

As regards the art of eugenics in some cases, at least, definite rules may already be laid down. The fundamental law is: Whenever the same unit defect exists in both parents it will appear in all the offspring. The "unit defect" is not easily determined, nor is a given gross defect probably identical in the parental strains unless the parents are cousins.

By a proper investigative research we could not only learn the method by which human characteristics are transmitted but we could also discover those lines which supply our families of great men: our great statesmen, our inventors, our captains of industry, our octogenarians, nonagenarians and centenarians. Thus could also be learned whence come the whole list of famous men who stand high above the average, and likewise the sources of the insane and feeble-minded, the tens of thousands of blind or deaf, the hundreds of thousands that are annually cared for in our hospitals and homes, the hordes of criminals and paupers that are found within and without prisons and almshouses.

"Greater tasks than those contemplated in the broadest scheme of the eugenics committee have been carried out in this country [the United States]. If only *one-half of one per cent.* of the thirty million dollars annually spent on hospitals, twenty millions on insane asylums, twenty millions for almshouses, thirteen millions on prisons, and five millions on the feeble-minded, deaf and blind, were spent on the study of the bad germ-plasm that is the real cause of the above annual expenditure of nearly one hundred million dollars, we might hope to learn just how it is being reproduced and the best way to diminish its further spread. A *new* plague that rendered four per cent. of our population, chiefly at the most productive age, not only incompetent but a burden costing one hundred million dollars yearly to support, would instantly attract universal attention, and millions of dollars would be forthcoming for its study as they have been for the study of cancer. But we have become so used to crime, disease and degeneracy that we take them as necessary evils. That they *were* such, in the world's ignorance, is granted. That they must remain so, is denied.