

THE EUGENIC ASPECT OF CONCEPTION CONTROL.

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1. *Conception Control has hitherto had a Dysgenic Effect.*

The effect of Conception Control is profoundly important from the national standpoint, for during the last fifty years the greatest increase in the population has taken place amongst those who are least fitted to have children. In the decade 1851-61 the ratio of fertility of the upper and middle classes to that of the lowest social class was 91.2:100. From that time it has gradually decreased till during the decade 1901-11, it was 75:100. (*Decline of the Birth Rate*—M. Yule.) Statistics for the recent decade are not available owing to the War, but there is no reason to suppose the disparity is lessening, rather the reverse. Seeing that skilled and unskilled workers are all of vital importance to the community, is the above alteration in the ratio of fertility opposed to national welfare? Apparently it is. An individual unskilled worker may be as capable and intelligent as the member of any other class, but the *average* worker does not appear to be so. Wm. McDougall tells us that "seven separate researches made in different parts of England and America by independent experts using different methods of gauging intelligence and social standing and using a variety of statistical methods, concur in finding a well-marked positive correlation between superior native intelligence and superior social status." Prof. Terman finds that superior intelligence is "approximately five times as common among children of superior social status as among children of inferior social status, the proportion among the former being 24 per cent. of all and among the latter only 5 per cent of all." He further