

## 137. Feminist Reticence

Feminist groups in Australia were reluctant to publicly support birth control. Jessie Street gives some reasons for this and passes the responsibility for contraception over to the medical profession.

I feel I have not been a very effective correspondent but as I told you in a Report I sent you some years ago, more harm than good might come of publicity on this subject. At present there are no regulations against the sale or manufacture of contraceptive devices. There are some Customs regulations concerning importation of such things but these are merely with the object of encouraging their local manufacture. If any publicity does take place various Social Organizations raise their voices in protest and endeavour to have restrictions introduced against the giving of birth control information. I feel that the most effective way is to prevail upon Medical Bodies to pass recommendations that contraceptive instruction should be given in Medical Schools.

Jessie Street to Edith How Martyn, Director of the Birth Control Information Centre, London, 9 July 1934.