

had employed at the time when his wife was carrying the child had a deformed hand and that his wife could not help gazing at this deformity whenever the man was driving. Again, as late as 1889, the editor of "The Cyclopedia of Obstetrics and Gynecology," in connection with a paper on "The Influence of Maternal Impressions on the Fetus," says that "there can be no question, we think, that there must exist some causal relation, although it is one of those hidden mysteries likely ever to remain beyond human ken." Cannot this causal relation be explained by the shock of seeing some unusual sight causing a contraction, either local or general, of the uterus? It seems to me as though this might be answered in the affirmative, and, if so, pressure upon the ovum would follow with a consequent injurious effect upon its growth. That pressure, change of position, etc., will materially affect the growing ovum has been proved beyond all dispute by Dareste,<sup>1</sup> who, in several thousand experiments, produced all types of monstrosity. In many cases, however, there must be something in the male or female germ itself which has an influence in the production of malformation: how else could those deformities which prevail in certain families, and which are almost characteristic of that family, be explained?

A monstrosity is defined by Geoffrey St. Hilaire<sup>2</sup> as a deviation from a specific type of a complex, very serious, viscious character, congenital and apparent externally. Before