
PRIMOGENITURE AND HEREDITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—There is not a single sentence, so far as I have noted, in the multitude of speeches about the House of Lords that differentiates between the principles of primogeniture and heredity. The first usually implies the latter, but the converse is by no means the case. The claims of heredity would be best satisfied if all the sons of peers were equally eligible to the peerage, and a selection made among them, late researches having shown that the eldest-born are, as a rule, inferior in natural gifts to the younger-born in a small but significant degree. Primogeniture, like gavel-kind, has to be defended on other grounds besides that of heredity.

There seems to be a regrettable amount of ignorance among our legislators of the facts and statistical methods upon which eugenics are based.

FRANCIS GALTON,
