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## EDITORIAL

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### THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

Although the act is not perfect, yet progress has been marked by its passage last session. It is much easier to secure amendments to an act than it is to secure the act in the first instance. On this theory, it will be well within the range of possibility to improve upon what has been done. Then, again, education is going on; and, here, legal recognition is of the utmost value, because one can always appeal to the act as admitting the class of feeble-minded persons as being entitled to special care and consideration.

We are now in the age of preventive medicine, and the old cobbler's saying of "a stitch in time saves nine" comes very true in medicine. It would be quite beyond our intention to go into any lengthy argument along the line of heredity. We do not propose discussing the theories of Weismann, Galton, Mendel, Bateman, Darwin, or others who have written so ably on the influence of heredity. We will not go far astray to accept the words of Tennyson, "Tis but the blot upon brain that shows itself without"; or the words of Browning, "Born into life we bring a bias with us here," as nearly expressing the views of scientists on this vexed question.

A wrecked and ruined nature is not likely to be the parent from which to expect normal and robust offspring. We know the certain diseases run in families. Some are afflicted for generations with the appearance of nervous maladies among them; other families break down in their vascular system; and others show a marked tendency to pulmonary disorders. Let us give one example. The mother very seriously deranged mentally, one son quite odd, two sons insane, one daughter extremely eccentric and weak-minded, and two others imbeciles. It will thus appear that a badly balanced mind is very liable to be transmitted.