

viously mentioned. It is in reigning families that mental disorders are hereditary in an unusual degree. Thus Esquirol, distinguished for his knowledge of mental diseases, proved that the number of insane individuals in the reigning houses was, in proportion to the number among the ordinary population, as 60 to 1 ; that is, that disorders of the brain occur 60 times more frequently in the privileged families of the ruling houses than among ordinary people. If equally accurate statistics were made of the hereditary nobility, the result would probably be that here also we should find an incomparably larger contingent of mental diseases than among the common, ignoble portion of mankind. This phenomenon can scarcely astonish us when we consider what injury these privileged castes inflict upon themselves by their unnatural, one-sided education, and by their artificial separation from the rest of mankind. By this means many dark sides of human nature are specially developed and, as it were, artificially bred, and, according to the laws of transmission by inheritance, are propagated through series of generations with ever-increasing force and dominance.

It is sufficiently obvious from the history of nations how, in successive generations of many dynasties, the noble solicitude for the most perfect human accomplishments in science and art were retained and transmitted from father to son ; and how, on the other hand, in many other dynasties, for centuries a special partiality for sensuous pleasures, for the profession of war, and for other rude acts of violence, have been hereditary. In like manner, talents for special mental activities are transmitted in many families for generations, as, for instance, talent for