

daries. To prevent bad citizens is absolutely the first and greatest duty of every government. In a few of the most advanced states this duty has been in part implemented in laws to sterilize criminals. More and more is it being recognized and established that many so-called private rights are not private—we are approaching the day when beauty in the front lawn will rank with cleanliness in the back yard. As yet our health laws are largely negatives—"Don't be dirty and repulsive" is being changed to "Do be clean and attractive."

"Governments spend scores of thousands of dollars and establish rigid inspections to prevent the spread of the *coitus* disease of the horse, but the *Spirochete* parasite that causes the corresponding disease, syphilis, in man and entails endless misery on hundreds of thousands of innocent children may be disseminated by anybody, and is being disseminated by scores of thousands of persons in this country [U. S.], unchecked, under the protection of the 'personal liberty' flag. Alas! that so little thought is had to the loss of liberty of the infected children. Marriage of persons with venereal disease is not only unfit—it is a hideous and dastardly crime; and its frequency would justify a medical test of all males before marriage, innocent as well as guilty."\*

Tuberculosis of the lungs causes more than ten per cent. of the deaths in the United States but it is easy to find say ten families including one hundred deceased persons among whom, instead of the expected ten *not one* died of consumption. There are also many families in which no nervous disease has occurred in three generations; others without kidney diseases; and so on. On the other hand, in some families forty to fifty per cent. or even eighty per cent. are attacked by lung and throat troubles or nervous defects. These remarkable differences in family groups are not due chiefly to environment, because they occur in families of which the members are widely dispersed and have varied occupations. They indicate fundamental differences in the protoplasm, *i.e.*, in the living substance of the bodies of these persons. Unfavorable environment collects its toll first from those who are, by heredity, least resistant.

\* Davenport, *Eugenics*. Henry Holt & Co., N. Y.