these instances there was another element elicited, viz., in one case the mother was also the product of first cousins, and in the other the mother was the product of cousins-germain, involving, therefore, in these two cases, an increased intensity of blood-relationship. Three cases were the progeny of second cousins, four of third cousins. In all, 40 cases out of 753, or only rather more than 5 per cent., could by any possibility have been due to consanguineous unions. Of the 295 females, 13 were the progeny of first cousins, 3 were the children of second and 4 those of third cousins. In all, 20 among 295, or little less than 7 per cent., could have been caused by the marriage of blood-relatious.

"The difference in the per-centage of idiots, the progeny of cousins, between the male and female sex is remarkable, but may, I think, be explained by the existence of a preponderating cause of idiocy on the part of males over females, in the larger size of the male cranium at birth, and the consequent greater risk of injury to the cranial contents during parturition.

"I am unable to speak with certainty how frequently the marriage of blood-relations takes place in an ordinary community, but I have made a careful inquiry into the family history of 200 persons who are sane and healthy, collected from different districts, and who belong to different families, and I find only one was the offspring of cousins, being ½ per cent.; and I learn that in that one instance he is the son of unusually healthy parents. Certainly, in his case there is no symptom of either physical or mental degeneracy, and he would probably be selected from among the 200 as one of the most robust and vigorous."

Then, having related several cases, Dr. Down proceeds to compare his statistics with those of Dr. Howe, U.S., on the same subject. Dr. Howe's 17 marriages produced 95 children, 46 per cent. of whom were idiots. Dr. Down's 20 marriages produced 138 children, only 18 per cent. of whom were idiots. And in contrast to these, he takes 20 other marriages, in which there was no consanguinity, producing 145 children, 18 per cent. being idiots. The great reason of the discrepancy between Dr. Howe's statistics and his own, Dr. Down believes to be due to the fact that, of the consanguineous progeny on which his data are founded, 55 per cent. were of average health, whereas only 39 per cent. of Dr. Howe's could be placed under that category.

Observations on an Ethnic Classification of Idiots. By J. Langdon H. Down, M.D. Lond.

(Clinical Lectures and Reports, London Hospital.)

I have for some time, writes Dr. Down, had my attention directed to the possibility of making a classification of the feeble-minded, by arranging them around various ethnic standards—in other words, framing a natural system to supplement the information to be derived by an inquiry into the history of the case.

I have been able to find among the large number of idiots and imbeciles which come under my observation, both at Earlswood and the out-patient department of the hospital, that a considerable portion can be fairly referred

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to one of the great divisions of the human family other than the class from which they have sprung. Of course, there are numerous representations of the great Caucasian family. Several well-marked examples of the Ethiopian variety have come under my notice, presenting the characteristic malar bones, the prominent eyes, the puffy lips, and retreating chin. The woolly hair has also been present, although not always black, nor has the skin acquired pigmentary deposit. They have been specimens of white negroes, although of European descent.

Some arrange themselves around the Malay variety, and present in their soft, black, curling hair, their prominent upper jaws and capacious mouth, types of the family which people the South Sea Islands. Nor have there been wanting the analogues of the people who, with shortened foreheads, prominent cheeks, deep-set eyes, and slightly apish nose, orignally inhabited the American Continent.

The great Mongolian family has numerous representatives, and it is to this division I wish, in this paper, to call special attention. A very large number of congenital idiots are typical Mongols. So marked is this, that when placed side by side, it is difficult to believe that the specimens compared are not children of the same parents.

The number of idiots who arrange themselves around the Mongolian type is so great, and they present such a close resemblance to one another in mental power, that I shall describe an idiot member of this racial division, selected from the large number that have fallen under my observation :—

The hair is not black, as in the real Mongol, but of a brownish colour, straight and scanty. The face is flat and broad, and destitute of prominence. The cheeks are roundish, and extended laterally. The eyes are obliquely placed, and the internal canthi more than normally distant from one another. The palpebral fissure is very narrow. The forehead is wrinkled transversely, from the constant assistance which the levatores palpebrarum derive from the occipito-frontalis muscle in the opening of the eyes. The lips are large and thick, with transverse fissures. The tongue is long, thick, and is much roughened. The nose is small. The skin has a slight dirty-yellowish tinge, and is deficient in elasticity, giving the appearance of being too large for the body.

The boy's aspect is such, that it is difficult to realise that he is the child of Europeans; but so frequently are these characters presented, that there can be no doubt that these ethnic features are the result of degeneration.

The Mongolian type of idiocy occurs in more than 10 per cent. of the cases which are presented to me. They are always congenital idiots, and never result from accidents after uterine life. They are, for the most part, instances of degeneracy arising from tuberculosis in the parents. They are cases which very much repay judicious treatment. They require highly azotized food, with a considerable amount of oleaginous material. They have considerable power of imitation, even bordering on being mimics. They are humorous, and a lively sense of the ridiculous often colours their mimicry. This faculty of imitation may be cultivated to a very great extent, and a practical direction given to the results obtained. They are usually able to speak; the speech is thick and indistinct, but may be improved very greatly by a well-directed scheme of tongue gymnastics. The co-ordinating faculty is abnormal, but not so defective that it cannot be greatly strengthened. By systematic training, considerable manipulative power may be obtained.

The circulation is feeble; and whatever advance is made intellectually in the summer, some amount of retrogression may be expected in the winter. Their mental and physical capabilities are, in fact, directly as the temperature.

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The improvement which training effects in them is greatly in excess of what would be predicated if one did not know the characteristics of the type. The life expectancy, however, is far below the average, and the tendency is to the tuberculosis which I believe to be the hereditary origin of the degeneracy.

Apart from the practical bearing of this attempt at an ethnic classification, considerable philosophical interest attaches to it. The tendency in the present day is to reject the opinion that the various races are merely varieties of the human family having a common origin, and to insist that climatic or other influences are sufficient to account for the different types of man. Here, however, we have examples of retrogression, or at all events, of departure from one type and the assumption of the characteristics of another.

If these great racial divisions are fixed and definite, how comes it that disease is able to break down the barrier, and to simulate so closely the features of the members of another division? I cannot but think that the observations which I have recorded are indications that the differences in the races are not specific, but variable.

These examples of the result of degeneracy among mankind appear to me to furnish some arguments in favour of the unity of the human species.

St. Mary's Hospital. Case of Peculiar Delirium after Fever; with Clinical Remarks. By Dr. Handfield Jones, F.R.S.

('British Medical Journal.')

In the 'British Medical Journal' for January 12th appears a case of peculiar delirium after fever, by Dr. Handfield Jones, which we append *in extenso*, as well as a letter from Dr. Lockhart Robertson which appeared in the same journal for the following week.

B. S—, female, æt. 12, was admitted March 1st, 1866. She had recently passed through a severe fever, in which she was highly delirious, requiring two or three persons to restrain her; and her hair had been cut off. She was very emaciated. A fit occurred the following day. When I saw her on March 9th, I was struck by her appearance as she lay in bed. Her manner was excited; her face had a determined but rather wild expression. She used the most foul and abusive language to me as I stood by her side, repeating the same thing or question again and again, in a loud, earnest, insisting voice. She had been in the same delirious state ever since she came in, and tried sometimes to get out of bed. She passed all her urine, and often her stools, in bed—and always would, if not watched. The motions appeared very healthy. Her appetite was very good indeed; she ate ravenously. She had not slept at all well until last night. The forehead was warm; pupils large; tongue clean; she put it out when asked. She was better all the morning until about 1 p.m. Pulse 105, weakish, sharp; heart's sounds normal, action sharp. Her mother seemed to be a very respectable woman. At times, the nurse said, she behaved as nicely as possible—spoke properly, and thanked her for her care. She took half an ounce of quinine mixture three times a day, and four ounces of port wine. She had till yesterday two ounces of brandy.

March 12th.—She was quieter; had been replaced in the large ward. She became excited at times; looked intently and eagerly at me, with a fixed gaze, as I stood by her bed; took my hand and tried to remove the

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