

(1) The striking fact of the correlation among the endocrine organs themselves, and between these organs and others less strictly "endocrine," and the no less remarkable discovery that this relationship is widely differential in degree, produces the conviction that in the primitive organism and in the embryo the controlling factor of life and growth is the direct chemical action of glands or tissues. The reasons for this conclusion have been clearly shown by Noel Paton. The further extremely interesting fact that this relationship is most intimate between the ductless glands and the reproductive organs is highly significant for the psychiatrist, who is thereby enabled to form a more or less definite picture of the far-reaching influences of sexual psychopathology. I have already given examples indicative of this intimate association in which must be sought the final solution of the problem of psychophysical interaction in the genesis of mental disorder. On the one hand, we cannot accept a somatic explanation which would discover in the activity of the glandular functions the direct causes, not only of the physical symptoms, but also of the mental manifestations. If we did so we should be compelled to write down our psychotherapeutic successes as curious coincidences or unimportant illusions—that is a frankly impossible proceeding. Yet, on the other hand, we cannot satisfy ourselves by a mere statement of psychogenesis, and a description of symptoms in terms of symbolical significance. All our explanations of mental disorder should be based not only on a conception of intimate psychophysical interaction, but also on a realisation of the manner in which somatic—and notably endocrinic—factors may contribute to the development of a psychopathic state. An illustration is afforded by the following case: A girl of 26 was engaged to be married. After a few weeks she suffered from "nervous breakdown" and was treated by three physicians in turn, all well-known men: one a psychoanalyst, the other a suggestionist, and the third a "downright" man of the "no-nonsense" school. At the end of four months she was so much worse that certification was in sight. She was depressed and even desperate; moaned all day long, paced up and down her room and lay on the floor in animal-like postures. From the analytic point of view there was apparently ample material for a breakdown, particularly in three factors: (a) a long history of misturbation; (b) a strong emotional fixation on her mother; (c) an injured sense of *amour-propre* in that her betrothed was the discarded suitor of an elder sister. The case therefore was one in which the prospect of marriage was intolerable; a regression took place and the neurosis developed in the form of feigned insanity as the most