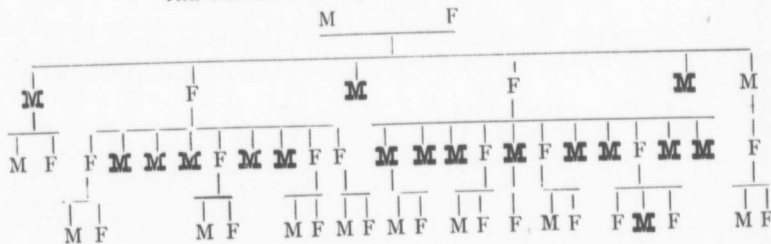


of cancer, gives statistics to show that about one-fourth of the persons affected were aware of the existence of the same disease in other members of their family, and he cites particular instances in which cancer was present in two and even four generations. He had no doubt that the disease can be inherited, —not, he says, that, strictly speaking, cancer or cancerous material is transmitted, but a tendency to the production of those conditions which will finally manifest themselves in a cancerous growth. The germ from the cancerous parent must be so far different from the normal as after the lapse of years to engender the cancerous condition.

Heredity is also one of the most powerful factors in the production of those affections which we call gout and rheumatism. Sir Dyce Duckworth, the latest systematic writer on gout, states that in those families whose histories are the most complete and trustworthy the influence is strongly shown, and occurs in from 50 to 75 per cent. of the cases; further, that the children of gouty parents show signs of articular gout at an age when they have not assumed those habits of life and peculiarities of diet which are regarded as the exciting causes of the disease.

Some interesting and instructive family histories, in which the hereditary transmission of a particular disease through several generations has been worked out, are recorded by Prof. Klebs in his "Allgemeine Pathologie." I may draw from these one or two additional illustrations. Some families exhibit a remarkable tendency to bleed when the surface of the body is injured or bruised, and the bleeding is stopped with difficulty. The hæmorrhagic tendency is not due to the state of the blood, but to a softening or degeneration of the walls of the blood-vessels, so that they are easily torn. In one family, the tree of which is subjoined, this peculiarity showed itself in one generation in three out of four males; in the next generation, in thirteen out of fourteen males; while in the immediately succeeding generation only one out of nine males was affected; so that it would seem as if the tendency was fading away in it. It is remarkable that throughout the series, though the transmission of the affection went through the female members, they themselves remained free from it:

THE FAMILY MAMPEL, RECORDED BY DR. LOSSEN.



Another illustration may be taken from the well-known disease of the eye-ball called cataract. Dr. Appenzeller has given an account of a family which