

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON
Transmission of Hereditary Diseases

SUBMITTED TO THE
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FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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This great and engrossing subject
and one that naturally presents itself
for inquiry to all thinking and
sensible persons who may

Contemplate or be about
embarking in what the world
deems a serious speculation.

Matrimony. Namely the probability
of issue and how far the health
of the progeny may be influenced
by that of the parents.

What Conception requires the
necessary aptitudes in both
Man and wife which is indis-
putable by the greatest Men of
the age and that although
such Capacities are rarely absent
but still all unions are not prolific
hence the inference is that some

Causes exist To account for such
 infertility. It may be local
 or physical The prevailing Resem-
 + blance between parents and
 Children in features form
 and voice and even Constitutional
 peculiarities is sufficiently well
 known to satisfy any one of The
 similarity possibility of The
 transmission of a disease of so
 grave a Character which is fatal
 To all persons.

It is of great
 consequence To be well born
 divested an perfectly pure and
 unobscured from diseases
 of so malignant a Character as
 we have To encounter with and
 it would be a happy Thing for

Human kind if only such persons
as are sound of body and mind
should be allowed to marry.

which would curtail the pro-
+ pagation of some diseases of such
a formidable type that is so preva-
+ lent in this happy County of our's.

anciently in Scotland if
any were visited with the falling
sickness such as Madness gout
leprosy or any dangerous disease which
was likely to be propagated from
the father to his offspring he
was instantly castrated to curtail^{the}
The imperfect development of
Their race which at the present
day would be considered as inhuman
and unlawful and incompatible
with gods will and the law of nature.

And These Women affected in like Manner They were kept from the Company of Men and of by Chances having some such dangerous disease and with Child she with her offspring was buried alive, -

The Spartans also destroyed all weakly and deformed Children, why did they do so They were great aspirants to strength that was their theme They would loan their wives to Men of great strength for them to become pregnant & have Children which would perpetuate the fame of such Characters, and their Mothers; which^{is} looked upon with Contempt and

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Abhorrence and disgust in the
present enlightened age of
Civilization.

Great as the anxiety
be to perpetuate our identities and
to create new objects on whom
we may concentrate all of our
affections and love and who when
born to us so instinctively bind
us the more to this already attractive
world, where is the man who
does not feel humble and mortified
at beholding in his anxiously
looked for offspring the unfolding
of infirmity and disease, - we are
content to encounter the ordinary
chances of mortality but let
our children bear the impress
of health and possess the

U
Shape of perfect Man which is
The decree of god,

But sad and
desolating are the reflections that
spring from observing in our
islands the development of the
vices that we have nurtured
in ourselves; how many existing
beings are there inhaling the
breath of life in whom every
respiration feels the flame
of disease ignited by those from
whose loins they sprang and
is hastening them to a premature
tomb; how many are there secluded
from the enjoyments of that
which being deprived of by
some scrupulous chastity or
some other hideous deformity

which renders them like
 isolated wanderers on the earth
 and forever forbids their
 participation in the main
 charmon of existence; "How many
 living specimens of humanity
 prototypes in whom reason is
 obliterated or never dawned,
 nor such as the above mentioned
 generally recognized, and acted
 upon a new impulse would be
 given to human activity and a
 new aspect would begin to
 appear throughout the scene
 of nature and general society;
 But on the other hand we
 have numerous specimens who
 drag on an existence inferior
 in enjoyment to the forest

hunter beast or the or the animal
 whose life is jealously for the
 instrument of man. And are
 not the diseases that involve
 so calamitous a result as
 a deropulous diathesis & gout
 which are traceable in
 particular families to the
 remotest periods of their
 ancestral records but while we
 remain in our sub-lunary
 mansion our investigations into
 those hideous diseases that cause
 so many souls to take their
 flight from these tabernacles
 of clay to join their kindred
 spirits in the invisible world, &
 should not a knowledge of cause
 and effect be perfectly plain

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To all Rational beings The symptoms are generally easily recognized when those diseases are developed. It is that just detailed it should induce individuals about to fulfill one of the purposes to which they were certainly destined for the perpetuation of their own race if: only from the pride of human nature it is well to consider the result of such a consummation.

The diseases that have been mentioned is generally entitled among the categories of these children where there is a hereditary diathesis existing in parents

which are bandied about
 preliminary to the Completion
 of the others. Though decidedly
 not more important arrangements
 of the Hospital Contract if
 there should not be many
 infirmities that are well
 known to have descended heredi-
 tarily if the Contract is confirmed
 and granted in some cases
 not premeditatedly but from
 ignorance of such a result
 yet carefully concealed -
 cutaneous blemishes incipient
 Tubercles or scrofulous diathesis
 which Matrimony by the
 analogous changes which it
 effects in different Constitutions
 which is speedily encouraged.

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in this manner and other
morbid phenomena are aroused
from their lurking places
whether ~~Brain~~ in the
Brain, the Lungs, or the
Blood, which is transferred
to those who succeed us.

I need not therefore
wast a line prefatory of the
following illustrative definition
of health by which any one
with tolerable acumen may
estimate the probable worth
of a life which is so dear
to us or at all events we may
be spared the plea of ignorance
or misplaced confidence as
when taking a step of such
importance as we do lose

These are numerous means of
 Calculating upon the durability
 of human existence by an
 examination of The Countenance
 The gait The attitude The form
 The skin The Temperament
 The breathing The speech
 The sleep and in fact to
 a practised professional
 eye there is not much difficulty
 in observing some diagnostic
 marks of a hereditary diathesis
 which is secreted in the
 system and which is slowly
 and treacherously consuming
 the vitals of man.

The Constitution
 varies in appearance according
 to age. The health is

indicated by a plump but
 puffy or bloated state of
 the face but a fresh complexion
 and also an absence of that
 depression around and
 particularly below the eye
 so observable in persons of
 hereditary dyspepsia -

The countenance assumes
 when thoughtful the careworn
 aspect and the blanched

cheek shows here and there
 a furrowed imprint. The luster
 of the eye is dimmed and to
 drop from the figurative to
 the literal. The collar bones
 hitherto overlaid with
 Andrus plastic mouldings
 now seem appointed for

union save lest the fabric
 of the neck and shoulders should
 drop to pieces; Mirth also
 the decayed health and
 spirits which attend these
 appearances and are never
 manifested in healthy
 individuals; The ^{of debility} that attends
 extreme old age is somewhat
 analogous; to the diseases which
 have been mentioned.

The Temperaments
 modify the complexion in the
 sanguine it is florid and soft
 in the Bilious it is dark and
 rigid in the Phlegmatic lax
 and pallid and the nervous
 is modified by its general
 union with the two former

in health and The Countenance
is expressive of Contentment and
gaze which indicates a
happy state of mind and
healthy Condition of body

: Vice versa. let your eyes
Rest for one moment upon
a Multiform Subject of These
hereditary developments
which is displaying its
powers and extinguishing
The indispensable attributes
of life. It seems it
necessary to give the principal
locations of The diseases which
I have mentioned. The Lung
and Bronchial glands are
fore The most common seat

of Tubercles - and when found elsewhere in the system they are more advanced in these parts, and the situation of prevalence of Tuberculous diseases varies also with the age of the subject and ^{condition} ~~constitution~~ of the blood of tuberculous or scrofulous subjects, - - - which comprises a diminution of the red particles and a preponderance of fibrin. so we can state that the causes which develop this condition and therefore induce tuberculous diseases. Insufficient food, want of pure dry air of warmth and light long continued, mental depression aggravated

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and prolonged diseases of the
digestive organs insufficient
excretion. And the injurious
influence of fevers and other
serious diseases are a knowledge
causes of the development of
Tuberculous diseases excessive
evacuation of blood or of
the more animalized
~~secretion~~ and severe courses
of Mercury also predispose to
phthisis and perhaps act
chiefly by rednessing the red
particles of the blood and
the quality of the plasma.

But this disease is closely
allied to acute Rheumatism
and yet distinct from it

The attack begins most commonly
 an hour or two after midnight
 The disease generally makes its
 appearance in the joint or ball
 of the great toe, But sometimes
 in other parts of the foot the
 heel the instep the ankle it
 is spoken of by those who suffer
 it as amounting to torture it is
 a something crushing wrenching
 pain It is described by a
 Frenchman in this way place
 (said he) your joint in a vice
 and screw the vice up until
 you can endure it no longer that
 may represent Rheumatism
 then give the instrument
 another twist and you will
 obtain a notion of gout

This is undoubtedly a hereditary disease. Although it is believed by some that it can be generated by certain habits of life. This disease is characterized by an excess of uric acid in the system, which is separated from the urine and is deposited in the joints in the form of chalk stones.