

generally admitted that all such cases are toxic in origin, but the mechanism of production is not always clear. This paper records the case of a woman, æt. 65, who came of an alcoholic family, but with no insane heredity. She had herself indulged to excess in drink, and six years ago became blind as the result of albuminuric retinitis. In 1908 she had a severe attack of nephritis with albumen in the urine, and became insane. Under treatment she recovered and was discharged in six months. Now, after an interval of two years, she is again in the asylum, and her condition is described by Dr. Fouque. She is a well-marked case of Bright's disease, with the usual clinical signs. Her urine contains a large amount of albumen. It is to be noted that she has had no alcohol for a considerable time. Her mental state is one of slight enfeeblement with but little loss of memory, but the most characteristic feature of her state is the degree of torpor present in association with a delirium made up of dreams and visual hallucinations. She sees and describes grotesque scenes, chiefly of an erotic nature, which are enacted before her. The chief part in her dream is played by a female dwarf, about the height of one's arm, who comes to annoy her, sometimes on foot, sometimes in a tiny carriage, with a suite of courtiers, gorgeously dressed. They all behave in the most indecent and disgusting fashion; many of them are covered with sores full of maggots. Not content with shocking her by their antics they throw worms, snakes and moths at her, which fall into her soup or coffee, making it taste bitter.

Such a condition presents many analogies with alcoholic delirium and the toxic insanities in general, and in this connection the suggestion of Spaglia that all such delirious states are brought about through the renal lesions which accompany the intoxications seems worthy of note. It certainly emphasises the importance of examining the urine in all such cases.

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*Anterograde Amnesia in a General Paralytic [Amnésie de fixation chez un paralytique général]. (Bull. Soc. Clin. Méd. Ment., Jan., 1912.) Vigouroux and Prince.*

Anterograde amnesia with falsification of memories is usually considered so characteristic of the polyneuritic psychosis of Korsakoff that its occurrence in a general paralytic is of interest. The patient was a man, æt. 47, who had contracted syphilis at sixteen and malaria at twenty-two. He had never indulged in alcoholic excess. His mental illness began in 1909 with headaches, dulness, and loss of memory. In 1910 he was sent to the asylum, as he had got lost in the street, and could give no account of himself. The main feature of his mental condition as noted on admission was complete loss of memory for events since the onset of his illness. He could give no account of what had happened yesterday or even an hour previous to being questioned. He was aware of his condition, and tried to remedy it by noting down dates, etc. Distant memory was good, and he could do sums, recognise objects, and reason fairly well. He, however, mistook the identity of everyone round him, taking them for people he had known outside. There was no fabulation, nor did hallucinations

develop; signs of neuritis were absent. Physical signs of general paralysis were present, and he died in convulsions after a year's residence in the asylum. *Post-mortem* his brain showed the lesions of general paralysis with, on the left side, a zone of interstitial hæmorrhage limited to the grey matter of the cortex of the external occipital convolutions.

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*Automatic Parricidal Impulse in Puberty* [*Impulso automatico al parricidio nell'epoca pubere*]. (*Ann. di Freniat.*, vol. *xxi*, fasc. 3, Sept., 1911.) Marro.

The observation recorded in this paper is of some criminological interest. The patient to whom it refers was a youth between sixteen and seventeen years of age, the son of an alcoholic father, but otherwise without special hereditary taint. When nine years old he had a severe head injury, which left a depression over the upper parietal region on the right side. After this accident the boy complained constantly of sensations of heat in the head, and he was noticed to be a good deal slower at his lessons. With the onset of puberty he became subject to periodical headaches, and he also contracted the habit of masturbation. One morning, while engaged in helping his mother in the household work, he suddenly threw a slip-noose over her head, dragged her to the ground and tried to strangle her. After a struggle lasting nearly a quarter of an hour he became quieter, sighed deeply two or three times, got very flushed in the face, went on his knees and said, "Mother, forgive me; I don't know why I did it." He then ran away, and was found some hours later in the fields. When questioned about the affair he said that the idea of the crime came into his head quite suddenly two days before. To get it out of his mind he went to a cinematograph, and was free from the obsession for a time. It recurred, however, and early in the morning of the day of the attempt he heard a voice telling him to strangle his mother with a noose, to take her money and go to the gaming-house with it. At the same time he saw a sheet of paper before his eyes with the same exhortation printed on it. The idea continued to beset him till he made the attempt. The boy was not specially fond of gambling, and he had some money of his own at this time. Discussing the case, Marro points out that the clearness of consciousness excludes the hypothesis of epileptic automatism, which might be suggested in view of the head injury and the periodic headaches. The influence of alcohol could also be ruled out. In the absence of any indications of more persistent mental disorder, the author concludes that the impulsive automatism shown by the patient was an exaggerated manifestation of the physiological instability of puberty, and he considers, therefore, that the prognosis of the case should be favourable.

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*Studies on the Circulation of the Blood in the Insane* [*Études sur la Circulation Sanguine des Aliénés*]. (*Bull. de la Soc. Med. de Belgique*, April, 1911.) De Somer, E.

This article is a preliminary communication on the influence which rest in bed exercises on the splanchnic vessels and also on the heart's