

*Symptomatic Value of Dreams as regards the Mental State in a Patient suffering from Circular Insanity* [*Valeur symptomatique du rêve au point de vue de l'état mental de la veille chez une circulaire*]. (*Gaz. des Hôp.*, August 20th, 1901.) *Vaschide and Piéron.*

This case, of Mrs. B—, æt. 42 years, was under observation for over three years. She early showed a curious disposition to be influenced by meteorological variations. She was sent to the asylum at the age of thirty-two years, where she remained for over eight years. Suffering with circular insanity, at first her lucid periods were much in excess of the periods of excitement, but the former became shorter, and the latter proportionately longer, as time went on. One feature of the patient's disposition was her keen observation of her dreams, which she was fond of interpreting. The authors, as the result of many experiments, were satisfied that her interpretation was often correct, and of useful import in prognosis. The nature of the indicating dreams varied according as they announced a period of excitement, one of depression, or a period of calm. (1) With dreams announcing a period of excitement, this condition usually came on suddenly not less than thirty-six hours after it had been foretold. The dream was usually in character like a nightmare, with feelings of being choked, strangled, violently handled. (2) In the case of dreams announcing a period of depression, the patient thought she did not exist, that she was a child, that her senses were restricted, that she was unable to move, etc. Her awakening was slow, and followed by some hours (eighteen to thirty-two) of indecision, when the period of depression began. (3) As regards dreams foretelling a period of calm, a correct result was less frequent, in six only out of fourteen of observations; the dreams were less characteristic. In a fourth set of observations the patient exhibited dreams foretelling a continuance of her then present mental condition—the particular period in her circular insanity being prolonged beyond its usual duration.

This case is important in connection with the question of prevision through dreams. The authors think that it is a possibility, while fully recognising that a mass of worthless evidence has been produced in favour of this view.

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*Paroxysms of Anguish—Epilepsy and Hysteria* [*Paroxysmes d'angoisses—épilepsie et hystérie*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp.*, Jan., 1902.) *Raymond.*

Cases shown at the Clinique of the Salpêtrière.

1. Man æt. 52, engineer. Suffered for eight years from fits which have become worse. After some general tremors, objects begin to appear more distant, then a shock at the heart is felt, palpitations, and loss of consciousness. This is followed by an imperative desire to sleep for seven or eight hours. No involuntary micturition, no biting of the tongue. Occasionally a keen desire to eat constitutes the crisis. Epileptic attacks of this kind, coming in late, are often of grave import, being related to arterio-sclerosis.

In the former history of the patient one notes that he inherits melancholia from his mother, and has had obsessions, continually puzzling his mind about final causes, the nature of man, the reason of his sojourn on