

REBUILDING FAMILY LIFE IN THE POST WAR WORLD. Edited by Sir James Marchant, K.B.E., LL.D., F.R.S. (Odhams Press, Ltd., 2s.).

This booklet, styled "an enquiry with recommendations", contains a series of reports on the decline in population and the break-up of family life during the last fifty years. Naturally, in such a collection, there is some divergence of views, but it is possible to discern two main conclusions. Firstly, that the decline in population is the result of an increase in the practice of contraception; secondly, that widespread contraception is the outcome of the raising of educational standards, coupled with economic force of circumstance. These, in no way profound deductions, are supported by a wealth of statistical and technical evidence compiled by doctors, scientists, economists and educational experts. Nevertheless, these progressives still maintain a particularly benign attitude towards contraception. Dr. Elliot Slater writes:—" . . . on the whole it is to be welcomed, as it gives mankind a powerful weapon for the control of its own destiny" and " . . . contraception is one of the major blessings that science has won for humanity". Dr. Margaret Hadley Jackson recommends:—" . . . more efficient medical services to carry the knowledge and means of sound birth control to the unfit and overburdened are urgently needed". It is made quite clear that the "experts", far from attaching any stigma to contraception, commend it, and confronted with the alarming prospect of an "old" population can offer no solution to the problem; unless mild rebukes for "the abuse of contraception" can be considered a worthy answer.

With the exception of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland the contributors to this volume seem indifferent to the Christian ideals of Marriage and family life; the spiritual aspect of the problem is scarcely mentioned. In fact, if we are to rely on the bulk of these recommendations, we can cease to consider the future of family life; it will be, rather, a subject for reminiscence. What hope is there of effecting a reconstruction if the plans are made by those who lack the knowledge and understanding of what has been destroyed.

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THE APPROACH TO RELIGION IN THE CLUB. (Hamilton House, Bidborough Street, W.C.1.; 1s.).

This is a booklet produced for Club Leaders by the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs. It is the result of the deliberations of a group consisting of four members of the Church of England, a Jewess, a Methodist, two Congregationalists, and a Presbyterian. Some of the views expressed will, therefore, not be such as Catholics can set their seal to. The first part is introductory, and deals with the general question of the place of religion in club life. The second, "attempts to give the Club Leader some