

The writer finds three principal stages in the evolution of the "influencing machine". In the first stage there is a sense of inner change, the result of libido fixation upon an organ or organs (hypochondria). In the second phase there is a feeling of estrangement. This is produced by rejection, the libidinally invested organs being denied and eliminated as something alien to the ego. In the third stage the sense of persecution arises, as a result of projection of the morbid experiences. On the one hand, the morbid experiences are attributed to a foreign hostile power, and on the other an influencing machine is constructed, representing a summation of some or all the libidinally charged organs projected outwards.

It is suggested that in the schizophrenic, as a result of stress, there is withdrawal of libido from the environment and regression to a libido position corresponding to the end of foetal existence and the beginning of extra-uterine life. At this stage the individual is isolated from the outer world, there is no knowledge of ego boundaries, and libido is fixated upon the body (primary narcissism). Projection of the body as a whole and progressive distortion are the means whereby the ego attempts to deal with a return to this situation.

Machine dreams in the normal are found on analysis to represent the dreamer's own genital. In the machine delusion of the schizophrenic, however, in whom there has been a regression to the pregenital epoch, the whole body is conceived as a diffuse sexual being, and the genital as a machine independent of the aim of the ego and subordinate to a foreign will.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Folie à Deux.* (*Int. Journ. of Psycho-anal.*, vol. xv, p. 14, Jan., 1934.) Oberndorf, C. P.

Report of an induced neurosis, concerning a husband and wife, who had been subjected to psycho-analytical investigation for two years. Prior to treatment both had been virtually prisoners in their home for about two years, she on account of a sensation of whirling whenever she left home, he also from whirling and a fear of slipping. She was frigid; he was impotent, alcoholic and neglected. Together they practised an unusual sexual perversion, a compulsion which involved the plunging of the wife fully dressed into a bath-tub of water.

Analysis revealed that in the origin of the symptoms both identified themselves with a lost object, he his mother, she a male identification (presumably the father). The identification, therefore, complemented each other. It is suggested that in *folie à deux* the mechanism of identification plays the important rôle. Proximity, constitutional predisposition or familial tendency are subsidiary factors.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Hallucinatory Paraphrenia.* (*L'Encéphale*, vol. xxviii, p. 601, Sept.-Oct., 1933.) Halberstadt, G.

Some space is devoted to the history of the development of the concept of paraphrenia as a nosological entity, and the subsequent confusion and disagreement as to its actual relation to the schizophrenias. Kraepelin and Kleist are quoted in detail. The paper is based on the description of four cases observed over a considerable period of time—up to ten years.

The prodromal features are sadness, preoccupation, suspiciousness. Then appear ideas of persecution, and finally the hallucinatory features develop. Stereotyped and manneristic behaviour is not seen.

The point which seems of the most importance to the author, as to Kraepelin himself, is the absence of any personality dilapidation to the extent seen in schizophrenia.

The condition is summed up as being one where the auditory hallucinations are florid and luxuriant, dominating the picture with only slight disorders of other sensory systems; a minimal development of any delusional formation without system and dependent on the hallucinations, no schizophrenic features whatever, incurability, but without any intellectual deterioration except as a final end-result.

W. MC. HARROWES.