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No. 1.

January, 1882.

Volume 7.

## Race Culture.

### CONVENTION IN NEW YORK OF THE INSTITUTE OF HEREDITY.

#### ADVANCED THOUGHT ON A VITALLY IMPORTANT THEME.

##### HUMAN REFORMATION TO COMMENCE IN THE EGG.

WE will preface this report by saying that in the autumn of 1880, an organization was effected, in Boston, of a large number of those who believe in beginning at the root of the evils of human society for their removal, and the association adopted the name of "The Institute of Heredity." The Hon. Daniel Needham was elected President, and Mr. Loring Moody, whose earnest labors inaugurated the movement, was appointed Secretary. A long list of vice-presidents was chosen from among those understood to be in sympathy with the objects of the association, and a Board of Directors was selected. Among the distinguished names of those who became patrons or members of the Institute, were the Hon. Samuel E. Sewell, Henry W. Longfellow, Elizabeth Thompson, Chs. W. Gardner, John Quincy Adams, Hon. Chs. L. Flint, LL.D., James Parton, Samuel R. Payson, Maj. Henry C. Brooks and the Hon. A. W. Clarke.

On the 25th of May last, during anniversary week, the first public meeting of the Institute of Heredity was held at Wesleyan Hall, Boston. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Loring Moody, Dr. F. G. Greene, of Boston, Mrs. Ellen R. Sheldon, of Washington, Mrs. C. F. Lozier, M.D. of New York, Chs. W. Gardner, of Portsmouth, N. H., Mr. A. E. Newton, of N. J., Mrs. Caroline B. Winslow, M.D., editor of the *Alpha*, Matilda Joslin Gage, editor of the *National Citizen*, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary G. Stafford, M.D., Parker Pillsbury, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Mr. Bronson Alcott, of Concord, Mr. John Newell, and others.

It being anniversary week, Boston was full of representative people who are not afraid to think and act in advance of others, and the first convention of the Institute of Heredity was a great success.

The speeches were full of startling self-evident truths, and an interest was created which made itself felt throughout the country. The press, pretty generally,

made some allusion to it; a few editors gave lengthy editorials upon the importance of the movement, and the liberal press has ever since contained communications from interested people, who have had more or less to say about it. Almost if not quite every issue of this journal since May has contained something inspired by the public meeting of the Institute of Heredity.

#### The First Public Meeting in New York.

WEDNESDAY morning, Dec. 7th, was hardly favorable for the opening of a convention to discuss topics which have yet to make themselves popular. But notwithstanding the rainy and in every way disagreeable day, some thirty or more of "the faithful" congregated at Republican Hall, on 33d Street, at the appointed hour—11 o'clock. Mr. Loring Moody had risen from a sick bed and come from Boston to take part in the meeting. In spite of his feebleness, his voice was strong and his courage for the work unconquerable during the first day's proceedings. Indeed, the forenoon of the second day was opened by one of his persuasive and convincing addresses. At noon, however, he was prostrated by a severe chill and was removed to his room at the residence of Dr. Foote, where he remained till Friday morning, and then, in a more comfortable condition, after a refreshing night's rest, he took the eleven o'clock express for Boston.

All things considered, the convention was a success. The movement is a new one. It deals with subjects which many good people think ought never to be mentioned in public. The meetings occupied two days. Those held in the forenoons called out less than fifty people at each session. The audiences in the afternoons were much larger and those of the evening meetings numbered two or three hundred. One enthusiastic supporter of the movement—a lone lady—came all the way from Greene County, on purpose to attend. She was of course present at the opening and closing of each session. The city newspapers—some of them—seemed disposed to ridicule the meetings and to allude in no flattering terms to some of the speakers. But these playful attacks of the reporters were wholly sensational. All the speeches were really excellent; they were by representative men and women; they were listened to with marked attention; and while dealing with delicate matters they could have brought no blush to the cheek of one who has given any thought to the moral, mental and physical ills which afflict society.

One good result of the convention is an addition of 16 members and 21 patrons to the Institute, and it is the design of those of them living in and about New York

to hold parlor meetings during the winter for the purpose of exchanging views, gathering facts, and increasing the fund of information bearing on the laws of human propagation.

### The Proceedings.

At 11.20 the convention was called to order by Mr. Loring Moody, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Institute. On motion of Dr. Foote, Sr., G. Storer Cobb, LL.D., was called to the chair. This gentleman, on taking his place as presiding officer, remarked that he had given but comparatively little attention to the subject, and asked Mr. Moody to present the objects of the Institute of Heredity.

Mr. Moody, taking the platform, said he had been for nearly half a century engaged in reforms and that while some of them had succeeded many more had failed for the want of good material. We have, he added, undertaken to build our entire social fabric of material utterly unfit for the purpose. He believed that many of the moral and physical diseases which afflict humanity are congenital, and are transmitted from generation to generation through ignorance and disregard of the natural laws of descent. For the purpose of acquiring and promulgating a knowledge of these laws, and urging such obedience to them as will bring posterity into mental and physical health and right moral action, and so eradicate much of the disease, vice, and crime with which civilized society is burdened, the Institute of Heredity had been organized. The stock-breeder knows that he cannot convert the clumsy dray horse into a fine racer by putting him into a good stable and feeding him on oats; nor can a clumsy fowl be changed into a nimble gamecock by putting him in a nice coop and feeding him well. It is an old English saying:

You can dress out a gang of thieves  
In mitres, gowas and long sleeves;  
You'll find, disguise it as you will,  
That villains will be villains still.

You cannot make good men out of bad men placed under favorable circumstances. There is an evolutionary force at work among us that has been working for centuries, but it has never been helped. We have been drifting along, and have been ever drifting onward and upward. It is now proposed to give these evolutionary forces some intelligent assistance or at least a better opportunity, and it is fitting that this movement should be inaugurated in America, where we are free from many of those fetters, which in other lands bind the people down to old usages. We must, said Mr. Moody, carry on this movement without controversy with Christians. We must, however, conduct it as scientists. Adam represents rude, primeval man, struggling for mere subsistence with the wild beasts around him—ignorant of everything calculated to refine and elevate—ignorant of physiology and the laws of true living. But the predominance of good in human character is acknowledged. We are drifting onward and upward, slowly. Christ represents the highest form of goodness, culture and obedience and all those moral forces which are being employed for the elevation of the human family. The great problem before the Institute is how to set and continue in motion such prenatal influences as shall make the hereditary tendencies of future generations wholly good, so that little will be required from the environment or surrounding conditions to keep posterity entirely in the line of spiritual and physical health and right moral action. As a practical solution of the problem the Institute proposed to set in operation a movement that will aim to put an end to disease, vice, and crime in offspring and fill the

generations of the future with health, virtue, and trustworthiness. The Institute would endeavor to educate and train the public conscience and moral sense, so that parents and teachers will impress upon the young of both sexes, and especially upon those contemplating the relation that marriage involves, the weightiest responsibilities. When a child came to a father or a mother with curious questions about his origin he was silenced, and went away wondering and questioning all the more. This was all wrong. A beautiful, lovely and noble race would be the result, if the principles of the Institute could only be impressed upon the public mind.

### MARRIAGES.

The marriage question, said the speaker, is one of great importance. We do not, however, propose to assail the institution, but to investigate it. If our marriages are inharmonious, promoting vice and suffering instead of administering to the real growth and happiness of the people, we must inquire how the evils can be corrected. Whatever obstructs must get out of the way. We have engaged in a far-reaching movement in which it will require the efforts of many generations to produce appreciable effect. Some people may say—"Mr. Moody, you have taken a large contract in hand," but, said the earnest old man, we will carry it out.

### COMSTOCK AND BARBARISM.

When he prepared his first circular, Mr. Moody carried it to Mr. Longfellow, to Mrs. Horace Mann and some others, all of whom approved of its matter. Hon. Samuel E. Sewall took it home and gave it thoughtful perusal. He liked it, and the Hon. John Cummings and a few others helped him to issue and circulate the address. From the remotest states and territories and from New Foundland and everywhere else came the most cordial responses. Then followed several meetings of the friends of the cause and, finally, the convention in May, at which all agreed as to the necessity of the movement, and joined in the inquiry—"How can we improve the race?" We are now but little better than barbarians. In the ornamentation of the Harvard Memorial building was a huge and ugly mouth. The same indications of a savage instinct lurking in us are apparent in the architectural decorations of our churches and public buildings—savage jaws, projecting teeth, and glaring eyes, shocking the finer sensibilities of those who have wholly or partly outgrown such tastes. Mankind still, in various ways, exemplifies the fact that he retains traces of a barbaric origin; that he has not yet overcome false feelings of delicacy in discussing sexual subjects, which young as well as old should be informed about. Hence we have a Comstock among us pitching into everybody who dares to use the word sex.

Mr. Moody's address was listened to with close attention and his well-merited thrust at the agent of the vice society was greatly appreciated. The founder of the Institute of Heredity is an impressive speaker, because every word he utters is the expression of a deep conviction carrying the weight of the greatest sincerity.

### MARRIAGE RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon. Warren Chase, a member of the California Senate, being present, was next invited to take the platform. He said he had studied this subject for many years and had concluded that the survival of the fittest does not obtain in the intellectual domain, under existing conditions. Colleges, he said, do not make great men. A deficiency in the brain could not be supplied by a good education. "A whistle could not be made of a pig's tail." We must improve the stock. We want to see what can be done to produce better men and women.

A predisposition to crime runs largely in families, and whether inherited or otherwise obtained is the question. If inherited, we should devise means of arresting it. If it arose from discordant marriages this source of a great evil should be investigated. If necessary to reach the root of the trouble, society should dictate as to who shall be married as well as to who shall be divorced. Marriage in our country a civil contract. He was satisfied that the law, inasmuch as it authorized marriage and regulated divorce, should scrutinize those who wanted to marry, and weed out any likely to become the fathers or mothers of idiots, weaklings, and vicious children. By inheritance we acquired our dispositions and desires. It was proved in the case of a man who smoked and chewed marrying a woman who smoked and took snuff; the child of such a marriage, in a case coming under his observation, would pick up stubs of cigars and chew them before he could walk, seeming to enjoy them as well as most babies do candy. Often the appetite for strong drink is seemingly inherited. By a wise observance of the laws of heredity we might have better children, happier families, and more harmonious communities.

At the conclusion of Mr. Chase's address, the convention adjourned.

#### *The Meeting Wednesday Afternoon.*

At 2:20 P. M. the chairman, Mr. Cobb, called the meeting to order and again introduced Mr. Loring Moody who read copious extracts of a work from his pen now in press. This work, it may as well be said here, was written at the request of the well-known philanthropist Elizabeth Thompson, and consists of clear, concise answers to a series of letters from this lady to the able apostle of heredity. It will be ready shortly. When issued it will be advertised in the *HEALTH MONTHLY* at no expense to the author, and as the proceeds will be devoted to the furtherance of the cause in which he is so enthusiastically engaged we hope every reader will send for one.

Mr. Moody gave some instructive examples of the influences which vicious habits have upon succeeding generations. Of four children of a drunkard known to a gatherer of statistics, one became a maniac, a second fell a victim to melancholia, a third possessed an irascible and suicidal disposition, and the fourth was timorous and devoid of all force of character. One couple addicted to dipsomania had eight idiots born to them. Mr. Moody's readings and comments were listened to with interest and then

The Rev. A. Stewart Walsh was introduced. His subject was—"Bible views of the ill-born."

The address indicated great labor and research in picking out prominent characters and showing how by the laws of heredity they came to possess the characteristics which they exhibited. We shall present a summary of this address in our next issue.

#### AUXILIARY SOCIETY PROPOSED.

At the conclusion of Rev. Mr. Walsh's address, Dr. Reuben Garter made an appeal for signatures to a paper having for its object the formation of an auxiliary society in New York. In the course of his remarks he said that hitherto the improvement of the children of men had been attempted after their birth. It was hoped that hereafter this important work would be commenced before their birth and seriously considered in the formation of marital ties. To this end the subject must be agitated and facts collected. The plan of holding parlor meetings was proposed and quite a number of ladies and gentlemen put down their names as patrons or members.

#### GRECIAN RACE-CULTURE.

Mr. A. E. Newton, editor of "*The Two Worlds*," followed with a paper entitled "Pre-natal Culture—some Conditions Requisite." This address opened with the question—"Can a reasonable basis for a system of pre-natal culture be established." Mr. Newton thought it could. Multitudes of facts are on record going to show that surrounding incidents, prevalent mental or sudden emotions during the critical period, have manifested marked effects upon offspring, producing poets, artists and warriors as well as murderers and criminals of every kind. These have occurred without any intention or thought on the part of the parents. He thought a lesson could be learned from these facts, and that the mother's surroundings should be such as to guard against mistakes and to promote human culture. He quoted a writer in *The Popular Science Monthly* who said that the Greeks "believed so strongly in the potency of pre-natal conditions that they not only guarded mothers who were bearing with the highest care, but used even to surround them with beautiful works of art, that the imagination might act a favorable part." The great question was how to reach with purifying influences the fountains in the lower strata of society. He thought much might be effected by cheap publications. Little could be effected by preaching continence or refraining from multiplication. Attention must be given by the wealthy and capable to the improvement of the homes of the laboring classes. He referred to the familistere at Guise in France, wherein Godin, a wealthy and successful manufacturer, had created a beautiful home for the workmen. He thought Mr. Godin had nobly piloted the way to the solution of the problem relating to the homes of the working people. Turning again to the subject of reproduction, he remarked that so long as this important matter is left to accident, or to the impulse of blind passion, accompanied with a desire to be rid of an unwelcome burden on the part of either parent, so long will society be cursed by aimless, passion-led, misanthropic, Ishmaelish members, whose hands will be raised against the peace and welfare of their kind. He suggested an idea something like that proposed in one of our publications, written ten years ago (Plain Home Talk), that a commission should be appointed either by the States or by Congress, for the collection and diffusion of information among the people, bearing on the laws regulating reproduction. In conclusion, he said it is time that all mothers should realize the moulding power that is theirs over the character and destiny of their offspring, and aim to apply it intelligently, systematically and wisely, to the production of the best results.

#### BORN-DEVILS.

Dr. William H. Atkinson being called to the platform proceeded to criticize the movement. Although in sympathy with it, he thought there was as yet no knowledge of first principles among those who were attempting to formulate rules for the guidance of those who wished to become the happy parents of promising offspring. The dough that's baked had something to do with it, or, in other words, the cell-material out of which progeny are formed. If anybody had a formula for producing beautiful progeny, why didn't he bring it out? He ridiculed the idea that a vicious father was sure to have vice-doomed children. He had seen women with lazy husbands going through all sorts of privations and perplexities bearing the most beautiful children mortal eye ever looked upon. And then again he had observed the children of refined, educated and highly respectable parents to be devils, from the word, Go.

Mr. Moody thought Dr. Atkinson's criticisms quite premature. What would be thought of a professor of higher mathematics entering an infant-school and upbraiding the teacher and pupils because of their inability to solve some difficult problem? We were gathered here to learn. If the Doctor who has just spoken has mastered the subject, if he possesses rare knowledge of the questions under discussion, he is just the one we have been looking for. The object of the Institute is to inquire, and as fast as it is obtained, to disseminate information in a department which has been criminally neglected. We have only just commenced this important study.

#### WHERE TO BEGIN.

Capt. H. H. Brown was the next speaker. His subject was, "Our Boys and How we Crucify them." He thought we should begin with our boys. It was of far greater importance to the world what is in the blood of a babe than in that of a pig. The education of a child begins away back in the ages. Let the old men and women go, and begin with the children—instruct those young people who are to become fathers and mothers. Boys come out of school ignorant of sexual physiology. The little they do learn in regard to it, is wrong knowledge. The proper instruction should begin on the mother's knee, and it should be continued by the teacher. Under our present defective methods we crucify them by holding them responsible, while they run into danger through ignorance. Modern civilization stimulates passional development. Still, people without a backbrain amount to little. Young men should be taught to feel proud of their animal nature, but they should also be taught to practice self-control. We can love without knowing sex, and men should be able to associate with women-kind without realizing that they are women. The necessity of beginning with our boys is illustrated in the fact that man represents force and in the present stage of development controls women. When women shall be allowed to control themselves all will go well. Woman represents the spiritual nature, and her natural tendencies lead to purity. Young men are willing to learn, and they should be properly informed, and then they should be held responsible for the children they beget. The murder of our late lamented president was due to enforced maternity. The parents of Guiteau should be held in a measure responsible, were they living. In some portions of China the statutes demand the execution of the father and mother of a murderer, as well as the murderer himself.

Quoting Herbert Spencer, Capt. Brown said—"The first duty of a young man is that of parentage, for the home comes before the state exists, and remains after that is destroyed, and therefore the duties of husband and father should be taught the boy before that of citizenship, and the good father will make a good citizen." Children should not leave school without a thorough knowledge of the marital relations. The first great duty of man is parentage, and he should give to the world a child better than himself. Let the necessity of such knowledge be recognized and the young people will acquire it. At the conclusion of Capt. Brown's address, a capital off-hand effort, the convention adjourned.

#### *The Meeting Wednesday Evening.*

The first evening of the convention was occupied with addresses by Prof. J. R. Buchanan, M.D., the well-known cerebral physiologist and anthropological writer, and Prof. Nelson Sizer, the widely-known phrenologist, connected with the house of Fowler & Wells.

#### WOMAN'S DUTIES AND RELATIONS.

The address of Dr. Buchanan was devoted to an exposition of the proper education of woman for the positions of matron, operative, teacher and physician, showing that her education should be more practical and humanitarian than the education of colleges has been, and that above all women should be profoundly instructed in all physiological and hygienic knowledge, for the want of which they now suffer so severely. Such an improvement in female education, he said, would be of more value to mankind than the Protestant Reformation or the American Declaration of Independence. Woman was the proper mistress of moral education and of everything in the sphere of love. She had a divine right to control maternity, and should be educated to control it wisely. The propagative power of the human race was excessive, and the continued propagation of evil was our greatest social curse. Legislation and public opinion favored this flood of evil, but the welfare of mankind required its check. Marriage should be restrained and limited if possible to those who desired children, and who were worthy of being reproduced, while the unfortunate unions, not based on love, but engendering hate, should be dissolved by law as social nuisances. Every facility should be given for just divorces as the conservative remedy for a great evil. Sciolists and bigots condemn divorce, instead of condemning the cruelty which makes it necessary; as well might they condemn the surgeon's knife, instead of condemning the murderous crime, which made an amputation necessary. To introduce these necessary reforms we needed a more developed purity in the public mind—a purity that knows nothing of pessimism and obscenity—the purity of the experienced mother, of the experienced physician, the scientist, the anatomist, the inspired artist, and the angels in heaven, to whom the human form appears, in its divine excellence, the embodiment of divine wisdom, in studying which we find the chart of progress to a higher social education.

#### PHYSIOLOGIC FACTS.

Prof. Nelson Sizer said: I remember hearing that a child is but a sheet of blank paper; a few of them are, and remain blank for life. We have a name for them beginning with I and ending with T; but children destined to act the part of active human beings, are like the blank paper, which is written all over with invisible ink that must be warmed into conspicuity. We inherit what we are. We inherit the tendency to, and possibility of culture. For forty years I have been studying heredity, and I want to speak of some of the peculiarities I have noticed. I sometimes meet people who are peculiarly blessed or cursed by special developments of hereditary influence. You may often see a child one part of whose head is from one parent and one from the other. A man with moderate sized features, who sits tall and stands short, is apt to be like his mother. A girl with a long and strong face from the corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth, has the father's face and her father's spirit, and wishes she had been born a boy. They make the best women in the world. A man who resembles his mother is likely to rule where he lives, or conversely, the rulers of the world have always been the special mothers' sons; Napoleon, Washington and Franklin resembled their mothers.

I have seen five cases where a black eye had been inherited from one parent and a blue eye from the other parent, nestled on either side of the same nose.

Sometimes one particular facial feature of a parent is inherited. Sometimes one single mental faculty from one parent, while the main mental tendencies are from the other. A child may be one fourth like father and three-fourths like mother, or half and half. It is well to resemble both equally. If there must be a variation, it had better be in the way of a son resembling the mother and a daughter resembling the father.

There is another curious illustration of the freaks of heredity. I have seen a man with blond hair that had the characteristics (excepting the color) of black hair. It felt like black hair, and had its wiry toughness. His bones were large and his muscles wiry, but they were clothed with the blond complexion and soft exterior.

Prof. Sizer cited many instances, showing the effect of pre-natal influences—cases coming under his personal observation in the practice of his profession as a phrenologist. At the conclusion of Prof. Sizer's address, the hour being late, the convention adjourned.

#### *The Meeting Thursday Morning.*

On the opening of the second day's meetings, Mr. Moody continued to further demonstrate the comprehensiveness of the movement. It ought, he said, to interest publicists and statesmen. When we look at the large number of our idiot and lunatic asylums, our charitable institutions, prisons, jails, etc., and consider how we are constantly compelled to enlarge and multiply such institutions, we see that our efforts are revolving in continuous circles. We are climbing a perpetual treadmill. "There is but one way to improve the condition of affairs, and that is to enlighten the public mind, to quicken the conscience so that every young man and woman will fully comprehend the responsibility of becoming a father or mother." It would be proper to ask the young people who are about to assume the duties of parentage—what right have you to become fathers and mothers? Go to the dens of vice and infamy and inquire—What do you possess, that you are entitled to produce citizens? We hunt down abortionists, but who pursues those who bring the children of vice and crime into the world? The speaker would practically quarantine idiots, lunatics and the criminal classes, so that they could not reproduce mental and moral monstrosities like themselves.

#### EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Mr. James B. Richards was the next speaker. He said he had been invited by Dr. Foote to come here and relate what had come under his observation as a teacher of idiots. Since 1846 there had been made some well-directed efforts for improving this class of unfortunates, the cause having enlisted the sympathy and support of Dr. Howe, of Boston. He, the speaker, had been long engaged in it, and proceeded to explain his methods in trying to enlighten and improve the idiots and imbecile children which had been intrusted to his care. He related many interesting facts, and said, that facts were what we wanted. Let facts be collected and pile them up, and by-and-by some one will come along who can comprehend their meaning and give us the laws they teach. Among those related by Mr. Richards was the following: A healthy farmer wedded a young woman who was also the picture of health. The first child was a fine specimen—beautiful, and happy. The father became a sot. The next child had such a queer, diminutive head, that Dr. Howe called him a monkey. The third child was of about the same description, with the additional curse of a club foot. Looking at this last little unfortunate the father said in the most emphatic

manner, "This is the end of that." He left the house in such a state of mind that the wife felt solicitude for his safety. Some members of the family went in search of him. After an hour's absence he returned and, giving his wife his hand, he said he had signed the pledge. Four years subsequently the fourth child was born, and he was a healthy, intelligent and well-developed infant. He thought the unfortunate children of this family were not only affected by the intemperance of the father, but by the want and anxiety of the mother. Other interesting cases were presented. One of the lessons taught by them was the necessity of having the mother's mind not only at rest, but in a condition of cheerfulness during the period of gestation. If troubles arise or losses occur, try and make her feel that they were of no consequence whatever. M. Richards had three promising children, born in the Home of the Idiots. Some of his friends thought it imprudent to have his wife in such a place when bearing children. But he felt no anxiety, because he talked the matter over with his wife and found that she entertained no fear of marking her progeny with the unfortunates around her; she did not feel at all bound to stay; her remaining was entirely voluntary; and to this fact Mr. Richards attributed in part his escape from any unpleasant consequences to his children. He concluded a most instructive extemporaneous address by saying, that he would like to see established in our universities and institutions of learning generally, a chair which should teach the true conditions for promoting successful parentage.

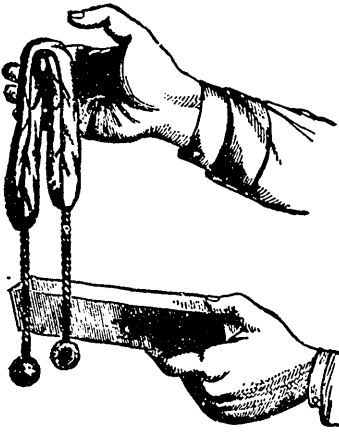
#### TEMPERAMENTS.

Dr. E. V. Wright followed in a stirring extemporaneous speech on the necessity of temperamental adaptation in marriage. This subject is so large, a series of lectures would be necessary for its elucidation, and consequently justice could not be done to it in one address, and much less in a summary like this. Nevertheless Dr. Wright presented an outline of the laws of temperamental adaptation, which impressed his hearers with the importance of having them understood and observed in controlling marriage. He said, that the colleges and their text-books gave no light upon them. Prior to the writings of Gall and Spurzheim, nothing had been given to the world in relation to them. He considered the late Dr. Wm. Byrd Powell the most reliable teacher in this department of knowledge. He, himself, was collecting valuable facts, and had already gathered no less than fifteen hundred, illustrating the truth of Powell's system. He said that he saw before him in the audience quite a number who had given attention to this subject as well as himself. What Dr. Wright said in reference to the necessity of temperamental adaptation, would readily account for the facts presented by Dr. Atkinson, when he stated, that it often happened that lazy and worthless fathers had promising children, while good parents sometimes gave birth to devils; also for the fact that sickly parents, well-mated, in some instances have healthy children, while vigorous fathers and mothers ill-mated, produced puny offspring.

Dr. E. B. Foote, Sr., closed the exercises of the forenoon with a brief address, showing the good that might come out of the convention, and the lessons which could be learned from the various views offered by the speakers. He believed that we have some positive knowledge in regard to the laws of heredity, pre-natal influences, temperamental adaptation, etc., which could be reduced to practice, with beneficent results. For want of space it is here omitted, but will probably appear in the HEALTH MONTHLY for February.

[Continued on page 11.]

# THE MAGNETIC CROUP TIPPET.



Here is a picture of that invaluable little nursery article called the Magnetic Croup Tippet which, tied about the neck at night, is

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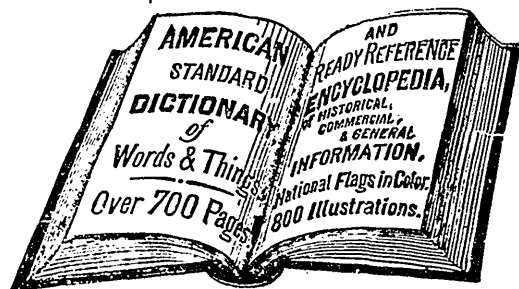
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**A Happy New Year.**

WE wish all our readers a Happy New Year, and we fondly hope they will earnestly wish us a Happy New Year. A large portion of the past year has not been very agreeable to our tastes. We have an innate aversion to contention. Still, ever since the 20th of April, we have been in more or less conflict with the postal department. We cannot believe that this is due to any unfriendliness on the part of the Postmaster-General or any great number of those in subordinate positions. It is self-evident, however, that there is an influence in the Postoffice Department bitterly opposed to our paper. We think we know where it is, and we feel confident that Anthony Comstock is the one who instigates it. We feel sure, however, from the letters we receive from all quarters, that the HEALTH MONTHLY is appreciated, and that it is doing good work in spite of all obstacles. We would be thankful if our subscribers would be more prompt in keeping up their subscriptions, and we would also be greatly obliged to all our readers if they would do what they can to extend the circulation of the HEALTH MONTHLY, and its usefulness. This is the beginning of our 7th Volume. It is a good time for a subscription to begin. In no way could the meddlesomeness of the Vice-Society and its agent be more signally rebuked than by giving to our paper a circulation, say, of 15,000 or 20,000, all paid-up subscriptions. We leave the matter in the hands of our friends.

**Where is the November Number?**

THIS question has been asked repeatedly, and we must confess that we are unable to answer. It was sent out promptly, but about the middle of the month we began to receive complaints from our subscribers, and these grew more and more numerous until it became evident that something was wrong. Finding that none of our New York subscribers had received their papers, the manager of the Publishing Company saw Mr. Blakeslee, auditor of the postoffice in this city, and inquired why our New York subscribers had failed to receive their papers. The strange reply was, that if any of them came to the city they would be thrown into the waste-paper basket. Further conversation satisfied the manager that nearly or quite the whole edition had been disposed of in some way by the United States postal authorities as soon as they were sent across the line. Our representative reminded Mr. Blakeslee that the postal authorities were the servants of the people, and should fulfill their duties in the distribution of postal matter. Mr. Blakeslee replied that there were two opinions on that point. It is evident that there is. While the American people suppose that the postal authorities are appointed to fulfill their functions as the servants of the public, they imagine that they are the "bosses," so to speak, and that the American people are simply their subjects. We at once telegraphed to our printers in Whitby, Canada, and they in turn immediately telegraphed to the postal authorities at Ottawa. Our issue for December had already been deposited, and we were fearful that that too might go into the waste-paper basket. From all that we can learn the December number has been delivered.

We need not say here that we should have been pleased to have our printing done in New York, rather than in Whitby, had it not been for the continual persecutions which we have reason to believe were set in motion by the agent of the Vice Society. Finding that we could not get our rights here as publishers, we arranged to have our HEALTH MONTHLY printed in Canada. Printing is somewhat cheaper there, and we trust that the postal authorities of the Dominion will treat us better than our postal authorities have done. Time only can determine.

Had not our report of the Institute of Heredity taken up so much of our space, we should have presented a page or two of letters from our subscribers who have justly felt incensed at the arbitrary, illegal course taken by our postal authorities. Under the circumstances we will simply offer one or two as samples, omitting the names, as we have not permission to publish them. Here is one from a prominent clergyman:

"Have not received the HEALTH MONTHLY for November, but have received lots of useless trash, such as lying political documents, also papers with bogus advertising supplements, etc. When the United States becomes so 'paternal' as to exclude the HEALTH MONTHLY it acts like a huge idiot."

We will copy one other from a prominent literary



man, who occupies a chair in one of our flourishing colleges:

"The HEALTH MONTHLY for November has not been received. Do you suppose that our immaculate post-office, having a spotless Comstock to supervise its labors, would imitate an old world despotism and exclude your journal from the mails! Remember this is a republic, where is liberty. To be sure, we have tariffs to protect the people against cheap clothing, and doctors' laws to protect doctors from competition from other doctors who are more successful than they. So we have Comstock laws to give Anthony a monopoly in smut."

It is not impossible that the postal authorities may see that they have made a mistake and, unless the whole edition of our paper was destroyed, our subscribers may yet be served with it. If it should not be received, we will, as far as possible, furnish copies to those who keep files of the HEALTH MONTHLY. We have thus far furnished all who complained; will continue to do so until our reserve is exhausted.

#### Japanese Medical Practice.

A PHYSICIAN writing from Yokohama concerning the medical practice in Japan, states, that the physicians there are of two classes, the old and the new. The old school there comprises the Chinese physicians, and those physicians who have adopted the practice of Europe and America are said to be of the new school. Most of the large cities have hospitals conducted on the plan of ours. Though the physicians of the emperor are all of the new system some of his Majesty's household have little or no faith in them, and send for the adherents of the Chinese school when ill. One of the most curious facts noted by this writer is that although the garments and apartments of the invalid may be of the richest material and kept scrupulously clean, the invalid himself is permitted to become very dirty in a long illness by the careful avoidance of the use of water even for cleaning the teeth and the failure to cut the beard or the nails. Even the doctors of the new school do not dare to insist on personal cleanliness lest they be dismissed from attendance on the case. Some attention is given to diet in sickness but not with good judgment, and many of the sick die from inanition or starvation when they might have been saved by the use of sufficient nourishment, tonics and stimulants. If the Japanese are not wholly wise in the treatment of the sick they are certainly in advance of us in disposing of the dead by cremation; and, though they have not the advantage of the most approved furnaces they nevertheless manage to effectually cremate bodies at small expense and without offense.

#### A Family Holiday.

A PATIENT, a lady, who had a great variety of complications and obtained her first relief from the use of our treatment, writes us that she calls her children together, and gets up an extra dinner in memory of, and to celebrate, the 27th of February, 1879, the day she first commenced using our medicines.

#### Timely Help for Girls.

OUR attention has been called to an article credited to the New York Tribune entitled "Timely Help." Our views are well-known in regard to the uses that girls should be put to, and we find that this article which is quite too lengthy to copy in full presents in a forceable way just what we have said many times over. It takes the position that girls as well as boys should be put to some useful avocation; that marriage should not be their only escape from a useless and objectless life. The following paragraph we will copy entire.

Now, there are a great many girls who are eagerly looking toward the professions open and opening to women, and longing to enter upon fields of activity and enterprise for which they seem to themselves peculiarly fitted. A young woman who aspires to a place as a lawyer, a physician or a writer, and expects to attain it by her own unaided efforts, has a long and weary way to make before she can reach her goal. If she will only teach, or learn telegraphy or some other trade which requires comparatively short preparation, or is supposed to do so, and easily yields a living, it is all well enough. What is the use of bestowing elaborate training upon a young woman in art and science or literature or medicine or the law, when in a few years, more or less, she will in all probability marry and go to housekeeping? To reply immediately. If she marries, her training in art will enable her to make her home beautiful, her training in science to make her home healthful, her training in literature to keep her from sinking into the mere domestic drudge, her training in medicine to rear her children with hygienic wisdom, her training in law to manage her affairs with discretion, and to be her own lawyer in case of her husband's death. Does not the success of a man depend as much on his wife as on himself? A man married but not mated cannot achieve the full, rounded, perfect success that is possible to him whose wife is his companion and equal. Every talent, accomplishment, capability she possesses is so much capital for her in the marriage partnership, and many a woman is compelled to draw on this capital for resources during her husband's life and to depend upon it entirely in the event of his death.

#### Prof. Buchanan's Marriage.

ON the evening of December 12th, at the residence of Lr. R. C. Flower, on Fifth Avenue, Prof. Joseph R. Buchanan was united in marriage with Mrs. Cornelia Humphrey Decker, the Doctor being somewhat above sixty and Mrs. Decker about fifty years of age. We prepared an extended account of this wedding, but the lengthy report of the convention of the Institute of Heredity crowds out almost everything else. It is hardly the province of a health journal to give any attention to society news, but when a gentleman of Dr. Buchanan's prominence and a member of our profession besides, takes a bride, a paper such as ours may be permitted to take notice of the affair. We therefore wish we had space for our entire report.

THE members and patrons of the Institute of Heredity should become subscribers to the HEALTH MONTHLY. It is only 50 cents per year, and every number contains more or less matter appertaining to scientific propagation; we shall give reports of the parlor meetings as soon as they are in operation. In our advertising pages will be found the first call for one.

### Vaccination.

THE vaccination question seems to come up every now and then in this country as well as in Europe, and there is a growing party which strongly opposes the practice. Our friend the Hon. A. E. Giles, of Hyde Park, sends us a copy of the *Norfolk County Gazette*, containing a letter from his pen, in which he urges the repeal of the compulsory vaccination law of Massachusetts. This law prohibits the admission of any child to the public schools who has not been vaccinated. Mr. Giles quotes the Eclectic Medical Association of Connecticut as having passed a resolution in which it declares its conviction against the practice of vaccination, and all legislation making it compulsory. During the discussion an army surgeon related some of his interesting experiences during the late war. He was employed by the Government to vaccinate the soldiers. They were drawn up in line and compelled to bare their arms for him to operate. He said that some of the sores produced were frightful, and some of the arms would swell to inordinate dimensions, even endangering the lives of many. Yet, he affirms, it kept off no pestilence, and he declares from his own experience and observation that vaccination is the veriest humbug imaginable. The one who gave this testimony was Dr. Pease, of Thomaston.

It has been suggested that the movement organized in Boston a little over a year ago under the name of the Institute of Heredity, might soon become national in its character if those who are interested in its objects would organize in their neighborhoods PARENTAL CLUBS, these clubs to hold monthly or semi-monthly meetings in private parlors, both for the purpose of gathering and disseminating information on the subject. These clubs might be auxiliary to the larger organization in Boston. To become a member of the latter an annual payment of \$5 is required. Or, one may become a patron by paying \$1 per year. It would no doubt be satisfactory to Mr. Loring Moody to have these fees paid to the treasurer of the local club, with the understanding that 25 per cent of the money might be retained for defraying the expenses of the local meetings, the balance to be remitted to him for carrying on the larger operations of the Institute. Those who think well of this proposition might communicate directly with Mr. Moody in regard to it. His address is Loring Moody, 35 Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass.

Do our delinquent subscribers fail to notice the attractions of our premium list? We are adding new premiums from time to time, and one would almost suppose that the delinquents would not only pay promptly their own subscriptions for the purpose of availing themselves of the premiums, but even send in subscriptions for their friends. Not a few do this. They direct the paper to be sent for a year to some one whom they wish to interest in the matter of the HEALTH MONTHLY, and have the premiums sent to themselves in return for the subscription money. We do not care how many do this—the more the better.

We hardly know whether or not to apologize to our readers for occupying so many pages this month with the report of the convention of the Institute of Heredity. No apology would be necessary, we feel sure, if all were as much interested in this subject as we are. The Institute has no official organ, and the reports in the daily papers of the interesting meetings held at Republican Hall, have been not only fragmentary, and in some instances erroneous, but there has been an attempt on the part of a few papers to ridicule the movement. For this reason we feel justified in presenting the extended report that so nearly fills this issue to the exclusion of almost everything else. In our next number we shall give our usual variety of matter on all subjects appertaining to popular physiology, medicine and hygiene.

We observe by the *Alpha* that at the first regular meeting of the season of the Moral Education Society at Washington, in November, some letters were read expressing opinions on, and interest in, the subject of continence, elicited by the discussion between Dr. Winslow and Dr. E. B. Foote. We will say in this connection that we fully intended to publish in this issue Mrs. Winslow's reply to our article in the October HEALTH MONTHLY. It appeared in the *Alpha* for November. We have had to give so much space to the report of the convention of the Institute of Heredity it seemed quite impossible to find room for Mrs. Winslow in this number. We fully intend to give place to it next month.

It is proposed, after the excitement of the Holidays is over, to hold occasional parlor meetings of those who are interested in the subject of heredity. If any of our readers, residing in New York or vicinity, wish to attend these meetings they will please send their names and addresses to the editors of this paper. It is believed that an exchange of individual experiences, observations and collected facts, will do much to give an impetus to this important movement.

Much was said at the convention on the subject of the Temperaments. It would take several numbers of the HEALTH MONTHLY to do even partial justice to the subject. "Plain Home Talk embracing Medical Common Sense," by Dr. Foote, lays down the laws and facts in a very plain way, so that any one may comprehend and apply them. Dr. Wm. Byrd Powell's system is presented more clearly than it appears in Powell's own works.

THE *Medical Record*, the New York organ of the old school of practice, ridicules the convention of the Institute of Heredity and those who were engaged in the recent convention. This, of course, was to have been expected. Has any one ever known an old-school journal to encourage such a movement at the outset? When it gets well under way the *Record* will fall in line, unfurl the largest banner, and will insist that it was always an advocate of this reform.

We regret to observe that Mrs. Gage is obliged to discontinue *The National Citizen and Ballot Box* in consequence of being overworked. Her subscribers are to be furnished with the *Alpha*, published in Washington.

The *Physiologist* for December made its appearance early in the month, well freighted with valuable matter. Among the contributors, we notice Lucinda B. Chandler, S. P. Putnam, Mrs. S. H. Lobe, Mrs. E. D. Slenker and others.

## The Outlook.

### Comstock.

ANTHONY, dear, and what is your mission?  
Why do you linger so far from that place  
Where you vainly have hoped your blessed endeavor  
Would make you chief-leader in virtue, wherever  
*Your name found a print in your race!*

Do you suppose our national mothers  
Will long bow their knee before your foul shrine?  
Will kneel to the powers that be, made infernal,  
By stamping out rights God created eternal,  
*To blossom and bear in Liberty's line!*

Do you think you can check the fast-growing freedom  
Of action and thought, and liveliest truth,  
The teaching of men who study our failings,  
Who gladly would better our woefullest ailments?  
There you're mistaken! You're still in your youth.

Free Thought will outlive the vilest pollution,  
No matter the name of the man in the way;  
No matter the laurels he thinks to be winning,  
The pain which awaits and lives upon sinning  
Will give Right the fort and close in the day.

Flaunt high the name of Foote and of Moody;  
Scatter their essays all over the world;  
Fill up the ranks with Liberal training,  
The future is ours, we're every day gaining;  
Our flag hugs the mast, then again is unfurled.

BITTER SWEET.

### Help Wanted from the Vice Society.

The next morning after luxurious New Yorkers had been digesting their bounteous Thanksgiving dinners an appeal appeared in the daily *Tribune* for a destitute family. The writer, a clergyman, had visited the family of a Mr. Grahm in Livingston Street, where he found Mr. Grahm in one room on his back, having been rendered helpless for the last five years by rheumatism, while his wife, the only support left him, was in bed in an adjoining room with an infant child two days old. Five other small children were playing around the room, the oldest being only twelve! Now, we respectfully suggest that this is a case which ought to be looked after by the Society for the Prevention of Vice through its agent, Mr. Comstock. If the editor of the *HEALTH MONTHLY*, or any physician, or any benevolent person had five years ago furnished Mr. Grahm even gratuitously with any means whatever for limiting his family or in other words, a harmless means for preventing conception, he would have been made liable to a prosecution from this same Vice Society, and to a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for five years! The statute reads that no such article must be sold or given away! This is the law in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and perhaps in half of the States of the Union, and the Vice Society has been the organized body which has instigated the passage of this law. Clearly it is the duty of this society to look after this family, just as much as it is proper to proceed against a liquor seller who has brought to beggary some family whose head and supporter has been too constantly a patron of a drinking saloon. Will Mr. Comstock look after the interests of this destitute family? The babies which are coming along are not only heirs to the parent's poverty, but also heirs to his disease.

A large number of communications in type are crowded out. Will appear in our next.

### Mr. Talmage and the Postal Laws.

It seems astonishing how some people who might be suspected of having clear heads will get muddled when talking about the Comstock postal laws. The Rev. Mr. Talmage in his sermon on the 20th of November, showing up the evil of bad literature, spoke as if there was no way of reaching this nuisance except through postal statutes! He even speaks as if the arrest of the blackmailer of Jay Gould was effected under the postal laws! This very case illustrates how well we could get along without the Comstock postal laws. Col. Welles was proceeded against under our State statutes; not under the postal laws. Letter-carriers and other officers of the Post office were employed in assisting in ascertaining who this person was who was sending threatening letters to Jay Gould. But it required no Comstock law—no postal law—to effect his arrest and punishment nor even his apprehension. In the same way those who traffic in bad literature may be detected if necessary, but it is clearly not necessary to turn the Post office practically into a police office, and make it the instrument for effecting the arrest and punishment of the offender. Our State authorities are abundantly able to do this. Moreover, Mr. Talmage would have his congregation think that that monster petition which was sent to Congress for the repeal of the Comstock law was signed only by those who are known under the comprehensive name of "Liberals"; but this is not true. That petition was circulated and signed largely by ministers and members of orthodox churches. It is expected that editors in the haste of getting up a daily paper will make some mistakes in statement, but there is no excuse for a minister, who has all the week to prepare himself, to fall into such errors as those exhibited in the Rev. Mr. Talmage's sermon.

### Defense Fund.

Money for the Defense Fund is not coming in very freely, but we have to acknowledge the receipt of \$1 from a subscriber signing himself J. D.

## New Advertisements.

TO THE PATRONS AND MEMBERS

OF THE

## INSTITUTE OF HEREDITY.

THE first Parlor Meeting of the friends of the Institute for discussion and interchange of views and facts will be held at the office parlors of Dr. E. B. Foote, 120 Lexington Avenue, on Thursday evening, the 26th of January, at 8 o'clock. Those interested living in or near the city, and all happening in the city at the time who are members or patrons, are invited to be present.

S. P. PUTNAM, President of the Com. of  
E. B. FOOTE, M.D., Jr., Secretary & Arrangements.

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[Report of Convention, continued.]  
The Meeting Thursday Afternoon.

Dr. Reuben Garter was the first speaker on the re-assembling of the convention on Thursday afternoon. He, too, took up the subject of the temperaments, and said he could tell by an examination of the parents what their children would be; or by seeing one of the parents and the children, he could describe the absent parent; had done it time and again, and was willing to have his ability in this direction tested. If, he said, this can be done after marriage the rule could be definitely laid down before. Here was a key which could unlock the secret and enable us to have perfect children.

Dr. T. B. Kinget being called on by the chairman, said that if the subject to be considered had been advertised as one relating to the sexual relations, the hall would have been crowded by those who would be attracted by curiosity. According to his views it was high time that the public began to look more closely into this sex subject. Those who could not discuss it in public had better go back to Mrs. Grundy. Some people can only be reached by shocking their prejudices. It was now time to shock them on sex topics. After setting them right on these, the next step towards the improvement of the race was to improve the environment. Robert Owen, when he sought to improve the operatives in his mills, found that their surroundings were objectionable. This evil he proceeded to remedy and to place them in better conditions.

#### PATERNAL INFLUENCE.

Character depended first upon a good physical and mental organization, and secondly on environment. There were those who thought that in bearing children all depended on the mother; but he had met with numerous instances, wherein grave defects were not at all derived from the mother. They were directly traceable to the father. The speaker related to the temperaments, and quoted a lady as having said that nothing taught on the subject could be regarded as an exact science. He was an old man and had given many years study to them and he was willing to be tested. It would not answer in all instances for a black-eyed brunette to mate with a blue-eyed blond. Both might possibly have the vital temperament. If there be one-third difference in temperament, all would be right. Two persons, he affirmed, having large combativeness will either have no children, or they will be timid and nerveless. One parent must supplement the other. The union of relatives having a tendency to some one disease would intensify that tendency in offspring. But when the conditions are good, breeding in and in too long would cause the stock to run out. In crossing, however, full-blooded sires are always necessary, and this fact proves that in the human species hereditary descent is not entirely through the mother.

(The Doctor had been speaking for about fifteen minutes when Dr. Foote announced to the chairman and audience, that Prof. R. A. Gunn was present, and could remain only a few moments. It was therefore proposed that Dr. Kinget surrender the platform for a little while and resume at the conclusion of Prof. Gunn's address.)

#### HEREDITY QUESTIONED.

Prof. Gunn then appeared before the audience in an argument to prove that there is no such thing as hereditary transmission. Peculiarities in families, descending from parent to child, were due to prenatal and postnatal influences. He said he was in full sympathy with the Institute of Heredity, because it had for its object the elevation of the race. But, if the views advanced are correct, this society might as well dissolve at once, as it

would be impossible for a child to be born that would differ from his parents. It was certainly discouraging if a child must have consumption, cancer, scrofula, or something else, because its father or mother has had some of those diseases. He was a full believer in evolution. Man had been steadily rising, from the beginning, but would have gone along on the dead level, if the doctrine of heredity were true. He gave some facts to support his position. There was a family which for several generations had a redundant finger on one hand. One of the boys had the sixth finger amputated, so that when he grew to manhood it was not noticeable. He married, and when his first child was born his wife knew nothing of the family peculiarity. This child had the usual thumb and four fingers. But, before the second was conceived, the wife learned that her husband, at his birth, had six fingers. The next child had the redundant finger. A web-footed father had two children, one before his wife knew the fact, and one after she became apprised of it; the first child was all right, but the second child had the web-foot. One child was born without fingers on one hand, and all because the mother had seen those of an older brother chopped off while she was en route. The child of the new-born child perfectly resembled that of the unfortunate brother. A father on his death-bed had a secret to impart to his married daughter. It was that her mother was not dead, as she supposed, but the inmate of an insane asylum. It had been the peculiarity of the family that the female members became insane when pregnant with their first child. This daughter had two children, and was in excellent health and spirits before hearing the terrible secret. On being pregnant the third time, she became insane. He said that if we could disabuse the popular mind of the notion that insanity or something else must be inherited because a mother, grandmother, aunt or other relation had been so affected, it would prove a great blessing. People are often hounded into insanity. In the course of his address Dr. Gunn practically admitted that tendencies are inherited, but he would have the child taken to a favorable clime, and placed under circumstances so different from those surrounding the parent that it would outgrow them. He conceded that being born and living under precisely the same conditions as the parents, the children might develop the same diseases.

Dr. Kinget resumed, admitting all that Prof. Gunn had said of prenatal influences and the effects of environment, but still insisting that the law of heredity does exhibit itself in our children. The Institute of Heredity does not forbid the discussion of either prenatal or postnatal influences. The people are perfectly ignorant of all these matters, and inquiry will lead to their enlightenment.

#### BAD WIVES BUT GOOD MOTHERS.

Dr. Sam R. Chase, being called for, took the platform. After saying a good deal intended more particularly for the masculine ear, she went on to say that there are four classes of women: first, those who make good wives and mothers; second, those who make good wives but poor mothers; third, those who make good mothers but poor wives; and fourth, those who make neither good wives nor good mothers. Public sentiment should recognize the fact that women can make good wives who are not fit physically, or so constituted in mind, as to make good mothers. Those who make good wives but poor mothers; should they marry? Yes. They love, though they may not be fitted for motherhood; may perhaps be physically incapable of bearing children; but if they can they should not. Those who make good mothers

but not good wives, if they be vigorous, are worthy to become wives, for they will love their husbands because they are the fathers of their children—love in a certain sense. An inferior man may marry a woman of this class and have desirable children, just because the wife is an excellent mother. Such women are apt to be interested in social and political affairs, and they are a regenerating element in society. The fourth class referred to includes those who make neither good wives nor mothers. They are useful in school-rooms and shops, and may be lawyers, or physicians, or preachers. She thanked God for the old maids. They were not appreciated. They did much silent good work. All avocations should be open to them. She honored a woman who had a mission in life and could fulfill it—one who is not willing to palm herself off as a wife and mother, when she is not fitted to be either. Many of Dr. Chase's crisp remarks elicited applause.

#### GENEALOGY AND HEREDITY.

Dr. David P. Holtom, of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, presented to the Institute of Heredity several maps illustrating the best methods of keeping family genealogy, and in doing so proceeded to attack Prof. Gunn's disbelief in the law of heredity. The Jewish race, he thought, was sufficient to demonstrate the claims of those who believe in hereditary influences. He also instanced the family of Thos. Parsons, which was presented on one of his maps. For many generations they had exhibited their family character without exception—physical stamina, integrity, piety, etc.

In the absence of Prof. Gunn, Dr. Foote reminded the audience that all the virtues of the Parsons family might proceed from gestative and post-natal influences, and did not by any means prove the law of heredity; still, the Doctor, himself, wished to be placed on record as fully believing in the claims of heredity. He also announced that several letters in sympathy with the objects of the Institute of Heredity had been received by Mr. S. P. Putnam, chairman, and Dr. E. B. Foote, Jr., secretary of the Committee of Arrangements, but that the time had been so much occupied with speeches the reading would have to be omitted: one from Charles. W. Gardner, of Portsmouth; from Ellen H. Sheldon, of Washington; from Rev. Robert Collyer, of New York; from Prof. Alexander Wilder, of the United States Medical College; from Dr. Caroline B. Winslow, editor of *The Alpha*; from Rev. Jesse H. Jones, of Schroon Lake; from Mr. Alfred H. Love, president of the Universal Peace Union, of Philadelphia; from Rev. Phebe H. A. Hanaford, of Jersey City; from Mr. R. Dugdale, author of the work on the Jukes family; from Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, of Tenafly; from Dr. James C. Jackson, of Dansville; from Henry A. Weeks, M.D., New York; from Mrs. Abbie Knapp, of Dowagiac; from Isabella Beecher Hooker, of Hartford; from Hon. Elizer Wright, of Boston; from Dr. Harriet N. Austin, of Dansville; from Hon. T. B. Wakeman, of New York, and from Andrew Jackson Davis. It is probable that the *HEALTH MONTHLY* will from time to time make quotations from these letters in future references to the proceedings of the convention. Those of special interest will be read at the parlor-meetings now in contemplation.

#### The Closing Session.

On Thursday evening, Dr. Garter took the chair at the request of Mr. Cobb, who could not be present.

Mr. Samuel P. Putnam was the first speaker; his subject, "The Philosophical Aspects of the Question." The purpose of this convention, he said, is to discover and apply the laws of heredity. Only through obedience to the law can the race advance. We cannot break the law

—it is the law that breaks us when we violate it. There are three forces that make up the man—the force of heredity, the force of environment, and the force of one's personality. These forces must be correlated, and the best influences of each brought into play: and while we admit the immense force of heredity and environment, we must still insist upon the moral power of each individual, and that constantly, by his own energy, he can recuperate himself out of the boundless life of the universe. We proceed by science, and by science we expect to unfold those subtle laws by which we are bound to our farthest ancestry and by which we receive their vices and virtues. We are inheritors of the past, and that life which we take from the past and to which we add by our personal activity, we wish to give to our children eliminated of the bad and more pregnant of the good. No one can escape this responsibility, for the whole race is bound together, the greatest with the least, and the rich cannot escape the curse that rests upon the poor, nor those in health the contamination of those in disease. Our humanity is one. What concerns any concerns all; at the same time we should cultivate and express our individuality, for only through our complete selfhood can we be of highest service unto others. As Walt Whitman says: "Make great persons and the rest follows."

Stephen Pearl Andrews announced as his subject: "Heredity, its Place in the Scale of Subjects for Scientific Investigation." He first referred to the criticisms passed upon the Institute of Heredity and those gathered to discuss the subject at this convention, that they were not sufficiently scientific to undertake so great a work. He said, yesterday Dr. Atkinson almost upbraided us for dealing with so complex and intricate a subject as heredity without that special and *new* kind of scientific education which is required for the best results. The *Telegram* of this evening speaks in the same vein. The reply made by our friend Loring Moody was exceedingly apt, as everything he says is. It was simply to the effect that it would not be right to criticise a primary class of children because they are not possessed of the knowledge taught in the higher classes. We are but beginners in the investigation. Nevertheless from this platform has been uttered a good deal of genuine scientific truth; a good deal of actual acquisition in reference to the facts and principles of this new branch of science. How shall we class it as compared with other branches of science? If we consider the sciences as piled one upon another in the form of an ideal pyramid, Mathematics is found at the bottom, as the one of most general application. It sustains all the others. Above that we have Physics or mechanics, the science of the material world, usually called in-organic, though it is really the sub-organic world. Next comes Biology, the science of living things, plants and animals, and above this is Anthropology, the science of man. The last is subdivided into three great branches: the science of the individual, mon-anthropology; the science of collective individuals, sociology; and the science of ethics, considering the relation of the individual to society. Heredity is a branch of the science of sociology—rather, a special twig of the branch of science, called sociology. A science is developed through three stages: first, gathering the facts; second, the formulation of the laws; and third, the application of scientific knowledge in the arts, called technology. So we have three ways of knowing things: knowing something about them, knowing them, and knowing how to use or apply them. The last is wisdom. Heredity is a branch of sociology, in the third stage. It

is an attempt to apply knowledge to the improvement of humanity; but it is necessary for us to go back and take up the first two stages. We have yet to learn the facts and the laws of the facts, but the direct purpose, as soon as we can get at it, is to find out how to remedy evil conditions and secure good conditions—in a word, race-culture. That is what heredity really means. It is the third, or highest and last branch of practical sociology.

#### ANTAGONISM.

I have said that the first thing we have to do is to accumulate the facts, but to do this in any new branch of knowledge always meets with a difficulty in the way of the prejudices of those who do not want to advance. I learned but recently of the difficulties of Dr. Foote publishing his *HEALTH MONTHLY*, and obtaining a just and proper distribution of it in the mails. The Doctor will be better able than I to acquaint you of the several obstacles and injustices he has had to contend with, but in entering upon this study we shall be likely to meet with more and more antagonism in proportion as we become more earnest.

In conclusion, I wish to speak of Mr. Loring Moody. I have known more or less of him for forty years past. He is a man so eminently good that the conservative respectability of Boston don't care to suppress him. He is a rare man. You have but to hear a few words from his lips to know that he is an exceedingly good man; in five minutes you know he is a wise man; when you know something of his life you will credit him with being a great man. He is the founder of this Institute. I appeal to you to sustain him as you would have sustained with your money, sympathy and full co-operation, the anti-slavery movement of Wm. Lloyd Garrison; for he has started a movement of equally great consequences; in some respects more far-reaching and important.

#### OFFICIAL OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

Dr. Foote thanked Mr. Andrews for his kind allusions to the *HEALTH MONTHLY*, but remarked that he felt some embarrassment in speaking to the convention of matters which might appear personal to himself. As there were several subscribers present, however, who had complained of not receiving their November number, he would say that it had been pitched into the waste paper basket by the postal authorities, acting probably at the bidding of Anthony Comstock, an accredited official of the Postoffice Department. In April last, Dr. Sara B. Chase received an order from the First Assistant of the Postmaster-General's Department notifying her that her paper would not be received or distributed. In less than an hour after, the Murray Hill Publishing Company received a notice bearing the same date (April 20th) informing Dr. Foote's *HEALTH MONTHLY* that it would be subjected to the payment of transient rates. In other words, that it would be excluded from the privileges accorded to other regular publications. In Dr. Chase's case, the officials had issued an order which they could not sustain, and they were compelled to reconsider and re-admit *The Physiologist* to the privileges of the mails; but as the law makes it optional with the Postmaster-General to say what papers may be admitted at the publishers' rates, he, Dr. Foote, had no redress. After a prolonged correspondence with the Department without obtaining any satisfactory decision, the *HEALTH MONTHLY* was removed to Canada. That is to say, it was printed and mailed at Whitby, Ontario. Here again the enemies of the paper pursued it, and endeavored to have

the Canadian authorities suppress it or tax it with transient postage. Failing in this, the whole November issue, with the exception of a few copies which were probably put into bags with other mail matter, had been suppressed after it crossed the Canadian line! Dr. Foote believed that it was wholly due to the influence which Comstock exerted over the First Ass't Postmaster-General's Department, at Washington, inasmuch as his paper had been issued with the utmost regularity since the beginning of 1876. He could do nothing but to await the action of the Canadian Postal Department, which had been informed by telegram of the failure of the November papers to reach subscribers.

#### SCOPE OF THE INSTITUTE.

Dr. E. B. Foote, Jr., then took the platform and gave an address upon the subjects which were engaging the attention of the convention, a full report of which will appear in a future number of the *HEALTH MONTHLY*. In concluding, he offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

*Resolved*, That heredity, the environment of mothers during gestation, the prenatal impressions affecting health, constitution and character, and race culture, are subjects of vast importance, just at this time rising into great prominence, both among men of science and among the people at large; and that therefore the formation of the Institute of Heredity, with a view to the discussion of all these subjects, is timely and promising.

*Resolved*, That while Heredity and the influence of prenatal conditions of progeny have been observed in China, in Palestine, and among the Greeks and Romans from the earliest times, and while rules have been made based on those observations, such as prohibiting marriages within certain degrees of propinquity, the state of the development of the sciences and the general enlightenment have never been such, heretofore, as to authorize the expectation of the best results from the investigation of this complex and difficult subject, while now it would seem that we are prepared at last to begin to discover, promulgate and enact the truth in respect to it.

*Resolved*, That the learned and the people at large are earnestly invited to co-operate with us in obtaining the facts, in discovering the laws involved, and in ascertaining and applying the necessary remedies for existing evils, in connection with the important subjects to which our investigations relate.

#### PHILOSOPHIC GESTATION.

Mrs. Cynthia Leonard gave the concluding address and presented some interesting facts concerning her own experience in bearing children. She had marked each one of them by the influences affecting the mind while they were in utero-life. The first one was the happiest, and it was because she was so happy herself during the whole period of gestation. She was in such an exalted state of mind that she wished that every woman she met was in the same condition. The third child looked like a favorite picture which she placed in her room for the express purpose of influencing the formation of the child, and it was a complete success. In begetting the fourth she desired to have a musical baby and she kept her mind occupied with music. The result was just what she wanted: the daughter acquired a knowledge of music very easily and she was now singing in opera.

It was quite late when Mrs. Leonard concluded, and the first convention of the Institute of Heredity in New York, adjourned *ad us die*.

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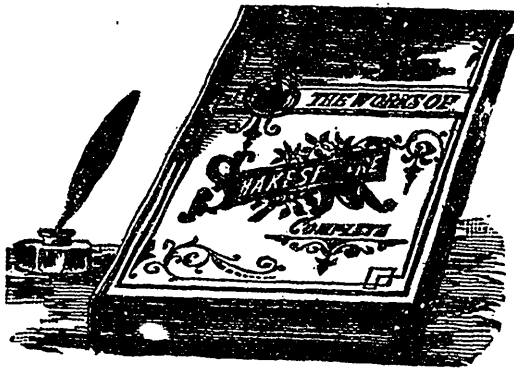
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