

**THE BIRTH CONTROL LIBRARY.
SMALL OR LARGE FAMILIES.
BIRTH CONTROL FROM THE
MORAL, RACIAL AND EUGENIC
STANDPOINT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649706563

The Birth Control Library. Small or Large Families. Birth Control from the Moral, Racial and Eugenic Standpoint by C. V. Drysdale & Havelock Ellis & William J. Robinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. V. DRYSDALE & HAVELOCK ELLIS & WILLIAM J. ROBINSON

**THE BIRTH CONTROL LIBRARY.
SMALL OR LARGE FAMILIES.
BIRTH CONTROL FROM THE
MORAL, RACIAL AND EUGENIC
STANDPOINT**

THE BIRTH CONTROL LIBRARY
Edited by WILLIAM J. ROBINSON, M.D.

SMALL OR LARGE FAMILIES

BIRTH CONTROL
FROM THE MORAL, RACIAL AND
EUGENIC STANDPOINT

BY

DR. C. V. DRYSDALE
DR. HAVELOCK ELLIS
DR. WILLIAM J. ROBINSON
AND
PROFESSOR A. GROTJAHN

1917

THE CRITIC AND GUIDE COMPANY
12 MT. MORRIS PARK WEST
NEW YORK

396,2
D81A

BOOKS BY DR. ROBINSON

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE CAUSES, SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF SEXUAL IMPOTENCE AND OTHER SEXUAL DIS- ORDERS IN MEN AND WOMEN	\$3.00
TREATMENT OF GONORRHEA AND ITS COMPLICATIONS IN MEN AND WOMEN.	3.00
SEXUAL PROBLEMS OF TO-DAY.....	2.00
SEX KNOWLEDGE FOR MEN.....	2.00
SEX KNOWLEDGE FOR WOMEN.....	1.00
WOMAN: HER SEX AND LOVE LIFE.....	3.00
NEVER TOLD TALES	1.00
STORIES OF LOVE AND LIFE.....	1.00
LIMITATION OF OFFSPRING BY THE PRE- VENTION OF CONCEPTION.....	1.00
SEX MORALITY—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.....	1.00
EUGENICS AND MARRIAGE.....	1.00

THE CRITIC AND GUIDE

Monthly: \$1.00 a year; Single Copies, 50c.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF UROLOGY AND SEXOLOGY

Monthly: \$4.00 a year; Single Copies, 50c.

Copyright, 1917,
By THE CRITIC AND GUIDE CO.

000783
79-8368

**I. BIRTH CONTROL FROM THE
INDIVIDUAL, RACIAL AND
MORAL STANDPOINT**

II. BIRTH CONTROL AND WAR

BY

C. V. DRYSDALE

**BIRTH CONTROL FROM THE INDIVIDUAL,
RACIAL AND MORAL STANDPOINT**

"The artificial sterilisation of matrimony is the most revolutionary discovery of the nineteenth century."

Such is the dictum of one who will be recognised by most people as entitled to speak with authority on the subject of social revolutions—Mr. George Bernard Shaw. The claim is a startling one, but no one who has studied the matter at all thoroughly can doubt that, if it errs, it does so on the side of moderation. Whether regarded quantitatively as a reform of wide-spread adoption, biologically as a new epoch in human evolution, or ethically as the commencement of a new era of moral progress or decadence, it may fairly be questioned whether any reform

in the history of humanity is comparable with it.

Although certain crude methods of prevention of conception have been known from Roman and much earlier times, it was not until the French Revolution made the first great breach in the barriers of ecclesiastical and conventional ideas of morality that they became at all generally adopted in any modern civilised nation. Even then the new ideas did not appreciably extend beyond France, and the real beginning of the modern era of family limitation and falling birth-rates dates from 1876 when the legal proceedings commenced against the Knowlton pamphlet, "Fruits of Philosophy," which Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant afterwards so brilliantly defended. The effect of this trial was immediately registered on the birth-rates of the majority of the countries of Europe (which had been exhibiting before the trial stationary or slowly rising birth-rates) and the very next year

showed the commencement of that decline in the birth-rate which has continued to this day without intermission in all but three or four countries in Europe. In England and Wales, which is fairly typical of the Western European countries, the birth-rate rose from 32.3 per 1,000 in 1853 to 36.4 in 1876, from which it has almost uniformly declined to about 24 per thousand just before the war.

As regards the whole of Europe, there seems reason to believe that the birth-rate has fallen from about 39.5 in 1876 to 34.5 or less at the present time. This means that on the present European population of about 470 millions there are now about $2\frac{1}{2}$ million fewer births annually than there would have been if the decline had not set in, while over the whole 40 years from 1876 to the present time, 50 to 60 million fewer children have been born in Europe than would have been born if the birth-rate of 1876 had been maintained. This is for Europe alone, and there have

been much greater reductions of the birth-rate in America and Australia. Evidence, which is now so universally recognised as to need no repetition, shows that almost the whole of this decline is due to the voluntary restriction of births by married people, and also that a very large part of that restriction is due to the use of contraceptive devices.

As the average number of children to a family at the time of the Knowlton trial appears to have been about five, and is now about three in the classes which have adopted limitation, it would appear that the fifty or sixty million fewer births must have been due to the adoption of birth control by about half this number of married couples, or at least fifty millions of adult people in Europe alone—some-where about a third of its entire married population. This estimate, which makes no pretence to do more than give a rough idea of the extent to which this reform has been adopted, may be compared with the