

in turn, inherits the same characteristics as the father, but those which were undeveloped in the father become developed in the son, who thus comes to bear a stronger resemblance to an uncle or an aunt or a grand-parent than to his father or his mother.

3. Deviations from the regular type, or from averages, though transmissible, cannot go beyond certain limits. Hence in the offspring of individuals representing these deviations there is manifested a constant tendency to return to the regular type.

4. All forms of disease being perverted life processes, are therefore deviations from the natural type. And they, too, are subject to like limitation in their transmission, and there is the same tendency manifested to return to the regular type, or, in other words, to health, under improved and favorable conditions. These inherited diseases or perverted process may, like the peculiar characteristics, remain latent for a generation or two and then become developed in another. And hence, not unfrequently, individuals appear to inherit certain diseases from a grand-parent or an uncle or an aunt.

5. Characteristics when common to both parents are very liable to become intensified in the offspring; this has been especially noticed when the characteristics are of the nature of deteriorations or predispositions to disease.

6. Mental qualities are subject to the same law of heredity as the physical characteristics: though, it is said, with this important difference, that any vicious tendency in the parents, as a rule, becomes intensified in the offspring. This however may be more apparent than real, and the greater viciousness may arise from the early environments of the offspring.

ON PREVENTION IN HEREDITY. — Can any useful lesson be deduced from our knowledge of heredity as relates to disease? What can sanitary science suggest in reference to the removal of hereditary predispositions or the prevention of hereditary diseases? Perverted processes, deviations from health, either acquired or inherited, have doubtless a tendency to revert to natural healthy action when under proper hygienic conditions. There is in the body a tendency toward perfection; a tendency to set matters right when they have gone wrong; in disease, a natural inclination to health. We have illustrations of such a tendency when injuries are repaired and lost parts are restored. In early times this tendency, or power, as it has been called, was almost materialized, and received the appellation of a *VIS MEDICATRIX NATURA*. Van Helmont personified it as the archæus,