



The editors will be glad to publish brief letters from readers relative to topics discussed by contributors, or to any view expressed in these FORUM columns

Too True!

Lest we forget it, the editor of "Current Literature" sends a reminder on one last painful detail.

Editor of THE FORUM:

Do you mind telling "The Pedestrian" that one thing, — and one thing only, — was forgotten in the Chamber of Horrors in the May FORUM? As you open the door of the "hen house" the coat hangers begin to fall down. If you are unwary enough to bend, one hits you on the head.

MABEL A. BESSEY

Brooklyn, N. Y.

what he said. But I did take the matter to heart. Since then I have always tried to let some one else get the benefit of any purchase I have made. At present I feel I am aiding the man who puts in long hours to make a living for his little family. And I hope you will believe me when I say that as long as my FORUM keeps me in food, I shall buy it; when I can not afford to do so, I shall ask some benevolent person to let me have his copy.

I get my copy from the newsdealer on the northwest corner of 59th Street and Columbus Avenue. He has my copy ready when I am twenty-five feet away.

FLORENCE MEAD

New York City

Standing up for News Stands

By a reader who gets her FORUM from a far-sighted newsdealer.

Editor of THE FORUM:

Several times I have received cards from your subscription department, offering me THE FORUM at reduced rates, and I am writing this to let you know why I have never taken advantage of the chance.

I have bought, read, and gobbled every item in THE FORUM for the last two years, and it has taken the place of the neglected education of one who realizes too late the time that has been wasted.

I possess what you perhaps will call a crazy idea, but it is a code acquired by watching the postman with an immense load of magazines, an umbrella, and a miniature cyclone combined. After a long lapse of time I got his view of the matter: being a lady by birth, I will not repeat

Heartily in Sympathy

Dr. Garrett agrees with the Imperial Wizard about Catholic marriage laws.

Editor of THE FORUM:

Not until I read the article in the May number of THE FORUM entitled "For New Marriage Laws", by Hiram Wesley Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, did I know that the Catholic Church artfully forestalled the religious training of unborn children in all Catholic and semi-Catholic marriages.

The writer is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan nor has he ever been a member, but he is heartily in sympathy with the views expressed by the Imperial Wizard in regard to a change in the marriage ceremonies of the Catholic Church.

Protestants, it seems to the writer, should either quit absolutely marrying

into Catholic families; or their inherent rights to bring their children up under any religious system that they might prefer, giving their children, also, the liberty to choose for themselves whenever they reach the age of responsibility, should be freely allowed without any marriage obligation to the contrary whatever.

Such an obligation as is required by Catholic marriages does not partake of the spirit of religious freedom of which the United States of America boasts. Neither does it appeal to the writer as being just and fair to other religious denominations and organizations. How such a system or practice of predestining the religious faith or teachings of unborn children became entwined with the principles of our free and liberty loving people the writer is not able to understand.

ALEXANDER S. GARRETT

Weatherford, Tex.

Back to Dentistry

On the other hand, this contributor urges that Dr. Evans should have stayed a dentist.
Editor of THE FORUM:

In controversy doesn't one logically look for and expect sound argument rather than literary innuendo? The article we refer to is Hiram Wesley Evans's "For New Marriage Laws" in the May FORUM. Masquerading under the guise of true Americanism, it violates the very principle for which Americanism stands,—the principle of fair play, of fair-mindedness.

It is rather amusing to read a Klansman's flighty paragraphs on Americanism and the Constitution, and even more amusing when this dithyramb of patriotism consists almost entirely in attacking the Roman Catholic Church. Perhaps it has never occurred to His Excellency, the Imperial Wizard, that fundamentally the Klan is at variance with this Constitution, because it espouses methods that are in direct opposition to the Constitution. Court records and newspaper files will attest the frequency with which this noble group has taken the law into its own hands. Violence? Perhaps that is too strong, too harsh a word for Mr. Evans's liking. The Klan made no bones about the fact that (openly at first, but now with more politic secrecy) it is anti-Catholic, anti-Negro, and anti-Jewish in its aims.

But this is preliminary, and we pass over the contradiction of the Klan's crusading for something it opposes in principle, to a consideration of the article proper.

Running through the entire plea "For New Marriage Laws" is the reiterated and groundless charge that the Catholic Church claims for itself a monopoly on salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth, nothing could be nearer absurdity. If Mr. Evans will recall, the Church has never in the two thousand years of her existence condemned any one to perdition (as he claims). Neither has the Church ever claimed a monopoly on heaven, nor has it taught at any time that the celestial regions are closed to all but its adherents.

If the Imperial Wizard had been astute enough to consult statistics he would be amazed, no doubt, to discover that the majority of Catholics in this country are not "alien"; and if he knew anything about the creed he attacks, he would not err by saying that the "Romanist" clergy instils into its people that it alone can make a marriage holy. It maintains rather that it alone can administer marriage as a sacrament, which is quite a different thing. Mr. Evans may likewise be relieved to know that this obnoxious, scheming religion does *not* declare all Protestant marriages null and void, nor the issue of such marriages illegitimates. No proof of such a sweeping assertion can anywhere be found.

We understand that Mr. Evans was formerly a dentist, and it would seem after ploughing through this article that he is more at home with his drills, picks, and tooth-fillings than he is with the pen. His article is about as controversially useful as a set of false teeth are to a week old infant. Shoemaker, stick to your last!

WILLIAM A. KINNEY

Newark, N. J.

For the benefit of readers who have followed the discussions of the Mexican situation in the April and June issues of THE FORUM, we call attention to a very able summary of the controversy published May 21, 1927 by the Information Service of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Those who desire to obtain this pamphlet for reference may do so by writing to the Council at 105 East 22nd Street, New York City.

The Radio Announcer

Valued servant, he knows howski
People should pronounce Tchaikowsky,
Ponders deeply, forehead moppin',
On some words to say of Chopin,
Or explains to us the theme
Of the lovely *La Bohème*.
Though he may miss out on *Thais*
His dispatch deserves our praise.

PARKE CUMMINGS

Westport, Conn.

A Chinese Christianity

The Reverend John Allan Blair of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, unlike Dr. Hu Shih, whose article "China and Christianity" appeared in the July FORUM, feels that China will never reject Christianity.

Editor of THE FORUM:

It seems to me that judgment upon such a matter as the continuance of Christian Missions in China, at least so far as regards those of us who are not thoroughly familiar with the Chinese situation, must be tentative. But I also feel that we may be assured that China will not reject Christianity. I base my opinion upon two facts.

First: In spite of the rather hazy notion that our churches in China have been chiefly concerned with maintaining their institutional rights and denominational differences, a real Christianity has been developed. This Christianity is Chinese. It has been very patient with what has occasionally revealed itself as a "narrow sectarianism". For some time before the War, China's Christianity had reached the point of protest which had expressed itself forcibly as unwilling to take over the religious dissensions of the West. It has also desired autonomy. The wiser among our missionaries have welcomed this development.

Years ago the Presbyterian standards for China were a self-governing, a self-supporting, and a self-propagating church. The native leaders in the churches in China thoroughly understand this. They have been building accordingly.

In my judgment, therefore, a Christian church which will meet the needs of the Chinese tradition and psychology is safely established.

There is no fact drawn from history which leads me to believe that any kind of persecution can destroy a genuinely religious faith.

Another fact strengthens my conviction: Many of the real leaders of the modern China are Christian. It is not likely that they will permit their hopes and ideals to be destroyed. I am led to believe that Chiang will ultimately rid the country of the extreme forms of Bolshevism.

Second: The other reason for my hope is drawn from the history of persecution in the early stages of the Christian church. Terrible and destructive as such persecutions were, their results were favorable to the continuance of the Christian faith. On the one hand all insincere and weak followers were eliminated, together with the superficial forms of relationship inseparable from making a religion popular. On the other hand the true Christians were established more firmly than ever. "Refined as by fire," the Christian religion gained new strength from persecution.

In China to-day the same process may be going on. The destruction of property and abolition of foreign rights will, unquestionably, force out of our Christian enterprise everything but the essential realities.

The Chinese Christian church which will emerge will be entirely independent, a thing devoutly to be hoped for. Those who come through the fire will be the seed of the new order.

JOHN ALLAN BLAIR

Philadelphia, Pa.

Doing Well by Wesleyan

From Wesleyan University come these kind words.

Editor of THE FORUM:

THE FORUM, which we have secured through our college library, has been of invaluable help to us in our previous intercollegiate debates. So much so that to-day we stand at the head of the Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League which is composed of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Brown, University of Pennsylvania, Amherst, Williams, and Wesleyan.

PERCY M. PHELPS

Middletown, Conn.

The Rebuttal

Doctor East assails Doctor Sutherland.

Editor of THE FORUM:

The article of Dr. Sutherland against birth control in the June FORUM is rather difficult to comment upon because he shows such a woful lack of familiarity with the biological, medical, and demographical evidence with which he presumes to deal. Moreover, I am disappointed. No one is more interested in finding critical evidence against birth control than myself, for I want to be advised of *all* the facts. And I found nothing but the time worn fallacies that have been answered again and again.

"As an unnatural act," contraception "is in the same category as murder", is it? Then every time the worthy doctor feeds an "unnatural" pill to a patient, he places himself in the same group.

All known methods of contraception are unphysiological and harmful, are they? If it were not against the paternal laws of our post-office authorities, I could give our author information which as a physician he seems sadly to need. It presumably violates no section of the Penal Code, however, for me to advise him to write to Dr. R. L. Dickinson of New York, one of America's foremost gynecologists, who will send him a long list of confrères who do not believe that proper contraceptive measures are harmful. And I myself can inform him that as a member of the Program Committee for the First International Congress on Population Problems to be held this summer in Geneva, I made a list of fifteen of the most distinguished physicians in England, hoping to find an "anti" to present that side of the case; but without success. Erudite "antis" are extinct.

No evidence "that birth prevention benefits such children as may be born"? I prescribe as a course of reading for the next six months, the papers of Dr. Ewart, a distinguished fellow Scotchman, the papers of Dr. H. H. Hibbs, whose studies were made for the Sage Foundation, the memoirs issued by the U. S. Children's Bureau. At the end of that time, I will agree to supply a bibliography of 100 titles against the doctor's position from German sources.

The remainder of Dr. Sutherland's paper is so patently unsound that it would be no compliment to the intelligence of THE FORUM's readers to say anything in rebuttal. I can only hope that all of them will get as much amusement out of it as scientific students of the population problem undoubtedly will.

E. M. EAST

Boston, Mass.

Pretty Involved!

We quote from Russel Crouse in the "New York Evening Post":

"My dear," said the woman who doesn't retain very well, "you simply must read that story in THE FORUM by Mrs. Charlie Chaplin Catt."

No Sech Animal

The former Secretary of the Republican National Committee discusses the third term question.

Editor of THE FORUM:

What is the issue? A "third term"? An "eight year term"? Not at all. We all recall the remark of the bucolic "Rube" who saw a giraffe for the first time: "There ain't no sech animal."

I can only say: There is no such issue. There never was such an issue. There will be no such issue in the campaign of 1928.

The fact is, the third term shibboleth was practically unborn until a century after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, that is in 1880, and even then the so called issue was purely a bogus one, one manufactured for the occasion, to meet an emergency arising in our political history as a nation.

There are many voters still living who recall the bitter battle waged to prevent the reelection, in 1872, of Ulysses S. Grant, born of the desire to get rid of one who though a great military chieftain, had proved to be rather a failure as a Civil Administrator. In fact, a large number of Republican statesmen brought into being a new party, in order to prevent the continuance in power of the Grant régime. The battle of 1880 was fought for precisely the same reason, and with the same object in view. The third term cry then resorted to was only a subterfuge,

merely a newly forged weapon with which to prevent the return to power of the Conkling-Cameron-Logan-Chandler dynasty.

There never was a more undemocratic proposition advanced than that of the anti-third-term propagandists. It is a suggestion that the American people should be hampered and shackled, to such a degree that they can not select a man of their choice to hold the helm of the Ship of State for a period of years, whether four, eight, or twelve, it matters not. A suggestion that such a barrier be raised is an insult to the American electorate.

As I have said before, the third term question is not an issue now, nor will it be next year.

FRANK WILLING LEACH

Tuckerton, N. J.

Mexico from the Inside

Mexico and oil in Mexico have been recently and hotly debated subjects in THE FORUM. In April appeared the debate "Who Owns Mexico's Oil?" This was followed by Rear-Admiral William Ledyard Rodgers's article "Can Mexico Maintain Its Isolation?" in the June number. We quote here from a letter shedding new light on the inside Mexican point of view, written recently by Mr. Samuel G. Inman, a member of the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. It appeared in the "Federal Council Bulletin".

"Our differences with the United States could be arranged a great deal more easily than the public realizes. All we need is just the smallest amount of goodwill." So said the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, Señor Aaron Saenz, at the conclusion of a recent three hour conversation.

That represents the impressions I received in a week spent in intimate conversation with the highest officials of the Mexican Government during the middle of March. Over and over again I found the most earnest protest against the idea that the Government is desirous of committing injustice toward foreigners, as well as an appeal for a resort to reason and conference in settling differences between the two governments.

President Calles insists that the business interests in the United States that

oppose the new social aspirations of Mexico are their own worst enemy.

"Take only one item. There are, let us say, 4,000,000 people out of the 15,000,000 population of Mexico who wear shoes. If we educate the lower classes they, too, will begin to wear shoes. At once you have a new market for 11,000,000 pairs of shoes! Why can't we cooperate and get mutual benefit from this program?

"I think that you understand that the ideal of my government is to lift the mass of people out of their poverty and ignorance; to teach them to live better; to provide them with schools; to raise them to a higher stage of civilization. No doubt, if instead of carrying out this program I should turn to the easy task of continuing the work of General Diaz, patronizing only the very rich, despising the common people, shooting down the laborers, maintaining newspapers to sing my praises, I would soon obtain the false titles of pacifier of the country, restorer of the nation. But I prefer to remain without these in order to perform a profound task for humanity, although in exchange my government is slandered with the nickname of Bolshevik.

"We are really building a new Mexico. As it is so different from the old, a good deal of eradication is necessary. In this, however, we do not wish to be unjust to any vested interests. When there seems to be any such injustice we want to adjudicate the matter carefully. We have not confiscated legally acquired property nor are we passing retroactive legislation. When it seems that government action causes injustice, we are ready to consider any reasonable adjustment."

"We not only desire the friendship of the United States, but recognize that it is essential to us," said the Foreign Minister, Señor Saenz. "In the matter of the petroleum, which is the most important point in dispute between the two governments, do you suppose we want to keep our supply beneath the ground for the next half century? No, indeed; we need it now, and we need the Americans' help to get it out. For that reason, we are willing to go a long way in the practical application of the new laws. But we can not renounce the right of Mexico to return petroleum to the category it occupied previous to the Diaz Administration,

as belonging, along with all other subsoil products, to the nation."

SAMUEL G. INMAN

New York City

A Magnificent Poet

Translations of Paul Claudel's prize poem (published in the June FORUM) are pouring in from all over the country every day. And among them we received this tribute to the French Ambassador from Professor Spiers of Columbia University.

Editor of THE FORUM:

Poets, like rose-trees, are of two classes: rootgrown or grafted. Claudel is of the former class; he produces poems because poetry is the expression of great, native forces within him. He is the most significant example in contemporary France of one of the varieties of anti-intellectualist literature. A surprising zest for life and an imagination seeking for spiritual contacts between all things that are, whether in this world or beyond it, have found in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church a congenial discipline and a healthy stimulation. You may not like this particular variety (many readers and critics, both in France and out, certainly do not); but if you know poetry, or roses, you must admit that Claudel's verse is a sound, rich, and magnificently developed product of the literary garden of our day.

A. G. H. SPIERS

New York City

Unthinkable

Editor of THE FORUM:

It is unthinkable that a man of the ability necessary to fill your position should allow the thesis, on page 856 of the June FORUM, "The Pathology of Race Prejudice," by one Edward Franklin Frazier, room or space between its covers. It is wholly untrue, outrageous in its insinuations, insulting to every white man and woman of the South. Numbers of people are canceling their subscriptions because of it. I am astonished that any thinking man of to-day should dare print or permit to be printed, under his supervision, anything so utterly false and so calculated to do harm where knowledge of the White and Negro race in the South, is gained through reading.

I am not to-day canceling my subscription, because I truly enjoy THE FORUM, with this very startling exception. I may do so later.

I regret the publishing of this article more than I can say, and the implied insult to the white people of the South, — many of whom were born and reared in the North. They too have become "insane".

MRS. WALTER HOGG

Dallas, Tex.

Meeting the Objections

The Reverend O. F. Alvord, of the Rocky Mount Universalist Church, attacks the problems brought up by the economist in Stuart Chase's article "Short-Circuiting War" in the May FORUM.

Editor of THE FORUM:

I have long "mulled" on some such plan as that in "Short-Circuiting War" in the May FORUM. It seems to me that two of the objections of the economist could be met in the following manner. First, as to the shock to the economic structure. In addition to Mr. Chase's suggestion of careful planning, why not regular yearly training for the whole nation for a fortnight, as well as for a few young men in training camps? The plan carefully worked out and the nation trained to it would prevent the disaster the economist foresaw, just as the fire-drill in schools prevents a panic when the fire comes.

Second, in regard to inflation by selling Liberty bonds. The chief weakness, to my way of thinking, of the business man's plan lies in the statement: "There must be no conscription of capital." Why not? He says it is "un-American". Why "un-American" more than conscription of boys? I have two boys who in all human probability will be conscripted if our country is in a serious war in the next decade. The bank where I do business charges me \$1.00 for a ten day loan of \$20.00. If Uncle Sam can compel me to loan him my boys for a time at soldier's pay, why can not he compel my banker friend to loan his dollars at the interest rate of a Liberty bond? And the absurdity of the business man's shying at conscription of capital is seen when it is recalled that the Government takes the danger of

my banker friend's losing his dollars. Thus, when financial resources and man power are alike at the disposal of the Government, why the danger of inflation?

O. F. ALVORD

Rocky Mount, N. C.

A Good Answer

Mr. Van Loon expresses himself on birth control.

Editor of THE FORUM:

Whenever I hear people speak about the "true nature of marriage" (as I invariably do when the men of the Church begin to discuss birth control) I am reminded of a certain passage in Heine's *Harzreise* where the good Christian has been holding forth upon some dark points of dogma and where the Rabbi looks up from his corner and asks, "Have you got that black on white?" For I really do not know what they mean when they use the "true nature of marriage" as an argument against those who differ with them in opinion.

To tell you the truth I carefully avoid discussing the subject with avowed Christians. They get their ammunition from certain ancient books written by a Jewish-Roman-Christian preacher called Paul, and I prefer not to enter into a debate with a worthy evangelist whose contempt for the wedded state of life was expressed in the inexpressibly vulgar announcement that it was better to marry than to burn.

What is always offered us as the truly Christian conception of marriage is to me something so utterly oriental in its foul sensuality, in its total lack of respect for the rights of women, that I keep away from it as carefully as I can.

My ideas about birth control are therefore very simple. I would never force it upon people who do not believe in it. I can not possibly understand why those who do not believe in it should try to force their opinion upon those who do believe in it. I would leave the decision to the individual man and woman just as I would leave them free to choose the sort of food they would eat for breakfast, the sort of house they would like to live in, the sort of life they would generally prefer to live.

For the rest I see very little use in a debate. As soon as women are elevated from the rank to which the Church Fathers had condemned them, cease to be

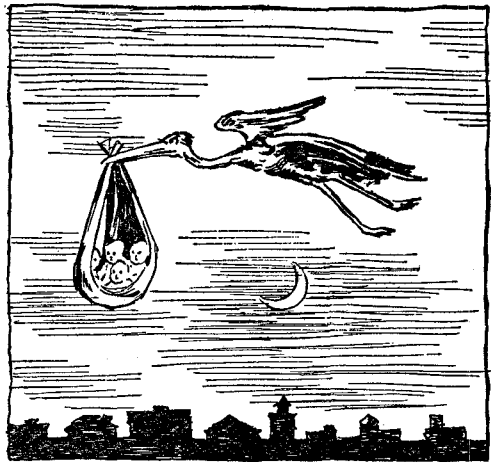
mere house-slaves, ambulating possessions of their lords and masters, the omnipotent husbands, they will almost automatically insist upon restricting the number of their offspring. I speak of this matter with some feeling. I have been in maternity hospitals.

The idea that a man should condemn women to an unwilling visit to these delectable halls of torture because fifteen hundred years ago a few hysterical Syrians and Africans and other unwholesome Sadists had written eloquent rhapsodies against all the pleasures of the flesh from which they had most cowardly fled, that idea makes me feel too much like personal physical violence to harbor it more than once every other month. I hear their answer "continence".

They had better go and have that out with God. I did not create this world.

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

Westport, Conn.



From a drawing by Nate Collier (Courtesy of "Collier's")

The stork: "That Mrs. Jones, the birth control advocate, thinks she's so smart! I'll show her!"

To Margaret Sanger

When THE FORUM comes out for this birth control stuff,

Is "control" what you mean when you vaunt it?

To prevent sons and daughters is hardly enough:

Can you get either one when you want it?

If so, then gosh dang 'er,
God bless Mrs. Sanger!

New York City

ACE

The Dean Lampoons

The Dean of St John's Cathedral in New York, like the Gloomy Dean of St Paul's in London, has his lighter satirical moods.

MODERNISM

They reared the tower of their mirthless pride
Where the smooth sands stretch level toward the
sea,

And having rid the world of mystery,
Complacent, watched the ebbing of the tide.

But the moon laughed, and bade the tide obey;
And the wind waked from sleep and put on strength:
And where the fallen tower boasts its length
A child seeks blocks to help him in his play.

HOWARD CHANDLER ROBBINS

New York City

Not So Bad

To Mr. Ehrhorn, former Secretary of the National Republican Club, Ellis Island is not so drear as it seemed to Mr. Harrington.

Editor of THE FORUM:

The March and April numbers of THE FORUM have made their way into the hearts and consciences of their readers, and Mr. Harrington's indictment of Ellis Island has been read and the unfortunate defendant found "guilty" without the benefit of counsel. Ever an interested student of migration, both "emi" and "immi", I read the articles with varying emotions of dissent and assent.

Having read the title, which itself was an attack, "Ellis Island Exposed," I read the article; and its tone and the attitude of the writer was such that I wondered, "Are these things so?" Had I been all this time carrying a wrong impression of the mechanism of the Island or had the service deteriorated in the last few years since my last visit, to the deplorable state depicted. To think was to act, and though busy with my judicial and administrative duties, I arranged with Mrs. Ehrhorn to visit in a few days this Isle of the Bay. Through the courtesy of Commissioner Day and under the escort of his able secretary, Mr. Bramwell (who had previously conducted Mr. Harrington on a similar tour of inspection which provided the ammunition for the attack), we were freely shown everything. No obstacles were placed in our way to penetrate anywhere and everywhere. And what did we find?

Aliens that are brought to Ellis Island for primary inspection are given a thorough medical examination in well equipped medical quarters, the women being examined by women doctors. After the medical examination, the aliens appear before the primary inspectors and if discharged, proceed at once to the ferryboat taking them to New York or to the railroad terminal from which they start the journey to their desired destination.

The aliens that are to be detained, — either temporarily or permanently, — to go before a board of special inquiry, or to await deportation, are housed during the day in a large, well ventilated, well lighted, and comfortable detention room. The dining room, too, is a light and well ventilated room, the floor is cleaned after each meal and the tables and chairs are periodically scrubbed. Paper table-cloths are used and after each meal are destroyed.

The very young children of the detained aliens are cared for during the day in a nursery which is in charge of a competent and trained attendant. The older children up to sixteen years of age each day are taken to the kindergarten or out on the recreation lawn, where they are taught games and the rudiments of English. In the evening, for the original entry aliens, a concert is held weekly as well as a moving picture exhibition. Religious exercises for the respective creeds are held on Sunday.

At night the men are housed in a well ventilated and cleanly dormitory. The dormitory for women and children is equally clean and airy. Upon retiring, each alien is provided with a clean towel and a piece of soap. Well appointed shower baths are provided for the men and tubs for the women. The bed linen, mattresses, and the blankets are kept in a cleanly condition. Each bed is equipped with a wire spring and a mattress. The bed linen is changed periodically, and no alien has to use linen which has been used by another. In short, every care and every attention consistent with the law and regulations is given the alien, and everything possible is done to relieve the hardship and tedium of his detention.

As Americans we need not be ashamed of Ellis Island.

OSCAR W. EHRRHORN

New York City

That Tempting Third Term

Following Mr. John Carter's open letter to President Coolidge in the June FORUM and a symposium of opinions from the press in July, we now publish, together with the debate, "Shall We Break the Third Term Tradition?" in this issue, some private opinions from our readers. By far the greater number of them are in favor of the third term.

YES

In regard to the question of a third term for President Coolidge, dealing with the situation as I see it, my sympathies are with his nomination and election.

LOUIS H. GOULD
(Huey & Gould, Realtors)

Wichita Falls, Tex.

If Calvin Coolidge is renominated in 1928 and is elected and serves his full term, he will have been chief executive nine years and five months. Personally, I am not in favor of limiting him to five years and five months for fear that he might serve one year and five months longer than the traditional eight years. From the light before us now, I am heartily in favor of the renomination and reelection of Calvin Coolidge to succeed himself.

T. P. LEE

Houston, Tex.

It seems to me that the assurance of a continuation of the Coolidge Administration for another four years would be beneficial to the civic and commercial life of the entire nation, and would give to all of us the assurance that our affairs would continue to be in the hands of a man who had demonstrated an unusual capacity and who had now accumulated a ripe experience that would be helpful throughout another four years.

WILLIAM M. BROWNBACK

Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Mr. Coolidge has been elected only once as President, and is therefore justly entitled to another term if he so desire, and the people want him. And I think they do.

D. W. ULFORD

Brunswick, Ga.

It is my opinion, as a plain Republican and private citizen, that the Republicans of West Virginia have confidence in and respect for President Coolidge, and that they are awaiting the opportunity of showing in no unmistakable manner this continued confidence and respect. They believe that the President has arrived at the stage of excellent maturity, and that he is physically and mentally able to carry on for another term. I believe that they are not reacting foolishly to the "third term" idea.

JULIAN G. HEARNE

(President, West Virginia American Mausoleum Company)
Wheeling, W. Va.

It seems unlikely that many people who approve the Coolidge policies and would like a continuation of them would deliberately vote against him

merely because he was a candidate for a third term. If there is anything in popular government why not let the people decide the third term issue themselves in the only practical way that they can decide it?

ANDREW C. IMBRIE

New York City

I have talked with many farmers, many business men and working people of all classes, and each is impressed with the modesty, sincerity, honesty, and good sense of the entire Coolidge family and is for them. Personally, I shall be glad to support President Coolidge if he is a candidate for reelection and his nomination will not figure with me as being a third term at all.

J. H. STEWART

(Member, Republican State Committee)

Wichita, Kan.

I am not opposed to the third term.

JAMES A. PATTEN

Chicago, Ill.

NO

Why should a president that has been so inconspicuous and that is so slightly esteemed by some of his fellow denominationalists, who know him as the majority of the voters do not know him, seek or desire another presidential term? Furthermore, why does he now withhold an avowal of his purpose, in view of the insistent demand for a declaration by him?

MILTON NEWBERRY FRANTZ

Collegeville, Pa.

Two terms of four years each are all sufficient for any executive in this country of ours. That length of time is an abundance for a good and capable official and all too long for the average one.

ALEX. J. GROESBECK

Detroit, Mich.

The tradition against a third term which has been respected by every President is fundamentally American. To break this will set a precedent which may involve the most dangerous consequences.

HERMAN L. EKERN

Madison, Wis.

I would not be irritated at his renomination, but I would consider it rather unfortunate that the tradition in reference to the third term would be violated.

G. G. LUTHY

Peoria, Ill.

Losing Control Over Birth Control

Last month we published two symposiums on FORUM debates: one on Religion in the Schools, and one on Instalment Buying. Now we offer our readers short opinions culled from the hundreds of letters the editor has been receiving on the FORUM discussion of Birth Control. This discussion was started in May with Professor Edward Murray East's article "Tabu, — A Defense of Birth Control", and it is still being carried on with great vigor. The majority of our readers seem to favor birth control, though we have chosen an equal number of pros and cons for this symposium.

YES

A former instructor of mine once said that it made little difference whether our new immigrants came from Europe or from heaven. I suppose that as a corollary I might say that a quota system applied to immigrants from Europe should be matched in some way for those arriving from heaven. Birth control seems to me a reasonable way of imposing limitations upon the additions to our population through natural increase.

W. W. McLAREN
(Executive Secretary, Institute of Politics)
Williamstown, Mass.

I not only think that birth control is necessary in the interests of the community, from the economic standpoint, but in the interests of the family itself. The idea of an "accidental child", especially the "unwanted child", is abhorrent to me.

CARVETH WELLS
New York City

Aside from economic necessity, birth control is not only beneficial but it is most desirable that only wanted children should be born. If intelligently used, it is never harmful but always beneficial from every standpoint, and leads to the highest spirituality, which is but another name for intellectuality.

HELEN B. PAULSEN
("The Mother Goose Lady")
Chicago, Ill.

It is unfortunate that birth control is understood and practised by the more intelligent members of our community rather than by those who have not the means or ability to provide for large families. A wider dissemination of knowledge on the subject would help to improve the quality of our population.

WILLIAM ALBERT NOYES
(University of Illinois)
Urbana, Ill.

I do not think that there is any doubt in the minds of the members of the medical profession that birth control, the practice and principle, is absolutely to be encouraged.

J. H. MUSSER
(School of Medicine, Tulane University)
New Orleans, La.

In reply to the question as to whether birth control will lead to moral degeneracy, my opinion is "No".

BURTON RASCOE
New York City

NO

I believe that any recognized and practised system of birth control would tend to weaken the moral fibre of society generally.

HENRY C. WRIGHT
New York City

Birth control is an apparent attempt to defy the normal nature of man. It is unnatural for the human pair not to wish children. I am not in favor of it.

B. E. P. PRUGH
(Chairman, Pennsylvania State Prohibition Committee)
Harrisburg, Pa.

I am not in favor of birth control, especially in the United States. In general I believe a larger birth rate might properly be encouraged in this country.

NICHOLAS KNIGHT
(Professor of Chemistry, Cornell College)
Mount Vernon, Ia.

Every decaying race or people has practised birth control, and probably the practice was a big factor in their decadence, since it is founded on selfishness and is contrary to nature.

JOHN J. SWINT
(Bishop of Wheeling)
Wheeling, W. Va.

Professor E. M. East may be a distinguished Harvard biologist, but he seems to be unaware of the fact that birth control is "murder before birth". Birth control must begin with abstinence. The choice between that and murder should not be impossible to a well evolved soul.

H. CURTIS
Vancouver Islands, B. C.

The sex relation is a sacred thing, and any attempt to frustrate God's law for the furtherance of purely selfish ends appears to me something that every right minded person should hold in abhorrence.

MARQUISE CLARA LANZA
New York City

I think birth control is wrong. The question to me seems to be "self-control" instead of birth control. We have become a nation of folk whose appetites in every department of life have become gluttonous.

J. R. MORELAND
Norfolk, Va.

OPINIONS ABOUT BOOKS



JOHAN BULL

They swayed about upon a rocking-horse, and thought it Pegasus.—*Keats*

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In this department there will appear each month a signed review by at least one member of THE FORUM BOOK REVIEW BOARD, reviews by special assignment, and an occasional unsolicited review. The last are paid for upon publication at the rate of fifteen cents a line. They are limited to 300 words.

Tristram

SUPERLATIVES concerning Edward Arlington Robinson's *TRISTRAM* (Macmillan, \$1.50) would be not only superfluous but unfortunate at this moment when the poem is actually something of a sensation in the American literary world. They would be superfluous in view of the very evident excellence of the work, and in view of the fact that it is not necessary just now, — before the ink is dry on the pages, — to decide whether *Tristram* is Mr. Robinson's masterpiece, whether it is the greatest American poem, whether it is the best poem of the twentieth century in the English language, and so on. I have heard all these things said, and they made me uncomfortable. Such decisions simply can not be arrived at so soon. And it would be unfortunate if such hasty conclusions were drawn. For this would obscure the many brilliant predecessors of *Tristram* in the long line of Mr. Robinson's works.

During the past ten years, Mr. Robinson has definitely changed his status from that of a minor poet to that of a major poet. My reference is rather, of course, to the kind of poem he has written in this

period than to the quality he has achieved. In quality, as it happens, he has steadily improved. But a major poet, by the only definition which means anything, is one who can write long poems well; and Mr. Robinson has published six long poems each of which is an important addition to American poetry. *Avon's Harvest*, *Roman Bartholow*, and *The Man Who Died Twice* have told stories of persons contemporary with us. *Merlin*, *Lancelot*, and *Tristram* have told stories of heroes taken out of poetic antiquity and made our contemporaries, in the sense that they become through this handling intensely alive. In my opinion it can not be decided so early whether *Tristram* is the best of the six, and it certainly makes no difference if it is, since the six are so nearly equal in virtue. That *Tristram* is suddenly the most popular of them is another matter. This is a theme for jubilation rather than for criticism.

The story which *Tristram* tells is so famous that the interest of the reader, — at least of the reader who has met *Tristram* and Isolt elsewhere, in Gottfried von Strassburg, in Malory, in Tennyson, in Arnold, in Swinburne, in Wagner, or in Hardy, — lies partly in the new handling