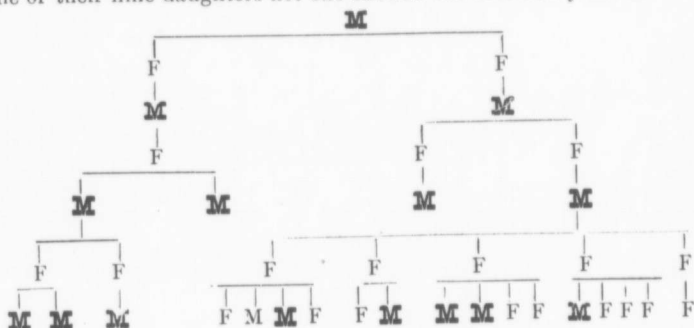


has related a most interesting family history (cited by Dr. Edwin Klebs, Jena, in *Die Allg. Path.*, 1887), in which the color-blindness was traced through seven generations. In this family the males were the persons affected, though the peculiarity was transmitted through the females, who themselves remained unaffected. The family tree showed that in the sixth generation seven mothers had children; their sons, nine in number, were all color-blind excepting one, while of their nine daughters not one showed the hereditary defect.



The eye is not the only organ of sense which exhibits a tendency to the production of hereditary congenital defects. The ear is similarly affected, and intimately associated with congenital deafness is an inability to speak articulately, which occasions the condition termed Deaf-mutism. Statisticians have given some attention to this subject, both as regards its relative frequency and its hereditary character. The writer of the article "Vital Statistics," in the Report of the Irish Census Commissioners during the decades 1851, 1861, 1871, has discussed at some length the subject of congenital deaf-mutism, and has produced a mass of evidence which proves that it is often hereditarily transmitted. In the Census Report for 1871, 3,297 persons were returned as belonging to this class, and in 393 cases the previous or collateral branches of the family were also mute. In 214 of these the condition was transmitted through the father; in 182 through the mother. In 2,579 cases there was one deaf-mute in a family; in 379 cases, two; in 191, three; in 53, four; in 21, five; in 5, six; and in each of two families no fewer than seven deaf-mutes were born of the same parents. In one of these two families neither hereditary predisposition nor any other probable physiological or pathological reason was assigned to account for the peculiarity, but in the other family the parents were first cousins. Mr. David Buxton, who has paid great attention to this subject (*Liverpool Med.-Chir. Jour.*, July, 1857, Jan., 1859), states that the probability of congenital deafness in the offspring is nearly seven times greater when both parents are deaf than when only one is so. In the latter case, the chance of a child being born deaf is less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.; in the former, the chances are that 5 per cent. of the children will be deaf-mutes. Mr. Buxton refers to several families where the deaf-mutism has been