

available. Hitherto the emphasis has been placed upon the environmental influences, and the hereditary factor has been largely neglected by those in charge of the education of children, but to-day the tendency is in the other direction, and in the leading educational centres at least vigorous efforts are being put forth to ascertain early a knowledge of the germinal equipment of the individual child and of its bearing upon his physical, mental, and moral growth and development. The question as to the relative significance of heredity and environment, although very interesting, is not really important. The important thing for parents and teachers at least is to realize that both factors should be duly recognized in every phase of education, otherwise the problem of training and educating children can neither be adequately understood nor properly solved.

The physical constitution of a child depends largely upon his ancestors. Through physical heredity certain distinguishing characters of structure and function are transmitted both from and through parents to their children. According to the physical law of heredity formulated by Sir Francis Galton, one-half of a child's inheritance is contributed by his parents, one-quarter by his grandparents, one-eighth by his great grandparents, and so on back to the first human beings. When Oliver Wendell Holmes declared that children should have the right to select their grandparents, he emphasized in a striking manner the great importance of heredity in determining the destiny of a human being. The responsibility for a child's health, growth, and development rests heavily not only upon those who provide his environment but also upon his ancestors.

Proper regard for the bearing of heredity upon the physical welfare of children will not lessen the responsibility of parents and teachers to provide suitable environments. On the contrary, the more they know about the germinal equipment of children the better prepared they will be to provide appropriate environments and the more intelligently and scientifically will they approach the whole problem of child culture. The more children are studied and the broader the conception of education, the more important does heredity appear. Individual