

The Midwife.

"THE NEW GENERATION."

The New Generation, a monthly journal under the auspices of the Malthusian League, has made its appearance in a very attractive cover printed in red and black, and with a Carlton drawing of a charming infant as its centre.

The New Generation stands for general early marriage combined with rational birth-control, by any methods which are satisfactory to health, and so exercised that only such children are brought into the world as are free from hereditary defect or disease, and have good prospects of growing up into happy and useful citizens. The question has many aspects.

(a) The personal aspect as it affects individual men, women, and children.

(b) The economic aspect or the effect of the numbers and quality of the race upon the production and distribution of wealth, on wages, on the cost of living, &c.

(c) The eugenic aspect—the employment of birth-control to produce a race of uniformly healthy, happy, and efficient human beings.

(d) The moral aspect—the effect of a knowledge of birth-control methods on the morality of the community.

(e) The national and international aspects—the effect of birth-control on the national security and on the international rivalry which leads to war.

All these aspects will be dealt with frankly in *The New Generation* by writers who have made a special study of them.

Amongst the "Messages of Welcome" received are cordial wishes from Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., C.B., M.B., M.S.; Sir James Barr, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S.E.; Havelock Ellis, Esq., L.S.A.; the Rt. Hon. J. M. Robertson, P.C.; Mr. Laurence Housman; and others.

Mr. Laurence Housman writes:—

"Because we live in a very imperfect world, and in a system of nations whose international rivalries remain beyond our control, and because it is less inhuman to prevent life artificially before it enters the womb than to take it artificially afterwards on the plea of "military necessity," and because I think the religiosity which permits this and forbids that utterly hypocritical and damnable, and because this religiosity is the main opponent to the propaganda of birth control at the present day, therefore I wish full right of way and prosperity to *The New Generation* in its advocacy of what is—if not a sure remedy for the ills it seeks to cure—a practical and a humane experiment."

Mr. John Galsworthy writes:—

"The breeding of a good stock is the first consideration of national health—the last to be

attended to. Any publication that purports to serve national health is to be welcomed till it is proved false to its ideal. As such I welcome this new publication."

The first issue includes articles by Miss Maude Royden, Mr. Harold Cox, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Dr. Bernard Hollander, which command the thoughtful consideration of those whose work brings them in contact with this vital question.

The New Generation is published at 124, Victoria Street, price 6d. monthly, or 7s. per annum, post free.

LOVE—MARRIAGE—BIRTH CONTROL.

Many people will be glad to know that under the above heading, Lord Dawson of Penn has published, in pamphlet form, through Messrs. Nisbet & Co., Ltd., 22, Berners Street, W. 1 (price 1s.), his address to the Church Congress at Birmingham in October last. The question of birth control is at the present time arousing much interest among thoughtful people, including nurses and midwives. Commenting on the pamphlet, the *Lancet* says:—

"A study of Lord Dawson's address as now published will arouse the medical profession to the importance of thinking this question out, both individually and collectively, in a responsible way without bias. It is evidently no argument against control of conception to say that this or that check is physically harmful, as was done at a recent medical discussion. It is the business of the medical profession to undertake this side of the job and to find out a check which is not harmful. It is among the professional classes that birth control is chiefly practised, and the medical profession should be in a position to justify in public the actions which it initiates or condones in private. There is a very natural hesitancy to dogmatise on these matters, for perplexity and confusion of thought are here in very special degree without excuse; it is, in Butler's words, 'coming abroad in disorder which he ought to be dissatisfied to find himself in at home.' The disorder at home can only be righted by informed discussion; a joint meeting of gynaecologists, neurologists and psychopathologists might begin by clearing some of the ground, to be filled in by the experiences of general practice. The opportunity herein offered to medicine of keeping in touch with young thought in the country is great and attractive. Lord Dawson laments the ever-widening gap between the formal teaching of the Church and the actual belief of the present generation. Youth is trying to build a superstructure more in accord with the progress of revelation, not only in religion but in science, and it is on such a question as birth control that medicine with its traditions and ideals is fitted to give a lead. Lord Dawson has pointed the way."

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