

sexual inversion. [That point is illustrated by the instructive case recorded in this Journal, April, 1896.] HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*Is Sexual Inversion Curable? [Ist die Konträre Sexualempfindung Heilbar].* (Zeits. f. Sexualwissenschaft, Dec., 1908.) Sadger, S.

It is held by many who have a wide experience in the matter (including Hirschfeld) that cases of homosexuality on a congenital basis can never be really and genuinely cured. The sexual acts can of course be modified but not the innate direction of the impulse; even hypnotism, it is now held, produces no permanent cures. Dr. Sadger, of Vienna, one of the ablest of Professor Freud's pupils, claims that by the psycho-analytic method, both in his own hands and Freud's, a real cure is possible, provided the patient is fairly young, anxious to become normal, and not highly degenerate.

Sadger brings forward the case of a student, æt. 21, having a maternal aunt insane; his mother and sister are boyish in appearance. He himself has broad hips and very little hair on face; as a child he only cared for girlish amusements. His sexual ideals on coming under treatment centred around masculine individuals and he was attracted to boys, but much troubled by this attraction. Treatment, Sadger recognised, could only be effectual by changing the ideal. Psycho-analytic treatment, however (being the reverse of hypnotic treatment), cannot put anything into the patient; its object is to bring to the surface what is already present in sub-consciousness. Now Sadger believes (with Freud) that—just as in hysteria there are, according to this doctrine, concealed sub-conscious emotions and ideas—there are in every homosexual person latent elements of normal heterosexuality. The homosexual person has gradually organised his memories and feelings around his dominant tendency, and has allowed the normal feelings and memories to lapse. It is the business of the psycho-analytic method to fish up, so to speak, these lapsed feelings and memories from sub-consciousness, and to give them their proper value and force in the patient's conscious life. At first the patient could recall scarcely any memories implying normal sexuality. Many such memories were, however, slowly recovered; the patient gradually realised that behind his masculine ideals there really lay concealed feminine ideals, and after four months' treatment he reached the normal point of view and finally became attached to a woman.

Sadger concludes from this case that (1) even the most intelligent persons seldom know themselves fully or possess reliable recollections; (2) that normal sexuality may really be predominant even in cases where inversion seems to be complete; and (3) that inversion has its roots in early childhood even though it may not become conscious until puberty.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*Statistical Inquiries regarding Recovered Epileptics [Statistische Untersuchungen über geheilte Epileptiker].* (Allg. Zeits. f. Psychiat., Bd. 65, H. 1.) Volland.

The elder physicians gave a bad prognosis for recoveries from epilepsy; a few, such as Odier and Trousseau, considered recovery

possible. More recently experienced neurologists, Binswanger, Gowers, Féré, and others agree that not only is epilepsy at an early age capable of a spontaneous and complete recovery, but that in later life there are a number of cases in which there has been a favourable result with and without treatment. No doubt the introduction of bromides into therapy had helped to improve the prospects of cure.

In his inquiry Dr. Volland used the statistics of the asylums for epileptics at Bethel, near Bielefeld. He regards it a case of recovery if the patient has passed a year without an epileptic attack.

He found that, from 1886 to 1901, 4,215 epileptics were received for treatment; of these 133 men and 112 women, 245 in all, were discharged cured. Attempts were made to follow up these patients, with a view of ascertaining whether the recovery was maintained. It was found that this was so in 54 of the men and in 29 of the women. Twenty-eight of the men and 21 of the women had renewed attacks, and 3 of the men and 3 of the women had suffered in intelligence without further epileptic attacks.

It is of some consequence to know the influence of sexual intercourse upon those who were thought to have recovered from epilepsy. Binswanger observed that in some cases the epileptic troubles were suspended during the period of child-bearing, only to break out with renewed violence and rapid mental decadence during the climacteric period. He had, nevertheless, observed other cases in which marriage and pregnancy had no unfavourable influence, and the young women, in spite of several births, escaped the epileptic attacks. Of the 21 women supposed to have been cured, and who had relapsed, 5 had married; but the epileptic attacks appear to have returned before the marriage. Of the 29 women who remained healthy, 10 had been married and 9 had borne children without any evil results. In the same case were two women who had illegitimate children.

Of the male patients who had renewed epileptic attacks, 10 had married, and only in two of these families did convulsions appear in the children. It was more unfavourable with the 5 women who had relapsed: convulsions appeared in three of these families; in the other two the children were healthy.

Convulsions appeared in the children of the families of the women who had no return of the epilepsy, and hydrocephalus in one family. The results were more favourable with the 20 men who, having no return of the epilepsy, had married. Five of these marriages were childless; in one family 2 children had died of convulsions; but the 4 other children were healthy. It would, however, be needful to follow the health history of these subjects for a longer period before regarding the sequel as complete.

It does not appear that moderate drinking had a bad effect on the health of the recovered male patients; 23 of them were abstainers.

Volland gives special mention to one case who, four years after the cessation of his epileptic attacks, received a blow from a log splintering the skull and laying bare the brain. Trephining had to be used. During the two years following the accident the young man has continued to improve in health both mentally and bodily.

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