



WHISTLING GODDESS

She was never wrong; at least, that is what the Africans thought.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Goddess of Fertility Now Rests in Museum Case

FROM the Belgian Congo, the powerful African goddess pictured here has journeyed to an exhibit case in the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Odima, "the Black One," is made of wood, but wears a high polish from many offerings of palm oil applied by devoted attendants "to refresh the spirit."

In the heart of Africa, Odima was a goddess of fertility. A native woman wishing for a child would consult the medicine man who was the custodian of the goddess. After a conference with Odima, replies apparently issued from the goddess' pursed lips, in a series of whistling sounds. The medicine man interpreted the oracle, telling the anxious woman what Odima said and advised. If the outcome of the situation was unsatisfactory, then, obviously, the woman was unfaithful. The whistling goddess was never wrong.

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SOCIOLOGY

Unlimited Births Among Poor Creating Problem For Future

Surveying Revealing Facts of New Study, Dr. Pearl Sees Poverty and Unemployment For Coming Generations

THE NATIONAL policy of prohibiting the free dissemination of accurate scientific information about birth control methods is adding definitely and measurably to the difficulty of the problem of poverty and unemployment with which our children and grandchildren will have to deal.

Dr. Raymond Pearl, biology professor in the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, has come to this conclusion as a result of an extensive investigation on birth control practices among American women and their effect upon the birth rate and other population problems. Conducted under Dr. Pearl's direction with financial aid from the Milbank Memorial Fund, a progress report has just been made by Dr. Pearl.

Among the nearly 5,000 women interviewed, it was found that birth control had been attempted regularly or intermittently by 45 per cent. of the white women and 26 per cent. of the Negroes, taken as whole groups. But among the well-to-do and rich white women over 78 per cent. had practiced birth control, while only 33 per cent. of the very poor white women had practiced it.

No Formal Instruction

Almost none of the women, white or colored, had ever had any formal, accurate or scientific instruction in birth control. Many expressed a keen desire for such instruction but did not know where to get it or were hampered in attaining that end by legal and religious restrictions. Slightly over half, 51 per cent., of the white women in moderate economic circumstances practiced birth control.

Birth control was less extensively practiced among newly-weds than among those of longer experience of married life. But among the well-to-do and rich white women recently married 76 per cent. were using birth control, while among the corresponding group of very poor only 19 per cent. used it.

The 4,945 married women included in

the investigation lived in 13 different states and 85 per cent. were whites and 15 per cent. Negroes. They were all residents of large cities, and were a fair sample of urban dwellers as regards religion, occupation, wealth and education. Fifty-nine per cent. of the whites and 66 per cent. of the Negroes had never received more than elementary schooling. Thirty-two per cent. of the whites and 27 per cent. of the Negroes attended high school, while only 6 per cent. of the whites and 3 per cent. of the Negroes went to college or university. The white women studied had been married 5.7 years, and the Negro women 6.4 years, on the average.

Babies When Wanted

By the intelligent use of birth-control methods 48 per cent. of the well-to-do and rich white women had produced only planned and wanted babies, exactly when they wished to have them. But among the very poor whites this percentage fell to 13, and for the very poor Negro women to 2 per cent.

"The investigation indicates that the innate natural fertility of married couples is probably substantially similar in all economic classes, and in the white and colored races," Dr. Pearl declares. "The apparent differential fertility observed between social and economic classes, and between the races, appears on the basis of the more refined and accurate computations of this investigation to be due almost wholly to those artificial alterations of natural innate biological fertility which are collectively called birth control, at least in the sample of American women so far studied."

Rich and Poor

By the intelligent practice of birth control among the well-to-do and rich whites the average birth rate was lowered some 73 per cent. below its natural level under present day conditions of life. But among the very poor and poor classes of whites, who numerically make up no small proportion of the whole population, all the really intelli-