

And Some Of The Reasons Why

(Continued from previous page)

between conscripting young people (including girls), for war and conscripting them for service of this kind which is so vital to winning the peace."

"Where Can They Live?"

WE referred the two opinions above to another family man. He agreed that they accurately described forms of social pressure which operated these days to keep the size of families down. "But there's another point," he said, "and that's the problem of housing. If you've got a large family, but not much money, and particularly if you live in the city, where on earth are you going to bring your family up? The Government, of course, is going ahead with a comprehensive housing policy, but I'd be interested to know how many of the projected State houses are designed for couples with four or more children. So far as I can see, the average State house is a small one. Speaking rather frivolously, it's the same sort of tendency as you come across when you fill up your income-tax form and find there's only enough space provided for four children. Not one of these factors—housing shortage, no domestic help, no baby-minders, high prices, prams on trams, uncertainty about the future, and so on—would by itself be likely to keep a couple from having another child—but they all add up to a pretty fair total of discouragement. They represent the social and economic pressures which combine to-day to limit the population, and it's going to take a very comprehensive and far-seeing national policy to divert that pressure into the opposite direction. Above all, its going to take education: there's still too much of a tendency to look on the mother of more than three children with a kind of pitying contempt—and to look on her husband as a beast. Still, I'm enough of an optimist to believe that we can already see signs of a changing attitude."

"The Only Remedy"

"WHAT I feel like saying to everyone is just what Hallet Abend said in his book *Ramparts of the Pacific*," said an active member of the Dominion Settlement Association. "Abend said, 'Cast your mind beyond this war altogether.'"

"Our neighbours in the Orient, including China and India, total 1073 millions. They are all increasing rapidly, India at the rate of five million a year; and India has just been promised Full Dominion Status. Can you get anyone to tell you just what Full Dominion Status is? What does it mean if it doesn't allow freedom of movement to and from the other Dominions? There ought to be enough in that to make people sit up and think."

"Well, now, say, after this war we're invited to confer with the United Nations and subscribe to the principles which those nations will undoubtedly draw up; unless we already have our minds made up about what we're going to do, those United Nations will say we're a menace to ourselves and to international affairs, and they'll take us in hand and force something on us. How can New Zealand possibly face a committee representing those over-populated, under-fed nations and still go on the way it has been going



"Immigration is the only remedy": a Chinese child in New Zealand

on? In the face of the figures we just haven't got any excuse for ourselves. Even if we suddenly jumped back to the 1880 birthrate figure (40.78 to a thousand), it wouldn't save this country. Immigration is the only remedy."

"Then take a look at the economic aspects of this business. The only thing that will keep our Social Security scheme going is a continual stream of young people who can carry the pensioners on their backs. It's not cash, or cheques, or credit or anything that will pay for such a scheme, it's Youth."

"Birth-Control to Blame"

"THE sole cause of the declining birth-rate—certainly the sole sufficient cause—is birth-control; and the sole reason for birth-control in all but a negligible number of cases is selfishness," said a farmer. "Therefore, I don't know whether to regard birth-controllers as patriots or as traitors. If they have lost faith in life and in themselves, it is better that they should disappear; and they may therefore be serving their age without knowing it. But if, as I believe myself, Nature is far wiser than we are, and can, and does make good men and women out of nearly all children who are neither pampered nor starved, most birth-controllers are parasitical humbugs. For they deceive themselves when (if?) they say that their purpose is merely to space their children. The purpose in nine cases out of 10 is to have no children at all; and many, perhaps most, of the children they do have are accidents."

A Parable

A GRANDFATHER whom we consulted said that he would give us his views in writing. He did, but what he wrote is a parable. We print it for those who can interpret it.

There was one among the God-Mockers called Smart Alec. The same went to a doctor by night and said to him: "Tell me how to love and not pay." And the doctor made answer: "Abandon poetry and take up mechanics." So he went away sorrowful, having fine instincts.

Family Planner's View

"I'd like to see families here averaging between three and four children," said a member of a Family Planning

Association. "Families should be well spaced, but I would like a line drawn at six. To have more than about six children is apt to be an undue strain on the mother's health."

"What do you consider are some of the reasons causing small families, apart of course, from the war?" we asked.

"It's hard to say off-hand. There are a lot of factors such as the shortage of domestic help, small houses and so on. I should say that a good deal is selfishness. The parents think that they would prefer a car to a third child. I should put the absence of any kind of help pretty high as a factor. No one but a mother of small children can know how one can feel, tied hand and foot hand day after day and year after year. Every other sort of worker gets an afternoon off occasionally, but most mothers of young children are physically and mentally tied for seven days a week and for 24 hours of the day."

"There is also the snobbish angle. A lot of us want too much for ourselves and for our children. People expect to get the most expensive clothes and toys and schools for their children, none of which are necessarily the best. The sooner we put across the idea that it is better for a family to have four healthy children than one over-dressed, over-fussed child with expensive toys and car the better."

Cost of a First Baby

A YOUNG married woman who said she had "tried it once and didn't like it," asked what was being done to encourage big families. "I don't think there has been a time in the last 50 years when conditions could have been quite so discouraging for the expectant mother. I have made a list of the things I was required to have to go into the home recently to have my first baby, together with one or two items of furniture I also purchased. This list does not attempt to cover everything, but does carry a mother along to a stage approximately six weeks after the baby is born. Then the real expenses start. This list will help to prove, however, that

(continued on page 16)



Serenely
Confident

Feminine beauty inspires courage and serenity, things men need so desperately these days. Morale is a woman's business now more than ever. Preserve and enhance your loveliness the MONTEREY way. Clip this advertisement and post it to the manufacturers who will send you your personal Cosmetic Blend Chart from which Monterey can discover the correct powder, rouge, and lipstick for YOUR particular make-up. This service is absolutely free. Send today.

N.Z.L.J. 43

Monterey
PERSONALIZED
Make-up

Wilfrid Owen Ltd., Manufacturers, Christchurch.

JOHNSON'S RADIO COLLEGE
(Now under management of McKenzie's Engineering Academy)

Qualify for your Radio Serviceman's Exam. or Commercial Radio Operator's Exam. by Johnson's up to date Correspondence Course. Success guaranteed. Pay as you learn. Write or call for full particulars.

23 Aitken Street :: Wellington

after the first  of
WINCARNIS
QUICK ACTION TONIC
you will feel better