

tion that its appearance and general arrangements met with so spontaneous an approval from the large and distinguished party, who visited us on that occasion.

HEREDITARY DEAFNESS.

Some attention is being given at the present day to the causes operating in the production of deafness, and the means, if any exist, in preventing its transmission.

The question "Why is deafness hereditary?" opens up a vast and interesting field of enquiry, but from lack of data and the imperfect state of our knowledge regarding this defect a satisfactory solution of the problem cannot yet be ascertained.

Man possesses the same structure and the same physical and mental peculiarities as he did some 3,500 years ago. The permanent races of mankind have their own peculiarities of physiognomy, colour of skin, hair, and eyes stamped upon them by the great and uniform law of the transmission of life. The Mongolian, with his olive-brown skin, straight black hair, flat face, small eyes, and high cheek bones is as distinct in his peculiarities to-day as he was thousands of years ago. The same holds good with the Caucasian and other races. As these outward distinguishing marks are transmitted from generation to generation, so peculiarities of disposition, genius, or disease may be transmitted, but in less degree. These characteristics are not so permanent, and may only extend to the first generation. Some insidious disease producing deafness may be transmitted from father to son. The disease runs its natural course, nature resumes her sway, and the son's children may be entirely free from it and consequently possess all their faculties. Some of the causes which produce deafness are entirely within man's control. The marriage of cousins and other relations, vitiated constitutions, weakness of body or mind, the location, or place where a man lives, and mental impressions on the part of the mother have all an influence in producing deaf offspring.

Climate is responsible for much of the deafness existing in certain countries. Norway, Switzerland, the higher regions of the Alps, Pyrenees, and other mountainous districts contain twice the proportion of deaf mutes found in the plains. It has also been noticed that the flat portions of England have fewer deaf mutes

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