

the heredity of the race. If acquired characteristics cannot be transmitted, then every possibility of color, genius, disposition and activities must have been provided for in the first germ-plasm. But it is known and admitted that as a given race advances in civilization, the children are born with greater capacities and mature with larger brains and more comprehensive powers than their remote ancestors.

When one turns to the study of disease, some of the strongest arguments are found for the view that acquired characteristics are inherited. If Weismann is correct, that the somatoplasm does not affect the germ-plasm, and that every potentiality is found in the germ-plasm, how can the inheritance of acquired disease and disease tendencies be explained? It is well recognized in pathology that a certain mode of life produces gout. Several generations of this mode of life fixes the gouty diathesis very firmly in the family history. It becomes then a question of great difficulty to eliminate this gouty tendency; and even though a member of such a family lives in a most appropriate manner, he may not escape. He then has an acquired condition, and one that in the first place acted upon the somatoplasm, has modified the germ-plasm so as to make the diathesis hereditary, even though efforts are made to neutralize this tendency. This line of argument could be pushed much further. All in all, it would appear the acquired characteristics may become hereditary, and this is the view of many eminent scientists.

Scheme Not Feasible.

The plan to amalgamate the Toronto and Trinity Medical Schools, as predicted in the *Mail and Empire* several weeks ago, has practically fallen through. The report of the decision arrived at by the faculty of the Trinity Medical College is ready to be made by Dean Geikie to the chairman of the joint university committee. The Trinity report states briefly that they do not consider the scheme of the proposed amalgamation of the faculties feasible, but that the college is in favor of confederation upon broad lines. The University of Toronto Medical Faculty was also asked to consider the proposed plan, but waited until Trinity had dealt with it. The action of Trinity puts the scheme for amalgamation as far off as ever.—*Mail and Empire*.