

came of him afterwards?" "I haven't heard anything of him since I was a boy. All I can remember of him now is that he was a darkey, and that in between his voyages he used to live with a white woman who kept a sailor's lodging-house in Shadwell, London."

At this point the reflection naturally arises that the patient's motive in "repressing" his personal memories might have been to escape from the unendurable situation in which he found himself. If we reconstruct his mental state at that period we might express it in the following artificially definite phrases. "Oh, if only I didn't have the frightful responsibility, to which I am not equal, of having a dependent wife. If only my wife could support herself without having to look to me. If only I could go away, as Bert Wilson used to on long voyages, and safely leave my wife, as he used to, in the knowledge that I should find her all right when I returned. If only I were like Bert Wilson." The passionate wish, although suppressed on account of the unmanliness and disloyalty it connoted, realised itself, as wishes so frequently do, in the belief that he really was Bert Wilson. I hold it very probable that some such process as here depicted actually occurred, though, like most interpretations of hysterical symptoms, it is merely part truth and is only a very incomplete explanation of the real events. We shall presently note, however, several observations that go to support the suggestion just made. The mechanism of *unconscious identification* (Freud's "*Identifizierung*") is exceedingly frequent in hysteria, and accounts for much of the so-called "imitation" of the symptoms of other patients. The unconscious fantasy fuses its own "repressed" wishes with the realisation of these wishes that occurs to someone else, and identifies the individual personality with that of the other person. In the present case it is likely that the similarity of the two names greatly facilitated the occurrence of the process.

Bert Wil—son.

Bert Wil—liams.