

A personal and confidential discussion

Lately I have been thinking sometimes about the question just what is a human being. We meet There are millions, yes billions, of human beings on this earth. They have much in common, Yet they have many points of difference. What are the ~~fact~~ factors that go together to make a human being.

The materialist naturally thinks of the physical aspects. These we are the most obvious to us. If we have eyes and ears we can observe them to som extent. Surely this aspect of humanity is subject to material lasw and a very great part of the activity of each human being is related to the to what has been inherited from ~~par~~ parents.

There have been many studies of the remarkable extent to which heredity affects children individuals. While two/~~he~~ children may be very different as they partake of different portions of the here~~dit~~ hereditary influences that come from their parents, grand- parents, greatparents, etc., ~~There~~ there are remarkable similarities. The story was told in recent years of ~~a~~ twins who had been separated from birth, and nevertheless had the same tastes in color, adornment and particular interests. In another case, I read in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The Reader's Digest of a woman who ~~was~~ had been separated from her mother from birth and had never seen her or had any contact ~~with~~ with her until she was well along in her twenties. Then she became acquainted with her and found that not only did they have many physical traits in ^{ways} common, but that their/~~way~~ of ~~lookings~~ looking at things were very ~~sim~~ similar; each of them liked the same colors, enjoyed the same games, had the same interests in general. While we recognize of course that there are great differences between among individuals in the same family (nc) matters that is we are often struck by the great similarities. People often remark on how similar my/~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and mine are. If he is in the area and I answer the telephone whoever speaks is very apt to say, "Is that you, John?" People say that our mannerisms are very similar. A great part of what makes a human being is undoubtedly derived by naruarl inheritance.

Another influence that is very important in the make-up of human beings is that of environment. From the time of birth on one is greatly affected by various