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**Society for the Provision
of Birth Control Clinics.**

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**NORTH KENSINGTON WOMEN'S
WELFARE CENTRE**

(Advice on Birth Control),

1925-1926.

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12, Telford Road, Ladbroke Grove, London, W. 10.

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North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre.

(Advice on Birth Control).

12, Telford Road, Ladbroke Grove, W. 10.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT, 1925-1926.

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MISS L. WINGFIELD, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Nurses.

MRS. SCOTT, C.M.B. (Voluntary).

MRS. MILDRED DICKSON, C.M.B.

Secretary.

MRS. C. TAMPLIN.

Hours of Attendance:

Mondays 3—4 p.m.

Tuesdays 6.30—8 p.m.

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NORTH KENSINGTON WOMEN'S
WELFARE CENTRE,

(Advice on Birth Control.)

12, TELFORD ROAD, W. 10.

THE Second Annual Report of the North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre can justly claim that it marks a development, which, though not as rapid as we might wish, has still been sure, both in numbers and in organization. The first year of any venture is certain to be uphill work, especially when the object is of a somewhat controversial nature. It is not until the pioneer work has passed to a further stage that the result of earlier efforts can be seen. The growth of the North Kensington Centre is obvious from the increasing number of patients who come for advice, as well as from the greater number of Doctors who refer patients to the Centre for information, and the increasing amount of correspondence and inquiries about the work.

During the year, August 1st, 1925, to July 31st, 1926, the attendances at the Centre were:—

New Patients	-	403
Further Visits	-	553
Making a total of 956.		

These figures compare well with those of last year, which were,—from November, 1924, to July, 1925:—

New Patients	-	225
Further Visits	-	196
Making a total of 421.		

Old patients are the best propagandists, and as these increase, the numbers at the two weekly sessions are bound to go up. Immediate results do not always follow on propaganda; it is interesting to note that some patients visit us for the first time a whole year after hearing of the Centre.

Our patients are not confined to those living in the district, a proportion of cases come from a distance. One young woman from Wales, whose husband had been out of work for weeks

owing to the coal-stoppage, heard of the Centre while visiting relatives in London. An interesting case was that of a young woman from Dublin, brought by her mother. She was a deaf mute, had had two children with normal hearing, but was afraid to risk having another baby. Her mother recounted how she (the mother) had nearly killed herself in producing abortion, when she found, after having borne two deaf babies, that she was again pregnant. One patient came, hearing of the Centre whilst home for a short time from Canada. Another was just starting for India. One mother, living in Surrey, came, saying that her doctor had told her that on no account must she have another child, at the same time refusing to tell her how to prevent it. Many among the older women are emphatic in expressing satisfaction that such help is forthcoming, and in regrets that they could not obtain the knowledge at the beginning of their married lives. The younger ones take the idea much more for granted.

The following are some of the worst cases which we have met during the year.

- (1) Mrs. D——. Pregnancies 11; of which 4 were miscarriages, 2 children died under 6 months, 5 alive now, described as "fairly healthy."
- (2) Mrs. P——. Pregnancies 11; 4 children now alive, one is very delicate. Of the others, 2 died, owing to premature birth, and 4 of tubercular meningitis. Husband, tubercular, with pension of £3 per week.
- (3) Mrs. E——. Pregnancies 13; 10 children now living. Husband a carman, gives the wife £2 per week.

Though it will be seen that the above cases are good arguments in favour of Birth Control, we should say that it is not only in cases such as these that we consider our most useful work is done. Birth Control is essentially an effort for the prevention of evils, rather than for their cure.

Therefore it is with patients such as the following that we believe our work to be most constructive:—

- (4) Mrs. E——, aged 29. Pregnancies 7; all are living, the eldest is nearly 10. Husband, a bus conductor, gives the wife £3 per week. She came, after six months, saying how pleased she was. Her baby is a year old, and no other is on the way. She and her husband had said to each other that they could now enjoy the children.

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- (5) Mrs. S—-. Pregnancies 6; all living, and quite healthy. Husband a labourer, giving the wife £2 5s. per week.
- (6) Mrs. W—-. Pregnancies 3; all living and healthy. Husband a booking clerk, giving wife £2 10s.

During the year some of the old patients were visited. Two cases were reported in which the mother had left off using the appliance, as she wished for another child. Both were pregnant.

There have been 11 cases of failure discovered during the year. In only 3 of these the reason is unexplained; in the other 8 we have traced it to carelessness in carrying out our doctors' instructions. We do not make, and have never made, any claim to infallibility, and although we keep in touch with all contraceptive methods, and our doctors give patients the most up-to-date advice, the above instances emphasize the necessity for increased scientific research. In connection with this there have been held several conferences, both medical and lay, under the auspices of the Eugenics Society, at which were discussed the possibilities of further research. It was agreed that the experience of Birth Control Clinics will be invaluable to those doctors and other scientists who wish to pursue this study, which we hope to facilitate and encourage by carefully recording the results of our work.

We have received visits from several people interested in the work; doctors working at Welfare Centres, another shortly sailing for India, and a midwife over from New Zealand. Enquiries have been received, amongst others, from a doctor in Edinburgh, and a social worker in Japan; whilst a London doctor writes: "During the past few months I have given the address of your Clinic to nearly 20 mothers, all selected cases, and several of these have reported themselves greatly pleased with the advice and consequent loss of anxiety."

The Committee are fortunate in having retained the valuable co-operation of Dr. L. C. Butler and of Dr. L. Wingfield during the year. Also that of Mrs. Mildred Dickson, C.M.B., who attends each evening session, and of Mrs. Scott, C.M.B., who most kindly gives her services on Monday afternoons. They wish specially to thank Mrs. Lloyd, who has been Hon. Secretary since the Centre first opened. The Committee are extremely sorry that she cannot continue this work, though fortunately she is still to remain a member of Committee. They have, however, an excellent substitute in Mrs. Farrer, who is devoting a great deal of time to the work.

The Centre is supported by voluntary subscriptions, and the very small fees received from patients (1/- only is charged for advice.)

A Meeting was held in Kensington Town Hall, at which the speakers were Professor MacBride, the Rev. Herbert Gray, D.D., and Mrs. Jennie Baker. Lady Balfour of Burleigh took the chair, and many questions were asked by those interested.

A Drawing-room Meeting was held in May at Rutland House, by the kindness of Mrs. Anstruther, which was addressed by the Rev. Herbert Gray, D.D., Dr. Gladys Cox, and Mr. G. R. Mitchison, The Hon. Mrs. Dighton Pollock being in the chair.

Mrs. Tamplin has addressed a number of meetings, many of which have been arranged by branches of various Societies not officially connected with Birth Control. Much of the success of the Centre has been due to Mrs. Tamplin's keen and energetic work.

All who are interested in the work of the Centre are invited to visit 12, Telford Road, during the session (Mondays 3—4 p.m., Tuesdays 6.30—8 p.m.). The telephone number of the Hon. Sec. is Park 7046.

Medical Note.

The majority of the patients attending the Centre appreciate the necessity for carrying out carefully the instructions which they are given, and the care with which, in the majority of cases, the appliances are used and kept is remarkable.

Our object is to make the patient as safe as we can, and we can do this best by giving her an appliance which depends on her alone and not on her husband. Sometimes we find it necessary to supplement this with soluble contraceptives and special advice about the method of using the appliance. Occasionally we discover in a patient an abnormal condition previously unknown to her, which necessitates treatment, and which makes it impossible to find any appliance suitable for her to use herself. She is then referred either to her own doctor or to a hospital for treatment, and meantime we give her an appliance for her husband, but only until her local condition has improved.

At present we continue to advise the use of a syringe, because, until something much more definite is known about the length of life of the spermatozoa, we feel it our duty to

give our women this extra precaution, but no drugs are used. Further, we find that many of our patients present one or other condition which is benefitted by douching.

We get an increasing number of patients sent by other doctors for urgent medical reasons such as phthisis, heart disease, and kidney disease, and for these particularly it is essential that we make every effort to provide the most effective methods of contraception.

Patients who are supplied with an appliance are asked to return in a week's time. This second visit is of great importance. Many women are very nervous at their first attendance, and cannot assimilate the necessary directions however carefully they are taught. Certain difficulties may then be cleared up. We ask them also to report or to come back every six months, so that we can note the results of our instructions, and renew the appliance.

In some cases a very marked improvement in the general health, physical and psychological, of the women is observed; they gain in briskness and self-respect to a remarkable degree. One case in particular is remembered of a woman who had had three children, the eldest being $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old, and a recent miscarriage which had been brought on by herself. She was in a very weak and neurotic condition. She returned to us a year after we first gave her an appliance, which she had used with success, and she seemed quite a different woman, cheerful, tidy, and healthy. Many women state voluntarily that they feel better in themselves, since the constant anxiety of an unwanted pregnancy is removed.

There are similar Women's Welfare Centres at

- WALWORTH - 153a, East Street, Walworth Road, London, S.E. 17.
- EAST LONDON - 6, Burdett Road. Mile End Road, London, E. 3.
- CAMBRIDGE (Women's Welfare Association)
Fitzroy Hall, Wellington Street, Cambridge.
- WOLVERHAMPTON 105, Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton.
- MANCHESTER, SALFORD & DISTRICT (Mothers' Clinic)
161, Greengate, Salford.
- ABERDEEN - 4, Gerrard Street, Gallow Gate, Aberdeen.

Advice on Birth Control is also given at the following Clinics :

- GLASGOW (Women's Welfare and Advisory Clinic)
51, Old Govan Road, Glasgow.
- LIVERPOOL - - Secretary: Mrs. Lorna Rea,
25, Croxteth, Liverpool.

Some Books and Pamphlets on the Subject of Birth Control.

- CONTRACEPTION. Its Theory, History and Practice. By Dr. Marie Stopes. (Bale, Sons, and Danielsson). 12/6.
- THE CONTROL OF PARENTHOOD. By Prof. J. Arthur Thompson, L.L.D., Prof. Leonard Hill, M.D., F.R.S., The Very Rev. Dean Inge, C.V.O., D.D., Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., M.D., etc., etc. 6/-. (Putnam & Son, 24, Bedford Street, W.C. 2).
- THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION. By Harold Cox. (Cape). 6/-
- POPULATION. By Harold Wright. (Cambridge Economic Hand Books, 5. (Nisbet). 5/-
- SAFE MARRIAGE. By Ettie Rout. (Heinemann). 3/6.
- THE ETHICS OF BIRTH CONTROL. Report by the National Council of Public Morals. (Macmillan & Co.) 2/6.
- BIRTH CONTROL AND THE STATE. By C. P. Blacker, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Kegan Paul). 2/6.
- THE CHILDREN OF DESIRE. By E. S. Daniels, late Health Visitor to Edmonton Council. 2/-
- MEMORANDUM ON BIRTH CONTROL (Report of a Deputation to the Minister of Health, May, 1924). 6d. Published by The Workers' Birth Control Group, 31, Sidney Street, S.W. 3.
- MEDICAL VIEWS OF BIRTH CONTROL. 2d. Published as above.
- INFORMATION ON METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL AT MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. (Speech by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords, April 28th, 1926). 3d. Published by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

- Acton Women's Co-operative Guild.
Anonymous (2).
- Baines, Mrs. Cuthbert
Balfour of Burleigh, The Lady
Balfour, Mrs.
Barstow, The Hon. Lady
Bathurst, Major Arthur
Beebee, Mrs. Meyrick
Beechman, N. A., Esq.
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Buckmaster, The Hon. Owen
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Collins, Mrs. Treacher
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Corry, Miss Edith
Corry, Miss Lucy
Cottell, Mrs.
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Dana, R. W., Esq.
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- Farrer, The Hon. Mrs. L.
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- Garrett, Mrs.
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Gray, Mrs. Clayre Anstruther
- Haldane, Mrs.
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Hull, Miss Eleanor
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- MacBride, Professor
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- Ramsay, Lt.-Col. Sir John
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Ricarde-Seaver, Mrs.
Ridpath, Mrs. A.
Rieder, Madame
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Schlesinger, Mrs.
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Smith, Mrs. C. Murray
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Spring Rice, Dominick, Esq.
Spring Rice, Mrs. Margaret
Stabb, Lady
Sutherland, Lady
Swann, Mrs.
- Taylor, The Hon Mrs. Clough
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Watney, Mrs. Gerard
Wedderburn, Mrs.
Wharry, Mr. Gordon
Wilding, Mrs.
Willoughby, P., Esq.
Wolfe, Mrs.
Wright, Mrs.

**Note on the Accounts for the Year 1st Aug., 1925,
to 31st July, 1926.**

The accounts reflect the increase in the number of patients attended. The expenditure on appliances and drugs is considerably larger than in the preceding period and the Clinic receipts are nearly doubled. Fees and small donations from patients make the Clinic receipts slightly larger than the expenditure on appliances and drugs, but, in general, it is true to say that subscriptions and donations are needed and used to pay for the attendance of doctors and nurses and for the rooms in which patients are interviewed. The slight increase in the bank balance during the year does not mean that the Centre has enough money. Subscriptions and donations during the year amounted to £364 3s. 6d., or £164 10s. 0d. less than in the preceding period. There have, however, been more than twice as many attendances at the Clinic, and, although the cost of each attendance has been substantially reduced since the last period, it cannot be much further reduced, and the demand continues to increase.

The bank balance on the 1st October, 1926 (allowing for outstanding cheques) is only about £69, as against the balance of about £128 shown on the 31st July, 1926. If the Centre is to continue or to increase its work, further subscriptions and donations are urgently needed, and can be sent with the Form at the end of the Report.

2, Pump Court,
Temple, E.C. 4.
1st Oct., 1926.

G. R. MITCHISON,
Hon. Treasurer.

THE NORTH KENSINGTON WOMEN'S WELFARE CENTRE.

Summarized Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st July, 1926.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.		PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, 1st August, 1925 ...	109	6	2		By Clinic Salaries ...	212	12	10
„ Subscriptions ...	222	17	6		„ Clinic Maintenance Expenses (including Caretaker's Wages) ...	39	18	2
„ Donations ...	135	5	8		„ Drugs and Appliances ...	101	0	2
„ Clinic Receipts ...	124	17	2		„ Rent of Clinic ...	£43	11	9
					Less Rent Received ...	31	14	4
						11	17	5
					„ Rates ...	17	3	4
					„ Gas and Water ...	12	16	8
					„ Printing, Stationery, Telephone, Postages and Advertisements ...	59	8	7
					„ Sundry Expenses ...	£6	10	0
					Less Sale of Pamphlets ...	6	7	
						6	3	5
					„ Repairs to Premises ...	3	6	6
					„ Balance at Bank, 31st July, 1926 ...	127	19	5
						£592	6	6
						£592	6	6

REPORT.

I have examined the foregoing Receipts and Payments Account with the books and vouchers of The North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre, and find it to be in accordance therewith.

STAFFORD B. RUDKIN,
Chartered Accountant.
Triumph House,
Regent Street, W.1

11th October, 1926.

Please fill in one or other of the following forms.
Cheques should be made payable to The North Kensington
Women's Welfare Centre. Cheques or Banker's Orders
should be sent to G. R. Mitchison, Hon. Treasurer,
2 Pump Court, Temple, E.C. 4.

Banker's Order.

To.....Bank, Ltd.

.....Branch.

Please pay to Westminster Bank Ltd., Notting Hill
Gate Branch, for account of The North Kensington Women's
Welfare Centre to-day and each subsequent year on the
same date until further notice the sum of £ : s. d.

Signature

Address

Date.....192

Subscription or Donation.

I enclose, for the

North Kensington Women's Welfare Centre, the

sum of Annual Subscription £ : s. d.

Donation £ : s. d.

Signature

Address

Date.....192

PAMPHLET