

All this would entail consideration of every factor influencing in any way the life of man. Heredity, prenatal conditions, environment, nutrition, education, occupation—these are but a few of the matters which demand attention. As man must be studied in the mass as well as individually, it would seem advisable that such studies be first pursued in institutions, schools, etc., over which the government exercises control, so we have additional reason for advocating that the study be undertaken by the state. And as the questions involved are to a very considerable extent medical and hygienic, it would not seem out of place to have the work directed by a competent public health service.

Comparison of results achieved by various nations in such study would be of incalculable benefit. In this way the influence of topography, climate, national ambitions, etc., upon the physical and mental development might be ascertained, and some hint might be gained as to wherein marriage between people of different nationalities would prove advantageous or the reverse. Adami, writing in *Osler's System of Medicine*, says:—"It is a familiar observation in Canada that the offspring of Anglo-Saxon and French marriages tend to be of better build, brighter and more active than the rest of the community, whether French or Anglo-Saxon." On the other hand, some sociological studies which have been carried on in the United States go to show that certain admixtures in that country tend to the production of relatively underweighted and intellectually backward children. Thus it can be seen how a careful study of such conditions might lead to very useful results, not only in dealing with things as they are, but in directing our immigration policy.

There is perhaps no period of life in which the opportunity of the public health servant is greater than in infancy and in childhood. The frightful mortality rate amongst infants to which we were accustomed but a very few years ago has been more than cut in half, but it still remains too high, and suitable regulation of the infant's dietary would doubtless accomplish much. We have still much to learn about the regulation of the various factors which combine to make the life of a child. We well know that the city child is physically and often mentally inferior