The Birth Control League

The Birth Control League of Shanghai had its inauguration meeting on 15th inst. during which a constitution was adopted and Dr. F. C. Yen of the Medical School of the Central University and also of the Red Cross Hospital was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. The League was organized with the explicit purpose of helping to “improve the quality of children, to protect motherhood, and to enrich family life,” and adopted four programs to be carried out in the near future, namely, (1) the creation of an intelligent public opinion regarding family limitation; (2) the promotion of the knowledge of scientific contraceptive methods; (3) the establishment of birth control clinics at suitable locations in the City; and (4) the making available of necessary supplies for birth control. In the adopted constitution a working principle was also included, which reads, “technical information regarding birth control shall be given out only through the clinics of the League and in accordance with the conditions approved by the Clinical Service Committee.” Enlightened people have long felt the necessity for such an institution, and we have more than once, both in these columns and in special articles, called the attention of our readers to the fact that birth control, like other far reaching social endeavors, must first come under public control, if we are to reap full and legitimate benefit from it. The present League must be viewed as a definite step in that direction. Besides the immediate programs which are of necessity important, of great theoretical interest is the working principle we have quoted. To safeguard against misuse and abuse, some such principle governing the dissemination of contraceptive information is absolutely indispensable. The detail as to the application of this principle is yet to be worked out. We may anticipate wrongly, but we do hope that the principle will not mean the meting out of contraceptive knowledge only to selected classes of individuals or families, and the withholding of it from others. We believe that no knowledge is inherently dangerous when it is properly imparted. We do not withhold the knowledge of fire, although the possibility of playing with it is always present. But we do believe that when contraceptive knowledge is given out, its dangerous possibilities upon its being misused or abused, particularly in connection with the maintenance of racial quality, must be given with it. In short, a rational and effective clinical service in birth control must go hand in hand with a sound system of eugenic education.

Sunday Pictorials

The invasion of the so-called big press of Shanghai into the field of Sunday pictorials marks a new era in Chinese journalism. In sharp contrast to their customary indifference and conservatism, The Shupiao...