

In illustration of this fugitive tendency in the race, a large number of cases have been recorded, and particular instances of such survival will probably occur to the minds of everyone. The writer has in mind an instance which illustrates the idea he desires to convey, in the case of a lady who is not insane or hysterical, and in whom, beyond a high nervous temperament and a few very private attacks of respectable alcoholism which culminated in delirium tremens, there is really nothing that may be regarded as out of the common. Early in life this patient began to experience a distaste for any stroking motion from the ends of the extremities upwards towards the hips or shoulders or upwards along the back and neck. To rub the arms in this way occasioned her intense misery, and she could not bear to do so herself, and made the lives of her intimates miserable lest they should do so accidentally. To rub or stroke her extremities in the opposite direction, however, occasioned her no inconvenience at all, nor was there present any hyperesthesia of the cuticle. At first I was inclined to regard this as an obsession, but as there was nothing else in her case to bear out such an hypothesis, it seems to me that it is simply a survival of the hirsute animal which objects to having its hair rubbed in the wrong direction.

A careful study of animals in the wild and in the half-tamed state will cast a considerable amount of light upon those forms of perversion which may be scientifically regarded as reversions to a former condition in our career. An exhaustive collection of the facts would probably show innumerable survivals, often deeply buried in the anatomical structure and never observed, while sometimes so decided as to modify the physiological functions. These survivals pertain to every part of the organic structure, but a fixed tendency to indecency has led certain observers to make very extended collections of more or less authentic cases of survival which refer only to the sexual system. And many cases of sexual perversion may be set down as a reversion or a miscarriage in the chain of evolution.

On the other hand, many instances of perversion constitute an anticipation of a future condition. They are premature. That is, there is a tendency towards development in a certain direction, and in certain individuals the tendency is greatly in excess of that in the body of the race, and hence there is a lack of proportion in the individual not at all gratifying to the race, on the whole.

But if these changes, or instances of perversion, are merely of intensity, and if, when very carefully analyzed, and compared with the accepted normal standard, they contain no really new factors, they are not perversions in the strict sense of the word.

The perversions with which I have to deal are such as give evidence of some factors completely alien to anything which, as a race, we have felt, feel now, or are likely to feel. These cases of perversion form, not a distortion of a natural instinct, but an excrescence apparently completely foreign, and not so often of the