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The Truth About Birth Control

(A Guide for Medical, Legal & Sociological Students)

By

GEORGE RYLEY SCOTT

*Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute
& College of Physiology
Philosophical Society
Zoological Society
& British Society
Study of Sex
chology*

tion comes virtue"

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“The world will turn when we are earth,
As though we had not come nor gone ;
There was no lack before our birth,
When we are gone there will be none.”

OMAR KHAYYÁM.

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With the exception of part of the chapter entitled "The Eugenic Side," originally published in *The New Age*, and to the Editor of which the Author expresses his sincere thanks for permission to reproduce, the text of this book is now printed for the first time.

PREFACE

THE aim of this book and coincidentally its *raison d'être* may be expressed in a couple of hundred words. There is, in the author's opinion, need for a work which deals dispassionately and thoroughly with the physiological, psychological and sociological aspects of contraception. At present there is in existence no such book. The tome issued by Dr. Marie Stopes, though exhaustive enough in its survey of the practical and historical aspects of contraception, is the exact reverse of dispassionate; its author has definitely and fanatically ranged herself with those who ceaselessly advocate birth control methods on humanitarian and eugenic grounds, and in common with every writer whose aim is indisputably propagandistic, Dr. Stopes allows emotion to kick out scientific analysis. With more or less point this same criticism applies

to every practical handbook that has come to my notice. In fact some at least, the work of pamphleteers, are merely glorified advertisements of contraceptive appliances, or rococo trade catalogues. Other birth control books are frankly partisan tracts; or collections of essays which succeed admirably in saying precisely nothing at much length or in evading the issue altogether.

In addition, and subordinate to the main thesis, I have set out to show (1) that the opponents of birth control may spare themselves the discomfort of getting hot under the collar at the thought of unrestricted birth control propaganda which, as will be abundantly proved, fails abysmally in its ultimate objects; (2) that the contraceptionists and Malthusians themselves might with much profit renounce their creeds for the single reason that the diseases they propose to remedy do not exist; and (3) that the only grounds on which birth control is justifiable are frankly individualistic, on which precise grounds only and to the extent indicated in the following pages I subscribe myself in its favour.

GEORGE RYLEY SCOTT.

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