

to the dust from which he was created." The insistent push of vitality, derived from the sun and providing in its upward wave the basis of optimism, was dying down and giving place to old age, with its realisation of how much in life is mere vanity and vexation of spirit, illusion, and figments of faith. This, in its turn, must pass into that phase which we dread, "as children fear to go in the dark," and yet which is but a sleep, a rest longed for by the wearied flesh, a "welcome port to which, after a long and rough voyage, the weary traveller arrives at last."

It is well in these days, when the tendency is to give too free play to the emotions, and to let reason be hindered in its work, that there should be some who can look as from a tower upon the contest and dispassionately survey the scene. From the comments of such spectators we may derive, if not consolation, at least help in our distresses. Such a wise onlooker was Dr. Maudsley, and in this last book we are given the ripe reflections of his maturity. It is for others to carry on the lamp of true doctrine.

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*The Unmarried Mother.* By PERCY GAMBLE KAMMERER. With an Introduction by WILLIAM HEALY, M.D. (Criminal Science Monographs). Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1918. Pp. 342. Price \$3.

The most valuable part of this important work for the psychologist is that which concerns the 500 histories (not all of them here reproduced) on which it is statistically based. The great difficulty in dealing scientifically with the unmarried mother has been, indeed, precisely this lack of an adequate basis of carefully detailed data. It is true this study comes from America, but the conditions dealt with are not substantially different: the illegitimacy rate in the United States (differing widely from that of some European countries) is almost the same as that of England, and, moreover, among the 500 cases here dealt with there are nearly as many women of British as of American birth—more if we include the French Canadians.

The form the author's investigation has taken, and the careful attempt to distinguish and estimate the numerous factors involved, are largely due to the inspiration and guidance of Dr. Healy. As we might expect, environmental conditions (notably, absence from home, bad home conditions, uncongenial surroundings, recreational disadvantages, contaminating industrial conditions) are the most prominent factors, though low wages are not amongst them, and it is in flourishing and prosperous communities that the illegitimate rate is highest, in poor and backward communities that what we call "virtue" most flourishes. Heredity as a factor was not easy to estimate, partly because we cannot regard the tendency to produce an illegitimate child as a directly transmissible character, and partly because the data under this head were too scanty; its importance is recognised, but it was not possible to regard it as a major factor in a single case. Some importance is attached to abnormal physical conditions, especially those which cause weakness or irritation; this was found to be a factor in nearly 100 cases. Not only are under-development, premature birth, congenital syphilis, epilepsy, etc., thus influential,

but early and over-development may also be a factor—partly because such development tends to be associated with a developed sexual impulse, partly because it tends to outrun mental development, and partly because it is attractive to men. In one group abnormal sexual suggestibility is found to be important. But the strength of the sexual impulse is not believed to be above the average in the unmarried mother, and shows the normal degrees of variation; there was only one case of such abnormally strong sexual impulse that it was put down as nymphomania. As a rule, the girls were not passive; they were equally responsible with the fathers for their condition; the ages of the fathers, moreover, showed the probability of normal sexual attraction, and stories of rape or assault (usually remarkably similar in their details) seldom resisted investigation. A chapter of some length is devoted to mental abnormality. Reliable mental examinations were only made in some 26 *per cent.* of the cases, though Kammerer considers that some 35 *per cent.* of the 500 cases were sufficiently abnormal to have made a psychological investigation desirable; 167 girls or women were thus found to show some special mental defect or peculiarity. The mentally abnormal girl is not necessarily possessed of over-developed sex instincts, but rather of under-developed inhibitions, and it must be recognised that a lack of self-control may lead an ordinarily intelligent woman into the position of an unmarried mother. The feeble-minded morons are, however, found to form an important group, and to be very uniform in their sexual behaviour. Two or three cases were grouped under dementia præcox, and three as hysterical or psychoneurotic, while another group was formed of cases of psychic constitutional inferiority.

Much useful information is given concerning the social and legal position of the unmarried mother in various countries and the progress made in recent years. This is most marked, both on the scientific and the administrative side in Germany, but it is in Norway that the position of the illegitimate child has now been made most favourable. Kammerer has a wide and liberal-minded chapter of "Conclusions," and lays due weight on the importance of education, not least in sexual matters (the sexual ignorance of some of these mothers was incredible); on the need also for the education of parents; on improved conditions of industrial work, better homes, and greater opportunities for wholesome recreation; on State supervision when necessary; on better individual training; and on higher moral conceptions in the community, casting aside outworn conventions, and realising that the mother "must be judged on her desire to give her child good care, and her success in doing so, rather than on the fact that she has given birth to a child outside of marriage."

HAVELOCK ELLIS.