

tent instructor it should prove an admirable text for classroom use.

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Being Well-Born: An Introduction to Eugenics. By MICHAEL F. GUYER, Ph.D. Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1916. 374 pages. \$1.00.

This is one of the later volumes in the extensive "Childhood and Youth Series" edited by M. V. O'Shea. The general purpose of this series is "to give to parents, teachers, social workers and all others interested in the care and training of the young, the best modern knowledge about children in a manner easily understood and thoroughly interesting." The special purpose of this volume is "to examine into the natural endowment of the child" and to give "an account of the new science of eugenics." There is some reason for thinking that the value of Professor Guyer's work would not have been lessened, had he been entirely freed from the special purposes and influences of the "Series." As it stands, however, the work has very distinct merit and a high degree of usefulness.

In its general plan the book does not differ materially from other "Introductions" to the hybrid science of eugenics, although certain phases are treated with more than the usual detail. The work may be divided into three parts. The first, including the first four chapters, deals with the subject of heredity, its definition, cytological basis and Mendelian descriptions. This is the clearest cut and most authoritative section, well adapted for the student class. The reviewer's experience, however, leads him to believe that the average reader of the class for whom it is intended, will find even these clear descriptions too difficult really to be comprehended without the added services of an experienced guide. The glossary which is appended will aid in assisting the uninitiated over the difficult spots. The attempt to explain the inheritance of sex and of sex-linked characters, before the principles of Mendelism have been discussed is unusual. It is of interest to note that, wisely,

only four pages are given to the statistical descriptions of heredity, and that the author takes a conservative position regarding the Mendelian interpretation of some of the data from the Eugenics Record Office.

The second group of four chapters sets forth some of the implications of the facts described in the first section, as they are related to the characteristics of the individual. Two long chapters entitled "Are Modifications Acquired Directly by the Body Inherited" and "Prenatal Influences" are certain to be of very great value to the general reader. The materials are well considered, lucidly presented and a clear distinction made between the scientific and the superstitious conceptions of prenatal influence. This is a subject upon which popular ideas seem hopelessly confused and Professor Guyer has done well to devote so much space to their consideration. The chapter on "Responsibility for Conduct" is less direct and logical, leaving the reader in some doubt as to whether the author's conclusion that "All normal men are responsible for their conduct" is the only one that could be drawn from the evidence given. This is the least satisfactory chapter in the book.

The last section consists of two chapters dealing with the social implications of the facts of heredity. There are very clear and pointed summaries of what is known and of what is believed in this field. The euthenic aspects of the problem are stated and fully credited and the whole discussion is well tempered and sane. Finally the familiar remedies for correcting the antisocial and degenerative process now going forward at so rapid a pace, are discussed. Marriage restrictions and mating systems are recognized as of relatively little practicality; segregation is regarded as hopeful though costly; sterilization as still on trial. Public education and the ensurance of environments that will call forth right reactions seem to offer, for the present, the most hopeful elements in the eugenic program.

The book is well got up, unusually free from errors and the price remarkably low, all of which will add to its well-deserved usefulness and influence.

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