

narrow cell. Apart from the noble and wealthy classes, dabbling in the welfare of their descendants as the carriers of their riches, privileges and fame, the majority of the people were ready to submit to what they thought was a godly burden.

The necessities of State, the need of soldiers, taxpayers, and slaves were inducing the Government authorities to peep into the mystery of the cradle and review the problem of national augmentation.

Wise enough to perceive that each calendar year the accretion was normally augmenting, they knew better than to permit a free and natural development of a young and turbulent reserve.

From Plato to Abelard, Montaigne and Ambroise Paré, down to the founder of the "University of Potsdam," Pestalozzi, Froebel, Spencer, and the Russian educationalist Piragoff, a regular beehive of statesmen, scientists, and paragons of philanthropy were engaged in the task of intimidating the child.

With a gradual evolution of the embryo with the proper co-ordinated expansion, with its attainment to a state of comparative independence in relation to abstract manifestations of life, it was passing into the hands of those properly qualified to enlarge his mental and earthly horizon, to repress the vagaries of his organs, and prepare him for the complete, trying, but fascinating battle of life.

From a diminutive human being he was being gradually shaped into a citizen, a subject, a soldier, a mason, a potentate, or a monk. With the philosophical movement of the eighteenth century, with the ascendance of a critical reason competing with the classical education for the control of the upper classes of Europe, man began to reflect, analyse, and suspect, casting a ray of light over all that had been infused—the creation of God Himself.

The next century saw Helmgoltz, armed with the powers of unlimited understanding, referring the human eye to the optician as unsatisfactorily completed, and the king of the living biologists, Metchnikoff, focussing the attention on the energy wasted on the nutrition of (a) the appendix, (b) the muscles of the ear, and (c) the four obsolete vertebrae of the spine, and calling for the assistance of a surgical intervention in every particular occurrence.

From the negative sprang the positive—if we were able to correct we were able also to create, as a challenge to the product of natural evolution, the animal and vegetable world furnishing the field for an unlimited experiment: the blue rose, the race horse, the pearl oyster, the stoneless prunes, and seedless oranges of California, illustrating the latent fertility of plasm. From plant to fruit, from fruit to beast, from beast to man, a widespread sensation of uneasiness in the presence of a possible phenomenon led to a spontaneous attempt to create a new type of human being, fitting in and satiating an embellished hand-made world. Men began to believe in the eternal progress as before they had believed in the original fall, and from the blonde beast of Friedrich von Nietzsche—the rejuvenated Valkyrie—sprang the

pre-war middle-European man invented by Pastor Neumann and the stolid Friedrich von Liszt. In England, where, for centuries, with the probable exception of the hare, all animal breeds were artificial, the confused, undisciplined, and unco-ordinated impulses were easily diverted into spacious channels of a eugenic movement embracing popular physiology, nutrition, sanitary and hygienic legislation, and a number of minor or auxiliary elements of well-being.

From across the Atlantic we could have the Los Angeles advertisers proclaiming the appearance of a biological wonder, a new type of American Caucasian.

(To be concluded.)

SOON SHALL THE WINTER'S FOIL BE HERE.

Soon shall the winter's foil be here:
Soon shall these icy ligatures unbend and melt—
a little while
And air, soil, wave, suffused shall be in softness,
bloom and growth—
A thousand forms shall rise
From these dead clods and chills as from low
burial graves,
Thine eyes, ears—all thy best attributes—all that
takes cognizance of natural beauty,
Shall wake and fill. Thou shalt perceive the simple
shows, the delicate miracles of the earth
Dandelions, clover, the emerald grass, the early
scents and flowers,
The arbutus under foot, the willows yellow green,
the blossoming plum and cherry.
With these the robin, lark and thrush singing their
songs, the fitting blue bird;
For such the scenes the annual play brings on.

—Walt Whitman.

COMING EVENTS.

April 14th.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council: Meeting to consider action in support of the Probationer's right to a "prescribed scheme of training" preparatory to the State Examination. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. 5 p.m.

April 20th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting: Ministry of Health, Whitehall. 2.30 p.m.

April 26th.—The Wedding Ball, in aid of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. At Lansdowne House, London, W. All the Royalties are Patrons.

May 3rd.—Nurses' Missionary League Council Meeting. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"We do not ask a sufferer, What is your country or your religion? We say, It is enough that you are suffering. You belong to me, and I will care for you.

Louis Pasteur.

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