

act—will drag out their lives, martyrs to surroundings which they have tried to mould ; they who, as a race, should have been moulded by their surroundings. Preventive medicine is trying a unique experiment, and the effect is already discernible—race decay. But the experiment has gone quite far enough, and it should be modified to produce a different result. Why should the microbe select ? Why not public humanity and public reason, since selection there must be ? This appears to be the only possible solution of the difficulty, for it is not to be desired that preventive medicine should cease from making war upon the microbe, provided other selective agencies are used to replace them. Is it not our duty, by boldly facing facts and publicly stating them, to endeavor to bring about such strong public opinion as will force people to look upon the act of giving birth to a diseased child as one of the most cruel sins ? ”

Powerfully and ably as these sentences place the subject before us, it seems to me that the question of the destination of the race is too large for us. Its solution must be left to the omniscience and omnipotence of Him who determines the destinies of man and microbe. We have been largely endowed with the instinct of self-preservation, and with intellect to guide that instinct. Our instinct is unselfish, in so far as it extends to our fellows ; it is tender and sympathetic inasmuch as it embraces the preservation and welfare of those weaker and more helpless than ourselves ; and it is merciful in that it drives us not to the wanton destruction of other forms of created life, though we grant that no scruple restrains our destructiveness, when necessary in self-defence, or when required for our subsistence and the continuation of our species.

Certain it is that, individually, we need not let the responsibility for the deterioration of the race rest heavily upon us. The circle which each of us has to fill in the economy of creation is an extremely narrow one. The standard which we try to live up to in our profession has been slowly evolved through the long ages, and we believe that we are realizing our highest ideal when we do our utmost to preserve and prolong human life, whether that life is manifested in the glorious body of a stalwart, godlike man, or in the shrunken frame of a feeble, wailing infant.