Contributors

Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics.

Publication/Creation

London : Walworth Women's Welfare Centre. 1929

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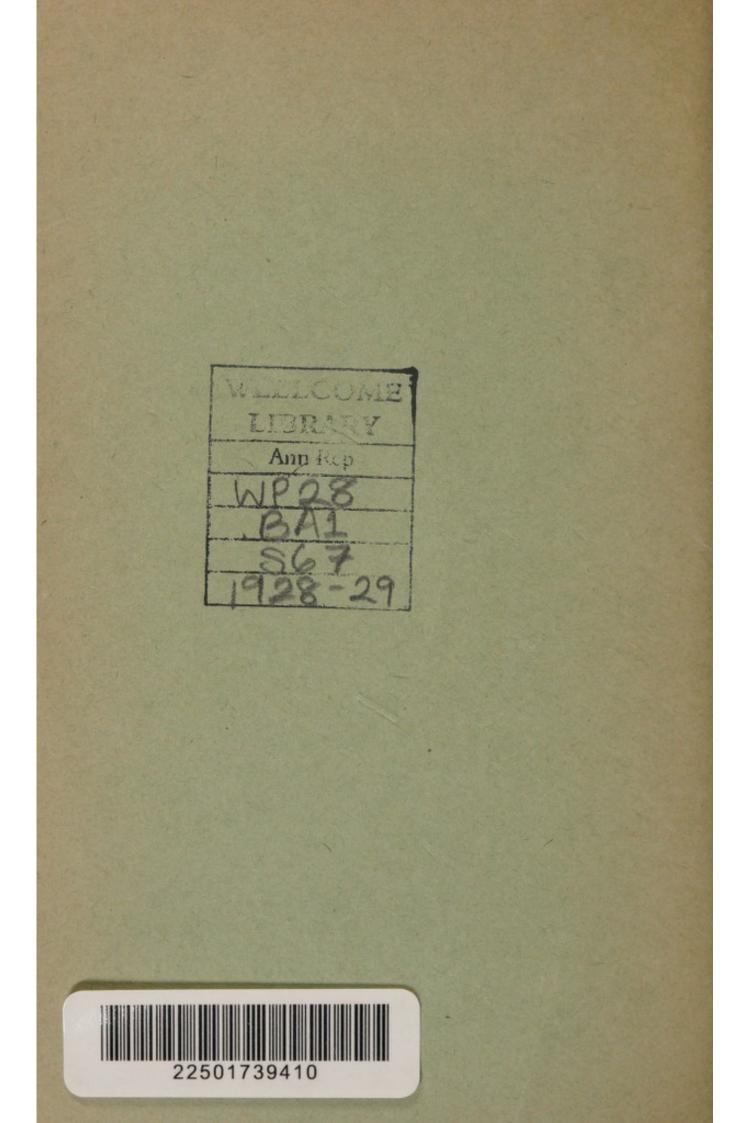
P. 8727

AS-41 SOCIETY FOR THE PROVISION OF BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS

C1929

Annual Report 1928 - 1929

WALWORTH WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE, 153A, EAST STREET, WALWORTH ROAD, LONDON, S.E.17



Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics

WALWORTH WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE

153A, East Street, Walworth Road, S.E.17. Telephone : Rodney 3262.

ANNUAL REPORT

1928-1929.

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Nurses :

Mrs. C. THACKERAY, C.M.B. MRS. MILDRED DICKSON, C.M.B.

Hours of Attendance :

Tuesday .. 2.30-4 p.m. Thursday .. 6.30-8 p.m. Friday 2.30-4 p.m.

BANKERS:

Barclays Bank Ltd., 68-69, Park Street, N.W.I.



Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics

21 DEC1929

Annual Report, 1928-1929

ONE of the most interesting episodes of a year of varied activity has resulted from the contribution of our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Harold Cox, to a symposium on Birth Control which appeared in the London *Daily News*. In the course of his article Mr. Cox mentioned the work of the Society, and letters have poured in from all parts of the country—from London and the Home Counties, from rural areas in East Anglia, from the Midlands, the industrial North, and from places further afield, such as Cornwall, North Wales, and the Irish Free State. All the letters serve to emphasise the great need which exists for the kind of help which the Society sets out to give—that is, the provision of advice for those who need it to enable them to restrict the number of their children in accordance with the conditions in which they live.

Many of these letters, all written apparently by people in humble circumstances, are veritable cries from the heart. For example, this from Uxbridge: "I have three children now and I am being driven to distraction at the prospect of another. The first suffered from a congenital disease of the hip, the other two are nervy, and my husband is in hospital." Or this, from Walsall: "I have had two babies within seventeen months and the thought of having to pass through what I suffered last time is nearly killing me." Or again, this from Rochester: "My boy is very delicate and I myself suffer from a weak heart. To me it seems a terrible thing to bring delicate children into this world of stress and strain." And an Ipswich mother, who has evidently given some thought to the wider aspects of the question, asks : "Does it not seem strange that in a town of 80,000 inhabitants there is no clinic for controlling births?"

This last point of view must find support in the minds of many who realise the importance of the Birth Control movement, but, as is well known to supporters of the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics, the establishment and maintenance of these clinics is dependent entirely upon the voluntary gifts of the charitable public. Opportunity for extending the work is therefore restricted. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the past year has been a year of progress in the Society's work. The number of affiliated Centres has been increased to twelve by the opening in January, 1929, of a Centre at Newcastle-on-Tyne (thanks largely to an initial gift of f, 100 from Lady Denman) and the eleven other Centres, in London, the Provinces, and Scotland, have continued to prove the value of the work they are carrying on. Owing to the pressure of work at East London, the Monday afternoon session, hitherto held at Walworth, was transferred to the former Centre. Nevertheless, the Walworth Centre has dealt with nearly onethird of the total number of patients for the whole country, a circumstance which has only been made possible by the devotion and skill of the doctors and nurses, who have often remained on duty for sessions which have far exceeded the normal length.

The Rotherham Centre celebrated its first anniversary under especially happy auspices. A meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, and the Mayor (Alderman Samuel Hall, J.P.) gave public expression to his sympathy with the work by occupying the chair. It is believed that this is the first time in the history of the Birth Control movement in England that such a measure of civic recognition has been accorded it. The Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray attended the meeting and spoke as chairman of the Society, and not only were the proceedings well reported in the press, but the meeting had the very practical result of attracting much local sympathy to the work and many new patients to the Centre.

The question of opening a Centre in South Wales has been under consideration for some time. Mrs. C. F. Chance has given special attention to the matter and is acting as honorary treasurer, and it is hoped that the Centre will be established shortly.

Local effort at Exeter has initiated arrangements for establishing a Centre there, which will be opened in January.

As the result of a successful appeal to the Special Commissioners of Income Tax the Society is now recognised as a charity for Income Tax purposes. Details will be found elsewhere in this report, explaining the profit which the Society can, with the help of subscribers, get from this decision, and it is earnestly hoped that many of the Society's friends will take the necessary steps to ensure this.

Two new members have been elected to the Committee during the year—the Lady Muriel Willoughby and Colonel J. A. Drexel.

Name of		Date of	Previo August	ous to 31, 1928.	September 1, 1928 —August 31, 1929.		
Centre.		Opening.	New Cases.	Return Visits.	New Cases.	Return Visits.	
WALWORTH		November, 1921	10,454	15,980	1,194	3,126	
North Kensington		November, 1924	1,441	2,316	372	982	
WOLVERHAMPTO	N	May, 1925	826	1,186	193	810	
Mining Clinic			168	227		_	
CAMBRIDGE		August, 1925	489	515	138	421	
MANCHESTER and SALFORD		March, 1926	912	1,150	261	594	
East London		June, 1926	1,081	1,966	468	1,185	
GLASGOW		August, 1926	519	365	187	222	
Oxford		November, 1926	120	86	38	75	
Aberdeen		November, 1926	223	238	142	211	
Birmingham		April, 1927	772	855	607	973	
Rotherham		April, 1928	43	32	199	179	
Newcastle-on- Tyne		January, 1929	_		82	65	
			17,048	24,916	3,881	8,843	

The record of the year's work at the several Centres may be summarised as follows :

The need for the work which is being carried on at the various Centres is indicated by the following small, but characteristic, selection of cases.

Extracts from case cards :

Wife aged 34; husband a slater earning 50s. per week. She has had thirteen pregnancies, including two miscarriages. Four of the children died, leaving nine alive. (Aberdeen.)

Four children in twenty months-two pairs of twins. (Birmingham.)

Wife aged 37; husband 41. Eight pregnancies—four children living, three miscarriages, one premature birth (child lived thirty-six hours only). Difficult confinements; an abscess on breast after the birth of the second living child, and the latest confinement has left her with heart weakness. (*Cambridge.*)

Wife aged 29; husband a labourer (unemployed). They have eight children under ten years and live in two rooms. (*East London*.)

Wife aged 18; husband 19. The latter a labourer in a gas works earning 30s. per week. Rent 6s. per week for one room. A child was born in February and the mother had a miscarriage eight months later. (*East London*.)

Wife aged 41; husband a railway goods guard, earning f_3 per week. She has had fifteen pregnancies, including five miscarriages and two still-births. (*Glasgow*.)

Wife aged 32, but, says the Centre secretary, "looks 50". Has chronic rheumatoid arthritis, is extremely anæmic, and has almost lost the use of the right hand. Her first baby died, and three subsequent ones were delivered by Cæsarian section. The husband is blind. (*Newcastle.*)

The wife (aged 29) of a grocer's porter, who had had twelve pregnancies in eleven years of married life. She had four miscarriages and only five children had survived their second year. (North Kensington.)

The wife (aged 33) of a clerk. Six pregnancies, but only two children born alive. The last four miscarried, and the doctor (who referred the case to the Centre) states that she would never be able to bear another living child. (*North Kensington*.)

Wife aged 38; husband 37, a blinded ex-service man. Ten pregnancies—seven children born alive, two born dead, one miscarriage. Of the children born alive, three have since died, one from tubercular peritonitis, one from influenza but suffering also from a tubercular hip, and the third from broncho-pneumonia. Of the four surviving children, one definitely has tubercular peritonitis. (Oxford.)

Wife aged 36, described by the Centre secretary as "a refined, neatly-dressed woman". She had had eight children in eleven years. The husband's wages were 37s. a week when in regular work —less than he would receive as unemployment benefit if he were out of work. Nevertheless, the woman and her children were tidily dressed, thanks to gifts of old clothes which came to her through her mother, a widowed charwoman. She was in the first stages of consumption and had a prolapsed uterus. (Rotherham.)

A miner's wife, aged 28, who had had five children in six years. Husband's wages 30s. to 40s. when working, but he was often in a tuberculosis sanatorium. One of the five children died of meningitis, another survived birth only two days. During the latter pregnancy the mother was often without food for several days together, owing to poverty. (Rotherham.)

Wife aged 33; husband 42. The latter has been in a tuberculosis sanatorium on and off for the last five years and he comes home from time to time on leave. They have five children. The woman gets 30s. per week out-relief and does a little cleaning. She pays 10s. 6d. per week rent. When asked, at the Centre, whether she could afford to pay anything for the advice and appliances, she said she had 18. 3d. on her. She was willing to give a little, but had no other money and must keep some for the morrow's dinner. (*Walwortb.*)

A miner's wife, aged 28. Has had six children in the last seven years and, says the Centre secretary, "has never had a day's help or relief from the children : feels she will go mad." (*Wolverbampton*.)

Extracts from letters :

"Needless to say, I think you are doing a splendid work", writes a grateful patient from Camberwell.

From Islington: "I am very pleased to say your treatment has been a great success."

"I must say how grateful and thankful I am for the knowledge and help I have received", writes a Sidcup patient. "You can never really know the boon it has been to us."

From Rotherhithe : "Sorry not to have written before, but have been poorly and have had to take to my bed with a bad throat, and it has left my nerves a bit shaky. Still, shall be running along to see you at Centre soon perhaps next week; am bringing a friend with me . . . My baby is three to-morrow, but she is a big worry as she is not normal. Her condition the doctor puts down to fits, caused through the anxious time I had while I carried her. Pleased to say my four other children are all keeping well and attending school; my husband has just recovered from a severe illness, in fact this has been a bad year for me all round, the family money has been scarce. But I had one comfort that was to know I was keeping all right : you will understand, and I hope to continue so, to be able to give my baby all the time and attention she needs, if she is to be any good in the world."

"I have two little girls", writes a Lewisham mother, "and find quite enough to do to make ends meet without having any more. I do earnestly pray that I never have any more as times are too hard now and you cannot do your duty by them and it is cruel to bring poor little children in the world to suffer . . . Should you care to keep my letter as a vote of thanks you are entitled to do so. Wishing you every success in your work."

Frequently patients write to say how much happier they are with their husbands once the fear of an undesired pregnancy is removed, and letters like the following, from Sutton, are also received from time to time: "I used the appliance for some time, until we decided to have a baby. He is now six months old and a beautiful child. I should like to pay you another visit soon."

One of the most encouraging features of the work is the number of young wives, with two or three children, who seek advice at the Centres. They come while their standard of living is still fairly good, anxious to bring up the children they already have in reasonably satisfactory conditions instead of being driven into poverty and privation by further pregnancies. Another aspect of the work, of great significance from the point of view of the public health, is the fact that a number of medical officers of mental hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria refer patients or patients' wives on temporary or final discharge to the Centres for advice: but it is much to be regretted that the practice is not more general, for in many cases patients are allowed home from time to time on short leave, and, where no opportunity for Birth Control advice is provided, the almost inevitable result is that pregnancy occurs.

Some of the wider aspects of the work may be briefly touched upon. It is satisfactory to record that the Birth Control Investigation Committee, on which the Society is represented, is pursuing its research and is directing special attention to seeking a more satisfactory method of contraception than any at present available. The need for greater facilities for Birth Control instruction in the mining areas was urged by Lord Dawson of Penn, Lord Buckmaster, Lady Denman and other distinguished supporters of the movement, in a letter to the press, with the result that over f_{100} was contributed by readers for the furtherance of this branch of the work, the greater part of this sum being sent direct to the Rotherham Committee.

It is apparent that the movement which the Society represents is gaining an ever-increasing volume of public support. The meeting at Rotherham and Lord Dawson's letter to the press have been noted above. Other developments, though, strictly speaking, they fall outside the limits of the year under review, may appropriately be referred to in this report, particularly those which bear on our contention that the best medical advice on Birth Control should be available for all working women who desire it. A resolution to this effect was passed in October, 1929, by the National Council of Women, which has thus taken its stand beside the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Liberal Federation, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and the Labour Women's Conference. Again, the Workers' Birth Control Group was invited by the Shoreditch Borough Council to have a stall at the Health Week Exhibition in October. The Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics co-operated in the organisation of this stall, and thousands of leaflets were distributed thereat, and a number of patients have already visited the East London Centre in consequence. Lectures on Birth Control were given by doctors, on the same occasion, to married men and to married women respectively. We are indebted to the Shoreditch Borough Council for giving these facilities and thus recognising that our work is part of the Public Health campaign against disease and suffering. May we suggest to our supporters in other districts that they should urge their local authorities to follow the example of Shoreditch?

Opinion is clearly ripe for a great extension of our activities, and, given the necessary funds, it would be possible to open a Centre in every large town in Great Britain. In order to achieve this object it is essential to appoint a National Organiser, who would promote the formation of new Centres, wherever a local demand arose. The Committee cannot undertake this additional liability without increased funds. The work which has been done has been made possible by the generosity of those who believe that we are engaged in a useful and fundamental social service. Thanks to their support, we have been able to prevent an incalculable amount of misery, to bring happiness into many conjugal lives, and to safeguard the interests of children already born against the encroachments of others whose birth is unsought and whose existence would, in many cases, constitute a definite charge on the community. Nevertheless, it must be recognised that the few thousand women who have been helped through the various Centres during the past year represent an infinitesimal proportion of those who need help. There are almost limitless opportunities for work, but the activities of the Society are severely circumscribed by the smallness of the funds at its disposal. It carries on a work of the greatest public importance, but obtains no grant from any public source. Moreover, the very character of its work tends to restrict its appeal. An urgent call is therefore made on the generosity of those who realise the importance of the work that it may be continued and extended.

DONATIONS should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Harold Cox, Esq., 6, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1.

See Subscription Form and Order to Bankers facing page 18.

Society for the Provis.

Income and Expenditure Account

T	.p		,
Expenditure f s. d.			
SALARIES AND WAGES	630		
Appliances, Drugs, Etc	428	3	0
WALWORTH CENTRE EXPENSES-			
Ground Rent, Rates and Taxes 40 12 7			
Insurances 6 9 5			
Gas and Electric Light 23 7 4			
Telephone 900			
Washing 4 9 5			
Food for Teas 2 10 11			
House Repairs 9 9 7			
Miscellaneous Expenses 3 2 1			
	99	I	4
PRINTING, POSTAGE, STATIONERY AND			
Advertising	82	4	I
PRINTING ANNUAL REPORT	19		1
PROPAGANDA AND ORGANISER'S EXPENSES	17		4
NEWCASTLE CENTRE EXPENSES :	- /	'	7
Equipment and Initial Expenses 107 11 2			
Salaries, Rent and General Ex-			
penses from 1st January to			
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DEPRECIATION :		,	
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	17	16	0
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BALANCE, being Excess of Income over			
Expenditure	225	3	0

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Birth Control Clinics

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0 0 9 S. d. 9 0 00 333 I9 0 103 I8 IS 160 I2 0 I have audited the above Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Society and certify it to be in accordance therewith. 200 £1,157 20 42 Honorary Auditor. RONALD R. NASH, A.C.A. HAROLD COX, Hon. Treasurer. S. d. 0 0 0 00 0 5 178 8 17 16 0 0 LI I 0 4 332 300 800 173 Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics : : : : STOCK OF MEDICAL APPLIANCES (at : LEASEHOLD PROPERTY at East Street, : FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS • at 1st September, 1928 ASSETS Less Mortgage thereon .. Add Additions during year • £100 5%. At cost : : : : : PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE Less Depreciation : : CASH AT BANKERS ... Balance Sheet as at 31st August, 1929 Walworth CASH IN HAND cost) WAR LOAN :--AUDITOR'S REPORT. 0 £ s. d. -00 3 £1,157 - I,139 00 0 11 8 0 s. d. 9 18 8 6 0 3 914 ended 31st August, 1929 225 4 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT :-Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year : LIABILITIES Balance at 1st September, 1928 Sundry ... Subscriptions in Advance 4, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2. CREDITORS :--

12

November 8th, 1929.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROVISION OF BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS

WALWORTH WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE, 153a, East Street, Walworth Road, London, S.E.17.

TELEPHONE: RODNEY 3262. (For Hours of Attendance, etc., see page 1.)

AFFILIATED CENTRES

ABERDEEN WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE, 4, GERRARD STREET, GALLOWGATE, ABERDEEN. The Lord Forbes (Chairman), Mrs. Paton (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer). Hours of Attendance: Wednesday, 3-5 p.m.

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Hours of Attendance: Thursday, 3-4 p.m. MANCHESTER, SALFORD AND DISTRICT MOTHERS' CLINIC FOR BIRTH CONTROL, 161, GREENGATE, SALFORD. Mrs. J. L. Stocks (Chairman), Mrs. R. Burrows (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. S. Frankenburg, Certified Midwife (Hon. Secretary). Hours of Attendance: Monday, 3-5 p.m., Tuesday, 8-9.30 p.m.

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WOLVERHAMPTON WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE, 62, HEATH STREET, HEATH TOWN, WOLVERHAMPTON. Mrs. W. M. Strange (Chairman), Mrs. Bennett (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Ella Gordon (Hon. Secretary). Hours of Attendance: Wednesday, 6.30-8.30.

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The Earl of Ancaster .	IO	0	0	L.C.C 2 2	0
Anon			0	Lady Davidson 2 2	0
Anon.	IO	0	0	LtCol. Ivan Davson . 2 2	0
The Lady Aspley F. Armitage, Esq Mrs. Armitage The Lord Ashton of	3	0	0	Mrs. L. de Bunsen 2 2	0
F. Armitage, Esq	I	I	0	The Lord and Lady	~
Mrs. Armitage	2	0	0	Denman 20 0	0
The Lord Ashton of				A. H. Dingwall, Esq 10 0	0
Hyde	I	I	0	Lady Donaldson I I	0
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C.B.E	2	0	0	Donaldson I I	0
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Edwyn Barclay, Esq	2	2	0	J. A. Drexel, Esq 16 5	0
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Mrs. Alfred Bosson .	50	ó	0	Major-Gen. Sir Geoffrey	0
Major Thomas Bouch.		0	0	1 17 11 11	~
Mrs. Edgar Brassey .	ś		0	C C F F	0
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Campbell	-	~	~	Miss Maud Gibson . 25 0	0
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Carnarvon (the late)		0		Lady Cecilie Goff 6 6	0
Mrs. C. F. Chance	5	5	0	Mrs. Gooch I I	0
Sir William Chance, Bt.	3	0	0	Mrs. Gordon-Canning. 5 0	0
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G. G. Chisholm, Esq			0	The Hon. Mrs. Adrian	
Lord Ivor Churchill .	20	0	0	Grant-Duff 5 James Green, Esq 2 2	0
Mrs. Ralph Stephenson				James Green, Esq 2 2	0
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Lady Cory	3	3	0	Mr. and Mrs. Hale . 4 4	0
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Clare, Countess Cowley	5	0	0	Sir Charles Harris, G.B.E.,	
G. H. Cox, Esq	2	2	0		0
Harold Cox, Esq	IO	0	0	K.C.B I I W. H. Haslam, Esq 2 0	0
Hubert Cox, Esq	5	0	0	Mrs. Hember 5	8
Hon. Arthur Crichton.	5	0	0	R. S. Hember, Esq I I	
J. Herbert Curle, Esq	25	0	0	Mrs. A. Norman	
Sir James Currie, K.B.E.,	-			Henderson 2 2	0
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Col. George Heywood,		0	0	Pearson 5 0 0 The Hon. Mrs. Pease . 16 0
J.P	2	2	0	Mrs. Pelly 2 2 0
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Harry Hoare, Esg.,	s	0	0	Sir Philip Pilditch, Bt.,
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INCOME TAX

Important Notice

THE HON. TREASURER would particularly direct the attention of all subscribers to the fact that, as the result of a successful appeal to the Special Commissioners of Income Tax, the Society is now recognised by the Inland Revenue authorities as a charity for Income Tax purposes.

That the Society now gets exemption from Income Tax on any interest which it receives and any property which it owns is part only of the benefit which it can, if supporters will only co-operate, derive from this decision. If any subscriber is willing to bind himself by deed to make annual subscriptions for any period of more than six years and, being already a regular subscriber, is willing to raise his annual subscription without cost to himself to such a sum as is equivalent after deduction of the tax on it, to his present subscription, (e.g., with tax at 4s, in the £, a subscription of £5 can be raised to £6 5s., one of £8 to £10, one of £10 to £12 10, etc., all at the expense of the State), then both the Society and, if he is a payer of Super Tax (now called Surtax), the subscriber himself can be made to benefit in the following way :

The subscriber, having, if he is already a regular subscriber, raised his subscription to such a sum as is equivalent, after deduction of the tax on it, to his present subscription and having signed the deed, deducts the Tax from his annual subscription and retains it; the Society then reclaims this tax from the Revenue Authorities by virtue of the Income Tax exemption in favour of charities.

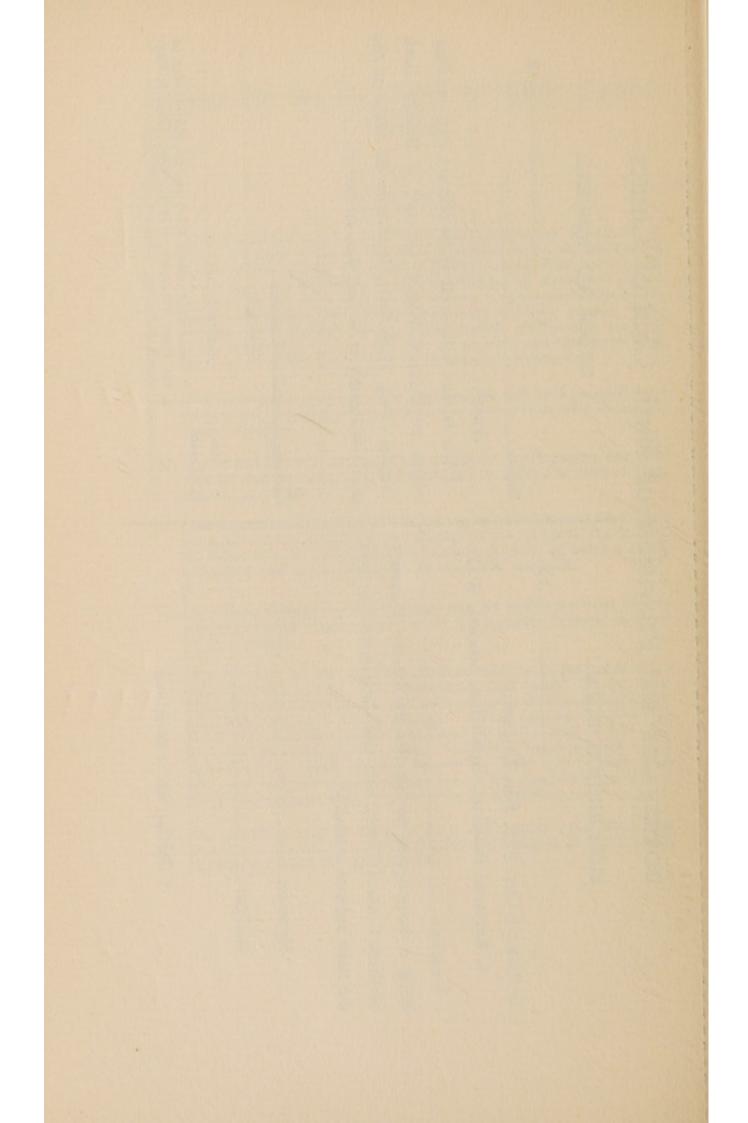
Any subscriber willing to enter into this arrangement is asked to communicate with the National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1 (leaflet enclosed), who will issue to him a deed for signature and will then, when they have received it back signed, recover the Income Tax on the Society's behalf.

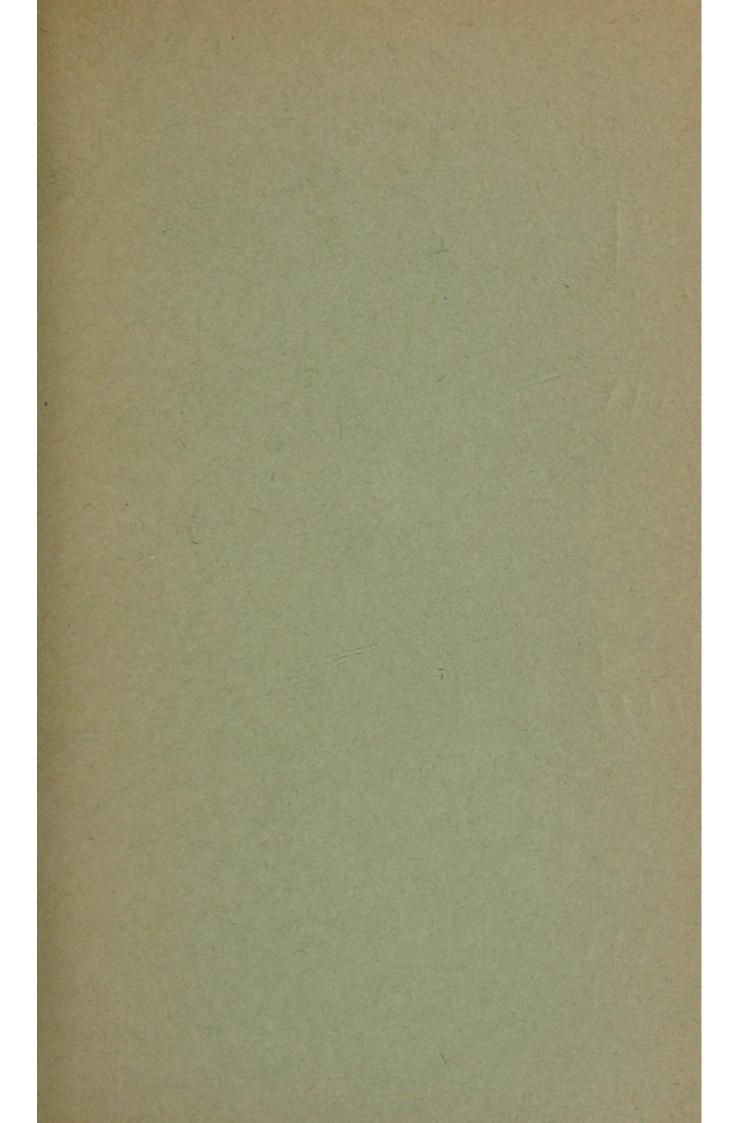
Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics

RULES

- I. The name of the Society shall be the SOCIETY FOR THE PROVISION OF BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS, and its objects shall be, in the interests of social welfare and for the relief of poverty, to establish and support clinics in which instruction in the most satisfactory method of contraception will be given to married women in poor circumstances by registered medical practitioners (preferably women), assisted when necessary by qualified nurses. The medical practitioners shall be solely responsible for the treatment of patients, and the nurses shall act only under the instructions of the medical practitioners.
- II. For these purposes the Society may acquire and hold property, real or personal, and deal with it in such way as may from time to time be found desirable.
- III. A nominal consultation fee will be charged to each patient, but both this fee and any charge for apparatus may be waived in cases of hardship.
- IV. The income and property of the Society, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society. In the event of its dissolution, any funds or property of which it stands possessed shall be applied solely to charitable purposes.
- V. Any Birth Control Society or Clinic may be affiliated to and receive grants from the Society if its objects and methods conform to those of the Society.
- VI. The conduct of the Society's business shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee. This Committee shall consist of not more than eighteen members, and shall have power to require the retirement of any member or to fill any vacancy. It shall meet not less than four times a year and the quorum at any meeting shall consist of five. The seventeen members of the existing Executive Committee shall be its first members. Each affiliated Society or Clinic may be invited to send a representative to the meetings of the Executive Committee. Such representative shall not, however, be entitled to vote.
- VII. No alteration shall be made in these rules except by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee and at a special meeting convened for this purpose.

of Birth Control Clinics	ORDER TO BANKERS.	Merrs. Merrs. Merrs. Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch Branch Please to place to the SOCIETY FOR THE PRO- VISION OF BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS, at Barclays Bank, Urinited, 68-69, Park Street, N.W.1, on the receipt of this order, and annually on the same date, the sum of string of the same date, the sum of Strake Strake Strake This Order, when filled up, should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, HAROLD COX, Eso, 6, Ray- mond Buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C.I.
Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics	SUBSCRIPTION FORM.	To HAROLD Cox, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, 6, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.I. 6, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.I. 1 elector for ξ being a Subscription to the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics, and shall be prepared to give the same amount annually.* Signature Address * Delete, if this is not desired.





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