

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XLVII.

TORONTO, MAY, 1914

No. 9

EDITORIAL

EUGENICS, EUTHENICS, HYGIENICS.

Here we have three great words, words that have been formed from the greatest of all languages, the Greek. Eugenics has attracted much attention for some years, and deservedly so. The study of heredity is a study of vast importance, no matter whether we follow the Darwinian school, Daltonism, or that school of thought led so ably by Weismann. There is much in heredity, and the experienced breeder mates healthy animals. Eugenics means to be well born in the sense of good ancestry.

Euthenics on the other hand deals with environments, and rearing. No matter what the heredity may be, the best may be blighted by bad environments, training, food and so on. In the same manner, much that is faulty by inheritance may be improved and elevated by favorable conditions. So then euthenics and hygiene blend themselves with the conditions that improve the human being after it has come into the world.

But right here euthenics and eugenics blend into the halves of a blessed pair. By careful and prolonged attention to euthenics the individual is vastly improved, both physically and mentally. This shows itself on the next generation. The euthenics of to-day is the eugenics of to-morrow. So then begin now and improve the growing child; for the child is father of the man, and the man is the father of the future child. How long this simple truth has lain dormant! The fact that it is so simple does not lessen its value, but to all lovers of true progress there is genuine pleasure to be found in the fact that so many distinguished persons are now holding a brief for the child.

When slums are abolished in cities, when schools are sanitary, when workshops are healthy, when children are properly taught, when they receive proper food, when they are supplied with proper clothing, and when the moral atmosphere in which they move and have their being is proper, then will there be true progress, and eugenics will be within our vision.