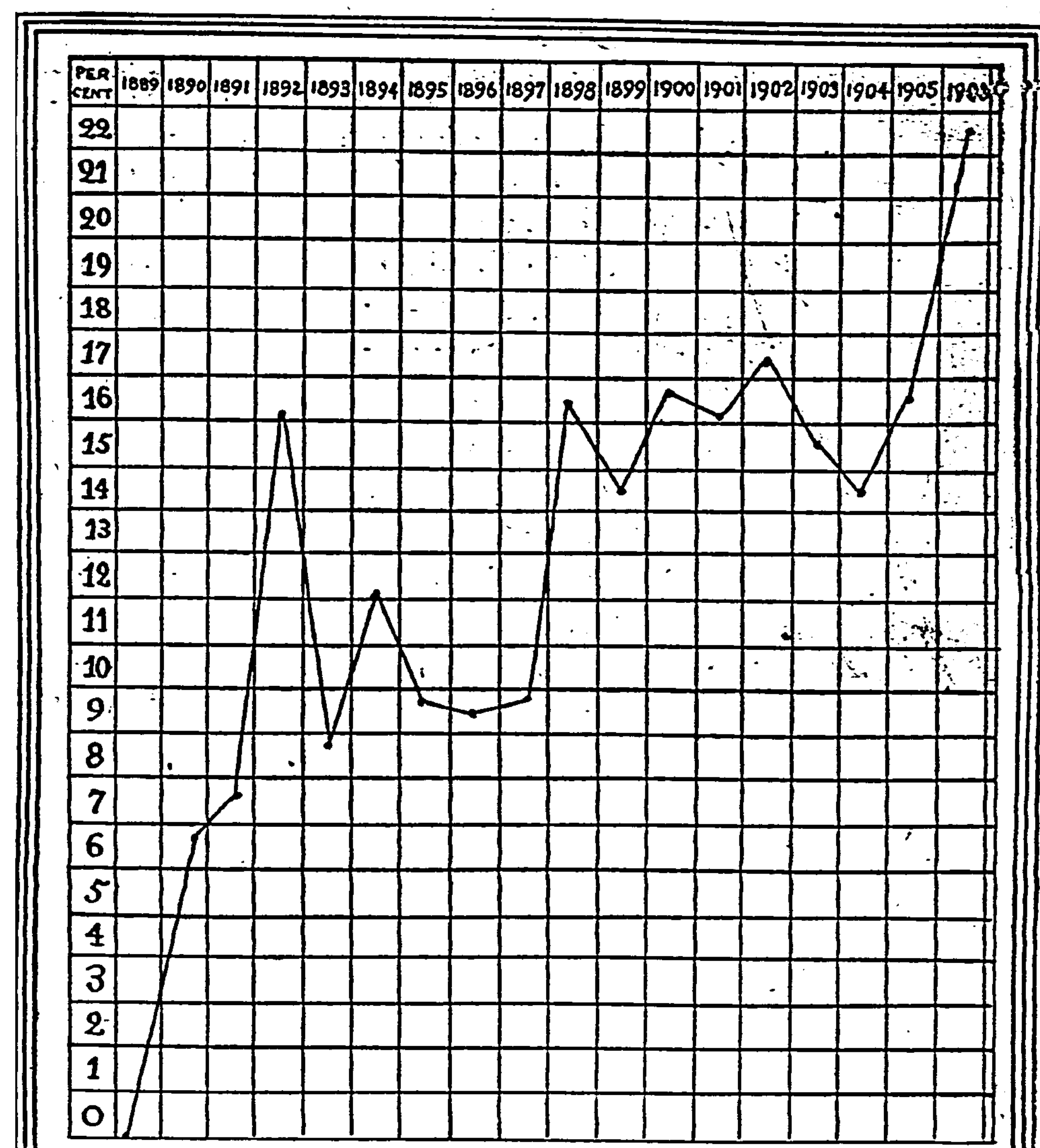
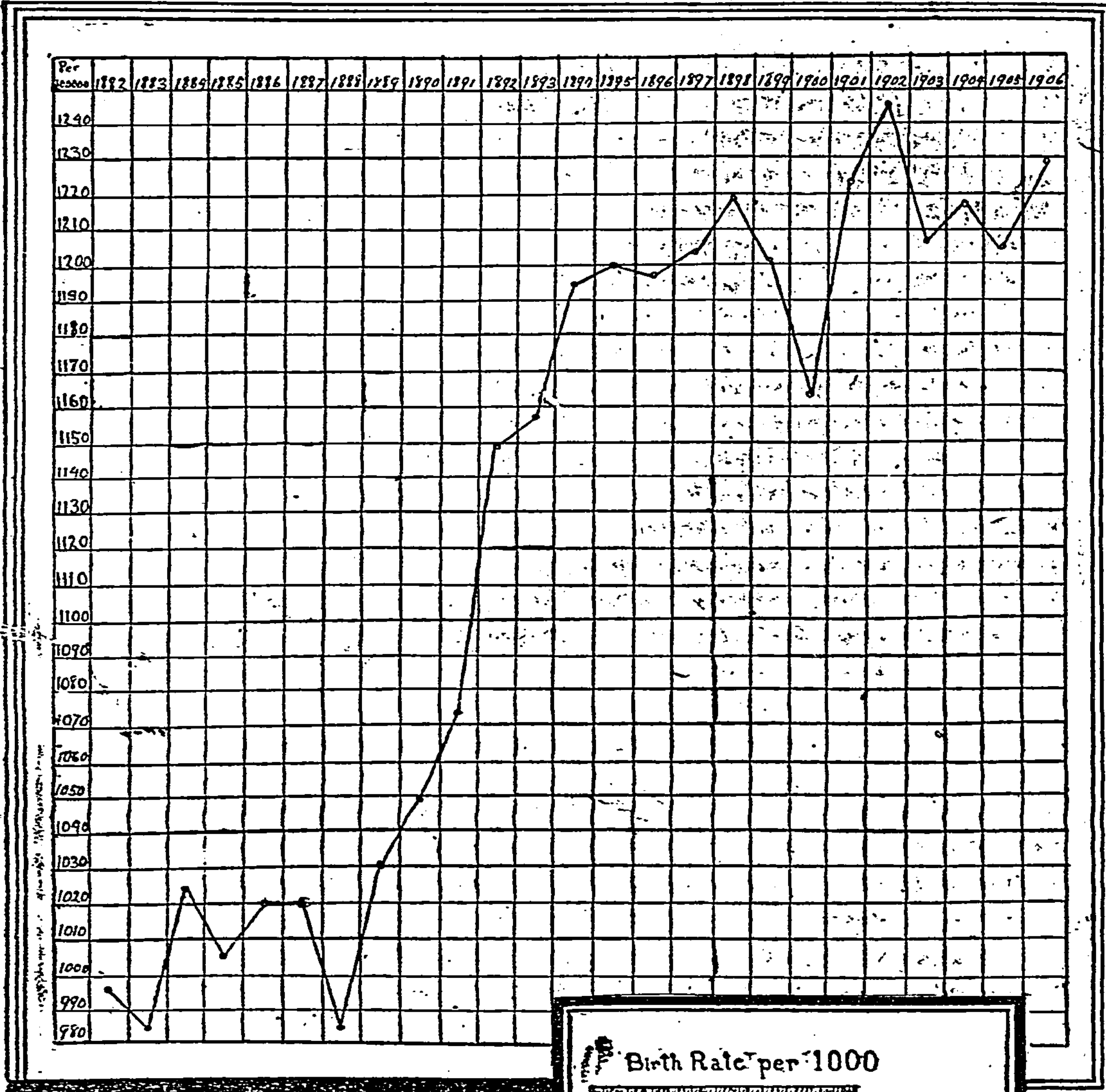


ACTIVITY OF MODERN WOMAN A RACIAL PROBLEM

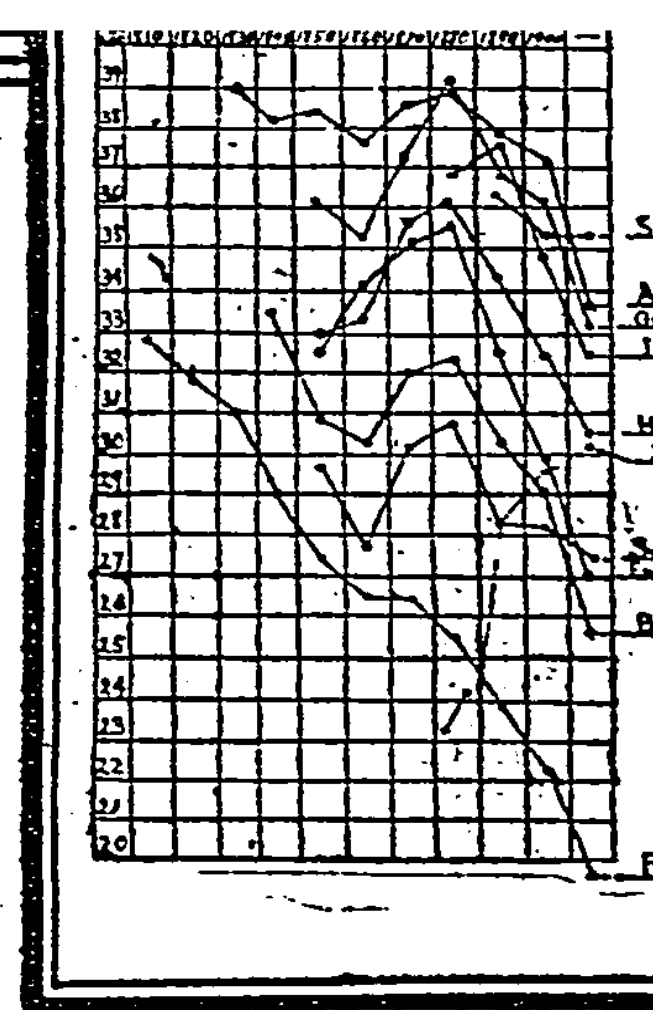
Dr. Max G. Schlapp, Specialist in Mental Diseases, Believes that Present Conditions Tend Toward Increase in Insanity, Divorce, Race Suicide.

The Diagram at the Left Shows the Convicted Per 100,000 Persons of Punishable Age in German Empire.

The Diagram at the Right Shows the Per Cent. of Convicted Juveniles and First Offenders. Considering Increase in Population, Figures Show Per Cent.



Birth Rate per 1000



Birth Rates of Various Countries.

DR. MAX G. SCHLAPP finds a physical basis for the evolution of the so-called modern woman. Her ideas and activities in departments of life that used to be considered exclusively for men interest him only as a scientist in their effort on human life. He censures men as well as women in his calculations and estimates their share of responsibility for a racial decline. Finding the evidence as it comes to him from records of daily experience which are written into the public documents of all countries, he finds unmistakable evidence of deterioration in the human race. This does not mean that men and women today are not physically and mentally as well endowed as they were, but that there are more abnormal men, women, and children now than at any time since the establishment of the present civilization.

There are more insane, more criminals, more divorced people, and fewer children born to each one thousand of population, and this he traces directly to modern conditions. All civilizations that have gone before have had precisely the same experience that the world is passing through now, and for precisely that reason Dr. Schlapp believes that this civilization will go the way of the others until the point of exhaustion is reached. Then there will be a resting period, and the human family will begin to advance once more.

The energetic, enterprising woman, he says, is not at all new. The suffragist or suffragette is as old as organized government. When the Grecian Empire was at its highest stage of development its advanced women were clamoring for the right of suffrage, and so it was in Rome before its fall, and Dr. Schlapp, who calls attention to this by way of illustration, has no doubt that the same condition existed in Egypt in some form or other about the time Egypt passed into the darkness.

Industrial conditions as they exist now in the world, he believes, are new. The part women are taking in the industrial work of the world he knows to be unprecedented. He does not think it is for the best, but for the worst, like the responsibilities women have assumed, or which have come to them.

One might think from these opinions that Dr. Schlapp is an aged iconoclast out of sympathy with modern life, and impatient with women. In fact, he is a young man, not in a youthful sense, though he looks more youthful than he really is, and his contemplation of women is chivalrous.

Like all scientists, however, he gives no sentiment to the consideration of the problem before him, but treats the human element in it just the same as the element of air in working out his theories of cause and effect. He is Professor of Neurophysiology at the Cornell Medical School and the Post-Graduate Medical School of New York, and is a specialist in nervous and mental diseases, transcribing nature's requirements of women for their part in the retrogression that he perceives among the people of all nations. Knowing his attitude, there is no reason for personal applications of his observations and no opportunity to take offense.

All that, those out of sympathy with his conclusions can do is to protest that he has made a mistake in his calculations after reading the facts that he has compiled. It is from them that he reads the signs of degeneration, and it is from his studies of physiology that he deduces his convictions of the purpose of nature in allotting to womanhood a life of comparative repose.

The surface becomes inadequate to nourish the contents of the cell. The result is that the cell disintegrates, and the recreation of two separate cells follows. The functional is the process whereby the cell performs some act, liberating energy, such as when the muscle cell contracts. The cells that are highly specialized lose their formative process by undue functional activity. In the adult stage of the cells, particularly those highly specialized, it becomes less possible for these cells to redivide or have the formative process reawakened by stimulation. The cell has sex, male and female. The male is a small active cell. The female is a large, quiescent cell. But the body cells which develop from the sex cells are supposed to lose their sex, but are supposed also to retain secondary sexual traits. What are called "hormones" regulate the normal activity of the cells. These are a sort of chemical substances which maintain an equilibrium when they themselves are not disturbed by excitation or poisons within the body or unnatural influences from without.

This is the physiological basis which must be comprehended to understand the development of the argument. What is meant by "highly specialized" is, for instance, the cell in the retina of the eye which receives light waves and translates them into nerve energy which is transmitted to the brain. The nerve cells in the brain also are an example of highly specialized cells. They transmit nerve energy to different parts of the body. Cells not specialized are those that have acquired no special function, such cells, for instance, as connective tissue cells, which are dormant, merely holding together in mass to form the body.

Animals, as well as men and women, have all these constructive peculiarities, but in the normal human brain there is a growth or development of brain centres which exercises a restraint on the lower centres. Here is the distinction between man and beast. A dog seeing a bone he wants goes after it, and he is not conscious of any prior right or equal right to the bone of another dog on the spot ahead of him. He wants it, and there is no restraining influence within his brain to stop him from taking it, though he has to chew up the other in attempting to get it.

In the physical nature of man there is nothing to differentiate him from the lower animals. His instincts are to satisfy his desires—to take what he wants. But he has developed an inhibitory power within the recesses of his brain which holds his desires in check. Just as soon as the power is weakened desire becomes dominant and there is the criminal. The restraint necessary to keep the balance of the individual may be lost temporarily or permanently by the use of liquors, according to the extent of indulgence, or poisonous drugs or toxins introduced or produced in the body itself which deaden the sensibilities of the brain centres and leave the individual the subject of his desires.

Dr. Schlapp reasons that every drunken man or a person addicted to strong drink or drugs, such as morphine, is potentially a criminal, because control of himself is lost. This is applied to all the feeble-minded, who are not regarded as insane, but who do not get from their parents the normal cellular stimulation to carry on the formative processes sufficiently for the development of a normal brain.

It is at this point that the consideration of industrial and social conditions in their effect on human life and the production of it becomes necessary. The stress of everyday work is presumed to have increased wonderfully in the last generation. More bodily energy is used than ever before. This is presumed to be true of both men and women.

Business is done faster, and in one way or another nearly everybody has been drawn into it, either to give assistance and thereby satisfy his own needs, or to supply its exacting demands. Women have become a part of the industrial drive wheel, and their energies are being given to the crass work of producing commodities or aiding in their distribution.

These not engaged in actual work for

wages are largely occupied with the harassments of business affairs in which they are involved or with organizations for the advancement or the relief of women, this being more than ever so because of the example set by increased and universal activity in worldly affairs.

All men are meeting the demands of modern life by giving up more energy than was once required of them, and they are all forgetful. If they know, that there is a limit to the energy that their body and brain cells possess. Women are giving energies never before assigned to industry in disregard of a natural law which makes it imperative upon them to conserve their energies for the times in their lives that they need them most.

It is here that the line between the man and the woman is marked. The man is able to stand the extra demand upon his energies with less distress to himself and with less effect upon his offspring.

Intellectual women in meeting this suggestion that women doing the work of men take better care of their health than men do, not having their distractions and giving more attention to diet and sleep. They point out that women worked harder in the old time than they do now. Almost everybody's grandmother did much, if not all, her own housework, and if she lived in the country it may have been that she spaded the garden and, anyway, she churned the butter and made clothes for her children, rising

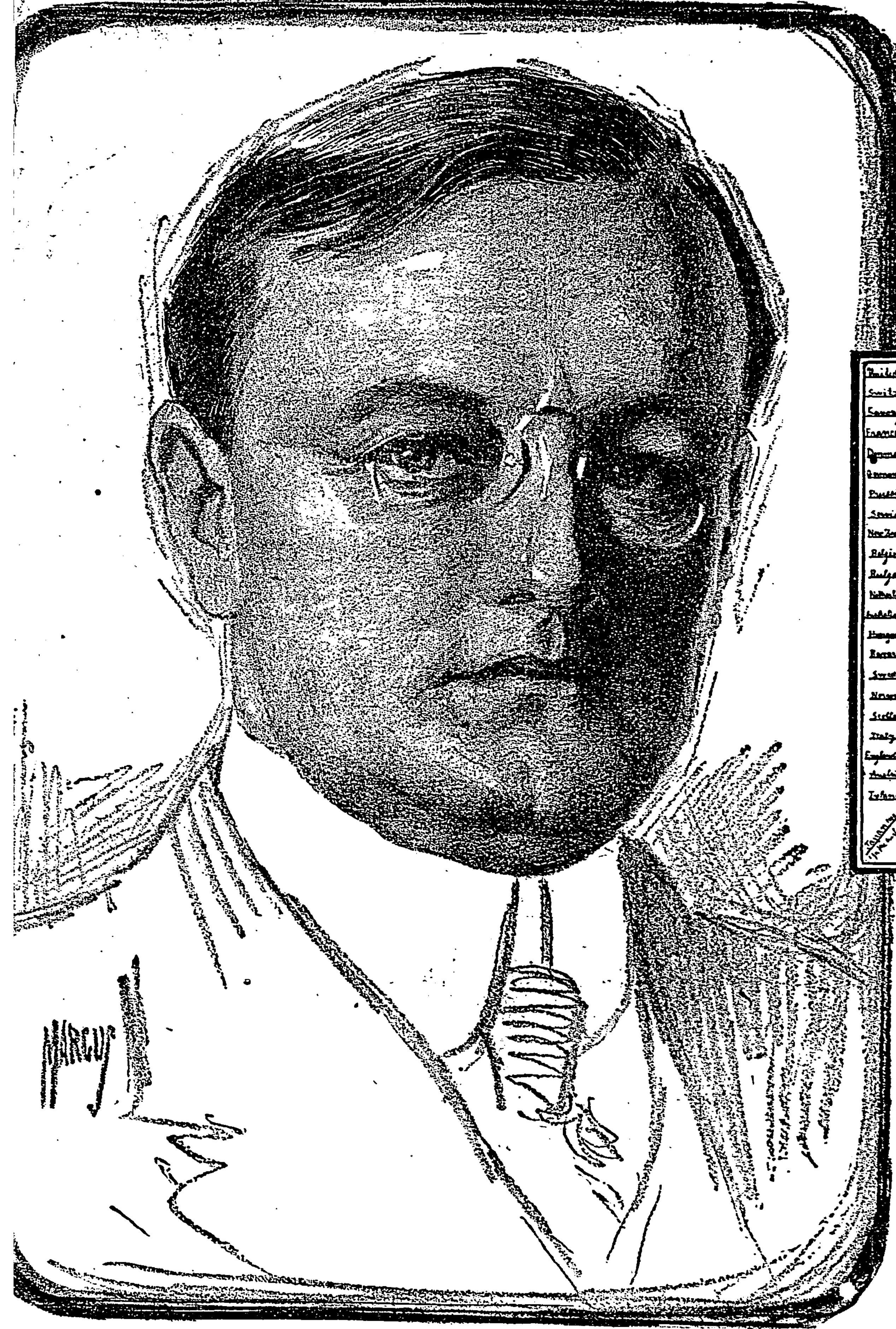
early in the morning and working all day. And for all that the physiologists have an answer. The household duties, Dr. Schlapp says, are at a woman's own discretion. They must be attended to, but she attends to them in her own way and in her own time and according to her capacity. She stops when she desires to do so. She rests when she finds time. In short, she has no mental stress in performing the physical labors of the house of which she is the mistress.

When she goes out to battle with the world it is different. She meets antagonisms which she must overcome. When she works in a factory she is beset by irritating people and irritating conditions. In all the affairs outside the home in which the woman seriously engages with the same purpose as the man who must struggle for existence the strain on the

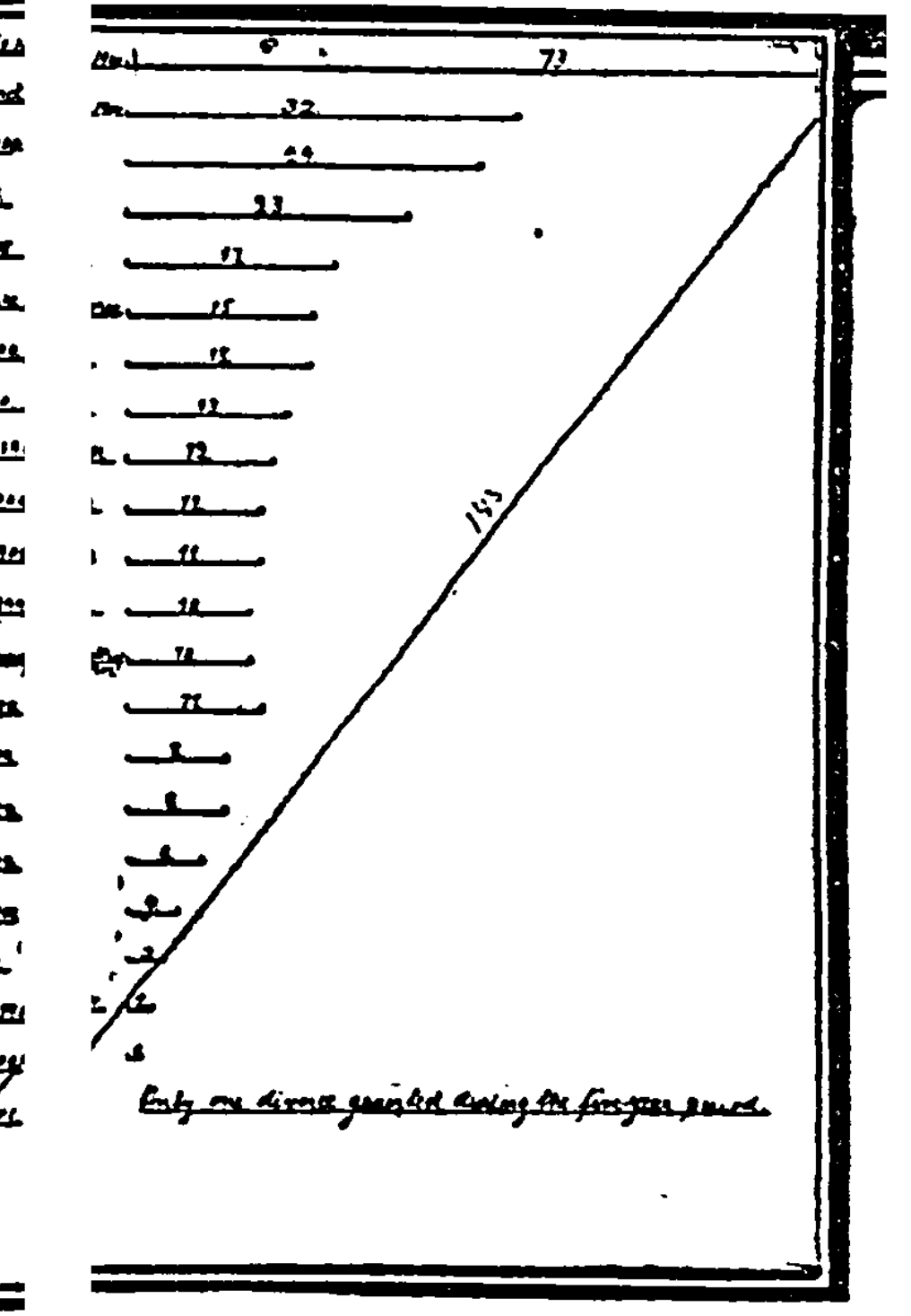
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When she is abnormally active and her brain is using up energy in a mental and physical struggle, then her normal outflow of nerve impulses to different organs is interfered with. When to this stress is added the function of motherhood the child must suffer through life because it cannot receive the normal amount of "hormones" necessary for its perfect development.

A man may go through life fighting, Dr. Schlapp thinks, and his children be better off because an extra energy must come from him to the children. Apart from that nature has fitted him, primarily, for the struggle for existence of himself and the family, while it has prepared the woman to bring the family into the world and nurture it.



Dr. Max G. Schlapp.



Divorces Per 100,000 of Population.

woman is said to be far greater than any connected with ordinary domestic or social life. Going back, then, to the first principle of the single cell and its processes, the assertion is made that the extraordinary activities of women are using up the energy which ought to be stored for the formative process when that is awakened. When one process is lowered, or where any disturbance of the equilibrium of the cells takes place, there is a physical penalty to be paid.

It is the stress of mind that hurts the woman more than the physical exertion she is called upon to perform when she engages in occupations other than those to which she is presumed to be physically adapted. Dr. Schlapp puts it in this way: "When she is abnormally active and her brain is using up energy in a mental and physical struggle, then her normal outflow of nerve impulses to different organs is interfered with. When to this stress is added the function of motherhood the child must suffer through life because it cannot receive the normal amount of 'hormones' necessary for its perfect development."

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Men are blamed as well as women, if blame it can be called. To the scientific mind it is wholly impersonal. It is a condition to which men and women are subjected. Men are driven by the excitements upon their time and energies to such a pitch that their physical balance is disturbed, and in their vain attempts to restore themselves to a more peaceful state they drink. The price of that is paid by the next generation if the absorption has been great enough to produce the inevitable physical change, and this is used to account for much of the increase in the figures of crime and insanity.

But the burden of reproach falls upon the woman, because, unlike the man, strife and stress indispose her to the marital state and eventually unfit her for it. Dr. Schlapp says that the desire for motherhood in a woman is almost as strong as her love of life and that she is eager to nourish her young. No given number of children satisfies that pure desire to mother an infant, and so he reasons when a woman argues that the family must not be more than a given number, or confesses an aversion to children of her own in happily wedded life, she is abnormal.

Long devotion to pursuits outside the home and inattention to the domestic side of her nature and the rearing of children result frequently, Dr. Schlapp believes, in unsexing the female. The physical process attending that change is too complicated to admit of ready explanation, but it begins with the single cell, and Dr. Schlapp has worked his conclusion out in circumstantial detail.

Exhaustion of potential energy by the overwork of the functional processes of the cells may be taken in short as the physiological explanation of a declining birth rate, the production of criminals, and insane and feeble-minded persons. Dr. Schlapp does not think there is any way to change it. The competition of men and the force of circumstances have established an order which will continue until the human race is so weakened that it will be unable to continue the mad rush, or so debilitated that a struggle in the abundance of the earth to supply its needs will not be necessary. Then men will begin to build and grow again. One thing he is certain can be done to

retard the increase in crime and insanity, and that is to watch insane and feeble-minded persons closer, not only those in the asylums, but the vastly greater number that, he says, are outside of them moving about in unrestricted freedom. Feeble-minded persons, he explains, may be nothing but gentle and kind in all semblance, but they are potentially criminal, likely to act on suggestion or desire at any moment.

All insane persons, he thinks, are also potentially criminals, because they lack the inhibitory power to overcome desire for possession, gain, or the achievement of a purpose or a whim by whatever means were necessary to accomplish it.

Turning theory into demonstration, Dr. Schlapp has the most carefully compiled statistics that he can find in the world, and he is using them as typical of conditions in all civilized countries. He shows that abnormal beings are growing in number in all countries and that everywhere the birth rate is falling. His tables prove that the birth rate of every country in Europe has been steadily declining for a long period of years. France has been called degenerate because of the known decline in her birth rate, which seemed to be a matter of general information, but France is no worse off in this respect than her neighbors except that her death rate is higher than her birth rate.

The other nations have a margin of safety in a birth rate that yet exceeds the death rate. France appears to have been declining for a century. On a chart her line is almost a straight fall, until in 1907 her birth rate was nineteen to the thousand of population, and her death rate twenty, a condition never before known in the history of any modern nation.

England has made a drop in the number of births at the rate of about 3 per cent. in every ten years for more than a generation. There is only one country of which statistics are kept that shows a rise, and that is Japan. Spain has lost only one point in twenty-five years. In the same time England has lost six, but, again, as in the case of Japan, the figures are not entirely trusted by Dr. Schlapp, though he has had them all carefully compiled from the public records for his own use. His statistician found the records in the United States so fragmentary and untrustworthy as to be useless. He learned from the experience that the United States was the one great country of all the world that made no attempt to gather its vital statistics and put them in order.

He took German records mostly to serve as the barometer of the course of human events, and he found that Germany had the most complete system for eliciting information and was the most conscientious in preservation of it.

While the birth rate has been falling in all European countries, and presumably so in the United States as well, his experience that even more accentuated here, the death rate has been decreasing also, showing, as Dr. Schlapp points out, the triumph of science over disease, and he thinks it pitiable that now that the world can no longer be devastated by plagues the environment which men have created for themselves should be the cause of their destruction. This refers to the toll by the clock, the hurry and sweat that the city may grow and the man may live, and that the woman may follow his example of enterprise and activity.

With the birth rate falling everywhere, crime and insanity are increasing everywhere, according to these figures from the public records.

Crime statistics show a great increase, which is best shown by the convictions for first offenses and the growing number of juvenile offenders. Dr. Schlapp would be the first to admit that it is not the poverty, nor the evil conditions that surround the child, nor the adult first offender that he sets down as the cause of their downfall. He attributes it to what they did not get, so to speak, from their parents—a sufficient amount of "hormones" to mass healthy cells in the contrast of their destruction. He thinks the inhibitory power it was essential for him to have to save him from following his inclination to commit a criminal act.

In the many that he classifies as not sane, but feeble minded, who show no disposition to commit an overt act, he thinks there is the material of the first offender, when the protecting hand is taken from them and they are prompted, either by their necessities or their emotions.

Divorces are not to be explained, but the increase of them is regarded as the natural result of the restless age, like the other evils.

The United States leads the western nations in this. The divorce record here is three times greater than that of any nation comparable to the United States. In an annual average for a five-year period this country had 73 divorces to each 100,000 of population. Switzerland the next highest, had 52. The German Empire had 15, France 22, Scotland 4, England and Wales 2, Italy 3, and Ireland 1.