

**THE FAMILY AND THE  
NATION: A STUDY IN  
NATURAL INHERITANCE AND  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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The family and the nation: a study in natural inheritance and social responsibility by William Cecil Dampier Whetham & Catherine Durning Whetham

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**WILLIAM CECIL DAMPIER  
WHETHAM & CATHERINE DURNING WHETHAM**

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NATURAL INHERITANCE AND  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**



*Dampier, William Cecil Dampier*  
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The  
Family and the Nation

A Study in Natural Inheritance  
and Social Responsibility

BY

*Dampier*  
(Sir) WILLIAM CECIL DAMPIER (WHETHAM)

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M.A., F.R.S.

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

AND

CATHERINE DURNING (WHETHAM)

HIS WIFE

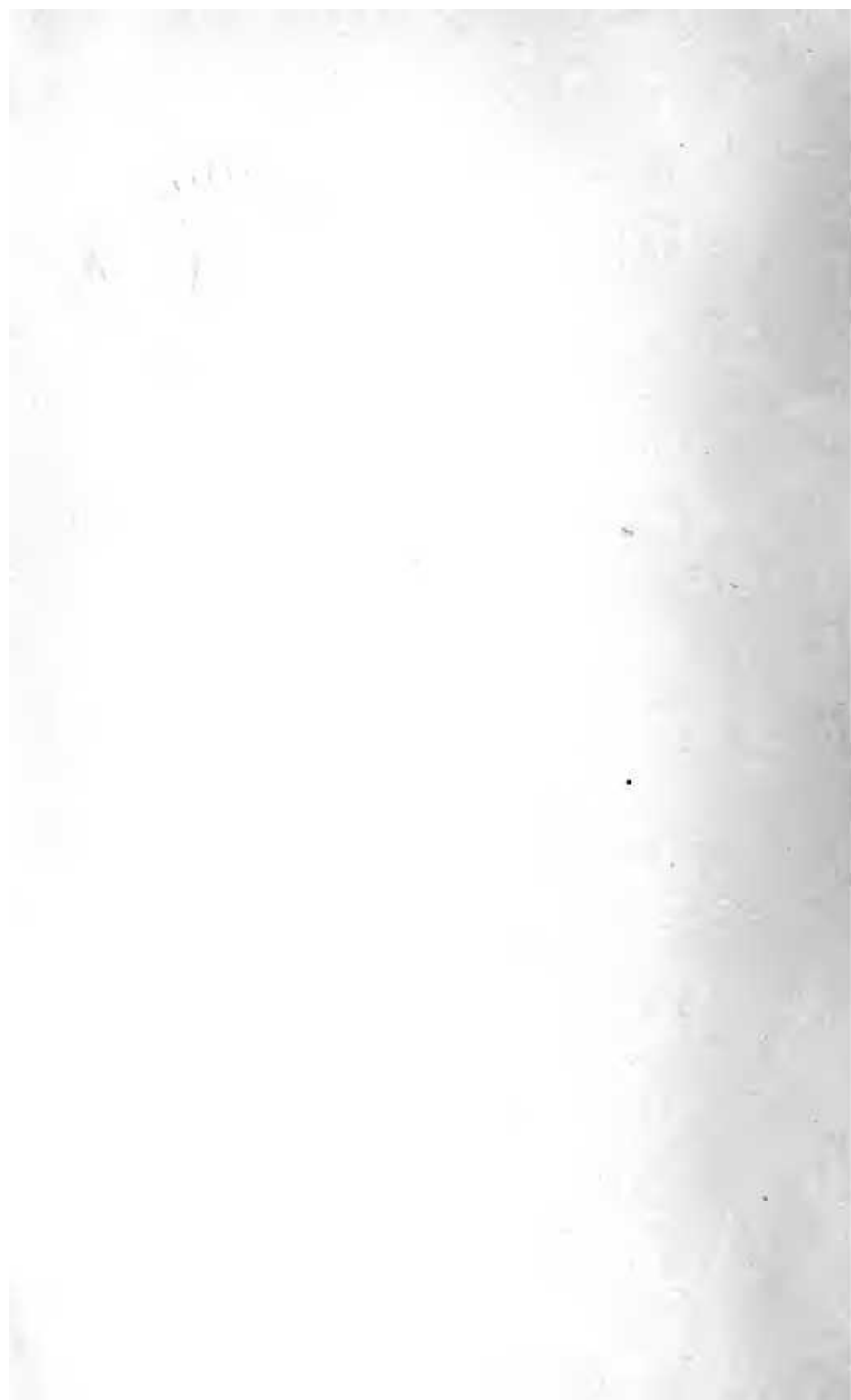
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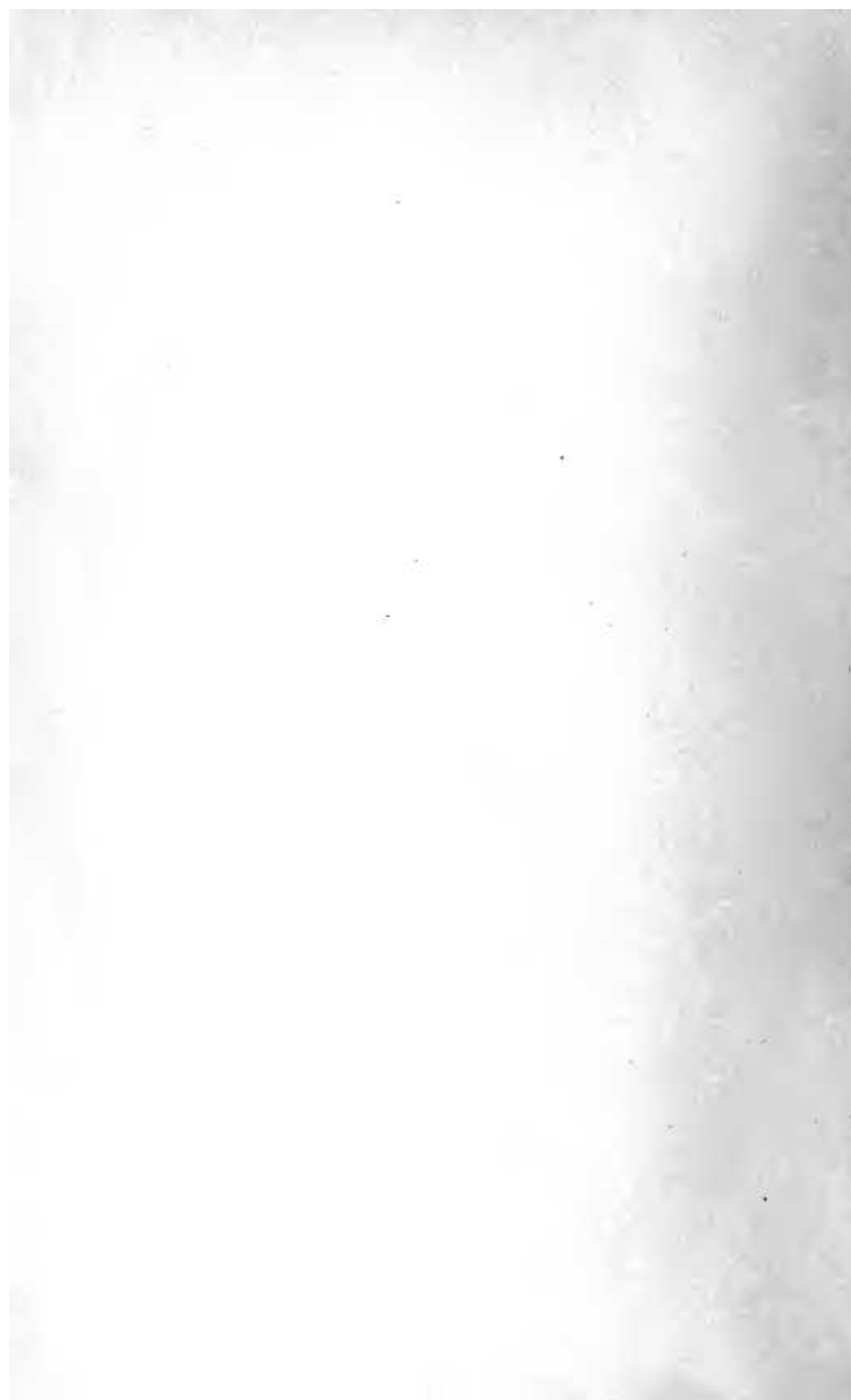
## PREFACE

To the writers of this book the train of ideas outlined therein has given unity to a host of previously unconnected observations. Personal, social, historical episodes have fallen into place, and one great force, ebbing and flowing throughout the ages, is seen moulding the fate of nations.

In the hope that the idea of this underlying unity, which has been so helpful to the writers, may prove useful to others, this book has been written.

To emphasize the importance of inheritance in determining the character and value of each individual, some account is given of recent scientific investigation ; while the pages of history, the composition of contemporary society, and the returns of the Registrar-General have been drawn upon to trace the effects of heredity on the social organism.

CAMBRIDGE, *September* 1909.





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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

MAN'S body and mind are framed and moulded by two influences—heredity and environment. Through his parents he inherits certain physical and mental powers which are developed or stunted by the circumstances of his life, by the education given to him by others or won by himself, and by the discipline which his own will, aided or unaided, enables him to extract from the changes and chances of this mortal life.

Great is the power of environment. "There, but for the Grace of God, goes John Bradford," is a thought that has occurred to us all when watching misfortunes we have escaped. The efforts of men of science, philanthropists, and statesmen have been directed for centuries towards improving the general environment of the race, and of late years with conspicuous success. Two centuries ago the annual death-rate of London was some eighty in a thousand ; to-day it has sunk to fifteen. And a lowered death-rate means more than lives prolonged. It means improved conditions, which give greater health and strength to those who, even in old circumstances, would have survived.