'*Eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve the inborn qualities of a race; also with those that develop them to the utmost advantage.*'—SIR FRANCIS GALTON (1904)

The Eugenics Review

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NOTES OF THE QUARTER

THE FAMILY IN TO-DAY'S WORLD

Dr. C. P. Blacker writes:

FOR THE LAST seventeen years the Eugenics Society has been an associate member of the International Union of Family Organizations (I.U.F.O.). Almost every year conferences have been held of which two have been reported at some length in this journal.* Here is presented a further report on a conference held from July 16th to 25th, 1964, in Munich.

Ostrich-like Behaviour

In the past doubts have occurred to certain representatives of British organizations as to the worthwhileness to their parent bodies of membership of the I.U.F.O. I can only speak for the Eugenics Society on behalf of which, with Lady Lewis, I have attended several of these conferences. I think that for our Society membership is definitely worth while. My reasons are set out in this short report.

The I.U.F.O. was founded in 1947 through French initiative and is centred in Paris. For many decades France has been preoccupied by fears of de-population. These fears have been shared by French demographers some of whom used to proclaim that the general adoption of birth control would ineluctably lead to depopulation. This conviction (understandable in the light of France's peculiar demographic history) has been fortified by the uncompromising prohibitions of the Catholic Church; and it seemed to be shared by the *Conseil Général* of the I.U.F.O. To delegates of certain British member-organizations it appeared extraordinary that this Union seemed to refuse to recognize that the family suffered if the mother's health was unequal to further child-bearing and if more children were born than could be healthily and happily reared. It seemed remarkable how, at conferences of the I.U.F.O., every conceivable factor deemed adverse to the family was lengthily debated and deplored while the question of its desired size was consistently ignored. This ostrich-like behaviour resembled that of the World Health Organization which shied like a frightened pony when anyone was tactless enough to broach this divisive and potentially explosive subject.

To those who, in the dimension of the family, held that parenthood should be planned and children wanted and who, in the more rarified sphere of economics, adhered to the maxim: no death control without birth control—to these the I.U.F.O's. negative policy—seemingly a mixture of timidity and misplaced piety—suggested two possible courses of action: to resign or to hold on in the belief that the tide would turn. To representatives of the Eugenics Society, the second course commended itself;

* *World Congress on the Family.* October 1958. **50,** 3 (first decennial conference in Paris). *Population, Religion and Birth Control.* January 1960. **51,** 4 (Conference of Marriage Guidance Commission in Zurich).

and this assessment has been validated by the events of the last six years.

A Turn of the Tide

The first of these events was the decennial conference of the Union held in Paris during June 1958. The rather peculiar story was told in this REVIEW (October 1958). Repetition would be tedious. Suffice it that, on the initiative of four British member-organizations, a memorandum was prepared for submission at this conference wherein it was contended that, in Roman Catholic countries, instruction in the rhythm method might usefully be included in programmes of premarital education. This seemingly harmless proposal touched off a stormy debate of which the final outcome was a conference of the Union's Marriage Guidance Commission held the following year (1959) in Zürich. It would again be tedious to repeat what has been said in this Journal (January 1960 number).

Since 1959, conferences of the I.U.F.O. have been convened in North Africa (Algeria) and South America (Rio). In both of these areas populations are rocketing. Abortions are also prevalent and perhaps increasing. France's population, moreover, has shown no signs of declining. On the contrary, it rose from some 38·3 million in 1944 to some 46·9 in 1962 (in the year ending in mid-1962 it increased by nearly a million);* the further problem of the high fertility of Algerians in France, whose poverty caused them to respond more readily than native Frenchmen to the allowances and benefits provided for parents of large families, has taught the lesson that insufficient fertility and excessive fertility can, in a given country, co-exist side by side, each calling for different and incompatible remedies; and lastly Frenchmen have been compelled to take some notice of the population explosion in the world as a whole. So has the Roman Catholic Church.

Hence there are good reasons for supposing that the tide is turning. That it is turning in the waters and backwaters of the I.U.F.O. is suggested by events enacted at the recent Munich conference (July 1964).

Features of the Munich Conference

This was a big and fully reported gathering of over 600 participants. A list gave the names of 230 people from twenty-six countries plus some 400 from Germany; the names were also given of over seventy representatives of the Press. That the Union is extending its range outside Europe is shown by the fact that, of the above-mentioned twenty-seven represented countries, four are in Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Ivory Coast and Tunisia), seven in the Americas (Argentine, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Mexico, Venezuela and the U.S.A. from which last came thirty-one emissaries), and two in Asia (Pakistan and Thailand). It could be commented that Asia, which contains more than half the population of the world, is poorly represented. This fact (well recognized by the Union's Conseil Général) doubtless influenced the Conseil (which assembled for two days after the main conference) to hold its next-but-one meeting (1966) in India. (An invitation had been brought from India by Dr. David Mace, without whose gentle but firm influence on the Union's policy it would have been difficult to prevent the resignations of some British member-organizations.) India contributes one of the two family planning associations affiliated to the Union. The other is the British. A meeting in India should serve two important ends: it should bring more Asian countries into the Union; and it should teach some of the facts of contemporary life to those who dismiss as negligible the possible doubling of the world's population by the end of the century.

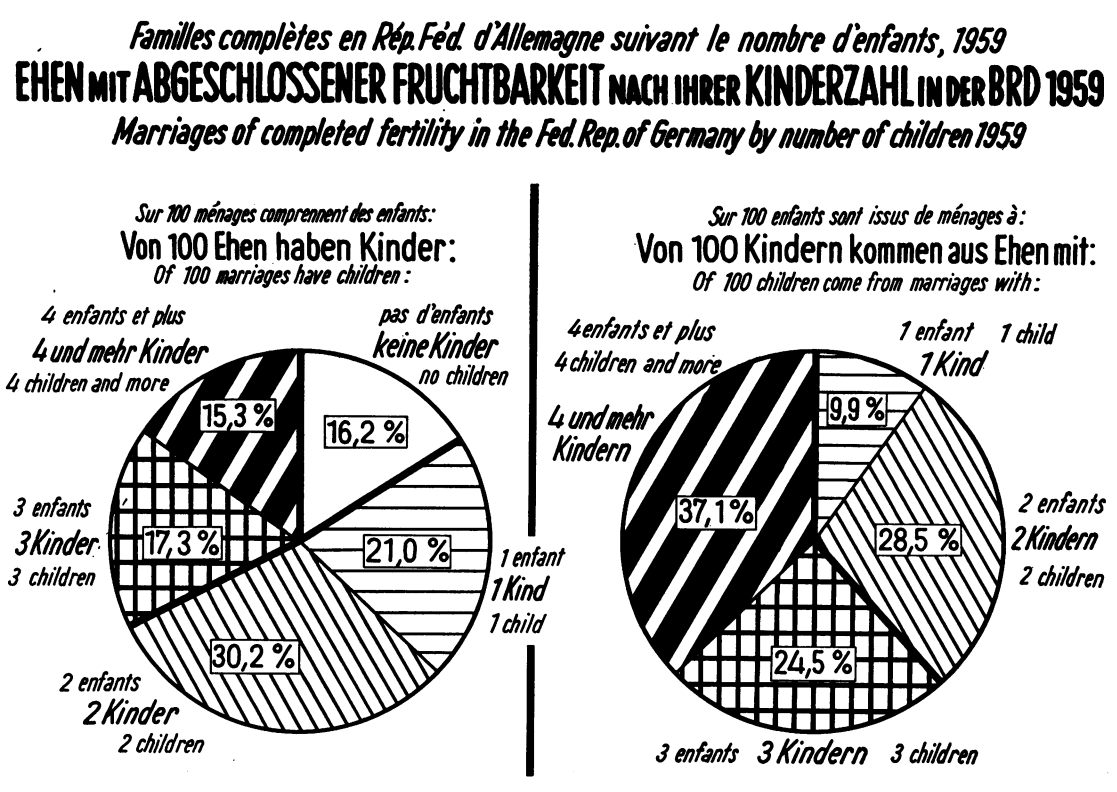
The theme of the four-day conference proper —the fifteenth held since 1947—was *La famille dans la societé d'aujourd'hui et de demain.* It was opened on the evening of Sunday, July 19th by five speakers. Among the five were Herr Franz Umstaetter, the powerfully featured grey-haired and widely respected president of the German National Committee of the I.U.F.O., and M. Lucien Guibourgé, the current president of the Union. The five speeches were intercalated between two fine musical performances by a Bavarian symphony orchestra the members of

* These figures come from the U.N.'s *Demographic Yearbook, 1962,* table 4, pp. 138-139. The population of France is discussed in the "Some Facts" Section on p. 173.

which remained in their places on the platform during the oratory. They attentively and courteously listened throughout. The conference ended on the morning of Thursday, July 23rd with a cordial address by Dr. Heinrich Lübke, the President of the Federal Republic. The six-hundred-odd delegates were in their places and all stood up when, in the middle of a massive retinue of officials, the genial and amiable Dr. Lübke strode down the central gangway to the flower-decked rostrum from which he delivered his hail-and-farewell speech.

Before the main conference—on Friday and Saturday, July 17th and 18th—was held a meeting of the Marriage Guidance Commission which, as usual, was most ably chaired by Dr. David Mace; and after the main conference a meeting took place (Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th) of the Union's *Conseil Général* (or Governing Body) which was chaired by M. Guibourgé. I was present at the three meetings of the Marriage Guidance Commission, of the Plenary Union, and of the *Conseil Général*, which were held in that order. Other delegates from this country, who were present during part of the time, were Mr. Owen Whitney (National Marriage Guidance Council: most unfortunately Mr. Joe Brayshaw was unable to attend), Mrs. Jean Medawar (Family Planning Association), Mrs. Jane Lloyd (British Committee of the I.U.F.O.), Mrs. Prudence Twiss (Mother's Union), Fathers Maurice O'Leary and Francis Handley (Catholic Marriage Advisory Council) and Mrs. Mary Weston (Union of Catholic Mothers).

That the predominantly French *Comité de Direction* (Executive Committee) of the Union is now far from oblivious of demographic considerations is indicated by their inclusion in the programme of a paper by Dr. Hermann Schubnell of Wiesbaden. This was a carefully prepared and comprehensive dissertation entitled *Demographic Evolution and Family Problems* (Die Auswirkungen der Bevölkerungsentwicklung auf die Familie) in the course of which several useful diagrams were projected. One is repro-



duced on p. 127. If a eugenist can be correctly described as someone who thinks that it matters from what sections of the present generation the next generation should be mainly recruited, then this diagram should be of interest to eugenists. It illustrates the process of differential fertility in terms of marriages of completed fertility in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1959, and in terms of children born in sibships of different sizes. On the left side are shown marriages classified by the numbers of children. There were more marriages with no children (16·2 per cent) than there were marriages with four or more children (15·3 per cent). The circle on the right shows the distribution of children by (completed) family size. The childless families (of which 16·2 per cent are shown in the left-hand circle) contribute nothing. Single children make up 9·9 per cent; those with three or more sibs make up 37 per cent. Dr. Schubnell did not comment in his lecture on how the home conditions in which the 37 per cent were reared compared with the home conditions of the other three categories. Yet here is a useful gateway into the field of eugenics to which one might refer back at future meetings of the Union.

Future Role of the Eugenics Society in the I.U.F.O.

These are among the reasons why Lady Lewis (who allows me to speak for her in this connection) and I think that it is a worthwhile policy for the Eugenics Society to continue to be represented as a member-organization of the I.U.F.O. The *Society* (and the Family Planning Association if it concurs in this view) does good by merely keeping its flag flying; and the time may be nearer than we now think when our *Society* may be able to exert something of a positive influence. I may add that this is the view taken by the representatives of the (London) Marriage Guidance Council which is organically connected (as we are not) with the I.U.F.O.'s Commission on Marriage Guidance (one of the Union's four commissions), founded through the initiative of Dr. David Mace. It is not impossible that, later, further Commissions may be established in which, when the tide is running still more strongly in our favour, the *Society* might take quite an active part. The rapid expansion of the Union throughout the world makes it a promising medium for the acceptance of eugenic ideals which are essentially compatible with all religions and creeds.

THE *HOMO HABILIS* CONTROVERSY

Mr. Don Brothwell of the British Museum (Natural History), writes:

THE STUDY OF fossil man will perhaps always be the most battle-scarred aspect of human biological studies—at least the recent controversy over *Homo habilis* would suggest so. Indeed, it would seem difficult not to become "emotional" about one's early ancestors, either as the discoverer, specialist describing new material, or in the whipping-boy capacity of specialist attempting to establish a proper perspective to discoveries. The so-called *Homo habilis* finds were discovered in the lower beds at Olduvai Gorge by a field team under the direction of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey. Details—but not a final report and analysis—of this material are mainly to be found in *Nature*, 1964, **202**, pp. 3-9, with the resulting controversy reported mainly in *Nature*, **202**, p. 732; *Discovery*, June, July and August issues; and in the daily press (which always gets something wrong).

The material is embarrassingly fragmentary and suffered at first from over-precise dating by the potassium-argon method (still in the "testing" stage). It seems reasonable, however, to accept that all the early Olduvai discoveries help to establish the presence of primitive hominids in Africa well over 1,000,000 years ago (the South African australopithecine hominids being less certainly dated).

The main trouble is concerned with the affinities of these habilis remains with the already described *Australopithecus* forms of hominid (a robust variety being also present at this site) and the more advanced *Homo erectus* (*Pithecanthropus*) form. Whatever the controversialists say, you can simply pay your money and take your pick at this stage. The habilis form may be considered another variety of *Australopithecus*; on the other hand, considering the distribution of these fragments through time (they were at different levels, and could represent well over 500,000 years of evolution), they could quite easily be closer at one end of their time range to

known australopithecines and at the other to *Homo erectus*. It is not difficult to make a case out for the fragments being *Homo* rather than *Australopithecus*, but in view of the extreme insufficiency of material, I think it would be just as easy to find similarities with "mods" and "rockers".

What have we available for such theories? Broken skull fragments, the more complete skull being immature and possibly with a brain capacity of 550-700 cc. (the usual figure of about 680 cc. gives a very false impression of the accuracy of capacity estimates on such poor material). A number of well-preserved teeth (it is always embarrassing how much is made of dental evidence in fossil man considering how little we know of dental variability and the genetics of dental formation even in populations to-day). Some post-cranial material which looks very exciting until one is deflated by the fact that there is very little comparative material for *Australopithecus* and *Homo erectus* (and we need to have information as to variability as well as general form).

As if these troubles were not enough, the problem of stone tools—who manufactured what—has been brought in as a legitimate taxonomic factor. This is most regrettable, first because it suggests that such limited site informtion is sufficient to establish an "all or nothing" decision as to tool use and complexity in early hominid groups; secondly, because it may well be making these crude stone tools into a far more important cultural factor than they need have been. Even to-day, unshaped wood, bone and stone objects might well do some of the jobs for which we meekly use elaborate patented objects provided for us! As for early hominid cultural complexity, studies on modern primate populations are beginning to indicate the probably complex nature of non-material features of group behaviour in our early hominid ancestors (degree of group co-operation, social stratification, etc.).

To sum up, and with much heart searching, it seems to me that *Homo habilis* may, more than anything else, teach us how far behind some sciences human palaeontology is, especially as regards its statistical outlook. It is to be hoped that these new East African finds will drive home to us all the need for a far more critical and precise treatment of hominid fossils in the future.

ABORTION BY VACUUM-ASPIRATION METHOD

Colonel James Campbell writes:

IN THE EUGENICS REVIEW for January 1963 (**54**, 189-90) under the heading "Induced Abortion in the U.S.S.R." mention was made of a vacuum device for producing abortion in women. This aroused considerable interest in the U.K. and a letter from America asking for further information observed that hospital abortion techniques in the U.S.A. were over fifty years old.

The device was reported to have been widely used experimentally in clinics in Russia, and Medexport, the Soviet trade agency which handles the export of medical supplies, were to supply the equipment as soon as it became available after clinical trials. Inquiries had been made at a London teaching hospital and at an instrument maker, but neither had any knowledge of this device.

A detailed report from the Byelorussian Institute for Maternal and Child Protection has now been received and brief extracts from it are as follows:

A safe, efficient and effective method of performing surgical abortion before the twelfth week of pregnancy is described.

The apparatus used consists of a suction device capable of reducing pressure to 0·5 atmospheres. This is connected to a metal tube with a lateral oval aperture which is inserted into the uterus. Seven tubes of graduated size numbered 6 to 12 make up the set. The tube selected for use depends on the duration of pregnancy. (Tube No. 6 for pregnancy of six weeks' duration, No. 7 for seven weeks' duration, and so on.)

Patients admitted for termination first undergo a thorough medical examination. The operation is carried out with full aseptic precautions and skin and vagina cleansed in the usual manner. A vaginal speculum is inserted and the cervix is grasped with Zero or Miuzo forceps and gently pulled outwards. A uterine probe inserted through the cervix determines the direction of the cavity. Local analgesia using ½ per cent

Novocain or 3 per cent Dicain is effected. The cervix is dilated with serial Hegars dilators, the last one being one size greater than the number vacuum tube to be used.

In multiparae with an under nine weeks' pregnancy dilatation is unnecessary. The vacuum tube is inserted and suction exerted so that 0·5-0·6 atmospheres is applied for 5-8 seconds with careful rotation of the tube during this period round the uterine wall and the site of attachment of the fertilized ovum ascertained. The tube is then partially withdrawn and its orifice inspected and cleared if necessary. This cycle is repeated several times until products of conception cease to appear in the jar of the suction apparatus, and the contracted uterine wall is felt with the suction tube. The duration of the procedure is 1-1½ minutes.

SERIES OF 600 CASES, NOVEMBER 1961 TO MARCH 1962

565 Multiparae 35 Primiparae

AGE	NO. OF PATIENTS
Under 20	21
21-27	248
28-35	284
Over 35	47

PREGNANT	NO. OF PATIENTS	VOL. ASPIRATED
6-8 weeks	338	40-60 ml.
9-10 ,,	214	60-90 ml.
11-12 ,,	48	80-200 ml.

COMPLICATIONS:

580 cases: None.

5 cases: Small temperature rise post-op. (Thought to be exacerbation of pre-existing chronic inflammation.)

7 cases: Uterine subinvolution.

8 cases: Repeat curettage required.

The advantages claimed for this method over conventional curettage methods are:

1 Blood loss reduced.
2 Shortened operating time.
3 Dilators unnecessary in many cases.
4 Painless operation in majority of cases.
5 Technique easily learnt by any Obstetrician/Gynaecologist.

VASOLIGATION

Mr. Reynold Boyd writes:

THE OPERATION OF vasoligation by the technique suggested by Mr. Herbert Brewer elsewhere in this issue is feasible and would be effective. It is, however, unnecessarily complicated and undesirably time-consuming. It is essential that the operation should be safe, speedy, simple and effective and, if possible, reversible.

The recommended procedure is exposure and isolation of the vas at the junction of the upper and middle thirds of its scrotal course. Careful isolation is essential, for on occasion there is an aberrant arterial supply to the testis accompanying the vas. The vas is crushed by three small artery forceps, the middle one of which is excised, removing no more than a quarter of an inch of the length of the vas. The crushed ends are then tied and left a quarter of an inch apart, connected by a strand of chromic gut. The two ends are allowed to slip back into the scrotum, and the minute incision is closed by a single suture.

I have never encountered a double vas, and my only failures, which numbered two in the last 500 cases, have been due to the employment of an overlapping technique, which makes subsequent repair easier. In all cases a microscopic test should be made on a semen specimen at the end of the month, and after there have been several ejaculations with full contraceptive precautions. I have on occasion found motile sperms in diminishing numbers up to eleven weeks after the operation, a point that should be remembered.

Provided the operation is done at the site of election and the ends have not been left too far apart, repair is reasonably successful, though I would not put the figure higher than 66 per cent. It is said that spermatogenic activities of the testes are not affected by vasoligation, but in some of my cases, repaired for a second marriage, at an interval of up to twenty years, the operation has been a technical success in that motile sperms have been found subsequently in the semen, but the density has been so low that a pregnancy has not been a possibility.

CONTRACEPTIVES: *WHICH?*

UNDER THIS HEADING we discussed, in the April 1964 number of the REVIEW (**56**, 2-3), the Consumer Association report on contraceptives, and deplored the high failure rate shown by condoms under admittedly stringent tests.

The Directors of London Rubber Industries Ltd. were much concerned at the findings published in the *Which?* supplement and their point of view is set out in a letter from one of them, which will be found in our correspondence columns (p. 178).

We are delighted to learn that London Rubber Industries was able to announce on April 9th that it had been awarded the British Standards Institution's Kite mark, and that the products sold to the British public now conform to the standards which have for some time been demanded by the export market.

OBITUARY

Hilda Frances Pocock

MISS HILDA POCOCK, who died on August 8th, 1964 in her ninety-fourth year, will probably only be known to the older Fellows and Members of the Eugenics Society, which she served as Propaganda Secretary from 1934 onwards. Before that date she had been active in speaking on eugenics at meetings of such bodies as the British Red Cross Society, Women's Institutes, the Y.W.C.A., and Women's Co-operative Guilds. As Propaganda Secretary she organized a team of speakers and prepared the *Society's* exhibit which was shown at a number of health exhibitions up and down the country; this was impressive and eye-catching and featured genealogical trees of the Terry-Gielgud connection and of the winners of the Doggett Badge, Mendelian genetics illustrated by crosses of snapdragons, rats and other material.

In 1935 the Eugenic Alliance was formed. With an annual subscription of 2s. 6d., by 1939 the Alliance had 260 members and twenty-three affiliated societies with a total membership of 1,000. Leaflets and pamphlets were prepared on such subjects as "Should cousins marry?" and these were sold or distributed at Alliance meetings and at other meetings and exhibitions. In the following year five posters were prepared for use on Empire Marketing Board hoardings and, through the Central Council for Health Education, 300 sets of posters were issued to Local Authorities and displayed in 1936.

In 1936, too, the *Society's* film *Heredity in Man* was produced in co-operation with G.B. Instructional Films Ltd., under the direction of (Sir) Julian Huxley. There followed the production of six school charts, with an accompanying handbook by Dr. C. P. Blacker. These were published for the Eugenics Society by George Philip and Son Ltd., and are still selling; indeed, they were reprinted recently.

The outbreak of war brought an end to Miss Pocock's work as Propaganda Secretary and she put all her energies into the "Homes in Canada Service" which was described in an appreciation of Dr. W. L. Hutton in THE EUGENICS REVIEW for October 1960 (**52**, 136):

> This was a generous offer of homes in Brantford, Ontario, to 250 children selected by the Eugenics Society; in addition, arrangements were made to receive fifty mothers accompanied by their own children under the age of five. Fellows and Members were notified of the scheme and within a short time applications were received on behalf of forty-one mothers and 266 children. Miss H. Pocock, as secretary to the London Committee, and Mrs. G. Collyer, then Business Secretary of the Eugenics Society, organized the difficult task of arranging for the selection and departure of three parties consisting in all of five mothers and twenty-three children during August and September 1940. Although by this time shipping accommodation had become almost impossibly difficult to obtain, it was a great disappointment to all concerned in the Service when it was found that Government regulations and restrictions in Canada were so severe that the Canadian Society could no longer carry through the scheme.

Miss Pocock's part in London was a considerable one, which can only be fully realized by those who remember the difficulties and frustrations of the war years, and who can sympathize with the strain and anxiety for the safety on the Atlantic crossing of those for whom she had arranged the passage. She continued to keep in touch with them and was involved in helping to try and solve some of the problems which inevitably arose.

Dr. C. P. Blacker writes:

To the Editor's excellent summary I have been asked to add an appreciation.

The *Society's* past might be divided into three phases of approximately equal length: the early 1910-1928 period between its foundation and the arrival of Mr. Henry Twitchin's legacy which lifted us into affluence; the middle period 1929-1945 which covered the pre-war decade and the war; and the recent post-war period 1946 till to-day. It was to the second of these periods that Miss Pocock belonged.

From Mrs. K. Hodson's summary of Miss Pocock's activities on behalf ot the *Society*, it will be seen that there prevailed during this middle period a faith in eugenics. Miss Pocock was a religious woman and she felt that eugenics was linked to both ethics and religion. I recall an early conversation with her after she had read Galton's *Inquiries* and *Hereditary Genius*. Her conclusions were somewhat as follows: The acceptance of evolution as a historical reality adds to the volume of human responsibility. It seemed to Miss Pocock that there were three aspects of this responsibility: the quantitative aspect—the idea of an optimum population was much discussed in the late twenties; the environmental (or, as some people then called it, the "euthenic") aspect which enjoined the creation of conditions of social justice such as would enable everyone to deploy their full potentialities; and the eugenic aspect; each generation should contribute a full quota of its best elements to the next. But what were the best elements? How could they be identified? And how encouraged to make their full reproductive contribution? These weighty questions involved both value-judgements and science—especially psychology and genetics of which our present knowledge was but a glimmer. Nevertheless, Miss Pocock felt that there was enough to act on. But policies should be subjected to continual scrutiny as science advanced and, with each generation, values changed.

These were the views which Miss Pocock (impressed by the arguments of Sir Francis Galton) then held.

What, she then asked, was the function of the *Society* and of herself as the *Society's* missionary? She saw the *Society* as the spear-head of a movement to readjust people's ideas of the world and of their duties in the world. In so far as concerned her own activities, its main aim, she thought, was to convince people first that evolution depended (among other things) on the operation of certain recently discovered laws of heredity of which our present knowledge was rudimentary; and, second, that it was our responsibility to use our knowledge of these laws for the benefit of future generations. How could she, the *Society's* missionary, best play her part?

She should begin, she thought, by convincing people that laws of heredity existed. Hence her movable exhibits which demonstrated simple Mendelian inheritance in plants and animals. These were simply and attractively shown on coloured charts and on wood. These exhibits packed into a massive box with which she moved about the country. She also showed charts of how certain human attributes ran in families—for example eminence on the stage, and eminence in sculling (on the Thames). But her most remarkable achievement was the preparation of an item for the *Society's* film above mentioned by the Editor. I here quote myself:*

> We can easily underestimate the powerful influence of public opinion as an instrument of negative eugenics. To illustrate what I mean, I will give a striking example. In 1934, the Brock Committee on sterilization . . . quoted in its report the most shocking family history that I know:
>
> Father born 1880; mother born 1883. The paternal grandfather was feeble-minded; two great-uncles were certified insane and a maternal uncle was epileptic. This woman has given birth to the following seventeen children:
>
> (1) Daughter: died of convulsions in infancy.
> (2) Son: died of convulsions in infancy. (These two illegitimate).
> (3) Daughter: certified Mentally Deficient. In an Institution.
> (4) Son: certified as imbecile. Died at age of 11.
> (5) Son, certified as Mentally Deficient. In an Institution.

* *Eugenics in Retrospect and Prospect.* The Galton Lecture, 1945. Pp. 31-33. Occasional Papers on Eugenics, I.

(6) Daughter: certified as imbecile.
(7) Daughter: died at 11 months.
(8) Son: certified as imbecile.
(9) Daughter: in service.
(10) Son: died in infancy.
(11) Daughter: at school, but of very low mentality.
(12) Son: at school and of average intelligence.
(13) Daughter: aged nine, has never been to school; Mentally Deficient; now in Institution.
(14) Daughter; now aged eight; never been to school; in Institution.
(15) Son: aged five, recently admitted to Institution.
(16) Daughter; aged four.
(17) Daughter; aged one.

The Report adds:

> It would be impossible to exaggerate the tragic possibilities which are still likely in this family's history. The children now in Institutions are likely to go back to their place of settlement on reaching the age of 16 years. Doubtless, all will have benefited from their stay and training in the Institutions, but it is extremely doubtful whether they will make satisfactory citizens and more likely that they will themselves produce deficient offspring.

Thus commented the Brock Committee. I went on to say:

> I have earlier mentioned the valuable work done by Miss Hilda Pocock in preparing a film on heredity. When we came to plan this enterprise, it occurred to us that the film would gain much in interest if it could show human rather than animal and plant material. We cast about for a family showing a really bad heredity, and our minds alighted on the one I have quoted. You will appreciate the delicacy of inducing a family to consent to be photographed as an example for public exhibition of what a family ought not to be. But these difficulties were skilfully surmounted by Miss Pocock, and this family appears in our film. The point, however, is this. Both parents, who had suffered much from their enormous and unwanted fertility, were aware of the burden they had placed upon the community, and declared that they were willing that the film should be taken and exhibited if it would help other people to avoid the miseries of which they had been the unwilling cause. In his spoken commentary on the film, Dr. Julian Huxley pays attribute to this family for the generous spirit they thus showed.

In her contacts with this family Miss Pocock made rewarding use of her gifts. These were those of a missionary.

Miss Pocock was a big, rather heavily built woman with a low-pitched voice and a slow deliberate speech. To her mostly unsophisticated audiences she spoke in the simplest language. A quasi-religious belief in her theme was communicated in a spirit of deep sincerity; and it readily effected persuasion. (Hence the success of her to-day queer-sounding Eugenic Alliance.) Indeed she never failed to carry her audience with her (in this resembling her sister, Lena Ashwell, a celebrated stage personality). It was then a rule of the *Society* to ask chairmen of meetings addressed by its speakers to send in reports. Of Miss Pocock's numerous meetings I used to receive glowing reports usually in terms of unqualified, sometimes enthusiastic, appreciation. Her reputation spread so that she finally received more invitations than she could accept. She had what is called the common touch. But she used it to implant novel ideas. She also had perfect sincerity and complete conviction as to the truth (or Truth: I use the word in both the quotidian and religious senses) of her message; and she had simplicity. She conveyed to the women who mostly composed her audiences that she was one of them but yet had something new to say. Eugenics, as she explained it, involved a new outlook on fundamental issues; and it appealed to their humanity, their sense of duty and to their receptiveness of new social and, indeed, religious, responsibilities.

Miss Pocock gave splendid service to the *Society* during its middle years when it had a sense of mission. I am among those who regret that, seemingly, this sense has now been lost.