

not as we would have it, it is, because the proper ingredients were not used. We must ever remember that, being in the midst of conflicting influences, it is impossible for man to remain in a state of equilibrium. In the rebellion of influences, the stronger will be victorious, and after each conflict he is either raised one step higher in the scale of life or descends one step lower. By yielding to degrading influences, man's powers are weakened, and he is rendered less able to battle with the lurking foes awaiting him. By yielding to ennobling influences his powers are strengthened, and he is led to still greater conquests.

If we would only make a wise selection of our environment, for, bear in mind, it is the circumstances of the environment from the cradle to the grave that determine our future destiny and a judicious use of our functions, we should always be found in the upward road to perfect development. But if we choose an abnormal environment and aid it by functional inactivity or functional excesses, we shall find, as we are carried downwards in the road to degeneracy, that our only blessing will be ignorance and immorality, poverty and disease. In all nature there are no evils without a remedy, if we but wisely seek it. So it is with evils of heredity. Nature furnishes poisons for the assassin; she also furnishes antidotes for the physician. As we deal with disease so should we deal with crime, as we cannot isolate either from heredity.

Children should be taught by wise mothers and fathers that ignorance of the laws of nature does not necessarily mean innocence in character; it is by *knowledge* that we gain power. A well-known gentleman has said, one who is born with such congenital incapacity that nothing can make a gentleman of him, is entitled, not to our wrath, but to our profoundest sympathy.

Those unfortunate victims who receive moral poisons from their ancestors, and those who receive bodies tainted with impurities, have no moral right whatever to entail upon helpless offspring the bitter fruits of their own ancestral sins. Such homes are the incubators for vice and moral depravity, and it is at their firesides that we find the congenital criminal.

It may appear rather a drastic measure, but there should be a gulf put between congenital criminals and the rest of mankind by means of compulsory celibacy, by isolating them from the world at large or by physiological annihilation,\* which will render posterity safe from such contamination. The pure crystal streams of life should not be allowed to be polluted by the streams that flow into them, otherwise the waters of both will become con-

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\* Sexual pervers should not be allowed to procreate, and if the merciful act of asexualization was performed on all habitual criminals, it would not only relieve our gaols of more than half of the inmates but would make them industrious and useful citizens.