

to life whatever form or mould he pleases." In the absence of any still superior animal to the human, which might exercise an analogous exactitude in the systematic improvement of the breed of man, it would be vain to hope (perhaps wrong to wish for professional or scientific regulation of the conjugal and parental unions of our own race.

But since there can be no interference with individuals, so much the more, surely, should social and political arrangements be free from any tendency to exclude a whole class (and that the fittest class) from its share in those unions and their results—any tendency to shut the fittest mothers out from motherhood. We are still far from being able to assign to father and mother, exactly, their respective influences in determining the original powers and qualities of the organism, which is their common offspring; but this, at least, we may say safely, that it is their common offspring; that it derives from both of them, and cannot be healthy and well-conditioned as their common product, unless they be healthy and well-conditioned, so as to make healthy and well-conditioned contributions, severally, in producing it. When therefore we consider that the mother cannot be thus healthily and well-conditioned if her powers have been persistently strained and overtaxed by competitive efforts and struggles against strength superior to her own, and consider, also, that the strength of man is thus superior, we see already the ruinous unwisdom of encouraging the competition of woman with man, in the severe brain-work of those "higher" studies which make such vast demands upon the vital powers. But how much more does this become apparent when in production and reproduction we include not merely the original powers and qualities of the fertilized germ-mass, as they exist in the new organism's earliest stage at the moment of conception, but take into account, also, all the after-cost to the mother's store of vitality during gestation and after parturition, until the offspring is full-fledged enough to take flight out of the nursery. And, having counted the after-cost, add in next, also, the previous cost of building up and preparing the maternal structure for dis-

charging duly those expensive functions of pregnancy and maternity. When we reflect, moreover, that compared with the total cost of maternity to woman, the cost of paternity to man is almost inappreciable, does not the conclusion seem to force itself upon us, that if women are to make the outlay of force which severe competition with man, especially in brain-work, will render necessary, their remaining stock of strength will be inadequate to meet the demands of motherhood—of brain-work especially? for we must remember that, of all activities, none seems so antagonistic to reproductiveness as that of cerebration, which, indeed, follows inevitably from the large outlay of vital capital which cerebration involves.

In Mr. Herbert Spencer's words: "if, of the force which the parent obtains from the environment, much is consumed in its own life, little remains to be consumed in producing other lives. . . Great is the physiological cost of that discipline by which high mental capacity is reached." In short, education is very expensive, physiologically as well as pecuniarily, and growing girls are not physiologically rich enough to bear the expense of being trained for motherhood, and also that of being trained for competition with men in severer exercises of the intellect. Before citing facts and further authorities in proof and exemplification of this over-expensiveness, it may be worth while (well-worn though the topic be) to dwell a little longer upon the part which the mother has in the making of the man—in determining, that is, the progress of the race:

"Children, like tender osiers, take the bow,
And as they first are fashioned, always grow."

Look at the man newly born—his one experience of the extra-uterine atmosphere that it is cold and sets him shivering. Now, some nine or ten years later, look at him again. What a different being has he become! What a wonderful growth and development has there been of his knowledge and faculties, habits and character! Never again in any other ten years, or any number of them, even to the three score and tenth year, will there be anything approaching to an advance and differ-