

*Malignant Tumour and Insanity [Tumeur maligne et aliénation mentale]. (Rev. de Psychiat., No. 5, 1900.) Jacquin, G.*

There exists still much difference of opinion as to the part played by cancer in the ætiology of insanity. In the case here related by Jacquin, he believes that the malignant tumour was a strong factor in the causation of the insane attack; but it is important to remember that injections into the body of the tumour were made, and that some septic mischief was set up thereby. A woman, æt. 31 years, was admitted into the Hospital de la Croix-Rousse (Lyon) on July 3rd, 1899, with a swelling on the right side of the neck of the size of a walnut, thought to be lymphadenoma. Three days later iodoform with ether was injected into the tumour after incision. After a few days' suppuration the wound healed. Three months later, the patient returned with the tumour a good deal larger—the size of a small foetal head. There was a good deal of pain, and signs of pressure on the right brachial plexus were present. Every third day arsenical injections were made into the tumour without any result. On November 29th, the patient was admitted into Bron Asylum suffering from delusions of persecution, with hallucinations of hearing and sight. From a fistulous opening in the tumour, very fetid blood-stained matter escaped. There was marked cachexia. The delusions and hallucinations persisted, fever set in, the general condition grew worse, and the patient died on February 12th. There was no autopsy.

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*Delusions of Persecution, with Hallucinations of Hearing and Sight consecutive to Psychical Traumatism in a Patient suffering from Glycosuria; Hypnotic Treatment and Cure of the Mental Disorder in Spite of the Persistence of Glycosuria. (Rev. de l'Hyp., April, 1900.) Farey, P.*

The patient was a Jewess, æt. 34 years, who after some mental worry—due to anti-Semitic disturbances in the town in which she lived, and to the severe illness of one of her children, etc.—was suddenly awakened one night by cries of "Death to the Jews!" arising from a mob disturbance outside her house. This appears to have determined in her mind delusions of persecution—that she was pursued, that she was to be killed, etc. Hallucinations of hearing, terrifying dreams, insomnia followed, and the patient became anxious, suspicious, jealous—a complete alteration of character. Some perversions of intellectual functions (weak memory, abulia, etc.) were present. At the end of four months, she was brought to Dr. Farey, who decided to try hypnotism. An examination of the urine revealed the presence of a marked quantity of sugar, which was not suspected. In addition to prescribing an anti-diabetic diet, chloral, sulphonal, and trional were ordered to be administered alternately at night, and daily *séances* of hypnotic suggestion were tried. The patient rapidly began to improve, and within a month was well. The glycosuria, which persisted for a while, also soon cleared up.

This case presents many points of resemblance to cases referred to by Lépine and P. Marie (*Semaine médicale*, October 25th, 1899), which, with melancholia and ideas of ruin, tendency to suicide, insomnia, abulia, little or no polydipsia, polyphagia, or polyuria, and a urine of

normal specific gravity (or almost normal), exhibit in the latter a substance which reduces Fehling's solution and deviates the plane of polarised light to the *left*. Withholding carbohydrates leads to a rapid cure. Farey excludes his patient from this group of cases with the "levulosuric syndroma," because cutting off the carbohydrates did not produce a rapid disappearance or even diminution of the glycosuria, and the sugar found in the urine caused rotation of the plane of polarisation to the *right*. He considers that the hypnotism cured the insanity.

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*Clinical Notes on Paranoids* [*Note cliniche sui Paranoidi*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xx, fasc. 4.) Pianetta, C.

Under this title, Dr. Pianetta discusses the pseudo-paranoiac symptoms which occur in degenerate subjects, illustrating his remarks by three personal observations. As characteristic of the group of "paranoids" which he describes, the author indicates that they manifest a tendency to erroneous interpretation of outside impressions in some special direction, without, however, elaborating a systematised delirium; their mental state is thus that of incipient paranoia,—at times, perhaps, undergoing an exacerbation which renders them for the moment symptomatically indistinguishable from cases of typical paranoia. The author points out the affinities of these cases to the *paranoia sine delirio* of Tanzi and Riva, and to Magnan's mental degeneracy with episodic syndromes, with which, indeed, the cases recorded appear in all respects identical. The first observation is that of a man with hereditary taint, in whom mental disorder first appeared shortly after marriage; recovery was rapid, but the patient subsequently manifested neurasthenic symptoms with a disposition to hypochondriacal, self-depreciatory, and persecutory ideas. Generally these ideas had an obsessional character and were more or less readily repressed, but at times they acquired the force of delusions, were supported by hallucinations, and on one occasion led to a suicidal attempt. The author draws special attention to the passage from obsession to delusion in this case. The second observation refers to an individual hereditarily unstable, eccentric, and morbidly vain, who presented at intervals a tendency to disconnected delusions, chiefly hypochondriacal and persecutory. In the third observation, the patient, aged twenty-three, mentally degenerate as a result of insane heredity and of infectious disease in childhood, presented at intervals imperfectly defined delusions of persecution. Of very defective ethical development, he was repeatedly condemned for theft and for sexual offences, and two of his persecutory episodes occurred in prison.

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*Microcephaly* [*Ein meiterer Beitrag zur Lehre von der Mikrocephalie*]. (*Jahrb. f. Psychiat. u. Neur.*, B. xviii, H. 3, 1899.) Pilcz, A.

This is a long paper on a case of microcephaly which Dr. Pilcz studied in the University Klinik at Vienna.

The grandfather and father of the subject, K. A—, were habitual drunkards, the latter being also brutal and violent; but the mother was healthy, and had been twice married. A child of the first marriage died