

APPENDIX.

COUSIN MARRIAGES.

I really do feel that I would be guilty of a gross dereliction of duty, did I omit to take every opportunity to warn the public against unions in consanguinity, the results of which are of a most appalling kind, in the form of *deaf-dumbness, blindness, idiocy, insanity, mental stupidity, short-sightedness, stunted growth, scrofulous affection, and physical and nervous debility.*

True it is, that in cases where the cousin-husband and cousin-wife possess vigorous physical qualities, and dissimilar temperaments, their offspring escape the penalty inflicted by nature for the infraction of her laws. But there is the hereditary taint, and it will manifest itself in the next generation under some form or other.

The testimony of British and American teachers, and my own personal researches, abundantly confirm the fact, that these marriages are one of the greatest of human evils, and should be interdicted by the enactment of stringent laws. Out of 53 pupils in attendance in this Institution, I have this day counted twelve, the offspring of unions of this kind. The proportion to the deaf mutes of Ontario is 28 per cent. There is a predisposition in families to love none but their cousins.

Having in my travels through the Province made it a part of my duty to call on medical men with the view of increasing my knowledge of the causes which produce the manifold evils which afflict humanity, I met, on one occasion, a medical gentleman and a member of our Parliament, to both of whom I introduced myself and at once entered upon my favorite subject. The doctor endeavored to upset my argument by stating that "deaf-dumbness, blindness, &c., do not follow from marriages in consanguinity." In some cases, said I, the children die before they come to puberty. The doctor imagined