

important. Goethe mentions it of himself, in the beautiful lines—

“ Von Vater hab ich die Statur, des Lebens ernstes Führen,  
Von Mütterchen die Frohnatur und Lust zu fabuliren.”

“ From my father I have my stature and the serious tenor of my life,  
From my mother a joyous nature and a turn for poetizing.”

This phenomenon is so well known to all, that I need not here enter upon it. It is according to the different portions of their character which father and mother transmit to their children, that the individual differences among brothers and sisters are chiefly determined. Yet, as is well known, we very often meet with a cross-inheritance of the two sexes, by the son showing a greater resemblance to the mother, whereas the daughter more resembles the father. This greater resemblance with the parent of the opposite sex often shows itself very marked, not only in the outward shape of the body, and especially of the face, but also in the finer characteristics of the mind, hence of the molecular formation of the brain.

Extraordinary importance has of late been ascribed to amphigonus inheritance by Weismann ; he considers it, in the case of all many-celled organisms (Metazoa and Metaphytæ), as the universal cause of their individual variability. This one-sided idea is connected with the peculiar theory of the continuity of the germ-plasma, which Weismann very much over-estimates. As a consequence, he altogether denies the inheritance of acquired characteristics in general (see below, p. 221).

The very important and interesting phenomenon of *hybridism* also belongs to this law of mixed or amphigonus transmission. It alone, when rightly estimated, is quite