

enough to take advantage of it, are necessary, but not all. The parents are responsible to the children, not the children to the parents, and the child: he has a right to demand that neither father nor mother overburden themselves with the cares of other matters to that extent that their welfare must be neglected. They have a right to insist that their parents set such an example before them, and treat them in such a way, that they will not be either influenced or driven to vicious or unlawful courses; and also that the parents provide such conditions as will tend to develop in the most ennobling way, each part and faculty of their natures; and again, that their fathers and mothers abstain from the indulgence of their sexual passion unlawfully, and thus bringing them into the world as the result of accident or carelessness, and stamping upon their plastic organizations appetites and passions that will be a curse to themselves and society during their entire lives; and further, that they do not bring into the world more little ones than they can support or do justice to.

In short, children and society have a right to demand that the men and women, the fathers and mothers, be pure, honest, upright, seeking the highest and best good for themselves, for the benefit of others; that they use the God-given power of pro-creation not for their own gratification, but to bring into being a race which shall approximate towards perfection, and thus make the millennium a certainty in the near future instead of a vision.

SOUTH NEWBURY, O., August, 1881.

[FOR DR. FOOTE'S HEALTH MONTHLY.]

The Institute of Heredity.

DR. FOOTE, *Dear Sir*: I do not intend this as a report of the meeting held in Boston last spring. It is rather late for that, but I hope by one means or another the name and objects of the Institute of Heredity may be kept before the people so that its next meeting will be larger. That it is established and that the HEALTH MONTHLY furnishes a medium through which ideas and information regarding it can be exchanged are matters which I contemplate with profound satisfaction.

I am sorry that any postal restrictions are placed on the MONTHLY and hope that the growth of knowledge may soon be sufficient to remove them. Physiological questions should be discussed with perfect freedom. The man who feels that he must get behind the door and whisper if he has anything to say about the organs of generation or their functions is a man who stands greatly in need of re-generation. In my estimation the propagation of the human species is a subject that demands the best and purest thought of the truest and most earnest men and women of the world. I must be glad and rejoice that at last the human race is to fare as well in this respect as the other important animals.

The article relating to the Institute of Heredity in the July number of the HEALTH MONTHLY has a slight mistake which I would like to correct. It was Mr. and not Mrs. Newton of New Jersey, who read the paper which contained the facts concerning Godin's "Famillistere." I was present at the afternoon session and found the proceedings very interesting, though not as instructive as I had hoped. I see good reason for that, however; instruction is much more valuable to a person who is interested in any subject than to one who is not; so it may be well that the first aim of the Institute be to interest.

If one could attend meetings addressed by thoughtful and gifted speakers for six or eight hours a day, as we did "Anniversary Week" in Boston, and bring

away by simple memory any very clear ideas of each speech and speaker, individually considered, he or she must have a stronger brain than mine. Still I have quite a vivid recollection of some of the addresses.

The paper read by Mr. Newton showed that poverty is extremely unfavorable to the birth and development of good specimens of humanity and contained an eloquent plea for a financial system which shall abolish poverty, or at least greatly lessen it. Then followed the account of Godin's "Famillistere," quoted from a lady who spent several weeks there for the purpose of studying its operations. I was particularly struck with the statement that there was no quarreling among the children of the families composing the "Famillistere."

Mrs. Stanton's address was somewhat on the esthetic line, counseling the prospective mother to surround herself with beautiful pictures and exquisite objects of every description. (All in harmony with Mr. Newton's talk about poverty.) Then she told a story of a woman who sent for her after listening to one of her lectures. She went and found a woman of very ordinary appearance with three children of extraordinary beauty and apparently endowed with most desirable, moral and intellectual faculties. The contrast between the mother and children was so striking that Mrs. Stanton supposed them to be hers only by adoption, until the mother explained that she had sent for her to show her how much and how rapidly human stock might be improved by careful intelligent effort.

Is it not strange that with law above, below and all around us, the world has gone on in such utter disregard of it as applied to the generation of human beings?

Matilda Joslyn Gage said women do not have as good food as men, and asked, "Who eats all the game?" I do not know how much foundation for such a charge has come under her observation. I have occasionally known a male specimen of the *genus homo* who would leave his family scantily fed and treat his chums to expensive lunches but have always hoped they were exceptionally mean.

This speaker said further that women do not have as good air as men, nor half a chance any way for anything—which we all know is woefully true. She told the story of the man who came home drunk and turned his back to his wife, who exclaimed, "It won't do any good to turn over; you're drunk all thro'!" and applied it to tobacco, showing how wives are obliged to breathe air poisoned by emanations from the breath and tobacco permeated-bodies of their husbands. She, with the others, urged that women must have more freedom before much good can be accomplished. An amusing incident occurred just here: While Mrs. Gage was explaining the physiological effects of poor food and vitiated air, Rev. Mr. Spencer arose and in a loud clear voice exclaimed, "We are experiencing what the speaker is explaining in relation to air; I protest. Let us have the windows opened." It is needless to add that windows were opened, but we had been in confined air so long, I am afraid some took cold by the sudden change.

Many of the speakers alluded to the debilitating, degrading effect of woman's dress as worn at present, but I was hoping to hear one address devoted entirely to the subject, as I knew Mrs. Tillotson was in the city at that time.

Since you lead the way, I judge that your columns are open for discussion on the subject of continence, so avail myself of the privilege. I must confess at present I am entirely in sympathy with the views expressed by Dr. Winslow of the *Alpha*. I always endeavor not to