

HEREDITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

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Heredity and social progress by Simon N. Patten

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SIMON N. PATTEN

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SOCIAL PROGRESS**

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•The  Co. •

HEREDITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

BY

SIMON N. PATTEN

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How is the social surplus of an epoch transformed into permanent conditions and mental traits ?

Does progress start from a deficit, or from a surplus ?

Does genius come by additions, or by differentiation ?

Does education improve natural or acquired characters ?

Does reform come by strengthening the strong, or by helping the weak ?

"A GREAT lawyer, statesman, and philosopher of a former age — I mean Francis Bacon — said that truth came out of error much more rapidly than it came out of confusion. There is a wonderful truth in that saying. Next to being right in the world, the best of all things is to be clearly and definitely wrong, because you will come out somewhere. If you go buzzing about between right and wrong, vibrating and fluctuating, you come out nowhere; but if you are absolutely and thoroughly and persistently wrong, you must, some of these days, have the extreme good fortune of knocking your head against a fact, and that sets you straight again." — HUXLEY.

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