

Berlin, July 7, 1928

Dearest Margaret:

I have waited until today, after I had finished a lecture in the university, to answer your recent letter and to thank you for the check of \$25 for my article.

To get off relatively unimportant things, I must say that my health is very much better. I am still under treatment and it seems that to get rid of the pain in my back will be rather difficult. But I am very, very much better.

Now, I have good news for you

I am enclosing herewith some of the newspaper articles about our new Birth Control Clinic. These are only a few of those that I gathered as they appeared and are by no means all. We are all astonished at the tremendous echo the opening of the first Birth Control Clinic has received. Your name has appeared everywhere in the German press, and now when you come to Germany again you will get some of the largest possible audiences for lecturing. I have translated two or three of the news articles, but must ask someone there to do the others for you. Up to this time we have nothing but greetings of welcome from the press. The R.C.'s are silent to date--preparing perhaps.

As I wrote you before, we finally took in Dr. Bendix, head of the Ambulatorium system, which has 22 different centers in Berlin. He is a Social Democrat, and the Ambulatorium system--connected with the Sick Insurance Department of the Municipality--stands under the control of the Social Democrats. There is every chance that after a year the Ambulatorium system will take over Birth Control as a part of its official work and open clinics in every one of its 22 centers in Berlin alone. That would mean that our Birth Control Committee would go out of existence, and our control that we today have would also vanish. So far the control is in the hands of the Communists, Dr. Stöcker and Dr. Bendix being the only two non-Communists. We kept the control because we wanted to make B.C. a mass fighting thing, without compromise, etc. We have now discussed it and we see that the thing may go out of our hands. We say "good--let it"; we have at least achieved a good thing in starting it, and that is sufficient, and we have given it the mass tendency we wish. If, after a year the Ambulatorium system takes it over and we become useless, we do not object, provided they keep up the good work as we have started it.

As I wrote you, we had difficulty in finding rooms, but that now we have all that we want, with full medical equipment in the Ambulatorium. We have a woman physician in charge, with one trained nurse and one social worker. Frau Dr. Wolf and Frau Dr. Winternitz have up to this time also been present and assisted our woman physician, and Dr. Schmincke was present on the first day of the opening. We unfortunately cannot have Frau Dr. Winternitz from the Charité as we had planned, because she is a Czech, and the Ambulatorium objected to any but a German physician being put in. But she goes and helps free, as does Dr. Wolff. Because of the delay in finding rooms, etc., we opened only the first week of July. On the first day 15 women turned up--and remember we have but ~~maxxxxxxxx~~ four hours a week. Of those 15 women, over half were pregnant and came desperately asking for abortions. On the second day, we had 9 women, over half of whom came asking for abortions. Our work is so open and we are so hedged in by enemies such as the R.C.'s. that

we simply have to turn the women away. We cannot even give them private instruction or addresses of physicians. We cannot injure our work so long as the law making abortion a crime (Paragraph 218) is in force. There is now a strong movement among the physicians to repeal that law, and when that is done we may be able to send such women to physicians. But we can do nothing.

We are keeping the fullest possible statistical records of each case that comes to us. The Ambulatorium paid for ~~the~~ the printing of our questionnaires and presented us with 10,000 ~~xxxxxx~~ cards for our card catalogues.

We are using the Ramses pessary so far, as well as a hard little celluloid thing. We have had that lactic acid solution of yours made up in quantity and we use that also. We train the women in the use of these things as you do, and we instruct them in douching. We will later get in other pessaries, chemical pessaries, tablets, etc., for use also, to do research work as to their value.

There is a new bill proposed for Parliament--about making anything that would reduce the population a crime. I saw Frau Adele Schreiber about it, for she is now a Social Democratic member of Reichstag. Then our Committee, whose word will go with the Communist, Social Democratic and Democratic Parties, have also taken up the matter. The bill will not pass. These three Parties command a wide majority in the Reichstag. Our Committee has ~~one~~ men and women who are leaders in these parties.

You will be overjoyed with our Committee when you come. It is really a peach of a Committee. All are active physicians with very definite social tendencies, all active in the labour movement, all hard-working in professions, all self-sacrificing. Frau Dr. Stöcker (this is confidential) is a typical intellectual; she doesn't come to the Committee meetings. She alone. The others all leave their work and attend all meetings and they bring joy to my heart when I see their enthusiasm for the work.

The book you sent I gave, not to Dr. Schmincke, but to our Committee. Eventually we must have a library, etc. Just now we do all our correspondence from the offices of the Ambulatorium headquarters, where Dr. Bendix is located--Alexanderstr. 39/40.

We received the German letters from Anna and Frau Dr. Wolf and Dr. Benix have answered them, as well as other letters streaming in to us.

The reception given us by the press shows that the Birth Control movement is going to have one grand sweep through German before the year is passed. You will be delighted in this.

I cabled you about Dr. Bendix. We did not wish him to misunderstand my article. Send him the B.C. Review starting with the number after my article appeared. Within a couple of weeks or so, after the Clinic here has had much more experience, I'll write a short note about its new constitution and about its work and intentions.

Personal: I've my American passport, Margaret? Grand, no? ✓

My book appears in New York next January under the title of "Daughter of Earth". Publishers, Coward-McCann, 425 Fourth Avenue, N.Y.C. ✓

Will you, Margaret, ask the publishers for a review copy, and keep it. They are giving me but 10 free copies which I wish to use here in Europe for publishers. You, on the other hand, can get a free copy from the publishers for review purposes.

I've an American man friend here who is a great advocate of B.C. and when he returns to America in September you must meet him. He is also a man of means. His name is David Friday (Prof.), connected with the New School of Social Research, Graduate School of Economics in Washington, former head of Faculty of Economics, New York University. And Pres. of a Banking and Investment Trust, or something like that, from New York. He is trying to get me to leave my political work and go into B.C. altogether and come back to America. I fear he will have no success. The other is a part of my blood. B.C. is a part of my activities, to be sure, but I am political all the way through. I am--between you and me--very, very fond of Mr. Friday; but my roots are too deeply planted in my political work. Mr. Slee will like Mr. Friday, and you will, especially. Later I shall send you his address, and I hope you invite him to come and see you personally. He is a very, very interesting man.

I lectured in the University again last evening on "The Revolt of Asia". In the same hall that you know.

What Jo Bennett is doing in Paris I do not know. I think she has gone to Brittany with her daughter. She has asked me there the end of this month, but I am still undecided. I hope she is doing something in the social line. B.C. in Paris is not easy, publicly, it seems. If I go I shall see what is done or can be done and what she can do to help. She is too good and too courageous to lose and B.C. is one of her chief interests.

Pardon the very rough and often bad translations of the articles from the German press.

Love to you, Margaret. Greet Anna and Kitty for me. Tell Anna she may send all correspondence from Germany to our Committee, through me.

My kindest regards to Mr. Slee.

Agnes -