

the dementia præcox cases are so predisposed, and on the other, a third of the manic-depressive cases have the same predisposition.

(8) The special "shut-in personality" is found in too small proportion to substantiate fully the claims made by some writers for its prevalence as an ætiological factor in dementia præcox.

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Differential Diagnosis between Manic-depressive Psychosis and Dementia Præcox (Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases, Jan., 1912.)
Gordon, A.

Though the manic-depressive conception marks a step in the progress of psychiatry, it is frequently not easily differentiated from other psychoses, especially dementia præcox. With the view of illustrating the difficulty in differentiating the two types of reaction, the writer gives an account of four cases which he has been able to observe for several years.

The essential features of these cases consist in the fact that three of them commenced as forms of the manic-depressive group, and terminated as typical cases of dementia præcox, while the fourth case presented at first the clinical picture of dementia præcox for four years, and that of manic-depressive insanity for the last two years. In all these cases the earlier phases were scarcely typical in so far as the manic-depressive forms included symptoms suggestive of dementia præcox, e.g., pronounced loss of affective sentiments, and the dementia præcox case exhibited marked periods of improvement and remissions from its onset, before assuming the true manic-depressive symptoms. These observations suggest an important diagnostic point, viz., if in an individual affected with alternating outbreaks of depression and exaltation, each characteristic of melancholia and mania respectively, a change of his affective and intellectual faculties, and particularly of the first, is observed, the presumption is in favour of dementia præcox.

The writer concludes further that Kraepelin's generalisation of manic-depressive insanity tends to create a risk of including other affections under this category with a very different prognosis, and considers that further study is necessary before it can be entirely accepted.

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Melancholia and the Manic-depressive Psychosis [Mélancholie et Psychose Maniaque-dépressive]. (Rev. de Psychiat., Dec., 1911.)
Perrin, G. G.

This paper consists of a discussion of the question raised by Dreyfus that melancholia of the involuntional epoch is to be regarded as belonging to the manic-depressive group of cases. The writer does not consider that the position is tenable, but regards involuntional melancholia as a clear clinical entity, distinguished from the manic-depressive psychosis by the absence of any degeneration and hereditary element, by its appearance in the age of maturity, by the absence of psychic and motor inhibition, by the existence of crisis of anxiety with delusional ideas, and by a completely different mode of evolution.

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