

The secondary results of these latter are most pronounced and run into formulations, if not laws. Alcohol, when enjoyed more freely, produces recognizable results rather more obviously upon the nervous organization of offspring than upon shape or build. From its use come various degenerations, notably upon unstable nerve cells, which again are exhibited in perversion of mental, but even more upon moral tone, until at times pronounced criminality alternates with insanity or fateity, and these with motor instabilities, as in epilepsy, etc.

Consanguinity of parents does certainly seem to influence offspring disastrously. I have seen this several times where a careful search failed to reveal any other factor capable of large influence. One, a couple, second cousins, of fine physique and ancestry, and of the best habits, bred two geretous idiots, who early died.

Dr. Ratchford has recently considered the causes of neuroses in children, and Dr. W. S. Christopher (*Archives Pediatrics*, 1894,) elaborates these views more fully and his summary—too long to quote—seems to me most rational and complete.

B. W. Richardson says: "If the inter-marriage of diseases were considered in the same light as the inter-marriage of poverty, hereditary transmission of disease would be at an end in three or four generations."

The truth, to my thinking, about heredity is something like this: whereas in a careful study of remote influences bearing upon the characteristics of an individual we may grant that some allowance must be made for ancestral traits of body and mind, but only so if within three or four generations. Beyond this it is rarely possible to determine. Much more significance may be given to bodily peculiarities, and especially tastes, more particularly evil tastes, which far outweigh in influence wholesome ones. Nothing certain can be made of psychical peculiarities, for in one of the most conspicuous means of demonstrating this, as in matter of religious convictions, these are not reproduced and only feebly impressed when under constant, direct influence and training. The taste for music, art, and literature is rarely more than individual, and almost never transmitted except to the second or third generation, and most of this is through example and opportunity.

On the transmission of physical peculiarities much more may be said. Size, shape, coloring, conformation of feature, hair, are frequently seen to prevail, generally under favorable conditions, for several generations; also tastes for certain forms of life, occupation, and amusement, and above all for narcotics, are liable to continue.

*(To be Continued.)*

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JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.—We regret to learn that the John Hopkins University is sorely embarrassed financially by failure of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad to pay dividends. Friends of the institution are making efforts to raise a subscription of \$50,000 annually for five years, in order to tide over the affairs of the university.