

Sometimes one particular facial feature of a parent is inherited. Sometimes one single mental faculty from one parent, while the main mental tendencies are from the other. A child may be one fourth like father and three-fourths like mother, or half and half. It is well to resemble both equally. If there must be a variation, it had better be in the way of a son resembling the mother and a daughter resembling the father.

There is another curious illustration of the freaks of heredity. I have seen a man with blond hair that had the characteristics (excepting the color) of black hair. It felt like black hair, and had its wiry toughness. His bones were large and his muscles wiry, but they were clothed with the blond complexion and soft exterior.

Prof. Sizer cited many instances, showing the effect of pre-natal influences—cases coming under his personal observation in the practice of his profession as a phrenologist. At the conclusion of Prof. Sizer's address, the hour being late, the convention adjourned.

The Meeting Thursday Morning.

On the opening of the second day's meetings, Mr. Moody continued to further demonstrate the comprehensiveness of the movement. It ought, he said, to interest publicists and statesmen. When we look at the large number of our idiot and lunatic asylums, our charitable institutions, prisons, jails, etc., and consider how we are constantly compelled to enlarge and multiply such institutions, we see that our efforts are revolving in continuous circles. We are climbing a perpetual treadmill. "There is but one way to improve the condition of affairs, and that is to enlighten the public mind, to quicken the conscience so that every young man and woman will fully comprehend the responsibility of becoming a father or mother." It would be proper to ask the young people who are about to assume the duties of parentage—what right have you to become fathers and mothers? Go to the dens of vice and infamy and inquire—What do you possess, that you are entitled to produce citizens? We hunt down abortionists, but who pursues those who bring the children of vice and crime into the world? The speaker would practically quarantine idiots, lunatics and the criminal classes, so that they could not reproduce mental and moral monstrosities like themselves.

EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Mr. James B. Richards was the next speaker. He said he had been invited by Dr. Foote to come here and relate what had come under his observation as a teacher of idiots. Since 1846 there had been made some well-directed efforts for improving this class of unfortunates, the cause having enlisted the sympathy and support of Dr. Howe, of Boston. He, the speaker, had been long engaged in it, and proceeded to explain his methods in trying to enlighten and improve the idiots and imbecile children which had been intrusted to his care. He related many interesting facts, and said, that facts were what we wanted. Let facts be collected and pile them up, and by-and-by some one will come along who can comprehend their meaning and give us the laws they teach. Among those related by Mr. Richards was the following: A healthy farmer wedded a young woman who was also the picture of health. The first child was a fine specimen—beautiful, and happy. The father became a sot. The next child had such a queer, diminutive head, that Dr. Howe called him a monkey. The third child was of about the same description, with the additional curse of a club foot. Looking at this last little unfortunate the father said in the most emphatic

manner, "This is the end of that." He left the house in such a state of mind that the wife felt solicitude for his safety. Some members of the family went in search of him. After an hour's absence he returned and, giving his wife his hand, he said he had signed the pledge. Four years subsequently the fourth child was born, and he was a healthy, intelligent and well-developed infant. He thought the unfortunate children of this family were not only affected by the intemperance of the father, but by the want and anxiety of the mother. Other interesting cases were presented. One of the lessons taught by them was the necessity of having the mother's mind not only at rest, but in a condition of cheerfulness during the period of gestation. If troubles arise or losses occur, try and make her feel that they were of no consequence whatever. M. Richards had three promising children, born in the Home of the Idiots. Some of his friends thought it imprudent to have his wife in such a place when bearing children. But he felt no anxiety, because he talked the matter over with his wife and found that she entertained no fear of marking her progeny with the unfortunates around her; she did not feel at all bound to stay; her remaining was entirely voluntary; and to this fact Mr. Richards attributed in part his escape from any unpleasant consequences to his children. He concluded a most instructive extemporaneous address by saying, that he would like to see established in our universities and institutions of learning generally, a chair which should teach the true conditions for promoting successful parentage.

TEMPERAMENTS.

Dr. E. V. Wright followed in a stirring extemporaneous speech on the necessity of temperamental adaptation in marriage. This subject is so large, a series of lectures would be necessary for its elucidation, and consequently justice could not be done to it in one address, and much less in a summary like this. Nevertheless Dr. Wright presented an outline of the laws of temperamental adaptation, which impressed his hearers with the importance of having them understood and observed in controlling marriage. He said, that the colleges and their text-books gave no light upon them. Prior to the writings of Gall and Spurzheim, nothing had been given to the world in relation to them. He considered the late Dr. Wm. Byrd Powell the most reliable teacher in this department of knowledge. He, himself, was collecting valuable facts, and had already gathered no less than fifteen hundred, illustrating the truth of Powell's system. He said that he saw before him in the audience quite a number who had given attention to this subject as well as himself. What Dr. Wright said in reference to the necessity of temperamental adaptation, would readily account for the facts presented by Dr. Atkinson, when he stated, that it often happened that lazy and worthless fathers had promising children, while good parents sometimes gave birth to devils; also for the fact that sickly parents, well-mated, in some instances have healthy children, while vigorous fathers and mothers ill-mated, produced puny offspring.

Dr. E. B. Foote, Sr., closed the exercises of the forenoon with a brief address, showing the good that might come out of the convention, and the lessons which could be learned from the various views offered by the speakers. He believed that we have some positive knowledge in regard to the laws of heredity, pre-natal influences, temperamental adaptation, etc., which could be reduced to practice, with beneficent results. For want of space it is here omitted, but will probably appear in the HEALTH MONTHLY for February.

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