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[Book Review of] *Conception Period of Women*, By Dr. Kyusaku Ogino

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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by chemical applications." Again he says: "It cannot be repeated too often that there is no absolutely sure artificial, chemical or mechanical method of birth control, that artificial forms have never received the endorsement of the medical profession through its great medical societies, and that the repeated use of contraceptives is apt to end by causing great physical and mental distress to the user." Indirectly, in the following passage, Dr. Pedersen sums up strongly his indictment of positive contraception: "Some of the results of natural birth control in descending order of importance are: (a) reversal of sterility to fertility in many childless couples; (b) limitation of offspring by methods that do not offend physiological laws, the aesthetic sense, nor the mutual self respect of the man and woman; (c) avoidance of imposing on the marriage bed all the practices and atmosphere of the brothel; (d) reduction in the number of functional sexual disorders, proceeding from the excesses and perversions invited and induced by artificial contraceptives and from the sense of security their use elicits, which, in at least ten per cent of cases, is false security."

This book is so splendid that the reviewer regrets the necessity of differing with a statement in the author's foreword. There he asserts that there is a differential birth rate in favor of *incapables* over *capables* in the proportion of seven to two. This proportion, we believe, is not verifiable by statistics and further involves the very delicate definition of *capables* and *incapables*. Dr. Pedersen finishes his brief foreword by asking, "is a humane, wise policy of sterilization possible and will it meet the issue?" To both these questions, we answer briefly and emphatically, "No." Any policy which invades natural human rights must eventually prove a failure. We feel sure that Dr. Pedersen, following the logic of his opposition to unnatural contraception, will come to agree with the force of this argument.

I. W. C.

CONCEPTION PERIOD OF WOMEN. By Dr. Kyusaku Ogino, Head of the Gynaecological Section of Takeyama Hospital, Niigata, Japan. English translation by Dr. Yonez Miyagawa, Director of Government Institute for Infectious Diseases, Tokyo Imperial University, Hongooku, Tokyo, Japan. June 6, 1934. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Medical Arts Publishing Company, 1903 Wood Street.

The publication, by the Medical Arts Publishing Company of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, of this book by the foremost gynecologist of Japan, is the culmination of the author's clinical research on the subject of natural birth control extending over a period of fifteen years. Working independently of one another, Dr. K. Ogino, of Japan, and Dr. Herman Knaus, of Austria, arrived at practically identical conclusions and established the existence of definite and determinable periods of sterility and fertility in women. Their findings have become known throughout the world as the Ogino-Knaus theory, and they have been supported by the independent research of medical scientists in Europe and America. Among the noted gynecologists whose work has corroborated the theory are Dr. Carl Ruge, Dr. Robert Meyer, Professor Schroder of Kile, Professor Tscherdewahn and Professor Fraenkel of Breslau, whose investigations cover a period of thirty years.

Dr. Ogino has based his theory upon the duration of the period of ovulation in the human female and the viable period of the ovulated ovum and of the spermatozoa. Based upon his observation of these factors in a great number of cases, he has reached the conclusion that the period during which conception is possible does not exceed eight days in a twenty-eight-day cycle.

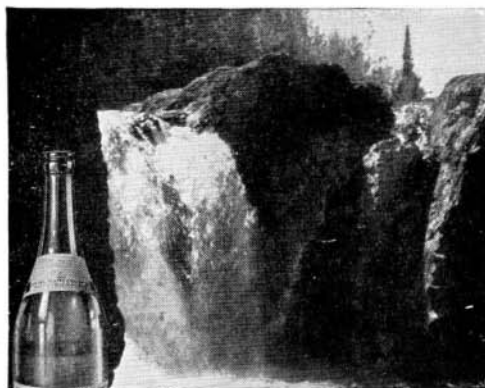
This little book by Dr. Ogino is written more according to the scientific *manner* than that of Dr. Pedersen and for that reason will probably not find the same widespread sale amongst the laity. It will, however, prove of great interest to doctors in any comparison that they may wish to make between the Ogino system and the Knaus system.

Here again we have a scientific denunciation of positive contraception. Speaking of this, Dr. Ogino says: "Even though I do not intend to discuss whether those methods are right or wrong, they are quite unnatural from the medical point of view, and they are not without psychological and somatic harm. By applying this new theory the people who have carried on these unnatural contraceptive methods are liberated from their restriction, returning to their own natural married life."

I. W. C.

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