

case not show signs of mental disorder until after thirty years of age? These are some of the questions the above authors try to solve, and briefly they find as follows:

The definitely shut-in type of mental make-up appears as often in the early as in the late cases. The more diligent the search for it the more often is it found. Yet there are late cases who were considered normal, took their places well in the home and community for years until an exceptional occurrence altered their life. Various situations in life may be precipitating factors, and there may be more than one.

Dementia præcox is stated to occur often after childbirth where a woman has found adaptation difficult, for then the bonds are tighter and she cannot so easily get away. It is probable that many cases of dementia præcox which break down late would not have done so, in spite of fundamental weakness, but for the strain of some distressing experience to which the individual reacted with marked effect. Some cases show as the result of the psychosis just the peculiarities which others show before any mental breakdown.

In the younger cases there was a gradual deteriorating process, and the deterioration was deeper than in the late cases; they had more physical stigmata, and they were more backward at school; they were seclusive, less aggressive, less efficient, more inclined to be sexually auto-erotic and to show an abnormal love for the opposite parent. There were also more of the lazy wanderers and docile diligents in the early cases.

Later cases show good preservation of personality, rational affect and little deterioration, a greater percentage show a tendency to be social, aggressive and efficient, and a larger percentage are married.

Certain cases of dementia præcox for a long time were included in the group of paranoia because they developed later in life, and had good preservation of personality, and did not markedly deteriorate. These later cases show a more florid type, and have more active delusions and hallucinations.

In both cases lack of interest in or attraction to the opposite sex was marked. The question of possible abnormal condition of the sexual organs arises.

Interesting abstracts from thirty-six cases are given.

W. J. A. ERSKINE.

*Some Cases of Familial Dementia Præcox: a Contribution to the Study of the Etiology of Dementia Præcox* [Quelques Cas de Démences Précoces Familiales; Contribution à la Recherche de l'Étiologie de la Démence Précoce.] (Bull. de la Soc. Clin. de Méd. Ment., December, 1920.) Vernet, P.

The writer gives notes of seven pairs of cases—mother and daughter (two), brothers (two), sisters (one), and brother and sister (two). He lays stress on the influence of heredity, and particularly of alcoholism of parents; on the frequency of well-marked stigmata of degeneracy, with absence of evidences of syphilis; and on the etiological importance of constitutionally deficient neuronic durability. Infections, auto-intoxications and fatigue may act as exciting causes, but are not the principal cause.

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