

# BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

VOL I, No 4  
(New Series)

Published by the American Birth Control League

JANUARY 1934

*The American Birth Control League  
invites you to attend its Thirteenth Annual Meeting,  
January 18 and 19, 1934, New York*

*THURSDAY, JANUARY 18—PARK LANE HOTEL 299 PARK AVENUE AT 48th ST*

10 30 Annual Meeting MRS F ROBERTSON JONES, <i>presiding</i> Business Meeting National Reports Plans for 1934 Discussion Practical Measures for Promoting Birth Release	2 30 State League Reports MRS GEORGE A DUNNING, <i>secretary</i> <i>Pennsylvania Birth Control Federation</i> <i>presiding</i> Discussion Bringing Birth Control to Women in Rural Districts
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7 30 Dinner Meeting, Park Lane Hotel, 299 Park Avenue

## BUILDING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

DR HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD *President Population Association of America* *presiding*

Laying the Foundation—Birth Control and Public Health

DR C E A WINSLOW, *Professor of Public Health Yale Medical School*

Raising the Structure—Birth Control and the Race

DR HARRY A OVERSTREET, *Professor of Philosophy and Psychology College of the City of New York*

Insuring Its Permanence—Birth Control and World Peace

DR WARREN S THOMPSON *Director Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, Miami University*

*FRIDAY, JANUARY 19—Y W C A 600 LEXINGTON AVENUE, AT 53rd STREET*

10 00 Financing National and State Organizations MRS JOHN DEWITT PELTZ <i>presiding</i> JEAN PINNEY <i>American Social Hygiene Association</i> M LOUISE GRIFFITH <i>National League of Women Voters</i>	11 30 The Birth Control Clinic and the Social Worker CAROL K NASH, <i>Field Secretary N Y C Committee</i> , <i>presiding</i> DR SOPHIA J KLEEGMAN <i>Assistant Clinical Professor of Gynecology N Y U and Bellevue Hospital Medical School</i>
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12 30 Luncheon Meeting Highlights of the Washington Conference

DR HANNAH M STONE *Medical Director Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau*

DR ERIC M MATSNER, *Medical Director, American Birth Control League*

The public is invited Tickets for the dinner meeting on January 18 and the luncheon meeting on January 19 are available at the office of the League Kindly use order blank on back cover of the REVIEW

## FOR THE NEW YEAR

I HAVE been asked by the Editor what, in my opinion, are the most vital and most urgent tasks before the birth control movement, and offer the following listing as an ideal program for 1934

1 Funds for research to find more generally acceptable methods and particularly those simple enough for women beyond the reach of clinics and instructors, as in the backwoods of America, or in China and India  
Continuation of such studies as that of Cecil I B Voge

2 Tests of experimental measures giving protection for months at a time

3 More clinics using present methods, preferably in established hospital out patient departments, where this is not possible, as special extra mural organizations

4 More physicians trained in present methods

5 Extension of instruction in contraception to the very few medical schools now omitting it

6 Development of birth control clinics into general marriage advice centers, with pre-marital examination, early diagnosis of psychic and physical maladjustment, and early diagnosis of sterility

7 Changes in Federal and state laws, in order that all physicians may obtain books and materials by mail or common carrier without being law-breakers, as is now the case under the Federal law and that of some states

8 Inquiry and action by state medical societies, following the striking example of the Michigan State Medical Society

9 Extension to all regions of the privileges and safeguards of sterilization (without unsexing) now in use in twenty seven states, (this extension to apply to people outside of institutions) to prevent propagation by the feebleminded and insane

10 More use of vasectomy as the one completely satisfactory and simple method of preventing conception in cases where the man should not have children, or the couple has had all they will ever be able to rear

One of the best single moves to insure these results would be an effective coordination of all agencies interested and active in the birth control movement Through such coordination concentration on main objectives and neglected areas would be achieved

ROBERT L DICKINSON M D  
*Honorary Secretary to the National  
Committee on Maternal Health Inc*

## THE BLESSING OF BIRTH CONTROL

BIRTH Control is the determination of rational and intelligent people to guide and even control human life at its source with the same sanity and reason that is exercised toward life in being and even at its close It is the first definite expression of planned heredity which must ultimately, (and no one dare predict how swiftly) bring vast benefits to that nation or race which deliberately enters upon the simple project of encouraging the birth of desirable human beings and discouraging the birth of the undesirable

The obstacles and objections that lie in the path of this movement need concern no one very greatly No institution or personal prejudice is capable ultimately of withholding blessings or benefits from an ever increasingly intelligent world Birth control, removed from the unworthy and baseless fears of immorality and equally from the superstitions of an affronted Deity, will not long be shackled These hindrances once removed, it may rapidly bring into being a day of human satisfaction, health and happiness of which the race has not yet dreamed

Birth Control is by no means merely a latent biological or physiological benefaction It may well serve, in the Western world, to lift the whole question of sex to a level of normal beauty and good Here the religious forces of the Western world must stand accountable Sex from the day of St Augustine, possibly even St Paul, has been treated as a thing ugly in itself and wrong in its intent Aside from its biological import and significance, and from whatever it may do in improving the race, birth control may also bring a blessing no whit less significant, in sanctifying, in ennobling the experience of sex

We have too long accepted such expressions as "this vile body," and "the weakness of the flesh" With all other revolutions and evolutions in human thought and endeavor, birth control may bring an attitude of serenity, holiness and joy to the fundamental and unalterable fact of sex in human life

WILLIAM T HOOPER D D  
*President Connecticut Birth Control League  
Rector St John's Church Hartford*

IF IT is necessary, and hence legitimate, for the government to control production and distribution, income and wages, why is it not equally necessary for it to control the number of the beneficiaries of all this? In other words, why is not birth control as necessary to the welfare of the state as any of these others?

THEODORE DREISER

AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON BIRTH CONTROL AND NATIONAL RECOVERY

A DISTINGUISHED group of leaders from all parts of the nation will assemble at the three day conference on Birth Control and National Recovery to be held at The Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D C , on January 15, 16 and 17, 1934, under the auspices of the National Committee on Federal Legislation Mrs Margaret Sanger is president

The main objective of this Conference is to direct the attention of Congress and the Administration to the fact that the National Recovery Program can be vitally aided if families now living on charity are given a chance to obtain the knowledge and service needed for the limitation of births

Particular attention is called to the Round Table session on the establishment and administration of Birth Control Clinics under private or public medical auspices and in public institutions All those interested in clinics should attend, for there will be full discussion of many of the problems that confront every clinical worker

Three vital phases of the birth control movement will be discussed

Monday Afternoon

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POPULATION PROBLEMS Speakers Dr Warren S Thompson, Dr William F Ogburn, Dr J J Spengler and others

Monday Evening

RELIGIOUS, ETHICAL AND MORAL ASPECTS Speakers Bishop Francis J McConnell, Rabbi Stephen Wise, and others

Tuesday

The entire day will be given over to medical sessions including the biological aspects of the subject Chair man Dr Prentiss Willson president of the District of Columbia Medical Society Speakers Doctors Sophie D Aberle, Edgar Allen, Morris J Baskin, John Mc Donald, E Legett Devree, James S Klupp, George Lyford, E M Maitner, James R McCord, Van Rookes, Hannah M Stone, and Fred J Ausig

Wednesday

The morning will be devoted to the consideration of the social and economic phases including a discussion of the present and future of birth control, and the effect of birth control on the national economy

The afternoon will be given over to Round Table discussion of clinic problems

The evening dinner will be the concluding session Dr Ira S Wile will act as toastmaster Among the speakers are Professor William McDougall, Dr T Wingate Todd, Mrs Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Mrs Thomas N Hepburn and Margaret Sanger

Altogether the occasion promises to be an inspiring, informative, and historically significant event, sponsored by a distinguished group of over five hundred leaders of public opinion in America

END THE ERA OF COMSTOCK

THE American Conference on Birth Control and National Recovery to be held at Washington should be of great service in facilitating the passage of the proposed bill to amend the Federal law, prohibiting the sending and importing of contraceptive information and supplies by mail or common carrier The success of this bill will be of tremendous value, modifying and modernizing Section 211 of the Penal Laws dealing with obscenity and the postal laws The amendment of the old Comstockian obscenity law will be a significant triumph for national common sense, and will advance the development of birth control service beyond its present confines

It is important, however, to realize that the federal law applies only to the importing and sending by mail or common carrier contraceptive information and supplies and does not prohibit the oral giving of contraceptive advice The United States already has 144 Centers for contraceptive advice, all of which are outgrowths of the Birth Control Clinic first established under the auspices of Mrs Sanger These Mothers' Health Centers and Clinics for contraceptive advice are now legally giving information to at least 50,000 women annually The twelve Centers located in New York Settlement Houses alone give information during 1933 to approximately 2000 new patients

Great progress has already been made in carrying out a rational program to make reliable birth control information accessible to those mothers whose health requires it Laws, like people, change, but people are more successful in changing laws than laws are in changing people The history of the progress of birth control clinics demonstrates that only a change of opinion is effected by the interpretation and enforcement of out worn laws

The passage of the Federal Bill by removing false and ridiculous legal barriers would be another step

forward It would promote the necessary and intelligent service of providing adequate contraceptive advice in the interest of familial welfare—and familial welfare means the welfare of the country

IRA S WILE M D

#### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

*A prospective husband writes* "My family, due to economic necessity, must be planned and budgeted, and I shall appreciate very much receiving any information or literature with reference to contraceptives, their relative merits, use, care and where obtainable I was particularly interested in your article *The Question of Sterilization*, which appeared in the November issue of the READERS DIGEST Congratulations How fine it is to know of a reliable and authoritative source to which one may go in search for this all important information"

*Breathless with eagerness*, a mother asks "I have six children which I wish reared such as will be an honor to their country and be a betterment to the place where they go later in life and the responsibility seems heavy during depression time still I want to keep the home fires burning so please tell me what to do and where to go to find out what to do"

*A North Carolina mother writes* "I have three children I love them I want to do my best for them Of course as most young couples we said when we were married we would not have any children But being young and no advice didn't keep it off

"When my second child was born my husband said he was going to leave me if I even had another, and he sure enough did He left me at my Dad's to go look for another job as he thought we couldn't make it with another baby coming and all this depression and all My baby is one year old and now he says we will be able to go to housekeeping again soon He has never seen my baby She is a dear I don't see who couldn't love babies I want to do my part by them I want to do what's right If you can give me some advice I sure will appreciate it"

*A young bride writes* "We want a family but first we want a home of our own In order to get it and because of the depression, it will be necessary for me to work, and I can't work and have babies at the same time Our own family doctors are very old fashioned about giving information We are so anxious to make our marriage a success Can you help us?"

## WHAT THE STATE LEAGUES ARE DOING

### MASSACHUSETTS

The Birth Control League of Massachusetts and its Mothers Health Committee have issued a joint appeal for contributions "In urging the production of the finest and most vigorous children, and in safeguarding the health of mothers," the appeal points out, "the League strikes at the heart of the problems of eugenics, economics and morals It has worked quietly since 1916 to remove the obstacles of ignorance and superstition, and backed a group of conscientious physicians in their effort to secure legislation to clarify the Massachusetts statutes This effort failed but analysis of the existing statutes has pointed out lawful methods for carrying on the work under the statutes The League program is threefold

The practical case work of sending patients to specially equipped physicians in many cities throughout the state and to the Mothers' Health Office

The educational work by lectures to physicians and laymen, by contacts with social agencies, etc

The establishing of health centers in other cities where contraceptive aid can be given

"The Mothers Health Committee has been functioning since June, 1932 Twenty three social service agencies and fifty-nine physicians have sent patients to the office These women have been suffering from heart disease, tuberculosis, diabetes, venereal disease, kidney trouble, anemia, or recent operations The fees have been graded according to the patient's ability to pay, about one third of them having been treated free, many with an exceedingly small charge"

### DELAWARE

The Birth Control League of Delaware has been accepted as a member of the Wilmington City Federation of Women's Clubs This entitles the League to insert notices in the Federation Bulletin, and to speak on birth control matters at Federation meetings

Mrs E O Kraemer, who has recently made a field trip through the state, reports that there is much interest from women active in philanthropy, it is hoped that clinics may soon be started in Dover and Middletown Attendance at the Wilmington clinic is increasing and its work is receiving excellent press support The League is actively supporting the legislative program in Washington

### NEW YORK

The annual meeting of the New York State Birth Control Federation will be held on Wednesday, Janu

ary 17th, at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs O'Donnell Iselin, 104 E 71st Street, New York City The six county committees will report progress and plans will be formulated for the winter's work Officers and directors for 1934 will be elected

### NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

*Christian Science Church Attitude* In response to a recent inquiry as to the attitude of the Christian Science Church organization toward birth control, the Committee on Publication replied, "It has not seemed advisable for the Directors of the Christian Science Mother Church organization to record this organization either for or against birth control, but it has seemed that the subject is of such a nature that Christian Scientists should decide individually whether or not it should have their support"

*The New Jersey Birth Control League* embarking on a program of expansion, has opened three new Maternal Health Centers during the past year Prior to this, clinical service was available only in Newark, at the Maternal Health Center, 42 Park Place

Mrs Kent Colwell, president, Junior State Committee of the League, reports that a branch of the parent center was opened at 705 Park Avenue, Plainfield, on July 6th with one session a week in charge of Dr Rose D Bass During its first sixteen sessions this center cared for 147 patients The Morristown Center was opened on November 23rd at 430 Park Square Building with one session a week in charge of Dr Jennie D Beaver, and the third center, with Dr Hannah E Seitzwick-Robbins in charge, began functioning at 77 Beattie Street, Trenton, on December 7th

These centers are sponsored by local committees with a charter from the state League, and are financed by funds raised in the community which they serve They are under the direction of Dr Hannah M Stone, medical director of the State League Local committees, in addition to raising funds through entertainments and rummage sales, keep the clinic office open two hours daily for appointments

*The Atlanta Birth Control League* entered a plea for a better understanding of birth control in connection with the recent Atlanta Community Chest drive Mrs R G McAuley is president and Mrs Sinclair Jacobs is secretary of the League, which is open to anyone interested in furthering the cause of birth control

The ATLANTA CONSTITUTION commented editorially on the work of the League as follows "The enlightened view of this modern day has wisely accepted the fact that terrible injustice is done to a child brought into

the world under conditions which will not permit its being given equal opportunity with other children in more happy surroundings, and that such births are an injustice to mothers who are already in a pathetic condition

"Birth control is peculiarly one of the problems which must be considered with an open mind, free of prejudice or narrowness, and such an organization as the Atlanta Birth Control League can serve as a splendid service to that end"

*The Conference on Birth Control in Asia* was held in London on November 24th and 25th "Population Problems in the East" were discussed by Lord Horder of Ashford, Professor A M Carr-Sanders, Mr Harold Cox, Mrs J O P Bland, Dr C V Drysdale, Dr R K Das (India), Mr T Eguchi (Japan) and Dr Mabel Buer "Standards of Living in Asia" was the subject of the second session, and the third session was devoted to a consideration of "Practical Problem of Contraception in the East" Among those who presented papers were Dr Helena Wright, Dr Mukerji (India), Dr C I B Voge, Dr P W Lamb (China), and Dr De Silva (Ceylon)

A Museum of Contraception specially organized by Dr C I B Voge was available for inspection throughout the Conference

The objectives of The Birth Control International Centre, which sponsored the Conference, are to stimulate interest in birth control in those countries which at present have no organizations, to assist in the establishment of birth control clinics wherever they may be needed, and to act as a channel through which accurate data on all problems connected with the propaganda and practice of birth control may be directed to all parts of the world

*The Peiping China Committee on Maternal Health* has issued its first report covering a period of three years from March, 1930, through February, 1933 It includes an analysis of the first 99 cases treated and sundry suggestions, which show that clinic problems are the same the world over It is suggested that

A competent, full-time personnel should be employed

Contraceptives recommended should be *cheap* and simple, a stock should always be kept on hand

There should be ample opportunity for conferences on individual problems

Clinical visits should be repeated, there should be a close follow-up by means of frequent home visits

Provision should be made for keeping full and accurate standardized records, including information which would be valuable for purposes of social and

economic study

Effort should be made to test the practicability of birth control education among the working classes of the community

The Committee supplies material for a regular column in two Peiping Chinese daily newspapers and makes frequent use of articles published in the REVIEW

### A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**M**ANY of you will recall that economics has often been called the "dismal science." The term arises from the fact that close analysis of the working of economic forces led the economist to dismal conclusions as to the possibilities of eliminating poverty. He foresaw perennial hardships and low standards of living for the masses of humanity.

This dismal outlook was based on the observation of two fundamental laws of nature. The first was the law of diminishing returns from land and other natural resources, and the second was the desire of mankind to procreate the species. Taken together and related to the problem of progress, they found expression in the so-called Malthusian theory that population tends to increase faster than the means of subsistence.

The law of diminishing returns from the application of labor and capital to natural resources cannot be questioned. It is impossible to raise one thousand bushels of wheat from an acre of land no matter how intensive or scientific the cultivation may be. Precisely defined, the law holds that it is impossible to increase the yield very greatly without a disproportionate increase of costs. To illustrate, one man with appropriate tools might produce on a forty-acre farm one thousand bushels of wheat. But two men, even with better tools and superior methods of cultivation, could not make the farm yield two thousand bushels. There comes a point where the application of additional units of labor and capital does not produce a proportional increase in output. This is the point of diminishing returns.

Population was, moreover, regarded as certain to increase in consequence of natural impulses and, for that matter, of religious and political injunctions. Indeed, as Malthus saw, population tended to increase in a geometrical ratio, whereas the food supply could increase at best in arithmetic ratio. Hence the time would soon come when the growth of population would have to be checked by starvation, if it were not curtailed by war and pestilence. Birth control as a means of restricting population had no place in the Malthus' thinking.

The great economic expansion of the one hundred years since Malthus wrote has in the view of many disproved his theory. In this century three great develop-

ments have occurred which have profoundly modified the forecast, if not the theory itself. The first is the opening-up to settlement of vast new fertile areas in the American Middle West, in South America, in South Africa, in Australia, and in Manchuria. The second has been the discovery and utilization of power resources, the application of science generally to the processes of production, and the development of a more effective economic organization. The third has been the rapid growth, particularly in the western world in the last few decades, in the practice of birth control. The result has been to give us in the nations of Western Europe and the United States a population that promises to be relatively stable in the future. From the economic point of view this augurs for the future vastly higher standards of living than could otherwise have been hoped for.

HAROLD G MOULTON

*From an address at the  
National Conference of Social Work, 1933*

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Birth Control League will be held at 10 30 A M on Thursday, January 18th, 1934, at the Park Lane Hotel, 299 Park Avenue, New York City.

JULIE B HOWSON, *Secretary*

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

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BOOK REVIEW

MATERNAL MORTALITY by the New York Academy of Medicine Committee on Public Health Relations  
*The Commonwealth Fund New York 1933*

THE analysis of these 2,041 deaths serves to some extent to explain the absence of a drop in the maternal mortality death rate corresponding to the drop in infant mortality and communicable diseases 1,343 deaths or 65 per cent were considered preventable The responsibility for these preventable deaths was in 36 7 per cent ascribed to the patient, in 63 3 per cent to the physician or midwife It is also noteworthy that in over 45 per cent of the deaths, exclusive of abortions and ectopic gestations, operative delivery was employed Cesarian section was responsible for 310 deaths Of the 510 deaths from puerperal sepsis, over 75 per cent were deemed preventable

Recommendations are (1) better and more wide spread instruction of the laity on prenatal care, (2) better training of the physician in the care of normal obstetrical cases and the prompt recognition of possible complications, (3) limitation of these complicated deliveries to the specialist in obstetrics, (4) restraint by the specialist in limiting operative measures to the minimum, (5) improved facilities and closer supervision of hospitals taking obstetrical cases, especially the so called proprietary hospital, with home delivery recommended for some cases under proper conditions, (6) more wide spread use of the higher type midwife and the nurse midwife, who has been given a thorough obstetrical training and is kept under close supervision by medical authorities

Of special interest to birth control advocates is what proportion of these maternal deaths could and should have been prevented primarily by a prevention of the pregnancy itself Of the 2,041 deaths, 429 deaths might be considered under this head 114 induced abortions (known criminal abortions were not included in this number), 47 therapeutic abortions, 18 patients with chronic nephritis, 99 with cardiac disease, 16 with pulmonary tuberculosis, 114 Cesarian sections for contracted pelvis, 12 Cesarian sections for fibroids, 17 previous sections Consideration should also be given to the fact that 273 deaths occurred in mothers who had four children and that the highest percentage of preventable deaths (70 2%) occurred in the slum districts Nowhere does the committee touch upon this phase of the subject, the prevention by contraceptives of a complicated or undesired pregnancy that resulted in the death of the mother

FRED J TAUSSIG, M D

THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE

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## AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

Enclosed please find

\$            for            **dinner tickets**, at \$2 50 each Tables seat eight  
PARK LANE HOTEL, 299 Park Avenue, January 18th, at 7 30

\$            for            **luncheon tickets**, at 60¢ each  
Y W C A , 600 Lexington Avenue, January 19th at 12 30

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*Reservations should be made before January 16th*

Make checks payable and send to AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE 689 Madison Ave, N Y

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These books, authoritative and yet well within the range of the average reader, are suggested as a nucleus for a birth control reference library Titles dealing with population, sex education, marriage, heredity, and eugenics are included

APPLIED EUGENICS, by Paul Popenoe & Roswell Johnson *Macmillan N Y \$2 60*

DANGER SPOTS IN WORLD POPULATION, by Warren S Thompson, *Knopf N Y \$3 50*

GROWING UP, by Karl deSchweinitz *Macmillan N Y \$1 75*

HEREDITY AND HUMAN AFFAIRS, by E M East *Scribners, N Y \$3 50*

HOW WE INHERIT, by Edgar Altenburg *Henry Holt and Company, N Y \$3 00*

HUMAN STERILIZATION, by J H Landman *Macmillan, N Y \$4 00*

LITTLE ESSAYS ON LOVE AND VIRTUE, by Havelock Ellis *Houghton, Mifflin and Co N Y \$1 50*

MORE ESSAYS ON LOVE AND VIRTUE by Havelock Ellis *Doubleday, Doran and Co, N Y \$2 50*

MY FIGHT FOR BIRTH CONTROL by Margaret Sanger *Farrar and Reinhart N Y \$3 00*

SEX AND YOUTH by Sherwood Eddy *Doubleday Doran and Co, N Y \$2 00*

STANDING ROOM ONLY by E A Ross *Century Company, N Y \$3 00*

STERILIZATION FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT, by E S Gosney and Paul Popenoe *Macmillan N Y \$2 00*

THE EUGENIC PREDICAMENT, by S J Holmes *Harcourt Brace and Co, N Y \$2 00*

THE HYGIENE OF MARRIAGE, by Millard S Everett, *Vanguard Press N Y \$2 50*

THE PRACTICE OF CONTRACEPTION, by Margaret Sanger and Hannah M Stone *Williams and Wilkins Baltimore \$4 00*

THE SEX FACTOR IN MARRIAGE by Helena Wright *Vanguard Press, N Y \$2 00*

THE SEX SIDE OF LIFE by Mary Ware Dennett *Published by the author, Astoria N Y 35¢*

THE TRUTH ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL by Norman E Himes *John Day Company, N Y 25¢*

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### BIRTH CONTROL REVIEW

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**VOL I No 4 (New Series)**

**JANUARY, 1934**

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

*Aim To promote eugenic birth selection throughout the United States so that there may be more well born and fewer ill born children—a stronger, healthier and more intelligent race*

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