

an immediate comprehensive reference, or as an avenue to further reading.

## REFERENCES

- Childs, P. (1972). *British Journal of Surgery*, **59**, 669.  
 Dawson, J. L. (1965). *British Medical Journal*, **1**, 82.  
 Dawson, J. L. (1968). *Annals of Royal College of Surgeons of England*, **42**, 163.

M. T. EVERETT

**Birth Control in America.** The Career of Margaret Sanger. KENNEDY, D. M. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. Price: \$2.95. This book provides a remarkable insight into the way a democratic society changes its mind. It is by no means a biography of Margaret Sanger.

Rather it is a complex social history in which Mrs Sanger played a leading role. Mr Kennedy is fully prepared to criticise his heroine, and there are times when the reader wonders whether contraception became accepted in America in spite of Margaret Sanger, rather than as a result of her efforts. This view is particularly apparent in her relationship with the medical profession. Rather than relinquish any of her control of her own clinic, she steadfastly refused the collaboration of Robert Latou Dickinson who, as president of the American Gynaecological Society, would have ensured the backing of an influential section of the medical profession for the birth control movement.

This book is a well-written account of an important piece of recent medical history.

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