

It is not possible to summarise the whole of this lengthy paper, for, like all that Freud writes, every page contains fruitful and original ideas or suggestions which demand attention and study, even though they may not always command assent. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*Delusions of Possession by Animals in a Case of Persecutory Mania* [*Delire de Zoopathie Interne chez une Persecutee*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat.*, Nov., 1908.) Vallet, A., and Fassou, A.

This paper records the case of a woman, æt. 37, of poor general intelligence and education, who, six years prior to admission to the asylum, developed symptoms of persecutory mania. She heard voices of an abusive nature, both at home and in the street; people pointed at her in passing; the police whispered to her to get a revolver to protect herself. She fancied she was electrified and chloroformed.

In the asylum she was quiet for nearly a year, but then became excited, and expressed the delusions of animal possession. She said the doctor and the police commissioner chloroformed her at night and introduced various animals into her belly through rectal and vaginal specula. The animals were mainly reptiles, vipers, lizards, crocodiles, etc. Later on she became a perfect menagerie, rats, dogs, weazels, monkeys, lions, and owls forming the fauna of her intestines. These animals feed on her intestines, the wounds they make healing like cracks on the hands; they live for varying periods, and at night the doctor removes the dead ones and inserts fresh animals.

She feels the movement of the animals most when she is up; they are quiet when she sits. When she closes her eyes she can best distinguish the various kinds.

Her health is good, there are no signs of visceral disease, and the only sensory disturbance is a slight general hyperæsthesia.

Suggestion and all other methods of treatment have proved useless in this case. W. STARKEY.

*A Contribution to the Study of Suggestion in Mental Pathology. A Case of Family Insanity* [*Un Cas de délire familial*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat.*, Nov., 1908.) Schwartz.

A married man, æt. 34, was brought to the asylum by his wife and family. He was confused and disorientated, with persecutory delusions; thought he had sold his soul to the Devil, that his will had been taken away, and that his condition was due to the enchantments of a sorcerer living in the neighbourhood.

His wife firmly believed these ideas, and said the sorcerer had magnetised and paralysed her husband because he refused to pay him money for curing her of an illness.

The author states that the belief in witchcraft is still prevalent in the district, and he attributes the patient's insanity to the influence of such an environment on a man of weak intellect, and to the influence exerted by his wife and family on his mind.

He thinks this case exhibits all the factors which Lasègue and Falret consider essential for the production of *folie à deux*, viz. :