

born infant the character of the stock lies latent, and the ego is little more than a bundle of potentialities. But very early these become actualities. From childhood to age they manifest themselves in dulness or brightness, weakness or strength, viciousness or uprightness, and with each feature modified by confluence with another character, if by nothing else, the character passes on to its incarnation in new bodies. The Indian philosophers call this character karma.

The mysterious manner in which heredity performs its wonders is not yet known. But Sir James Paget said to his class, "We should not throw away what we do not understand." And Hippocrates, the Grecian physician and philosopher, said, "You will, as a rule, find that the form of the body and disposition of the mind correspond to the nature of the country."

The faculties of every animal depend on two causes: First, heredity, or those that have been evolved from the type and become fixed by succession through a long series of ancestors; secondly, adaptation, or those which are acquired by education, including *everything* that places the animal in harmony with its environment.

Let us now take a retrospective view of ancestral inheritances. As we do so, you will find a sympathetic chord has been touched in our nature, for a most melancholy vision is presented to us—diseased bodies, dwarfed and deformed; weak minds, so weak in fact that they cannot see truth, or if perchance they do see it, distort it till it is no longer truth; souls so black that they feast in darkness on the very dregs of perdition. What a vision to behold! And do we call these men? Men who were intended by the Great Creator of the universe to be the crowning piece of His handiwork! What a fearful manifestation of *penalties* for *broken laws*!

There are three causes that lead to all this depravity and misery, viz., an abnormal inheritance, an abnormal environment, and the improper use or abuse of our functions. If the fountain-head of the stream of life is not pure, we cannot expect the waters below to be pure. If in the laboratory of nature we combine two parts of hydrogen and one of oxygen, we call the resulting compound water; but, in the chemistry of life, if we combine two parts of immorality, which is moral depravity, one part of insanity, which is mental depravity, and two parts of disease, which is physical depravity, who can tell us what the product will be? Do we not have this identical problem to deal with in heredity? Every day of our lives we see this sad debauchery in chemistry, and the experimentation makes the world *shudder* to look at the *fearful results*.

If in the sacred laboratory of wedlock we combine these three ingredients, immorality, insanity, disease, we must remember that the laws of nature are never false. If the resulting compound is