

is an attempt to apply knowledge to the improvement of humanity; but it is necessary for us to go back and take up the first two stages. We have yet to learn the facts and the laws of the facts, but the direct purpose, as soon as we can get at it, is to find out how to remedy evil conditions and secure good conditions—in a word, race-culture. That is what heredity really means. It is the third, or highest and last branch of practical sociology.

ANTAGONISM.

I have said that the first thing we have to do is to accumulate the facts, but to do this in any new branch of knowledge always meets with a difficulty in the way of the prejudices of those who do not want to advance. I learned but recently of the difficulties of Dr. Foote publishing his *HEALTH MONTHLY*, and obtaining a just and proper distribution of it in the mails. The Doctor will be better able than I to acquaint you of the several obstacles and injustices he has had to contend with, but in entering upon this study we shall be likely to meet with more and more antagonism in proportion as we become more earnest.

In conclusion, I wish to speak of Mr. Loring Moody. I have known more or less of him for forty years past. He is a man so eminently good that the conservative respectability of Boston don't care to suppress him. He is a rare man. You have but to hear a few words from his lips to know that he is an exceedingly good man; in five minutes you know he is a wise man; when you know something of his life you will credit him with being a great man. He is the founder of this Institute. I appeal to you to sustain him as you would have sustained with your money, sympathy and full co-operation, the anti-slavery movement of Wm. Lloyd Garrison; for he has started a movement of equally great consequences; in some respects more far-reaching and important.

OFFICIAL OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

Dr. Foote thanked Mr. Andrews for his kind allusions to the *HEALTH MONTHLY*, but remarked that he felt some embarrassment in speaking to the convention of matters which might appear personal to himself. As there were several subscribers present, however, who had complained of not receiving their November number, he would say that it had been pitched into the waste paper basket by the postal authorities, acting probably at the bidding of Anthony Comstock, an accredited official of the Postoffice Department. In April last, Dr. Sara B. Chase received an order from the First Assistant of the Postmaster-General's Department notifying her that her paper would not be received or distributed. In less than an hour after, the Murray Hill Publishing Company received a notice bearing the same date (April 20th) informing Dr. Foote's *HEALTH MONTHLY* that it would be subjected to the payment of transient rates. In other words, that it would be excluded from the privileges accorded to other regular publications. In Dr. Chase's case, the officials had issued an order which they could not sustain, and they were compelled to reconsider and re-admit *The Physiologist* to the privileges of the mails; but as the law makes it optional with the Postmaster-General to say what papers may be admitted at the publishers' rates, he, Dr. Foote, had no redress. After a prolonged correspondence with the Department without obtaining any satisfactory decision, the *HEALTH MONTHLY* was removed to Canada. That is to say, it was printed and mailed at Whitby, Ontario. Here again the enemies of the paper pursued it, and endeavored to have

the Canadian authorities suppress it or tax it with transient postage. Failing in this, the whole November issue, with the exception of a few copies which were probably put into bags with other mail matter, had been suppressed after it crossed the Canadian line! Dr. Foote believed that it was wholly due to the influence which Comstock exerted over the First Ass't Postmaster-General's Department, at Washington, inasmuch as his paper had been issued with the utmost regularity since the beginning of 1876. He could do nothing but to await the action of the Canadian Postal Department, which had been informed by telegram of the failure of the November papers to reach subscribers.

SCOPE OF THE INSTITUTE.

Dr. E. B. Foote, Jr., then took the platform and gave an address upon the subjects which were engaging the attention of the convention, a full report of which will appear in a future number of the *HEALTH MONTHLY*. In concluding, he offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

Resolved, That heredity, the environment of mothers during gestation, the prenatal impressions affecting health, constitution and character, and race culture, are subjects of vast importance, just at this time rising into great prominence, both among men of science and among the people at large; and that therefore the formation of the Institute of Heredity, with a view to the discussion of all these subjects, is timely and promising.

Resolved, That while Heredity and the influence of prenatal conditions of progeny have been observed in China, in Palestine, and among the Greeks and Romans from the earliest times, and while rules have been made based on those observations, such as prohibiting marriages within certain degrees of propinquity, the state of the development of the sciences and the general enlightenment have never been such, heretofore, as to authorize the expectation of the best results from the investigation of this complex and difficult subject, while now it would seem that we are prepared at last to begin to discover, promulgate and enact the truth in respect to it.

Resolved, That the learned and the people at large are earnestly invited to co-operate with us in obtaining the facts, in discovering the laws involved, and in ascertaining and applying the necessary remedies for existing evils, in connection with the important subjects to which our investigations relate.

PHILOSOPHIC GESTATION.

Mrs. Cynthia Leonard gave the concluding address and presented some interesting facts concerning her own experience in bearing children. She had marked each one of them by the influences affecting the mind while they were in utero-life. The first one was the happiest, and it was because she was so happy herself during the whole period of gestation. She was in such an exalted state of mind that she wished that every woman she met was in the same condition. The third child looked like a favorite picture which she placed in her room for the express purpose of influencing the formation of the child, and it was a complete success. In begetting the fourth she desired to have a musical baby and she kept her mind occupied with music. The result was just what she wanted: the daughter acquired a knowledge of music very easily and she was now singing in opera.

It was quite late when Mrs. Leonard concluded, and the first convention of the Institute of Heredity in New York, adjourned *sine die*.