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Summary: Demographic problem resolved at same time as affluence
Families do not break over generations, wealthy ones least of all.
Oddity: we talk of caste system as if there were as turnover in
composition over generations; the fact is, there was much.

Demography and Wealth as Caste Family Continuity

To go along with the idea that modern family wealth does not function for common good as it did before, in terms of the operation of companies by family members, but represents purely wealth, in terms of stock ownership, which could be transferred to any other party at any other time & not affect the management of the company (being done by technocrats); ~~so~~, ^{also} we have an old/new problem of persistence of family which compares to old/new wealth holding.

Family wealth was fragile, & O'Connell has shown, and we can understand that businesses were very unstable until very recent times; so, too, the survival of families, as Perroy & Thrupp show, is very uncertain. Between one & another decade, therefore, there was a terrific turnover in wealthy families up through 19th century. This is now changed, however, on two scores: wealth is diversified in stock portfolios so that it fluctuates only with the economy as a whole; genetically, no problem of family continuity because of modern medicine.

So, just at the time when the kind of medical advance guaranteeing family continuity arrives, the reason to continue family ends because family doesn't function; or, just when wealth at last divorced from function, and can be released from family ropes, the advance in medicine guarantees it will be locked into families as never before - a true caste (?).