

# RAID SANGER CLINIC ON BIRTH CONTROL

## Police Seize Two Women Doctors and Three Nurses in West 15th Street Bureau.

### FOUNDER IS NOT ARRESTED

#### But She Goes to Court and Aids in Planning Defense for Trial Friday —Dismissal Predicted.

The Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau at 46 West Fifteenth Street, founded by Mrs. Margaret Sanger in 1923 "to test the decision handed down by the New York State Court of Appeals to the effect that 'a physician lawfully practicing can give contraceptive advice for the cure or prevention of disease,'" was raided by the police yesterday.

Dr. Hannah M. Stone of 210 East Fifteenth Street, medical director of the bureau, her associate, Dr. Elizabeth Pissont of 1,624 York Avenue, the Bronx, and three registered nurses, Marcella Sideri of 4,126 Crescent Street, Long Island City; Sigrid Brestwell of 1,711 East Fifteenth Street, Brooklyn, and Antoinette Field of 4 East Twenty-eighth Street, were arrested on warrants issued by Chief Magistrate William McAdoo charging violations of Section 1,142 of the Penal Code, a section relating to the giving of information for birth control.

Mrs. Sanger, director of the bureau, was not arrested but accompanied the other women to the West Twentieth Street police station, later to the Jefferson Market Court, and then to a conference with the attorneys for the bureau. The warrants were issued for Dr. Stone, Jane Doe, Jane Roe, Jane Nurse and Jane Doctor, upon evidence obtained by Policewoman Anna K. McNamara.

#### Cause of Raid Kept Secret.

The police refused to disclose what led to the raid except that it was a result of complaints received from citizens.

The five women were freed in \$300 bail each, supplied by a surety company, for hearing Friday morning when arraigned before Magistrate Rosenbluth in Jefferson Market Court.

The headquarters of the Clinical Research Bureau are in the basement and first floor of an old fashioned brownstone house directly across from the rear of St. Francis Xavier's school. There were fifteen women in the waiting room, some accompanied by children, when Policewomen Mary Sullivan and McNamara, Lieutenant Frank Woods and several uniformed policemen presented the warrants. The pupils of the school crowded to the windows to watch the excitement as the women were sent out into the street during the raid, and the crowd collected to watch.

The five women were notified of their arrest, and the police began to seize articles for evidence, including books on the shelves, pictures and diagrams on the walls and various devices in a wall cabinet. Their zeal exceeded their medical knowledge, the nurses said, because the policemen seized forceps used for removing instruments or materials from the sterilizing cabinet and also took the "curio closet," a collection of devices brought in by patients and kept as examples of the public's lack of knowledge.

Shortly before the policemen came in, a physician visiting the city came into the headquarters to inquire about the work being done in the clinic and the methods used. He had asked, "Well, do you ever have any difficulty with the authorities?" and had been assured, "No, those days have passed." He departed during the raid when he convinced the police that he had nothing to do with the clinic.

The evidence was bundled into waste paper baskets, an inventory of what had been taken was supplied, and the prisoners, Mrs. Sanger and the police went in taxicabs to the police station. There the women were booked and later went to the Jefferson Market Court.

#### Immediate Trial Opposed.

John Hogan, an Assistant District Attorney assigned to the case, moved for an immediate trial, which was opposed by Samuel J. Schur of counsel for the bureau. He said Morris J. Ernest, trial counsel, would be out of town until Thursday night. The time was fixed for Friday morning. The women went to a detention pen while awaiting the arrival of the bondsman.

After leaving the court room, Mrs. Sanger, who had sat in the spectators' benches, and the accused women went to the offices of Morris L. Ernst of 285 Madison Avenue for a conference regarding the defense. Mr. Ernst said later that if necessary the case would be carried to the highest court, but expressed confidence that it would not be necessary.

"The case will be thrown out. I am sure," he said. "In the face of Judge Crane's decision I don't see how any magistrate can do otherwise."

The decision referred to is that upholding the conviction of Mrs. Sanger in 1916 for spreading information about birth control on the grounds that she was not a physician. She was sentenced to thirty days in jail in Special Sessions, lost on appeal, and served her sentence. The case was carried to the United States Supreme Court, which refused to assume jurisdiction.