

birth control review

OCTOBER, 1937

VOL XXII

NO 1



In the "Cradle of Liberty"

— Caroline Carter Davis

The International Population
Conference

— Eric M. Matsner, M.D.

Among the Member Leagues

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THIS month **16,000** readers will receive the **REVIEW** — twice as many as two years ago. Among them we are proud to number educators, social workers, clergymen, physicians and other progressive citizens, who are forwarding the cause of voluntary parenthood in every state and in many foreign countries.

Entering its twenty second year of publication, the **REVIEW** holds today a recognized position among social agencies, libraries and universities as national interpreter for an essential field of community welfare and public health. Today its theme is not merely family limitation, but family planning in a broad and positive sense. We hope to be able to give increasing space to news in the allied fields of eugenics, population problems and marriage counseling. Yet the **REVIEW's** crusading days are not over, they cannot be until every mother has access to scientific birth control information.

At the recommendation of member leagues, we are adopting with this issue a

more convenient and readable format. As the birth control movement enters a new phase of wider opportunity and challenge, we look forward to reflecting its progress in a **REVIEW** that will be more useful, informative and stimulating than ever before.

Hospital Clinics

THE American Hospital Association at its thirty ninth annual meeting held in Atlantic City September 15th, heard from its committee on public health relations a report which included this significant statement, "The changed attitude of the medical profession and the intelligent public on the need for advice on contraception will compel many hospitals to consider birth control clinics as an avenue of health service."

Thus another professional body with profound influence on the nation's well being follows the American Medical Association in recognizing birth control as a community health problem.

Seventy hospitals throughout the country now have **contraceptive clinics**. Also under the **public health banner** are some 39 **clinics** located in city and county health departments. **Hospitals** not yet prepared to conduct **birth control clinics within their own walls** are **liberalizing their service** so that **patients** for whom contraceptive advice is **indicated** are referred to extra mural centers giving such advice.

Only a **beginning** has been made. But with pressure brought to bear not only by **physicians** but by the "**intelligent public**," this year should see a **substantial increase** toward the goal of a **contraceptive clinic** as part of the maternal health service of every hospital.

Rural Birth Rates

FROM two government bureaus have come facts that turn our attention anew to the ill and **destitute** mothers of America's rural districts.

In a statement released to the press September first, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress **Administrator**, listed "excess birth rates in poor land areas" as number one among the causes **contributing** to the **mal adjustment** of rural **families**. The **depression**, Mr Hopkins said, was only "the last straw" in an **accumulation** of troubles that had made relief cases of some 2,000,000 **families** of farmers and farm laborers. He based his statements on a study of 53,000 farm **families** made by the W P A **Division of Social Research**, which revealed that farmers on **relief** were almost invariably those with fewer acres and more **children** than **their neighbors**.

Nearly one **third** of the new babies in the United States each year are born into **families** living in rural areas and in cities under 10,000, whose annual income, including home **produce**, is less than \$750. These **statistics** were presented by Miss Kathenne

Lenroot, **Chief** of the **Children's Bureau** of the U S Department of Labor, to the **Child Symposium** of the Loyal Order of Moose of the World, meeting September 4th in Cleveland. She declared, according to the **New York Times**, that rural poverty and, in many places, **inaccessibility** of **medical care**, combined to produce dangerous **child birth situations**.

Only recently has **medical birth control service** begun to reach rural **districts**, where maternal and **infant death rates** are **particularly high** and mothers are in acute need of **relief** from **continuous childbearing**. More rural referral services **carried on** as an **extension** of state and city league **activity**, more rural centers—perhaps **traveling centers**—must be the next step forward. On America's farms, in mountain shacks, in the "dust bowl" and drought areas, thousands of mothers are **waiting** for this **medical information** that will mean to them new health and new hope.

For Human Needs

THE President has made a statement in behalf of the coming **annual Mobilization for Human Needs**. He says, in part, "We need, even **during** prosperous times, the **assistance** of all agencies, **public and private**, to **provide** large numbers of unfortunates with the **necessities and opportunities** which are **their due**. Especially **significant** is the **emphasis** these agencies give to the **questions** of health and **social adjustment**, as they affect the younger **generation**—the boys and girls."

Many workers in the birth control movement will take part in this **drive** to **raise funds** for 400 **Community Chests**. Many will be asked to give generously and to ask others to give. Their efforts should meet with all **possible success**, for the **Community Chest system** is sound and economical.

Contributions would go further toward

mitigating human misery, we believe, if every donor specified by letter that her check be allocated to the local agencies which recognize birth control as one of the community services essential to the health and dignity of family life. No sounder investment could be made—no saner proposal offered.

We suggest to state and local leagues that a brief statement be prepared to send to all members and friends as promptly as possible. It is not essential that Community Chests officially recognize birth control, though some do. No move should be made which would cause controversy or embarrassment to campaigners nor should publicity be sought. All that is suggested is the privilege each donor may justly claim to direct her own contribution to agencies which refer the indigent in their care to birth control centers, or which cooperate in other ways.

The radio campaign begins on October 18th. No great imagination is required to foresee what might be accomplished toward the public good if before that date every state member were prepared to take the stand suggested. May we urge your consideration and prompt action?

—M B

The Massachusetts Hearings

THE clock has been turned back in Massachusetts, where, invoking an "obscenity" law enacted in 1879, police this summer invaded three of the mothers' health offices maintained by the Birth Control League of Massachusetts. This action seems all the more an anachronism in a year when birth control has made tremendous strides as a public health service, and has been accepted as legitimate medical practice by the American Medical Association.

Just what instigated the police interference is not known. If this is an attempt on the part of the opponents of birth control

to block clinical progress, history should remind them that such tactics have served only to advance the movement. Nation-wide publicity on the raids has been overwhelmingly favorable to the work of the Massachusetts League.

Mrs. Davis' "brief history" on page six describes events through August 5th, including the appeal to a higher court of the Salem cases. On September 15th the case of Dr. Ilia Galleani was heard in the Brookline District Court. Judge Parker pronounced her guilty, she was fined \$400 and the case was appealed. Doubtless the same procedure will be followed on October 6th, when the Boston Municipal Court will return a verdict in the cases of Mrs. Hawkridge, League president, and Mrs. Davis, educational director, heard September 22nd.

At this hearing, Mrs. Hawkridge stated that ninety per cent of the League's patients have been referred directly to the health offices by leading social agencies, hospitals and physicians. Fees accepted from patients have constituted only fourteen per cent of the actual cost of the medical service rendered. Some of Massachusetts' most eminent physicians, educators and social workers direct the League's activities.

While awaiting the decisions, the Massachusetts League has closed all its health offices, publicly affirming, however, its belief in the complete legality of the work. A national fund to aid the court defense has been launched by the American Birth Control League and its member leagues.

Curiously, no attempt has been made to prosecute those who benefit commercially by ignoring the Massachusetts laws which forbid the advertising, sale or exhibiting of contraceptives. Quacks continue to profit from the sales of unreliable and dangerous products for "feminine hygiene."

At both the September 15th and 22nd hearings, the prosecution admitted that physicians of the state might in their private

practice legally prescribe contraceptives for the preservation of the lives and health of married women. But, in the opinion of the municipal judges, the text of the laws forbids the same medical advice to mothers who cannot afford to consult a physician privately. Aside from the question of every mother's right to plan her family, it seems inconceivable that higher courts in a democracy will so interpret the laws as to withhold from the poor an essential health service that is available to the more fortunate.

If necessary, the appeals will be carried to the Supreme Court. The Massachusetts League stands firm, regarding this as an opportunity to clarify the legality of its work and to pave the way for greater progress.

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Joseph Lee

IN THE DEATH of Mr. Joseph Lee of Boston, father of the American playground system, the cause of birth control lost an enthusiastic supporter. That one whose lifelong interest was the joyful growth of children and the reshaping of our educational system to promote such growth, should also have been interested in extending birth control to all classes of the population may strike some as inconsistent. But, in reality, it was in close keeping with his democratic faith.

Joseph Lee realized that without knowledge of family limitation, thousands of American parents would be unable to give their children the education which citizenship in a democracy demands. That this knowledge should be the exclusive privilege of the well-to-do was as alien to his instincts as the idea that only rich boys should be allowed to play ball. To him both were rights, not charities. He believed that birth control is vital to the saving of American democracy.

MARGARET LEE SOUTHARD

• WORLD NEWS •

WITH legal sanction, the work of the work of the Puerto Rican Association for Maternal and Child Health is moving forward rapidly. In twelve birth control centers 1,016 mothers had received medical advice up to August 1st, the Association stated in its monthly bulletin.

Hon. Benigno Fernandez Garcia, attorney general, has announced in the press that the laws relating to birth control and eugenical sterilization recently approved by the Puerto Rican legislature are not in conflict with the federal statutes in force on the island. The Association comments, "This opinion destroys the last legal barrier to the practice of scientific birth control in Puerto Rico."

Clinics are located in hospitals of San Juan and Humacao, in Lares and in connection with rural dispensaries.

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The Sino-Japanese hostilities have interrupted Margaret Sanger's tour of the Orient and she is returning to the United States. Mrs. Sanger visited Japan, but could not go on to China, where she had planned to aid the growing birth control movement.

In a letter made public by the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, of which she is director, Mrs. Sanger stated that the most encouraging feature of her trip was the gathering to celebrate the opening in Japan of a modern birth control clinic, established by Baroness Ishimoto.

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In South Africa, the birth control movement has received valuable support from the senior officers of the Department of Public Health, reports the Birth Control International Information Centre. There are now clinics in three of the four provincial capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria and Maritzburg, and in the industrial districts of Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Benoni.

In the "cradle of Liberty"^U

A Brief History of Events in Massachusetts
during the Torrid Heat of the Summer, 1937

By Caroline L Carter Davis

Educational Director, Birth Control League of Massachusetts

June 3, 1937

A session of the North Shore Mothers' Health Office in Salem was interrupted by the police. They brought with them a search warrant and removed all records and contraceptives. The doctor, Dr. Lucile Lord Heinstem, the nurse, Mrs. Flora Rand, and the social worker, Mrs. Stewart Gardner, were asked to come to the police station whither they were driven in automobiles and questioned.

Warrants were issued charging offenses against the Massachusetts statutes which forbid "advertising or exhibiting" contraceptives. Counsel for the League appeared promptly and the authorities were rather thoroughly convinced that abortion was not part of the procedure of the Health Office, though one police officer could see no moral difference, even if there were a legal one. The case was called in the Salem District Court on June 22nd. A brief hearing was held, at which counsel for the League asked the return of the medical records of the patients. Judge Sears, presiding, refused the request. The police stated that the records were necessary to the prosecution of their case.

July 13th

The case was tried before Judge Sears. Testimony was given by two "stool pigeons" sent by the vice squad of Lawrence at the request of the City Marshal of Salem. One of these, a young married woman, who admitted lying when she said she had been referred by a nurse, testified to having received a contraceptive and instructions

after a thorough medical examination which revealed a very high blood pressure. The unmarried policewoman admitted that she had received no contraceptives or advice, nor had she seen the doctor before she left the office of her own accord. She had given a fictitious married name and case history. Her highly inaccurate testimony on happenings at the Health Office was quietly denied on the witness stand by the social worker who had been in charge that day. This worker happened to be particularly well known at the court and her denial was unquestioned.

Mr. Robert G. Dodge, counsel for the League, presented the argument that the committee had acted in good faith under legal advice. He concluded, after outlining the work of the Health Office, "It would be shocking to prevent this organization from carrying on its worthwhile work." The prosecuting attorney argued that it was not in the province of a lower court to re-interpret a statute, the literal meaning of which was perfectly clear. Judge Sears took the case under advisement and Mr. Dodge filed a brief.

The clinic sessions continued in Salem until Judge Sears rendered his verdict on July 20th. He said, "I think the statutes continue to be law until changed by the legislature or the Supreme Judicial Court. I must find these defendants guilty, but they were acting and operating under legal advice and perhaps they did not believe they were acting contrary to law."

A minimum fine of \$100 each was imposed, the Mother's Health Office closed,



Boston Record

WORKING FOR VICTORY *Left to right, Mrs Jamea M Faulkner, vice-president, Mothers' Health Office Committee of Greater Boston Mrs James W Craig, vic -president, Mrs Caroline Carter Davzs, educational drrector, Mrs Leslie D Hawkrtidge, president, and Mrs Weston Howland, vice-president, of the Brth Control League of Massachusetts*

and the records remained with the police
The League immediately appealed

We set busily about our preparations for the appeal, which we hoped would be heard in October Then

August 2nd

During the evening clinic session the Brookline Mothers' Health Office was raided There were present two doctors, Dr Ila Galleani, chief practising physician, Dr Lucile Lord Heinstein, assistant physician, the nurse, Mrs Rand, two social workers, two visitors, and eight patients The police had a search warrant and removed all contraceptives but not the medical records After the police left, all records were taken to a private home At the hearing, Dr Galleani alone was charged with exhibiting contraceptives and offering them for sale She was released under \$500 bail to appear at a hearing later

That seemed sufficient unto the day but—

August 4th

In the morning (while court proceedings were being held in Brookline) the police appeared at the South End Mothers' Health Office in Boston There were present or arrived shortly, Mrs Walter E Campbell, chairman of the Mothers' Health Office Committee of Greater Boston, and two other committee members As the police had no search warrant, the members of the committee refused to answer questions or allow the officers to search the premises After the police left, the committee removed supplies and records and put up a notice, "Office temporarily closed" In the afternoon the police came again The landlady admitted them and they had an opportunity to admire the very attractive rooms of the Health Office The police attempted to arrest the three committee members whom they had found, and Dr Galleani—because her name was on the door—on charges of advertising contraceptives At the hearing on

August 5th, Judge Carr dismissed the charges because there was no evidence

During this day the president of the League, Mrs Leslie Hawkrldge, had been busily engaged in conferences with reporters At five thirty Mrs Hawkrldge and I were on the sidewalk having a few fare well words with one of the reporters

Around the corner came five burly men in plain clothes "Pohce," said the omniscient reporter The men went up the stairs at 3 Joy Street, which was locked The ladies and a growing group of reporters lingered by Mrs Hawkrldge's car Finally the police asked us if we knew anything of a Massachusetts League to Control Birth Mrs Hawkrldge Introduced herself and Mrs Davis The police expressed a desire to call upon us in our office but admitted that they had no warrant We decided that it was wiser to receive them then, without a warrant, than to wait for the next day, when they might be better equipped

With 1200 pounds of the law and a group of photographers, Mrs Hawkrldge and I entered 3 Joy Street and climbed on foot to the fifth floor The officers expressed a desire to see the contents of our file, but were politely refused The ladies and the officers sat about the table and had a long talk on our activities We allowed them to take some of our pamphlets, which gave the addresses of our Health Offices, we told them typical case histories

The heutenant said, "Don't you think the legal situation ought to be cleared up once

for all?" Mrs Hawkrldge told them we did, that we had nothing to hide and welcomed investigation All this was duly recorded by the candid camera The police left The reporters tore themselves away remarking that it "wasn't much like most raids" It had been conducted like an afternoon tea, though the hostesses, having been caught unaware, had neglected the tea

August 5th

Mrs Hawkrldge and I were arraigned in the Suffolk County Criminal Court The warrant included the entire wording of the statute, including the giving of addresses where the abortion of a woman pregnant with child might be procured Counsel for the League secured the removal of all but the charge of giving the address where advice for the prevention of conception might be secured The defendants were released on their own recognizance, to be called for a hearing

On Thursday, August fifth, the Executive Board met and voted to recommend the closing of all Mothers' Health Offices in Massachusetts pending the decision of the Superior Court and asserting our confidence in the legality of our work

The League office hums The finance appeal is on its way Letters of cheer, astrological outbursts, anathemas (but not many), checks pour in The thermometer rises but nobody stops work We do not know who or what started all this It is to date "an act of God"

"Furthermore, if we may assume accuracy in the official attitude of the American Medical Association, the physicians in Massachusetts should be grateful to the Birth Control League for offering to the underprivileged a purely health service which the private physician admittedly affords his paying patients"

—Editorial, "Massachusetts Physicians and Birth Control"
New England Journal of Medicine, August 12

"If it is strange that the Massachusetts police have just now got around to raiding the clinics after most of them have been conserving life and health for five years, their drive will serve the good purpose of clarifying the status of birth control in the Bay State The Massachusetts raids, whatever their inspiration, will, in the long run, only advance this public health cause

—St Louis, Mo., Post Dispatch, August 5

The International Population Conference

by **Eric M Matsner, M D**

Medical Director, American Birth Control League

HOW the quantity, quality and distribution of the world's people will influence the future of nations and of civilization was discussed at the International Congress on Population Problems, which met in Paris July 30 August 1. Twenty eight nations were represented. Though 177 different topics were on the program, two major problems confronted the Congress—the decline in mortality in all civilized countries, owing to greater hygiene and the advance of medical science, the decline in fertility, owing to voluntary restriction upon procreation throughout the Western World.

The interpretation of the declining birth rate was the keynote of the conference. Groups were represented who still believe that birth control is a major cause of this decline. The majority of population experts appeared to agree, however, that contraception is not a cause of the limitation of births, but only one of several means to achieve this end. The causes of the drop in birth rates which were generally mentioned were changes in the social mores of peoples, economic factors, especially the cost today of bringing children into the world and rearing them, the unwillingness of mothers to produce children to be sacrificed in war.

Italy, France and Germany are among the countries that seek to raise their birth rates by outlawing contraception and by offering subsidies for marriages and for births. Italy imposes special taxes on bachelors. But the recent vital statistics from these countries well illustrates that it is impossible to force women to have children and futile to legislate against contraception.

Instead of the rapid rise in the birth rate which was anticipated, there has been a practically continuous decline, which many believe must have been attended by a marked increase in the number of illegal abortions.

In Italy, with one small intermission, the birth rate has steadily declined since 1922. At present it is apparently stationary at only slightly above unity. The birth rate in France has declined since 1920, despite liberal family allowances. Anti birth control laws are strictly enforced there, but of one contraceptive which may be legally employed as a venereal disease prophylactic, eleven million are said to be sold annually.

Germany's propaganda for larger families, and her dowries to young married couples have been able to raise her birth rate only slightly. Abortions in Germany are reported to have decreased temporarily among women pregnant for the first time, but abortions in subsequent pregnancies have not decreased.

In Sweden, where contraception is legal, the birth rate has also been declining, but there has been an interesting change in the differential birth rates. A marked increase in the number of births among the higher economic classes and a decrease among the lower has resulted in a complete reversal of the usual trends.

An official exhibit of the Swedish Government at the International Exposition in Paris links the higher standard of living among the Swedish people with the voluntary limitation of the number of births. The exhibit gives a graphic exposition of the dietary improvement in Sweden, specific

ly an **increase** in the consumption of vegetables and of **proteins** over carbohydrates

Several speakers from the United States commented on the problem of the **piling up of population** in poor land areas in **this country**. Large areas are **characterized** by **widespread** poverty and prolonged **depression**. Dr. Frank Lorimer, secretary of the Population Association of America, stated "Overpopulation in relation to economic resources appears most **seriously** in the Southeast," he said "Accumulation of **population** through **rapid** natural increase and **relatively** low **proportional** frequency of out **migrants** has been partly **responsible**, along with various **economic** and social **conditions**, for creating **this situation**"

"Contraceptive **History** and **Current Population Policy**" was the topic of Professor Norman E. Himes of Colgate University. The spread of **contraceptive** knowledge is the result of a deeply rooted, culturally and **geographically** universal **desire**, thousands of years old, Professor Himes told the Congress. Thus **law** and **religion** have **failed** and **will continue** to fail to suppress the **practice** of birth control. "Selective use rather than **suppression** of knowledge is **required**," he stated "Like any new **social** adjustment of a **revolutionary** character, **contraception** will require **still** other **social** adjustments. **Admittedly** there is need for the **social** control of birth control, but it seems **wisest** that the controls adopted should take the form of **education** for **increasing** responsibility and for ethical maturation rather than the external form of **law**, **compulsive** **nationalistic** **spirit** or **authoritarian** **religion**"

He pointed out, "The current **depopulation** scare is no more sound **scientifically** than the **overpopulation** scare of a century ago. Both **positions** are **extreme**"

Alarmists who paint a **tragic** picture of the "decadence" of races whose birth rates are **declining**, should consider carefully the

message which Mr. Frederick Osborn, secretary treasurer of the American **Eugenics Society**, gave to the Congress. "Today the student of population is **approaching** new problems," Mr. Osborn pointed out "His work in the field of **quantities** enables him to **estimate** future **size** of population. His studies on **differential** **fertility** have shown that at present in our Western **civilization** a high birth rate is not a **sign** of **virility**, but is the **accompaniment** of a **high** proportion of **isolated** or uneducated or economically **marginal** people"

As a **physician**, the writer was particularly interested in those **discussions** which stressed the **quality** and the health of the **population**. It seemed to him that, on the whole, too **little** **emphasis** was placed upon **eugenics** as compared with that given to means of **increasing** population and of **computing** its rate of growth or decline. The adequate **maintenance** of population is **entirely** **compatible** with universal access to **scientific** **contraceptives**, in **his** **opinion**. Further, a **planned** **family** should be the basis of a **planned** **population**.

Going from the Congress to the International Exposition, the writer was impressed by the **emphasis** placed upon the **improvement** of the race in the exhibit of the French Exposition on Hygiene. Large posters urging **premarital** **medical** **examination** state that **experience** shows these **examinations** reveal a 15 per cent **incidence** of **contagious** **infection** or **hereditary** **disease**.

A huge placard reads, "The problem of the **decreasing** population, **having** become the primary concern of **political** **demography**, demonstrates the importance of **considering** the **best** **possible** **conditions** for **rearing** **healthy** **children**. Many children—yes—but especially **healthy** **children**"

To which the birth control advocate adds an enthusiastic "Aye"—plus "the **best** **possible** **conditions** for **healthy** **mothers** and **harmonious** **family** **life**"

Among the Member Leagues

District of Columbia

In its own small house at 713 E St, S W, the Mothers' Health Association of the District of Columbia has opened a clinic for indigent mothers. The Association was fortunate enough to receive the house as a gift, and is now planning a membership drive to raise funds for the year's expenses. Mrs. Prentiss Willson is chairman of the Association, which has been incorporated and has become a member group of the American Birth Control League.

An attractive guest room on the second floor will be available to members of birth control leagues, who may repay this hospitality with a donation for the clinic's work. "It is often so difficult to get a place to stay in Washington that we hope they will like the idea," Mrs. Willson writes.

Indiana

Excellent publicity was secured during the summer for Indiana's birth control centers. An interview with Mrs. Louis H. Haerle, president of the Maternal Health League of Indiana, published in the *Indianapolis Times* of September 1st, described at length the League's accomplishments and plans. Thirty women each week, on the average, are advised at the two centers in Indianapolis, Mrs. Haerle said. Centers have also been established in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Evansville.

The opening of the Fort Wayne center was announced on the front page of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* of July 14th. The center has a board of directors of fifteen members and an advisory board of fifteen physicians. A registered nurse takes case histories. Patients are referred by social agencies, physicians and clergymen.

The South Bend Maternal Health League concluded its third year last spring "with renewed conviction of the value of birth control as the most constructive form of charity," Mrs. Robert H. Swintz, president, stated in her annual report.

Maine

The Bangor Maternal Health League has been organized and filed its certificate of incorporation at the office of the county register on September 2nd. Mrs. E. R. Godfrey is president. Now that its center in Bangor is well established, the League plans to start additional centers in the county. To arouse interest toward this end, October 1st has been set as the date of a meeting, at which Mrs. Thomas Hepburn and Dr. Eric M. Matsner will speak.

Michigan

When newspapers refuse to give them publicity because there is "nothing happening," other leagues might well take a hint from the Maternal Health League of Michigan and make some news. The League turned its directors' meeting on September 13th into an educational project—for the education, first, of the reporters who were invited to attend, and, through them, of the general public. Most of the reports were an old story to board members. But, because they were "spoken out in meeting," they were given good space in the local news columns.

Mrs. Addison P. Cook, president, reviewed the League's history and aims. A report on clinical progress, presented by Dr. Harold A. Furlong, chairman of the medical advisory board, inspired one reporter to include in his story the addresses of all the clinics in fifteen Michigan cities.

Minnesota

The two community problems which held the spotlight at the Minnesota State Conference of Social Work on September 15th were delinquency and birth control. Mrs. Frederick G. Atkinson, president of the Minnesota Birth Control League, presided at the session which the League conducted as an associate group of the Conference.

"No normal, well adjusted home is happy without children," said one of the speakers, Rev. V. O. Ward, Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in Faribault. Miss Marion Sanford of the social service department of Minneapolis General Hospital discussed

birth control from the point of view of a medical social worker.

Nebraska

The case history of the one thousandth patient was taken this summer at the Omaha Maternal Health Clinic. "I was thrilled to be in the clinic at the time and to take this history myself," writes Mrs. William D. McHugh, Jr., president of the Maternal Health League of Nebraska. "To know that a thousand women have had the opportunity for better health and happiness in their homes is a very satisfying reward for our two and one half years' work."

"We want another as soon as we can afford it"

A happy young mother with her "planned baby" at one of the twelve medically directed birth control centers maintained in settlement houses by the New York City Committee of Mothers' Health Centers. These centers have had more than 14,000 new patients since the first one opened in 1930. The Committee's annual theatre benefit, to take place the last week in October, will raise funds to continue this work for the health, happiness and security of New York families.



Photograph by Ruth Rozaffy

Recent criticism by the Roman Catholic **Bishop** seems to have helped the **clinic**, Mrs **McHugh** reports Plans for firmer establishment of state work will be carried out this fall

New Hampshire

A membership drive and educational campaign throughout the state is planned for this fall by the New Hampshire Birth Control League

The League held its second annual meeting July 14th in the First Congregational Church of Concord Officers were elected, with Mrs E Benjamin Armstrong of Peterboro as president It was reported that the 166 patients advised at the Concord Maternal Health Center during the past year had been referred by 23 physicians, six clergymen and seven social agencies One hundred and two patients were advised at the clinic maintained at the Deering Community Center

Last March the League became a member of the New Hampshire Conference of Social Work Further support is promised through the action last June of the New Hampshire Association of University Women, who voted unanimously that its member groups study the question of birth control and forward its promotion in their communities

Illinois

Establishment of a birth control information program to serve the 150,000 members of the Illinois Congress of Parent Teacher Associations was approved by the executive council of the Congress, meeting in Chicago September 22nd The program was drafted by a special committee headed by Mrs William F Krahl, state chairman of Humane Education, and it was formally accepted by Mrs Arthur Williams, president of the Congress It includes publication of a list of medically directed birth control centers

in the state, and a series of articles in the Congress bulletin

The Illinois Birth Control League will have representation at the State Conference of Social Work in Rockford the last week in October, and will hold a luncheon for Conference delegates on October 27th Mrs Effie Jeanne Lyon, the League's executive director, and several board members will be present to distribute literature and to consult with interested social workers

New York

The News Letter of the New York State Birth Control Federation has just made its bow In the first issue, the Federation points out that one of the most important tasks confronting local centers is "realization of the responsibility placed on us through the acceptance of birth control by American medicine, and anticipation of legal licensure if and when necessary"

Referral services have been started in Oneonta and Columbia County this summer The Maternal Health Service of Columbia County has representatives from seven towns, who include prominent social workers

New Jersey

As one of the health services of the county, the Morris County Committee of the New Jersey Birth Control League had an exhibit at the County Grange Fair, September 8th through 11th Such exhibits have proved most successful in reaching rural mothers who want to know of birth control clinics

North Dakota

Encouraging response has been received from physicians throughout the state as a result of a letter sent out by Dr G Wilson Hunter, medical director, asking cooperation in the program of the Maternal Health

• **IN THE MAGAZINES** •

League of North Dakota Mrs Charles Vogel, **president**, has been asked to **represent** the League as a member of the Council of **Social Agencies of Fargo**

A **mother of nine** children was the first **patient** at the center started in **Jamestown** last June The Jamestown Maternal Health League was aided in **establishing this** center by a grant from the Evelyn **Selgmann** Fund of **the American Birth Control League** It is reported that from one half to one third of the rural population in the district **surrounding** the center has been on relief for two years

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City's first maternal health center opened on June **11th**, occupying three well **equipped** rooms in an office **building** During the first month, **77 patients** were **advised** A two hour **session** is held each morning from Monday through **Friday** The **medical director**, Dr Gertrude **Nielsen**, is **assisted** by four staff **physicians** Mrs **Virgil Browne** is **chairman** of the **sponsoring committee**

South Dakota

The new **president** of the South Dakota Maternal Health League, Mrs Mary Bryan of Huron, **brings** to the League broad **experience in social service** and **public health** work She recently **retired** as secretary of the State **Child Welfare Commission**

Contraceptive centers are now **functioning in Mitchell, Rapid City**, and in the **City Health Department of Sioux Falls**

Texas

The state's fifth **clinic** opened **this summer in Austin**, and has been certified by the American Birth Control League Mrs Roy **Bedicheck** is **chairman** of the committee

The county health department of **Harris County** has been **referring** to birth control **clinics** rural mothers who are **suffering** from venereal **diseases**

LIBERTY, August **28** Two articles, "Why **Medicine Approves Birth Control**," by Eric M Matsner, M D "Why **Catholics Oppose Birth Control**," by Rev **Ignatius W Cox**, S J, of **Fordham University**

CURRENT HISTORY, August "Birth **Control's Big Year**," by Mabel **Travis Wood** A few copies of **this issue** available from the American Birth Control League, **price 20 cents each**

JOURNAL OF HEREDITY, June and **July** "Headed for the Last Census?" by Guy **Irving Burch** Two articles on **population trends** in the United States, **refuting alarmists' predictions** of a "dying nation" **Article I** "Overpopulation or Underpopulation? A Review of **Conflicting Opinions**" **Article II** "The **Differential Birthrate**" League members may have, without charge, a **reprint containing both articles**, as long as the **limited supply** lasts Address the **American Genetic Association**, Victor **Budding**, **Washington, D C** Send postage

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING, began in **September** a series of articles on **preparation for marriage** The **September article**, on **choosing a mate**, was by Dr **Ernest R Groves**, who started the first college course on **marriage and the family** at the **University of North Carolina** fourteen years ago In the **October issue**, Dr **J S McConaughy**, **president of Wesleyan University**, discusses the **problems of the engagement period** An **article** by Dr **Ellsworth Huntington**, **president of the American Eugenics Society**, will follow in **November**

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The REVIEW's new cover design is the contribution of Mr James Cooper Madden

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, INC.

515 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

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Deeds and Dollars

When we heard of the death of Mr Joseph Lee, a staunch friend of the League since its organization in 1921, we were moved to study our records and review the list of those who, like him, have stood by us over a long period of years

We found that one hundred and fifty men and women have contributed continuously for at least ten years Their gifts range in amounts from modest memberships to annual donations of more than a thousand dollars Numbered among them are doctors, lawyers, business men, college professors, society and club women, nurses and social workers Sixteen states, Hawaii, Laborador, Canada and England are represented

As we pondered upon the faith and vision that have gone into these gifts and the victories that have been won by the League throughout the years, it seemed to us that the most fitting tribute we could pay to our friends of long standing would be our pledge that we shall press on until birth control information is available to every mother in the nation

We are therefore suggesting that our more recent supporters, whose belief in the movement has been strengthened because of the efforts of these old friends, honor them by making an extra contribution for more clinics this fall If you are a member of a local league, why not make an additional gift toward this national effort? Whatever you give, you may be sure, will be used to spread knowledge and medical advice to those who need it most

And thousands of mothers will say, "Thank you", from the bottom of their hearts



Please make checks payable to the

AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE. INC
515 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

(or send to us through your own state league)