

throw more light on the problem of the transmutability of psychopathological reactions. No matter how complicated a set of infantile neuroses we have to deal with, a schizophrenia is not inevitable if the latency period, the period of our socialization, is properly handled.

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*The Dementia Præcox—Schizophrenia Problem.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, November, 1931.) May, J. V.

The author comments on the magnitude of the problem presented by this disease, as to the nature of which there is wide divergence of opinion. The views of Bleuler have materially added to the uncertainty, and are diametrically opposed to the original description of Kraepelin. Bleuler's latest work is reviewed at length, and it is pointed out that Bleuler himself admits that there is reason to regard the schizophrenic concept as being too broad. It is futile to discuss the suggested endocrine origin of dementia præcox until there is some agreement as to what constitutes that disease. The psycho-analytic contribution is considered. The author concludes that the designation "dementia præcox" is more nearly descriptive of the disease than is schizophrenia. Schizophrenic episodes occur in various mental diseases, and the assignment of these episodes to the dementia præcox group is the explanation of the recovery-rate in that disease.

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*The Basic Symptoms of Schizophrenia.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, September, 1931.) Levin, M.

The delusions, hallucinations, etc., found in schizophrenia are accessory manifestations. The basic or fundamental symptoms are certain alterations of thinking, feeling and relations with the environment. These basic symptoms were studied in 14 patients, attention being paid chiefly to the disturbances of the associations and of affectivity. The associations lose their coherence. The resultant thinking becomes unusual, and often illogical. There is affect rigidity, *i.e.*, incapacity to modulate the affects in accord with the fluctuating content of thought. There is a quality in the mistaken associations of schizophrenia which is not found in mental retardation.

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*The Learning Ability of Schizophrenics.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, September, 1931.) Gardner, G. E.

Previous work on the subject was reviewed, and the school achievements of 100 unselected schizophrenics are compared with those of 100 manic-depressives. The former showed an appreciable inferiority of learning ability. But special abilities in art and music are more in evidence among latent schizophrenics than in those who become manic-depressive patients.

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