FIGURE 1.25. Galton's original data on the relation between the heights of children (*y* axis) and the average height of their parents (*x* axis). Galton realized that the children deviate less from the average of the population than do their parents and termed this a "regression to mediocrity." He believed that the offspring of a selected group of parents would regress toward a fixed mean value, which would limit the change caused by selection. In fact, the regression is toward the *current* mean of the population, which may change with time (see Chapters 4 and 28 [online]).