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The only encouraging feature, as Mr. Phillips points out, is that the decline of the birth rate and increase in the percentage of childless marriages have tended to be less abrupt.

Regarding these phenomena, Mr. Phillips writes:

'No one of thoughtful tendency will fail to view with alarm the lowered birth rate of marriages and the spread of a standard of living among the upper and middle classes which is based on comfort and luxury rather than on education and culture.

And he quotes from another letter addressed to him by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, in which the latter declares that one of the causes of the phenomenon in question was "a preference on the part of the parents of bringing up children in private schools," and that the parents seemed to have "given up the idea that a large number of children would be necessary for the maintenance of the family and the carrying on of the family business."