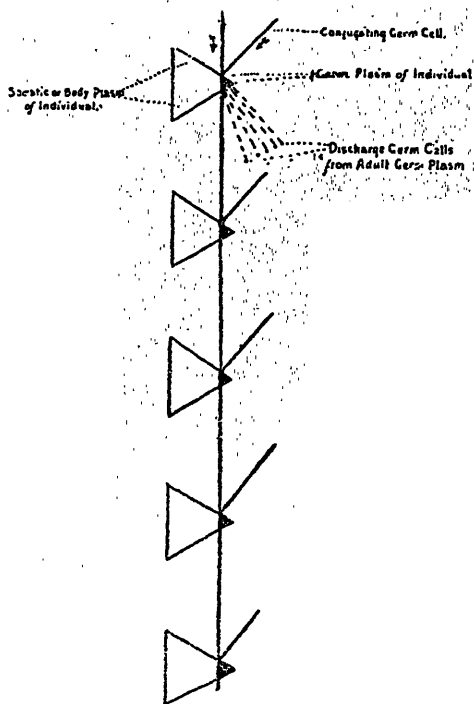


frequently-quoted example, if the parent has been a dancing master, and has developed the calves of his legs and the excitability of the nerve cells which control those leg muscles, until those legs dance in a way far superior to that in which ordinary people's legs dance—we cannot imagine, I say, that these acquired properties of the parents can pass to the offspring. As a matter of fact, we know that neither of these events happen—the man who has lost his arm has perfectly normal children, the dancing master's children do not naturally dance better than those of other people. A large number of acquired conditions are thus incapable of being inherited.



This, however, does not include every possibility in the matter of inheritance. We have so far struck out direct infection, acquired gross lesions of organs and acquirement of excessive development of one or other organ, but this does not exhaust the list of conditions telling upon the parental organism. There is yet another class of cases in which disturbances of the body tissues (as distinct from the germ cells) must affect these germ cells, and, influencing them, may, to a greater or less extent, influence the individuals developing from them. Although the germ cells are recognisable at the time of birth, and ap-