

LIFE



SHOULD THEY MARRY?

MARCH 21, 1938

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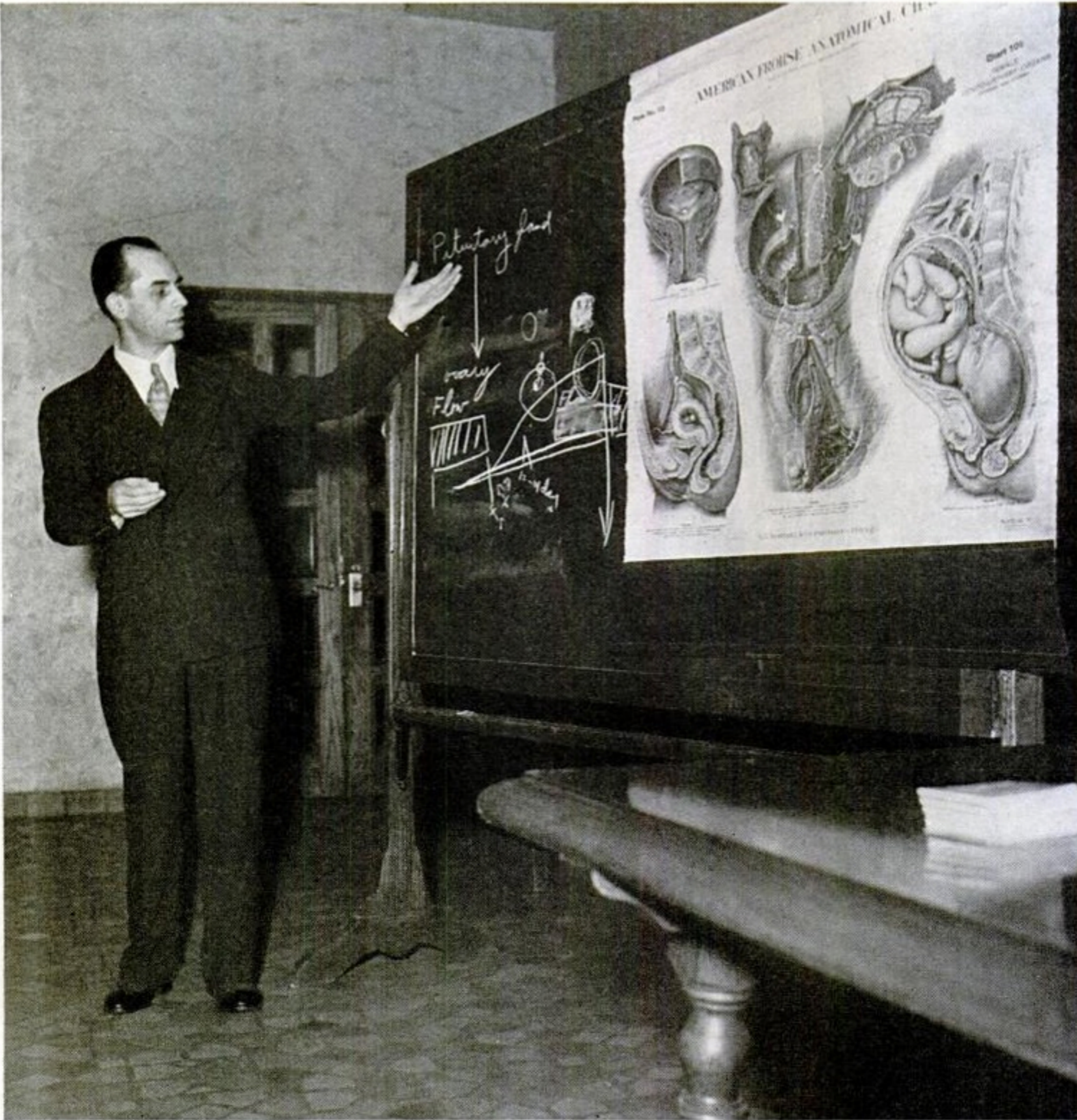
DETROIT MINISTER'S MARRIAGE CLINIC ANSWERS QUERY: "SHOULD THEY MARRY?"

Rector warns of pitfalls of wedlock

On the cover of this issue you see Robert Cannell and Dorothy Frances Stark playing badminton at the Western Y.M.C.A. in Detroit. They are in love but not yet formally engaged. An hour ago they were attending a lecture on marriage. Like thousands of young men and women elsewhere, they are asking themselves this grave question: "Should we get married?" They don't doubt each other's affection and they are not even dismayed by the U. S. divorce total of over 200,000 a year, for emotional factors are never affected by statistics. The only thing that makes them stop to think is the experience of two out of ten married friends who a few years ago were wed in a shower of glory, love, and rice, and now are divorced, separated or miserable.

In the past ten years American youth has come to the sudden realization that a happy marriage is not the result of pure and boundless love but of an intricate combination of financial, emotional, physical and social elements. To explain these complex factors, more than a hundred colleges (from Vassar's course by Dr. Joseph Kirk Folsom to Univ. of Iowa's lectures by Dr. Moses Jung) and a thousand churches have started courses on marriage which give frank expositions of all the phases of love from petting to birth control. One of these shown here, is the Modern Marriage Clinic organized by the Rev. Gilbert Appelhof Jr. (lower left), rector of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on Detroit's West Side.

Mr. Appelhof's aim is to cut the mounting divorce rate by providing expert guidance to those contemplating marriage, and counsel to those already married. The course is held twice a week for three weeks, has an average attendance of 100 to 150 men and women. The lecturers are doctors, social workers and budget experts. Complementing these are private consultations given by the Rev. Appelhof and his staff.

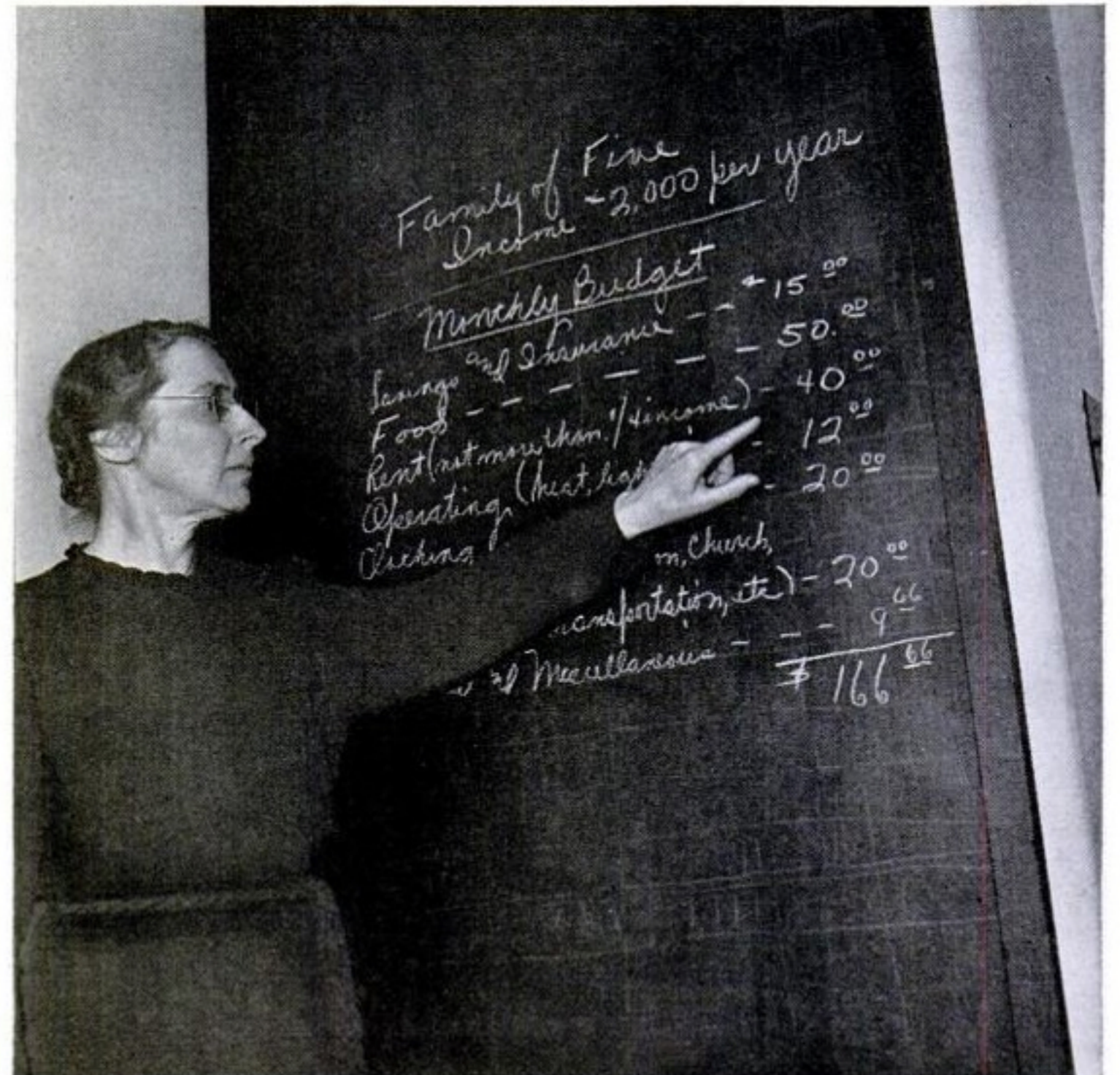


Sex in marriage is explained by Dr. David C. Kimball, gynecologist, to a Clinic audience. Recent statistics show that a great percentage of divorces are due to physical

maladjustment often resulting from lack of knowledge or training. He also lectures on birth control to give couples a chance to plan families according to financial means.



Director Appelhof, of the Modern Marriage Clinic, at 38 is happily married and the father of three young children. He believes that once the problems of marriage are recognized, they can be eliminated. His Clinic experiences are to be the basis of his Ph.D. thesis.



Budget Expert Marcia Ward tells prospective brides and bridegrooms how a family of five can live on \$2,000 a year. Many young couples have become too accustomed to the luxuries of their parental homes, quarrel over finances when forced to live on a small budget.