

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Family planning—birth control

*To the Editor:*

In a systematic in-depth study on common concepts about birth control among a sample of 166 Negro women in several locations, J. F. Kantner and M. Zelnik established that the term "family planning" was not in the minds of the women related to "birth control, child spacing and family size" (Studies in Family Planning No. 47, 1969, "United States: Exploratory Studies of Negro Family Formation—Common Conceptions About Birth Control").

The findings of the two authors have been confirmed in personal interviews over several years with thousands of young women residing in the Borough of the Bronx, New York, and surrounding areas. To these patients from less than affluent segments of the population (ethnic distribution of Black, Puerto Rican, White, 40:40:20), who visited our Outpatient Department. Clinics requesting contraceptive devices or related counseling, "family planning" very frequently denotes many things other than birth control. For one thing, they believe that its service is restricted to married couples or women who are engaged. The second most frequently voiced notion is that of an agency advising in matters of household budgeting particularly in regard to the funds one needs to raise and provide for schooling of children, etc. Last, they believe family planning means counseling and assistance related to infertility or miscarriages. This is especially true of the single woman and the formerly married among them who are first acceptors of any contraception. These women represent a sizable portion of our total clinic population. The term "birth control," by contrast, is most frequently associated with the pill. It follows that existing facilities for family planning in public institutions are far less used by a substantial population group, one that perhaps needs it most.

We, therefore, urge readers of the JOURNAL to examine the situation in their respective com-

munities and, if it turns out that our experience is duplicated there, to initiate appropriate action.

Our suggestion regarding such action is to use the term "birth control" side by side with the term "family planning" to identify clinics and other public institutions offering contraceptive counseling and service. It is also essential that this term be carried in all directories including those printed by telephone companies.

*Eric Bloch, Ph.D.*  
*W. Godfrey Cobliner, Ph.D.*  
*Irwin H. Kaiser, M.D.*  
*Zeev Koren, M.D.*  
*Mamdouh Moukhtar, M.D.*  
*Anna T. Rand, M.D.*  
*Seymour L. Romney, M.D.*  
*Harold Schulman, M.D.*  
*Joseph J. Smith, M.D.*

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*  
*Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva*  
*University*  
*Bronx, New York 10461*  
*September 3, 1971*

### Familial ovarian hyperthecosis

*To the Editors:*

The article, "Familial ovarian hyperthecosis: A study of two families," by Givens and associates (AM. J. OBSTET. GYNECOL. 110: 959, 1971), presented an abundance of interesting genetic and biochemical findings. Since the accuracy of diagnosis, however, is so important in the interpretation of the data presented and since the diagnosis rests on the histologic details, it is regrettable that no reference was made to histologic and histochemical enzymatic studies of hyperthecosis, or thecosis, more recent than Shippel's<sup>1</sup> article of 1955. These studies<sup>2-4</sup> indicate that the nonneoplastic abnormalities of the theca interna and the stromal theca cell