

even earlier than the fifteenth year and as late as the fiftieth.

The grouping of cases under this head has been described by Kraepelin. He took psychoses which were formerly known as disease entities as the catatonia of Kahlbaum, Hecker's Hebeephrenia, and added the paranoic form to complete the group. To this classification other forms have been added. White, in his text-book, describes Simple Dementia, or Heboidophrenia, Hebeephrenia, Catatonia, Paranoid forms, and Mixed Forms.

However, as Kraepelin has well said: "Any single pathogenic factor may make itself known by a great variety of symptoms." There is consequently little to be gained by efforts to differentiate too sharply between the various subdivisions, for many symptoms are common to all.

Aetiology.

Of all mental diseases Dementia Præcox is one in which heredity is the great factor. White states that every individual born in this world has, if it could be determined, a definite potentiality for development. The impetus which starts it on its path is sufficient to carry it a certain definite distance. The predetermined goal in each case will be reached if no accident intervenes to prevent.

In the subjects of this disease the original impetus has been weak, only sufficient to carry them a short way. When its force is spent development stops. Retrograde processes are hastened, or perhaps immediately initiated, by some special physical or mental stress occurring at the critical point of puberty or adolescent evolution.

If this is a true conception of the hereditary factor in these cases it is readily seen that it becomes important to search for debilitating influences in early life, such as excessive study, masturbation, etc. Again, conditions affecting the health and strength of the parents at the time of impregnation or during pregnancy, such as alcoholism and tuberculosis, etc., will be unfavorable