

A predisposition to crime runs largely in families, and whether inherited or otherwise obtained is the question. If inherited, we should devise means of arresting it. If it arose from discordant marriages this source of a great evil should be investigated. If necessary to reach the root of the trouble, society should dictate as to who shall be married as well as to who shall be divorced. Marriage is in our country a civil contract. He was satisfied that the law, inasmuch as it authorized marriage and regulated divorce, should scrutinize those who wanted to marry, and weed out any likely to become the fathers or mothers of idiots, weaklings, and vicious children. By inheritance we acquired our dispositions and desires. It was proved in the case of a man who smoked and chewed marrying a woman who smoked and took snuff; the child of such a marriage, in a case coming under his observation, would pick up stubs of cigars and chew them before he could walk, seeming to enjoy them as well as most babies do candy. Often the appetite for strong drink is seemingly inherited. By a wise observance of the laws of heredity we might have better children, happier families, and more harmonious communities.

At the conclusion of Mr. Chase's address, the convention adjourned.

The Meeting Wednesday Afternoon.

At 2:20 P. M. the chairman, Mr. Cobb, called the meeting to order and again introduced Mr. Loring Moody who read copious extracts of a work from his pen now in press. This work, it may as well be said here, was written at the request of the well-known philanthropist Elizabeth Thompson, and consists of clear, concise answers to a series of letters from this lady to the able apostle of heredity. It will be ready shortly. When issued it will be advertised in the *HEALTH MONTHLY* at no expense to the author, and as the proceeds will be devoted to the furtherance of the cause in which he is so enthusiastically engaged we hope every reader will send for one.

Mr. Moody gave some instructive examples of the influences which vicious habits have upon succeeding generations. Of four children of a drunkard known to a gatherer of statistics, one became a maniac, a second fell a victim to melancholia, a third possessed an irascible and suicidal disposition, and the fourth was timorous and devoid of all force of character. One couple addicted to dipsomania had eight idiots born to them. Mr. Moody's readings and comments were listened to with interest and then

The Rev. A. Stewart Walsh was introduced. His subject was—"Bible views of the ill-born."

The address indicated great labor and research in picking out prominent characters and showing how by the laws of heredity they came to possess the characteristics which they exhibited. We shall present a summary of this address in our next issue.

AUXILIARY SOCIETY PROPOSED.

At the conclusion of Rev. Mr. Walsh's address, Dr. Reuben Garter made an appeal for signatures to a paper having for its object the formation of an auxiliary society in New York. In the course of his remarks he said that hitherto the improvement of the children of men had been attempted after their birth. It was hoped that hereafter this important work would be commenced before their birth and seriously considered in the formation of marital ties. To this end the subject must be agitated and facts collected. The plan of holding parlor meetings was proposed and quite a number of ladies and gentlemen put down their names as patrons or members.

GRECIAN RACE-CULTURE.

Mr. A. E. Newton, editor of "*The Two Worlds*," followed with a paper entitled "Pre-natal Culture—some Conditions Requisite." This address opened with the question—"Can a reasonable basis for a system of pre-natal culture be established." Mr. Newton thought it could. Multitudes of facts are on record going to show that surrounding incidents, prevalent mental or sudden emotions during the critical period, have manifested marked effects upon offspring, producing poets, artists and warriors as well as murderers and criminals of every kind. These have occurred without any intention or thought on the part of the parents. He thought a lesson could be learned from these facts, and that the mother's surroundings should be such as to guard against mistakes and to promote human culture. He quoted a writer in *The Popular Science Monthly* who said that the Greeks "believed so strongly in the potency of pre-natal conditions that they not only guarded mothers who were bearing with the highest care, but used even to surround them with beautiful works of art, that the imagination might act a favorable part." The great question was how to reach with purifying influences the fountains in the lower strata of society. He thought much might be effected by cheap publications. Little could be effected by preaching continence or refraining from multiplication. Attention must be given by the wealthy and capable to the improvement of the homes of the laboring classes. He referred to the familistere at Guise in France, wherein Godin, a wealthy and successful manufacturer, had created a beautiful home for the workmen. He thought Mr. Godin had nobly piloted the way to the solution of the problem relating to the homes of the working people. Turning again to the subject of reproduction, he remarked that so long as this important matter is left to accident, or to the impulse of blind passion, accompanied with a desire to be rid of an unwelcome burden on the part of either parent, so long will society be cursed by aimless, passion-led, misanthropic, Ishmaelish members, whose hands will be raised against the peace and welfare of their kind. He suggested an idea something like that proposed in one of our publications, written ten years ago (Plain Home Talk), that a commission should be appointed either by the States or by Congress, for the collection and diffusion of information among the people, bearing on the laws regulating reproduction. In conclusion, he said it is time that all mothers should realize the moulding power that is theirs over the character and destiny of their offspring, and aim to apply it intelligently, systematically and wisely, to the production of the best results.

BORN-DEVILS.

Dr. William H. Atkinson being called to the platform proceeded to criticize the movement. Although in sympathy with it, he thought there was as yet no knowledge of first principles among those who were attempting to formulate rules for the guidance of those who wished to become the happy parents of promising offspring. The dough that's baked had something to do with it, or, in other words, the cell-material out of which progeny are formed. If anybody had a formula for producing beautiful progeny, why didn't he bring it out? He ridiculed the idea that a vicious father was sure to have vice-doomed children. He had seen women with lazy husbands going through all sorts of privations and perplexities bearing the most beautiful children mortal eye ever looked upon. And then again he had observed the children of refined, educated and highly respectable parents to be devils, from the word, Go.