

according to Meynert, is carried to an extreme in the assumption of the existence of innate ideas, and, in clinical medicine, has led to the erroneous theory of moral insanity. With DuBois Reymond and Weissman, he criticizes Darwin's theory of acquired faculties, and quotes approvingly Weissman's words: "Talents do not depend upon the possession of any special portion of the brain; there is nothing simple about them, but they are combinations of many widely different psychical faculties." At the same time, Meynert fully recognizes the possibility of an abuse of the doctrine of inherited anatomic peculiarities and of hereditary predisposition, even from the standpoint of actual fault of organization as its tangible basis, on account of the constant suspicion of mental defect attaching thereto. But he reminds thinking physicians that they may avoid this danger by distinguishing between the many who are possibly called to disease and that fortunately smaller number of persons who are, in the saddest sense of the term, chosen for disease.

The following conclusions upon this subject have been formulated at our request by Dr. John B. Chapin, a distinguished American authority, now in charge of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane at Philadelphia:

1. Physical characteristics, those distinguishing the human species, for instance, are transmissible by inheritance.
2. Knowledge, genius, culture, being dependent on the influences of education and environment upon the individual, are not transmissible; but what may be termed mental receptivity, and degrees of cerebral evolution and development, may be inherited. Psychic qualities are not necessarily an inheritance, as they require favorable surroundings and circumstances for their growth and development.
3. Insanity, as a disease, is not transmissible by inheritance, but may be acquired or evolved, especially where a neurotic heredity exists as a basis.
4. A neurotic predisposition is transmissible by inheritance; but there is no absolute rule that it will be transmitted in every case.
5. As regards the formation of a neurotic heredity, the in-breeding of neurotic temperaments is most conducive to its creation.
6. Idiocy and imbecility may be the resultant of certain defects having origin in consanguineous marriages; in pre-natal conditions, accidents, arrested cerebral development, infantile meningitis, tuberculosis, and lack of potency on the part of one or both of the parents from unexplained causes.

Premature closure of the sutures in the cranial vault has also been recognized as a cause of imbecility, and for the relief of this condition linear craniectomy has been proposed and performed, without, however, a gratifying amount of success. Indeed, Bourneville asserts that the theory of Lannelongue in regard to