

[Report of Convention, continued.]

The Meeting Thursday Afternoon.

Dr. Reuben Garter was the first speaker on the re-assembling of the convention on Thursday afternoon. He, too, took up the subject of the temperaments, and said he could tell by an examination of the parents what their children would be; or by seeing one of the parents and the children, he could describe the absent parent; had done it time and again, and was willing to have his ability in this direction tested. If, he said, this can be done after marriage the rule could be definitely laid down before. Here was a key which could unlock the secret and enable us to have perfect children.

Dr. T. B. Kinget being called on by the chairman, said that if the subject to be considered had been advertised as one relating to the sexual relations, the hall would have been crowded by those who would be attracted by curiosity. According to his views it was high time that the public began to look more closely into this sex subject. Those who could not discuss it in public had better go back to Mrs. Grundy. Some people can only be reached by shocking their prejudices. It was now time to shock them on sex topics. After setting them right on these, the next step towards the improvement of the race was to improve the environment. Robert Owen, when he sought to improve the operatives in his mills, found that their surroundings were objectionable. This evil he proceeded to remedy and to place them in better conditions.

PATERNAL INFLUENCE.

Character depended first upon a good physical and mental organization, and secondly on environment. There were those who thought that in bearing children all depended on the mother; but he had met with numerous instances, wherein grave defects were not at all derived from the mother. They were directly traceable to the father. The speaker related to the temperaments, and quoted a lady as having said that nothing taught on the subject could be regarded as an exact science. He was an old man and had given many years study to them and he was willing to be tested. It would not answer in all instances for a black-eyed brunette to mate with a blue-eyed blond. Both might possibly have the vital temperament. If there be one-third difference in temperament, all would be right. Two persons, he affirmed, having large combativeness will either have no children, or they will be timid and nerveless. One parent must supplement the other. The union of relatives having a tendency to some one disease would intensify that tendency in offspring. But when the conditions are good, breeding in and in too long would cause the stock to run out. In crossing, however, full-blooded sires are always necessary, and thus fact proves that in the human species hereditary descent is not entirely through the mother.

(The Doctor had been speaking for about fifteen minutes when Dr. Foote announced to the chairman and audience, that Prof. R. A. Gunn was present, and could remain only a few moments. It was therefore proposed that Dr. Kinget surrender the platform for a little while and resume at the conclusion of Prof. Gunn's address.)

HEREDITY QUESTIONED.

Prof. Gunn then appeared before the audience in an argument to prove that there is no such thing as hereditary transmission. Peculiarities in families, descending from parent to child, were due to prenatal and postnatal influences. He said he was in full sympathy with the Institute of Heredity, because it had for its object the elevation of the race. But, if the views advanced are correct, this society might as well dissolve at once, as it

would be impossible for a child to be born that would differ from his parents. It was certainly discouraging if a child must have consumption, cancer, scrofula, or something else, because its father or mother has had some of those diseases. He was a full believer in evolution. Man had been steadily rising, from the beginning, but would have gone along on the dead level, if the doctrine of heredity were true. He gave some facts to support his position. There was a family which for several generations had a redundant finger on one hand. One of the boys had the sixth finger amputated, so that when he grew to manhood it was not noticeable. He married, and when his first child was born his wife knew nothing of the family peculiarity. This child had the usual thumb and four fingers. But, before the second was conceived, the wife learned that her husband, at his birth, had six fingers. The next child had the redundant finger. A web-footed father had two children, one before his wife knew the fact, and one after she became apprised of it; the first child was all right, but the second child had the web-foot. One child was born without fingers on one hand, and all because the mother had seen those of an older brother chopped off while she was enroute. The child of the new-born child perfectly resembled that of the unfortunate brother. A father on his death-bed had a secret to import to his married daughter. It was that her mother was not dead, as she supposed, but the inmate of an insane asylum. It had been the peculiarity of the family that the female members became insane when pregnant with their first child. This daughter had two children, and was in excellent health and spirits before hearing the terrible secret. On being pregnant the third time, she became insane. He said that if we could disabuse the popular mind of the notion that insanity or something else must be inherited because a mother, grandmother, aunt or other relation had been so affected, it would prove a great blessing. People are often hounded into insanity. In the course of his address Dr. Gunn practically admitted that tendencies are inherited, but he would have the child taken to a favorable clime, and placed under circumstances so different from those surrounding the parent that it would outgrow them. He conceded that being born and living under precisely the same conditions as the parents, the children might develop the same diseases.

Dr. Kinget resumed, admitting all that Prof. Gunn had said of prenatal influences and the effects of environment, but still insisting that the law of heredity does exhibit itself in our children. The Institute of Heredity does not forbid the discussion of either prenatal or postnatal influences. The people are perfectly ignorant of all these matters, and inquiry will lead to their enlightenment.

BAD WIVES BUT GOOD MOTHERS.

Dr. Sam R. Chase, being called for, took the platform. After saying a good deal intended more particularly for the masculine ear, she went on to say that there are four classes of women: first, those who make good wives and mothers; second, those who make good wives but poor mothers; third, those who make good mothers but poor wives; and fourth, those who make neither good wives nor good mothers. Public sentiment should recognize the fact that women can make good wives who are not fit physically, or so constituted in mind, as to make good mothers. Those who make good wives but poor mothers; should they marry? Yes. They love, though they may not be fitted for motherhood; may perhaps be physically incapable of bearing children; but if they can they should not. Those who make good mothers