WISE PARENTHOOD
THE TREATISE ON BIRTH CONTROL FOR MARRIED PEOPLE
A Practical Sequel to "Married Love"

BY
MARIE CARMICHAEL STOPES
Doctor of Science, London; Doctor of Philosophy, Munich; Fellow of University College, London; Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and of the Linnean and Geological Societies, London

With an Introduction by
ARNOLD BENNETT

TWELFTH EDITION
Revised and Enlarged
30th Thousand

London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd. 24, Bedford Street, Strand, w.c.2
Introductory Note.

The rapid progress of the idea of birth-regulation is one of the outstanding social phenomena of the time. But it cannot astonish the thoughtful, for the idea appeals almost irresistibly to the common sense and the conscience of civilised beings, and nothing save superstition and ignorance can impair or impede its triumph. Further, everybody knows that the vast majority of its instructed opponents practice in their private lives what they condemn for others. That birth-regulation has disadvantages is arguable. Its disadvantages, however, are not those usually emphasised by its opponents. For example, no unprejudiced brain will contend that that which is so manifestly beneficent to the individual can be bad for the race. Nor have children hitherto been such a source of sorrow and disappointment to parents that the parental instinct is likely to be destroyed through the temptations of any device whatever. No! The disadvantages of birth-regulation are mainly transient; they spring from an imperfect acquaintance with the methods of it; and they will pass. Millions and tens of millions of potential parents need advice about birth-regulation. They cry out for sound advice, and they do not get it. They suffer, sometimes horribly, for want of sound advice. This book is a practical manual of birth-regulation written by an unchallenged authority for the intimate use of potential parents.

Arnold Bennett.

Author's Preface.

The origin of this book was an answer innumerable inquirers who read "Married Love" (first published in 1918), approached me desiring whole information on a subject of vital importance to themselves and to the race. Not even the medical profession, lacked scientific and critical consideration of the methods for the control of conception, some of which are now so wide-spread. My book seemed urgently needed, because of this very lack of serious and scientific, ill-informed and often debased instruction circulating freely.

And even the one British society advocating control of conception, the Malthusian League, distributed to its members all too brief leaflet giving indiscriminate directions, including, without sufficient examination or physiological caution, methods as coitus interruptus, and douching (see p. 52). Some users of the latter thought they were destroying their fertility. The mistaken idea gained currency that the methods were not harmful, and hence that the advocate of birth-regulation implies the advocacy of harmlessness. I am convinced by experience that the opposition to "methods" is due to the prejudice thus created in prudish minds incapable of understanding the biological facts of the case.
smooth and that the cap and ring merge into one another. But in B there is a comparatively rough welding of the thick raw edge of the cap C, which is—or may be—a very dangerous source of failure. No cap which is offered with such a rough interior should be accepted by a would-be purchaser.

A great variety of shapes and makes of caps are on the market, and those who require further information should study the photographic plates and text of my larger work, “Contraception (Birth Control), Its Theory, History and Practice: A Manual for the Medical and Legal Professions.”

It should be remembered that rubber tends to perish, even when not in use, and that to put away a cap dry for months or more, and then bring it into use may mean serious failure, owing to the development of small cracks. Rubber which is not in use is best kept under water, as it is in scientific laboratories. A small china or celluloid pot or jar with a lid should be available, filled with water, under which the cap is submerged after it has been washed out and dipped into a simple non-corrosive disinfectant solution. Time under water may discolor the cap somewhat, but should tend to preserve its essential pliability and usefulness.