

*A Case of Interpretational Paranoia with Fabulation, etc.* [*Un cas de psychosis chronique à base d'interprétations, avec délire d'imagination et réactions revendicatrices*]. (*Rev. de Psych., March, 1911.*)  
*De Fortuné and Hannard.*

This paper gives the history of a paranoiac of the interpreting type who recently escaped from the asylum at Armentières after a residence of nine years. Previously he had been in several other asylums, from all of which he had made his escape. There was no family history of insanity, nor did he exhibit any degenerative stigmata. Signs of mental trouble were early shown; in fact, his mother thought that he had never reasoned correctly. At school he fancied his companions plotted against him, their most innocent remarks were read as insults. Later, as a medical student, he thought he was the victim of the jealousy of both students and professors on account of his superior attainments, for by this time he was distinctly exalted; he discovered cures for phthisis, apoplexy, etc., and wrote to prominent public men offering to sell his secrets. Their failure to respond to his wishes resulted in the development of persecutory ideas, and as he became threatening he was certified and sent to an asylum. After a few weeks he escaped, and from this time on his career was an extraordinary series of escapes from one asylum after another. His delusions were daily added to by misinterpretations of the most ordinary remarks heard or read by him. At no time did he seem to have suffered from hallucinations; but an important part in the evolution of his very complex system of delusions was played by illusions, fabulations, and pure inventions.

Sérieux and Capgras have drawn attention to the fact that in some paranoiacs the delusions are largely augmented by a morbid creative imagination; the subject forges proofs of the justice of his cause; there are true fabulations or falsifications of memory. The authors look on their case as an example of the combination of the delirium of interpretation and the delirium of revindication in the same subject. These are the two forms of paranoia described by Sérieux and Capgras in their classic work *Les folies raisonnantes*, and to which they think the term "paranoia" should be restricted.

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*The Circulatory Function in Cases of Dementia Præcox* [*La funzione circolatoria nei dementi precoci*]. (*Riv. Sper. di Fren., vol. xxxvii, Fasc. 3.*) *Lugiato, L., and Lavizzari, G. B.*

This paper comprises a study of the relations between the state of development of the cardio-vascular apparatus and the functional capacity of the heart. In a former investigation, Lugiato found that in many cases of dementia præcox the left ventricle was relatively small in comparison with the other cardiac diameters. In addition, the total size was reduced in some. The arterial system was generally deficient; the radial pulse was ill-marked and difficulty was experienced in obtaining a sphygmographic tracing. The superficial veins were not very visible and the circulation in the extremities was notably torpid. The object of the present inquiry was to control these results and to determine whether a constitutional circulatory fault really exists in the subjects of dementia præcox, and if so whether it is related with a functional

deficiency. The method adopted was the following: The patient was put to bed in a quiet room, and after a lapse of time sufficient to ensure physical and psychical equilibrium, the blood-pressure in the right arm was registered by the Riva-Rocci sphygmomanometer. Shortly afterwards the pulse was counted. Each observer made a separate observation. An attendant then raised the lower limbs of the patient to an angle of about  $110^{\circ}$  with the body and the blood-pressure was again taken immediately. Next, after removal of the sphygmomanometer, the pulse was again counted. Thereafter the heart and blood-vessels were examined in the usual clinical manner. In estimating the area of the cardiac triangle, the method of De Giovanni was employed. The phenomenon of dermography was investigated in the abdominal and dorsal regions, and the temperature in both right and left axillæ ascertained. In all thirty male and ten female patients and eighteen healthy persons of similar age were examined. The results may be briefly summarised thus: In six patients the arterial pressure showed little or no variation after the experiment and the pulse showed only slight variation. In twelve cases a slight increase of pressure not exceeding 5 mm. of mercury was registered and the pulse-rate was increased. In the remaining twenty-two cases an increase of over 5 mm. up to a maximum of 19 mm. was obtained, while the pulse-rate was distinctly increased. In the healthy controls, with one exception, an increase of blood-pressure was constant, ranging from a minimum of 5 mm. to a maximum of 27 mm., whilst the pulse-rate was almost always increased. On the whole, it would seem that in dementia præcox the cardiac reaction is less intense than in the healthy, and might indicate a slight deficiency in contractility of the myocardium. The objective examination of the heart showed the cardiac area to be normal or but slightly diminished. The apex-beat was hardly visible or palpable. Murmurs were audible in 25 *per cent.* The medium-sized and small arteries showed a certain thinness of their walls and a feeble pulsation. Cyanosis of the face and extremities and diminished visibility of the superficial veins were frequently observed, as was also the phenomenon of dermography. The axillary temperature was always within physiological limits, but it was noteworthy that in the majority of cases the temperature on the left side was one or two decimals of Centigrade above that on the right. On the whole, one must conclude that the subjects of dementia præcox do not present grave anatomical or functional disturbances sufficient to differentiate them clearly from the normal, though they certainly present features indicative of a deficiency and torpidity of the circulatory function.

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*Hæmatological Researches in Alcoholism* [*Ricerca ematologica nell'alcoholisms.*] (*Riv. Sper. di Fren.*, vol. xxxvii, fasc. 3.)  
Gorrieri, A.

This is a contribution to the study of toxæmia in relation to mental affections. All the cases investigated were admitted into the asylum at Brescia suffering from acute alcoholic psychoses. At the commencement of the affection and at various stages of improvement the writer estimated the number of red corpuscles, the number of leucocytes, total and differential, the blood-pressure, the relation of the latter to the