## CHncordita

## Thenlumital \&llanthly

Continuing
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2.

Damit iftes aber notif nidit getan. Bielmebr gilt es mun antegen Die Waffen bes Ridts und ebrbarlid wandeln als am $\mathfrak{I a g e}$. Sdjon auf Grben foll unjer Beftreben jein, jo zu wandeln, wie wix cinit am Tage Des bollendeten ફ్eits wandeln werben in jeliger $\mathfrak{U n j i d}$ uld und dse= recftigfeit. Đas wixd uns in ber Welt ber finiterniz nie gelingen.
 mur in sflauben feines Berbienites $\mathfrak{u n s}$ tröften, jondern auty feinem
 ber Gemeinde ©brifum al̉ Beifpiel aller $\mathfrak{I u g e n d e n . ) ~}$

Das mixd Rampf foften, wie ja aud ber $\mathfrak{A p o j t e l}$ von Waffen bes Ridfts redet. अ1ber eben biefe Maffen bes Ridfta, die wix antun, er=

 Jüngiten $\mathfrak{I} a g$ ermutigt unß zum ©ifer in Der Sceiligung. Unnjer ફeeil ift näher, benn als wix zum (sflauben famen. Das Šauptyindernis ift Ginweggenommen, ber $\mathfrak{U n g l a u b e}$. Nun warten wir mur auf bie $\mathfrak{B o l f}=$ endung uniers ફecirs, bas uns ©friftus erworben bat, 1 ®or. 1, 7 ; Tit. 2, 13.

Roctanalige Gerzlitye brmahmung im Sinblide auf bie Mäke be马 Süngiten $\mathfrak{I a g e}$, $\mathfrak{B} .12$ zu befolgen.
$\mathfrak{T} . \mathbb{R}$.

## Miscellanea.

## The Spring and Pool of Bethesda.

It has been known for a number of years that some of the springs in and near the city of Jerusalem are intermittent. Concerning the spring which fed the pool of Bethesda this discovery was made by German archeologists several decades ago. In Dr. G. J. Duncan's latest book The Accuracy of the Old Testament the following account is given: "In the bottom of the Kidron Valley . . . is the spring known as the Virgin's Fountain. In Old Testament times it was known as Gihon, and in Christ's time it was known as the Pool of Bethesda. ... It is an intermittent spring, and it is understood to be fed from a natural cistern in the rock some considerable height above it. Into this cistern the collected rain finds its way. By the by, the water, compressed into a space too small for it, forces an exit for itself by a sort of siphon in the softest part of the rock. When the water in the cistern rises high enough to run over the bend of the siphon exit, the whole cistern empties itself into the natural cavity of the Virgin's Fountain, filling it to a depth of ten to twelve feet above its normal level, which is not more than three feet deep." (P. 115 f .) The New Standard Bible Dictionary offers a cut showing a cross-section of the hill with the cistern and the siphon. - Are we to assume that this explanation militates against the Biblical account of the miraculous healings? Not at all. A few orthodox commentators have pointed out that similar healing powers are connected with intermittent springs in noted watering-places,
so that cures are effected more often at the time of "bubbling." The remarks of Dr. Stoeckhardt are interesting in this connection: "Nach der Sohrift sind solche wohltaetigen Wirkungen natuerlicher Dinge durch Engel vermittelt. Die Engel wirken in den Naturkraeften. Das Weltregiment Gottes geschieht durch die Engel, die Gottes Boten, Gottes Diener, sind. Es ist ganz schriftgemaess, dass man glaubt, in den vielen Heilquellen sind auch jetzt noch Engel taetig." Cp. also Dr. Robinson's description of the spring and pool and Abbott's Commentary on John.

## P. E. K.

## Bierjäfrige Seminarfurje.

 શ. ․ ®. bringen wix folgende Paragraphen: "Sie Berfammlung umjerer firche in fond bu \&ac folle unfers eradgtens die Stubierzeit auf umfern beiben theologifityen Seminaren auf bier Jahre berlängern und bie $\mathfrak{U n}=$ ondmung treffen, baß jeber Stubent in ber Regel nady Mbjolvierung bes britten Stubienjahres ein Sahr lang als Bifar ober ßaftoratsgehilfe tätig ift. Wix machen biejen Borjalag fomogl im seinblide auf bie Stubenten als auf bie Gemeinden.
 ausgebaut worben. Wemn angebende Mediziner ober $\mathfrak{F u r i f t e n}$ Geute biel megr Semefter ftubieren müffen als früher, fo liegt bas nidgt etwa baran,
 Refultate exzielen als frïher, fonbern baran, bā das gefamte Bilbungs= nibean fich ftarl gegoben hat. Bufiunftige saftoren müffen in ithem Fach ebenfo griundlid ausgebildet werben wie bie $\mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{n g}$ ghorigen anderer $\mathfrak{B e r u f e}$.
 jagb burd bie Theologie und ihre Grenzgebiete. Wier mixd bie Stunden= zafl befdinitten, und da fird ein ganzes $\mathfrak{z a d}$ aus dem solan geftriden, weil es an Beit fefit. So viele widftige (ober mandimal auth mur widatig fdeinende) $\mathfrak{乛}$ ädher muiffen unbedingt int Stubienplan eine Stelle finden, Dab für bie eigentlidyen Grunbfächer ber Theologie mur noch wenig Beit übrig= $\mathfrak{G l e i b t}$. Das gnbe diefer Entwifling ift bann bie unaujfeglidyte ©ber= flädflichleit, bie man gar nidft felten beobachten fann. Wo bat ein sheo= logieftubent Die Beit, Die boch fo umungänglid nötig ift, um fich wirlitid in die Theologie zu bertiefen, eine eigene perfönlidye Stellung zu bem gewat= tigen Rehrftoff einzunehmen, Der ihm täglidy und ftïndlidy angeboten wird? (bs bird immer mur menige Studenten geben, bie bei bem jeł̧igen Betrieb fich eine rechte Methode Des Stubium umb ber $\mathfrak{U r b e i t ~ e r w e r b e n . ~ B e i ~ b e r ~}$ meiften wird es infolge ber übergrōen $\mathfrak{E}$ aft und der unübexjegbaren Menge an Stoff zut nicht biel meht alz gebächtnỉnäßiger. Ynneignung fommen.
 unferer Seminare beredfigt find. Die ctbif wird zum Beificel fajt überall
 lidfer $\mathfrak{A u} u$ ius in Sozidogie gegeben werden. Man brautht nur bas Mort praltifche Sheologie auszufprecten, und fofort melden fich brei ober vier, mogl gar ein halbes Dukend æädlex, bie entweder überhaupt nidit berücti= fichtigt oder boch nidft alffeitig umb gruindlidy genug behandelt worben find. Wo aber infolge bes Diranges ber Entwictlung neue §äclex eingeführt wor= Den find, ift es meiften auf Roften ber bsundfäder, befonders - und bas
 $\mathfrak{D i e}$ einzige angemeffene Röfung ber $\mathfrak{\lessgtr r a g e}$ ift bie Berlängerung ber Stu= bienzeit auf mindejtens vier Safre, womöglidy mit einem $\mathfrak{B i f a r i a t z j a h r ~}$ nadi Dem britten Stubienjabre."

## International Birth-Control Propaganda.

(From an article in America.)
"Falling birth-rates and international birth-control propaganda! No wonder that the public mind is confused.
"From the report of the Registrar General we learn that Great Britain's birth-rate reached a new low mark of 15.3 per 1,000 in the first quarter of this year. There were 152,220 births in that period, which was 7,451 below the total for the first quarter of 1931. Experts claim that the population of England and Wales will soon become stationary at about $40,000,000$ (some say $48,000,000$ ).
"At the first annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held in New York, April 22, Dr. O. E. Baker, senior agricultural economist for the United States Department of Agriculture, declared that in the absence of a notable increase in immigration and the reversal of the downward trend of the birth-rate, which is very unlikely, as long as unemployment persists, it appeared likely that the United States might have a stationary population at the end of about twenty-five years, which would be followed by a decline.
"J.J. Spengler, in the July Scribner's, quotes similar authoritative statements with regard to Western and Northern Europe (England and Wales, Germany, France, Scandinavia, and Finland), where seven per cent. fewer children are born each year than are needed in the long run to offset deaths. 'Professor Gini's studies reveal similar deficits in Austria, Belgium, Esthonia, Ireland, Latvia, Scotland, Switzerland, and Hungary.' Predominantly agricultural countries are the only ones which maintain themselves.
"In the mean while the League of Nations Health Committee last October adopted a report (No. 1060) endorsing contraception and noting that it may be necessary to extend contraceptive information. In April of this year the English Medical Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmas, and St. Damian protested vigorously against this report, holding that preventive medicine or therapeutics had no right to invade a domain which is not really medical nor 'to suggest solutions contrary to natural morality and offensive to the precepts of the Christian religion.'
"In this country the directors of the Federated Catholic Physicians" Guild, at their first annual meeting in New York City on June 11, took a similar stand, declaring that 'the objective of medicine is the promotion and conservation of human life, not its prevention or control.'
"The International Council of Women, representing forty million women, at their cfficers' and conveners' meeting in Geneva on May 12 of this year, ruled birth control out of order for the study of an organization which would never touch religious controversial matters. . .
"Contraceptive practises, however, from their very nature do contribute to the decline of population. How, then, can they be justified by any one who is concerned over this decline?
"One argument used to solve this conundrum has perhaps not received. sufficient attention. Dr. Ezra Bowen, head of the Department of Economics at Lafayette College, in his Hypothesis of Population Growth, proposes as the 'central thesis' of Malthus: 'Life everywhere and always tends to exceed the warrant for it, with consequent universal suffering and destruction.'
"Labor, poverty, diseases, bad nursing, war, plague, and famine may check to a limited degree this dynamic urge for reproduction. But if these are done away with by civilization, mankind is exposed mercilessly to the automatic reproduction process. His only refuge, then, says Dr. Bowen, is in 'voluntary checks,' a deliberate restriction of the population. By such voluntary restriction man 'may control the rate of human increase as easily as one can regulate the flow of water from a tap.' Depopulation therefore, he thinks, in civilized and peaceful countries, simply indicates that the voluntary check is being unscientifically used; the question is simply of more or less contraception, as 'prudence' dictates. Were we to give up contraception, we should relinquish our only ultimate, sure defense against the inexorable automatic urge of the human race to multiply. So runs the argument.
"'What would you say, Brother Noah,' asks De Lawd in The Green Pastures, 'ef it wuz to rain fo'ty days an' fo'ty nights?'
"'I would say,' replies Noah, 'dat it wuz a complete rain.'
"The argument just given is a complete error, or rather the combination of two or three complete errors.
"First and foremost, there is no such essential, unreasoning dynamic urge in the human race to propagate. The human race cannot propagate itself, as do the animals, over a period of generations merely by instinctive sexual urge. Promiscuous intercourse defeats itself. There are not only biological consequences, but social and economic complications, which readily cause the extinction in a fairly short time of any group which gives itself up merely to an instinctive urge. The animals have certain instinets which regulate their sexual life and thereby ensure indefinitely the propagation of their species. Man has none such. The purely animal instincts of mankind, left to themselves, tend to extinction, not to perpetuation.
"The human race depends for its propagation upon certain social institutions, voluntary associations of human beings, and chosen social customs. These institutions are held together not by mere animal instinct, but by rational choice. Primary among these institutions is the family; secondary (in this connection) are the civic and religious institutions which keep the family intact.
"No matter how degenerate the family may be, it still is a matter of voluntary association, not a mere automatic process, like the mating of animals. Even those primitive mountaineers visited by Mary Breckenridge, even the swarming millions of China, India, or Great Russia, would not multiply as they do over any long course of generations were not some family and other social institutions superadded to the natural sex urge so as to maintain a rational motive for increase."

