

the central nervous system. The effects of intoxications and infections on the central nervous system follow several laws: (a) The effects of each toxin differ; (b) in general the cells are more susceptible the higher their position in the hierarchy of function; (c) the cells defend themselves more easily the slower the attack; (d) the latent period is important; (e) the nervous cells defend themselves better as the patient grows older—at least until the onset of senility.

De Clerambault divides the pure chronic systematized psychoses into constitutional and degenerative psychoses. In the constitutional psychoses hallucinations are absent; in the degenerative group deliria are absent. Most chronic psychoses are made up of a mixture, e. g., the chronic hallucinatory psychoses. The constitutional psychoses present, as it were, a hypertrophy of some one trait. Serieux and Capgras recognize three main groups, the passionate, the interpretative and the imaginative psychoses. The patient reacts to the initial phenomena by the formation of a systematized delirium, the nature of which depends on many factors: (a) The strangeness of the phenomena; (b) the intellectual make-up of the patient; (c) the nature of the hallucinatory process and its concordance with the character of the patient; and (d) his affective tone.

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*The Conception of Dissociation.* (*Brit. Journ. of Med. Psychol.*, March, 1927.) Hart, B.

Janet's conception of dissociation was that mental elements and processes could preserve an independent existence apart from the main stream of consciousness, and by this conception he explained the phenomena of hysteria and hypnosis. There are considerable objections to Janet's cut-and-dried conception, for dissociation does not separate the mind into compartments. The various systems are all related and work together, perhaps with a different gear as it were. Hart believes in a functional conception of dissociation, and would extend it to cover cyclothymia and the manic-depressive psychosis, to the mechanism of hallucinations, to elaborate delusional systems which do not interfere with conduct, and even to the logic-tight compartment mechanisms observed in everyday life. Freud's conception of the unconscious is a conceptual construction, created in order to explain not facts, but what are really inferences. Janet's conception is a classification of observed phenomena.

In Freud's conceptions of the ego and the id a further division of the mind is formulated. He regards the ego as "the connecting organization of the mental processes in an individual," centred in the perceptual system of the psychical apparatus. The remainder of the psyche is the id. Perception plays in the ego the part which instinct plays in the id. This again is a conceptual construction. The whole of Freud's concepts are too fluid and plastic to be of much value from a methodological standpoint. The psychoanalyst very largely avoids the question of multiple personality and dissociation.

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