

susceptibilities. I cannot do more here than touch upon this question, to show its importance. For example, gouty persons are apt to have a variety of complaints, and the diseases of which they die are of a particular kind; now it is important to know why England, before all other countries, is apt to produce this disease called gout, and what are the circumstances which favour its development in any individual; in the same way, why consumption is so common a disorder, and what are the circumstances which favour its development in particular cases. You will see that the person who is inclined to the one affection or the other inherits with the disposition a peculiar frame of body, so that observation will show to what temperament every one belongs; not only is there a tendency to certain morbid changes, but the whole character of the man in health possesses its own features. Now, in all probability, the same causes which we see constantly in operation, ready to induce certain phenomena in these individuals, are really the same which, operating through several generations, have produced the very constitution which he inherits.

For example, take a model man, put him on our island, feed him well with a large amount of animal diet, malt liquors, and wines, subject him to certain atmospheric conditions, etc., and you would probably produce an individual of the sanguineous and gouty type—a well-made man with plenty of vigour, both animal and mental, good tempered, and social, given to generous impulses, as well as to generous living. This class of man is produced under certain favouring circumstances, and the tendencies of his life are to perpetuate his characteristics and peculiarities. These may be averted in later generations by judicious marriages, otherwise the worst parts of the constitution are propagated from father to son, and, the strong tendencies remaining, the younger generations become a prey to the vices of their inheritance. Any peculiarity is likely to be fostered until it reaches a morbid degree, and then an actual malady is set up. In considering, therefore, the question of ‘prevention better than cure,’ it is absolutely necessary that a study of these temperaments should be made. Suppose you had influence in some part of the country where you may be residing, and you see a young family growing up with the peculiarities of the gouty or arthritic temperament which I have mentioned. Place those children in a position where all their propensities will be fostered, where, surrounded by society, their inclinations toward free living are favoured, a rapid development of their inherent evils takes place; on the other hand, let the young man be placed in a position where activity