

[1924-1928?]

Berlin, Friday the 13th.

Dearest Margaret:

Thank you for your letter, and also for the check you enclosed. I take it you are sending me this check for the article in advance. And it is thereto more than you spoke about when here. It is very, very good of you indeed, and I thank you from the depths of my heart.

I am enclosing the table of contents of the book by Dr. Herta Riese which you say you wish to send to your New York publisher. I have added also a short page more on the contents. Then I am enclosing a translation of the table of contents of the announcement of a new book on marriage, which you sent me. It seems the book is very interesting and I notice that it treats many of the subjects as you have done in your "Happiness in Marriage". If I ever get an opportunity I shall go through it and see what he has done regarding the things that you have brought forward--such as periodicity, the act depending upon the wish of the woman more than of the man, and also the problem that faces so many women--the "quick lunch" sexual intercourse of the man by which the woman is left in a nervous state. These to me seem the most important problems in the sex relationship of normal men and women. Confidentially speaking, I am one of those countless numbers of women who have suffered from the last-named problem. The more I think of it the more I believe that this last-mentioned problem is one of the cankers eating at our marriages, the causes of divorce often, the cause of much nervous disease, the cause of not only conscious, but unconscious misery. As I wrote you before, we women who are not prostitutes nevertheless have the heritage of prostitution thrust upon us. Our men get their practice in sex first from women who give them a wrong idea of sexual intercourse and of the needs of women. Secondly, the fear of pregnancy prevents many women from reaching the orgasm even when the man's nature is normal and not top quick. This fear becomes unconscious and is always there, a terror that leads to all sorts of neurosis. Thirdly, as I wrote you before, this quickness in men is often a deep psychic disease--what the psycho-analysts call by the "castration fear". The man who for one reason or another has this castration fear, unconsciously hurries through the sex act. He has an infantile, unconscious terror. There is often the attitude of such men to the sex organ of a woman as a castrating apparatus. We can see this in its crudest, most vulgar form in the masses, who speak of the sex organs of woman as a "pussy" or "cat", and of the male organ as a "wurst". The unconscious is very primitive and crude at times. In childhood many little boys are told by their parents if they are not good "I will cut it off". This may seem fantastic to you, but if you were once analyzed by a real Freudian, you would understand the strange truth of this--and of the fear often put in the soul of a very little boy-child. This fear is one reason also why men often become impotent during or just at the beginning of sex union. Of course, I speak only of neurotic, or sick men and women who face these problems. But after all these are rather numerous.

I have reviewed "Happiness in Marriage" for the Indian magazine for which I write, and have recommended it in the most urgent terms to Indians. Naidu is reviewing it now, and Nambiar, another

Indian journalist here, has received a review copy from the London publisher, and will review it als. We all write in the forms of articles more than just reviews, and as a rule we all make a book the foundation of a long article. Nambiar is doing this also. I shall send you copies of the reviews when they appear. As I wrote you, I have ordered a copy of the book to be sent to my friend in India, and have requested him to review it. Of course the first part on courtship plays no part in India. There is no courtship there. A young man and woman who have never even seen each other, are on the marriage night, locked in the same room together and are supposed to have sexual intercourse at once. The man sees the woman's face for the first time and the woman is often terrified and spends the night weeping. I have written more than one straight-from-the-shoulder article on this system, for the Indian press, and have frankly said that any people who can tolerate such a custom has no right to even speak the word "spiritual". It is like the mating of a cow and a bull.

As for Dr. Riise's book. The translation I mean. Yes, I could translate it if the publisher wished. But I doubt if that book will be applicable to America now.

Then I have at last sent off the recipe for the birth control chemical--to all the physicians who gave their names.

I have some good material for a report for the March issue of the B.C. Review on b.c. and such events in Germany. I wish to ask you a question: a leading south German magazine has brought out a special number on the falling birth rate in Germany. A warning to breed, etc. Do you wish me to cover such things as that also? It is the Catholic and south German opposition to B.C. The Swedish Govt. is formulating a law for the sterilization of the insane, feeble-minded and epileptic.

My cold is almost gone. I know of nothing that can make one more miserable. I become so depressed that life is itself a burden when I have the grippe. My appendix goes on gally, but I am still following the treatment given me by Dr. Heusler. I hope to put off the operation until spring. I don't feel equal to it now.

I have talked at length with Mrs. Carl Hamburger. Really, Margaret, I don't understand how people of such a position can be so ignorant. She knows nothing about even the English b.c. movement. She had never heard of the clinics there or the work they are doing. She was astounded that b.c. methods are given to women upon the basis that a woman has the right to control her own body even when she is well and healthy and has no children. She was glad, of course, but it was a new idea to her! She kept asking me if there were not social or medical indications advanced. I stand always before the primitive belief of people that woman is made just to breed and a few are happily surprised if they find a movement that regards a married woman's destiny to ~~makangxax~~ be a matter for her and her alone to decide. After all, I see that we human beings are very, very near the animal. Really, the more I see of human beings, the more frightened I am of them. Sometimes I have a direct fear of men and women and stand looking at them as I would look at a wolf. This is not going to make me change my ideas or actions, but I have decided ~~ka~~ not to throw myself on their mercy at any time, and to adopt tactics other than a belief in the goodness of human beings.

Love, always, Margaret.

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