

moral and mental condition, the unwitting parents entailing misery both on themselves and their unfortunate offspring. How much better off the State would be if all "unfit" individuals were either wiped out or, better still, were substituted by healthy, capable citizens! *Eugenics will do this*, and largely within the next few generations. The citizen of one hundred and fifty years hence will look back with wonder and perplexity at the tardiness with which we will put into operation this first essential to advancement of the human race, years after we have, by means of it, brought domestic animals and plants to a high standard of all desired qualities.

The first law of health is "to be born of healthy parents." Many years ago when I first came across this statement I thought it was mockery. I was already born and had not the power of choosing my parents. Now, however, it is clear to me that this is a *fundamental law defining man's duty in regard to parenthood*. Unfit shall not become parents; fit shall mate only with fit.

A beginning to this has already been made in all civilized countries in laws governing marriage and requiring a state license to wed which is (or should be) granted only on certain defined conditions. But the marriage license should exact much more than it now does, thus furnishing the basis of eugenics. And logically this is easily possible: In every marriage contract there are three interested classes, *viz.*, the contracting parties, their children to be, and the state, of which these children will be members. The fundamental rights of each of these classes must be recognized and secured. This fundamental is *good physical health*—the basis of sound mentality and morality. No person suffering with an active communicable disease that is a menace to marriage partner can now legally marry. This will be extended to debar those with disease transmissible to offspring, and later further extended to debar those with bad physical, mental or moral tendencies which are hereditary and a menace to the state. The nation is the sum of the individuals in it. The state has and must exercise the power to protect itself against the introduction of bad citizens either by immigration or by birth within its boun-