaths from puerperal septicemia alone, abortion is responsible for practically one-half.

"So powerful and universal is the instinct for motherhood," Dr Taussig states, "that, when a woman is compelled to do away with the child within her body, we may feel sure the fault lies primarily with the special conditions under which she is living. Economic distress is at the root of the largest number of induced abortions."

Only a small portion of the medical conditions indicating therapeutic abortion arise during pregnancy, he points out. "Pregnancy should, as a rule, never have been allowed to occur."

"Of all the measures suggested for the control of abortion none equals in importance the widespread establishment of clinics for contraceptive advice and provision for the free distribution of contraceptive materials among the poor," Dr Taussig asserts. "It is self-evident that by the prevention of the undesired or undesirable pregnancy we can reduce the number of cases requiring abortion to a relatively small number."

In 1910—six years before any attempt to open a birth control clinic in America—Dr Taussig wrote the first special monograph on abortion, stressing the possibilities and value of control of conception in limiting undesirable pregnancies. He reported to the White House Conference on Child Welfare a study of abortion in relation to fetal and maternal mortality. For the past four years he has been one of the medical advisors of the American Birth Control League.

Detour in the Mountains

By DORIS DAVIDSON, R N

Field Representative, American Birth Control League

AS WE all know, a detour sign to the habitual motorist presages mild annoyance and the necessity for temporary patience. Such were my thoughts when recently my car was halted by a road worker holding aloft a red flag on one of the mountain roads of West Virginia. The man pointed up the main road and informed me that a boulder had fallen from the top of the mountain.

"But you can't see that, Ma'am," he said. "Not from here. It's fell just around that curve thar."

Proceeding gingerly down a lane to the right, I discovered that this detour led to exactly nothing but a narrow foot path ending at the bank of a sizeable river. I walked back to make sure I had taken the right direction.

"You'll have to ford the river, Ma'am. Thar ain't no other way. If you follow along down stream till you reach opposite that big rock on the shore yonder, you'll find a place to get through. I guess you can make it. A truck went through awhile back."

It is well past sunset and the purple shadows were folding their none too gracious robes around the cold and barren hills. A meeting of the Medical Advisory Board was to be held three hours later in a town some ten miles distant. To turn back and miss the meeting would involve, to begin with, a trip of fifty miles over roads wracked from recent storms, through which we had only just plowed our way. Besides, it was an important meeting, for upon its outcome would hang to a considerable degree the fate of a new experiment in birth control, in which we were endeavoring to secure the cooperation of the local medical profession. Through this experiment we could reach poor mothers in isolated districts, giving to them for the first time in all their wretched lives protection against incessant child bearing.

We decided to proceed. Down over the bank, fortunately enough of solid earth, we drove. My dog, taut with apprehension, braced himself for what might be. The river was fairly shallow, but had a swift current in mid stream. We crawled along, feeling the car sink deeper and deeper into the mire. Suddenly we began to swirl. There was nothing to do but let the river have its way with us. By a miracle we escaped an upset when a front wheel struck a sharp rock, hurling us into a right about face, and stalling

the motor. But the motor had the native reliability to start again in the midst of that ludicrous baptism. Finally the wheels began to grip, and we went on—now slipping back, now gaining a few more feet.

Ages passed. Then we were climbing toward the opposite shore. Ahead of us loomed a mean looking hill where the single track of that truck had furrowed its way. Would our chains take us through that mire? We labored up little by little—until a cow blocked our path and stopped us. Then ahead of us we saw our forerunner, the truck. The driver, in what must have been astonishment, started trudging back through the mud to our station on the hill.

"Some river, ain't it?" he questioned, somewhat breathlessly. "Jeez, that's the worst I ever tackled and I ben through aplenty in my day. How'd you ever make it in that little car? And say, will you look at that mud ahead—that gully's a quarter of a mile long, or I miss my guess. Say, want me to tow you through? You'd never make it in a hundred year alone. Nice dog you got there, ma'am. Bird dog, ain't he? I had a bird dog once. My wife, she thought more of that thar dog than she did of the kids."

"How many kids have we got? Nine, and four dead. When we get through this mud we got to go through the river again. Now you jest sit right thar, ma'am, and I'll get my rope and hitch it onto your fender."

He got us through. Buy why drag the story? Enough to say that this good man, sire of thirteen children—four dead—wife ill with tuberculosis, had been out of work for over two years. A very usual story in these mountains.

A detour through the river. Annoyance? Patience? Oh, yes. But also, a stronger faith in the work to be done. We arrived at the meeting fifteen minutes late.

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Doris Davidson, author of the above article, is one of three field nurses, sent out by the American Birth Control League, who travel by motor to help local committees organize birth control service. The League could keep a dozen such nurses busy in the field, if funds permitted.

As this issue goes to press comes another dramatic instance of the dangers and difficulties these nurses cheerfully meet, all as part of the day's work. Caught

in the flood area at Wheeling, West Virginia, Miss Davidson volunteered her services to the American Red Cross. The mother of one of the stranded families she aided was awaiting her ninth childbirth. The baby was born dead.

"I wondered," Miss Davidson writes, "If there was perhaps not an analogy between such scenes of devastation as I had witnessed and the lack of birth control I had seen on a wholesale scale the havoc wrought because of one lack of control—that of flood waters. Applied to many family situations, is not the absence of birth control also a factor of despair and disaster? Had that woman been protected against the conception of her ninth child

"Immediate assistance in times of emergency is of course essential. But why cannot we wake up to the fact that the need for birth control is a basic thing?"

Eugenics Society Meeting

AN IMPORTANT event which promises to focus attention upon a coordinated national population policy will take place in New York City on May 7th. The American Eugenics Society, composed of the country's most distinguished scientists, has called an all-day conference to crystallize a planned eugenics program for the United States. Authorities in various fields will present to the public for the first time a true perspective on one of America's most acute problems—the differential birth rate and the decline of our best stock.

Dr. Clarence Cook Little, President of the American Birth Control League, and Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild, President of the American Sociological Society and a member of the League's board of directors, will preside at morning and afternoon sessions. Among the speakers will be Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman, Professor of Social Philosophy, New York School of Social Work, Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Arthur E. Morgan, President of Antioch College and Director of the T. V. A., Professor Joseph K. Folsom of the Department of Sociology, Vassar College, Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, chairman of the Commission on Social Justice, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Will Durant, author of *The Story of Civilization*.

At a preliminary meeting in preparation for the Conference, one significant note seemed to predominate which should interest all those who support the vast array of philanthropic organizations. The problem stressed was "Eugenic vs. Dysgenic Philanthropy"—a consideration which all social minded people will have increasingly before them during the next five years. The provocative question arises: how much of our so-

cial work has been dysgenic? To what extent do we create the misery we try to relieve? If human life is sacred, as we believe it is, and should be preserved at all cost, by the same token the reproduction of human life should be guarded with equal care.

The eugenics movement until now has been more or less confined to academic discussion. It promises now to assume leadership and to coordinate in a constructive manner all scientific means toward family betterment and improvement of the quality of human beings.

Publications

Rome Stoops to Conquer By E. BOYD BARRETT. Julian Messner, Inc., New York, 267 pages \$2.75 post paid from the REVIEW.

How many citizens in America are aware of the mighty force of "Catholic Action," that militant campaign to win the United States and bring it under domination of the Roman Church? Of course the idea is preposterous, but in this book, written by a former Jesuit priest, we are made conscious of the dangerous penetration of doctrines which are contrary to every ideal of religious liberty, free speech and social welfare.

The author describes briefly the history of the Roman Church in America from its insignificant nucleus of 25,000 adherents in 1789 to its present army of twenty millions, with wealth estimated at over two billion dollars—the most perfectly organized body in the world, as strong as any one group in this country.

Subsequent chapters are devoted to describing and tracing the influence of Catholic Action through all our institutions, political and educational, culminating in the mediaeval injustice of the persecution of Father Norman, whose only crime was that he belonged to the "Orthodox" rather than to the "Roman" Catholic Church.

A particular significance of all this is the fact that Catholic Action has consistently set itself against true social progress, if we believe that such progress demands the removal of causes rather than the treatment of symptoms. The nickname of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York is "The Power House" and, according to Mr. Barrett, "The Power House" uses its tremendous influence on the side of vested interests, political control and exploitation of labor. The Catholic Daughters of America oppose the Child Labor Amendment as emphatically as they oppose birth control.

The chapter on the fight against birth control points up the farcical inconsistency of Catholic arguments, and also emphasizes the fact that "the stationary condition of the number of Catholics in this country in recent

years is taken as a clear indication that Catholics in vast numbers are practising birth control" (Probably not by the rhythm method!) The oppressive and un-reasonable attitude of the Church's celibate leaders can hurt only themselves, the author contends. He goes on to cite the dangers in the enormous industry devoted to the irresponsible manufacture of contraceptives, and to point a damning finger at certain priestly practices.

The book contains much that is documented and fair, but it cannot be said to be without emotional bias. There are groups within the Church, like the growing movement in favor of the Child Labor Amendment led by a prominent Catholic attorney, which make a real effort to counteract the reactionary influences of the consistently Pope minded "Rome Stoops to Conquer" is an interesting commentary on a struggle for power in the name of religion.

MARION CODE

A MAP of the state folded into Michigan's annual report clearly shows the location of the clinics, birth control services and active committees of the Maternal Health League. The report, printed in brown ink on cream paper, uses the familiar "step up" plan—pages of unequal length, which permit the subject of each page to be seen before the leaflet is opened. Massachusetts' booklet "Your Community and Birth Control" is purse size, but packs much sound information between its attractive green covers. "Are you sure you know what birth control really means?" is the arresting question on the front cover. Details may be changed by Massachusetts' printer at nominal cost, to make the booklet suitable for other states. Several New England leagues have taken advantage of this offer. Other leagues please note.

"Shall They Know?" is the title of the American Birth Control League's new booklet appealing for funds. A clinic map of the United States and facsimiles of letters written by mothers to the League lend variety to the text, as does the use of color in the headings. Sample on request. The Little Rock, Arkansas, clinic announces its purposes on a pale pink handbill, certain to stand out among other papers. Photographs of two families helped by the Pennsylvania Federation appear under the flap of a recent educational folder. No names are given, of course, but the pictures speak for themselves.

A number of important new books on birth control and related subjects are available. For descriptions of them, see the revised book list just published by the American Birth Control League. The list may be secured in quantity for one dollar per hundred.

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In the News

Washington, March 22—The Works Progress Administration has concluded after an exhaustive survey that bigger families, less employment and small incomes were chiefly responsible for economic disaster overtaking rural families who went on relief early in the depression

The results of the survey were released today by Harry L Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator

"Relief households average one more person than non relief households," the W P A said, "had more children under 15 and fewer persons of the most productive ages, 25 to 45 Both family heads and children in the relief groups had less education than those not on relief"

—*The New York Times*

Chicago, March 14—Execution of hopelessly feeble minded children was opposed today by sociologists in many parts of the nation The majority of the 13 experts who commented on the suggestion of Dr S B Laughlin, of *Williamette University*, that mentally defective youngsters who constitute hopeless cases be chloroformed, expressed unqualified opposition Five suggested birth control as a method of coping with the problem

Dr Earl E Eubank of the University of Cincinnati commented "The much more important question is to prevent such births by rational birth control"

"Death would probably be a good thing on the whole," said Dr William F Ogburn of the University of Chicago "I guess it will be done some time in the next 100 years The big thing is to keep them from reproducing"

—*Associated Press dispatch*

We stopped off in Florida last week and ran into the relief problem in its most virulent form It seems that Florida has an eighty seven year old Negro named Douglas who is expecting his thirty eighth child shortly The thirty seven others are all living Mr Douglas, the hale, is on relief One thing the government is discovering about the dole is that it is both fecund and contagious, it multiplies like rabbits and spreads like pink eye All the people who are *not* on the dole have to practice birth control in order to pay taxes, and all the people who *are* on the dole have to produce large families in order to get more relief"

—*The New Yorker*

April 10—An interval of at least two years between the births of babies is essential to protect the health of a mother and her children, Dr Sophia J Kleegman, assistant clinical professor of gynecology and obstetrics at New York University College of Medicine told a meeting held under the auspices of the American Birth Control League yesterday at the home of Mrs Frederick B Adams

"I have yet to meet an opponent of birth control who is married and fertile and poor," she stated "I should like to have those who doubt the value of birth control education spend one day with me at the municipal hospital, in the gynecological clinic, at the operating table and in the ward rounds I should like to show them the physical and mental suffering, the preventable operations and the preventable deaths of mothers which are directly attributable to ignorance of methods of scientific birth control"

—*The New York World Telegram*

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