

HEREDITARY FACTORS.

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Hereditary Factors

The importance and value of hereditary factors in our makeup is not always appreciated. Like almost everything around us we are made from varying constituents, which can have an enormous effect on our lives. The quality and ability of a human being varies enormously. This may be partly due to environment, but a high percentage, perhaps as much as 90%, may be due to the wealth passed onto us by our forebears. These inborn factors can be of great value in our lives, the lack of which can have an adverse affect.

Equal opportunity is never so with varying hereditary gifts. Much is written in the Bible about genealogical gifts. We are told to use our talents and the Book of Proverbs stresses the duty to exercise wisdom.

The greatest pedigree ever written is contained in St. Matthew, Chapter 1, covering 42 generations about 1000 years B.C. which runs as follows :-

Abraham	Obed of Ruth	Achaz	Sadoc
begat	begat	begat	begat
Isaac	Jesse	Ezekias	Achim
begat	begat	begat	begat
Jacob	David the King	Manasses	Eliud
begat	begat	begat	begat
Judas and his brethren	Solomon	Amon	Eleazar
begat	begat	begat	begat
Pahres . Zara. Esrom	Roboam	Josias	Matthan
begat	begat	begat	begat
Esrom	Abia	Jechonias and family	Jacob
begat	begat	begat	begat
Aram	Asa	Salatheil	Joseph
begat	begat	begat	
Aminadab	Josaphat	Zorobabel	
begat	begat	begat	
Naasson	Joram	Abuid	
begat	begat	begat	
Salmon	Ozias	Elikim	
begat	begat	begat	
Booz of Rachab	Joatham	Azor	
begat	begat	begat	

It is interesting to note that this is a male line. There must be some significance in this. Does the hereditary factor play a larger part through the male contrary to the belief today? The male was regarded very much in those days as the dominant character and this would probably have some bearing on this. One will never know what characteristics were handed down through the line covering about 1000 years from Abraham (the father of Isaac) to Joseph. It is also interesting to note that none of the 40 Christian names repeat themselves.

In those days of St. Matthew, great importance was placed upon this inherited agent although it is doubtful if there was knowledge of how it came about, but it was an accepted fact, but today we accept

little without proof and knowledgeable understanding.

The whole complicated business is based on the work of atoms of hereditary. Here are a few notes collected from "The Science of Life" by Wells and Huxley.

"These units are called genes which are arranged within the chromosomes and each parent contributes an equal set; the development is controlled by the interaction of the genes of the father and mother. The genes, numerous in number, dominant and recessive, the union of which from male and female determine the hereditary characteristics, the dominant ones overriding the recessive.

There are numerous ways in which the two sets of genes (Male and Female) may come together, depending on many unknown factors, and hardly ever are they identical, but the dominant ones repeatedly reveal themselves. That is why some of us inherit dominant characteristics while others do not, but other genes can produce other characteristics, some of which may have been dormant for generations.

J. A. V. Butler writes:

"The essential characteristic of the gene is that it has permanence which enables the same character to be transmitted through innumerable generations."

Alan Kent writing in the Genealogical Magazine suggests that:

"The biological qualities which we inherit from our ancestors are transmitted to us by our parents by means of 46 chromosomes, 23 from each parent which contain genetic information encoded in genes,"

He makes a distinction of genealogical ancestors and genetic ancestors who carry our chromosomes. Those of our genealogical ancestors have helped to make us possible but have contributed nothing to our makeup. He further states that:

"Chromosomes can be classified into two markedly different types designated by the letters X & Y. Females have two of the type X and males have an X & Y. clearly a man must have obtained his Y chromosome from his father, who must have obtained it from his father and so on to dawn of sexuality. The all-male line is thus made up of the guaranteed genetic ancestors of a man."

This transmission seems to have taken lace in some members of the Fairhead family. I have contacted many individuals of the Family and have experienced amazing characteristic similarities in various members even where there has been no relationship for 500 years. To state that we have inherited our dominant characteristic genes from our early forefather of the year 1200 would appear to be absurd, but science tells us this could be so.

The question may be asked as to the probability of acquiring characteristics during ones life. Wells and Huxley to my mind are not definite on this point. With the introduction of many foreign genes by marriage, a large number of changes in the chromosome structure is bound to take place and many dominant genes come into their own, but it appears that many of the dominant Fairhead genes survive in a large number of this Family to bring about that Fairhead character.

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