

*Echolalic Speech in an Epileptic Imbecile* [*Forme écholalique du langage chez un imbécile épileptique*]. (*Journ. de Psychol. norm. et pathol.*, Sept.-Oct., 1911.) Wallon, Henri.

The subject of this study is an epileptic imbecile, æt. 14. The speech was the special feature of interest. The response to questions consisted of simple repetitions or repetitions together with a response, showing perseveration and stereotypy; e.g., asked: "Have you slept well?"; the reply was, "Have you slept well? Say, yes, sir." The last three words are obviously a literal repetition of each of the words which had previously been addressed to him. In spontaneous speech he always used the interrogation, the imperative and reply. Thus, in complaining of headache, says, "Have you a headache? Say, yes, sir." The notion of personality was imperfectly developed, the patient regarding himself entirely objectively.

The explanation of the phenomena is to be found in the normal psychic evolution of children. Echolalia is normal and necessary, manifesting itself in the period intermediate between the first attempt at articulation and the complete development of speech. The transition from pure echolalia to useful speech can in many cases easily be traced. It is thus a primitive function, an initial condition of language, natural and spontaneous. Together with an imperfect evolution of the notion of personality it signifies merely an arrest of development at a particular stage.

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*Fabulation and Chronic Systematised Delusional Insanity* [*Fabulation et délire systématisé chronique*]. (*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, Sept. 19th, 21st.) Gonnet, A.

Delusions in chronic paranoid conditions, evolving without intellectual enfeeblement, develop in two ways. On the one hand are delusions of interpretation, and on the other delusions of purely imaginative origin. The former are analogous to normal beliefs, and develop naturally from a pre-existing emotional bias. They depend on an erroneous interpretation of actual facts, and are not abnormal from the absence of the usual processes of logical thought, but from the excessive partiality which intervenes in the admission of the arguments. In addition to such delusions, ideas of a purely imaginative character may always be observed—such ideas being accepted without any semblance of basing them on actual facts. The most interesting variety of imaginative conceptions are those which present themselves under the form of *fabulation*. This consists of not only affirming general ideas, but precise facts, which are told us by an eye-witness.

The *fabulations* may be free from all association with actual facts (*délire d'imagination, délire de fabulation*), or in combination with interpretations or hallucinatory processes which they amplify or distort.

In the former case, expansive ideas tend to be more prominent, persecutory ideas tending to develop more by interpretation. Not only are they usually exalted in type, but they are produced with greater facility, unfettered by reality, are abundant, changing, multiple, and not confined to one theme. The systemisation is usually imperfect.

This variety of psychosis tends to occur more in women and individuals of imaginative temperament.

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