

environments. Sir Francis Galton was too well an informed scientist to neglect heredity.

But a few days ago, General Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, in discussing the subject of the degraded, the criminal, and the feeble-minded, took strong ground against the doctrine of heredity. He said among other things that "my remarks contradicted what is called the silly doctrine of heredity. Carried to the conclusion to which it is carried by some, it is all fudge. Some of the finest people I have known and some of the finest army officers have been the children of degraded and besotted parents." General Booth is an environist, and thinks that what makes for weal or woe in the history of the person is far more a matter of his companions, reading, and habits, than his ancestry. The science of environment has been called euthenics.

Dr. William Leland Holt, in a recent issue of *The Popular Science Monthly*, deals very fully with the environmental influences. Among these he mentions five as taking first place: The uncertainty of livelihood; the high cost of living; the ambition to afford children better opportunities; the competition of women in occupations and professions; and the demand for luxuries. These influences have a deterrent influence on the marriage and birth rates among the better middle classes; but do not so act on the lower classes. The birth-rate goes on as usual where the environments are at their worst. Dr. Holt, like Booth, accentuates those influences that are postnatal.

This makes the outlook all the brighter, as it is easier to deal with the evils of to-day than with those of bygone generations. While dealing with this aspect of the subject, we cannot but condemn the prison methods of the past, of which there remains with us still far too many glaring instances. We have had too much of the prison system that waste men's bodies and kill their souls.

THE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Hospital Association has done good work. Its influences have been felt in several ways. It has brought hospitals together so as to compare notes and see in what way their methods could be improved. It has also united them in their efforts to induce the provinces and the municipalities to deal more generously with these institutions. The reading and discussing of papers in dietary, nursing, ventilation, etc., is spreading useful information.

THE TORONTO EMERGENCY ORDER.

There has not been witnessed in any city a more high-handed order than that of the Toronto Police Commissioners in ordering that emerg-