

**Thirty-fourth annual report of the Malthusian League (founded 1877) :  
presented to the Members and Friends at the Annual Meeting on May  
22nd, 1912 / by Alice Drysdale Vickery.**

**Contributors**

Vickery, Alice Drysdale.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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# THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE

(FOUNDED 1877).

*Presented to the Members and Friends at the Annual  
Meeting on May 22nd, 1912,  
by the President*

DR. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.



LONDON:  
WILLIAM BELL, 162, DRURY LANE, W.C.  
1912.

PRICE 2D.

## THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

(Founded in 1877.)

### FIRST PRESIDENT :

The late C. R. DRYSDALE, M.D., M.R.C.P., Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.

PRESIDENT: DR. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.

47 Rotherwick Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS :

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MR. G. ANDERSON, C.E.	MR. ARTHUR B. MOSS.
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M. G. GIROUD, Paris.	MR. JOHN M. ROBERTSON, M.P.
Herr MAX HAUSKRISTER, Stuttgart	M. PAUL ROBIN, 5 Passage du Surmelin, XX <sup>ème</sup> , Paris.
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M. E. HUMBERT, Paris.	Frau MARIE STRITT, Dresden.
DR. ALETTA JACOBS, Amsterdam.	DR. (Ph.) HELENE STÖCKER, Berlin.
MR. JOSEPH McCABE.	Professor KNUT WICKSELL, Lund, Sweden.

### HON. TREASURER :

MAJOR-GENERAL ELPHINSTONE BEGGIE, C.B., D.S.O.  
42 Brunswick Road, Brighton.

### HON. SECRETARIES :

DR. C. V. DRYSDALE; MRS. B. DRYSDALE,  
49, Rotherwick Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.  
(To whom all correspondence and subscriptions should be sent.)

### AUDITOR :

MRS. E. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A.,  
Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C.

### LITERATURE SECRETARY.

MR. GEORGE STANDRING, 7-9 Finsbury Street, London, E.C.  
(From whom Books on the Population Question can be obtained.)



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## LABOUR UNREST. TO THE WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC.

The last few years have been times of great turmoil in the labour world, in this and other countries. It is hardly possible to open a paper without being reminded of strikes and riots, in some important countries, of an increased supply of gold. It is not easy to argue this matter here, but it will be seen that if this were the true explanation wages would have gone up as soon as the workers commenced to agitate strongly. But in spite of the great strikes we have had recently, and in spite of having a government which is most anxious to conciliate the labour interest, hardly any advance of wages has resulted; and it has been pretty generally recognized that a great many industries could not bear any appreciable increase of wages without risk of failure. The increased gold supply, therefore, is most certainly not an anything like adequate explanation of higher prices, and many economists are realising this.

### DEMAND AND SUPPLY.

But there is a much more simple and satisfactory explanation. During the past fifteen years the population of this country has increased 18%, and we therefore need 18% more food. At the same time the population of the United States has increased so fast that it is now

consuming all its own wheat, and instead of exporting large quantities to us as formerly, has almost entirely stopped doing so. Russia is having a severe famine of its own. There is every reason to believe that food supplies will get tighter and tighter, and in the meantime our excess of births over deaths is over 400,000 a year, or over 1,000 a day. If supply is getting more difficult and our demand and that of other countries becomes greater, is it any wonder that prices rise? or is it likely that they will stop rising?

### THE ONLY EFFECTIVE REMEDY.

The only cure for labour unrest is therefore to give the workers some means of improving their conditions, and the only means by which this can be done to any great extent is for the working classes to follow the example of the middle classes, and to limit their families to the number of children that they feel they can manage to do justice to. If a man earns 25/- a week, he can support a wife and one child with something over the absolute minimum of existence, while if he has five or six children the struggle is impossible. By having only one or two children he not only makes conditions better for himself, his wife, and his child, but he will help to stop the great increase of the demand for food which raises prices, and he will avoid flooding the labour market with large numbers, which lowers wages. He will gain immediately, therefore, by having fewer to keep, and still more later by higher wages and lower prices. That this is true, whatever may be said Against It, yes, show in this country after the Black-Death 7-9, Finsbury Street, E.C.

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1. NAME

## RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

That this Society be called "THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE."

### II.—OBJECTS.

That the object of this Society be to spread among the people—by all practical means—a knowledge of the law of population, of its consequences, and of its bearings upon human conduct and morals.

### III.—PRINCIPLES.

1. That population (unless consciously and sufficiently controlled) has a constant tendency to increase beyond the means of subsistence.
2. That the checks which counteract this tendency are resolvable into positive, or life destroying, and prudential, or birth restricting.
3. That the positive, or life destroying, checks comprehend the premature death of children and adults by starvation, disease, infanticide, and war.
4. That the prudential, or birth restricting, check consists in the limitation of offspring (1) by abstention from or postponement of marriage or (2) by prudence after marriage.
5. That prolonged postponement of marriage, as advocated by Malthus, is productive of many diseases and of much sexual vice. Early marriage, on the contrary, tends to ensure sexual purity, domestic comfort, social happiness, and individual health; but it is a grave social offence for men and women to bring into the world more children than they can adequately house, feed, clothe, and educate.
6. That over population is the most fruitful source of pauperism, ignorance, crime, and disease.
7. That it is of great importance that those afflicted with hereditary disease, or who are otherwise plainly incapable of producing or rearing physically, intellectually and morally satisfactory children, should not become parents.
8. That the full and open discussion of the population question in all its necessary aspects is a matter of vital moment to society.

### SUPPLEMENTARY PRINCIPLES.

(Not obligatory.)

9. That the aim of all true social reform is to promote the general health and longevity of the race, and that reason and experience, evidenced by statistics since the year 1876, has clearly shown that this is only compatible with a restricted birth-rate.



10. That therefore the reduction of the birth-rate should be welcomed and encouraged so long as it is found to be accompanied by a material reduction of the death rate.

11. That, while in no way denying the possibility of ultimately supporting a much larger population or of accelerating the present increase of food production, and while welcoming all efforts in this direction, human life ought not to be produced beyond the reasonable expectation of immediate results.

12. That the struggle for existence due to over population is not the best factor for race improvement, or even a useful one, unless humanitarian schemes for the preservation of the less fit are abandoned, and that it should therefore be eliminated as far as possible by all civilised communities.

13. That prudential limitation of families enables early marriage to become general by removing the fear of economic difficulties, and is therefore a most important step towards the elimination of prostitution and venereal disease, and thus for the moral and physical improvement of the race.

14. That, in addition, the universal knowledge of hygienic means of limitation of births, especially by women, will be a great factor for race improvement by rational selection, owing to the natural desire of women to avoid having children who are sickly or unlikely to have a good chance in life.

15. That the improvement of the race as a whole and of the coming generation is only compatible with the harmonious development of parents (women as well as men) in all their faculties, and that this development can only be secured by the freedom of women to have only such children as they desire.

16. That the elimination of unfitness should, as far as possible, be attained, not by restriction of marriage, segregation, or by sterilisation (which should be resorted to only in the case of those obviously incapable of self-control, such as lunatics and criminals), but by the inculcation of the great responsibility of parenthood and of the effects of such hereditary transmission, combined with a general knowledge of the most hygienic means of limiting families.

17. That, from the national or patriotic standpoint, it is not to the present advantage of this country that the government or society should encourage greater reproduction, but that every effort should be made to preserve and increase our national sources of subsistence, and thus to reduce our general and infantile mortality to its natural minimum.

18. That the struggle for existence due to over population has been the chief factor in human as in animal evolution, and therefore has been chiefly instrumental in bringing about existing social systems; and that it is consequently useless to expect any great alteration in the constitution of society, or that any material improvement would result from it, without removing the fundamental difficulty of over population.

## IV.—EXECUTIVE.

1. That the Officers of the League consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, Solicitor and Auditors.
2. That the government of the League be vested in a Council consisting of a President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary (by virtue of their respective offices), of twenty members, who shall be elected annually at a general meeting, and of a duly-appointed representative from each branch of the League which may hereafter be formed.
3. That the Council have the power to appoint a Treasurer and Secretaries from among its own members; to elect a President, Vice-Presidents and Solicitor, subject to the approval of the next general meeting; to fill up vacancies in its own ranks, and to make the necessary bye-laws for carrying out these laws and for the general management of the League.
4. That all candidates for election as Officers or as members of Council shall be nominated one month before the annual general meeting, and that such nomination shall be publicly announced, the form and manner to be determined by the Council.

## V.—MEMBERSHIP.

That the condition of membership be an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d., which shall be taken to imply adhesion to the rules of the League, and shall entitle the subscriber to receive *The Malthusian*, and—after one year's membership—to vote and be eligible for office.

## VI.—GENERAL MEETING.

- 1.—That a general meeting be held once a year, at such place and time as the Council shall determine, at which meeting the presentation of the report and balance sheet and the election of Officers shall take precedence of all other business.
2. That on the receipt of a requisition signed by not less than twenty-five members, a general meeting be, within one month, called by the Council. No other business but that set forth on the notice calling the meeting shall be taken into consideration.
3. That the voting at all meetings be taken by show of hands, except when a poll is demanded, when the voting shall be taken by ballot.

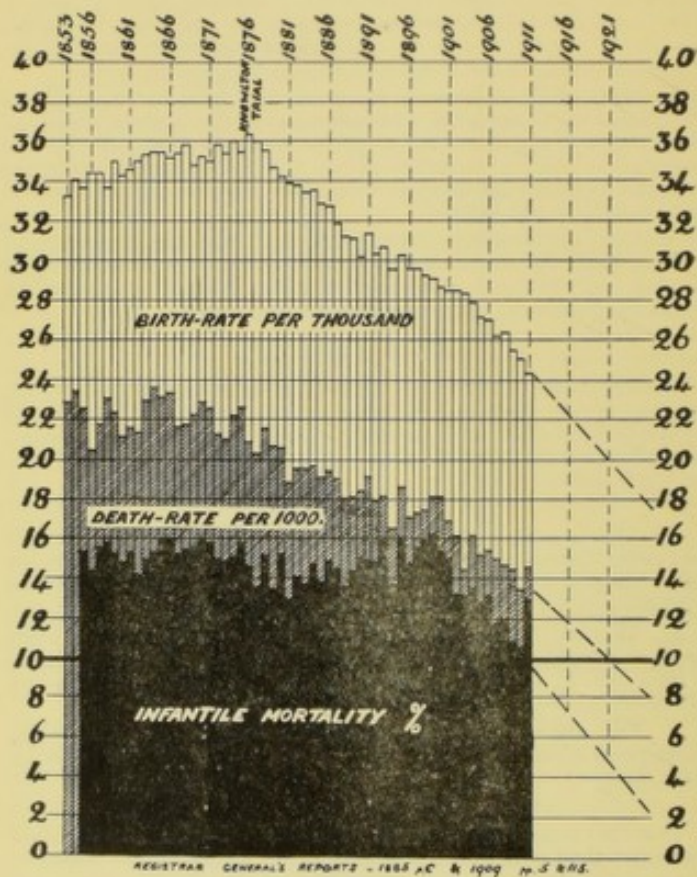
## VII EXPULSION.

That the Council have power to expel any member, but the member so expelled shall have a right of appeal to the annual general meeting, or to a special general meeting called for that purpose.

## VIII.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

That no alteration be made in these rules, except at an annual general meeting by the vote of two-thirds of those present, two months' notice of the proposed alteration having been given to the Council.

**VARIATIONS IN BIRTH-RATE &c., IN  
ENGLAND & WALES.**



This diagram shows the course of the birth and death-rates and infantile mortality, before and after the date of the Knowlton Trial and the formation of the Malthusian League; and indicates that at the present rate of progress the death-rate will be reduced to 10 per 1,000 by the year 1921.



## THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

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**I**T is with unusually great pleasure that the Council are able to present the Report of the thirty-fourth year of the working of the League. From the inception of the movement the record, so far as adoption of neo-Malthusian practice and the fall of the birth-rate is concerned, has been one of uniform progress; but recently, and especially during the last year, the advance towards the recognition of our principles and aims has been astonishing, and it may now fairly be said that there is no body of public, scientific, or even clerical opinion which does not contain some warm sympathisers with our doctrines. From all quarters of the world, including the Eastern nations letters of sympathy and encouragement have come in, and we may soon expect to see not only the open acknowledgement of neo-Malthusian principles throughout Europe, America and Australia, but a recognition of them, and a decline of the birth-rate, in India and China. When this commences, the last stages in the conquest of the struggle for existence as regards humanity will have been reached, the rapid elimination of famine, pestilence, and war may be confidently anticipated, and we shall be able to settle down to the most pleasant part of neo-Malthusian propaganda, the application of selective restriction to the elimination of hereditary unfitness and the improvement of the quality of the race, in conformity with the teachings of true negative eugenics.

## THE LATE MR. W. H. REYNOLDS.

Before entering upon details of the year's progress, reference must be made to the loss which the cause has sustained by the death of Mr. W. H. Reynolds, late Secretary and Treasurer of the League, which took place on September 30th last. Mr. Reynolds had been associated with the League from its inception, and one of its secretaries since 1880. He took upon himself the somewhat dangerous work of publishing neo-Malthusian literature, and for some years prior to his death he sent out something like fifty-thousand pamphlets and leaflets annually. He united this on his own responsibility with the supplying of preventive devices, as the League felt unable to undertake any part in practical propaganda. Notwithstanding these activities, Mr. Reynolds was highly esteemed, and he was elected a member of many local governing bodies, and a member of the Metropolitan Water Board from its formation. He was less interested in the scientific and public exposition of our subject than in its personal aspect and application, but his work undoubtedly did an immense amount to bring about actual family restriction.

Major General Elphinstone Begbie, C.B., one of our vice-presidents, has very kindly accepted the position of Hon. Treasurer, and Dr. and Mrs. Drysdale have carried on the work of Hon. Secretaries.

## THE JAMES WHITE CASE.

The year under review opened tragically with the result of the trial of James White for having sold copies of Mr. J. R. Holmes' "True Morality," containing a list of preventive appliances, in the market places, at Stanley, Durham, on 29th October previously. Although the League was not able to approve of Mr. White's action in selling the book in the open street, a fund was opened for his defence, which was undertaken by Mr. Holmes. After being sentenced at Durham, on January 2nd, 1911, to a fine of £20 and costs or three months imprisonment in default, Mr. White was set at liberty, as an appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal was proposed. This appeal was heard on January 30, and was rejected. Thereupon, Mr. White returned to Gateshead, still at liberty, and he was

not arrested until March 20th. The Council of the League immediately sent a memorial to the Home Secretary, explaining the vital public importance of the careful dissemination of knowledge of preventive methods, and asking for Mr. White's release, on the grounds of his good intentions, his age, and weak health, and the doubt as to the legality of his re-arrest after release at Durham. A letter was then received from the Home Secretary, stating that he could not interfere, and that he was informed that the prisoner was in good health mentally and physically. This was on May 6th, and on the 16th a letter was received from Mr. White, saying that he had not been able to eat or sleep from internal pains night and day. On the 20th May, Mr. White suddenly died in prison, from the rupture of a blood vessel. A strong representation was made to the Home Secretary, but the reply was that Mr. White had received careful medical treatment, and that death was from unavoidable causes. A relief fund was opened by the League, and Mrs. White, who is over sixty years of age, has received 5s. weekly from the date of Mr. White's entry into prison.

#### INTERNATIONAL NEO-MALTHUSIAN CONGRESS, DRESDEN.

The remarkably successful Congress organised by Dr. Rutgers and the Dutch neo-Malthusian League at the Hague in 1910, led to a very cordial official invitation from the authorities of the International Hygiene Exhibition at Dresden, to hold a similar congress there during the summer. As Herr Max Hausmeister, of the German Social Harmonische Verein, was unwell, and Dr. Rutgers was unable to undertake a second Congress, the English League undertook the organisation, and with the great help of Frau Marie Stritt of Dresden and Dr. Helene Stocker of Berlin, the Congress was most satisfactorily arranged for September 24th to 28th. About one hundred and fifty persons attended and the proceedings were greatly assisted by Prof. Knut Wicksell and Dr. A. Nystrom from Sweden; Dr. J. Rutgers and Mynheer Groen, Holland; M. G. Hardy, France; Dr. and Mrs. Drysdale and Mr. A. P. Busch-Michell, Great Britain; Frau Rosika Schwimmer, Hungary; and Frau Marie Stritt, Frau Dr. Stocker, Frau Meissel-Hess, Frau A. Schreiber-Krieger, Dr. H. Rohleder, Dr. Marcuse, Dr. F. Gold-

stein, Dr. Bornstein, Herr Max Hausmeister and several others, from Germany. Reports and adhesions also came from Dr. Win. Robinson, New York; Dr. Mascaux, Belgium; Prof. R. Michels, Dr. L. Berta and others in Italy; and representatives in Denmark, Russia, Spain and Portugal. From commencement to finish the enthusiasm of the Congress was remarkable, and the following important resolutions were passed *nem con.*

On Tuesday morning, after the discussion on Dr. Nystrom's paper, a resolution was carried in the following terms: "The neo-Malthusian Congress in Dresden desires to state that one of the most important aims of neo-Malthusianism is, by the intelligent restriction of families, to facilitate early marriage, and thus to effectively reduce prostitution."

At the close of the debate on neo-Malthusianism and Race Hygiene (Eugenics), on Tuesday afternoon, the following resolution was adopted: "The Fourth International neo-Malthusian Congress observes with great regret that many Race Hygienists and Eugenists are under the impression that neo-Malthusianism must have an injurious influence upon the quality of the race. The Congress desires to express its opinion that no rational race hygiene or race improvement can be arrived at without intelligent application of neo-Malthusian principles."

On Wednesday morning, after Dr. Drysdale's paper on International Peace, the Congress adopted the following: "The Fourth International neo-Malthusian Congress has observed with great pleasure the efforts which have been made by the movements for Arbitration and International Peace, and expresses its opinion that a rational regulation of population is essential for the success of these aims."

And in bringing the Congress to a close the following resolution was passed, with an instruction that each delegate or League should use its discretion as to forwarding it to the Government of its country: "The Fourth International neo-Malthusian Congress in Dresden desires to call the attention of all Governments to the evil results arising from the great pressure of population in all long-civilised countries as regards poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and race deterioration, and hopes that they will give the most earnest attention to this matter with a view to reducing the birth-rate, especially among the poorer and less capable classes."

The Congress opened with a gathering at the Royal Bel-

vedere, and ended with a large public meeting in the great Congress Hall of the Hygiene Exhibition. It also resulted in the formation of a strong German neo-Malthusian Committee with Dr. Rohleder as its President, and several other medical men and prominent ladies and gentlemen as members. The Council of the Malthusian League desires to heartily thank all those who contributed to the success of this Congress, and especially Frau Marie Stritt for her invaluable and successful organisation. It is to be regretted that the full report of the Congress has been delayed so long, but the work of translation has been very great. It is hoped that the report will be ready in a few weeks.

#### MEETINGS.

Owing largely to the great amount of work consequent upon the Dresden Congress and the preparation of the Report, the League has not organized any public meetings this year, and has confined itself to sending lecturers to other societies when invited. A fair number of such invitations have been received, and in addition some of our members have introduced the question at various ethical and other societies. Unfortunately, we have not received particulars of several of these meetings, but the following is a list of some of the principal ones:—

1911.

July 26. Womens' Freedom League, Mrs. B. Drysdale, "Emancipation and Motherhood."

Nov. 10. R.P.A. Discussion Class, Miss R. Rees, "The Struggle for Existence in Human Society."

Nov. 15. Womens' Freedom League, Dr. Drysdale, "The Food Supply and the Population Question."

Nov. 19. Quex Road Fellowship, Mr. W. R. Binks, "Malthusianism *v.* Socialism."

Nov. 20. Berlin Mutterschutz Society, Dr. Drysdale, "Popular Hygiene and World Power."

1912.

Jan. 26. Folkestone and Dover Debating Society, Dr. Drysdale, "That a Low Birth-rate is Essential for Race Improvement."



- Jan. 29. Lewisham Union Literary Society, Dr. Drysdale, "Is Nature Bountiful?"
- Feb. 4. Battersea and Clapham Freethought Society, Dr. Drysdale, "The Declining Birth-Rate."
- Feb. 26. Tottenham Womens' Co-operative Guild, Dr. A. D. Vickery, "How to be Happy though Married."
- Mar. 17. Cheltenham Ethical Society, Dr. Drysdale, "The Declining Birth-Rate."
- Mar. 21. Hove Womens' Freedom League, Dr. Drysdale, "Woman's Suffrage and the Birth-Rate."
- Mar. 27. Malthusian League, London Members, "At Home."
- April 19. Croydon Womens' Freedom League, Dr. Drysdale, "Womens' Suffrage and the Birth-Rate."
- April 24. Malthusian League, London Members, "At Home."

Dr. W. G. Earengy has also lectured to the South Wales Miners on the Population Question.

#### "THE FREEWOMAN."

An event of considerable importance during the year has been the advent of a new feminist paper: "The Freewoman," under the editorship of Miss Dora Marsden and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, ably seconded by Miss Grace Jardine. This paper made its first appearance on November 23rd, 1911, and it has throughout been characterised by the most remarkable openness of mind and expression, no subject whatever seeming to have been banned. A series of articles on the population question from the feminist and economic standpoints were contributed by Dr. Drysdale, and produced a most animated discussion, in which a fair measure of agreement was shown with neo-Malthusian doctrines. Among the opponents it was interesting to note that some granted the law of Malthus but objected to preventive means, while others advocated prevention for individual reasons and strongly challenged the population doctrine. It is greatly to be regretted that many Socialists still seem determined to heap ridicule and abuse upon the Malthusian doctrine, and their controversial methods make it impossible for any self-respecting person to argue with them. It is their refusal to recognize this doctrine which has hampered their own efforts, and the new Syndicalist movement appears to show that State Socialism is breaking down just as it appeared to be winning.

Mr. Flügel contributed two interesting letters to the discussion, upholding the neo-Malthusian side; and an interesting feature was the declaration by Mr. Upton Sinclair, in the issue of January 18, in which he warmly advocated family limitation and said, *inter alia*: "This new discovery of science gives us the means of putting an end to the horrible social disease of prostitution. The meaning of it is that the man can marry young, the woman can remain self-supporting, and they can have their children later on in life when they are in a position to support them. This is the way, and the only way conceivable, whereby prostitution can be ended. And yet, to think that our ecclesiastical advisers have caused the passing of laws against the spread of information about it!"

It is to be hoped that "The Freewoman" will long continue to do its remarkable work in inducing people, and especially women, to express themselves openly on vital questions.

As a result of the above discussion, several new members have joined the League, and many enquiries for advice have been received.

#### DISCUSSIONS IN THE PRESS.

In addition to *The Freewoman* discussion above referred to, a considerable amount of discussion has been taking place in various provincial papers, notably in Cheltenham, where Dr. W. G. Earengy, Dr. Callaway, and Major C. Russell, have carried on a considerable discussion in the Gloucester papers throughout the year. Dr. Binnie Dunlop, although not a member of our League, has written a second edition of his excellent booklet, "National Happiness under Individualism," and he and Dr. Callaway have written letters to *The Nation*, *Spectator*, and other papers. Mr. C. Flügel has also conducted a lengthy discussion in *The Surrey Mirror*; and Dr. Killick Millard, D.Sc., the Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, strongly criticised the Bishop of London in the columns of the *Guardian*. These discussions are of immense value, and it is to be hoped that they will increase and multiply.

## PRACTICAL PROPAGANDA.

The most crying need in this country at the present time is undoubtedly a propaganda among the poorest classes, combining simple and properly expressed information concerning the means of prevention, and the supply of the best devices at the most moderate possible expense. Apart from the economic question of poverty, this information is the more necessary, as comparatively few people know of the best methods, and inferior and deleterious preventive devices appear to be circulated, as well as poisonous drugs for causing abortion. It must be regarded as nothing less than remarkable that such unquestionably good results have been attained as regards improvement of the public health by family limitation, despite the difficulties of every kind which have been put in the way of obtaining satisfactory information; and this gives some idea of the value of the results which will be obtained when the best methods are universally known and used. Unfortunately, at the present time all attempts at a propaganda in this direction by printed information is made almost impossible by the action of the government and postal authorities, but there is no objection to judicious verbal propaganda; and our members are earnestly urged to do all they can in this direction, taking great care to avoid imparting it to young unmarried persons. A medical man of great experience in this direction is willing to give information to our members, and if they are willing to help in such propaganda, and will communicate with the Hon. Secretaries, they will be put in touch with him. The result of such practical propaganda by the Dutch neo-Malthusian League has been most brilliantly successful, as the death-rate and infantile mortality has fallen more rapidly and steadily in that country than any other, despite the fact that few if any humanitarian reforms have been carried out.

One of our lady members who is a district visitor has been carrying on this work for some years with the most gratifying results.

The Council of the League desires to express its great regret at the action of the Government and other authorities in hampering the diffusion of the knowledge of hygienic means of prevention of conception, and holds that the Government and society is thereby entirely responsible for the use of noxious drugs and other attempts at abortion which are so lamentably

common. It calls the attention of the authorities to the official judgment of the Hungarian Medical Senate, delivered last October, and which warned the Government against any interference with the circulation of preventive means. As hygiene and sanitation have become recognized branches of Government activity, the Malthusian League feels justified in demanding that the dissemination of hygienic means of prevention of conception among the married population should be in every way fostered by the authorities and the community, in the interests of general hygiene and race improvement.

#### ADOPTION OF FAMILY LIMITATION BY THE POOR.

Perhaps the most gratifying of all the signs of progress this year, has been the definite evidence that the practice of family limitation is extending to the poorer classes in the country districts. In two districts in the South of England, lately, it has been found that young married couples of the agricultural labouring classes are systematically limiting their families to one or two children, and in some cases are waiting some time after marriage before starting parenthood. They are also helping each other in this direction, and are establishing a definite public opinion against large families. The results are unquestionably excellent, and appear to justify the whole of the expectations of the neo-Malthusians. It must unfortunately be recorded, however, that the wealthier classes, so far from welcoming and assisting in bringing about this change, have shown strong disapproval, and have accused the young couples of selfishness and immorality. As this result has been attained therefore in spite of the greatest obstacles, it disposes finally of the frequently heard claim of the positive eugenists and German race hygienists, that the poorer classes will always be too careless and reckless to restrict their families.

#### PUBLICATIONS

The League has not issued any official publications during the year, but reference may be made to the following important publications on the birth-rate question which have appeared:—

“The Problem of Motherhood.” (Cassell & Co., 1/6). A collection of opinions of public persons on the falling birth-rate.

"The Problem of Race Regeneration," by Dr. Havelock Ellis.

"The Methods of Race Regeneration," by Dr. C. W. Saleeby.

"The Declining Birth-Rate," by Dr. A. Newsholme.

These three sixpenny booklets, issued by the National Council of Public Morals, are very instructive—the first especially.

"National Happiness under Individualism," Dr. Binnie Dunlop. An excellent little booklet on the population difficulty.

"Racial Decay," by Commissioner O. C. Beale (Fifield, 5/-). A strong indictment of family limitation.

"La Depopulation de la France," by Dr. Jacques Bertillon (Felix Alcan, Paris, 6 fcs.). The best attempt hitherto made at disproving the neo-Malthusian doctrine.

"Malthus et ses Disciples," by G. Hardy (Generation Consciente, Paris, 50 centimes). An excellent short history of the movement.

"Neumalthusianismus und Arztestand," by Dr. H. Rohleder (Die Neue Generation, Berlin, 20 pf.). A definite statement of the medical duty of advising the use of contraceptives, in cases of certain diseases, etc.

A pamphlet entitled "Is Artificial Limitation of Families Injurious to Health or Morality," containing the latest medical and other evidence on the question will shortly be issued by Dr. Drysdale, and it is hoped that his large work on the "Birth Rate Question," will soon be in the publisher's hands.

A pamphlet on "Freewomen and the Birth-Rate," containing the opening article of the *Freewoman* discussion has already been reprinted.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The change in the openly expressed attitude of the medical profession towards our question has been so marked, that it is being dealt with specially in another pamphlet. Even so recently as 1905 the South-western Branch of the British Medical Association passed a resolution condemning the growing use of "ecbolics and contraceptives." The disingenuousness of

coupling together two such widely different matters as prevention and abortion was patent to anyone acquainted with the subject, and the absurdity of the resolution is shown by the fact that five years later when the use of contraceptives has greatly increased, instead of reaffirming this resolution with greater force, the only expression on the subject was that of Dr. Ballantyne who questioned whether sexual stimulation without reproduction was not incompatible with health. And the British Medical Journal regarded this as unproven. On the other hand, there has been a great concurrence of testimony from continental gynecologists and other physicians that hygienic means of prevention are in no way injurious to health. Dr. Treub, the eminent gynecologist of Amsterdam, Dr. Nystrom, Dr. Rutgers, Dr. Rohleder, Dr. Marcuse, and last but not least Prof. Forel, have all made a special study of this question and have decided unhesitatingly in favour of the majority of means of prevention. And in October last the Hungarian Medical Senate presided over by Dr. Tauffer, the eminent professor of gynecology, delivered a judgment on a proposition of the government to restrict the diffusion of preventive devices, and decided strongly against it, on the ground of the general health of the community.

In the *Guardian* Dr. Killick Millard, D.Sc., Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, criticised the Bishop of London on both moral and medical grounds, and there seems little doubt that all opposition from the medical side will now disappear, while on the other hand it is becoming more recognised that restriction of preventive methods inevitably leads to abortion and the most serious consequences for women as well as infants

#### "THE MALTHUSIAN."

The Organ of the League has borne evidence of greatly increased activity during the year, and the volume of material available each month has been sufficient to fill a paper double the size. Considerable thought has lately been given to the question of extending the circulation of the paper, but, apart from any question of title, there is the difficulty that it is at present of too scientific a character to be popular. A considerable amount of scientific discussion is necessary in order to repel the criticisms which are made on scientific grounds, and

the only means of including more popular material would be by increasing the size of the paper. The question of a change of title, preserving the present one as a sub-title, has been much discussed, but up to the present no entirely satisfactory title has been found.

Among the new contributors of articles to the paper this year have been Prof. A. Forel, with whom an important discussion of neo-Malthusianism and eugenics has been carried on. Mr. W. R. Binks, Dr. Binnie Dunlop, Miss Roberta Rees, Mr. J. J. Meyrick, Mr. R. H. Chandler, and Miss A. Neilans; and many others have contributed to the discussions and sent useful information. The Editor desires to cordially thank these ladies and gentlemen, as well as the old friends who have given so much assistance.

An important new departure this year has been the inclusion of diagrams of vital statistics, which greatly facilitate the proof of the Malthusian doctrine, and show the progress of the movement in various countries.

#### THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT.

It is pleasant to be able to report that the Eugenics movement in this country shows a steady progress in the directions of restriction of the unfit and recognition of the factor of environment, both in its direct effects and indirect influence as regards the racial poisons. On the other hand, the German Race-Hygienists still largely maintain the necessity of the elemental struggle for existence, and the subordination of women to pure sex functions. In order to clearly define the neo-Malthusian position on these questions a series of supplementary principles have been drawn up, which although not binding on our members, have been unanimously approved. There is nothing in them which modify in any way the original doctrines of our movement, but they may serve to clear up the misconceptions which have so frequently arisen.

The Eugenics Education Society have decided to hold an International Eugenics Congress at the London University, on 24th to 30th July, at which Dr. Ploetz will read a paper on neo-Malthusianism, and Dr. Drysdale, as representing the Malthusian League, has been invited to open the discussion. It is hoped that many of our members will join in this Congress.

## MR. A. J. BALFOUR AND EUGENICS.

"They were told that the birth-rate was rapidly diminishing in the best class of the artizan population, in the middle classes, and indeed in all classes except the least fortunate. And they deduced from that the uncomfortable conclusion that the population of the future would be entirely drawn from those who they plausibly described as the least efficient members of the community.

"He had no answer to that, but he had a question to put about it: if they really could divide a community in the way that they divided it, he was unable to understand how they had failed to have a segregation of efficiency in the past between those who were better off and those who were worse off, in their own interpretation of the theory of heredity. He could not help looking with anxiety at these differences in the birth-rate, and the best way of fighting them, according to the theory, would be to put the people who had too many children in the category of comfort, which apparently, in the present social state, reduced the birth-rate. Let them get equality in that way."—Speech in the Albert Hall, 30th May, 1911. *Daily Mail Year Book*, 1912, p. 82.

## PROGRESS IN THE CHURCH.

It appears as if the nearly united hostility which the Church has hitherto shown on this question is rapidly breaking down. In November last, the Bishop of London made one of his characteristic diatribes against family limitation, and was immediately deluged with such a storm of protest, as to have to write and explain that it was only artificial limitation as opposed to "self-control" that the Church could not recognize. Apparently, therefore, it is prepared to abandon the "increase and multiply" doctrine. Notwithstanding this concession, his name was received with hisses at a Congress shortly after. Several married clergymen and churchmen wrote in protest at his attitude. But the most important utterance has come from Dr. Inge, the Dean of St. Paul's, in his remarks as Chairman



at the Sociological Society, on February 13th, 1912. The following is the *Daily Telegraph* report:—

The Dean of St. Paul's, who presided, in opening the discussion, urged the absolute necessity for the passage of the bill dealing with the feeble minded in the interests of public health. With regard to the reduced birth-rate among the middle and the upper classes, some people had used very strong language about the selfishness of persons who deliberately had small families. It was only fair to say that, though in some cases small families were due to selfishness, in many cases they were due to unselfishness, and involved a great deal of self-denial for the benefit of the children. That was not altogether a bad sign. If taxation were so arranged as to press most hardly on the very best and most valuable part of the community—by which he did not mean the dukes or the Park Lane millionaires, but the intelligent, thrifty, self-reliant, hardworking class—for the benefit of the wastrels, then, whatever they ought to do, they might be perfectly certain that the result would be that they would restrict their numbers. It could not be helped. When the State went on, year after year, piling new burdens on this class, the inevitable result must be taken into account by those interested in eugenics. (Hear, hear.)

The increase of the population was not a thing desirable in itself, except in such half populated countries as Australia and Canada, where there was room for plenty of people; but they must not blink the fact that the enormous improvements in sanitation and the increase in the length of human life had created an exceedingly serious problem which must not be shirked. It was a problem to which no solution had yet been found. At present, happily, there was room for eugenic children, however many were born, in the waste places of the earth. That would not be the case very long, and he repeated that this question of overcrowding was a thing that must not be shirked. After all, quality was more than quantity, and the great menace to our civilisation was not so much the stationary birth-rate of the upper classes as the great increase among the poor and ill-fed population of our great towns.

Dr. Inge has since written even more strongly in the *Daily Mail* on the subject of Labour unrest, accusing our public men of shelving the population difficulty.

Even the Roman Catholics are showing signs of wavering, as shown by the correspondence started by Mr. H. Lee Jones in *The Catholic Times*. Mr. Lee Jones carries on a paper, *The Well Doer*, in Liverpool, in which the necessity for family restriction by "moral restraint" is strongly enforced.

It appears likely that within the next few years many of the Clergy will openly ally themselves with neo-Malthusian propaganda.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PUBLIC MORALS.

The principal evidence of the improved attitude of the Church is however given by the formation of the National Council of Public Morals, containing some thirty Archbishops, Bishops, and other Church dignitaries, and prominent scientific authorities. This Council, although it has issued a report in which Mr. Anthony Comstock and other apostles of orthodox "purity" figures, has apparently felt the need of scientific authority, and has issued some sixpenny booklets entitled *New Tracts* by the Times. The first three of these deal with the birth-rate question, and are so remarkably outspoken and modern in their views as to astonish us, and the first of them, by Dr. Havelock Ellis, contains the strongest justification of family limitation, and ridicules those who would seek to check it. It is noteworthy that several books of the series are devoted to the question of "Race Regeneration," which irresistibly recalls our International Federation of Human Regeneration, the title of the International neo-Malthusian movement.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL NEO-MALTHUSIAN MOVEMENT.

It would be impossible within the limits of this report to make any attempt at chronicling the activities of the various neo-Malthusian Societies during the year, and it will be shown to some extent by the report of the Dresden Congress. All that can be said is that in twelve countries at least an extremely active and rapidly increasing propaganda is going on, and that four or five others are at the point of forming organisations for the purpose. The list of constituent bodies of the International Federation, printed above, gives some idea of the scope of the movement, and during the past year affiliations have been applied for by Leagues in Sweden and Flemish Belgium. Italy will probably be the next country to form a League.

The International neo-Malthusian Bureau of Correspondence and Defence initiated at the Hague Congress of 1910, has been actively engaged in supporting our colleagues who have been attacked in various countries, notably Mr. James White in England, M. Humbert and others in France, and Senor Luis Bulffi in Spain. All these have received grants in aid of their

legal expenses. It is a matter for congratulation that in France, where prosecutions have been so frequent for many years past, they are now beginning to fail, and in several instances judgment has been in favour of the propagandists. The International Bureau has also commenced its international propaganda work by issuing lists of addresses of those willing to be written to on the subject, and it has also issued the diagrams of vital statistics made by Dr. Drysdale, with brief explanations in English, Dutch and Esperanto.

The Officers of the International Bureau are at present :—

*President* : Dr. C. V. Drysdale, 49, Rotherwick Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, N.W.

*Hon. Treasurer* : M. G. Hardy, 29, Rue Pixérécourt, Paris, XX.

*Hon. Sec.* : Dr. J. Rutgers, 9, Verhulststraat Den Haag, Holland ;

who will be glad to receive subscriptions for carrying on the work.

#### RUSSIA.

Before leaving the International question reference should be made to Russia, in which as yet no organised neo-Malthusian movement exists. This country has for years past had a birth-rate approximating to 50 per 1,000, and a death-rate of 32 to 35 per 1,000, while its infantile mortality is no less than 260 or 270 per 1,000. For a few years past its death-rate has shown signs of diminishing without a fall in the birth-rate, but this could not continue, and Russia is now in the grips of a widespread famine.

#### INDIA.

A most encouraging feature of the year has been the signs of interest in our question in India. The first manifestation of it was given in the Indian paper "Capital" in August last, reporting the remarks of Babu Nilambara Mukerji, M.A., Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, who at a meeting of the Hindu Marriage Reform League, earnestly advised every young

man to delay marriage unless he adopts "scientific and legal appliances for harmless prevention of conception necessitated by his circumstances." It is worthy of note that these remarks come from a native gentleman, and that they were immediately indignantly criticised by the English paper. We had always understood before that the population difficulty was obvious in India but that it could not be combated owing to native religious prejudices against restriction. This caused us to look up the matter and it was found that according to the Census Report of 1901 there was a decided opinion that the natives of Assam frequently make use of means to prevent conception.

Since that time we have had correspondence from native gentlemen both in Calcutta and Bombay and other parts of India, and we have great hope that an Indian Malthusian League will be started before long. If so it will do more for checking famine and sedition in India than all other reforms put together, but the Indian Government will probably be the last to approve of it. According to the 1901 census the birth-rate for all India was 50 per 1,000, and the average death-rate must have been 47 per 1,000, as the increase of population was only 2.4 per cent. in the decade, or little higher than that of France. It is said that in the decade just completed the increase has been five per cent. to 315 millions, but there is a severe famine now as a reward.

It should be stated that the Parsee paper *Kaiser-i-Hind* of August 6, reproduced the programme of our Dresden Congress remarking: "A more weighty and important movement it is impossible to imagine—a movement which goes to the root of the vital problems which affect humanity at large. We trust some capable members from our community will make arrangements to attend such a unique gathering and personally watch its proceedings and give the benefit of their visit to our community."

After such evidence it is impossible for the British Government to pretend that religious scruples stand in the way of family limitation in India, and if it persists in ignoring this matter the blood of millions of unfortunate creatures will be upon its head.

## THE DECLINE OF THE BIRTH-RATE

The birth-rate of England and Wales in 1911 again showed a sharp drop to 24.4 as compared with 25.1 in 1910, and 36.4 in 1876. Unfortunately the Railway Strike combined with the intensely hot summer caused such an epidemic of infantile mortality as to quite prevent the equal fall in the death-rate which would normally have occurred, and the death-rate rose from 13.5 in 1910 to 14.6 in 1911, and the infantile mortality from 106 to 130 per 1,000. Under normal circumstances, we ought to expect an exceptional fall in the death-rate and infantile mortality this year, due to the cumulative fall in the birth-rate, but the interference with food transport due to strikes may again prevent it.

## PAUPERISM.

The records of pauperism show a fairly steady decline over the whole period of the declining birth-rate. The following are the figures for the total number of persons in receipt of relief, both indoor and outdoor, per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales, according to the *Daily News Year Book* for 1912:—

1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1911
34.5	33.3	29.3	27.9	27.4	25.2	27.5	26.4	24.9

## CRIME.

As the idea has been freely expressed that crime is on the increase as a result of the breaking down of the old sanctions of morality, it is satisfactory to note that the latest report of the Commissioners of Prisons strongly repudiates this idea. In this report it was stated that in the last fifty years the proportion of persons proceeded against for indictable offences per 100,000 of the population has decreased from 276 to 187. The following table of convictions from 1903 to 1911 is given in the *Daily News Year Book* for 1912.

## CONVICTIONS, 1903-11.

	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6	1906-7	1907-8	1908-9	1909-10	1910-11
Convicted at Assizes and Quarter Sessions:								
Offences against the person	1,485	1,340	1,364	1,442	1,374	1,410	1,225	1,118
Offences against property...	6,791	7,150	7,357	7,332	7,512	7,998	8,072	7,830
Other offences	348	271	251	192	205	205	203	188
Indictable offences tried summarily	21,730	21,784	21,890	20,272	20,886	21,710	21,381	18,758
Other offences tried summarily	159,518	167,396	164,194	149,105	146,625	153,578	149,080	139,801
Totals...	180,888	197,941	195,056	178,343	176,602	184,901	179,961	167,695

It will be seen that in only one of these categories has there been an increase, that of offences against property. This may largely be attributed to the severe unemployment which was experienced in the winters of 1908 and 1909. The remainder show a decided decrease, notwithstanding the increase of population, and it is especially satisfactory to hear that the convictions of young offenders under 21 has fallen 7 per cent. between 1898-99 and 1910-11.

## DRUNKENNESS.

As regards the whole country, the reduction of drunkenness goes on most satisfactorily. The convictions per 10,000 of the population have fallen steadily from 64 in 1905, to 49 in 1910. M. Bertillon, in his strongly anti-Malthusian book, "La Depopulation de la France," shows most decidedly that sobriety and small families are closely associated.

"Those of us who have occasion to mix with the workers of to-day in busy centres cannot fail to observe the improvement in the general drinking habits of the nation, as evidenced by the substitution of unlicensed eating houses for licensed ones, and by the frequent absence of intoxicating liquors from tables in licensed restaurants and clubs. Drunkenness in private life is now anathema, and the man who cannot control himself becomes more or less an outcast from good society."—Mr. R. W. Branthwaite, Home Office Inspector under the Inebriate's Acts. (*Daily Mail Year Book*, 1912, p. 48.)

## THE COST OF LIVING.

One of the most serious manifestations of the past few years has been the considerable increase in the cost of living, which shows signs of continuing and has been one of the chief causes of labour unrest. This rise has gone on more or less uniformly from 1896, and has been about 20 per cent. in Great Britain, 30 per cent. in France and Germany, and 40 per cent. in the United States. Prof. Ashley and other economists have sought to explain this rise of prices by the increased output of gold, but although this would certainly have caused an increase in the average price of all commodities, it would not necessarily have done so to any great extent as regards food unless there were an obvious deficiency, or wages had considerably risen. If this explanation were true, also it would have caused a fairly uniform rise in prices over the world, whereas the rise was double as great in the United States as in Great Britain. On the other hand, it is known that the population of the United States has now risen to such an extent that it is absorbing practically all its own corn supply, and shows signs of having soon to import, and this, in conjunction with the tariffs, would amply explain the rise of prices.

Two most important contributions to this question have been the article by Mr. Seebohm Rowntree in the *Contemporary Review*, October 1911, in which he showed that 23s. 8d. was the lowest weekly wage upon which physical efficiency could be maintained for a man, wife and three children; and Mrs. Pember Reeves' Fabian Tract "Family Life on £1 per week." According to Prof. Bowley more than 2,500,000 men earn wages below 25/- a week.

#### LABOUR UNREST.

The past year has been marked by a considerable amount of labour unrest in this and most other countries, of which the railway and coal strikes have been the greatest manifestations. Apart from special details, the principal justification in all cases has been the increasing cost of living which has caused the advance of real wages, which had been more or less steady from 1864 to 1896, to be arrested and turned into a material decline. It is worthy of note, however, that so far as figures have been given at present, there has been a distinct advantage in favour of a slowly increasing population. The following table has been made out from these figures, taking wages and prices, in the year 1900, both as 100 :—

	Wages.	Prices.	Real Wages.	Rise per cent.	Increase of Population per cent.
* England and Wales...	99.7	109.9	90.5	-9.5	10.9
Do. Agricultural Labr.	102.6	109.9	93.5	-6.5	10.9
† Scotland ...	102.7	109.9	93.5	-6.5	6.4
Ireland ...	108.6	109.9	98.8	-1.2	-1.7
‡ France ...	110	104	106	+6	+1.3

\* B.O.T. 14th Abstract of Labour Statistics, pp. 68 and 136.

† Do. Do. p. 83.

‡ B.O.T. Labour Gazette, November, 1911.

It will be seen, therefore, that in Ireland, with its nearly stationary population, the fall in real wages has only been 1.2 per cent., as against nearly 10 per cent. in England and Wales;\* and in France there appears to have been actually an increase of 6 per cent. in real wages during the decade. The papers have been full recently of the astonishing evidence of the wealth of France as shown by the subscriptions to the State Railway Loans, etc.

\* The cash wages of Irish agricultural labourers have risen 25 per cent. since 1880, and those of English agricultural labourers only 5 per cent.



The course of wages and prices in this country are shown in the annexed diagram together with the "real wages," obtained by dividing one by the other. The figures for wages and prices are taken from Prof. Ashley, who states that they were prepared by the Local Government Board in 1909.

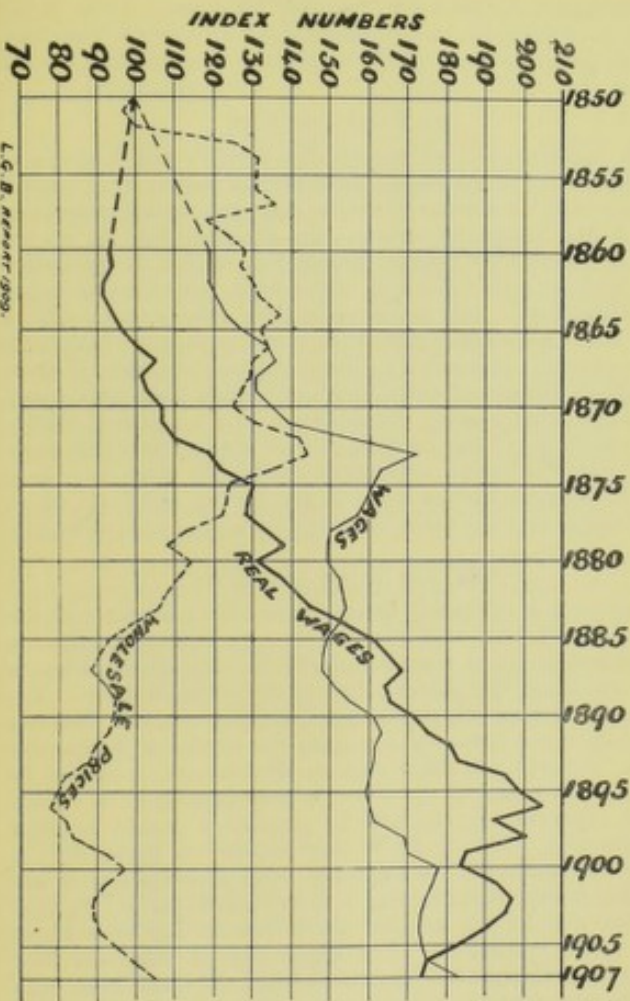
#### MR. HAROLD COX ON LABOUR UNREST.

"In the last article it was argued that in order to improve the position of the labourer relatively to the capitalist, we must increase the supply of capital. The astute reader will doubtless observe that it might be equally effective to reduce the supply of labour by reducing the birth-rate. I agree, and am fully convinced that a high standard of comfort for the whole of the population is impossible if large numbers of people bring children into the world without regard to the means available for their maintenance; but I forbear to press this point, lest I should bring upon my head a torrent of abuse from celibate bishops."—*Daily Graphic*, 22nd March, 1912.

#### THE FEAR OF WAR.

The only important objection to family limitation among humane and unprejudiced persons, is the fear that the military strength of the country would be seriously impaired; and the rapid increase of the German population has given rise to considerable alarm. It is true that the enormous increase of Germany's population (about 1,000,000 annually) is very likely to drive her into war owing to the necessity for new markets, but a report of the Royal Prussian Statistical Land Bureau has shown that the physical deterioration due to overcrowding in the large towns is so bad that in Hamburg the recruiting efficiency has fallen to 42%, and in Berlin to 39% of its proper value. On the other hand the recruiting efficiency of France has increased, and Mr. Hilaire Belloc in the *Wide World Magazine* has told us that France is much better equipped for war than Germany. *In any case it is no use having numerous births if they only produce a greater death-rate, and there is no evidence whatever that this country or even France has lost a single unit of population by decreasing its birth-rate.* The only possible means of permanently avoiding war is for the birth-rate of all European countries to fall until the economic rivalry is sufficiently reduced to avoid risk of conflict. As

**WAGES & PRICES.**



L.G. B. 1880-1909.

regards the "Yellow Peril," the population of Europe has increased faster, the more the birth-rate has fallen, and it is certainly increasing far more rapidly than at any previous time, and at probably more than double the rate of the Eastern nations.

#### THE SAVING OF LIFE.

The immense gain as regards the comfort and longevity of the community of the falling birth-rate is shown by a careful estimate of the reduction of deaths since the commencement of the neo-Malthusian movement. In Western Europe, on the basis of Sundbarg's figures, twenty-five million fewer deaths have occurred since 1876 than if the death rate of that time had been maintained. But at the same time twenty-three million fewer births have taken place than if the birth-rate of that time had continued. According to the population doctrine, if these twenty-five millions of extra births had taken place they would have caused that number of additional and premature deaths, and in that case it may be claimed that in the thirty-five years of the neo-Malthusian movement 25,000,000 lives have been saved in Western Europe alone by the falling birth-rate which could only have been saved otherwise by a greater food supply.

#### THE AIM TO BE ATTAINED.

As the fear is constantly expressed lest the operations of the League should lead to a diminished expansion of population and a deterioration of the race, it will be well in conclusion to point out what the present aims of the movement are. The "natural" increase of population from year to year does not depend upon the birth-rate but upon the excess of births over deaths. According to the population doctrine this is limited by the food supply, and if the latter is only capable of a certain rate of expansion the increase of population cannot be faster than this rate. The truth of this doctrine is shown by the fact that the difference between the birth and death-rates has remained nearly constant over a considerable period, in most countries, and in this country the difference has been about 11 per 1,000 per annum. The experience of Australia, New Zealand and Canada has shown us that the death-rate of a healthy community, where no want of the necessaries of life existed, would be less than 10 per 1,000. Hence, in our own country, unless some means of quickly accelerating the food

supply is obtained, a birth-rate of 20 per 1,000 is the highest which can be sustained without unnecessary waste of life. *The immediate aim of the Malthusian League is therefore to reduce the birth-rate so long as the death-rate is found to fall at a commensurate rate, and it is believed that it will have to fall to 20 per 1,000 in order to attain the death-rate of 10 per 1,000, which indicates that poverty in the sense of actual lack of food is abolished. Up to that point the fall of the birth-rate will not probably be responsible for any appreciable reduction of the rate of increase of population.*

This aim is illustrated by the diagram facing this Report, and it will be seen that at the present rate of progress this result will be attained by the year 1921. If the educated classes would combine in giving instruction to the poor the same result could probably be attained in five years.

At the same time the adoption of restriction among the poorest classes, would remove the anti-selective action of limitation which has existed hitherto, and it is therefore to the interests of the quality of the race that prudential limitation of births should be extended to the poorest and least fit as quickly as possible. This would also have the advantage of reducing the burden of taxation and charity, and might check the excessive restriction of families among the middle classes. A universal knowledge of the most hygienic means of prevention of conception by women would probably lead automatically to a high degree of eugenic selection, and a rapid reduction of economic difficulties, combined with an equally rapid improvement in the quality of the race. The Malthusian League calls upon all humane, patriotic, and thinking men and women to join in bringing about this result.

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"The greatest danger, the greatest difficulty, the greatest change which lies ahead of humanity is that which must result from the present gigantic rate of increase of human population, and the consequent occupation of the whole surface of the earth by teeming swarms of human beings like mites on a rotten cheese. Some day the most serious thoughts of mankind will be given to this great event which threatens us."—SIR E. RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S., "Science at the Moment of the Coronation," Special Coronation Number of *The Sphere*, June, 1911.

CASH STATEMENT FROM MAY 1ST, 1911, TO MARCH 31ST, 1912.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Membership Subscriptions	...	30	7	8		
Donations	...	48	16	7		
Subscriptions to MALTHUSIAN	...	1	7	0		
Literature and other Sales	...	1	18	0		
Collection	...	0	13	0		
Executors of the late Mr. Reynolds*				83	2	3
				194	19	1

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Printing and Stationery	...	9	1	5		
Postage and Sundry Expenses	...	11	1	0		
Hire of Room	...	0	13	0		
Expenses of THE MALTHUSIAN	...	57	8	6		
Payment to late Treasurer	...	0	17	6		
Cash at Bank March 31st, 1912		199	9	2		
Cash in Hand and Postages	...	0	3	9		

199 12 11

Les due to Secretary

0 13 0

198 19 11

£278 1 4

Mrs. WHITE RELIEF FUND.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in Hand May 1st, 1911	...	2	6	0		
Donations	...	17	13	8		
				19	19	8

I have compared the foregoing Statement with the Accounts and Vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary of the League and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith.

\* So far as I have been able to ascertain from the material available, I believe this fully covers the late Treasurer's liability to the League at the date of his death.

Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C.

May 6th, 1912

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE,

Certified Accountant.

The subscriptions and donations above mentioned have been received since the death of Mr. Reynolds. Those received before that date are included in the sum received from his executors.



# Thirty-Fifth Annual Report

OF THE

## MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE

(FOUNDED 1877).

*Presented to the Members and Friends at the Annual  
Meeting on May 15th, 1913,  
by the President*

**DR. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.**

Printed by  
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PRICE 1D.

***Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting,  
May 15th, 1913.***

"The Malthusian League desires to make it generally known that the presidents of the British Medical Association and of the American Medical Association have both drawn attention in their presidential addresses of 1912 to the importance of restriction of families among the poor and unfit; and that a judgment of the Hungarian National Medical Senate in November, 1911, declared that the limitation of families by prevention of conception was absolutely necessary in order to check the widespread evil of attempted abortion.

It therefore calls upon the medical profession in general to give information upon hygienic means of prevention of conception to all married persons who apply for it, and it especially calls upon hospital authorities, as dealing with the poorest section of the community, to arrange for instruction in this respect to all men and women whose means or health or mental condition do not justify their having further additions to their families."

## RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

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### I.—NAME.

That this Society be called "THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE."

### II.—OBJECTS.

1. That the object of this Society be to spread among the people—by all practical means—a knowledge of the law of population, of its consequences, and of its bearings upon human conduct and morals.

2. To urge upon the medical profession in general, and upon hospitals and public medical authorities in particular, the duty of giving instruction in hygienic contraceptive methods to all married people who desire to limit their families, or who are in any way unfit for parenthood; and to take any other steps which may be considered desirable for the provision of such instruction.

### III.—PRINCIPLES.

1. That population (unless consciously and sufficiently controlled) has a constant tendency to increase beyond the means of subsistence.

2. That the checks which counteract this tendency are resolvable into positive, or life destroying, and prudential, or birth restricting.

3. That the positive, or life destroying, checks comprehend the premature death of children and adults by starvation, disease, infanticide, and war.

4. That the prudential, or birth restricting, check consists in the limitation of offspring (1) by abstention from or postponement of marriage or (2) by prudence after marriage.

5. That prolonged postponement of marriage, as advocated by Malthus, is not only productive of much unhappiness but is also a potent cause of sexual vice and disease. Early marriage, on the contrary, tends to ensure sexual purity, domestic comfort, social happiness, and individual health; but it is a grave social offence for men and women to bring into the world more children than they can adequately house, feed, clothe, and educate.

6. That over-population is the most fruitful source of pauperism, ignorance, crime, and disease.

7. That it is of great importance that those afflicted with hereditary disease, or who are otherwise plainly incapable of producing or rearing physically, intellectually and morally satisfactory children, should not become parents.

8. That the full and open discussion of the population question in all its necessary aspects is a matter of vital moment to society.



## SUPPLEMENTARY PRINCIPLES.

(Not obligatory.)

9. That the aim of all true social reform is to promote the general health and longevity of the race; and that reason and experience, evidenced by statistics since the year 1876, have clearly shown that this is only compatible with a restricted birth-rate.

10. That therefore the reduction of the birth-rate should be welcomed and encouraged so long as it is found to be accompanied by a material reduction of the death-rate.

11. That while in no way denying the possibility of ultimately supporting a much larger population or of accelerating the present increase of food production, and while welcoming all efforts in this direction, human life ought not to be produced beyond the reasonable expectation of immediate results.

12. That the struggle for existence due to over-population is not the best factor for race improvement, or even a useful one, unless humanitarian schemes for the preservation of the less fit are abandoned, and that it should therefore be eliminated as far as possible by all civilised communities.

13. That prudential limitation of families enables early marriage to become general by removing the fear of economic difficulties, and is therefore a most important step towards the elimination of prostitution and venereal disease, and thus for the moral and physical improvement of the race.

14. That, in addition, the universal knowledge of hygienic means of limitation of births, especially by women, will be a great factor for race improvement by rational selection, owing to the natural desire of women to avoid having children who are sickly or unlikely to have a good chance in life.

15. That the improvement of the race as a whole and of the coming generation is only compatible with the harmonious development of parents (women as well as men) in all their faculties, and that this development can only be secured by the freedom of women to have only such children as they desire.

16. That the elimination of unfitness should, as far as possible, be attained, not by restriction of marriage, segregation, or by sterilisation (which should be resorted to only in the case of those obviously incapable of self-control, such as lunatics and criminals), but by the inculcation of the great responsibility of parenthood and of the effects of such hereditary transmission, combined with a general knowledge of the most hygienic means of limiting families.

17. That, from the national or patriotic standpoint, it is not to the present advantage of this country that the government or society should encourage greater reproduction, but that every effort should be made to preserve and increase our national sources of subsistence, and thus to reduce our general and infantile mortality to their natural minimum.

18. That the struggle for existence due to over-population has been the chief factor in human as in animal evolution, and

therefore has been chiefly instrumental in bringing about existing social systems; and that it is consequently useless to expect any great alteration in the constitution of society, or that any material improvement would result from it, without removing the fundamental difficulty of over-population.

#### IV.—EXECUTIVE.

1. That the Officers of the League consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, Solicitor and Auditors.

2. That the government of the League be vested in a Council consisting of a President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary (by virtue of their respective offices), of twenty members, who shall be elected annually at a general meeting, and of a duly-appointed representative from each branch of the League which may hereafter be formed.

3. That the Council have the power to appoint a Treasurer and Secretaries from among its own members; to elect a President, Vice-Presidents and Solicitor, subject to the approval of the next general meeting; to fill up vacancies in its own ranks, and to make the necessary bye-laws for carrying out these laws and for the general management of the League.

4. That all candidates for election as Officers or as members of Council shall be nominated one month before the annual general meeting, and that such nomination shall be publicly announced, the form and manner to be determined by the Council.

#### V.—MEMBERSHIP.

That the condition of membership be an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d., which shall be taken to imply adhesion to the rules of the League, and shall entitle the subscriber to receive *The Malthusian*, and—after one year's membership—to vote and be eligible for office.

#### VI.—FORMATION OF BRANCHES.

That upon the application of at least seven members residing in a local centre a branch of the League may be formed at that centre. Each branch shall adopt the same Objects and Principles as the parent League, and its rules shall be submitted to the Council for approval. Members of a branch shall pay the same minimum annual subscription of 2s. 6d., of which the sum of 1s. shall be paid to the parent society as a subscription to *The Malthusian*. Each branch shall have its own officers and organisation, and shall have the right of electing one representative on the Council.

#### VII.—GENERAL MEETING.

1. That a general meeting be held once a year, at such place and time as the Council shall determine, at which meeting the presentation of the report and balance sheet and the election of Officers shall take precedence of all other business.

2. That on the receipt of a requisition signed by not less than twenty-five members, a general meeting be, within one month, called by the Council. No other business but that set forth on the notice calling the meeting shall be taken into consideration.

3. That the voting at all meetings be taken by show of hands, except when a poll is demanded, when the voting shall be taken by ballot.

#### VIII.—EXPULSION.

That the Council have power to expel any member, but the member so expelled shall have a right of appeal to the annual general meeting, or to a special general meeting called for that purpose.

#### IX.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

That no alteration be made in these rules, except at an annual general meeting by the vote of two-thirds of those present, two months' notice of the proposed alteration having been given to the Council.

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## THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

*For the year ending March 31st, 1913.*

The year under review has been one of decided progress, and is, perhaps, the most satisfactory of all recent years. Unmistakable signs have been shown that the medical profession are repenting of their remissness concerning Neo-Malthusianism in the past, and are beginning to realise that their duty to the community lies in spreading the knowledge of hygienic means of family limitation to the poorest classes and to all those whose health and hereditary defects unfit them for parenthood. It may now be confidently predicted that within the next few years the medical profession will be open champions of family restriction by hygienic contraceptive methods, and it is difficult to over-estimate the improvements which will thus be brought about in public health and morality as well as in the economic status of the working classes. Similarly the Eugenics movement, by declarations made at its recent Congress and elsewhere, has shown that it is approximating itself to Neo-Malthusian ideals. Indeed, it seems quite likely that before long there will be no serious point of difference between the two movements. Popular feeling has also become so much more favourable to the population doctrine, largely through weariness at the failure of other efforts to raise wages, that the League has been encouraged to come out more publicly and to carry on a campaign of meetings in the streets and halls of

South London, which has succeeded far beyond our expectations. Lastly, recent events in Parliament indicate that at last the population question is about to take its proper place in connection with social legislation, and that no great reform is likely to be introduced without consideration of it. On many grounds, therefore, the Council has the strongest reason for satisfaction at the year's progress.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures for the birth and death-rates in England and Wales for 1912, so far as they are available, are most encouraging, all of them being the lowest on record. The following table gives them for the last five years:—

	Birth-Rate.	Death-Rate.	Infantile Mortality.	Natural Increase.
1908 .....	26.7	14.8	120	11.9
1909 .....	25.8	14.6	109	11.2
1910 .....	25.1	13.5	106	11.6
1911 .....	24.4	14.6	130	9.8
1912 .....	23.8	13.3	95	10.5

It will be seen that the drop in the death-rate and infantile mortality in 1912 was very large, but this is due to the abnormally high values for the previous year. Nevertheless, the death-rate of 13.3 shows that we are very rapidly approaching the 10 per 1,000 of Australia and New Zealand. The infantile mortality has for the first time on record fallen below three figures.

It is interesting to note that this great drop in mortality was anticipated in our report of last year on p. 24 of which appeared the following:—"Under normal circumstances, we ought to expect an exceptional decline in the death-rate and infantile mortality this year, due to the cumulative fall in the birth rate."

The actual number of births in England and Wales was 872,000, and of deaths 486,982, giving an excess of births over deaths of 385,818. The population in the middle of the year was 36,539,636 in England and

Wales, 4,738,300 in Scotland, and 4,384,636 in Ireland, or 45,662,572 in the United Kingdom.

The world's food supply as regard the production of cereals showed an unusually satisfactory increase last year, being 7.6 per cent. in the case of wheat, 6.3 per cent. for barley, 20.5 per cent. for oats, and 16.1 per cent. for maize. Were there to be such increases of *all* food-stuffs and in *all* years, the population difficulty would, of course, no longer exist. The relative prosperity of trade and employment at the moment is no doubt due to this bumper harvest. But the rice crop, at any rate in Japan, actually showed a 4 per cent. decrease, and the maintenance of the high cost of living shows that the general food supply did not increase to so large an extent.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE LEAGUE.

The principal new development of the League's public activity has been the campaign of meetings in South London, referred to. This was commenced in January. Up to the end of March twelve open-air and three indoor meetings had been held in Southwark and Bermondsey, two of the poorest boroughs in South London, and about 25,000 handbills were distributed. The following resolution was unanimously passed at the three meetings at which it was put:—

"That this meeting considers that a knowledge of hygienic means of restricting families ought to be available to all responsible adult people, in the interest of economic and race improvement, and calls upon the medical profession to provide such information when requested."

The open-air campaign in January and February was conducted in most inclement weather; yet good and sympathetic audiences always gathered. The speakers and literature distributors at these meetings included Mrs. Drysdale, Miss Johnson, Mrs. McCabe, Miss Rees, Miss Thompson, and Messrs. Allen, Binks, Busch-Michell, Coleman, Dunlop, Drysdale, Flügel, Lindsay, Standring, and Westrope. The campaign is still going on, and it has been decided to concentrate it upon the

borough of Southwark. It is proposed also to start open-air meetings in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons.

#### PROGRESS TOWARDS MEDICAL CO-OPERATION.

Attention was called in the last report to the important judgment of the Hungarian Medical Senate, delivered in response to an attempt to introduce legislation against the circulation of contraceptive devices. This judgment, delivered in October, 1911, decided entirely in favour of family restriction on economic and medical grounds.

In July of last year Sir James Barr, in his presidential address to the British Medical Association, made the following significant remarks\* :—

" We have successfully interfered with the selective death-rate which Nature employed in eliminating the unfit, but, on the other hand, we have made no serious attempt to establish a selective birth-rate so as to prevent the race being carried on by the least worthy citizens. The same maudlin sentimentality which often pervades the public not infrequently affects the medical profession. We have often joined forces with self-constituted moralists in denouncing the falling birth-rate, and have called out for quantity regardless of quality. . . . We readily forget that utility, as long ago pointed out by John Stuart Mill, lies at the basis of all morality. We are also apt to forget that a high birth-rate is practically always associated with a high death-rate, and a low birth-rate with a low death-rate; the former is Nature's method, a method which has always produced a fine race, though very slow in doing so; but, with the advance of civilisation, Nature's method is too cruel and barbarous, and as man rises superior to Nature, and obtains more and more control over her laws, such barbarities are replaced by more humane methods.

" I know that in the expression of these views I am coming into direct conflict with at least some of the Churches, of which there are almost as many varieties as

\* "*British Medical Journal*," July 27th, 1912.

there are of human beings. The majority preach in favour of quantity rather than quality; they advocate a high birth-rate regardless of the consequences, and boldly tell you that it is better to be born an imbecile than not to have been born at all. They forget the saying of Jesus of Nazareth that it would have been well for this man if he had never been born. With the man-made morality of the Church I can have neither art nor part. There must be a high racial morality based on utility and the greatest happiness not merely of the individual but of the race. Medical men, when they are consulted, as they often are, on questions of matrimony and reproduction, incur a very serious responsibility when they encourage the mating of mental and physical weaklings. It is their duty not to pander to the selfish gratification of the individual, but to point out to everyone his positive and negative duties to the race." That Sir James Barr was only approving the falling birth-rate and not the means of its attainment is effectively disproved by his subsequent endorsement of the following statement by Dr. Mott:—"The profound psychical influence of the sexual glands, by reason of their internal secretions during the period of ripening of the germ-cells, is beyond all dispute, and the repression of the instinct of propagation, and attendant mental dejection or excitation, is a powerful exciting cause of mental or nervous disorders."

No sooner had this pronouncement been delivered than news came to hand that Dr. A. Jacobi, the President of the American Medical Association, had made an even more definite declaration in *his* presidential address. The following reference to it is from the *Critic and Guide* (for July, 1912), a medical paper edited by Dr. W. J. Robinson, of New York. The italics are his.

"It is certainly the very first time that a president of the American Medical Association dared to say a word in his presidential address in favour of the limitation of offspring. Here is the paragraph in which Dr. Jacobi speaks unequivocally, though in guarded



language, in favour of this most important measure for the improvement of the human race:—

“‘Is there no way to prevent those who are born into this world from becoming sickly both physically and mentally? It seems almost impossible as long as the riches provided by the world are accessible to a part of the living only. The resources for prevention or cure are inaccessible to many—sometimes even to a majority. That is why it has become an *indispensable suggestion that only a certain number of babies should be born into the world*. As long as not infrequently even the well-to-do limit their offspring, *the advice to the poor, or those to whom the raising of a large family is worse than merely difficult, to limit the number of children, even the healthy ones, is perhaps more than merely excusable*. I often hear that an American family has had ten children, but only three or four survived. Before the former succumbed they were a source of expense, poverty, and morbidity to the few survivors. *For the interest of the latter and the health of the community at large they had better not have been born.*’”

Moreover, the medical papers have at last shown a disposition to deal openly with the subject of Neo-Malthusianism, and a number of very useful letters, by Dr. Dunlop and others, have appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, the *Lancet*, the *Medical Press and Circular*, and the *Hospital*.

The Council has felt that every effort should be made, in view of these evidences of a growing appreciation of Neo-Malthusianism on the part of the medical profession to secure their co-operation in the movement, especially as regards the proper direction of instruction in hygienic contraceptive methods. It has therefore put forward the following resolution passed unanimously at the public meetings:—“That this meeting considers that a knowledge of hygienic means of restricting families ought to be available to all responsible adult people, in the interest of economic and race improvement, and calls upon the medical profession to provide such information when requested.” It has also adopted the following resolution at its meeting on March 6:—

"The Council of the Malthusian League desires to make it generally known that the presidents of the British Medical Association and of the American Medical Association have both drawn attention in their presidential addresses of 1912 to the importance of restriction of families among the poor and unfit; and that a judgment of the Hungarian National Medical Senate in November, 1911, declared that the limitation of families by prevention of conception was absolutely necessary in order to check the widespread evil of attempted abortion.

"It therefore calls upon the medical profession in general to give information upon hygienic means of prevention of conception to all married persons who apply for it; and it especially calls upon hospital authorities, as dealing with the poorest section of the community, to arrange for instruction in this respect to all men and women whose means or health or mental condition do not justify their having further additions to their families."

#### THE INTERNATIONAL EUGENICS CONGRESS.

The Congress, which was held at the University of London from July 24th to 30th of last year, must be regarded as an event of great importance in the history of the Neo-Malthusian movement, although considerable hostility to the advocacy of Neo-Malthusian doctrines was shown by a large and influential section of those present. But it is all the more worthy of note that the actual pronouncements concerning the eugenic aspects of Neo-Malthusianism were hardly in any case definitely adverse, and that many of the most authoritative suggestions for race improvement, such as a longer interval between births, and the provision of better conditions both for mothers and children, were on directly neo-Malthusian lines. The paper of Prof. Alfred Ploetz, President of the German Race-Hygiene Society, actually dealt with "The Bearing of Neo-Malthusianism upon Race Hygiene." Although it contended that the spread of *unregulated* Neo-Malthusian practice ought to be combated, it nevertheless disposed of most

of the usual eugenic accusations against Neo-Malthusianism as unproved, and advocated a decided measure of family restriction. The Neo-Malthusian cause was bravely upheld at the Congress by Dr. and Mrs. Drysdale, Dr. Dunlop, and Miss Rees, and considerable sympathy was shown by quite a satisfactory number of those present. A feature of the excellent exhibition held in connection with the Congress was a complete set of diagrams of vital statistics illustrating the Neo-Malthusian doctrine, lent by Dr. Drysdale. These attracted great attention, and must have opened the eyes of many to the true significance of the falling birth-rate. A pamphlet reproducing these diagrams, and one on "Neo-Malthusianism and Eugenics," were issued by the League at this time. It is worthy also of mention that in a lecture entitled "Large or Small Families," delivered at Liverpool in February of this year, Major Leonard Darwin, the President of the Eugenics Education Society, expressed himself in terms which showed a decided advance towards endorsement of our doctrines.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL NEO-MALTHUSIAN MOVEMENT.

Reports received from abroad show that the progress of the movement in other countries has been very rapid this year. Early in 1912 a Swedish League was formed in Stockholm under the presidency of Fru Vicktorin. The newly formed society in Germany has been very active, and most excellent books and pamphlets have been issued by Dr. Rohleder, Dr. Marcuse, Dr. Max Hirsch, and others. Dr. Ivan Bloch, the eminent authority on sex subjects, has endorsed Neo-Malthusian principles and practice almost in their entirety. The fact that race-hygienists, such as Dr. Ploetz and Dr. von Gruber, have greatly modified their antagonism is most significant. The attitude of the public in Germany is shown by the phenomenal drop in the birth-rate which has taken place in the large towns, several of which show signs of passing France in the practice of family limitation. It can be taken as certain, therefore, that Germany has now definitely abandoned the

high birth-rate ideal. This is of the happiest augury for the peace of Europe.

The most gratifying news, however, has now come from Italy. For the past two years or more a group of Neo-Malthusian propagandists, including Dr. Luigi Berta, Signor Secondo Giorni, and Signor Achille Belloni, have been working hard for the cause, and issued a practical booklet entitled "The Art of not having Children." The usual prosecution ensued, and the long-delayed trial has just taken place. The Neo-Malthusian cause was brilliantly defended by the counsel, Signor Tironi, of Genoa, and warmly upheld by Prof. Roberto Michels, of the University of Turin. The result has been a complete triumph for our cause, the propagandists being all acquitted on the ground that the publication did not violate public decency. An Italian Neo-Malthusian league has been formed since, and a paper projected, which will first appear on May 15. It is hoped that the sympathy evoked by this prosecution will bring great strength to the movement, and that an International Neo-Malthusian Congress may be held in Turin next year. This will undoubtedly strengthen the movement greatly in all the Latin and Roman Catholic countries.

Negotiations are also taking place with the object of forming a league in Hungary, and Dr. Drysdale hopes to be in Budapest in June next and to assist in the formation of this league.

Encouraging reports have come of the work and results of the movement in other countries. The International Neo-Malthusian Bureau of Correspondence and Defence has rendered splendid service during the year in assisting propagandists prosecuted for their work in Spain, Italy, and France, and in granting subventions towards the issue of new publications. The practical pamphlets recently issued in Spain by Señor Bulffi are most remarkable, and are a highly gratifying evidence of the Neo-Malthusian progress that is being made in that country and of the enlightenment of its governing authorities.

## FUTURE WORK.

The League is now embarked on a much more active campaign than hitherto, and the Council earnestly hopes that every effort will be made by the members to gain increasing membership and support. The present subscriptions and donations hardly do more than cover the cost of printing and circulating the *Malthusian*, and were it not that office room and clerical assistance are privately provided it would be impossible to carry on any active propaganda. In the present state of public feeling, however, it ought to be comparatively easy to secure new members and donations; and it is earnestly hoped that the present members will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the League in this way. It is proposed to continue the open-air and indoor propaganda in South London during the year (which costs about £5 monthly) and to hold meetings in Hyde Park on Sundays during the summer, with a view to agitating for medical support to our movement. At the same time the Council has felt that the League ought to take advantage of the greater recognition of the necessity for family limitation among the poor and unfit, to give practical information concerning the methods of family restriction. At a meeting of the Council held on April 3, 1913, the following resolution was passed:—

“(a) That the second object of the League be as follows:—‘To urge upon the medical profession in general, and upon hospital and public medical authorities in particular, the duty of giving instruction in hygienic contraceptive methods to all married people who desire to limit their families, or who are in any way unfit for parenthood; and to take any other steps which may be considered desirable for the provision of such instruction.’”

If this resolution is ratified by the annual general meeting\* a practical pamphlet will be issued shortly, and a sub-committee of the Council has already been engaged in drawing up a suitable pamphlet, which would be issued under seal, and only to those who

\* It was ratified—see Objects on page 3.

declare that they are of full legal age, are married or about to be married, and are willing to take the responsibility for the proper use of such information, and for keeping it from young unmarried people. At the same time it is hoped that medical co-operation will be forthcoming before long, and that it will be possible to have a number of doctors and trained nurses who will help the poorest people to employ the most effective means. This has been done with the greatest possible success by the Dutch Neo-Malthusian League, and we cannot do better than to follow their example.

It may be said in conclusion that it is, therefore, to be hoped that sympathisers with the Neo-Malthusian doctrine will no longer regard the League as being insufficiently practical, and will realise that it is very actively engaged in promoting human welfare.

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#### THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE.

A SUMMARY OF THE FOUR QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL, 1912, TO 31ST MARCH, 1913.

1st April, 1912.		RECEIPTS.	
Balance at Credit .....			£199 9 2
From Subscriptions .....	£48 7 4		
.. Donations .....	58 10 8		
.. Sale of Literature .....	2 17 1		
.. Advertisements .....	6 15 9		
.. Collections .....	11 2		
.. Sale of Badges.....	8 4		
.. Interest on Deposit .....	4 13 3		
.. Birkbeck Bank (2nd Dividend)	66 2 6		
			<hr/>
			188 6 1
			<hr/>
Total.....			£387 15 3

## EXPENDITURE.

Printing Annual Report .....	£16 0 0	
Printing <i>Malthusian</i> .....	86 8 0	
Printing Pamphlets and Leaflets .....	17 5 0	
Printing P.C.'s and Wrappers.....	1 16 6	
Stationery .....	14 8	
Case for Diagrams .....	1 4 9	
Dr. Drysdale, for Sundry Account.....	32 12 0	
Making League Badges.....	1 19 0	
Hire of Rooms for Meetings .....	4 4 0	
Hire of Cart for Open-air Meetings.....	16 3	
Audit Fee.....	2 2 0	
		165 2 2
Balance at Credit, 31st March, 1913...		222 13 1
		£387 15 3

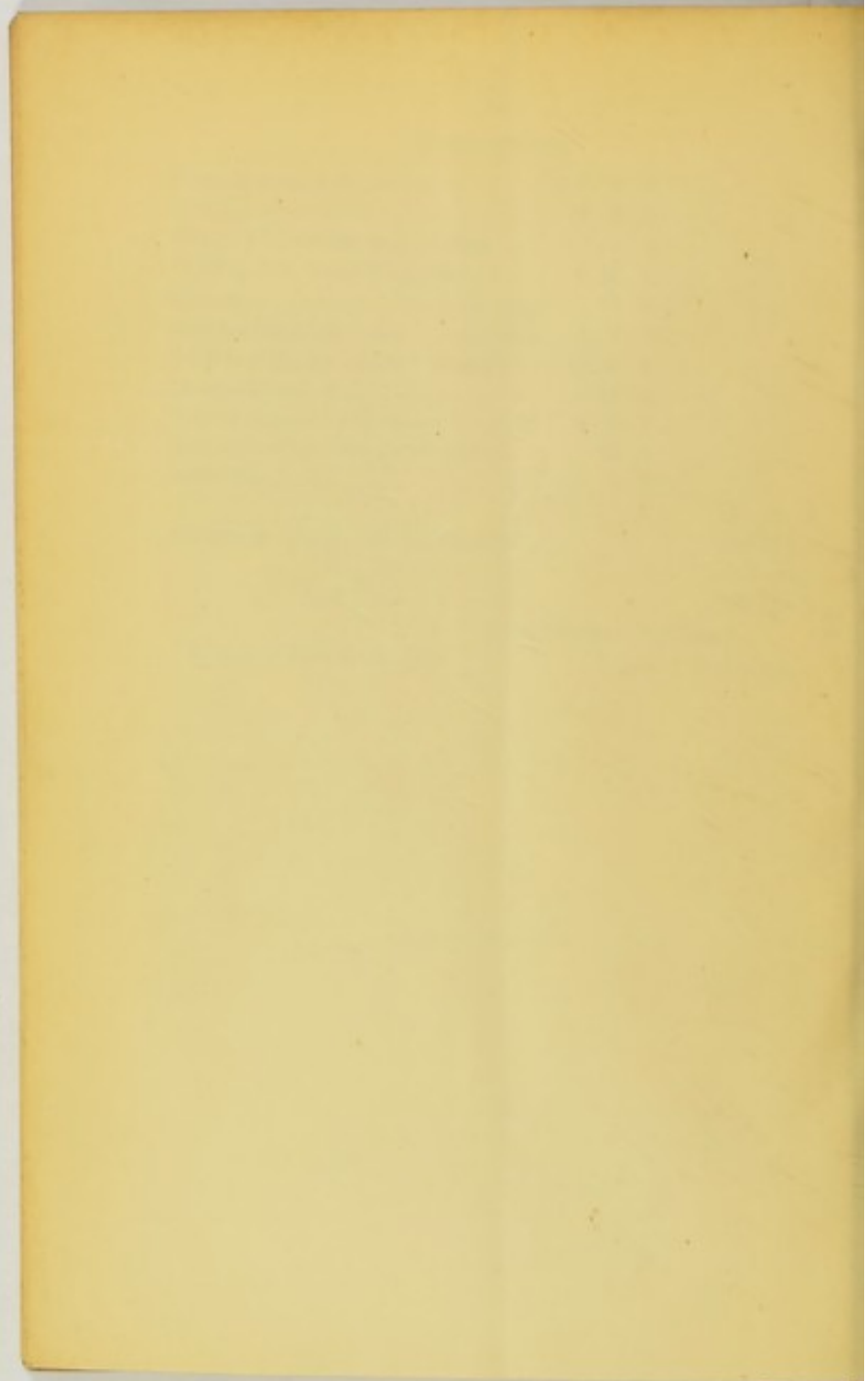
ELPHINSTONE BEGBIE.

Brighton, 30th April, 1913.

Honorary Treasurer.

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## Federation Universelle de la Régénération Humaine.

(Federation of neo-Malthusian Leagues).

*First President*: The late Dr. CHARLES R. DRYSDALE.

*President*: Dr. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY,  
47, Rotherwick Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

*Vice-President*: M. PAUL ROBIN,  
5, Passage du Surlélin, Paris, XXme.

### CONSTITUENT BODIES.

- ENGLAND (1877).—The Malthusian League. Periodical, *The Malthusian*.
- HOLLAND (1885).—De Nieuw-Malthusiaansche Bond. Secretary, Dr. J. Rutgers, 9, Verhulststraat Den Haag. Periodical, *Het Gellukkig Huisgezin*.
- GERMANY (1889).—Sozial Harmonische Verein. Secretary, Herr M. Hausmeister, Stuttgart. Periodical, *Die Sozial Harmonie*.
- FRANCE (1895).—*Generation Consciente*. E. Humbert, 27, Rue de la Doué, Paris XX.
- SPAIN (1904).—Liga Española de Regeneracion humana. Secretary, Senor Luis Bulffi, Calle Provenza, 177, pral. 1a. Barcelona. Periodical, *Salud y Fuerza*.
- BELGIUM (1906).—Ligue Néo-Malthusienne. Secretary, Dr. Fernand Mascoux, Echevin, Courcelles. Periodical, *Generation Consciente*, 27, Rue de la Doué, Paris, XX.
- SWITZERLAND (1908).—Group Malthusien. Sec., Valentin, Grand-jean 106, Rue des Eaux Vives, Geneva. Periodical, *La Vie Intime*.
- BOHEMIA-AUSTRIA (1901).—*Prace*. Secretary, Michel Kaska, 711 Zizhov, Prague.
- PORTUGAL. *Paz e Liberdade*, Revista Anti-Militarist e Neo-Malthusiana. E. Silva, junior, Lisbon.
- BRAZIL (1905).—Seccion brasilena de propaganda. Secretaries: Manuel Moscosa, Rua de Bento Pires 29, San Pablo; Antonio Dominguez, Rua Vizcande de Moranguapez 25, Rio de Janeiro.
- CUBA (1907).—Seccion de propaganda. Secretary, José Guardiola, Empedrado 14, Havana.
- SWEDEN (1911).—Sällskapet for Humanitar Barnalstring. President: Fru Viktorin Tomtebogatan 12, O.G. Stockholm.
- FLEMISH BELGIUM (1912).—National Verbond ter Regeling van het Kindertal. President, M. L. van Brussel, Rue de Canal, 70, Louvain.
- AFRICA.—Ligue Néo-Malthusienne, Maison du Peuple, 10, Rampe Magenta, Alger.
- AMERICA.—*The American Journal of Eugenics*. Lillian Harman, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

