

# FERTILITY AND STERILITY IN MARRIAGE

## THEIR VOLUNTARY PROMOTION AND LIMITATION

TH. H. VAN DE VELDE

M.D.

### PRESS OPINIONS

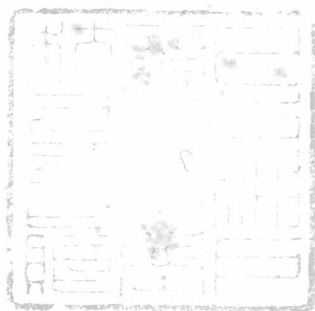
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## FERTILITY AND STERILITY IN MARRIAGE



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Let us not deplore, but help!  
Let us not accuse, but improve!"

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" There is no virtue in evasion,  
No courage in prejudice,  
No salvation in ignorance."

LINCOLN COLCORD.

## PREFACE

IT is a duty to render thanks where they are due, and a pleasure as well : for it is pleasant to have had occasion for gratitude. So, at the threshold of my book, I have special pleasure in expressing my cordial thanks to my colleague, Dr. *Otto Herschan* of Breslau, who has indefatigably helped me with extensive preliminary work for several of the following chapters.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. *C. A. Bang, O.B.E.*, of Prestwood, Bucks., for much valuable help, and for the way he has exerted himself introducing my works in the English language.

Finally, I wish to thank Miss *F. W. Stella Browne* for the extraordinary care she devoted to the translation, and Mr. *J. Johnston Abraham, F.R.C.S.*, for his valuable advice and for supervising and reading the proofs.

This is the third and last volume of my trilogy on marital problems. It deals with extremely significant matters, and with questions in the forefront of public interest to-day ; questions as difficult to elucidate as they are important to estimate and understand. Therefore, I have been obliged to limit the subject-matter of this book to what seemed absolutely essential for the mastery of general principles and main facts. In my original plan, chapters on individual eugenics and volitional sex determination had been included, and to some extent, already constructed, but they have finally been omitted in order to spare my readers further masses of material, which are not essential for this book.

On the other hand, however, I have not attempted what seems to me undue simplification of my theme or my treatment. If the book is to give the instruction of which my readers are in need, it must delve into the

quarry of human knowledge, and not pass lightly over its surface.

The accessory facts have been treated in appendices, following the chapters to which they are relevant. The bibliographical references have been listed under consecutive numerals at the end of the book.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the utmost has been done to make my subject-matter intelligible.

I hope that its statements, arguments and suggestions may be received in the spirit in which they have been offered.

TH. H. VAN DE VELDE.

VAL FONTILE,  
MINUSIO-LOCARNO,  
SWITZERLAND.

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## PLATES WITH LETTERPRESS I TO XX.



# FERTILITY AND STERILITY IN MARRIAGE

## PART I

### ETHICAL POSTULATES AND PRINCIPLES

#### CHAPTER I

##### INTRODUCTION. THE ETHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS. THE STANDPOINT OF THIS STUDY

I am conscious of a certain anxiety and reluctance now that at long last I have set myself to write this book.

This feeling might reasonably be attributed to the difficulty and intricacy of my theme, or to the indubitable fact that few groups of problems could be cited which contain so much material for disagreement and involve so much danger of misunderstanding, when treated in publicly accessible form. Yet this supposition would not be correct. The difficulty of any subject is no deterrent to one who has spent most of his life in its study and practice. And he who has endeavoured to reach a well-founded judgment of any problem, through conscientious investigation and careful consideration, does not go in fear of attacks, though he is well aware that such attacks can be vehement and even offensive, as is always the case in those controversies where instinct and emotion play the lead, however logically and rationally they may be clothed.

No! There are other reasons for my hesitation. I will enumerate them, both in order to relieve my own mind from their repressive influences and in order to acquaint readers of