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BIRTH CONTROL

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SELECTED ARTICLES ON

BIRTH CONTROL

COMPILED BY
JULIA E. JOHNSEN

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The subject of birth control is one that cannot entirely be ignored. In the last few years in particular it has found its way into the columns of popular and conservative journals alike, newspapers, platforms, conferences, conventions, investigations both social and medical, in short, in a multitude of places where formerly it could not be mentioned. So far from being a sexual problem alone, it verges upon many collateral fields of study and thought, social, economic, medical, biological, hygienic, psychological, eugenic, statistical, political, ethical and spiritual. To examine its claims by setting forth compactly, in an open forum, as it were, some of the representative and best available literature for and against, is the main aim of this handbook.

There has been no attempt to go closely into literature chiefly of interest to investigators in specialized fields. It has been thought important, however, to place opinion upon the more stabilized basis that results from the opportunity to examine opposing views side by side, in the light of dispassionate thought. It has been felt important, also, to neglect no view that might add to the stimulation of accurate thought. Such can only be gained by broad excursions and synthesis. "The friction of men's minds causes the sparks of truth to scintillate."

The handbook follows the usual plan of the Handbook Series in presenting reprints under the headings of general, affirmative, and negative, the division being relative, rather than absolute. The discussion includes a survey of the historical basis and present status of birth control, and an attempt to touch upon as many of

the leading aspects presented by it as possible. A large, selected, up-to-date, and similarly classified bibliography is included for the convenience of those who wish to carry on further reading and study. Briefs sum up some of the main contentions on both sides.

The handbook endeavors to be unbiased and impartial and thus to serve more fully the interests of all who feel the right to think and decide for themselves this very personal and broadly social question. It is hoped it will be of service to all who are perplexed by the problems presented by this movement in our social life, to those who are faced by the problem in their own homes, and to those who hold the responsibility for advising others; and that it may not be without interest to many high-minded and sincere investigators in special lines touching upon it who are working to stimulate sound thought and the emergence of clear principles on the highest plane for the guidance of our social life.

Acknowledgement is made to all whose considerate courtesy contributed to the compilation of the volume.

JULIA E. JOHNSON

May 15, 1925

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