

*Influenza Dell'Educazione Sugli Anomali Originarii [Influence of Education on Inherited Abnormalities].* By JACOB AISENSCITAT. Naples: F. Giannini & Sons, 1930. Crown 8vo. Pp. 521.

The author classifies departures from the normal under three heads: (1) abnormalities of sentiment, (2) abnormalities of intelligence, and (3) abnormalities due to defect of sense-organs.

He gives a detailed description of the various forms of mental deficiency and delinquency, well illustrated by individual cases. The book is, however, chiefly concerned with delinquency, which the author regards as hereditary, using the term in a wider sense than is customary in this country. He considers that heredity plays two parts—first by the transmission of characters through the germ-plasm, and later through the example set by the parents and their surrogates. It is the latter aspect of heredity that is chiefly considered. The author would suggest that all forms of delinquency, apart from those due to organic defect, are atavistic in origin, and arise through some parental character not being transmitted, its place being filled through regression to an earlier and lower ancestral trait.

A long chapter is devoted to theories of heredity, due space being afforded to the Mendelian laws.

Emphasis is laid upon the impressionability of young children, their reaction to example and the important part played by suggestion and imitation.

Discussion of family life in the three classes of society, and its future in each, is followed by an interesting summary of the educative methods employed by various nations.

One of the main theses of the book is the hereditary transmission of acquired characters, but the illustrations to the arguments remind us that delinquency in a person born of delinquent forebears does not necessarily imply that it is inherited. The thoughts, associations and conditions which determine the choice of the form of delinquency are not duly considered, and the assumption that a person reacts unfavourably to a deleterious environment because he is predisposed by heredity to do so is not convincing.

This excellent monograph would have been even more valuable if the author had given more reasons for regarding as hereditary traits those which most of us would regard as acquired.

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*The Conquest of Happiness.* By BERTRAND RUSSELL, F.R.S. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1930. Crown 8vo. Pp. 252. Price 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Russell informs us that this book is intended for those who are unhappy in spite of the fact that they possess good health and a sufficient income to secure food and shelter. This, of course, raises a preliminary question as to what constitutes a sufficient income. Great wealth certainly does not imply happiness; and Mr. Russell points out that many wealthy people suffer from acute