

SCIENCE

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THE RELATION OF THE ENDOCRINE GLANDS TO HEREDITY AND DEVELOPMENT¹

SINCE the object of the Eugenics Research Association is the advancement of knowledge that will contribute to the improvement of the human race by inheritance, its members can scarcely fail to be interested in the discussions that are now going on regarding the glands of internal secretion and their relations to heredity. As a medical man, deeply interested in the problems of constitution and of condition and profoundly impressed with the recognizable influences of internal secretions upon form and function in both normal and pathological states, I welcomed the suggestion of Dr. Davenport that I deal in my presidential address with the topic announced. The progress of research in endocrine domains and in heredity has of late been so rapid that no single person can keep pace with its strides. My remarks, therefore, will make no pretence to completeness of discussion of the reciprocal relations of heredity and endocrinology. They are intended rather to direct the attention of the members of the association to some of the more important facts that have been established and to stimulate interest in some of the newer problems that are emerging and clamoring for solution.

THE ENDOCRINE ORGANS AND THEIR PRODUCTS

It is only comparatively recently that the significance of the so-called ductless glands and of the substances they manufacture has become recognized, but, in a very short time, a considerable body of knowledge concerning their structure, their functions and their inter-relations has been accumulated. At the moment, studies of the internal secretions, or, as many now call them, the "incrctions," are, on ac-

¹ Presidential address at the tenth annual meeting of the Eugenics Research Association, held at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, June 10, 1922.