

even as the blood-current through the anastomosing vessels round a thrombosed artery—may cause, I say, marked eccentricities in thought and action that we must regard as irrational.

What, then, can be said of the hereditary transmission of this state. I have nothing to say of heredity in general, only this: that in all Nature the seed reproduces itself in striking likeness to its parent. But by the beautiful theory of evolution we are taught that Nature adapts herself most suitably to the existing circumstance of all time. If circumstances never changed, then we might look for perfection in Nature; but they do change. Unhappy and untoward circumstances and illegal influences occur; these produce error of function; persistent error of function—if not actual disease—certainly ends therein. I shall refer to this again. These errors are not only capable of transmission by heredity in the tissues themselves, but of further propagation and rapid increase by the persistent and hereditary action of those same influences which were the first origin of disturbance.

This, then, brings us to the second thought—viz., circumstances and influences. In other words, causes acting upon this tissue already unstable through the laws of heredity. Strictly speaking I should confine myself to those influences which may be transmitted from one generation to another, under the ban of which father and son alike exist. I will divide them, however, into—I, Hereditary; II, Occasional or Accidental. In speaking of the latter, I will merely mention some of the more important of them, as I wish to refer to them later on.

The first, and possibly the most important, hereditary influence I wish to speak of is Education or Training. As the teaching of the good mechanic is impressed upon the apprentice in the best execution of the work, so also is the mode of thought of the teacher impressed upon the pupil. We think mostly after the manner of our teaching. Apply this to the children of the irrational. Are not the eccentricities of the parent early impressed upon the child? It is said that the disposition of the nurse may affect the after destiny of the child within the cradle. Ideler says: “There are cases of *so-called* hereditary insanity which