

parent are transmitted to the offspring in whole or in part. There are two varieties of character units—the agenic units, those that tend to destroy or to deteriorate the race; and the eugenic units, those that tend to improve the race. Under the agenic units may be found defective physiques, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy, insanity, pauperism, alcoholism and drug habits, syphilis, criminality, certain nervous diseases, defects of speech, including deafmutism, etc. Under the eugenic units may be mentioned strong physique, mental ability, aptitude for the arts and sciences, memory, morality and temperament.

From the foregoing it is apparent that the problem as presented in recent laws dealing specifically with venereal diseases may fail to be solved unless augmented by the concerted efforts of the physician and the public health educator. It is well to emphasize the importance of venereal diseases, but what of bringing facts concerning reproduction into homes, before societies and leagues devoted to a study of the great question? What of moulding public opinion, which is but the father of public action?

The marriage laws as they stand are good, but fall far short in furnishing the solution. Charles Reed, in his book on "Marriage and Genetics," concludes: "A theme that thus deals with the deepest sentiment and the profoundest welfare of the human individual and with the family considered as the unit of society, here and now as well as in the future, must be approached in full appreciation of ascertained facts and be discussed in the light of natural laws underlying the problem."

May it not be asked, do our legislators, our courts, our officials of the law, our institutions and our profession deal with the question as presented? Should concentration be made on one phase of the problem, or should attempts be directed to strengthening the germ plasm of this and future generations?

## Book Reviews

**Equilibrium and Vertigo.** By Isaac H. Jones, M.A., M.D., Laryngologist, Philadelphia General Hospital; Instructor in Neuro-Otology, University of Pennsylvania Medical School; Associate American Otological Society; Major, M.R.C., U.S. Army. With an Analysis of Pathologic Cases by Lewis Fisher, M.D., Laryngologist and Otolologist, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Philadelphia. Adopted as standard for Medical Division, Signal Corps, Aviation Section, by Surgeon-General and Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army. 130 illustrations. Price \$5.00. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1919.

This is a highly technical and fascinating ramble into hitherto unknown fields. When, as the author says, "we consider the intimate relation of the ear to the rest of the body through the nervous system, it at once becomes evident that a wealth of information may be obtained from such a study."

There can be no question that these highly complex structures and their intimate relation to the brain and its functions have not up to the present time been given the careful and painstaking study to which they are entitled, and the profession must remain eternally indebted to the author for the "wealth of information" which, as a result of an exhaustive study of the relative anatomy and of the physiology of the parts and a painstaking analysis of pathologic cases, he has presented in this very valuable book. The text is well written and the illustrations are unique, in that, in addition to the usual wood cuts, there are perfect reproductions of "movie" films and an envelope pocket in the back cover containing some stereopticon photographs of anatomic sections which are in themselves worth the price of the book.

**A Treatise on Orthopedic Surgery.** By Royal Whitman, M.D., LL.D. Sixth edition. Thoroughly revised. Illustrated with 767 engravings. 911 pages. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1919.

This new edition comes out at an opportune time to meet a special demand. The recent war experience has established the importance of orthopedic principles and practice. Many army surgeons, becoming interested in this phase of the war work, will desire a complete text for use in civil practice. This new edition of Whitman's Orthopedic Surgery will meet every requirement. It has much new material on treating deformities in infantile paralysis. In addition to the usual subject matter of such a work there is a very interesting and helpful chapter on military orthopedic surgery and reconstructive treatment, which will receive added emphasis in civil practice henceforth.