

1917?

In view of the establishment of the in London of the Rockefeller Institute of Hygiene, the Eugenics Education Society wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of Health the urgent desirability of establishing a Chair of Human Heredity in relation to Disease, with facilities for the training of Doctor's advanced Students in methods of research appropriate to this subject.

The biological importance of inheritance in general has resulted in the development of ^{during next year} ^{divers} a number of methods of research. In particular it may not be out of place to mention (i) the Mendelian analysis of the hereditary complex (ii) the statistical methods developed by Galton and Pearson (iii), and (iii) particularly in relation to disease, the historical and comparative method associated with the name of Dr Archibald Reid. In our opinion all these methods, and others less fully developed, are capable of special adaptation to the study of the hereditary factor in human disease, and would prove in some cases to be of dominant importance in ^{absence} benefiting the health of the human race. Let it should be thought that the Mendelian analysis is inapplicable in the absence of experimental breeding, we should like to call attention to the successful elucidation of the factorial basis of the iso-agglutinins of human blood, a process which opens out a great field of genetic investigation in serology. The applicability ~~for human material~~ in human studies of all these methods mentioned is thus fully established, but in the absence of an institution specially devoted to these subjects such researches, and to the training of qualified research workers, the scope of these methods is not at present widely understood, and much needless controversy as to the part played by heredity in human disease ^{has} in consequence arisen.