

persons making them were not in a fit condition to give out deliberate and reliable information on what really did happen. Now that so much is known regarding the mental condition of dying persons, it should be made a condition *sine qua non* that the dying persons are in a fit condition mentally to make so serious a statement as would involve the life of another. Such dying persons would rarely be held as competent to make a will directing the disposition of their property. It is, therefore, too much to accord them the right to make ante-mortem statements directing the disposition that may be made of life. But with the bard of Avon:

Poise the cause in justice' equal scales,
Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause prevails.

THE EUGENIC CONGRESS.

This important Congress is to be held at the University of London, in July. It will discuss many subjects of interest affecting the heredity of children and the need for paying attention to the subject of race culture. In many countries this question has taken deep root and is making good progress along the lines of spreading useful information.

As yet there has been nothing much done in the way of legislation. In some states of the Union laws have been passed preventing the marriage of degenerates and feeble minded persons, and criminals. This is making some headway. So far the work of those urging eugenics have been mainly educational.

One of the features of the Congress will be the encouragement of early marriages among the fit. The Congress will advocate the passing of laws to restrain the marriage of among those who should not be granted such a liberty.

Professor Osler will give a paper on the subject of "Eugenics and the Medical Profession." Other leading savants from Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the United States, etc., will take part in the deliberations. Race-culture has been too long neglected, and we hope brighter days are in store for it.

THE DISCOVERY OF ANAESTHETICS.

During the year 1847 there raged a keen controversy as to the merits of the claims of Sir James Simpson and chloroform, and Dr. W. T. G. Martin and ether. Wills opposed Morton's claim and contended that he had induced anæsthesia before Morton. He went insane and committed suicide in 1848. Wells was a dentist. One Jackson also opposed Morton's claim, saying that he had suggested ether to him.