

REMARKS ON A CASE OF COMPLETE AUTO-PSYCHIC AMNESIA.*

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The following case presents nothing remarkable from a casuistic point of view; it was a combination of hysterical fugue and complete auto-psychic amnesia, such as occurs commonly enough. Further, no detailed study of the case could be undertaken; my observations were confined to three interviews with the patient, of a couple of hours each. In spite of these facts a sufficient number of matters of interest was noted to make it seem worth while to utilise the case in illustrating a few of the simpler psychological mechanisms characteristic of hysteria. The actual interpretations offered of the various points must necessarily be of a tentative nature, but they are sufficiently in accord with the experience gained from extensive psycho-analyses to justify the pretension to a high degree of probability.

On the 20th of May, 1909, a man of about thirty walked into St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, and complained of pain in an old appendicitis scar. On being asked his name he discovered that he had forgotten it, and, what was more, that he could give no account at all of himself or of his past life. He was at once admitted under the care of Dr. H. B. Anderson, to whom I am greatly indebted not only for the opportunity of observing the case, but also for kind permission to make use of it in this article. When I first saw the patient, on May 29th, his mental condition was as follows. He conversed clearly and intelligently. Though he was naturally bewildered at his situation his powers of attention, apperception and comprehension were quite

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