

## HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOTH INFLUENCE CHARACTER

Love is Blind But Can Be Guided to Better Things and  
May Avoid the Folly He Cannot See — Address Before  
Mothers' Club on Heredity and Environment.

Dr. Frederick L. Hills of the Bangor State hospital, spoke on Studies in Heredity and Environment before the Mothers' club in Bangor High school Wednesday afternoon, in part as follows:

We may fairly assume that Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden did not spend many anxious moments over the subject of heredity. A little later in their careers the question of environment may have produced some mental perturbation, possibly the appearance of some asplastic atavistic trends in their first offspring may have furnished some food for thought. It is more probable, however, that sitting on the banks of the Euphrates in the cool of the evening and discussing the delinquencies of Cain, Eve remarked to Adam, with that indescribable but well known vocal inflection, "Well, nobody on my side of the family ever did a thing like that."

And she is still saying it, and he is still echoing the remark, and both probably correct. The fault of the ancestor was not exactly the same as that which cropped out in the descendant, but the latter was undoubtedly a hereditary trend of the former, or the result of unfortunate blending of traits on both sides of the family.

**Like Produces Like**

By a study of heredity we learn that indeed "like produces like" but with variations and that the inherited trait be it good or bad, may appear in one generation, be found wanting in the next and reappear, again in the next, according to laws which now seem to be fairly well formulated.

Monk's Studies of Peas

In 1866, an Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel, propounded a theory of heredity as a result of the most painstaking studies made while cultivating a garden of common peas and in making careful records of the development and variations of growth of about 10,000 plants.

He died in 1884 ignorant of the immense value his studies were to prove when taken up and applied to animal and human development through later work of Galton, Weismann, De Vries and other scientists in the early years of the present century.

**Why Peas Were Chosen**

Mendel was led to the selection of the garden pea for his experiments by the fact that it is self-fertilized and therefore, not subject to indiscriminate crossing through different varieties grown side by side, and to the fact that it is easily grown, is prolific and many varieties exist with well marked characteristics which vary and are inherited discontinuously. One of his experiments was in connection with tallness. He crossed tall peas (six feet in height) with short or dwarf peas (two feet in height). In the first hybrid generation the character of tallness was dominant; the second generation gave three "talls" to one "short," showing the character of shortness to be a recessive in "talls" of the first hybrid generation.

In the third generation there were greater variations. One set of "talls" bred true to type, as did also the "short," but two of the "talls" produced offspring in the ratio of three "talls" to one "short" like the first hybrid. This separating out in the second generation in definite proportions is termed segregation and it is of the utmost importance as it is the characteristics of animals and plants are inherited according to this law.

**Dominant Traits**

In plants, color, hairiness or smoothness, resistance to disease, long or short stiles are among the characteristics thus inherited, and in man may be mentioned color of the eyes, early appearance of the hair, certain peculiarities of the skeleton, certain diseases, outbreak of temper, etc. These are known as dominant traits.

**Recessive Traits**

Others called recessive traits are lack of pigmentation, deaf mutism, imbecility, some forms of insanity, some nervous diseases and some mental traits.

In the practical application of this theory we have to consider several traits at the same time, some of which may blend and some of which may neutralize each other, and the results of a union depend upon what good or bad traits are dominant and what are recessive.

The theory of Weismann bears upon the makeup of the parent germ cells. He maintains that the germ plasma which the parental ovum contains is not used up in the formation of the offspring, but is reserved for the formation of the germ cells of the following generation unchanged. Characters will appear in the offspring reminiscent of both parents but some may be latent and not appear until later generations. The application of these theories to the human race has cleared many of the mysteries surrounding heredity and has seemed to place our knowledge of the subject upon a firm scientific foundation.

Prof. Adam has divided conditions truly inherited into four classes—specific, racial, familiar and individual. Specific inheritance is shown by the law that features longest possessed by a given stock are the ones most suppressed upon that stock and the least easily lost. A large peculiarly shaped nose may be a characteristic of a certain family and reappear for generations. Racial inheritance is seen in the similarity of physical, mental and moral makeup of all the people of different races—English, Germans, and Jewish; for example showing their typical racial characteristics.

**Traits Ancestral Give Us**

Family inheritance is manifested by the reappearance in successive generations of similarity in form and feature and of certain intellectual traits. Individual inheritance includes all these, and in addition to these characteristics peculiar to the parents as

distinct from the family, or of characteristics not present in either parent, but resulting from the interaction of the two parental germ plasma. Some of the characteristics known to be traceable to heredity along family lines are as follows:

**Physical Traits:** Character of the features, color of the hair, eyes and skin, stature, weight, energy, endurance, quickness; defects of many kinds such as those of the nervous system, speech, eyes and ears, baldness and defects of various bodily organs. This does not mean that all shortcomings are inherited, but that the type of organism is inheritable which lacks resistance to germs and other factors which bring about disease.

**Mental Traits:** Among the mental characteristics known to arise from hereditary sources may be mentioned musical, artistic and literary ability, mechanical skill, retentive memory, fluency in conversation, aptness in languages, attention, etc. Also, certain forms of insanity, epilepsy and feeble-mindedness.

**Moral Traits:** On the moral side, we find as inheritable qualities, generosity, piety, independence, industry, faithfulness, will power, self-reliance, impulsiveness, temperance, sympathy, etc. The same may be said of unusual traits; such as, criminality, delinquency, lying, truancy, superstition, abrasiveness, vanity, cruelty, cunning, quickness to anger.

**Our Personalities Fore-Ordained**

Thus, we see that our whole makeup, physical, mental and moral, is fore-ordained to a large extent by the characteristics of our ancestors. We are a complex combination in our individuality of the characters of those who have gone before and because the combination is so complex we are not likely to fall heir to all their bad traits any more than to all their good traits. Even the feeble-minded inherit in many cases, along with their defective mental makeup, good traits of kindness, gentleness, generosity, etc., or an ability for mathematics or along musical or artistic lines.

**Blind Tom's Accomplishments**

A few years ago, a negro imbecile, Blind Tom, travelled extensively in the eastern states demonstrating a remarkable musical ability, being able after a single hearing to reproduce

even complicated music on the piano. Mentally, he was a child, difficult to control and so pleased with his accomplishments that often after playing he would spring up and applaud himself vociferously.

**Law of Compensation**

Persons possessing weak physical makeup, may possess strong mental capacities and vice versa. Persons of superior mental capacity may lack loftiness of character. Each trait in the mosaic of one person is transmitted or not transmitted to a child according to the mating of that particular trait—mating with trait or lack of trait rather than according to the mating of the two persons as a whole; that is, when a man and woman marry and bear offspring, it is not the mating of two units, but the mating of myriads of pairs of units, the units being the constituent traits and lack of

traits contained in the germ plasma, each trait mating producing its own trait offspring and the collection of these trait offspring making up the child.

In the marriage of relatives such as cousins the mating brings together like groups of traits, thus strengthening the existence of those traits whether good or bad. When the family possesses traits of mental ability, cousin marriages may result in children who are geniuses; but cousin marriages when the family line possesses traits of mental inability, may result in children who are mentally defective.

We know that only a very few diseases are really inherited. What is inherited is a certain lack or weakness in the chemical and structural makeup of the body as a result of which the offspring are made susceptible to disease when subject to infection, or to those conditions in life which would foster its development. Tuberculosis is not hereditary, but the child of tuberculous parents inherits a type of bodily structure which in combination with congenial and post-natal influences favors the development of the disease, the germ of which is everywhere present. The same is true of syphilis and alcoholism.

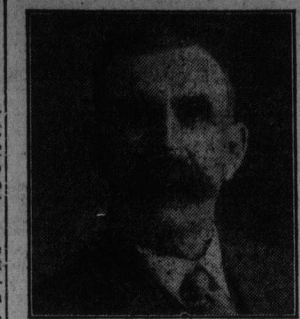
**New Alcoholism Rumors**

In the former, it is possible that the causative germ is sometimes (but rarely) transmitted in the germ plasma, but generally the infection of the offspring occurs during the period of gestation or after birth in early infancy. Alcoholism is seen in many members of the same family line, not because alcoholism is hereditary, but because the alcoholic possesses a poorly developed nervous organization, weak will and suggestibility which he does transmit to his offspring and which renders the latter easy victim to habit formation, which manifests itself in some degenerate tendency, as alcoholism, drug addiction, criminality, immoral living, etc. If on alcoholism marries a person whose family line possesses well marked traits of an opposite nature, strong will, good mental poise, longevity, etc., the tendency to the habit formation would be less evident in the offspring and bad traits would tend to disappear.

The same can be said relative to those forms of insanity in which hereditary seems to play a part as well as of feeble-mindedness and idiocy.

## WILL WE EVER WALK ON AIR?

Train of Thought Inspired by a Letter About "Fruit-A-Tives"



MR. D. McLEAN

"For over two years, I was troubled with Constipation, Drowsiness, Lack of Appetite and Headaches. I tried several medicines, but got no results and my Headaches became more severe. One day I saw your sign which read 'Fruit-A-Tives' make you feel like walking on air. This appealed to me, so I decided to try a box. In a very short time, I began to feel better, and now I feel fine. Now I have a good appetite, relish everything I eat, and the Headaches are gone entirely. I cannot say too much for Fruit-A-Tives, and recommend this pleasant fruit medicine to all my friends."

DAN McLEAN.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" is daily proving its priceless value in relieving cases of Stomach, Liver and Kidney Troubles, General Weakness, and Skin Diseases. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-A-Tives Limited, Ottawa.

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## Major Birks' Y. M. C. A. Military Fund

Y. M. C. A. work for Canadian Soldiers in Canada, England and France will cost not less than \$40,000 in 1917.

Will you help the Y. M. C. A. help the Soldiers? Everyone can give something. Send your gift, large or small, to Mr. W. J. Ambrose, Honorary Treasurer, Bank of Montreal, St. John.

Subscription Lists have been placed in all the Branch Banks in the city and Fairville. Funds given at these banks will be forwarded to the Treasurer and acknowledged promptly.



## Are You Shingling?

YOU owe it to yourself to investigate "The Greatest Roofing Development of the 20th Century"—Neponset Twin Shingles—the roof that doesn't rust, rot, decay, split, or rattle! First, you want a handsome roof. Dotted all over Canada may be found most attractive roofs—some dull red, some dark green—looking like exceptionally well-laid slate. They are of

## NEPONSET TWIN SHINGLES

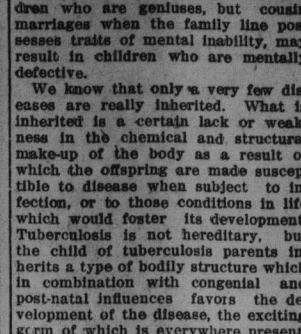
It will cost you little more to lay Neponset Twin Shingles than wooden Shingles of good quality. But the greatest economy comes in the long years of service, free from repairs, staining or painting. And most important—Fire Protection. Tests prove that asphalt checks fire on a roof more effectively than so-called "fireproof" roofs. Neponset Twin Shingles are made of Asphalt and other materials used in the famous Paroid Roofing, and are approved by the Board of Fire Underwriters. Neponset Twin Shingles have an extra wearing surface of crushed slate, red and green. Sold by lumber or hardware dealers, or write us for prices and particulars.

BIRD & SON, Dept. S J, Hamilton, Ont.  
The Largest Manufacturers of Roofings, Wall Board and Roofing Felt in Canada.

Warehouses—Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, St. John.

## SURPRISE SOAP

A PURE HARD SOAP  
MAKES CHILDS PLAY OF WASH DAY



HIGHEST IN QUALITY—That snowy whiteness of linen comes from the use of SURPRISE Soap.

One cent per word each insertion. Discount of 33-1/3 per cent. on advertisements running one week or longer if paid in advance. Minimum charge twenty-five cents.

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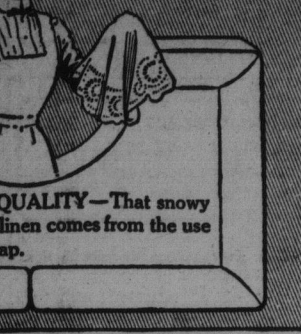
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