

# Birth Control Review

Published by the American Birth Control League

Vol IV No 5 (New Series)

JANUARY, 1937

## Sixteenth Annual Meeting

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

Roosevelt Hotel, New York City

January 27th and 28th

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

- 9 30 a m REGISTRATION Mezzanine Floor
- 10 30 a m ANNUAL MEETING NEW YORK STATE BIRTH CONTROL FEDERATION
- 1 00 p m INFORMAL LUNCHEON Blue Room (\$1 50 per plate)  
New York State and American Birth Control League delegates and friends
- 2 15 p m ROUND TABLE PROBLEMS OF CLINIC ADMINISTRATION  
(Directed by the New York State Birth Control Federation)  
Speaker Mary Fisher Ph D Department of Child Psychology Sarah Lawrence College  
**Birth Control and Marital Adjustment.**  
Presiding Ruth H Backus Executive Secretary Rochester Maternal Welfare Center  
Discussion by clinic representatives  
Topics Cultivating Clinic Attendance Rural Expansion  
What Constitutes a Failure Publicity—Its Uses and Limitations
- 10 30 p m BROADCAST ON THE COLUMBIA NETWORK  
(Central Time 9 30 Mountain Time 8 30 Pacific Time 7 30)  
Speakers Eduard C Lindeman Ph D Department of Social Philosophy, New York School  
of Social Work  
William H Cary M D National Committee on Maternal Health  
**The Doctor and the Social Scientist Look at Birth Control**

### THURSDAY JANUARY 28

- 10 30 a m ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAGUE Election of Directors
- 11 00 a m MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS Election of Officers
- 12 30 p m ANNUAL LUNCHEON (\$1 50 per plate, tables seat eight)  
**Democratize Birth Control**  
Presiding Mrs Louis DeB Moore, Chairman Board of Directors  
Chairman Eric M Matsner, M D, Secretary National Medical Council on Birth Control  
Guests of Honor Mrs Margaret Sanger Mr Morris Ernst  
Speaker Clarence C Little Sc D, President American Birth Control League Director, Ros-  
coe B Jackson Memorial Laboratory Director, American Society for the Control of Cancer
- 2 00 p m STATE LEAGUE REPORTS

ANOTHER TWELVE MONTHS HAVE PASSED—A PERIOD FRAUGHT WITH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT THE YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS CAME TO A CLIMAX WHEN THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS HANDED DOWN ITS SWEEPING DECISION IN DECEMBER CAREFUL CHARTING OF THE WORK TO COME IS NOW THE MOST VITAL CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TASK MERITS AN ANNUAL MEETING WITH ALL STATE LEAGUES REPRESENTED THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS URGE YOU TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO HELP US MAKE THIS AN OUTSTANDING EVENT

## Scientific Conference Held

PHYSICIANS, social workers, nurses and individuals associated with the birth control movement attended the Conference on Contraceptive Research and Clinical Practice held at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, on December 29th and 30th under the auspices of the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau. More than four hundred registered for the two day conference.

Exhibits of historical material on birth control, as well as of contraceptive products from various parts of the United States and Europe, proved of particular interest. Motion pictures dealing with the physiology of reproduction, the techniques of contraception and related subjects were shown.

The first day's program was devoted to a discussion of modern research in contraception and to various aspects of the relationship between endocrinology and reproduction. The prospects for hormonal sterilization and the relationship of spermatoxic immunity to fertility were presented by authorities in their respective fields, representing several leading American universities.

At the afternoon session the safe period and the facts and fallacies upon which it is based were considered. Prof. Carl C. Hartman of Carnegie Institute suggested that the present status of scientific data on the safe period in women might be best summarized by asking the question, "Would you risk a patient's life by recommending reliance upon the Ogino-Knaus schedule?" He said that his answer would be, "Emphatically no!"

The topic of the dinner meeting, under the chairmanship of Margaret Sanger, was "Public Health and Birth Control Laws." Mrs. Sanger pointed out the importance of the recent decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals with its recognition of the need for birth control in promoting the well being of the American people. She paid tribute to Morris Ernst, the attorney who not only won the present decision but whose name is inextricably interwoven with the legal history of the birth control movement in the United States. The importance of birth control as a public health measure was presented by Dr. Milton Winteritz of Yale University. Dr. Hannah M. Stone, medical director of the Clinical Research Bureau, gave an historical summary of clinical contraception.

During the second day's program, mechanical and chemical methods of contraception and problems of clinical procedure were discussed. A statistical study of planned pregnancies, presented by Dr. Cheri Appel, indicated that the use of contraceptives does not affect fertility and that clinic patients are utilizing contraception as a means of spacing pregnancies in plan-

ning their families in the best interest of both mother and children.

Dr. Jessie L. Marshall of the Meinhard Health Clinic reported on a questionnaire sent to birth control clinics regarding administration problems. The question on which there was the greatest divergence of opinion was concerning whether pre-marital advice should be given.

The work of the twelve neighborhood contraceptive centers maintained by the New York City Committee of Mothers' Health Centers was described by Mrs. Carol K. Nash, executive secretary, and Dr. Thomas J. Parks, clinical supervisor, of the Committee. An attendance of 12,600 at these centers during 1935 was reported.

The entire conference was marked by the high scientific caliber of the material presented. The large attendance indicated recognition on the part of the professions of the important role that contraception plays in the preservation of health. America's first birth control clinic is to be congratulated for planning a program so stimulating to contraceptive research.

ERIC M. MATSNER, M.D.

## Students Discuss Modern Marriage

Discussion of birth control had a leading part in the Parley on Marriage held on December 4th at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. Nearly 1,000 students heard talks by outstanding authorities on the problems of modern marriage.

Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, chairman of the Commission on Marriage, the Family and the Home, Central Conference of American Rabbis, addressed the conference and has given us a first hand report for the *Review*.

"It is of especial interest to me and to others associated with the birth control movement to know that this important student body again and again expressed their conviction that they must be free to marry and enabled to postpone children until they themselves decide that the time has come for a child," Dr. Goldstein states. "In many of the discussions they urged economic conditions as a reason for postponing parenthood, but they also insisted that there are many other reasons why a young couple may decide not to have a child for the first or second year of married life.

"The whole subject of marriage and the family was discussed with the utmost frankness by the speakers, and especially by the students. One thing that impressed me particularly was the high plane upon which the discussion moved."

Among the speakers were Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, Dr. Norman E. Himes of Colgate University, Dr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Groves of the University of North Carolina, and Rev. S. Ralph Harlow of Smith College.

## Court Upholds Clinic Program

**T**HE dead hand of Anthony Comstock is powerless today to keep birth control information from any married woman whose physician feels that she needs it for the purpose of saving life or promoting well being. Thus the 63 year old federal statutes on contraception were interpreted in tune with modern public opinion and clinical practice through a unanimous decision handed down on December 7, 1936, by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The decision stands out as a landmark in birth control history. It upholds views held over a period of years by the American Birth Control League, whose policies have been based upon previous court decisions of a like nature and upon the practical observation that the federal laws did not interfere with the work of medically directed birth control centers. Undeniably, however, the laws have retarded clinical extension. With this added clarification, the movement can push forward with even greater confidence in the task of making medical birth control available to poor mothers.

In 1933 a package of rubber pessaries was sent from Japan to Dr. Hannah M. Stone, New York gynecologist, for research purposes. The customs authorities refused to permit the contraceptives to enter the country. Last January the case was brought before Judge Grover Moscovitz of the District Court, who gave a favorable decision, directing that the contraceptives be surrendered to Dr. Stone, since they were intended for legitimate medical use and the statute in question applied only to contraceptives for illegitimate use. The government appealed the case to the higher court, whose decision proved even more sweeping than that of Judge Moscovitz. Applying particularly to the importation of contraceptives, this decision, when added to a previous decision of the same court relating to the use of the mails (the Youngs Case, 1930) fully defines the physician's rights in the matter.

### Decision Based on Modern Knowledge

Our member leagues who have worked tirelessly to establish clinics, and the physicians who have demonstrated the relation of birth control to public health, should be gratified to know that their aggressive pioneering has been a decisive factor in influencing the judges' opinion. For the decision is based upon the facts now available as to the health value of contraception.

"It is true," the judges stated, "that in 1873, when the Comstock Act was passed, information now available as to the evils resulting in many cases from con-

Physicians rights are clarified by the eventful decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals

ception was most limited. We are satisfied that this statute, as well as all the acts we have referred to, embraced only such articles as Congress would have denounced as immoral if it had understood all the conditions under which they were to be used. Its design, in our opinion, was not to prevent the importation, sale or carriage by mail of things which might intelligently be employed by conscientious and competent physicians for the purpose of saving life or promoting the well being of their patients."

The decision pointed out that the Comstock Bill, as originally introduced in the Senate, contained the words "except on a prescription of a physician in good standing, given in good faith," but that those words were omitted from the bill as it was ultimately passed. "The remarks, when the bill was up for passage in final form, indicate that the scope of the measure was not well understood and that the language used was to be left largely for future interpretation," the judges held.

### Legal Crusaders

Mr. Morris Ernst, who acted as Dr. Stone's attorney in this test case, has served at the same time the entire medical profession and the American public. Profound gratitude is due him. Though he has modestly kept in the background, his courage and brilliance are largely responsible for securing this and previous court decisions on contraception. Crusader against outworn "obscenity" laws for many years, Mr. Ernst has probably done more than any other one person to free American art and literature from the blight of Comstockery. He has long been a friend and defender of birth control as a movement essential to civil liberty.

The Comstock laws still remain on the statute books. But, as legal authorities point out, a statute consists not of the letter of the law, but of the interpretation given it by judges, by the officials charged with enforcing it, and by public opinion.

In a statement to the press, Margaret Sanger hailed the decision as making unnecessary the continuance of her fight for federal legislation regarding the rights of the medical profession.

The contribution that Mrs. Sanger's conviction, eloquence and leadership have made to awakening public

opinion to the need for birth control is well known. In 1916 she opened the first birth control clinic in America, which was closed a few days later as "a public nuisance." In 1923 she established the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, the first clinic to actually function, which was in its earlier years a department of the American Birth Control League.

Mrs. Sanger in 1928 resigned from the presidency of the American Birth Control League to devote her energies to her clinic and to amending the federal laws. She formed the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, which introduced its first bill into Congress in 1930. In the years 1930 through 1936, five Senate and five House bills have been introduced by the Committee, all of which have sought to exempt physicians and have been based on the assumption that there were no exceptions to the prohibitions of the statutes. The bills have died in committee, with the exception of S 1842, which in 1934 reached the Senate calendar, was passed, and remained so for fifteen exciting minutes—until Senator McCarran of Nevada recalled it.

Though the opposition in Congress has repeatedly blocked the efforts of Mrs. Sanger's Committee, the educational work in connection with its legal campaigns has built up an impressive body of public opinion, which played a vital part in influencing the present decision. Approximately 1,000 national and local organizations—including religious, medical, social and educational groups—have gone on record for amending the federal laws. Among them is the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

#### Clinics Blazed the Trail

An important exhibit referred to the judges with Mr. Ernst's brief on the case was a map showing the location of birth control clinics in the United States. Further, in presenting facts on state laws, the brief pointed out that even in the eight states which have prohibitions regarding contraceptives, all but Mississippi have clinics functioning openly.

The birth control clinics as community demonstrations have been an indispensable factor in moulding public opinion to the point where the court decision was possible. Most of the clinic development has come during the past six years. In 1930 there were only 40 medically directed clinics, two years ago, in January, 1935, there were 150, now there are 288, in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

The American Birth Control League has guided this nation-wide movement for clinic extension through its field work and through continuous education of lay committees, social workers and the medical profession.

The pages of the *Review* chronicle this service—the travels of field workers, the state leagues formed, exhibits held, medical lectures given and medical publications supplied, and recently, the heartening gains in bringing birth control to rural as well as to city mothers.

The League has concentrated upon the formation of strong state member leagues, capable of carrying on responsibility and multiplying clinics after they have been helped to start the first one. There were five state member leagues in 1930, now there are twenty-two. In 1935 the first standardization of clinic procedure and management was instituted by the League to interest medical and lay sponsors in developing better standards of social service and medical administration.

#### A Lesson From England

Significant as is the decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, it does not mean that the League and its state member groups may now relax and rest on their achievements. Interesting deductions can be made from reports recently received from England, where physicians are not hampered by birth control laws. In fact, the Ministry of Health has issued since 1930 several memoranda urging local Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities to establish contraceptive clinics.

The National Birth Control Association of England, of which Lord Horder is president, carries on a program very similar to that of the American Birth Control League. Though granted full legality, the Association has found that aggressive field work and organization are necessary to stimulate the local authorities to take steps under the Ministry of Health memoranda on birth control. Guided by the Association, 196 authorities out of 423 in England and Wales have taken such steps since 1930. Voluntary clinics under private auspices have also been established by the Association, which states, "All our experience shows that the best and quickest results are achieved by detailed and thorough organizing work. In many a town, an organizer who on her first visit was greeted with suspicion and apprehension has at the end of a few months established a branch with a strong committee, influential sponsors and a flourishing clinic."

All this has a familiar ring to the American Birth Control League and its state member leagues. We know that no matter how broad as the definition of a physician's rights, clinic doors do not open automatically. Responsible committees must be organized, funds must be raised, clinicians trained, social workers and patients informed of the clinic's service. The old obstacles of inertia, conservatism and bigotry must be overcome.

As we begin the new year with the welcome gift of this decision which upholds our principles, we are resolved to press on with even greater effort toward the goal of medical birth control adequate for the needs of every community in America

## News from the States

### SOUTH DAKOTA

The clinic of the Sioux Falls Birth Control League has been assigned quarters by the Chamber of Commerce in the splendidly equipped wing of the new City Hall that is given over exclusively to public health agencies. One mother traveled two hundred miles across the prairie on bad roads to reach the clinic. Rapid City now has a clinic open one evening a week in a doctor's office.

A state wide drive for memberships and funds is being launched this month, writes Mrs W R Ronald, president of the South Dakota Maternal Health League. "While the prospects are not as bright as they might be, owing to the impoverished condition of the state, we find more and more interest among people who a year ago could not even have been approached on the subject," she reports.

Literature has been given out through many channels and talks have been made before influential groups. Dr A R Rider, medical director of the League, presented its program to the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

### PENNSYLVANIA

A distinguished sociologist, long a friend of the birth control movement, now heads the work of the Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation. James H S Bosard, professor of sociology in the University of Pennsylvania, was elected president at the Federation's annual meeting on November 23rd.

Mrs Thomas N Hepburn, legislative chairman of the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, gave a stirring address at the annual luncheon on "Birth Control in the Modern World." Mrs Louis deB Moore, chairman of the executive committee of the American Birth Control League, presented the League's greetings and congratulations to the state member league on its achievements.

The Federation has aided 19,084 mothers since the beginning of its clinic service in 1929. Last year there were 1,602 new patients, and ten new clinics were opened, making the total of active centers in the state now thirty three.

To bring birth control instruction to the wives of miners, who so sorely need it, Dr Alla Nekrassova,

who understands most Slavic dialects, is being sent by the Federation into "coal towns."

### SOCIAL WORKERS COOPERATE

This fall for the first time, the Illinois Birth Control League had a table at the State Conference of Social Work. Mrs Benjamin Carpenter and Mrs Harry Guthmann, who were in attendance, found great enthusiasm and willingness to cooperate on the part of social workers from many sections of the state. New clinics "down state" promise to result from contacts that were made.

Mrs Arthur S Kirk, corresponding secretary of the Iowa Maternal Health League, reports, "In 1935 we asked our State Social Work Conference if we might have a round table on birth control. In 1936 the secretary of the Conference *asked us* if we would not again conduct a round table, and our meeting was given a much better place on the program. The executive committee of the Conference voted to make us an active member. About fifty five delegates attended our meeting, which we considered a very good proportion, as there were several conflicting conferences."

### Evelyn Seligmann Memorial Fund

Through the generosity of Mrs Henry Siegbert a permanent fund has been established as a memorial to her sister, Mrs Rene Seligmann, whose devoted service as a member of the board of directors was so inspiring to all who knew her.

It is the wish of the donor that the fund be administered for the establishment of new clinics, and like the former clinic fund, it is to serve as an incentive for raising an equal amount locally.

The permanence of a birth control clinic is a condition which must be planned for at the very start. The principle underlying the clinic fund is to assure the interest of a sufficiently large committee to build and maintain the clinic as a civic responsibility. This is possible only when there is vision beyond the first few sessions. Supplies, quarters, even staff cannot assure permanence and expanding social service. Planning based upon reasonable financial security is also necessary.

The League will be glad to receive constructive suggestions for the use of the Fund beyond its present scope. The donor has been exceptionally open minded and does not wish unduly to restrict her gift. Such giving puts added responsibility upon administration and we want to be able to assure Mrs Siegbert that the money will be expended where it will do great and lasting good. So shall we have a fitting memorial to a mother who gave unsparingly in her service to mothers.

## Sterilization Arguments

*Four Pamphlets* By Marion S Norton Heredity and Twelve Social Problems, 46 pages, \$ 25, Sterilization and the Organized Opposition, 41 pages, \$ 25, Crime in Its Biological Aspect, 62 pages, \$ 35, New Jersey's Socially Inadequate Classes, \$ 25 Published by the author, 174 Prospect Ave., Princeton, N J

Mrs Norton, as chairman of the Department of Social Hygiene of the Princeton League of Women Voters, has long been campaigning actively for such measures as birth control, sterilization, and restriction of immigration This series of pamphlets represents ammunition to be used in educational and legislative campaigns, particularly for sterilization

The first one emphasizes the importance of heredity in relation to mental deficiency, mental diseases, epilepsy, venereal diseases, immigration, education, crippled children, neglected children, the deaf, the blind, and the sick, and finally, war

The second is a vigorous and documented attack on the Roman Catholic Church, which the author considers the only "organized opposition" to sterilization and similar measures

The third is particularly timely Criminology is getting from thoughtful people just now more attention than ever before, but most of this concern is with legislation, administration, or mental hygiene The biological foundations should not be overlooked, and this pamphlet does a service in laying before the public some of the relevant data, such as the findings of the Gluecks

The fourth pamphlet is of special concern to the people of New Jersey, since it describes the burden of

the socially inadequate classes in that state, with particulars as to their sources There is no reason to suppose that New Jersey has any more social inadequates than other states Such a compilation for each state in the Union would be most welcome

These pamphlets are attractively printed, and are crammed with facts, quotations, and case histories in support of the author's theses No one expects a campaign handbook to constitute a balanced, objective, and dispassionate survey of the case from every possible point of view If Mrs Norton were charged with over emphasizing the biological aspects, she would doubtless reply that the environmental aspects are continually be

fore the public, and that she is merely trying to restore, in some slight measure, the balance

Those who do not accept her point of view will probably not like the pamphlets Those who share her point of view will doubtless make wide use of them There is room for difference of opinion on many points, and there are broad statements that would require qualification or interpretation in another setting, but specific errors of fact are few The author has carried out successfully her intention—to provide a compact and convenient source of campaign material for those who are promoting sterilization and other biological measures of race betterment

PAUL POPENOE

## Puerto Rico Old Woman in a Shoe

Under the title, "Puerto Rico Old Woman In A Shoe," in the winter, 1936-37 issue of the *North American Review* appears a graphic account of Puerto Rico's oppressive social, economic and health conditions The article is a report of experiences and observations by Dr Eric M Matsner, Medical Director of the American Birth Control League, who recently visited the island at the invitation of the Puerto Rican Medical Society, and William Laidlaw, a free lance writer on foreign affairs, who accompanied him

The authors report, "The foulness of the Puerto Rican peon's existence can hardly be described He lives literally in a state of chronic starvation, crowding his filthy, scarecrow body into a hut where his female counterpart and their numberless wretched children almost always share at least one of his diseases Beyond this—his sad body, his hut propped up on its wavering sticks and his unhappy

family—he has nothing of his own, seldom even a bit of earth on which to grow things"

The report points out that Puerto Rico, a country that cannot comfortably support more than eight hundred thousand, now has a population rapidly nearing two million The peon group constitutes sixty per cent of the island's inhabitants, and a peon's annual income for his entire family is seldom in excess of one hundred dollars

The precarious economic framework of the island, attributed to many factors, both internal and external, indicate the need for complete economic rehabilitation The authors in summarizing, however, state, "No matter what political or economic destiny is eventually in store for the island, its first need, its eternal need will continue to be the healthy regulation of its population"

Reprints of this article are available through the *Birth Control Review* at seven cents a copy

## Does Birth Control Mean Race Suicide?

This remarkable editorial *Population Variables* is reprinted from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, November 24, 1936

There is hardly an educated person who has not heard, *ad nauseam*, about the "teeming millions" making war inevitable by their fecundity, or those other millions (some times, indeed, the same ones) who threaten to extinguish civilization by their alarming failure to reproduce themselves. Mussolini alternately demands of the world that it give him room for the Italians who now exist, and summons the mothers of Italy to fresh efforts lest there be no Italians at all. Yet there are few educated persons who have more than the foggiest notions as to the nature, cause or cure of population problems or even as to their reality. It is into this fog that the November issue of the "Annals" of the American Academy of Political and Social Science steps with a symposium of "Studies in Population" by our ablest workers in the field. And some of the implications of these scientific and close packed articles are surprising.

The phenomenon of rapidly declining birth rates in all the Western countries is well known, so, to a lesser extent, are the more recent studies of fertility, which point toward a much earlier stabilization and thereafter a much more drastic decline of the industrial peoples than is revealed by the crude birth and death rates. It is not so well appreciated that even these latter conclusions are still open to doubts which can only be resolved by experience. The forecasting of population trends is as yet anything but an exact science, and even less is the present knowledge of the mechanism which causes them. Most people assume that birth control is the main reason for the dwindling fertility of peoples, actually, the subject is one of such violent con-

troversy even among students that the editor included no paper on it, while if it is an important cause it is at best but one. Many other direct and indirect factors — the average age of marriage, marriage and divorce rates, the prevalence of disease or psychological disorders, the numbers shut up in institutions, as well as more general economic and social conditions—all must be taken into account.

But if neither population changes nor their causes are well understood, even less so are their effects. Many recent writers have taken effective pot shots at the vague notion of "population pressure", but thoughtful consideration reveals the dubiety of even more detailed ideas upon the subject. The idea that a country must produce a larger population in order to raise the standard of living may be as illusory as the idea that mass unemployment shows the population to be too large.

The possibility that the Western powers (including Westernized Japan) may soon begin depopulating themselves toward extinction is real enough to encourage the most earnest prosecution of the studies upon which these scholars are embarked. But the difficulties of the subject would still seem to be so great as to make one very wary of the countless loose generalizations flung about on the "population problem."

## Nominations

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the American Birth Control League will be held at 10 30 a m on Thursday, January 28th, 1937, at the Hotel Roosevelt, Madison Avenue and 45th Street, New York City. Amendment of Article V, Section 1 of the By laws will be considered.

CHARLOTTE D MARSH, Secy

The nominating committee presents the following for election to the Board of Directors

TO SERVE UNTIL 1938

Mrs Joseph D Burge, Kentucky  
Mrs Benjamin Carpenter, Illinois  
Mrs McGarvey Chine, Florida  
Mrs Edward Cornish, Arkansas  
Mrs W R Ronald, South Dakota

TO SERVE UNTIL 1940

Mrs Frederick B Adams, Jr  
Mrs Richard Billings  
Mr Gilbert Colgate  
Mrs Frederic Cromwell  
Mrs Henry de Rham  
Mrs Charles Dana Draper  
Mrs Mansfield Ferry  
Clarence James Gamble, M D  
Mrs Morris Hadley  
Mrs Roger Howson  
Dr Clarence Cook Little  
Mrs Robert McC Marsh  
Mrs Louis deB Moore  
Richard N Pierson, M D  
Mrs William C Potter  
Mrs Walter N Rothschild  
Mrs John G M Stone  
Benjamin T Tilton, M D  
Mrs Leslie J Tompkins  
Ira S Wile, M D  
Dr C E A Winslow

CORNELIA CROMWELL,

Chairman

## LISTEN IN!

The League will be on the air in a coast to coast broadcast over the Columbia network

**WEDNESDAY EVENING JANUARY 27**

10 30 P M eastern time WABC and allied stations

(See page one for further details)

## In The News

What is the ideal size family? "Two children, perhaps three," said the typical American, in a poll recently conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion. Previously the Institute polled a cross section of 100,000 voters in all states on the question, "Should the distribution of information on birth control be made legal?" Seventy per cent voted "yes"

The Western New York Baptist Young People, in convention in Rochester, November 29th, unanimously recommended "the establishment of a more adequate number of birth control clinics and competent counsel on this subject to be made available as needed"

A verdict is expected momentarily in the Canadian "birth control trial" which has been going on since October in Eastview, a suburb of Ottawa. Miss Dorothea Palmer, social worker, is charged with violation of the Canadian Criminal Code for having offered contraceptives for sale and advertised contraceptive methods through a pamphlet. If it is proved that "the public good was served" by Miss Palmer's action, she will not be convicted.

The defense has covered a wide ground, with testimony from prominent clergymen, sociologists and physicians. "I think that this may be in some respects the most important birth control trial in the annals of the English speaking people," reports C. E. Silcox, general secretary of the Social Service Council of Canada. "It comes at a time when public opinion is far more crystallized than it ever has been and when we have scientific data to put into the evidence. In my own judgment, the cause of birth control will be promoted, whatever the verdict."

Room 912  
515 Madison Avenue  
New York N Y

JANUARY 1937

## Deeds and Dollars

**A hard working bishop in the throes of a finance drive was once known to remark to a timid fellow worker,**

**"My Bible doesn't say 'throw out a gentle hint and ye shall receive'!**

**So taking our cue from the bishop we ask frankly and with faith**

**Is there a Review reader who will give five hundred dollars for an urgently needed clinic?**

**Local support has been assured in an industrial center which could serve its own community and the impoverished populations of outlying mountain mining and agricultural districts as well—if we had five hundred dollars to get the clinic started—an incalculable amount of service just waiting to be released as soon as someone primes the pump with five hundred dollars!**

**If you cannot give for this special purpose perhaps you could make some contribution over and above your membership—there is so much more to be done just as soon as the funds are forthcoming**

**Memberships range from three dollars to one hundred dollars and contributions up to the limit of one's ability and inclination to give**

**Please make checks payable to  
AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, Inc  
515 Madison Avenue, New York, N Y**

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