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EDITORIAL.

THE MOTHERS' CLINIC.

Seekers after truth, among whom are to be counted many trained nurses, will learn with interest that on Thursday, March 17th, there is being opened, at 61, Marlborough Road, Holloway, N., the Mothers' Clinic for Birth Control, which is the personal venture of, and supported financially by, Mr. Humphrey Verdon Roe and his wife, Marie Carmichael Stopes, D.Sc., Ph.D., who thus testify practically to their belief that the scheme is of great racial moment; that they feel privileged to take entirely upon themselves the initiation of a work calculated ultimately to save untold expense to the whole community, as well as untellable misery to individuals.

"What's wrong with the world?" That must be a question often on the lips of those who have eyes to see; and especially does it echo in the hearts of nurses who, inspired by a passionate desire that the world should be healthy and happy, are continually saddened by the preventable ill-health and disease which their lives are largely spent in combating.

The trained and thoughtful mind instinctively seeks for first causes, realising that these must be found and understood before results can be remedied. And the nurse, confronted with the puny, diseased baby, suffering from marasmus, syphilis, ophthalmia, tubercle, instinctively asks herself, "What of the parents?" Again, she sees a mother under-nourished and dispirited, one infant at the breast, and with child with another, and visualises the trouble in the future to the community, and the individual, of irresponsible or thoughtless self-indulgence.

The procreation of children, which involves

such important consequences as the continuance of the race, the happiness of a family, and the health of its individual members, should be the outcome of thoughtful and deliberate decision on the part of both parents. The undue strain of too frequent pregnancies should not be imposed upon the mother, and the aim should always be that she should bear children under conditions which will result in the rearing of a healthy family which will be an asset, not a burden, to the State. We are far from attaining this ideal at present.

If we consider the care, consideration, and pains taken with regard to the question of breeding in the lower creation, with the result that a very high standard is reached and maintained, it seems reasonable that the same pains should be applied to the human race and its continuance.

Let us, therefore, approach this subject reverently, as seekers after truth, divesting our minds of their traditional outlook, anxious only to discover what is wrong at the present time, and how that wrong may best be righted.

The Mothers' Clinic, its promoters tell us, will stand for "reverence not only for the fruitful mother as such, but for her spirit as the creator of our race; reverence for the wife who is the centre of the united love and tenderness in the home; reverence for the child, that it shall not be allowed to come unwanted and unloved to play a miserable part amongst us; reverence for the Race, that it shall be represented on this earth by the most perfect and God-like individuals that it is in our power to call forth in His Image.

"This Clinic stands for all these reverences, and maintains that they can only be obtained by *knowledge*."

We shall watch this new movement with interest.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)