

his mother, and more than ordinarily jealous of anyone who shared her love. He was ungovernably jealous of his younger brother, whom I found to be his mother's favorite—so that his jealousy was justified. The nurse also favored the younger brother. Consequently, Tommy was in a state of angry revolt that made him impossible. When his mother remonstrated with him he could not explain or justify his conduct. He blurted out that he 'hated' both his brother and his nurse.

"The mother reproved him. No little boy of hers could have such feelings. They were shocking. They pained her. They made her most unhappy.

"To Tommy of course, his mother's word was more than a commandment from on high. By her reproaches, his instinctive love for her was aroused to repress his emotions of anger and ill-will against his brother and his nurse. But his machinery of repression was still immature. The emotions that he was trying to repress had apparently escaped his control when they found the symbols 'two' and 'five' behind which to masquerade."

So far, good enough. Apparently and presumably, as Dr. X. says, this was what was wrong with him. But how about his two ties?

They proved simple enough, too. Miss W., the hated teacher, used a strong perfume. He had been in the habit of wrinkling up his nose at it malevolently, and one of the other pupils told the teacher that Tommy was sniffing at her, and the teacher sent Tommy to an undesirable seat at the back of the room as a punishment. Tommy retaliated by continuing to sniff in order to express hostility.

Similarly with the rolling of his eyes. The teacher had accused him of glancing down out of the corners of his eyes at the written answers of a pupil on his left. The accusation was unjust, and Tommy, in his resentment, had been rolling his eyes up in the opposite direction to the right. Now, whenever he was displeased or resentful, he repressed the voicing of it, but sniffed and rolled his eyes up. Hence the ties.

And the phobia about automobiles?

Well, he had seen one of his playmates run over by a motor on the street. It was probably this nervous shock that had weakened his repressive mechanism, and allowed all his repressed instinctive emotions to escape in the disguised forms which they had taken. He did not wish to go to school because he disliked his teacher. "Consequently," as Doctor X. says, "his fear of autos became a phobia—an unreasoning, ungovernable fear. Like all phobias, it disguised a hidden wish—the wish, in this case, to remain at home with his mother."

That was the whole trouble, then. Tommy was not mentally defective. He was more than ordinarily bright. He was simply shaken and bewildered by the struggle to repress instincts and control emotions that were too strong for him.

"It was easy enough to explain Tommy's jealousy, to his mother," Doctor X. says. "She admitted that she had been unconsciously favoring the younger boy, and she undertook to stop it. It was more difficult to make her sympathize with Tommy's ungovernable bad temper. What is anger in a child? What is anger in an animal?"

"An animal in search of food finds his path blocked by another animal seeking the same food. He wavers; he is about to withdraw. Suddenly, anger re-enforces his hunger-instinct; he overcomes his adversary and gains the food that prolongs his life. Or an animal in flight finds his escape impeded, and a frenzy of rage, re-enforcing his instinct of flight, enables him to tear himself loose and escape to security. Or an animal in quest of his mate is threatened by a rival; anger re-enforces his instinct of sex and produces jealousy—the most ruthless of all emotions—and he drives off his rival. In other words, anger is not a primary emotion. It is a sort of emergency jack which springs the motor mechanism of the instinct loose from inertia.

"In a child of Tommy's age, the instinct of self-assertion is most active, most annoying to his elders, and most certain to be checked by them. The checking of it is the most frequent