

future of the human race should be safeguarded from the mischief that such people perpetuate.

A sardonic and disinterested observer of the issues of the earth might well smile at the interest taken in the breeding of its animal and bird stocks, collaterally with the neglect of human progeny. "Why not an orientation of genetics?" he might well ask. Is it a mania to take its chances without guidance, or are there accumulations of a knowledge of heredity to be put to use in the interests of its difficult future? To what end is mankind to be devoted? Is it to be devoted to ruthless economic aggrandisements with their frightful consequences; or is it to be devoted to economic adjustments with a normal, steadier, and more friendly life? This is the problem, and Malthus was one of the very few who had a clear vision of the great controlling factor. Man can be forever the victim of blind impulse and egoistic greed, or he can witness ameliorative action on true eugenics and a finer sense of the claims of those who are to be. Is this all a fatuous and idle dream, or is it a guiding aspiration? The last hundred and twenty-five years have seen the development of the great locomotive, of the enormous steamship, of the airship and aeroplane, of telegraphy, of the telephone, and wireless communication. It has witnessed a wonderful reduction of the menaces to the beginnings of human life. It has been characterised by an enormous increase in the average length of life of all born, the expectation of life at birth. In Australia in one-third of a century the death-rate for the first year of life fell to 46 per cent. of what it was. At the age of minimum mortality, 11 years and 6 months, it fell to 59 per cent. of its original value; every age up to 86 it has witnessed improvement. These are amazing advances. But they mean that Man carries new responsibilities, and that there are certain consequences which involve international adjustments.

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