

parts of the cell thus: "The inner nucleus has to attend to the transmission of hereditary characteristics, the outer plasma (or Cytoplasm) to the adaptation to the relations of the outer world." This proposition has been fully confirmed by the numerous careful investigations of recent times. The male sperm-nucleus, in the process of fertilization, transmits the hereditary qualities of the father, whereas the female egg-nucleus attends to the transmission of the peculiarities of the mother.

The progeny-cell (Cytula), or the so-called "fertilized egg-cell" (and often wrongly called the "first cell of the cleavage"), is, accordingly, an entirely new creature. For as its substance is a material product of the commingling of the paternal seed-cell with the maternal egg-cell, the vital qualities inseparably connected with these are a mixture of the physiological peculiarities of both parents. The individual mixture of character which every child inherits from both parents must be traced back to the commingling of the two cellular substances at the moment of fructification. And it is at this important moment, moreover, that the existence of the individual begins, and not at the time of actual birth, which in man does not take place till nine months afterwards.

The general importance of these extremely interesting processes has hitherto not been estimated at all in the measure which it deserves to be. To point to but one of the most important deductions from it, it throws quite a new light upon the weighty question as to *immortality*. The doctrine of the *personal* immortality of man has, indeed, been absolutely refuted for more than half a century by the great progress in our knowledge of comparative physiology