

THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL ALCOHOLISM.

This question has been argued with much ability and energy in Britain for some time. The views of Karl Pearson and Miss Elderton have been subjected to very keen criticism by Miss Sturge, Sir Victor Horsley, Dr. T. B. Hyslop, and others.

Miss Sturge and Sir Victor Horsley have at great length shown the fallacies in the arguments and statistics of Miss Elderton and Karl Pearson. We think the victory clearly lies with the former.

Dr. T. B. Hyslop, in a very able summary of the arguments, concludes somewhat as follows:

It has been shown by experiment that the young of animals that have been treated by alcohol are weaker than in the case of those not so treated.

Epilepsy, some forms of insanity, mental enfeeblement, deaf-mutism, stunted growth, are apt to be intensified in the offspring and to appear at earlier ages when the parents have been alcoholics.

Parental alcoholism does appear to accentuate the downward trend of inherited psychoneurosis. The tendency is for the offspring to become alcoholic or degenerate at earlier ages.

The psychoneuroses which would tend to die out with the influence of intermarriage and new family tendencies so introduced, become stronger, and tend to destroy the family through the influence of parental alcoholism.

With these general conclusions most thoughtful persons will agree. Parental alcoholism reduces the health and vigor of the parent, impairs wage-earning capacity, causes poverty in the home, surrounds the child with bad environments, furnishes the child with vitiated blood in utero and bad milk after birth. There is no use, in face of such facts, to appeal to outworn statistics.

IS STERILIZATION OF THE HABITUAL CRIMINAL JUSTIFIABLE?

"Charles Edward Nammack, New York, thinks that if sterilization for criminals is to become general it must be voluntarily submitted to. As a punishment it is barbarous, degrading, and its supposed benefits will not be realized, since the mental condition of the criminal will be bad, and he will have a thirst for vengeance. He will still be in a position to have connection, while he cannot procreate. The experiment has been made by one state. The author states that transmission of a criminal brain to the descendants of the criminal is impossible, since only physical abnor-