

"THE SUPER-BABY IS SOON TO BECOME A LIVING, BREATHING, SQUALLING FACT"

BY NIXOLA GREELEY-SMITH
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The super-baby, that still imaginary infant who is to unite in one small person all the mental, moral and physical perfections of the human race, has ceased suddenly to be a theory of eugenics and, if a learned body of physicians and sociologists in New York is to have its way, will soon become a living, breathing and, it may be, squalling fact!

The Sociological Fund of the Medical Review of Reviews has offered a prize of \$1,000 to the mother and father who shall produce this 100 per cent infant.

According to the mathematical theory of eugenics, the 100 per cent baby can result only from the marriage of a 100 per cent father and an equally perfect mother. So any young man or woman who wishes to apply for the \$1,000 prize—it is to be paid in two installments of \$500 each, the first at the time of the super-marriage; the second at the birth of the super-baby—must send, with an application to Frederick H. Robinson, 206 Broadway, a history of his family for three generations. To qualify for the price the applicant must establish his mental, moral and physical fitness.

"Beauty won't count," Mr. Robinson observed when he outlined his plan for the eugenic baby. Mr. Robinson is the president of the fund with the seven-league name. "What are we seeking," he continued, "is health—moral, mental and physical. Of course, after we have found a man and woman who can meet all the requirements of the board of examiners, which will be made up of men and women physicians, the problem will still remain of making them fall in love with each other. We will introduce them and hope for the best.

"If they don't like each other, that

will end matters, for love is a very important factor in the production of the super-baby.

"Is there any age limit to the contest?" I inquired. "You know Dr. Gorton, father of the 'eugenic twins,' of Brooklyn, was more than eighty at the time of his marriage."

"That was a freak of nature," Mr. Robinson replied. "Generally speaking, the best age for marriage, from a eugenic standpoint, is between 20 and 25 for a woman and between 25 and 30 for a man, but we won't set any age limit in the eugenic baby contest. Any man or woman, irrespective of birthdays, who comes nearest to passing a 100 per cent examination will win the \$1,000 prize. I believe that a woman's choice of a father for her children should be absolutely unhampered."

Mr. Robinson added earnestly: "At the present time her selection is hampered and limited by the fact that she has to seek a good provider as well as a good father. This has done a great deal to injure the quality of the human baby, because it not only limits a woman's choice in the first instance, but it tends to restrict her to that choice, no matter how foolish it may prove to have been.

"Under prevailing social conditions many children are born that should never come into the world at all. They are the offspring of drunkards or moral imbeciles whose wives continue to live with them through fear or from their lack of training to make a living for themselves. It is my opinion that, other things being equal, the woman who earns her own living makes the best mother, because she, among all women, has the most unfettered choice of a husband."

This must not be taken to mean that the Sociological Fund Committee will limit its choice of the super-mother to those applicants who earn their own living. Provided she can